



We're Focused on Your Future!

Otero College
President's Report
March 2024
Kimberly Zant, Ed.D.

Transform the Student Experience

The Otero Players will present Caged: A Presentation of One Acts on April 11, 12, and 13 at 7 p.m. Under the direction of English and Theatre Faculty Heather Pidcock-Reed, the Otero Players will explore the circumstances surrounding traditionally marginalized communities in three one acts: Trifles by Susan Glaspell, The Cagebirds by David Campton, and The Insanity of Mary Girard by Lanie Robertson. The cast consists of a mixture of Otero College students, faculty, and alumni.

Originally performed in 1916, Susan Glaspell's classic one-act Trifles explores the roles of women in a patriarchal society through the investigation of a woman accused of murdering her husband. The cast consists of Sophia Lague as Mrs. Hale; Carolina Estrada Cortez as Mrs. Peters; Jeffrey Reed as the County Attorney; Roman Tskhovrebov as Sheriff Peters; and Demian Ryder as Lewis Hale.

Written by David Campton in 1976, The Cagebirds follows the story of six people living in a locked room, each absorbed in their own petty interests and content to live in their cage as their sinister "Master" cares for them. Then, their Master throws a "Wild One" into the cage with them. The Wild One's talk of breaking out and returning to the outside world begins to unsettle them...leading to a dramatic and shocking conclusion. The cast features Griffin Snyder as The Wild One; Phoebe Frausto as The Gossip; Makyla Whattler as The Gloom; Sophia Lague as The Twitting; Carolina Estrada Cortez as The Gazer; Demian Ryder as The Guzzle; Jeffrey Reed as The Thump; and Roman Tskovrebov as The Master.

First produced in 1976 and based on a true story, The Insanity of Mary Girard tells the story of Mary Girard – a Philadelphia woman committed to an asylum in 1790 after her husband declares her insane. This haunting play touches on the plight of women in a society where they have no rights, as well as the historical treatment of the mentally ill.

The cast is comprised of Sophia Lague as Mary Girard; Roman Tskovrebov as Stephen Girard; Griffin Snyder as The Warder/Fury #1; Phoebe Frausto as Mrs. Lum/Fury #2; Carolina Estrada Cortez as Polly Kenton/Fury #3; Demian Ryder as Mr. Phillips/Fury #4; and Makyla Whattler as Mrs. Hatcher/Fury #5.



Create Education without Barriers through Transformational Partnerships

The AIM Grant has facilitated several events for the students to meet their professors, coaches, and staff members. This is the “Meet Your...” series. They set aside time for a speaker to come in, share their experiences, and talk to students. It helps to create an environment where students get to know the people around them and are more comfortable connecting with them to ask for help or resources. This is an ongoing event and several of the Otero staff have participated, including Dr. Zant, Jamie Mendoza, our International Students Coordinator, Sammy Coleman, Head Men’s Basketball Coach, and Mark Korbitz, Science Faculty, among others.

Also, through the Otero AIM Grant is: Learn Basic Spanish. This is a free 10-week course. This course is open to students, staff, and the community. Classes are being held from 4:30 to 5:30, Mondays and Wednesdays, March 4 – May 6 in the Learning Commons in Wheeler Hall.

The Otero College Rattler Run will be held this year on Saturday, April 6 at 10 a.m. This event is sponsored by the Otero College Foundation. Early registration for the event is now open and will continue through March 22. Registrations will be accepted until the day of the event.

The 5K will kick off at the McDivitt Center Gym (1803 Santa Fe Ave.). \$250 awards will be presented to the 1st Place Male and Female participants.

T-shirt and bib pick up will be Friday, April 5 from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. at the Otero Fitness Center. The route will be posted on Otero Fitness Center Facebook and be included in the bib pick up. The registration fee is \$20; though, Otero Students and Staff may register for free.



Otero College hosted the CTE Open House & Social, an event designed to connect businesses and individuals in the community with the unique Career and Technical Education (CTE) programming offered at the college. It was held on Thursday, February 22 from 4 to 6:30 p.m. in the Lobby of the Life Science building.

This event invited the public to explore and experience the innovative, state-of-the-art technology that Otero College has to offer. The CTE Open House & Social served as a platform to showcase the excellence of our CTE programs, foster collaboration between the college and local businesses, and provided an opportunity for attendees to mingle and enjoy refreshments.

Attendees saw a range of technology highlights, including Heavy Equipment Simulators, Virtual Welders, Nursing (Hospital) Simulation Labs, "A Day in the Life" of a Medical Lab

Tech, Surveillance Drones, and Livestock Animal Models. These cutting-edge resources provide our students with hands-on experiences that prepare them for a wide range of jobs and industries.



Transform Our Own Workforce Experience

Otero's Employees of the Year Have been Named for 2023-2024. They are:

- Faculty of the Year – Anna Matejcek – Art Faculty
- Adjunct Faculty of the Year – Fred Boettcher – History Faculty
- Administrative Professional Technical Employee of the Year – Vince Fraker – Law Academy Director/Emergency Management Coordinator
- Classified Staff of the Year – Ernie Martinez, Custodian II

Otero College is pleased to announce the hiring of Rick Brown as the new head volleyball coach. He began his duties on March 4. With 12 years of coaching experience, Brown brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the program.

Brown's coaching career began at Eastern Wyoming College, where he spent five years helping the team accomplish over 200 wins and make two trips to the NJCAA National Tournament. Since then, he has coached at various levels including high school, community college, NCAA DII, and NAIA. Most recently he was the head coach at Central Baptist College in Conway, Arkansas. Under his guidance, the team achieved its first winning season in 17 years and made history by becoming the first CBC volleyball team to qualify for post-season play in a non-COVID year. Five players, the most ever, earned All-Conference awards, including two First Team selections and the

AMC Defensive Player of the Year. Four of his student-athletes earned All-Academic Team Honors, with two earning NAIA Daktronics Scholar Athlete recognition.

As the new head volleyball coach, Brown is eager to lead the Otero College team and continue to continue the traditions of support and a family-like atmosphere for the student-athletes. His passion for coaching and dedication to creating a positive experience for his players make him a valuable addition to the Otero College Athletics Department.

