

# Coming home to Ohio

By Roderick J. McDavis



As alumni, we know Ohio University is a unique community defined by its setting and culture. In fact, when I returned to the university to interview for the position of president, I instantly noticed and appreciated the sameness of the campus and the region. It was like coming home after a long absence.

Time doesn't alter the charm and beauty that strikes us so vividly when we take the Richland Avenue exit and see the panoramic view of campus or cross Court Street to walk through College Gate and onto the Green. The brick pathways, the beautiful buildings, and the activity of students interacting with friends, mentors and faculty are a constant reminder that Ohio University is a community, and one that is rich in history and place.

Only by looking closely do you notice the technological sophistication of the campus as evidenced by students, faculty and staff carrying iPods, cell phones and laptops. That is definitely a change from when I was a student, but still I see more similarities than differences in today's students.

From Ohio University's very beginnings, students, faculty and staff who possess a certain energy, passion and intellectual curiosity have been a part of our institutional character and defined our community. While technology has evolved and impacted how we work and study, it has not changed who we are.

Today's students possess that same enthusiasm, spirit of inquiry and friendliness that define Ohio University graduates. And much of that is possible not only because of the university's academic excellence but also the community that melds our campus and our city.

Reading the pages of this issue, you too will find that our students, alumni, faculty and staff continue to make a difference in our city, our region and our world. Consider education major Chris Ebert, who grew up in Circleville, Ohio, and hopes to remain in this region to teach after graduation; or our Alumnus of the Year David Wilhelm, whose love of Southeast Ohio has inspired efforts to nurture local entrepreneurship. The examples of how our university connects with the region are numerous.

As alumni, this place, our home, is a part of our essence. It helped shape who we became in ways unimaginable to many of us when we were 18, 19 and 20 years old. And it continues to do the same for new generations of students who proudly carry on the legacy of the Bobcat spirit!



Ohio University has an immediate impact on Southeast Ohio residents served by the free or low-cost Community Health Programs provided by the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

## OHIO TODAY

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