

TOUR



OXFORD

Dedication

Thank you to Professor Tim Lockridge who supported us through this venture. Also, special thanks to all of the contributing writers from our ENG 412 class: without you, this ebook literally wouldn't be possible.

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Introduction

Welcome to Oxford, Ohio. Although it's not as famous as its England counterpart, the city has a lot to offer, including a prestigious university and a range of delicious eateries. With this ebook, we hope to provide an overview of Oxford, so that, whether you've visited it before or not, you can have a better idea of what this place has to offer.

Oxford is essentially a college town, occupied by both local residents and students from its attached public university. Miami University's gorgeous campus was founded in 1809 and has since grown into a prominent space for academia with an overall enrollment reaching around 20,000 students. Additionally, the university has several traditions that have developed throughout its history, including Miami Mergers and ice hockey. Although most of its students are in-state (or from neighboring Indiana), there are also many students from all around the United States and abroad. The university offers many opportunities for incoming students of all ages and backgrounds, and it continues to work to improve its academic experience. In turn, the city of Oxford contains various delicious restaurants for its residents and students to enjoy, most which are in Uptown—Oxford's equivalent of a downtown. Although some may joke that Oxford's in the middle of nowhere, it's not quite that isolated. However, the Oxford area does have a good selection of natural trails and wildlife for people to experience.

This ebook splits into four sections that start with campus locations and academic buildings before moving out to nature areas and uptown locations. We hope you enjoy this tour of Oxford.

Sincerely,

The Editors

Lauren Bauman, Jessica Gonsiewski, Alex Mashny, & Abi Mechley

December 2016

Spaces and Places at Miami University

Armstrong Student Center

Upham Arch

Central Quad

McGuffey Museum

Freedom Summer Memorial and Ernst Nature Theatre

Campus life at Miami University is crucial for Miami students. By graduation, hundreds of memories are formed in the minds of each student. Some may recall ordering a chocolate and blackberry milkshake from Armstrong's Miami Ice, accompanied by newfound friends; others, perhaps many others, will kiss their love beneath the lantern light of Upham Arch, joining in Miami's longstanding tradition. Central Quad carries memories for every season, from snowball fights to summer night concerts. Students exploring McGuffey Museum, or traveling to the Freedom Summer Memorial and Ernst Nature Theatre, may realize that there is a deeper history beneath the red brick exterior of Miami University; a history worth remembering.

Armstrong Student Center



The Armstrong Student Center opened its doors to Miami University students on January 27, 2014. It is a shining new epicenter of custom food options and polished venues, but it still serves as a casual living room for all students.

Location

The new student hub dominates the West side of Spring street and takes up the length of an athletic field. By combining the space and resources of a conference center with the dining options and amenities of an international airport terminal, Armstrong delivers an all-hours space for students to come together and collaborate, work, and play. The building is modern and filled with light from the walls of windows that mark its street-facing façade.

Entrance

Walking up the wide stairs and through the entrance of the building, you will be greeted by a wave of classical music playing softly on the speakers as students lounge in large, red armchairs and big, leather couches in the Shade Family Room. In the winter, a crackling fire roars in the fireplace behind plated glass; across the room is an elevated floor space where performances and events are held when not used as a study space. On the walls of the Shade Family Room are historical photos and artifacts of Miami's founding and history, along with records of the Miami tribe's presence in the area that is now Oxford. Next to the Shade Family Room is the Harry T. Wilks Theatre, where students can catch a Friday night movie, hear a visiting speaker, or attend organization events.

Outside, students can enjoy a coffee on the Marcum Family Terrace and watch the passing crowds on their way to their morning classes. Inside, students are free to sit among a sea of tables under high arched ceilings 24 hours a day.

Delicious Dining

Around them, a line of caffeine addicts forms in front of Miami Ice—one of the seven dining options in the building—where a Miami staff member in a black hat and red apron serves ice cream, shakes, and coffee creations. Across the open seating space and tucked in the corner of the building is Haines' Boulangerie, which is given the moniker “fake Panera” by many students. Here they serve hot sandwiches and a variety of snacks.

Next door to Haines' is Mein Street Mongolian & Asian Grill, where more Miami staff in red shirts toss mixes of vegetables and meat on a large stove top and serve up steaming stir fry. There is also Miami Traditions, where one can get comfort food, and a pizza place that also serves pasta and salads. Up the wide staircase on the second floor sits Bob and Doris '52 Pulley Diner, a 24 hour 1950s-style diner. Students enjoy the sounds of the oldies over the speakers while sitting on sparking stools or booths and chowing down on a cheeseburger and French fries. Behind Pulley is a market called Emporium that serves ready-made options, ranging from peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to yogurt.

Study & Meeting Spaces

Once students grab a soda or granola bar at the Emporium market, they can make their way to club meetings in one of Armstrong's three spacious meeting rooms, located on the third floor. Together, these rooms make up the Donald W. Fritz Pavilion, which can hold up to 800 people and is where many clubs and organizations hold speakers, concerts, fundraisers, and fairs. Philanthropies, rush events, dog therapy sessions open to all students, brunch with the school's president, and many more events also take place here.

The meeting spaces in Armstrong are utilized constantly. There is open seating on every floor of the building, but if you would like some privacy to work on a project, glass-walled study rooms outfitted with whiteboards are available to you—all you have to do is check in with your student ID at the front desk.

Most of the building's remaining square footage is occupied by office spaces specifically designated for campus clubs and organizations. Miami's campus newspaper, *The Miami Student's*, offices are located on the second floor, overlooking the Bicentennial Rotunda. The rotunda represents the end of the Slant Walk, a path that extends from the corner where campus meets uptown all the way through the second floor of the Student Center. Slant Walk ends in the rotunda, where a large seal under glass points towards the David and Valerie Hodge Center for Student Engagement and Leadership, appropriately called The Great Seal. According to Miami University's website, the seal is “a 3-D version of the university seal, created with real objects and containing students' words and artwork to link the university's past, present, and future”.

Behind The Great Seal, the Richard & Emily Smucker Wiikiaami Room is A celebration of the Native American history on Miami's campus in the form of a round, green carpeted meeting space. Other spaces include The Cultural Center, which houses Miami's Office of Multicultural Affairs and a community lounge for international students to meet.

Conclusion

Even though there are a multitude of places to gather and study in Armstrong, you will still find students sitting in window wells and at the bottom of stair cases, seeking a quiet space to read or write. The student overflow that exists during a dinner rush, even in such a large venue, reflects the growing student body at Miami.

Despite the impressive features of the newly minted space, Miami University has even more plans to expand the Armstrong Student Center in 2017. Included in the renovation—and replacing Culler Hall—will be a new home for Career Services, an 88-seat auditorium for the Associated Student Government, a coffee shop inspired by Miami's Luxembourg Campus, and a new billiards parlor for students to unwind and gather with friends. Armstrong is a direct result of the university's drive to be bigger and better than before; with each new donation and construction, Miami's campus is becoming more and more centralized to the Armstrong Student Center.

Margaret Clark

Margaret Clark is a Professional Writing major and Interactive Media Studies minor. Her favorite dessert is chocolate chip ice cream, and her dream vacation is to go back to London, her favorite city, and spend a week reading books and drinking tea.

Upham Arch



Picture this: you are walking through Miami University’s campus just before midnight, carrying a backpack and stressing out about an exam you have the next day, or maybe you are a visiting alumnus, wandering through your old stomping ground while reminiscing about the long lost days of your youth. Just as you are crossing through the academic quad—no matter what stage of life you are in, carefully avoiding the university’s seal—you notice two figures standing in the center of a large arch.

“What are they doing?” you ask yourself. “Why are they just standing there?” Then the two figures lean in for a kiss; you check your phone and it is midnight. Suddenly, it all makes sense: the couple are Miami Merger hopefuls testing the tradition of the Upham Hall Arch.

The Legend

The legend of the Upham Arch is simple: kiss your true love under the arch at midnight, and you two will marry and stay together forever. It is rumored that the legend of the Upham Arch has been around since Upham Hall was built in 1949. According to a news release by Miami University’s News and Public Information Office in 2013, the legend started sometime between 1949 and 1965. The same article sheds a bit more light on the details of this tradition: “The parameters surrounding the Upham arch legend are quite simple: It has to be midnight, and the light must be on.”

Don’t believe in legends? Lots of people don’t, but naysayers will always be bombarded with the fact that Miami University has the largest percentage of alumni marriages in the country. According to Miami University’s Alumni Association, fourteen percent of Miami alumni are married to a fellow graduate. Fourteen percent is a pretty crazy number when you consider the average percentages of married graduates from other colleges, most at about three to four percent

When Miami University caught wind of the growing number of Miami Mergers, in 1973 they decided to start sending out Valentine's Day cards to mergers. According to the aforementioned news release by Miami's News and Public Information Office, "Nearly 80 percent of Miami University's mergers report kissing under the Upham Hall arch at some point during their courtship. The informal (and unscientific) survey was launched as part of this year's Valentine's Day merger cards." Eighty percent is a pretty large majority, so is this a coincidence or the magic of the red brick?

According to an article on the Miami University Alumni Association's website by Vince Frieden, as of 2016 there are 28,524 "living Miamians married to other Miami alumni," which makes 14,262 Miami Merger couples. About 7,062 of these couples reside in Ohio, which makes Ohio the state with the most Miami Mergers. However, other states are not missing out, since there is currently at least one Miami Merger in each state.

In 2009, Miami stepped up its game and made the Upham Arch the spot of a world record. According to Miami University Alumni Association's website, 1,087 mergers renewed their wedding vows under the arch on June 20, 2009. This broke a Guinness World Record for the most couples renewing their wedding vows at once, which doubled the previous record.

A Brief History

Enough talk of traditions and legends for now, let us focus on Upham Hall itself. Upham Hall was constructed in 1949, and was named after the late Dr. Alfred H. Upham, who served as Miami's president from 1928 until his death in office on February 17, 1945. Dr. Upham led Miami University through the difficult years of the Great Depression and World War II, and, for that, the hall is dedicated in his memory.

When it was built, Upham Hall, the current home of the College of Arts and Science, was the largest building on campus upon completion. Upham Hall houses many different departments in the College of Arts and Science, including the departments of Anthropology, History, Statistics, and Sociology and Gerontology, as well as other centers and programs, including the Center for Environmental Education, the Scripps Gerontology Center, the Humanities Center, the Jewish Studies program, and the Pre-Law program.

The Miami University Alumni Association's website explains that the Upham Arch features an inscription from the Bible, verse John 8:32, which reads, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." According to the Miami Alumni Association, the view from the arch represents "the past of Miami facing the future. To the west was the original campus, to the east the campus to come, full of hope and promise."

Conclusion

Students, faculty, and alumni alike seem to look upon the Upham Arch with the same expression—one of admiration for the impressive building and the possibility of magic beneath its bricks. Even if the legend is nothing but long-standing gossip, the significance of the arch remains. The rich history of traditions and legends that surround Upham Hall and its arch serve as a pleasant reminder, not only of Miami's past, but also of the greatness that has yet to come.

Jessica Gonsiewski

Jessica Gonsiewski is a Professional Writing major with a minor in Interactive Media Studies. Her favorite dessert is pie and her dream vacation destination is gloomy London, England.

Central Quad



As summer turns into fall, one of Miami University's most iconic and beloved destinations fills with a fresh sense of beauty. Central Quad is one of the most well-known and photographed places on the campus. Prospective students on tours ogle over its beauty, and snap photos next to the famous sundial. Before they walk away, they might even rub the turtleheads on the sundial for good luck, or look out and admire the beauty of MacCracken Hall. Central Quad is a place that is unique to Miami, and gives students who go here a sense of pride to be a part of the University.

Central Quad is a place where students have felt at home since Hamilton Hall and Richard Hall were built in 1940. The Quad filled up over time with the additions of MacCracken Hall, Minnich Hall, and Scott Hall. There was also the wonderful addition of the MacCracken Market that has allowed students to have their own personal grocery store on campus. These dorms are nowadays well known as being the home to the different sororities, but the quad is home to everyone on the campus. You can walk outside on any type of day, and always find someone who is enjoying the quad and making it their home for the time being.

Summer

Imagine it is a hot summer's day the week before school starts. If you were to take a look out on Central Quad you would be able to see dozens of students soaking up the sun, and taking it easy before classes begin. Even once school has started, you will still find people relaxing on blankets, and working on their homework. This is a site that adds to the sense of community that is already bustling through Miami, and just makes people feel at home here.

Fall

Music is blaring, booths are set up all around the quad, and thousands of students are walking around the area. Mega Fair is one of the most well known events that occurs on this campus, and is one that makes freshmen feel the sense of community that upperclassmen already have. This is their chance to see what the

different clubs on the campus have to offer, and for them to join a new group and make new friendships. Seeing everyone come together to put this event on is so heartwarming, and really strengthens the bond that many have with their different organizations.

Winter

It is quiet outside, and the grass is covered with beautiful white snow. Students are running around outside, throwing snowballs and making snowmen like they did when they were kids. Mixed in with this are the occasional snow artists who make surprisingly creative, and often funny, snow creations as well. On the years that there is not much snow, this is a cherished site that is missed, and that leaves a sense of emptiness within a lot in the Miami Community. When tradition is altered it can have a gloomy impact on those within the group.

Spring

The weather has finally started to warm up, and students begin to reenter Central Quad. During this season you can see one of the most notorious sites of girls sanding, priming, and painting coolers for fraternity formals. This is something that happens every year, and would feel strange to many if it did not occur. Another huge event that happens here during this time is Spring Fest, where concerts play, free food is handed out, and really cool events such as zip lining occur. This event once again encourages the student body to gather together in celebration of the year coming to an end, and to finish on a positive note.

Special Events

There are also special events that occur at different points throughout the year that draw students in through their mysterious appearance. During the cold winter weather the habitat for humanity group on campus set up camp, and spent the night outside to raise awareness. Also around this chilly time a prayer group had a tent on the quad all night for anyone who wanted someone to pray with. Those are just two of the many groups that have used Central Quad to set up shop, and bring awareness to students about the groups that they are a part of.

Cultural Events

Another huge event that happens on the quad every year as well is the religious event “Holi”, or the “Festival of Colors”. This is a very unique event that focuses on the Hindu Holiday of welcoming spring, but it also educates non-Hindu students on the importance of their culture. This is a well known and beautiful event that not only expresses the fun atmosphere that the quad offers, but it also shows a bunch of different communities coming together to unite under their common Miami Community. Central Quad is the advertising central for Miami University, and it allows students to truly see what is going on around the campus.

Greek Events

Central Quad is also known as “Sorority Quad” because it houses most of the different sororities on campus. Because of this lots of different Greek Life events occur on the quad, and add to the excitement of the campus. Last year a “Watermelon Smash” philanthropy event was hosted, and dozens of students came out and participated in different games. There were also several different sporting philanthropy events such as powder-puff football that happened on the quad, which drew in yet another large crowd of students. The different Greek Life events that take place on Central Quad are another habit that cannot be broken without losing a sense of

tradition at Miami.

Conclusion

All throughout the year Miami students find reasons to come together on Central Quad to enjoy the space as a community, or to just take in the campus for themselves. This quad offers a beauty and an atmosphere unlike any other university, and unites students under one strong Miami community. No matter if you are a freshman running through the quad to your first class, or a senior taking a final photo with MacCracken in the background, when you are on Central Quad you know that Miami University is your home.

Katie Alcox

Katie Alcox is a Media and Culture major, and she has a double minor in Rhetoric and Writing, and in Community-Based Leadership. Her favorite dessert is brownies, and her dream vacation would be a trip to London.

McGuffey Museum



Many buildings here at Miami University don the name of a notable alumni or faculty member. McGuffey Hall is no different; the education academic building received its' name from former professor William Holmes McGuffey. In addition to McGuffey Hall, William H. McGuffey has a more notable namesake here on campus, The McGuffey Museum, his former campus residence.

The current McGuffey Museum stands on the corner of Spring Street and Oak Street where it bursts with information about the past from McGuffey to his *Readers*, a collection of school books that would later change the American education system. It is open free to the public on Thursdays through Saturdays from one to five in the afternoons.

William Holmes McGuffey

W. H. McGuffey was born on September 23, 1800 in Washington County, Pennsylvania. He was raised in a Scotch-Irish Presbyterian family that heavily valued education. Therefore, it was a natural inclination for him to pursue higher education.

When McGuffey was old enough he moved away from home to Darlington where he attended “Old Stone Academy.” It was there that he lived and worked with Reverend Thomas E. Hughes in his church to earn free room and board. At age 14, McGuffey taught his first classroom, he was compensated \$80 for a four-month term of work.

After finishing his time at the “Old Stone Academy,” McGuffey pursued a degree in higher education at

Washington College. He attended school there from 1820 until 1825, but had to leave the school in 1825 due to insufficient funds for tuition. This inconvenience drove him to open his own private school in Paris, Kentucky. After founding his very own private school, McGuffey graduated with honors from Washington College graduated in 1826.

Once McGuffey received his degree he was able to start teaching moral philosophy and Latin, Greek and Hebrew languages. This led to his career at Miami University where he taught philosophy and languages; in addition, he also was a preacher at one of the local Oxford Presbyterian at Bethel Church on Indian Creek. It was during his time at Miami that McGuffey published his revolutionary *McGuffey Eclectic Readers* that would soon change public school education. After ten years at Miami, from 1826 until 1836, McGuffey left the school to become the president of Cincinnati College.

Historic Landmark

McGuffey's home still stands on the corner of Spring Street and Oak Street as he left it when he moved his family to Cincinnati. While the home was originally a small frame house when McGuffey first moved in 1828, it is now a large six room brick structure. It was in 1833 that McGuffey and his wife, Harriot Spinning, constructed the brick home in the federal vernacular style structure. The style was typical for the area at the time.

Since McGuffey left Miami University, the property has traded hands quite a few times. From the 1850s until 1958 it was owned by various families throughout the Oxford community. Then in 1958, the home was finally bought by Miami University from the Wallace P. Roudebush family. After the purchase, Miami and the Blocker Foundation spent a lot of time and money restoring the property to its former glory.

The home was converted to a museum in 1960, and was named a historic landmark in 1966. The museum is now home of some of McGuffey's most notable relics, and one of the biggest pieces is his old green octagonal table where he wrote his first four editions of the *McGuffey Eclectic Readers*. Another big piece housed in the museum is the lectern he used at Miami University while he was a professor of Ancient Languages and Literature and the University Librarian.

The Readers

William Holmes McGuffey is not as well known for his time as a professor or as the president of various colleges, but instead made his mark as the author of the *McGuffey Eclectic Readers*. These books became the new way in which public education was conducted. Before the *McGuffey Reader*, the only book used by schools was the old *New England Primer*. It heavily reflected the stern Calvinism of the colonial times. Most of the alphabet was compared to Bible characters and it contained dark biblical poetry.

To put a different twist on the schoolbooks, the *McGuffey Readers* compared the alphabet to various farm animals and outdoor equipment that the little kids would see in their surroundings. He also took away the dark biblical poetry and replaced them with sentences that taught the children based on morality.

McGuffey wrote the *Readers* from 1834 until 1836. It was a six-edition series that increased with difficulty as you went up in the series. The books taught spelling, reading and civic education. They became widely popular, and after the Civil War they were the basic schoolbooks for thirty-seven states. By 1920, McGuffey had sold an estimated 122 million copies. The sales of the *Readers* put them up there with that of the

Bible and Webster's Dictionary. McGuffey and his *Readers* managed to reshape the American Public School System and became one of the nation's most influential publications.

Popularity

The museum is a Miami University keepsake. In the education field, McGuffey is very well known for his work, and people who pick the education route would definitely enjoy taking a trip to the past in his former home. He changed the face of education with his *Readers* that were published right here on campus, which cannot be said about every former professor. Therefore, when some people come to our wonderful university, they can't help but to be enticed to go visit the home where modern education was born.

Conclusion

All in all, the McGuffey Museum is full of American history; if you have a passion for history or the educational system, then the McGuffey Museum is a must-see for you. McGuffey changed the American Public School system from his seat at the green octagonal table inside the walls of the red brick home on Spring Street. In addition to his groundbreaking work with publishing the *McGuffey Eclectic Reader*, he also managed to be a great professor of Ancient Languages and Literature at Miami for ten years. Overall, the McGuffey Museum is a historical landmark that was home to one of Oxford's greatest educators.

Hailey Mallendick

Hailey Mallendick is currently a senior double majoring in Professional Writing and Journalism. Her favorite dessert is mint chocolate chip ice cream, especially in the summertime. Lastly, her dream vacation is visiting an elephant reserve in Thailand, particular the BLES Elephant Sanctuary.

Freedom Summer Memorial & Ernst Nature Theatre



There's no doubt that Miami University has a plethora of beautiful buildings filling its Oxford campus to the brim. The newest additions, like the Farmer School of Business, earn the University news headlines and high program rankings. Old additions remain mostly untouched, acquiring blankets of overgrowth and historical relevance. Tucked behind newly-renovated stone buildings and thick pockets of trees lies the Freedom Summer Memorial and Ernst Nature Theater. Their location on Western Campus makes them easy to look over, but the fact that they are both recognized by the National Historic Society make them locations that should not be missed.

Freedom Summer Memorial

Take a walk around the small amphitheater—it might seem like nothing special at first, a little broken down, a little forgotten—and you'll see the story of Freedom Summer come to life in hidden portions of its construction.

Modern-day Western Campus was known as the Western College for Women before it was absorbed into the main university in 1974. In June of 1964, an estimated 800 volunteers and civil rights activists gathered at the Western College for Women to complete a two-week instructional training for the Freedom Summer Project. These college-age men and women planned to head down south to Mississippi and register black voters, set up community centers, and organize freedom schools.

“Mississippi was a terrorist state at that time,” said Richard Momeyer, a Miami professor who participated in Freedom Summer in 1964. “They used monopolized force to repress the civil rights of black people and the government worked alongside terrorists organizations to ensure that the blacks remained helpless.”

The Freedom Summer participants responded to the violent state of Mississippi by practicing nonviolent tactics. They were thoroughly prepared for violence, were it to ever occur: guard your face, curl inward to protect your vital organs. The plan was to make a peaceful, although difficult, change in the world where

violence was a real presence. Everyone knew that death was a possibility, but what happened shortly after the training still shocked the nation.

Three of these activists—Michael Schwerner, James Chaney, and Andrew Goodman—vanished three days after they left for Mississippi. The nation believed they were murdered by members of the Ku Klux Klan. The deaths of these men eventually led to a federal investigation, though it was ultimately inconclusive

The students trained on Western Campus, so it felt natural to place the memorial there in 2000. The exact location was chosen because it was close to both Peabody Hall and Kumler Chapel—where most of the training took place—and no excavation was needed. Visitors coming to the Freedom Summer Memorial in the amphitheater today will find the names and stories of those three men carved into limestone slabs next to the seats. Although years of wear have caused a green stain along the memorials edges, the message reads clear:

*JAMES CHANEY, 21, ANDREW GOODMAN, 20, AND MICHAEL SCHWERNER, 24,
TRAINED AT WESTERN COLLEGE FOR WOMEN BEFORE
HEADING SOUTH TO REGISTER BLACK VOTERS AS PART OF
THE MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM SUMMER PROJECT.
THEY LEFT OXFORD JUNE 20, 1964, AND
DISAPPEARED THE NEXT DAY IN MISSISSIPPI.
THEIR BODIES WERE FOUND BURIED IN AN
EARTHEN DAM SIX WEEKS LATER.*

Robert Keller, a Miami University architect, says the limestone was chosen specifically for the site. “The rocks needed to show how that summer began smoothly, and then after the murders of the three men, things began to get uglier, and not as they had been planned.”

Along with the names and stories of Michael Schwerner, James Chaney, and Andrew Goodman, the architects chose headlines from that summer to engrave on the remainder of the rocks. As you walk and explore the memorial, Momeyer leaves you with this:

“The most important thing it reminds people is that normal people bring about social change and not only current, but also subsequent generations need to remember this.”

Ernst Nature Theater

Another Western relic that is recognized by the National Historic Society is the Ernst Nature Theater, an open-air amphitheater tucked behind the woods circling Peabody Hall. Completed in 1921, the theater was donated to the Western College for Women as a Tree Day gift from Richard P. Ernst, a Kentucky Senator who served on the Board of Trustees for many years at the college.

Tree Day was a carnival tradition started by President Ella S. McKee in 1890 that involved the freshman class planting a tree using a spade, tied with class ribbons and passed down by the sophomore class. The senior class began putting on plays for the carnival-goers in 1902, and the tradition was expanded to include students from all classes in 1938. The number of events involving the Ernst Nature Theater continued to grow, and soon it was used regularly for concerts, festivals and other outdoor events put on by the college.

Given its Tree Day origin, the open-air amphitheater was created with nature in mind. In the original

1922 construction, there were several rows of grass-covered benches on the natural slope behind Peabody Hall. Individual stone steps led patrons to their seats along cobblestone retaining walls.

The Ernst Nature Theater was updated in 1996 for safety and accessibility. The present-day theater has seats made of thick, smooth concrete. The old stone steps were replaced in favor of concrete as well, this time with a safety railing on either side of the hill to access the seats safely. A pair of smaller curved steps were notched into the retaining wall of the lower stage to make transitioning while performing from one level to the next easier.

However, the theater is rarely used for present-day performances, because the actors' previous building used for costume changes is no longer available. This hidden relic is now relatively unknown to Miami University students at large. Occasionally, the Humanities Department will use the theater for class trips and poetry readings. Mostly, the theater is used as a hideaway by students who are adventurous enough to trek through Western campus and explore beyond the woods.

Conclusion

It is easy to get swept up in the new and impressive additions to the Oxford campus, but Miami is a university with traditions at its foundation. The Freedom Summer Memorial and Ernst Nature Theater may not make the headlines, but their stories are worth hearing. So, take a break from the marble columns and explore what Miami was like in its early years—it's worth the hike.

Emily Kaminski

Emily Kaminski is a Creative Writing and English Literature double major with a Classical Humanities minor. In addition to her Bachelor's degree, she is pursuing a Master's degree in Creative Writing: Fiction. Her dream vacation includes a trip to Brighton in East Sussex, England with plenty of s'mores brownies.

Books and Brains

King Library

B.E.S.T. Library

Amos Music Library

Alumni Hall

Oxford Lane Library

Libraries are central to learning and the academic experience, and the many libraries of Miami University and Oxford are no exception. Walk into King Library during finals' week and you'll find it overflowing with students sipping their Starbucks coffee, intently focused on their projects and study materials. B.E.S.T. Library is home to more specific materials on science and technologies, while the Amos Music Library carries thousands of books and music scores if that's more your forté. Alumni Hall is an architectural masterpiece, and contains the Wertz Art and Architecture Library. The Oxford Lane Library is open for all in the community, and joins the first-grader and the college senior together in the search for knowledge.

King Library



King Library, originally built in 1966 and transformed into the modern-day King Library in 1973, is Miami University's main library and a staple of life on campus. Named after library director Edgar Weld King, the library presides over the northwestern edge of campus near High Street. King Library is home to hundreds, if not thousands, of visitors each day, seeking access to the various facilities housed within. Whether students need a book for a project, access to a computer or printer, or a place to work on group assignments with peers, King Library is a great location to use.

The Library is broken up into four floors, each with their own different resources.

Basement Floor

Near the entrance is a rack of new magazines and periodicals, which students can use to catch up on recent publications.

King Café

The basement floor of King Library is dominated by King Café, which serves Starbucks coffee, tea, and various pastries and snacks to students. There is also a large refrigerator to the left of the kiosk, where students can purchase other food products and drinks. Around the café are large tables where students or professors can meet and discuss grades or work on group projects. Once the day gets going, the tables are almost constantly in use, with laptop computers and empty coffee cups covering most tables. King Café is not the only feature of the basement, of course, but it's one of the most frequented.

Assorted Materials

Around the corner there is a room that contains many children's books, instructional materials, government information, law-related materials, videos, DVDs, and other periodicals. Unlike the King Café and surrounding study area, this area is fairly quiet, and contains less academic-related materials.

MU Libraries Gaming Lab

The basement is also home to the Miami University Libraries Gaming Lab, which is used by the AIMS program for gaming classes.

First Floor

The first floor of the library, like the basement floor, is accompanied by the quiet din of students studying and working on homework.

Circulation Desk

The circulation desk, immediately to the left of the entrance, allows students to check out books, reserve study rooms, and rent out equipment, such as laptops, iPads, microphones, or other devices. The employees - some of which are students - at the desk are able to point out where many of the resources are available.

Study Spaces

Around the floor are desks for students to work at. Some of the desks are large and cubicle-like, which others are open and smaller. These desks are nearly always in use during most hours of the week.

Around the edges of the right half of the floor are Mac computers, which students can log into to access the internet, along with a variety of other programs. These can be useful, especially when students find themselves without their laptops, or if they need to print something in a hurry.

The library also has two printing stations on the first floor, where students can send documents for printing. Each black-and-white page costs ten cents, and students can add funds on machines located at the printing stations and at the circulation desk.

Last but not least are the study rooms, which are found in the left and right wings of the first floor. They are available for students to request and use for up to one hour at a time, and allow students to meet in a productive workplace without the intrusion of unwanted sounds or visitors.

Howe Writing Center

The first floor is also the location of the Howe Writing Center, where students can meet receive consultation on essays, resumes, cover letters, and other projects, both academic and personal. The center is open from 10 A.M. to 9 P.M. on Mondays to Thursdays, from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. on Fridays, and 1 P.M. to 9 P.M. on Sundays. Students can drop by during the weekly writing hours, schedule an appointment with a writing consultant, or attend workshops offered by the center.

Research and More

Nearby is the Office of Research for Undergraduates, where students can find opportunities to collaborate with the University on research. The Advanced Inquiry Space is right across from the Office of Research for Undergraduates, which exists in partnership with the Office of Research for Undergraduates, is available for classes to meet in.

The Center for Information Management and the Inez Kamm Instruction Room both inhabit the first floor as well, and are both interactive media workspaces that allow students to use various computer programs such as Adobe Photoshop or Garageband. The Inez Kamm instruction Room is available for classes to meet in and occupy for a predetermined period of time, while the Center for Information Management is open to the student body.

Second Floor

The second floor of King Library has a majority of the library's books and resources. Almost the entire floor is occupied by long bookshelves, which contain books on a wide variety of topics, ranging from English literature to microeconomics. More desks can be found around the bookshelves, allowing for students to read and study. Aside from the desks are various couches and mobile desks which can be used to create makeshift study spaces. These are designated as quiet study areas, and loud noisemaking is taboo. The only noise students are likely to hear on this floor is the typing of keyboards and the flipping of book pages. Since this is a quieter area, it can be ideal for doing dense reading or studying for an exam, especially if one finds their dorm or the Armstrong Student Center too noisy. Students can also use the books for projects and reference without checking them out on the second floor, which can be useful when searching for resources.

The second floor is also host to the Dean's Office and University Librarian's Office, as well as a few reading rooms and study rooms. Directory services can be found nearby the stairwell for further information.

Third Floor

The third floor is another quiet study floor, although this floor contains no books. This floor is for quiet reading, and has a few leather chairs and desks for that purpose.

The other parts of the third floor are taken up by the Polk Patterson Graduate Reading Room, the Walter Havighurst Special Collections, and the Center for Digital Scholarship. The Graduate Reading Room is, as it implies, a reading room set aside for Miami's graduate students.

Inside the Walter Havighurst Special Collections room are over 82,000 historical and rare books and documents, which can be accessed through the library's database.

The Center for Digital Scholarship is home to digital documents and available for students and professors to use in order to aide in research. Like the other rooms on the third floor, this is less accessible than the rest of the library, and these rooms see less use than the first and second floors.

Conclusion

Whether a first-year or graduate student, King Library is home to a multitude of resources that allows students of all disciplines to excel. Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the library can easily become the go-to spot for anyone.

Alex Mashny

Alex Mashny is a Professional Writing major with a minor in Creative Writing. His favorite dessert is ice cream, and his dream vacation would be a trip to London, England.

B.E.S.T. Library



Miami University's Business, Engineering, Science and Technology (B.E.S.T.) Library is located in Laws Hall on the first, second, and basement floors. Laws Hall is located on High Street, making B.E.S.T. Library easy to access from the on campus parking garage and many on-campus buildings. B.E.S.T. is open all days of the week with hours from 7:30 a.m. to midnight for Monday through Thursday, and varying hours for Friday through Sunday. This library is the University Libraries' primary service point on the east side of the Oxford Campus and offers access to collections, staff, computing and technology services, and study space.

History

Laws Hall was named after Samuel Spahr Laws, who graduated from Miami University in 1848 and served as President of the University of Missouri. Samuel Spahr Laws is credited with the invention of Laws Gold Indicator, which was a predecessor of the stock market ticker. Samuel Spahr Laws was also an employer of Thomas Edison and the vice president and manager of the New York Gold Exchange. He is considered to be one of the most illustrious graduates of Miami University.

In 1959, Laws Hall was built for \$1,701,000 by Knowlton Construction. At the time of completion, Laws Hall was the largest academic building on Miami University's campus at 69,454 square feet; the second floor's east hallway is even dedicated to Procter & Gamble as thanks for their generous donations to the school.

Laws Hall was originally home to the Farmer School of Business, but underwent remodeling to accommodate the opening of B.E.S.T. Library in 1999. The decision was made that the Farmer School of Business had outgrown Laws Hall, and alternative sites were researched and studied. Because Laws Hall was

built in 1959, part of the renovation was to ensure energy efficiency and update the flooring, paint, and more. Laws Hall was previously noted as one of the least wheelchair accessible buildings on campus, which also was addressed during renovation. Building renovations were completed and the doors of B.E.S.T. Library opened in August of 2011.

B.E.S.T. Library was a merger between the science and engineering assets from the Brill Science Library, and the business and psychology collections from King Library. While Brill Science Library now resides in B.E.S.T. Library, King Library still hosts many collections such as the Walter Havighurst Special Collections.

Amenities

B.E.S.T. Library provides access to PC and Mac computers within its first floor computing areas and instruction room. Also available is a large format scanner, as well as 3D printing, scanning, and modeling services. One of the unique amenities available through B.E.S.T. Library is the various equipment available for short-term checkout. Some equipment available through this program includes laptop computers, iPads, cameras, microphones, headphones, and laptop power cords. The length of checkout varies by type of equipment, but this is a service many students may find beneficial—even if only for the day the student forgot their charger at home! While B.E.S.T. Library is open all days of the week, the Digital Den located in B.E.S.T. Library is closed on Saturdays and has limited hours on Friday and Sunday. However, Monday through Thursday the Digital Den is available from 8 a.m. to midnight.

Study Spaces

Thirteen reservable study rooms are also open to students, three of which offer built-in digital projectors. For students looking for a place to study—but not needing a room—there are plenty of tables with seating, many of these located close to power outlets. B.E.S.T. also houses a Mula terminal—useful for adding funds to student’s Mula card or simply checking the balance—and vending machines for those study session cravings.

Howe Writing Center

Another great amenity available to students through B.E.S.T. Library is that the library houses one of the five physical locations of the Howe Writing Center. Howe Writing Center is an initiative dedicated to assisting students in their development as effective writers so they may not only excel in student writing, but as writers in their careers and personal lives. Students can set up a meeting with a Howe Writing Center consultant and receive assistance on brainstorming, drafting, revising, or polishing their writing. The Howe Writing Center lists the types of projects they can assist students with, including papers, reports, and projects for any course, honors theses, Miami Plan capstone projects, dissertations, PowerPoint presentations, digital movies, resumes, cover letters, writing contest entries, newsletters, and personal writing projects outside of class assignments. B.E.S.T. Library’s branch of the Howe Writing Center is open Sunday to Wednesday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Howe Writing Center also has physical locations in King Library, Bachelor Hall, Peabody Hall, and the Walter L. Gross Jr. Family Student-Athlete Development Center. A similar service available to students in B.E.S.T. Library is the Stats Help Desk, which offers help with statistics on a drop-in basis. The Stats Help Desk located in B.E.S.T. Library is open Monday through Thursday with hours varying between 2:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Conclusion

B.E.S.T. Library may not be the largest library, but it is packed with resources and amenities! Not only does B.E.S.T. Library house two helpful student assistance resources, B.E.S.T. Library also boasts some of the newest technology available for student use. Whether students wish to try 3D printing, need a meeting space for a group project, or just need a quiet area for a study session, B.E.S.T. Library is one of Miami University's best options.

Ashlee Center

Ashlee Center is a senior Professional Writing major who prefers fresh baked cookies over any other dessert and dreams of a vacation spent reading books in front of a roaring fire.

Amos Music Library



Of all the libraries at Miami University, the Amos Music Library seems to be one of the most under-utilized resources among students. Ironically, it is partly for this reason that it is a great study space: the Amos Music Library has fewer desks and chairs than King Library, but the seating it has is rarely filled up due to much fewer students knowing about it. Although it is housed in the same building as the Center for Performing Arts (CPA)—and thus seems somewhat exclusive to those in a music or theater major—Amos is just as much a part of the Miami University library network as all our other libraries, and it provides the same services and benefits.

In Tune With History

According to the University Libraries website, the Amos Music Library was named in honor of William and Dorothy Amos, who graduated Miami University in 1931 and 1936.

The Music Library opened in its current space in 1969, combining collections from the Dept. of Music and the University Libraries with further incorporation of the audio reference area from King Library in 1982. There have been several partial renovations of the facility in the intervening years but the basic 4400 sq ft footprint remains. The library is named in honor of William (Miami 1931) and Dorothy (Miami 1936) Amos, long associated with Ohio newspaper businesses, whose family has taken a special interest in libraries at Miami and in Sidney, Ohio.

—”Amos Music Library”, *University Libraries*

Sharp Location

Residence Halls

Amos Music Library is squarely situated between Miami’s South Quad, Central Quad, and Western campus, giving on-campus students in nearby residence halls an easy-to-access library and study space. Amos is particularly close to freshman dorms, including the Morris, Emerson, and Tappan (M.E.T. Quad), and Scott

Hall; it is within five minutes walking distance from these dorms, much closer than either Laws Hall's B.E.S.T. Library (about 15 minutes) or King Library (about 20 minutes). As days grow shorter and colder in the fall, many students prefer to study close to their residences to avoid a long trek back home.

Dining

Amos Music Library sits directly behind Maplestreet Station, a dining strip that contains a Starbucks, The Q barbecue, Encounter burgers and fries, and more. It is also less than a five-minute walk from MacCracken's Market Street store and the Armstrong Student Center. The library itself is food-friendly, and even provides plastic silverware for students. The Starbucks at Maplestreet Station is the only coffee franchise location on campus; it is open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. everyday, including weekends, which makes it extremely convenient for students who need caffeine while studying at Amos.

Class

Aside from being housed inside the Center for Performing Arts, the Amos Music Library is also within a two-minute walk from several academic buildings, including the Art Building, Shideler Hall, and Bachelor Hall. Most other buildings, including Upham Hall, can be reached within 10 minutes at a quick pace, and the bike racks placed strategically around the building act as reminders of the convenience of biking.

Bach at the Library

Study Spaces

Amos Music Library has sixteen computer workstations, large tables on both floors, four cubicle desks, and additional seating for nearly twenty people. However, in spite of the library's small size, study spaces are almost always available due to the minimal foot traffic (most students study at King Library or B.E.S.T.).

Technology

The computer workstations in the Amos Music Library offer both Mac and PC options for students, which students can sign into using their Miami ID and password. The workstations offer various Adobe, Microsoft, and music programs, along with printer access with an ID card. The printer station also doubles as a copier and scanner for documents, books, and the like.

Additionally, there are several TV screens on the second floor that can be used to practice presentations that use visual aids, or expand viewing of a computer screen for group work.

Collections

The Amos Music Library houses around "14,000 books, 18,000 [music] scores, 75 current periodical subscriptions, and the collected works of almost every major composer in the Western art music tradition," according to Miami's College of Creative Arts website. Amos also provides a listening center for students who wish to hear vinyl records, CDs, and the like, with headphone check-outs available to students.

A listening center contains computer workstations and traditional listening stations. Available recordings number nearly 20,000 items. Miami students also have access anywhere on campus to the online Naxos Music Library, which comprehends more than one million music tracks and which is growing constantly.

—"Amos Music Library," *College of Creative Arts*

Book Requests

Amos Music Library's collection of music- and theater-related books and audio may be plenty enough to satisfy majors, minors, and enthusiasts in these disciplines; for the remaining students, it's important to keep in mind that Amos is connected to the entire Miami University library network. As such, students can request books online from any other University library (including the Hamilton and Middletown campuses) for pick-up at Amos's front circulation desk within a few days. Students also have access to Miami's online library database and the Naxos Music Library, both of which can be accessed from anywhere on campus.

All the Rest

The View

Tall windows face the west and east sides of the library, overlooking distant red brick dorms and the small courtyard. The sunset is brilliantly displayed through the windows on the upper floor of the library, and creates an atmosphere of calm that is difficult to find in the enclosed layouts of Miami University's other libraries. Windows on the second floor (those facing west) can be cracked open to allow in breezes and indistinct conversation from passersby.

Outdoors

The Ethridge and M.E.T. Quad dorms stand at the south entrance of Amos Music Library, separated by a broad expanse of grass, perfect for students wishing to study outside during nice weather. Adjacent to the library, and on the east side, is a small courtyard lined with evergreen bushes, with several round tables holding umbrellas that present a shady spot for contemplation.

Hours

The Amos Music Library is open seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday, and special weekend hours Friday through Sunday.

No Treble at All

The Amos Music Library has a lot more to offer than most students realize. Its location makes it a perfect study spot for students living nearby, and for those looking to take a quick lunch study session between classes. The study spaces offer peace, quiet, and a variety of tools and technology; the collections contain information on incredible music innovation, and even if that's not your speed, it's simple to request books from the other university libraries. The overall atmosphere of Amos is calming in a way that most of the other Miami libraries, which have small windows and more limited floor plans, aren't. And just like the materials it houses, Amos is definitely worth checking out.

Abi Mechley

Abi Mechley is a junior double major in Professional Writing and Strategic Communication. Her favorite dessert is Graeter's black raspberry chip ice cream, and her dream vacation is visiting New Zealand for a month.

Alumni Hall



It would be a shame to visit Oxford or Miami University's campus without making a stop at Alumni Hall. Its striking exterior and interior architecture make it hard to miss. The rotunda, the intricate and colorful Miami seal on the exterior, and the neoclassical interior make Alumni Hall one of Miami's most beautiful buildings, and a sort of secret treasure on the campus.

History of Alumni Hall

Alumni Hall was constructed in 1909 to celebrate the first centennial celebration of Miami. Frank Packard, a local architect from Columbus, Ohio, was hired to design and construct the building. The Andrew Carnegie Foundation gave a grant of \$40,000 for Alumni Hall's construction, on the terms that Miami would match that grant with money from their own funds. The hall officially opened in 1910. Alumni Hall was originally called Alumni Memorial Library, and was Miami's first library. It was also the main library until King Library was expanded in 1973, replacing Alumni as the new main campus library.

There have been three main expansion constructions of Alumni Hall since it was built, the first being in 1922 to create an Eastern wing (with more shelf space for the library), a reading room, and a reference room. Carnegie Corporation funded this expansion with lead architect Ralph Ridley. The second expansion was designed by architecture firm Potter Tyler & Martin in 1951, with the West wing built to make the building symmetrical again, and to add even more library stacks. When the library was moved over to King in 1973, Alumni Hall instead became home to the Department of Architecture. The most recent and extensive renovation was in 1997, with an atrium and a Southern wing added to the building, all designed by the architecture firm Hammond Beeby & Babka of Chicago. The funding for this renovation came from the State Architect's Office and cost an estimated \$9.2 million, with an additional \$1 million for interior furnishings.

Currently, Alumni Hall is home to the Department of Architecture and Interior Design, the Wertz Art and Architecture Library, woodshop studios, a gallery, and student design workspaces.

Architectural Features

Despite its many renovations—which have spanned decades and have all been headed up by different architects—Alumni Hall has still managed to keep its neoclassical architectural style intact. Neoclassical architecture began in the 18th century as a movement and is styled after classical antiquity architecture and pays homage to Italian architect Andrea Palladio. By looking at an exterior shot of Alumni Hall, you can see the rotunda and classic Miami red brick and columns. If you can, try and get a close up look at the colorful seal of Miami on the building's exterior.

When you walk into Alumni Hall through the main entrance, your breath is immediately taken away as you gaze at all the features; the tiled floor, brick walls that turn into the beautiful atrium of the rotunda, and right in front of you, an impressive bronze statue of George Washington. The statue was gifted to Miami in 1920 by Samuel Spahr Laws. The impressive atrium roof is visible by gazing upwards from the lobby, and it lets in a glorious amount of light to the building on bright, sunny days..

The Wertz Art and Architecture library is located on the backside of Alumni Hall, and is the only exterior part of Alumni hall that varies slightly in terms of architectural style. It features big windows and metal accents on each level of the building, giving this section a unique flair.

Wertz Art and Architecture Library

Established in 1973, the Wertz Art and Architecture Library is the main attraction of Alumni Hall for students. The library was “named in honor of W.W. ‘Andy’ Wertz, one of the first graduates of Miami University’s school of architecture, and a former faculty member” (Miami Library). It was created in the extension added in 1997 in the basement and first level of Alumni Hall, and is home to all of the visual arts collections.

Along with the library stacks, there are three rooms that can be reserved for study, computers with lots of technology and software for design majors, and several tables and space to study.

Fun Facts About Alumni Hall

Despite being a hidden gem of a building on Miami’s campus, Alumni Hall has its own moments in the spotlight throughout history. Alumni Hall is considered to be the inspiration behind the mystery novel *Murder in the Stacks*, which was published in 1934 by Marian Boyd Havighurst. The Jodie Foster movie, *Little Man Tate*, also had scenes filmed in the rotunda of Alumni Hall. You can also stop by the Cage Gallery where architecture students’ work and professional exhibits can be viewed, before strolling among the stacks in the Wertz Art and Architecture library.

Conclusion

During your stay at Oxford, Ohio and Miami University, don’t forget to visit Alumni Hall. The whole campus is historic and beautiful to be sure, but Alumni Hall has a special history and charm that creates a unique experience. Admire the red brick exterior before stepping into the wonders that lay inside. From the bronze statue and impressive rotunda, to the tiled floor, every inch of Alumni Hall is pleasing to the eye. Over

200 years old, Alumni Hall is truly a piece of Miami University history and a piece of American history.

Anna Van Orman

Anna Van Orman is a senior Strategic Communication major with minors in Rhetoric and Writing, and in Management. Her favorite dessert is molten chocolate lava cake, and her dream vacation is a trip to Santorini, Greece.

Oxford Lane Library



The Oxford Lane Library is one of Oxford's many highlights. It sits on the outskirts of our little brick town, and it's nestled between a McDonald's and apartment complexes—the perfect haven for college students. Its mission is to “provide materials, services and technology aimed at satisfying the curiosity, intellect and imagination of our patrons throughout our communities.” Just this past year, the old, hard-to-get-to building was abandoned and Lane Library was built from the ground up; this library is brand new, and it's obvious inside and out. From Lane Library's new technology to fantastic design features, this is the perfect Oxford spot for people of all kinds—from the sleep-deprived caffeinated college students to little kids and the elderly, there is something here for all Oxfordians. The best part of the library is that it's completely free to join if you live in Oxford, or completely free to enjoy in Oxford if you're just a visitor. The Oxford Lane Library is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., and even on Sunday from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

A Walk Through the Library

First Floor

The very first thing a visitor will see upon walking into this new library is a huge staircase. This isn't just any staircase either—its railings are made of shredded book pages set in plaster, resulting in a mosaic, artistic staircase fit for a library or an art museum. Just as much time could be spent reading the staircase as perusing for books, even though the staircase might tell an odd story. To the left is the heart of the library, and it

encompasses several neat features, the most modern of which is a DVD collection that could put *Family Video*'s collection to shame.

Just beyond that is the children's area, which has limitless picture books and space for children to read until their little hearts are content. The children's area also includes a separate 'teen space' that offers readers a bit more privacy as well as a more selective book collection just for teenagers. The first floor is chock-full of little nooks and crannies perfect for studying or writing, or reading with little ones. The best part of these little nooks (at least for college students) is that there are outlets *everywhere*, and every good college student knows that outlets are the key ingredient to a perfect study spot.

Between the magnificent staircase and the expansive first floor lies the front desk. Why, you ask, should someone care about the front desk? The front desk is home to some of the nicest staff anywhere in Oxford. These workers are always helpful and kind, and definitely always willing to help dazed and confused students and oxford residents alike. The front desk also has a nifty self-checkout system so technologically advanced that sometimes even millennials struggle with it (que the nice staff).

Second Floor

Traveling up the staircase (while making sure to take adequate time to admire it) will land visitors in front of another huge expanse of books on books on books. Upstairs is also home to some of the best study spaces Oxford has to offer, from large tables with outlets galore to private study rooms and even more nooks with cozy chairs and great views. The study rooms are available for students and community members to schedule, and they are generally sound proof. The second floor is also the fiction section of the library, and it's often much quieter than the children's area downstairs. Additionally, there's an area upstairs where you can borrow iPads or access computers. Through these iPads and computers, visitors can access the library database, which offers all kinds of research resources for visitors who might not have access to the same resources as Miami students.

Smith Library of Regional History

The craziest thing about the Oxford Lane Library, and possibly the most interesting for visitors, is that it houses another library within itself on the second floor—the Smith Library of Regional History. This library is stuffed full of documents and historical information for Oxford and the regions surrounding it, almost like a mini museum. This library was founded in 1981 as part of the public library by William and Ophia Smith, who had published several historical texts about the region. The library contains not only their writings, but items from their personal historical library as well, and so with financial help from other donors, they founded the historical library in their name. While it's called the library of regional history, it also houses information on all of Butler County, and in some cases information for the whole state of Ohio. This portion of the library has been deemed part of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom by the National Park Service. It also offers microfilm viewings and book sales, and hosts its own set of events focusing on history as well as historical displays.

Unfortunately it has more limited hours than the main library. It's open from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. and then again from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. and again from 1 p.m. - 8 p.m. on Tuesday. It's also open for a few hours on Saturday from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Conclusion

The Oxford Lane Library also offers special events throughout the week, some of which are even musical. While noise is generally frowned upon in library settings, this particular library is a supporter of both the community and the arts, so its calendar will never disappoint. It also has literary events, arts and crafts, cafe and coffee events, seminars, and book clubs for all ages. While membership to the library is limited to only those living within the community, there is still a large variety of things it offers its visitors. Often overlooked as a tourist destination, the Oxford Lane Library is a mecca of location, information, and entertainment - from historical centers and musical events, available to all.

The Oxford Lane Library is a highlight of Oxford, and it's gotten lots of love over the past year. While the library is less than a year old, it has received so much praise that it has far surpassed its old self, and will continue to be a great place for Oxford visitors of all ages to gather.

Scout Ellam

Scout Ellam is a senior Professional Writing and Biology double major from Columbus, Ohio. Her favorite dessert is Derby Pie, but she always prefers salty to sweet. Her dream vacation would be to visit Poland and the Czech Republic to learn more about her ancestry and to check them off her list of places to visit in Europe.

The Outstanding Outdoors

Equestrian Center

Hueston Woods State Park

MU Natural Areas' Trails

Peffer Park

The Bluffs

Railroads

Uptown Park

Robert Frost once called Miami University “the most beautiful campus that ever there was,” a compliment undoubtably due, in large part, to the trees and forested areas surrounding Miami’s campus. Today, the Equestrian Center is popular with students and Oxford residents alike, as is Hueston Woods State Park, which is home to Timber the cougar. Journey along the MU Natural Areas’ Trails to lose yourself in nature, or hang out at Peffer Park for a cookout with friends. The Bluffs have their own breathtaking sights as you travel through, and you can sometimes hear the distant train whistle coming from Oxford’s railroads. Uptown Park is the crown jewel of Uptown, with seasonal events drawing the entire Oxford community together to celebrate family, friendship, and fun times.

The Miami University Equestrian Center



Many Oxford residents are familiar with the Miami University Equestrian Center, but it's likely that fewer have had the chance to visit. Because many families see it on their way toward Miami University's campus, it is a well-kept and expensive facility. Several green pastures line the side of the road, along with three large riding arenas, a large barn, and a building for classroom use and office space. Horses are usually always visible, and there are usually riding lessons going on, creating a friendly and warm environment.

Main Uses

The equestrian center is used for many different things during the year. While school is in session, the Miami Equestrian Team uses the facility for shows and practices, and the center offers lessons to students who can sign up for classes through the university. These lessons provide a great opportunity for those who has never ridden or have little experience. The barn also holds festivals and parades for the public; each year in May, the barn hosts "Derby Day," a day geared towards kids that allows them to learn about horses, as well as groom, walk, and get pictures taken with certain horses. Following the events, most team members watch the derby at the barn together. Over the summer, the barn allows team members and the public to continue lessons if they desire, and leases horses temporarily to homes or team members who will continue to compete throughout the season.

There are also employment opportunities for students who want to get involved with horses; these job includes cleaning stalls, feeding, watering, sweeping the barn, and other responsibilities.

The Team

The Miami University Equestrian Team (MUET) is a nationally recognized team with the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) and the Interscholastic Dressage Association (IDA), which are two divisions within the team. Basically, the team offers competitive riding in three disciplines: hunt seat, western, and dressage. Hunt seat and western both compete within the IHSA while dressage competes in the IDA. Hunt seat style riding is the biggest discipline offered, averaging over sixty riders each semester, while western and dressage both have anywhere from 15-30 people each semester. Each rider has the option to ride as much as they want throughout the week; each rider is guaranteed two spots but may join more lesson times if spots are

available.

The Miami University Equestrian Team possesses several national titles as well as several individual successes on the national level. Riders on the team currently compete between 3-6 times per year. When competing, riders are given random horses to ride from the school at which they're riding. Miami is in Zone six, Region two, which includes Miami, Denison University, Ohio State University (OSU), Ohio University, Ohio Wesleyan University, Otterbein University, and Wilmington College. However, not all of these schools are able to host shows due to not having a big enough program; in this zone, only Miami, OSU, Otterbein, and Ohio University regularly host shows. Riders can compete on the flat, which doesn't involve riders asking the horses to jump, along with novice-open fences, where riders take horses over jumps of different heights.

The Horses

The facility houses about sixty horses of many different skill levels, all the way from trail ponies to Grand Prix jumpers and high level performers. The level of the rider dictates which horses they receive for practices and shows. The barn is separated into five main parts: the higher-level hunt seat and dressage horses, intermediate level hunt horses, western horses, class horses (used for kinesiology classes at Miami), and boarder horses. Boarder horses are horses who live at the facility but are privately owned; the individual owners must specify who is and isn't allowed to ride their horse. These horses may be ridden by approved people any time of the day, and do not require an instructor to be present during this time.

Miami acquires horses in several different ways. . First, horses can be donated. Donated horses must be approved by the head coach along with other staff members, and last a trial period with different level riders. If the horse is accepted into the program, it is Miami's horse to use for what it is designated for. Sometimes, an agreement between the owner and Miami can be made through a contract for the owner to get the horse back after a certain amount of time. Another way for Miami gets horses is through lease; the center is usually in need of more western horses than hunt, and so Miami has worked out some lease agreements with owners to allow Miami to use the horses but not own them.

After a horse's time at Miami, it is retired and sent to a new, less demanding home; usually this is with someone who is looking for an easy horse to ride or do a couple shows with. Most of the time, a horse is offered back to its original owner before being sold. However, with a lot of the top jumpers, the previous owners have a vigorous show schedule and wouldn't want the horse back, so it is rehomed for retirement. People wishing to purchase a horse for retirement must be approved by faculty, which includes a look at the buyer's home and their intentions for the horse. Deals will not be made for inadequate situations.

Classes

The facility also includes ways for students who have never been around horses to ride. The Miami University Equestrian Center offers several different classes through the Department of Kinesiology and Health. The classes meet once to twice a week, and focus on building the riders' skills; classes are offered from beginner to advanced. Many of the advanced classes require students to be accepted in, these courses often accommodate many members of the Miami University Equestrian Team. There are also specific classes just for people learning to jump; this is popular among team members who wish to further their jumping skills but do a lot of flatting in practices.

The Facility

The facility is open to the public, but only approved riders may deal with the horses. However, visitors and spectators are always welcome, and tours are available upon request by a faculty member. Inside the barn, there is a team tack room, a class tack room, boarder tack room, feed room, broom room, tack cleaning station, four wash racks, two indoor restrooms, and over 60 stalls. In the tack rooms, each individual horse has their own equipment and instructions. When a team member enters the tack room, they read the list on the wall detailing which horse they will ride that practice and any special instructions that come with it. Outside, there are two walkways leading out to the arena, and a large yard where team members or approved individuals may take horses out on a lead and groom them or allow them to graze.

During the day, the barn is full of kinesiology students, team members, boarders, coaches and workers. It is a busy environment, but the barn is always kept extremely clean. Students seem to know what they're doing as they shuffle around, carrying saddles, washing horses, or walking to the arena.

Conclusion

The Miami University Equestrian Center provides a well-rounded experience for any level of rider wishing to expand their skills. It is easy to get involved by going to Miami's club sports website or signing up for a class. Whether it's someone who wishes to join the team, take beginner level classes, or just want to pet a horse, the barn seems to accommodate anyone willing to get involved.

Krista Savage

Krista Savage is a Professional Writing and Journalism double major at Miami University. Her favorite desserts are ice cream and cookies, and her dream vacation is anywhere warm near the beach.

Hueston Woods State Park



Located just under ten miles north of Oxford, Ohio, Hueston Woods State Park boasts a wealth of natural resources. The park rests on limestone bedrock left by glacier deposits thousands of years ago, which attracted early Native American settlers. The park features a host of outdoor activities, including but not limited to: hiking, camping, golfing, boating, and fishing. Considering its close proximity to Miami University's campus and Oxford Township, the park is frequented by students and locals alike.

Many college undergraduates are apt to view Hueston Woods for what it is at its most broad definition: a state park. However, after experiencing a Hueston Woods excursion, many students realize the park is more than just its hiking trails, bluffs, and boat docks. Instead, they find the park to be a place where they can escape the technology-ridden digital existence that is a college campus.

Activities

The Hueston Woods State Park Nature Center is open year-round, seven days a week. The center provides general park information and features an interactive display of the park's resources. Free and open to the public, a general history of Hueston Woods State Park is available inside the nature center, as well as housing several live reptile species. In the center dwells various species of turtles, snakes, and fish, all of which are native to the area.

The Nature Center also participates in Raptor Rehabilitation, accepting a yearly average of 50 injured birds of prey for rehabilitation with a nearly 50% success rate of release. The permanent residents of the Nature Center include a Bald Eagle, a Golden Eagle, Rough-legged Hawk, several Red-tailed Hawks, Great Horned Owls, Barred Owls, and Turkey Vultures, all of which are unable to survive in the wild. These birds can be found just outside the Nature Center in individual enclosures.

Timber the Cougar

Perhaps one of the most intriguing things to be found in Hueston woods is a young cougar named Timber, who resides in an enclosure alongside the birds of prey in Hueston Woods' Nature Center. Hueston Woods welcomed Timber to his new home when he was donated in 2012. Since cougars are native to Ohio, Timber easily adapted to the spacious environment developed by the park's naturalists, with the help of Miami University students. Though few were aware of Timber's presence when he was first introduced to the park, the cougar has become a main attraction for both local families and students.

Acton Lake

In the center of Hueston Woods lies Acton Lake. Spanning 624 acres, this lake is a hotspot of activity. The lake is revered by fishermen for its population of largemouth bass, channel catfish, bluegill, and crappie. The park's marina, open seasonally from dawn to dusk, contains a snack bar and bait shop, and also offers boats available for rent. Visitors can select from a wide array of pontoon boats, row boats, motorboats, canoes, and paddle boats.

Horseback and Hiking Trails

There is a massive amount of protected land surrounding Acton Lake waiting to be explored. Offering miles of hiking trails including the 18 mile Bridle Trail for horseback riding and the 12 Mile mountain bike trail, Hueston Woods offers something for individuals of all athletic abilities. The trails are easily accessible and weave through the 200 acres of forest teeming with towering beech and sugar maple trees, natural ferns, and wildflowers.

Lodging and Camping

For those interested in immersing themselves in the park, situated on a large bluff overlooking Acton Lake rests the stately, 94-room Hueston Woods Lodge & Conference Center. The Lodge offers a dining room, snack bar, meeting rooms and lounges, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, and even a lighted tennis court. Hueston Woods also contains 25 individual family cottages that sleep six people; also available are two Premium Cottages with a master suite and ten Efficiency Cottages equipped for smaller parties of four. And, for anybody seeking to rough it in Hueston Woods, there are 252 campsites fully equipped with electrical outlets and full bathroom amenities close by.

Conclusion.

The park's proximity to the City of Oxford and Miami University allows for residents and students alike to experience the history of the surrounding environment. Open year-round, Hueston Woods is just as rich in wildlife as it is in charm.

Caity Schoenfeld

Caity Schoenfeld is currently pursuing a degree in Professional Writing with a concentration in editing at Miami University. As an intense sweet tooth and recovering sugar-aholic, ice cream is her kryptonite. Caity's ideal getaway is a long-term excursion to Italy where she hopes to consume copious amounts of gelato.

The Miami University Natural Areas' Trails



As you walk through the forested landscape of the Miami University Natural Areas, the light slants through the trees, the creek trickles on, and different members of the wildlife community creep, flit, and scamper by. The wind through the trees combines with other natural voices to create a soundtrack for your hike, and the smell of fresh leaves, water, and earth mix and burn a new fragrance for each second. Moving up and down over the small cliffs, miniature valleys, and shallow creek beds common to Southwestern Ohio, you come to recognize the land in a new way through direct interaction with it, building a familiarity with the environment that encompasses you.

This is just a taste of the experience hiking along the Miami University Natural Areas' trails provides. Spanning over a thousand acres with seventeen miles of hiking trails, the Natural Areas are a public space open to and used by students, Oxford community members, and visitors year-round. The designated Natural Areas property is made up of many smaller areas such as Peffer Woods, Kramer Woods, the Silvoor Biological Sanctuary, the Reinhart Reserve, Bachelor Wildlife and Game Reserve and others. These areas encircle the University's eastern, southeastern, and southern campus, extending east to Four Mile Creek and Oxford-Milford Road. Because of this diversity of space, the Natural Areas are used for a variety of activities, which include hiking, biking, studying, relaxing, exploring, and more.

Hiking Offers a Diverse Experience

Hiking along the Natural Areas' trails is one of the most rewarding experiences available within the Oxford community. The trails' great expanse and variety provides hiking for different skill and experience levels. Moreover, the trails themselves are constantly changing with the natural landscape and reveal themselves anew seasonally, daily, and, perhaps with Ohio weather, even hourly as conditions shift and wildlife, plant life, water, and earth move throughout the space. On a day in early spring, for instance, you might see blooming flowers and rapidly-moving water, as your hiking shoes are swallowed by the muddy terrain. In autumn, your color palette will age to warm and restful October tones; the air, depending on the day, might feel crisper and cooler, and you might be able to walk over the creek bed on protruding rocks. While this natural variance seems self-explanatory, it gives the Natural Areas a distinct advantage and attraction: you will never experience the trails the same way twice.

A Community Connection to Conservation and Nature Appreciation

The Natural Areas foster a great appreciation for the environment through engaging with conservation. First, Miami University uses several sections of the Natural Areas to study wildlife and plant life, and work to protect the local environment. You might encounter these sections as you're hiking, as signs are usually posted informing the community of these studies. Hike-A-Thon, an annual event organized by Natural Areas staff, also provides awareness about the environment and inspires action toward conserving local natural spaces. Usually held in early fall, this event celebrates the trails, inviting the Oxford community to spend a morning outdoors and explore what the Natural Areas have to offer. While encouraging community members to hike, the event also brings together representatives from regional and state parks, local conservation organizations, and other groups who deal with sustainability or engagement with nature.

Notable Spaces on the Natural Areas' Trails

Within the Natural Areas, there are many unique spaces, and it's sometimes better to find them on your own. However, one of the most spectacular features of the Natural Areas is a bird blind that lies near the Natural Areas' horse pasture and DeWitt Cabin. While there are many different varieties of blinds, most consist of a built structure that allows the viewer to observe wildlife undetected. Set aside especially for bird-watching, this blind attracts local birds with several bird feeders and gives observers a covered vantage point from which to view these feathered visitors. Within the bird blind, you can use the species board to identify common Southwestern Ohio bird species. After identifying a certain species, you have the option to record it on a whiteboard at the site. While the bird blind offers an opportunity to appreciate nature, it is also a nice contemplative space to escape and relax.

Another spectacular, and perhaps even more popular, space on the Natural Areas' trails is the cable bridge that runs over Four Mile Creek, connecting the Bachelor Preserve Pine Loop to the Bachelor Preserve East Loop and the Reinhart Preserve. This bridge, constructed from cables and wood planks, allows one to walk high over the creek and move easily between several trails. While it is safely secured, the bridge can prove to be a bit wobbly and sits rather high above the ground, making it a particularly thrilling and adventurous part of most hikes. Apart from this thrill, the bridge also provides a great photo opportunity and a chance to see the natural environment from a new perspective. Additionally, for those reluctant to enter the water or who don't own waterproof hiking boots, the bridge offers a rare and excellent view of the creek from its middle.

Conclusion

After exploring these various spaces, you should roam through different trails, discover new places, and take time to absorb the interesting things around you. As you set out on the trails, you don't need to bring much, but it's good to bring a camera or phone to take photos. It's neat to look back on your hiking experiences and remember the times you've had on the trails. Also, be sure to bring a water bottle, just in case. To help hikers find their way, maps are posted throughout the trail network. However, bringing your own map can be helpful and reassuring; an official map can be found at the Natural Areas website (See Below). Finally, a sturdy pair of hiking shoes will serve you well on the trails, which tend to be muddy, especially as you near the creek. Armed with these few supplies, you should be set to enjoy good times, new spaces, and many adventures on the Miami University Natural Areas' trails.

Shannon Dolley

Shannon Dolley is an English Literature major, with one minor in Art and Architecture History, and another in Classical Humanities. Her favorite dessert is New York style cheesecake, and her dream vacation would be visiting Seattle and the Olympic National Park.

Peffer Park



Dry autumn leaves crunch beneath boot soles on a crisp fall day in Oxford, Ohio. A similar sound can be detected as passersby trek through the snowy winter wonderland just a few months later; in a scene resembling a Hallmark card during the holiday season, children and college students run up the immense hill that lies behind the Alumni Association building for a cheerful day of sled riding. As the months skip by like the school children playing jump rope, it is suddenly springtime; cherry blossoms scatter across the trails like a wedding ceremony. The seasons come full circle, but the town never seems to forget its calming purpose for recreation and retreat.

Little known to many busy commuters driving on State Route 27, a safe haven called Peffer Park lies just mere feet away from hectic lives of stress and schedules and Excel spreadsheets. A place to clear the mind, Peffer Park reminds Miami University students and Oxford residents who walk its woodland trails about the beauty and wonder of the small, close-knit community. A whole new view is to be discovered from the top of that hill behind the Alumni Association building. For Miamians, Peffer Park is probably one of the first and last places to come into view—first as prospective students when driving into the south side of campus, and again as alumni as they relive their glory days of college. A sight for all ages, Peffer Park will always be a symbol of nature at Miami University.

History

Originally obtained in a partial form by the university in 1955, Peffer Park's 80 beautiful acres were fully purchased in 1966. Dedicated by Fred C. Yager—whom Miami's football stadium was named after—the monetary donation was intended to honor the memory of his late nephew, G. Maurice Peffer. Yager wanted a peaceful place for people to enjoy instead of the once deficient farmland. The park still serves as a stark juxtaposition between a high-traffic state route and a tranquil recreation area. In the later years following Yager's donation, William T. Amos '31 and Dorothy R. Amos '36—a Miami Merger—contributed a large amount of money to the dedication of the park; the Amos's also contributed the funds for the Amos Music Library, which is also located on Miami University's Oxford campus.

Oxford's Natural Beauty

One thing that people underestimate is the abundance of natural beauty within Oxford. As a small Ohio town, it better resembles a smudge on the map compared to nearby cosmopolitan cities, Dayton and Cincinnati. However, this is not true. Miami brims with extensive nature: from Hueston Woods State Park, to the approximately 200 species of trees, to the 17 miles of hiking trails surrounding campus. No matter what the time of year, Oxford can be found decked out in all its glory—whether it be the idyllic winter scenery complete with fluffy white snow on hillsides and evergreens, or the pink springtime blossoms, or even the fiery orange leaves in the fall.

Peffer Park Activities

Activities in Peffer Park are split between the seasons: it functions as a cross country course and bike path in the warmer weather, and a cross country skiing retreat in the snowy months. In the wintertime, Oxford becomes a winter wonderland, and Peffer Park becomes even more beautiful: the trees glisten with the freshly fallen snow as if a clean, white blanket was laid upon the already breathtaking view. Miami is steadfast in their traditions. Every year with the first snowfall in Oxford, university students as well as Oxford residents flock to Peffer Park with dining hall cafeteria trays and dorm room mattresses to use as makeshift sleds. It's an honorary Miami tradition that has been upheld for decades.

Nothing is more picturesque than a stroll through the one of the walking trails—like the Silvoor or the Western Woods Trails—at the beautiful Peffer Park. The facilities at Peffer provide plenty of backyard barbeques for student organizations such as Greek Life sororities and fraternities, the running club, and the Men's Glee Club. Many students and Oxford residents can be found taking advantage of the swing set, volleyball court, barbeque pit, pavilion, and picnic tables. Furthermore, Peffer Park simply serves as a safe haven for stressed college students. Peffer Park is also used for the local high school's (Talawanda High School) senior graduation festivities.

Along with the indoor location at the Recreational Sports Center, the Outdoor Pursuit Center has both high- and low-ropes courses at Peffer Park. These facilities provide low-risk but high-reward team bonding activities for on-campus organizations.

Geology Department Involvement

Part of the reason why Miami's education is so successful, especially in the sciences, is because of the hands-on experiences that students receive. Specifically, the Geology Department at Miami is known to take many small, class field trips to Peffer Park to study its abundance of environmental resources. From glacial deposits, to plant life, to Ordovician fossils, many exciting scientific findings can be studied at Peffer Park. According to the Geology Department's findings, Peffer Park contains three geologic units, the oldest of which is the Ordovician bedrock. Marine shale and limestone have been formulating and depositing in the depths of Peffer's glacier deposits for an astounding 450 million years. A main attraction on the field trip is the glacial till in Collins Creek. Sharing the same name as the residence hall on East Quad, Collins Creek is named after notable politician Joel Collins, a superintendent of grounds and college buildings at Miami in the early 1800s. Furthermore, Collins was appointed a seat in the House of Representatives and the Senate for Ohio.

Expanding Students' Horizons

Studying takes up the majority of a diligent college student's time at Miami. However, it is best to get some time away from the classroom for a mental break. One of the biggest struggles that Miami students face in Oxford is the seemingly lack of activities available due to the sheer size of the small town. As a result, many students (over the age of 21) resort to drinking alcohol. In a different article in *The Miami Student* called "What to do (besides drink) on a warm sunny day in Oxford," the staff writer put, "Lounge in a hammock. Sometimes you just need to soak up the sun. Grab two trees—some of the best are around Bachelor Pond or on top of the bluffs at Pepper Park, but on campus works, too—kick back and relax."

Miami's Greek Life can take the form of stereotypical norms as seen in the movies: blondes, parties, plunging necklines, pretentious males, and raging parties. However, one particular sorority sister stood out amongst the crowd of conformists. In an effort to raise awareness for pediatric cancer research, Phi Mu sister Liz Bender shaved her head at Pepper Park in August 2014 while people watched and donated money to the organization, St. Baldrick's Foundation. Another charitable event held at Pepper Park is the *Guate Bonita*, or "Beautiful Guatemala", Club's annual fundraiser for impoverished elementary schools in Guatemala.

Future Plans

Recently Miami's former president, David Hodge, started a new twenty-year reconstruction plan to renovate sections of campus by location. In addition to the campus building renovations in 2015, \$1 million dollars was donated from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to renovate nature trails in Oxford. Now no matter what the season, Oxford inhabitants and Miami students can enjoy the nature even more.

Later in 2016, a donation of \$750,000 was donated to the Oxford area nature trails, including Pepper Park's trails, to create new bike paths. The project is projected to be completed in 2019 and will cost a total of \$1.2 million. Currently, officials are still working on the first stage of planning the park; the architectural plans should be nailed down in the spring of 2017.

Conclusion

Whether it's fall, winter, spring, or summer in Oxford, something's always happening at the peaceful and historic Pepper Park. After a makeover, the park is more beautiful than ever, and is ready to be enjoyed by thousands of Oxford inhabitants and Miami students alike for researching, team bonding, hiking, biking, and sled riding. From donating hair to raising money for Guatemalan school children, Pepper Park has hosted its fair share of philanthropic events. Not only is Pepper Park the perfect spot for Miami students to unwind among the stress of college life, it is a place for Talawanda High School seniors to reflect back on their four years in Oxford before heading off to their own college or future destination.

Kaitlin Pepper

Kaitlin Pepper, a graduating senior of Miami University, studies Creative Writing and Professional Writing with a minor in Spanish. When she is not lifeguarding or swimming at the Rec center pool, she probably has her nose in a fantasy fiction novel or is petting a nearby puppy. Her favorite flavor of ice cream is chocolate peanut butter cup.

The Bluffs



Imagine this: you are a freshman living in Anderson Hall—the very last dorm in the southernmost end of campus. You feel far away from everything: the academic buildings, your friends, and, most importantly, Uptown. However, one particularly warm fall Saturday, you and your roommate decide to ditch the shenanigans of Uptown and wander around your side of campus. On your walk, you happen to stumble across some crumbling stone steps off a back road leading even farther off campus. They lead into a completely overgrown and billowy forest, with a little path at the bottom. A spry sense of adventure overtook you, and you decide to head down into the cluster of trees. Little did you know you had discovered the secret opening to one of Miami’s favorite secret spots.

The Path

Once you find the opening off of Chestnut Street, you will embark down the stone steps and venture across a few flimsy makeshift bridges, before you hit the main dirt path. This path is your new Yellow Brick Road—follow accordingly! There are many twists and turns, but if you stay true to the original path, it will guide you to the Bluffs. You will cross many geological landmarks: stony streams (which are usually flowing with water in the spring and summertime), unusual rock formations, the black cat that perches on one particular vine-ridden cascading wall, and Miami University’s very own Pepper Park—a recreational part of the nature preserve off of Chestnut Street and Patterson Street. After about a half mile of walking into the forest, and once you start walking uphill, you’ll hit a fork in the road. But which path to choose?

The Creek Bed

If you were to veer to the left of this fork, after ducking underneath some branches, you would reach the pebbly bed of Collins Run, which is a creek that is a tributary to the Miami River and then to the Ohio River. Depending on what time of year it is, the creek will most likely be dried up or have very low water levels. However, if the water is still flowing, all you have to do is skip a few steps across to keep going. Following

the creek upstream and passing some of the ancient stream deposits, you will eventually reach the base of The Bluffs. From here, you can set up camp, gaze at the rock formations around you), explore, or climb back up and take the second path for a spectacular view.

If you're feeling adventurous, you can follow the creek downstream. There are little cave-like structures running alongside the opposite side of the Bluffs that lead into more of the forest. This area is grassy and more lush than the Bluffs, so time can be spent here as well.

The View

The view is considered the best reason to make the trek to the Bluffs. Once you reach the fork, veer to the right. This path is the most cleared of branches, but watch out for exposed roots waiting to trip you on the ways up and down. This path is a little treacherous, so be cautious. This is why it is important to wear the proper footwear. Reaching the view at the top makes the potentially dangerous climb worth it. It seems almost unreal that such a view can be found in Oxford, Ohio, when right around the corner the only view you have is the inside of King Library.

Perched on top of The Bluffs, you can see the tops of trees for miles, follow the creek's path beyond, and have a bird's eye view of the streambed below. Be careful, though! Due to erosion, The Bluffs have some sharp drop-offs around the edges. It's a steep fall down onto rocks, so keep a safe distance away from the edge.

Up top, some people bring blankets to sit on and daredevils set up hammocks on the trees inches from the drop-off, while others bring food, music, homework, or simply just sit and enjoy the view. The Bluffs (and the whole nature preserve) are a little vacation from the hustle and bustle of school.

History and Geological Finds

The Bluffs are a geological wonderland due to the countless geological significances found there. Even geology students come here for field trips to examine the different types of rocks, fossils, and deposits. The Bluffs themselves were cut by glaciers thousands of years ago, exposing meters of limestone, shale, and pieces of wood from the Ice Age. According to The Karl E. Limper Geology Museum site, scientists' radiocarbon dating methods have figured out that the wood and rocks in The Bluffs are approximately 24,000 years old, and even older rocks have been found too. Down by the streambed, ancient fossils and rocks can be found from the Ordovician Era, dating back to around 488 million years ago. Of course, because The Bluffs are a part of the nature preserve, there is an abundance of plant life: sycamore trees, cottonwoods, juniper trees, and many different types of oak trees line the path and base of the Bluffs. Once you go farther out, there is a field of prairie grass and other typical Midwest plants.

Conclusion

The Bluffs are a place to go when you need to clear your mind, get away from Oxford for an hour, or just to get your daily dose of nature and adventure. It's a hidden treasure in Oxford that most students don't know about, and is, therefore, the perfect place to escape. You might think Miami is in the middle of cornfields, but just around the corner there is a whole new world to be explored. So, put on your hiking shoes, grab a friend, and perch on top of the world—or at least, the top of Oxford.

Olivia Murphy

Olivia Murphy is a junior Professional Writing major with a double minor in Creative Writing and Marketing. She loves chocolate French silk pie more than anything in the world and dreams of traveling back to Australia after graduation.

Railroads



It starts with a faint bellowing—a distant anticipation—that has you second guessing whether you truly heard it or not. But the sound strengthens as it grows closer, becoming more drawn out and sharper. Your living room table starts to vibrate; you feel a rolling rhythm as something heavy approaches on metal tracks. The sound crescendos. You wince; your window is open. Thunk, thunk, as the train cars pass; the horn grows distant again and soon silence follows. *At least it wasn't at 4am this time.*

If you were a student at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, perhaps you would experience this same occurrence. However, even if you didn't live near the railroad tracks in Oxford, you could still hear the horn's echo throughout the city. Although mostly cargo, several trains go through Oxford every day, following the CSX line: southeast to Hamilton, or northwest to College Corner, a town split by the Indiana-Ohio border. Despite not being as abundant as they used to be, railroads are still an important component of the United States economy, moving goods and people throughout the vast distances the country has to offer.

Railroad Company & Route

CSX, the railroad company formed from the Chessie-Seaboard Merger, ships goods all across the Midwest, the Northeast, and the South of the United States, running about 23,000 miles of track, which covers up to 23 states and even ventures into the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec (“Company Overview”). The corporation transports items such as coal, steel, waste, and food products, partnering with various industries in the area and transporting these goods to ports for further shipment.

The railroad enters Ohio from Indiana via College Corner, chasing Route 27 all the way to Oxford. There, it curves through the city, striking across streets such as S College Avenue, S Main Street and W Chestnut Street, before exiting town. It then follows alongside Route 27 for a while before meandering into Hamilton and then farther down to Cincinnati (“CSX System Map”).

Railroad History

CSX's history, as well as railroad history in general, revolves around mergers. In 1827, the Baltimore

& Ohio Railroad was chartered and became America's first common carrier railroad. Since then, several other railroad companies sprung up and continued to grow in transportation around the United States, which was fueled at times by industry, war, and economic growth.

However, there have been a few hiccups in railroad history along the way, specifically with numerous union strikes (like the infamous Pullman Strike in 1894), as well as several deadly crashes that have cost money and lives. As the mid-1900s approached, railroad usage and profit declined, causing several railroads to begin mergers in order to survive ("History & Evolution"). During World War II, there was a boom in passenger train usage due to tire and gasoline rationing. However, after World War II, the decrease in railroad usage, specifically with passenger trains, was partly attributed to the increase in personal travel via automobile and airplane ("Passenger Trains").

In 1986, CSX was born from the merger of the Chessie System and the Seaboard System Railroad. If you go further back, Chessie and Seaboard's grandparents include the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, the Georgia Railroad, and the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, all swallowed by mergers in the past ("CSX Transportation"). Now the CSX, headquartered in Jacksonville, Florida, operates as a Class I railroad, which means it has an annual operating revenue of \$250 million, maintaining a prominent significance in the economy and transportation industry ("Railroad classes"). It's not just another train passing—it's potentially millions of dollars in goods.

Track Safety

In Oxford, as well as other cities and towns, there isn't an abundance of safeguards against people walking on or along railroad tracks, despite the gravel hill on which the tracks sit, trenches dug on either side, and occasional fencing. Several people in the past, whether intentionally or not, have been struck and killed by incoming trains. Increased risks include walking along the tracks, intoxication, and general unawareness, especially at night. The Federal Railroad Administration keeps up-to-date data on collision incidents all across the United States. In 2015, there were 11,666 incidents/accidents in the U.S. with 763 fatalities, while, in Ohio, there were 312 incidents/accidents with 30 fatalities ("One Year").

For safety, all incoming trains must announce their arrivals with intermediate blasts of their horn as flashing lights and gates alert cars to stop; however, some crossings do not have gates in place. A few universities and cities that have railroad crossings have worked to promote track safety among students and residents. At Western Kentucky University, university police and CSX set up a booth during a Play It Safe event before Homecoming weekend, reminding students to be aware of their surroundings when walking around or crossing railroad tracks. They urged students not to wear earbuds or look at their phones while crossing (Story). Safety is especially important around universities where parties and heavy drinking, which causes impaired judgment, are common.

Future Benefits

In addition to the CSX line, Amtrak trains also pass through Oxford via the Cardinal line, which travels between New York City and Chicago ("Cardinal"). In fact, there have been several pushes to bring an Amtrak station to Oxford, which may better benefit residents, especially students, since plane tickets are always a pricey option for going home or other traveling. However, despite hopeful talks that have spanned several years, the

station proposal has yet to be approved (Shaw).

Since the decline of passenger trains after World War II, there has been some interest in the 21st Century to bring back more passenger transportation via railroads as some hope to offer a network similar to that of Europe, where people could travel efficiently for cheaper, possibly reducing car traffic and even carbon footprints. However, due to the vast American landscape and the popularity of personal automobiles, the passenger railroad dream has yet to reach the same boom it reached in the past.

Conclusion

Despite the past mergers and changing economic landscape, railroads still operate across the United States, including one that runs through Oxford. Many students cross the tracks every day as they walk to class, paying only enough mind to make sure they don't trip on the metal divots smoothed by asphalt, as well to make sure a train isn't approaching. Nevertheless, the horn's bellowing will keep you on your toes as the train glides from destination to destination, transporting goods and people as it has done for the past two centuries.

Lauren Bauman

Lauren Bauman is a Creative Writing major who loves traveling to places that require a passport. Her current dessert craving is pumpkin pie with twice the ratio of whipped cream. Also, she would love to visit London, England again and maybe live there, because it's amazing, but she also hopes to someday visit New Zealand and find a Hobbit hole.

Uptown Park



In the busy “uptown” of Oxford, Ohio, a small park gives residents a break from the crowds. Surrounded by picnic tables and an outdoor stage, Uptown Park is a place to enjoy the downtown while taking a break from the commotion. It’s commonly referred to as Uptown Park but its official name is Oxford Memorial Park. Uptown Park is a central gathering spot for residents of Oxford and Miami students; it plays an important role in the community and is often the setting for various activities and events hosted by the community and the university.

History

Before it was a park, the grassy area in the middle of uptown Oxford was home to the Oxford water tower. The tower was in place from 1922 to 1998, but had to be drained in 1993 because of the poor condition it was in; ultimately, it was removed in 1998. Despite being the source of the town’s water for many years, it was seen as a hazard for college students and their often unpredictable actions. After the city took down the water tower, they decided to make good use of the space and started a 1.9 million dollar project to create what we know today as Uptown Park.

Description

Uptown Park is located on Park Place, where the Main and High Streets intersect. The park has a large square of grass and centers around an outdoor stage. On the sidewalk surrounding the park sit plenty of benches and picnic tables to encourage people to stop and enjoy the scenery. People can grab lunch from a nearby restaurant and eat at the picnic tables while watching kids play in the grassy area, or enjoy a show on the stage. The park’s layout offers numerous possibilities for events and activities that are held there, which truly makes it one of the most recognizable places in Oxford.

Role in the Community

Uptown Park plays a big role in the job of uniting the community. Oxford isn’t just a college town; it’s also home to roughly 3,000 permanent residents. Uptown Park commonly is the setting for sorority and fraternity philanthropy events, charity organization events, and other community events that embrace culture

and bring Oxford together. Each event encourages both Miami students and Oxford residents to participate, uniting the community.

Events at Uptown Park

The Oxford community and Miami University frequently host events in Uptown Park because of its convenient location and layout. The city hosts different cultural festivals to highlight the importance of celebrating different cultures, as well as the occasional petting zoo where people can get up close and personal with the animals.

Uptown Park also becomes the backdrop for many Greek life related activities; sororities and fraternities often use the park for their philanthropy events. It plays an important role in the community because it is a place where everyone can get involved in the events.

Over the summer, Oxford hosts the annual Summer Concert Series at Uptown Park. This family friendly outing encourages guests to bring a picnic dinner and lawn chairs to get comfortable while listening to local bands. The community blocks off the street Park Place so families can feel at ease with their kids running around. To make these nights even more special, they bring in community sponsor booths and even have raffles. There are plenty of things going on in Uptown Park on Thursday nights, proving that Uptown Park is the perfect gathering spot for the Oxford community.

The community also hosts “Stories, Strollers and Nature” in Uptown Park during the summer. This provides a morning activity for children from the ages one to four, with a story time and even a “walk in the park”. This gives young kids an opportunity to feel like Uptown Park events are for them too.

The community hosts an array of other seasonal activities at Uptown Park. Around Halloween they host a Halloween festival, which is geared more towards kids and families, but students are free to participate if they want to stop by and take part in the festivities. At the festival they have a pumpkin carving contest, a dog costume contest, and a Halloween parade. Halloween isn’t the only holiday made special at Uptown Park, as Fourth of July festivities, like the Freedom Fest celebration, draws a crowd with fireworks, inflatable games, raffles, community booths, and a DJ.

From mid-March to late November, Saturday mornings in Uptown Park are all about the Oxford Farmer’s Market. The market gives local vendors an opportunity to sell their produce or homemade products to Oxford residents and Miami students alike. Farmer’s markets are important staples in any community; they are a place where people can gather and sell homemade trinkets or farm fresh produce to people who don’t have access to them regularly.

Conclusion

Uptown Park plays an important role in the community of Oxford as a town gathering spot. It’s consistently the setting of events that seek to bring the town together as residents and students. Whether you have a picnic lunch in the park, stop by the farmer’s market, or enjoy a summer night listening to local bands, Uptown Park is sure to add to your Oxford experience.

Emily Delarm

Emily Delarm is a double major in Strategic Communications and Professional Writing. Her

dream vacation is to visit Thailand because of the pictures and stories she's seen, and her favorite dessert is cheesecake.

Food and Fun in Greater Oxford

Oxford Lanes

Bagel & Deli

La Bodega

Sushi Nara

Oxford is home to a great many fun activities and culinary delights. Though only a few are included here, they represent the best of the best: Oxford Lanes, which welcomes bowlers at any level; Bagel & Deli, with over ninety specialty sandwiches for all of your flavor cravings; La Bodega, a Spanish-inspired deli with its incredible entrées and delectable desserts; and last, but certainly not least, Sushi Nara with authentic Japanese and Korean cuisine served alongside a potential ghost sighting!

Oxford Lanes



A Miami student walks up to the first dotted line, takes one step, then another. He balances on one leg, bends his knee, brings his right arm back, and lets the bowling ball loose down the lane. Like an avalanche, the bowling ball rolls down the lane on course for its intended target—the pocket between the first and third pins. *Striiiiiiiiiiiiike!* The sound a bowling ball makes as it glides down that oiled lane is second only to the sound of all ten pins crashing down at once. What a way to start a game. With a grin from ear to ear the student walks back to his seat and invites the second bowler to begin his game. Multiply that by twelve and you have a typical Friday afternoon at Oxford Lanes. Bowling is something that everyone can enjoy; it's fun, it's cheap, and you can do it just about year-round. Bowling is making a comeback and Oxford Lanes is making sure you can be a part of the ride.

Without doing any research, what do you think is the sport most played by Americans? If you guessed basketball, baseball, or even football, you are incorrect. However, if you guessed bowling, you are right. Bowling is a sport that anyone can do, young or old, and that's what makes bowling so unique. The oldest person to record a perfect score of 300 was over 90 years old, while the youngest ever was only nine years old. According to a recent survey, some 70 million Americans bowled last year with the largest demographic being ages 18 and up. Isn't a college town like Oxford ripe with people over the age of 18 for a large portion of the calendar year?

Welcome to Oxford Lanes

If you are over the age of 18, then here are a few more questions for you. Are you looking for a good time with your friends, but also a place to take the family when they visit? What about a place to take your parents that's away from crowded Uptown, but is still a part of what makes Oxford such a desirable place for students? Well, look no further than Oxford Lanes, Oxford's only bowling alley worth its pins. Oxford Lanes is affordable, family-friendly, and, most of all, welcoming. They make you feel as if you are from Oxford, born and raised, like they have known you their entire lives and you've just returned from a long trip, ready to catch up.

Per their website, Oxford Lanes has been serving Oxford at its current location, just ten minutes away from campus, for over fifty years, since 1963. In fact, the Lanes used to be one of High Street's major attractions before it moved locations. You might even recognize its previous location: Brick Street Bar and Grill. Their current location isn't as close to the campus as their previous location, but it is just a short drive away. The address (4340 Oxford Reily Road) takes you a residential area of Oxford. There are housing communities, apartment complexes, and other homes.

Oxford Lanes Accommodations

Oxford Lanes is fun for everyone, from ages young to old and everywhere in between. The Lanes offers many different accommodations for the wide variety of customers it serves. While school is in session, those customers are mainly students, and the staff is extremely welcoming to those students. For them, it's a great way to wind down after a tough day of classes or celebrate after doing well on an exam. Even better, it's not hard on the wallet either, and you won't find a better-priced brew in all of Oxford.

If you're a casual bowler, then Open Bowling is the place for you. If you're visiting with family and young ones are included, the Lanes is more than willing to accommodate bowlers of any age. It offers bumpers for children who are still learning how to keep the ball from the gutters, and, if you have really little ones who want to participate too, the Lanes has what is called Dragon Ramps to make sure little ones can just roll the ball down the spine of the dragon and onto the bowling lane.

"What about those of us who are more interested in competitive play?" you ask. Well, just like the Dude—the Lanes abides. Welcome to League Play, the best hour of bowling you can find. Imagine fifty of your friends all at one place at the same time, all vying for one thing and one thing only, week in, week out. The prize? Bragging rights. Not some fancy trophy or some t-shirt (though feel free to include those if you so desire), but bragging rights are something that you can never lose, throw away, or even misplace.

Now that you've been bowling for a bit of time and maybe have been drinking some of those finely-priced brews previously mentioned, you start to feel an appetite growing. Luckily, you don't even have to leave the comfort of the Lanes to satisfy that hunger. The Lanes has a kitchen that provides good tasting food at reasonable pace and an even better price. They have burgers, fries, jalapeño poppers, chicken wings, and even chicken Parmesan, to name but a few. The Lanes also has an arcade section, which is great for those who are interested in bowling.

Conclusion

Oxford Lanes is the place to escape the hustle and bustle of Oxford. Whether you are looking for a lazy Sunday to sit and watch football all the while casually bowling away the day, or if you are a more competitive bowler, you can collect some like-minded individuals and start a league. Bowling is something that lasts a lifetime, and can be used in your adult life more than you would think. More and more recent college-graduated members of the workforce are seeking out "trendy" destinations—whether it is a mix of vintage and contemporary elements, or even something their parents would call "nostalgic." If even one of those things interests you, drop down to Oxford Lanes and bowl a few frames. It doesn't matter whether you could bowl a 250 or 65, I guarantee you won't regret the time you spent at the Lanes.

Jake Grace

Jake Grace is in his fourth year at Miami University pursuing a degree in Creative Writing. He enjoys key lime pie and one day hopes to travel to Sri Lanka.

Bagel & Deli



Located on High Street less than a half block away from the Miami University campus, Bagel & Deli is world-renowned for their steamed bagel sandwiches and subs. Whether it's the "Crunch and Munch" or the "Messy Katie," college kids and locals line up out the door to have this Oxford delicacy. Bagel and Deli is one of Oxford's favorite attractions, and has been responsible for awesome food and moods for over 40 years. The magic of Bagel & Deli comes from the actual bagels, which are purchased from Marx's Hot Bagels—a kosher shop located in Blue Ash, Ohio. Any day of the week, you can walk into the shop and order one of these delicious bagels. Now, I know what you're thinking, "steamed bagels? Pass." But, trust me when I say, it's worth it. Even Gary Franks, co-owner of Bagel & Deli, is willing to bet on it.

Bagels, Bagels, Bagels

Bagel & Deli has over 90 creatively-named specialty sandwiches. Each sandwich has a fun name and creative design that is displayed behind the counter, each unique. Some of the bagels offered are known as, "Get Swanked," "The Salty Hor," "Dank and Eggs," "Burt Reynolds," "4:25," "Doyle Rules," "Tonya Harding," and many more. If you're feeling kind of frisky, you can ask to make create your own bagel. They have sandwiches for carnivores and herbivores alike. Customers even have a chance to bring in their own sign with a sandwich that they have created. If it does well, it stays and is put on the wall permanently. Certain bagels have different items on them. For example, "The Crunch and Munch" comes on a combo bagel with turkey, smoked cheddar, lettuce, Doritos, honey mustard, and ranch. A "Messy Katie" comes on a bialy bagel with turkey, cream cheese, colby cheese, lettuce, tomato, spinach, avocado, and honey mustard. Some bagels are very unique such as

“MILF Bagel” which is a bialy bagel, ham, veggie cream cheese, pepper jack cheese, lettuce, tomato, and hot sauce. A “Get Swanked” is a garlic bagel, turkey, meatballs, swiss cheese, colby cheese, salt, pepper, and honey mustard.

Everything they serve is freshly prepared at the shop. Bagel & Deli even makes their own veggie cream cheese, chicken salad, and hummus. Deli meat such as turkey, ham, roast beef, salami, and corned beef are all freshly sliced every day. Bagel & Deli has over fifteen different types of bagels—onion, combo, garlic, pumpernickel, egg, and the mysterious bialy bagel, which is a roll that is baked, not boiled, unlike a regular bagel which is boiled like a bagel, with poppy seeds and onions on it. The restaurant also offers gluten free bagels.!

Bagel & Deli also has a variety of cheeses such as provolone, smoked cheddar, pepper jack, colby, and American. Toppings? They got those too—lettuce, tomato, spinach, onions, banana peppers, sauerkraut, horseradish, you name it. Are you a sauce connoisseur? Bagel and deli has your fix—honey mustard, spicy mustard, mayonnaise, barbeque sauce, ranch dressing, hot sauce, and many more.

The Restaurant

This bagel shop is not like most traditional sandwich shops; it is a bar-style restaurant. Customers step right up to the counter to order. When you order, be prepared and know what you want, and know that the employees will treat you the same way you treat them. Behind the bar, there are twelve bagel god-sent, bagel-making steaming machines. Displayed above and behind the employee are the fun and creative designs that have been created by students and locals.

Bagel and Deli doesn't just sell sandwiches. Need a 24 pack for Saturday afternoon activities? Need a little nicotine to calm the nerves? Don't worry, Bagel & Deli has everything you need to be a regular college kid, though they do ID. They also sell chips and a variety of drinks to quench your thirst.

You can enjoy a bagel at almost any point of the day. Bagel & Deli is open at 8:00 a.m. in the morning and stays open until after the bars close most nights that class is in session. Be warned though, late night in the shop does tend to get a little wild, considering the bar rush. But, man. it is satisfying to have a bagel on your walk home after a long night out with friends.

Conclusion

Even though they don't have a second store, Bagel & Deli has had a couple of copycat stores that have been started by past employees. Each store is unique in its own way, but each has the same staple of steamy goodness. These stores are located all through the country such as the CBA (Chicago Bagel Authority) in Illinois, Boston, and multiple in South Carolina.

Bagel & Deli has also received a few awards and acknowledgements. They are a Yelp favorite, and Buzzfeed has named Bagel & Deli the 3rd Best College Eatery in the nation. For 40 years now, Bagel & Deli has been an one-of-a-kind place. Steamed bagels have forever changed this college town, and have become such an essential part of the Oxford community and a must-stop restaurant. So, next time you're in Oxford, make sure to stop by and get a bagel! Bagel & Deli will surely fill you up and leave you craving your next visit.

Justin Rosenblum

Justin Rosenblum is a Miami Student majoring in Strategic Communication and minoring in Visual Rhetoric. His favorite dessert is skittles, and his dream vacation would be a trip to Switzerland.

La Bodega



“boh-dey-guh”

Bodega (boh-dey-guh), noun: a small grocery store in an urban area. Spanish word with Latin roots—*apothēca* meaning storehouse. It is described as a compact deli with limited seating supplying made-to-order sandwiches in vibrant digs.

In Oxford, Ohio, La Bodega sits on High Street. Sandwiched between the McDonald’s subsidiary, Chipotle, the local incense shop, WildBerry, and Cincinnati-based ice cream store, Graeter’s, the sandwich shop offers students, faculty, and residents alike a delectable bite contradictory to the homogenous chains at one’s disposal on High Street.

The Outside

From the outside, between the hours of 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., the green and purple wood-paneled windows are adorned with scripted neon signs. The yellow, red, blue and green neon lights flaunt words like La Bodega, Culinary Emporium, Delicatessen, Deli, Sandwiches, Entrées, Salads and Pasta. Centered above the windows atop of orange wood, lies in all black caps—LA BODEGA. During the warmer months, outdoor tables and chairs fill the sidewalk out front. The overall exterior of the shop emits a rare, vintage, and colorful look that sets itself apart from the other High Street restaurants and shops.

The Inside

Unlike its exterior, the inside has recently undergone remodeling. Orange walls with grayish-blue wooden panels that lead into bench seats all the way down to the black and white flower-patterned tile floor. Honey-glazed wooden tabletops combined with gray metal chairs are positioned closest to the door. But, looking past the seating, lies the heart of the deli. A white ceramic top sits above more dark wooden shelves that are stuffed with Grippo’s chips—another Cincinnati-born product. Scattered across the ceramic counter

are homemade baked goods, cutlery, a tip jar, and an iPad equipped with a chip reader. Extending down from the register table, two black refrigerating cases sit with silver stripes touching to make an upside-down “L” shape. The funky vibes of the interior embodies everything that La Bodega stands for—to provide a unique and interesting eatery experience for students, faculty, town residents, and visitors.

The Goods

On the Menu

Looking above the two cases, round chalkboard signs on the walls are lit up by old sphere globes. The signs read off the different sandwich entrées—ranging from the quarter-pound Italian meat-stuffed sub and turkey sandwich variations to the hummus-stuffed pitas, clubs, and vegetarian options (salads, combos, and soups). Specials are handwritten onto large pieces of paper and hung above the ordering counter, which happens to be the latter-half of the L shape refrigerator case. The shop also has a soda fountain with generic Coca-Cola offerings, as well as a refrigerator full of a variety of sparkling waters and juices.

Deli-ectable Sides

Inside the cases, there are three different categories: deli sides, entrées, and desserts. Deli sides come in three different sizes—cup, bowl, pint, or, what I like to refer to as, “hungry, hungrier, and hungriest.” Filling these styrofoam containers can be a difficult task as options are plentiful. The selection ranges from fruit salad, Greek deli salad (feta, tomatoes, artichokes and olives...yum), macaroni salad, chicken salad, lemon tahini hummus, kale tabouli, egg salad, Caprese salad, and often times other choices.

Yes Way, Entrées

The shop’s entrée selections can vary. All items are homemade and, when heated, resemble a home-cooked meal, melting in mouths and warming bodies as the food deliciously trickles down throats. Sometimes the selection is vast including lasagna, grilled chicken breasts, spanakopita (a.k.a. that Greek phyllo pastry filled with a spinach and feta core), eggplant parmesan, spicy macaroni and cheese, meatloaf and mashed potatoes, pot pies, pulled pork, quiche of the day and more. Often times the cases showcase new items enticing regulars to deviate from their go-to orders.

Cavity-Craving

For those who aren’t focused on calories, the desserts are sure to leave customers salivating for more. Bodega classics and goodies with seasonal twang are scattered both within the cases and near the register. The summer heat gives way to more desserts inside the case—rice krispies, sugar cookies, fruit-topped bars, and pound cakes. As soon as the leaves begin to change, fall sweet teeth arrive—caramel apple cookies, pumpkin flavor intertwined with anything sweet, wholesome muffins, and carrot cake. The transition into winter calls for heavy amounts of chocolate in all forms—cakes, cookies, muffins, and bars, you name it. Winter hibernation fades and spring arrives, meaning Bodega is weaning off its rich dessert fad and transitioning to lighter, brighter, and usually healthier goods—blueberry muffins, chocolate chip cookies, and fruit pastries. Regardless of the season, Bodega’s cream cannolis are the perfect fairytale ending to a meal, or one could even treat it as an entrée.

If You're Asking Me...

As a frequent Bodega-goer, I have many tips to guide your experience, so here are a few go-to orders that will never leave your taste buds hangry.

The Papa D

Meat connoisseurs and Bodega regulars all love the Papa D. This Italian sub is brimming with a full quarter pound of quality Italian meats (capicola, prosciutto, and hard salami). Inside the French or sourdough cocoon, the sub oozes with melted provolone and fresh pesto. It also includes the more ordinary sandwich toppings—lettuce, tomato, and red onion.

The Dinah

The Dinah is the first sandwich on the menu and my personal go-to. The standard sandwich comes on French bread complete with smoked turkey breast, provolone, basil, mayo, lettuce, tomato, and alfalfa sprouts. It's not like this sammi needs much more to it, but occasionally I swap out the smoked turkey breast for a piece of the grilled chicken breast. **Caution:** *If you decide to swap the turkey for chicken, the sandwich magically converts from "The Dinah" to a "Make Your Own." I learned this the hard way and was reprimanded by one of the too-cool-for-school hipster workers.*

Spicy Mac & Pulled Pork

Spicy Mac can glue any bad day back together. Pair it with a side of pulled pork, and, well, there's a match made in heaven. It's the utopic combo of baked jumbo noodles and spicy cheese sauce, heated and carefully forked into a bite with a 2:1 pulled pork ratio. If an entire meal of gooey mac and pulled pork isn't your style, feel free to get a side of either—small or large.

Hummus n' Stuff

This one goes out to all the vegetarians out there. An innocent open-faced pita is jam-packed with Bodega's house-made hummus—loaded with garlic, lemon, and tahini...swoon. Topped with Greek deli salad, including tomato, artichoke hearts, cucumber, and red onion. Finished off with a drizzle of vinaigrette. Sorry veggies, but I usually add a piece of grilled chicken. **Caution:** *If you are trying to impress someone with your manners, don't order this sammi. Maybe I am a messy eater, but I have yet to figure out a way to eat this without a hummus explosion.*

Zoup

Summer sweat calls for refreshing gazpacho; frigid temperatures are warmed with French onion; roasted pumpkin apple bacon copes autumn rain; and spring awakens in a cup of broccoli cheddar. Daily soup specials at Bodega come in a range of flavors and sizes, making them a delicious quick meal or a handsome escort to a sandwich, salad, or entrée.

Final Remarks

If you didn't already realize, visiting La Bodega is an all sensory experience. From the exterior and interior to the vibes created by the hipster workers, handwritten signs and eccentric sandwich names: Bodega should surely satisfy your growling tummy on a visit to Oxford.

Annie Aldrich

Annie Aldrich is a Strategic Communication and Professional Writing double major expecting to graduate from Miami University in May 2017. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, cooking, photography, browsing SoundCloud, and running. Her dream vacation spot and favorite dessert seems to continually change. However, currently the vacation spot is Alaska and the dessert is coconut cream pie.

Sushi Nara



When hunger strikes and cooking for yourself just doesn't fit the bill, Miami students, faculty, and Oxford residents know where to go: High Street. High Street—the heart of uptown Oxford—is lined with restaurants to satiate your pizza, burger, pasta, and sandwich cravings. While the epicenter of the culinary action hugs the quaint green space known as Uptown Park, just a few blocks farther, tucked away on N. College Avenue, is Sushi Nara. Sushi Nara, commonly referred to as “Nara” by Miami students, is an Oxford favorite for people looking to chat, celebrate, drink a craft cocktail, and sample some Japanese and Korean cuisine.

Sushi Nara opened its doors in 2009 when current owner Steve Jung bought the former bed and breakfast. As the owner of two other sushi restaurants, Jung is no stranger to the restaurant business. Co-owner and manager, Steve Jung, purchased Sushi Nara's property with the intention of bringing good sushi and Japanese food to the student demographic in Oxford, Ohio. He and his two business partners had experience working in sushi restaurants previously and decided that quality sushi was what was missing in Oxford.

“My business partner had traveled around and realized that this demographic wasn't much different than demographics we've served at other restaurants,” Jung said. “At the time there was only one other sushi restaurant in Oxford and it was terrible. Our sushi recipes come from other restaurants we've worked with. Our goal is to provide for students who want good food for not so expensive. The quality of the food is the same as you'd get in Cincinnati.”

The Space

While Sushi Nara might not be the only sushi place in town (yet noted by many as the best in town),

what separates it from the twenty or so other restaurants in Oxford is apparent before setting foot into the restaurant: it's homey, literally. As you approach the front of the pale-yellow house, you'll notice an iron gate, a spacious front porch with a shingled awning, and eight spacious windows with green shutters—qualities that will inevitably make you question whether or not the restaurant sign was fake and you're about to walk into a large family's abode.

Rest assured, upon passing the threshold, you'll conclude that yes, this could be a living space, and, no, it is definitely a restaurant. If you can see past the crowds of anxious patrons that often clog the foyer on certain evenings, you'll be greeted by hostesses waiting to greet you at the stand tucked under the staircase next to a hallway. Should you sit downstairs, the hostesses will likely take you to a red or yellow room, both with fireplaces, or the sushi bar, where you can witness the dexterity of the sushi chefs first hand. If you're feeling like an al fresco dining experience, Sushi Nara also offers a patio on the first floor.

However, should you sit upstairs, you'll trek up the wooden staircase and enter one of two dining rooms. The upstairs rooms are more common for large parties, which often take up five or six tables in either room, or, the crowd favorite: the bean table. And if it's a boozy evening you're looking for, head straight to the second floor bar, where you'll be able to relax and drink to your heart's content. With that said, depending on the night, it can often get very loud and rambunctious.

The Food

Inherent in its name, Sushi Nara boasts some of the most highly-acclaimed sushi in Oxford. The menu has a list of sixteen regular sushi rolls with beginner basics such as the California Roll or Spicy Crab Roll. These rolls range from \$6-\$7.50 but are marked down half-price Sunday through Tuesday. However, for the more adventurous patrons, there is an entire list of Special and Premium rolls (ranging from \$8-\$15) that contain intriguing combinations of seafood, sauces, and some—perhaps—unfamiliar ingredients such as Masago (capelin eggs).

Too many choices? No problem. The friendly waitstaff come equipped with crowd favorites and personal recommendations. Server Megan Knuckles said she recommends the Nara Supreme Roll (tempura shrimp, spicy crab, sliced avocado, eel sauce, spicy mayo, and tempura flakes) and the Sunday Morning Roll (deep fried salmon and cream cheese, topped with eel sauce and spicy mayo) to those looking to graduate from the regular rolls. However, she likes to recommend the Godzilla Roll (spicy tuna, tempura shrimp, avocado, cucumber, crab, and hot momma—a spicy mixture of fish, pepper, and onion—on top), “because it has a little bit of everything.”

If sushi isn't your thing, Sushi Nara still has plenty of options with a variety of entrées and several appetizers, ranging from familiar items, such as Teriyaki Skewers, to international dishes, such as Bul Go Gi (a traditional Korean dish of tender thinly sliced beef marinated with authentic Korean barbeque sauce). Also, after a quick staff poll, the Rock Salt Chicken comes out on top as the crowd favorite. Why? As one diner puts it, Rock Salt Chicken is “like chicken fingers on steroids.”

The Bar Menu

Sushi Nara provides an unique craft cocktail and martini selection. Martinis range from a traditional Cosmopolitan to some originals, such as the Raspberry Saketini (Raspberry Smirnoff Vodka, sake, Razzmattaz,

and cranberry juice). Sake, Japanese rice wine, is a staple in the Nara bar menu. “We added sake to many of our cocktails to add our own flair,” said Jung. He also mentions the Green Tea cocktail (vodka, rum gin, tequila, Midori and Sprite), which is their original take on the Long Island Iced Tea.

A typical Nara experience wouldn’t be complete without hearing a loud “SAKE SAKE SAKE BOMB,” followed by fists banging on the table, and the cheers of competition as people race to finish their sake bomb. Sake bombs are a Sushi Nara original. While Jung says it was his business partner’s idea, it is something you can’t find anywhere else in Oxford. A spin on the Irish Car Bomb, a Sake Bomb consists of a half glass of Sapporo (a Japanese beer) and a shot of sake, balanced over the glass by chopsticks. Then it’s a race to the finish as guests say the mantra and chug their drink. The spectacle is particularly common on Friday nights, “Bomb Night,” where a sake bomb costs only \$3.

Aside from cocktails and martinis, the bar menu includes a shot list, a draft and bottled beer list (including some area breweries), a wine list, and options for flavored hot and cold sake.

The Atmosphere

If you were to ask an employee about Sushi Nara’s atmosphere, they would probably respond by asking what day it is. While many Uptown establishments have either a dining crowd or a bar crowd, Nara’s daily food and drink deals tend to influence the atmosphere, from crowded and rowdy to quiet and intimate. On Sunday through Tuesday from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m., the restaurant is usually packed with people dining in, taking out, and taking advantage of the half-price regular rolls. Tuesday and Thursday tend to be busier later in the evening as it is common for partiers to start their night—whether it be with dinner and drinks or just drinks—at Sushi Nara with two-dollar double-well drinks before heading to the other bars or parties. In general, Sushi Nara tends to be a “pregame” crowd of upperclassmen looking to relax, chat, and prepare (with copious amounts of food and beverage) for a night Uptown. While the restaurant can get busy from 7:00 p.m. until the kitchen closes, a visit to the upstairs bar can be a quiet relaxing experience before 8:00 p.m., and then a madhouse by 8:30 p.m. However, come 11:00 p.m., the flow of people subsides to a trickle as people leave for the clubs and bars.

The Ghosts

If not already apparent from the Federal-style architecture and the creaky staircase, 22 N. College Avenue is a building with rich history—so much so that, according to the building’s records, it was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1987. The building was built in 1869 as a private residence for J.M. Shera. In the twentieth century, it was called the Alexander House and served as a bed and breakfast. Jung said when he bought the building it was a steakhouse with a similar layout to that of Nara’s.

What would a historical sight be without a ghost? For those who dare, ask some of the Sushi Nara employees or longtime Oxford residents about the little girl who plays tricks when she sees fit. Maybe you’ll even get to see her yourself.

“I definitely think it’s haunted,” Jung said. “I have not had any personal experiences, but I have heard stories from my employees. One time a bartender was closing the restaurant around 1:00 a.m. and he heard a loud scream. He called me and we checked the camera tapes, and the tapes went white around that time.” Former manager Jason Lockard explained that the little girl was allegedly the daughter of the man that first

owned the property and died of illness. “I think it’s a cute little girl. Loves to play tricks. One time I was getting ice from the machine in the basement and I felt a little hand wrap around my pinky. I turned around and no one was there, but I heard giggling coming from another corner of the basement.”

However, sometimes the little girl likes to play tricks that aren’t so nice. Server Megan Knuckles said that one time she was locked in the freezer, yet the door is specifically designed not to shut on its own. “It was terrifying,” Knuckles said. “It was loud in the freezer so I couldn’t hear footsteps or anything, but when I asked all of the employees if they did it, they were very serious that they didn’t do it. Thankfully, one of the chefs came out and got me out of there.” Staff could not confirm whether or not the ghost has had any interactions with customers.

Whether you believe in the ghosts or not, Sushi Nara has character and charm that will tantalize your taste buds and your imagination.

Conclusion

Also, whether you love sushi, are looking to expand your horizons, are wanting to have a good time with friends, or are just looking to satisfy your inner ghost hunter, Sushi Nara has something for everyone. “We give people—students, families, and parents—good sushi in an interesting, historic building and in a modern and exciting atmosphere,” Steve Jung said. “You see concepts like this in Chicago, New York, and other cities—Sushi Nara brings it to Oxford.”

Kellie Coppola

Kellie Coppola is a double major in International Studies and Professional Writing. Her favorite dessert is a hot fudge brownie sundae, and she’d love to visit Lisbon, Portugal again.

A Fond Farewell

Miami University and the town of Oxford have many more hidden gems than are immediately visible to the untrained eye. For whatever reason you have picked up the *Tour de Oxford*—perhaps you are considering a visit, or maybe you wish to pursue a degree from Ohio’s public Ivy, or (in a surprising twist) you live here already—rest assured that the contents of this book are authentic. Use this book to navigate your way into some of the best places to walk around, study, or eat in the area—or leave these pages, and seek out a new path through Oxford.

Hopefully, *Tour de Oxford* has granted you more information, a new perspective, and maybe even a way to pass the time. We bid you a fond farewell.

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