

Affiliation

Volume 5 | 2022

MATCH MADE IN OXFORD

The Knolls of Oxford and
Miami University renew
formal affiliation

SHARING THE LIGHT

Miami alum gift The Knolls
with UV technology

PASSING THE TORCH

MU represented in Knolls
social services





MATCH MADE IN OXFORD



On December 20, 2005, the Knolls of Oxford and Miami University entered into a formal affiliation that advances cooperation and interaction between the two organizations. Among the benefits of this agreement: research and internship opportunities for students, new educational experiences, and increased intergenerational experiences. The formal affiliation was renewed in 2008, 2011, and 2014. The success of the partnership led both parties to extend the agreement to a five year renewal.

The most recent renewal was celebrated in November of 2019. Residents wearing their Miami red and white

packed the auditorium to enjoy a tailgate-style party and listened to remarks from the president's office as well as entertainment from the Miami Men's Glee club. The keynote speaker was Daryl Baldwin, director of the MU Myaamia Center.

The ongoing affiliation between TKO and Miami University allows residents to enjoy continuing education like the Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) as well as on site presentations from faculty like Dr. Kate de Madieros speaking on aging and stereotypes or Dr. Dean Smith demonstrating the latest in balance screening technology.





Although COVID-19 drastically changed our in-person programming, over 300 Miami students volunteer during a normal year in a variety of educational and relational programming. For example, The MU student public relations group, PR Visions created mock print and digital advertisement for The Knolls Marketing department; all while gaining valuable vocational exposure and experience. Student groups also volunteer regularly to call bingo in Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing, entertain, or just provide companionship. During a typical year, the Opening Minds through Art (OMA) program is a favorite as well. The Knolls hosts several facilitator training events and weekly classes during the academic year.

"The partnership between Miami University and The Knolls of Oxford is a match made in Oxford, a little piece of heaven on earth...and the best is yet to come."

- DR. PHILLIP SHRIVER



MEN'S GLEE CLUB

LOVE & HONOR DAY

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Since its inception, the Miami University Men's Glee Club has been one of the hallmark traditions and symbols of pride for the University. In its truest intent upon inception, the Men's Glee Club was one of the first forms of "viral marketing", by traveling all over the country to inform communities about the University, and bring young men (and now women, in present day) to Oxford for their college experience.

Upon the completion of Hall Auditorium at a performance on February 28th, 1908, the Glee Club's first director, Raymond Burke, debuted a previous iteration of our current Fight Song and Alma Mater. It was in this instance the words "love and honor" were sung at Miami University.

To honor that event, the Glee Club launched "Love and Honor Day" on February 28, 2021. The Knolls was honored to be one of the concert locations, even if the venue was outdoors, distanced and masked, due to COVID-19 restrictions. Small groups of Club members entertained individual neighborhoods at the Knolls to keep the attendee numbers safe, and what joy it was to hear singing after a long, quiet year.

SHARING THE LIGHT

In July 2021, The Knolls of Oxford was honored to accept the generous donation of a self-contained open-chamber germicidal cleaning device from UVC Lightforce-Indiana.

In 2018, Jerry Neely, Miami alumnus Rick Rechter II ('79), and Miami alumnus Seth Weisenbarger ('02) of UVC Lightforce became involved and began to oversee sales, marketing and manufacturing of the product. After realizing the positive impact their company could have, Rick and Seth contacted Miami University's Farmer's School of Business to enlist the assistance of their entrepreneur department in March of 2020.

A year and a half later, the product officially hit the market. The Miami senior students assisting as their capstone project were given the option to select one organization to donate the equipment to, and they graciously chose The Knolls of Oxford. UVC Lightforce has made the decision to continue to positively impact the world with their product by donating one device for every fifteen sold.

The device emits UV-C ultraviolet light energy that scientifically can eliminate 99.9% of the pathogens the light exposes. This hospital grade product eliminates human error and saves time cleaning while giving patients and guests peace of mind.





THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

By Julie Evans

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What do a college campus and a retirement community have in common? More than you might think, and gathering members of both communities together through intergenerational programming brings about brilliant results that benefit each.

The Knolls of Oxford is one local retirement community that has seen the tremendous results of intergenerational relationships for its residents. They have partnered with Miami University over the years to provide college students with hands-on experience and research possibilities while providing residents with social, recreational and educational opportunities. When people enter a retirement community, they're typically surrounded by others at a similar place

in life, which is great in many respects. What's often lacking, however, is the vibrancy of youth and the energy of young people beyond some staff members. Meanwhile, retired individuals have a wealth of knowledge and life experience to share with tomorrow's leaders. Intergenerational programming brings together both so they can learn from and share and connect with one another.

"Intergenerational programming is a win-win all the way around," said Megan Gresham-Ulrich of Maple Knoll Communities, Inc. "There's so much each generation can learn and gain from each other, and this partnership with Miami University has proven to be an incredible way to bring them together."





The Knolls started partnering with Miami University back in 2005. The programming has been repeatedly renewed in years since because of its overwhelming success, most recently in November 2019, when the two entities extended the agreement for five more years.

In general, the collaboration provides a blank canvas to create one's own terms for aging and is highly valued on both campuses. It provides residents, faculty, staff and students with connections and access to programs that focus on aging or age-related issues. It also offers a ready source of potential research subjects, preferential access to part-time jobs and internships for students, and a wellspring of volunteers for projects, programs and events.

The Knolls of Oxford residents have certainly seen the benefits of this collaboration and say they love the opportunities it presents. Resident Connie Wilkins said, "For me, being able to be involved in Oxford, Miami University, church, rec center, etc. activities is a big advantage and fosters connection with the world beyond our own TKO community."



BETTY WILLS

CENTENARIAN

Betty Wills was born on May 8, 1919 in Athens, Ohio. She attended Ohio University and came to Oxford, Ohio in 1947 with her husband, Woody, who joined the coaching staff at Miami University. Betty and Woody had two children, Don and Suzy, as well as two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. They were married 66 years when Woody passed away in 2004 and it was that same year that Betty moved to The Knolls of Oxford.

During her years in Oxford, Betty was co-owner of Wills Photography Studio which took Miami sorority photos and compiled their composite pictures. She also sold real estate in Oxford for College Real Estate/Coldwell Banker.

Betty has traveled to many places in the world and enjoys many social activities. She is a Life Master in the American Contract Bridge Association, and is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She is also a member of the Oxford Presbyterian church. Betty remains sharp and active; always trendy and stylish and still enjoys a glass of chardonnay.



JUNE GOGGIN

CENTENARIAN



June Goggin was as bright and cheerful as her favorite color - yellow. She exuded positivity and gratefulness, not to mention humility.

It is no wonder, then, that so many devoted friends, family, and colleagues came out to help celebrate her 100th birthday on June 25, 2020.

With COVID-19 restricting indoor gatherings at the time, the family came up with the next best thing; a birthday parade.

It was impossible to count the number of people that walked, drove, or rode by June's cottage - waving, singing and sending the warmest of birthday wishes. Festive oldies music was provided by the Maple Knoll WMKV 89.9 mobile van driven by station director George Zahn. There were bicycles, balloons and even a red tractor! The sun was shining, the mood was festive, and June talked for days about how grateful she felt for all of the love.

June Goggin passed away only five weeks later, but the life she led makes it hard to feel sad when thinking of her. She said it best herself, "It's been a wonderful life."



CENTENARIAN

NICHOLAS POCCIA

Nicholas Poccia was born in Utica, New York on October 4, 1921. He learned to play the French horn and by his sophomore year he was playing in the all-state orchestra where he placed 1st in a four-state competition held in New York City. At 17 years old, Nicholas performed as a member of the Utica Civic Orchestra alongside four former members of the John Philip Sousa band and other notable musicians. He went on to attend the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester on full scholarship. Nicholas also served in the Army and Reserves for over eight years.

During his long and fulfilling music career, Nicholas performed over 1,000 programs as a member of the Dayton Philharmonic and Dayton Opera Orchestra, the Richmond Symphony, the Louisville Symphony, the Corpus Christie Orchestra, and the 87th AGF Band – Fort Knox, which replaced the Glen Miller Band in London. Nicholas was the Director of University Bands at Miami University from 1953-1976. He also conducted the Delmar College Band, and was the commanding officer of the 90th Infantry Reserve Band.

Nicholas met his wife, Phyllis, at the Eastman School of Music in 1946 and they married in 1949. The Poccias moved to The Knolls of Oxford in 2004 where they enjoyed many happy years together.

YEP, STILL
GOT IT!

Excellence in
Media

Knolls of Oxford residents George Beverley and Charlie Bowers are quite the celebrities on campus since starring in the latest TKO television commercials. Charlie Bowers represented some of the “finer things” in retirement life in the commercial “Uncorked and Livin’ it Up” and George Beverley proved that older adults still have a few things to teach the youth in the most recent commercial “Still Got It” - filmed last summer. Not surprisingly, both commercials were award winners for the following:

Still Got It

Viddy Awards Platinum winner for Retirement Community category.

The Viddy Awards is a competition designed to honor creative excellence in the digital world.

Uncorked and Livin’ it Up

dotCOMM platinum winner for the Retirement Community and Non-Profit categories

dotCOMM Awards is an international competition honoring excellence in web creativity and digital communications.

The Communicator Award in the Use of Humor category.

The Communicator Awards is the leading international awards program recognizing excellence in communication across a spectrum of industries, championing effective and meaningful work.



Charlie and George both have unique Miami connections as well. Charlie is married to second-generation Miami Alumna Marjorie Bowers ('62) and he also taught as an Adjunct Professor in the Mathematics Department. George is a Miami Graduate (BA '70 and MA'73) and he is a proud alumnus of the Men's Glee Club.



PASSING THE TORCH

Scarlett Kilgore was born and raised in Alliance, Ohio where she graduated high school in 1974. She went on to Mt. Union College where she majored in elementary education with plans to become a kindergarten teacher. After two years at Mt. Union College, Scarlett married her high school sweetheart, Ed Mandolesi. Ed's time in the US Navy took them to Italy, where their daughter Stephanie was born, and Newport, Rhode Island where Scarlett began her career in the nursing home business working as a nursing assistant on the dementia wing. After Ed was discharged, the family returned to Ohio and Scarlett worked for 12 years at Oxford View Nursing Center where she was promoted several times from Activity Aid to Activity Director to Admissions Coordinator. It was during these years that Scarlett's personal life changed and she married the love of her life, Joseph Kilgore, in 1990.

Scarlett decided to return to college and earned a degree in Social Work from Miami University in 1997, the same year she began working at Maple Knoll Communities. In 2003, she transferred to The Knolls of Oxford and has been there ever since.





Now, almost 25 years later, Scarlett is ready to enjoy some leisure time, do some traveling with Joe and spend some well-earned time with her grandchildren, Riley and Myles, who she describes as “my heart’s delight.”

The timing couldn’t have been better for Knolls employee Rayven Frazier. A local girl, Rayven is originally from Eaton, Ohio and graduated from Talawanda High School. Rayven began working in the Knolls activity department in 2019 during which time she was also completing her bachelor’s degree in Psychology from Miami University. Like Scarlett, Rayven started out in the Education department but found her interests were better suited for Psychology. She explains, “I love exploring why someone might act the way they do, how someone grew up and how it influences them in their older life. I can’t help but find it fascinating!”

While she enjoyed her duties in activities, it was the residents that won her over. Rayven became especially close to the residents during the long months of COVID19 when ever-changing restrictions made staff the only outside contacts for Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing residents.

When Scarlett announced her plans for a December 2021 retirement, Knolls administration realized the most natural fit for the job would be Rayven. Scarlett agreed, “Rayven will do a tremendous job caring for our residents. I see her growing with the job, expanding the job as well. She is kind, compassionate and has a good understanding of human nature. I am very proud to turn the reins over to her.”

Rayven, in turn, understands the challenge of filling Scarlett’s shoes, “I think that Scarlett was successful in this position because she cares for the residents and tries to do what’s best for them. She can also have those hard conversations with family members and ease their minds when they start to worry about things. Scarlett is definitely someone you can depend on. I have learned so much from her and I’ll try to do my best to be as great as she was in this position!”

And so, the torch is passed as one career comes to a close and another is just beginning. The friendships that Scarlett has made at The Knolls over the years will keep her connected to both staff and residents for many years to come, but the joys of retirement are calling.

VISIONARY LEADERSHIP

Maple Knoll Communities Chief Operating Officer, Tim McGowan, was recognized for excellence in leadership by LeadingAge Ohio with the 2020 Visionary Leadership Award of Honor. This award recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding contribution in the field of aging through inspirational and visionary leadership.

Tim's career in long-term care began over thirty years ago working as a nursing assistant while pursuing his undergraduate degree from Denison University. Tim later obtained his Masters in Health and Hospital Administration from Xavier University. Before joining Maple Knoll Communities, Tim served as an Administrator at numerous senior care facilities, represented District VIII on the Board of the Ohio Health Care Association and also previously held a non-voting seat on the Association of Ohio's Philanthropic Homes for the Aging Board. In 2005, Tim moved to Oxford and is now responsible for the operations of Maple Knoll Communities.

TIM MCGOWAN

THE VISIONARY LEADERSHIP AWARD OF HONOR



Under Tim's leadership, the organization has soared to new heights and implemented innovative programs which are being duplicated across the nation. This includes oversight of two formal University affiliations, creation of a Structured Interdisciplinary Bedside Rounding Program, green friendly senior housing, began a formal partnership with Ohio Living to enhance senior home health services and more. With each program, idea or change, Tim has been at the front and center. He provides guidance

by leading with example and showing his team and colleagues how to get the job done. It is not beneath him to be serving food, cleaning or even delivering items to resident homes. He has been our voice with LeadingAge Ohio and similar senior health organizations to advocate for our profession and our residents. But his biggest attribute is that he always shows residents and staff that he cares and he puts others before himself.

Tim acted quickly at the very beginning of COVID-19 by creating a Pandemic Response team which met weekly prior to COVID-19 even hitting the states. Under his guidance the team was able to enact restrictions prior to mandates, provide socially distanced and virtual visits and activities, create a resident pandemic pantry, provide meal delivery, allow for onsite COVID-19 testing, implement telehealth visits, offer 24 hour virtual programming and participate in the State of Ohio's Temporary STNA training program. He also made sure to think about the toll the pandemic was taking on our employees and oversaw an Employee Pandemic Child Care Center, the offering of over 4,000 employee meals per month and the creation of an employee Pandemic Pantry—all of which were provided at no cost in addition to not laying off or furloughing any employees. Tim is looked to not only in our organization as a visionary, but among his peers and colleagues in the long-term care industry. Tim was also chosen to represent not-for-profit facilities in a direct call with the Governor of Ohio to share the COVID-19 challenges and solutions that have been identified by our community, to be shared across the state.

In addition to his efforts at Maple Knoll, Tim has been active on a number of civic and service organizations. Tim was a member of the Oxford Rotary Club where he previously served as President. He serves on The Oxford Free Clinic Board, is The Vice Chair of The McCullough-Hyde Tri-Health Foundation Board and is a member of the University of Cincinnati College of Nursing Board. Lastly, Tim serves on a Claims Committee for Caring Communities Insurance, the largest Member-Owned liability insurance company to serve not-for-profit senior housing and care organizations. The organization helps members foster safer, healthier environments for their residents and employees and Tim's role provides guidance from a risk management standpoint. Lastly, Tim has served as a mentor to countless administrators in training from Miami University's Scripps School of Gerontology.





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