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Arriving at Otterbein from my small hometown of Fredericksburg, Ohio, I had no idea what to expect. But, beanies, dorm life, Miss May and demerits awaited! I was fortunate to get placed in Cochran Hall, on 4th floor with 3 gals in a corner "suite" (4 bunked beds in one room and study desks in the other). From the bedroom we could open our window facing Grove Street and call out to fellow students; from the study, we saw the Campus Center and watched WOBN live broadcasts!



Other great memories include sorority rush, pledging Owls (Sigma Alpha Tau), joining O-Squad, getting to travel with the debate team, working on Campus Programming Board, going to London on the theatre tour and making lifelong friends. Our senior year, four of us got an off-campus apartment (the first year it was permitted). We've remained close friends and get together frequently, often making a Schneider's donut run!

Initially, I planned a double major in Speech/Theatre and Biology. However, as I learned the requirements of each, I talked with my advisor, Pop Thayer, and dropped biology, giving me time

to meet the requirements of the Speech/Theatre department and also enjoy extra-curricular activities. In addition to learning a lot of handy skills working in the theatre shop, participating on the debate team provided me with the benefit of learning to think and speak convincingly "on my feet" which helped me greatly in my future career.

My career plans changed again, as I wanted to become a school speech pathologist, starting grad school in January, 1974. However, OSU eliminated that specialization, so I went to Dean Van for advice. She suggested I consider Bowling Green's College Student Personnel program. So, I got my MA degree, worked as a Residence Hall Director at Bowling Green for two years and then moved to Tampa, Florida for a "year off" (that turned into 17 years!) I was hired at a large Tampa law

firm as a paralegal, which led to my becoming the firm's first Personnel and Legal Recruiting Director. Non-lawyers recruiting and helping develop lawyers' supervisory skills was a relatively new profession and provided me an opportunity to create and grow "on the job". I was involved with the National Association for Law Placement, eventually serving on its Board of Directors for two terms, which was a terrific experience.

In 1992, I was in Columbus recruiting law clerks at Ohio State and met friends for dinner in Dublin. That night, I also met my future husband, Patrick Scanlin (who is not a lawyer!), leading to my move to Columbus and our 1994 wedding. I worked as a legal administrator for a firm in Columbus, and after a few years decided I wanted "something different". I was fortunate to find a human resources position at Nationwide Insurance and after a couple of years, was asked (ironically!) to work with their legal department's Trial Division (900 attorneys & staff across the country). After 21 years at Nationwide, I retired in 2018.

Although we don't have children, we have two married nieces and 5 grand-nephews/nieces. We totally enjoy our aunt and uncle "spoiler" roles, planning for each of them to visit us in the summer, starting with Columbus-based activities and as they've gotten older, visiting cities such as Los Angeles and New Orleans, plus Ohio State football games and various baseball parks.

I've enjoyed several volunteer opportunities over the years. In Tampa, I volunteered in a nursing home for 5 years, and then, served on the children's floor of Moffitt Cancer Center. In Columbus, after my first cancer diagnosis, I began my 26 years volunteering at the James Cancer Hospital. I've made presentations for the James' new employee orientation, local nursing programs and other staff/patient programs, as well as visiting patient rooms. Currently, I'm a Breast Cancer Patient Research Advocate, providing input on patient focused projects and research.

Being close to Westerville, I've enjoyed attending reunions, events and shows on campus. Serving on Otterbein's Alumni Council for two terms was a great opportunity and I had fun helping in the Alumni Office (pre-pandemic!). Looking forward to our reunion!

Pam Wright Toorock



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Somewhere in my moves from my parent's house in New Jersey to NYC to Washington DC, back to NYC, then Woodcliff Lake NJ, and now Naples FL, there is a missing box with my Otterbein photos.

So, my Otterbein Story will be photo-less. Perhaps this will encourage others who have "missing photo boxes" to write their own story as well.

My favorite memories of Otterbein include:

- Football games...we cheered a lot but don't remember winning a lot
- Homecoming parades where we would watch from two different viewpoints making it appear that the viewing crowd was larger than it truly was
- The Equestrian team of one horse
- Climbing to the top floor of Towers...who needs a stair master?
- EKT Sorority... I served as pledge mistress
- Women's Field Hockey, where I received a penalty for "un-lady like conduct"
- Women's Softball Team... not really my sport!
- Walking through the Campus on a beautiful morning!
- Yes, I do remember the "streakers" and "panty raids" as well

My Otterbein Story started in Cochran Hall where I arrived in the Fall of 1970 with my "life sized" stuffed St Bernard toy! The rooms, as I remember, were not that big, so my St Bernard felt a bit cramped!

Graduating from a large high school in New Jersey, I was looking for a small liberal arts college where I could major in languages. I found that at Otterbein! While I graduated with a degree in French Education, my "teaching days" were limited to Student Teaching. I never returned to the classroom knowing that teaching was not "my calling".

Otterbein introduced me to "the world of travel" through my junior year at the University of Dijon, France. Certainly, I became more proficient in French during my year abroad but I also learned that there was a world full of opportunities and

exploring beyond what had been "my home base".

Traveling throughout Europe with my fellow students and meeting international students from everywhere, opened my eyes to the business of travel. As I watched the tour buses in Dijon (yes, Dijon is known for its mustard), I knew that the "travel business" was the road I would explore upon graduation. And I did...

After graduation, I returned to New Jersey where I was hired as a travel agent. I attended various travel schools and then began leading tour groups internationally.

I applied for a position at the American Society of Travel Agents (worldwide travel trade association) in New York City and accepted the position of Director of International Affairs where my love of travel would continue.

The last chapter of my career in travel would end with Hertz Car Rental where after 32 years I retired as Senior Vice President of Sales Strategy.

That's my Otterbein Story....thank you Otterbein for introducing me to the Business of Travel.

One last "Favorite Memory"... And this may have made the Yearbook...

A few of my friends (who will remain nameless) and I entered the Talent Show in our Senior Year. Otterbein is known for talent and we had none!

So here we are as the "Whistling Midgets" dressed in top hat to our waist (hands hid in top hat), fake shoulders extended from our hips with tuxedo jacket and shoes! Quite the sight! We didn't win and never disclosed who we were. The secret is now out! If you see the photo, I am the one who looks like Henry Kissinger...remember him?

That's my story and I'm sticking to it!!!!

Thank you, Otterbein!



Gar Vance

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MY OTTERBEIN STORY

My parents were both factory workers and told me all through high school that I was going to college. Growing up in Willard, Ohio, I had no idea where I would go. My life changed the day I walked out of Sunday School and saw a paper taped to the landing of the Methodist Church that had a drawing of the state of Ohio with lines drawn to a dozen Methodist-related colleges around the state. Since my older sister lived in Columbus, I knew central Ohio pretty well... and that's how I chose Otterbein! I visited only one college and my parents and I were impressed enough to commit.

I absolutely loved every day of college and joke that I was the first one when the doors opened every semester and the last one to leave after the semester ended. I made many lifelong friends in Sanders Hall on day one...a number of them are still close friends! The first day, I was told I could write for the Tan & Cardinal newspaper and years later I became Sports Editor. My RA, Ed Vaughn, got me involved in WOBN and I had a rock & roll radio show for all 4 years. John Mulkie and I also broadcasted many football games live. My senior year, Brett Moorehead and I were Co-Managers of WOBN.



I joined Jonda fraternity with many of my new friends and again, I have made so many close friends whom I have kept in regular contact for the last 50 years.

Dean Karl Oldag selected me as a Resident Assistant in Scott Hall my Junior and Senior years. Unlike almost all friends who couldn't wait to move off campus, I really enjoyed living in the dorms, and as you may guess, made even more lifelong friends!

During a 1972 summer orientation, I was giving a parent's tour of Scott Hall for the Dean's Office. As I walked back to the Jonda house for lunch (my summer residence), I cut through the Campus Center for a minute of ice cold air because it was sweltering outside! There was only one girl in the huge lounge and from her profile, it looked like Kay Bechtel. But it wasn't Kay. I continued walking to the front door, stopped, turned around and walked back into the lounge. I walked up to her and when she looked at me, I knew the answer to my question, "Are you Kay



Bechtel's sister?" "Yes!" she said and for the last 52 years, Linda has been my best friend and the love of my life. That was another day that changed my whole life!

I am so very appreciative of the years I spent at Otterbein, I could never imagine having a better experience at any other college!

Because I loved every moment of college, I ended up working 30 years as an administrator at various colleges and universities in West Virginia, Colorado and Florida. Because Linda and I decided while dating not to have children, that decision allowed me to retire 17 years ago at the age of 55... and I've loved every second of retirement! At that time, Linda was Dean of Students at Valencia College and enjoyed her work so much, she worked a few more years before retiring 12 years ago. Our 50th reunion for the class of 1974 will be this September and I've called, texted and emailed a large number of classmates whom I have not seen or contacted in almost 50 years...that's been so exciting!!

Linda and I travel around the country and often to Europe and as far as SE Asia. We spend a lot of time with friends and family around the US and recently moved to an amazing house on a lake in Winter Park, Florida where we've lived for 35 years. We worked hard, saved hard, made good decisions and are grateful to now be able to live our dreams and I have been so



fortunate and grateful. My lifelong mantra has been "Be happy and enjoy every day" and I have been VERY good at that!

-Gar Vance '74 (& Linda Bechtel Vance '76)



Mike Wasyluk

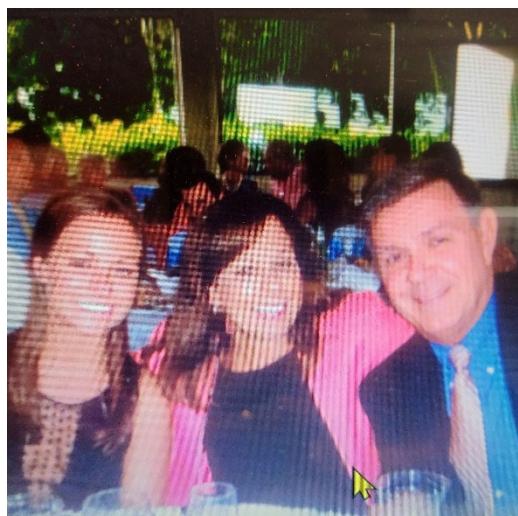
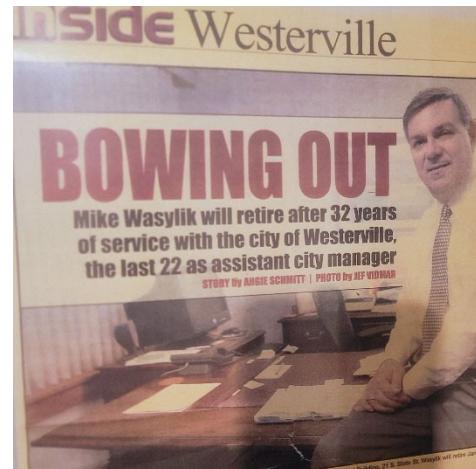


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My collegiate journey in the fall of 1970 originated in Pittsburgh. Nervous and uncertain times brought many of us together trying to find our futures. Otterbein sold me on its Washington Semester Program and I was fortunate to spend a semester working on Capitol Hill during the Watergate era. I

was too naive at the time to fully appreciate what was going on all around me. Exciting times no less. Good times at the Bein 70-74; great new friends, too many memories to list but the Kingsmen beating those clubbers in the flag football championship is up there, Spring Fever Days along with Jane Fonda's appearance in the Cowan Hall in '72, great basketball games in the Alumni gym all jump out.

Graduation came too quick but I spent the next 43 years in Westerville, 33 of those serving in the Westerville City administration. I represented Westerville on the Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission for 25 years, served as the Chairman of the Franklin County Emergency Management Executive Committee and helped to initiate the Central Ohio Municipal Risk Management Association. After retiring from Westerville in 2007, I assisted the City of Grove City as their Public Safety Director/ Dept. City Administrator.



For 28 of these years, I was very fortunate to be part of the Westerville South basketball coaching staff culminating with 2 trips to the D1 final four and winning the State Championship in 2016. The opportunity to work with young athletes was most rewarding. Forever thankful to the Quiet Peaceful Village!!