



VARSITY O

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Fellow Varsity O Members and Buckeyes,**

If you've visited the campus where we all wore the scarlet and gray in the last decade, you may have seen the beautiful Lane Avenue Bridge. Opened in 2003, it serves as a scarlet-lit welcome gate to The Ohio State University.

Recently, while driving over that bridge on a visit to campus, I considered how our relationships with the University, our sport's coaching staff and our fellow alums are kind of like a bridge. Passing seasons and changing characters can make our bridge feel weakened or even seem as if it's disappeared.

Many members have told me that they feel they have lost their connection to their sport. A new coaching staff is there. If this alum took their family to a game or approached a coach, would they be welcomed? Would anyone know about this alum's place in the history of the sport?

I felt this way myself once. After having a very enjoyable and successful athletics career, I moved twenty minutes away and spent a decade starting a family and a career. During that time, the entire athletic department changed and all of my coaches were gone. I felt like I lost a home I once had. I lost my bridge.

So how did my bridge get rebuilt? It happened when I became more involved with VO. VO helped me connect with my sport coaches and other alums from my sport. I don't feel alone if I go to a competition and I am welcomed by the coaches who see me as an engaged and enthusiastic alumna.

So how is your bridge? If it needs repair- we want to help! We'd love to discuss how we may be able to help you feel like you have a "home" on campus. You wore the scarlet and gray and you are part of the history.

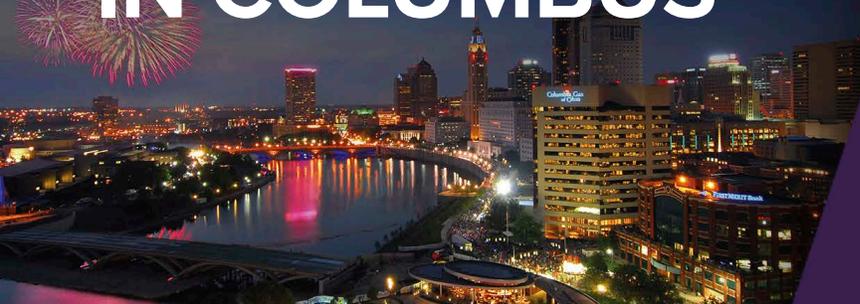
Reach out to me or any of our board members if you are interested in strengthening your University connection. Maybe you are even interested in helping VO? We are also always looking for hard-working volunteers to serve as sport liaisons or board members. You don't have to be an all-american...just a letterwinner who is willing to work hard towards our motto, "Athletes helping Athletes".

**Go Bucks!**

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



# CHAMPIONSHIPS IN COLUMBUS



**On May 6th, the Ohio State men's volleyball team captured their second consecutive NCAA championship. The icing on the cake was capturing it here at home in St. John Arena! But these Buckeyes are not the only local athletes to have the opportunity to make their mark right here in Columbus. In the next 5 years, Columbus will play host to over 12 NCAA events.**

In mid-April the NCAA announced more than 600 host sites for championships over the next four years beginning with the 2018-2019 school year. Columbus was waiting to hear its fate on 47 different bids. This was the second four-year cycle where the NCAA chose championship locations all at once. In 2013, Columbus had 30 bids in and received nine of those bids.

Some of the headline events to be hosted here in Columbus include the first and second rounds of the 2019 Division I Men's basketball tournament and the Division I Women's volleyball finals in 2021. Both of these events will be held at Nationwide Arena.



*Men's Volleyball celebrates back-to-back National Championships.*

Ohio Dominican will host the final three rounds of the NCAA Division II Women's basketball tournament in 2019 and 2021. Ohio State will play host to the Division I Women's golf regionals in 2021 and Men's regionals in 2022, Division I Men's lacrosse quarterfinals in 2022 and Men's volleyball and rifle national championships in 2021. Capital University will host the Division III Women's basketball and volleyball finals in 2020. Wayne Webb Columbus Bowl will host the Women's Bowling National Championship in 2022.

The next NCAA championship event coming to Columbus will be the 2018 Women's Division I Final Four although bids to host regionals at St. John Arena in 2019 and '21 were not selected. The Women's Division I Final Four will begin March 30th, 2018 at Nationwide Arena.

No matter what your sport of choice may be, there is lots to celebrate and watch in the years ahead!

**For more information about NCAA host cities, visit [go.osu.edu/FutureNCAA](http://go.osu.edu/FutureNCAA)**

 NCAA Rifle Championships	 U.S. Collegiate Synchronized Swimming Championships	 BIG Men's Lacrosse Tournament	 NCAA Men's Volleyball Championship	 NCAA Women's Golf Regional
March 10-11	March 23-25	May 4/6	May 4/6	May 8-10

*Ohio State hosted five different championships just this spring.*

# PETE ALLEN

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.**



Jesse Hall Allen became a major league baseball player in the 1890s, and soon afterward he became the baseball coach at the University of Pennsylvania. Before those stops he played college ball at Amherst College, and both Amherst and Penn claim him as an alumnus. Even earlier, however, Allen spent time at Ohio State, but that fact seems to be forgotten, which is surprising given that few students played a greater role in the school's athletic history.

"Pete" Allen, as he was always known, enrolled at Ohio State at age 19. He wanted to play baseball at Ohio State, but in 1887 that ambition faced a problem. The OSU baseball team had gone broke in 1884 after a mishandling of finances. It sputtered along for another year or so before disappearing altogether. In 1887 the Lantern declared Ohio State baseball dead. In the spring of 1888 Allen took the matter into his own hands.

He formed a "Baseball Committee," roping in two of the school's more veteran athletes to give it credibility. Those three then organized a new team, with Allen as their pitcher. Allen arranged to be appointed both team captain and team manager. As captain, he placed a student named William Clark at third base. Clark would be Ohio State's first African American athlete. As manager Allen ordered the team scarlet and gray uniforms, the first time one of the school's teams had embraced the school colors so emphatically.

When football finally appeared in 1890, the first football uniforms would be exact duplicates of those that Allen bought for his baseball players two years earlier.

As manager Allen also arranged a four-game schedule, winning two and losing two. (The school's media guide currently puts the record that year as 0-3, but that figure is demonstrably incorrect.) The Lantern did not blame Allen for the two losses, noting a decided lack of run support. The newspaper went on to say that, if Allen and his catcher both returned, "next year we shall have the finest college battery in the West."

The next year, however, Allen – still captain – recruited a pitcher named Sam Bennett whom liked even better than himself. Allen moved himself to catcher, and the team had a record of 3-1. The following September the Lantern announced that Allen had left school and was "playing ball in the Ohio Association." Sam Bennett captained the team that year, and the team finished 11-3. By this time baseball was firmly back in place at Ohio State.

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

## BUCKEYES AT WATERSHED

On March 15th Varsity O members gathered for a Buckeyes After Work social networking event at Watershed Distillery. The evening created an opportunity for former athletes and teammates alike to gather around cocktails and heavy hors d'œuvres at the recently opened Watershed Kitchen & Bar.

The venue, co-owned by Greg Lehman (former Varsity Men's Volleyball player, 1996-2001), hosted an educational component to start off the evening, discussing the history of the distillery, how their famous Gin, Vodka, and Bourbons are distilled, and how the recent renovations to open a Kitchen & Bar have transformed.

Thank you to all that joined us this evening and we look forward to hosting you again in the future. Be on the look out for our next Buckeyes After Work event and if you have any ideas for a future event please email [Candace.dark@osumc.edu](mailto:Candace.dark@osumc.edu)



## WINTER LETTERJACKETS





Wolstein Leadership Academy where Katy Swathwood, VO president, spoke on leadership. Katy is pictured with some of the senior team members.

### MEN'S LACROSSE ALUMNI WEEKEND



Wrestling captains Nathan Tomasello, Myles Martin, Kyle Snyder and Bo Jordan with Varsity O Board Member Steve Chappellear

### MEN'S LACROSSE BIG TEN TOURNAMENT



# 626 SCHOLAR-ATHLETES HONORED

The Ohio State Department of Athletics held the 50th-annual Scholar-Athlete Dinner in the Archie M. Griffin Ballroom at the Ohio Union to honor its student-athletes for their academic and athletic accomplishments. At the event, a record 626 Ohio State Scholar-Athletes were recognized and a number of senior awards were given out.

The Ohio State finalists for the Big Ten Medal of Honor were Seth Bearjar (pistol), Christy Blough (volleyball), Jake Martin (gymnastics), Donovan Robertson (track and field) and Nick Schilkey (ice hockey) on the men's side and Lindsay Agnew (soccer), Emma Baranski (synchronized swimming), Elizabeth Davidson (synchronized swimming), Jessica Porvasnik (golf) and Taylor Vargo (swimming) on the women's side.

Christy Blough and Emma Baranski were named the winners of the award at the inaugural Scarlet and Graymies on April 25.



The Corwin A. Fergus Memorial Award was given to Anna Ralph of the rowing team, Joe Burger of the football team, synchronized swimmer Alexa Aton and Blough of the men's volleyball team.

Fergus scholars are male or female student-athletes who have excelled in athletics, achieved academically (3.00 GPA minimum), demonstrated positive qualities of character and citizenship and shown potential for success in a graduate or professional program.



Davidson was the recipient of the Pierce Phoenix Award, which is given to a student-athlete who has excelled in academics, athletics and personal growth attained through perseverance and hard work. The award is to be used to attend graduate or professional school at Ohio State, with preference given to someone who intends to enroll in the Fisher College of Business.

In addition to being Fergus scholars, Blough and Ralph were recipients of the Varsity O Scholarship Award. The Varsity O award provides each scholar-athlete with a one-time stipend of \$4,000 for postgraduate studies at Ohio State. The ideal candidate maintained a 3.0 GPA or higher during undergraduate studies, earned a varsity letter and performed community service.



Baranski received the Leann Grimes-Davidge Award, which is a tribute to Grimes-Davidge's contributions to athletics at Ohio State. The honor is given annually to a female athlete who reflects Grimes-Davidge's outstanding qualities of athletic performance, scholarship, character, campus or community involvement and leadership.

The men's diving team was honored for having the most improved team grade-point average and the men's tennis team was recognized for having the top team GPA among the men's programs. On the women's side, the diving team earned both the most-improved and the top team GPA among all women's teams.

# WHY YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS:



**VARSITY O**

ATHLETES HELPING ATHLETES

**YOUR MEMBERSHIP DOLLARS ARE WORKING HARD!**

**COMING SOON**  
YOUR MEMBERSHIP THIS YEAR WILL HELP US . . .

- Offer branded apparel with our new logo!
- Give back to our athletic community through philanthropy

Have ideas or want to get involved?  
Email us at [varsityosociety@osu.edu](mailto:varsityosociety@osu.edu)

## YOU ARE PAYING FORWARD

- Funding Graduate scholarships
- Funding Undergraduate scholarships
- Donating toward new and better facilities for our student-athletes
- Hall of Fame Recognition
- Letterjacket Ceremonies
- Career Achievement and Spirit Awards
- Captain's Award Mugs—

## YOUR MEMBERSHIP WORKS FOR YOU

*Depending on membership level, you can receive*

- Access to Football Tickets
- Active membership with OSU Alumni Association
- Pre-Game Events in Fred Taylor Room and Varsity O Room
- Walk-On Privileges at OSU Golf Course
- Free Admission to most Olympic sports
- 20% Discount at Ohio State Team Shop
- Tax Deduction for Letterwinner Level

## YOU ARE CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER

- Sport reunion sponsorship
- Career / Social Networking events
- Varsity O Newsletter
- Homecoming Tailgate



# Helping Haitian Angels



**Bill and Debbie Harvey met in September 1982 on Debbie's first day of school at The Ohio State University. Bill was a sophomore on our awesome Ohio State Football team where he played linebacker for 4 years. They were married just after OSU graduation in December, 1985 (they graduated together). They have three kids who grew up singing the fight song! To this day Bill goes to almost every home game.**

Helping Haitian Angels was founded by Bill and Debbie of Haymarket, VA. In the summer of 2008 while serving on a mission trip in Cap Haitien, the Harveys unexpectedly met 35 homeless children living in a dilapidated building. These abandoned children were covered in scabies and sick from malnutrition and a lack of clean water. At that moment, Debbie had an immediate calling on her life to do more than just mourn their misfortune—and a new mission was born.

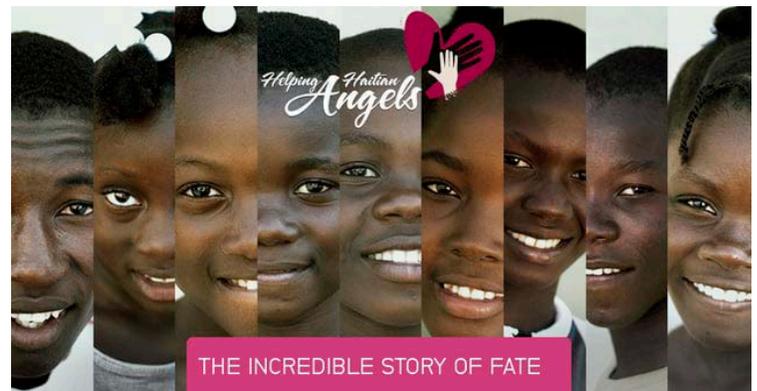
Debbie returned to the U.S. and shared her passionate story with friends, family, church members, and the media. One month from that fateful day in the summer of 2008, Debbie and Bill Harvey launched a non-profit named Helping Haitian Angels and raised enough money to provide medical care, shelter, food, and clean water for the children they found in Dekle, Haiti.

Almost 9 years later Bill and Debbie love and support 59 children in their orphanage and 125 kids in their school. They love Haiti and are grateful for all God has enabled them to do there!

If you're interested in changing the future for one of the Haitian children please go to their website to learn more about sponsoring one of these precious children.

[www.helpinghaitianangels.org/sponsorship/](http://www.helpinghaitianangels.org/sponsorship/)

**Please watch their very short video for more information. (It's really good!) > [go.osu.edu/HHA](http://go.osu.edu/HHA)**



THE INCREDIBLE STORY OF FATE



# MEET THE BOARD

Varsity O Alumni Society Board of Directors



**KATY (CRAIG) SWATHWOOD**

**President**  
Track & Field ('99-'02)  
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**MATT TERWILLIGER**

**Board Member**  
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# UPCOMING EVENTS

For a complete listing of upcoming Alumni Association events, visit [go.osu.edu/UpcomingAlumniEvents](http://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.

## ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME BANQUET & FOOTBALL GAME

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7 vs. Maryland

## HOMECOMING TAILGATE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7 at French Field House

FIELD HOCKEY  
**SAVE THE DATE**  
OCTOBER 6-8 | ALUMNAE REUNION

FRIDAY - BUCKEYES VS PENN STATE AT 3 P.M.  
SATURDAY - TAILGATE - FB VS MARYLAND  
SUNDAY - BUCKEYES VS CALIFORNIA AT NOON

# MEMBER HAPPENINGS

Maurice Hall attended The Ohio State University where he was a member of the National Championship Football Team in 2002. Maurice scored the game winning touchdowns against The University of Illinois and the University of Michigan in the National Championship season. Maurice graduated from OSU with a degree in Strategic Communications and a Masters degree in Sports Administration.

After finishing school, Maurice decided to pursue a career in acting which is something that brings the same kind of excitement and passion to his life as football once did. He has been seen on shows including Grey's Anatomy, NCIS New Orleans, Criminal Minds and Brooklyn Nine Nine.

Maurice also created his own production company called Mo-tivation Unlimited which produces content for television, film and web that centers on topics that focus on education, healthy living, persistence, faith in God, and work ethic.



He recently wrote, directed, produced and starred in his romantic comedy feature film **Baker's Man**, which will be released worldwide in June of 2017. Maurice believes all of his success is because of the favor that God has shown in his life.

**Baker's Man** will be released and available on iTunes and Amazon on June 20, 2017.

**BAKER'S MAN TRAILER:** [go.osu.edu/BakersMan](http://go.osu.edu/BakersMan)  
**iTUNES:** [go.osu.edu/BakersManItunes](http://go.osu.edu/BakersManItunes)  
**AMAZON:** [go.osu.edu/BakersManAmazon](http://go.osu.edu/BakersManAmazon)

## NEWS

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

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