Diversity at The Ohio State University at Newark

Just as President E. Gordon Gee noted diversity as a key goal in his strategic plan for The Ohio State University, so has Ohio State Newark identified diversity as a priority. To that end, Ohio State Newark has been working to increase diversity in a multitude of ways, including student body, faculty, and staff.

Ohio State Newark supports the definition of diversity as “inclusive of, but not limited to, differences among people(s) including race, mixed races and heritages, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, status, age, physical abilities, mental abilities, cultural heritage, religious beliefs, political beliefs, and geographic location.”

Ohio State Newark and its partner Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) have created a number of avenues to ensure that advancements in diversity continue to be made. Part of that ongoing effort is the Diversity Committee, which is composed of a mix of 14 faculty and staff members from both Ohio State Newark and COTC.

In its January 2010 report to the Ohio State Newark Board of Trustees, the Diversity Committee noted diversity-related accomplishments that have been achieved. The accomplishments fell under three categories: Students (with subcategories of student life and academics); Institutional Workforce; and Institution and Community.

For accomplishments related to student life, the committee reported that there are student organizations based on anticipated profession; religious, philosophical and political perspectives; and those based on culture and heritage. In fact, there are over 50 student organizations available.

Each academic year, Ohio State Newark’s student population is increasingly culturally diverse. The number of minority students attending our campus is larger than the percentage of minorities living in the local community,” said Vorley Taylor, program manager of Multi-Cultural Affairs. “As an institution, we have to prepare our students and community for the changing demographics.”

The Buckeye Book Club, which last year read A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest Gaines and this year read Three Cups of Tea by G. Mortensen and D. Relin, was reported under academic accomplishments. Additionally, several grants are available which provide faculty the means to enhance or develop new courses: The Diversity Enhancement Grant and the Diversity New Course Development Grant. Because of the grants, five new classes were added, including “Natives and Newcomers;” “American Indian Literature for Children” and “Abroad in New Orleans, African American History and Literature.” Filmmaker, journalist, and New Orleans expert Lolis Elie was brought to campus to lecture.

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A Message from the Dean and Director

Campus and Community

When I arrived at The Ohio State University at Newark in 1992, I never could have imagined that we would add three fabulous buildings to the campus grounds in a time span of less than two decades. Those buildings and the generous community members who helped fund them have created not only a very attractive setting but also a contemporary, technically advanced environment in which campus constituents are producing a wonderfully rich campus culture. LeFevre Hall, the John Gilbert Reese Center, and the John L. and Christine Warner Library and Student Center have added immeasurably to the cultural climate of this campus.

Our constituents, of course, include individuals from a wide range of areas, including faculty, staff, students, members of the community, and business owners. In this issue of Profiles, you’ll read about the many ways our different constituents are contributing to the campus culture. For example, faculty member Marilee Martens organized a social event for parents of children with Williams syndrome that drew families from all over the country. Other events, such as the Faculty Lecture Series, Art Gallery exhibits, and Black Box Theatre productions, give local citizens a chance to participate in lively discussions, exchange ideas, and enjoy fine arts events.

Groups such as the Heisey Wind Ensemble and the Newark-Granville Symphony Orchestra add to our campus culture as well throughout the year, both performing concerts in the Reese Center on campus and in the summer at our annual 4th of July Celebration.

Let me invite you to campus to make your own contribution to our culture. You could participate as an audience member at a public event, or merely cozy up by a roaring fire with a good book at the John L. and Christine Warner Library and Student Center. I’ve heard that some energetic folks traveled to campus on cross-country skis by way of the bike path during our very snowy winter. We hope that they will return on bikes after the snow is long gone.

Whatever your method of transportation, please know that we welcome you!

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

Diversity at The Ohio State University at Newark

department from page 1

In the area of Institutional Workforce, the committee found that a number of collaborative efforts had created opportunities for faculty and staff to “analyze and re-think attitudes and beliefs, knowledge, and skills.” Those activities include workshops, book clubs, a World Café, and a Women’s Mentoring Program. The topics addressed ranged from diversity and cross-cultural communication to disability awareness.

Concerning Institution and Community, the Committee reported three events that helped to fulfill the commitment to provide “an environment that is welcoming and rich with diversity, new perspectives, critical thinking opportunities and experiences.” Those were the Great Performers Series, Newark Earthworks Day, and the American Indian Literature Conference/Artist in Residence program.

Members of the university community “need to be enlightened about what diversity is,” said José Cabral, Ph.D., interim chair of the Diversity Committee. Cabral said that the committee has invited students and staff to give a presentation at their next meeting.

“For students preparing to embark upon work and life within the socio-cultural world in the 21st century, a critical element of a well-rounded education is the ability to understand and to function effectively in a diverse and increasingly interdependent global society,” said Christine D. Warner, associate professor, education, and committee member. “Here there is both an institutional commitment as well as faculty and staff dedication to the ultimate education product in the broadest sense, including preparation for life in the working world.”
Community Welcome at New Campus Library

When the John L. and Christine Warner Library and Student Center officially opened in October 2008, the campus – as well as the community – benefited from the expanded library services. In fact, community members are encouraged to obtain a guest library card and check out books, use the computers and even reserve space for group events.

While the entire building is a model of high-tech efficiency and style, the library’s features may be particularly notable when considering the dramatic changes that took place when it was relocated to the Warner Center.

Library users have access to the special collections as well as to the archives. The special collections focus on Mound Builders and on Ohio Native Americans. The earliest special collections item is dated in the early 1800s. The archives include faculty publications for Ohio State Newark and COTC; materials have been archived since the campus opened.

The librarians all agree that a profound change from the old library space to the Warner Center Library and Student Center has been the reliance on technology and the decrease in popularity of print materials.

“If we have more contemporary policies,” noted Scott. “Also, a mix of sound and quiet, student uses of technology, and more group studying — all facilitated by the new physical space of the library.”

Memorial Service

Lillabelle Holt

Faculty and staff at The Ohio State University at Newark will honor the late Lillabelle Holt, Ph.D., at 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 22, in the John Gilbert Reese Center. The memorial service will be open to all who wish to attend.

Holt, who passed away on January 7, 2010, retired from the university in 2004. She was instrumental in the establishment of the four-year undergraduate teachers’ preparation program at Ohio State Newark. Between 1999 and 2001, Holt placed over 280 education students in schools to do their student teaching.

Holt began her career as an elementary school teacher, and pursued her advanced degrees in order to help others learn to teach environmental education. She saw a need to teach elementary school-aged children about the environment, but in order for that to happen, those who educate the aspiring teachers would need to be educated.

Holt became a nationally recognized pioneer in environmental education.

“Lillabelle went green before it was popular,” said Edie Norlin, an education lecturer who worked closely with Holt at Ohio State Newark.

In 2005, members of the education department created the Lillabelle Holt Undergraduate Education Award to recognize one outstanding education major each year. The winner receives $500, the highest dollar amount awarded at the annual Undergraduate Awards Ceremony.

In addition to Ohio State, Holt taught at Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio, and the University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau. She earned her Ph.D., M.A., and B.S. at Ohio University.

For more information about the memorial service, please write to Edie Norlin at norlin.123@osu.edu.
Robert Hughes, Ph.D., assistant professor of English at The Ohio State University at Newark, says that there's nothing he'd rather do more than be a university professor.

Hughes holds a passion for literature that translates to his work. While he teaches literature survey courses and English Composition, he especially enjoys the freedom to design courses around subjects that he loves. His special interest and expertise in nineteenth-century American literature led him to develop an intriguing upper-level course comparing American and European literary works of the 1850s.

His most recent book, *Ethics, Aesthetics, and the Beyond of Language*, forthcoming from the State University of New York Press, explores the relationship between literature and ethics. Through readings of three American Romantic authors (Charles Brockden Brown, Washington Irving, and Nathaniel Hawthorne), as well as through readings of continental thinkers, his active research agenda has produced a co-edited book, contributed chapters in several volumes, and presentations at both the national and international level. He is already beginning research for his next book, which will examine the philosophy of art and aesthetics proposed by the contemporary French thinker, Alain Badiou.

### Earn a Bachelor’s Degree in English at Ohio State Newark

English majors at The Ohio State University at Newark have the advantage of small class size and access to faculty members who are specialists in a wide variety of fields: Renaissance English literature, rhetoric and composition, 20th century black American novelists, the British moderns, and women writers, among others. These scholars are also dedicated classroom teachers: approachable, experienced, and creative.

At Ohio State Newark, teaching students to communicate with purpose, clarity, and authority is central to the English program's philosophy and curriculum. Students are encouraged to immerse themselves in the process of intellectual growth through reading deeply and thinking hard about new ideas.

Ohio State Newark's English program offerings have proved useful to students with a variety of goals — from employment in business to professional preparation in fields like law and journalism and graduate work in English. To learn more, visit [www.newark.osu.edu](http://www.newark.osu.edu).

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### For the Love of Literature

Robert Hughes, Ph.D., assistant professor of English at The Ohio State University at Newark, says that there's nothing he'd rather do more than be a university professor.

Hughes holds a passion for literature that translates to his work. While he teaches literature survey courses and English Composition, he especially enjoys the freedom to design courses around subjects that he loves. His special interest and expertise in nineteenth-century American literature led him to develop an intriguing upper-level course comparing American and European literary works of the 1850s.

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Says Hughes of his work, “I love the material; I love the books.”

Further, Ohio State Newark's small class size allows Hughes to get to know his students. In a class of only 20 – 30 students, a professor will know who is present, who is absent, and which students are engaged with the material.

“I would say that most students are here to learn,” noted Hughes. “I respect the desire to know,” he added. “For me, what a student knows is not as important as what they want to know.”

Hughes, who previously taught at Augusta State University in Georgia, came to Ohio State Newark in 2005. He holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Emory University, an M.A. in English and American Literature from the University of Missouri, and a B.A. in English from the University of Tulsa.

His active research agenda has produced a co-edited book, contributed chapters in several volumes, and presentations at both the national and international level. He is already beginning research for his next book, which will examine the philosophy of art and aesthetics proposed by the contemporary French thinker, Alain Badiou.

### Writers Find a Home Away From Home

For many students, a collegiate writing assignment can be an intimidating prospect. But at The Ohio State University at Newark, students of all academic backgrounds and levels of confidence have a place where they can examine and discuss ways to improve their writing. The Writer's Studio, a free service to students, provides one-on-one writing support through trained Peer Writing Consultants (PWCs).

In the Writer's Studio, a comfortable, inviting space in the John L. and Christine Warner Library and Student Center, Ohio State Newark students can find help not only with individual writing assignments, but also with group projects or presentations, or even for non-academic work such as resumes, cover letters, and creative writing. Students can schedule a 30 or 60-minute session in advance or even submit a paper online.

Resource materials are available in the Writer's Studio, too, along with both PC and Mac computers and free printing of papers for Ohio State courses.

While the Writer's Studio is committed to serving as a campus resource for writers of all skill levels and majors, and to providing support for faculty and staff, Studio Director Elizabeth Caldwell, Ph.D., is equally clear as to what the Writer's Studio is not.

“We are not a proofreading service, and we don’t write papers for students,” noted Caldwell. “Learning to write is a lifelong process, and we are here to help students, staff, and faculty alike make informed choices about their writing.”

Caldwell added that student writers and PWCs have come to view the Writer’s Studio as their intellectual home on campus. Close to 70 percent of the Studio’s PWCs go on to graduate school. She also is proud to point out that not all of the PWCs are English majors.

“Writing is not the property of the English Department,” said Caldwell. “We all view ourselves as learners.”
Williams Syndrome

Families find community at Ohio State Newark

Nate, an exuberant eight-year-old with an impish smile, arrived at The Ohio State University at Newark accompanied by his grandmother and legal guardian, Dawn. Last November, the pair drove from their home in West Virginia to attend a very special gathering in Newark.

Nate has Williams syndrome, a rare genetic condition that causes medical and developmental problems, including issues with the heart or blood vessels, musculoskeletal troubles, and developmental delays. At Ohio State Newark, Dawn and Nate would get the uncommon opportunity to meet with other families from the region who are also living with Williams syndrome.

Since 2008, Ohio State Newark Assistant Professor of Psychology Marilee Martens, Ph.D., has annually organized two or three of these very special family social activities. Martens, a licensed psychologist and professor, is a member of a multidisciplinary team at the Williams Syndrome Clinic, a joint effort of the Nisonger Center (a University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at The Ohio State University) and Nationwide Children’s Hospital. It is one of only a handful of clinics across the country specializing in the evaluation and services support for children with Williams syndrome.

First identified as a distinct disorder in 1961, Williams syndrome is present at birth, affects both males and females equally, occurs in all ethnic groups, and has been identified in countries throughout the world, according to the Williams Syndrome Association. Individuals with Williams syndrome can experience developmental delays in cognitive, behavioral, and motor skills areas.

Martens is committed to conducting intervention-based research that will help improve the lives of children with Williams syndrome, and has several projects underway or about to begin, including a cutting-edge tracking study using computers to analyze the approachability of children with Williams syndrome.

What sets Martens apart is not only her commitment to intervention-based research, but her efforts to help families connect with a support community. The family social events she organizes meet a previously unrecognized need for community among families living with Williams syndrome, as evidenced by their increasing popularity.

“Every time we have an event, we get a new family,” said Martens. “We’re averaging about 70 attendees per event.”

At the November gathering, in addition to families from Ohio and West Virginia, others travelled from as far away as Michigan, Indiana, and Kansas, according to Martens.

Dawn, who works full time, has learned to become an advocate for her grandson, but laments the fact that very few people, including doctors and educators, know very much about Williams syndrome. Nate receives accommodations at school, says Dawn, but he has been placed with autistic children.

“He’s not autistic,” said Dawn, “But no one really knows quite how to handle Williams syndrome.”

She was thrilled for Nate to be able to connect with other children who also have Williams, and she was very eager to meet other families who are facing the same issues.

“I have learned so much through Nate,” said Dawn, tears springing to her eyes. “We’ve had a long road, but through him I’ve learned how to look at the world and see what really matters.”

Individuals of all ages come to Ohio State Newark to attend the social events for families with Williams syndrome.

Engaging Students in Learning: Play in the Classroom

Mary K. Bendixen-Noe, Ph.D., will close the 2009-10 Faculty Lecture Series with her talk “Engaging Students in Learning: Play in the Classroom” at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 6, in the John Gilbert Reese Center. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Bendixen-Noe will address what is often seen as two opposing viewpoints: the standards-based classroom and the developmentally-appropriate classroom and will discuss how to bridge the two. She will explain how children lose initiative and engagement in the classroom when test-centered instruction focuses solely on drill, memorization and procedures that leave no room for creativity, reasoning, and higher level thinking.

Parents of children in primary grades, teachers, aspiring teachers, and anyone with an interest in the improvement of education methods will be interested in the lecture.

Bendixen-Noe is an associate professor in the School of Teaching and Learning at Ohio State Newark.

Peter Hennen, Ph.D., professor of sociology, opened the annual lecture series in November with his lecture “In a Different Voice: Embodied Gender and the Case of the Countertenor.” Howard Marcum, Ph.D. followed in February with “Music of the Spheres: An Invitation to Homotopy Theory.”

The Faculty Lecture Series is a forum in which faculty members share their areas of expertise. In this forum, students learn outside the classroom and the community can participate in a lively discussion and exchange of ideas. The series is hosted annually by Dean/Director William L. MacDonald, Ohio State Newark.

For more information about the series, call 740.364.9635 or email rsvp-newark@osu.edu.
Dr. Paul E. Panek Memorial Scholarship Created

Veteran psychology faculty member honored

Long-time Ohio State University at Newark faculty member, the late Paul E. Panek, Ph.D., will be remembered in many ways — as associate dean, professor of psychology, prolific researcher, licensed and practicing psychologist, and as a mentor to many students and junior faculty members alike.

It is especially Paul’s latter role, however, as dedicated and devoted guide and mentor, which inspired his widow, Christine Panek, to create a memorial scholarship in his honor.

“Paul simply loved Ohio State,” said Christine. “He loved the Newark campus, and he was passionate about helping students engage in research and to help them publish their work.”

To honor this legacy, the Dr. Paul E. Panek Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to an undergraduate student ranked as a junior or senior who is majoring in psychology at Ohio State Newark and has completed psychological research resulting in publication or a poster presentation.

At the time of his death in December 2007, Paul was serving as coordinator of Ohio State Newark’s Psychology Program. He received numerous awards in his professional life, including Ohio State Newark’s Barnes Award for Exemplary Teaching. In addition to serving on several editorial boards, Paul co-authored a major text, *Adult Development and Aging*, which is currently in its fourth edition. Paul Panek was an active researcher as a faculty member as well as during his time as an administrator. His numerous publications and presentations typically were co-authored with younger faculty and students.

Dr. Panek received his Ph.D. in psychology in 1977 from the University of Akron, an M.S. in psychology from the University of Bridgeport in 1973, and a B.A. in psychology from Central Connecticut State College in 1969. He was a member of the American Association on Mental Retardation, American Psychological Association, Gerontological Society (Fellow 1994), and Society for Personality Assessment. He was also actively involved in the community as a board member for LICCO, Licking/Knox Goodwill Industries, and Friends of Citizens with Disabilities.

“I was moved to endow this scholarship because I felt that it would be a wonderful tribute to Paul’s legacy here at Ohio State Newark,” said Christine. “I hope that through this scholarship, Paul’s love for research, and the importance he placed on mentoring young people, will remain alive at Ohio State Newark.”

Help Ohio State Newark students in need

Since the first day of classes in 1874, Ohio State’s core and foundation has been its students. Now, in the midst of challenging economic times, the nation’s largest university is rallying with renewed vigor behind its most important asset. Introduced by President E. Gordon Gee in December 2008, Students First is a university-wide initiative designed to ensure access to education for Ohio State students. Since many families will meet financial hardships due to the current recessionary economy, the university is committed to helping students enter Ohio State and stay enrolled once they arrive.

As part of the far-reaching commitment of the Students First initiative, a fundraising drive called Students First, Students Now has been implemented.
Great Performers Series

**Bringing exciting, live music to Newark**

Acoustic guitarist Tim Sparks will perform a solo show at 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 8, in LeFevre Hall’s Black Box Theatre at The Ohio State University at Newark. Jim Volk, guitar virtuoso from Columbus, will play the opening set. People of all ages are sure to enjoy the concert, which is free and open to the public.

Sparks plays a steel string guitar. Hear samples of his music at www.timsparks.com.

Previous performers in the Series have included classical guitarist Jason Vieaux, North Indian classical musician Anupama Bhagwat, the Pine Leaf Boys playing Cajun tunes, and jazz guitarist Joel Harrison with Columbus native Christian Howes.

The Great Performers Series brings live music to Newark and is always free and open to the public. For more information about the series, contact Ron Emoff at 740.366.9271 or emoff.1@osu.edu.

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The Ohio State University at Newark
Department of Theatre

**Spring production:**

30 Neo-Futurist Plays From “Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind”

This high energy and fast-paced show features an ensemble cast performing 30 plays in 60 minutes. Some are funny, some are sexy, some are just downright weird, but they all give way to the next one very, very quickly. The show will expand the audience’s ideas of theatre’s potential and capabilities.

Performances will be presented on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, May 27, 28, 29, and June 3, 4, and 5, at 8 p.m., Black Box Theatre, LeFevre Hall. Tickets are $3 students and $4 public.

**Reading:**

Selections from Beowulf

Readers will present some of the highlights of the oldest epic poem in English. This free reading will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, June 4, in the John L. and Christine Warner Library and Student Center.

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Auditions for Ohio State Newark theatre productions are open

Auditions are open to the entire community; mature performers are welcome. Plan now to attend several exciting evenings of staged readings and live theatre at Ohio State Newark.

Look for upcoming audition notices in future issues of Profiles.

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LeFevre Art Gallery

Sally Heller — multimedia installation — Monday, April 5 – Sunday, April 11. The gallery is open Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. There is no fee to visit the gallery. Visit www.newark.osu.edu for details of upcoming exhibits.

www.newark.osu.edu
Events at The Ohio State University at Newark and all Central Ohio Technical College campuses
(Newark, Coshocton, Knox, and Pataskala)

Events and times are subject to change. For up-to-date information about events on campus, please visit www.newark.osu.edu and www.cotc.edu or call 740.366.3355.

Thursday, April 8
Tim Sparks, acoustic guitarist, solo show – FREE
A featured event of the Great Performers Series; Sparks will perform a solo show on acoustic (steel string) guitar, with an opening set by Columbus guitar virtuoso Jim Volk.
Black Box Theatre, LeFevre Hall, 8 p.m.
For more information: Ron Emoff @ 740.366.9271 or emoff.1@osu.edu

Tuesday, April 13
Buckeye Visit Day – FREE

Friday, April 16
COTC Discovery Days – FREE
Learn about careers and educational opportunities at COTC.
The John Gilbert Reese Center, COTC Newark Campus, 9:30 a.m. campus tour, 10 a.m. information session.
To register or for more information call 740.366.9222 or 1.800.963.9275 (ext. 222).

Friday, April 30
COTC AutoCAD Workshop – FREE
Join COTC’s experienced faculty for a workshop exploring the fundamentals of AutoCAD.
LeFevre Hall, COTC Newark Campus, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
To register or learn more, call Michael Rice @ 740.366.9139 or mrice@cotc.edu

Wednesday, May 5
Buckeye Visit Day – FREE

Thursday, May 6
Faculty Lecture Series – FREE
Mary K. Bendixen-Noe, Ph.D., Associate Professor, School of Teaching & Learning
“Engaging Students in Learning: Play in the Classroom”
The John Gilbert Reese Center, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
More information or to RSVP (not required but helpful): 740-364-9635 or rsvp-newark@osu.edu.

Saturday, May 8
COTC Discovery Days - FREE
The John Gilbert Reese Center, COTC Newark Campus, 9:30 a.m. campus tour, 10 a.m. information session.

Thursday – Saturday, May 27 - May 29 & June 3 - 5
30 Neo-Futurist Plays from “Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind” Fast and high-energy performance.
Black Box Theatre, LeFevre Hall, 8 p.m.
$3/students; $4/general public
Information: Director Dave Williams @ 740.366.9474 or williams.1341@osu.edu

Friday, June 2
“Selections from Beowulf” – spring quarter reading – FREE
Warner Center, Constance Corkwell Baldwin Fireside Lounge, 7:30 p.m.
Information: Director Dave Williams @ 740.366.9474 or williams.1341@osu.edu

Non-Discrimination Statement
The Ohio State University at Newark does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, age, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, color, veteran status, and/or disability. General information, questions, concerns, or complaints related to these matters are to be directed to the Title IX Coordinator, John Berry, Warner Center, Suite 236, Ohio State Newark/COTC, 1179 University Drive, Newark, Ohio 43055-1797 (740.364.9578) or ADA/504 Coordinator, Connie Zang, at the same location.

www.newark.osu.edu