



VARSITY O

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Fellow Varsity O Members and Buckeyes,**

Happy New Year from your Varsity O Board! We had an overall successful- albeit at times bumpy first year as a merged men's and women's Alumni Society. As we head into 2017 we have a lot to look forward to. We've made it through most of the initial logistical type changes and now we get to start having some fun and thinking of ways to serve our mission of "Athletes Helping Athletes".

Our Board is working on putting our new logo on some gear and setting up a new "VO Store". We are also prioritizing more networking and happy-hour style events after a very successful and fun late Fall event last year. Our Past President, Garth Cox, is working on ways to engage with you where you live, even if that isn't in Columbus, Ohio.

On top of all the fun, we have so much to be proud of. The Legacy Men's And Women's groups made significant donations to several scholarship and capital funds at the University. This is your dues and donations hard at work, paying it forward to the current student athletes. Look for more details on our significant 2016 donations in this newsletter.

As we blaze new paths, we stay steadfast in our traditions that make our organization and broader university so special. Join us for the Ohio State Athletics Varsity O Hall of Fame banquet on October 6th. We are also excited to continue our rich tradition of the Homecoming Tailgate at French Fieldhouse.

Since most of you don't know me, I'll share a brief background. I was a Hammer thrower on the Track Team from 1999-2003. I am a proud graduate of the Fisher College of Business. My fondest memory as a student athlete was beating a competitor from the Team up North on my final throw my Senior year to win my last Big Ten Title and set a new Big Ten Record. I was given the greatest honor of my Buckeye journey when I was enshrined in our Hall of Fame in 2011. After that I joined the Women's Varsity O Board and served as its President in 2015. I am very excited to represent our 9000 Buckeye Athlete alumni and I am an admitted fan of just about every sport we represent!

I'd like to take a moment to thank our 2016 President Garth Cox for his service. He held VO steadfast through a challenging transitional year. I'd also like to thank two of our board members for their service as they step down from the board- Kimberly Lowe McCalla and Kristen White Christman. Help me welcome our new board members Ron Maciejowski, Theresa Fightmaster and Dr. Jill Burke.

Reach out to me or our board with any ideas about how we can help further our mission and engage with our large alumni base. Until next time,

**Go Bucks!**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katy Swathwood", written over a light blue circular background.

**Katy (Craig) Swathwood, President**  
Varsity O Board  
Track & Field ('99-'03)



## PHYLLIS BAILEY AND BARBIE TOOTLE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



*Katy Swathwood, Denny Hoobler, Phyllis Bailey and Jeri Price*

The Phyllis Bailey Career Achievement and Barbie Tootle Spirit awards were presented on January 29th during the Women's basketball game vs. Nebraska. Dr. Debbie Mendel is the 16th recipient of the Barbie Tootle Spirit award. Dr. Mendel is a faculty member at OSU College of Dentistry and is in charge of the athletic mouth guard program for many Buckeye sports teams. Associate athletics director Denny Hoobler is the 10th recipient of the Phyllis Bailey career achievement award. Hoobler has had tremendous

impact during his 31 year career in the athletic department. He began to work with the VO Board as an athletic department representative during the transitional merger year. Hoobler also served in the Army Reserves before his Athletics Department career at Ohio State. The awards were presented by VO President Katy Swathwood, Tootle and Bailey award chair Jeri Price, Barbie Tootle, Phyllis Bailey and Special Assistant to the Athletic Director, Miechelle Willis.



*Miechelle Willis, Barbie Tootle and Dr. Debbie Mendel*



# WOMEN'S SPORTS REPORT

Several members of your Varsity O board attended The Women's Sports Report breakfast on February 15th at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. This annual event is presented by the Greater Columbus Sports Commission. This year's event had a strong focus on Women's final four events that have and will occur in Columbus. Capital University hosted the Division III Final Four last year, Ohio Dominican will host the Division II Final Four this year. The 2018 Division I Final Four will be held in Columbus at Nationwide Arena. Maya Moore of the Minnesota Lynx and a four-time Final Four participant was the keynote speaker. VO Member Katie Smith was also a prominent speaker at the event.



Katy Swathwood, Miechelle Willis, Candace Dark, Jeri Price, Jill Burke

# MEN'S BASKETBALL CAPTAIN'S DINNER

Several Board members, including VO Board members and Men's Basketball Captain Alum Matt Terwilliger, attended the Annual Men's Basketball Captain's Dinner on January 21st at the Ohio State University Golf Club. The evening included dinner and great company. After a chat with Coach Matta, Alumni Captains reminisced and provided encouragement and advice to the current student athletes.



Katy Swathwood, Jeri Price, Maya Moore, Jill Burke, Katie Smith



Katy Swathwood, Jae'Sean Tate, Liz Lucas, Andre Wesson



Joey Lane and President Katy Swathwood

# NFF DINNER

Several Varsity O members and board members attended the National Football Foundation Banquet on February 13th in the Archie Griffin Ballroom at the Ohio Union. Former VO President, Jeff Logan, served as master of ceremonies. The dinner provides annual updates on local football at the high school and collegiate level. The dinner also honors individuals who support the acclaim of football through roles as player, in the media or as a student athlete. VO Member Tom Cousineau was recognized for his induction into the College Football Hall of Fame 2016 Class.



Ron Maciejowski, Katy Swathwood, Tom Cousineau, Jill Burke, Tim Burke, Ernie Epitropoulos



# DINNER FOR 12

On Wednesday, February 22nd, Varsity O had the opportunity to engage with current Student Athletes for the Dinner for 12 event. In conjunction with the Alumni Association, the event is held at the Longaberger Alumni House and provides a business-casual experience for Varsity O members and current Student-Athletes to socially network together over dinner and dessert.

The evening was a fun and engaging night filled with many stories, unique experiences, and of course shared love and enthusiasm for Buckeye Athletics! As Varsity O members and proud alums, this signature Dinner for 12 event showcases how amazed we continue to be with the enormous talent, ambition, and success of our student-athletes!

Attendees included:

## Varsity O Members

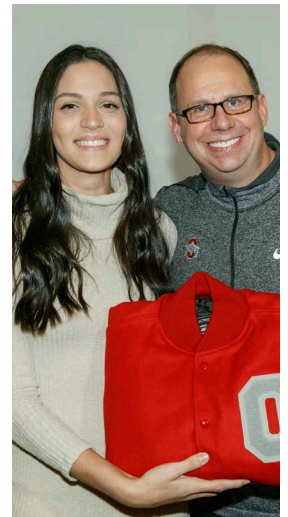
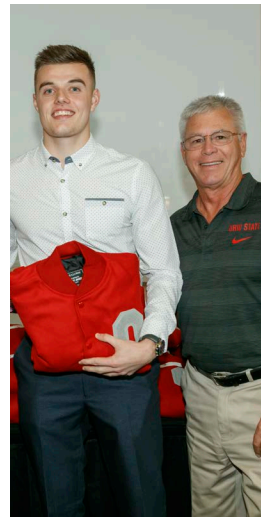
- Ian Betts (Men's Swimming)
- Jill Burke (Synchronized Swimming)
- Steve Chappellear (Wrestling)
- Candace Dark (Women's Basketball)
- Nowa Thiam (Men's Soccer)

## Student Athletes

- Irina Andrianova (Women's Pistol)
- Lindsey Clary (Women's Swimming)
- Alyssa Hoying (Synchronized Swimming)
- Luke Landis (Men's Cross Country)
- Kara Moody (Women's Pistol)
- Parker Siegfried (Men's Soccer)



# FALL LETTERJACKETS





# WHY YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS: IMPACT

Varsity O's mission, **Athletes Helping Athletes**, continues to be carried out in multiple ways, all directly impacting and enhancing the student-athlete experience. For example, the Shumaker Student-Athlete Development Complex will be an 89,000 sq. ft. facility that will impact 33 of the 36 sports. It will be the first of a larger project that plans to bring the student-athlete community to a central location, increasing morale and culture. The complete list of funds Varsity O supported in 2016 includes:

\$ 150,000	Student Athlete Development Complex
\$ 55,000	Phyllis J. Bailey/Varsity "O" Women Endowment Fund
\$ 50,000	Wrestling Practice Facility
\$ 50,000	Bill Wentz Varsity "O" Post Graduate Scholarship Fund
\$ 40,000	Dr. Robert Bartels Men's Swimming Performance Fund
\$ 30,000	Baseball Letterman's Plaza Support Fund
\$ 26,000	18 Sport Specific Funds



*The Student Athlete Development Center is set to open in 2018.*



As the Varsity O board, we would like to personally thank you for allowing us to make significant differences in the current student-athlete experience. The idea of "Paying it Forward" runs deep in the culture of Ohio State Athletics and we're proud to see former student-athletes embracing this idea.





# FRAXA


Finding a Cure for Fragile X

## FAMILIES FOR FRAGILE X



Alumni sisters **Patty Black Gurreri (1984-88)** and **Debbie Black Heiman (1988-993)** are former gymnasts who have learned that struggle, sacrifice and dedication have great meaning inside and outside of the sports world. In 2002 they discovered that they were carriers of a genetic disorder called Fragile X Syndrome which they each passed down to two of their children. Fragile X is the most common cause of inherited intellectual disabilities and the most common cause of autism. Besides cognitive impairment and autism, symptoms include anxiety, sensory integration disorder, speech delay and seizures.

Patty and Debbie have joined teams with local families who are also affected with Fragile X Syndrome. They are hosting a fundraiser benefiting FRAXA, the organization that funds scientific research aimed at finding treatments and ultimately, a cure for the disorder. The event, Genes and Gems, will be held at St. Charles Preparatory School on April 8, 2017. Ticket purchases and donations can be made on-line at [www.fraxa.org](http://www.fraxa.org). The Gurreri and Heiman families have utilized skills they learned in sport to face their everyday challenges with their children and are working together to beat Fragile X.



# Genes & Gems

## Casual Cocktail Party

SUPPORTING FRAXA RESEARCH FOUNDATION

**Saturday, April 8, 2017**  
**7:00-11:00pm**

**St. Charles Preparatory School - Walter Commons**  
 2010 EAST BROAD STREET, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43209

<p>Tickets: \$60 each</p> <p>Purchase tickets and make a donation at <a href="http://www.fraxa.org/genesandgems">www.fraxa.org/genesandgems</a> or by calling Emily 614-309-2342</p>	<p>Attire: Jeans &amp; Gems</p> <p>Heavy Hors d'oeuvres</p> <p>Cash bar</p> <p>Live and silent auction</p> <p>Music</p>
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Fragile X Syndrome is the leading inherited form of intellectual impairment and the most common known cause of autism. Symptoms vary and can include learning and developmental delays, anxiety, seizures and physical characteristics. FRAXA funds the most promising research for treatments and ultimately a cure for Fragile X. For more informations visit [www.FRAXA.org](http://www.FRAXA.org). FRAXA is a 501c Tax ID:04-322167-45

# MEET THE BOARD

Varsity O Alumni Society Board of Directors



**KATY (CRAIG)  
SWATHWOOD**

**President**

Track & Field ('99-'02)  
Executive Sales  
Representative, Eli Lilly  
& Company

[kcswathwood@gmail.com](mailto:kcswathwood@gmail.com)



**ERNIE  
EPITROPOULOS**

**President Elect**

Football ('77-'81)  
Ernie Epitropoulos  
Agency, Nationwide  
Insurance & Financial

[eepitropoulos@yahoo.com](mailto:eepitropoulos@yahoo.com)



**JOE BUDDE**

**Treasurer**

Swimming ('71-'74)  
Private Practice  
Attorney

[Joe@BuddeRealEstateLaw.com](mailto:Joe@BuddeRealEstateLaw.com)



**CANDACE DARK**

**Secretary**

Basketball ('03-'06)  
Associate Director  
Network Operations  
Outreach & Network  
Development at James  
Cancer Hospital and  
Solove Research Institute

[candace.dark@osumc.edu](mailto:candace.dark@osumc.edu)



**GARTH COX**

**Past President**

Football ('74-'77)  
Partner at Harris  
McClellan Binau &  
Cox PLL

[gcox@hmbc.com](mailto:gcox@hmbc.com)



**JILL (VINCENT)  
BURKE**

**Board Member**

Synchronized  
Swimming ('76-'80)  
Principal in  
Southwestern City  
Schools

[jillvburke@gmail.com](mailto:jillvburke@gmail.com)

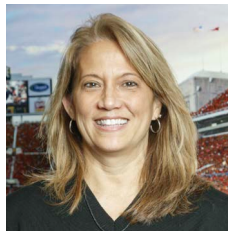


**STEVE  
CHAPPELEAR**

**Board Member**

Wrestling ('71-'74)  
Business Trial Attorney  
at Frost Brown Todd

[schappellear@fbtlaw.com](mailto:schappellear@fbtlaw.com)

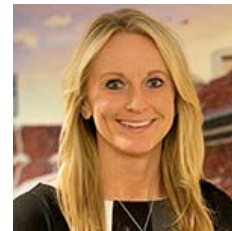


**TERESA  
FIGHTMASTER**

**Board Member**

Swimming ('82-'86)  
Pau Hana Swim Team  
Owner & Head Coach

[TFightmaster23@gmail.com](mailto:TFightmaster23@gmail.com)



**BETH HOWE**

**Board Member**

Basketball ('01-'05)  
Director of Operations,  
Women's Basketball  
at The Ohio State  
University

[howe.84@osu.edu](mailto:howe.84@osu.edu)

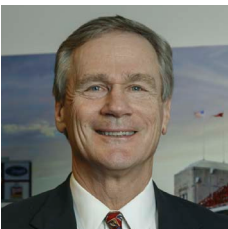


**LIZ (HELICKSON)  
LUCAS**

**Board Member**

Rowing ('97-'01)  
High School Teacher,  
Hilliard City Schools

[ehellickson@hotmail.com](mailto:ehellickson@hotmail.com)



**RON  
MACIEJOWSKI**

**Board Member**

Football ('68-'70)  
Executive VP  
Worthington Industries  
Retired

[rmace3166@outlook.com](mailto:rmace3166@outlook.com)



**JERI  
(BUCKINGHAM)  
PRICE**

**Board Member**

Track & Field ('68-'71)  
Retired High School  
Teacher and Coach,  
Westerville City Schools

[rwprice23@att.net](mailto:rwprice23@att.net)



**ANTONIO SMITH**

**Board Member**

Football ('02-'06)  
Mechanical Engineer at  
Dynamix Engineering  
Ltd.; Author

[asmith4485@aol.com](mailto:asmith4485@aol.com)



**JONATHAN  
SWEET**

**Board Member**

Baseball ('90-'94)  
Senior Oncology  
Specialist, Amgen Inc.

[sweet1@zoomtown.com](mailto:sweet1@zoomtown.com)



**MATT  
TERWILLIGER**

**Board Member**

Basketball ('04-'08)  
Financial Advisor with  
The Edwards Group at  
Morgan Stanley

[Matt.Terwilliger@morganstanley.com](mailto:Matt.Terwilliger@morganstanley.com)



# UPCOMING EVENTS

For a complete listing of upcoming Alumni Association events, visit  
[go.osu.edu/UpcomingAlumniEvents](http://go.osu.edu/UpcomingAlumniEvents)

Alumni events are filled with fun, festivities and, yes, sometimes football. The Ohio State experience doesn't stop with commencement, so come together with your fellow alumni to enjoy more time as a #BuckeyeForLife.

## BUCKEYES AFTER WORK

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup> at Watershed Distillery

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Open to ALL Varsity O Members and one guest

FREE ENTRY and appetizers, Cash bar

*Open to the first 50 registered guests*

*Email whether 1 or 2 people will attend to:*

[OSUVOevent@gmail.com](mailto:OSUVOevent@gmail.com)

## SAVE THE DATE

### HALL OF FAME BANQUET

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2017

### HOMECOMING TAILGATE AND HALL OF FAME GAME

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2017



1145 Chesapeake Ave, Suite D  
Columbus, Ohio 43212

## NEWS

SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH US to be shared in future newsletters!

[varsityonews@gmail.com](mailto:varsityonews@gmail.com)