Newark Earthworks Day Honors the Past While Celebrating the Future

With a full day of events in two locations, Newark Earthworks Day (NED) is right around the corner. Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 3. All events are free and open to the public.

This January the U.S. Department of the Interior announced that it has included the Newark Earthworks on a short list of sites which the U.S. intends to nominate for World Heritage status. This year's NED will compare the Newark Earthworks to two World Heritage sites: Stonehenge in England and the Pyramids of the Sun and the Moon in Mexico.

The John Gilbert Reese Center (on the campus of The Ohio State University at Newark and Central Ohio Technical College) will house the first part of the NED program. Between 9 am and 4:30 pm, guests are invited to explore exhibits and hear presentations about Newark, Stonehenge and Teotihuacán.

At 5:30 pm, visit the Great Circle Earthworks to witness the ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly renovated Ohio Historical Society (OHS) Museum. Join in a community celebration, which will include a picnic and tours of the museum.

At 6:30 pm, the Great Circle will feature ten Aztec descendants from Teotihuacán who will lead a ceremony in dance.

"The Newark Earthworks were a ceremonial center that drew people from hundreds, even thousands of miles," Professor Richard Shiels explained. "It is appropriate that we will draw people from great distances again and that these ten dancers will travel such a distance to lead a celebration at the Great Circle."

The Newark Earthworks are the largest complex of geometric earthworks ever built. Consisting of a circle connected to an octagon by a ceremonial road made of two 6' tall parallel walls, the entire earthworks complex extends over thousands of acres of land. Careful observers of the heavens, indigenous people of this land built a huge earthen octagon aligned to the sky.

Two thousand years ago, Native Americans built the earthworks to predict every significant transition during the complex 18.6-year lunar cycle using astronomical, engineering, and mathematical knowledge.

Presenters at NED will be: Sonya Atalay, assistant professor, anthropology, Indiana University; David Carrasco, Neil Rudenstein Professor of the Study of Latin America, Harvard Divinity School; Susan Evans, professor, archaeological anthropology, Pennsylvania State University; Sandra Garner, doctoral student, comparative studies, The Ohio State University and graduate research associate, Newark Earthworks Center; Jeff Gill, volunteers services co-coordinator, Newark Earthworks State Memorial; John Hancock, professor, architectural history, University of Cincinnati and director, Center for the Electronic Reconstruction of Historical and Archaeological Sites (CERHAS); Lindsay Jones, professor, comparative studies, The Ohio State University; Bradley Lepper, curator of archaeology, Ohio Historical Society; and Lionel Sims, principal lecturer in anthropology, University of East London.

For more information, visit www.OctagonMoonrise.org or call 740.364.9574.
A Message from the Dean and Director

The Ohio State University — “the front door to Ohio’s future”

When Ohio State University President Gordon Gee spoke to the Faculty Council this fall, he announced six strategic goals for making The Ohio State University the best institution it can be. (See sidebar.)

The first goal, to “forge one Ohio State University,” illustrates the inclusiveness President Gee has shown for the regional campuses. Furthermore, all of the goals affirm the Newark campus’s strategic planning. President Gee has called us to “put students first.” Our plan aims to do this by strengthening the first-year experience, improving student retention, developing the campus’s recreational facilities, increasing research-oriented learning experiences, increasing scholarship funding, constructing additional residence halls, and increasing opportunities for students to study abroad.

Recognizing that being the best university possible means having the best people and doing the most innovative research, President Gee has called us to “focus on faculty success” and to “recast our research agenda.” At the Newark campus, we will do so by developing stronger research support for our most promising faculty members, improving compensation for productive members of the faculty and staff and creating more space for research.

In addition, acknowledging the vital role that the university plays in making a difference in people’s lives, President Gee has asked us “to commit to our communities and revitalize our covenants with them.” To do so, the Newark campus pledges to make Ohio State Newark affordable to all students, to increase the campus’s capacity for enrollment, to explore adding degree programs, to increase graduates in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, to cultivate interest in higher education, and to enhance our involvement with local communities.

President Gee’s sixth goal calls us to “simplify university systems and structures so that they promote our progress.” Bringing multiple areas under the direction of one assistant dean illustrates our commitment to that goal, as does our commitment to sharing resources with Central Ohio Technical College. Thus, the campus is well positioned to help the university reach the six strategic goals President Gee has established to make Ohio State “the university of the American dream, an institution worthy of the public trust, and the front door to Ohio’s future.” In Newark, as this issue of Profiles demonstrates, the door is wide open.

President Gee’s six strategic goals:
1. Forge one Ohio State University
2. Put students first
3. Focus on faculty success
4. Recast our research agenda
5. Commit to our communities and revitalize our covenants with them
6. Simplify university systems and structures so that they promote our progress

In Memoriam
Long-time professor remembered

The Ohio State University at Newark mourns the loss of long-time faculty member Dr. Paul Panek, who died unexpectedly at his home on December 28, 2007. During his lengthy tenure at Ohio State Newark, Paul served the university in many capacities – as associate dean, academic dean, professor of psychology, and good friend to many. He will be greatly missed.

At the time of his death, Paul Panek 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, now in its 4th edition. Paul Panek was an active researcher as a faculty member and as an administrator. His numerous publications and presentations typically were co-authored with younger faculty and with students.

Paul Panek received his baccalaureate degree in psychology from Central Connecticut State College, his M.S. from the University of Bridgeport and his Ph.D. from the University of Akron. In addition, he was a member of the American Association on Mental Retardation, the American Psychological Association, The Gerontological Society and the Society for Personality Assessment.

Upon moving to Ohio State Newark from Eastern Illinois University in 1988, he embraced becoming a Buckeye, and enjoyed regular trips to Ohio State football and basketball games.

Paul engaged life with courage and persistent determination. In addition to his dedication to his work in psychology, Paul was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. Paul lived life with more energy and enthusiasm than most. His presence will be felt at Ohio State Newark for many years.
The Ohio State University at Newark recently awarded two newly created financial awards for academic year 2007-08. The Most Improved Award was created to recognize students whose academic achievements at Ohio State Newark are significantly better than their high school achievements. The Brutus Scholarship, the second new award, is based on combined financial need and academic achievement at the high school level. Award winners hail from a wide geographic range within the state, including as far away as the greater Dayton and Cleveland areas.

Ohio State Newark's Board of Trustees was the impetus behind the creation of the new awards. "The Board expressed interest in rewarding two different groups of students – those who have proven themselves during their first year at Ohio State Newark, and those with a combination of academic merit and financial need," said Ann Donahue, director of enrollment.

"Not only does this award help me financially but also gives me a sense of accomplishment," said Johnstown resident Mitchell Gardner, a Most Improved Award winner. "An education is one of the most important things someone can obtain in this day and age and I'm glad to be obtaining mine in an institution that recognizes students such as myself."

The Positive Balance program uses highly trained AmeriCorps members to provide financial education and personal financial coaching to any person in Licking County. Jeramie Rowland, the AmeriCorps Financial Coach for the campus, has been increasingly busy since arriving last September. "Some people I meet with only once, while others request multiple sessions," notes Rowland. "Also, John Berry, Ohio State Newark director of student affairs, has been very supportive; he even re-deployed some retired computers for our use, which was a great help."

The program, which began operating in 2006, is coordinated by the Licking County Coalition for Housing. All program services are offered free of charge, and while Ohio State Newark and COTC students are encouraged to take advantage of the program, services are open to anyone in Licking County.

The program's long-term goals are to decrease the number of home foreclosures, bankruptcies, and usage of payday loans and other unhealthy financial products in Licking County, and to increase the personal savings rate and establish relationships between clients and chartered financial institutions.

Positive Balance services include personal finance classes; financial coaching; and personal finance workshops; as well as volunteer income tax assistance (VITA) for low and moderate income households; Ohio Benefit Bank (OBB) – confidential screening for public benefits such as Food Stamps, Medicare, and heating assistance; and Coming Home – a program to help veterans, active duty and reserve military take a first step toward home ownership.

Currently, Licking County hosts the only AmeriCorps Positive Balance program in the nation, but the unique program has gained attention from a wider audience. In January, a representative from the Office of the Ohio Treasurer of State visited Ohio State Newark to review the Positive Balance Program for wider implementation.

"We are very encouraged that the program will be offered on a broader basis in the not distant future," said Shane Lightle, program director for Positive Balance. "The need for financial services is far beyond what 12 representatives in Licking County can provide," he added.

To learn more about how Positive Balance can help you, contact the Licking County Coalition for Housing at 740.345.1970 or go to www.lcchousing.org. To contact Jeramie Rowland, AmeriCorps Financial Coach at Ohio State Newark and COTC, call 740.366.9184 or email to Jeramie.rowland@gmail.com.

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The Ohio State University at Newark and Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) are proud to be one of eleven AmeriCorps Positive Balance program service sites in Licking County. AmeriCorps is a national network of service programs that utilize Americans in intensive service to meet the nation's critical needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment.

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Two New Scholarships Established at Ohio State Newark

Be a Buckeye Brainiac...

- 100% of Ohio State Newark's full-time faculty members have Ph.D.'s; (26 full-time tenured and 29 full-time tenure-track faculty)
- 13 of 34 full-time lecturers have Ph.D.'s; the remainder hold master's degrees
- Newark is home to 2,376 of OSU's 52,568 students
- 73 of Ohio's 88 counties and 272 high schools are represented at Ohio State Newark
- The new John L. and Christine Warner Library and Student Center is expected to open in late summer 2008

AmeriCorps on Campus

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Students Earn Best Small Delegation at Model United Nations

Political science students won the Best Small Delegation Award at the Lake Erie International Model United Nations (LEIMUN) conference. They competed with 20 other schools in the simulated United Nations event which took place from October 25 – 28 in Cleveland, Ohio.

The Ohio State Newark team was made up of then-sophomores Hawa Ali, Alex Daniels, Michael Crosdale and senior Derek Martin. The students formed two separate committees, each working with students from other schools in the simulation. They chose to represent France, one of the top five super powers.

“It felt real… and demanded a lot of research beforehand,” said Crosdale, who would like to one day serve in an ambassadorial post.

From 11 pm on Friday until 2 am on Saturday, the students were placed in lockdown and given a scenario in which terrorist threats were announced to the Security Council. In keeping with United Nations practices, the students were kept in their meeting rooms until the emergency had been dealt with.

“You would think, ‘Oh, it’s just a bunch of students,’ that we’d talk about everyday things,” said Ali, “but no – we were United Nations delegates the entire time.”

Adjunct political science professor Lori Solomon brought the model United Nations program to Ohio State Newark. Although currently a pilot program, Solomon hopes to incorporate it into the curriculum and to cultivate future freshman to participate.

“This was just an incredible experience for the students. It’s a wonderful accomplishment that they participated and that they won this award,” said Solomon. “I’m very proud of them.”

The LEIMUN conferences began in 1980 and “encourage research, understanding of parliamentary procedure, analytical reasoning, problem solving, negotiation, oral and written presentation of ideas and professionalism.”

More information can be found at www.leimun.com.

Faculty Lecture Series: Bees, LBJ, accordions and drumming

Something for everyone

Hosted by William L. MacDonald, dean and director of Ohio State Newark, the Faculty Lecture Series is a forum in which faculty share their areas of expertise while students learn outside the classroom and the community can participate in lively discussion and exchange of ideas.

The annual series is free and open to the public. Each lecture begins at 7 pm in the Reese Center Ballroom and is followed by a reception with light refreshments.

The 2007 – 2008 Faculty Lecture Series began on Thursday, November 1, when Karen Goodell, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology, discussed her research with over 75 people. Dr. Goodell presented “Buzziness as usual? The status of bees and pollination in a changing environment,” which addressed one factor that influences native bee communities: the invasion of exotic plants species and how these interactions can have cascading impacts on the reproduction of native plants and other plant species of interest, like crops.

The series continued in 2008 when Mitchell Lerner, Ph.D., associate professor of history, discussed “Re-examining Lyndon Johnson” on February 7. Dr. Lerner addressed nearly 70 guests during his talk about the thirty-sixth U.S. president. He explained how recently released secret recordings of phone conversations and high-level meetings that Johnson taped while in the White House have changed views of his presidency.

The 2007-08 series will close on May 1 when Ron Emoff, Ph.D., associate professor of music, presents “Resurrecting Place in the Non-Nation: Accordions, Drumming and the Subsurreal on Marie-Galante, French Antilles.” Dr. Emoff has spent considerable time on this small francophone island in the Caribbean performing ethnographic research on musical performance there. He will include audio-visual samples from Marie-Galante in his presentation.

www.newark.osu.edu
Ohio State faculty members have secured over one million dollars for use in research and other special projects.

Diana B. Erchick, associate professor of mathematics education, has successfully renewed a one million dollar grant from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE).

The grant will allow Erchick and her partner Patricia Bosnan, associate professor of mathematics, science and technology education at Ohio State, to continue and expand their Mathematics Coaching Project (MCP). The MCP is a professional development intervention implemented on-site in schools. The program pursues multiple objectives, including improving student achievement; strengthening teacher and coach mathematics content knowledge; and strengthening teacher and coach knowledge in mathematics pedagogy. The program currently works with over 50 schools across Ohio, most of which are mathematically low-performing urban and rural schools.

Mitchell Lerner, Ph.D., associate professor of history, won two grants: $500 from the Dwight Eisenhower Foundation and $1,500 from the Lyndon Johnson Presidential Library. The grants are designed to facilitate travel to each presidential library.

Dr. Lerner said that such grants are invaluable because there is “simply no substitute for spending time at the archives.”

“I can find much material on the Internet now, but on-line collections only provide snapshots that open a window into a story but never tell it in depth,” Lerner said. “And they are a snapshot of materials that someone else selected based on their own beliefs about what was important... I find that immersing myself in the holdings of a presidential library is not just beneficial but is absolutely mandatory,” Lerner concluded.

Marilee Martens, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology, received a $12,500 grant from the Harry C. Moores Foundation toward a conference on Williams Syndrome. This rare genetic condition (estimated to occur in 1/7,500 births) causes medical and developmental problems.

An advocate of awareness and research as well as an expert in the field, Martens organized a conference on Williams Syndrome in September 2007, bringing over 200 people together. Martens emphasized the importance of networking and sharing information and resources among families as well as professionals.

“Too many times, people have been undiagnosed until later in life and then don’t receive the proper treatment and care,” Martens said. “Our goal is to increase awareness of Williams Syndrome so that families will be able to begin treatment early.”

Martens also serves as director of the Williams Syndrome Program at the Nisonger Center at Ohio State University. She said that the University’s program is “one of a few who are coordinating research, medical care, and outreach/support.”

Said William L. MacDonald, dean and director of Ohio State Newark, “The external grants that Mitch, Diana, and Marilee have received illustrate not only how our faculty members live up to university expectations, but also how they change the world.”

The Ohio State University at Newark hosted the fourth annual Undergraduate Research Forum on Thursday, March 6, in the John Gilbert Reese Center. The program included displays from 12:30 – 3:30 in the ballroom. Oral presentations followed, from 1:30 to 3:30 in the Alford Performing Arts Hall. Students were judged by a diverse panel of Ohio State University faculty and prizes were awarded to the winning presenters. The event is free and open to the public.

The event was coordinated this year by J. Andrew Roberts, Ph.D., assistant professor of evolution, ecology and organismal biology and Paul D. Sanders, Ph.D., associate dean and professor of music education.

“This is the highest participation to date, with eighteen projects presented,” said Roberts. He said that anthropology, biology, education, history and psychology were represented this year.

Guest speaker Helene Cweren, program director of The Ohio State University Undergraduate Research Office (URO), presented “Denman Demystified.” She was joined by a panel of current and former Ohio State Newark students who have presented at the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum in Columbus. Together, they led a discussion about undergraduate research at Ohio State University, as well as presenting at the Denman, which is slated for May 14, 2008.

Judges were: Jill Coleman, Ph.D., psychology; Terri Hessler, Ph.D., education; Melissa Jungers, Ph.D., psychology; and Mitchell Lerner, Ph.D., history. Dr. Sanders served as chair of judges.

More information about student research opportunities can be found on the Ohio State Newark web site.
Athletic Director Gene Smith to be Grad Celebration Speaker

Gene Smith, director of athletics for The Ohio State University, will be the featured speaker at the 2008 Graduation Celebration on Tuesday, May 20. The event recognizes Ohio State Newark students prior to their official commencement in Columbus with the rest of their Ohio State University class.

Smith was named director of athletics on March 5, 2005. He is the first African-American and the eighth person to hold the position. Smith oversees one of the largest — and most successful — college athletic programs in the nation.

William L. MacDonald, dean and director of Ohio State Newark, said, “Gene Smith’s accomplishments are stellar, and I am excited that Ohio State students completing their degrees in Newark will get advice from him. His willingness to address our students and our community illustrates his commitment to serving the university as a whole and to serving the state of Ohio. He is a great leader who is generous with his time and wisdom.”

Smith was president of the Division 1-A Athletic Directors Association in 2007, and he currently serves on the NCAA Men’s Basketball Committee. He is past president of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) and has served the NCAA on its Management Council, Committee on Infractions, Executive Committee, Football Rules Committee, the President’s Commission Liaison Committee and the NCAA Baseball Academic Enhancement Task Force. Smith was named by Black Enterprise Magazine as one of the “50 Most Powerful African American in College Sports.”

He attended the University of Notre Dame on a football scholarship and received his bachelor’s degree in business administration in 1977. Smith is active in the Columbus community and is a member of the boards of the YMCA of Central Ohio and the Boys & Girls Club of Columbus.

Education Grad Loves Her Job

Jodie Washek knows that she has beaten the odds.

While growing up in Pataskala, her childhood dream was to become a teacher. “I remember being as young as second grade and saying that I wanted to be a teacher,” said Washek. But after getting married and starting a family, her dream of going to college had to take a back seat to other priorities.

“I was working as a bill collector at a bank,” remembers Washek. It was a job, but not what she wanted to do with her life. When her employer merged with another corporation, she found herself in a terrifying and wonderful situation — unemployed.

She decided to enroll at The Ohio State University at Newark to complete a bachelor’s degree in education. “Losing my job turned out to be a blessing for me,” laughs Washek. “I had dropped out of college previously, was married, and was already a mom; but I just dove into school again and told myself, ‘I’m going for it.’”

Washek completed her B.S. in 1997 and immediately began work on a master’s degree in education, which she completed at Ohio State Newark in 1998. “I was able to complete all of my courses in Newark,” adds Washek, who notes that she was drawn not only to the convenience of attending a local campus, but also because of Ohio State’s academic reputation.

“When I began job hunting, there was no question that my degree from Ohio State gave me an edge over the competition,” she said.

Washek worked in the admissions office while a student and remembers her time at Ohio State Newark warmly. “The campus is an excellent resource for the community,” she notes. “The faculty members are so personable – I can’t think of a negative experience.”

Currently, Washek serves as the primary literacy coordinator for Cherry Valley Elementary School in Newark. She assists classroom teachers with identifying literacy needs as well as conducting professional staff development in literacy. She also provides small-group literacy intervention to students.

“I love my job,” said Washek. “My passion is teaching and working with kids.”

Complete Your Degree at Ohio State Newark

The Ohio State University at Newark offers general studies coursework applicable to all undergraduate degree programs at The Ohio State University. In addition, upper-division courses are offered in several departments. Entire degree programs may be completed at Ohio State Newark in the following areas: Early/Middle Childhood Education (B.S.Ed.), General Business (B.S. or B.A.), English (B.A.), History (B.A.), and Psychology (B.A. or B.S.). In addition, Master’s degree programs in Education (M.Ed. in Early/Middle Childhood and the M.A. in Integrated Teaching and Learning) and in Social Work (M.S.W., part-time) can be completed at Ohio State Newark.
Arts Come Alive at Ohio State Newark

**Art**

The LeFevre Gallery at The Ohio State University at Newark hosts six invitational exhibits during the academic year and serves as a community resource for arts in Newark and Licking County. The Gallery’s upcoming exhibit, “50 Years: Faculty, Alumni, Students,” is a mixed media show exhibiting current and past work by Ohio State Newark faculty, alumni, and students. An array of media, including digital images, video, books, acrylic, mixed media, oil on wood panel and more represents the diversity and talent associated with Ohio State Newark. The exhibit will run March 10 – April 18, with an opening reception on April 4, 5:00 – 7:00 pm, at the LeFevre Gallery.

Other recent past exhibits include “Meaning, Myth and Mystery: The 25th Annual Regional Exhibition by Midwest Regional Artists of The Society of Layerists in Multi-Media;” the “Licking County Arts Annual Juried Art Show;” and “The Art of Hope and Healing,” an exhibit/auction featuring works donated by local artists in support of Comfort Cottage, Inc., a local non-profit dedicated to facilitating groups that promote hope and healing for children and teens experiencing issues of trauma, loss and grief. The Art Gallery is located in the main entrance of LeFevre Hall on the northwest side of the building. Parking is available in the student lots on the south side of the building. Gallery hours are Monday – Friday, 9 – 9, and Saturday 9 – 5. For more information regarding the arts at Ohio State Newark go to www.newark.osu.edu. To receive email notices about upcoming campus events, please contact marketing@newark.osu.edu.

**Music**

The Ohio State University at Newark’s Great Performers Series brings exciting live music to Licking County audiences completely free of charge. Offering several concerts by world-class musicians each academic year, this past October the Series featured jazz guitarist and composer Joel Harrison, followed in February 2008 by fiddler/violinist Darol Anger. A spring Cinque de Mayo concert will highlight traditional Mexican music. Look for more information at www.newark.osu.edu. In addition to the Great Performers Series, the University Chorus performs several free concerts each year. Currently comprised of students, the Chorus also welcomes faculty, staff and community members to join. The Chorus performs at least one concert each fall, winter and spring quarter and often for special events.

**Theatre**

The Ohio State University at Newark Department of Theatre presents three productions annually at the Black Box Theatre in LeFevre Hall. In addition, several free dramatic readings that are open to the public are staged throughout the academic year. The department’s spring production, “Baby with the Bathwater,” a sharply satiric dark comedy by noted dramatist Christopher Durang, will run May 22 – 24, 29, 30 and 31. Members of the community are welcome at auditions, which will be held Thursday, March 27 and Friday, March 28.

Recent past theatre productions include: “Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind,” a collective work created by the Neo-Futurists, a group formed and led by Ohio native and Oberlin graduate Greg Allen in which the seven-member ensemble performs 30 plays in 60 minutes©, with the audience determining the order of the plays; “Fool For Love”, by Sam Shepard; and Frank Gilroy’s 1962 play, “Who’ll Save the Plowboy?”
Campus Calendar of Events

Monday, March 10
“50 Years: Faculty, Alumni, Students”
Ohio State Newark 50th Anniversary Exhibition
~LeFevre Gallery (until April 18); opening reception April 4

Thursday, March 27 and Friday, March 28
Auditions! “Baby with the Bathwater” – play by Christopher Durang
~Black Box Theatre, LeFevre Hall, 7 – 9:30 pm

Thursday, April 3
Spring Reading: Selections of the late-Phil Rizzuto’s broadcasts as put into free-verse poetry (“O, Holy Cow,” 1997.) In honor of Rizzuto’s memory as well as the start of spring training.
~Founders Auditorium, 7:30 pm

Monday, April 28
“Indigenous Exchange” – Gallery opening
~LeFevre Gallery (until June 13)

Thursday, May 1
Faculty Lecture Series – Ron Emoff, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Music
“Resurrecting Place in the Non-Nation: Accordions, Drumming, and the Subsurreal on Marie-Galante, French Antilles”
~Reese Center Ballroom, 7 – 9 pm - RSVP to 740.364.9517

Saturday, May 3
Newark Earthworks Day
~Reese Center / Great Circle Earthworks (for more info see www.octagonmoonrise.org)

Tuesday, May 20
Graduation Celebration; Gene Smith, OSU Athletics Director, keynote speaker
~Reese Center, 6 pm – RSVP TBA

May 22-24, 29, 30, 31
“Baby with the Bathwater” – play by Christopher Durang
~Black Box Theatre, LeFevre Hall, Time TBA