

Dear Colleagues:

Over the past two years the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost has posted reports at the time of each Faculty Senate meeting providing updates to the university community. I plan to continue this practice, but will do so by means of shorter reports that are embedded in emails. For the convenience of those who do not receive faculty and staff emails, I will post these monthly updates on my website <http://www.ohio.edu/provost/>.

I hope that this approach proves to be a good way to provide useful and timely information. Comments are welcome; please send them to [provost@ohio.edu](mailto:provost@ohio.edu).

Sincerely,

Pam Benoit  
Executive Vice President and Provost

## **Executive Vice President and Provost Update, September 21, 2009**

### **Bobcat Student Orientation and Welcome Week**

From July 23 through August 15, a group of staff and faculty provided 4000 admitted Athens campus students and their accompanying parents with a thorough introduction to Ohio University. The [Bobcat Student Orientation](#) led by Jenny Klein, Director of Orientation & the Allen Student Help Center, gave students the opportunity to learn about their colleges, meet other entering freshmen, set their academic schedules, and receive an introduction to the many opportunities that exist across campus.

A strong orientation is important in getting students off to a good start academically as well as reinforcing that Ohio University is the right choice. As of late, universities across the country report that students are using their orientation experiences as a deciding factor when it comes to matriculation. The feedback received from students and parents was overwhelmingly positive and the quality of that experience no doubt clinched the deal for many who were still "shopping."

["Welcome Week"](#) involved a series of events planned by Student Affairs and each of the colleges. It culminated in the President's Convocation for First Year Students. Strong attendance was reported at all events. Faculty and staff who helped organize the week indicated that engagement was at a level that had not been seen in years past. Anecdotal evidence suggests that faculty are seeing the enthusiasm and interest exhibited during "Welcome Week" continuing into the first weeks of classes.

### **Enrollment**

While numbers are not final yet, here are some observations about current trends in enrollment for AY 2009-2010.

- All time record number of applications: 14,207.
- The quality of the entering class on the Athens campus is similar to last year's strong class: ACT composite--23.76 (2009), 23.73 (2008) and G.P.A.--3.36 (2009), 3.37 (2008).
- We are seeing growth in the entering class at Athens. Predictions are that it will be larger by at least 2.5% over last year.
- The regional campuses appear to be on track to have 1000 more students enrolled this fall. All regional campuses are showing enrollment growth.

- We are seeing a significant growth in our transfer student population.
- Graduate enrollment shows signs of being larger than last year.
- Significant enrollment growth has taken place in Lifelong and Distance Learning.
- If current enrollment holds, we will have record numbers when it comes to overall headcount enrollment at Athens and the Regional Campuses, with the possibility of an increase of 2000 students across all the university.
- We are anticipating a growth in freshman-sophomore retention from 80% to 81%.

### **Ohio University Noted for Social Mobility in *Washington Monthly* Rankings**

*Washington Monthly* recently released its [university and college rankings](#). Their rankings are based on an institution's "contribution to the public good" using measures grouped into three categories: "Social Mobility (recruiting and graduating low-income students), Research (producing cutting-edge scholarship and Ph.D.s), and Service (encouraging students to give something back to their country)." Ohio University was ranked 24<sup>th</sup> in the nation among national universities in the social mobility category. Overall, Ohio University received a ranking of 93 with Case Western at 15; Ohio State at 20; and Miami at 89.