

We count on those connections

By Marv Alice Casev



Thousands of stories to tell. Nouns and verbs and adjectives. First drafts and second ones. Page proofs and press checks and postage. These are but a few of the makings of a magazine.

Eight years ago, when we launched *Ohio Today*, I knew many of these editorial and business basics. Others I learned on the job. Truth is, I'm still learning, and will for as long as I have the privilege of helping to tell the stories of this vibrant, complex, enlightened, discerning, free-spirited community that is Ohio University.

That's because so much of this job is in the relationships, and from those, you never stop learning.

Relationships with you, the readers, who share news, ideas, comments and critiques. With our small, dedicated team that seeks out and writes and photographs and designs what ultimately arrives in your mailbox. And with the great students, faculty, staff and administrators who make up today's university.

Every issue of *Ohio Today* places some emphasis on relationships, but this one does so more than most.

In "The Common Thread," alumni tell of their university connections that have transcended years and borders, careers and generations. It is such an honor to share their stories. People like Becky Sell; her desire to help others launched a network of alumni and colleagues who restore the family photographs of individuals whose lives and possessions have been torn apart by natural disasters. Or nine close-knit sisters of the Theta Pi Alpha sorority, graduates of the 1950s and '60s, whose annual road trips have taken them to the Alamo, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, New Orleans and beyond. Or the former members of Myriad Creatures, an '80s band that regularly rocked Court Street.

Likewise, this issue's stories on the CARE program, which trains teachers-to-be to incorporate democratic principles in the classroom, and the new Academic and Research Center, for which ground was just broken, illustrate what's possible when strong relationships are at the foundation.

Through CARE, teams of student teachers and sixth-graders experience the joy of learning that comes with giving children a voice in their own education. Likewise, those same sort of bonds, strengthened by years and mutual respect, are making possible a new Athens campus building that by its very design promises to fuel discovery for students and faculty of Ohio University's College of Osteopathic Medicine and Russ College of Engineering and Technology.

Putting together one issue of *Ohio Today* gives us the chance to establish relationships with a whole new set of people — everyone from the people we interview and photograph to those who send notes about their marriages, retirements and other life milestones. And that's the job's biggest perk.

In the coming months, we'll be gathering ideas for ways to improve *Ohio Today*. And we'll look to our relationships with you and our colleagues across the university to inform us. This academic year, we plan two rather than three print editions of the magazine; that's why you're receiving this issue a little later than usual. We'll also explore opportunities for sharing Ohio University stories in other ways, including electronically, to reach more people in ways that best meet their needs and lifestyles.

We're proud of the magazine we bring you. It's picked up a few awards even. But more valuable than those are your comments: a "Keep up the good work" at the bottom of an address change notice, for instance, or a letter encouraging us to consider a different approach to how we do things.

Watch for ways to share your thoughts about *Ohio Today* in the coming months. Or if you'd like to do so now, drop me a line. I'd like to think we have that kind of relationship.

Send us a note

To share your views about *Ohio Today* or to offer an idea for a future issue, send a note to ohiotoday@ohio.edu or *Ohio Today*, Scott Quad 173, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio 45701.