



Finding their niche

Three alumni discover great ways to keep in touch

By Ralph Amos

College life has its order. Students enter as freshmen, worrying about life in dorms, their chosen majors and starting out on their own. Upperclassmen move out, plan their futures and embark on internships.

Life after college is a little like this, too.

At the alumni office, we've learned graduates connect with Ohio University in many different ways, and these connections can depend on what phase of post-Athens life an individual is in. (And yes, the first phase is discovering there is life after Athens!)

We've met recent alumni who really benefit from

networking with other grads in the new cities they call home.

We talk with alumni who are well-established in their careers and want to reach out to current students through mentoring.

Some alumni take on larger leadership roles — helping to serve on one of the university's alumni advisory boards, for example — when their children have graduated from college and they have more spare time.

No matter your age or interests, there's a way to connect with Ohio. Here, three alumni tell *Ohio Today* what makes their relationships with the university unique.

Patricia Connor Study, AB '48

"What motivates me to stay active in Ohio University is my interest in learning and my increasing realization of how important a good education is for a good, quality life," Patricia Connor Study says. "And I'm not just talking about getting a top job. A liberal arts education gives you unlimited skills."

Study, who reconnected with the university in the 1990s, serves on The Ohio University Foundation Board, helped start the university's Women in Philanthropy group and endowed the Connor Study Professorship in Contemporary History.

When she visits Athens, she often drops in on history classes.

"The most exciting part for me is having the opportunity to listen to these gifted professors," she says. "They are so wise and prolific, and they tell me everything I need to know about the world I live in."

Study says she enjoys these commitments because they are best suited to her schedule and interests.

"It was a logical fit," she says.



Mark Mace, BBA '78

At Mark Mace's home, you don't have to "reach very far to grab something with 'OU' on it." The vice president of finance at Crane Group Co. still has his letter jacket and other memorabilia all around. Throughout the years, he's found other ways to keep Ohio University present in his everyday life.

"For years, I recruited for the firm I worked in," Mace says. He visited Athens to attend career fairs regularly, always meeting with professors for recommendations as well. "I was always impressed with how the accounting professors took an interest in student careers."

Today, Mace has taken a leadership role as treasurer of the Central Ohio Chapter Network, which unites alumni in the Columbus area. The group plans a variety of events to cater to all ages.

"I happen to be 51," Mace says, "so I'm more into the dinner and sporting events right now."

Brad Johnson, AB '95

"I've moved about 12 times since graduating from OU," Brad Johnson says. "It's been difficult, if not impossible to stay connected."

Johnson joined the online Ohio University alumni community, The [Gateway], in March, and he's already busy posting photos, sending messages to old friends and keeping up with the online group of the ROTC Army Society of Alumni and Friends.

"I had lost contact with almost all prior classmates and ROTC alumni," Johnson says. "In fact, there were only two I had maintained close contact with since graduating. Now, I've reconnected with many old friends."

The [Gateway] is an easy way for busy alumni to keep in touch. The service — which can be accessed at www.thegateway.alum.ohio.edu/ — is free, and each graduate can post a profile and swap messages. Also, it's simple to search for alumni living in the same area, or those who share similar interests or graduated in the same class.

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