



COURTESY OF KAREN NULF

Honest advice, lifelong inspiration

I read the article about Karen Nulf in *Ohio Today* (Summer 2009), and it inspired me to send this message of thanks. Karen Nulf (professor emerita of art) made a difference in my life, and I appreciate her direction and support during my time at OU.

I graduated in 1978 with a bachelor of fine arts in graphic design. In my junior year, she and I had a discussion that encouraged me to expand my horizons in design. Here's what I remember about the conversation: She said that I was going to be accepted in the design group (barely), but she wanted me to concentrate on the business of art and design — to learn about all art forms and how art is used in the business world. Over the next two years, I took a variety of classes in almost all of the colleges, from engineering to fashion design, to advertising and journalism.

As it has turned out, her words set the stage for me to enter the working world with the encouragement that I could be a designer and find a path in the corporate world. I have spent the past 30 years producing corporate events all over the world, from high-end incentive programs in exotic locations to one of the largest hot-air balloon festivals in the country. Today I am the senior vice president of brand marketing with RE/MAX.

Karen's direction convinced me that art didn't just happen on a canvas or illustrations board. As I moved through my career, I always felt as though I was creating art, just using a wide variety of mediums and tools.

In the article, she was quoted as saying she pushed the students as far as they could be pushed, and that people respect you when you make it hard. She was right: She was very straight and honest with me about my artistic talents, and yet she found a way to push me toward something that changed my life.

Here's another snapshot of how her inspiration pushed me: She was the first person who talked to me about multi-image slide shows. On the first opportunity in my first job at a software company, I produced a 12-projector slide show for a sales meeting (they were blown away), which led to my being asked to produce annual company meetings and to make them "creative," like the slide show. I spent 12 years in Cincinnati with Cincom and eventually became responsible for all design in the company.

I was in Athens in April and really enjoyed seeing the beauty of the town once again. My roommate from freshman year is still my best friend, and his son attends OU in the graphic design program. On behalf of the thousands of students that you have inspired, Karen, thank you.

Mike Reagan, BFA '78
Denver, Colo.

ABOVE: Professor Emerita of Art Karen Nulf (photographed at Seigfred Hall in the 1970s) joined the faculty in 1967. Now retired from teaching, she continues to work as an artist.

Looking East or West?

I see that the current president's perspective is not very long, historically speaking. He says in the summer issue ("President's Perspective") that OU was the "Berkeley of the Backwoods." The first part of my family to arrive in Athens, two years after the founding, reported that there were 12 log cabins and one brick building (known today as Cutler Hall). Because these were educated, literate people from the East, it was always known as "Harvard on the Hocking," until the hippie period! I still find that appellation more appealing.

Jerry Grim, BFA '64
Berwyn, Ill.

Both sides of the story

I always enjoy reading my copy of *Ohio Today*. I would especially like to thank you for the article in the Summer 2009 edition on Roger Ailes ("In His Own Words"). I did not know, but was pleasantly surprised to learn, that he is an OU alum. As a conservative, I am a strong supporter of Fox News and appreciate his philosophies on journalism. I know there are many who say that Fox News only shows the conservative side, but my viewing experiences say that opposing views are nearly always presented.

As a 1951 alum, I might be described as "old school." I did not take any journalism courses during my studies at OU, but many of my classmates, who were World War II vets, talked a lot about (School of Journalism founder) George Starr Lasher and his philosophy of always presenting both sides. It is heartwarming to know that some of that thinking is still being absorbed by people such as Mr. Ailes. Apparently, the School of Journalism has not lost its way, as so many others have.

I agree with Mr. Ailes' last comment of the interview, in which he says, "There are times when I think OU is a little too liberal for me, but that's OK as long as there's an additional point of view from time to time so people don't get brainwashed. I love OU."

Keep up the good work.

Bob Baker, BSAG '51
Kerrville, Texas

Which came first?

Fellow alumnus Mr. Ailes states Ted Turner created the 24-hour news. I believe Jack Thayer did it first in his conversion of radio news on the radio network level. I worked for Mr. Thayer in the '70s at WNCL in Columbus, and I believe he blazed the trail for TV to follow later.

Additionally, Ailes did not change 24-hour news to something watchable, but to something sensationalized and distorted. Ailes does use TV as a canvas and does regularly paint an impressionistic representation that he envisions, motivated by strictly numbers — rating-driven dollars!

Charles Keen, BSC '76
Fort Myers, Fla.

Promising futures

I always enjoy reading about the bright, young people at OU. Thank you. As a retired speech/language pathologist in the inner city, I am especially interested in reading about the Urban Scholars (“Most Likely to Succeed,” Summer 2009) and opportunities given to financially challenged minorities.

I am excited that they want to go back to their cities and inspire the next generation.

Florence Entzi Yuhas, BFA '61
Youngstown, Ohio

Write to us

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CONTRIBUTORS



Kevin Riddell (photographer) always wanted to be a photographer but couldn't afford his first camera until he was 19. “Photography gives me opportunities to meet so many interesting people from all walks of life,” he says. He earned a bachelor's degree in visual communication at Cincinnati's Union Institute and a master of arts at Ohio University's School of Visual Communication. As the first George V. Voinovich School

Photojournalism Fellow, he produced multimedia stories that showcased the impact the school is having in Appalachian Ohio communities. He freelances for Ohio University and *The New York Times*.



Julie Tatge (“Way Outside the Beltway”) is a journalist and communications consultant who recently relocated to Athens. She has more than 20 years of experience in top media markets, including serving as business editor of the *Chicago Tribune*. She earned both a bachelor's and master's degree in journalism from The Ohio State University, where she was a Kiplinger Fellow in Public Affairs Journalism. She has

taught writing, reporting and editing at OSU, Northwestern University and Ohio University's E.W. Scripps School of Journalism.



Senior **Samantha Pirc** (editorial assistant) is a magazine journalism major also earning a certificate in women's and gender studies. On campus, she is president of Women Acting for Change and co-edits the WGS department quarterly journal, *The Awakening*. In her free time, she loves to play intramural broomball, go camping or watch Cleveland sports. After graduation she hopes to work for a feminist-oriented publication or organization.



Senior **Allison McAdams** (photographer, “Through a Local Lens”) won first prize in the *Ohio Today* student photo contest held this fall. A commercial photography major, she has interned with River Imaging in Cincinnati, which handles imagery for companies such as Bob Evans and Del Monte. She enjoys running and participated in the Cincinnati Thanksgiving Day Race this year.



Junior **Dan Krauss** (photographer, “Through a Local Lens”) won second prize in the *Ohio Today* student photo contest held this fall. A photojournalism major, he interned with the *Evansville* (Ind.) *Courier and Press* and is a staff photographer for the student-produced *Southeast Ohio* magazine. He is a two-time winner in the College Photographer of the Year contest, winning the Award of Excellence in Domestic Picture Story in

2008 and a gold in the category of Domestic Picture Story in 2009.



Senior **Alex Snyder** (photographer, “Through a Local Lens”) won third prize in the *Ohio Today* student photo contest held this fall. A photojournalism major, he is an internationally published nature photographer whose work has appeared in *Nature's Best Photography* magazine. A native of Nelsonville, Ohio, he has been taking pictures since he was 12.