

Sky is the limit as aviation program soars

Part One

By Jennifer Kirksey Smith

Ohio University's aviation program can trace its origin back to 1938 when the United States government anticipated a high demand for pilots for the war effort.

"The government basically contracted out the resources at universities to train new pilots," said Juan Merkt, chair of the Department of Aviation in the Russ College of Engineering and Technology. "We trained pilots for World War II. That is how we got started."

When the war was over, many of the training programs remained at the universities and became the aviation programs we now see.

Merkt said university-based aviation programs will continue to be strong because the aviation industry are looking for professionals with a well-rounded education who are leaders, team players and have strong communication and management skills.

"These skills are best developed through the college experience," Merkt said. "Pilots are flying at 500 mph,



Kate Pressel and Angela Myers are among the 165 students in the Aviation program.

making last-minute decisions — sometimes ones that are life and death — in the most state-of-the-art office you can think of. Making those judgments requires someone with knowledge and experience."



Merkt

The student enrollment for the University's aviation program, which offers a four-year degree in aviation management as well as aviation flight, has doubled over the last five years to its current total of 165.

Merkt explains the reason for the jump as a general trend of how well the airline industry was doing the last few years; and a reflection of how well the University competes with the four other

Ohio schools with aviation programs.

"We have a lot to offer compared to some of the other programs," Merkt said. "Students who go through this program can truly say they received a broad-based education from one of the top 50 schools in the United States. There are not many aviation programs that can say that."

While Merkt admits the downturn in the economy and the airline industry may affect enrollment in the next couple of years, he said this is just another cycle in an industry that still has a shortage of pilots for the next five to 10 years.

He also said students in the program really have a passion for what they want to do.

"Flying is something they have been dreaming about for years. When we see a downturn in the economy, airlines laying off employees, students see that as just a temporary obstacle — they are here for the long run."

One of five students in the nation to recently receive the \$5,000 Lawrence Ginocchio Aviation Scholarship from the National Business Aviation Association, Elliott Taub has been flying since he was a 15-year-old taking lessons in Cleveland.

A senior pursuing a bachelor's in aeronautical science (flight option), Taub couldn't agree more that flying is a dream. "Flying was something I always wanted to do," he said.

With the downturn in the economy, Taub said he and other students in the program are not deterred from pursuing their dream.

"If you asked anyone in the program they would say, 'I'll fly something somewhere.'"

See next week's Outlook (www.ohio.edu/outlook) for Part Two of this story.



Parking Restrictions

Lots 132, 133, 134 (around Peden Stadium), 127, 128, and 129 (around the Convo) will be cleared beginning at 11 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 11. For more information regarding parking in this area for the football game, please contact Athletics at 593-1174. Do not park your vehicle in these lots after 10:30 p.m. on Friday, or your vehicle will be towed.

Lots 81 and 82 (near Clippinger) will be barricaded after 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 11. The lot will reopen the following morning.

www.facilities.ohiou.edu/parking/special_events.htm

Street Closings

Park Place will be closed Saturday morning, Oct. 12.

Streets along the parade route, with the exception of Court St, will allow traffic until the parade reaches those areas, then those streets will be closed until the parade has passed.

Police will monitor and direct traffic throughout the parade route.

Schedule of Events

Thursday, Oct. 10

- "Yell Like Hell" Pep Rally
Baker University Center (rain or shine)
7:45 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 11

- Alumni Awards Celebration
Templeton-Blackburn Memorial Auditorium
black-tie awards program and dessert reception (Open to the public)
8 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 12

- Homecoming Parade and Float Competition
The parade starts on East State St and heads south on Court St, east on Union, south on University Terrace and west on South Green Drive to Peden Stadium.
10 a.m.
- Festival by the Green
Park Place, Southside of Alden Library
11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Ohio University vs. Eastern Michigan
Peden Stadium
2 p.m.

www.ohio.edu/homecoming/

Awardees demonstrate commitment to alma mater

By Kelly Wahl

Several of this year's alumni awardees not only have numerous professional accolades, but also have proven their dedication to Ohio University by directly serving the students. These awardees are actively engaged in pushing Ohio University forward to be a higher educational institution that stands out above the rest.

"These alumni appreciate the opportunities in life that Ohio University has given them. They are enthusiastic about being involved in ensuring that students continue to receive the best education in an atmosphere that supports the growth of individuals," said Ralph Amos, executive director of the Ohio University Alumni Association.

Alumnus of the year, Shelia Rowan McHale (AB '68) and her husband Larry, (HON '00) have actively participated in the establishment of the College of Business Sales Center. They also have funded numerous programs throughout the University including the Sheila Rowan McHale Endowment for Social Work.

Distinguished Service Awardee, Brigadier General (Ret.) James M. Abraham (BSEE '43, BSIE '48), is credited with developing innovative concepts in ROTC instruction at Ohio University.

Karen Schwartz Reynolds, (BSED '68, MA '69), also a Distinguished Service Awardee, dedicated personal time to co-found the Corporate Communication Leaders Organization in the School of Interpersonal Communication and to serve as an advisor to the Chi Omega sorority. She continues to mentor Ohio University students.

Connie Tobias, the Medal of Merit Recipient for Achievement in Aviation, (AAS '77, BGS '78) used her passion for aviation to organize the Harriet Quimby Scholarship for aviation students.

The Ohio University Alumni Association encourages alumni to be active in making Ohio University a better place for students.

For the complete list of awardees, visit www.ohio.edu/homecoming/awards.html.



The Bicentennial Campaign



Q&A

Jack Brose

John (Jack) Brose, dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine, has been a faculty member in the college's Department of Family Medicine since 1982. Brose recently pledged \$2,252 to reach the \$15,000 total needed to endow a scholarship in memory of Walter Costello, a much-respected OU-COM faculty member. Brose also has pledged profits from his practice at Parks Hall to the endowment.

Why did you give?

Walter Costello was a faculty member at OU-COM and a very close friend of mine. He died very suddenly at the age of 51. I wanted to do something not only for Walter but also to let his family, whom I am also close to, know how important he was to the college.

What will the money be used for?

It is an endowed scholarship to be awarded yearly to an incoming OU-COM student. Walter's wife, Mary, is still working on the details of who will qualify.

Why did you choose this endowment?

Walter was one of the most spectacular people I ever met in many ways. He was a biologist. He was a renaissance man. He knew everything about everything. Walter was an expert on all types of music and literature. Trying to discuss a book with him that you just read was almost painful because he knew so much more about it. Walter was an amazing intellect above and beyond his accomplishments in biology. I have tremendous admiration for him.

"We have a lot of other people like Walter who have made tremendous contributions to the colleges and the University. Endowing a scholarship is a wonderful way to keep their memory alive," Brose said. "Walter is not with us any more but it will be a long, long time before he is forgotten by the college. We will be reminded of him every year when someone is awarded the scholarship."

Scholarship & Research

Cross-campus project brings together ring mathematicians

By Corinne Colbert

The popular image of a mathematician is that of the lone scholar scribbling incomprehensible equations late into the night. In truth, said Franco Guerriero, assistant professor of mathematics at Ohio University-Lancaster, collaboration is a traditional part of the discipline. "Unlike many other fields, in which much of what's published is one person contradicting another's research, in pure mathematics we're constantly adding on to someone else's work," he said.

"By its very nature mathematical research is collaborative."

It's fitting, then, that a group of Ohio mathematicians is cutting across boundaries between campuses, and even between institutions, in an internationally recognized collaboration in ring theory. This group has come together for seminars and collaboration. They also created the Ohio University Center for Ring Theory and its Applications. In addition to Guerriero, the group includes S. K. Jain; Sergio Lopez-Permouth and Dinh Van Huynh, Athens campus; Pramod Kanwar and Viet Dung Nguyen, Zanesville campus, and faculty from The

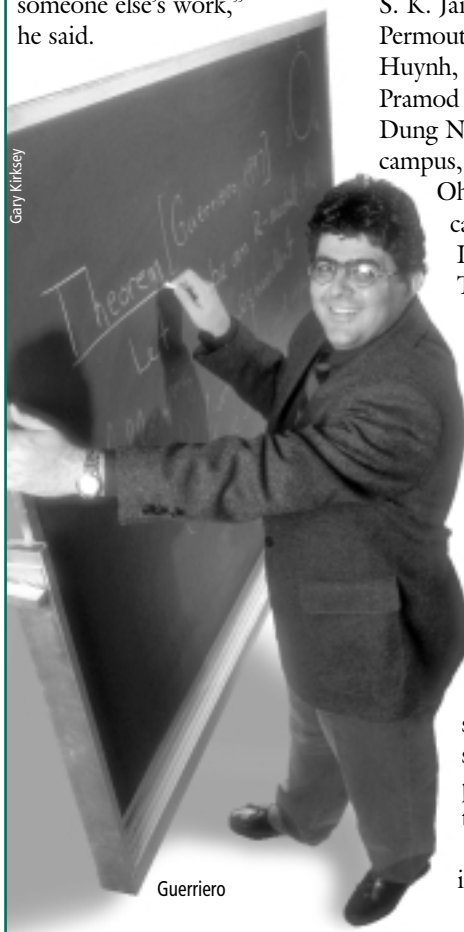
Ohio State University's campuses at Columbus, Lima and Newark.

The group has become a formidable presence within higher mathematics. It was also the force that brought Guerriero to Ohio University. A Canadian citizen, he had studied as an undergraduate under a leading ring theorist. "I was lucky to get involved at an early stage in my studies," he said. "Like so many other young people, I encountered that one professor who sparked a lasting interest."

According to Guerriero, the group remains instrumental in his ability to stay active as a scholar. He said he hopes to see similar cross-campus projects emerge in other areas. In the absence of a workplace peer group, the ability to connect on a regular basis with other ring theorists is extremely helpful. "I'm able to work with some really top-rate people," he explained, "and to draw ideas and energy from the graduate students who participate. I can still maintain the primary mission of teaching, but I also enjoy doing research and it's good to be able to strike a balance."

Another member of the group, Pramod Kanwar of Ohio University-Zanesville, agreed. "I've always wanted to be a good researcher and a good teacher," he said. "The group helps me stay involved."

It was during his student years on the Athens campus that the ring theory group began meeting. After graduation, he accepted a visiting professorship in Missouri. "But I always missed my group," said Kanwar, recalling that he made about 15 trips back to Ohio in the course of a year. When the opportunity came to teach at Zanesville, he said, "I took no time in accepting the offer. It was like coming back home."



Gary Kirksey

Guerriero

Calendar

Athletics

Field Hockey, Oct. 13, noon, Pruitt Field. The field hockey team hosts Big Ten foe Northwestern. The team won the 2001 Mid-American Conference regular season and tournament titles.

Soccer, Oct. 13, 1 p.m., Chessa Field. The soccer team squares off against Kent State at 1 p.m. The Bobcats are the defending regular season and Mid-American Conference champs.

Special Events

"Scapin," Oct. 16-19 and 23-26 at 8:00 pm, October 26 at 2:00 pm Elizabeth Evans Baker Theater in Kantner Hall Classic comedy with a little vaudeville, commedia and slapstick Tickets: \$9 general admission, \$7 student, \$7 senior.

For reservations call 593-4800.

Pumpkinfest, Oct. 19, 9:30-11 a.m. or 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. WellWorks sponsored pumpkin decorating event. Decorations provided, but bring your own pumpkin and tools. Event is free but registration is required. An adult must accompany any child registered. Open to Ohio University employees/dependents and/or WellWorks members. To register call 593-2093.

Let the Good Times Roll, Oct. 19, 7 p.m.-12 a.m., Nelson Commons. Some of the great Athens musicians from the '60s, '70s and '80s will reconvene for a night of good songs, food and dancing. Tickets are \$18 per person and can be purchased at Blue Eagle Music or Lamborn's Studio and Custom Framing or by contacting

Marcia Shubert at 448-7231 or salmagundi@eurekanet.com.

Akimbo concert, Nov. 2, 9 pm - 11 pm, Front Room. Akimbo is an innovative band which combines hard rock, alternative, metal and blues, producing a creative and original new sound. Sponsored by Baker Nights and ACRN. Admission is free with student ID or \$3 for general public. Information: 593-9935.

"Iphigenia," Nov. 6-9 and 13-16 at 8:00 p.m. and November 16 at 2:00 p.m., Forum Theater in the RTV Building. The play makes a moral and political statement unique in the ancient world and prophetically relevant in our own. Tickets: \$9 general admission, \$7 student, \$7 senior. For reservations call 593-4800.

OUTLOOK

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Marching 110 Alumni Band Reunion: Back in step

By Aaron Reinheld

More than 100 alumni from the first 35 years of Ohio University's Marching 110 will reunite in Athens on Saturday, Oct. 12, to celebrate Homecoming and the anniversary of "The Most Exciting Band in the Land."

The Marching Band Society of Alumni and Friends will commemorate the weekend with a reception and dinner buffet in Nelson Commons on Saturday evening after the alumni march and ride in the Homecoming parade and football game.

"People are always excited about this event — getting to go back out on the field one last time. When I first did it two years ago it was exciting to be back on that field again in front of all those people after 33 years, and I think a lot of people feel that way," said Pete Couladis, president of the board of directors for the society.

Being a part of Homecoming festivities is an Alumni Band tradition, but this is the first reunion reception in about 30 years.

"The response we've had has been very good," Couladis said. "I think people are excited about it, then hopefully we'll be able to continue this every year."

Two former band directors will be at the reception, including Gene "Coach" Thrailkill, the founder of the Marching 110. He is also receiving a Medal of Merit at this year's Alumni Awards Gala. The emcee for the evening will be Tom Edwards, band announcer from 1967-69.

At the celebration reception, the Alumni Band board will present two awards: the Gene Thrailkill Distinguished Alumni Award and the Homer Baird Distinguished Service Award. It is the first granting of the Baird Award, which is also open to those who have supported the band.

It will be the second time the Thrailkill Award is handed out. The first was announced last year at the dedication of the new band memorabilia display cases in Templeton-Blackburn Memorial Auditorium. The cases feature historical band items such as old uniforms and programs.



Alumni Band members strut their stuff in last year's Homecoming parade.

Next Week's Outlook

- The Underground Railroad, a significant part of Ohio's local history and proud heritage, is remembered, reenacted and revitalized in the Ohio University-Zanesville sponsored film "Passages of Freedom."

"The film teaches that no matter how bad a wrong there is, you can do something to make a right. Any ordinary citizen can," said Ann Wiemhoff, an Ohio University-Zanesville professor and the film's director. (full story and video clip)

- "Cultural Capital" is a feature that looks at research conducted at Ohio University on the pioneering efforts of some black teachers and principals in Ohio, particularly Albany and Gallipolis. Both cities were also stops on the Underground Railroad. (full story)

- For more information on the Underground Railroad in Ohio, visit www.ohioundergroundrailroad.org. The Friends of Freedom Society are hosting a summit, "Crossing the River Jordan," Oct. 18-20.

"From one Bobcat to another"

"The Spirit of a Singular Place: Ohio University at the Bicentennial" (a.k.a. the Bicentennial Book) will be available next fall at the kickoff of the bicentennial celebration.

It will tell the lighter side of campus life as well as the story of the University's development over 200 years. It will also include sketches and essays on programs, places and favorites such as avionics, the

Kissing Circle, the Hocking River, the Marching 110 and Ohio Hockey.

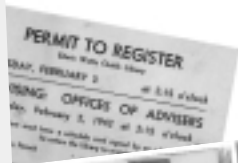
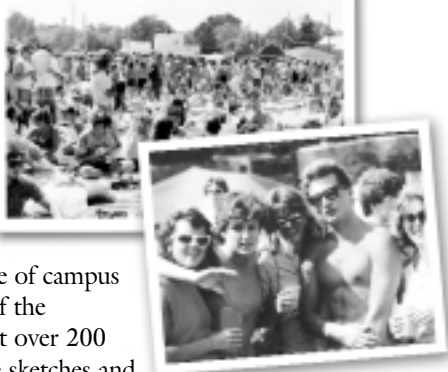
www.ohio.edu/memories/

Train from Bergen

The last person I expected to meet on an overnight train ride from Bergen, Norway, to Oslo, Sweden, was an Ohio University graduate. He took one look at the paw print on my backpack and asked, "Are you from O.U.?" His name was Rocco, and he was on a business trip. Heather and I were in a study abroad program, we explained, on fall break from Odense University in Denmark, and we were trying to enjoy as much of Scandinavia as we could afford. The three of us shared a few stories about Athens, and then Heather and I got down to dinner: a bread roll and an apple. I think we shared a pat of butter. In retrospect, we were a pathetic sight.

The next morning, as we were debarking, Rocco approached us to say goodbye, and to wish us good luck. As we shook hands in turn, he pressed a few bills into our palms. "Oh, no," we both protested, "we can't take your money!" But Rocco just smiled and said, "From one Bobcat to another."

— Amy Shough Isler, 2000



Campus & Community

Shoes to show pieces

By Jaime Ciavarra

Bowling shoes have never looked so good. Ohio University Baker Center, after closing its bowling alley, donated about 30 pairs of bowling shoes to the Dairy Barn. To raise money for the cultural arts center, local artists transformed tired sneakers into a project that bowls over the ordinary.

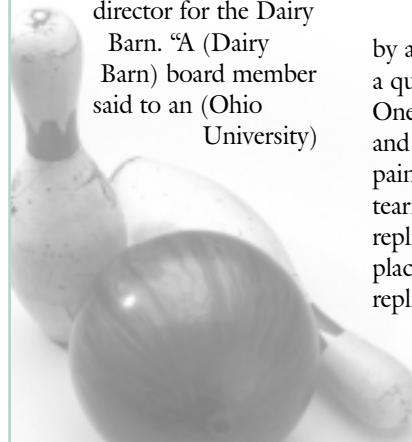
"The University had hundreds of extra shoes that were not going to be used," said Julie Clark, program director for the Dairy Barn. "A (Dairy Barn) board member said to an (Ohio University)

administrator, we have creative minds. We'll take them."

The center contacted local members from its artists list to decorate and incorporate the shoes into creative projects. Painters, sculptors and even a carpenter transformed pairs of scuffed shoes into striking creations.

The shoes have reappeared, by artistic expression, in a quilt, a bag and a planter. One painter burned the shoes and mixed the ash into a painting. A carpenter, after tearing the shoe's fabric to replicate small footprints, placed the pieces on a small replica of the Dairy Barn.

The art is featured in the "Move it!: Studies in Motion" exhibit at the Dairy Barn's Sauber Gallery, and the projects will be sold in a silent auction through Nov. 10. Funds raised will be used for educational programs and supplies for the Dairy Barn, Clark said. To bid on a piece of shoe art, sign up for a bid number at the admission desk at the Dairy Barn.



www.dairybarn.org

DNA typing method could offer forensic scientists new tool

By Andrea Gibson

A new DNA analysis technique under development at Ohio University may help authorities identify human remains when conventional tests don't work.

The method could offer forensic scientists a new tool to examine badly degraded remains, such as those at the World Trade Center disaster site and could help police name perpetrators of crimes.

With a \$453,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, scientist Bruce McCord is developing a set of new DNA markers for damaged human remains that can't be identified with the U.S. government's current protocol for deaths and missing person cases. Fire, major accidents and exposure to the elements can deteriorate remains, making it difficult for authorities to distinguish the dead — even with conventional DNA analysis techniques, said the researcher, who is leading the project with collaboration from the federal National Institutes of Standards and Technologies (NIST), a physical science research laboratory.

McCord, a former Federal Bureau of Investigation scientist, began work on the new method last year, but found an unexpected opportunity to test the science in the months after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, when authorities struggled to distinguish the remains of the victims of the World Trade Center disaster. Though McCord and his research team have not worked directly with those remains, in January his partners at NIST sent the test kits to authorities in New York, where the technique has been used successfully to help match DNA remnants to missing people.



McCord

"We're very happy we've been able to help out in a small way," said McCord, an assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry at Ohio University.

Identifying victims of disasters or missing persons is only one possible use for the new method. The technique holds promise for matching

DNA from blood, hair and semen samples at crime scenes to offenders in a national database, McCord said. As felons tend to repeat their crimes, developing profiles of convicted criminals could aid law enforcement in solving cases across the country, he added.

When law enforcement authorities find blood, bone or other human tissue at a crime site, the sample is taken to a laboratory, where scientists chemically break down the matter to isolate DNA. Next, forensic scientists look for the absence or presence of certain DNA markers on the chromosomes, including repeated sequences of DNA. The patterns of these sequences which researchers have dubbed "genetic stutter" or "junk DNA" are used to identify individuals, and so are invaluable to the forensic chemist, McCord said.

But factors such as fire, an airplane crash or prolonged exposure to the elements can break down human DNA into fragments so small that they won't hold up in the standard DNA typing test used by government authorities, which examines a suite of 13 key genetic markers. Scientists have turned to a technique called mitochondrial DNA typing as a backup, but it provides results that don't match the national database of DNA profiles of criminal offenders, McCord said.

"It's not very informative," he said. "It's kind of a last-resort alternative."

To try to solve this problem, McCord and his colleagues are developing a smaller set of reliable DNA markers called a "miniplex" that forensic scientists can use to study tiny pieces of genetic material. The technique, which the research team has tested on blood and bone samples, already has provided good results in the

laboratory and has been utilized in the World Trade Center investigation.

McCord expects that several more years of research will be required, however, before the technique is ready for more extensive use on criminal cases. The researchers will explore how degraded a sample can be for the process to work, what factors, such as soil contaminants or compounds in the blood, reduce

the efficiency of the technique and other questions.

McCord's collaborators on the project include John Butler, a research scientist with NIST; and Nancy Tatarek, assistant professor of anthropology; Yin Shen, former post-doctoral student; Denise Chung, graduate student and Kerry Opel, undergraduate student, all of Ohio University.

PERSPECTIVES A comfortable homecoming

Funny what a difference 10 years can make. The irony wasn't lost on me that here it was 'Move-In' weekend September 2002 and I was moving back to Athens and Ohio University. Of course, instead of scraping my knuckles putting together the loft in my dorm room, I was scraping my knuckles racing to put together two cribs. Instead of trying to look cool while dreading the panic of my first day as a freshman, I was trying to not have a nervous breakdown from the hell that is a cross-country move with two small children. While 10 years earlier I had hit the ground running on the mission to charm as many coeds as possible (as only a freshman can), now I was back with my beautiful wife and our two kids. The familiar faces and places made it a comfortable homecoming, except this time my Bobcat card was stamped 'Faculty/Staff,' and I couldn't be more pleased.

Years away changes a lot, but not the anticipation you feel rounding the Route 33 bend around town and smiling knowing that you're among friends again. Walking, skipping and playing on the red bricks of the College Green has already become a popular weekend activity for us, and taking it all in, I can't imagine a place I'd rather be.

From Athens to Pittsburgh to Houston, and back, I can now call Ohio University "home" again and this time share it with those most important to me.

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