

# PROFILES

PEOPLE • PROGRAMS • PARTNERSHIPS • BIMONTHLY NEWS PUBLICATION  
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## Ohio State Elementary Ed Grad Program Ranked 5th in Nation

### Complete program offered at Ohio State Newark

To all current and future teachers — Want to enroll in one of the top-10 elementary education graduate programs in the nation? Look no further than The Ohio State University at Newark.

The latest *U.S. News & World Report* survey of top graduate schools in the United States, released April 23, 2009, ranked The Ohio State University's Elementary Education graduate program 5th in the nation, tying for the honor with the University of Virginia-Curry and Vanderbilt University.

Students can complete the program entirely at Ohio State Newark.

"These rankings underscore the great and growing strength of Ohio State's faculty," said university President E. Gordon Gee. "While the rankings are gratifying, the truest measure of the university's impact cannot be quantified — the power to change lives and improve our communities."

The Master of Education (M.Ed.) at Ohio State Newark is the culminating step in the path to becoming a licensed teacher for either Early Childhood (Pre-K-grade 3) or Middle Childhood (grades 4-9).

All Early Childhood and Middle Childhood licensure requirements and the entire M.Ed. program for Early Childhood or Middle Childhood are offered at Ohio State Newark. This nationally ranked and National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) accredited M.Ed. program with licensure is available at Ohio State Newark on a full-time or part-time basis.

### Career and Professional Development Options

Ohio State Newark offers multiple career and professional development paths for teachers:

- **Pre-licensure** – an undergraduate degree in education, without licensure, allows for beginning a teaching career with field experience, knowledge of legal issues and foundations of education;
- **Licensure only** (new autumn 2009) – graduate level courses without earning a graduate degree; may be completed on a full or part-time basis;
- **Licensure with M.Ed.** – earn licensure in Early Childhood or Middle Childhood education while completing the Master of Education (M.Ed.);
- **Licensure first, with M.Ed. post licensure** – earn licensure first with courses also contributing toward the master's degree. Then, complete the M.Ed. part time during employment in the field.
- **Licensure, M.Ed. and Endorsements** – both the Middle School Generalist Endorsement and the Early Childhood 4-5



Endorsement can be earned at Ohio State Newark, with the latter available in a fully online four-course sequence;

- **Master of Arts in Teaching and Learning** – The K-12 Master of Arts in Teaching and Learning is designed for practicing teachers, and allows for a great degree of individualization on the part of the master's students. The program is available in the day or evening.

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## A Message from the Dean and Director



### **Community Connections**

The Ohio State University at Newark fulfills community needs by acting as a collective of students, faculty, staff, and community members producing social capital to serve a variety of community causes. This issue of *Profiles* illustrates several examples of the positive outcomes of this great collective. Staff members Ann Donahue and Robyn Hoffman and faculty member Katey Borland teamed up with Janet Schultz from A Call to College, Tara Houdeshell from Central Ohio Technical College, and Laurel Kennedy and Lyn Boone from Denison University to obtain a grant for three VISTA Volunteers, one for each of our local institutions of higher education. Rob O'Neill, President of the Southgate Corporation, has provided housing for the VISTA Volunteers, who will work in the community to increase the rate at which Newark high school graduates participate in higher education. This group's passion for enhancing the community has been truly amazing.

Passion for community affairs was something I observed in alumnus Blake Zitko when he was a student in an honors course I taught a few years ago. Considering his academic work and his involvement in campus life, I am not at all surprised to see that he is applying his energy as a public affairs specialist for State Farm. Blake's work for State Farm clearly exemplifies the concept of education for citizenship. His sense of civic responsibility is exemplary.

Finally, I point to evidence that our collective is meeting community needs on an international level. In May, Katey Borland, associate professor of comparative studies, received the Service-Learning Initiative's Faculty Award for Excellence in Community-Based Scholarship. Through her Nicaragua Service-Learning course, Katey has linked learning and community service in a global

fashion to meet the needs of a community in a developing nation. Katey's students have developed their leadership and citizenship skills and helped the university strengthen its commitment to the global community.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William L. MacDonald".

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

## Local Colleges Collaborate to Raise Education Awareness

Beginning in autumn 2009, a new effort will get under way to help children in Newark City Schools understand the importance of graduating from high school and receiving a college education.

The critical need for raising college awareness in the community has created a unique partnership — The Ohio State University at Newark, Central Ohio Technical College, and Denison University have joined with Newark City Schools and A Call to College to implement an Ohio Campus Compact AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer program aimed at encouraging younger students to begin thinking about college.

The three VISTA members will begin their assignments August 1.

Each institution of higher education has designated a site mentor to work specifically with the VISTA members on their campus. In addition, each VISTA member will be assigned responsibilities at particular schools within the Newark City School system.

"This program is about access," said Ann Donahue, Ohio State Newark Director of Enrollment and a member of the collaborating committee representing the partner institutions. "There is a national, state, and local need to bring more people to higher education. At the same time, this is a tremendous outreach and engagement opportunity for all involved."

VISTA members commit to serve full-time for one year.

Janet Schultz, director, A Call to College, Early Awareness, conducted local research on issues relating to post-secondary education which has shown that it is very important to encourage students to start thinking about college early in life. The VISTA members will be working with both second and eighth grade students during their year in Newark.

"A Call to College and the Newark City Schools are so excited about this innovative, multi-faceted partnership to bring college awareness to the youngsters in the district. We are delighted to be partnering with our three local colleges and look forward to working with the talented, passionate AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers," said Schultz.

## Pulitzer Prize Nominee Shares Insights on Writing

Several hundred people attended author Ernest Gaines's talk at The Ohio State University at Newark on Thursday, May 14. A mix of students, faculty, staff, and community members listened as Gaines read from his book, *A Lesson Before Dying*, talked about his work, and took questions from the audience.

*A Lesson Before Dying* was the featured book in the 2008-2009 Buckeye Book Community, which is part of Ohio State Newark's First Year Experience (FYE) program. FYE provides all first year students with a common theme for learning, including a book, lectures throughout the academic year, a film when appropriate, and in this case, an opportunity to meet the author.

Gaines's visit to Ohio State Newark was the apex in the series of events designed around various themes of the book. Lectures by Ohio State Newark faculty members were offered from winter to spring quarter, each presenting a different perspective.

The Emmy Award-winning film of the same name was shown on campus, and students were able to share their feelings about the book's themes on a comment wall provided by students in a graduate level education class. Comments on the wall included those about racism in today's society, and the complexity of the characters.

Before his evening talk, Gaines met with a small group of writing students to discuss the craft of writing.

*A Lesson Before Dying* is the story of a young black man wrongly condemned to Louisiana's electric chair by a white jury in 1948 and of the teacher who tries to help him meet his death. The book has sold over 2 million copies, and was the winner of the 1994 Best Fiction Award by the National Book Critics Circle, the Southern Writers Conference, and the Louisiana Library Association. It was also nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. HBO premiered the TV film in 1999, which received two Emmy Awards.

Gaines's many written works include *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*, whose TV movie adaptation by CBS won nine Emmys; *A Long Day in November*; *In My Father's House*; and *A Gathering of Old Men*. Gaines is Writer-in-Residence Emeritus at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette.



World-renowned author Ernest J. Gaines shared insights on the craft of fiction writing with student and community members at a public talk on May 14.

## Archie Griffin Inspires 2009 Graduates

Graduation is a time of celebration, excitement, and anticipation. Graduates expect to be inspired and encouraged. After all, they are about to move from one phase of life to another, often about to step out on their own for the first time and put their education to work in a new job.

The graduating class of 2009 was inspired by Archie Griffin at their Tuesday, May 19 graduation celebration at The Ohio State University at Newark.



Ohio State Newark Dean and Director William L. MacDonald, Ph.D., greets keynote speaker Archie Griffin before May's graduation celebration.

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.

Griffin shared the theory of his "3 D's" with the audience: dedication, determination and desire. By being mindful of those three, students would be sure to succeed, he said.

"Have the determination to reach your goals and learn from your mistakes," he told the crowd. "Help others to find their passion; when times are tough, help them to stay focused on their principles, he said.

Griffin, an Ohio State alumnus, is well known as the only two-time winner of the prestigious Heisman Trophy and is affectionately claimed by Buckeyes everywhere. In addition to his football fame, Griffin is the CEO and president of OSU's Alumni Association, and oversees over 225 local chapters across the United States, keeping alumni connected to the university.

Students who completed 80 percent or more of their coursework at Ohio State Newark were invited to attend the celebration. In this group, 141 bachelor's degrees and 156 associate degrees were earned. The students were invited to participate in commencement with their full class in Columbus on June 14.

"Be proud to have earned a degree from this great university," said Griffin. "And be thankful for all those who paid forward for you."



## Making a Difference at Ohio State Newark

For Elyn Tibbs, a member of The Ohio State University class of 2009, the weeks preceding June commencement were filled with the typical rush of studying for finals and writing papers. But for Tibbs, the final quarter of her undergraduate career was also filled with hours of community service to a cause that has become very close to her heart — working with children with autism at My Place To Be in Newark. The not-for-profit organization provides a safe, supportive outlet for creative play and learning for children with autism, along with valuable support to families.

Tibbs originally began volunteering at My Place To Be in August 2008 at the urging of a close friend involved with the organization. She became a regular volunteer, and gave up many weekend hours, founded a monthly newsletter, was assistant director of a play for the group's drama club, and learned the role of public relations strategist to promote the organization's activities and fundraisers. During winter quarter 2009, Tibbs became the first Ohio State intern with My Place To Be.

"Elyn puts her whole heart into whatever she does," said My Place To Be founder and Director Christa Milner. "Her work went way above and beyond anything I could have imagined; and her excitement is contagious. She was extremely valuable to our organization."

At Ohio State Newark, where Tibbs completed her psychology degree, she has also been an active member of the Presbyterian Student Fellowship, Campus Crusade, worked as a campus tour guide, and performed seven quarters with the Afropop Ensemble. The Newark High School graduate wanted to pursue a degree locally, and admits that she fell in love with the campus.

"Enrolling here was a great move because I have my loved my classes," said Tibbs. "The psychology faculty has been wonderful. It's hard to imagine leaving."

Regarding My Place To Be, Tibbs hopes to be able to continue volunteering in the future, and noted that it was especially gratifying to advocate for the children and parents through the newsletter she founded. The monthly publication is currently distributed to more than 500 families throughout Licking County.

"The atmosphere at My Place To Be is so supportive," said Tibbs. "I really liked being able to help carry that supportive environment forward. I hope that my work has made a difference in someone's life."



Graduate Elyn Tibbs explored service-learning while working with children with autism.

## From Student Leader to Business Success



*Ohio State Newark made me what I am today.*

Blake Zitko, State Farm  
Public Relations Specialist

After graduating from Licking Heights High School in 2000, Blake Zitko had his pick of local colleges, including Capital, Denison and Otterbein. But a single visitation day at The Ohio State University at Newark changed the course of his life forever.

"Ohio State Newark offered everything that I wanted in a college," said Zitko, "including small classes taught by full-time professors and the exceptional resources of a world-class university."

After enrolling, Zitko quickly realized that Ohio State Newark offered much more than great academics and research opportunities — it offered exceptional leadership and student engagement possibilities for any student who chooses to become involved.

Zitko thrived at Ohio State Newark, immersing himself completely in campus life as well as excelling academically. He became a member of Ohio State Newark's inaugural residence life staff, serving as a resident adviser for two years in the campus's residence hall; he was the student representative to Ohio State Newark's Board of Trustees; a founding member of the campus service organization, Circle K; and a member of the Newark Campus AIDS Task Force and Laurel Collegiate Honor Society. He credits the small-college atmosphere and devoted faculty and staff with making his transition from small high school to college successful.

"I had the good fortune to work with Blake in the Office of Student Life during his undergraduate experience at Ohio State Newark," said Director of Student Life John Berry, Ph.D. "Blake was a very conscientious student who took advantage of all that the campus had to offer. His active participation in a variety of campus activities helped mold and shape the industrious professional he has become."

After four very busy years in Newark, Zitko spent one year on the Columbus campus while completing his degree in political science. Today, he continues to display incredible energy and drive in his role as public relations specialist for State Farm. From his Newark office, the Upper Arlington resident serves as the State Farm representative for the state of Ohio in all matters regarding legislation, public policy, and media relations.

"I love what I do, but I must credit Ohio State Newark with all of the opportunities that have come my way," said Zitko. "The campus has so much to offer; it made me into who I am today."

## Student Research at Ohio State Newark

### **Research Forum Winner Captures Prestigious Denman Award**

Emily Coate's award-winning honors thesis project, "Location, Location, Location: Interpreting the Household at a Fort Ancient Site in Dayton, Ohio" is the result of hours and hours of hard work.

"I've worked on excavations at Fort Ancient for the past two summers," she said. Her mentor, Robert Cook, Ph.D., assistant professor, anthropology, directed field schools to teach a small group of students the techniques and methods behind excavation.

Although she did her undergraduate coursework in Columbus, Coate chose to do her research in Newark, with Cook.

Coate's research project placed first in the Student Research Forum (SRF) at The Ohio State University at Newark and went on to place third in her category, Social and Behavioral Sciences, in the prestigious Denman Undergraduate Research Forum (May 2009), held in Columbus.

Her love of archaeology started back in grammar school, when Coate's 5th grade class had a unit in Egyptology. That was the beginning of what has become her life's interest, first with archaeology, and then expanding to anthropology.

Participating in the March 2009 SRF "was a great opportunity to practice explaining my research to others, especially those not familiar with the subject," said Coate. "It was good preparation for the Denman, too," she added.

Working with Dr. Cook "was a really beneficial experience," said Coate. "Participating in an excavation is almost required at the undergraduate level if you wish to continue on to grad school," she added.

With about nine other students, Coate worked at the Fort Ancient site all day, five days a week, for 10 weeks during the summer. After the excavations, she worked in Cook's lab analyzing the collected artifacts and information. That work gave her a chance to understand the full process involved in deciphering the information hidden in an archaeological site.

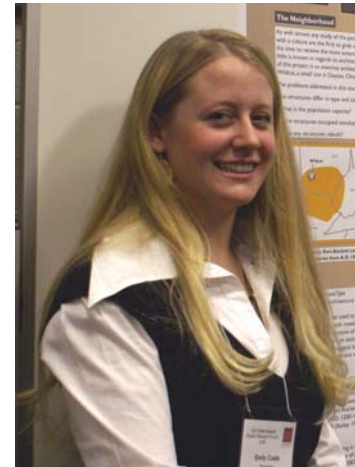
"Dr. Cook has been instrumental in helping me form and develop my thesis," she said. "He is an inexhaustible source of knowledge."

"Serving as a mentor for Emily Coate's honors thesis project has truly been a pleasure," said Cook. "Emily's dedication to a research problem is impressive, and she possesses the rare combination of creativity and rigor so critical to the conduct of scientific inquiry."

Coate studied abroad last year at the American University of Cairo, in Egypt, where she took classes in Egyptology and Arabic language. "I was able to travel to the sites and see the artifacts and artwork I was studying," she said.

She graduated this summer, earning a B.S. in anthropological sciences, and plans to go on to earn a Ph.D. in a specific field of archaeology dealing with studies of the ancient Near East.

She hopes to work on and lead digs in the Middle East. "Egypt especially holds a place in my heart," she said. "Eventually I would like to become an active research professor."



Emily Coate placed third at Ohio State's prestigious Denman Undergraduate Research Forum.



### **Student Research Forum 2009**

Each academic year, students are encouraged to submit research projects and proposals to be considered for a spot in the annual student research forum, now in its 5th year. Students' research interests, as well as their collaboration with faculty members in their chosen fields, are highlighted.

*Student Research Forum winners 2009 (left to right):* Emily Coate; Paul Sanders, Ph.D., associate dean Ohio State Newark; Blessing Wilhelmsen; Andrew Roberts, Ph.D., event coordinator and assistant professor, evolution, ecology and organismal biology; Marcus Yoder; Jeremiah Morehouse; Tiffany Yeager; Joshua Jackson; Miria (Kate) Waldrop; Helene Cweren, program manager Ohio State undergraduate research office.

*Winners not pictured:* Erica Warner, Tim Dierks,

Patrick Merrilees, Natan Mydlarz, Bilal Naseer, Wesley Wiseman, Dennis Fairley, George Liptak, Hope Roberts, Cory Wolfe.

## Faculty Excellence



Katherine Borland, Ph.D., associate professor of comparative studies, was Ohio State's 2009 faculty award winner for Excellence in Community-Based Scholarship.

### **Community-Based Scholarship**

Katherine Borland, Ph.D., associate professor of comparative studies, 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. 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. The students work long hours, side-by-side with the local people of the region.

"It's 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."

In addition, Borland directs Ohio State Newark's LeFevre Fellows program, 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.

### **Faculty Lecture Series Closes Year**

Since 2005, William L. MacDonald, Dean/Director of The Ohio State University at Newark, has hosted the Faculty Lecture Series (FLS). Featuring three lecturers each academic year, the series provides a forum in which faculty members share their areas of expertise and students can learn outside the classroom. Because the event is free and open to the public, community members are invited to participate in a lively discussion and exchange of ideas.

The 2008-09 FLS season closed with G. Bruce Mainland, Ph.D., on Thursday, May 7, with his lecture "How to Build a Universe: Leptons, Quarks and Dark Matter." To demonstrate that most of the matter in an atom is concentrated in a small nucleus, Mainland threw tennis balls at framed paper targets. Approximately 100 people attended the lecture.

The series opened on Thursday, November 6, 2008, when Elizabeth Weiser, Ph.D., presented her lecture "What Should We Do Now? Rhetoric and National Decisions," and was followed on February 5 with Melissa Jungers, Ph.D., discussing "Cognitive Aspects of Music and Language."

Plans are currently underway for the 2009-10 FLS season. Watch [newark.osu.edu](http://newark.osu.edu) for information.



Bruce Mainland, Ph.D., professor of physics at Ohio State Newark, demonstrates with a tennis ball that most of an atom's matter is concentrated in a small nucleus.

## Watch Ohio State Newark on YouTube

The Ohio State University at Newark now has a presence on YouTube, the popular video-sharing web site. Each video addresses a specific topic and features real students talking about their experiences in their own words. Two videos are currently posted, "Be a Part of Something Great," and "One on One at Ohio State Newark."

"Be a Part of Something Great" addresses the topic of transitioning from Newark to Columbus and features students Courtney Neill-Green, biology major and Todd Dawson, American military history major. "Transitioning" refers to the process when Ohio State Newark students move to Columbus campus to complete their degrees.

"Some people refer to the process as 'transferring,' but to clarify, a transfer student is one who is moving from one external campus to another," said Ann Donahue, director of enrollment, Ohio State Newark. "Since Ohio State Newark is OSU, it doesn't make sense to use that term."

Featuring student editors from the campus literary journal "Taproot" as well as its faculty adviser, "One on One at Ohio State Newark" highlights the collaboration with faculty that students enjoy. In the video, students Ashley Caggiano and Terry Gomes, both English majors, discuss the benefits of working closely with their adviser, Elizabeth Weiser, Ph.D., assistant professor of rhetoric, English department.

With plans to continue creating the videos into the next academic year, students and potential students will be able to get answers to their questions from their own peers, in a format they are accustomed to. A YouTube account is necessary in order to be notified of updates to the Ohio State Newark channel, but not to view the videos. Visit [www.youtube.com/OhioStateNewark](http://www.youtube.com/OhioStateNewark) to see the Ohio State Newark videos!



## Ohio State Newark Happenings



A small group of Ohio State Newark writing students discussed fiction writing with award-winning author Ernest Gaines on May 14.



Students in Assistant Professor Kenneth Madsen's World Regional Geography class assessed the status of different countries using a variety of development rankings.



Students had the opportunity to present their research to faculty members at the annual Undergraduate Student Research Forum.



Faculty members gathered in the John Gilbert Reese Center before May's graduation celebration.

Ohio State Newark hosted its first Green Fair on Earth Day, April 22, which featured guest speakers, a free concert by local band Zero Times Tardy, and information about environmental issues, sustainability, and environment-friendly products.





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## Campus Calendar of Events

### Monday, June 22

#### Summer quarter 2009 begins

The Ohio State University at Newark and  
Central Ohio Technical College

### Friday, June 26 – Friday, July 24

#### Juried Exhibition – Licking County Arts

Annual Juried Exhibition – FREE

LeFevre Art Gallery. Gallery hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Saturday 8 a.m. -5 p.m.; closed Sunday.

### Saturday, June 27

#### Meet the Artists – Gallery Reception - FREE

Licking County Arts Annual Juried Exhibition

LeFevre Art Gallery, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. For more information: 740.366.9369

### Friday, July 3

#### Annual Independence Day Concert & Fireworks

Martha Grace Reese Amphitheatre

6:30 p.m. - Sticks and Stones

8:15 p.m. - Newark Granville Symphony Orchestra

Fireworks at dusk

### Wednesday, September 23

#### Autumn quarter 2009 begins

The Ohio State University at Newark and  
Central Ohio Technical College



Students, families, faculty, and staff gathered for a reception in the John Gilbert Reese Center following the graduation celebration.

[www.newark.osu.edu](http://www.newark.osu.edu)