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Our Top Two Priorities: Access and Student Success

The Ohio State University at Newark has begun gathering data to measure our success in fulfilling our Strategic Plan. Our top two priorities are to provide access to the university and to enhance student success. Although our plan extends to 2013, early data suggest that we are succeeding in meeting these goals.

Our open-enrollment policy and two years of tuition freezes have helped the campus serve as an entryway to the university. In addition, a steady increase in the rate at which students move to the Columbus campus in their second year indicates that we are succeeding in providing access to the huge array of academic programs at the Columbus campus. The rate was 16 percent in 2003 and 35 percent in 2007. Thus, we are on track in fulfilling our top priority.

Several sets of data indicate that we are succeeding in fulfilling our second priority as well. For example, data from the Noel-LeVitz Student Satisfaction Inventory (SSI) indicate that since 1999, students have become increasingly likely to say that the quality of instruction in most of their classes is excellent. The mean for this item has also remained above the national mean for four-year public institutions.

Corroborating these findings are data for the SSI item on overall student satisfaction, data from the university’s Student Evaluation of Instruction (SEI), and data on first-to-second-year retention. Overall student satisfaction, which we measured in 2006 and 2009, increased over this period, and remained above the national mean for four-year public institutions. Means on each of the ten items on our Student Evaluation of Instruction questionnaire were higher in 2008 than in 1999. Likewise, first-to-second-year persistence at any institution increased for our students and remained above the mean for Ohio’s regional campuses.

Success like this requires extraordinary commitment from faculty, staff, and students, and such commitment is evident to me every day. It is the impetus behind the stories in our 2009 Progress Report, and it gives me confidence that we will succeed even in the most difficult times. I look forward to sharing more data with you as we progress toward 2013.

Sincerely,

William L. MacDonald, Dean and Director

[Signature]
If thinking outside the box can yield a different perspective, then imagine what teaching outside the box can do. Angela Harvey, assistant professor of sociology at The Ohio State University at Newark, has set out to do just that. Harvey was awarded a Service-Learning Course Development Grant from the Ohio State University Service-Learning Initiative in order to develop a course called Corrections (An Inside-Out Course). It is the first of its kind at Ohio State Newark.

“I can think of no better way for all of the course participants to see crime and justice issues from new perspectives than from within the walls of a prison,” said Harvey. “They will begin seeing themselves as actors in relation to these issues, and consequently as potential agents of social change.”

The course, which began in the autumn 2009 quarter, brings students and incarcerated individuals together in a classroom setting to develop a partnership between institutions of higher learning and prison systems nationally. “Students can only learn so much about U.S. penal policy from books, journal articles, and class discussions,” said Harvey. “Moving beyond tours to facilitated, intellectual discussions with prison officials and people who are incarcerated allows university students to see for themselves the statistical patterns of who we incarcerate (predominantly men of color from low socioeconomic classes convicted of drug and/or property offenses) as well as gain a better understanding of the realities of prison life,” she added.

The class meets for two hours each week at Southeastern Correctional Institution in Lancaster, a minimum-medium security institution near Ohio State Newark. It is made up of 15 undergraduate students and 10-15 incarcerated students. “Many of the goals of the Inside-Out course are consistent with the objectives of courses on corrections and with the objective of the university to cultivate a sense of civic responsibility in Ohio State students,” said William L. MacDonald, Dean/Director at Ohio State Newark.

Harvey’s research focuses on theoretical and substantive questions in sociology and criminology. Her specific interests are in the organizational contexts of juvenile and criminal courts; racial/ethnic, gender, and class disparities in case processing decisions for offenders; and the implementation and consequences of juvenile/criminal justice policies. The Ohio State University Service-Learning Initiative funds the development of service-learning courses and collaborative university/community projects that address community goals. The criteria for selection of projects are: A focus on community goals; project design created collaboratively by interdisciplinary university/community teams; and development of partnership for sustained community-based activity.

Harvey earned a Ph.D. in justice studies from Arizona State University, an M.S.W. from Arizona State University, and a B.S. in psychology from Ohio State. She joined the faculty at Ohio State Newark in 2007. She serves on the OSU Youth Violence Prevention Advisory Board, and is a member of the American Society of Criminology, the Law and Society Association, the American Sociological Association, and the Society for the Study of Social Problems.
At age 13, Marcus Yoder went to work in his father’s sawmill in rural Holmes County, Ohio. Having completed the eighth grade, he believed that his formal schooling was concluded, as is customary for Amish children. But his love of learning was incredibly strong, and Yoder dreamed of one day earning a college degree. So, with the help of an encyclopedia set purchased by his parents and a high dose of perseverance, he set out to continue his education on his own. At age 19, Yoder garnered his first outward sign of academic success by earning his General Educational Development (GED) certificate.

It wasn’t until 2005, however, that Yoder’s long road finally led him to The Ohio State University at Newark. By then, Yoder was in his mid-30s, and admits that as an adult learner he struggled at times with the unremitting demands of juggling everyday life, family, work, and studies. He attended Ohio State Newark part time, and was working hard to keep his dream of a college degree alive.

“At times, I wanted to quit,” admitted the history major, “but the faculty members were extremely affirming of what I do. They have invested a lot in me; they’ve been a very important part of my journey.”

Then, in September 2007, Yoder was confronted with yet another challenge. He contracted meningoencephalitis, an often fatal inflammation of the brain and its meninges. Critically ill, Yoder was hospitalized for weeks. But his illness threw into compellingly sharp relief the importance of realizing one’s dreams. Yoder pushed himself to recover and began attending full time to continue pursuing what he truly loves.

Today, he’s on track to graduate in the summer of 2010, and already has plans to apply to graduate school. His next goal is to earn a Ph.D. and teach history at the collegiate level.

Off campus, Yoder is equally successful and driven to pursue his passions. His love for education and history impelled him to found the Center for Anabaptist History, a non-profit organization devoted to the study of Amish and Mennonite history. Also, Yoder and his wife, Norita, opened Ashery Farms in June 2009, a bulk food retail store in Heath, Ohio, where they sell organic, hormone-free, and locally produced products. Yoder plans for the income of the store to support his family while he finishes graduate school.

“I have always loved learning,” said Yoder. “From my experience, I’m hopeful that I can help other young people realize the importance of higher education.”

Aspiration, Ambition, and Determination: Realizing Your Dreams at Ohio State Newark

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When Peter Hennen talks about bears and fairies, he isn’t referring to fairytales or theme parks. Hennen, who is an associate professor of sociology at The Ohio State University at Newark, has focused his research on gender and sexuality. His book “Faeries, Bears, and Leathermen: Men in Community Queering the Masculine” (The University of Chicago Press) was released in July 2008.

Hennen’s work reveals the self-identification that many gay men experience, and the subcultures into which they often fall. His book explores three communities within gay male society: Faeries, Bears, and Leathermen — “contemporary subcultures of gay men,” said Hennen.

In the book, he examines the relationship between effeminacy and gay male culture. Hennen’s work illustrates how that relationship has impacted gay male identities as well as sexual behavior within that community.

For example, Faeries are thought of as “over-the-top effeminate;” Bears are “regular guys;” and Leathermen are “super-masculine,” Hennen explained.

Hennen’s book has been praised by his peers at the American Sociological Association (ASA). Earlier this year, the book was awarded the Sex and Gender Distinguished Book Award Honorable Mention. In the July 2009 issue of Contemporary Sociology, the ASA’s flagship review journal, Amin Ghaziani of Princeton University called the book brilliant. “Hennen has empirically substantiated an often-impenetrable theoretical dialogue and has penned an ethnographic adventure that makes this scholarly pursuit a page-turner,” noted Ghaziani.

Hennen, who joined Ohio State Newark in 2002, loves teaching. “The smaller classes here allow me to see the light bulbs go on when students start to connect what we discuss in class with what they’ve seen in their own lives and experiences,” he said.

Hennen’s dedication to the campus community has been recognized by Ohio State Newark: In 2006 and 2007, he received an “Above and Beyond” service award; in 2005, the Campus Contribution Award; and in 2004, the Campus and Community Involvement award. He earned tenure in 2008.

Hennen has started work on his next project, which will examine “how gender norms enhance or inhibit certain capacities of the body,” said Hennen, “in this case, the voice.” His focus will be on countertenors, whose singing voices are high in pitch, often being compared to women’s voices. Hennen suggests that the countertenor case shows how thoroughly bodies are gendered, and how these apparently natural tendencies can change dramatically over time.

He has written articles and chapters that have been included in various publications, including the Journal of Contemporary Ethnography; Feminist Waves, Feminist Generations; and an invited entry in the International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences.

Hennen earned his Ph.D. and his M.A. in sociology from the University of Minnesota. He taught previously at University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus and at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn.
Faculty Member Wins Ohio State Award for Excellence

Katherine Borland, Ph.D., assistant dean and associate professor of comparative studies at The Ohio State University at Newark, was awarded the 2009 Ohio State University Faculty Award for Excellence in Community-Based Scholarship.

Borland was honored for her pioneering efforts in the field. In 2002, she instituted Ohio State’s first international service-learning class when she led a delegation of Ohio State Newark students to Nicaragua to collaborate with and learn from grassroots community organizers. Seven students participated in the first program, which Borland characterized as a cultural recovery project. During the physically demanding two-week trip, students slept on cots in one communal room, worked long hours side-by-side with the local population to build a traditional house using natural materials, and experienced what everyday life is like in a place with few modern conveniences.

“It was the best teaching experience I had ever had,” said Borland. Her course became a model for the university.

She has led three more student groups to Nicaragua since 2002. The biennial two-week trip, held at the end of the quarter, provides students an affordable opportunity to study abroad, said Borland.

“It is extremely valuable for our students to get first-hand experience with the world outside central Ohio,” said Borland. “It really enables them to begin to understand the place and power that the United States holds in the western hemisphere.”

Service-learning is a form of experiential education exemplified by student participation in an organized service activity that is connected to specific learning outcomes, meets identified community needs, and provides structured time for student reflection and connection of the service experience to learning. The Service-Learning Initiative supports development, implementation, and evaluation of sustainable service-learning courses and encourages community-based scholarship across the university to enhance student learning, develop student civic engagement, and foster ongoing collaboration with local and global communities.

Borland also directs Ohio State Newark’s LeFevre Fellows, a selective program for high-ability students. All Fellows must enroll in a two credit-hour service-learning course at Ohio State Newark. This past year the Fellows program orchestrated Green Wednesday, a campus wide initiative to raise awareness of environmental issues. In addition, Borland serves as the liaison for the Office of International Education at Ohio State Newark and as a member of the steering committee for the Center for Folklore Studies at Ohio State University.

Borland received her doctorate in folklore from Indiana University, an M.A. in English literature from Temple University, and a B.A. in disciplines of the humanities from the University of Chicago.
Distinguished Service Award Honorees:
Christine Warner Powell and the late John L. Warner

Catalysts for transformation — that’s how many at The Ohio State University at Newark would refer to longtime campus supporters Christine Warner Powell, and her late husband, John L. Warner. It was this remarkable couple’s lead gift that initiated the planning for Ohio State Newark’s most recent academic building, the John L. and Christine Warner Library and Student Center, which was formally dedicated before a crowd of several hundred well wishers on October 3, 2008.

In recognition of their extraordinary service to the university, Mrs. Warner Powell and the late John L. Warner have been honored with The Ohio State University 2009 Distinguished Service Award. University President E. Gordon Gee presented Mrs. Warner Powell with two Distinguished Service Award Medallions at the university’s 2009 summer commencement ceremony. Established in 1952, the Distinguished Service Awards are a unique recognition of individuals who have served Ohio State in a truly outstanding fashion.

“I was very surprised to learn about this award,” said Mrs. Warner Powell. “It is a great honor, and I think that John would have been thrilled to receive it.”

In addition to philanthropic support, Mrs. Warner and her late husband also provided campus leadership and extraordinary vision. Mr. Warner served as a board member of the Newark Campus Development Fund (NCF), and at his death Christine Warner assumed his role on the NCF board. Additionally, he served as honorary chairman for Our Campus for Tomorrow, the Newark component to the Ohio State Affirm Thy Friendship Campaign.

With the opening of the Warner Center, the campus has been redefined, not only in appearance, but in function and character. The building’s inviting spaces, marked by the warmth of natural wood tones, gleaming tile entryways, and anchored with a soaring stone hearth, immediately made it a natural gathering space for all across the campus community. Jonathan Holmes, a 2009 graduate who spent four years at Ohio State Newark, commented, “The new Warner Center, above all other outward signs of progress, has had the most profound impact on student life here. It has facilitated a greater sense of belonging and community than I have ever seen before at Ohio State Newark.”

“Students will benefit from this building for years and years to come,” said Mrs. Warner Powell, “and I am grateful that I was able to be a part of that.”
Throughout its history, The Ohio State University at Newark has hosted guests of great notoriety, and this academic year was no different.

Celebrated Ohioan Archie Griffin was the keynote speaker on May 19 for Graduation Celebration 2009. Well-known as the only two-time winner of the prestigious Heisman Trophy and an OSU alumnus, Griffin is the CEO and president of OSU’s Alumni Association.

With “pay it forward” as his theme, Griffin recalled the day he walked across the stage to receive his diploma. “I knew that I was receiving that diploma for my grandparents, my parents, and yes — for myself, too,” he said.

“A Lesson Before Dying” has sold over 2 million copies and was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, and was the 1994 winner of the Best Fiction Award by the National Book Critics Circle, among others. HBO premiered the TV film in 1999, which received two Emmy Awards.

At the invitation of the Newark Campus Young Democrats, Senator Joe Biden came to Ohio State Newark on October 15. Then a vice presidential candidate, Biden addressed a crowd estimated at 1,200. Biden was introduced by then-Ohio’s state Treasurer Richard Cordray (now Attorney General), and Governor Ted Strickland. “Into whose hands are we going to place this great nation?” asked Biden. “Into whose hands are we going to place the tools that can get us out of this dilemma we find ourselves in?”

People lined up outside of the campus’s Adena Hall hours before the doors were scheduled to be opened, many wearing stickers, buttons and shirts supporting the Obama-Biden ticket.

Astronaut and entrepreneur Dr. Mae Jemison captivated a standing room only crowd at Ohio State Newark’s Convocation in September 2008.

Jemison urged the students to pay attention to what’s going on in the world around them, and to take advantage of the opportunities they’ll find at Ohio State Newark. She also told them to take chances.

“Take the time now to meet people who aren’t like you,” she said. “Do some things where you might not know what the outcome is.”

Jemison was on the shuttle Endeavour in 1992 and was the first African American woman in space. She was a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) astronaut from 1987 to 1993. After leaving NASA, she founded The Jemison Group, Inc. and is currently building a new business, BioSentient Corporation.

On May 14, world-renowned author Ernest Gaines addressed an audience of several hundred, reading aloud from his book “A Lesson Before Dying,” sharing insights on his body of work, and answering questions from students and community members alike. Earlier that day, Gaines met with writing students from The Ohio State University at Newark; he discussed the craft of writing and answered their questions.

Gaines’ appearance was the grand finale in a year-long study of his book (“A Lesson Before Dying”) that included students, faculty, and staff. Lectures based upon various themes raised by the book took place throughout the academic year.
Building on the Strengths of our Community

The Ohio State University at Newark and Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) have partnered with several other organizations including the Licking County Chamber of Commerce (Chamber), Denison University and C-TEC in the Community Capitalism Initiative. The concept of community capitalism is detailed in a book by Ron Kitchens that was distributed through the county by the Chamber.

Jennifer McDonald, communications and marketing director for the Chamber, said the focus of the initiative is "...to pull together the key driving forces in the community to catalyze economic growth, provide educational support and awareness, retain local talent and further market the assets of Licking County. It is truly a grassroots effort." The group recently celebrated the efforts of its five individual subgroups formed to study downtown Newark, educational support, higher education opportunities, local infrastructure/capital, marketing and area talent.

"Several key staff, faculty and administrators from both Ohio State Newark and COTC have been actively participating in one or more of these subgroups, including a review of higher educational opportunities as well as the study of downtown Newark," stated William L. MacDonald, dean and director of Ohio State Newark.

As part of the effort to enhance downtown Newark, Ohio State Newark decided to co-sponsor the Midland Theatre concert featuring former American Idol, David Cook (photographed above). Cook performed at the theatre on May 28 to a sold-out crowd, and tickets were promoted to area college students at a discounted rate. "The Midland Theatre is one of our city's unique assets and encouraging its success benefits the entire community," stated Dr. MacDonald.

Education was one of the common themes that emerged from the group's initial meetings, too. Tara Houdeshell, COTC Community Access Coordinator who co-chairs the access action group, stated "Networking with other higher education institutions has been phenomenal. People at the table may be from very different backgrounds and experiences, but everyone is taking a broad view of our community...the potential for ongoing collaboration is tremendous."

One example of such collaboration has been a review of area opportunities for student internships and other career exploration programs. Derek Thatcher, director of career and experiential services for the Newark campus, said he is now involved in the internship action group. "One result of our activities to date has been the development of connections between higher education and community employers," he stated, adding, "we've been getting various stakeholders together to build momentum for internships and co-op education."

For further information about the Community Capitalism Initiative, visit http://lickingcountycommunitycapitalism.blogspot.com.
Graduate’s Career Based on Solid Research

Marjorie Armstrong-Stassen, Ph.D., management professor emeritus, Odette School of Business at the University of Windsor, Ontario, gives all of the credit for her success to her mentor at The Ohio State University at Newark: Sara Staats, Ph.D., now a retired professor of psychology. Among Armstrong-Stassen’s most recent achievements is the publication of a manuscript titled “Taking a Positive Approach to Organizational Downsizing,” in the Canadian Journal of Administrative Sciences (2009). She received the 2008 Verity International Award for Overall Outstanding Paper in Management.

“At Ohio State Newark, I was a psychology lab assistant for Dr. Staats and gained tremendous experience in research — experience you don’t typically find as an undergraduate,” states Armstrong-Stassen. “Sara was a wonderful mentor... she’s very good at one-on-one. She has a knack for ‘bringing students along,’” added the professor.

Particularly during her undergraduate years, Armstrong-Stassen faced many of the challenges that non-traditional students face today. She was the mother of five young children when she started working toward her Bachelor of Science in Psychology at Ohio State Newark. Armstrong-Stassen persevered and graduated summa cum laude from Ohio State’s College of Arts and Sciences in 1981. “People who have many commitments such as working adults with children are often highly-motivated students,” she states. “I learned quickly to prioritize my reading assignments.”

“As a second-year psych student, I remember setting up and running my own lab study on left brain-right brain comparisons... how people recall shapes and words,” explained Armstrong-Stassen. She said that her research experience provided a competitive advantage later as a doctoral student.

Armstrong-Stassen continued her education at Ohio State, earning a Master of Labor and Human Resources through the Fisher College of Business. She went on to earn a Doctor of Philosophy in the same field, with major areas of study including organizational behavior and human resource management. Her research work has always been focused on psychology, including her doctoral dissertation, which was titled “The impact of work-force reduction on retained employees: how well do job survivors survive?”

While at Ohio State, Armstrong-Stassen was selected as the most outstanding student in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences in 1981. The well-published professor has received numerous awards including the Odette Award for Research Excellence in recognition of outstanding research from 2006 to 2008.
Longtime Faculty Member and Former Dean/Director Retires

When Julius S. Greenstein, Ph.D., arrived at The Ohio State University at Newark in 1980, he became dean and director of an institution that was far different from what it is today. Most of the present-day campus was still covered by grassy fields then, with only Founders, Hopewell, and Adena Halls standing. Further, in addition to serving as dean and director of Ohio State Newark, Greenstein was president of Central Ohio Technical College (COTC), the co-located two-year college which shares facilities, staff, and resources with Ohio State Newark. (Since 2004, COTC has had its own president.)

During his 14-year tenure as chief administrator, Greenstein oversaw a period of tremendous campus growth and transformation. One of the most significant changes was the introduction of a student apartment complex in 1986, which was later acquired by the university. The addition of residence halls has been so successful that in recent years, the campus has not been able to meet demand for them.

Additional changes followed: the Newark Campus Child Development Center was built in 1988, and Lefevre Hall, home to technical education and performing arts, opened in 1993.

“It was a period of considerable growth,” recalled Greenstein, “but you don’t do this kind of a job on your own. I was very lucky to have good people working with me, and this campus has always had marvelous support from the community.”

Greenstein, a professor in the Department of Evolutionary, Environmental and Organismal Biology, continued as dean and director until 1994. At that time, he was invited to be a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the U.S. Air Force Academy, where he taught for a year before returning as a full-time faculty member at Ohio State Newark.

He has served on numerous campus committees and he and his wife, Joette, were responsible for creating and funding the Julius S. and Joette Greenstein Award, which is given annually to a member of the Newark campus staff, administration, or faculty whose efforts, attitudes, deeds and behavior have made a major contribution toward the perpetuation of the genuine spirit of mutual respect and cooperation between Ohio State Newark and COTC.

“This campus was extremely fortunate to have had the benefit of Julius Greenstein’s academic expertise and notable administrative skills,” said Ohio State Newark Dean and Director William L. MacDonald. “His long, distinguished service to Ohio State Newark is to be commended.”

Greenstein holds an A.B. in biology from Clark University, and a Ph.D. in zoology-physiology from the University of Illinois. He retired from Ohio State in April 2009.
Autumn quarter has traditionally been a time for change. With that in mind, Ohio State Newark bids a fond farewell to our retiring faculty members. At the same time, we would like to welcome three new full-time faculty members to the campus.

**Farewell to Retirees**

James Loucks, Ph.D., associate professor of English, retired on September 30, 2008. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Yale University and his master’s and Ph.D. from The Ohio State University. He was first was employed at Ohio State Newark as an associate professor of English and served as associate dean in 1977-1978. He moved to the Columbus campus to serve as assistant vice president for registration services and then as assistant vice president for student services. He returned to Ohio State Newark’s Department of English in 1985 and served as coordinator of English from 1989-2004. His publications include: Robert Browning’s Poetry: ‘A Norton Critical Edition’ and Browning’s Roman Murder Story: A Reading of “The Ring and the Book.” He was the recipient of the Research and Scholarly Activity Grant in 1991 and 1997 and the Special Research Assignment in 1992 and 2000.

Cary Rader, Ph.D., associate professor of math, retired on December 31, 2008. He received a B.S. in physics and a B.S. in mathematics and his Ph.D. from the University of Washington. He has been with Ohio State Newark since 1981. Rader was a member of the team which wrote the Academic Challenge Grant to establish the math lab on campus and has volunteered his time and talent to helping students in the lab over the years. He has served on several campus committees, and was the recipient of the Thomas J. Evans Teaching Excellence Award in 1986.

David Ruderman, Ph.D., assistant professor of English, received his doctorate degree in English language and literature from the University of Michigan (U of M), Ann Arbor. Dr. Ruderman was a lecturer at U of M and he specializes in nineteenth-century British literature with a focus on poetry and poetics. In 2008-09, he received a fellowship with the American Psychoanalytic Association. Ruderman is currently working on a publication titled ‘The Breathing Space of Ballad: Tennyson’s Stillborn Poetics.’

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**Welcome New Faculty**

Dana Munteanu, Ph.D., assistant professor of classical studies, comes to Newark from the University of Cincinnati (UC) with a Ph.D. in classical philology. Her primary research interests include Greek and Roman drama, ancient literary theory, ancient and modern aesthetics, and reception of classics in opera. Munteanu is currently working on a book titled “Pathos: From Another to One’s Own. The Rhetoric of the Tragic Emotions in Classical Greek Culture.”

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Michael Dornoo, Ph.D., assistant professor of math education, recently completed his doctorate degree at the University of Nevada-Reno, in educational specialties/mathematics education. His research interests include teaching and learning mathematics from a multicultural perspective. While studying at the University of Nevada, Dornoo received the Outstanding International Graduate Student Award.
Ohio State Newark Enrollment Statistics

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</table>

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:
Students represent 26 countries