

# PROFILES

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## Building Hope: Students and Staff Lend a Hand with Habitat for Humanity

Twenty students from The Ohio State University at Newark spent their spring break rebuilding homes with this year's Habitat for Humanity Collegiate Challenge. The group spent the week of March 18 – 24 based at Camp Hope, a volunteer camp in Violet, Louisiana, with approximately 1,000 other college students from around the country. Violet is located southeast of New Orleans, in St. Bernard Parish, an area that sustained critical damage during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Collegiate Challenge is a year-round program that allows students to spend a week of their break working with a Habitat for Humanity affiliate in the United States. Accompanying the students were Derek Thatcher, Student Activities Director; Dr. Catherine Gynn, Chief Information Officer; and Granville resident Jack Gynn.

"We slept in a gutted elementary school — 30 people to a room," said Thatcher. "But the students worked hard, never complained, and took pride in the work they were doing," he said. "I'm extremely proud of them." This is the fifth year that Ohio State Newark has participated in the Collegiate Challenge.

"This experience helped me figure out what I want to do with my life and who I want to be," said Heather Matthews, an Ohio State Newark student from Dayton.

"It's unbelievable that 18 months after the hurricanes, there is still so much work to do on the Gulf Coast," said Catherine Gynn. "I am especially proud of our students for their true desire to help others and their positive attitudes when facing such disheartening and difficult circumstances."

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian organization dedicated to eliminating poverty housing worldwide. Founded in 1976, Habitat has built more than 225,000 houses around the world.



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# A Message from the Dean and Director



## Education for Citizenship

This issue of Profiles includes illustrations of students and members of the faculty and staff of The Ohio State University at Newark who are living up to The Ohio State University motto, *Disciplina in Civitatem* (Education for Citizenship). This motto flows directly from Ohio State's overall mission, which is to advance the well-being of the people of Ohio and the global community through the creation and dissemination of knowledge. We expect students to uphold the university's motto after leaving Ohio State, but many students show their commitment to the spirit of human service while they are still on campus.

*Acting on their knowledge of the distribution of poverty and misfortune in the United States, some members of the Ohio State Newark campus community have sought opportunities through external organizations such as Habitat for Humanity to acquire new skills and make a difference in the lives of fellow Americans. Others, acting on knowledge of world systems and economic development, have made a difference in the lives of fellow humans by studying abroad through our Service Learning program.*

Others, like Rosanna Vacarro, who won a Denman award for research she has conducted at Ohio State Newark, and future students aided by the generous gift from Ohio State Newark Board Chair Jerry Besanceney, will carry on the tradition of using our knowledge to serve the citizenry after they complete their education at Ohio State. Following in the footsteps of successful graduates like

Darci Rine, and guided by faculty following examples set by retiring full professors Howard Federspiel, Sara Staats, and Joe Tebben, they will use their knowledge to advance humanity's well-being.

To the people whose accomplishments we feature in this issue, I offer my congratulations. Your work has sustained the university's mission. To prospective and current students pondering the challenge of enhancing human welfare, I offer my encouragement. We are counting on you!

*William L. MacDonald*

William L. MacDonald, Ph.D., Dean and Director

Ohio State Newark

Call for Memories

Celebrating 50 Years!



First classes were held at the Old Newark High School.

The Ohio State University at Newark will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in the 2007-2008 academic year. As part of our celebration, the university is calling on all alumni, former faculty and staff to share your memories of Ohio State Newark.

Were you a member of student government? Did a faculty member have a significant impact on your life? Perhaps you attended classes in the old Newark High School building, before the current campus was built? Do you have photos that you would be willing to share?

Through the years, Ohio State Newark has grown and changed significantly, yet its wide-ranging impact has continued to affect lives. At this significant

milestone in the history of the campus, share your memories of Ohio State Newark. Call or email Laura Walsh at 740-364-9514 or [lwalsh@cotc.edu](mailto:lwalsh@cotc.edu).

## New Endowed Fund Created

Colonel Girard E. Besanceney, Chairman of the Board of Trustees at The Ohio State University at Newark, has generously committed to support a new unrestricted endowed fund at the university. The Colonel Girard E. Besanceney Endowed Fund will be used at the discretion of the dean of The Ohio State University at Newark, with the specific intent that the endowment will fund scholarships for students who have a military affiliation. Through his ongoing commitment, vision, and support, Colonel Besanceney continues to further the mission of The Ohio State University at Newark.



Colonel Girard E. Besanceney,  
Chairman of the Board of  
Trustees at Ohio State Newark

## Educator of the Year

Sara Staats, Ph.D., long-time professor of psychology at The Ohio State University at Newark, was presented with the Educator of the Year award at the annual Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education (OAGE) conference, held on April 13 at the Reese Center on the Ohio State Newark campus. Much of Dr. Staats' research is associated with an interest in well-being. She began her research into hope at Ohio State Newark in the late 70s, finding that there are techniques that can be used to increase hope and happiness. Her other research interests involve older women, the human-animal bond, creativity and emotion. In addition to special topics in psychology, she has also taught introductory and research courses. Staats will retire from Ohio State Newark this year.

## Ohio State Jazz Ensemble Performs in Newark

The widely celebrated Ohio State University Jazz Ensemble performed a free concert open to the public on Friday, May 18 in the Reese Center Auditorium on the campus of The Ohio State University at Newark and Central Ohio Technical College. This was an exciting and rare opportunity for the community to attend a performance by this outstanding ensemble based on the Columbus campus.

The Jazz Ensemble has performed throughout the United States and has received major awards at the prestigious Notre Dame Jazz Festival, Elmhurst Jazz Festival (Chicago), and Tri-C Jazz Festival (Cleveland). In addition, international travel has taken the Jazz Ensemble to a stunning list of the world's most renowned international jazz festivals. Dr. Ted McDaniel, Professor of African American Music at The Ohio State University Columbus campus since 1981, has directed the Ohio State Jazz Ensemble since 1989.

The free concert concluded the three-part "[Spring into Diversity](#)" series sponsored by the Diversity Committee of The Ohio State University at Newark and Central Ohio Technical College. The series began with a May 3 lecture by Case Western Reserve University's Daniel Goldmark, Ph.D., who spoke on "Musical Others", followed by a May 10 lecture on respecting diverse belief systems presented by Beverly Greene, Ph.D., a professor of psychology at St. John's University in Jamaica, NY.



The Ohio State University Jazz Ensemble visited Newark for a memorable concert in May.

## Service Learning in Nicaragua

Thirteen Ohio State University at Newark and OSU Columbus students together with three Ohio State Newark faculty members traveled to Papaturo, Nicaragua in December. The participants in the Service Learning Program made the 17-day journey in order to collaborate with residents on a people-to-people development project.

The students constructed a third classroom for a rural school. The classroom will serve a growing number of secondary school students in the isolated communities scattered throughout the Rio San Juan Biosphere Reserve. The service project allowed students to put into practice theory they studied in a course on environmental conservation and development in the third world co-taught by Professors Katherine Borland of the Comparative Studies Department and Karen Goodell of the Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology Department.

The Newark Campus Nicaragua Service Learning Project, now in its fifth year, was the first of its kind at Ohio State University. Christened "Extreme Study Abroad" by students in the 2006 group, the experience exposed students to everyday life in a place with few modern conveniences and required creative problem solving, ingenuity, patience and physical endurance to complete the 17-day project.

Dr. Goodell remarked "This trip provided an excellent first-hand view of the conflicts and convergence of economic development and conservation in a precious tropical rainforest. It is the kind of learning experience that cannot be recreated in the classroom. We are extremely proud of our students."



Ohio State Newark students Savannah Goodson and Kristen Riley help build a classroom in rural Nicaragua.

## Four Faculty Members Retire

Four Ohio State Newark faculty members have announced their plans for retirement: Albert A. Herzog, Jr., Ph.D., Howard M. Federspiel, Ph.D., Sara Staats, Ph.D., and Joe Tebben, Ph.D.

**Dr. Albert Herzog, Jr.** is a full-time lecturer in the department of sociology. He has taught various topics in sociology, including introductory and honors courses, as well as courses on social problems and the sociology of religion and contemporary world societies. He earned his Ph.D. from The Ohio State University.

**Dr. Howard Federspiel** is a professor of political science specializing in Islamic studies, with a particular interest in Southeast Asia. He earned his Ph.D. from McGill University in Montreal, Canada. Dr. Federspiel first came to Ohio State Newark as acting dean and director in 1979.

**Dr. Sara Staats**, professor of psychology, was coordinator of the psychology programs at Ohio State Newark for several years, and has a continuing interest in program development in the service of students, faculty and the discipline of psychology.

Professor of Classics **Dr. Joseph R. Tebben** received his Ph.D. from The Ohio State University. He holds a particular interest in Homeric Hymns, and has authored several books and many articles on the subject. He was the recipient of the Robert A. Barnes Award for Exemplary Teaching in 2005.

Commenting on the strengths of Ohio State Newark, Dr. Federspiel noted, "Ohio State Newark has been able to retain the quality education that allows the student and the instructor to have a close and meaningful academic relationship in an age when quality is all too often given way to quantity."

## History Conference

The tenth annual Ohio State Newark Academy of History (AoH) Conference was held in the campus's Hopewell Hall on Saturday, April 21. During the event, thirty-one students presented papers, which were sponsored by history department faculty members. A few of the diverse topics presented this year include the Reformation in Scotland, the Battle of Midway, and the Iranian Revolution.

In addition, the conference is also a gathering for all historical and genealogical societies within Licking County. Featuring several guest speakers as well as exhibition tables, the increasingly popular conference brings to campus many local historians from throughout Licking County.

History is one of five degree programs that may be completed at The Ohio State University at Newark, as well as: Early/Middle Childhood Education (B.S.Ed.), General Business (B.S.B.A.), English (B.A.), History (B.A.), and Psychology (B.A. or B.S.).

## Be a Buckeye Brainiac...

- The Newark Campus Child Development Center provides quality child care that is open to the public; their services are not limited to the campus community.
- The annual Student Research Forum was held at Ohio State Newark in March, with 16 students presenting and four awards received.
- New applications for fall 2007 enrollment at Ohio State Newark increased this year by 95% over 2006.
- Students attending Ohio State Newark come from 71 of Ohio's 88 counties.\*
- Thirty-six percent of the student population at Ohio State Newark is over the age of 21.\*
- The diverse student population at Ohio State Newark represents 26 countries.\*
- Ohio State Newark anticipates a headcount of close to 2500 students for the fall 2007 quarter.

\*Compiled from 2006 statistics.

## Distinguished Faculty

"Dr. Viscarri has shaped his teaching style with humor, demonstration, and structure in order to make enormous amounts of information understandable without omitting the details," stated Anna Hagley, Ohio State Newark student. "I always look forward to his classes because I gain so much knowledge and have fun at the same time."

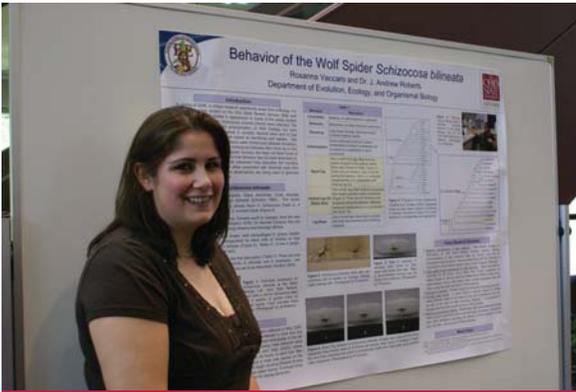
Dionisio Viscarri, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Program Coordinator, Spanish and Portuguese program at Ohio State Newark, started at the campus in fall of 1998. Since then, he has been actively developing as a scholar and as a professor, and has demonstrated his commitment to superior teaching. At Ohio State Newark, Dr. Viscarri has received a number of awards and honors, including: the OSU Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching and the OSU Newark Teaching Excellence Award, both in 2006; the OSU Newark Scholarship Achievement Award, in 2000 and 2005, the Robert A. Barnes Exemplary Teaching Award, 2000-01; and, the Thomas J. Evans Teaching Excellence Award, 2000-01.

His affection for the Ohio State Newark campus is very clear. "At Ohio State Newark, we combine the enchantment of a liberal arts college with the intellectual depth of a respected research institution," Dr. Viscarri stated. "The wonderful thing about my position is that I am given the opportunity and have the supporting resources available to aggressively pursue my research objectives as well as to master new techniques and methodologies in the classroom. That is not the case at every institution."



Dionisio Viscarri, Ph.D., was one of 10 Ohio State faculty members to receive the Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award.

# Student Honored with Denman Award



Rosanna Vacarro Wins Denman Undergraduate Research Forum Award Winner.

Rosanna Vacarro, Ohio State Newark Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology major, was recently awarded a prestigious Denman award from The Ohio State University. The Denman Undergraduate Research Forum was created in 1996 and is a cooperative effort of Ohio State University's Honors & Scholars Center, Office of Undergraduate Research, Office of Research, and Office of University Development. The 12th Annual Denman Undergraduate Research Forum took place on May 16, 2007, in French Field House, with 354 students participating in 318 projects. Students were judged three times by faculty and corporate judges, with 44 awards given.

Vacarro, a Pataskala resident, is a 2004 graduate of Watkins Memorial High School. She plans to graduate from Ohio State University in spring 2008.

Vacarro's research project, "Behavior of *Schizocosa bilineata*," commonly known as the wolf spider, was supervised by Newark faculty member Andrew Roberts, Ph.D. The wolf spider is quite a rare specimen, according to Vacarro, and her work is the only research she is aware of on the topic.

"Being at Ohio State Newark gave me the opportunity as an undergraduate to study and work one-on-one with my research adviser," said Vacarro. "I wanted to live at home, and attending Ohio State Newark has been great. It has definitely been a great experience."

# Newark the Right Fit for Grad

Growing up in Walhonding, Ohio, a tiny community in rural Knox County, Darci Rine knew that she wanted to attend a college with a small, intimate campus. A place where she would feel comfortable; a campus that was inviting and personal.

She chose The Ohio State University at Newark.

"This campus helped me so much - to build my confidence and help me prepare for my future career," said Rine.

She completed her entire degree at Ohio State Newark, even living on campus in the residence hall for one year. She graduated in spring 2005 with a B.A. in psychology.

Immediately after graduation, Rine enrolled in a graduate program at the Columbus campus, where she is completing a master's degree in occupational therapy. Her goal is to become a licensed occupational therapist.

"I only took seven days off between my programs," Rine adds with a smile. "So I'm pretty motivated about my education."

While continuing her studies, Rine has worked at Licking Memorial Hospital as an occupational and physical therapy technician.

"I can't say enough good things about Ohio State Newark," add Rine. "I loved my time there. I found the campus environment manageable, and the faculty members are incredible. It was a terrific place for me."



Darci Rine completed her B.A. at The Ohio State University at Newark.

# Ohio State Newark at a Glance

## Ohio State Newark



Fourth grade students from Newark's William E. Miller Elementary join Jim Kingery in a campus tree dedication to honor his father, Ohio State Newark professor Gordon Kingery.



The Ohio State Newark Afropop Ensemble performs its signature lively dance music.

## Ohio State Newark

## Ohio State Newark



Graduation Recognition Ceremony at Ohio State Newark.



Incoming freshman and parents meet with OSU Newark advising staff at Jump Start 2007.

## Ohio State Newark

## Ohio State Newark



Student research forum winners 2007.



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## Convocation 2007

The Ohio State University at Newark  
Proudly Presents  
**Convocation 2007**  
Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2007  
Reese Center Auditorium, 11:00 a.m.  
**Featuring – Michael Medved**

Nationally syndicated radio host, best-selling author and veteran film critic

Welcoming new students to campus - Open to the Public

## Local Artists' Work Showcased

The LeFevre Gallery at The Ohio State University at Newark will host the Licking County Arts (LCA) annual juried art show from June 18 – July 27, 2007.

The annual juried show allows artists to compete for cash awards and is open to beginning and professional artists. The juror for the show is Jack Richardson, Ph.D., professor of art education at Ohio State Newark. Richardson will select approximately 40 – 45 out of 150 submitted works of art for inclusion in the show.

Active in Licking County since the 1960s, LCA welcomes artists working in all mediums and encourages them to develop their individual style. Members' artwork is diverse, including sculpture, painting, glass, photography, printmaking, drawing and contemporary fiber arts. There are approximately 225 members, ranging in age from seven to 96.

The gallery hours are:

Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; closed on Sunday.