



VARSITY O

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow Varsity O Members and Buckeyes,

"Athletes Helping Athletes." You see it on the Varsity O website, signs, hats and banners. Do you ever stop and think what it really means? It's more than a slogan; it's a way of life for those of us fortunate enough to have worn the Scarlet and Gray.

"Athletes Helping Athletes" is the mission statement of Varsity O. Through the efforts of the board and our members, VO helps current athletes by funding scholarships and making contributions to the capital improvements to the university's athletic facilities. Former athletes can take advantage of many of the benefits afforded them as members of VO such as social events, admission to Olympic sports events, reunions, job searches and football tickets.

"Athletes Helping Athletes" is also something we all live as individuals. During our playing days we helped our fellow athletes prepare, win games, deal with the struggles of college life and share the highs and lows of being a college athlete. After college we reach out to our former teammates to share the milestones of everyday life. We share weddings, job changes, births of our children and even the unfortunate happenings in our lives. Perhaps it is the fact that we can share these things with our fellow former athletes that make the memories of Ohio State so meaningful.

The ability to lean on one another came to the forefront for many of us recently with the passing of John Hicks. John had a larger than life personality. If you had the privilege of knowing John, you had a friend for life, especially if you were a Buckeye. His accomplishments on the playing field are well known. John's willingness to help others, especially fellow Buckeyes, is as legendary as his football abilities. He was a good friend to Varsity O. Personally, any time I reached out to John for help with issues affecting Varsity O, he was always willing to assist.

John's passing gives all of us the opportunity to pause and think how much our teammates, other athletes, and this university means to each of us. Stop for a minute and take the time to reach out to a fellow athlete that may need to hear from you. Take a look at what you might do to further the mission of Varsity O. I can tell you to do it for John, but the truth is you will benefit by helping others. I know John did.

Go Bucks!

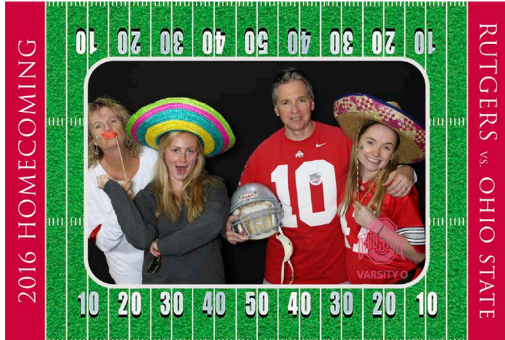
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Garth Cox".

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



HOMECOMING TAILGATE

On October 1st, the Varsity “O” Alumni Association held its annual Homecoming Tailgate at French Field House. Over 400 former athletes and their guests had the opportunity to mingle with one another over breakfast, before cheering on the Buckeyes’ 58-0 victory over Rutgers. We are already looking forward to next year’s event and we hope to see you there!



HALL OF FAME

A capacity crowd filled the Archie Griffin Ballroom in the Ohio Union on the evening of September 9, 2016, to witness the induction of eight new members in the Ohio State University Athletics Hall of Fame.

The honorees were Justin Kronauge, men’s tennis; Randy Larson, men’s diving; Jantel Lavender, women’s basketball; John Machado, baseball; Sam Marder, softball; Dan Taylor, men’s track and field; Evan Turner, men’s basketball; and Paul Zelenak, pistol.

The hall of fame was created in 1977 and has inducted 300 men and 118 women. The purpose of the hall of fame is to pay tribute and extend the 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 new inductees were on the sideline in Ohio Stadium the next day, set to be honored at half time of the football game against the University of Tulsa, when a deluge and accompanying lightning caused all halftime activities to be cancelled. Half of the group, Kronauge, Larson, Machado, and Zelenak, were able to make it back to campus three weeks later, where they were honored at the Varsity “O” Homecoming Tailgate in French Field House, and at halftime of the Homecoming football game against Rutgers.





FOOTBALL CAPTAINS DINNER

On Friday September 30th the annual Football Captains Dinner was held for the football team the night before Homecoming vs Rutgers.

Varsity O Board Members Garth Cox and Ernie Epitropoulos sat at the Captain's table representing Varsity "O" and presented the 2016 captains their captains mugs and pins. Former Captains were also present and sat with the team throughout the dining room.



BUCKEYES AFTER WORK

On September 14th at Eddie George Grille 27, Varsity O hosted a Buckeyes After Work Event targeted for 40 & Under Varsity O Members. This was a networking opportunity for former teammates and OSU Letterwinners to socialize in a casual, professional setting. In this inaugural event, there was over 30 VO members who attended the event with a multitude of Men's & Women's teams represented.

As a strategic initiative to engage young alumni members, this event, on behalf of Varsity O & the Alumni Association, was a tremendous success!

Please keep an eye out for more Buckeye After Work and engagement events coming up in 2017!



DINNER FOR 12

Date: Tuesday October 11, 2016

Time: 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Location: Longaberger Alumni House

One of the missions of Varsity O is to find meaningful ways to engage with our current Student Athletes. Dinner for 12 is an event that provides Ohio State student-athletes the opportunity to meet and connect with Varsity O members in an informal setting. In collaboration with the Ohio State Alumni Association, we host the dinner and help in creating a fun, engaging, and welcoming environment for connecting Buckeyes. These dinners help bring together student-athletes from various sports and majors and the alumni community in an enjoyable and unique way, and are a terrific experience for all involved.

Attendees included:

Varsity O Members

- Candace Dark (Women's Basketball)
- Jeri Price (Track & Field & Field Hockey)
- Bill Davidge (Men's Ice Hockey)
- Ian Betts (Men's Swimming)
- Jamie Natalie (Men's Gymnastics)

Student Athletes

- Alexis Degler (Women's Soccer)
- Logan Davis (Men's Ice Hockey)
- Nathan Christian (Men's Swimming)
- Nichole Walts (Women's Soccer)
- Chelsea Quinn (Women's Field Hockey)
- Brandon Jacoby (Men's Gymnastics)

If interested in attending a future Dinner For 12 Event to represent Varsity O, please email Candace Dark, candace.dark@osumc.edu



JEFF LOGAN RECOGNITION

Past VO President Jeff Logan was recognized by the Alumni Association as the 2016 recipient of the Ralph Davenport Mershon Award in early October. This award recognizes alumni who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and service to the Ohio State University through volunteer work. Logan has not only volunteered his time to VO and our Hall of Fame Banquet for many years, he is also co-founder of the Logan Family Foundation which benefits children and families in Central Ohio.

Congratulations Jeff!

For full award details visit:

osu.edu/alumni/communities/ohio-state-alumni-awards/2016-alumni-awards-recipients.html



WELCOME TO VARSITY O AND THE BUCKEYE CLUB!

2016 HOMECOMING HATS & VISORS STILL AVAILABLE

IMPORTANT DATES

December 31, 2016..Point calculations for 2017 season made based on gifts given through this date

February 5, 2017Renewal Deadline

March 1, 2017.....Ticket applications emailed (tentative date)

March 31, 2017.....Ticket renewal deadline (tentative date)

April 2017.....Seat Selection begins

April 30, 2017New Member Deadline

July 2017.....Varsity O/Buckeye Club membership cards mailed

August 2017.....Season tickets mailed

October 2017.....Varsity O/Buckeye Club renewal information mailed for 2018 season

October 7, 2017.....Homecoming Tailgate

KEY BENEFITS

- 20% discount at the Official Team Shop
- Admission for 2 to Ohio State Olympic Sports (excluding Football, Men's and Women's Basketball and Men's Ice Hockey)
- Walk on privileges at the Scarlet & Gray golf course (Limited)
- Seasons Pass Athletic Department Magazine
- Eligible for single game Alumni ticket lottery
- Invitation to the annual Homecoming Tailgate

2017 FOOTBALL POINT CALCULATION

Current Gift	x 4% (from January 2016 – December 31, 2016)
+ Past Giving	x 2% (Prior to January 2016)
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Total Points	

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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New for this year, HOMECOMING VISOR

Visit bucksapparel.com to order your 2016 Homecoming hat or visor. You will need to register as a VO member prior to ordering. Cost of hat or visor, including shipping, is \$22.00. Supplies are limited.



RYAN LUKENS IN RIO

I won a trip to the Rio Olympics as a guest of USA Shooting and met a fantastic family of Buckeye enthusiasts, Wesley Bates, the CEO of Stanley Steemer and his wife, daughter and grandson. I was told that Mr. Bates is a very generous booster to Buckeye Football. My wife and I took a picture with Kari Dietsch (daughter of Wesley Bates) and her son Kellan.

— Ryan Lukens, football class of 2008.



WHY YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

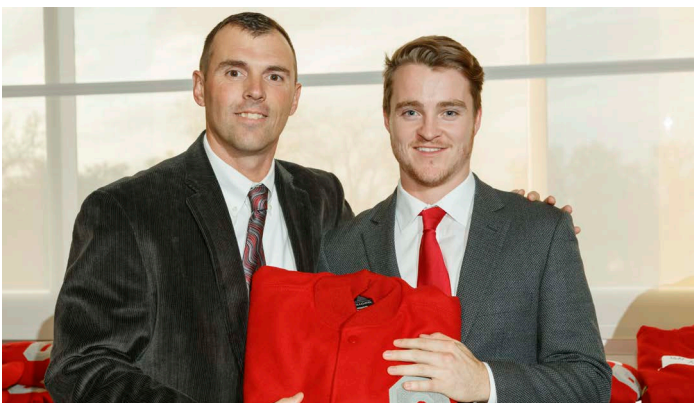
Many of us remember receiving our letter jackets by stepping up alone to the equipment room and having it handed, or tossed, in our direction. Varsity O began a new tradition in February of 2009, making sure each new letter winner receives their letter jacket in a more distinguished way with hopes that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

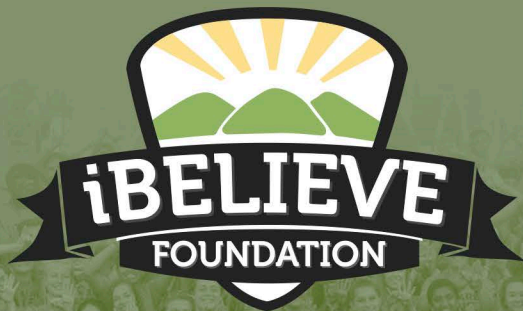
Three times a year, new varsity letter winners are awarded their jackets in the Letter Jacket Ceremony sponsored by Varsity O. This ceremony happens separately for Fall, Winter and Spring Athletes. At the culmination of their season, new letter winners are invited to a ceremony in the Varsity O Room 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!





In 2011, Ohio State University Women's Basketball Associate Head Coach Patrick Klein began working to inspire young high school students from the Appalachian region to reach their potential. Today, what began as fundraising efforts has developed into a foundation dedicated to encouraging children across an entire region and connecting local communities through a common goal of believing in their youth.

The mission of The iBELIEVE Foundation is to provide unique educational opportunities to students who grow up in the underfunded and impoverished area of the Appalachian region. With the ultimate goal to increase collegiate attendance and retention, iBELIEVE is dedicated to the development of 21st Century Skills such as leadership, communication, and problem solving. Klein explains that "being a child of Appalachia does not necessarily fit the stereotypes that many associate with the region. For me, it meant that I grew up in a strong community, full of hardworking individuals, that put others before themselves and always supported each other." As an Appalachian native, he also recognizes that along with his own community, many in the Appalachian region are disadvantaged regarding several factors especially in the sector of education. According to reports from the Appalachian Regional Commission, only 17.7% of reported adults have 4-year collegiate degrees and the average educational level is near 8th grade. These rates are close to half the nation's averages. Moreover, the rural districts continue to pass school levies, provide extracurricular activities, and many have eliminated electives and AP courses in their curriculum. The iBELIEVE Foundation has worked to contest these disadvantages by educating youth on the power of a strong network. But more importantly, Klein believes that these students are better prepared with the development of these social skills, confidence, and the experiences they gain through the foundation's programming.

Within its first year, Klein led a small group of volunteers to raise enough money to sponsor thirty-six local students to attend a summer leadership program. Positive feedback and excitement from the summer experience validated the common need for such an opportunity. Five years later, Klein and The iBELIEVE Foundation have sponsored over 1,000 students of Appalachia and raised over \$750,000 to expand their efforts and offer additional opportunities to students throughout the region.

The foundation began partnership with the Ohio Association of Student Councils to aid in offering a 5-day, 4-night summer program for incoming sophomores, juniors and seniors. This three-tiered program and additional year-round opportunities focus on the development of peer mentorships for students within and outside the Appalachian region. This is an important dynamic as students begin college and are in need of a support system they can trust as they continue to develop their skills. These valuable relationships are also significant in encouraging students to return to their high schools and carry a positive impact on their peers and local communities.

By partnering with the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, The iBELIEVE Foundation has been able to connect with local community members that support the mission of helping young people. It is with the help of local and corporate sponsors that the organization has been able to nearly double every year since its inception. This summer iBELIEVE will host nine weeks of leadership workshops which will provide over 1500 students from Appalachian Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Kentucky this opportunity.

As The iBELIEVE Foundation continues to grow, so does its need for devoted support among those that believe in the capabilities of our high school students. iBELIEVE hosts several events where students can connect with sponsors and express gratitude to those that supported their iBELIEVE experience. The largest among several benefits is the Annual Columbus Gala hosted at the Jerome Schottenstein Center in April. Likewise, the foundation also encourages sponsors to attend the summer experience for a day and see firsthand the positive impacts of their investments. Every child deserves an opportunity to realize what they can achieve and the growing support of local communities is vital in bringing this opportunity to the children of Appalachia.

"We are proud of what we have accomplished in our first five years. The young people of Appalachia are hardworking, bright, giving, and very motivated. Our goal is to continue to grow and provide this special opportunity to as many young people as possible."

FUN FACTS:

- In 2011, The iBELIEVE Foundation was established by Associate Head Coach of OSU Women's Basketball, Patrick Klein.
- Since 2011, iBELIEVE has provided over 1,000 scholarships to Appalachian students to attend its summer leadership program.
- As of 2017 the program will host nine weeks of summer camp on six college campuses in Ohio, West Virginia, and Kentucky.
- A donation of \$350.00 sponsors one student for an entire week of the summer program.
- Many famous former Buckeyes are Appalachian like Joey Galloway, John Havlicek, and Katie Smith, who sits on iBELIEVE's board of directors.

www.theibelievefoundation.com

MEET THE BOARD

Varsity O Alumni Society Board of Directors



GARTH COX
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Football ('74-'77)
Partner at Harris
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Cox PLL
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**KATY (CRAIG)
SWATHWOOD**
President Elect
Track & Field ('99-'02)
Executive Sales
Representative, Eli Lilly
& Company
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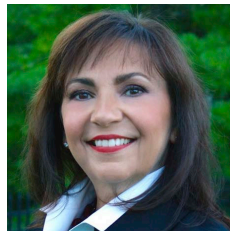
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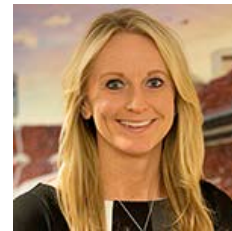
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McCALLA**
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**MATT
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UPCOMING EVENTS

“UNLIMITED LOVE/UNVERFERTH HOUSE” CHARITY DINNER, AUCTION AND EVENT

College Football’s favorite (and sometimes controversial) broadcasting duo, Lou Holtz and Mark May, have committed to headline the 2nd annual “Unlimited Love/Unverferth House” charity dinner, auction and event on **TUESDAY, NOV. 22, 2016**, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Villa Milano Banquet and Conference Center.

Tickets can be purchased by visiting unverferthhouse.org or calling (614) 294-2969

This event is open to the public and is not a VO Sponsored event.

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:

As in the past, this event will be held in the Fred Taylor room on the main floor of the Schottenstein Center. This year we will be hosting the events on **SATURDAY DECEMBER 10TH vs. UCONN** AND **SATURDAY MARCH 4TH vs. INDIANA**. The room will open 30 minute before tip-off and stay open through halftime. We will have a complimentary buffet for all who attend as well as a cash bar. Current Varsity O membership card will be required for entrance. *We reserve the right to limit the number of guests or attendees based on capacity.*

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL:

The event will be held in the Andy Geiger lounge at the Schottenstein Center. This year we will be hosting the event on **SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12TH vs. IOWA**. The room will open at 11 am and tip-off is at noon.

WOMEN’S LACROSSE REUNION



WRESTLING REUNION

Wrestling alumni are invited to the dual meet against Penn State on the evening of **FEBRUARY 3, 2017** in the Schottenstein Center. The match begins at 6:00 p.m. Alumni will be recognized at the match, and there will be a post-match social for all wrestling alumni.

BIG GAME DRAWING WINNERS

About 40 VO members entered our drawing to win Varsity O’s tickets to the “BIG GAME” against TTUN. Congratulations to our winners: Alan Balen from Football and Ann Smith from Swimming. Enjoy the fabulous seats and the exciting atmosphere on November 26th!

NEWS

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

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