

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to 2022! With every new year come new goals and endless possibilities. Ohio State athletes are exceptional goal setters and even better goal achievers. During the last year the athletes of our beloved university were quite successful in their athletic endeavors as well as in the classroom. Did you know that 799 of our Buckeye athletes were scholar-athletes? That is outstanding! I for one cannot wait to see how this year unfolds for our athletes and teams of the Ohio State University.

Although we had to meet virtually most of the year, Varsity O was able to again become a notable alumni society. We continued to involve our members by providing interesting events through zoom. Even better, we were able to engage members from around the country and the world using this platform. No matter where Varsity O members lived, they were able to participate in events such as conversations with President Kristina Johnson, Athletic Director Gene Smith, Coach Chris Holtmann, Coach Ryan Day, Coach Tom Ryan; and Rose Bowl Requiem, etc. We hope to continue opportunities like these during 2022.

Entering this new year as the president of Varsity O, I have spent some time reflecting on why I have been and will continue to be a part of this special alumni society. Whether we played football, basketball, were fencers, hockey players, or swimmers; no matter in which of the 36 sports we were involved; we gave our all for the Ohio State University. We created lifelong friendships, learned to work toward a common goal, supported one another, suffered together over our losses, and fervently celebrated our wins. The lessons we learned, the education we received, the memories we share, and the friendships we treasure are unique to those of us privileged enough to be athletes at the Ohio State University. How proud we should be to wear the Varsity O!

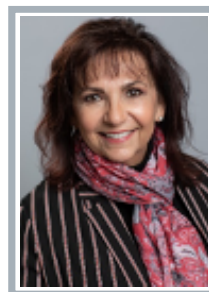
Varsity O allows us to continue the camaraderie as well as support the athletes who have taken our place. Through our signature events such as the Hall of Fame banquet and Homecoming Tailgate, in addition to the scholarships we fund, donations we offer to Athletic Department projects, ongoing membership communication, and a variety of society engagement activities, Varsity O consistently works to uphold its mantra of "Athletes Helping Athletes". We thank you for your continued membership, support, and engagement.

The Varsity O Alumni Society was led through 2020 and 2021 by Steve Chappellear. As all aspects of life changed during the pandemic, so did the way in which VO functioned. Years with canceled events, last minute decisions, and zoom meetings made already challenging work unpredictable and at times monumental. Steve exhibited calm leadership coupled with unwavering dedication during his presidency. We are fortunate to have had him as our leader and I personally would like to thank him and the entire Varsity O Board for all they did and continue to do for Varsity O.

Transitioning off the board this year are board members Tom Levenick and Jason Singleton, as well as executive board member, Liz Lucas. I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to them for their service to Varsity O. Filling their seats are our newest board members: Bill Andrews (football), Christina Provost (cheer), and Lauren Eckles (rowing). Our 15-member board is excited to continue to serve our membership and look forward to another great year.

Go Bucks!

Jill Vincent Burke, Ed.D.
Varsity O President
Synchronized Swimming ('76-'80)



2021 VARSITY “O” HOMECOMING

Our Varsity “O” Homecoming Tailgate was a success once again. The pregame excitement started several hours prior to the noon kick-off against Maryland on October 9th. We had hundreds of members, their families, and friends, enjoying food and fellowship in the French Field House, along with opportunities to try their hand at several large inflatable games and bounce rooms. We enjoyed visits by the cheerleading squad, players from TBDBITL, and of course Brutus!

Some of the athletes from the 1961 national championship football team also joined us to help celebrate their 60-year-old title. The Dance Team grabbed a photo op with them, bringing smiles from everyone. Assistant coach of the dance team Patrick Carmichael commented, “How happy and proud the dance team is in representing the University on game day”. A picture with the 1961 team emphasizes the family-like culture that is created around campus and throughout the generations.

The highlight of the morning was celebrating with Greg Lashutka ('65) and John Macko ('78). Greg is this year's Jim Jones Career Achievement Award recipient and John received the Lifetime Loyalty Award.

Greg played tight end for Woody Hayes and professionally with the Buffalo Bills. He went on to earn his JD and served in the Navy during Vietnam. He was a partner with the law firm of Squire, Sanders and Dempsey, mayor of Columbus two terms, and a member of the OSU Athletic Council. The Jim Jones Career Achievement Award pays tribute and recognition to those Ohio State letter-winners who, through their careers, have contributed to the honor and fame of The Ohio State University.

John serves as the Assistant Director for Student Athlete Support Services Office. He has worked with over 20 of the 36 varsity sports at OSU. In his 37 years at Ohio State, John spent 20 years with the football program. Over the years, John has worked with hundreds of coaches and thousands of student-athletes and their families providing guidance and wisdom. The Loyalty Award pays tribute to those individuals who, over the course of their lifetime, were extraordinary in their services to Varsity “O” and/or The Ohio State University athletic department.

During their acceptance speeches, both provided insight to their years at Ohio State and lessons in life. Greg reminded us of Woody's “always pay it forward” culture and a quote from Clint Eastwood that may apply to all of us, “Don't let the old man in”.

Thanks again to all who participated in the tailgate and we look forward to seeing you again next year!



“WILD LIGHTS” AT THE COLUMBUS ZOO DECEMBER 2, 2021

Varsity “O” delivered another memorable event December 2nd, when active members, their children and guests had the opportunity to enjoy themselves at the Columbus Zoo, enjoy the “Wild Lights” and then take part in some Holiday Festivities, including an appearance from our Guest of Honor, Santa Claus himself. They also enjoyed holiday Caroling and even an animal encounter, conducted by the Zookeepers.

Many Varsity “O” Members had a great time and a terrific beginning to their own Holiday Seasons. Everyone have a Happy 2022!



VARSITY "O" PRESENTS MUGS TO 2021 FOOTBALL CAPTAINS AT CAPTAINS' DINNER



Varsity "O" President Steve Chappelle and Board Member Tom Levenick with OSU football captains Thayer Mumford, Kamryn Babb, Teradja Mitchell, Haskell Garrett, Zach Harrison, and Chris Olave



ADVICE FROM THE TEAM DOC: NEW YEAR – NEW YOU: SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO APPROACH NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

A recent study on New Year's resolutions [found](#) that about 40% of Americans set resolutions at the start of the year, and less than half are successful after six months. We all want to make positive and impactful changes in our lives, but how can we make the changes last?

Keep them realistic. When setting resolutions, it is important to take time to reflect on the change you wish to see – and what you realistically can do to achieve that change. By taking smaller, more achievable steps towards your goals, there is a greater chance that you will keep them.

This applies to all kinds of resolutions, including mental health. You can help manage your mental health symptoms by taking small steps every day.

Use these self-care strategies to set realistic New Year's resolutions for your mental health.

1. **Make time for self-care.** Brainstorm a list of self-care activities that make you happy and schedule them as part of your daily routine. This could be structured therapy sessions, daily exercise, an outdoor walk or time with loved ones. If you are not sure how to fit self-care into your busy routine, read this [article](#) for more tips.

2. **Be kind to yourself.** Change can be hard and often takes time. Allow yourself to have feelings and forgive yourself for mistakes. You are here and doing your best, and that is what counts.

3. **Make sleep a priority.** Studies have [found](#) that sleep and mental health are connected. In fact, approximately 65 to 90% of people with major depression also experience a sleep problem. This year, try to go to sleep a little bit earlier every night and give your body the rest it needs.

4. **Limit your screen time.** Spending too much time on your phone or computer can [impact](#) your quality of sleep, your relationships and even lead to feelings of depression and anxiety. Be conscious of how much time you are spending online and the impact it has on your mental health and make adjustments, if needed. When it comes to social media, use these [tips](#) to use the platforms in a positive way.

5. **Learn more about mental health.** One of the best ways to improve your mental health is to understand it. There are online resources available that provide information about common mental health conditions or you can talk to medical professional to learn more about your specific situation. **Ohio State Sports Medicine** offers both Sports Psychology and Sports Psychiatry Services. You can find more information at <https://go.osu.edu/sportpsychology>

Instead of making sweeping New Year's resolutions to achieve overnight, create a few realistic goals that will have a long-lasting impact on your mental health and happiness.

EMMA LAAKSONEN-TERHO-OHIO STATE'S FIRST OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES MEDALIST

By Rusty Wilson



Emma Laaksonen-Terho came to Ohio State from Finland in the fall of 2000 already a significant figure in the storied history of Finnish sport. While playing defense for Finland in the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympic Games she became the youngest Finnish Olympic medalist, being three months younger than 1992 ski-jumping gold medalist Toni Nieminen, when the team took the bronze medal in the first ever women's ice hockey tournament.

"At the time, the Finnish media made it a pretty big thing," she told "The Columbus Dispatch". "I was 16. I was the youngest Finnish athlete ever to win an Olympic medal. I didn't think about it at the time. Now I start to realize how young I was. . . I realize how much I learned that whole year preparing for the Olympics. Sometimes I think what would happen if I had not been there. I'd have so much less experience. I look at the medal sometimes but I won't get stuck in it too much."

Following the Olympics, many university teams in North America were heavily recruiting her. However, after OSU coach Jackie Barto saw her in a tournament in Montreal, Laaksonen-Terho chose Ohio State, and didn't waste time making an impact on the OSU program. In the next to last game of her freshman season, Laaksonen-Terho became the first skater in the program's history to score a "hat trick," three goals, in an 8-0 victory over Wayne State on March 2, 2001. The eight goals were also the largest margin of victory in school history. She ended her freshman season with 17 power play goals to lead the country.

"I can't put a value on what she brings to our program," OSU coach Jackie Barto told The Dispatch at the time. "Talent-wise, she's amazing. She's only 5 foot 3, but she's never backed down from anybody. We've asked her to do more offensively, and she's comfortable jumping into the attack and adding legs to our power play. She takes nothing for granted and works hard at everything she does every day. She's looked upon as one of the leaders of this team by both her coaches and teammates."

In 2002 at the Salt Lake City Olympic Winter Games, she once again competed for Finland, this time as the co-captain of the team. Unfortunately, the Finnish team did not fare as well in Salt Lake City as it had four years earlier. The Finns lost the bronze medal game to Sweden 2-1. But although she suffered disappointment, and the Games were clouded by judging and drug scandals, she still did not let everything keep her from enjoying the experience.

"I didn't worry about it at all," she said. "Maybe it would have been different if it was related to our sport. These were good games for the athletes. The best part was living in the village and meeting athletes from all over."

Following the Games, Laaksonen-Terho rejoined the Buckeyes and was also a finalist for the Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award, emblematic of the top women's college player in the country - one of only two defensemen so nominated. In 2002 she became the first Buckeye to be named an All-American when she made second team. Also, in 2002 the Columbus Touchdown Club named her Ohio State's women's ice hockey Athlete of the Century. Perhaps more impressive is that, although the disappointment of Finland's performance in women's ice hockey in Salt Lake City, Laaksonen-Terho was chosen as Finland's 2002 Female Athlete of the Year.

EMMA LAAKSONEN-TERHO-OHIO STATE'S FIRST OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES MEDALIST (CONT.)

In 2003 and 2004 she earned the Women's Central Hockey Association (WCHA) Student Athlete of the Year award. At the beginning of the 2008-2009 season, in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the beginning of women's ice hockey at Ohio State, the Buckeyes retired Laaksonen-Terho's #3 jersey, the first number ever retired in program history. In 2009 she was induced in the Ohio State University Athletics Hall of Fame.

Laaksonen-Terho's dream of a gold medal didn't come to fruition at the 2006 Torino Olympic Winter Games. The Finns finished fourth once again, losing the bronze medal game to the United States 4-0. She persevered for another four years in hopes of bringing home the gold and competed again for Finland in the 2010 Vancouver Winter Games. Though she didn't earn the gold she did bring a bronze back medal home. In 2014 she competed in her final Olympic Winter Games at Sochi, Russia where Finland finished fifth.

Her involvement with the Olympic Movement did not end in 2014. In 2018 she was elected to the International Olympic Committee's Athlete's Commission, one of the most influential of the IOC committees. In August, 2019, she became chairperson of the commission.

"Both the role and workload of the commission have grown exponentially in recent years, which is a good thing because athletes are the most important part of the Games," Laaksonen-Terho said. "That is why it is both a great and huge responsibility to be in this role."



WHY I GIVE-JIMMY THOMAS

Jimmy Thomas proved himself a Buckeye back in 1975 when he joined the baseball team as a first-year student. Four decades later, he furthered his commitment to Ohio State by making a six-figure gift in support of the Schumaker Complex and then again by making a gift to the baseball program. The completion of the Schumaker Complex, which houses eight varsity teams and is the central hub of the Athletics District, was fully funded through the generosity of donors like Jimmy.

Jimmy only played for the baseball team until his junior year. Aside from getting married the summer before his senior year, he had switched his degree focus from accounting to marketing. This resulted in 20 credit hours per semester and no time to continue playing baseball.

After graduating from the university, Jimmy immediately got into sales for Wallace Computer Services. Three and a half years later, a desire to get into the medical world led him to a job at Alcon Laboratories. He started his career there in 1983 as a sales representative and retired in 2013 as head of United States sales and marketing for one of their surgical equipment lines. Much of the success he saw in his career he attributes to the lessons he learned while being a student-athlete at Ohio State. The versatility he learned as an athlete helped him become versatile in the workforce. Just like each position on the field requires different skillsets, each job requires different skillsets as well.

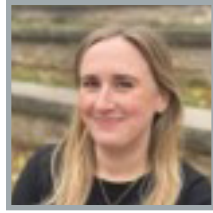
Jimmy's advice to current Buckeye student-athletes is this: maintain a balance in your life where you can push yourself at whatever you are doing, while also looking out for your own best interests. Have an open mind, be willing to explore diverse options in your studies and in your career, but make sure you are getting a new set of skills out of every opportunity. The more dexterous you become, the more you will flourish, inside and outside of sports.

Written by graduate student-athlete, Samuel Buzzas, Men's Soccer



THE ROSE BOWL THAT WASN'T

OHIO STATE RETURNS TO PASADENA 60 YEARS AFTER INFAMOUS FACULTY COUNCIL VOTE



*Franny Lazarus, Ohio State News
lazarus.34@osu.edu*

[Editor's Note: Varsity "O" sponsored a Zoom webinar event on November 29, 2021, the sixtieth anniversary of the Faculty Council decision that the Buckeye football team could not participate in the Rose Bowl game. The event was cosponsored by the Cheer & Brutus Alumni Society, the TBDBITL Alumni Club, and the Ohio State University Retirees Association Society, and was moderated by Varsity "O" President Steve Chappellear. The article below was published in the "Ohio State News" and is reprinted with permission.

On January 1, The Ohio State University will face off against the University of Utah in the Buckeyes' 16th Rose Bowl appearance. Earlier this month, The Ohio State University Alumni Association hosted Todd Jones, senior writer for the Alumni Magazine, and Bill Shkurti, distinguished adjunct professor, John Glenn College of Public Affairs, to discuss the controversy surrounding the 1961 Rose Bowl.

Sixty years ago, the Buckeyes were invited to the game but, because of a faculty council vote, did not participate. This decision led to protests on campus and in downtown Columbus. The vote and its outcome were "second only to a chimp zooming around the earth," Shkurti said, referencing the front-page coverage the controversial decision received.

In 1961, the university's football team, coming off an 8-0-1 season, was invited to play in the Rose Bowl. The Woody Hayes-coached team included Heisman runner-up Bob Ferguson and starters Paul Warfield and Matt Snell, and outscored their opponents 221-83. The team was all but guaranteed a trip to Pasadena for the game known as "The Granddaddy of Them All."



TODD JONES

THE ROSE BOWL THAT WASN'T (CONT.)

Jones said that at the time, regional games received more attention than national championships.

"What was important to Ohio State was to win the Big Ten and to go to the Rose Bowl," he said.

The issues that led to Ohio State's thwarted Rose Bowl trip began more than five years earlier when Sports Illustrated reported on a recruiting scandal involving Hayes. According to the reporting, Hayes had been providing financial assistance to players with his own funds.

In 1957, the university released what came to be known as the Fullington Report in response to this coverage. The report called for more athletic oversight, including the expansion of Ohio State's faculty council to give it additional control of the athletics program. (The Athletic Council, a University Senate committee of faculty, students, alumni, athletes, administrators and staff, now carries out this role.)

Two years after the release of the Fullington Report, several Big Ten schools, including Ohio State, chose not to sign a contract with the Rose Bowl after tempers flared over game negotiations



BILL SHKURTI

"[There was] a tiff with the Rose Bowl people about the contract and visiting schools not getting their fair share," Shkurti said. "So the negotiations dragged on for two years and, as a result, there was no contract."

With Ohio State lacking a formal tie to the Rose Bowl organization, the faculty council controlled whether the university could send a team to the game at all. At the same time, tensions over metrics for academic and newly created athletic scholarships left the faculty council frustrated by what they considered to be differences in treatment between students and student-athletes.

It is with this background that the faculty council voted against sending the football team to the Rose Bowl in 1961. Protests began on campus almost immediately, with a group of students eventually marching downtown to voice their frustrations.

THE ROSE BOWL THAT WASN'T (CONT.)

Despite eventual statements from Hayes and team members supporting the decision, the university and Columbus communities became more hostile – spurred, at least in part, by what Shkurti called inflammatory coverage of the events by the Columbus Dispatch. The paper “stood to lose money by not selling papers related to the Rose Bowl, so it gave this decision big coverage,” Shkurti said.

Reporters leaned heavily into the drama of the event, going so far as to publish contact information for members of the faculty council, some of whom received death threats, he said.

In time, fans came to accept the outcome and the protests died down. Ohio State still finished the season in second place in national polls and headed into the 1962 season ranked No. 1. In an interesting twist, football recruiting was initially damaged by the vote.

“Players in Ohio think that Ohio State’s deemphasizing football: ‘They don’t want to go to bowl games,’ and talent started leaving the state,” Jones said.

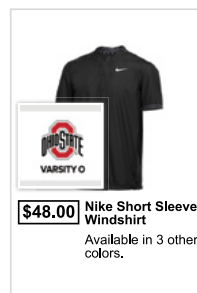
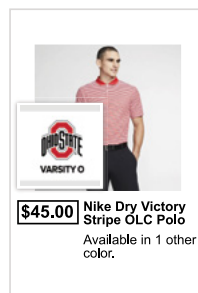
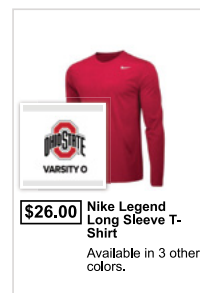
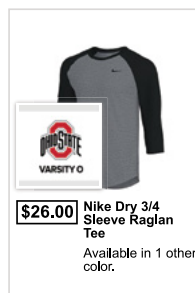
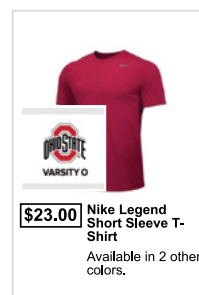
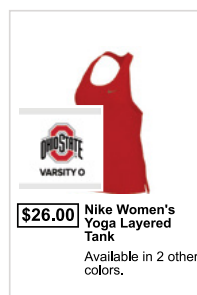
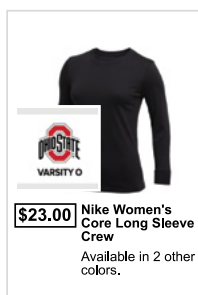
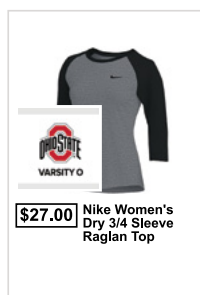
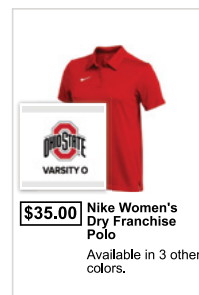
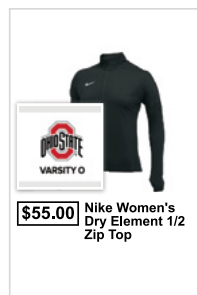
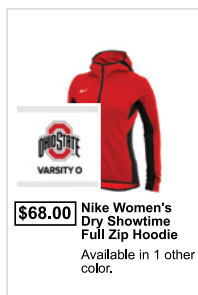
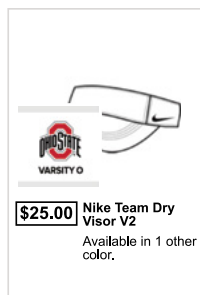
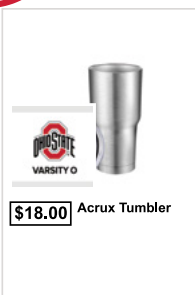
This led to Hayes expanding his recruiting base, which ultimately resulted in Ohio State recruiting players like Jack Tatum, a North Carolina and New Jersey native and a member of the 1968 team’s “Super Sophomores.” That team took Ohio State back to the Rose Bowl for the first time since the 1961 vote, where it beat the University of Southern California 27-16, earning the national championship.

To avoid a repeat of this situation, the faculty council voted 36-20 to approve a new Big Ten contract with the Rose Bowl the following year.

While the disappointment stung at the time, the Rose Bowl That Wasn’t is likely more well-known than the game would have been, with impacts that went far beyond the 1961 season.

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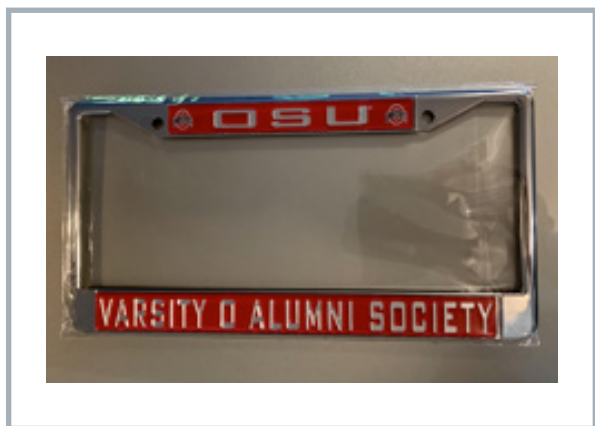
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WHY BE A VARSITY “O” MEMBER?

The Ohio State University Varsity “O” Alumni Society is an exciting, active alumni organization consisting of former Ohio State varsity athletes who earned at least one letter in their sport. We enjoyed our time competing and pay forward by creating programs to help current and former Buckeye athletes. We are proud of our rich history and tradition; we celebrate our legacy through our Athletics Hall of Fame, team reunions, and sales of Varsity “O” apparel, rings, mugs, and flags.

We support current athletes through fully funded scholarships, a post graduate scholarship, recognition of team captains, a first-time letter winners’ ceremony and awards to the teams with the highest and most improved grade point averages.

Members receive Buckeye networking opportunities through social media, the Varsity “O” website, quarterly newsletters, our annual Homecoming Tailgate, pre-game football tailgates, and receptions at basketball and football games, including select away games.

Other benefits of membership include:

- 0 Ability to purchase OSU football tickets (sometimes significantly discounted)
- 0 Access to exclusive VO events (e.g., Varsity “O” Wildlights at the Zoo; Tour of Ohio Stadium; conversations with President Kristina Johnson, Athletic Director Gene Smith, Coach Chris Holtmann, Coach Ryan Day, or Coach Tom Ryan; Rose Bowl Requiem, etc.)
- 0 Opportunities to reunite with teammates, and to connect with athletes from other sports
- 0 Membership in OSU Alumni Association

Be a part of The People, The Tradition and The Excellence and become a Varsity “O” Member today!

HOW TO BECOME A VARSITY O MEMBER

1. Go to: <https://am.ticketmaster.com/buckeyes/>
2. Click **SIGN IN** (upper right-hand corner)
3. Enter email on account and password. (If you forget your password, click **FORGOT PASSWORD.**)

If you wish to purchase 2022 season football tickets (Varsity O membership will be included on ticket application):

Click on Special Offers/Packages

- a. If you are a renewing season ticket holder, click **MY INVOICES – RENEW TODAY** at the top.
- b. If you are a new season ticket holder, under 2022 Football Full Season, click **BUY NOW.**

If you wish to just pay your 2022 Varsity O membership (not purchasing season football tickets):

1. Click **MORE** at the top.
2. Click **QUICK DONATE.**
3. Under Available Funds, select **2022 VARSITY O MEMBERSHIP.**
4. Select amount. (The minimum amount to become an active member is \$50. Any amount over \$50 will be donated to your sport’s discretionary fund.)

If you have questions regarding the Varsity “O” membership process, please contact the Buckeye Club via buckeyeclub@osu.edu or by phone at [\(614\) 292-9908](tel:6142929908).

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VARSITY O SOCIETY

MEET THE BOARD: LAUREN ECKLES

Lauren Eckles joined the Varsity O board in January 2022. During her time at Ohio State, she was part of the Women's Rowing team from 2010-2014 where she played a role in winning 3 Big Ten Championships (2011, 2013, 2014) and 2 National Championships (2013 and 2014).

In addition to her athletic pursuits, Lauren was a member of the Student Athlete Advisory Board and earned a number of academic honors while pursuing her Strategic Communications degree from the College of Arts & Sciences.

Nowadays, Lauren works in experiential marketing and resides in Austin, TX where she continues to train on the water and coach.

She is humble and eager to serve as part of the Varsity O board and is looking forward to broadening the reach and impact of the organization for Buckeyes near and far.



VARSITY O



MEET THE BOARD

Varsity O Alumni Society Board of Directors



JILL (VINCENT) BURKE

President

Synchronized
Swimming ('76-'80)
Administrator, Virtual
Learning Academy
jillvburke@gmail.com



IAN BETTS

President-Elect

Swimming ('12-'14)
Attorney, Vorys, Sater,
Seymour and Pease
imbetts@vorys.com



LIBBY (GRAF) O'BRIEN

Secretary

Women's Lacrosse ('05-'09)
Special Needs Preschool
Teacher, Southwestern City
Schools
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JOE BUDDE

Treasurer

Swimming ('71-'74)
Private Practice Attorney
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STEVE CHAPPELEAR

Past-President

Wrestling ('71-'74)
Attorney, Eastman & Smith
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BILL ANDREWS

Board Member

Football (1979-1982)
National Accounts Vice
President, Dart Transit
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GARTH COX

Board Member

Football ('74-'77)
Attorney, Harris McClellan
Binau & Cox PLL
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CANDACE DARK

Board Member

Basketball ('03-'07)
Director Home Operations,
Outset Medical
cdark@outsetmedical.com



CASSIE DICKERSON

Board Member

Women's Soccer ('06-'10)
Technology Business Lead,
GoHealth
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LAUREN ECKLES

Board Member

Rowing (2010-2014)
Sr. Director, Retail Experiences at
Civitas Marketing
eckles.15@icloud.com



MATT FINKES

Board Member

Football ('93-'96)
Director of Development,
Wexner Medical Center
Finkes.1@osu.edu



KEVIN E. GRIFFIN

Board Member

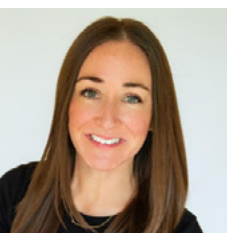
Football ('95-'98)
Senior Vice President,
Marketing Strategy
Adcom
kgriffin@theadcomgroup.com



BEN PERSON

Board Member

Football ('04-'08)
Financial Advisor,
Signature Financial Group
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TINA PROVOST

Board Member

Cheerleading ('03-'07)
Head of Continuous Improvement,
North America at Covetrus
christinaprovost85@gmail.com



KATY (CRAIG) SWATHWOOD

Board Member

Track & Field ('99-'02)
Executive Sales
Representative, Eli Lilly &
Company
kcs swathwood@gmail.com

SPOTTED

Nice to see supporters of Varsity O on the streets of Columbus!



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