

Campus adventures in midair

Outdoor Pursuits offers challenge course for 'Indiana Jones' wannabes



I'm no acrobat, but after walking the wires on Outdoor Pursuits' high challenge course, I now know I have a backup to my journalism degree. It's too bad I waited until senior year to discover this airborne obstacle course, because being suspended nearly 40 feet above the ground is an exhilarating adventure complete with bragging rights. (Indiana Jones, eat your heart out.)

I discovered the course the last weekend of winter quarter on a day spring was just beginning to show. I couldn't decide if I should be relaxed by the slowly swaying trees and brilliant blue sky or fearful of the looming web of rope and ominous rappelling tower. The program leaders didn't let me ponder for long.

With a personal goal for the day (not to rely on my harness to catch me) and a partner, I strapped myself in and tackled my first task: crossing a log suspended in midair. Unfortunately, my partner quickly met his match. Here, the program's "Challenge by Choice" philosophy came into play, and he opted to spend the rest of the afternoon perched safely on the rappelling tower. So, instead of maneuvering the course as a pair, I found myself on a solo adventure.

It seemed easy, but I soon realized a log on the ground and a log in the air are two very different things. Despite previous climbing experience and knowledge that any fall would result in a startling one-foot drop and nothing more, I clutched the ropes so hard that when I finally made it to a platform, it hurt to open my hands. But as the course got progressively harder, my confidence grew.

Soon, I was able to forget I was so far from the ground. When presented with puzzling situations, such as how to switch my weight from one rope to another without toppling over, I found it thrilling to defy gravity and make it victoriously across. Something about being outside and putting myself out on a limb (literally) was refreshing, and the afternoon left me feeling quite accomplished. And, I'm happy to say, I didn't fall once.

— Laura Yates

Laura Yates conquered the ropes course at The Ridges — and crossed off one more thing on her senior year "to do" list.

ANSELMI BRADFORD

A history of her own

Compiled by retired university librarian Judith Daso, AB '68

The new Women's Center at Baker University Center celebrated its first birthday last month, and it seems a fitting time to celebrate other famous firsts in the lives of Ohio University women. Here is a timeline marking memorable moments and accomplishments. To see a full version of this list, visit www.herstorycelebration.org.



▲ Margaret Boyd

▼ O'Bleness Bike Group



A persistent school nurse

Persistence can make the difference between success and failure. Just ask Amy Kimbler, one of the first 15 students to complete the new LPN-to-RN collaborative nursing program involving Ohio University-Southern and Collins Career Center. Kimbler had been waiting for a program with the flexibility she needed to pursue her registered nursing license but discovered it was full.

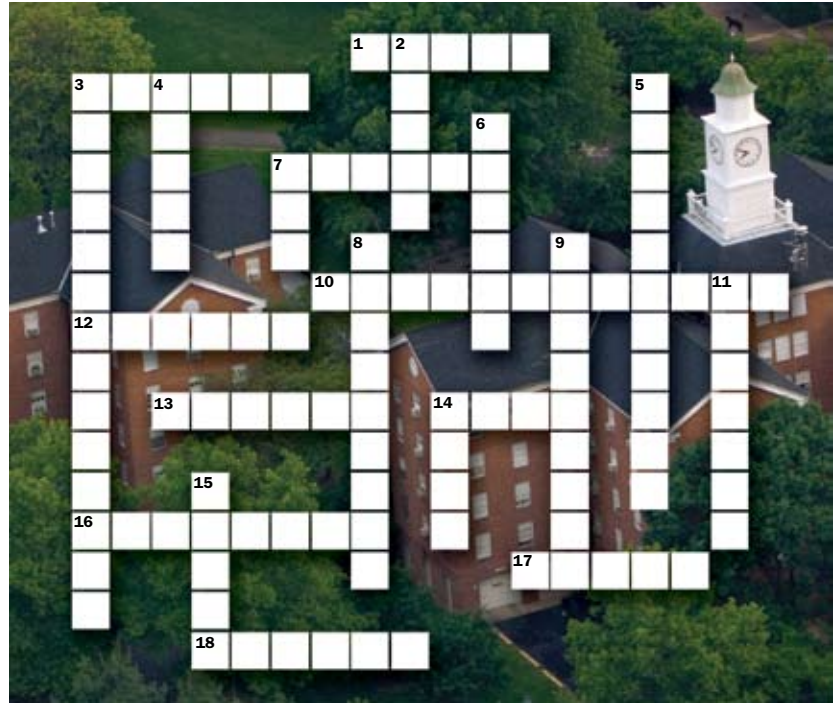
“I convinced them to let me in,” she remembers.

Her persistence paid off. At November’s pinning ceremony, her young daughter cheered as Kimbler was named the class’ Outstanding Student Nurse. She passed the state licensing exam in January — her class earned a 93 percent pass rate, exceeding both the national and state averages by 7 percent — and in March, her new RN credentials earned her a job as a school nurse.

To make the program more accommodating, online classes replace in-person attendance requirements that conflict with LPNs’ work schedules. Required clinical training is coordinated around work schedules and geographic locations, so students can continue working. But academic requirements are the same as those of the traditional associate degree nursing program.

“I would have never gone back to school if it wasn’t for this program,” Kimbler says. “It was worth all the hard work.”

— Linda Lockhart



'Cat Facts Crossword

Still remember your residence hall? Your favorite prof? Test your campus knowledge with this puzzle. (Answers online at www.ohio.edu/ohiotoday.)

ACROSS

- 1 Music venue, esp. in 1970s
- 3 Live (or fest) here
- 7 Travel here for your Spanish language immersion
- 10 Marching 110 performance first (two words)
- 12 Scholars of note
- 13 Uptown movie goddess
- 14 Student newspaper
- 16 Avant-garde art prof
- 17 Legendary football coach Don ____
- 18 Campus dines here

DOWN

- 2 “Midnight at the ____”
- 3 One of the earliest forensic societies (two words)
- 4 Alum lives for “Today”
- 5 First fraternity, organized in 1841 (three words)
- 6 1940s news prof
- 7 These three letters spell “conference”
- 8 Head west to this regional campus
- 9 Capstone course (two words)
- 11 East Green res. hall (or U.S. pres.)
- 14 Play ____-pong at ____
- 15 Campus color

▼ Commerce class, 1899



▼ Irma Voigt



- 1868 Margaret Boyd enrolls as first female student
- 1883 Cynthia Weld becomes the first female professor
- 1913 Irma Voigt begins as Dean of Women
- 1916 Martha Jane Hunley Blackburn is the first black female graduate
- 1927 Athens branch of American Association of University Women forms
- 1941 Mary Elizabeth Lasher becomes the first female editor of *The Post*
- 1944 Women’s Recreation Association takes its new name



▲ Cynthia Weld

Martha Jane Hunley ▲

What's changed in your time at OHIO?



At the undergraduate level, more students who are interdisciplinary in orientation and a growing number who are interested in the international dimensions to knowledge. At the graduate level ... I have encountered a number of very sophisticated international scholars who have gone on to influential careers in the U.S., Asia, Africa and Latin America. The presence of those international students enriched the curriculum.

— **Vibert Cambridge, professor, School of Media Arts and Studies, joined faculty in 1989**

When I was 32, students were willing to interact with me as a quasi-peer. Now that I look like Dad, that willingness has diminished. Today's faculty have a much higher commitment and ability to do research. They are connected into a national network of colleagues and funding sources. They are also much more willing to make a conscious effort to improve their teaching effectiveness.

— **Ken Sampson, associate dean of academics, Russ College of Engineering and Technology, joined faculty in 1987**



This year, with the Arts for Ohio initiative that allocated funds to allow students to attend performances free, there has been a remarkable surge in attendance at art events. Every time I made a curtain speech welcoming audiences to our concerts, when the Arts for Ohio initiative is mentioned, the audience bursts into spontaneous applause and cheers. This is more like the OU I first came to in the '80s.

— **Madeleine Scott, director, School of Dance, joined faculty in 1980**

Fellowship an honor for top researcher

Dark matter? For Douglas Clowe, it's not so mysterious. An assistant professor of physics and astronomy, Clowe has earned an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Fellowship, in the amount of \$50,000, that he will use to further his work on gravitational lensing, a technique used to study massive structures such as clusters of galaxies.

His research goals include determining the nature of dark matter and dark energy and measuring the structural evolution of clusters of galaxies and related objects.

While a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Arizona at Tucson, Clowe and his colleagues found the most direct evidence yet of dark matter, the invisible substance thought to make up 80 percent of the universe. The team made headlines around the world with the finding, which *Discover* magazine ranked as the No. 3 science finding of 2006.

The competitive Sloan fellowship — which this year honored 118 researchers in seven fields — is intended to enhance the careers of the best young faculty members in the United States and Canada.

"It speaks to the outstanding quality of the faculty we've been recruiting in recent years," says department chair Joseph Shields. "Ohio University's Department of Physics and Astronomy is now in ever greater ways competitive with institutions around the nation and the world."

— *Jessica Alfrey*



For a link to a "NOVA" vodcast with Douglas Clowe, visit Ohio Today Online at www.ohio.edu/ohiotoday.

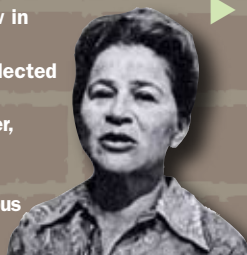
▼ WRA members in 1963



▼ Alicia Woodson



- 1962 Positions of dean of women and dean of men are dissolved
- 1967 Women are eliminated from marching band
- 1969 Dozens of women stay out past curfew in protest of women's hours
- 1969 Alicia Woodson is first black woman elected student body president
- 1971 Shirley Wimmer, School of Dance founder, receives University Professor award
- 1972 End of women's curfews
- 1972 Report on the status of women on campus is written by student Beverly Price



▲ Protesting curfew hours

Shirley Wimmer ▲

By the Way...

Making the news

Topic? Politics. Experts? Our students.

The primary elections brought national attention to Ohio University when “FOX & Friends” broadcast segments of two shows live from the Baker University Center theater.

On March 4 and 5, “FOX & Friends” anchor Alisyn Camerota talked politics with the OU audience gathered for the broadcast and student focus groups representing a spectrum of views. Students also had the opportunity to meet political pundits and other guests, including former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay.

FOX Network consultant Woody Fraser was impressed by the broadcasts, calling students “very articulate, very real, very eager to participate and smart as a whip.”

A bull by the horns

The stock market may seem volatile — but Ohio University’s Student Equity Management Group has sure figured out how to ride its ebbs and flows. Last fiscal year, the group totaled a 28 percent return on its investments, bringing its portfolio of Ohio University Foundation funds to \$1.5 million, up from \$1 million just two years ago.

The 20-plus members of the group each work 10 to 20 hours per week, all volunteer, analyzing financial situations and researching company stocks.



ROCK FATICA

More than 1 million viewers tuned in for the live broadcast of “FOX & Friends” March 4 and 5 that brought anchor Alisyn Camerota and guests to campus.

The secret to their success? Senior finance major Matt Montesano offers some advice: “The most important rule of investing is to invest in only things that you know and understand. Too often individuals buy assets, everything from stocks to real estate, that he or she has no underlying knowledge about.”

Like other foundation assets, the group’s profits fund student scholarships and other university initiatives.

Honor for Adams

Ohio University honored its first African-American journalism graduate, the late Alvin Adams, on Oct. 19 when it dedicated the first residence hall built on campus in more than 30 years.

Born in Morgan County, Adams embarked on a distinguished career in journalism after graduating in 1959 and later worked in public relations. He moved back to the Athens area in 1998 and co-founded the Multicultural Genealogical Center in Chesterhill, Ohio, which documents the history of multicultural residents of the Ohio River Valley.

His daughter, Amelia Marie Adams, described Adams as a kind man who put others first. “He was a thoughtful person, who never discouraged people,” she said at the Adams Hall dedication ceremony.

OT For full coverage of these stories and a video recap of the “FOX & Friends” broadcast, visit www.ohio.edu/ohiotoday.

▼ First Women’s Center in McGuffey Hall



▲ Beverly Price



▲ Wendy Weeden Devine

- 1973 First Women’s Center opens in McGuffey Hall
- 1973 First athletic scholarships awarded to women at Ohio
- 1975 Women return to the marching band
- 1976 Women’s Center closes
- 1977 Women’s Advisory Committee demonstrates outside of Cutler Hall against unequal opportunities for women
- 1977 Professors Joy Huntley, Patricia Richard and Barbara Daniel propose a women’s studies program
- 1979 Athens’ first Take Back the Night March
- 1979 Wendy Weeden Devine, BSED ’74, is first woman inducted into OU Athletic Hall of Fame

Spicing up the airwaves

Dave Garcia and Julio Cumba are in the studio deejaying their usual Sunday 4 to 6 p.m. time slot. Their radio program, titled “Arroz y Frijoles” (rice and beans) has them spinning discs from just about every genre of Latin music for WOUB-AM (1340) listeners.

“We’re just having fun, playing music,” says Garcia, who also serves as the university’s director of undergraduate admissions. In reality, the show provides an outlet for entertainment and information for members — and prospective members — of the university’s Hispanic community and others who enjoy the music.

The pair mixes it up with tejano, norteño, salsa, merengue, Cuban jazz. “Even a little bit of Ricky Martin,” Garcia says.

“He played it,” Cumba responds jokingly, pointing to Garcia.

With 355 Hispanic students on campus in 2007-08 (1.7 percent of the student population), there’s tremendous room for growth.



KEVIN RIDDELL

Director of Undergraduate Admissions Dave Garcia (left) and Julio Cumba host a weekly WOUB-AM show.

through November to high schools and college fairs throughout northern Ohio.

A former Templeton Scholar, Cumba, who is Puerto Rican, is happy to talk to prospective students about his alma mater. He and Garcia even made a recruiting trip to Texas last year.

Wherever he goes, the name “Arroz y Frijoles” is instantly recognizable, Cumba says. “Rice and beans is something that’s cross-cultural.”

— Mary Reed

“The Hispanic population is the fastest growing underrepresented group in the U.S.,” says Garcia, who is Mexican-American. “Recruiting more Hispanic students will certainly help to increase student diversity on college campuses.”

Much of the work the men do for the Office of Admissions (Cumba is an admissions adviser) takes them out of the office. “We’re road warriors,” says Cumba, who travels from September

Keeping Up

John Burns, director of legal affairs, retired Jan. 1, concluding a career that spanned more than 38 years, the longest of any university lawyer in the state. He served under five university presidents. Burns plans to continue teaching during his retirement.

John Biancamano is serving as interim director of legal affairs.



The Division of Student Affairs welcomes a new associate vice president for student affairs and dean of students, **Ryan Lombardi**, who will begin work in May.

Lombardi was the associate dean of students at Duke University. He succeeds Terry Hogan, BS ’77, MA ’84 and PHD ’92, who left in August to accept the position of vice president for educational and student services at the University of Northern Iowa.



Scott Seaman joined the university as dean of university libraries effective April 1. Previously, he was associate director of administrative services for Norlin Library at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Seaman succeeds Julia Zimmerman, who left in May 2007 to accept a position as director of university libraries at Florida State University, her alma mater.



Rathindra Bose has been named vice president for research and creative activity and dean of the graduate college, a new college to be established this fall. He will begin work July 1.

Currently the vice president for research and dean of the graduate school at Northern Illinois University, he previously spent 16 years at Kent State University.

Bose succeeds Jack Bantle, who accepted a position at Wright State University in December.



Jim Schaus joined the university as director of athletics effective April 24. He previously spent nine years as Wichita State University’s athletics director.

Under his leadership, WSU emerged as one of the most competitive programs in the Missouri Valley Conference, winning the MVC’s All-Sports Trophy four years in a row.

Schaus succeeds Kirby Hocutt, who left in April to accept a position as the director of athletics at the University of Miami.

▼ Women’s Center, 2008



▲ Gladys Bailin



- 1979 Women’s studies program begins
- 1985 Graduate women’s studies certificate program is approved
- 1986 Gladys Bailin of the School of Dance is first female Distinguished Professor
- 2005 Women’s studies becomes a major
- 2006 Provost Kathy Krendl establishes Commission for Women
- 2007 Women’s Center opens in the new Baker University Center; Susanne Dietzel named director