

## 'Hero' employee rescues woman from burning van

By Jack Jeffery

Matt Baker, a former Boy Scout, turned in his good deed of the day by rescuing a wheelchair-bound woman and her daughter from a burning van at Ohio University last month.

Baker, a temporary employee in the University's Department of

Transportation Services, was on the job when he went out of his way to help two women in a disabled van that had just pulled into a campus parking lot.

Baker noticed the van was leaking gas. Upon lifting the hood, he saw sparks arcing from the battery, which touched off a blaze so severe it singed his eyebrows and part of his beard. Realizing time was running short, Baker and Connie Varner carried Connie's mother, Janet, to safety. Within minutes of Baker's rescue, the van was totally engulfed in flames.



Baker

"If it weren't for Matt, I probably would have lost my mom," Connie said. "He is truly a hero to me. He was only concerned with our welfare and not his own safety. Within a minute or two of getting my mom to safety, the van was totally gone. I was scared to death. We can't thank him

enough."

Janet said, "I'll always consider him a hero. Matt was very brave. I could feel the flames coming under my feet. I was very scared, but he seemed to stay so calm. It was terrifying. Matt will always have a special place in our family. He saved my life."

Baker took the whole experience in stride, returning to work after the incident. "I wasn't nervous. I just wanted to make sure they got out of there all right," he said. "When I saw the flames shoot up, I knew

that things weren't too good. I don't know why, but I wasn't scared. To me, it wasn't real exciting."

His actions are inspiring to his fellow employees. "When he returned to work, his co-workers gave him a standing ovation," said Director of Transportation Services Sherry Barnes. "We're all so proud of him. This shows his true character. Matt's kind of a quiet person, but when it was time to take charge, he wasn't afraid to do so."

For the former Boy Scout, it's all in a day's work. "I like to help people out, but I never had anything like that before," he said. "I try to do what I can. I guess a little excitement never hurt anyone."

*Jack Jeffery is a media specialist with University Communications and Marketing.*



Wayne Sharpe, Dave Logan and Dennis Wingo make up the Life Safety Shop. (not pictured: Karen Harris)

## Campus in trusted hands with Life Safety Shop

By Karen Deardorff

Though they do not bear shiny badges or flaunt superhero capes, these four men and one woman put their lives on the line each day for Ohio University. As the University's Life Safety Shop, they are dedicated to keeping the campus primed in case of a fire emergency.

Working and on call around the clock, Dave Logan, Wayne Sharpe, Dennis Wingo, Ron Hedrick and Karen Harris maintain the University's fire alarms, pumps, extinguishers and

sprinkler systems. And when a fire does break out, they are promptly on the spot helping the fire department locate and identify the problem.

"Our main concern is where people sleep and live," Wingo said. "The safety of our students comes first."

The Life Safety Shop is vital to the well being of the University. They take turns each week responding to fires when off-duty, since most calls occur between 1:30 a.m.

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## Student lends helping hand to tornado victims

By Jack Jeffery

Ohio University student Kristina Sukup, a business major, put her organizational skills to use over the recent holiday break by assisting people in nearby Van Wert, Ohio, who were left without homes and jobs when a tornado ripped through the community Nov. 10. Sukup volunteered at a distribution center set up by the local United Way agency. She worked about 30 hours a week to help individuals to receive necessities to meet their short-term needs and assist those whose livelihoods were interrupted receive unemployment assistance. "Kristina was just fabulous. She showed great leadership and organizational skills and was also very good at working with people,"

said United Way of Van Wert County Director Deb Russell. "She worked numerous hours for us without receiving one cent. She obviously has very good values, is unselfish and thinks of others."

For Sukup, it was an experience that was rewarding, both personally and professionally. "This job was especially fulfilling because it involved helping people who need it the most," Sukup said. "It was rewarding to see how much little things can help



Kristina Sukup spent countless hours assisting with a distribution center to aid Van Wert tornado victims during her holiday break.

people. Especially because it was during Christmas season, it put things in perspective." She added, "I have a lot of friends from the area and know people who were affect-

ed by the tornado, so I wanted to do my part to help. Considering what others went through, it didn't feel as if I was doing that much. I'm sure that as I look back on the experience, it will mean even more," she said.

Russell said, "I'm certain that Kristina will do a fabulous job in her business career. She had great ideas and made suggestions that helped with our process. She's very ambitious and efficient. Whoever hires her will be

lucky to have Kristina working for them."

Sukup and her family went the extra mile, preparing a dinner for one of the families she met at the center and Kristina bought gifts for two small children whose family lost their home.

"Kristina was very compassionate toward the people she met and regularly went above and beyond her duties to help others," Russell said.

On campus, she is part of the Residence Life staff and also works in the Office of the President.

*Jack Jeffery is a media specialist with University Communications and Marketing.*

## Flemming turns College trials into opportunities

Dean Leslie Flemming recently discussed her vision for the College of Arts and Sciences with *Outlook*. This is part of an *Outlook* series giving deans an opportunity to share their thoughts with the Ohio University community.

### What is your vision for the College?

My vision for the College is to support, reflect and respond to the mission of Ohio University.

First we must continue providing superior general education in the core disciplines universitywide.

Second, with nearly one-third of the University's undergraduates enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences, we must continue to offer high-quality undergraduate majors. It means in addition to offering students breadth and depth of knowledge in their areas, also offering them opportunities to generate new knowledge or to apply their knowledge through participation in research projects, internships or real world experiences.

Finally, my vision for the College includes a strong focus on graduate programs and research.

### During your tenure as Dean, has your vision changed?

I don't think my vision has changed, but certainly one must adapt to national trends and external imperatives.

When I first came to Ohio University in 1996, I was more focused on graduate education and research. But partly due to national trends, we are paying

## Q&A

more attention to undergraduate education and vigorously addressing student engagement, active learning, critical thinking, assessment and teacher preparation.

### What opportunities are you focusing on?

There are so many.

We are developing a new undergraduate major in World Religions by combining resources in the Philosophy and Classics departments that will be housed in Classics. We've recently begun two new graduate programs: a master's in social work with an emphasis on rural social work practice that responds to needs in southeastern Ohio and Appalachia; and a master's in public administration offered by the Political Science department that is designed around evening classes so that people who work in government and nonprofit organizations can earn a graduate degree. Both programs have an applied professional focus.



Flemming

The African-American Studies department is strengthening its curriculum with the addition of new faculty members, as is the Women's Studies program with the addition of shared faculty positions in English, History and Geography.

The African-American Studies department is strengthening its curriculum with the addition of new faculty members, as is the Women's Studies program with the addition of shared faculty positions in English, History and Geography.

### What are the College's strengths?

Without a doubt, the College's greatest strength is its talented and dedicated faculty.

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## A Face in the crowd

## Norm Lowery: Seasoned military man

By Aaron Reincheld

Assistant Director of University Custodial Services Norm Lowery is a soldier in the 63rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry, though he doesn't have to be worried about being sent to battle zones in Afghanistan or Iraq.

No, Lowery and the other members of his unit are more likely to be seen on the battlefields at Gettysburg, Shiloh and other historic sites throughout the nation reenacting the conflicts of the Civil War.

"It gives me a chance to get away from the office, get away from the telephone and sit around the campfire," Lowery said. "Time to unwind, if you will."

Lowery has been inspired to be a part of the reenactments in large part because his great-grandfather fought in the war. In many of the reenactments he's gone to in the last 15 years, Lowery plays an infantryman – the role his ancestor had in the actual fighting.

But there's more of a family connection. Another reason Lowery enjoys the reenactments is because many of his relatives are involved, from his brothers and nephews to his grandson, who Lowery has been taking to the battles since age 2.

"We all get together at

these different events," Lowery said. "It's kind of a family reunion."

Not surprisingly, Lowery comes from a military family. In addition to his great-grandfather's service in the Civil War, his grandfather fought in World War I, his father in World War II,

first sergeant. Similarly, in his 18 years at Ohio University Lowery has worked his way up from a custodian to upper management.

"That helps me to know the people, know the job, and I think people respect that," he said.



Norm Lowery takes part in Civil War reenactments in large part because his great-grandfather fought in the war. Lowery (center with musket) has been participating in reenactments for 15 years.

Norm himself fought in Vietnam and his daughter in the Persian Gulf.

"We're kind of a military-bound family," Lowery said.

The lessons learned during 21 years in the Army prepared him for many situations in his life, such as how to "cope and confront problems" and how to treat people.

"It probably helped me really get to where I am now," he said.

Lowery is proud of his ability to work his way to the top after starting at the bottom. In the Army, he went from a young private to

In addition to the two-and-a-half years he spent in Vietnam, Lowery was selected to guard the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon, which he did for about a year-and-a-half. He also was deputized as a U.S. Marshal when he served as a sky marshal on airplanes in the mid-1970s.

"I haven't had many dull moments in my life," Lowery said. "I'm an active person. I cannot sit still."

*Aaron Reincheld is a graduate student writer with*

## OUTLOOK

**OUTLOOK** is a weekly publication for the employees of Ohio University. It is produced by University Communications and Marketing, part of the division of University Advancement. Feel free to submit story ideas, event information, etc. Contact the editor three weeks in advance to have your item considered for publication in the print edition and two weeks in advance for the online edition. Send e-mail to [outlook@ohio.edu](mailto:outlook@ohio.edu) or campus mail to University Communications and Marketing, 102 Scott Quad, or call (740) 597-2938.

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## Calendar

### Lectures

**"Turning Away from Hate"**  
Jan. 28, 8 p.m., Baker University Center Ballroom. After 15 years as a neo-Nazi white supremacist activist and recruiter, Tom "T.J." Leyden. Contact: Dirk Dusthimer, email, [ddusthimer@hotmail.com](mailto:ddusthimer@hotmail.com); phone, 593-4057. Tickets: free

**Potawatomi Elder Jeff Ballew**  
Jan. 30, 7 p.m., Baker University Center, 1804 Lounge. Ballew will be discussing contemporary native issues facing his tribe. Contact: Sarah Conley, email, [ladylavender@myself.com](mailto:ladylavender@myself.com); phone, 589-4278. Tickets: free.

**International Studies Forum – The**

### Philippines

Jan. 31, 4 p.m. - 5 p.m., Computer Service Center, Room 121B. Dr. Benjamin Muego, adjunct professor of Southeast Asian Studies at Ohio University and professor of Political Science and Asian Studies at Bowling Green State University, will present "Presidential Politics and the Blame Game in the Philippines." Contact: Jennifer Cochran at (740) 593-1842 or [cochraj1@ohio.edu](mailto:cochraj1@ohio.edu). Tickets: Free

### Performances

**Literary Reading**  
Jan. 24, 8:30 p.m., Seigfried Hall's Mitchell Auditorium. There will be a reading from the first issue of Ohio University's new literary magazine,

*Hotel Amerika*. Contact: *Hotel Amerika* office at (740) 597-1360 or editors@HotelAmerika.net. The reading is free and open to the public.

**International Studies Forum – "Women's Political Activism"**  
Jan. 24, 4 p.m. - 5 p.m., Scripps Hall, Anderson Auditorium. Esiaba Irobi, visiting professor in the School of Theater, will present. The reading is free. Contact: Jennifer Cochran at (740) 593-1842 or [cochraj1@ohio.edu](mailto:cochraj1@ohio.edu). Cost: free

**"Porgy and Bess"**  
Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m., Templeton-Blackburn Alumni Memorial Auditorium. This "Folk Opera" tells the story of crippled Porgy and his doomed love affair with the gorgeous

# Two exhibitions to premiere Feb. 1 at the Kennedy Museum of Art

By Karen Wyman

In celebration of Black History Month, the Kennedy Museum of Art presents an inspiring new exhibition *People of Color: A Multicultural Role in History* opening Feb. 1. The exhibition, which highlights the multicultural community of Kilvert, Ohio, is an engaging expression of community identity, heritage and regional history. The exhibition will be on view through March 30.

The exhibition's guest curator, David Butcher, is a Kilvert resident and local history aficionado. His inspiration for this project grew from his own quest to preserve his family's history.

"My goal is to make people aware of our community's unique history," Butcher said. "My hope is that this exhibition will encourage others to see how important it is to know their own family history and continue to



Courtesy of the Kennedy Museum of Art



Courtesy of the Kennedy Museum of Art

*This work from Jacob Lawrence's Toussaint L'Ouverture series, is part of a new exhibition at the Kennedy Museum of Art. This photo of Thomas Jefferson Tabler and his granddaughters, circa 1900, is part of an exhibition to encourage people to learn about their family histories.*

explore and find these remarkable connections."

Butcher's African-American, Native American and European-American ancestors were among the first individuals to settle this southeastern Ohio community. Butcher, along with several family members, including his uncle Alvin Adams, also

an area native, conducted exhaustive research on the community. The result is an informative exploration of cultural identity, family, region and history. Genealogical records, photographic documentation, historical memorabilia, and arts and crafts of past and present community members, compose

this eclectic and captivating exhibition.

A public reception will be held on Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. The Kennedy Museum will also host a series of events in conjunction with the exhibition including a Gallery Talk by David Butcher and Alvin Adams on Feb. 20 at 5:30 p.m. and Art Encounter family workshops on Feb 1 and 8. For information call (740) 593-1304.

The exhibition *Genesis, Hiroshima and Toussaint L'Ouverture: Three Series of Prints* by Jacob Lawrence also premieres Feb. 1. Featured in this vibrant and evocative exhibition are 31 color prints and 13 text pages from the three series, produced between 1983 and 1997, by this renowned African-American artist. The exhibition will be on view through March 30. Related public events include a reception on Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. and a panel discussion with Ohio University art, art history and

African-American Studies faculty on March 13 at 6 p.m.

*People of Color* and the Jacob Lawrence print exhibition *Genesis, Hiroshima and Toussaint L'Ouverture* are integral to Ohio University's special events programming for Black History Month. Foremost among these events is the University's African-American Community and Campus Day 2003, "A Tribute to Families," which celebrates the rich histories and cultures of African-Americans and the African Diaspora in the Ohio River Valley. "A Tribute to Families" will be held on Sat. Feb. 15 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Nelson Commons, Ohio University. A shuttle bus will run between Nelson Commons and the Kennedy Museum between 3 and 6 p.m.

*Karen Wyman is the director of marketing and communications for the Kennedy Museum of Art.*

## Student on a mission finds more than she bargained for

By Aaron Reinheld

When photojournalism graduate student Regina Boone came to Ohio University in fall 2001 something didn't feel right.

It wasn't that she was homesick. The then 32-year-old Boone spent nearly four years teaching in Japan and backpacking alone across Asia, Africa and Europe. But the Richmond, Va., native did feel isolated.

What didn't sit well with Boone, an African-American, was the apparent homogeneity in the cultural landscape of the Athens region, an area rich with history such as the Underground Railroad.

"Initially I was totally shocked by the lack of representation of blacks or any people of color in the Athens community and in general within southeast Ohio," Boone said.

So Boone set out on a

mission to "find black people in the community."

"I was seeing none and wanted to find out where blacks were and what they were doing," she said.

That led Boone to Gallipolis and a celebration for the Emancipation Proclamation, the document signed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 to end slavery.

"I felt relieved to see blacks finally at least within driving distance from campus," she said. "I no longer felt as lonely or as depressed about this community and its makeup of people."

At the celebration, Boone met Bill Howard of Bidwell, Ohio, the last black dairy farmer in the state.

Boone formed a close friendship with him and his wife, Jackie. During her visits to their farm, Boone started to learn about the



Regina Boone

*Bill Howard is the last black dairy farmer in Ohio. Howard, like many farmers across the country, know farming isn't just a job, it's a lifestyle.*

current difficulties of all dairy farmers.

"I saw how the job is not just a job or an occupation, it is a lifestyle that has so many hardships that come along with it," she said.

When she was assigned to do a project for her visual communications newspaper picture story class, she thought Bill would make a good subject.

The motivation behind the photos has different layers,

and Boone hopes people who view her work will come away with a few messages.

The first has to do with seeing the diversity that is present in this region.

"First, I would like others to realize there is a community of black people, a community of biracial people, a community of multi-racial people that live in southeast Ohio and that they are here making a difference and have been here for a very,

very long time," she said. "This is an area that is not a homogeneous community. I want people to wake up in this community and recognize there is diversity."

Boone also hopes people gain an appreciation of farmers across the nation.

"I want people to realize how the life of farming is such a sacrifice," she said. "We should not forget our farmers and especially the few remaining black farmers who fought hard for their land and unfortunately are still fighting to survive on their land today."

Boone will be an exhibitor at Community and Campus Day on Feb. 15 at Nelson Commons. In addition to her photos of the Howards, she will be displaying photo essays of the oldest African-American women in Athens.

*Aaron Reinheld is a graduate student writer with University Communications and Marketing.*

## HAVAR helps dreams come true

By Katie Fitzgerald

*This story is part of an Outlook series showcasing the agencies affiliated with United Appeal for Athens County. This year's countywide campaign goal looks to raise \$203,000.*

HAVAR is an organization that knows people have different strengths and weaknesses. They strive to build on the strengths of their clients so they can play an active role in the community and lead rewarding lives.

The HAVAR mission is to connect people to people in order to build an inclusive community in which all citizens with disabilities can reach their full potential, realize their dreams and contribute to others — based on their own unique gifts.

"More informally, we support citizens with disabilities to be fully included in their neighborhoods and communities," Debbie Schmieding said.

Schmieding became involved with HAVAR in 1976 as a "house mom" after being sold on de-institutionalization and the community-based idea while in VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) in Iowa.

Today she feels she's lucky to have the job she does. "HAVAR has sufficient funding to make a real difference in peoples' lives, yet as a private nonprofit has some latitude in following new directions and initiatives," she said.

And with many of her co-workers having made a similar, long-term personal commitment, Schmieding feels it is immensely gratifying to work in an atmosphere of enthusiasm.

Each consumer that HAVAR supports gets per-

sonalized service from the very start. Staff sit down with the consumer to discuss what services will be best.

"We talk about how they want to spend their life and what they want to do," Schmieding says.

The core of the services HAVAR delivers comes from the relationship between the

individual with a disability and a chosen service coordinator. HAVAR has 85 staff members and 20 volunteers that serve to help support this relationship. They are able to help keep consumers a part of the community by helping them find a place to live, clean house, get to doctor appointments, balance a check book, manage free time, get in touch with family and friends and go on vacations.

They work with clients from a couple hours a week up to 24-hours a day depending on the needs and services.

According to Schmieding clients are welcome to stay in the program for as long as they want. The consumer, their service coordinator, their Program Manager and other people in their life all work together to identify changing needs.

Funding from United Appeal goes directly toward individual needs of people served, which they cannot afford. Examples include: home furnishings; registration for self-advocacy conferences; wheelchair and other accessibility aids; funeral and/or medical costs (when not otherwise covered); and seasonal clothing.

HAVAR provides service to both Athens and Washington counties.

*Katie Fitzgerald is a student writer with University Communications and Marketing.*



## History and politics after the Cold War

The Contemporary History Institute (CHI) is a unique graduate level institute that draws together students and faculty from political science, economics and journalism to hash out the complexities of contemporary policy issues.

Grounded in the University's Department of History, CHI was founded in 1987 by professor and diplomatic historian John Gaddis Lewis.

"The institute is very relevant to today's generations given the state of world affairs," said Michael Grow, director of the institute. "We use history as a way to explain the seemingly random events that make up world affairs. We're in the process of expanding beyond the original Cold War/diplomatic history focus of the institute toward a more global view of contemporary issues."

One of the institute's primary initia-

tives is to reinvigorate the speaker series. CHI has a history of bringing lively speakers to campus to encourage conversations across disciplines and to provide students with an opportunity to interact with experts in a variety of fields. Last year speakers focused on the issue of democratization in recent history culminating with the Baker Peace Conference and its focus on democracy in post-Soviet Russia.

"We're excited about the speakers that are coming to campus this year," Grow said. "They bring a balanced perspective to the uncertain situation in world affairs."

Upcoming speakers, including the Baker Peace Conference: Thursday, Feb. 6, 4:10 p.m. Brown House Seminar Room Randall Woods, US diplomatic historian, University of Arkansas. "The Battle for Vietnam: LBJ's Cold War Strategy."

Thursday, Feb. 20, 4:10 p.m. Brown House Seminar Room Jeremy Black, historian, University of Exeter, UK. "War and Strategy in the 21st Century"

Thursday, Feb. 27, 4:10 p.m. Brown House Seminar Room Timothy Naftali, associate professor and director of the Presidential Recordings Project and Kremlin Decision-Making Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia. "Khrushchev's Cold War."

Thursday, March 13, 4:10 p.m. Brown House Seminar Room Philippe Pochet, European Social Observatory, Brussels, Belgium, and Fulbright Visiting Scholar, University of Wisconsin, 2002-2003. "Social Pacts in the European Union."

April 3-4, 2003 2003 Baker Peace Conference US ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND THE ENVIRONMENT KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Bruce Babbitt, US Secretary of the Interior, 1993-2001

## Safety

Continued from Page 1

and 6 a.m.

Inspecting and refilling all 3,000 of the campus' extinguishers and testing the more than 30,000 smoke detectors are hulking tasks. During winter break, they check every fire alarm and sprinkler system.

"We do a lot of juggling each day," Wingo said.

As technology hurdles forward and the newest fire alarms are becoming more computerized, they stay on top by regularly attending seminars and attending sprinkler schools.

Hedrick is the shop's superintendent, Logan is the building maintenance specialist for the group and Wingo and Sharpe serve as safety systems technicians for the team. Harris recently joined the team.

*Karen Deardorff is the director of communications for Facilities and Auxiliaries.*

## Flemming

Continued from Page 2

We have about 350 tenure-track faculty members and around 125 faculty members in non-tenured positions; they are excellent teachers.

Many have been honored with top teaching awards from both the College and the University. They also excel in their research endeavors, they publish widely, they present papers at national and international conferences and they continue to attract increasing levels of finding from external sources. Many of them involve students in their research projects.

I'm proud of the ongoing outreach efforts conducted through ILGARD and the Voinovich Center. They truly serve the region while providing applied professional and research opportunities to our faculty and students.

**What are your most significant accomplishments?**

It has been heartening for me to see the level of external funding for research increase threefold since 1996.

I'm pleased with our continuing leadership in international studies and education abroad programs. Historically, emphasis in these areas has been strong, but maintaining their strength and increasing their scope has always been one of my priorities.

I also am happy with the strides we've made in multicultural education and efforts toward diversity, but the job is far from over.

Finally, I'm proud of the new faculty we have hired in the past six years and the opportunities we have been able to provide for their growth and development.

**What challenges are ahead?**

In a word — budget. Budget is the biggest challenge. We're operating on a razor-thin margin now. If we have to absorb another budget cut, we certainly will not be able to move forward and may even begin to lose ground.

*Susan Green is a writer with University Communications and Marketing.*



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Bess. Tickets: students \$10, general admission \$20, seniors \$18.

**Jimmy Bosch Concert**

Feb. 1, 8 p.m. - 10 p.m., Templeton-Blackburn Alumni Memorial Auditorium. Contact: Patrick Wong at (740) 597-6342 or w339100@ohio.edu. Tickets: students \$10, non-students \$12.

**Art Critic and Performance Artist Joanne Frueh**

Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m., Music Recital Hall. Art critic and performance artists Joanna Frueh will read from her work, presented by the English Department's Office of Special Programs. Contact: Dr. Jean Cunningham in the Special Programs Office at (740) 593-4181 or cunninggh@ohio.edu. Cost: free.

**Training**

**Photoshop 6.0: Introduction**

Jan. 28, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m., Computer Services Center, Room 114. Prerequisite: Mouse skills. Contact: Linda Lawson at (740) 593-9433 or compseminars@ohio.edu. Cost: free

**Events**

**Red Cross Blood Drive**

Jan. 30, noon to 6 p.m., Convocation Center Lobby. College of Osteopathic Medicine and Ohio Athletics are sponsoring a blood drive to help the American Red Cross, whose supply has reached a dangerously low level. One pint of blood can help save the lives of as many as three people. For an appointment call: (740) 593-9572.