A decade into its third century, and 10 years into Roderick J. McDavis’s presidency, Ohio University faces many challenges. With each challenge comes an opportunity for growth, development, and **transformation**. And this is where Ohio University truly shines.
College affordability is a national crisis. Ohio University has tackled this issue with aggressive fundraising to greatly expand our scholarship offerings and by launching The OHIO Guarantee™, a tuition and fee model that establishes a 12 semester level rate, allowing families to better plan and budget for the cost of students’ education.

Paying for college is meaningless, if students don’t have the tools they need to succeed. From the creation of the Margaret Boyd

**Transforming**

Scholars to renewed emphasis on accessibility, OHIO’s student support programs ensure that our students are supported on the road to graduation.

Society expects more from us than well-educated young professionals. The University also has a role in responding to the needs of our region and state. One way we’re doing that is by building new campuses in Dublin and Cleveland and expanding our programs in the allied health professions to maintain a pipeline of future healthcare workers.

We also need to understand, share, and adapt to world trends—not a problem for a university with a long tradition of international cooperation. Even as it strengthens existing ties, Ohio University continues to push its boundaries with new bonds in the Caribbean and China.

Closer to home, Ohio University is devoted to communities in southeastern Ohio, where our students spend thousands of hours as volunteers and interns and in service learning, and many faculty are active in local organizations and public service. Put it all together, and you have a university that is transforming lives every day.

Change is occurring all around southeast Ohio, and Ohio University has worked hard to not just keep up with those changes, but to anticipate them. Through sound strategic planning, the University has developed comprehensive initiatives to face 21st century challenges and position it for success. It’s all part of the ongoing transformation of OHIO.
They are opportunities for transformation. For example, college affordability is a national crisis. Ohio University has tackled this issue with aggressive fundraising to greatly expand our scholarship offerings and the OHIO Tuition Guarantee, which allows each family to budget for the full cost of their student’s education.

It is the paradox of American higher education: The holder of a bachelor’s degree will earn up to $1.2 million more than someone with only a high school diploma, yet the cost of getting that bachelor’s degree increases every year. The answer, for many, is to borrow: Americans hold nearly $1.2 trillion in outstanding student loan debt.

Ohio University offers its students high-quality education for their investment: The Fiske Guide to Colleges 2015 ranked OHIO 14th out of 44 “best buys” in higher education. Still, we know that the cost of college is a challenge for many OHIO students and their families: 66 percent of our graduates leave campus carrying an average debt of just over $27,000. That is lower than national averages, but still can be a burden for young professionals starting their careers.

Through innovative initiatives, aggressive fundraising, and a continuous focus on quality, the University continues to work to make an OHIO education more affordable and to lessen the financial strain on families.

The OHIO Guarantee initiative received final approval from the Board of Regents, clearing the way for implementation in 2015–16. The OHIO Guarantee sets all costs—tuition, housing, dining, and fees—for each entering class of undergraduate students at the same level for 12 consecutive semesters. By making the total cost of an OHIO education more transparent and predictable, we give students an incentive to remain enrolled and to complete their degrees in four years.

The University announced the creation of the OHIO Signature Awards Program, a new approach to institutional aid that increased existing aid for first-year students—including merit-based scholarships, need-based grants, and awards that blend both merit and need—by $2.1 million.

Nearly 3,000 donors committed more than $3.2 million to endowed scholarships (including 65 new scholarships). Even better: Those gifts became $4.8 million through The OHIO Match, which adds 50 cents for every dollar donated to eligible scholarship endowments. OHIO has dedicated $25 million to the matching program, with a goal of reaching $75 million in endowed scholarship funding by 2018.

Ohio University ranked second in the nation in “best bang for the buck,” according to PolicyMic. Using data that President Barack Obama proposed for his suggested collegiate ranking system, analyst Akil Holmes found that “Ohio University is performing better than average in terms of cost, graduation rate, debt at time of graduation, and percentage of undergraduates receiving Pell grants.”

Students at Ohio University Eastern Campus can now earn a bachelor’s degree in human biology without transferring to the Athens Campus. A joint effort of the Eastern and Zanesville campuses, the Bachelor of Arts in human biology program is designed for students seeking careers in the allied health professions or who wish to enter law, public health, and health policy fields with a strong science background. Classes will be offered at Eastern and Zanesville and via the Ohio University Learning Network.
Tiera Evans,  
Class of 2009

Bachelor of Science, Family Studies, African American Studies minor

Then: Among the first class of Urban Scholars

Now: Assistant administrator, FUNdamentals Academy, Cleveland, Ohio

Beginning work toward a master’s degree in education at Ashland University in fall 2015

Mother of a 4-year-old son

The Urban Scholars Program is designed to increase campus diversity and enhance opportunities for high school students from urban areas to attend Ohio University.

When the Urban Scholars Program started, there was not an application process; we were picked and/or nominated. I was nominated by Mary Strother, director of the Junior Executive Business Program, which I was a part of in the summer of 2004. I guess I made a good impression on her, because she brought my name to Christine Taylor, head of the Urban Scholars Program.

My mentors and professors never let me make excuses, and they were always so supportive of my future goals and aspirations. Connie Esmdun-Kiger, a professor in the College of Business, really helped me, not only with my career but also with my growth from a teen to a young adult. She was the one who pointed out to me that I did not need to be a business major to own my own childcare center. She pointed me to the College of Education, which ultimately led me to the College of Health and Human Services, now the College of Health Sciences and Professions.

Being part of the Ebony Bobcat Network and being able to give back to the Urban Scholars program means a lot to me, because I am able to give back to a program that gave me so much. Not only am I able to give back financially, but I also give back by speaking to the current Urban Scholars as well as future Ohio University students who are interested in being a part of the Urban Scholars Program. I just want them to see that it is possible to succeed no matter what kind of background they came from and no matter what kind of problems or trials or situations they find themselves in while they are at OHIO.
A record 4,244 new first-year students enrolled in Ohio University in the 2013 Fall Semester, bringing total undergraduate enrollment to 17,375 students. That is a testament to OHIO’s reputation for quality and more assertive marketing initiatives. Recruiting students is one thing. Keeping them on track until they earn their degrees is quite another—and is increasingly important under new state funding guidelines that base state support on degree completion rates.

OHIO recognizes that the ways that we support our students as they work toward graduation must be as diverse as the students themselves. High-potential students need opportunities to push their limits; first-generation and other at-risk students need interventions and intensive advising; struggling students may need a refresher course or tutoring. Beyond academics, we must ensure that our students are safe; feel free to be themselves and express themselves; can overcome physical, emotional, or cognitive barriers; and know how to access the array of support services available to them.

Transforming Student Support

Paying for college is meaningless, though, if students don’t have the tools they need to succeed. From the creation of the Margaret Boyd Scholars to renewed emphasis on accessibility, OHIO’s Student Support programs ensure that our students make it to graduation no matter what.

At Ohio University faculty play an important role for students, not only as academic advisors, but as mentors who introduce students to the richness of university life and thereby help lead them to successful, satisfying lives.

Twenty promising young women were selected from among more than 100 applicants to be the first Margaret Boyd Scholars. The program, open to all first-year women on the Athens Campus, seeks to inspire and encourage undergraduate women to become engaged, confident, and connected leaders at Ohio University and beyond. Participants receive academic enrichment and leadership development opportunities throughout their undergraduate years.

More than 40 years after the program was discontinued, the OHIO Fellows was revived. Nine students were chosen for the reconstituted program, which aims to build leadership skills by helping participants make connections with leaders in business, politics, the arts, and the community.

U.S. News and World Report ranked three of OHIO’s graduate programs among its “Best Online Programs” out of 1,000 distance learning programs evaluated. The Patton College of Education’s online Master of Education was ranked 31st in the nation; the Russ College of Engineering’s Master of Engineering Management was ranked 46th; and the College of Business’ online M.B.A. was ranked 95th.

As the nation grapples with the issue of sexual misconduct, Ohio University took steps to address sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship and dating violence, and stalking on all campuses. The Class of 2018 is the first to complete Not Anymore, a mandatory online sexual assault prevention program for incoming students. Other University-wide efforts include bystander intervention training, Campus Conversations on issues of sexual assault, and revisions to OHIO’s sexual misconduct process.

The Office of Student Accessibility Services created new positions for accessibility coordinators at regional campuses. These coordinators provide assistance to students with physical, emotional, and cognitive disabilities.

After a two-year process, the Presidential Advisory Council on Disability and Accessibility Planning issued the Ohio University Disability Strategic Plan for Inclusion and Accessibility. Over the next 10 years, this plan will guide the University’s efforts to become a leader for improving inclusion and accessibility for persons living with disabilities.
Michael LaTorre, Class of 2010

Bachelor of Science, political science, communications, and English

Then: Participant in the College Adjustment Program

Now: Area coordinator in Residence Life with collateral responsibility in student conduct and community standards, Tiffin University, Tiffin, Ohio

Upward Bound provides participants with skills and motivation needed to complete a secondary education.

I became a part of the CAP Program because of my involvement with the Ohio University Upward Bound program while I was in high school. My Upward Bound advisors told me about CAP and all of the great services that it could provide for me. Being only the second person in my family to go to college (my older brother was already attending Ohio University at the time), CAP was able to assist me in my transition from high school to college.

Easily the most helpful aspect of my CAP experience was my advisor, Sharon Kousaleos. She was more than just an advisor; she was a mentor. She took the time to get to know my interests and helped me develop as a person. Sharon’s influence on me as a young man helped me grow to be the person I am today.

Particularly, Sharon provided me with encouragement to apply to work for the Upward Bound Program where I was once a student. When I really started to love the work I was doing with that program, Sharon and some of my mentors in Upward Bound informed me of the field of student affairs. Once this happened, I was hooked and knew what I wanted to do with my life.

My OHIO experience not only gave me friends for life, but it had a significant impact on my career path. The mentors I had at Ohio University helped me discover the field of student affairs and ultimately my calling in life. Without the dedication of the staff and faculty at Ohio University, I would not be the student affairs practitioner I am today.

[After graduation, Michael served in AmeriCorps for two years, then earned a master's degree in higher education student affairs at Wright State University.]
When Ohio University was founded in 1804, its graduates became professionals and community and government leaders simply because they had college degrees. The 21st century university, however, is expected to do more than merely matriculate young professionals. The modern university must partner with government and industry to anticipate and meet society’s needs. Among many pressing needs, OHIO is acutely aware of the projected shortfall in healthcare workers over the next decade. Perhaps this is because rural Ohio is among the areas of the nation already experiencing shortages in access to healthcare.

**Transforming Roles**

OHIO is uniquely positioned to help. The Heritage College ranks 13th nationally in producing primary care physicians and currently retains more of its graduates in Ohio than all other Ohio medical schools. And the College of Health Sciences and Professions houses the state’s largest nursing school, including an innovative online RN-to-B.S.N. program that allows working nurses to meet new educational standards without leaving their jobs.

Building on the strong foundations of the Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine and the College of Health Sciences and Professions, the University is expanding its exemplary healthcare programs in partnership with leading names in the field, including OhioHealth, the Cleveland Clinic, and the Osteopathic Heritage Foundations.

Ohio University houses Ohio’s largest nursing school, with more than 6,000 students currently enrolled.

Ground was broken for the Dublin Integrated Education Center, an 86,000-square-foot facility on OHIO’s Dublin Campus that will house the new master’s degree in physician assistant practice. The three-story building also will allow the University to facilitate partnerships with Columbus Community College and other institutions in central Ohio.

The College of Health Sciences and Professions began accepting the first students in its physician assistant master’s program. Demand for physician assistants is projected to grow by 38 percent by 2020 to help offset doctor shortages.

The Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine announced a new program to give academically outstanding high school students a head start on medical school—and graduate in as few as seven years. The Early Assurance Program, available to students at Ohio University as well as four schools in central and northeastern Ohio, offers enrichment opportunities and other incentives to potential primary care program enrollees.

A new certificate program, available to any undergraduate major, offers a global perspective on health issues. A joint initiative of the College of Health Sciences and Professions and the Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, the Global Health Certificate requires a minimum of 19 credit hours in courses such as Tropical Health Biology and Global Health Research and Service, as well as an 80-hour field experience.

Graduates of Ohio University Lancaster’s Paramedic Certification Program far exceed their peers nationally in passing their certification exam on the first try. While the national average first-time pass rate in 2013 was 73 percent, 100 percent of Lancaster graduates passed the test on the first attempt. Statewide, the average first-time pass rate was 74 percent.

Ohio University houses Ohio’s largest nursing school, with more than 6,000 students currently enrolled.
Courtney Fort, Class of 2013

Bachelor of Science, nursing

Then: Among the first class to receive bachelor’s degrees in nursing on the Athens Campus

Now: Labor and delivery nurse at a high-risk Level 3 facility

“My parents met at and attended Ohio University. Honestly, I feel as if I was groomed to attend Ohio University.

Originally, I enrolled as a biology major considering a career as an OB/GYN. I then found that I did not particularly enjoy the brief interaction between doctor and patient. I wanted more—I wanted to be at the bedside and actually pray, cry and always advocate for my patient. It would have been pointless to leave Ohio University to attain an associate’s degree, so I decided to enter the B.S.N. program.

I believe each and every one that I encountered at Ohio University helped define who I am as a woman today. I honestly cannot give all the credit to any one person. God truly blessed me with so many great professors, some of whom I still keep in contact with today.

My education at OHIO has been valuable, teaching me to always ask questions, search for answers, advocate for others, and strive for greatness. I aspire to re-enroll for my master’s in nursing at Ohio University as well.

To young people who might want to pursue nursing at Ohio University, I would say that OHIO is an awesome school with a great student body and faculty. Your degree will not come easy. One must pray, ask questions, challenge ideas, devote time to your craft, and have fun. Nursing at OHIO is such an opulent experience ridden with trials and success. Allow nursing to mold you into a productive nurse embodying the nursing pledge.
Ohio University has long welcomed students from beyond its borders. Early editions of the *Athena* yearbook include clubs for Chinese and Brazilian students. In 2013–14, OHIO’s six campuses enrolled a record 1,881 international students representing more than 100 countries.

But the global knowledge economy demands that universities do more than open their doors to international students. We must actively partner and engage with communities around the world to produce the talent that industry and society need. These partnerships are good not only for the economy, but also for the academy, because they build our capacity to better understand, share, and adapt to world trends.

**Transforming Boundaries**

Ohio University boasts a history rich in international diversity that began in 1895 when it welcomed its first international student, Sakitaro Murayama of Japan. Today, the University community includes more than 1,700 international students from more than 100 countries.

This year saw the rollout of OHIO’s overall strategic international plan. By being more intentional about our global engagement, we hope to maximize research and educational collaborations, increase study abroad opportunities for students, and grow faculty exchange programs. Through alliances with strategic international partners, Ohio University will be better able to prepare future leaders for the globalized world in which they will work and live.

A highlight of Ohio University’s first International Education Week celebration was a visit by a four-member delegation from Japan’s Chubu University. Chubu and OHIO marked the 40th year of formal relations this year.

The University expanded its global educational partnerships by entering a Memorandum of Understanding with Beijing International Studies University.

A six-member delegation from the University of Guyana visited the Athens Campus in late July to explore ways to expand on a 30-year-relationship between that institution and OHIO.

Graduate students in the College of Business explored international commerce and emerging markets in Nicaragua in the first International Study Program offered by the college’s graduate program and its Center for International Business. Nineteen business undergraduates also went to Nicaragua on a Global Consulting Project.

The Ohio Valley International Council, an initiative of the Center for International Studies, marked its 30th year of operation. OVIC links international students at Ohio University with regional schools, Kids on Campus and ARTS/West programs, international fairs, and presentations on the Athens and regional campuses.

Nineteen students in the Scripps College of Communication traveled to Ghana for the college’s first study abroad opportunity in that country. During the three-week trip, the students worked with local journalists and collaborated with students at the African University College of Communication.

In an unprecedented agreement with the U.S. Soccer Federation, 10 students in the E. W. Scripps School of Journalism provided media and communications services to the federation during the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. The federation administers and manages the national team’s participation in the global event.

OHIO faculty, staff, and students gave their expertise to help recovery from natural disasters around the world. Gary Lockwood, emeritus professor of engineering technology at Ohio University Lancaster Campus, helped to bring clean water back to residents of Tacloban, Philippines, after Typhoon Haiyan. For the fourth consecutive year, a group of students under the leadership of Christopher Thompson, associate professor of Japanese language and culture, traveled to Japan to aid with tsunami relief in cooperation with Iwate Prefecture University.
We are global, maximizing our research and educational collaboration.

Ohio University celebrates the annual bloom of the cherry trees donated by Chubu University in Japan.

A highlight of Ohio University’s first International Education Week celebration was a visit by a four-member delegation from Japan’s Chubu University. Chubu and OHIO marked the 40th year of formal relations this year. The most famous symbol of that relationship is the grove of Yoschino cherry trees, donated to OHIO by Chubu over the years, that bloom along the Hocking River each spring.
Ohio University has a significant impact on communities in southeastern Ohio. According to an economic impact report released this year, 14,300 people worked for OHIO in full- and part-time positions in 2012, and Ohio University alumni living in the state generate more than $259 million in state and local tax revenue. In all, the University’s total economic impact on Ohio is an estimated $1.5 billion.

Transforming Communities

The University’s role is more than economic, though. Our students are highly visible and valued contributors to organizations across the region through for-credit service learning and volunteerism: The same economic impact report noted that Ohio University students engaged in more than 1.4 million hours of community service in 2012. Our faculty also make a difference, applying their knowledge and expertise through their research, consulting, and outreach initiatives locally and globally.

The Athens County affiliate consists of an all-women volunteer group Women Raise the Roof, Faith Build Coalition, and the Ohio University student organization, The Ohio University student chapter of Habitat for Humanity. The Athens County affiliate has about 80 active members that work with the Athens County affiliate.

The Athens County affiliate of Habitat for Humanity serves the city of Athens and all of Athens County, Ohio. It works to help low-income families break the cycle of poverty through homeownership. The affiliate is part of the national Habitat for Humanity movement, which has built more than 1.8 million homes and served millions of people since 1976. Habitat for Humanity builds futures. By building and selling affordable homes to low-income families, Habitat empowers people to break the cycle of poverty.

Ohio University has strengthened its partnership with the City of Athens. New appendices to the University–city Memorandum of Understanding address collaboration in emergency management and disability and accessibility planning. Other cooperative measures include University support for the purchase of a new pumper truck and a new ladder truck for the Athens Fire Department.

Six start-up companies founded by OHIO students and alumni emerged from the Innovation Engine Accelerator, a 12-week technology entrepreneurship program co-sponsored by the University. Held at the Ohio University Innovation Center, the program is designed to keep entrepreneurial talent in southeastern Ohio.

Geoff Dabelko, professor and director of Environmental Studies in the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs, was one of six outside experts invited to advise world leaders on the impact of global climate change at the G8 Summit in July 2013. As a member of the United Nations’ Environment Program’s Expert Advisory Group, Dabelko was a lead author on the “Human Security” chapter of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s 5th Assessment Report, which made headlines worldwide when it was released in March 2014.

E3 Clean Technologies, founded by Russ Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Gerardine Botte, won the CleanTech award for exceptional business potential at the seventh annual Launch: Silicon Valley venture capital event. The company’s Greenbox technology also was named “most likely to succeed” in the clean energy category.

Integrating Professionals for Appalachian Children received nearly $1 million from the federal Rural Health Network Development Program to expand its health and wellness services in southeastern Ohio. Among the funded initiatives is establishment of interprofessional care programs to help families and foster care providers address the special needs of children who have experienced emotional and developmental trauma.

Kids on Campus, an after-school and summer enrichment program administered by the College of Health Sciences and Professions for Athens-area children and teens, expanded with $1.7 million in grants from the 21st Century Community Learning Centers, a federal program that supports academic enrichment opportunities for children, particularly those who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools. The program now reaches over 500 children in after-school programs at seven sites around Athens County.

Nearly 800 undergraduate and graduate students presented their work at the 2014 Research and Creative Activity Expo.
Tracy Kelly, Class of 2009 and 2013

Bachelor of Arts, English and history; Master of Public Administration

Then: Undergraduate trustee, Ohio University Board of Trustees; president, Graduate Student Senate

Now: Executive director, Athens County Big Brothers Big Sisters

Ohio University provides an educational environment that is focused on community service and collaborative learning. From the moment that I arrived on campus I felt encouraged to explore volunteer opportunities and I found that Learning Communities, faculty advisors, and the amazing staff of the Campus Involvement Center work hard to convey the importance of personal growth through community service and leadership.

I applied for the student trustee position while I was serving as the president of the Undergraduate Student Senate at Ohio University-Lancaster. My experience collaborating with students and staff to address campus issues opened my eyes to the challenges and rewards of shaping policies that benefit the campus community. The student trustee position seemed to be a perfect opportunity to become engaged in larger discussions of how to improve the experience of OHIO students.

Serving as a student trustee provided me with an incredible opportunity to find my voice as a student and as a young leader. It was sometimes difficult to assert myself in conversations with more experienced professionals, especially if my opinion was not commonly shared. However, I learned the importance of researching the facts on all sides of important issues, framing an argument based on relevant information, and being both polite and persistent in making my perspective known.

Originally, I had planned to pursue an M.A. in English. However, I had a wonderful advisor and mentor in the English department named Loreen Giese, who noticed that my greatest passion appeared to be community service. Dr. Giese’s advice helped motivate me to pursue a Master of Public Administration at Ohio University. I am grateful that she encouraged me to explore such a rewarding path. My experience in the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs introduced me to faculty and community members who continue to influence and inspire me.
The four years a student spends on a college campus are always transformational. Teenagers become young adults, trying out life on their own, uncovering new ideas, and discovering that the world is a much bigger place than they ever dreamed.

Ohio University takes this responsibility seriously. We hope our students leave our campuses not only with knowledge, but with wisdom. We endeavor to promote acceptance of diverse ways of learning, thinking, and living—not because it is politically correct, but because respect for others is the foundation of a civil and progressive society.

Learning is not confined to textbooks and lectures. Diversity, sustainability, compassion, and activism are lessons best absorbed when practiced. Leading by example and engaging students in myriad opportunities, Ohio University transforms lives every day.

Ohio University launched the Center for Campus and Community Engagement, a clearinghouse to connect community-based organizations in need with academic departments and programs seeking service learning opportunities for students as part of the curriculum. The center is a partnership among University College, the colleges of Arts and Sciences and Health Sciences and Professions, the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs, the Office of the Provost, and the Division of Students Affairs.

The Chronicle of Higher Education ranked Ohio University as one of the top producers of U.S. Fulbright Scholars by type of institution for 2013–14. Five OHIO graduates received Fulbright scholarships, placing the university among institutions such as Boston University, New York University, and Texas Tech University.

Ohio University created a community involvement program.

Women in Philanthropy marked its 10th year of bringing together female donors to benefit the University. Among the group’s accomplishments are funds to support the Student Community Outreach Resource Endowment, programming at Baker University Center, and the Amanda J. Cunningham Leadership Center. In all, WIP raised more than $1 million in gifts, pledges, and planned gifts between 2003 and 2013.

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The Research Apprenticeship Program allows Honors Tutorial College students to spend the summer doing paid research for professors.
Tyree Winters, Class of 2007
Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine

Then: Enrollee in Summer Scholars Program; Region V director, Student National Medical Association

Now: Lead Physician, Nationwide Children’s Hospital, Primary Care Obesity Network, Obesity Quality Initiative Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

My personal physician, who was a D.O., told me about Ohio University. I came to visit and was sold after my conversation. OU-HCOM went from “what school is this?” to my first choice.

The relationships that I built with my classmates from the program for minorities—these are colleagues, friends. There was a sense of community. No man is an island, especially in medical school. OHIO is very nurturing of those relationships. It was home.

I was the first D.O. representative in the Student National Medical Association. HCOM was so receptive and supportive—they made sure that we all received funding to go to meetings. Very few medical students get to be part of national medical conferences, and OU-HCOM provided me with that opportunity.

A lot of my patients can’t play outside when the weather is bad. Some of the neighborhoods aren’t safe for kids to play, so they’re confined to an apartment or house or trailer. So I was trying to show the kids how to do physical activity in the home. I took a lot of hip-hop dance classes and did a lot of high stepping in my fraternity in college; you don’t need a lot of space and you don’t have to jump around a lot. So I went to the local YMCA and asked if they would give me free space to have a free hip-hop dance class for kids. They said, “Can we have our kids join in?” So I started the dance class, twice a month, an hour long. One of the other docs helps me out. The kids absolutely love it. Parents join in, staff members come in. The kids at the clinic will be like, “You’re going to be there, right?” I really wanted the kids to see their doctor doing physical activity, too—not just preaching it, but doing it.
Ohio University opened in 1808 with three students, one two-room building, and one professor (who was also Ohio University’s first president).

Alumni returning to campus can be forgiven for feeling a bit lost. Thanks to generous individual gifts and capital campaign donations, as well as careful financial planning, Ohio University has undertaken significant renovation, remodeling, and construction projects in the past decade. The University is currently in the midst of its most ambitious construction project since the erection of the New South residence halls. The aim of all the work: to make Ohio University’s physical spaces more energy efficient, sustainable, accessible, and ready for the demands of 21st century higher education.

The Promise Lives Campaign exceeded its $450 million goal, with more than a year to go. By April, nearly 75,000 donors had committed more than $100 million for capital projects, $105 million for faculty, and $50 million for academic and student programs.

Despite a brutal winter, new residence halls under construction on South Green continued to take shape. The four residence halls, built on the site of the former Wolfe Street Apartments, are Phase I of the University’s Housing Development Plan that will transform South Green. These four residence halls are scheduled to house 900 students beginning in fall 2015.

Built around the former Baker Center across from the College Green, the newly opened Steven L. Schoonover Center for Communication brings all administrative offices of the Scripps College of Communication—five schools, plus the dean’s office—under one roof for the first time.

An initiative designed to improve the residential experience and the comprehensive living-learning environment on the Athens Campus, Phase I of OHIO’s Housing Development Plan includes the construction of four new residence halls.

One of the most beloved landmarks on the Athens Campus, Galbreath Memorial Chapel reopened after a lengthy closure for renovations and repairs. The updates included roof replacement and installation of an elevator to bring the chapel into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Ohio University celebrated the grand opening of the Walter Fieldhouse, which is used for recreation, athletics, teaching courses, ROTC training, and various Student Affairs activities.

Bush Hall reopened after a yearlong, $9.1 million renovation that featured installation of energy-efficient mechanical and electrical systems. Students moving into the revamped 60-year-old residence hall enjoyed updated classroom, lounge, and study areas; individually climate-controlled rooms with sinks and built-in cabinetry; and remodeled bathrooms. Accessibility upgrades include an expanded entryway and elevator access to all floors.
Several programs celebrated significant anniversaries in 2014.

The Avionics Engineering Center, the nation’s premier research program for aircraft navigation and landing systems, marked its 50th year of operation.

The Ohio University Press, which is noted for its high-quality books on the Midwest and Appalachia as well as African and Southeast Asian studies, also turned 50.

Another program hitting the half-century mark was the School of Interdisciplinary Arts, founded in 1964 as Comparative Arts.

Ohio University Libraries marked its 200th anniversary. What started as a small collection of books is now one of the 100 largest academic libraries in the United States with collections spread across three buildings.
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