



Class of 1973
Golden Reunion

Sept. 14-16, 2023



A Message from Your Reunion Committee

It has been wonderful to read all the memory book entries submitted by classmates, and memorial entries for classmates no longer with us. Your memories have helped spark some of our own memories that have been shoved into the closets of our minds.

To see the many different directions that life has taken us while hanging on to the lifelong friendships made at Otterbein has been interesting and encouraging. It gives testimony to both the excellent educational experiences and the atmosphere created by the small-town college setting. We hope that this compilation of class memories will give you further incentive to reach out to former classmates and re-connect, sharing more memories and ways in which your lives have been impacted by shared experiences.

Frank Bright | John Codella | Charlie Ernst | Thomas Heavey
Evon Lineburgh | Ruth Schreckengost Novak
Dee Weaston Standish | Bill Standish



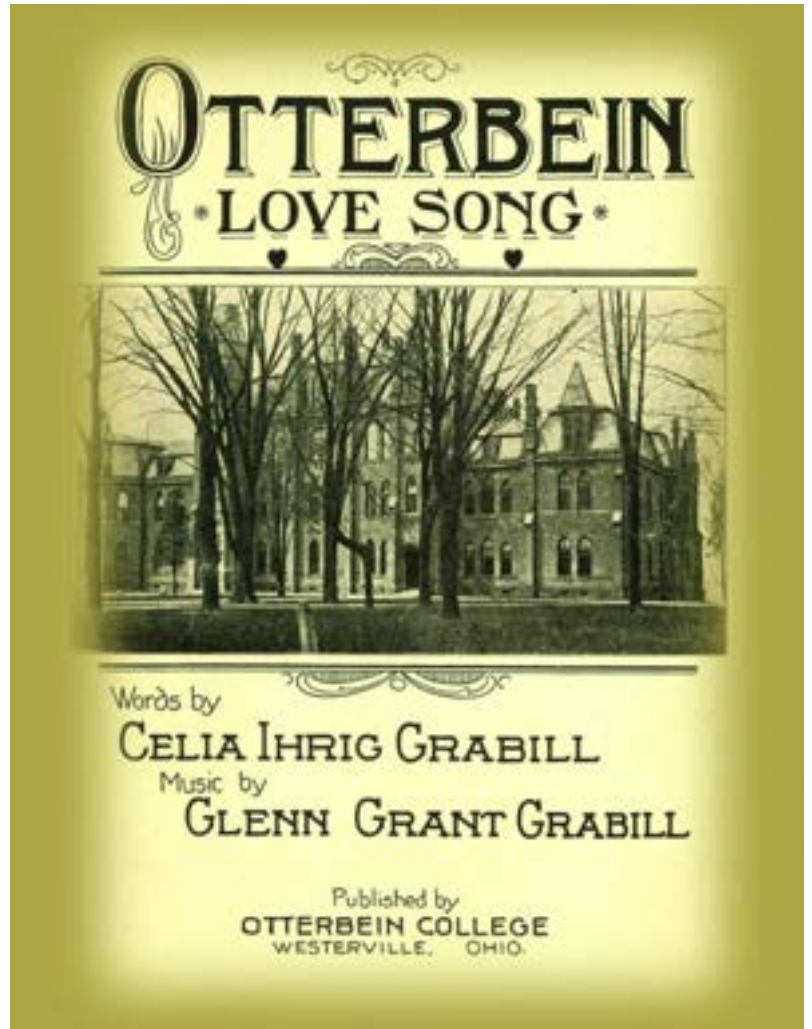
"The Otterbein Love Song"

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.



In Memoriam

Dr. John I. Aber
Mrs. Nancy L. Aquila-Henning
Mrs. Aleta VanSickle Armstrong
Mrs. Vicki Smithson Arthur
Mr. Steven A. Bender
Mr. Mark A. Bixler
Dr. Michael S. Bridgman
Mrs. Linda Newlun Bright
Dr. Bradley A. Brown
Mr. Jeffrey A. Bryant
Mr. Joseph P. Campigotto
Mr. Edward J. D'Andrea
Mr. David D. Demojzes
Mr. David J. Evans
Mr. Michael J. Farley
Mr. Wendell D. Hairston
Mrs. Marsha Dudding Harmon
Miss Jill A. Harris
Mr. John W. Harvey
Mr. Ronald R. Hatter
Mrs. Carol Mathias Herron
Mrs. Beth Sanders Hills
Mr. Daniel G. Jarlenski, Jr.
Mr. Peter S. Keller
Mr. Steven W. Kennedy, Sr.
Mr. John D. Kramer
Mrs. Karen Vokes Madison
Mrs. Lois Eikenberry Miller
Mrs. Robin Good Porte
Mr. D. Brett Reardon
Mrs. Kathy Brown Reynolds
Mrs. Deanna Hemy Roshong
Mr. Stewart O. Samoriga
Ms. Patricia A. Seltzer
Mrs. Deborah McKinniss Stedman
Mr. Lindsay S. Stedman
Mr. Ronnie M. Stemen
Mrs. Carolyn Oglie Strandquest
Mr. J Robert Turner
Mrs. Marilyn M. Vilums
Mrs. Maryann Marstrell Wakefield
Mr. Kenneth L. Wright
Ms. Lynette Davis Yeagle

Laura Martin Andreas



21939 W 120th St
Olathe, KS 66061
rubyslippers839@gmail.com

With grandparents living in Columbus, I spent a lot of my growing up years visiting. Both of my parents went to OSU but it seemed too big for me. So I settled on Otterbein. It had a quaint campus, lots of shady trees and old buildings and it was within walking distance to a nice town center. The summer before freshman year, it was fun getting letters from my future roommates (I had 3). I was in Cochran Hall with Janet Tricker, Diane Yarger, and Sue Wooster. I have fond memories of that year... meeting other friends (who are still friends today), making early morning donut

runs to Schneider's bakery, and the smell of Miss May's cooked cabbage suppers!

I pledged EKT sorority and enjoyed that fellowship. I was a double major in Math and Business Administration. I worked in the math office part time for Dr. Deever. I studied a lot. Looking back, I wish I had gotten more involved in the music department because singing in choral groups and church choirs has brought me so much joy in my adult life.

After graduation, I stayed in Columbus, roomed with my best friend Cindy Robertson, and started a career with IBM. Lucky for me, in 1973, they were specifically looking for people with liberal arts degrees! So they taught me everything I needed to know about computers. After 5 years, I transferred to Atlanta to work in a development center for software for manufacturers. I met my husband, Lloyd, there. He had transferred from Southern California and we were on the same project. In the late 90's, we got temporary assignments in England for almost 3 years! That was a wonderful experience and it gave us the opportunity to see much of Europe!



We took an early retirement, sold our house, stored our belongings and hit the

road for 3 years in our minivan staying in “cheap hotels and finer flophouses” as my husband says. We got to see all corners of the US and much of Canada.

Eventually, we settled in Sun City Grand in Surprise AZ, a suburb of Phoenix and were there 13 years.

We lived that lifestyle and even got used to the “dry heat”!

In 2016, we moved to a suburb of Kansas City, KS to be close to my parents and help them be able to stay at home while they age. My caregiving activities have increased as Mom is almost 97 and we are having a big celebration in July '23 as my Dad turns 100!



I have a stepdaughter, her husband, and granddaughter in Cardiff CA. And I have a nephew, his wife and a great niece and nephew living near us.

Although our traveling has been put on hold lately due to caregiving responsibilities and the pandemic, we look forward to hitting the road again one day.

So I've had a great life. But it is hard to believe 50 years have passed since our college days when we all lived in that quiet, peaceful village.

Vicki Smithson Arthur (*in memoriam*)



Vicki was a French Education major and spent junior year in France. Her residence in King Hall as a freshman led to lifelong friendships with the "bunkies". Vicki met her husband on a blind date in April, 1973 arranged by Tim Chandler, Otterbein Class of 1972. Vicki was married to Dr. Mick F. Arthur from their wedding in November of 1973 until her passing in August of 2015. They resided in Grove City, Ohio.

Vicki was a long-time organist and Praise Team member of the Obetz United Methodist Church in Obetz, Ohio. She worked at Ohio Bell in the late '70's, and at The Village Merchant from 2005-2015. Her hobbies were photography, piano, cooking, crocheting, traveling (especially to the Outer Banks, NC), hanging out with friends, and doting on grandchildren. She hosted gatherings of her beloved Otterbein "bunkies".

Vicki died on August 11, 2015 from lung cancer, although neither she nor her family members smoked, and she was not overly exposed to second-hand smoke.



-Mick Arthur

Bonnie Tuttle Ayars



My husband John and me in one of our barns.

**12108 Rosedale Road
Mechanicsburg, OH 43044
Cell: (937) 284-1358
Bonnieayars@yahoo.com**

For me, it was the music department that drew me to Otterbein. From solid roots in agriculture and 4-H experiences, it was a culture shock. From beanie to bonfires, being in choir and pledging Owls, I adjusted to campus life through friendships

and mentors. Eventually, I made some choices that actually took me to Ohio State to finish my home economics vocational/teaching degree. While there, I remember living in one of the first sorority houses. I served as Pledge Mistress and my pledge was the famous Dee Hoty. Again, the music and theater theme continued to define my time in the peaceful, quiet village. All these years later, friendships have stood the test of time, trials, joys, and sorrows with my "sisters" Robin Reid Raybuck and Deb Scott Vedder. We have nurtured a perennial relationship that began at the "Bein."



Of course, I have a family story. My husband, John and I married 51 years ago and together we built upon the family farm, multiple businesses, a dairy farm, and even hosted a Luke Bryan FarmAid concert in 2018. Our three sons kept life interesting and one even married an Otterbein graduate!



The Luke Bryan Farm Aid concert that was at our farm in 2018.

Left to right is Lucas Ayars (our son) and his wife Myra Ayars, Luke Bryan, myself, Adrienne Ayars (our daughter in law and widow of our son Austin), and my husband John.

Music remained a very important part of my life and I taught Family and Consumer Science for 30 years and worked at the Ohio Department of Education. For the past 17 years, I have taught in the College of Food, Agriculture, and Environmental Science at the Ohio State University. As you might have figured out, I have not yet retired.

On our farm, we have an event center and regularly host farm tours. We also make ice cream right on the farm and have our Ayars Family Farm brand in several stores, farm markets, and coffee baristas.

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

Madison County honors BONNIE AYARS

BONNIE has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, daughter, Educator, and wife since 1951.

Biography: Luckily, I was born and raised on a dairy farm. Thankfully, 4-H was introduced to me and I participated in my county, state and national levels of activities. Along the way, I received my Home Economics teaching degree from OSU in 1973. Between those years, I married another OSU alum, who was teaching and managing the home dairy farm. Our began 42 years ago and we are still in the business and expanding. We have three sons, all OSU graduates and advocates for agriculture. Beyond the barnyard, we have actively involved in showing and judging cattle across the state and we have a niche business producing and marketing Ayars Family Farm ice cream. Recently, an expansive event center became a hub for educational tours, farm sales, plus ag and consumer related events. After many years in the high school classroom, I assumed a position with OSU (3 years ago) as a dairy youth extension educator, coordinating 4-H dairy with teaching in the Animal Science Department, and coaching the collegiate and 4-H dairy judging teams. I consider my greatest of agriculture, a promoter, a professional educator, and protector of our lifestyle. On that journey, I have served on national boards including the 4-H Foundation Board and been an honor to become the Young Dairy Expo Woman of the year, an Ohio Agriculture Woman of the year, and Ohio's Hall of Fame. However, it has been very special to be recognized by students at OSU in various ways. And the story continues my dream job!

Favorite quote or saying: Knowledge is power, but enthusiasm pulls the switch. After 41 years in the classroom, I have found that enthusiasm brings life to any subject. Add a spark of passion and you have the teachable moment staring back at you in the eyes of students (and of those you are mentoring).

Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture: Find it and use it in every experience. Find it and use it in all age groups and build a relationship. Sometimes I tell kids that they are closer to me as I have more of a heart. They have more of a future and less time to waste.

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

(Mary)Ann Ricard Bender



**2360 Linwood Drive
Allison Park, PA 15101
Cell: (412) 680-9269
m.ann.bender@gmail.com**

There has never been any doubt about the gifts that my years at Otterbein gave me - warm friendships that have lasted over 50 years and a solid academic background that served me so well as I went forward with my education. Thank you, Otterbein!

After college, I continued in graduate studies at Wright State University and the University of Michigan, earning degrees in Life Science and in Microbiology. For over 20 years, I taught on a college level and did molecular genetic research in various diseases, such as Parkinson's disease, and in managing pain with gene therapy at the University of Pittsburgh. Then in the mid-1990's, I became dissatisfied with lab work and became more convinced that I wanted a career that gave me more direct interaction with people. So, it was back to grad school in the late '90's. (During that time, I stopped using the "Mary" in my name, as I was weary of a two-word first name.) I earned a doctorate in psychology in 2004 at Pit and have been a psychologist in private practice since 2007. I continue to see patients, both in person and virtually, and don't have a retirement date in mind yet. This job is such a good fit for me.

Traveling has been a true joy over the years. I have visited 5 continents and plan to be in Europe this fall. Plus, I am able to visit my 2 grandsons in California and one grandson (with his new baby sister due in August) in New York City. My two children live on opposite coasts, so this grandma is always hopping on a plane. My church sponsors a mission project in a village, Butere, in western Kenya, where I'm part of the leadership team. We provide education scholarships, medical care, school supplies and food relief. Plus, we have dug, built and maintained 6 water wells, with more to come. I help with fundraising and sponsorships here stateside, and then travel to Kenya with the mission team. It is such rewarding work!

There are two memories to share about my time at Otterbein. In the winter of early 1970, there was a blustery, frigid storm one Wednesday evening. As you may recall, we women were required to wear dresses in order to be served dinner on Wednesdays in those days. Well, a group of us in the freshman dorm King Hall agreed that walking the several blocks to the Campus Center in the middle of a winter storm in dresses was not reasonable. So we bundled up in

winter coats, hats and long pants, and made our way as a group to eat dinner. We were served. Later that spring, the rule for women to wear dresses on Sundays and Wednesday nights for dinner was lifted.

Secondly, if you've ever been on the third floor of Towers Hall, you may recall that classrooms line the outer wall, while the inner wall is solid, as it is part of the auditorium. There was a janitor's closet on the inner wall and another door just around the corner from it. That door was always locked, but the door to the janitor's closet was typically unlocked. Opening the janitor's closet, you could see that its ceiling was actually the underside of a set of stairs leading up to the attic of Towers Hall, accessed through the locked door. Upon inspection, it was found that not all of the treads in that staircase were securely fastened. In fact, you could take a couple of the treads out and climb up through to the staircase. Wandering through the attic of Towers Hall was like discovering a different era. There was antique furniture, including some chairs that looked like thrones. There were old portraits of men from the 1800's and there even was a model of Towers Hall, enclosed in a glass box that was about 3 feet on each side. The model was made entirely of sugar cubes. A friend and I visited the attic a few times, finding new surprises each time. Then, one day, the janitor's closet was locked. Our adventures were over.

Congratulations, Class of 1973! Best wishes for more years of adventures to come."

Vici Coleman Bolton



**2230 George C. Marshall Drive
Unit #819
Falls Church, VA 22043
Home: (703) 573-7218
Cell: (571) 214-9516
kvcbolton@cox.net**

Fifty years. Unbelievable! Such fond memories of Otterbein-curfewes, bonfires, 'campuses' if you didn't sign out or missed curfew, coke dates, Artist Series, IDs lost, found, and hole-punched, the Roost, dorm life, new friends, beanies, Sorority skits, softball games, and Maypole dance practices and so on!

As an only child wanting to attend one of the larger universities that I had been accepted to, I entered Otterbein (my mother's top choice for me) nervous and skeptical. The campus was small, quaint, and very quiet upon my first visit. I was enrolled. Too late to withdraw. And the rest is history and one of the best choices my mother could have made for me.

Freshman year was full of excitement. I met new people, socialized, became acclimated to college life and chose my major - Elementary Education with a concentration in Kindergarten-Primary Curriculum. I was ecstatic that I was going to be a teacher, which was my lifelong dream.

Sophomore year continued to be a good experience. I pledged Sigma Alpha Tau (Owls) Sorority and remember coke dates galore! The support of my 'sisters' was amazing. I also remember having to focus more on my studies, as my courses were outlined from Freshman year to Senior year. There was no room/time to 'mess-up'.

Junior year was a year of getting even more serious about my major. I did manage to find time to participate in other organizations - Angel Flight, Students of Understanding and Love (SOUL), and the tennis team.

Senior year was here! This is it. I held an office in my sorority, was Homecoming candidate, student taught in Westerville, applied for



teaching positions and prepared for graduation. Cringing the thoughts of saying good-bye to my beloved friends and college.



After graduation, I returned to my hometown of Newark, Ohio to teach for Newark City Schools. During my eight year tenure, I taught reading and second through fourth grades. I was nominated as a Jennings Scholar. I was also a member and secretary of the Otterbein Women's Club for a few years.

Rodney and I were married. Several Otterbein friends were in our wedding. Dr. Roger Deibel, my college advisor, was in attendance and the Otterbein College Choir sang beautifully.

Shortly after our son arrived, Rodney accepted a position as Minister of Missions at Calvary Baptist Church in Washington, DC. We were off on a new adventure, relocating in Falls Church, VA.

While being a stay-at-home mom I was active in our church as a nursery attendant, Sunday School teacher, Christian Education Board member, handbell choir member and supervising a summer and after-school program for our community children, which were predominantly Chinese.

When our son entered first grade in 1987, I entered first grade as a teacher, with Fairfax County Public Schools. I am still teaching at the same school, which is currently an IB World School - Primary Years Program. I have taught K/1 multi-age, first and second grade, and I was a Primary Instructional Coach. I was also nominated at FCPS Teacher of the Year and have an endorsement in Advanced Academics Programs. I have been Lead Mentor, Lead Social Studies representative, Lead Grade-Level Teacher, and Fairfax Education Association representative, as well as, serving on numerous committees.

In closing, Otterbein prepared me for my lifelong dream of becoming a teacher, which I continue to enjoy. The dedication and support of my professors and the lifelong friends that I made will always be remembered and cherished. Otterbein WAS the best choice for me. My mother knew best.

Michael Bridgman (*in memoriam*)



This is Cindy Hupp Bridgman ('75) writing to you about my husband Michael. It is my honor to help the Otterbein community remember him here. I met Mike in January 1973 in the Campus Center. He had just returned from World Campus Afloat, which was a highlight of his college years. Always an over-achiever, Mike attained his college degree in September 1973 after a little more than three years at the 'Bein. He went on to earn two Masters' Degrees in mathematics and operations research respectively, followed by a doctorate in Operations Research, from The Ohio State University in 1991.

We were married in August of 1975, and our son Jeff was born in 1979. After ten years at Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Mike's career took us from Ohio to Virginia in 1989, where he had a distinguished career at Logistics Management Institute (LMI). He authored more than two dozen articles on logistics and received the prestigious Armitage Medal from the International Society of Logistics (SOLE) in 2003.

His enjoyments outside of family and work included bicycling, skiing, racquetball, reading and gardening. He also loved to kayak, and built his own kayak the year before he passed away.



We had a lovely thirty-year marriage before pancreatic cancer took him from us in September 2005. He was 53 years old. There is an endowed scholarship at Otterbein in his memory. The Dr. Michael S. Bridgman Prize in Mathematics honors his love of mathematics and the importance of tutoring young people in this important field of study. Many students in the math department have been recipients of this scholarship since its inception in 2006.

To his classmates, congratulations on your 50th reunion and please raise a glass in remembrance of a wonderful man taken from us too soon.

- Cindy Hupp Bridgman '75

Frank Bright

**5950 Litchfield Rd.
Columbus, OH 43235
Cell: 614-551-9059
fbright678@gmail.com**

Hard to believe that 50 years have gone by since we gathered on a very warm day at the Otterbein football stadium to graduate from the 'Bein. I was a life science major and a member of Sphinx fraternity. I was also in the Otterbein Band.

I met my first wife, Linda Newlun '73, at Otterbein. We had almost 45 great years together, living in Westerville and the north Columbus area. We raised our two daughters Emily and Kelly in Westerville. Linda taught for Westerville Schools for about 5 years and then we started our family. She had a long and successful career in Early Childhood Education leading the YWCA Learning Tree Preschool in Westerville and the Bexley UMC Preschool to national accreditations. Unfortunately, Linda passed at the end of 2015 from cancer. She was able to hold our two grandbabies (fraternal twins – Lilly and Logan) before she passed. I've since remarried to a wonderful person, Barb, and we now live near Worthington.

I earned a MS in public health at the OSU after graduating from Otterbein. I retired in mid-2019 from a 45-year career in public health working for the Ohio Dept. of Health, the American Cancer Society, and the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors.

Lots of great memories of Otterbein – Coke dates, football games, Dr. Phinney in the Life Sciences Dept., Mom Specker (our housemother at the Sphinx House), Mr. Tirey directing us in all things band related, Good Morning stamped into our pancakes at breakfast in the Campus Center, getting rid of wearing the beanies, working around the dress code for Wednesday evening dinners.



So many good friends that we can just pick up conversations with like we never left Otterbein.

Linda Newlun Bright (*in memoriam*)



Linda was an elementary education major at Otterbein and graduated with honors. She was a member of the band and the O Squad during marching band season. Linda and Frank Bright married in June 1974 and had almost 42 years married before Linda passed at the end of 2015. Linda was a great mom to our two daughters. She also

pursued a career (after teaching for Westerville Public Schools) in early childhood education. She was the director of the YWCA Learning Tree Pre-School in Westerville and gained national accreditation for that program. She later ran all early childhood programs for the YWCA before finishing her career as a teacher and co-director of the Bexley United Methodist Preschool before retiring in 2007. Linda loved to travel and was able to take trips with her husband Frank all over the United States and overseas. Linda also developed an interest in genealogy and traced her family back to the 1600's. Linda was known for her strong faith in God and His love for people. She shared her faith freely by actions as much as words. Linda loved Otterbein and the class of 1973.

-Frank Bright

Bradley (Brad) Brown (*in memoriam*)

Brad Brown loved his Otterbein experience, and I was blessed to be his roommate and classmate. Brad came to Otterbein as a pre-ministerial student from Harrisburg, PA. He graduated as a Religion Major and subsequently earned a Master of Divinity Degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1976 and a Doctor of Ministry Degree with a concentration in Homiletics from Drew Theological Seminary in 1986. He was ordained as a United Methodist Clergy and served numerous churches in Central Pennsylvania for 45 years.

At Otterbein, Brad belonged to Sigma Delta Phi fraternity, played tuba in the marching and concert bands and didn't know a stranger, as he was a great conversationalist. He married his High School sweetheart, Jane Spare, in 1974. Together for 46 years, they enjoyed their family of 2 daughters and 5 grandchildren.

Brad loved music (especially Motown), baseball, football, golfing, playing his tuba in ensembles and serving as a PIAA high school football referee for decades. He was known for his passionate preaching, teaching, making disciples and serving as a mentor to younger clergy. And he touched the lives of countless thousands of individuals in his long ministerial career.

Brad passed away unexpectedly in his sleep in September 2020. And is missed by many.

-Richard (Rick) Saylor

Nancy Eisenman Carter



**1504 Garfield Ave.
Marquette, MI 49855
Cell: (906) 458-3994
ncarter@nmu.edu**

My freshman year at Otterbein began on the second floor of King Hall. We were a rowdy bunch and a rather liberal-minded (for Otterbein) group. We were always eager for all the excitement and new experiences

thrown our way. It is in King Hall where I met Debbie Cronce, my best friend at Otterbein, who continues to be a life-long friend. We were roommates for two of our college years.

In our junior year, Debbie and I were Junior Counselors (JCs) back on King Hall's second floor. We were thrilled to serve in this capacity at the very place where it all began for us. In my senior year, I was periodically asked to serve as a substitute Resident Hall Director (RD) in King Hall. These stints were during the absences of the Bowling Green State University intern who served as the permanent RD that year. My experiences as a JC and as a substitute RD were instrumental in leading me toward a future career in higher education.



After my Otterbein graduation, I earned a master's degree in College Student Personnel from Bowling Green State University. This was the beginning of over 30 years of employment in higher education. I had the privilege of working at a private college in Ohio, a community college in Virginia, and two four-year public universities in Michigan. I had truly found my calling.



After marrying my husband, Jim, we settled in Marquette, MI where I continue to reside during the warmer months of the year. We raised our two beautiful daughters in Marquette, a picturesque community on the southern shore of Lake Superior, in Michigan's beautiful Upper Peninsula. We have been blessed with five grandchildren. Sadly, Jim passed away earlier this year.

I have enjoyed reading about Otterbein's progress over

the years as I have only returned to campus one time (mid-70s) in the last 50 years.

My best to all my 1973 classmates.

Daniel Clark



**448 Catawba Ave
Westerville, OH 43081
DEmersonClark@aol.com**

With my mother, sister and brother all going to Otterbein before me, I ended up going there as well, almost by default. I had gone to a huge high school, so I wanted a smaller college experience, which Otterbein delivered with flying colors. I went for a degree in Music Education. I wasn't sure that I wanted to teach, but figured that the more I could learn about music, the better musician I would be.

We had a fairly large batch of freshman music majors in the Fall of 1969. Over the next four years many of them went in other directions. By the time we graduated there were less than ten of us left. About twenty years ago, a bunch of us started meeting once a year for lunch and an afternoon of reminiscing and catching up on each other's lives. Spearheaded by Cheryn Alten Houston, the gang also includes Helen Herbst, Vicky Sinclair Capper, Bob Day, David (Tank) Leist, Debbie Sahr Munsch and myself. It is always a wonderful time. I found another one of our 1973 alumni, Wendell David (Dave) Hairston, and invited him, but unfortunately, he was killed in a car accident before our next gathering.

At Otterbein, I played in marching band, concert band, wind ensemble, jazz ensemble, orchestra and smaller ensembles. I played in the orchestra pit for almost all of the musicals. As an upper classman, I helped teach music theory ear-training to the freshmen, helped teach cello and bass in the string methods classes and became student director of the jazz ensemble. I was always making music in one form or another.

In extra-curricular music making, I played in a cover-song rock band with my brother, Tim Clark, along with Bob McNutt, Greg George and Brian Hutchinson. We called ourselves Wrath. My, didn't we have an attitude!

I hooked up with a folk group made up of brothers, Daryl and Steve Bojanowski, and Chris Hajek. The three of them wrote



Seven O'Clock Sunday: Daniel Clark '73, Gary (Chris) Hajek '73, Daryl Bojanowski '70, and Steven Bojanowski '73.

the majority of the music we performed. We called ourselves Seven O'Clock Sunday, which conjured up a mellow feel. A photograph of us at a gig in the Campus Center appeared in Towers magazine several years ago. But it was long enough after we had graduated that no one on the magazine staff was able to figure out who we were! Ah, fame is so fleeting!

The aforementioned Wendell David (Dave) Hairston and I put a funk group together with Michael Bauer and Bill Moreton called The Dave Hairston Quartet. We were asked to play at a Baccalaureate service for the 1972 graduating class. We shook things up with our own funky arrangements of the standard hymns that were to be sung at the service. I think it caused quite a stir. We were not invited back!

Key college memories are all the places we went on Band Tour during Spring Breaks every year. Sometimes we stayed in Ohio, sometimes we were out of state. One year, we went to The United Kingdom, which was a definite highlight of my college career. We played several concerts in England and had plenty of time to sight-see. We did all the normal touristy things, the pinnacle of which was a side trip to Stonehenge. These days, people are kept away from the stones with a retaining fence, but back in the seventies you could walk among the stones and feel the pull of ancient societies wanting to tell their stories. It was a very moving experience.

My girlfriend at the time, Cathy Cray, class of 1974, was able to go on the England trip too. We did most of the activities together, which really tightened the bond we had established between us. We ended up getting married in November, 1973, and will be celebrating our Golden Anniversary this year! We have two daughters, Lena and Amelia, and three grandchildren, Alexia, Dominic and Delaney. We are all in the greater Columbus area, so we get to see each other often, which is wonderful.



Daniel Clark '73, daughters Amelia and Lena, and wife Catherine (Cray) Clark '74.

I ended up not wanting to teach music. Mr. Tirey, the band director at Otterbein, steered me in another direction. Taking advantage of what I had learned at Otterbein, Mr. Tirey recommend that I check into music retail. I ended up working for forty years at Stanton's Sheet Music, where I recommended sheet music to instrumental music teachers in a nine-state area. I even got to conduct some New Music Reading Sessions at music conventions and at the store, relying on skills I had learned under the guidance of Dr. Barkhymer. Speaking of Dr.

Barkhymer, my sister married him, so he's now my brother-in-law! So, now my Conducting and Music History professor and I often share an adult beverage together! Who would have guessed?



The Time Between: Robert Steven Graves '73, Catherine (Cray) Clark '74, and Daniel Clark '73

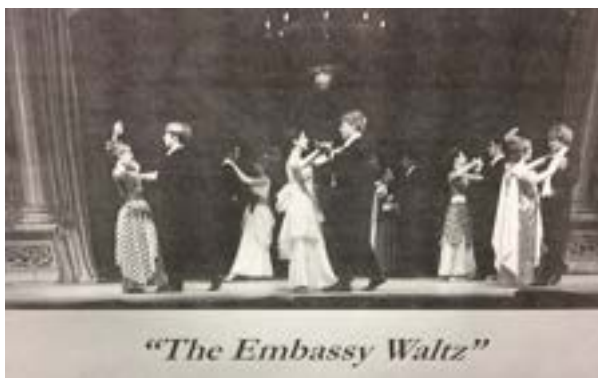
Over the years since graduation, I have played in orchestras; string quartets; as well as rock, country, jazz and folk groups. I am always doing something that involves music. My wife and I even had a group called The Time Between, with Otterbein classmate Steve Graves, that performed at coffeehouses around Central Ohio in the 1990s. Through it all, I think back to all I learned and experienced at Otterbein that has allowed me to have the life that I have chosen. I am eternally grateful.

Debbora Herr Clegg

13905 Whitetail Lane
Pickerington, OH 43147
Home: (614) 829-6905
mifeng924@gmail.com

I appreciate Otterbein for the excellent education I received and the opportunities it afforded me after graduation. I taught in high school, college, and university settings in speech, drama, literature, and composition.

My gratitude begins with Dr. James Grissinger, who offered me a scholarship in the speech and drama program. I am grateful for the time Dr. Phil Barnhart spent with me on the swings in the park encouraging me to remain in school through some difficult days when I did not know how I could arrange to do so. Dean Joanne Van Sant made special arrangements to accommodate me following a



surgery on my leg to assist me through the recovery and rehab, which enabled me to dance in all four musicals that she choreographed. Dr. John Coulter was a brilliant teacher who modeled for me all that I wanted to become. Petie Dodrill's sweet words buoyed me and made me laugh. "Pop" Fred Thayer kept me grounded because that is the kind of man he was, especially after he learned I am the daughter of a Marine Corps Master Sergeant.

Finally, I came to know a group of friends who remain my sisters even now. I have been truly blessed.



Tea party in Hanby House

Fran Clemens



**Calle Gaztambide 47 6
izda
28015 Madrid Spain
Cell: +34 650059881
fran.clemens@gmail.com**

Sight unseen, I moved to Otterbein and into 4th floor Cochran Hall for my freshman year. I heard about the school at a college night in Erie and liked what I heard so I applied and was accepted. It turned out to be quite decisive in my life.

I decided to do my junior year abroad in Segovia, Spain with the Otterbein/Ohio Wesleyan program. I fell in love with the country so decided to come back here after I graduated. I really didn't want to teach so worked as a bilingual secretary/administrative assistant. I was a stay at home mom after my son was born and don't regret it.

I have many fond memories of my life on campus and keep in touch with a few fellow classmates. I even have my beanie from freshman year! Unfortunately, I haven't been back since graduation but there are always the memories.

In the meantime, I met and married a Spaniard and we will celebrate our 44th anniversary in September. We have one son who lives in southern Spain.

I am very active in the American Women's Club of Madrid, a volunteer organization made up of English speaking women of various nationalities. I now serve as its librarian.

Who would have thought that from "a quiet, peaceful village" I'd end up as an ex-pat in a bustling European city!

John Codella Jr



With my father John Codella Sr

**9183 Harbourside Dr
Melbourne, Florida 32940
Cell: (707) 328-9488
codella127@yahoo.com**

My memories and reflections of Otterbein are many.

Over 20 colleges would not have me but Otterbein would have me. I arrived Sep of '69 w my parents for college and football camp. I was a New Yorker, about to learn about life. That day in Westerville, I said good-bye to my parents. They left for the airport, (so I thought). I went to morning football practice. Upon completion of the morning practice, I returned to the locker room only to be summoned by a coach to "go outside, some woman is looking for CODELLA". It was my mom. She made my dad turn around and return to campus, so she could see where and with whom she left me. As if she didn't know. They would return on June 10, 1973 for graduation and take me home for a while.

During these four years, I learned so much, not only about academics but about life and people. I enjoyed my roommate Tom Booth for two years in Garst Hall and the Davis Annex. I was a resident assistant for Dean Carl Oldag my last two years. I had my own room. At first, I wasn't accepted as an RA but during the summer football camp the new freshman footballers were a little rowdy. Dean Oldag thought it might be wise to put a like minded footballer on the hall were the freshman lived. I got the call to be an RA. People like, Shannon, Daubenmire, Schnarr, Minehart, Vantine, made my life extremely exciting and fun.



In academia, I enjoyed Psychology Profs Larry Cox and Lovejoy/ (my advisor), Shirley Liu. Spanish, Prof Margaret Sayers. English, Profs Coburn and Chaney. Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps. Profs Col Socolosky, Major Hokenson, Capt.

Chuck Showell and Sargents Easley (the man) and Hale. We graduated and commissioned 10 Second Lieutenants.

I enjoyed football and baseball participation and because I was "so" good I would earn varsity letters in my senior year. In football, I was coached under Larry Lintner and Mo Agler. Other football coaches were Larry Jones, Elmer Bud Yoest, Porter Miller, Rich Reynolds, and Dick Fishbaugh. Our trainer was Rudy. Dick Fishbaugh coached me in baseball for four years. And every day was fun. I was a member of Eta Phi Mu (Jonda) my junior and senior year (rush chairman '73). In my senior year, my class mates elected me to a two year term on the board of trustees.

Big memories for me: Kent State shootings and wearing the AFROTC uniform, Eric Burton and War, not singing "Spill The Wine," debating men and women dormitories, a new collage governance system, a new library, Dean Van Sant, my AFROTC commissioning and hearing our graduation speaker, the great and powerful, Olympic champion, James Cleveland "Jesse" Owens.



The Air Force called me to active duty November 1973 and in Aug 1974; I graduated with wings from navigation flight school. Over 22 years, I would be engaged to be married and disengaged. I was stationed around Sacramento, Ca, Norfolk, VA, Tacoma, WA, St Louis, Mo, Clark AB Philippines, and Vacaville, Ca. I would retire in 1995 as a lieutenant Colonel, with over 4000 hours of C-130 flight time and over 1000 sorties and many friends.

Around 1996, I was married for about 3 years and was a Prudential California Realtor for about 9 years.

In 2004, I would than move to Florida to live with my parents for the next 7 years as a full time caregiver. I would rent my California home and sell the home in 2019. It was a challenging and proud time for me. I would learn a lot about my dad's hemorrhagic stroke and mom's senile dementia. We belonged to a stroke support group for those 7 years. Three of those years, I was the president and an editor, for the group. I learned a lot about stroke survivors and care givers. Occasionally, I still share my knowledge with the group.

In 2015, I learned about forest fires, as a fire rolled over my 40 acres of Douglas Fir and Ponderosa Pine trees in Omak, WA. I sold that land in 2022.

I was used to hurricanes from living in Boynton Beach, FL. However, in September 2018 Hurricane Florence rolled over my parents second home in New Bern, NC. Two feet of water entered the living area. It took me, the insurance company, great electricians, plumbers and a contractor to repair the home. I sold it in 2020.

Our class has lost 43 classmates as of July 2023. I want to mention classmates extremely close to me: attorney and Reserve AF Colonel Dan Jarlenski, Delta Flight Captain and check pilot Bret Reardon, Otterbein and Westerville supporter Sonny D'Andrea. And Cincinnati businessman, Otterbein baseball pitcher, Steven Kennedy. RIP.

As of, April 2023, I live in Melbourne, FL. There is plenty to do. I look forward to our 50th reunion.



Deborah Vedder, Gretchen Steck, Evon Lineburgh, John Codella at the 40th class reunion

Bob Day



With my golden retriever Baxter.

**3630 Glencairn Road
Shaker Heights, OH 44122
Cell: (216) 533-5148
jickbob@aol.com**

Like most will probably write first, I can't believe 50 years have gone by since we were all at Otterbein (still hard to attach "university" to that now). My two strongest ties were to the music department and to Sphinx fraternity, as I was a music major and a member of Sphinx. I served as its secretary for two years and lived in the old house at 70 W. Home street my junior and senior years also. When not there I was probably at the old Lambert Hall which housed the music department then, either attending classes or practicing. I was primarily a keyboard person (still am) and a singer and a member of the choir under "Prof" Chamberlain and later Dr. William Wyman. Partway through my junior year band director Gary Tirey put a baritone horn in my hands, told me to see if I could learn to play it myself over the summer, I did, and then was sufficient enough to be in the marching and concert bands my senior year. What a blast that was. As a lot of my fraternity brothers and other friends were already in the band, I blended right in, and we had a blast, and I finally learned firsthand how marching bands "work."



From 1972: me, Cathy Mattei '73, Vickie Sinclair Capper '73, Glenna Feisley Kincaid '73, and Mike Ayers '73.



From 1972: me, Brad Brown '73, Lynne Green '73, Ronnie Stemen '73.

Upon graduation I went right to Ohio State to earn a master's degree in organ performance. Then in 1975 I began teaching choral music at Triway High School in Wooster where I stayed for 11 years and had a great experience there. In 1986 I returned "home" to Cleveland and became the choral director at Willoughby South High school and also became the organist at the Church of the Saviour in Cleveland Heights, the church where I grew up and where my parents were still members. It's a

huge gothic-style United Methodist Church with a beast of a pipe organ, and I felt honored to play it every week.

I retired from teaching after 30 years in 2005, and just this past April retired from my organist job after 37 years, just because I felt it was time.

In 2000 I became the principal accompanist of Cleveland's North Coast Men's Chorus which presents 3 major concerts each year at various venues around the city, including Cleveland's renowned Playhouse Square. I'm still doing that so I'm still playing some, and that's my "fun time."



My partner Scott and me.

In 2005 I met my partner Scott Wormell, and we still live in the house in Shaker Heights I moved into in 1991, along with our golden retriever Baxter (two golden's Buster and Bandit preceded him).



My partner Scott and me.

Cindy Buehl Deyo



In August of 1969 I was excited to have a dorm room assigned and a roommate selected... at Miami University! Then my boyfriend, Wendel, said something like "Say hello to Miami, prepare to say goodbye to me." Hmm, I pondered. Maybe I should attend Otterbein.

Before long I moved into Cochran Hall and my roommate, Kay Kline (Schlosser) was a bridesmaid in our wedding a year later, along with my 'Big Sister' Karen Wilson from my Sorority Tau Epsilon Mu. I loved Otterbein and made lifelong friends! Two of my cheerleading teammates (Nancy Drummond Macarter and Denise Kasler Kauffman) are my dearest friends to this day! Wendel played football, I was a cheerleader, and together we both helped to lead the student ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ International (CCCI). We moved on Campus to 60 W. Park and sub rented the house to six of our student leaders.

One of my fondest memories at Otterbein was being selected as Winter Princess my Sophomore year. It was funny the following year when I got to crown Nancy as the new queen when I was introduced as MISS Cindy Deyo and the spotlight revealed that I was 8+ months pregnant! Our first daughter Alisha was born March 7, 1972 and a couple of months later Wendel graduated and we went to Explo '72, a week long Christian training conference in Dallas, Texas for 80,000 people. From there Wendel and I began a 32+ year career with CCCI (now Cru) in the Athletes in Action division. We started with college athletes at Kansas State University, then worked with coaches in Southern California. In 1974 we pioneered a Ministry to Professional athletes: For 17 years Wendel served as Chaplain to the Cincinnati Reds and Cincinnati Bengals and I taught Bible studies to their wives.

From that year to this I have struggled with the debilitating disease of Multiple Sclerosis. For the past 30 years or so I have been ministering from a wheelchair. Despite the difficulty, I experience what Philippians 4:7 describes as a "peace that passes understanding" and I continue to find joy in life's journey. To God be the glory.

No doubt our greatest blessings are two beautiful daughters and an incredible son; two amazing sons-in-law and a wonderful daughter-in-law AND two precious granddaughters AND... ten (10) totally awesome grandsons! We praise God from whom all blessings flow and treasure many wonderful memories from our time invested at Otterbein!

Mark Donofrio



**1211 Rivercrest Dr. Unit E
Delaware, OH 43015
Cell: (740) 602-0776
donofrio.m@hotmail.com**

Upon graduating, I completed the manager training program with Lazarus Department Stores and worked as a department manager for 2 years.

Feeling adventurous, I moved to Scottsdale, Arizona, where I was employed as a manager of Aaron Brothers Arts and Craft Stores. I also was able to exhibit my artwork in some of the galleries in the Scottsdale area. I became seriously

interested in fine art while taking Dr. Germanson's Art Appreciation class, my sophomore year. I sincerely am grateful to him for instilling that desire within me.

Due to ailing health conditions of my parents, I moved back to central Ohio. I accepted a managerial position with Michael's Arts and Crafts, and continued displaying my artwork in Columbus galleries, and with Westerville Art League's Art in Public Places. I also became a member of Fitness Trend Health Club where I became acquainted with former heavyweight boxing champ, Buster Douglas.

However, even more important than that, I met my present wife Kelly, to whom I have been married for thirty years. We have a daughter, Gabriella who was an honor student, and 2020 Otterbein grad. We are also blessed to have a grandson, Micah, who we believe is destined for Otterbein legacy.

Charles Ernst



**765 Waterton Drive
Westerville, OH 43081
Cell: (614) 561-7080
awe54@aol.com**

I traveled to the “quiet peaceful village” from Zanesville, Ohio, eager to start the college experience and entered Otterbein initially thinking I would major in education with a goal of teaching mathematics at the high school level. After the first year I left the educational program and eventually graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in mathematics and a minor in economics. During the first term at Otterbein I met Mark Bixler, another freshman mathematics major in the educational program and Dave Lehman, a senior runner on the cross-country and track teams. Mark convinced me to pledge Kings

Fraternity (Lambda Gamma Epsilon) with him and the fraternity eventually became a meaningful part of my Otterbein experience and Mark was the best man at my wedding in 1976. Dave was a teammate on the 1969 cross-country team, for which the season was eventually canceled before we ever ran a race, and the 1970 track team and then served as my distance coach for the next three years and has been a Westerville friend ever since. I entered Otterbein with interests in mathematics, running and music. During the Otterbein years I was able to pursue all three of these areas and have continued enjoying all of them ever since. While at Otterbein I ran cross-country and track, sang in a fraternity quartet for several years in the spring serenades in the campus center and even sang with Opus Zero, a student directed singing ensemble, in the winter and spring of 1973.

After graduating from Otterbein in 1973, I went to The Ohio State University and earned a Master of Arts degree majoring in Economics. Then I boomeranged back to Otterbein in January 1975 and finished the requirements for teaching in the winter and spring of 1975 and began a three year teaching and coaching career in the Westerville School System in the fall of 1975. Early in my second stint at Otterbein, I met Annie Wandrisco (Class of 1976) on a blind date. That blind date changed my life forever as Annie quickly became my best friend and we were married in the spring of 1976.





While teaching in Westerville I took accounting classes at The Ohio State University and passed the CPA exam. I left teaching in the fall of 1978 and began a five year career working for a couple of national accounting firms. I left public accounting late in 1983 and worked for a number of companies in accounting and information systems roles for the rest of my professional career. Along the way I received a Master of Business

Administration degree from The Ohio State University and worked for companies in the restaurant, medical and drug distribution industries, the longest stint being with Cardinal Health, an international health care services company with its global headquarters in Dublin, Ohio.

Annie and I have two daughters and two granddaughters. We are fortunate that all of them live in central Ohio so we get to see them frequently. Among the many other joys of being a parent and a grandparent, I have especially enjoyed watching all of the girls participate on track and cross-country teams, bringing back memories of my own running and coaching history. Over the years I continued participating in running and musical activities. In addition to running for fun, I ran multiple road races, marathons and triathlons. Recently I had to give up running but have been able to continue playing tennis on a regular basis. My musical itch has been scratched by singing in church choirs and at weddings and funerals.

Annie and I are mostly retired now and are blessed with good health. We both enjoy walking and have many fond memories of family hikes in the White Mountains of NH.



Don Foster



**5296 Meadowood Lane
Westerville 43082
Cell: (614) 395-3116
donfoster73@gmail.com**

Shortly after graduation, I went to work for Otterbein as an Admission Counselor recruiting new students and then moved into Financial Aid (1973-1981). Then, after 8 years as an insurance underwriter and followed by 3 years of self-employment, I returned to Otterbein in 1992 as Registrar. When I retired from that position at the end of 2015, favorite instructor Dr. Norm Chaney was still teaching evening classes there...and even commuting from Mount Vernon. Amazing!

My daughter Kristen graduated from Otterbein in 2013, works as an accountant, and lives in the Short North neighborhood of Columbus. A treasured experience was handing her a diploma and giving her a hug as she crossed the stage at Commencement in the Rike Center.



The first year of my retirement was borrrrr-ING! That got solved when I attended a history presentation at Otterbein and was recruited to do volunteer scanning for the Otterbein Digital Commons (which you should check out; just Google those 3 words). Many scanned issues of old campus newspapers and journals dating back into the 1870's, old issues of Towers, old Sibyls, etc. have sparked an interest in researching Otterbein history, Westerville history, and the architectural firm that designed the Sosh Building, the former Carnegie library building now housing the Office of Admission, and the Philomathean Room. Kristen got me started on blogging so lots of this research is now published on my website, doninwesterville.com. Among the 22 blogs are 9 that are Otterbein/Westerville-related: the history of Otterbein's founding near Circleville, the old 1908 Carnegie Library, the bookstore which began Uptown circa 1870, King Hall which dates to 1926, a tragic 1919 accident in the green

space behind the Campus Center, an Otterbein student who became the first mail carrier in Westerville in 1912, the old 1877 church housing Otterbein's Frank Museum of Art, a 1934 national tournament held in the backyard of 32 West Home Street (remnants of which are buried beneath overgrowth), and the 1890's Otterbein/Westerville legacy of renowned Columbus architects Yost & Packard.

I hope you enjoy the pictures. The selections are not current. LOL!!!

Linda Glegg Fyffe



**20122 Orchard Rd.
Marysville, OH 43040**

I remember the day I was trying on, my full-length, bright yellow, flowy, chiffon dress, in my sophomore dorm room in Mayne Hall. I was hoping, at some point, to get to wear it that year to a dance or fraternity party. Suddenly, the fire alarm went off. It was a fire drill! I had to throw on my shoes and

descend the entire stairwell of Mayne Hall and stand outside, in my dress, next to the other students' normal attire! It was an embarrassing moment, but one I look back on, as one of many warm Otterbein memories.

I'm originally from Tennessee. When I told friends from home that I was attending Otterbein College, they would ask, "Is that a bird school?" They thought I was saying "Audubon."

My four years at Otterbein were the best! The girls I met there are still some of my closest friends. We get together a few times a year, as well as have weekly Zoom "Dorm" meetings, which have included people from Ohio, Wisconsin, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. We're a great support system for each other.

I majored in English at Otterbein. I held several administrative jobs during my working years. While at school, I met Larry Fyffe, better known as "Bruiser" from the Sphinx fraternity. We married in 1974 and had two children, Nathan and Shelley. We are grandparents to Shelley's two kids, Justin, 13, and Emily, 11. In 1994, Larry and I decided to go our separate ways, but remain friends to this day. He lives in Frazesburg.

I live in Marysville and am thoroughly enjoying my retirement. As I think back on my days at the 'bein, I'm so glad I chose to experience my college years there!

Douglas Gyorke



**1653 Connor Drive
South Park, PA 15129
Home: (412) 655-0847
Cell: (412) 992-0615
dougandviv@verizon.net**

In the early 1970's Otterbein made a leap in information technology and I was excited to be part of it. When Bob Lowden and I returned to campus for our sophomore year in the fall of 1970, we received a call from Roger Tremaine of the Math Department asking us for some help with computer-related work.

Otterbein had just digitized its student database information. Managing and utilizing the database was too much for the few staff of the Data Center at the time and the administration had called upon the Math Department to help. Since Bob and I had completed our computer science classes the previous spring, the math professors asked us to assist. We started out sorting data cards but soon were helping to run the administrative programs on the data that was stored at the CDC (Control Data Corporation) mainframe at the Battelle Memorial Institute (BMI).

At the end of the fall term, we monitored the machines at BMI that prepared that term's grades for the student body. The grade reports were prepared on 5-ply fanfold paper. Separate machines printed the reports, separated the five copies, and burst the sheets into five piles. The machines were fast, very temperamental, and could fill the room with paper in a few seconds if anything went wrong. It was a late night that I'll never forget. Initially Otterbein ferried the program card stacks down to BMI, but soon Otterbein got its own remote terminal consisting of a card reader, a monitor, and a printer, all connected to the computer at BMI.

With the help of a few prewritten COBOL (COmmon Business-Oriented Language) programs and a COBOL programming manual, I taught myself the COBOL programming language. It was impressive to watch the monitor at Otterbein and see my program running on the computer at BMI. The Data Center hired additional staff to handle most of the information requests from the Otterbein administration, but I was on call to respond to the simpler, one-time requests. Most of my programs consisted of sorting the student database. For example, when the Admissions Office wanted to know where best to recruit new students, they decided to start by knowing the homes of the current student body. To assist them, I prepared a listing of the home addresses of the current students sorted by zip code. Since the young lady that I was dating (and

eventually married) was back in Pennsylvania, I had time to do most of my programming (coding) on weekends. I did the programming under the Work/Study Program and with raises over the years reached an astounding \$1.89/hour. That provided a good pizza every weekend while I worked.

The job was a terrific experience. I enjoyed working with the Otterbein administration and the staff of the Data Center. The CDC mainframe at BMI was amazing, and both it and the remote terminal at Otterbein were cutting edge for the time. The computer at BMI consisted of an entire floor of the building with disk and tape drives and row upon row of memory cabinets, the power of which is probably eclipsed by most laptops these days. For our COBOL programs to run on the BMI computer, they were limited in size to 103 kilobytes!

I still appreciate the trust that was placed in me by the Otterbein administration, considering that at the time I had complete access to very sensitive information for the entire student body.

While I went on to study mathematics in graduate school, it was the computer programming experience at Otterbein that got me my job at the U.S. Department of Energy. Yep, in the early 1970's Otterbein made a leap in information technology and it was rewarding to be a part of it.

Rebecca Fisher Hardcastle Wright



**3287 E. Castanets Dr.
Gilbert, AZ 85298
Cell: (301) 915-4660
fbright678@gmail.com**

During my senior year in high school, while friends visited colleges and vetted options of where to spend their next four years, my parents gave me one option: Otterbein. Despite my reluctance, it was a perfect fit. My Otterbein heritage spans my parents, siblings, nephew, and daughter. My brother, David Fisher, now serves on the Otterbein Board, and after my brother John's death, a scholarship was created in his name.

My social memories of Otterbein began with my parents moving me in and saying they would see me at Thanksgiving. I was grateful that Otterbein was residential and living at King Hall was fun. However, though I didn't realize it, my living options were limited--food was determined by the cafeteria, dinner dress was not for cold weather if you were female, 70s music was constantly playing, and desk security had us on early lockdown every night.

Many of my favorite memories were of classroom academics, where options abounded. Otterbein's classes gave me the gift of unfettered critical thinking: exciting class discussions that awakened ideas outside what I then perceived as the mainstream. Moreover, class discussions trained me to translate my experience and thoughts into a convincing argument.

Otterbein gave me the gift of creativity: learning to express myself in writing--using accurate and honest words along with the patient art professors who gently guided my lack of artistic talent.

Otterbein gave me rich historical, political, social, religious, and philosophical knowledge. And the science and math prerequisites provided a background for the coming STEM technology culture. I remember calculus class and the awkward transferring data to punch cards.

After Otterbein, I received my MDiv from Boston University. I remember walking into BU classrooms filled with ivy league and top-tier school graduates and feeling confident because of my Otterbein education. Three years later, I took a position as an Interfaith Chaplain at Wright State University in Dayton. Here my Otterbein ethics courses took action. Observing the mid80s advances in computing and

the lack of ethical discussion, I held a symposium on the Human Dilemma of High Technology in a packed auditorium. Today, I apply my ethics background to examining neural rights, health issues, free will, consciousness, and spirituality within our increasingly AI-driven, non-human reality.

Moving to Phoenix, I received my Ph.D. in Parapsychic Science from the American Institute of Holistic Theology, which encouraged me to research and develop my concept of Exoconsciousness.

Otterbein's theology and philosophy faculty provided the confidence to explore the "unseen." I defined Exoconsciousness as the study of the extraterrestrial origins, dimensions, and abilities of human consciousness.

Recognizing, exploring, and communicating about the "unseen" is now a priority. The unseen expands beyond UFOs and extraterrestrials to include AI, thought forms, nanoparticles, environmental frequencies, and viruses. As a result, much of our world is unseen.

Typewritten assignments fostered a love of writing, producing three published books and many papers—classroom discussions and exchanging ideas generated online coaching groups and a YouTube for Exoconscious Humans. In addition, science and math prerequisites prepared me to work with an international group of scientists led by Apollo 14 Astronaut Dr. Edgar Mitchell, researching zero-point energy, consciousness, and extraterrestrial presence.

From punch cards to quantum computing to brain-to-computer to AI—tech demands exponential change. Similarly, the government/military push for UFO Disclosure accelerates the urge of individuals to experience the "unseen." So how do we "know thyself" in this new reality?

Looking back, would I change any of my Otterbein experiences? No, not one. Did Otterbein prepare me for our unfolding reality—yes.

Cheryl Edmunds Harnish



**1406 Cardinal Dr.
Warsaw, IN 46580
terrnycheryl@comcast.net**

After graduating from high school in Buffalo, NY, I had applied to three other colleges with the goal of pursuing a medical career. Although a good distance away from home, the charming campus of Otterbein

with cobblestone streets and squirrels running about (I was a city girl) along with the QPV surroundings (quiet peaceful village) captured my heart. There was no doubt as to where I would attend.

Cochran Hall was where my college experience began. My roommate was Debbie Fauble who would become a life long close friend. Our room was on the first floor over the front porch, where we often heard conversations of the dates on the porch returning late at night. Debbie and I would have private tang parties and long conversations, finding that our upbringing and beliefs were much the same. During that first year, I pledged Kappa Phi Omega sorority. My big sis, Kathy, required me to have the traditional coke dates with 10 different guys from the different fraternities. One of those coke dates was with the man who would later become a huge part of my life. Beanies, wearing pj's to a movie in town, a huge bonfire, sorority pledging, coke dates.

For my sophomore year I lived in Hanby Hall. Biology was my major under the guidance of Dr. Phinney. He was one of my favorite profs and I'll be forever grateful that he didn't make me take physics. It was this year that I began to be involved with Campus Crusade for Christ on campus. May day activities, dressing up for dinner on Wed nights, self-serve ice cream for dinner, sunbathing on Barlow Beach.

Then I moved into King Hall as a Residence Hall counselor during my Junior year. In the basement!! It was nice and cool down there on a hot day. The public phone was just outside my room so at times it was hard to study or to sleep. I worked the switchboard at King Hall on the weekends, in the evenings, to earn a little bit of money. King Hall was on the outskirts of campus. It was sometimes a dangerous walk to the Campus Center in the winter. I remember one evening after dinner, taking a handful of fresh fruit back to my dorm. Exiting out the back of the campus center, I slipped on the ice and my fruit flew into the air... fruit salad going everywhere. It must have been quite a show for the students studying in the new library as they looked out the large 2nd floor windows facing

the back of the campus center.

My Junior year was a very hard year. My courses for a biology degree were intense. Many hours were spent in the science building, climbing up and down the stairs, going to classes, tending to my fruit flies, studying, and doing research. I felt very alone. My friends were in the other dorms across campus, I rarely saw my roommate and my family and boyfriend lived in another state. Not to mention dealing with the challenges of 6-8 freshman girls on my floor. But as often happens, character and strength can develop in the lonely and challenging times. I became more involved with Campus Crusade (now Cru), learning about the love of God for me, who Jesus Christ was and that He came to earth to die on the cross for my sins. I trusted Him as my Savior and that decision forever changed my life: my perspective, my choices, my goals and my future.

When I returned to school in the fall of 1972 as a Senior, I was happy to be in a dorm with my closest friends, in Mayne Hall. My roommate was Debbie Dominy and we remain good friends to this day. I was engaged to the love of my life, the man I had a coke date with, Terry Harnish (class of '71) and planning to graduate early in March. After returning from Christmas break, my friends carried out the tradition of throwing someone who became engaged into Alum Creek. However, in my case, they used the bathtub in our dorm. Clothes and all!! My class load was a bit lighter and so I was able to complete my degree after the 2nd trimester in March when I packed up and moved home to Buffalo to plan my wedding. Terry and I were married on June 2, 1973. We were honored with the presence of many of our same friends from the 'Bein at our wedding and it has been so special to have memories together from the same school.

I joined Terry on the staff of Campus Crusade for Christ. After staff training at Purdue University, we moved to Southern California in the summer of 1973 to serve with the Athletic Ministry, called Athletes in Action (AIA). We had two wonderful years early in our marriage in that ministry.

Eventually we would move back to the Midwest and settle in Warsaw, Indiana. We raised a daughter, Valerie and a son, Zachary and are now the proud grandparents of 4. Terry attended Grace Seminary and later had a 23 year career at a world-renowned orthopedic company. I was thankful to be a stay-at-home Mom for many years but then utilized my biology degree as a diagnostic assistant in a medical laboratory at our community hospital for 23 years. I also received state certification as an EMT and volunteered



in our local EMS for a short time. Since retirement, I have served at our church as a Biblical counselor and also serve on the staff at a rehabilitation home for women struggling with and desiring freedom from their addictions.

This year we are celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary!



I will always be grateful for my years at Otterbein. The memories I have, the treasured friends I have made, the struggles as well as the joys have made me who I am. I received my degree which allowed me to have a career in the medical field which I love. I met my husband there and we have had 50 wonderful years together. And then I met my Savior there and He has forever changed my life, making it complete.

John Harvey (in memoriam)

I would like to mention the passing of John Harvey. He passed away Oct 17, 2016 in Pataskala, Ohio.

I met John back in the mid 60's when his family arrived from Wisconsin after his mother accepted a position of Religious Education at the former E.U.B. Church in Westerville. John became the Senior Analytical Chemist at Franklin International in Columbus, Ohio. Through our high school and college years and beyond, we kept in touch. From working together in Espanola, New Mexico, travelling to Florida for spring break, joining "Sphinx" fraternity, we remained close friends. It is those many years of friendship that make me appreciate our time together. I was blessed to have John as a close friend. Thank you.

-Kevin Witt

William "Thomas' Heavey



**4225 Glenridge Drive
Carmichael, CA 95608
Cell: 916-769-6222
inspiguy@gmail.com**

I was a Speech-Theater major and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant through the ROTC program. Program director and later station manager at WOBN.

Did Debate, oral interpretation some theatre on stage and off. 23 years as a public affairs officer on active duty and reserve. Served at Wright-Patterson and Edwards AFB. Then in the reserve at McClellan and Travis AFB. Retired as a Lt. Colonel in 1994.

Married with 3 children. In civilian life worked as an insurance investigator for 35 years. After retirement worked for a couple of private investigators, was a substitute teacher for a California School district and worked as Harbor master on a marina on the Sacramento river. Still active on Facebook where I am in contact with many high school and college friends.

Helen Herbst

**34660 Detroit Road
Avon, OH 44011
Cell: (440) 213-5393
helengherbst@gmail.com**

It has been 50 years of non-stop music since graduating Otterbein with a Bachelor of Music Education degree. I have fond memories of being guided particularly by Dr. Lyle Barkhymer and Gary Tirey into a lifelong career of teaching and making music.

I started out as a Band Director and put in more than 20 years, most of which were at the elementary school level. My 2nd year of teaching I moved back home and at this point started into playing Organ for Holy Trinity Catholic Church in a part time capacity. Along the way, the Church position grew in responsibilities and challenges. As a clarinet major, it was quite a shift to find myself learning how to play Pipe Organ and develop skills to form and direct a choir.

Six years into my teaching, the Parish school was in need of a band director, so I had the great opportunity to shift my career totally to Avon. This meant I was living at home, playing and directing for my Parish Church, directing the school band at the Elementary school I had attended, and eventually filling in with some part time band directing for my Alma Mater, Avon High School.

Supplementing this, I taught private music lessons out of my home until Covid shut that down.

Hundreds of students over the years enriched my life as I taught them the basics of music performance.

In recent years, I let go of the band directing and focused on the Church music position which has greatly expanded and become a full time ministry. It has been very rewarding and such a blessing to be entrusted by God to do this special work.

In addition I have had the opportunity to play clarinet in the True North Orchestra and a local German Band.

For fun I horseback ride at a friend's barn and get to drive a semi when they bring in the yearly hay.





My garden presently is 200 square feet and I am able to grow a large portion of my own food supply. I keep it organic. Mom taught me how to pre-serve, can, and freeze what we grew, so I continue the handed on skills.

Dad died in 1978 and mom in 1987. I am so grateful to them for the sacrifices they made to enable me to attend Otterbein. My 3 brothers are all nearby and have enabled me to continue living in the

home I grew up in.

Every fall for over a decade, the class of 1973 Music graduates have gotten together for a Potluck luncheon. Victoria Sinclair Capper, Dan Emerson Clark, Robert Day, Cheryn Alten Houston, David Leist, Deborah Munsch and myself always have a wonderful day sharing where we are now and remembering where it all began at Otterbein. The only missing graduate is Dave Hairston who died tragically in an accident years ago. We all look forward to this yearly reunion.



Greetings and best wishes to all of the Class of '73!

Beth Sanders Hills (*in memoriam*)



Beth, age 65, passed away on May 30, 2017 at the James Cancer Center after a long battle with cancer.

Beth had lived in old Worthington since graduating from Otterbein. After 20 years as a sales rep for Ricoh USA, Beth had retired. She was especially fond of horses and adopted cats. As an art major, music and the arts were especially dear to her.

Beth was well loved and cherished for her life and energy. She especially appreciated the support and compassion she always received from the people at her home church, Central Christian Church in Newark, Ohio.

Throughout her life, God had blessed Beth with a loving sister, Barbara. In her later years, God sent a dear friend from Beth's high school days, Rex, into her life. Rex honored Beth with a consistent love before and during her suffering with cancer.

Rex and Beth planned to marry and provide a family for Rex's sweet daughter and her husband.



-Evon Lineburgh

Gretchen Steck Horstman



**593 Woodsfield Dr.
Columbus, OH 43214
Cell: (614) 607-3998
ghorstman@sbcglobal.net**

Deciding to attend Otterbein was very easy for me . . . in fact, I filled out just one college application. So many relatives had graduated from Otterbein that I always assumed I would follow in their footsteps. Good decision.

My freshman year in Cochran Hall was fun, as there were so many new friends to make. I especially enjoyed sitting on the window seat of our third floor room. Pretending to study, I spent most of my time calling out to people I knew passing by down below. I eventually realized that location had to be replaced by a study carrel far from other students in the library.

Also in my first year, I was fortunate to be selected to join the A Cappella Choir. The next year the group's name was changed to the Concert Choir. I am so thankful that I was a part of a wonderful group of singers for all four of my years at Otterbein. The highlight was Christmas break of 1972, when the Concert Choir toured Austria for three weeks, including stops in Vienna and Salzburg. We sang in beautiful cathedrals with amazing acoustics . . . but we could see our breath when we sang, since the massive structures were unheated. The choir ties were so strong that I was glad to assist Jill Leasure '75 when she decided that since there was an Alumni Band, we should also start an Alumni Choir. We've been meeting regularly since the late 70's.

Just three weeks before choir tour, I concluded the high point of my education major: a ten-week off-campus study program with four other Otterbein students at McCurdy School in New Mexico. We taught half-days four days a week (I worked with fourth graders and a great cooperating teacher). We had afternoons and weekends free to travel and to prepare two research papers.

After graduation I accepted a position in North Union Local Schools teaching 32 sixth graders. As the months went by, the large number of students and frequent discipline issues began to adversely affect my health, resulting in my resignation in February. I felt like a failure until I learned years later that I have ADD without hyperactivity –not a good match with all those students.

Thankfully, God had some special plans for me. A dentist for whom I had worked in 1969 asked if I might return to his office as a dental assistant. I agreed, with the understanding that I might attend graduate school in the fairly near future. Dr.

Dixon was such an honest, caring dentist, and the majority of the patients were such enjoyable people that I ended up working there for 25 years.

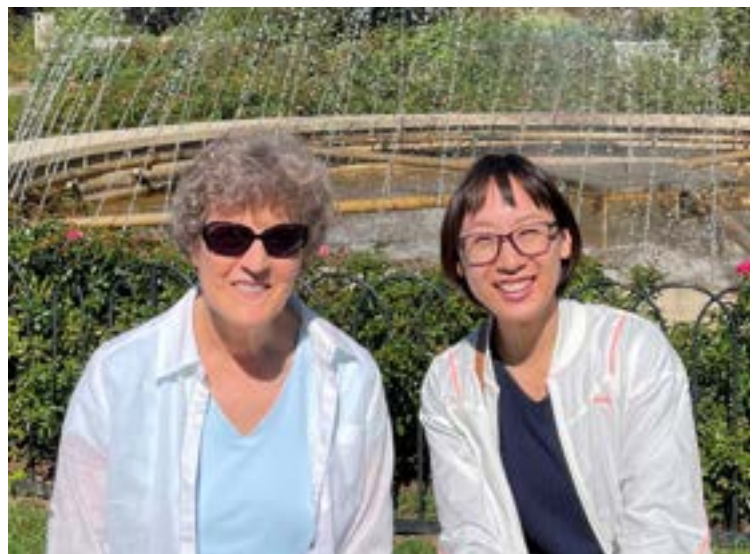


During my time with Dr. Dixon, he would often share in conversation about his faith in Christ. He and his wife also suggested I attend the young adult singles group at their church. I soon met many Christian friends and came to realize that though I knew about God, I didn't know Him in a personal way. I asked Christ into my heart in September of 1978. About the same time David Horstman and I began dating. Dave and I were married in October of 1980, and we continue to thank the

Lord for bringing us together.

After retiring from Dr. Dixon's office, I had the time to become more involved with International Friendships, Inc. (IFI), an outreach to international students at OSU. My focus was becoming an English conversation partner with individual young women, mostly from China and Japan. We became friends as we did such activities as eating at ethnic restaurants, shopping, walking at the Park of Roses, or attending the Christmas concert at our church. Many of the students became very special to me. One in particular, Lili, eventually told me, "You are my American mom." That touched me deeply, especially since Dave and I were unable to have children. Lili now lives in California with her husband and two children. The kids call me "Grandma Gretchen."

In September of 2021 my friend Becky introduced me to her neighbor Chie ("Chee-ay"), a young wife and mother from Japan. Chie wanted to improve her English before her family returned to Japan in March of 2023. The three of us became conversation partners for eighteen months, and now I feel like I also have family in Japan.



I look forward to reconnecting with many former classmates at our 50th reunion.

Cheryn Alten Houston

**4867 Calloway Ct.
Dublin, OH 43017
cheryn73@aol.com**

Thanks to my high school band director, Thomas Beck, and his wife, Carol Sue Beck, both of whom were teachers at Avon High School, I was introduced to Otterbein College early in my high school years and never really considered going elsewhere. They were both alumni (class of '64) and frequently talked to me about Otterbein with great enthusiasm. As it turned out, Otterbein was a good fit for me. My home town of Avon was about the same size as Westerville and just as quiet and peaceful when I lived there. I felt right at home when I arrived on campus. Of course, there were adjustments that had to be made if, like me, you were used to having a room of your own and suddenly had to live in one room with three other women. But meeting so many new people and experiencing so many new things (including all the rules and restrictions) is part of what I went to college for, so, again, Otterbein was a good fit.

As a music education major, my academic life was all about rehearsals, lessons, classes, and practicing. There was concert band, marching band, wind ensemble, orchestra, pit orchestra for musicals, other small ensembles, and private lessons. It was quite a challenging schedule but the directors and teachers we had were always encouraging and supportive. Mr. Gary Tirey, Dr. Lyle Barkhymer, and Mrs. Phyllis Hlasten Hester were especially important in my becoming a good music educator and musician.

The best part of my time at Otterbein, though, were the friends that I made, many of whom I've kept in touch with since graduation. Thanks to the band tours we went on each year, I was paired with Linda Newlun Bright as a roommate and we ended up rooming together in the dorm beginning our sophomore year, and we were roommates until we graduated. Linda was an elementary education major and a good friend of another el ed major, Glenna Feisley Kincaid. Glenna was a roommate with Victoria Sinclair Capper, another music major. After I moved back to Ohio in 2005, the four of us would get together for lunch every month or so, and Vicky, Glenna, and I have continued to do so since Linda's passing in 2015.

Another group of “Otter” friends I’ve kept in touch with are my fellow music graduates. As I recall, there were 32 music majors in my freshman class. By the end of our senior year, there were only eight of us. Every year for over 20 years, seven of us – Victoria Sinclair Capper, Dan Clark, Bob Day, Helen Herbst, David Leist, Deborah Sahr Munsch, and myself - meet for a mini-reunion, usually at my house. We enjoy a pot-luck lunch and several hours of catching up and reminiscing about our days at the ‘Bein. What’s truly amazing about our group is that we’re all still active in some way or other with music or the arts in general. We have a very special connection that began at Otterbein.



And there are so many other wonderful friends met through band and other classes that I will cherish forever. Since Otterbein, my life has been busy with a career in music education followed by lots of volunteer activities both at church and in the community. My husband, a trumpet player, and I met when we were playing in the Worthington Community Band. We married in 1983 and moved around the country several times for his professional career as a physician. To continue the tradition of music in our family, our son plays tuba, baritone, and other instruments, but his day job is as a software developer. All three of us have played together in the Otterbein Alumni Band for graduations when Gary Tirey was directing it.

Even though there have been some physical changes to the campus in the last 50 years, it still feels like home when I have the chance to visit. I look forward to seeing my Otterbein ‘family’ when we gather for our 50th reunion.

Patrice Perry Kelly



**135 Westmont Street
West Hartford, CT 06117
Home: (860) 561-5036
Cell: (860) 335-7751
patray1530@aol.com**

Following graduation, my roommate, Vicky Smithson's, father helped me to get an interview at Battelle Columbus Laboratories, where I became one of two professional women in the Organic Chemistry Department (my first boss there had me washing glassware . . .). While there, I met and married my husband, John Robert (Bob) Kelly. He left Battelle to attend dental school at OSU while I continued working and attended law school nights at Capital University. Upon his graduation, Bob joined the Navy and was sent to San Diego, so, after seven years doing research chemistry, with a final focus on analytical and environmental chemistry, I left Battelle and Columbus.

In California, I passed the bar exam and worked as an Environmental Attorney for the Air Force. Bob's next assignment took us to Great Lakes Naval Dental Research Institute, North of Chicago, where I got a job as an analytical chemist with the drug screening lab, serving as an expert witness in courts martial for sailors failing the screening tests. Our son, Sean was born at Great Lakes. After several years in Illinois, Bob was given the opportunity to earn a post-doctoral degree and was accepted at the Harvard Dental School, doing his research at M.I.T. I passed the Massachusetts bar exam, but spent most of my time there raising a toddler and doing volunteer work.

Upon completing his Doctor of Medical Science in Oral Biology (check out the acronym) Bob was obligated to serve two years on a ship so we went back to San Diego for a year, after which the aircraft carrier was sent to the Naval Shipyard in Philadelphia for repairs and maintenance, so we returned to the East Coast for the second year. Sean attended kindergarten there and Bob avoided going to Desert Storm because he was serving the maintenance crew that



With my husband, Bob, at West Point in 2012.

stayed with the ship. I taught Sunday School and served as President of the Navy Dental Wives group for those remaining with the ship.

After a year, we were sent to Washington, D.C., where Bob worked at the National Institute of Standards and Technology and at Bethesda Naval Hospital. I worked as a teacher for Hands on Science, an after school program for elementary and middle school students interested in science. I was employed by the school system, mentoring gifted and talented learning disabled students, being assigned to student interested in science; this was probably the most rewarding job of my career. I also worked for the local community college in a program for students who were admitted conditionally but needed to improve their reading and writing skills to better ensure their success. I taught Sunday school, served on church committees and did community service.



With our son, Sean in 2013.

By this time, Bob's published research at M.I.T. had begun to draw international attention and he was being invited to present his work at conferences around the world. With such recognition, he was called upon to finish his career as Commanding Officer back at the Naval Dental Research Institute in North Chicago. Sean and I remained in Maryland so he could finish high school with his class there.

Once Sean was happily on his way to Carnegie Mellon, I joined Bob, who had accepted a faculty position at the University of Connecticut (UConn) School of Dental Medicine. I was hired as an Environmental Analyst in the Bureau of Air Management at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, where I have tracked legislation and administered grants for 18 years. Most recently, I have managed the grants funded under the Volkswagen NOx Mitigation Settlement to replace diesel vehicles and engines with cleaner equivalents.

With Sean on his own, I have been able to accompany Bob on many international speaking trips, visiting Switzerland, Germany, Luxembourg, Great Britain, France, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Sweden, Norway, China, South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Brazil, Ecuador and Peru. The most interesting was a side trip to Machu Picchu, in Peru, following a training program held on a ship cruising the Galapagos Islands! And with all the cross country travels



With Bob at Machu Picchu, Peru in 2015.

associated with the Navy, I also was able to visit 43 of the 50 states, including Alaska and Hawaii!

I am a certified lay preacher for our Methodist Church, where I teach senior high Sunday School and serve on several committees. I also do community work for our neighborhood association and have made several trips back to Ohio to meet with Otterbein friends I met in King Hall Freshman year.



At Kyoto, Japan in 2019.

Steven William Kennedy (*in memoriam*)

I am writing this tribute to Steve Kennedy, my best friend from my years at Otterbein. I met Steve my Freshman year at fraternity rush parties. Steve was rushed by several frats and in the end decided not to join any after eating and drinking at each one. We laughed about that many times. Steve, Jon France and I roomed together in Scott and Davis Hall we wound up getting an apartment together until we had finished our time at school.

Throughout the years following Otterbein our families (Steve and Renee', and Jon and Barb France) made it a point to stay in touch by yearly visits to his home in Cincinnati, visits with our families at state parks and every opportunity we could come up with. Steve and I shared the love of classic cars and spent many hours talking about what we had recently purchased and dreaming about the next one. Although he played golf frequently with Jon, I tried to keep up but soon found he and Jon were far superior of the game than I was. He loved the Cincinnati Reds and attended many games or watched them on tv.

Although Steve is gone now I think of him every day when I think of some of the things we did. My wife and I still laugh at Steve's stories which we will never forget. We still stay in contact with his wife Renee' and Jon and Barb by calls or visits as often as we can and enjoy sharing Steve stories.

Like others, I will never forget Steve's sense of humor and his devotion to his family. He is missed.

-Bill Standish

Cindy Robertson Kent



**4976 Charlbury Dr
Columbus, Ohio 43220
Cell: (614) 451-2630
winswiper7@aol.com**

My first visit to Otterbein's campus was when I was eight years old. I visited my sister, Stephanie ('63), many times during her four years where she met her future husband, Bill Cotton ('62). Living in a small town of Coshocton, Ohio, I knew I wanted a small school atmosphere. Ten years later Otterbein became my choice. Memories of bonfires, beanies, dancing around the Maypole, rooftop sunbathing and studying elementary schools on a tour in England with Dr. Deibel come to mind.

I lived in Cochran Hall my freshman year. By living on the fourth floor, my friends and I were usually forewarned when housemother, Miss May, had to climb all those steps to let us know we were being too noisy. Sometimes, we still got demerits and spent time in our rooms.

Following in my sister's footsteps, I pledged EKT where so many friendships were made. Memories were coke dates, serenades, the dormouse in Alice in Wonderland and meetings in the basement of Clement Hall. Laurie Martin ('73) Andreas was my roommate junior and senior year. We have remained friends and try to visit each other almost every year despite the distance.

I graduated with a B.S. in education and my first teaching job was with Olentangy Local Schools. I taught 3rd grade and happily saw familiar faces of other Otterbein grads at the school. I later taught preschool at Meadow Park Children's Center.

After graduation, I met my future husband, Jim Kent, on a blind date thanks to my Otterbein friends, Kaye (Kline '73) and Tim Schlosser ('73). Jim and I have





been married 46 years and have one daughter, Mandy and two grandchildren, Gray and Lexi. We're so lucky that we only live two miles from each other in Upper Arlington, Ohio and can be part of their lives.

I enjoy reading, cooking and gardening and my latest adventure is taking tap dancing lessons (never knew I could do that!). We have a cabin in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and like to vacation there several weeks each year with family and friends.

I thank Otterbein for all my experiences and for the lasting friendships which I treasure.

Glenna Feisley Kincaid

**6720 Clark State Road
Blacklick, Oh 43004
Home: (614) 855-2766
Cell: (614) 323-6754
glenna@interstateconstruction.net**

Among the many changes in Otterbein since 1973, I feel the largest is it now being University instead of College.

My memories during my four years there include amazing bonfires, wearing the traditional beanies, going on doughnut runs and using our keycards to return to the dorms after hours. Also coke dates and hell week are hard to forget.

While at Otterbein, my activities included feature twirler, flag carrier, and Tau Delta Sorority to name a few. Tau Delta at this time was a very large group primarily made up of band members. Instead of a house, they had a room in the basement of a dorm. Here it was fun to make dinners, entertain friends and just relax. However, you had to book your time.

I graduated with a degree in elementary education with distinctions, and an art concentration. This lead me to teaching in Lancaster, Ohio for fourteen years. I also taught in Wooster, Mass. for a year. While teaching in Lancaster, I had a principal who graduated from Capital and I was able to send him a sympathy arrangement(anonymously) when the Bein beat Capital in football.

Teaching in Wooster was quite the experience. It was not uncommon for furniture or food to hit the wall between classrooms. Pretty rough area. The teacher before me stood in front of the class crying, and one of my fourth graders was suspected of starting a fire that killed several. I also taught a kindergarten class that spoke only Spanish and I spoke only English. Other teachers need to have this experience! LOL. What doesn't kill you, makes you stronger! We were transferred here when Doug worked for Thom McCann and was promoted to one of four merchandisers serving the US.

I met Dwight Douglas Kincaid at Otterbein and we married in 1974. We have two children, Ashley and Devon. Ashley lives in Lewis Center with her husband, David, and two children Mackenzie and Declan. Devon lives in Manhattan, NY. Both were able to see the world as they worked for Royal Caribbean, Disney, or the Regency of the Seven Seas cruise lines. All this while working!

Doug and I established, in 1981, Interstate Construction, Inc. We designed and built our home on five acres in Blacklick. This is our " forever" home. Today we

primarily build or remodel Wendy's restaurants not only in the Columbus area but also in several other states. Retirement?? It doesn't appear in our near future.

Many friends made at Otterbein still remain in our lives. I have "friend's lunch" once a month with Vickie Sinclair and Cheryn Alton, also graduates of 1973.

Many unnamed memories will never be forgotten, but will remain with us forever. Thanks, Otterbein.

Susan Harrison Lahoski



I have so many fond memories of my 4 years at Otterbein: all the silly things we did as freshmen, making new friends, wonderful roommates, my Theta Nu sorority sisters, traveling with the band and performing at halftime. And of course, a good education.

I loved the small town atmosphere. After graduating with my teaching degree Jim and I got married and I was hired as a kindergarten teacher at Buckeye Valley schools. Jim was also teaching and coaching football and eventually became an administrator. So we moved around a lot.

After leaving Westerville, we have lived in Marion, Toledo, Upper Sandusky, and currently Bellevue. So

over the years, I have taught at five different schools, at kindergarten, first grade, second grade, and third grade.

After retiring at 39 years I have enjoyed spending time with friends and family, babysitting my grandchildren, and doing some remodeling in our home. Loved teaching, loving retirement!



David Leist



**1065 E. Main Street Apt. 65
Lebanon, OH 45036-9264
Home: (513) 933-0953
Cell: (513) 967-1371
dlmaestro@aol.com**

I graduated from Otterbein with a Bachelor of Music Education degree. Most folks will remember me by my nickname: TANK. During my college years, I was involved in marching and concert bands, choir, musical theatre, college senate, and Pi Beta Sigma fraternity. I also worked part-time in the Campus Center office. In the band, I was the class representative/manager all four years and I served as president of Pi Sig my junior year. My living arrangements were Scott Hall and Davis Hall my first two years, the Pi Sig house my junior year, and I shared an apartment with Dan Clark and Kelvin Shiu my senior year. I spent my summers working on campus with the Summer Conference staff. For all my efforts, I was named in Who's Who Among Students in America's Colleges and Universities.

After graduation, my teaching career began. I accepted my first position as Vocal Music Director teaching grades 7-12 at Springboro High School. After six years, I took a three year break from teaching and worked as a professional actor/singer, earning my Actors Equity card. It wasn't a stellar career, but I worked at theatres in Ohio, Indiana, Texas, Michigan, and Virginia. That period of my life gave me several lessons that I used in my future life. Seeking the security of a steady job, I returned to teaching. I accepted a position at Waynesville High School, where I was assigned to teach drama as well as vocal music. My favorite activity was directing the spring musicals. In 1990, I was awarded the Project Excellence-Excellence in Teaching Award as the outstanding teacher at WHS. After 18 years, I moved on to West Clermont Schools (1 year at Amelia High School and 3 years at Glen Este High School) where I was the drama and stage craft teacher.

During my teaching years, I became involved with several community theatre groups, both as an actor and a director. I met so many great people, several of whom I have maintained friendships.

2005 was a banner year. I retired from teaching with a full pension from STRS. It was a bit frightening because I had no post-teaching plans. One day as I was driving past Kings Island, I saw on the marquee a message that they were hiring employees for their season. Figuring it was a form of entertainment, I applied and was hired to work in the Admissions Department. After four years, I switched over

to The Beach Waterpark, working as a catering server and a bartender. Other part-time jobs included working for a catering company and working as a cashier at two different retail stores. I ended up working as a bartender at a banquet facility.

2020 saw the Covid pandemic cause the closing of the banquet facility, resulting in our entire staff receiving permanent layoffs. I was age 69 and decided it was time to take full retirement.

Over the years, I have paid a few visits to the Otterbein Campus. Those visits were bittersweet. Lambert Hall, where I spent most of my class time, was gone. The Association Building, where we had band and choir rehearsals, was gone. A major part of my college life was gone. However, the memories linger on. Over the years, my fellow 1973 music graduates and I have had an annual reunion. We meet, have lunch, reminisce, and catch up on our lives.

Carter W. Lewis

722 Pennsylvania Avenue
Saint Louis, Missouri 63130
carterwl@att.net

The dubious task of remembering things when you're over 70...

..I think I remember...

The super flat grilled cheese sandwiches at the campus dining hall.
Duffy Oldberg introducing me to Credence Clearwater Revival.
The popping-thunk of tennis balls outside my dorm window.
My sister playing Desdemona opposite Brock Peters.
A not-to-be-named friend's pot garden behind my dorm.
Petie Dodrill's theatrical directing instructions "bigger, faster, redder."
The large round gathering table in the Campus Center grill.
A secret and totally illegal private graduation dinner on the roof of Cowan Hall.
Pop Thayer's reliable kindness.
Brick streets.
Getting doughnuts at 3am from Schneider's Bakery to quell beer consumption.
Being very gently and respectfully tossed out of a fraternity.
Chuck Dodrill throwing his shoe at us in a dress rehearsal.
Being a highly mediocre player on the tennis team.
Walking around Westerville in my pajamas.
My friends Ed Vaughan and Dennis Romer politely asking me to never act again.
That archaic light board in Cowan Hall with all the medieval levers.
Playing euchre for quarters in my freshman dorm.
Carrying recordings of Wagner's operas in my green briefcase because I thought it was cool.
Sneaking off to Walden Pond for a weekend with Shelley Russell to sleep on Thoreau's grave.
Dean Joanne Van Sant getting me out of trouble...a couple times.
John Cain's unbridled laughter at Friendly's.
Becky Holford as Juliet.
The Blue Danube.
Dick's Den.
Listening to Cat Stevens while playing nine-ball in the Campus Center.
Countless wicked thrills onstage and off at Otterbein Summer Theatre.
Dick Miller's sidesplitting performance in The Fantasticks.
The smooth wooden railings in the old library.
Dee Hoty's voice.
The tree lined amphitheater by Alum Creek.
The wet-sock stink of Alum Creek.
Behind a door where something innocently sexy happened with a not-to-be-named female.

Having my play Till Death Do Us... produced my senior year.
The good-humored twinkle in Mike Hartman's eye.
RC Pizza and all the heartbreak that goes with it.
Late night "Elf Sessions" in the scene shop at Cowan Hall.
Martha Edwards singing Black Water by the Doobie Brothers.
Living in Crescent Apartments with three guys and a hideous Siamese cat named Priscilla.
The antique mystery and mystique on the third floor of Towers Hall.
Leaving Otterbein and wondering if I'd ever have such friends again.

After Otterbein, I sought a little more education, did an array of jobs, and hitchhiked around the country for a few years. While doing so, I wrote a bunch of plays. A few of them weren't awful. I became Playwright in Residence for Upstart Stage in Berkeley CA, then for Geva Theater Center in NY, and then for Washington University in St. Louis. I retired last year to write full time. I am currently living in St Louis with my wonderfully opinionated dog, Vivian.



THEN



NOW



VIVIAN

Evon Lineburgh



**83 N. West St.
Westerville, Ohio 43081
Cell: 614-296-2533
lineburgh@yahoo.com**

As a freshman with rose-colored glasses, I accepted the agenda that was presented to me. Coming from a family background where I had experienced quite a lot of independent choices, I was surprised by the unexpected rules, but did not

view them as "unacceptable". The various rules and "traditions" made me feel like I was entering a boarding school from the 1950's.

On my arrival, I was given a maroon ballcap and was told that I was required to wear this ballcap any time that I was on the Otterbein campus. I was then introduced to my dorm room which contained 3 other freshmen women. Miss May was our dorm "mother" who enforced the curfew limitations along with the restrictions that resulted from non-compliance of these limitations. We were required to sign in upon our return on week days by 10:00 P.M. and by 12:00 P.M. on weekends. If we arrived past this curfew time, we were issued "demerits" and were required to pass several days where we were not "permitted" out of our room or allowed to talk with anyone besides our roommates.

Now for some of the better memories...

The rule-dominated administration also followed traditions of a special caring for the well-being of the new students. Department introductions were initiated by social gatherings where freshmen were able to meet upper class members of their chosen majors. The introduction of professors would be a vital part of the success the students were striving for.

I have included pictures of some of the traditions that helped freshmen who wanted to participate feel included in their new environment. We built a freshman bonfire then paraded to the site in pajamas chosen for the event. There were times of sports events, silly skits, marching in parades, dorm antics and Greek pranks and jokes.



As examples of campus responses to choices made by the University, two incidents occurred that will always be a part of my Otterbein memories. The first happened as a fraternity prank.

There is a stairway at the east end of the cafeteria. The top of the stairs has a wide blank wall. Some creative artists used items that were very realistic. Somehow, borders were constructed and a pushbutton device was inserted so that it looked like there was an elevator beside the top of the stairs. There was a sign across the fake center crevice that read "Under Repair/Do Not Use"!!!

The other memorable incident happened our junior year after construction was completed on the structure at the corner of Grove St. and Main St. The contractors proceeded to attach the new lettering on the outside of the building. The large metal lettering read "NEW LIBRARY".

The morning after this noteworthy label was installed on the brick surface, there were very stationary signs all over campus reading "BENCH", "TREE", "STAIR", "SIGN", "SIDEWALK" ... etc.

My experiences at Otterbein were highlighted by my participation in the Campus Crusade for Christ organization. I give valid credit to fellow members who helped me establish a strong foundation for my faith. My new friends outlined the value of accepting for myself the sacrifice that Jesus Christ made for the forgiveness of the sins of all who believe in Him. I recognize that my time at Otterbein included countless feelings and experiences that have been essential in the activities in which I have chosen to participate for the 50 years since graduation.



Evon and grandchildren.

After graduating from Otterbein, I attended Xavier University and received a Masters Degree in Montessori Education. I was married in 1974 and we have 2 sons who live in the Columbus area. My precious grandchildren are 10, 8, 6, 5, and 4.

My career history after teaching at the preschool level for 5 years includes 15 years of selling residential and corporate real estate.

In 1991, I joined the semi-professional choir at Grace Brethren Church. I also helped with several of the children's programs at my church.

In 1999, I became a "Court Appointed Special Advocate" {a "CASA" representative). This is a volunteer position where we represent foster children who are part of the court system.

I am now looking forward to working with the "LifeWise" Association which establishes programs in public schools where children have the opportunity to attend Christian education classes once a week.

Eleven years ago, I moved into a house on West St. My front window overlooks the stadium on Otterbein's campus. When I moved in, I can remember standing in my front yard, thinking...

"Who would have ever thought I would live TWO blocks away from Cochran Hall"?!?!"



Robert “Bob” Lowden



**4838 Valley Pike
Stephens City, VA 22655
717-283-3764
bob@lowden.org**

How does one reflect on 50 years ago honestly? Certainly, I enjoyed some wonderful times at Otterbein: late nights (early mornings) with the Theater Department, the theater trip to England and Paris (sorry Ginger), Professors

Tremaine and Lovejoy.... But it was also a struggle for me as I dealt with my own immaturity and aimlessness. I guess after 50 years that calls for some apologies to any and all I failed, frustrated, offended, or confused: especially Keith, Dan, Carter, Maury, Page, Vicki, Debbie, and Shelley. Thanks for being friends in the midst of that struggle.

The path from Otterbein led to Peace Corps, two years teaching Maths at a girl's secondary school in Ghana, where I met a remarkable Ghanaian woman who showed me what Christianity is really all about, and the true meaning of Grace.

After a rocky readjustment period the path led to the Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg where, from some brilliant professors, I learned how to tear apart the Christian faith and then, re-form it. It is also where I met my beautiful wife, JMe, who has shared her life with me for the past 40 years and counting.

For those 40+ years I have worked as a Lutheran pastor to churches in West Virginia, the Baltimore area, Tanzania and Rwanda, the Lancaster Pennsylvania area, and finally Virginia. It has been my great honor to have been called into that service and to offer that word of Grace to the many people I've met along the way.

Steven Lust



**1100 Sterling Oaks Drive
Wadsworth, Ohio 44281
swl_roundtownoh@yahoo.com**

I grew up in Westerville watching the Otterbein Homecoming parades with their marching band, ROTC drill teams and floats. As a youngster, I watched several Cardinal football and basketball games. Several of us in the freshman class had grown up attending the Church of the Master located right next to campus.

Approaching graduation from high school, I was still undecided as to where I wanted to go to college.

Two of my older sisters had already graduated from Otterbein. Two of my best friends, John Harvey and Kevin Witt were going to the "Bein". Kevin said there was a group of Otterbein students going out west for the summer to work at McCurdy Schools in Espanola, New Mexico and maybe I could go too. That made the decision, and I submitted my application to Otterbein. There were several incoming freshmen selected including John, Kevin, and I who went to New Mexico that summer. What a great way to begin my Otterbein experience, working with upperclassmen, helping to provide summer playground activities for kids in the Espanola Valley. My only regret was that I had not taken Spanish in high school.

Since my home was next to what is now the Lillian Frank Museum for the Arts, I had a fifteen-minute walk to campus. I commuted for 3 years but stayed with my friend, John, in Davis Hall during my sophomore year. That was a fun year actually experiencing campus life with a roommate. I still recall the late nights John and Dennis Mammana spent in the common room working on chemistry assignments. I participated in all the freshman activities and just recently trashed my Otterbein beanie. I became a member of Sigma Delta Phi fraternity and enjoyed the Sphinx brotherhood, softball, float building, The Beach, and playing cards with guys at the house.

I was a secondary education major focusing on history and government. Dr. Hancock, Dr. Laubach, Dr. Holderman and Mr. Rothgary were my favorite professors. Thanks to Dr. Addington and the superior education department, I was interviewed by the Superintendent of the Circleville City Schools when he visited the campus recruiting teachers. I got the job and taught social studies for 36 years at Circleville High School. I had a wonderful career. I returned to the Otterbein campus in the early 1980's to get my master's degree through the

companion Ashland University program. The commute was about an hour this time, but it felt like home.

I married the love of my life, Wendy Rishel and we shared many Otterbein memories during our years at Otterbein. In 2017, we moved to an over 55 community in Wadsworth, Ohio and enjoy activities

with new friends. Most importantly we are close to our grandchildren, now 10 and 13 years old. We have cherished being involved in their lives and all their activities. Our daughter, Jenny, 2005 Otter grad lives in New York City. Our travels are to see her, Max, and a new granddaughter.



A couple final thoughts: I had a wonderful 4-year work study program working at the Otterbein mail room delivering mail to all the offices and dorms on campus. And since I was from Westerville, I worked each summer too. Don Wolfe, a fellow sphinx man, mentored me in the duties. My sister, Sharon, an Otterbein graduate and librarian at the Courtright Library aided in my research projects. My neighbor was the Otterbein Registrar, Peter Baker, who assisted me in scheduling my classes. Even though I lived 2 blocks from Schneider's Bakery, I regret that I never took part in the 3:00 AM Otterbein tradition of getting fresh warm donuts! Go OTTERS!

Dawn (Deb) Beaumont Main and Dave Main



**2720 Loyaga Dr.
Round Rock, TX 78681
Cell: (512) 731-3486
ddmain4@gmail.com**

Deb and I have very fond memories of Otterbein as that's where our life journey began in the spring of 1970. We loved the independence, the college atmosphere, the meeting of new friends, dorm living and at least one of us remembers first year dorm pranks. Living most of our married lives in Oklahoma/Texas and having relatives in and around Westerville, we always tried to make time for a quick drive through campus during visits looking for changes. It would always rekindle fun memories.

Our paths to Otterbein, were very different as Deb was looking for a small school offering Home Economics (to be a nutritionist) in close proximity to an airport for easy escape path back to Connecticut (just in case). My criteria were a D3 school (hoping to play basketball), AFROTC (for Pilot aspirations), and a math department (for a presumed major). I grew up just 10 miles north of campus and could not wait to get to campus, but as I learned later Deb was less enthusiastic. Fortunately for me, when Saum Hall was torn down she was moved into a house across the street, paired with four other roommates she enjoyed; two of which I knew from my high school. Her roommates, along with sharing a couple of math classes together, were how we made our connection and the rest is history.

We were married one week after graduation, spent the summer at the ocean, and moved to Enid, OK the following January for pilot training (PT). We went through PT with another Otterbein couple which was special (even though I almost made us late to our first day on the flight line). Upon completion, I stayed on as an instructor pilot and academic instructor for my 6 years in the USAF. Our three boys were born during that period. In 1980 after a brief return to Ohio, I took a job with the Texaco Central Engineering (Houston, TX) and quickly migrated into the IT area. Fast forward 17 years, the IT positions were outsourced to IBM



(ultimately transferred Austin, TX). I retired from IBM as an executive project manager in December of 2014. Deb loved being a mother to our boys and as they got older, she taught pre-school until more time was required as a care giver for her parents. Two of our three sons have lived in close proximity so as mother/grandmother we hosted family pizza nights, birthdays, holidays, swimming parties, and outside movies. In general, if food was provided, they would come.

My sister and her husband attended Otterbein and enjoyed their 50th reunion. We had always planned to attend, but plans are not always possible. A few days after receiving the memory letter request, Deb entered hospice care and while cognitively aware, her ability to communicate outward has been limited for some time. We are totally grateful for our time at Otterbein and the friends we shared. We always believed that time along with our time in the military built the foundation for our lives together. We have been happy and blessed. We may not be able to attend the reunion in person, but will be there in spirit. Go Cards!.

Keith Malick



5789 Craindale Dr
Apt 44
Orlando, Florida 32819-3916
Cell: (407) 421-2557
keith.malick@gmail.com

"In the quiet peaceful village..." So many great memories. Beanies, bonfire, freshman/sophomore water battles, Student Senate, curfews (women), Schneider's donut runs, STREAKING, first homecoming, The Ruckmoor, coke dates, being selected for the acapella choir and sadly, Kent

State. What a start to college life.

A defining moment in my Otterbein life came when I decided to switch majors from Business/Economics to Theatre. My forte was NOT acting, although I did get to perform in all the musicals, but technical theatre was my strength. My scene shop days lead me to working through an MBA in technical theatre and production at Penn State, teaching at Tufts University, Grand Valley State and Rollins College. Living in the home of Mickey Mouse, it was an incredible opportunity to become part of the Walt Disney World cast for the opening of EPCOT Center. It's not everyday you get to be a part of a billion dollar project. This lead to 10 years of managing live shows, special events, corporate conventions and project managing a new entertainment venue, Pleasure Island. Opportunities in project management and producing for additional large entertainment venues followed; Fiesta Texas in San Antonio, Navy Pier in Chicago, Discovery World in Taichung, Taiwan and Lotte World in Seoul, South Korea.

My fondest memory from Otterbein was meeting my wife of 50 years, Ruth Ruggles. It was one of my "sidelines" that brought us together, photography. My senior year I worked for the PR department taking photographs when needed. I'd been photographing the Drill Team, of which Ruth was a member, at a football game. The photos turned out so good that I presented





each of the ladies with a photo of themselves the next day. Ruth liked it so much that she hired me to shoot some portraits for her. The rest is history. We were married the day after our graduation ceremony.

We've returned to campus on many occasions over the ensuing 50 years and had a legacy student, Paige, graduate in 2012.

My years at Otterbein were nothing short of fantastic. The education I received prepared me for a fabulous career and provided me with lifelong friends. She is definitely "my dear Otterbein".



Dennis Mammana



PO Box 2071
Borrego Springs, CA 92004
dennis@mammana.com

I recall often the exciting and rewarding time I experienced at Otterbein; what I never expected, however, was to receive this homework assignment half a century later!

Why Otterbein? Many have asked me this over the years. There were two reasons. First, in my naïve teenage mind, it was far enough from my home in eastern PA to feel independent, yet near enough that occasional visits would be possible. More importantly, however, a couple of tours of the small campus made me feel like I would be treated as a person rather than a computer code. It was a natural fit, and I just felt like I belonged.

It was here where I was fortunate to be exposed to a diverse curriculum ranging from theater and music appreciation to differential equations, from comparative religion to quantum physics, and just about everything in between. While it wasn't clear to me at the time why I needed all that, this valuable introduction to all aspects of human thought instilled in me an ability to view the world and universe with a much broader perspective and to think critically and deal with real-world problems of all kinds.

Of course, my time at Otterbein wasn't all coursework. Some of my greatest memories come from the amazing people I was fortunate to meet along the way. It was they who inspired me to overcome my often crippling shyness by pledging Sphinx, enjoying coke dates with some of the loveliest ladies in Ohio, participating in countless late-night discussions of philosophical topics with friends in the Campus Center, joining my pledge class on an all-night 20-mile pledge hike while carrying my green brick every step of the way, assembling and selling more sub sandwiches than should ever be allowed by law, enduring a dinner of tomato





soup and grilled cheese sandwich every Sunday evening for four years, and so much more. And I wouldn't change one minute of it!

As a physics major I planned to go into astronomy as a research scientist, but one night in November 1971 my career path was unexpectedly changed. An electrical fire in the ceiling of a fourth-floor biology lab destroyed the top floors of the McFadden Science Hall. The Weitkamp Observatory where I had been working that night was destroyed, along with my hopes for a career in astronomy. Or so I thought.

Surprisingly, the adjacent planetarium suffered only minor smoke damage, so I transferred my interests there and, with the invaluable help of a fraternity brother, began to produce and present regular planetarium shows for the public—something that hadn't been offered for many years.

It was out of this disaster that a great new career rose from the ashes. After receiving my M.S. degree in Astronomy from Vanderbilt University, I went on to hold astronomy positions in four world-class U.S. planetariums over a 33-year career.

In the decades since those halcyon days in the QPV I've faced my share of struggles, but I've also enjoyed many successes—the greatest of which are two beautiful daughters and five wonderful grandchildren.

My professional life has allowed me to lead public sky-viewing and photography tours to more than 50 countries, write six books, hundreds of articles, and a weekly syndicated newspaper column (now in its 32nd consecutive year), and exhibit my night sky photography around the world. Today, I own my own business—Borrego Night Sky Tours—in which I offer public telescopic tours of the cosmos from Southern California's Anza-Borrego Desert, and I still travel, write and lecture frequently.

When not spending time with my head in the stars, I enjoy baking and cooking home-style Italian foods, sports, weight-training, tending to my Italian herb garden, exploring the desert canyons in my Jeep 4x4, watching reruns of Gunsmoke, taking naps, and relentlessly pursuing the perfect Philly cheesesteak sandwich—not necessarily in that order.



While many in our class have gone on to enjoy a well-deserved retirement, I've long known that's just not a life for me. I feel like I'm finally hitting my stride, and I'm now able to harness the perspectives and wisdom gained over these many years to communicate the wonders of the cosmos in a way never before possible.

Besides, I figure once I retire there's only one big event left... and I just ain't ready for that!

Cathy Fisher Manly



**7716 Golden Wheat Ln
Westerville, OH 43082
Cell: (614) 738-5873
cmanly69@gmail.com**

I found my way to Otterbein from Princeton, NJ thanks to a visit from a very persuasive recruiter! It was the perfect choice for me and I am forever thankful.

My Otterbein years were great, majoring in elementary education, being a part of TEM, and the wonderful memories of sisterhood, many friends made, and finding my lifetime love.

Don and I married in August of 1973. After completing his active duty in the Coast Guard, we both started our teaching careers here in Westerville. He went on to teach, coach, and be an Athletic Director for 35 years. I taught 4 years before starting our family. We were blessed with 2 boys who were totally into sports and I became a full time baseball and soccer mom. I also was a full time daycare provider for other teachers' children.

College bills for my boys started and I returned to the work world for a marketing rep firm. Our youngest attended Otterbein, playing soccer, so we once again found ourselves attending games, clear through the NCAA finals in St Lawrence on a very snowy Thanksgiving weekend!



Don and I both retired in 2007. Sadly all our "retirement hopes and dreams" ended with a diagnosis of MSA for Don, a cruel and brutal disease that took him from me. We had 41 years of marriage and I have Otterbein to thank for that.

Now I've found myself traveling with my siblings to far away places from Europe to New Zealand and Australia. There's so much beauty out there!

Patrick Martin

300 Wyndemere Way #401
Naples, FL 34105

Having grown up on a dairy farm in rural Northern Ohio, arriving at Otterbein in the Fall of '69, and living in a city was an adjustment!

Scott Hall was my dorm and I enjoyed getting to meet and know other students from totally different settings, beliefs, and backgrounds!

My new Otterbein life was “put on hold”, after just a year and a half, as i had a “winning” number in the draft lottery, and knew my plans for grad school would be interrupted, as part of the draft plan was to eliminate grad school deferments. To guarantee that I could go to grad school following Otterbein, I enlisted in the Air National Guard and was away from Westerville, for one year of active duty. I returned to school and with a lot of help from my professors i was able to graduate 6/10/73 with my class, with spending only 3 years to complete the graduation requirements.

I went to George Washington University in DC for my Masters in Health Care Administration and then selected to do my management residency at GW Medical Center also.

It was the best decision I made, as on my first day of rotation in the ER I met an RN from Long Island, Susan Curtis, and we will celebrate our 47th anniversary this October.

After grad school we returned to Norwalk to work at Fisher-Titus our local hospital, for a few years. Our plan was to spend 3 or 4 years getting experience, then returning to the East coast to advance my career, and be closer to Long Island. Never happened, as in 2013 I retired as President and CEO of Fisher-Titus Medical Center and Fisher-Titus Health System after 38 years in various expanding management positions of an expanding local health system.

We have one child, our son PJ who is married to Danielle and they have 2 children, Harrison (5) and Vivian Brooks (22 months).

We live in Naples Fl, and have a condo in Charlotte, NC which is



about 5 minutes from our grandkids' home, which is perfect for us to not be "next door", but available for spending time and offering shuttle service, as well as being involved in their lives.

I continue with healthcare involvement as a Board member of Avow Hospice in Naples and other community organizations.

Rebecca (Bec) Holford Miller



7740 Mills Road
Ostrander Ohio 43061
Cell: 614-216-1557
rsmiller.run@gmail.com

I was 17 and starting my freshman year at Otterbein. With shaky nerves, short hair, and high hopes, I climbed the Cochran Hall stairs to meet my two roomies. Little did I know that by my junior year I'd be a JC in that very same dorm and that I would meet the man who would be my future husband. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

My Otterbein years were full every waking hour, from early shifts in the Campus Center cafeteria (wearing the fetching pink and gray uniform that I like to remember as a "costume"); to classes; to living in the TEM house my senior year. But, at the end of the day, my real campus home was Cowan Hall. I pursued my Theatre/Speech, Education and French studies between auditioning for shows, rehearsing, and working in the theatre office. My summers were consumed by Otterbein Summer Theatre. And in the course of all my classes, activities, work, and play, I grew to know many funny, talented and generous faculty, students and Westervillagers. In my junior year, as Romeo found Juliet, I met my own true love, Tommy Joe Miller (Eta Phi Mu '74). Now, 50 years later, we still wonder how we ever found the time to date, study, and pursue our degrees.

After graduating, I worked in various jobs, some clerical, some theatrical, and, eventually found my niche in hotel sales and marketing. Tommy Joe and I were married in December 1976 and he graduated from the OSU School of Optometry the following spring. We made our home (and still live) in Delaware County.

Through the years, I was lucky enough to occasionally intersperse some theatre, commercials and performance in addition to positions in marketing. For over 30 years I was a distance runner and completed



numerous races, triathlons, and 20 marathons, including Boston. Meanwhile, Tommy practiced optometry (he still does) and simultaneously pursued a motorsports racing career.



Whenever possible, we enjoy traveling and discovering new places. Hard to pick what we've enjoyed the most. From Jamaica to Europe to Alaska to the Grand Canyon to Nova Scotia... hard to choose a favorite. We hope to continue to spend more time taking our van, the bicycles, kayaks and his motorbikes for even more adventures.

Now that I'm retired I'm happiest outside, taking advantage of the beautiful space where we live: gardening, hiking, biking, kayaking, and cross country skiing. Favorite activities include exploring areas near and far and visiting family and friends. To borrow a phrase from a contemporary of ours: "Life's been good to me so far".

Charlotte Ryburn Molinaro

100 Merle Blvd
Munroe Falls, Oh 44262
Cell: (330) 688-5124
cmolinaro@neo.rr.com

Wow 50 years! I have many great memories including beanies, bon fire, pledging, dorm antics and donut runs made for us women by the boys since we weren't allowed out then. They put the donuts in a bucket that we pulled up through the dorm window on a long string.

I was a psychology major with a minor in sociology. After graduation I worked at Summit County Children Services as a social worker for dependent, neglected, and abused children. I counseled with children living in the Children's Home, foster homes, and families in their own homes. I worked with schools, other service agencies and the juvenile court.

In 1981, I received my Masters in Social Science Administration from Case Western Reserve University. I continued to work at Children Services where I met my husband.

I have two children Matt, 33, who is a lawyer and Mandy, 31, who is an elementary school teacher. She also graduated from Otterbein. I enjoy spending time with my children and my two year old grandson.

In retirement, I am a substitute teacher at an elementary school. I also volunteer at the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Visitor Center. I enjoy pickleball, traveling, and getting together with friends.



One highlight for me in the last 15 or 20 years has been hearing from a few of the children I worked with at Children's Home. They have contacted me to thank me for helping them. Seeing them be successful and living happy lives has been rewarding. It is also always great to hear from my Otterbein friends.

Nick Munhofen



**9995 Feather Sound Ct.
Alpharetta, Ga. 30022
Home: (770) 740-9391
Cell: (470) 309-3025
n.b.munhofen@mindspring.com**

Wow, we graduated 50 years ago, hard to believe so much time has passed. I have many fond memories of attending "the Bein". Working in the kitchen cleaning breakfast trays, while classmates and fraternity brothers would be yelling crazy things to distract me; being a "dorm counselor" during my Sophomore year and having to manage a dozen members of the football team; spending my first two years in the AFROTC program; switching majors from Chemistry to Business Administration; learning from Professors Koo and Cua; pledging "Kings Fraternity" (now that was an experience!) and spending three great years with my fellow "brothers"; enjoying the difference in environments between the fairly new Science Building and the historic Towers Hall, (what a contrast!); bonfires at the river; attending fantastic theater productions; and so many more memories that will always be cherished.

So many good memories, and much thankfulness to my on-campus academic and social experiences that certainly helped to prepare me for my future endeavors. I was always so impressed that our Graduation speaker was the legendary Jesse Owens, although I did not fully appreciate his greatness until many years later.

Following graduation, I attended the George Washington University to obtain a Masters Degree in Hospital Administration, and shared an apartment with my fellow King's brother, Pat Martin. I completed my Graduate degree while serving a 1 yr Administrative Residency at Grant Hospital in downtown Columbus. The best part of that experience was that I met my future wife there. Janet was the senior secretary to the Hospital Controller and actually played a role in helping me to complete my Masters Degree. During this time, I was part of the team from Grant Hospital that created the "Grant-Otterbein Urgent Care Center".

During a visit to my parent's home on Long Island, we visited NYC, and on the Empire State Building's Observation Deck, I proposed to Janet; and she accepted! We were married in Columbus, Oh, and from there we moved to Nashville Tn., where I joined the Hospital Corporation of America (HCA), and

served as a Hospital Administrator for the next 12 years, at three different hospitals, in Florida and upstate NY After that I spent much of my time in prison! To explain, my final 25 years of professional work were spent in the Prison Healthcare business; first in Kansas, then in Georgia, where I worked for the Medical College of Georgia that had a contract to administer the healthcare needs of all state inmates, and my function was to manage the day-to-day operations of all Prison health care units as well as the Prison Hospital. In my capacity, I visited these health care units on a regular basis to include the Warden's office; and lucky for me, at the end of the day, I could exit the prison and return again to the free world; thank goodness!

Jan and I are parents to two wonderful children, Jenny, (Cornell, BA, and University of Georgia, MA and DVM; she currently serves in the Army Veterinary Corp and jumps from aircraft, yes, with a parachute); and, Blair, (Georgetown, BA , History and Arabic; U. of Dayton, MA, Theology; and Vanderbilt U., EdD, Education; he is currently the Director of the Upper School at the Miami Valley School, in the Dayton, Oh area).

We are also proud Grandparents to my son's two children, Nicholas, age 7, and Katherine, age 5. They are our pride and joy as you can imagine.

I retired in 2017, and I highly recommend this to those of you who have not yet achieved this transition! As with many others, I tend to be busier now than when I was still working. Jan and I have thoroughly enjoyed traveling; we have toured Hawaii, S. Korea, China, to include the Terracotta Soldiers, a riverboat tour in Europe, many of our National Parks, Antigua, and most recently, Ireland, Scotland and Wales; and last year, Germany. We are doing another riverboat tour in Europe early next year.

In recent years we have enjoyed visiting with my Otterbein roommate and fellow King's Brother, Doug Gyorke and his lovely wife Vivian. When they first came to our home a few years ago, I hung my original King's jersey from the mailbox so that they would quickly identify our home. They both enjoyed seeing that shirt from so many years ago.

I always look forward to receiving the latest issue of "Towers Magazine" in order to learn the latest about "the Bein" and catch up on the latest with former classmates, fraternity brothers and friends.

To close, I wish you all well and look forward to reading about you within the Class of 73' Memory Book. I may not be available to attend the 50th class reunion, but I send my best wishes and cheers to everyone in the esteemed class of 1973!

Ruth Schreckengost Novak



**3925 Brooklyn Ave
Cleveland, OH 44109
Cell: 216-210-0542
Rm_novak@msn.com**

My enrollment at Otterbein College was pre-ordained, I think. My parents both attended Otterbein, my older sister was a student at Otterbein, and my father was an EUB pastor - which enabled me to have a discount to attend Otterbein. I'm not sure I even considered another college. My parents had lifelong friends from their time at Otterbein, and I fully expected to make lifelong friends as well.

I was a resident of first floor King Hall, among a smaller group of resident rooms down the hall from the main entrance and lounge. Jeanie Carothers was my roommate, and is still a very dear friend. In fact, our core group of Bunkie friends originate from that first-floor group. (Both my mom and sister had been King Hall residents, too.)

I entered my freshman year as a music education major. However, just before school started my uncle was telling me about the field of music therapy which interested me. And so, my classes were geared towards transferring to another college where I could finish with a music degree in music therapy. So my time at Otterbein as a student was limited to freshman and sophomore years. That was plenty of time to establish those friendships and have many memorable experiences.

Being in the music department at Otterbein gave me the opportunity to increase my skills and confidence in many aspects of music, from singing in the choir, to piano lessons, to composition and orchestration. One of my vivid memories of that time was having to orchestrate 12 measures (or thereabouts) of a song for the band and then writing out the parts for all of the bandmembers, and then conducting them playing what I had written. It was intimidating, but I received positive feedback from the band about my efforts!



My family minus one grandson away at college.

I learned different things from Prof Chamberlain and Mr. McMurrin in regards to choir methods, all of which have been helpful in directing church choirs through the years.

I got my degree in music therapy from Michigan State University and did work as



a music therapist for several years. But as it became more important to continue to document continuing education, and the clinical aspect of documenting therapy and progress, I decided I'd rather not be a clinician. I was able to teach music in a Catholic elementary school for a few years, and though there were rewarding parts of that job, I left that for the opportunity to be a music director at a

Catholic Church – playing organ, piano, directing choirs, playing for weddings and funerals, etc. That began a career in church music which I found to be where God wanted me to be. And I was able to retire with a pension.

I had expected to follow the footsteps of my mom and sister and marry someone from Otterbein. That was not to be. I met my husband in my neighborhood in Cleveland and we will celebrate our 50th Anniversary this summer. We only had one child, a daughter, who married an Otterbein grad and together gave us 4 grandchildren, giving us much joy. Having only one child made it easier for me to be more available to help other members of my family when needed.

I retired a bit early to help care for my parents. My father died of Covid in May of 2020, and then I took my mom out of the nursing home to live with me during the bulk of the pandemic. She needed to return to the nursing home but I continued the 60+ mile trip to manage her care frequently until she passed away in May, just 9 days shy of her 94th birthday.



Faith, family and friends have always been of great importance to me, and music has played an active role in all three. I've thoroughly enjoyed being a grandmother as well as an aunt to nieces and nephews. Many trips to see family through the years became the means for making wonderful memories.



My friends from Otterbein have gathered many times through the years, sometimes for an overnight or weekend. During the pandemic, we began to have weekly zoom calls - our "zoom dorm room". Being on zoom also allowed us to connect with friends farther away, even in Spain. Most of us are also prayer warriors for

each other, sharing prayer requests and needs.

I look forward to our 50th reunion this coming September, and hope to see others that I've not seen for many years.

Virgenea Kenny Roberts



**121 Mound St.
Brookville, OH 45309
Cell: 937-416-3304
Teachabunny@aol.com**

When I was in high school I attended a church camp at Otterbein College. I liked Otterbein so much I decided that was where I wanted to go to college. I came from a small town in Crooksville, OH and the small campus was the right size for me.

My freshman year I lived on the third floor in King Hall. I was so excited to meet my roommates and everyone else on the floor. I made many friends that year who I am still in touch with today. My sophomore year I lived in Mayne Hall which I liked because it was much closer to the Campus Center. After living in Hanby Hall my junior year I was able to move back to Mayne Hall for my senior year. A lot of my friends were on the same floor. I did my student teaching at Hanby Elementary School in fifth grade that year. Also during my senior year I met my future husband Gary Roberts. He majored in Business Administration and Economics and graduated with the class of 1974. He works as a CPA and we have been married for 48 years.

While at Otterbein I was in Kappa Phi Omega Sorority. The years spent with my sorority sisters were wonderful and I made life-long friends. I was also in the Marching Band and Concert Band. It was a great experience.

After graduating in 1973 with a B.S in Education, I taught second grade at Byesville, OH for two years. I then moved to Brookville, OH and taught second grade for 35 years. I received my Master's Degree in Education from Wright State University in 1983. I am a current member of the following organizations: Delta Kappa Gamma – a society of



women educators, W.O.E.A.R, Kappa Delta Pi – an honor society in education, and the V.F.W. Women's auxiliary.

Gary and I have three children. Michelle also attended and graduated from Otterbein College in 2008. She majored in Chemistry and minored in Music. William graduated from Wright State University and majored in Criminal Justice. Doug also graduated from Wright state University and majored in Computer Information Systems.

Otterbein will always be a special place to me and my family. Happy 50th Anniversary!

Shelley Russell



906 Champion St.
Marquette, MI 49855
Cell: (906) 360-5253
srussell@nmu.edu

Opening my mind to my college days in the early 1970's knocked me into a space exploding with passion, political marches, social ineptitude, conventional thinking blown to bits, and constant artistic input and output. I under-achieved for some great teachers, just managing a C+ in Western Civ, an inspiring course, and sitting in silent awe of my Shakespeare prof, who's drole humor and lecture style from standing atop his desk, warmed me to Shakespeare's poetry. And like all of his devoted students, I revered Papa T/ Professor Fred Thayer, who taught me to love the

full range of theater arts. A kinder or more dedicated teacher I never knew. Oh Otterbein, that introduced me to Beckett and Camus, Hesse and Hellman, jazz hands and slap, ball-change.

Most of all, of course, I remember youthful faces who introduced me to real sophistication (classy Ms. Pam Erb), philosophical investigation (Christina – wonderful, first roommate), literary obsession (Carter Lewis and “Henry David”), rebellion (who did get the ice cubes from the fridge to pierce my ears freshman year?) and infinite kindness (Pat Perry Kelly, the best human ever). I recall Tommy, who taught me double bank shots in the UC, my first finals all-nighter in the green room with Schneider's donuts shared with a friendly campus security officer, John Cain's laughter and earnest artistry, and David Graff, sadly forever young, taking my first head shots.

So many memories. All underscored with all that music. There was the Spring Fever Day that John Leamer picked me up (literally) and ran to join the forming crowd, singing Stevie Wonder's “You are the Sunshine of my Life.” He dropped me halfway across the street, but the picnic at the reservoir with 20 other art and theater students was totally worth the closed head injury. I credit learning to paint, “from the gut to the hand,” to the guidance of the best looking art prof ever, Dr. Germanson, who blacked out the painting studio windows as we cranked In-A-Godda-Da-Vida to the limits and let our self-judgements crumble. When Pat nominated me for Homecoming Queen, I didn't laugh because it was the gesture of typical kindness from a very good friend who in every other action showed evidence of superior intelligence. I was an unlikely Queen, but the smile



was genuine. I felt honored by my friends' support and for a theater nerd, the ride through Westerville in the convertible with the handsome escort and his flask was just pure fun. And of course, I recall every detail from an infamous dinner theater on the roof in all its crystalline glory. Wonderful food. Excellent company, and the pleasant realization that what I thought might be the perfect crime really was just the perfect graduation gift.

Five years after graduation, I happily accepted a graduate internship at Miami University and then completed my doctorate at Florida State University. I

took a teaching job at Northern Michigan University, on the craggy shore of Lake Superior, and spent the next 38 years, directing, teaching acting and stage combat, writing and composing. And all that was great. I wrote a trio of musicals, set in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, one of which became a local favorite and just celebrated its 25th anniversary. And I was honored with a commission that resulted in a drama honoring Great Lakes Sailors, focused on the loss of the Edmund Fitzgerald. Retirement two years ago meant I could tackle writing projects full-time, which has been a blast. And I garden and golf and practice Yoga on the edge of Lake Superior.

But the best part of the last 50 years has been sharing the last 31 with my intelligent, beautiful daughter, Glory, born in South Korea, who has taught me how to teach, how to love, how to live. In December she'll receive her doctorate in Applied Chemistry and Alternative Energy from Colorado School of Mines, and yeah, I'm kinda proud of her. I have also had the good luck to spend the last 25 years with Dr. Steve Oates, partner and friend, with whom I share a big, old, yellow house, filled with plants, cats and one goofy great danoodle.



Patty Fletcher Saks



**575 Fairhill Drive
Akron, OH 44313
Cell: (330) 285-3660
Psaks465@hotmail.com**

I grew up in Columbus, OH. I wanted to major in Russian language and I hoped to go somewhere that had smaller classes, as I had experienced public high school college prep. It turned out that the Russian professor became ill. I had made lots of friends and was happy at Otterbein, so I stayed and changed my major. I had decided to become a dietitian, a career that I enjoyed very much.

I commuted from home my first two years. My junior year I lived in Hanby Hall. I lived in the TEM house during my senior year. I worked in Dr. Lovejoy's office grading papers and filing. I joined Tau Epsilon Mu, was a member of Angel Flight, Flag Corps, and Home Economics Club. I treasure the memories of my time at Otterbein and of my many friends. My best friend to this day is someone I met at Otterbein.



After I finished my dietetic internship I worked at Mount Carmel Hospital, where I met my husband, John, who was interning there in Medicine. We have been married 44 years. We have three beautiful children. Our precious grandchildren are 2, 2, and 1.



I worked as a dietitian for many years and then I was a stay at home mother. I have also worked at a local bakery. Now, I am retired and thoroughly enjoying our grandkids. John is a partly retired radiologist. We enjoy traveling and have taken many wonderful trips together. We are starting to travel now with our children and grandchildren. We look forward to many more fulfilling years together.

Richard (Rick) Saylor



**424 E. 78th Terrace
Kansas City, MO. 64131
Cell: (620) 200-0736
Rsaylor627@gmail.com**

Arriving at Otterbein from my home in Western Pennsylvania, I looked forward to attending a small church related liberal arts college as a pre-ministerial student. And I was not disappointed with my Otterbein education and experience. Remember how our Otterbein education exposed us to common courses in various departments under the heading of “The Image of man (humanity) in...” as well as numerous English classes with assigned books and papers? I believe it widened my world, my knowledge and beliefs, my creativity and core values.

Dorm life, creating friendships, studying in the “new” library, taking 8am New Testament Greek classes for 5 terms, working in the cafeteria “slop” room and participating in the marching and concert band are all fond memories. After graduating as a Religion and Philosophy major, I earned a Master of Divinity Degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Boston Massachusetts in 1976. Subsequently I was ordained and served as a United Methodist Church clergy for 40 plus years, mostly in Kansas. I met and married my first wife Jan Krouse in 1983 and were blessed with one daughter. Unfortunately, Jan died of Inflammatory Breast Cancer in 2008. I was blessed to find a new friend, Janet Maxwell, and we were married in 2011. Together we share the joy of family - our daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter who live in Wichita Kansas.

Time and again I recount with gratitude our Otterbein liberal arts education which developed our creative, investigative, and progressive thinking that is aligned with core values. It served me well in many ministry contexts: Pastor/Preacher of various congregations, Hospital Chaplain, as well as a District Church Executive, and now in retirement as a coach for clergy and congregations.

May our 50th Celebration be a great affirmation of our Otterbein College experience!

Dee Weaston Standish



**202 Lee Ave
Marietta, Ohio 45750
Cell: 740-516-1973
ellendee73@yahoo.com**

I grew up in Westerville, so Otterbein has always been a part of my life. My mother, father, sister, brother, aunt and two cousins attended the college. It seemed a perfect fit for me as well since I wanted to go into Education.

The summer before school started, I began working in the Admissions Office and continued to work there until graduation. I opened the mail each day and was able to see pictures of my future classmates. If you remember, we had to send in pictures and they became a booklet we each received. I still have mine today and refer to it occasionally.

I remember the excitement of moving into the dorm, meeting my roommate and many new friends. I lived on the ground floor of King Hall, and we were called the Cellar Dwellers. Wanda Boykin and Sue Borg were our JCs' and they were wonderful. I joined a sorority, Tau Epsilon Mu, Talisman, and we had sorority rooms in the basement of Barlow Hall.

My sophomore year was spent at Hanby Hall with old and new friends. That was the year I met and started dating my future husband, Bill. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Tau, Kings, and there were many events that kept us entertained. It was a great year.

There were big changes my junior year. Our sorority bought a house and I moved in and enjoyed the freedom that the dorms didn't allow. No more signing in and signing out and breaking curfew. I spent the fall in the Flag Corp with the marching band, and it was one of the most enjoyable things I have ever done.

My senior year I began my student teaching in Columbus Public Schools. It prepared me for teaching in Southeast Ohio and I realized that choosing Education as my major was the best decision.

Bill and I married after graduation and moved to Nelsonville to begin my career in teaching. Bill's jobs took us to Gallipolis and Marietta, where we still live today. We had three children and I took a break to raise them. When they were all in school, I was a substitute teacher and did that until I got a job working with a Department

of Education TRIO program. I worked with students grade 7-2, helping them prepare for and attend college. Part of the job was to take students on college tours and my favorite was a tour of Otterbein. I was able to share my memories from a great time in my life.

Bill and I are retired and now enjoy traveling. We go to Mexico each year and have taken 3 trips with Otterbein Alumni. It is great to connect with fellow classmates and share memories of our times in college. We even sang the Otterbein Love Song in front of Mount Rushmore. We are looking forward to the trip to Ireland in September.

Bill and I both do many volunteer activities and serve on boards of service organizations. Our favorite activity is spending time with our children and granddaughters. What a joy they have brought to our lives.

Our journey began at Otterbein and it will always be a special place for us.



William Standish



**202 Lee Ave
Marietta, Ohio 45750
Cell: 740-516-0567
bd.73standish@suddenlink.net**

Growing up in small town, I would not have believed that I would attend Otterbein College after graduating from Nelsonville York High School. I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life and hoped Otterbein would lead me in a direction that would help me choose a career.

Being somewhat shy, upon arrival at Otterbein I decided to look into joining a fraternity, choosing Kings Fraternity where I met lifelong friends.

I lived in Scott Hall my freshman year and Davis Hall my sophomore year, where I found it difficult to study. I remember going to the library to find a back corner desk to study.

It all worked out as I met my future wife, Dee Weaston at the library. Studying was again difficult as we would sit together. Walking her back to her dorm one night I asked her out for our first date. So our lives together began.

Although I didn't finish at Otterbein I obtained two degrees in business and began working for our family hardware store. I retired after 18 years with American Electric Power and again retired from banking.

Dee and I have three beautiful children and four granddaughters.

Our lives started at Otterbein and the college will always be a big part of our lives.



Jean (Norma Jean) Basinger Stedman



**304 Palace Drive
Saint Augustine, FL 32084
Cell: (407) 721-5556
stedmanjean@gmail.com**

It seems a lifetime ago that I was pondering and praying about where to go to college. Out of the blue, or so it seemed, an application for admission to Otterbein showed up in the mail and I took that as my answer! (As I look back, it may not have been so miraculous after all, since I had attended high school senior day at Otterbein.) But it was a decision I have never regretted. So many wonderful memories of Otterbein and so many life-changing decisions made there!

When I arrived at Otterbein, I was a little surprised to find that I would have three roommates. Everyone said that the four of us in my corner room of Cochran Hall couldn't have been more different, but we made it work! Band camp and marching band, the freshman social, beanies, the bonfire, sorority activities (Tau Delta), Apollo choir, and just being with friends, are fond memories. Early in the year, my big sis invited me to go to a Campus Crusade for Christ meeting, which changed my life in many ways! I made many new lifelong friends, including my future husband. But most of all, I learned that the missing "link" in my Christian life was letting God have full control, trusting him to work in and through me, instead of relying on my own efforts to please Him. Efforts that always fell far short of the ideal. Retreats and Christmas conferences helped me learn to live out my faith. During spring break of freshman year we had an amazing time on the concert band tour with Mr. Tirey which included New York City.

Sophomore year found me in Hanby Hall with my wonderful roomie Shirley Blair and spending lots of time with a senior named Dave Stedman. As we studied together, I found I was studying less but he said he was studying more! After graduating in '71 he headed off for Air Force training with lots of long distance phone calls. I was in Mayne Hall the first term of junior year with Mim Rugh as my fun roommate. Studying, however, wasn't my first priority as I spent much of my time planning a December wedding. After the honeymoon we moved to Las Vegas, where Dave was stationed at Nellis Air Force Base. Quite a big change for this twenty year old farm girl!!

After a short stint in the Air Force, Dave and I joined the full-time staff of Campus Crusade for Christ, now known as Cru. We were excited to help others hear the life-changing message that had meant so much to us, and we still are! We have

served for 49 years in various capacities: Military Ministry in Montgomery, AL and Ft Walton Beach, FL; area leadership in Knoxville, TN; back to Military Ministry in San Diego, CA, and Newport News, VA; then serving at headquarters in Orlando, FL, for 20 years, and the last three years part-time from home in St Augustine, FL - Dave in communications and I with Global Prayer.

My greatest joy has been being mom to four wonderful children. Caring for a child with developmental disabilities had many daily challenges, but the joy and love that came to our lives were well worth the trials. We miss him lots since he relocated to heaven in 2017 but he'll always be part of us. We have two beautiful granddaughters in San Diego, whom we wish lived closer, but they give us a good reason to travel!

I'm so thankful to be included here even though I didn't finish school with all of you. I'm very blessed to have been a part of Otterbein and to be able to stay in touch with many friends. Two very close friends also became family! They are Lin (Lindsay) Stedman, Dave's brother, and Debbie McKinniss Stedman, both graduating in the Class of '73. Debbie led a Bible study in Cochran Hall that I was part of. We became good friends and lived next door to each other junior year in Mayne Hall. She was even maid of honor at my wedding! Sadly for us, both Lin and Debbie have now graduated to heaven, and we miss them very much. [To learn more about Lin & Debbie visit their memory page.]

I'm so very thankful for all the Lord brought into my life because of that Otterbein application sent to me all those years ago!

Lindsay Stedman and Debbie McKinniss Stedman (*in memoriam*)



I met Debbie early in our freshman year when we were both second floor Cochran Hall residents. We got to know one another attending various Campus Crusade for Christ activities. Debbie led a Bible study in Cochran that I joined and she soon became a student leader of Crusade. We became good friends, but little did I know then that we would become sisters-in-law!

Also during freshman year I became aware of an upperclassman also involved in Crusade meetings and activities, Dave Stedman. (We began dating sophomore year.) Someone said that Dave had a brother in the freshman class and that I would recognize him because he looked like a stretched out version of Dave! And when I saw Lin in the cafeteria, I recognized him as Dave's brother from that description! Lin and I eventually got to know one another and became good friends. Lin was a great listener. Lin and Debbie began to date during our sophomore year and were married June 9, 1973, shortly after graduation.

Debbie was a member of Epsilon Kappa Tau and an elementary education major. She loved children and had a strong desire to see them succeed. She taught at Heritage Christian School in Canton, Ohio, for twelve years. She earned a master's degree in education from Malone University and served for seven years at Lake Center Christian School as the Educational Therapist and Special Needs Coordinator. While battling breast cancer, Debbie worked from home for five years working with students with learning disabilities and overseeing curriculum for homeschool families. She led many Bible studies and was involved with various ministries, including a ministry to female prison inmates. Debbie lost a hard fought eight-year battle with the cancer in 2005. She loved reading, singing, and sharing her faith.





Lin majored in psychology and joined Sigma Delta Phi. He earned a master's degree in education at Grace College in Winona Lake, IN. Lin also had a great love for children and devoted his professional life to Christian education. He spent many years at Heritage Christian School in Canton, Ohio, as teacher, coach, and principal. He then served as associate regional director of the Association of Christian Schools International for twenty years. Although based at ACSI's Canton office, his work took him to Christian schools throughout several states, where he organized conferences, regional athletic competitions, and other events. He also enjoyed helping to lead numerous church groups of children and adults in a variety of settings. Having lost Debbie five years before, Lin married Charlotte Wilson in 2010.

Lin lost a three-year battle with lung cancer in 2015. Lindsay and Debbie are survived by two amazing children, their spouses, and seven awesome grandchildren. We miss Lin and Debbie very much, but we know we will be reunited one day! "And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life." (1 John 5:11-12)

-Jean (Norma Jean) Basinger Stedman

Ron Stemen (*in memoriam*)



Ron was a member of Sigma Delta Phi (Sphinx). He graduated with a major in Physical Education and was co-captain of the Otterbein basketball team during the 1972-73 season.

After graduating from Otterbein, where he was a member of the "O" Club, Ron devoted 30 years to teaching physical education and coaching. His first contract was with Big Walnut Schools where he taught and coached for two years. He then accepted a similar position with the Northridge Schools System, where he stayed for the remainder of his career. Throughout those years, Ron spent time coaching football, boys and girls basketball, and baseball. A highlight of his coaching career was being selected to serve as an assistant coach in the Licking - Muskingum County All Star Football Game. Coach Stemen was very dedicated to and passionate about both his teaching duties and coaching assignments. He was proud to watch his students and athletes' personal and athletic development.

In addition to teaching and coaching, Ron developed and ran a very successful excavation business. Over the years, he laid countless miles of field tile for farmers, built driveways, graded land, and installed septic systems for new homes.

Once retired from teaching and coaching, Ron loved attending high school and college games, watching the Buckeyes and baseball Cardinals on TV, and golfing with his buddies. Ron passed on April 12, 2023.

-Frank Bright

Joan Foos Sullinger



Fifty years is an amazing amount of time! Remember what you thought of people who said they were celebrating 50 years out of school or 50 years of marriage! I will be celebrating both this year.

I attended Otterbein because my parents did not want me to drive to OSU Branch campus on winter roads! They said I could choose where I wanted to go, so I chose Otterbein because I had attended a summer church conference there.

I came to Otterbein shy and unsure of what to expect. The introductory activities were a little intimidating, especially the beanies and the raids on the dorms.

I was also a 'Cellar Dweller' in King Hall my freshman year. It was a long walk to the dining hall in short skirts that freshman winter. I thought Wanda Boykin and Sue Borg were great JC's, too.

I was an education major at Otterbein. I went on to get my master's degree in Education from Wright State University. I taught for thirty-one years at Benjamin Logan School District in Logan County. I started at the East Liberty Building and had a wonderful principal who was very supportive. Eventually the district built a whole new complex near Bellefontaine, so I had the pleasure of teaching in a new school building. I really enjoyed teaching at the elementary level.

I met my husband, Rex, in the summer of 1971 in my hometown. We were married on June 23, 1973, so we will be celebrating our Fiftieth Anniversary soon with our daughter and her family. My husband is a grain and livestock farmer and we have lived in the same place for all 50 years. Our daughter, Holli and her husband Luke live on the same farm, and they do the farming and have cattle now. Our daughter graduated with honors from Ohio Northern University. She is the President and CEO of the Hardin County Chamber and Business Alliance and the Economic Development Director. Her husband also graduated from Ohio Northern and is our Hardin County Engineer. We have two wonderful grandchildren who are in college, now. Allison is at Ohio State and Lane is at Ohio Northern. They live near us and it has been a blessing to get to see them grow up.

We are active in our church and volunteer to do what we can. I am also active in the Ohio CattleWomen and in the Hardin County Retired Teachers Association.



This is our farm near Ridgeway, Ohio.

Nancy Lawrence Umland



**N1501 Meadow Park Drive
Greenville, WI 54942
Home: (920) 903-8981
njumland@new.rr.com**

I attended Otterbein for only one year, but I was fortunate enough to make a few friendships that have lasted for over 50 years. Most of these friendships are with people who lived on first floor King Hall. Though we didn't always stay in close contact initially, we re-connected with Zoom chats during Covid a few

years ago and continue weekly chats. I now live in Wisconsin with my husband of 47+ years. We are both retired and enjoy spending time with our family when we are not cruising.



Lynette Freshour Vargyas-Buchser



**320 N. Golf Course Rd.
P.O. Box 2148
Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352
Cell: (513) (909) 831-3842
lynettevargyas@yahoo.com**

Like many others have said, it's hard to believe that fifty years have passed since I graduated from Otterbein and left the "Quiet Peaceful Village". Attending Otterbein is somewhat of a tradition in our family. My brother, sister-in-law, niece, nephew, and cousin all attended Otterbein. My great niece and nephew will attend this fall.

Since I already lived in Westerville, I lived at home my Freshman year but lived on campus my last three years-I'm happy I had that experience. I had two wonderful roommates during those years -Peg Fagerberg Montgomery and Diane Sanford. We all joined Tau Delta and were members of the band under the direction of Gary Tirey, professor and a good friend. I have been fortunate to stay in touch with several of my college friends. Facebook has helped this happen.

My major was in Elementary Education with a concentration in music. I was fortunate to start teaching elementary music that same fall in the River Valley School District in Marion County. It still seems hard to believe I taught 9 classes a day at 2 elementary schools. Of course, I was 22 years old. There's no way I could do that now. I taught there four years but left after marrying Alan Vargyas. We met at Max and Erma's Restaurant where they had telephones on each table. He called my table and, as they say, the rest is history.

We lived in Michigan a short time until he was transferred to Steubenville, Ohio to manage a pest control company (he majored at BGU in environmental health). I taught at a Catholic School for the four years we lived there before moving to the Chicago area where he was in charge of Quality Control for Nabisco. While in Illinois, I put my teaching career aside for a few years and worked as the editor of a newsletter for an industrial science technology company. When we had our sons Brad and Adam in 1984 and 1985, I became a stay at home mom.





We continued our move out west when we moved to California in 1991 where we have been ever since.

Alan was in charge of Quality Control for McCain Foods. Once Brad and Adam were in school, I started my teaching career again and taught second grade at the same school for 23 years. I was fortunate enough to have both of my sons at the same

school with me for several of their school years. It was a wonderful experience and Mariposa Elementary was a Visual and Performing Arts School (VAPA) and it was an important part of the curriculum. I directed an after school choir for 14 of those years. It was an experience I will always cherish.

Unfortunately, Alan had a heart attack in 2008 and we lost him when he was just 53 years old. It was one of the most difficult times in my life. Fortunately, my two sons got me through this time along with my teaching colleagues and the students and their parents at my school. I was very blessed to be surrounded by such supportive people. Alan and I were together for 32 years-I'm very grateful for that.

I continued to teach until I retired in 2014. In 2015, I remarried. Bruce is a contractor and builds beautiful homes in the mountains of Southern California. I never thought I'd marry again, especially to a "mountain man", but it is beautiful and peaceful here in Lake Arrowhead. Our honeymoon was one of the Otterbein Alumni tours, "Trains and Parks of Colorado" where Bruce got to know Otterbein Alumni. It was an unforgettable trip, and it was especially nice to meet and become friends with Becky May.

However, since Bruce is continually busy building homes, I needed to keep busy. So, in 2019, I became a student teacher supervisor for the University of Redlands, a university much like Otterbein (where my son, Brad, got his teaching credential). I love doing it and feel I am a positive influence on the new teachers as they start their teaching careers.

I feel very blessed to have graduated from Otterbein....wonderful memories, friends, and education. It will always hold a place in my heart.

Debra Scott Vedder



**356 Electric Avenue
Westerville, Ohio 43081
Cell: (614) 226-5817
debravedder717@gmail.com**

Otterbein opened its arms to me, a girl from the small farm town of Plain City, Ohio. I was happy from Day 1. I lived in Saum Hall for the first half of freshman year and then moved across the street to the old health center when the College decided to tear down Saum and build a new library. The highlight of my freshman year was pledging Sigma Alpha Tau Sorority. When we Owls say Stick Always Together, we mean it! Robin Reid Raybuck and Bonnie Tuttle Ayars, two of my pledge sisters, are still two of my closest friends.

I started as a Health and Physical Education major but changed my major after an Otterbein interterm trip to Mexico in November/December of 1970. I roomed with Nancy Garrison for a few weeks in Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico, with the Maraboto family. The first day back on campus I changed my major to Spanish! What a great decision, since I met and married my cooperating teacher! Chuck Vedder and I just celebrated our 49th wedding anniversary.

After graduation I taught Spanish at Westerville South High School for thirty years. Since that first day at Otterbein, Westerville has been my home. Upon my retirement in 2003, I taught Spanish part time at both Otterbein and Ohio Wesleyan University. Chuck was hired as the Director of International Student Programs at Otterbein and held that position until his retirement in 2009. He then joined me at Ohio Wesleyan to teach Spanish. We both retired for the second - and final - time in 2017.

During my years at Westerville South and Ohio Wesleyan I had the opportunity to lead student groups on international study tours. With my students I traveled back to my beloved Mexico, to Guatemala, Peru, and



Debra in Mexico in 1970

Spain. With Chuck, I traveled to even more Spanish-speaking countries, including Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, and Argentina, to mention a few. Traveling and speaking Spanish are in my blood, all thanks to Dr. Stowell and that 1970 Otterbein trip to Mexico!

Chuck and I have one son, Rod, who is also an Otterbein alumnus, Class of 2005. Our daughter-in-law, Kimberlee Readshaw Vedder, is a proud Otterbein alumna, Class of 2008.

Since our second retirement, Chuck and I love to hike, bike, and read. We now spend our winters in Arizona, having become the snowbirds that we used to make fun of. Life is good.

Otterbein gave me a wonderful education and lifelong friends. I often think of my Otterbein experience, and it's always with a smile.



Rod Vedder, Kimberlee Readshaw Vedder '08, Debra, Chuck



Debra, Robin Reid Raybuck, Bonnie Tuttle Ayars

Dave Vendt



105 Parkview Pl
Park City, Utah 84098
Cell: (513) 658-5732
davevendt@gmail.com

I find it amazing that 50 years have gone by so quickly! My memories include football with Galvin Dylan, Dixie Dooley, Steve Sorenson, and Kenny Wright. Neil Day was my roommate and classmate, and we made many trips to Columbus.

After graduation I attended graduate school at LSU and majored in Forestry which started my career in South Carolina. There I met my wife now of 46 years. We raised two beautiful daughters in Nashville, and had many adventures together. I

have climbed mountains in Colorado with my daughters and friends, but my ultimate goal was climbing Kilimanjaro which I accomplished in 2017.

Presently we live in Park City, Utah and enjoy exploring the National Parks. We love spending time with our two grandsons.

Jeanie Carothers Vick



Jean with her husband Rob

Toledo, OH

Best thing to result from my years at Otterbein was the lifelong friendships with the "bunkies." I also had many fun memories of volunteering behind the scenes for the theater department productions.

Faith, family and friends have been the important things in my life. I cared for others both in my job for many years and with my family.

Marilyn MacKenzie Viluims (*in memoriam*)

I am paying my respects to my lifelong friend, Marilyn MacKenzie. Marilyn and I were baptized on the same day in 1951. We attended school and church together, went to Otterbein together and were in each others weddings. Throughout the years we talked, exchanged Christmas cards and saw each other rarely, but had the special bond of friendship.

Both of us came from families where everyone attended Otterbein. Marilyn was a Cellar Dweller with me in King Hall, living on the basement floor of the dorm. We were in Tau Epsilon Mu, (Talisman) along with her sisters Barb and Carol. Her sophomore year was spent on Campus Afloat, a wonderful experience for her. She got to know Bob Hope's son while sailing and learning.

What I remember most about Marilyn is her sense of humor and her laugh. I was able to see her at our 50th high school reunion, and that was the last time I saw her. She will always be in my memory and hopefully some of you reading this also.

-Dee Weaston Standish

Lynn Condit Whetstone



**18105 Wobbler Dr. N.W.
Pickerington, OH 43147
Cell: (614) 893-4388
Thelaw1951@gmail.com**

I always knew that I wanted to be a teacher. My favorite aunt was a teacher and had attended Otterbein, so I had decided Otterbein was the place for me. My family lived just a short distance north of

Westerville, so my parents liked the idea of me being so close to home.

I fondly remember my beanie clad days, dancing around a bonfire in my pajamas hand in hand with all my new friends in the freshman class of '73. After the bonfire we danced on to State Street in downtown Westerville, to the State Theater where we all enjoyed a movie together. Anyone remember the name of the movie we watched?

As a Freshman I lived in Saum Hall, (located where the current library stands). Half way through Freshman year the college decided to tear down Saum Hall and began construction on the new library. The residents of Saum were reassigned to the existing Freshman dorms and 10 of us were assigned to live in a honor house across the street from the library construction site. The 10 of us with our Junior Counselors had a great time the remainder of that year! Sophomore year I made many new Senior friends in Mayne Hall, and Junior year had a great time being a Junior Counselor in Cochran Hall. I still smile when I remember Miss May, our house mother, getting on the intercom telling the girls to step away from the windows and pull down the shades during pantie raids! Senior year was the best year ever, living in the TEM house with my Talisman sisters!

The education I received at Otterbein served me well. My Education major, with a Pre-K, Primary concentration came in real handy as I taught Pre-school, Kindergarten, and First Grade throughout my life, as we raised our family. Like some of you this year, also marks our 50th Wedding Anniversary. Michael (OSU 73) and I are planning a tour of the New England States, and a special dinner celebration with our kids and grandkids.

Michael and I have 4 wonderful kids, three chose to attend Capital University, one OU. I don't understand how this happened! We spend our retirement days

caring for, mentoring, and encouraging our 7 grandchildren, and attending their many activities. Retirement is a busy time!

After graduating we lived in Westerville for a short time and spent the next 42 years in Lancaster, Ohio. Our address in Lancaster was on Otterbein Trail – it was meant to be! We recently down sized and moved into a patio home in Pickerington, we love it! Making lots of new friends!



Looking forward to seeing my classmates in September, we are hoping to take part in some of the Homecoming festivities. I'm sure it will be a great review of, "The Best of Times"!

Kevin Witt

**2291 Wells Drive
Sidney, Ohio 45365
Cell: (937) 638-0241
kwitt3@woh.rr.com**

Our family moved to Westerville in 1960 after my dad accepted a job as Director of Financial Aid. The Kilgore plant in Westerville had recently closed and as a result, many homes came up for sale. My parents were able to purchase a house on Home Street, a few houses West of the Campus Center. Although I was only nine years old at the time we moved, our new house was basically in the middle of campus. I always enjoyed attending Otterbein football and basketball games, sneaking into the old campus center to buy a candy bar.

When I was a sophomore in high school I got my first job washing dishes at the campus center. The job paid .90/hour. When I received my first check, I thought I was rich.

Living on the corner of Home and Center street, my brothers and I put up a basketball court in front of our garage. Many students would walk by and join us for pick up games.

The summer before my freshman year, I was with a group of Otterbein Students that travelled to Espanola, New Mexico to supervise community young people. A few days into our tour, some locals came by and challenged several of us to a basketball game. After winning several games we were told by the locals they were not leaving until they win a game. I think you know how that ended.

I moved into Garst Hall my freshman year. Tim Schlosser, from Cincinnati, was my roommate. That fall most of the guys in our wing of Garst joined "Sphinx" fraternity.

The summer of my sophomore year I was a Life Guard at Camp Wanake, a church camp in Beach City, Ohio. Each week with a new group of campers, I would gather them together and divide them into two groups: Ones who could swim and ones who did not know how to swim. I instructed those who said they knew how to swim to jump into the deep end of the pool, sink to the bottom, resurface and swim the length of the pool. I always had a few who really didn't know how to swim. I kept my long hooked pole with me to rescue the ones stuck in the bottom, Never lost anyone on my watch.

The summer of my Junior year, I worked for the maintenance dept. taking care of the campus grounds. Along with my three brothers who attended Otterbein, I think the number of Witts who attended Otterbein College is in the twenties. My

brother Kent met his future wife at Otterbein. I met my wife Donna while working in Pa. I learned later that Donna's great great grandfather was the fourth President of Otterbein.

I'm retired here in Sidney, Ohio. I had thirty plus great years working for my brother Kent. Donna and I have three wonderful children. And yes, they all graduated from Otterbein.



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