

Presidential presence felt in Athens area

The 'Cat Facts in *Ohio Today* have always interested me. As an Athens native and somewhat of a history buff, I have taught, written articles and videotaped several shows for both local access and regional TV. Many were on the folklore of Athens County and Ohio University.

The fall/winter 2007 *Ohio Today's* 'Cat Facts mentioned that nine U.S. presidents have visited the Athens campus and asked, "Which two did so while in office?"

In all, 15 U.S. presidents have been to the Athens and/or campus area. (The five who visited while in office are noted below with asterisks.)

James Buchanan, 1855
 William McKinley, 1891
 William H. Taft, 1908
 Theodore Roosevelt, 1912
 Warren Harding, 1916
 Calvin Coolidge, 1924*
 Herbert Hoover, 1932*
 Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1938*
 Harry S. Truman, 1947*
 Richard M. Nixon, 1952 and 1956
 John F. Kennedy, 1959
 Lyndon B. Johnson, 1964*
 Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1965
 Jimmy Carter, 1989
 Bill Clinton, 2008

I have met nine presidents during my lifetime, seven here in my hometown of Athens.

Interested in how many first ladies have visited Athens? The answer is six: Grace Coolidge in 1924; Mamie Eisenhower, 1965; Pat Nixon, 1952 and 1956; Eleanor Roosevelt, 1954; Nancy Reagan, 1979; and Hillary Rodham Clinton, 1992, 1996, 1997 and 1998.

Keep up the great job on *Ohio Today!*

Raymond J. Abraham, BFA '55
Athens, Ohio



ABOVE: U.S. President William Howard Taft visited Athens in 1908. Here, Taft (left) and Charles H. Grosvenor, a state and national political leader and devoted friend of the university, sit in front of the Grosvenor house, now Konneker Alumni Center. **BELOW:** President Lyndon B. Johnson speaks from the West Portico of Templeton-Blackburn Alumni Memorial Auditorium on May 7, 1964. To read the full text of Johnson's speech that day, visit www.ohio.edu/ohiotoday.



Spunky sophomore of the '80s doesn't disappoint

As a former classmate of Corinne Colbert's, I enjoyed reading in the fall edition of *Ohio Today* that her essay, "A Marriage That's Good Enough," had been spotlighted by NPR as part of its "This I Believe" series. And I wasn't the least bit surprised.

I knew Corinne when we both were journalism majors living in Gamertsfelder Hall in the mid-1980s. She was then "Corky" Colbert, a smart, hard-working sophomore with a firecracker personality and a contagious laugh. Even then her writing had a depth and a polish that left me envious. As I read her NPR essay, I laughed and thought, "Amazing — her writing actually got better."

Thanks to *Ohio Today* for letting me know that the 20-year-old kid with a great laugh grew into a strong, accomplished woman who is achieving a good life. And as for you, Corky, even if your husband doesn't always get as excited over your accomplishments as you might like, rest assured that those of us who knew you "back in the day" couldn't be prouder.

Shari Peace, BSJ '87
Centerville, Ohio

Write to us

Ohio Today welcomes letters from readers. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, space, clarity, style and civility. We ask that you include your Ohio University affiliation, address and a daytime telephone number in case we have questions.

Here are some ways to share your letters with us:

- Send e-mail to ohiotoday@ohio.edu
- Address mail to:
Ohio Today
Scott Quad 173
Ohio University
Athens, Ohio 45701-2979
- Fax letters to 740-593-1887