

WOUB-TV bringing digital television to Athens

By Aaron Reinheld

The future is at hand and it's clear and in high definition. WOUB-TV is bringing digital television to Athens.

"You can see the wrinkles in the face; fine details, such as hair, it has such good resolution," said David Wiseman, associate director for technology at WOUB, with an eager laugh.

Within a few weeks WOUB will put out a test signal and anyone with a digital tuner will be able to see why Wiseman's excited. In the next few years Ohio University's two public television stations will broadcast only in digital on channel 27 in Athens and channel 44 in Cambridge.

The "new" channels will broadcast high-quality ver-

sions of "Sesame Street," "Newshour With Jim Lehrer," and other PBS programming to 1.4 million potential viewers in southeastern Ohio and western West Virginia.

But the switch to digital also will allow stations to broadcast multiple programs on one digital signal. That means in addition to the primary PBS programming viewers of WOUB could see a broadcast schedule full of children's series, continuing-education programs, or nothing but news as secondary programming.

"From a service standpoint, this is a tremendous opportunity for the University," said Doug Partusch, WOUB

director of development and communications. "Our challenge is coming up with innovative ways to use the technology that is now available."

WOUB Director and General Manager Carolyn Bailey Lewis expressed similar sentiments. "In addition to the University, how can the community benefit from additional services? Our challenge is to figure out how best to use the additional capability," she said.

To meet that challenge, the WOUB directors have been speaking with community members to see what they would like to see through such efforts as a discussion forum last November.

All American television stations are in the same process as WOUB of switching from an analog television signal, which has been the standard for as long as the medium has been around, to a digital one, as ordered by the Federal Communications Committee. Viewers will be able to receive the digital signals with an antenna and a digital tuner; cable subscription will not be required.

A firm date is not set, but when most television viewers can receive digital signals all television will be broadcast in digital only.

"It means a total change-out of all our equipment," Wiseman said.

With what Wiseman called a

little "creative engineering" WOUB saved some money and won't be forced to replace its broadcasting antenna. WOUB wasn't as lucky and will require a new one.

In all, Wiseman and Lewis estimated the change will cost the station about \$20 million. So far, the station has raised about \$6 million through state and federal grants with some local matching.

Getting current equipment is important, especially considering the channels are part of the University and the needs of students, Partusch said.

"You can't train tomorrow's professionals using yesterday's equipment," he said.

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Instructor puts the magic back into science class

Robert Culp, a lecturer at Ohio University-Southern, found science to be fascinating as a young boy. Spurred on by the space race as a child, he was disappointed that succeeding generations had not followed their parents and grandparents into math and the sciences. Now he is working to revolutionize the teaching of science and excite students at all grade levels.



Culp

"We live in an age of instant gratification," Culp said. "Students are not willing to put forth the effort required for the science disciplines." And yet, what Appalachian Ohio calls for to overcome poverty is industry—which needs scientists and engineers.

"Politicians talk about having a wonderful work force in the tri-state area and talk about bringing in industry to employ the work force, but the work force is not technically qualified for

the industry they want," Culp said.

"We have to make science so interesting that the desire to learn exceeds the fear of hard work science requires," he added.

Dressed as the Science Wizard, Culp has been performing "magic" for students in the third through eighth grades since 1999. The magic tricks Culp is performing are really demonstrations of scientific principles and the costume is just part of the act.

"The costume creates an atmosphere of fun for kids that makes learning science fun," Culp said. "If it goes up, blows up, or bounces off the wall, the kids love it."

The Science Wizard has been traveling to area schools since his debut at Southern's Fall Festival in 1999. Culp has educated more than 3,000 students in Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia, with programs in natural sciences,



Dressed as the Science Wizard, Robert Culp has been performing magic for students in the third through eighth grades since 1999.

reptiles, rocks and spiders.

Culp expects his students to take his lessons to heart. A firm believer in learning by doing, he involved several of his students in his Science Wizard work. Some have even performed their own Science Wizard presentations.

"By teaching scientific principles to the younger

students, the college students gain a greater knowledge of the subject," he explained. "My students become so engrossed in the program that they search for new ways to present the scientific principles."

The "magic" has not only excited students about science, but it has also led to

higher levels of academic achievement on Ohio's science proficiency exam. Fairland East Elementary and Burlington Elementary schools both raised the number of children passing Ohio's fourth-grade science proficiency test after involvement in a series of Wizard workshops.

"At both schools, the teachers commented on how the sessions helped their students by creating an enthusiasm for science," Culp said.

Revolutionizing the teaching of science, he believes, is key to his mission. During the summer he offers a "Wizard Workshop on Science," for teachers who are interested in learning how to perform his demonstrations. More than 40 teachers have completed the workshop and are now performing their own "magic."

The complete Science Wizard profile was published in the Regional Higher Education Annual Report.

New dean keeps Russ College on the right track



Irwin

Dean Dennis Irwin recently discussed his vision for the Russ College of Engineering and Technology with *Outlook*. This is part of an ongoing series giving deans an opportunity to share their thoughts with the Ohio University community.

What is your vision?

In the short term, the Russ College must assess its financial and other resources and align its current activities to the resource "mix." I hope we won't be forced to scale back any of our programs.

I will also better utilize technology to accomplish our missions. Although a "paperless" office probably is not possible, we can certainly do better than we are. For example, our Web site could feature more online forms so a student organization or a faculty member could request funds for travel electronically instead of having to download and print it, then fill it out and turn it in by hand. Right now, we are finishing the installation of our wireless Internet service in Stocker. I hope faculty, students and staff will take advantage of this to enhance the amount of time they are actively engaged in academic exchange. In the long



term, we want the Russ College to be recognized as a top-10 engineering college for prospective students, faculty and research sponsors. That's a tough goal, but if you think small, you get small results.

What do you see as your most significant accomplishment for the College thus far?

So far (in less than six months!) I think my most significant accomplishments are two-fold. First is the increased focus on assessment as reflected by my appointment of a new Associate Dean for Assessment and Accreditation. This individual will coordinate our efforts to continuously measure how well our students are learning, whether they are learning what we want them to learn and how well we are helping them to do so. Second is the increased focus on using technology in our classrooms, laboratories and offices, as shown by my appointment of a part-time information technology developer. This expert is working with the Russ College staff and faculty to develop primarily Web-based tools that will greatly enhance the reliability and quality of our interaction with each other.

What challenges are ahead?

The Russ College's challenges all derive from our success in research and in achieving that success, while greatly enhancing the quality of our educational

programs. We have many more opportunities for research than we can pursue because we are limited by space for new labs. It is also true that our faculty are being heavily recruited by top schools around the country; retaining these faculty is a financial challenge and it is also difficult to provide an intellectually challenging environment for engineers, technologists and computer scientists in our more rural environment.

What are the College's strengths?

The strengths of the Russ College are also two-fold. First, our students, faculty and staff. This college is known as a productive and pleasant environment in which to work and learn, and we are all, I think, proud to be associated with such a quality organization that challenges us in all the right ways. Second, our research. We have eight research centers and research institutes that are collectively reimbursed more than \$10 million for their research. The individual faculty are responsible for another \$2 million. All of this is accomplished in an environment where our non-laboratory classes are all taught by faculty members, not graduate teaching associates. Hundreds of our students are involved with and actively learn from these projects — a key reason we do the research.

Second annual event highlights University best-learning practices

By Susan Green

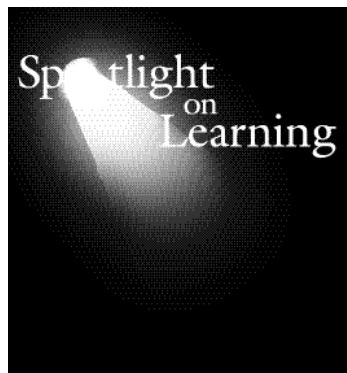
Spotlight on Learning, the second annual universitywide showcase of best learning-centered teaching practices will be held March 6 - 7, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., in Baker University Center.

The campus community is invited to attend the two-day event that begins with a welcome from Ohio University Provost Stephen Kopp.

"It's very exciting to see the creative work and pioneering approaches and strategies used by faculty across the colleges," Kopp said. "The Spotlight on Learning is an important affirmation of what can be accomplished when engaged learning is placed at the center of the educational experience. It recognizes the innovative work of faculty and celebrates the high level of academic performance achieved by our students."

This event promotes and recognizes faculty members who engage students in critical thinking and inquiry at a time when Ohio University is making a concerted effort to advance an active learning community.

Through poster presentations, roundtable discussions and presentations, faculty from Athens and regional campuses will talk about how they involve students in active learning experiences designed to promote higher order thinking and advance problem solving and creative expression.



Alan Lesgold, dean of the School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh, will deliver the keynote address March 7 at 8:30 a.m., in the Baker University Center Ballroom. Lesgold's presentation on the powerful role of technology in teaching and learning is derived from his more than two decades of work on applications of information technologies for learning.

For online registration and details about the event contact Associate Provost for Academic Affairs Barbara Reeves at (740) 593-2677 or visit the Spotlight on Learning Web site at: www.ohiou.edu/learningfair/.

Spotlight on Learning is an annual universitywide "show and tell" about best learning-centered practices. *Outlook* will be bringing you a sneak peak with profiles of participating faculty members appearing in each issue through March 5.

Susan Green is a writer with University Communications and Marketing.

OUTLOOK

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Calendar

Lectures

Contemporary History Institute's Speaker Series - Feb. 6, 4 p.m., Brown House Seminar Room. Speaker: Randall Woods, U.S. diplomatic historian from the University of Arkansas. Contact: Kara Dunfee at (740) 593-4362.

International Studies Forum Feb. 7, 4 - 5 p.m., Scripps Hall, Anderson Auditorium. Speaker: Zakes Mda, South African writer and visiting professor in the Creative Writing Program. Contact: Jennifer Cochran at (740) 593-1842. Cost: Free.

American Studies Discussion

Series Feb. 14, 3 - 5 p.m., The Central Region Humanities Center, 203 Technology and Enterprise Building #20, The Ridges. Speakers: Jerry Miller, associate professor, INCO, and Ann Gordon, assistant professor of political science. Topic: "Race, Gender and Videostyle: When Stereotypes Collide." Contact: Diana Glaizer if you plan to attend at (740) 593-4602 or glaizer@ohio.edu.

Training

JavaScript: Introduction Feb. 10, 1 - 3 p.m., Computer Services Center, Room 114. Learn how to add special effects to Web pages. This scripting language is

considered a core skill for Web page development. Prerequisites: HTML Introduction and HTML Intermediate seminars. Contact: Linda Lawson at (740) 593-9433 or compseminars@ohio.edu. Cost: Free.

Events

Friends of the Libraries Book Sale Feb. 6, 7 - 9 p.m., Feb. 7 and 8, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., seventh floor of Alden Library. Cost: \$1 per book; \$3 per bag on Saturday after 1 p.m. Pre-sale Thursday evening. All books \$2 with a limit of 50 books. Contact: George W. Bain at (740) 593-2710 or bain@ohio.edu.

Ceremony honors Watkins as 2002 Mary Harrington Employee of the Year

Adrienne Gavula

Roger Watkins, a groundskeeper in HPER/Athletic Grounds, was named the 2002 Mary Harrington Employee of the Year at a ceremony Jan. 23. Cheerful, conscientious, hard working, dedicated and the most upbeat individual on campus are a few of the adjectives used to describe Watkins.

"I think this is one of the best awards our department could have," he said. "Winning this is the highlight of my career."

Watkins, employed at Ohio University since 1969, was one of the original custodians hired to work in the newly constructed Convocation Center. Watkins worked in Custodial Services until 1984 when he accepted a position in HPER/Athletics Grounds.

"I have never considered leaving the grounds area," he said. "I enjoy taking care of the ball fields and working with athletes and coaches and getting to know them on a personal level."

Watkins and his wife, Eloise, residents of Meigs County, have two sons and a granddaughter. In his free time, Watkins enjoys fishing and hunting and looks for-



(left to right) Sherwood Wilson, associate vice president of Facilities and Auxiliaries; Roger Watkins, Mary Harrington Employee of the Year; Terry Conry, director of Facilities Management and Carlotta Hensler, employee recognition committee chair.

ward to attending the Meigs County Fair each year.

Watkins was one of 24 eligible candidates for the Employee of the Year award, voted on by everyone within Facilities and Auxiliaries. Each month a committee, comprised of employees from various areas within Facilities and Auxiliaries, chooses two employees for the Employee of the Month Award. These winners are then eligible for the Mary Harrington Employee of the Year award.

The monthly award is based on employee nominations for those who are dedicated, loyal, hard

working and go above and beyond the call of traditional job responsibilities.

Charles and Karen Harrington fund the award program in honor of the late Mary Harrington, who was a long-time Ohio University and physical plant employee. Previous recipients of the Employee of the Year award are Mark Shields, 1998; Tim Grubb, 1999; Donna Buck, 2000; and Tammy Bump, 2001.

Adrienne Gavula is a student writer with University Communications and Marketing.

First Majors Fair a success with students and administrators

By Katie Fitzgerald

Deciding on a major is a big step for many college students, not to mention those considering minors and post-graduate plans. In an effort to provide as much information and assistance as possible, this year the first Majors Fair was held in Nelson Commons on Wednesday, Jan. 22.

"There are many undergraduates in University College as well as other colleges who are undecided," said Laura Chapman, assistant dean of University College and chair of the Majors Fair committee. "The Majors Fair gives them the opportunity to see everything in one setting. It's casual, informal, and they can pick up information and interact with faculty and staff."

Approximately 450 students attended the fair. Eight undergraduate colleges were represented as well as 45 individual

departments and non-academic programs such as Career Services, ROTC and Education Abroad.

In addition to targeting undecided students, the Majors Fair extended many opportunities to other undergraduates, including upper class students.

"There are a lot of students here who have majors, but maybe want to get a minor, change majors or find out what they can do with their major after graduation," Chapman said. "This is a good vehicle to get information out to all students."

Joanna Workman, a sophomore psychology major, stopped by between classes because she's interested in adding a minor.

"I thought this would be a good place to visit because it's all located in one room," she said.

Karen Dahn, assistant to the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, also felt that getting

everyone into one room was ideal for students.

"It's important because students often end up having to go to so many places," Dahn said.

Students and administrators were well served by having this comprehensive format, she added.

Matthew Adeyanju, director of the School of Health Sciences, agreed with Dahn and felt that the event was a success because of the steady attendance of students throughout the event.

"I think it's great," he said. "They should continue this every year, especially for undecided students to help draw them into a program."

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

Research seeks to improve cochlear implant designs

By Ellen Gerl

The syllable *ma* means one thing in English. But in Mandarin Chinese it conveys four different words when a speaker varies pitch. If you pronounce the syllable flat and high you'll say *mother*. With a falling, then rising tone, it becomes *horse*.



Some 70,000 people around the world who are deaf or suffer from major hearing loss have gained the ability to understand speech with cochlear implants. Li Xu hopes to refine implants with his research.

For the quarter of the world's population who speak tonal languages, the ability to perceive pitch is key to communication. And for people everywhere, hearing different tones lets us appreciate music and song.

Today, some 70,000 people around the world who are deaf or suffer from major hearing loss have gained the ability to understand speech with cochlear implants, small electronic devices that surgeons insert under the skin behind the ear. But users have trouble perceiving tones, a drawback of the technology that scientist Li Xu and others seek to remedy.

"Our next hurdle is to bring music to cochlear implant patients," said Xu, an assistant professor of hearing, speech and language sciences whose research is funded by the National Institute of Deafness and Communicative Disorders, part of the National Institutes of Health. His work focuses on improving implant design for

speakers of tonal languages, research that may help others who are deaf hear melodies conventional implants don't allow them to hear.

Xu's most recent study suggests that implants need more auditory channels to carry the information critical to perceiving pitch. Today's models have up to 22 channels, but 64 or more are needed, Xu said.

However, the research suggests that fewer channels might work if researchers can solve the problem of delivering fine structure information to a damaged cochlea, a topic that Xu plans to pursue next. The researcher also plans to study the language development in Mandarin-speaking children who are receiving implants as early as age 1 or 2.

"What you speak is what you hear," he said. "It's like a new bionic speech being created due to the lack of tonal quality."

Ellen Gerl is a freelance writer.

WOUB

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In addition to learning on modern equipment, increased programming to fill the multiple signals could create additional opportunities for students, Wiseman said.

Because of the FCC mandate, WOUB was forced to hurry to get the technology in place to broadcast in digital before deciding what to do with the new opportunity.

"Now that that is in place, mostly mind you, we will be able to concentrate more on

the application," Wiseman said.

While the station has a few years before it will be broadcasting only in digital, the thought is the sooner the equipment, training and programming is there, the better.

Or, as Partusch put it, "We need to get there as quick as possible."

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

Project connects students to past

By Aaron Reincheld

An extensive research project was not the requirement set out in her introductory African American Studies class, but Ohio University junior Jesse Raney wanted to do something different.

So Raney and three of her classmates embarked on a five-week project conducting personal interviews, searching library archives and the Internet to research the lives of six African-American women from the Ohio River Valley and their impacts in their communities and society as a whole.

"In short, I like a challenge," Raney said. "I was interested in this topic mostly because there has been, to my knowledge, no in-depth study of the accomplishments and contributions of African-American women of the Ohio River Valley."

Additionally, Raney, 20, from Columbus, had more

personal reasons to choose to be a part of this project.

"My father's side of my family has heritage in southeastern Ohio," she said. "I wanted to know more about my heritage regarding African-American women," she said.

The group focused on women of the past, five of the six women studied are deceased, and discovered that women in the region made impacts in the abolition of slavery, teaching and political activism.

"One profound thing I learned from this project is the great amount African-American women in this area have contributed to society," Raney said.

She is currently expanding the information she found in the group project through new research with the Ohio Board of Regents Student Achievement in Research and Scholarship Mentoring

Program (STARS).

"The first project inspired me to look deeper into the legacy of women in this area," she said.

Also, the group's efforts will be exhibited at Community and Campus Day in the display titled, "Daughters: African American Women of the Ohio River Valley."

"I hope people will come away with a deeper appreciation of the rich tradition of greatness that this area has to offer," she said. "Most people believe that southeastern Ohio and the surrounding regions are but poor, rural countryside and I would like them to see that there is more than meets the eye."

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

Class prepares students for emergency service

By Jaime Ciavarra

An innovative Ohio University course was developed as a result of Sept. 11. The new class, Disaster Relief, was offered for the first time in the fall by the College of Health and Human Services. It teaches students techniques and skills used to set up emergency shelters and mass care units. In conjunction with the American Red Cross, the class offers a hands on experience with equipment and certifies students as Mass Care Technicians, said Bryan Randolph, the instructor of the course and senior telecommunications major.

"This class is a good way to get students interested in something so important," he added.

Randolph learned disaster relief skills in 2001 as an American Red Cross Volunteer in New York City after Sept. 11. He organized two trips to New York, and about 60 Ohio University students volunteered through the Red Cross to provide food and aid to Ground Zero workers and surrounding areas.

"I just couldn't sit idle and watch everything happen," he said. "I had to be there. I had to help."

The class teaches background information about the Red Cross and focuses on two major themes: mass care and shelter operations. As a project for the first class, groups of students picked a building on campus and designed it for disaster relief. The project included information about the amount and kind of food that would be stored, and the amount of computers and medical equipment that would be issued to the site, which was designed to hold a capacity of 150 people.

Jeffrey Serio, a senior computer science major, and his



Bryan Randolph shared his experience as part of the University observance of the anniversary of the tragic events of Sept. 11.

group picked Bromley Residence Hall as an ideal location for a mass care unit because it has a kitchen and plenty of storage space, he said. It is also located on the top of a hill, which is ideal for a flood disaster.

"Our goal with the project was to help as many people as possible. During a time of tragedy, they'll have a place to stay," Serio said.

The class also visited a Red Cross emergency relief trailer, which holds supplies and equipment that the students learned to handle. Randolph's goal with the disaster relief class is to qualify, in fact, almost over qualify, students in emergency relief skills. Also, he hopes that students will appreciate the services the Red Cross offers, he said.

"When I took the class, I didn't really know what the Red Cross did," said Dustin Bolin, a junior specialty sciences major. "But it's important to volunteer your time to help other people. I realize that we don't do it as much as we should."

Jaime Ciavarra is a student writer with University Communications and Marketing.

Seniors help as volunteers

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.

Through one local organization senior citizens in Athens County are able to offer more than a helping hand.

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) for persons 55 and older is a nonprofit organization that matches senior citizens with volunteer opportunities throughout the county.

"The thing about volunteering is that it's to keep them healthy and happy," said Alice Curtis, director of the RSVP program.

The volunteers offer their services in locations such as hospitals, schools, nursing homes, senior centers and other nonprofit organizations.

"At the medical center they



do a little bit of everything," Curtis said. "And volunteers at the schools help tutor kids, read and work in the library."

According to Curtis one of the biggest areas of volunteering is transporting other senior citizens to various destinations.

"A lot of older people don't have transportation," she said. RSVP has contracts with the human service department of Job and Family Services and with the local veteran groups to provide transportation.

Volunteers transport patients to and from visits to the hospital and doctors' appointments. Some drive short trips such as to O'Bleness Hospital in Athens

and others drive as far away as the Cleveland Clinic. Curtis said they choose younger volunteers for the trips that require driving long distance.

"They need to be healthy and able to do that," she said.

In addition, another 100 volunteers are involved in one-on-one transportation of other county residents.

"They might take them to the doctors or to the grocery stores," Curtis said. "They love it. It gives them meaningful things to do."

This service is made possible through the use of United Appeal funds that are used to pay for mileage and any left over monies go towards wear and tear on automobiles, according to Curtis.

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



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