

The sanctity of a promise

By Roderick J. McDavis



“... Schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged.” This solemn commitment to education is the foundation upon which Ohio University was built in 1804. Our founders surveyed a rich forest and envisioned that something else remarkable could grow here — knowledge.

These visionary leaders understood that access to an education is the ultimate promise — to our children, to our society and to our future. In honoring this legacy, Ohio University has and will continue to help generations of students discover their potential. This historic promise has grown undergraduate and graduate programs recognized nationally for their excellence.

What more, then, defines the promise of an Ohio University education?

It is the way our faculty mentor students. Melding instruction with inspiration, Ohio University professors are brilliant cultivators of potential. One impressive measure is the growing number of students winning many of the nation’s most prestigious

awards. Students engaged in this rigorous process credit multiple faculty mentors for putting such achievements within their reach.

It is research and creative activity. The pursuit of discovery yields innovation from those seeking the promise of a better future. Last year, 100 of the 470 students participating in the annual Research and Creative Activity Expo earned recognition for projects ranging from a documentary film on Ohio’s controversial role in the 2004



The Class Gateway is a daily reminder of our promise.

presidential election to a new treatment for pancreatic cancer to a study on optimizing fuel cells that use alternative energy sources.

It is service. When students invest time, ideas and regard for others, they discover the best in themselves. Our medical students travel the world conducting field research and assisting in clinics to improve the quality of life for the underserved. These humbling experiences, they say, also will improve the quality of care they provide — by nurturing sensitivity, awareness and communication with patients.

It is experiential learning. Hands-on learning is a meaningful, transformative complement to the academic curriculum — whether it takes the form of providing business advice to area entrepreneurs, working in campus radio and TV stations, or performing at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

It is community. Nearly 50 percent of all first-year students joined one of the university’s 115 learning communities this past fall. Those who participate say they feel more strongly connected and develop a deeper understanding of their courses, and statistics show they earn higher grade-point averages.

When I walk the College Green, I recall the young man I was and the wealth of opportunity my education has afforded me. Life-changing experiences. Faculty tutelage. Learning and discovery. Ohio University’s promise was fulfilled for me; so too will it be realized by the students and colleagues who walk the brick paths with me today.

It is the singular Ohio University experience that binds together more than 180,000 graduates throughout the world. I am proud to be counted in this number; and I hope you are as well.

OHIO TODAY

- EDITOR**
Mary Alice Casey
- ASSOCIATE EDITOR**
Mariel Betancourt, MS '07
- DESIGNER**
Sarah Flores-McDowell, BFA '02
- PHOTOGRAPHER**
Rick Fatica
- CONTRIBUTING EDITOR**
Brian Stemen, MA '98
- CONTRIBUTORS**
Jessica Alfrey, BSJ '09
Jenaye Antonuccio, BA '95
Joshua M. Bernstein, BSJ '00
Jason Corriher
Judith Daso, AB '68
Jennifer Krusch
Linda Lockhart
Meredith McIntosh, BSJ '09
Stephen McKean, BA '98
Charles Ping
Mary Reed, BSJ '90, MA '93
Kylie Roman, BSC '08
Eva Simeone, BSJ '08
Breanne Smith, BSJ '08
Alison Wayner, BSJ '06
Laura Yates, BSJ '08
- PRINTER**
The Watkins Printing Co.

Ohio University

- PRESIDENT**
Roderick J. McDavis, BSED '70
- SENIOR DIRECTOR OF MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS**
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING
Gina Calcamuggio, BA '92
- DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION**
FOR THE OHIO UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Jan Miller-Fox, BFA '77
- DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT FOR COMMUNICATION**
Jennifer Shutt Bowie, BSJ '94, MS '99
- BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
C. Daniel DeLawder, BSED '71, chair
M. Marnette Perry, vice chair
Sandra Anderson, BS '73
Norman E. Dewire, BSED '58
Gene T. Harris, PHD '99
C. Robert Kidder
Larry L. Schey
Tracy Kelly, student trustee
Frank P. Krasovec, BBA '65, MBA '66,
national trustee
Charles R. Stuckey Jr., BSME '66,
national trustee
Dell Robinson, BSPE '88
Alumni association representative

Ohio Today publishes two times this academic year, in November and May. The magazine is produced by Ohio University Communications and Marketing in collaboration with University Advancement. Views expressed in the magazine do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors or university policies.
Copyright 2008 by Ohio University

Ohio University is an affirmative action institution.

To contact us

Editorial offices are located at Scott Quad 173, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio 45701-2979. Send story ideas, items for Bobcat Tracks or comments about the magazine to that address, e-mail them to ohiotoday@ohio.edu or call the editors, Mary Alice Casey, 740-593-1890, or Mariel Betancourt, 740-593-1891.

Address changes may be made by visiting www.ealumni.ohio.edu/directory/. Address changes and information for In Memoriam also may be sent to Advancement Services Operations, HDL Center 168, Athens, Ohio 45701-0869 or e-mailed to ohiotoday@ohio.edu.

To reach the Ohio University switchboard, call 740-593-1000.