

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S VARSITY "O"

Spring 2014 Newsletter



Affiliate organization of The Ohio State
University Alumni Association



www.ohiostatealumni.org

Note from our President

Hello former female student-athletes! Our Varsity "O" has strived to keep our former female athletes informed no matter where they reside. Since its inception, we try to create funds and programming that benefits our current student-athletes. Our Letter Jacket Ceremony allows each individual athlete to be recognized by fellow peers and coaches for achieving the privilege in receiving their Varsity letter from The Ohio State University and enjoy a nutritious meal. This is also our third year to co-sponsor the Hall of Fame Banquet and festivities with the Men's Varsity "O". Currently, we are trying to raise funds to sponsor a fully funded scholarship and delegate monies for post-graduate monies for our female student-athletes. We encourage our membership to contact us with new innovative ideas that would continue our organization to grow and develop. I am excited to be the President this year and replaced our current President, Devin Anderson who had to step down due to a new administrative job in the field of education. A big heartfelt thanks and gratitude toward Devin who took our technology to a higher level!

I also hope that you spread the word to other teammates and encourage them to join. Your membership fee of only \$40.00 is a great way to give back to the program. Together we can assist one another and make a real difference in the lives of current and former student-athletes. Coach Woody Hayes said it best when he stated, "Try to take that attitude toward life that you're going to pay forward."

Go Bucks!

Jeri Price

Current President – Women's Varsity O

Past President WVO (2008-2009)

Former Track and Field Hockey Player (1969-1972)

Congratulations Michelle Willis - Phyllis Bailey Award Winner 2014

The Phyllis Bailey Award pays tribute and recognition to those individuals who, through their careers have contributed to the honor and fame of The Ohio State University in the athletic field. Those award winners have capitalized on the values learned in intercollegiate athletics and strive to improve the advancement of women athletics.

This year's winner is Michelle Willis.

Willis, the seventh recipient of the Phyllis Bailey Award, has more than 26 years of experience as an intercollegiate athletics administrator, including the last 19 as a member of The Ohio State University Department of Athletics. Willis oversees the areas of Student Services and Sports Administration as well as oversight of 35 varsity sports, including women's basketball. She also is a member of the Department of Athletics' executive leadership team and has played an integral role in bringing top-notch facilities to Ohio State.

Willis also serves as the Senior Woman Administrator to the NCAA and the Big Ten Conference and has served on numerous national, conference and campus committees. She has served four years on the Division I Management Council and currently serves on the NCAA Division I Recruiting and Athletics Personnel Issues Cabinet, as well as the Big Ten Legislative Review Committee.



Prior to joining the Ohio State staff, Willis spent seven years at Temple University, during which time the North Philadelphia school was seeking membership in the BIG EAST Conference. She served as the primary administrator for 11 women's varsity sports at Temple and held department-wide responsibilities in the areas of compliance, personnel and student-athlete services.



Congratulations Donna Ball -

Barbie Tootle Spirit Award Winner 2014

The Barbie Tootle Spirit Award recognizes those individuals who have demonstrated unconditional loyalty and support of women athletics at The Ohio State University. It is a platform to demonstrate their uniqueness as a women's sport advocate.

Donna Ball, president of the Alumni Board of Governors for the College of Education and Human Ecology. A 1977 graduate of The Ohio State University, Donna has been an advocate for women's athletics since high school. Her love for Ohio State women's basketball began in the 1980's when she and her friends and family started coming to women's games in 1985-86, she admits to only missing a handful of games in more than 25 years.

Ball, the 13th recipient of the Barbie Tootle Award, comes from a family of Buckeyes and is a member of The Rebounder's Club, the support group for Ohio State women's basketball. Her first position was as a membership chair during the early 1990's while watching their membership grow to almost 700. She went on to serve as the executive board president in 1996-97 and 2006-07. She still serves in other capacities and currently is on the committee that plans trips for The Rebounders for road games. She and her husband, Larry (Ohio State, '62), have volunteered at football games and at the annual golf outing to help raise funds for women's basketball, including the locker renovation project, which was completed last year. They also have not missed a Big Ten tournament since 1996. With more than 35 years of experience, Ball is a retired principal from the Marysville Exempted Village Schools where she served for eight years. She worked in a similar capacity prior to that for the Westfall Local Schools for four years. Today as president of the EHE Alumni Society, Ball facilitates communication with the college's 93,000 alumni.

Upcoming Events -

Susan Komen Race for the Cure - May 17

Lady Buckeyes & Families - Join our team!

Go to: columbus.info-komen.org select 'Join an existing team' & 'First time registration to create a profile'. Enter team name: Varsity O and click 'join' our team, 'Varsity O'. Then select the race of your choice! We hope to meet before or after the race for group photo. For details contact Katy Swathwood (614) 314-0300 or Kcswathwood@gmail.com.

2014 Club and Society Virtual Rider Challenge

Join the WVO and Team Buckeye in the Virtual Riders challenge for this year's Pelotonia event - August 8-10

Team Buckeye is the official super peloton (team) representing The Ohio State University in Pelotonia. Comprised of Ohio State students, faculty, staff, alumni and their family and friends, Team Buckeye members can choose to ride, virtual ride or volunteer and create unique teams (pelotons) to represent their affiliation with Ohio State.

Anyone can be a Virtual Rider. A Virtual Rider is an individual who is unable to participate as a Rider or Volunteer, but would still like to fundraise. Virtual Riders are encouraged to use Pelotonia's web-based fundraising tools to share their profile stories. Aside from an initial donation of at least \$10, there are no minimum fundraising requirements. Virtual Riders who raise a minimum of \$500 will receive a select piece of Pelotonia merchandise.

Virtual riders <<https://www.mypelotonia.org/virtualride.jsp>

Find us on Facebook!

Check out our Facebook page and suggest to your teammates and fellow Buckeye supporters! Visit our page often for information on upcoming Women's VO events, latest results and event details for current OSU Women's sports, connect with fellow former Buckeyes, and more!

We would love to hear from you too. Feel free to comment on and like our posts!



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