Letter from the Dean / Director

The John L. & Christine Warner Library & Student Center

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Distinguished Professors

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The mission of The Ohio State University is to advance the well-being of the people of Ohio and the global community through the creation and dissemination of knowledge. In helping the university fulfill its mission, the Newark campus serves as a point of access to the university for students who are place-bound or who desire a personal environment. We provide such access by extending courses that allow students to prepare for future coursework at the Columbus campus or to complete university programs that align with community, regional, or state needs.

The inaugural issue of *Transitioning Toward the Future* heralds a new vision for The Ohio State University at Newark. About a year ago, retreats involving members of the faculty, senior staff, and the Newark Board of Trustees led to the development of a new strategic plan for the campus, a plan that is nearly ready for adoption. Our new vision, which ties us more closely to the university’s Academic Plan as well as to Ohio’s economic and educational goals, is to improve Ohio’s future by genuinely extending the Ohio State experience beyond the Columbus campus to the greatest number of Ohioans as possible. Thus, we are looking not only toward the future of our students and our campus but also toward the future of Ohio.

To fulfill our vision, we are taking bold steps to develop our campus to its full potential, to broaden the learning opportunities we offer our students, to support research that contributes to the world-class reputation of Ohio State, and to reach out to the communities of Ohio. The content of this publication shows what we’ve accomplished over the past year, and reflects our core values:

- The highest standards of teaching, scholarship and service
- Commitment to learning and open inquiry
- The generosity of local benefactors who have made the development of the campus and the education of local citizens a high community priority
- The collaborative relationship we have built with Central Ohio Technical College and other external constituencies
- The cultural richness of a diverse campus community

I hope that in illustrating our progress over the past year, we have revealed our promise. I invite you to visit us, to affirm your membership in the campus community, and to join us as we look toward the future.

Sincerely,

William L. MacDonald
Dean and Director
The John L. and Christine Warner Library and Student Center

The footprint of The John L. and Christine Warner Library and Student Center will soon be recognizable as ground work on the site is under way. Clearing earth for the building pad began in October along with the construction of the underground utilities. Work on the structure of the building is scheduled to begin in November with an anticipated completion date in spring 2008.

When the doors to the new building open, it is anticipated that not only will the face of the campus change but so will its feel. Structurally and symbolically this 81,000 square foot building will be the union of information access and the information generation. The facility will feature an ever-changing array of print and digital resources for teaching, learning and research, making it the intellectual crossroads of the campus.

"The new library will embrace the dramatic advancements in information technology that are transforming traditional libraries into twenty-first century facilities," commented Dr. William MacDonald. The OSU library system is ranked among the top 20 national universities libraries. The existing Newark campus library is extremely small and is the only one of the four Ohio State regional campus libraries that has not been recently upgraded.

The new student center will feature a modern food court, student affairs offices, student organizational space, a learning commons, various lounge and activity areas and a new bookstore. Through volunteerism and student employment, the center will offer first-hand experiences in citizenship and educate students in leadership development, social responsibility, multiculturalism and values. John Berry, Director of Student Affairs at Ohio State Newark, stated, "It is our hope that the center will foster a sense of community that will cultivate enduring loyalty to the university."

The building was made possible through the foresight and generosity of its namesakes — John L. and Christine Warner, who are credited with the unique concept of combining the library and student center into one facility. The Warners' generous donation consists of a $4.5 million lead gift, followed by the establishment of three charitable remainder trusts of varying amounts and years.

It is through the vision of Mr. Warner and the Warner family's magnanimous gift that the educational experience of students for years to come will be enhanced by The John L. and Christine Warner Library and Student Center.
Graduate Follows His Own Path

After getting his start at Newark, David Cosmar graduated from The Ohio State University at Newark with a bachelor’s degree, magna cum laude with distinction, in psychology.

The former research assistant at The Ohio State University College of Medicine finds excitement in surprising research results, and in working with great people. His decision to attend The State University of New York (SUNY) in Binghamton might surprise some, but he has no regrets. “The lure of the Ivy League was strong, but at the end of the day it mattered more to take the path that would lead me to where I wanted to be,” Cosmar stated.

David applied to graduate programs which offered various options; his research interests include HIV/AIDS, Cancer, and Substance Abuse. “It was a last minute decision, and honestly, I think most people who apply (to Yale) do so as a long shot,” he said. SUNY Binghamton has one of the top behavioral therapy programs in the country, great internships and an emphasis on a scientific approach to psychology, according to David.

“My final decision was to attend the Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program at SUNY Binghamton, where I will focus on substance abuse issues,” he said, adding, “I received a five-year scholarship and a nice stipend. I had great relationships with professors there before applying and the grad students were cooperative and lively.”

David took advantage of everything Ohio State Newark has to offer. “There are great people there who want you to succeed and will help if you apply yourself,” he stated. “The psychology lab was my home (sometimes literally) and it was a major reason for my acceptance into grad schools.” He also found the writing lab very useful. “For my budding career, there was probably nothing better than learning research in the psych lab and developing writing skills that gave me the power to communicate clearly and effectively. It’s amazing what you can accomplish with well-written and carefully chosen words.”

In his recent position at the OSU College of Medicine, David has worked in collaboration with Brown University on a skin cancer triage study on a National Cancer Institute grant. “At SUNY, my tentative plan is to obtain my Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and to then, a position in academia, while exercising options for clinical practice and research at varying times in my career,” Cosmar said. He may also consider supervision, consultation and/or pursuing another degree in public health.

Cosmar has had many interesting challenges during his research studies, including working closely with different personalities. “In any case, it’s a great experience because that’s part of the reality of dealing with people in general—you have to learn to adjust and compromise or you won’t make it in research or in the world, for that matter,” stated Cosmar, adding, “Newark was part and parcel to my discovery that life is a problem-solving exercise.”
Distinguished Professors Make the Difference

“When a student walks into my office and doesn’t understand something, I explain it to them…You can see it in their eyes when they get it. Then, on the test, they answer the questions perfectly and you know you made a difference.” – Bruce Mainland, Professor of Physics at Ohio State Newark

Dr. Bruce Mainland is one of many exemplary teachers at Ohio State Newark, and to whom research is very important. He said that the thought of doing something that hasn’t been done has helped him to persevere and to become a better professor. “Students need to know how exciting (research) can be and I hope to motivate them to become interested in research and problem-solving,” Dr. Mainland stated.

In March of 2005, Bruce was one of two professors at Ohio State Newark to be honored with the 2005 Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching, by The Ohio State University. He joined his colleague, Dr. Mitchell Lerner, Associate Professor of History, in receiving that honor.

“I am thrilled that Bruce and Mitch have received this Alumni Award. They are both exceptional faculty members who are, by all indications, superb teachers,” stated OSUN Dean/Director Bill MacDonald. “Bruce’s uniform spread of significant accomplishments across all areas of his job is simply amazing. He has excelled as a teacher, a scholar, and acitizen of the University,” Dr. MacDonald added. “Mitch Lerner was the Mary Ball Washington Chair in American History in 2005. His strong teaching performance was a factor in his selection for this honor,” stated Dr. MacDonald.

The Alumni Award honors Ohio State University faculty members for superior teaching. The recipients are nominated by present and former students and colleagues, and they are inducted into the university’s Academy of Teaching, which provides leadership for the improvement at Ohio State.

Dioni Viscarri, Associate Professor of Spanish and Coordinator of the Spanish and Portuguese Program, joined this distinctive group in spring of 2006, when he was honored with the 2006 Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching. “Professor Viscarri was chosen from more than a thousand nominations, as one of only ten Ohio State faculty who will receive this honor this year,” stated Dr. Michael Sherman, Vice Provost for Academic Administration for The Ohio State University, who led the surprise announcement.

One of Dr. Viscarri’s former students stated this in her nomination: “Although it was much more difficult to obtain a high grade in his class, I learned more than in all previous language courses put together.”

In addition to the above-named professors, all of whom are currently teaching at Ohio State Newark, there have been two previous professors awarded this distinction in the past: Wilma K. Meckstroth, department of chemistry, received the award in 1978-79; and John J. Skowronski, psychology department, in 1997-98. Faculty who receive this distinction are also inducted into the university’s Academy of Teaching, which provides leadership for the improvement of teaching at The Ohio State University. Ohio State Newark is proud to attract professors of their caliber.
Leaving a Legacy: 

Professor Retires, Leaves Good Stock Behind

Howard Federspiel, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science, started out 28 years ago at The Ohio State University at Newark in administration: in what was then considered an Associate Dean position. He plans to retire at the end of the school year, 2006-2007.

“In preparing for my retirement, I knew that I wanted to give a gift that would somehow enhance the campus,” Dr. Federspiel stated. “I wanted to leave something with a sense of permanency…a nice, fitting remembrance…I used Jim Bradley’s retirement gift to the campus as an example.”

In November of 2005, Howard followed through, by planting five buckeye trees on the campus of Ohio State Newark, near the bike trail and just a short walk from the Child Development Center. The “buckeye grove” as it is fondly referred to, consists of five young trees from excellent stock. The trees should be much larger and healthier by spring of 2007, Howard said.

“I remembered what a good time I had as a boy, gathering chestnuts, and thought this gift of buckeye trees would be a long-standing legacy that would be meaningful to many people.” Prior to his gift, Howard noted, the Newark campus did not boast any such trees. “The vision I have is that of my grandchildren out here picking up my buckeyes off the ground, for years to come,” the professor stated. Howard Federspiel has three grandchildren, ranging in age from two to 15.
Honors Student Drawn to Small College Setting

Originally from Apple Valley, Ohio, Kate Bowman broke from family tradition when she chose The Ohio State University at Newark. Her father and two brothers attended Mount Vernon Nazarene University (MVNU), but Kate went further south.

Her choice to attend Ohio State Newark may have been obvious, since Kate received 75 percent of her tuition through two academic scholarships. But her length of stay was not so obvious. “Although I had planned to go on to Columbus, I just never left (Newark),” stated Kate. “Ohio State Newark is a beautiful campus with small classes that helped me transition from high school to college. My high school graduating class was 305,” she added. The student to faculty ratio at Ohio State Newark is 27:1.

Kate was the 2006 recipient of the Robert A. Barnes Academic Excellence Award, which is centered on academics and campus leadership. This award was established in an effort to parallel The John Mount Award, a longtime method of honoring an outstanding student who started at a regional campus and completed their education at Ohio State Columbus. The Barnes Award recognizes the most outstanding Ohio State Newark student. These and other awards are announced annually at the Salute to Undergraduates reception in May.

The spring, 2006 graduate (with distinction) now holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science. Kate served as President of the Ohio State Newark Honors’ Society for two years, was consistently on the Dean’s List and active on campus.

Her taste of political leadership may explain the topic Kate chose for her recent thesis: the Voting Behavior of Legislators on Controversial Issues. “I’m interested in political representation and in our society’s codes and services. I’ve often wondered how legislators stay in office and how well they represent their districts,” stated the graduate. “Part of my research involved studying California Congress’ voting trends on stem cell research.” Her research was accepted into the Midwest Political Science Association’s annual conference in Chicago last spring. “I was one of only a few undergraduates presenting at this conference, the second-largest of its kind for political science in the U.S.,” she said.

Originally, Kate planned to major in Social Studies and teach high school. During her sophomore year, Dr. David Paul, Assistant Professor of Political Science, and Dr. Mitch Lerner, Associate Professor of History, both encouraged her to begin researching graduate school options. “By that year’s end, I had changed my major to political science.”

She is pursuing a graduate degree at Florida State University in Tallahassee. “Florida’s program is very appealing: they have a young, upbeat department which I find attractive,” stated Bowman. They recruited her heavily and offered considerable funding for her fellowship.

Kate’s advice for undergraduates: “Don’t limit yourself…stay open to possibilities!”
A Celebration of Historic Proportion: Newark Earthworks Center Receives Approval

“Circles and squares, octagons and causeways—the earthworks built by the Hopewell people of eastern North America bewilder the eye, especially when seen from the air.”

~ The Earthworks of Newark, Ohio, Ch. 29, Temples & Shrines, The Seventy Wonders of the Ancient World, pp. 132-133. Published by Thames & Hudson.

In the above publication, The Newark Earthworks was named one of the 70 wonders of the ancient world. This fascinating historic site has also been featured in numerous other state and national publications, and at the Art Institute of Chicago a few years ago, according to Richard Shiels, Ph.D., Interim Director of the Newark Earthworks Center (NEC) and Associate Professor of History at The Ohio State University at Newark.

The Newark Earthworks Initiative received official approval from The Ohio State University’s Council on Academic Affairs, to be named a The Newark Earthworks Center.* It was a lengthy undertaking, as there are very few official Centers among the regional campuses. Dr. Shiels, Marti Chaatsmith, NEC Coordinator and Lucy Murphy, Ph.D., Oral History Project Director and Associate Professor of History, took the lead in establishing the NEC.

According to Dr. Murphy, “Our projects are designed to improve research about native people.” In addition, “We aim to improve interest in developing collaborative research methods that partner with native people in the process of designing projects, collecting and interpreting information, and creating ways to share that information with the general public, with K-12 teachers, with the native communities, and with our students, staff and faculty at Ohio State Newark.”

Annually, the NEC hosts “Newark Earthworks Day” which was held on October 22, 2005 and this year on October 14. This public event was created to invite everyone to witness a natural, historic event, the Octagon Moonrise, which occurs only once every generation (18.6 years). Last occurring in October, 2005, the Octagon Moonrise is a rare occasion when the moon rises as far north as it ever does, over the central axis of these geometric mounds (Earthworks) before moving southward again. Newark Earthworks Day features Native people, fourth graders, archaeologists and others and is held on the Ohio State Newark campus. Additionally, the NEC plans to continue hosting events, courses, lectures and teacher training while adding new research projects and developing educational materials.

Headquarters for the Ohio State Newark Earthworks Center are in Baker House, 950 Sharon Valley Road. For more information, please email: earthworks@osu.edu or visit www.octagonmoonrise.org.

* The Center is still pending approval from the Ohio State Faculty Senate and the Ohio State Board of Trustees.

A child attends a ceremony on June 7th at the Newark Earthworks when Governor Bob Taft signed a bill into law, designating the Earthworks as the prehistoric monument in Ohio. Nearly 400 youngsters from local elementary schools attended the event along with hundreds of community members.
History in the Heartland Awarded Second USDE Grant: $1 Million

Licking County American history teachers will benefit from a nearly $1 million grant to History in the Heartland II: Explore History, a partnership that includes The Ohio State University’s Department of History, the Ohio Historical Society, and Mid-Ohio Educational Services Center.

The grant from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) will offer professional development to K-12 history and social studies teachers in the 13 counties surrounding Ohio State’s regional campuses in Lima, Mansfield, Marion, and Newark. The Explore History initiative is one of 124 Teaching American History grants awarded to fund proposals in 38 states, part of a national effort to improve and enrich the teaching of American history in public schools.

"This is the second USDE grant of just under $1 million each that we have won in three years," commented Dr. Richard Shiels, Coordinator of the Ohio State University at Newark history program. "Each proposal was submitted by a team that included one historian from each Ohio State regional campus and representatives from the Ohio Historical Society and the Mid-Ohio Education Services Center."

These grants enable Ohio State Newark to offer an American history seminar to 10 Licking County K-12 teachers each year. The teachers will receive graduate credit, books, a wealth of resources and direct contact with Ohio State faculty; in turn, the schools will benefit from the professional development of their teachers and will receive money to support substitutes.

The first grant subsidized a program called History in the Heartland, which has just completed its second year and will continue for one more. The second grant supports Explore History, a program which begins this fall and will continue for three years. While History in the Heartland is targeted to junior high and high school history teachers, Explore History is open to teachers in all K-12 grades.

"The grants make the Newark campus a premiere place for local teachers to pursue their professional development," said Shiels. Stuart Hobbs, director of Ohio State’s History Teaching Institute and project director said, “Explore History emphasizes the role of local historic sites as resources for teachers.”

“By giving teachers more knowledge of their subject and more resources to teach that subject in creative ways, student learning will improve,” said Hobbs. “Ohio will benefit from students who not only know more about American history, but also have improved skills in reading, in analyzing texts and visual sources, and in interpreting arguments.”

The 13 counties that will benefit from the grants are Licking, Allen, Auglaize, Hardin, Seneca, Wyandot, Marion, Union, Delaware, Knox, Richland, Morrow, Richland, and Crawford.

Each year, approximately 36 area teachers (108 over the three years) will participate in five monthly seminars linked to the Ohio Academic Content Standards. The Newark Earthworks will be one of the four seminar sites. Other sites are Armstrong Air and Space Museum, Warren G. Harding Home, Malabar Farm, and the Ohio Historical Center in Columbus. In addition, teachers will attend an intensive, four-day summer institute. The whole process will begin again in fall 2007 and repeat in 2008.

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There is an interesting-looking structure just northwest of the main building at Baker House, 950 Sharon Valley Road, Newark, which was originally established through the Evans Foundation. That structure is a screen house, and it has become the research lab of Dr. Karen Goodell, Assistant Professor of Ecology, Department of Evolution, Ecology & Organism Biology (EEOB) at Ohio State Newark. Karen's research involves the study of native bees as pollinators, figuring out how the native bee contributes to native, exotic, and invasive species of crop plants, such as bush honeysuckle. Dr. Goodell seeks the answers to questions such as: how does a particular invasive plant species compete with native plants, supporting the bees' growth? Are bees helping to facilitate the invasion of this exotic species, and how? Karen's research involves manipulating bees to learn more about their role in agriculture and farming. "Crop farmers use bees, especially honeybees, to pollinate their crops," she stated. "They place hives in strategic locations. My observations have shown that native bees (Peponapis) actually pollinate squash and pumpkins, making it unnecessary for farmers to introduce honeybees for this function," Goodell stated.

The screen house is useful in Dr. Goodell's research in various ways. "This year, we used the screen house to exclude bees, while we study the pollination process on particular squash and pumpkin plants. This will help us to determine the number of native bees required to pollinate those crops," stated Goodell. However, the main idea of a screen house, she said, is to include native bees in conducting research on crop pollination. Along with three undergraduate students, Karen plans to continue her research studies next year, when they will use the screen house to include native bees.

Karen has used "mini screen houses" in the past, which helped her to research and publish a paper about the affects of parasites on native bees and other factors that limit bee populations. "I can study the outcomes of certain parasites on native bee populations by placing bees in the screen house with and without parasites," the screen house was funded through a generous contribution from Lee and Mary St. John. Lee St. John, Faculty Emeritus, retired from Ohio State Newark in July, 2002, and has returned to teach at various times since then. In addition, Karen uses a dark room in the Baker House labs to raise bees. This "bee rearing room" which Karen designed makes it easier to handle the bees, because they cannot see in red light. Funding for the creation of research labs and office space for the faculty and students in the EEOB department has been supported through the OSU Newark operating budget.

"The appealing features at Baker House made it the logical location, including an outdoor area for the screen house," stated Bill MacDonald, Dean and Director. "It all added up to about $180,000 to create research labs at Baker and we plan to put $80,000 towards a new roof and additional funds for parking lot improvements."
Professor Plays Key Role

“The grant project, titled Technical Assistance to Support Elementary Mathematics Coaches, is a state-supported model that is expanding with the intention of becoming statewide,” said Diana Erchick, Ph.D., Education Program Coordinator and Associate Professor at Ohio State Newark. The Mathematics Coaching Program (MCP), as it has come to be known, is funded for three years through the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). Groups of participating schools have been identified as in need based on various criteria including math achievement testing scores.

Diana Erchick, a former middle-school math teacher, has a lead role in the project along with her colleagues, to ensure that, “math education in Ohio is providing more professional development opportunities for K-6 teachers, similar to the literacy coaches that were established a few years ago.”

Currently, there are 34 schools identified as the first cohort, located in the central and north central regions of Ohio, all of which are now in their second year of grant funding. These schools are located in Madison, Fairfield, Knox, Licking, Richland, Morrow, Franklin, Huron, Marion and Union counties. Dr. Erchick is one of three project co-directors; the other two are Dr. Patti Brosnan, Associate Professor, The Ohio State University Columbus and Dr. Terri Bucci, Associate Professor, Ohio State Mansfield.

“What distinguishes this grant program is that we have hired facilitators – small-group teachers - to provide support and coordinate a number of schools and the schools’ respective math coaches, at the elementary and intermediate grade levels,” explained Dr. Erchick. Each school receives $80,000 per year for three years, to fund the salaries of math coaches, Erchick said.

These math coaches receive a total of four full days of intensive training per month as part of their ongoing professional development through the grant: two days with the project directors and two days with their facilitator.

“The second cohort will include schools in southeast and western Ohio, for a total of 30 schools starting in the program in the 2006-2007 school year,” stated Dr. Erchick.

With the training aspect funded by the state, Erchick has been working with a team in an effort to secure a federal grant which would cover the evaluative piece of the project.
Exercising Young Minds

Whether it’s a lack of confidence in our own abilities or an aversion to numbers, many people fear mathematics or avoid it altogether. Statistics show that this seems to be a larger issue with females than males; young girls often find math to be very challenging.

Diana Erchick’s Matherscize Camp offers an opportunity to turn that around by developing young problem solvers. Matherscize, an annual, week-long day camp focused on math skills, is held in late July at The Ohio State University at Newark. The math camp inspires young girls in grades five through eight to reach their potential, not just in mathematics but in life.

Due to its structure, Matherscize is one of just a few programs of its kind across the country and is unique in Ohio. The day camp is coordinated by Diana B. Erchick, Ph.D., Education Program Coordinator at Ohio State Newark and a former middle school math teacher. “One of the goals for the camp is to improve the girls’ disposition towards math, before and during middle school which can be a turning point in their education,” stated Dr. Erchick. Additional goals include: providing students with a range of math uses; enhancing problem-solving skills; improving collaborative reasoning skills; recognizing the NCTM standards; and integrating mathematics into the arts, language, science and technology.

One of the projects this year involved designing, planning and building a “scrap box” out of recyclables, such as Styrofoam and egg cartons. Matherscize instructors also incorporate forces and aerodynamics into math problems… and involve the girls in a quilting project to show yet another math use.

With a goal of 20 each year, the camp has enrolled 40 participants for the past two years, and generally has a waiting list. Students are admitted on a first come, first served basis, but the program always seeks diversity in age, race, background and type/size of school and community. Diversity among the campers helps provide a more comprehensive learning environment.

“Matherscize goes beyond teaching how to build a mousetrap...we incorporate the six simple machines, the backbone of math, into fun, hands-on projects,” Erchick stated. While learning how math is part of everyday life, the students are also fine-tuning their teamwork skills and practicing respect and community-building simultaneously.

Operated on a shoestring budget, Erchick said the program does not charge a fee to participants. “I obtained a grant several years ago through the Mathematics Association of America and have received research grants since then,” the professor stated. She also garners support form local businesses, who donate items for goody bags.

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Professor Receives Grant from National Geographic

John Hunter, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biology, Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology at Ohio State Newark, conducts research on mammals from the late Cretaceous periods. He submitted a grant proposal to the National Geographic Society and was awarded $15,000 to fund a field study.

In his abstract, Dr. Hunter wrote: “This field project will produce results of interest to geologists, evolutionary biologists, and geographers, and will be run as a collaborative venture between academic and avocational scientists, furthering scientific education in a rural area of the Great Plains.” The project involved a field experience for students to travel with the professor and others into North Dakota’s back country to collect fossils and search for new fossil sites last summer. At one of the research locations out west, Hunter said, “there is geological evidence of asteroid damage/impact at the site.” Many of his travels have resulted in interesting photos like the one above, which was taken at a mesa (a prominent, flat-topped area) called Mud Buttes in North Dakota, where John has collected fossils.

His project involves research opportunities for students in related programs, as well. “Right now, there are two students working with me; one is a biology major and the other is in geology,” Dr. Hunter stated. One of the most unique and noteworthy aspects of Dr. Hunter’s research and this grant project, is the collaboration between colleagues in the academic world and amateur scientists. “I have been fortunate to join colleagues Dean Pearson and others from Bowman, North Dakota, in my research and even jointly published articles,” John stated. “Scientists want to know more about what’s going on in their backyard. Through this work, we’ve both learned quite a bit.”

John Hunter was a Fulbright Scholar for one year at the University of Helsinki, Finland, studying mammalian teeth. He did his dissertation on the history of hooved mammals; the diets of colandalarths (omnivores who later became herbivores). He has presented on numerous topics, including the extinction of dinosaurs and the study and evolution of certain types of mammals.

“Some of this kind of research…such as studying the after-effects of dinosaurs’ extinction…can help to tell us more about how the species of today would recover from extinction; how resilient our world is today,” Dr. Hunter stated.

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Anderson Wins OAGE Award

The Arnedia Smith Award is presented to the author of the best undergraduate research paper submitted to the annual OAGE conference (Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education). Tara Anderson, psychology major at Ohio State Newark, received that award in spring of 2006 for her paper entitled, “Mature Women Volunteers” which focuses on the benefits of volunteering for older women, such as better health, positive affect and cognitive ability.

“To me, this award represents what I have been able to learn and accomplish as an undergraduate at The Ohio State University at Newark,” stated Tara, who has been involved in research since her freshman year. “The opportunity to do research at this point in my academic career is remarkable and unique,” she added. “I owe my research experience to OSU-N, and more directly to Dr. Sara Staats,” Tara said. “When I first began I could not imagine being able to do a literature search, run statistics or write a credible paper let alone present at a conference!”

Tara expects to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology at the end of autumn quarter. Since she is highly interested in gerontology and related psychology literature, the OAGE conference has been an ideal learning ground and she has attended three times. In addition to her award-winning research paper, Tara also presented a poster during the conference, which she said offers the opportunity to speak individually with other attendees and hear their feedback.

According to their mission statement, OAGE is an “organization [that] promotes gerontological education, supports Ohio’s aging network as a resource for research and practice, and provides professional development for students, faculty and professionals.”

“I believe that I have received an excellent education and many opportunities at Ohio State Newark that are not afforded to students at larger universities,” Tara stated. “Dr. Staats has taught me how to conduct research and helped to motivate me...She is truly a patient, kind and encouraging educator; my mentor,” Tara added.

Tara plans to apply to OSU’s Master’s in Social Work program with the hopes of attending on the Columbus campus and receiving her MSW in spring, 2009. “I will then work toward gaining licensure (LISW) and would like to be a therapist,” she added.

Besides the Arnedia Smith Award, other honors and awards received by Tara Andersen include:

• Student Research Grant, 2006
• Psi Chi National Honors Society, 2005–present (currently serving as Vice President of the Ohio State Newark chapter)
• The President’s Award, for superior academic achievement, 2003
• Ruth Scott-Sara Staats Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award, 2002

Student Research Forum

Each year in March, students are provided a forum to showcase their research at The Ohio State University at Newark. In 2006, the Student Research Forum was held in the Reese Center and featured the work of fourteen students. Andrew Roberts, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biology, and Julie Hupp, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychology, coordinated the research forum.

Students presented a poster session showcasing current research projects, and provided information about future proposals. Topics ranged from Pumpkin and Squash Pollen Deposition by native and non-native Bee Species, the second place winner in the Research Category, to Cognitive Advantages of Bilinguals: The Possibility of a Language Specific Factor, the first place entry in the Proposal Category.

Preparing students for the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum held in May at the Columbus campus is one purpose of this forum. Additionally, the Student Research Forum also serves to increase student-faculty research endeavors and to encourage more students to undertake honors theses.

Research is a critical element in most of the 170 degree programs offered by The Ohio State University. According to Dr. Paul Sanders, Associate Dean and Honors Director, Ohio State Newark, “Working one-on-one with faculty advisors allows students to explore topics of personal interest and contributes to the body of research on those topics. When students actively participate in research, their knowledge-base, communication skills, and creativity grow in ways that go far beyond the traditional classroom.”

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Salute to Undergraduates: Research and Recognition

According to their mission statement, OAGE is an "organization [that] promotes gerontological education, supports Ohio’s aging network as a resource for research and practice, and provides professional development for students, faculty and professionals.”

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## OHIO STATE NEWARK ENROLLMENT STATS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Enrollment</th>
<th>Full-Time Equivalent</th>
<th>First Time in College</th>
<th>Student Population Under 21</th>
<th>Racial/Ethnic Student Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>1611</td>
<td>1353</td>
<td>28%*</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>4.66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>2079</td>
<td>1791</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>6.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>2310</td>
<td>2202</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>11.65%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The figure for percentage of first-time college students in 1996 is an estimate.

### OUT OF THE AREA:

Students come from 71 of Ohio’s 88 Counties

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS:

Student represented from 26 countries