An Act to Establish a University in the Town of Athens

Whereas institutions for the liberal education of youth are essential to the progress of arts and sciences, important to morality, virtue and religion, friendly to the peace, order and prosperity of society, and honorable to the Government that encourages and patronizes them.

Act of the Ohio Legislature, February 18, 1804
Manasseh Cutler was a visionary.

He saw solutions when others were overwhelmed by challenges. In his time, the national Treasury was empty after the American Revolutionary War, there was no money to pay the Army troops who fought the War, and the western edge of the new country was a wilderness filled with fighting and struggles for power. Where others had failed, Cutler stepped up with a plan that would address all three concerns.

His negotiations with the Continental Congress on behalf of the Ohio Company resulted in the establishment of the Northwest Territory, brought badly needed funds into the Treasury, provided compensation to the former soldiers, and established order along the Ohio frontier. Ohio University grew out of that new order.

Obstacles Cutler faced bringing education west of the Appalachian Mountains.

Cutler drafted the charter that provided for the creation of the University in 1804:

“Establishing a University in the Town of Athens, Whereas institutions for the liberal education of youth, are essential to the progress of arts and sciences, important to morality, virtue and religion, friendly to the peace, order and prosperity of society, and honorable to the government that encourages and patronizes them…”

As a chaplain for several Army units during the Revolutionary War and as a Congregational minister for many years of his life, Cutler believed in service to his fellow man. He intended for the University to be a place where students could learn how to benefit others. We still see this at Ohio University today. Not just through the major courses of study students take to prepare them to be of help to others and innovative research, but in the every day activities, such as presentations to raise awareness about important causes, fundraisers to gather critical funds for those in need, and food drives to feed the hungry.

Cutler was also a statesman who exhibited great leadership, representing his home state of Massachusetts in the Continental Congress from 1801 through 1805. He understood the need for intelligent, well-educated individuals who could step up and lead. Ohio University continues to respond to this need, training students to become leaders, not only in local communities and America, but around the world.

In addition to being a clergyman and a legislator, Cutler also studied and practiced science and medicine. After the War, he took up the practice of medicine to supplement his income. He became a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1781, identifying and cataloging nearly 350 species of plants as well as conducting astronomical and meteorological research. The University he chartered offered science instruction from the very beginning. Today, Ohio University is internationally recognized for the scientific research conducted by our professors and students. Our new medical facilities are uniquely positioned to graduate practitioners to provide medical care where it is needed.

Ohio University is the culmination of the vision of Manasseh Cutler and many other influential leaders throughout the years. We remain true to the original spirit and intention of our charter. At the same time, we have continued to make the changes necessary to face our modern frontiers. We strive to graduate students to serve, to lead, to heal and to explore in our ever-changing modern landscape. We remain committed to the enduring vision of Manasseh Cutler in the past, in the present, and forward into the future.
When Manasseh Cutler penned the words of the Charter for the school now known as Ohio University, he was not merely envisioning the scenic, pastoral university setting that we see today. The institution he imagined was an educational vanguard that would be located in the untramed environs at the farthest edge of colonial society. The university would meet the need to train intelligent and insightful individuals who could step up and take their place in a new world ripe with opportunity and need. Cutler knew that statesmen and scientists, philosophers and engineers would be required to lead the fledgling country to greatness.

In keeping with Cutler’s original vision, Ohio University is still responding to help fill that void. Our modern challenges may reflect different economic, scientific and societal circumstances than those Cutler faced; our frontier is now global rather than regional and technological changes are occurring at an astounding rate. However Ohio University is still reaching out to support and educate those who desire to be victorious over the obstacles to their success, who want to master and surmount the limiting boundaries they face so that they can thrive in the twenty-first century world.

In response to demand from students seeking the superior education, training and support available from Ohio University, this year we have opened new campuses near Cleveland and Columbus, in addition to our five regional campuses and three satellite centers across Ohio, including locations in Cambridge, Chillicothe, Ironton, Lancaster, Pickerington, Proctorville, St. Clairsville, and Zanesville.
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Place. A sense of purpose and of belonging. These things figured prominently in Carley Cost’s decision making process when she and her husband, Brian, both decided to pursue a career in medicine but wanted to stay close to home.

Carley grew up in northeast Ohio, went to high school in Chagrin Falls, and after a brief sojourn away to pursue a music career, returned to the Cleveland area. There she reconnected with her high school sweetheart and the two were married in 2015. Both Carley and her husband were seriously considering the best way to redirect their career paths in order to satisfy a strong interest in the practice of medicine.

“The Ohio University’s Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine program was a perfect fit for us,” Carley says. “It’s an excellent school, connected with the world-renowned Cleveland Clinic medical facility. And best of all, it is located exactly where we want to be—close to our families and friends, in the heart of northeastern Ohio. Carley and Brian are currently enrolled in the Heritage College program and on track to complete their medical degrees in 2020.

Not only is Carley thrilled to be able to pursue her educational dreams close to home, she is also excited to be positioned to fill the employment needs there as well. Isaac Kirstein, D.O., dean of Heritage College, Cleveland, explains that one of the primary missions of the new College is to produce physicians who will be able to provide much-needed primary care in the local region and throughout the entire state of Ohio. “If we want to help sick people, we need specialists. But if we want to keep people healthy, we need general practitioners. The need in our area is huge and Heritage College is stepping up to meet that need.”

The fall of 2015 marked the beginning of big things at the new Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, Cleveland, located in northeastern Ohio. The first class consisted of 51 students. Dean Isaac Kirstein, D.O., anticipated that approximately 70% of his students will go on to practice medicine in the northeastern Ohio region after graduation.

The Ohio University, Dublin, campus opened in 2014 near Columbus, Ohio. In response to student interest, a master’s degree program for physicians’ assistants was added to their course offerings in 2015 through the College of Health Sciences and Professions. Heritage College Executive Dean Kenneth Johnson, D.O., reports that he expects the majority of the 50 students in the initial class will seek to practice medicine in central Ohio upon graduation.

During the spring and summer of 2015, Ohio University’s Russ College of Engineering hosted the International Space Studies program, offered through the International Space University. The event included workshops and lectures for the 110 participants who were selected from more than 1,000 applicants from around the world. Astronauts and scientists shared personal experiences and insights regarding humankind’s exploration of this vast frontier.

Dr. Ryan Fugt, associate professor of meteorology, in the Department of Geography, received a grant for $250,000 from the National Science Foundation to study atmospheric changes over Antarctica. He included three of his undergraduate students in the research and together they were able to collect and study data that have significance on wider climate changes that affect the entire planet. The students had the opportunity to present their findings to the prestigious American Meteorological Society this past January.

Tarig Hilmi, Ph.D., associate professor of biological sciences at the Ohio University Zanesville campus, led a team to study the disease known as River Blindness in the Sudan, where he was born. Treatments developed from the team’s findings have helped in the creation of exciting and successful new treatments for the disease. This year he shared the story of his work and the team’s efforts with others interested in fighting disease on a global level.
The reason the Ohio Company of Associates chose Manasseh Cutler as the person to represent them and their interests to Congress was because of his reputation. The Associates had heard how Cutler conducted himself before the American Revolution and they had reports regarding how he performed under pressure during the War. They were familiar with his work in drafting the Ordinance of 1787 that established the Northwest Territory. His character and accomplishments were familiar to and respected by many in the newly developing United States.

Actions and their repercussions form the building blocks of reputation. The founders of Ohio University knew this when they established an institution that would be known for not only progress, but also for morality, virtue and honor. Although we started out as a new institution in an unknown region, over the years we have become known far and wide based on the actions we have taken.

Early on, Ohio University earned the reputation as a school that makes room for minorities and underserved students and gives them a place to excel. Our first African American student, John Newton Templeton, was admitted 35 years prior to the Emancipation Proclamation. We enrolled Margaret Boyd, our first female student, in 1868, over 50 years before women received the federal right to vote. Minorities and women now comprise a substantial part of our student body and we are impressed by and very proud of the contributions they make on a daily basis to our University community.

Ohio University has always combined solid academics with exciting research. Today many of our programs are nationally and internationally recognized, including our Honors Tutorial College, our Sports Administration Master’s programs, our Center for Entrepreneurship, and our Ralph and Luci Schey Sales Centre, among many others. Our students are well served by our excellent reputation when they graduate to seek career opportunities or additional, competitive educational experiences.

Our reputation continues to grow with the achievements of each new student we graduate and each program we implement. This year, in addition to many other awards and recognition, the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities named us as one of their 48 nationwide Innovation and Economic Prosperity Universities. We continue to stretch further, to reach higher. We are strongly and sincerely committed to maintaining and improving the reputation by which we are known.

Zainab Kandeh
Ohio University, E.W. Scripps College of Communication, School of Journalism
Copyright Major
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For a student interested in media, it doesn’t get much better than a school that has a National Public Radio station and a Public Broadcasting Service affiliate on campus. And according to Zainab Kandeh, “The wonderful thing about it is that they let students come in and get their feet wet.”

Kandeh came to Ohio University from her hometown of Delaware, Ohio, with a strong interest in journalism. She was drawn by the Scripps College of Communication’s reputation for excellence. The Scripps College is recognized as one of the top five such schools in the nation. It houses the WOUB Center for Public Media, which includes five public radio stations, two public television stations and one cable television station, and also features the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism. The Center’s Student Development Program offers opportunities for over 250 students to gain actual work experience in the field of communications while they are still undergraduate students.

Kandeh was thrilled by the opportunity to get hands-on experience in radio and television broadcasting without having to leave campus. She was able to clarify her specific areas of interest well before graduation and to develop an impressive work resume prior to graduation. “I have found talents that I didn’t know I had and have built on skills that I already had,” Kandeh explained.

“One of the great things about Ohio University is that it pushes you to think outside of yourself and outside of the University and your community and makes you think about how things affect the outside world.” The school is widely recognized for its students’ successes as well as for its excellent facilities and instructors.
Education – it is our purpose, our focus, our very reason for existence. Manasseh Cutler knew that as the United States of America grew and expanded, there would be a need for many of its citizens to have formal education in literature, mathematics, science, medicine, and the humanities. He knew that there would be a need for experts to use the academic foundations others had built throughout history as a springboard to meet the requirements of the future.

The primary goal of Ohio University’s faculty is to share knowledge, experience, and insight with our students. They lead our first-year students through the basics and foundational knowledge and then begin to engage with them to explore the myriad facets of each field of study.

Our faculty members challenge students to reach their full potential through exploration of their chosen field and all the nuances associated with it. Mistakes are made and lessons are learned. It is during this process of trial-and-error that many students are truly transformed from teenagers to the confident professionals who will go on to change the world. Our faculty members further support success by encouraging students to attend professional conferences to present their work and by coauthoring research papers with them.

The process of education, especially at the post-secondary level, does not happen by default. We at Ohio University work ceaselessly to enhance and facilitate the learning experience here. We are committed to providing our students with the superior education they desire while at the same time providing our world with graduates well-equipped to elevate the condition of our existence. Our highest calling is to fulfill Manasseh Cutler’s view that education is an essential part of progress in all areas of life.
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"In high school, basically all I did academically was the homework required for points to get the grade. Here I spend four or five times as much time, at least multiple hours a day, trying to read and keep up. Often times, it's not for anything that's required for the class. It's truly to learn," Phillips Craigmile explains. He is a student enrolled in Ohio University's Honors Tutorial College, a system of undergraduate education similar to that used at England's Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

"This style of learning is one in which you have a one-on-one conversation with a professor rather than a big lecture. It's a great way to learn new, exciting research that wouldn't necessarily be included in the general class," he continued. Craigmile says he has been very impressed with how his professors are mindful of students' needs even when class is not in session. He adds, "They truly want all of their students to succeed."

Craigmile's success started with his participation in Ohio University's Program to Aid Career Exploration (PACE) which enabled him to work in a biochemistry laboratory research project with Dr. Shiyong Wu, the director of the Edison Biotechnology Institute at Ohio University. It continued when he was able to take part in an international program and assist in cancer research in Germany. There he worked on a project that focused on a protein and its role in cell death after radiation treatments for cancer.

"Ohio University has exceeded all of my expectations. The academic and extracurricular opportunities that I have had here are extraordinary. I can’t imagine myself anywhere else," Craigmile said. He confirms that his experiences within the Honors Tutorial College have taken him far beyond passive academics. "I used to be more narrow-minded, whereas now I try to consider things from multiple angles. Rather than just take somebody at their word for something, I find myself looking up primary research to confirm it and do research for myself." At Ohio University, Craigmile has transitioned into a new way of thinking. His journey has changed from one of passive acceptance of the thoughts of others to the active pursuit of answers to his own academic questions, the very essence of education.
After the American Revolutionary War, the new country was broke. There were not enough funds in the Treasury to pay those who had just fought the bitter war for independence. There were struggles to occupy the land along the western border and political maneuvering to gain control there. Manasseh Cutler came forward with a unique solution that would address all of these problems. He proposed that deeds to untamed western lands be given to soldiers in lieu of cash payment for their service to the country.

Cutler realized the importance of innovation and trying new things to achieve improved results. In our charter he recognized the essential nature of progress.

At Ohio University today, we pursue innovation on a daily basis. We strive to provide our students with the most innovative instruction possible, through our excellent, forward-thinking faculty and our cutting-edge educational spaces and equipment. For example, our Edwards Accelerator Laboratory draws researchers from many universities and agencies throughout the world. The International Space University 2015 Space Studies Program was held at our Russ College of Engineering and Technology this past fall and featured experts in space exploration from around the globe. We work very hard to bring our students the very best in terms of innovative teaching, learning and experimentation.

Our faculty constantly surprise and amaze us by reflecting the spirit of innovation through creative and often ground-breaking findings. Dr. Jason Trembly is working with students to develop and test his hydraulic fracturing wastewater treatment plant that will benefit both the environment and our country’s energy needs. Dr. Justin Holub’s research in the field of biomimicry focuses on the fascinating use of natural forms on a molecular level to affect human health. Dr. Carl Brune’s research on the origin of the elements is uncovering unknown details about the very building blocks of life. Their innovative ideas are helping provide solutions that will have a profound impact on our modern world.

But the exciting and innovative discoveries are not the sole province of our faculty. We strongly encourage our students to propose research questions and get involved. At Ohio University, it is common for undergraduate students to actively participate in research projects, to coauthor papers with renowned faculty experts and to present their results. Our annual Student Research and Creative Activity Expo featured over 800 student presentations this year, many of which will also be presented by our students at professional meetings and symposia throughout the world.

Innovation is a key part of who we are at Ohio University. We strive to bring new ideas and technologies in from around the world and we are proud to present the novel and important innovations discovered by our faculty and students to those outside our walls.
She once wanted to become a veterinarian, but as LaDonya Jackson’s interests shifted toward human health and biomechanical engineering, she found the opportunities she was seeking at Ohio University’s Russ College of Engineering and Technology. “I found out that it was the technology and engineering applications to medicine that I was interested in,” she remembered. The programs at Ohio University were a great fit for Jackson, since she was able to easily work with professors in both Russ College of Engineering and Technology and the Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine.

As part of her integrated program, she began to work with two mentors, Dr. Kelly McCall and Dr. Frank Schwartz, from Ohio University’s Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine to study whether Type 1 diabetes can be detected before it begins to cause irreparable damage to the pancreas. Jackson’s work involves the development of an assay that could help to detect pancreatic changes linked to Type 1 diabetes.

“The diagnostic assay we are hoping for will be able to detect diabetes early on, before the major loss of the beta cells in the pancreas,” Jackson said. Existing tests are able to detect pancreatic damage only after the loss of 50 to 70 percent of the critical beta cells, leaving patients with a greatly reduced ability to produce insulin. The new assay will hopefully identify the diabetes-related threat to the pancreas earlier so that appropriate intervention and treatment can be given and patients will be able to retain a much higher degree of pancreatic function.

New ideas, new research, new ways of looking at things are the heart of innovation. Jackson was able to take advantage of Ohio University’s exciting collaboration between two of its colleges. She was able to develop a new method of detecting a life-threatening health condition. Her discoveries may well give rise to new treatment methods and new hope to the over eight million Americans suffering from undiagnosed diabetes.
It is important to have a plan. But it is even more important to have a strategy. All those years ago, Manasseh Cutler knew that there needed to be a strategy in place to provide for our new University and keep it on track. He wrote an Act for the Ohio Legislature in 1804 which included the charter to guide our development and continued existence through the troubled times of his day.

We are thankful for the model Cutler set. Today we also continue to research, to speculate, to ponder, and to prepare for whatever contingencies the modern world may throw at us. At Ohio University we are not content to wait to see where external forces and pressures will take us. We know where we want to go and we have a solid plan for how to arrive there. Our plan is not a last-minute response, it is based on the sound strategies necessary to provide our students with an excellent education, to provide our faculty with first-rate facilities from which to teach and conduct their research, and to foster the administrative structure needed to assure that these things happen in an orderly, efficient and expedient manner.

One critical factor in our success is the way in which we have been able to provide for the financial needs of our University. In the early 1800’s, Cutler’s strategy included building the town of Athens around the University and dependence upon a system of rents and payments to generate support. His plan was later augmented by the state of Ohio. Today, among our other strategic support, we have the Promise Lives Capital Campaign, which generated over $500 million as of June 30, 2015.

At Ohio University we are also mindful of our students’ personal strategies for careers and success. We are proud to offer them our OHIO Guarantee, which is a new way to manage tuition and fees that can aid them in budgeting for the total cost of their education. Our students are also directly impacted by our Diversity Strategic Plan. We want to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to be successful, regardless of ethnicity, race, gender or economic background.

The people who created our University had personal experience with finding their way through a rarely traveled wilderness and creating excellence where nothing had existed previously. We continue to place great emphasis on gathering information, researching possibilities and ongoing evaluation to create a strategy that will keep Ohio University strong for our next 200 years and beyond.
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One critical factor in our success is the way in which we have been able to provide for the financial needs of our University. In the early 1800’s, Cutler’s strategy for Cassey Eck, her relationship with Ohio University was “love at first sight.” From her initial visit to campus, she knew this was the school for her. “It was the first experience I had like that with a college. I didn’t want to leave.”

She is now a young woman with a plan. “I don’t come into class to learn the information and spit it back out. I want to understand the material instead of just pass the test.” Although she had been academically successful in high school, she had never been involved in leadership roles. She wanted to change that at Ohio University.

She quickly discovered the Ralph and Lucy Schey Sales Centre and found that she could develop her leadership abilities there. Eck explained that when she was around people who were encouraging her and had the same interests, “you want to work together to succeed at something.” She was particularly impressed with Dr. Rag Agnihotri, the instructor of her sales techniques class. She came to learn that “sales is a huge part of everyone’s life, whether it’s selling yourself appropriately or selling your business.”

Eck is majoring in Retail Merchandising and Fashion Product Development, which is one of several diverse majors offered through the Patton College of Education at Ohio University. She has found this to be a place where there are ample opportunities for her to develop her leadership skills. She is an account manager at the Schey Sales Centre. She is the creative director of Thread magazine, an online fashion publication run by students, particularly those seeking the Retail Merchandising and Fashion Product Development degree. Eck is thriving as she continues to work according to the strategy she set up for herself. When asked regarding her feelings about Ohio University, her response is, “This is the best place ever!”

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On June 30, 2015, the Promise Lives Capital Campaign exceeded half of a billion dollars in support for Ohio University students and programs.

The OHIO Guarantee is a new tuition and fee model that enables students and their families to budget for the total cost of their college education. This program went into effect for freshmen entering the University in 2015.

Ohio University unveiled the Global Strategy, a program that is intended to strengthen the University’s international portfolio and maintain a reputation as a truly world-wide institution.

Ohio University has instituted a new Diversity Strategic Plan in 2015. The goal of the Plan is to achieve greater diversity among faculty and staff.

The Century Bond Debt Management Strategy at Ohio University is predicted to generate a minimum of $1.4 billion over the next century, via a $250 million revolving loan program. These funds will be used to address many different needs, but much of the money presently available will be focused on critical building repairs and classroom upgrades.
For all his creativity and intelligence, his astute business and political sense, Manasseh Cutler did not have the power to gaze directly into the future. He did, however, have the ability to envision what the University might become, if nurtured and challenged in the right manner.

As Ohio University has grown from a handful of students attending classes in modest log structures on the wilderness frontier to a premier national university that educates over 40,000 students annually in world-class facilities at multiple locations throughout the state, Cutler’s original desire has become manifest. His vision, predicted through the language he used to craft our original charter, called for the University to become a place of progress, order, prosperity and honor. We have achieved all those things and more.

But we are not content to rest upon our laurels. We are a people of vision also. We see the current needs of our state, our nation and our world and have spent considerable time developing ways in which Ohio University can positively respond to help our faculty and students meet those needs. We have developed an Innovation Strategy that will enable us to provide funding to propel us forward.

We envision a future where our campuses offer key expertise and research capabilities that provide our students with real-life experience in solving real-world problems. We want to become a source of information and creative ideas for businesses, government agencies and our local communities. We see the need to become a center for the generation of business, economic and social solutions. We want to synergize the very best that industry, government and our own academic partners can provide.

Our vision for the future is that Ohio University would become a beacon to those searching for information, hope and answers. We are uniquely and ideally situated to bring that vision into fruition. Manasseh Cutler’s solid foundation has provided us with a perfect base from which to reach out and positively impact the future. His vision established a model for us – to look ever forward, to recognize what our world can be, and to identify how we as a University can continue to help create that improved reality.
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From the time he was eight years old, in his home country of Guyana, Yaphet Jackman has been focused on what the future could become. His lifelong dream has been to create an institution in Guyana to teach visual arts, media and film to future filmmakers. As a graduate student at the Ohio University College of Arts and Sciences, School of Dance, Film, and Theater, he is working to make that vision a reality.

An accomplished and passionate spoken word poet, blogger and social activist, Jackman has the gift to be able to voice his concerns for the present and his aspirations for the future in a way that draws listeners in and allows them to feel his intensity and commitment. In his Film School Portrait, he describes the University as “a home where dreams live and people like you and I make them real.”

Jackman is very concerned about ways to create a better future for his country, especially one that would benefit those who have always lived there who may never get to leave. He wants to “push harder on our people and politicians to create the Guyana we all want to live in.” The vehicle of Jackman’s choice to accomplish this change is the visual and performing arts, through which he can focus on the preservation and development of culture and the arts in Guyana.

Jackman describes Guyanese leaders he admires who worked for the betterment of the future, as having “never lived in the time they operated.” Through his spoken, written and documentary efforts, it appears that he shares their lifestyles of forward focus. He also holds a vision of how bright the future can be for all, if thoughts and attitudes can be encouraged and directed in a way that will build that world. It is not surprising that in his Portrait, he referred to the streets of Ohio University as streets that are made of dreams. And it is not surprising that those streets are leading Jackman to be in a position to realize his vision for a better world.
Although it has been well over 200 years since Manasseh Cutler began his efforts to bring a university to the western frontier of America, people’s needs remain similar today as they were then. People need to establish relationships and to feel that they and their contributions to society are valued.

Cutler worked first with the federal government and then with Ohio’s brand new state government to finally bring the University’s charter to completion. He relied heavily upon his superior skills as a statesman and negotiator on a political level to make it happen. He forged strong relationships with the soldiers and frontiersmen who were exploring the new boundary to carve out the space he knew the University would need to grow as time passed.

Once the University was established, it was the relationships between the faculty members, students, local business people and state government that provided the strength that kept it going. As time passed, alumni relationships were added as graduates went out to take their places in the world. As the University actively sought to enroll people of color, women and other minorities to provide opportunity to all, additional relationships strengthened the school. Although a casual observer would perhaps describe Ohio University by its physical structures, its iconic buildings and historic, brick-lined streets, the massive shade trees and rolling landscape, it is critical to realize that the real essence of Ohio University is its people. They are the life blood, the spark that makes the University such a special and impressive place. While the campus is made of brick and mortar, the University is made of its people; administrators, faculty, staff and students, and when they begin to interact with corporations, governments and even countries at large, truly important things can happen.

Neti Gupta
Ohio University College of Art and Sciences, Center for International Studies
Political Science and Global Studies: War and Peace Double Major
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Neti Gupta has sought to interact with other people from the very beginning of her educational experience at Ohio University. She joined one of the many Learning Communities on campus and began to forge lasting bonds with fellow students from her first semester of her freshman year. She utilized the Academic Advancement Center to obtain extra help when she took a math class that was a bit outside her comfort zone. She excelled with the peer tutor who worked with her and she received an A in the class.

In her International Law class, she was afforded the opportunity to interact with a diverse group of undergraduates and graduates, which included both international and American students. “It was my most challenging and most eye-opening class.” Through this and other classes, she began to get a feel for the bigger, global picture. Gupta was also able to study abroad one semester. She studied diplomacy in Switzerland and was able to bring what she learned back to Ohio University.

She is now the president of the STAND Against Genocide group on campus. STAND is a national, student-led organization that seeks to empower individuals and communities with the tools to end genocide. Gupta explained, “I’m incredibly passionate about the things I study and STAND is a way for me to activate those passions and really do something with them and make a difference and be heard.”

Whether forming lasting relationships with freshman friends who share similar interests, interacting with a diverse group of classmates exploring challenging ideas, receiving support to travel halfway around the world to expand her understanding of diplomacy, or standing up for those in dire need, Gupta has found Ohio University a people place. However, she has learned that perhaps the most important lesson lies within, “I think comfort is something that we feel entitled to because we always have it. Getting out of your comfort zone is when you get to know yourself the most.” Gupta exemplifies the rich interpersonal relationships and people-centered nature of Ohio University.
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