

The Ohio State University Women's Varsity "O"



ATHLETES HELPING ATHLETES

Late Fall 2015

Make new friends and keep the old....

We are excited to share our *merger with Men's Varsity O*, effective in January. We have worked very hard this year with the men to make sure female athletes will be represented in all the ways they are currently. We will have seven of our current board members transitioning to the new joint board. We will also be transitioning to a new website.



Board Members (L-R):
Liz Lucas, Candace Dark,
Katy Swathwood,
Kimberly Lowe at the
Spring Sports Letter-
jacket Ceremony

This exciting change results in the Ohio State University having a unified 9,000+ member strong letterwinner's society– the largest in the nation. We are stronger united and we are very excited to see the positive impact of these changes.

Please remember to donate to the Buckeye Club before February 1st to remain a sustaining member. \$75 will cover your annual dues for Varsity O and the Alumni Association and will gain access to a pair of single game football tickets. \$250 will cover annual dues for Varsity O, the Alumni Association and will allow you to join the Buckeye Club at the Letterwinner's level, resulting in access to a pair of full season home football tickets.

If you have questions or need assistance renewing you can call the Buckeye Club at 614-292-9908 or email us at: womensvoboard@gmail.com

THIS MERGER WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE TIRELESS EFFORTS OF THREE LADIES WHO SERVED ON A WORKING GROUP REPRESENTING WOMEN'S VO. *MOST SPECIAL THANKS TO:*

KRISTIN WATT (FORMER WVO PRESIDENT, BASKETBALL)

KATIE SMITH (BASKETBALL)

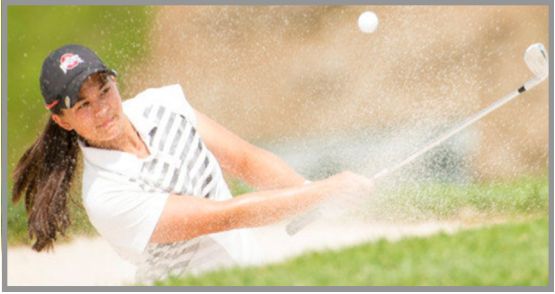
KIMBERLY LOWE (WVO BOARD MEMBER, LACROSSE)

THANK YOU to our 2015 Board

2015 was a demanding year for our VO Board, please take a moment to appreciate these ladies!

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|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • JERI (BUCKINGHAM) PRICE, TRACK | • CANDACE DARK, BASKETBALL |
| • KRISTEN (WHITE) CHRISTMAN, GOLF | • DEBBIE (BLACK) HEIMAN, GYMNASTICS |
| • HEATHER (PRENGER) ARNDTS, ROWING | • BETH HOWE, BASKETBALL |
| • JILL (SNAVELY) BOCCIO, BASKETBALL | • KIMBERLY LOWE, LACROSSE |
| • MEAGHAN COLVILLE, TENNIS | • LIZ (HELLICKSON) LUCAS, ROWING |
| • KATY (CRAIG) SWATHWOOD, TRACK | • SUSAN MALLERY, TRACK |
| • TAMI (SMITH) HARRIS, TRACK | • MONICA RINCON-TAKAVITZ, TENNIS |

Niki Schroeder



Sport Spotlight: Golf

Golfer Niki Schroeder qualified to compete in the US Women's Open this Summer after winning a sudden death playoff hole to earn an amateur spot. She was joined on the course by teammate Jessica Porvasnik, who participated in the same event in 2014. Porvasnik served as caddy for Schroeder this year.

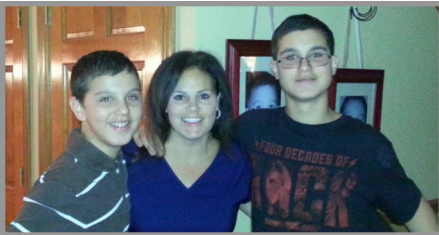
The Women's Golf Team will defend their Big Ten Title this April!

Jessica Porvasnik



Member "Pay Forward" Spotlight– Debbie Heiman

Alumni sisters Patty Black Gurreri (1984-88) and Debbie Black Heiman (1988-93) are former buckeye gymnasts who have learned that struggle, sacrifice and dedication have great meaning inside and outside the sports world. The sisters 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 syndrome is the most common cause of inherited intellectual disabilities and the most common cause of autism. Symptoms besides cognitive impairment and autism include anxiety, sensory integration disorder, speech delay and seizures. Patty and Debbie have joined teams with local families of Fragile X children and have hosted biannual fundraisers for the past ten years. Their fundraiser benefits FRAXA; the research organization that funds scientific research aimed at finding a treatment and cure for Fragile X syndrome. Their next event will be held at St. Charles on April 8, 2017. As the event gets closer tickets or donations can be made on-line at www.fraxa.org.



Debbie (above) and Patty (below) with family members

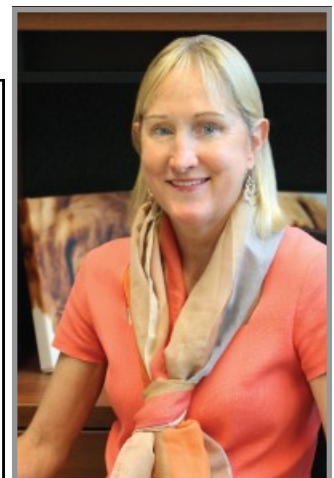


WVO Board Member Shout Out: Dr. Susan Mallery

WVO Board member and Hall of Famer **Dr. Susan Mallery** recently received the Archie M. Griffin Professional Achievement award from the Alumni Association. She is a longtime professor in the College of Dentistry and has been instrumental in the development of several breakthroughs in oral cancer, one of which—made in collaboration with the University of Michigan, is now being produced and administered exclusively at the Ohio State University.

To read more about Susan, visit: <https://www.osu.edu/alumni/communities/ohio-state-alumni-awards/2015-alumni-awards-recipients.html>

CONGRATS SUSAN!



Rowing Alumni Gathering

On August 29th, 2015 at The Boat House at Confluence Park, over 100 former rowers, supporters, coaches and family members met to celebrate 20 years of rowing at Ohio State. In 1995, rowing was added as a sport at The Ohio State University. Andy Geiger, director of athletics in 1995 and a former rower himself had a vision for women's rowing at Ohio State and with that dream brought Andy Teitelbaum in as head coach.

Andy Geiger served as the guest speaker for the evening and provided insight to the hard work and vision that built the current Ohio State program. Andy Teitelbaum, who is currently still serving as head coach, now has three consecutive national titles. There was a lot to celebrate.

Rowers from 1995, who saw their dreams become a reality as they were promoted from club sport to varsity sport, were in attendance that evening. Rowers who came wearing three NCAA rings were also in attendance that evening. It was truly a celebration reflecting on where Ohio State Rowing started to the dynasty it has become.



LetterJacket Ceremonies

Letterjacket ceremonies were held for Spring sports on October 20th. We had the pleasure of giving jackets to ladies from the Golf, Lacrosse, Rowing, Softball, Synchronized Swimming, Tennis and Track & Field teams.



Liz Lucas with Letterwinners from the Rowing Team



Kristen Christman with Letterwinners from the Golf Team



Kimberly Lowe with Letterwinners from the Lacrosse Team

Announcing our 2015 Women's Varsity O Award winners:

Mamie Rallins– Phyllis Bailey Career Achievement Award

Mamie Rallins, a two time Olympic hurdler helped to start the Women's track and field and Cross Country programs when she became Head Women's Coach in 1976. She was the first African American woman to ever coach at Ohio State. Over a 18 year career, she coached 60 Big Ten indoor/outdoor champions, 24 All Americans, nine Olympic trial qualifiers and one Olympian. She also served as assistant athletic director for three years. Mamie also coached elite athletes, serving as the Head Coach of the U.S. Indoor World Championship team in 1987 and assistant coach of the USA Olympic Games in 1996. She was the Olympic head manager for the USA women's track team in 2000 in Sydney, Australia. She remains very involved with the Buckeyes volunteering as a statistician for the track team.



Linda Logan– Barbie Tootle Spirit Award

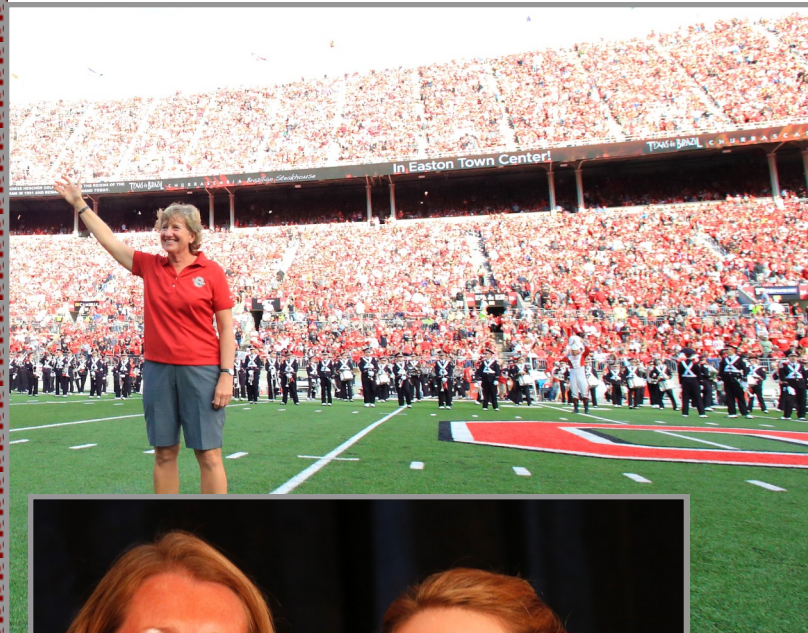
Through her role as Executive Director of the Greater Columbus Sports Commission, Linda has directly helped bring many championship events to Ohio State and the Greater Columbus area. These events include the NCAA Women's Basketball Final Four, NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championships, the NCAA Division I Women's Swimming Championships, the NCAA Division I Women's Gymnastics Championships and the NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Elite 8 and National Championships. Columbus has also hosted more USA Volleyball tournaments than any venue in the country thanks to her continual efforts over the last 20 years. More recently, Linda started "The Women's Sports Report", a breakfast to celebrate women and girls' athletic accomplishments, an event which had attendance of over 600 in 2015.



Mamie and Linda will be recognized during the Women's Basketball game vs. Purdue on January 17th. If you are interested in joining us to celebrate them, tickets can be purchased at a nominal fee.

Please contact womensvoboard@gmail.com for further information.

CONGRATS to the Hall of Fame Class of 2015



2015 Female Inductees were Golf coach **Therese Hession** (Top left), Diver **Natalia Diea** (Top Right), Shooter **Teresa Meyer** (Left). **Lara Dickenmann**, Soccer and **Anna Fago**, Rowing (Not Pictured). Banquet awards were given by WVO Board Member **Candace Dark** (Left, with Meyer) and Field recognition was shared with WVO Board Member **Kristen Christman**.

