THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY AT NEWARK

2007 Progress Report
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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
Celebrating 50 Years: The Ohio State University at Newark

Campus Founded with Community Support

During the early months of 1957, the community of Newark recognized a milestone opportunity – The Ohio State University planned to establish branch campuses throughout the state. Newark officials quickly took the initiative, inviting the university to locate in the heart of Licking County, with the city’s board of education extending support for the proposal by offering use of their own facilities for college classrooms. During the following months, individuals, local businesses and civic organizations stepped forward, contributing not only financially, including donating all of the new institution’s administrative office furnishings, but also by giving freely of their own time and effort. It was members of the Newark Jaycees who undertook the task of painting the new administrative office’s exterior, while the Newark Garden Club labored over a landscape design for the grounds.

With outstanding community support and approval, The Ohio State University at Newark held its first classes on October 1, 1957, at the old Newark High School on West Main Street. Eighty students enrolled during that first autumn quarter.

Close to a decade passed, and in 1966 the Newark Campus, as it came to be called, was thriving. Enrollment had grown to 609 students in autumn quarter 1966, when opportunity arose again for the Newark community. Once more the citizens rallied to support their local university, with this goal perhaps an even greater milestone – the creation of a permanent home for The Ohio State University at Newark.

When the Ohio Board of Regents offered $1,800,000 in state funds for the project, upon the condition that Licking County raise $650,000 locally, the community response was swift and overwhelming. More than 7,000 citizens pledged over one million dollars that year toward the cost of purchasing 155 acres of land and constructing the first campus building, Founders Hall, which opened in 1968. The generosity of the residents of Licking County had made the Newark Campus Campaign the most successful of its kind to date, raising more money than any other similar Ohio State Campaign in other communities.

From its very inception, The Ohio State University at Newark has benefited from the forethought and generous support of the people of Newark and Licking County. As Ohio State Newark celebrates 50 years of educational opportunities, it also celebrates 50 years of educational partnership with the community it proudly serves.

With outstanding support from the community, The Ohio State University at Newark held its first classes on October 1, 1957, at the old Newark High School on West Main Street.
Retiring Faculty

“These retiring faculty members have demonstrated a long-standing commitment to academic excellence, not only through their distinguished scholarship, but also through their remarkable insights and teaching. Our campus community has grown and benefited immeasurably from their years of service. They have been teachers, colleagues, researchers, and mentors, and each has contributed to raising the standard of excellence at The Ohio State University at Newark.”

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

Four Ohio State Newark faculty members announced their plans for retirement in 2007: Albert A. Herzog, Jr., Ph.D., Howard M. Federspiel, Ph.D., Sara Staats, Ph.D., and Joseph R. Tebben, Ph.D.

Dr. Albert Herzog has been a full-time Lecturer in the Department of Sociology since 1997. His particular areas of expertise are the sociology of religion, social organization and urban sociology. A former director of the Center for Persons with Disabilities in the Life of the Church, as well as a former pastor and chaplain, Dr. Herzog brought unmatched experience and immediacy to the classroom. A recognized expert in the field of disabilities, Dr. Herzog has published and spoken extensively on the subject. A current book project on disability and the church in the 21st century is underway.

At Ohio State Newark he taught numerous 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, Professor of Political Science, first came to Ohio State Newark in 1979 as Acting Dean and Director and then Associate Dean for a period of five years.

A leading scholar on Islam and Muslims in Southeast Asia, Dr. Federspiel has published nine books and numerous articles in leading academic journals. He received a prestigious Fulbright Award in 1994, was twice a winner (1994 and 2001) of the Ohio State Newark Excellence in Scholarship Award and was also the recipient in 2002 of the Ohio State Newark Service Award for International Activities. He earned his Ph.D. from McGill University in Montreal, Canada.

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 to often given way to quantity.”

Dr. Sara Staats, Professor of Psychology, pioneered the four-year program in psychology at Ohio State Newark, and has demonstrated a strong and continuing interest in program development in the service of students, faculty, and the discipline of psychology. Widely respected and recognized as an authority in her field, in the spring of 2007 Dr. Staats was named the Educator of the Year by the Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education. She earned her Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology from The Ohio State University and began teaching at Ohio State Newark in 1963.

Dr. Joseph R. Tebben, Professor of Greek and Latin, began teaching at Ohio State Newark in 1970, and for several years also taught at Ohio State Columbus. He has taught exclusively at Ohio State Newark since 1986. Dr. Tebben, a specialist in early Greek epic poetry, received his Ph.D. from The Ohio State University and has written six books and many articles during his distinguished career. He twice received the Newark Campus Teaching Excellence Award, in 1976 and 1990, and was the recipient of the Scholarly Achievement Award in 1999 and the Robert A. Barnes Award for Exemplary Teaching in 2005.
History Professor Finds Lessons from the Métis People Useful Today

Lucy Eldersveld Murphy, Associate Professor of History at The Ohio State University at Newark, was on sabbatical during academic year 2006-2007 with a fellowship from the Committee on Institutional Cooperation American Indian Studies Consortium (CIC AISC) at the Newberry Library, Chicago.

While on sabbatical, Dr. Murphy presented papers at the Newberry Library; the American Society for Ethnohistory at the College of William and Mary; the Center for French Colonial Studies at North Central College, Naperville, Illinois; and at Nankai University, Tianjin, China. She gave invited lectures for the Chicago Map Society and the Apple River Fort Historic Site in Elizabeth, Illinois.

Dr. Murphy’s research project is After the Fur Trade: Biracial Fur-Trade Families in a Changing Society. She seeks to understand the biracial Métis (may-TEE) fur trade families of the Midwest during the mid- to late-19th century. The Métis were born from encounters between traders and Native women. According to Murphy, research of the Métis beyond the early nineteenth century has often been overlooked by scholars.

Dr. Murphy will explain how the Métis people adapted to the changes of the mid-19th century, including regional changes brought on by the War of 1812 and massive westward migration and their impact on the fur trade families. The effects on the Métis included changes in demographic patterns, religious affiliation, personal and group identity, political participation and influence of the then-new legal system and economic issues.

“I am interested in social justice and race relations. Studying the Métis allows me to examine those issues as well as inter-group communications and conflict,” Murphy said. “The Métis provide models for how people can find common ground and moments of connection.”

Her research includes demographic data, genealogical records, 19th century newspapers, letters, speeches and other personal documents. She has interviewed Métis descendents, many of whom were located through the historical society in Prairie du Chien, WI, once a center of the fur trade industry.

Dr. Murphy received both her Ph.D. and her MA in History from Northern Illinois University, DeKalb. She began teaching at Ohio State Newark as an assistant professor in 1999 and in 2003 became an associate professor.

She won the Diversity Enhancement Award from The Ohio State University College of Humanities, 2006; National Endowment for the Humanities Lloyd Lewis Fellowship, 1998-1999; and the National Regional American History Scholarship from National Society of Colonial Dames of America, 1994.

She will return to teaching at Ohio State Newark in autumn 2007, with two courses in American history; she will teach American Indian History in winter quarter.

“50 Years” Lucy Eldersveld Murphy, Associate Professor of History

“I am interested in social justice and race relations. Studying the Métis allows me to examine those issues as well as inter-group communications and conflict.”
Thanks in part to a Fenner Undergraduate Research Award this spring, Clayton Caroon, a senior English major at Ohio State Newark, will return to Vietnam and will travel to China during the winter quarter of 2008 to continue his research on culturally appropriate English-language pedagogical methods. He will conduct research on-site in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and Beijing, China. Caroon will study contemporary educational methods and teaching ideologies applied within public schools, universities, and private English language institutes and academies.

Caroon’s previous research in Asia showed him that the English language courses offered in East and Southeast Asia often apply imported English language teaching materials developed in England, Australia, Canada and America. “Many of the language educators I met with said that differences between eastern and western educational ideologies are a barrier to their students’ language acquisition,” he said. “I want to help design synergetic ways of teaching English that combine the teaching traditions of China and Vietnam with Western techniques and ideologies.”

The $500 Fenner grant is just one of several awards Caroon has won for his work in Asia. Ohio State Newark has twice supported him with $1000 Undergraduate Student Research Grants—first for the exploratory research trip to East and Southeast Asia in 2006 and again in support of his upcoming return stay in Vietnam and China, where he will meet with contacts he made at institutions such as the National University of Vietnam and Peking University.

“Clay is on fire,” said Dr. Elizabeth Weiser, an English professor at Ohio State Newark and Caroon’s faculty advisor for the Fenner award. “He has the potential to someday impact the whole global phenomenon of English-language instruction.”

A graduate of Newark High School, Caroon says his love of English and composition studies can be attributed to his former teachers and his passion for good books. His future academic plans include graduate school and further overseas study.

“This research is about connecting and understanding each other, and to do this it is necessary to spend significant time abroad,” he said. “This research is an important key for helping researchers and educators to more clearly understand the contemporary global conditions that influence the learning of English by speakers of other languages.”

Caroon was named Leader of the Year for 2007 by the East Central Writing Centers Association; in 2006, the OSU Libraries presented him with the university-wide Undergraduate Research Prize. He has given research presentations at OSU’s Denman Undergraduate Research Forum; The Ohio State University at Newark Undergraduate Research Forum; The University of Illinois at Chicago; Bowling Green State University; and the University of Freiburg in Germany. In October, Caroon will present at the American Folklore Society/Folklore Studies Association of Canada Joint Annual Meeting in Quebec.
Rosanna Vaccaro Honored with Denman Award

Rosanna Vaccaro, an Evolution and Ecology major in the Department of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology at The Ohio State University at Newark, was awarded a prestigious 2007 Denman award from The Ohio State University.

Vaccaro’s research project, “Behavior of *Schizocosa bilineata*,” commonly known as a wolf spider, was supervised by Ohio State Newark faculty member J. Andrew Roberts, Ph.D. This wolf spider species is quite rare, according to Vaccaro, and her work is the only research she is aware of on the species.

Dr. Roberts agrees. “When this work is published later this year, Rosanna will become the international expert on this particular wolf spider species and will take that with her as she progresses to graduate school,” he said.

The research project also earned Vaccaro first place in the category of Completed Research at Ohio State Newark’s Student Research Forum in March 2007.

“What began as an extra credit assignment in my introductory biology class has grown into an amazing body of work and I’m really proud of her accomplishments,” Dr. Roberts said.

A Pataskala resident, Vaccaro is a 2004 graduate of Watkins Memorial High School. She expects to graduate from Ohio State University in spring 2008 and plans to pursue an advanced degree.

Although she was accepted at Ohio State University’s Columbus campus, Vaccaro chose to attend Ohio State Newark.

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

Created in 1996, the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum 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; 354 students participated in 318 projects and were judged three times by faculty and corporate judges, with 44 awards given.

To learn about research opportunities for students at Ohio State Newark, visit newark.osu.edu/professional/research/index.htm
Mission Accomplished

Archaeology is not just about digging up the ground to reveal interesting objects from the past. When Robert Cook, assistant professor of anthropology, is involved, it’s mostly about opening doors of opportunity for budding archaeologists and preserving precious earth from destruction.

Rob Cook led eleven students from various universities on an Archeological Field School near Dayton over the summer. In the world of archaeology, a field school is akin to a practicum for nurses. The students really get their hands into the dirt on this five week research experience, which can often be a catalyst for their careers. “I liken it to basic training…the field school is presented to students who think they’re interested in archeology,” stated Cook. “They learn what it’s really about through techniques like walking the area’s surfaces and flagging the promising spots.” Before digging, he said, they use a tool called a ‘total station’ to map the topography of the land.

To find this site, the anthropology professor conducted research about other excavations near the Great Miami River Valley (visit sunwatch.boonshoftmuseum.org.). Cook wanted to study that area so he checked with the Ohio Historical Society and began contacting landowners.

The landowners of Cook’s Field School site were Cemex Corporation, a cement company which was considering selling the land for development. With the company’s permission, Rob and a geophysics expert, Jarrod Burks, Ph.D., anthropologist from Ohio State Columbus, conducted a magnetic survey of the site. “A magnetic scan is like an X-ray of the ground’s surface to see what might lie beneath the debris,” stated Cook. The results showed a pattern which meant that there was something there to excavate. Cemex held off on the land sale.

Once Cook had organized his summer field school, he and his students started excavating and unearthed broken pottery, animal bones (which can be carbon-dated), arrowheads and charcoal. Many of these items were found in trash pits. “We’ve learned how to do surface surveys, how to do shovel tests, how to open units of excavation, how to use a trowel properly…to identify artifacts, that kind of thing,” stated Melanie Cole, an OSU anthropology student.

Cook said that continued study of the site could help him to understand the social structure that connected the region’s many prehistoric villages. From the artifacts uncovered, it’s apparent that a village existed on this ground some 800 years ago. That is sufficient to halt the land development for now, and to warrant further research by a second Field School next summer.
Hands-on Learning at Heart of Service Learning Program

From December 5 – 22, 2006, five students from Ohio State Newark participated in the Service Learning Program in Rio San Juan, Nicaragua. The biennial program takes students to Nicaragua for 2-3 weeks.

Samuel Gayheart, Engineering; Savannah Goodson, Anthropology; Kristin Riley, Zoology; Elizabeth Trivett, Biology; and Rosanna Vaccaro, Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology were accompanied by Professors Katherine Borland and Karen Goodell and coordinator Orlando Ruiz.

The program focused on three areas of Nicaraguan life: Cultural traditions, biodiversity and threats to local ecosystems, as well as current and planned developmental projects. It took place at the Los Guatuzos Wildlife Refuge and the neighboring community of Papaturo, which lie within the Rio San Juan Biosphere Reserve.

They worked with the local community to build an addition to a school, a construction task that was accomplished without modern tools and involved hard physical labor. Students learned what life is like without roads or electricity, with only foot and river transport and occasional generator power. With local residents, they hauled heavy, hand-hewn boards from an isolated forest patch along a muddy path to the river. They then loaded boat took the boards back to the construction site and the students hiked several kilometers back to their lodge along a primitive, muddy path.

The students excavated sand from the shores of Lake Nicaragua and hauled it back to the construction site by boat. They carried volcanic rock collected by the school children from islands in Lake Nicaragua. They hand-planed the boards, hammered, sawed and lifted the rafters onto the roof. They worked side by side with some of the students who will use the addition.

Conditions at the Los Guatuzos Wildlife Refuge were basic but comfortable and afforded frequent interaction with local wildlife including three species of monkeys, sloths and many bird, butterfly and plant species. Local residents cooked for the group, a rotating job which helps support local families.

Said student Sam Gayheart, “Nicaragua is a country of bustling activity geologically and in humanity… The jungle is traversed only by boat or trails knee-deep with sticky mud… Beauty is everywhere!”

For more information about the program, contact Katey Borland, Professor of Comparative Studies, at borland.19@osu.edu.

Students work in the Los Guazotos Wildlife Refuge in Nicaragua
Part of Something Great: Ohio State 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 points to the one-on-one attention she received as an undergraduate as one of the compelling reasons for choosing Ohio State Newark. Moreover, in addition to small class size and accessible, expert faculty, Rine points out one other decisive factor for her choice – the prestige of attending a world-class institution – The Ohio State University.

Rine worked at the Child Development Center while a student at Ohio State Newark, and also lived in the residence hall for one year, allowing her to make her undergraduate experience complete. Additionally, in true Buckeye fashion, Rine admits that some of her fondest collegiate memories include joining in the excitement of a Big 10 football rivalry and attending Ohio State Newark’s “Beat Michigan Week” pep rallies, especially when Brutus Buckeye and the Ohio State University Marching Band were in attendance to stir up the crowd.

Rine graduated in Spring 2005 with a B.A. in Psychology, one of five bachelor degree programs that may be completed at Ohio State Newark. Immediately after graduation, the energetic Rine enrolled in a graduate program at the Columbus campus. “I only took seven days off between my programs,” Rine adds with a smile, “so I was pretty motivated about my education.” She earned a master’s degree in Occupational Therapy in Spring 2007, with the goal of becoming a licensed occupational therapist.

“I can’t say enough good things about Ohio State Newark,” notes Rine. “I loved my time there. The campus environment was very friendly, and the faculty members are incredible. It was a terrific place for me.”
Amy Brunell, Ph.D., will join the psychology department as Assistant Professor of Social Psychology. Dr. Brunell earned her Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of Georgia and her M.A. in general psychology from the College of William & Mary. Dr. Brunell was previously an instructor at the University of Georgia.

Jill Coleman, Ph.D., joins Ohio State Newark as Assistant Professor of Social Psychology. Dr. Coleman earned her Ph.D. and her M.A. in Social Psychology from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Coleman was previously a Visiting Assistant Professor at Middlebury College in Vermont.

Angela Harvey, Ph.D, joins the sociology department as Assistant Professor of Sociology. Dr. Harvey earned her Ph.D in Justice and Social Inquiry and her M.S.W. (Master of Social Work) from Arizona State University. She earned her BS in psychology from OSU.

Katsiaryna (Kate) Ivanova will join Ohio State Newark as Assistant Professor in Political Science. She earned her Ph.D. in International Relations and her M.A. in Economics from the University of Southern California. Dr. Ivanova taught previously at Vanderbilt University Department of Political Science in Nashville, TN.

Daniel Keller joins the English department as Assistant Professor. He earned his Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Composition from the University of Louisville and his M.A. in English from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

Mary Lighthbody will join the Education department as Assistant Professor from Otterbein College, where she was a visiting assistant professor of education she earned both her Ph.D. in Science, Mathematics and Technology Education and her M.Ed. from The Ohio State University.

Marilee Martens joins Ohio State Newark as Assistant Professor of Psychology. She earned her Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Melbourne, Australia, a Specialist in Education in School Psychology and her M.A. in psychology from the University of Michigan. Dr. Martens was a psychologist at the Nisonger Center of The Ohio State University.

Rafael de la Madrid will join Ohio State Newark as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Physics. He earned his PhD. in Theoretical Physics and M.Sc. in Mathematical Physics from University of Vallodolid in Spain. Dr. de la Madrid taught physics at the University of California at San Diego, was a Visiting Scholar at the University of Texas at Austin and an instructor at Newton’s Academy in Vallodolid, Spain.
The John L. and Christine Warner Library and Student Center

*With an anticipated completion date in summer 2008, work on the John L. and Christine Warner Library and Student Center began last autumn. The 81,000 square foot building will feature 25,000 square feet of library space, and the 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.*

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.
Kristin Amber Hayes is a woman of many interests. Her academic studies have been in History, focusing on Native American and colonial American history, but her curiosity goes beyond just that.

“I love hiking and exploring. Whether it’s abandoned buildings, ghosts, or strange landmarks, I’ll be there to check it out,” she said.

Born in the country just outside Baltimore, Ohio, Hayes’ interest in history was sparked in her childhood. She began studying ancient Egypt at the age of seven. She also has a passion for Irish culture.

Hayes graduated magna cum laude with a Research Distinction in History from The Ohio State University at Newark with a BA in History in June 2007. She plans to pursue an advanced degree in history.

Hayes was a recipient of the Dean’s Award, LeFevre Fellowship, Research on Research grant and the Robert A. Barnes Academic Excellence Award.

“I was really honored and excited when I got the letter in the mail saying I was a finalist (for the Barnes Award),” she said. And about winning the prestigious award, “It was a great honor.”

Hayes was a member of the Ohio State Newark honors program, the Honors Society, Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society and the Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society. She was a regular on the Dean’s list as well as an Ohio State University Academy History presenter.

Hayes worked closely with the Newark Earthworks Center, conducting and analyzing interviews in order to create guides. “It’s been a great experience. I’ve gotten to meet and work with many fascinating people, and I’ve developed a real love of and appreciation for Native American culture, she said.”

She helped to design the Center’s web site based upon her research on Native American population trends and analyses of Native American oral histories. She helped to organize and plan Newark Earthworks Day.


About her future, Hayes said, “I’m not really sure what is in store for me. I love history and want to do research and teach at the college level, but I have many passions and interests that I want to pursue as well… see as much of the world as I can on a small budget and I want to do more work with community theatre. I want to learn more about Native American culture by going to more powwows and talking with Native people about their spirituality and traditions.”
Long-Time Professor Honored as Educator of the Year

When Sara Staats, Ph.D., began teaching psychology at The Ohio State University at Newark in 1963, she had a vision of developing a student-centered program that would reach far beyond the traditional classroom. Since those early years, several generations of Ohio State Newark students have had the privilege of studying under her skilled and careful guidance. In April 2007, Dr. Staats’ expertise was recognized when she was presented with the Educator of the Year Award at the annual Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education (OAGE) conference, held at the Reese Center on the Ohio State Newark campus.

“I am honored and delighted to receive this award,” said a surprised Staats, who did not know that she was a nominee until presented with the award. In addition, Dr. Staats noted that winning the award this year was especially meaningful, as the long-time professor retired from The Ohio State University at Newark at the end of the 2006-2007 academic year. The OAGE, an association of educators, researchers, professionals and students in Ohio dedicated to gerontological education, research and practice, has presented an Educator of the Year Award since 1979, with nominations put forth only by OAGE members.

Colleague and former student Kelli Sears, Ph.D., has remained in close contact with her undergraduate teacher and research advisor. “Dr. Staats connects with students on a much deeper level than many professors,” observed Sears. “She was a role model, a mentor, and my support system – without her encouragement, I wouldn’t be where I am today.”

Sears, a non-traditional student, began her academic career while in her 40s and caring for a family. After completing her bachelor’s degree, at Staats’ urging, the Ohio State Newark Psychology major and Granville resident applied for graduate school, earning her Ph.D. in School Psychology from The Ohio State University in June 2007. Sears will begin work in autumn 2007 as a school psychologist with one of Ohio’s largest school districts, southern Franklin County’s South-Western City Schools.

“I was insecure about returning to school after so many years,” remembers Sears, “and Dr. Staats was instrumental in not only helping me adjust to being an undergraduate, but she also saw in me the potential to carry my goals further than I had ever dreamed.”
Student Research Forum Reflects Academic Diversity

The 2007 Student Research Forum at The Ohio State University at Newark highlighted the diverse academic interests of the 16 student participants. Held on Thursday, March 8 in the Reese Center, the forum was open to Ohio State Newark students of all disciplines.

Students who were conducting research or preparing research proposals for a professor were encouraged to submit an abstract and then create a poster for presentation at the Forum.

The Student Research Forum aims to increase collaborative student-faculty research endeavors at Ohio State Newark as well as to encourage increased participation in honors research and to further the goals of the Ohio State University Denman Undergraduate Forum at the Newark campus. 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 the Office of University Development.

The categories were Research Proposal and Completed Research. Prizes were awarded to two winners in each category. In the Research Proposal category, first place went to Jessica Williams for her presentation “The Dog Doctor: The Effects of Animal-Assisted Therapy on Battered Women Residing in Shelters.” Derek Lippincott won second place with “Living with Homophobia: A Student’s Perspective.”

In the Completed Research category, first place was awarded to Rosanna Vaccaro for “Behavior in Schizocosa bilineata.” Second place went to Amanda Hayes for “Scaling of Tooth Size against Body Size in Chiroptera.” The first place winners received awards of $250 and second place winners received $100 awards. Ms. Vaccaro went on to receive a prestigious Denman Award from the Ohio State University in May 2007.

Ohio State Newark Dean and Director Dr. William L. MacDonald introduced guest speaker Dr. Allison Snow, Professor of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology and Director of Undergraduate Research Office at The Ohio State University. Snow encouraged the students in their research endeavors, pointing out the opportunities that can be made available by working side-by-side with faculty.

Posters were judged by a diverse panel of Ohio State Newark faculty, who selected the category winners and provided valuable feedback to the poster entrants.

Judging the forum were Dr. Paul Sanders, Associate Dean and Professor of Music; Dr. Stephanie Brown, Assistant Professor of English; Dr. Robert Cook, Assistant Professor of Anthropology; and Dr. Melissa Jungers, Assistant Professor, Psychology. The event was coordinated by Ohio State Newark professors Dr. Julie Hupp, Psychology, and Dr. J. Andrew Roberts, Evolution, Ecology & Organismal Biology. The Student Research Forum is an annual event.

To learn more about the Student Research Forum, visit newark.osu.edu/Professional/Research/.
When the University opened in 1957, there were 80 students and 8 faculty members.

Out of the Area:
Students come from 71 of Ohio’s 88 Counties

International Students:
Student represented from 26 countries

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