



VARSITY O

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow Varsity O Members and Buckeyes,

Bob Dylan once wrote the iconic lyric, "the times they are a changing". I seriously doubt Bob was thinking of Varsity O at the time but the lyric is definitely applicable to 2016. With the beginning of a new year came a new, and hopefully you will agree, improved Varsity O.

Thanks to the combined efforts of a number of people, The Ohio State University now has ONE Varsity O, representing all sports and all former Letterwinners, both male and female. VO is now one of, if not the, most inclusive Letterwinners associations in the country with over 9,000 members. The mission statement of "Athletes Helping Athletes" has never been more appropriate because that assistance is now available regardless of gender, sport or level of involvement.

With the new VO comes a new membership structure. All former Letterwinners are now automatically members of VO. Each member may choose the level of his or her participation and benefits. Through partnering with the Buckeye Club, members may make a gift to VO and the Buckeye Club to increase the level of participation and benefits received. One benefit that has garnered a lot of attention is the ability of all members, not just former football players, to now be able to purchase season football tickets for all home games. Another benefit is that the gift to VO and the Buckeye Club may have a tax benefit as well as assist in accruing donor points for seat selection purposes. It is important to keep an eye out for any communication from VO or the Buckeye Club so you can keep up to date on all the exciting things that benefit you, our members.

With a new VO came a new board. In this newsletter you will get to "meet" each member. Please reach out to your board with any questions, concerns or suggestions on how to improve VO. Remember, VO can only be as strong as its members' involvement, so get involved. Seek out opportunities to serve on committees, assist with outreach programs or attend events that we hope to hold throughout the country. Moving forward, VO is committed to bringing VO to you, the members. Partnering with The Alumni Association and Athletic Department, VO plans to increase the opportunities for its members to interact and show support for OSU.

To jump from Bob Dylan to Woody Hayes is quite a leap but Coach Hayes use to tell us we were either getting better or going downhill. I can still see him taking his hand and moving it up or down an imaginary hill as he declared that you never stayed the same. I think that image is appropriate leading into the new era of Varsity O. With the new structure VO is improving and making that journey to get better. Like all uphill trips it may take a bit more effort and work but in the end the benefits VO will be able to provide for our members and the current athletes at OSU will be well worth it.

Go Bucks!

Garth Cox, President
Varsity O Board, President
Football ('74-'77)



MEET THE BOARD

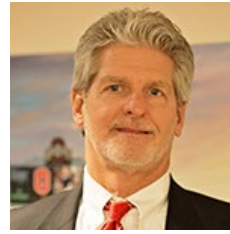
Varsity O Alumni Society Board of Directors



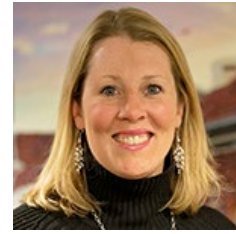
GARTH COX
President
Football ('74-'77)
Partner at Harris
McClellan Binau &
Cox PLL
gcox@hmbc.com



**KATY (CRAIG)
SWATHWOOD**
President Elect
Track & Field ('99-'02)
Executive Sales
Representative, Eli Lilly
& Company
kcs swathwood@gmail.com



JOE BUDDE
Treasurer
Swimming ('71-'75)
Private Practice
Attorney
Joe@budderealestatelaw.com



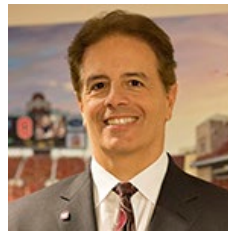
CANDACE DARK
Secretary
Basketball ('02-'07)
Associate Director
Network Operations
Outreach & Network
Development at James
Cancer Hospital and
Solove Research Institute
candace.dark@osumc.edu



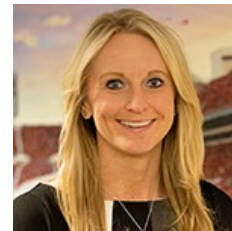
**STEVE
CHAPPELEAR**
Board Member
Wrestling ('70-'74)
Business Trial Attorney
at Frost Brown Todd
schappelear@fbtlaw.com



**KRISTEN (WHITE)
CHRISTMAN**
Board Member
Golf ('01-'05)
Senior Product Analyst,
Diamond Hill Capital
Management, Inc.
kwhite81@gmail.com



**ERNIE
EPITROPOULOS**
Board Member
Football ('77-'81)
Ernie Epitropoulos
Agency, Nationwide
Insurance
ee pitropoulos@yahoo.com



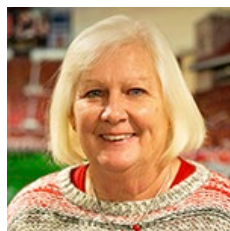
BETH HOWE
Board Member
Basketball ('01-'05)
Director of Operations,
Women's Basketball
at The Ohio State
University
howe.84@osu.edu



**LIZ (HELICKSON)
LUCAS**
Board Member
Rowing ('97-'01)
High School Teacher,
Hilliard City Schools
ehellickson@hotmail.com



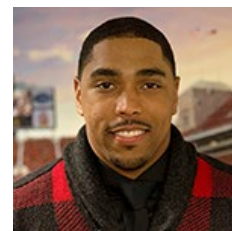
**KIMBERLY (LOWE)
MCCALLA**
Board Member
Lacrosse ('00-'04)
Director of
Development, Office of
Diversity & Inclusion at
the Ohio State University
lowe.133@osu.edu



**JERI
(BUCKINGHAM)
PRICE**
Board Member
Track & Field ('76-'81)
Retired High School
Teacher and Coach,
Westerville City Schools
rwprice23@att.net



**JONATHAN
SWEET**
Board Member
Baseball ('90-'94)
Senior Oncology
Specialist, Amgen Inc.
sweet1@zoomtown.com



ANTONIO SMITH
Board Member
Football ('02-'06)
Mechanical Engineer at
Dynamix Engineering
Ltd.; Author
asmith4485@aol.com



**MATT
TERWILLIGER**
Board Member
Basketball ('04-'08)
Financial Advisor with
The Edwards Group at
Morgan Stanley
Matt.Terwilliger@morganstanley.com

MENS' BASKETBALL CAPTAINS RETURN TO CAMPUS



The 2016 version of the annual mens' basketball Captains' Dinner was held on the evening of January 30, at the OSU Golf Course.

The former captains joined the current team and coaching staff, and Varsity "O" Board members, for a reception followed by buffet dinner. Those in attendance included captains from the 1950's, Tom Williams ('53), Gene Millard ('57), and Tim Laughlin ('58), and former Varsity "O" president, and captain of the 1960 National Championship team, Dick Furry.

Also attending was former Varsity "O" president, and OSU Athletics Hall of Famer, Bill Hosket. Another former Varsity "O" president, Rick Smith, served once again as the Master of Ceremonies for the evening.

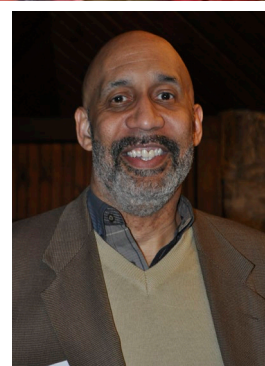
After a delicious dinner, Rick introduced Head Coach Thad Matta, who thanked the captains for their past service, and their ongoing support of the basketball program, and then gave a rundown of the current team and its successes and challenges.

Then followed the traditional self-introductions of everyone in attendance by the current assistant coaches and players, and former captains. As always, there were entertaining stories from past years, and words of inspiration and motivation for the current players.

The next day saw the Buckeyes take on the #8 ranked Maryland Terrapins at Value City Arena. Some of the former captains found their way into the Fred Taylor Room in the Schottenstein Center to join Varsity "O" letter winners for a pre-game reception. At halftime, the former captains were individually brought on to the court and recognized with a warm ovation by the crowd.



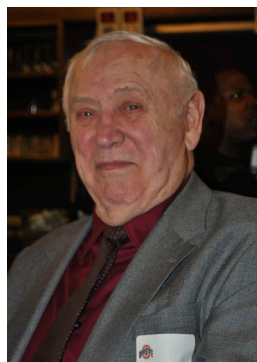
Rick Smith and Matt Sylvester



Granville Waiters



Michael Redd, Jason Singleton, Brian Brown and Neshaun Coleman



Tom Williams



Jeri Price, Clark Kellogg and Katy Swathwood



Jim Laughlin and Bill Hosket

WRESTLING REUNION



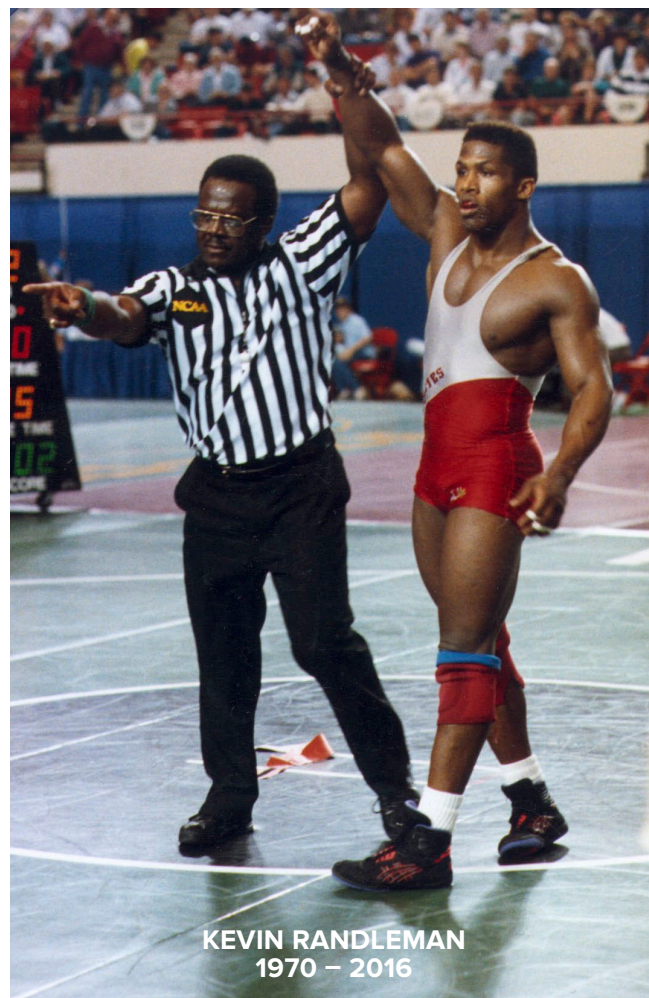
Six decades of former Buckeye wrestlers came back to St. John Arena on February 12, 2016 to watch the current team take on the Wisconsin Badgers. The defending Big 10 and National Champions put on a good show for the alumni, downing the Badgers 34-6, winning 8 of the 10 bouts.

Over 60 alumni came out on a wickedly cold night. In addition to being Alumni Night, this was also Senior Night for the wrestling team, and nine seniors were recognized.

A season high crowd of 5,650 fans watched the match, and honored two-time national champion and Ohio State Hall of Famer Kevin Randleman, who had passed away the day before.

At the intermission, each alum was individually introduced on the mat, and was warmly greeted by head coach Tom Ryan, and coaches Lou Roselli and Ross Thatcher. Assistant coach J Jagers, a two-time national champion and Ohio State Hall of Famer, joined his fellow alumni in line.

Following the match, the alumni walked over to Ohio Stadium, to the Varsity "O" Room, for a reception with food and beverages. Former Head Coach Russ Hellickson (1986-2006) joined the alums for their reunion. The alumni enjoyed seeing the 2015 National Championship trophy on display.



KEVIN RANDLEMAN
1970 – 2016

VARSITY "O" PRESENTS AWARDS AT SCHOLAR ATHLETE DINNER

The Varsity "O" Alumni Society presented four team awards, and one individual award, at the 49th Annual Scholar Athlete Banquet held March 29, 2016. The Banquet took place in the Archie Griffin Ballroom in the Ohio Union.

The event recognized a record number of scholar athletes, 561. \$99,200.00 in scholarships were awarded during the Banquet.

Varsity "O" presented the "Varsity O Cup" to the mens' and womens' athletic teams with the highest grade point averages, and the most improvement year over year in grade point average.

Winning for the top GPA were mens' tennis (3.365) and womens' cross-country (3.569). These were very narrow margins over the next best teams.



women's cross-country



B1G Medal of Honor recipients Catherine Shields, rowing and Jacoby Boren, football



VO President Garth Cox and Director of tennis Ty Tucker

Winning for most improved GPA were mens' gymnastics, and womens' volleyball.

In addition to the silver cup, each of the four teams received a \$1,000.00 donation from Varsity "O" toward the coach's discretionary fund.



The winner of the Varsity "O" Alumni Society Bill Wentz Post-Graduate Scholarship

Award was William Bryce Haynes.

Established in 2006, this award provides an outstanding scholar-athlete with a one-time stipend of \$4,000.00 for post-graduate studies at Ohio State. The recipient of this scholarship

must be a student-athlete who has not only

demonstrated academic achievement (3.00 GPA minimum) and athletic success (a varsity letter winner), but one who has also participated in community service, performed charitable work, and/or participated in non-athletic events or organizations at Ohio State.

Haynes was a four-year starter at long snapper for the football Buckeyes, which set a national record for 50 wins in four seasons, winning the first ever College Football Playoff National Championship, the Sugar Bowl, and the Fiesta Bowl. Haynes was a national finalist for the Wuerffel award, a 4-time Ohio State Scholar Athlete, 4-time Academic All-Big Ten, a Big Ten Conference Distinguished Scholar, and a finalist for the Big Ten Conference Medal.

Haynes maintained a GPA of 3.56, majoring in Biology. His community service included active participation in Buckeyes Against Alzheimer's, the Ghana Friendship Project, Helping Hands Medical Missions, 2nd & Seven Foundation, Ronald McDonald House Charities, Mid-Ohio Food Bank, Faith Mission, and St. Paul's Outreach.

Haynes will attend medical school at the Ohio State University College of Medicine.

MY TRIP INTO THE VALLEY OF THE SUN

BY ERNIE EPITROPOULOS



December 30, 2015

I arrived into PHX late afternoon and headed right over to “Buckeye Central” which was the Bottled Blonde Sports Bar located in the entertainment center in Scottsdale. The OSU Young Bucks Alumni Association of Phoenix held a “Meet and Greet Event” featuring Chris (Beanie) Wells. I took photos with Beanie and got to meet Kevin Fox the President of the Young Bucks. I also caught up with VO member Doug Plank (football).

December 31, 2015

Attended the BUCKEYE BASH at The Bottled Blonde. There were over a couple hundred alum, fans and Buckeye well wishers in attendance.

Archie Griffin spoke to the crowd and the OSU Marching Band and cheerleaders performed. VO member Bob Hoyt (Soccer) was in our traveling group.

January 01, 2016

Fiesta Bowl vs. Notre Dame. The Buckeye faithful out numbered the Fighting Irish with attendance (60/40). Our Buckeyes played a great game and won 44-28 even with not having several key players out for various circumstances. The tailgate lots were full of OSU faithful before and after the game!

FALL LETTER JACKETS

Varsity O President Garth Cox and several Varsity O board members were on hand February 17th to present Letter Jackets to new letterwinner's from Fall Sports: Football, Men's and Women's Soccer, Men's and Women's Cross Country, Women's Volleyball and Field Hockey. President Cox welcomed the roughly 50 new Buckeyes into our prestigious group of letter winning athletes from the Ohio State University.



men's soccer letter jacket recipients



field hockey letter jacket recipients



Katy Swathwood and Isaiah Prince, football

The 2015 winners of the Phyllis Bailey Career Achievement and Barbie Tootle Buckeye Spirit awards were recognized during the Ohio State vs. Purdue Women's basketball game in January.



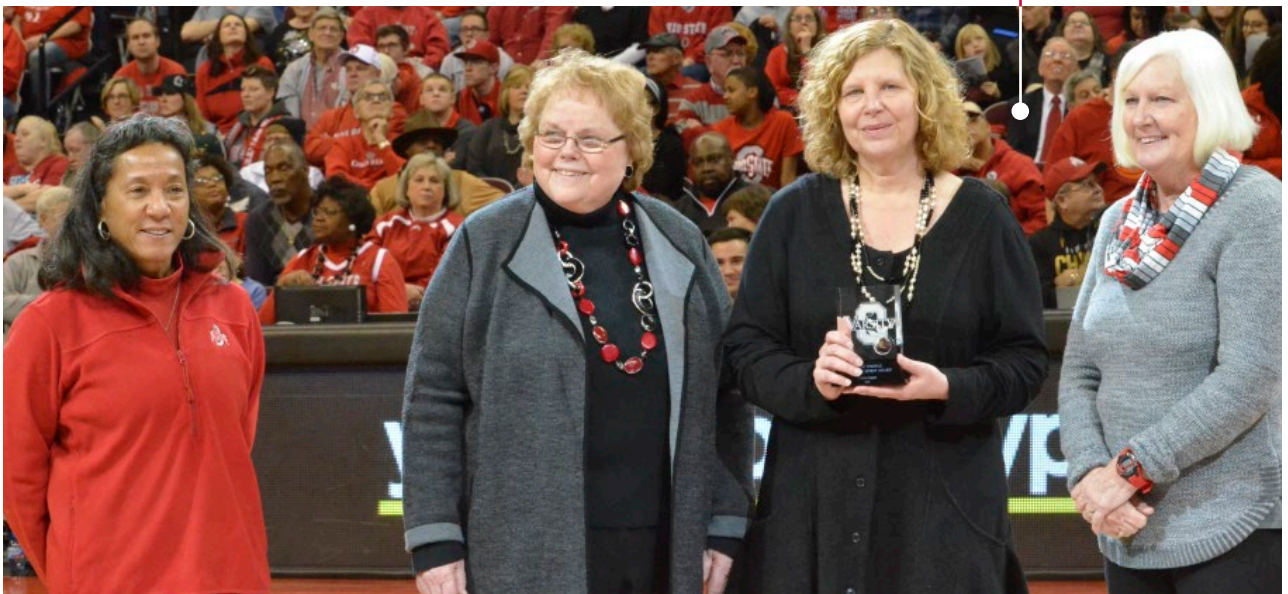
Mamie Rallins, Phyllis Bailey
and Katy Swathwood

PHYLLIS BAILEY CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The 2015 winner of the Phyllis Bailey Career Achievement award was Mamie Rallins a two time Olympic hurdler who 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 remains very involved with the Buckeyes volunteering as a statistician for the track team. She was greeted by over 20 of her former athletes during her January recognition.

BARBIE TOOTLE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The 2015 winner of the Barbie Tootle Career Achievement Award was Linda Logan. 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 Championship events in Women's Basketball, Volleyball, Swimming, and Gymnastics. 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. Many colleagues and friends of Linda joined in her celebration in January.



Michelle Willis,
Barbie Tootle,
Linda Logan
and Jeri Price



IT'S NOT WHAT YOU DO, IT'S WHO YOU DO IT FOR

Driven is a 501c3 non profit organization founded in 2008 by former NFL and Ohio State University Football teammates Roy Hall and Varsity O Board Member Antonio Smith.

Driven's infrastructure is built on recycling community adversity and difficulties, and using them to motivate those who are challenged, to produce a persevering, "never quit" mentality. We accomplish this by offering specialized events and programs, that combat community and individual shortcomings that seemed impossible to overcome. Driven is a dependable organization of versatility. In short, WE SOLVE PROBLEMS.

Since 2008, Driven has distributed approximately 500,000 pounds of free food to more than 4,200 Ohio families. Additionally, our Driven Mentorship program for young men, birthday parties for children facing life threatening illnesses, motivational speaking, and Community Outreach Day fundraisers for other Ohio organizations are just a few vehicles in which the Driven Foundation impacts the lives of families and at risk youth.

For more info visit staydriven.org or like them on Facebook!

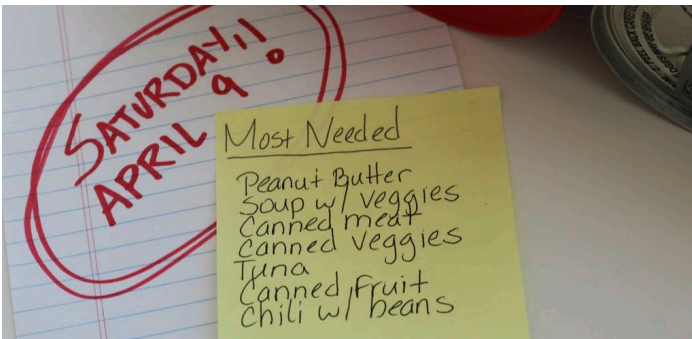


UPCOMING EVENTS

OPERATION FEED

During National Volunteer Week, Varsity O members will join Buckeye Nation in supporting the Mid-Ohio Food Bank. Please visit us and bring canned goods and other non-perishable foods. Donating will enter you in a drawing to win various prizes! Look for volunteers: President Garth Cox, President Elect Katy Swathwood and other VO members!

Bring your donation to the Longaberger Alumni House this Saturday April 9th between 8 am and 1 pm!





LiFE Sports

SPRING GAME

presented by



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4.16.16
OHIO STADIUM

11 AM
Men's Lacrosse vs. Michigan

1:30 PM
Football Spring Game





NEWS

TELL US YOUR NEWS! SHARE WITH US!

varsityonews@gmail.com



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