ISSUE 06
Fall 2012

From Our Nest to Yours

Dates to Remember

September
Homecoming Weekend
Friday, September 21—Sunday, September 23

October
Fall Break
Saturday, October 6—Wednesday, October 10

Family Weekend
Friday, October 19—Sunday, October 21

November
Thanksgiving Break
Wednesday, November 21—Sunday, November 25

December
Finals Begin
Monday, December 10

January
J-Term Begins
Thursday, January 3

this issue
Welcome Message
Otterbein Athletics
Fraternity & Sorority Recruitment
Student Spotlight

SAVE THE DATE!
Family Weekend 2012
See page 6
Welcome (back) to Otterbein University! I am delighted to extend my welcome and wishes for a great year to all of our members of the Otterbein family. For some of you, this is your first year as part of our extended family, for others, you are long-time members. I am one of the first-timers, having joined the University in March to oversee the offices of Admission and Financial Aid. I’m as excited as your students for the new year to get underway! I’ll be the first to admit I always loved the start of a new school year; even as a parent I enjoyed all the possibilities the new year brought to my children.

As a parent who had three students in college at the same time, I understand that educating our students truly is a partnership between Otterbein and our families. Our offices are here to provide the best service possible and I encourage families to reach out to us if their students are experiencing challenges. We’re happy to make referrals to other services if necessary, and encourage families to reach out to the University before an obstacle becomes insurmountable.

Since your students are attending Otterbein, I know that you understand the value of higher education, in spite of all the articles in the media recently asking whether or not a college education is worth the investment. A recent study by Georgetown University, *The College Advantage: Weathering the Economic Storm*, has quantified exactly how important a college education is to our students. Looking at employment data since the great recession began in 2008, the studies shows those workers with high school diplomas or less lost 5.6 million jobs and haven’t regained any of them. Workers with Associates degrees lost 1.75 million jobs in the recession and have gained 1.6 million jobs since the recession ended. Workers with Bachelor’s degrees and higher actually gained 187,000 jobs during the recession and 2 million jobs since the recession was declared over. A University education has many advantages beyond employment opportunities, but the data clearly shows it is an essential element in gaining employment.

In closing, I’d like to remind you that this isn’t just a time of transition for your students, but a transition for every member of the family. Parents and younger siblings often overlook the fact that they may be the ones feeling lonely and “homesick” for the student who is now away from home. Although I work on a college campus, I was always surprised by how much I was impacted by the start of my children’s college year, even when they were seniors!

I know this year holds incredible opportunities for your students and your families, so enjoy them.

Sincerely,

Jefferson R. Blackburn-Smith
Vice President for Enrollment Management
The Department of Athletics welcomes you to Otterbein!

We look forward to sharing the upcoming year’s athletic competitions with the entire campus and hope that you will support our athletes, cheerleaders, band members and dance team. We have several opportunities for you to join us as we look ahead at the upcoming fall schedule.

Saturday, September 22nd is Homecoming and Community Day! The football team will host John Carroll with kick-off scheduled for 2:00 pm. All parents are welcome to attend the game as our guest! We also invite you to check out our women’s soccer team as they play host to Transylvania, game time 1:00 pm. If cross country piques your interest, Otterbein will host the Otterbein Invitational on Saturday, September 22nd. The event will take place on the cross country course located just off West St.

If you plan to attend Fall Family Weekend, join us for a volleyball match on Friday, October 19th at 7:30 pm. as the Lady Cardinals host Mt. Union. Then join us on Saturday, October 20th as the football team hosts Mt. Union at 1:30 pm. Don’t miss the half-time recognition of our 2012 men’s golf team and coaching staff that represented Otterbein at the NCAA Championship in Florida this past spring.

The Department of Athletics has several new coaches in place for the 2012-13 year and a new Director of Athletics as well! Otterbein invites all parents, alumni and fans to meet the new Athletic Director, Dawn Stewart, and coaches as we enter another athletics calendar! See below for event times and locations:

**Oct. 13:**
Men’s & Women’s Soccer (Clements Field) ... 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Nov. 17:**
Women’s Basketball (Pittsburgh, Pa. – Carnegie Mellon) ... TBD

**Jan. 26:**
Men’s Basketball (Berea, Ohio – Baldwin Wallace) ... 5:30 p.m. (postgame)

Check with otterbeincardinals.com or otterbein.edu/public/Alumni.aspx for updates as we get closer to these events!
Fraternity & Sorority Recruitment

Joining a Greek letter organization can provide your student with well-rounded co-curricular experiences. Greek letter organizations value scholarship, service, brotherhood/sisterhood and leadership, and members strive to live out these values in their everyday life. These organizations have a rich history at Otterbein which also provide them with a strong local Alumni support system.

This year recruitment and new member education for fraternities and sororities will begin in September. Recruitment parties will begin in mid to late September and will conclude on October 8. Through the recruitment process students are able to learn more about each organization and find the fraternities or sororities that best fits their values, personality and interests.

Fraternity/Sorority recruitment can be an exciting, yet challenging time for first-year students. The following are a few strategies to assist families in supporting their students in their decision to join and remain committed to Otterbein’s Greek Community.

- **Support** - Students need support throughout the process of recruitment/intake, new member education, their time at Otterbein, and their commitment to their organization for a lifetime.
- **Research** - Take time to go through our website to learn as much as you can about the Otterbein Greek community. [www.otterbein.edu/greeklife](http://www.otterbein.edu/greeklife) (Be sure to check out our parents section!)
- **Personality** - Sororities and fraternities are different on every campus! Let your student choose the chapter they feel the most comfortable joining.
- **Academics** - Talk to your student about how they plan to balance their fraternity/sorority, academics, and personal life.
- **Financial** - Joining a fraternity or sorority is a financial obligation. We recommend you discuss the plan to pay for membership prior to joining.
- **Competition** - Know that the process of joining a sorority or fraternity at Otterbein is competitive. We recommend students complete the entire recruitment process. If a student does their research and commits to finding an organization with similar values as their own, we believe there is an organization on campus for everyone.
- **Assertive** - Allow your students to ask the questions! It helps the student mature and gain some assertiveness.
- **Questions** - Ask questions of your student - before recruitment, after recruitment and throughout their experience. Ask about the successes of the organizations and areas it can improve.
- **Leadership** - Engage your student in a conversation about how they plan to get involved in their chapter. Remember, you do not need a title to be a leader, and every student can make an impact in their organization. How they do that is very personal to each student.
- **CSI** - The Center for Student Involvement oversees the Fraternity & Sorority community and is a resource for you as well! If you have any questions or concerns, we can be reached by phone at 614-823-3211.
What is your favorite Otterbein memory?

My favorite memory of Otterbein would most definitely be participating on campus as a student leader. I’ve met so many new friends and have been able to build strong relationships with them. I’ve had the chance to help new students become acclimated to campus by welcoming them and letting them know I’m always available to help them with anything they may need. I really enjoy making new friends and helping others, so being a student leader has been a great experience.

Becky Stanforth – Junior

My favorite memory from last year would have to be all of those little moments that made me realize, this is the place I found my best friends. Everyone says college is the place to find your soulmate, your bridesmaids, or your best friend. Even if you do find all of these, you also find your sisters God didn’t give you but wanted you to find. One of my favorite times was after a holiday break, knocking on our neighbors’ doors letting them know we are finally home and the wait is over, the sisters and brothers are back together. However, my favorite memory from last year was living in the same hall with the four girls who are now my best friends and sisters. We exchange life stories, tears, support, laughter and love. I thank Otterbein for the amazing opportunities it gave me last year, including the ability it gave me to meet truly beautiful people.

Hannah Ewald – Sophomore

I would say my favorite Otterbein memory was my freshman year in Garst Hall and all the friendships I made. Because of our Resident Assistant (RA) that year, I decided to become an RA myself for two years, and was able to help others build strong relationships. Now I continue to participate in the university radio station and intramural sports with my friends I have had from my first year. I even live with three of them. Being at Otterbein is about the people and interacting with each other.

Neil Brown – Senior
Vote for **Cardy** and make the decision to attend

Otterbein University's Homecoming!

**September 21-22, 2012**

**Cardinal Pride**
- Run/Walk with Cardy in the Up Til Dawn 5K
- Watch the parade
- Cardy Carnival & Tailgate
- 2nd Annual Young Alumni Awards
- Halftime Tours of Garst, Scott and Engle
- Otterbein Art Gallery Hop

**Family Fun**
- Carnival with crafts and inflatable games
- Liberty Mutual sponsored Bike Rodeo
- Kids - Ride your bike in the parade
- Columbus Zoo animals
- Luke the Balloonist
- Chemistry/Physics Lab and Open House
- Dr. Patrick Lewis children's book signing

**Make it a weekend road trip to support Cardy.**

For more information visit

[http://www.otterbein.edu/homecoming](http://www.otterbein.edu/homecoming)
Save the Date!

For more information visit: otterbein.edu/parents

Registration opens September 10

Family Weekend
October 19-21

Find us on Facebook.
facebook.com/otterbeinparents
Otterbein Summer Theatre
Otterbein Welcomes
New International Students
First Flight: Move– In Day

Welcome to the Class of 2016
First Flight 2012:
First-Year Seminar Class Lunch on the Lawn & Barlow Hall Beach Party