

Regional campuses play vital role

Vice President for Regional Higher Education (RHE) Charlie Bird recently sat down with George Mauzy to discuss the regional campuses. This is the first in a series that gives deans an opportunity to share their thoughts with the Ohio University community.

What are RHE's primary goals for this year? We have four areas of focus: continuing academic excellence, strengthening our reputation inside and outside the University, building partnerships and collaborating with other areas of the University and making sure we manage the budget and create new income sources.

We also have been concen-

trating on faculty development. One example is our collaboration with the vice president for research to start the Research Development Program. This 18-month program will help 12 RHE faculty members raise their research activity in order to improve their chances of securing research grants.



Bird

We are partnering with the College of Health and Human Services in an effort to create one school of nursing by combining the programs at the regional campuses with the program in

Athens. We hope this will allow us to offer a master's of science degree in nursing.

What are the biggest areas of growth? Enrollment at every regional campus is up and the weak economy actually works in our favor. We have made real progress in making our classes accessible and have added more flexibility to our class offerings. Also, we are offering more baccalaureate degrees, while maintaining strong associate degree programs.

What are the greatest challenges? The physical separation can be a problem because it makes communication difficult. It makes it tougher to

build the relationships and trust you like to have. There is always a challenge to meet the educational needs of our community, while also making sure that we maintain the level of quality in our programs that Ohio University expects. We have done a good job of this, but it is a challenge.

How is the Bicentennial Campaign going for RHE? Since this is the first time the regional campuses have participated in a campaign, we are learning a lot. We have set some very ambitious goals at each campus and have raised more than \$7 million. Many of our donors aren't alumni, but people who value the campus and its

importance to the local community. We feel good that we are laying the groundwork and building relationships that will serve us in the future.

Why should students attend a regional campus? We have smaller classrooms with faculty that have a special commitment to teaching. It is a supportive atmosphere for non-traditional students and students who need to get their feet on the ground. Our schedules are extremely flexible and our tuition is affordable.

George Mauzy is a media specialist with University Communications and Marketing.

African American Studies reinvents itself

By Jamie Heberling

Originally started in 1969 by student activists, Ohio University's Department of African American Studies has been a trailblazer. It was one of the first programs of its kind in the nation. Now, more than three decades later, a multicultural workforce and changing issues have led the department to review its role and revise its curriculum.

"There's been what many would call a crisis in the department, which included declining participation of students, loss of credibility among administrators and a number of unsuccessful efforts to hire a new department chairperson," said Vibert Cambridge, interim chairman.

Two years ago, Leslie Flemming, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences appointed a universitywide advisory group to review the status of the department. The group, composed of representatives across disciplines, including business, international studies

and education, concluded the University needed to keep the department.

"It was important for the educational mission of the institution in the 21st century," Cambridge said. "Our challenge was to decide how to give life to this necessity."

Now Cambridge leads a faculty and an advisory group whose mission is to ensure the recruitment of a new generation of faculty and design and deliver a revised curriculum. The key ideas behind the curriculum design are rigor, distinctiveness and service to the community.

So far the department has developed six curricular specializations and is in the process of developing addition-



Last year's Community and Campus Day captured people's attention. It was designed to educate people about the heritage of African Americans in the Ohio River Valley and the history of interracial solidarity in the resistance to slavery.

al courses, establishing the African American Research and Service Institute and hiring two tenure-track faculty.

"We are appreciative of the support we are receiving, which tells us that we're on the right track," Cambridge said.

The revitalization of the department isn't just catching the eye of students and admin-

istrators, it's also capturing the attention of many in southeastern Ohio through community outreach programs such as Community and Campus Day, which will be held Feb. 15 at Old Nelson Commons. The program, now in its second year, gives insight into the heritage of African Americans in the Ohio River Valley and cele-

brates the history of interracial solidarity in the resistance to slavery. The program includes genealogical traces, Underground Railroad presentations, artwork displays, dance performances, poetry readings and historical displays.

There are many opportunities for faculty and students outside of African American Studies to participate in this event. "We would like to see faculty across disciplines develop class assignments around this event or encourage community members to come into their classrooms," Cambridge said. "When the community and campus collaborate, we are all enriched."

"This event puts a real face on history and is critical to reshaping the view of the contributions of African Americans to our nation and beyond," Cambridge said. "Many people are simply

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Art exhibition inspired by faith under fire

By Jamie Heberling

African-American slaves practiced an underground religion—one that was invisible to the eyes of their masters. In the thickets of their cabins, in the woods and beneath the shelters of brush arbors, called hush harbors, the slaves practiced Christianity.

Ohio University Assistant Professor of Painting, Robert Peppers, is exhibiting his mixed-media interpretation of the slaves' hush harbors. The work is a social commentary responding to the African American church burnings in 1996 and the resiliency of the congregations' faith during that tragedy.

Peppers was inspired to begin the project after a 10-day missionary trip to Esto, S.C. in spring 1997. With a team of about 25 Ohio University students, he helped rebuild and refurbish a torched church.

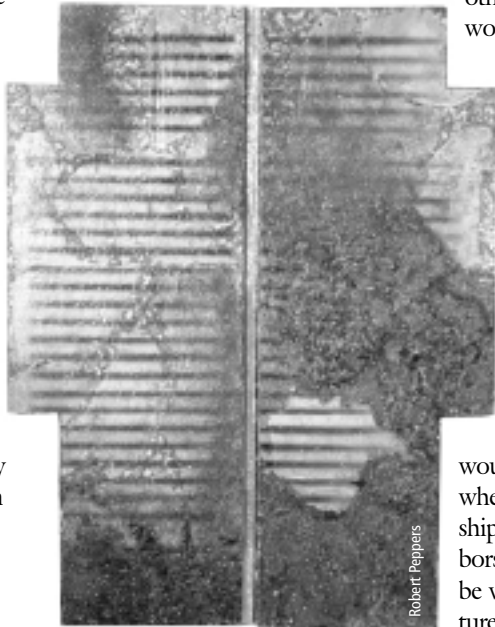
An African American himself, Peppers was touched by the tremendous amount of faith that guided the church's congregation during the rebuilding.

"There were mostly white students working in collaboration with a black congregation," he said. "At the end of each day they lay beautiful dinners before us. Those black people were a true testament of the resiliency of their Christian faith."

Following his experience, the artist returned to Athens and began deconstructing pieces from one of his previous exhibitions, "Burnt Offerings," which was an immediate 1996 response to the

church burnings — a statement of ignorance and prejudice.

But after returning from the trip, Peppers felt as though the focus of his next exhibition had to change. He constructed cross-



Robert Peppers will exhibit 12 crosses, like this one, in a mixed-media interpretation of slave hush harbors.

sections of the "Burnt Offerings" exhibition, and created 12 six-foot wooden crosses, which were adorned with a collage of broken stained glass.

"My transformed pieces are intended to resemble relics salvaged from the fires. They represent the notion of faith, the deconstruction of adversity and making it into empowerment through faith," Peppers said.

Each of the 12 crosses is symbolic of a different type of sanctuary, and are metaphors for the churches burned. The crosses

include representations of seeds, pods, shells, cocoons and sacs. Like the hush harbors, where African-American slaves found refuge and safety, the crosses are representative of places where others find solace. The works are metaphors for the church, a safe place, both physically and spiritually.

The installation, "Hush Harbor," will feature all 12 crosses, as well as an additional element: Peppers plans to place a tree stump in the center of the gallery in order to represent the podium from which the preacher would have told his sermons when the slaves met to worship in the secret hush harbors. The stump, which will be voice activated, will feature the voice of the African American master of musical hybrids, Quincy Jones, singing "Hush, Hush, Somebody's Calling My Name," followed by three lines of sermons from James Weldon Johnson.

The exhibition is on view until Feb. 8 in Ohio University's Art Gallery in Seigfried Hall. Gallery hours are Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information about the exhibition, contact Robert Peppers at peppers@ohio.edu.

Jamie Heberling is a student writer with University Communications and Marketing.



Classified staff took the challenge to learn what skills are necessary to expand into more leadership roles at a seminar last month.

Leadership training enriches classified staff

By Cathey Glenn

Some may debate whether leaders are naturally born or whether they are made from everyday people. Last month, approximately 135 classified employees took the challenge to learn what skills are necessary to expand into more leadership roles.

"The seminar was designed to give classified staff the confidence, skills and understanding needed to feel comfortable in taking a seat as a leader or serving on a committee within the University and the community," said Alexis Cline, chair of Classified Senate.

Many participants, like Becky Gill, administrative assistant for research, said the knowledge they gained would not only help them take future leadership positions but also would help them in their current positions. Gill said, "I gained knowledge on how to be a better leader, how to delegate more—not micromanage—but to oversee the task."

The event featured a keynote speaker and three sessions presenting leadership roles from

different perspectives: "What Leaders Do," "Where the Action Is" and "Opportunities Abound."

"This was a great forum for exchanging ideas and information with other classified staff," said Marlene Swartz, patient account representative in the College of Osteopathic Medicine. "I really liked that the sessions were conducted by my peers."

Another employee said the skills will help her to become more organized and to communicate better with other staff members in her office.

Janice Roche and Gail Sargent, past and current chairs of the Professional Development Committee of Classified Senate, said they hoped people took away the message that they already have the skills to assume leadership and that they would be able to make it more relevant to their lives, reducing the fear that can come from taking the lead.

Cathey Glenn is an administrative assistant in Classics.

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 or campus mail to University Communications and Marketing, 102 Scott Quad, or call (740) 597-2938.

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Calendar

Lectures

International Studies Forum

Jan. 10, 4 until 5 p.m., Scripps Hall, Anderson Auditorium. Sholeh Quinn, associate professor of history, will speak on "Rewriting the Past: Imitation and Ideology in Persian Histories." Contact: Jennifer Cochran at (740) 593-1842 or cochraj1@ohio.edu. Cost: Free.

Physics Colloquium Jan. 10, 4 p.m., Clippinger Laboratory, room 194. Ben Hu, Visiting Putnam Professor, will speak on "The Physics of Golf." Contact: Daniel Phillips at (740) 593-1698 or phillips@ohio.edu. Cost: Free.

Contemporary History

Institute's Speaker Series

Jan. 16, 4 p.m., Brown House Seminar Room. Ambassador Oleg Grinevsky, former Soviet diplomat and former director of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department (1978-83), will speak on "Soviet Policy in the Middle East." Grinevsky is currently the Putnam/Ewing Visiting Professor at the Contemporary History Institute at Ohio University. Contact: Kara Dunfee at (740) 593-4362 or dunfeek@ohio.edu.

Rich Eisen Jan. 18, 8 p.m., Templeton Blackburn Alumni Memorial Auditorium. ESPN anchor,

Rich Eisen, will discuss his views on sports, ESPN and working in broadcasting. Contact: Megan Rose at (740) 593-4169 or mrose81@hotmail.com. Cost: students, \$4 and general admission, \$8.

Training

Oracle Calendar: Introduction

Jan. 13, 10 a.m. until noon, Computer Services Center, room 114. In this introductory class you will learn how to log in and customize Oracle Calendar's settings; schedule a meeting; create notes, events, and tasks; set viewing access rights; and print your agenda. Contact: Linda Lawson at (740) 593-9433 or compseminars@ohio.edu.

Endowed Chairs & Named Professors



Profile: Ted Compton
O'Bleness Professor
By Jamie Heberling

This story is part of an Outlook series profiling endowed chair and named professorship recipients. Establishing additional endowed faculty positions is the highest priority during the Bicentennial Campaign.

Since Professor Ted Compton received an endowed professorship in 2001, his focus hasn't changed.

"Regardless of the endowment, students and teaching always come first," said the O'Bleness Professor of Management Information Systems (MIS).

Compton, who has taught at Ohio University since

1977, became a professor of MIS four years ago, after a 21-year stint in the accounting department. His three-year endowed professorship has allowed him to delve further into his research on information systems. His current research emphasis is on job satisfaction in systems personnel.

The most difficult part of being a professor of MIS, he said, is the "constant need to keep up with evolving technology." That's why he considers the professorship so beneficial. It allows him to stay abreast of new trends so he can relay them to the students.

In addition, the endowment allows Compton more teaching release time and the opportunity to attend more academic conferences.

"Students are our customers, and when we stay up-

to-date with the trends we're able to satisfy their needs more effectively," he said. "I'm honored that I have the opportunity to do that with my professorship."

Despite his many years in the professional world, Compton still finds academia more rewarding.

"The greatest satisfaction of my job is seeing kids learn and get on their way with their careers knowing that I contributed," he added.

After the professorship expires at the end of the 2003-2004, he will consider retiring.

"I've really benefited from the opportunity to be an endowed professor, but it's something I know needs to be passed on to the younger people in the department," he concluded.

The College of Business has six endowed professor-

ships in recognition of Charles G. O'Bleness, a philanthropist who graduated from Ohio University in 1898 and established the O'Bleness Foundation for the Athens area.

Jamie Heberling is a student writer with University Communications and Marketing.

O'Bleness Chairs

G. Kaye Rakes

O'Bleness Banking Chair

Florence Sharp

O'Bleness Chair in Accounting

Ashok K. Gupta

O'Bleness Chair in Marketing

John R. Schermerhorn Jr.

O'Bleness Chair in Management

Ted Compton

O'Bleness Chair in MIS

David Payne

O'Bleness Executive in Residence

AA Studies

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unaware of the significant role African Americans have played in all facets of life in southeast Ohio and the Ohio River Valley, including right here in Athens."

The department has also launched a lecture series called "Black Praxis," whose goal is to showcase applied research on the United States and the African diaspora in the Americas.

For more information on this year's Community and Campus Day or changes in the Department of African American Studies, contact Vibert Cambridge at (740) 593-4546 or visit the African American Studies Web site at www.ohio.edu/aas/.

Jamie Heberling is a student writer with University Communications and Marketing.

Supervisor training course is popular choice

By George Mauzy

When Environmental Health and Safety decided to offer a supervisor training course with an emphasis on safety, it didn't realize the positive impact it would have.

"This class was an excellent course in how to be a positive supervisor," said Susan Calhoun, landscape coordinator. "It was extremely informative and gave me some important tips and reminders I will always use."

The 10-week course is designed for entry and lower-level supervisors and focuses on teaching participants skills in delegating, problem solving, confronting workplace issues and serving as both a coach and mentor to their employees. Accident prevention and behavioral safety management are other important topics covered in the course.

"We all felt great about the course," said Jeffry White, grounds supervisor. "It was the best one I have ever taken and I believe the University should make sure all supervisors take it as soon

as possible."

Last summer with the help of PMC Consulting of Dublin, Ohio, Ohio University Interim Director of Environmental Health and Safety Chuck Hart conducted the course for the fourth time in three quarters and he has received nothing but positive feedback.

"There was a terrible need for a course like this," Hart said. "Because many injuries at the workplace can be avoided, every supervisor and employee needs to be thinking safety in everything they do. Ideally, we hope this course is only the beginning of their safety management training."

For more information on when the next course will be offered this quarter, contact Environmental Health and Safety at (740) 593-1666. For more general information on the department visit the EHS Web site at www.ehs.hudson.ohiou.edu/.

George Mauzy is a media specialist with University Communications and Marketing.

FRESH FACE

Employee since: July 1, 2002

Position: Director of the School of Recreation and Sport Sciences

I love Ohio University because: It has a good academic reputation, rich history and beautiful campus.

Family: My wife, Wan Chen, and I have two lovely daughters, Madison Li, 15, and Holly Li, 6.

Favorite food: Chinese. Specifically, Ma Po Tofu

Favorite music artist: Yanni

Everyone should read: "Who Moved My Cheese?" by Spencer Johnson

Hobbies: Playing golf and games with my daughters

Education: Ph.D. Sports Administration, University of Kansas

M.Ed. Education, Hangzhou University

B.A. Education, Guangzhou Institute of

Physical Culture



MING LI

FAMILIAR FACE

Employee since: 1982

Position: Associate Professor of Psychology

I love Ohio University because: It feels like home.

Family: One son, Sam, 12.

Favorite food: Chocolate

Favorite music artist: I have very eclectic tastes. For example, the "M" section of my CD collection includes Mozart, Mendelssohn, Madonna, Dave Mathews, Lorena McKennitt, Bette Midler, Joni Mitchell and Moby.

Everyone should read: "Final Gifts" by Callanan and Kelley

Hobbies: Reading, jewelry design and crafting

Education: Ph. D. Industrial/ Organizational psychology, Michigan State University

M.A. Social psychology, University of Dayton

B.A. Anthropology and psychology, University of Dayton



PAULA POPOVICH

Infants get healthy start with WIC program aid

By Katie Fitzgerald

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

Bringing new life into the world is a rite of passage for many, but while it may be an exciting time, new parents face many challenges when raising a child. One organization is helping to make sure infants and children start their journey as healthy as possible through the dedication of a heart-felt staff.

Athens County Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) provides nutritious food to income-eligible pregnant and breastfeeding women, infants and children who are at medical or nutritional risk and women who recently had a child. They also provide additional support for new mothers.

"Babies triple in size in just their first year and have half their adult brain by six months," said Susan Klingelhafer, coordinator of nutrition education and breastfeeding.

Since its beginning in 1974, the WIC program has earned the reputation of being one of the most successful federally-funded nutrition programs in the United States, protecting and improving the health and nutritional status of low income women, infants and children.

"We are one of the best kept secrets," said Klingelhafer, who teaches classes on breastfeeding for new mothers and those who express interest in breastfeeding.

"Brain growth comes from reacting to stimuli," she said. "So stimulation around feeding is really important. Bottles interfere with that."

"Ideally we work for breastfeeding but obviously that is not going to be for everybody," she said. "But we can make bottle-feeding better."

Klingelhafer teaches additional nutritional classes for children ages 3 months to 3 years and distributes a breastfeeding newsletter that is sent to more than 500 physicians, nurses and medical providers in Ohio and West Virginia.

One of their main services is providing coupons for highly nutritious foods. The office distributes 1,600 coupons a month detailing exactly what to get, including fortified infant formula, milk, eggs, juice and peanut butter.

In addition, the Athens office also gives out 360 Athens Farmers Market Nutrition Program coupons providing \$18 for fresh fruit and veggies. The program is yearly because of the availability of funding.

Any donations the office receives help to provide small incentives and services.

In addition to providing food coupons and nutrition and breastfeeding education and support, WIC provides referrals to prenatal and pediatric health care and other maternal and child health and human service programs such as Head Start.

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



It's not too late to sign up your academic department for the Majors Fair, which will be held 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Jan. 22 in Nelson Commons.

Representatives from the University's academic departments will be on hand to discuss academic major and minor opportunities with undergraduate students from all disciplines.

Participation in the Majors Fair is free of charge and a great way for departments to gain exposure with students.

Faculty are asked to encourage their students to attend and are welcome to bring their classes to the fair where students can explore options within academic departments.

To reserve a table for your department, contact Laura Chapman, assistant dean of University College, at chapmanl@ohio.edu.



Program still committed to providing educational opportunities to inmates

By George Mauzy

National statistics reveal that 97 percent of the 1.9 million incarcerated people in the U.S. will be released one day. This fact supports the idea that educating inmates should be a priority if society expects them to rejoin the workforce.

The College Program for the Incarcerated (CPI) has been committed to educating inmates since 1974 and lists boxing promoter Don King as its most famous graduate.

In 1995, CPI was changed forever when the federal government and the state of Ohio eliminated a majority of their funding for incarcerated educational programs. The reductions forced Ohio University to end its on-site programming at state prison facilities.

"With the reductions it would have been nearly impossible to continue running a quality on-site program, so we decided to offer all of the CPI courses as correspondence only," said Ken Armstrong, director of Lifelong Learning's

Independent and Distance Learning Programs.

Now CPI offers inmates more than 200 courses. They also have the choice of earning a variety of associate degrees and a bachelor's degree of specialized studies.

In order to be admitted into CPI, inmates are required to have a GED or high school diploma. Inmates also must pay a comprehensive fee, which includes textbooks and course materials. The program's academic support system includes academic advising, degree planning and linkage to University offices and personnel.

"Because Ohio University is the only school in Ohio that offers correspondence courses, the incarcerated program is very successful," Armstrong said. "The competition for online distance learning students is fierce, but we have found a nice niche by offering correspondence courses."

CPI is a popular choice for inmates all over the U.S. In fact, California, Florida and Michigan have more students

in the program than Ohio. Since 1995, more than 1,900 inmates have been admitted into CPI, including 668 last year.

"Many people don't know this program still exists, despite the fact that it is doing extremely well," Armstrong said. "This program has withstood some serious cuts in funding and is still providing a quality education to inmates all over the nation."

For more information, contact the Office for Independent and Distance Learning Programs at (740) 593-2895.

George Mauzy is a media specialist with University Communications and Marketing.

"The impressive application pool represents the scholarly endeavor at Ohio University." Scott Hooper, Ohio University Research Committee chair

Read about OURC awards next week at www.ohio.edu/outlook.



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