

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

by Roderick J. McDavis

In recent months, Ohio University has faced a number of challenges. As a community, we have joined together to address those issues and are making great progress. I am confident that we will overcome our current challenges and emerge as an even stronger University.

It is imperative that we do not lose sight of the fact that there is much to be proud of at Ohio University. Our work is making an important difference in the lives of our students and the communities we serve. Students, parents, and alumni continue to witness the high quality of our teaching, research, and service and are very supportive of our efforts to provide exceptional educational opportunities. In fact, applications for undergraduate admission are up from this time last year, and we continue to enjoy fundraising success.

In late September, representatives of the faculty, staff, and student body gathered to reaffirm our shared commitment to academic honesty as a core value. The discussions were productive, and I commend the University's Academic Honesty Committee, co-chaired by Associate Professor Scott Titsworth and Associate Professor Susan Sarnoff, for organizing this "Day of Discourse." Their committee has been asked to review our policies and practices and find ways to improve academic honesty. I look forward to their recommendations.

I am pleased to report that great strides are being made as we begin to implement Vision OHIO. Across all six of our campuses, our faculty, staff, and students are working to enhance undergraduate education, to develop excellent graduate programs and research, and to invest in quality faculty. I want to share with you examples of how our community is transforming aspirations into achievements:

- We welcomed the two largest freshman classes in recent history in 2005 and 2006.
- We are fiscally sound. Last year we eliminated our projected deficit, thus making \$6.4 million available to invest in our top priorities—undergraduate education, graduate education and research, and the faculty.
- We received the two largest gifts in our history, \$10 million from the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation to the new integrated learning and research facility and \$15 million from the Scripps Howard Foundation to our newly named Scripps College of Communication.



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- We improved access with our Urban Scholars and Appalachian Scholars programs and our partnership with Kent State University called Complete to Compete.
- We lead the state in the number of students winning nationally-competitive awards such as the Fulbright.
- We took action to reduce high-risk drinking by implementing a new comprehensive strategy. The strategy establishes a set of realistic expectations, increases opportunities for engagement, and defines consistent disciplinary actions.
- We are home to a nationally-ranked women's volleyball team and many outstanding academic programs, including National Resource Centers in African and Southeast Asian studies.
- At 110th, we are in the top half of *U.S. News & World Report's* list of the best 249 American universities.
- We were ranked 40th among 245 institutions as a national university by *Washington Monthly*. That recognition places our University amongst the ranks of Harvard, Yale, and Columbia universities. It also reflects our excellence across a full breadth of measures, including community service, research, and the institution's commitment to providing access to a higher education.



President McDavis addresses guests of the Ohio Research Institute for Transportation and the Environment at its first international conference on perpetual pavement in September.

As we embrace Vision OHIO and its goals, alumni and friends have the opportunity to influence OHIO's future as never before. You will make the key difference as we build national prominence, promote diversity, enhance financial support, and grow partnerships.

Thank you for your continued support of Ohio University!