



VARSITY O

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Reflections on the Past and Visions for the Future –

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as President of Varsity O. As I wrap up my year, I reflect on where we started and how far we've come.

The Legacy Men's and Women's groups merged just two years ago to form a united Varsity O. There were some bumps in the road. I think many members questioned the choice and wondered if a merged VO would work well. In my opinion it has worked very well. The combined impact of a unified Varsity O has been huge.

In the last two years we have worked hard to engage with our members in traditional ways- like our Homecoming tailgate and Hall of Fame celebration. We've also tried new ways to engage with you- through happy hour events and our recent charity softball game versus the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team. Hundreds of members are now sporting apparel from our pop up stores. We've also had over 20,000 views on social media and our website!

Using funds from both legacy organizations and the current organization, Varsity O has donated over half a million dollars to our great University in the last two years. The majority of this money will be used to build new training and competition facilities. This funding is much needed to continue to recruit elite athletes from all over the world. These facilities will be used by almost every sport allowing us to impact just about every current Buckeye. In addition to the recently donated funds, historical donations from Varsity O impact 14 endowments which produce over \$30,000 annually in scholarships to student athletes. During your next visit to campus, look for any student wearing a letter jacket and know that **your** annual donations have likely impacted that student athlete directly in some way!

As we look to the future I can assure you that every board member is aligned to our vision of "Athletes helping Athletes". We are always looking for suggestions on how we can help you connect meaningfully back to your University or to fellow Buckeyes.

#ProudofOurImpact

#ExcitedForTheFuture

Go Bucks!

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Katy (Craig) Swathwood.

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



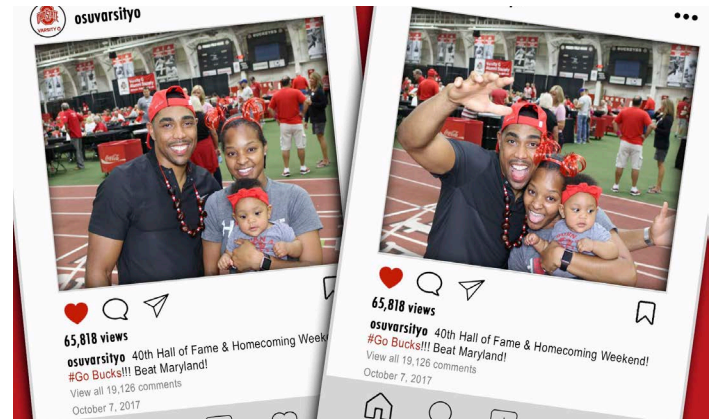
HOMECOMING TAILGATE

"Best VO Homecoming Tailgate ever," are the words of one of your fellow members who attended the annual Homecoming Tailgate event on October 7th at French Field House!



Live music, great food, adult beverages, games, prizes and a visit from The Ohio State Spirit Squad, are just a few of the highlights that made this year's event special for more than 400 former athletes and their guests. And of course a 62-14 win over the Maryland Terrapins helped close out an amazing day and a fun filled weekend!

So, how will we top this event next year? Um, we're not exactly sure yet, but we are sure that you won't want to miss it!



HALL OF FAME

A capacity crowd filled the Ballroom in the new Marriott Columbus north of campus on the evening of October 6, 2017, to witness the induction of eight new members in the Ohio State University Athletics Hall of Fame.

The honorees were LeCharles Bentley, football; Tom Byers, track and field; Mike Conley, Jr., men's basketball; Chelsea Davis, diving; Pete Hanson, men's volleyball coach; Bryce Keough, wrestling; Christina Manning, track and field; and Nancy Pearson, swimming. The Hall of Fame was created in 1977 and has inducted 305 men and 121 women. The purpose of the Hall of Fame is to pay tribute and extend recognition to those individuals who through the years have contributed to the honor and fame of The Ohio State University in the field of athletics, and who have continued to demonstrate, in their daily lives, the values learned in intercollegiate athletics. The eight new members without question meet this exclusive standard.

Varsity "O" past president Jeff Logan again served as the master of ceremonies. Hall of Famer Clark Kellogg, also a member of the OSU Board of Trustees, provided the invocation. Varsity "O" president Katy Swathwood offered congratulatory remarks to the inductees, and presented the individual awards. Each of the inductees made heartfelt and sincere acceptance remarks, to a person, humble and grateful for the honor of the Hall of Fame recognition.

Many members of the Hall of Fame came back to campus for this special evening, the 40th ceremony inducting members in the Ohio State University Athletics Hall of Fame, and received special pins celebrating the occasion.

The new inductees were on the sideline in Ohio Stadium the next day, and were honored at half time of the football game against the University of Maryland, a 62-14 dominating victory. They were also recognized before the game during the Varsity "O" Homecoming Tailgate in French Field House, which had a record attendance.



WHY YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

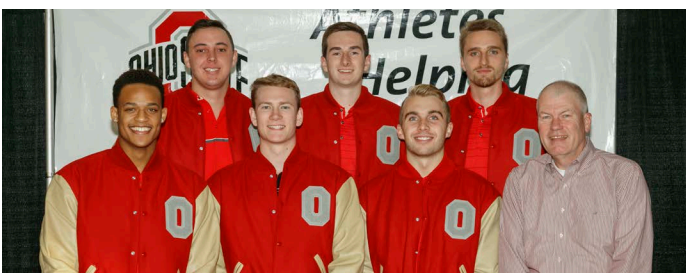
Many of us remember receiving our letter jackets by stepping up alone to the equipment room and having it handed, or tossed, in our direction. Varsity O began a new tradition in February of 2009, making sure each new letter winner receives their letter jacket in a more distinguished way with hopes that these new letter winners understand the significance of the jacket, the pride of wearing it and the heritage that came before them!

Three times a year, new varsity letter winners are awarded their jackets in the Letter Jacket Ceremony sponsored by Varsity O. This ceremony happens separately for Fall, Winter and Spring Athletes. At the culmination of their season, new letter winners are invited to a ceremony in the Varsity O Room in Ohio Stadium, where it has been held since its inception. There the student athletes are served dinner, recognized by athletic department members and Varsity O Board members, then presented their letter jacket individually by sport. Their jacket is presented by their coach and pictures are taken with each individual and their team.



In the most recent letter jacket ceremony at the end of October, athletes from fifteen sports were awarded their letter jackets. Over 100 athletes received their letter jacket at this ceremony. The total for this past year was approximately 250 new letter winners receiving their jackets at the three Varsity O events! Over the past 9 years, more than 1800 student athletes have been presented their letter jackets at this prestigious ceremony.

Many athletes come, even during the cold months, without a coat. They know what they will be wearing home!



BUCKEYES EMPOWERED BY ESPNW CAMPUS CONVERSATIONS

Nearly 200 Ohio State female student-athletes and staff gathered in the Fawcett Center in November for ESPNW's Campus Conversations. The second Big Ten school to host the program, Campus Conversations is a forum for discussions that support, educate, and inspire female student-athletes during their collegiate careers.

Seven Buckeye alumnae were welcomed back to campus to lead an engaging panel conversation followed by interactive breakout sessions. Panelists included Candace Axline '98 (Softball - Attorney and Senior Tax Manager at KPMG), Rebecca Best '11 (Gymnastics - Air Traffic Controller for the Federal Aviation Administration), Stephanie Hightower '80 (Track & Field - President and CEO of the Columbus Urban League), and Katie Smith '96 (Basketball - Head Coach of the New York Liberty).

Moderated by ESPN's Cari Champion, the panel focused on the former Buckeyes' experiences reflecting on their time as student-athletes, their mindsets heading into senior year, and transitioning into the real world. Each panelist provided words of wisdom and advice for current student-athletes as they navigate their collegiate journey. Common remarks included the importance of networking, developing confidence, and remaining authentic.

"It was nice having such different voices and variety on the panel," said Stephanie Mavunga, a women's basketball player pursuing a master's degree in Sport Management. "They each provided a unique viewpoint, with ways of bettering our lives both in the workforce and on our fields of play."



Buckeyes were able to engage more closely with alumnae through four unique breakout sessions. Topics included Lift As You Rise (supporting and empowering other women), Sorry Not Sorry (how to be strong and assertive while addressing stereotypes associated with female confidence), Look At Me Now (focusing on lessons learned), and Women in Sports Media, Marketing & Beyond (careers in the sports industry).

"I went to the Women in Sports Media session and it solidified that I'd really enjoy linking my passion of communication and marketing with my passion for sports," said Karrington Pettiford-Winters, a junior on the track & field team.

In addition to engaging with Champion, Smith, and Carol Stiff - ESPN's Vice President for Women's Sports Programming - Buckeyes practiced elevator pitches while discussing the value of internships, job search strategies, and career readiness.

Local alumnae Karen Alsbrooks (Volleyball - Executive Director for Organizational Development at Ohio State's Office of Diversity & Inclusion), Caity Matter Henniger (Basketball - Co-Owner of Rogue Fitness), and Emily Johnson Widman (Spirit - Owner of three Central Ohio Pure Barre locations) joined as breakout session leaders.

"The event was really inspiring and I learned answers to questions I didn't know I had," said Pettiford-Winters.

Three current Buckeyes served on the planning committee, shaping the breakout sessions to include both personal and professional development topics of interest. Mavunga, Gaby DeSantis (Tennis), and Taylor White (Softball) were the voice of their peers and helped select alumnae participants, dialed in to weekly conference calls, and assisted with event planning tasks.

In all, Buckeyes walked away feeling empowered and inspired, knowledgeable about how to embrace their strengths as student-athletes & women, and confident leveraging their unique transferable skills to the next place life takes them. New connections and a helpful campus resources sheet will ensure they continue engaging in personal and professional development opportunities throughout their careers.

NETTIE KRUMM

by Robert J. Roman



In 1912 the Ohio State University found an entrance into the elite of college athletics with admission to the Western Conference (AKA the Big Ten). Soon afterward Chic Harley and his extraordinary undefeated 1916 football team led the university through that doorway. Before reaching this point, however, the Ohio State athletic program needed to earn the right to it. Robert J. Roman, author of *Ohio State Football: The Forgotten Dawn*, highlights the rise of OSU sports to greatness with this series exploring the university's outstanding, but overlooked, pre-1916 athletes.



Basketball came to the Ohio State University in the late 1890s, and the earliest discussions of a women's team arrived not long afterward. The men's team first played in February 1898, and at that time Lantern editor Ivy Kellerman praised the sport for being "more graceful and less destructive" than football. In March, the school's instructor of women's physical training discussed organizing a women's team.

It was not until nearly six years later, however, that some female students finally organized their own basketball team. A senior named Alma Wicker and a sophomore Nettie Krumm took the lead. The freshman, sophomore, and senior classes each formed teams, playing a round-robin schedule to identify the best players for a varsity team. Wicker soon realized that she was not one of those best players and she arranged to be named team manager. Krumm, on the other hand, was a clear campus standout. The team was formed by January, 1904.

They scheduled six games that year, with Krumm playing at guard. Opponents included Otterbein and Miami Universities. The O.S.U. record was five wins to one loss. Krumm was praised for her smothering defense, and at the end of the season she was elected captain for the following year. She also established herself in other sports, and in March of that year she became the first woman elected vice president of the university's Tennis Association.

In 1905 the women's basketball team scheduled an eleven-game season. They lost an early game to Ohio Northern University, and afterward Krumm, as captain, moved herself to forward to play a larger role in the team's offense. The shot clock was not yet used in basketball, so scoring then was much lower than today. Ohio State scored 213 points against their opponents' 62. Of Ohio State's points, Krumm scored 106. The team finished with a 10-1 record, including a win in a rematch with Ohio Northern, and secured the state championship.

Soon after that auspicious season, however, the team hit a snag. The captaincy of the 1906 team passed to a student named Ada Harsbarger. Throughout the early part of the season Nettie Krumm was still personally outscoring the opposing teams, but after the seventh game the bench players revolted, complaining that Harsbarger was showing "favoritism" in playing time. Seeing such un-ladylike divisiveness, the university suspended the season. The following year the university's new Athletic Director, Harry Wingert, suspended women's sports entirely.

Nettie Krumm graduated in 1906, but she remained close to women's sport and to women's education. When she married in 1915 she had been serving for years as a referee in women's basketball games. She then had three daughters, and she made sure that each received a college degree.

Women's varsity basketball returned to Ohio State in 1965.

Robert J. Roman is the author of *Ohio State Football: The Forgotten Dawn* where additional stories such as this one can be found.



Being raised by a single mother in Detroit, Jason Singleton is grateful to have had a mother who is a strong, accomplished, loving woman who has been intentional about helping to shape his destiny. Through academia and athletics, Singleton has been surrounded with a number of upstanding men who support, encourage, and push him even today.

Total Image Empowerment originated in 2013. TIE for Men is the realization of Singleton's vision to be for other men what he is so grateful for himself. This year in particular TIE partnered with Spirit Over Flesh, LLC to bring programming and curriculum to men who are currently incarcerated within the prison system. Marion Correctional Institution welcomed the nonprofit to positively contribute to their mission in the fight against recidivism.

For a nine month period the cohort discussed job readiness, entrepreneurship, missions, visions and values, incorporated a book club and together as a cohort planned a one-of-a-kind community event. Time spent on Monday evenings became much more than the prepared curriculum. This was time spent encouraging one another, exchanging love and light, re-building self-equity and fostering a family environment resounding in lasting friendships and brotherhood.

During the inaugural cohort, The Invictus Project was introduced which came to be a crowning achievement for all involved. Hosting an evening held in the sanctuary of the state penitentiary allowed us to invite the community to their new found treasure of experiencing freedom behind bars. Hearing their guys tell their stories and share their gifts, as everyone sat on the edge of their sit, was a night to remember.

The feedback received and the pulse created from the completion of their first cohort has us all in great anticipation of what is to come moving forward. Many of the Men of TIE have since been re-acclimated into society and have come back with a vengeance overflowing with accomplishment, success and service to their loved ones and communities. Upon completion of the program and release from prison the men are provided with a suit and meet with their team on a bi-weekly basis for continued support. Connections made at The Invictus Project has even provided some of their men with jobs upon release. They are grateful to be a part of their family as they continue to learn from and support one another through Total Image Empowerment.

If you are interested in joining and/or donating to their cause to support and encourage men please visit their website for more information and leave your contact information to be added to the invite list for their next event.

www.tieformen.org

49 YEARS OF DEDICATION TO THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT



November 18th in Ohio Stadium will go down in the history books for more than just senior day. It was the last day that Larry Romanoff, assistant director of event management, worked at a game at Ohio Stadium in 49 years. Larry began working on the sidelines at Ohio State in 1969 as a football manager for Woody Hayes. Since that time he has held a number of positions at Ohio State including the ticket department, compliance, development, external relations and 19 years in academic counseling.

To say that he has impacted student-athletes in his time at Ohio State will be an understatement. His influence runs deep and his shoes will be difficult to fill. His daughter's post on Illinois game day thanking her dad for his impact, had almost 800 likes and more than 300 comments.

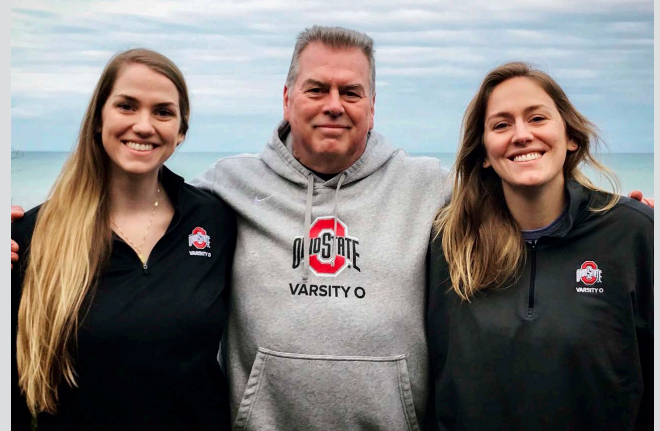
"It's been a lot of fun," Romanoff said. "The people, the characters and interesting things I've been able to do and the people I've met, that's the best thing about it."

His wife of 42 years, Debbie, is retiring from education this summer after 30 years and so Larry will do the same. Romanoff has never sat in the stands for a Buckeye game in his 49 years. His family and friends will need to find something to keep him busy next fall, maybe even enjoy just watching a game which might be one of his hardest jobs to date.

Varsity O thanks you Larry for your dedication, passion and commitment as a Buckeye. You are truly one of a kind.

VO STORE

Be sure to keep your eyes open for VARSITY O GEAR FLASH SALE emails in the future so you too can own some of this great new gear!



ALL IN THE FAMILY

Julie Walsh, Rowing, 2010-14, Tom Walsh, Soccer, 1971-74, Emily Walsh, Rowing, 2008-12.

From a secret location on Lake Huron, far behind enemy lines, a special Varsity O member detachment prepared for THE game...

FOOTBALL CAPTAINS DINNER

On Friday October 6th the annual Football Captains Dinner was held for the football team the night before Homecoming vs Maryland.



Ernie Epitropoulos awarding a captain's mug to JT Barrett at the football captains dinner. JT is the only three-time captain in Ohio State football history.

MEET THE BOARD

Varsity O Alumni Society Board of Directors



KATY (CRAIG) SWATHWOOD

President

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

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RON MACIEJOWSKI

President Elect

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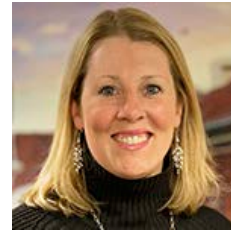
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CANDACE DARK

Secretary

Basketball ('03-'06)

Associate Director
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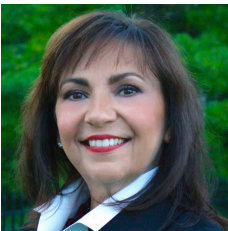
GARTH COX

Past President

Football ('74-'77)

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McClellan Binau &
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JILL (VINCENT) BURKE

Board Member

Synchronized
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STEVE CHAPPELEAR

Board Member

Wrestling ('71-'74)

Business Trial Attorney
at Frost Brown Todd

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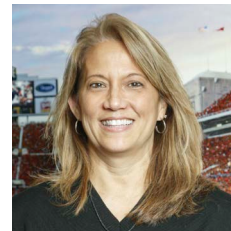
ERNIE EPITROPOULOS

Board Member

Football ('77-'81)

Ernie Epitropoulos
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TERESA FIGHTMASTER

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BETH HOWE

Board Member

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JERI (BUCKINGHAM) PRICE

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JONATHAN SWEET

Board Member

Baseball ('90-'94)

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MATT TERWILLIGER

Board Member

Basketball ('04-'08)

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Morgan Stanley

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UPCOMING EVENTS

For a complete listing of upcoming Alumni Association events, visit
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.



Former Basketball Captains Game as well as a Varsity O Appreciation Game. This event will include a reception in the Andy Geiger Lounge as well as a meet and greet with OSU Men's Basketball Coach, Chris Holtmann. More information to follow.

VO RECEPTIONS AT MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Ohio State University "Varsity O" will again be hosting receptions for current Varsity O members.

MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. MICHIGAN STATE

JANUARY 7, 2018

1:30 OR 4:30 P.M.

This Varsity O Appreciation event will be held in the Andy Geiger Lounge this year on the Huntington Club level. (The Fred Taylor room, where this event has been in the past, no longer exists due to construction). The event will be open to all dues paying Varsity O members. Simply show your Varsity O membership card at the door. You are allowed to bring 1 guest per member. We will have a free buffet and a cash bar. The events will be open starting 1 hour before the game and will end 30 minutes after halftime. Further instructions will be emailed to all members a few weeks before the events, including directions on how to access the Andy Geiger Lounge. So make sure your email addresses are up to date with the alumni or Buckeye Club offices!

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. MICHIGAN STATE

JANUARY 27, 2018

NOON



Recognition of this year's Phyllis Bailey and Barbie Tootle Award winners, Katie Smith and Kim Dally-Badgeley.



Please call Lauren Blevins in the Ohio State Ticket Office to purchase tickets.
 614-292-0063

NEWS

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

varsityonews@gmail.com