The lessons I learned as an Equine Studies major at Ohio University Southern serve as solid building blocks for my career and life. I wouldn’t trade my time there for anything.”

Grace Hill, Class of 2016

Some people go through life with little thought to what they’ve achieved. It isn’t until they stop and look back that they recognize how many goals and initiatives they’ve actually completed. Southern Spotlight is a chance for our campus and community to reflect on our accomplishments.

These achievements include state and regional recognition of our excellent faculty and staff; the launch of new programs and grant-funded equipment like the Environmental Health and Safety Mobile Training Unit; and new collaborations in the community designed to enhance our region’s workforce. The Southern Campus is steadily moving to implement strategic goals to support our students and communities.

At the end of each busy day, our students keep us focused on providing affordable, high-quality degree options that make them marketable employees and integral contributors to our region.

Dr. Nicole Pennington, Dean
5 Southern Success
Southern Campus Celebrates 60 Years at Gala, Envision Conference, HAZWOPER, Women Speak, Reorganizing for Students

10 Student Achievements
Students Win at Expo Again, Southern KDP Welcomes New Members, Nurses at Statehouse, Graduation

14 Faculty & Staff Achievements
Nursing Staff Changes, Two RHE Faculty Awards, Robert Pleasant Receives Ally Award, Southern Welcomes Sarah Diamond Burroway, Dr. Hayley Haugen Hosts Poetry Reading and Book Signing

20 Alumni Highlights
Jan Rader Recognized as 2017 Ohio University Southern Alumni Leadership Award Winner

21 Notable Events
The Proctorville Center Hosts 24th Annual Bobcat Bash, Volunteers Welcome New Students, MLK and Accessibility Luncheon, 2017 Bernard L. Edwards Golf Tournament, 18th Annual EMPixx Awards

25 Service to Our Communities
Weyerhauser Equine Partnership, SNA Food Drive, March of Dimes, Red Nose Day
Southern Success

Southern Campus celebrates 60 years of changing lives at gala

Faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of Ohio University Southern celebrated 60 years of transforming lives at a Gala Saturday, Nov. 5. The Riffe Center Rotunda was transformed and more than 175 individuals enjoyed an evening of food, music and memories at the formal event.

In 1956, the Southern Campus, then known as the “Ironton Branch,” began offering night classes at the old Ironton High School. Since its inception, the university has changed with its community. The first permanent building, the Collins Center, was dedicated in 1985. Today, Ohio University Southern includes the four-building campus in Ironton, the Proctorville Center, the Ohio Horse Park in Franklin Furnace and the Child Development Center in Hanging Rock.

Ohio University Southern has continually evaluated the needs of the region, and it has evolved over the years to provide education and training pertinent to a changing business and industrial landscape. Additionally, the university community strives to give back to the citizens that willed Ohio University Southern into existence so many decades ago.

Dean Dr. Nicole Pennington hosted the event, which included speakers Dr. Roderick J. McDavis, President Emeritus of Ohio University, and Dr. Bill Dingus, first dean of Ohio University Southern, and music by Joe Freeman Entertainment. Pennington said that the evening was a unique opportunity to look back at the university’s progress while looking ahead to a new Student Resource Commons.

“It’s easy to forget all that each of us do every day to move the university forward,” Pennington said. “Events such as the 60th Anniversary Gala allow us to stop for a moment and reflect on how far we’ve really come.” Pennington added, “This evening also gave us a chance to share our plans for the new Student Resource Commons and to raise money to support that effort.”

Student Nicholas Burge was given the opportunity to attend as a guest. He said, “The Gala made me excited for where our campus is heading and heightened the value I hold for it. I enjoyed having such a personal experience with important figures in the community and this college.”
Ohio University Southern hosted more than 60 participants at the inaugural “Envision Access” conference March 24. The program featured speakers who focused on various aspects of supporting students with disabilities.

Keynote speaker Dr. J. Webster Smith, currently professor of speech communication in the Ohio University School of Communication Studies, was born blind in Chicago, Illinois. Smith feels that as a blind African American, it is important to expand the term diversity and to “incorporate every effort necessary to create an environment that encourages openness and understanding.”

Dr. Carey Busch, assistant dean for Student Accessibility at Ohio University, lead a session about students transitioning to post-secondary education. Busch feels that the inclusion of people with disabilities is a community issue.

“The Envision Access conference provided an avenue for the community to discuss ways that we all contribute to creating access,” Busch said. “I was impressed with the number of individual connections I saw happen at the conference that will result in future actions and collaborations and I am proud of the leadership Ohio University Southern has shown regarding access and inclusion in the Tri-State area.”

Dianne Bouvier, director for Equal Opportunity and Accessibility, ADA/504 Coordinator and University Equity and Civil Rights Compliance at Ohio University, believes that there is a growing focus on accessibility issues.

“Momentum is growing throughout Ohio University to work toward becoming more intentionally inclusive and accessible for persons in our community who live with disabilities,” Bouvier said. “The leadership at the Southern Campus has been integral to this work and Envision Access is a concrete example of enacting that commitment.”

The event was hosted by the Ohio University Southern Council on Diversity and Inclusion and Accessibility Services. Robert Pleasant, then-diversity and inclusion coordinator, and Teresa McKenzie, campus accessibility coordinator, were the main organizers of the event.

McKenzie said that the idea for the Envision Access conference was started over lunch with Pleasant.

“We discussed what we can do for our students, community and staff—particularly our students and community members with disabilities. Watching that idea go from discussion to reality was rewarding and more work than I suspected,” McKenzie shared. “Listening to Dr. Smith and hearing feedback from the attendees reinforced my belief that this conference is needed and a good idea. In the end, I would and will do it all again.”

McKenzie added, “I really saw that people get ‘it’ – the fact that students with disabilities can go to college, can succeed in college and all they need is help making the transition.”
Most people never want to think about chemical spills or accidents where hazardous material or biological waste becomes a threat – but numerous men and women are trained to deal with these situations and to be prepared in case they are needed.

A key component of preparedness is having the right equipment and knowing how to use it properly and safely. June 29, the community had an opportunity to view a demonstration and to tour the new 35-foot goose-neck, multi-mission Environmental Health and Safety Mobile Training Unit full of the necessary training tools and equipment as it was unveiled at Ohio University Southern. The trailer will serve as a portable multi-function hazardous material training facility which will be utilized across the region for both college credit and non-credit training programs.

The trailer will be used for Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard (HAZWOPER) training in accordance with OSHA standards. Dr. Craig Bowe, director of the Environmental Engineering Technology (EVT) program at the Southern Campus, said, “This protocol was instituted to protect employees who may be exposed to hazardous material or a biological hazard while working.” Purchased with funds awarded by the Regionally Aligned Priorities in Delivering Skills (RAP-IDS) grant, the Southern Campus is collaborating with grant partners Shawnee State University, the University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College, Southern State Community College and the Ohio Higher Education Commission to provide workforce training to the region.

The partner universities have been working together since 2015 on a training plan that focuses on three sectors – environmental safety, additive manufacturing and healthcare. Ohio University Southern’s Director of External Relations Sarah Diamond Burroway sees the collaboration as an exciting and economical approach to providing essential training.

“The quality of education and training in a community is closely linked to its economic competitiveness and quality of life.

“Pooling equipment and training resources in the targeted sectors, especially in times of limited fiscal resources, ensures the region’s post-secondary institutions are focused on workforce development to further the economic growth of students and business in southeast Ohio,” she said.

“Here in southeastern Ohio there is a base to build skilled labor through regional needs of healthcare, logistics and manufacturing.”

She added, “One industry that cuts through all three of those needs is environmental health and safety training, which would be aided by this portable training lab.”

Shawnee State University in conjunction with the University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College manage the Additive Manufacturing Training Unit, “Manufacturing on the Move.” Southern State Community College oversees the project component centered on Healthcare Patient Simulators funded by the grant award.
Fourteen female writers shared their essays and poetry as part of “Women Speak,” an event of the Women of Appalachia Project, March 31 in the Mains Rotunda of Ohio University Southern. The juried writers represent a diverse convening of women from Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia.

Kari Gunter-Seymour founded the Women of Appalachia Project out of frustration with the negative stereotype of the Appalachian woman as substandard, uneducated and incapable. In 2009, she set out to dispel the discrimination she and countless others had experienced firsthand.

“If you are from Appalachia, you grow to realize early on, that many people have an image of an Appalachian woman, and they look down on her,” Gunter-Seymour said.

Gunter-Seymour encouraged participation from women artists of diverse backgrounds, ages and experiences to come together, embracing the stereotype, to show the whole woman; beyond the superficial factors that people use to judge her.

Hosting the Woman of Appalachia Project promotes culture and Appalachian heritage, said Dr. Nicole Pennington, dean of Ohio University Southern. “I am pleased to host the Women Speak event, celebrating the poetry and stories written by these exceptional Appalachian women writers,” Pennington said.

The Southern Campus will host the 9th Annual “Women Speak” and fine arts exhibit in October 2017.
Ohio University Southern’s commitment to customer service continued July 1 with the official combination of the Student Services and Resource Commons departments. The new department has been named Student Resource Commons. The reorganization also focuses on cross-training staff to handle increased student needs throughout the academic year, and the changes resulted in operational savings to the campus of approximately $52,600.

The new Student Resource Commons is under the administrative direction of Dr. Salome Nnoromele, who joined Ohio University Southern in July as the associate dean. Nnoromele comes to the Southern Campus from Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) and brings with her more than 25 years of higher education experience. During her tenure at EKU, Nnoromele achieved the rank of full professor, with a strong record of scholarship – including national and international recognition. She has served as a department chair, program coordinator, founding coordinator of the freshman academy for diverse students and founding director for the upper-class academy for diverse students’ retention and success. Nnoromele brings her broad range of experience to the Southern Campus to enrich the new division.

Additionally, Robert Pleasant, formerly Ohio University Southern director of Diversity and Inclusion and coordinator of the College Credit Plus program, was named associate director of the unit.

Dr. Nicole Pennington, Dean of Ohio University Southern, believes that the combined department will ensure a more seamless experience for Southern Campus students. “Our campus is always striving to improve the services and support for our students. We want to do anything that we can to make sure our students can be successful. Strong support services are key to helping them achieve their goals.”

The Student Resource Commons will oversee a range of services for students including academic advising, diversity programming, financial aid assistance, counseling services, College Credit Plus programming, student activities support, veteran programs, accessibility services, library resources, testing and other assistance.

The reorganization was a collaborative six-month process. “Members of the committee were a cross-functional representation of our campus. They explored numerous best practices to serve our students in the most efficient and effective way possible,” said Pennington.

**Facilities Update**

**Student Resource Commons Planning Study**

An architectural firm was brought on board to prepare a planning study to define the building renovations needed to the existing library, testing and tutoring rooms to house the newly organized Student Resource Commons. The total renovation cost is estimated to be approximately $3 million.

**Proctorville Site Improvements**

This $400,000 project — including construction of two regulation-size soccer fields, a half-mile, paved walking path, a new 40-space parking lot, a storm water retention pond with a water feature and other related site improvements — is now underway.

**Fire Alarm and EMass Notification System**

This proposed system will also provide a means to transmit recorded or live voice messages in the case of an emergency to instruct the campus. The total estimated project cost is $194,000 and construction will be complete in November of 2017.
For the second year in a row, Ohio University Southern students were awarded first place in the Regional Higher Education presentations at the Student Research and Creative Activity Expo in Athens on April 6. The group also won second place in the nursing category.

This multi-discipline, collaborative group included students and faculty from the nursing, art and computer science and technology programs. The group researched various topics including Multiple Sclerosis, Cystic Fibrosis and Calcified Placenta and used its results and campus technology, including a 3-D printer, to create a website.

The 3-D printer and collaborative project were a result of a vision that started more than two years ago. Faculty and staff members representing the departments of art, nursing, computer technology and electronic media came together to apply for an Ohio University 1804 Fund award to bring this capability to the Southern Campus.

Associate Professor Beth Delaney said, “I’m really amazed by how professional the projects looked and how well they were presented.”

Nursing student and President of the Student Nursing Association Katie Frasher was one of the team members. Frasher said that the 3-D printing project and Expo experience were phenomenal.

“I thoroughly enjoyed collaborating with other disciplines outside of my nursing cohort,” Frasher said. “I was able to learn about the talents, specialties and skills of the CTCH and Art students and it was so great to be able to watch their creativity come to life.”

“At first, I wasn’t completely sure what to expect with this project, but with much determination our group was able to make it come together. The outcome was even better than any of us expected. We all put so much hard work into this project, the opportunity to present at the main campus in Athens was unforgettable. I am so grateful for the experiences and friendships that came along with being a part of this project,” Frasher added.

Team members included: Joshua Blevins, Patricia Fannin, Katie Frasher, Charles Hannah, Morgan Harris, Christian Jividen, Amanda Kristy, Nicholas Lewis, Emily Monnig, Carleigh Munn, Megan Murphy, Jennifer Niemer, Michael Ooten, Emily Pratt, Shane Russell, Jarrod Schneider, Linda Stewart and Alexis Wright.

The Ohio University Southern Psi Epsilon Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi (KDP) welcomed eight new members April 21. Chelsea Blackburn, Megan Fields, Madison Johnson, Johna Miller, Shalyn Miller, Brookelyn Sargent, Mariah Seth and Chelsea Yapp were initiated as new members to the international honor society for educators.

Each chapter of KDP is required to recruit and initiate members from the top students in the education program. To be eligible to become a member of KDP, candidates must demonstrate leadership attributes and commitment to equity, have a GPA of at least 3.0, be in the top 20 percent of their class, have at least six hours of education classes and have completed at least 24 hours of collegiate course work.

Brandy Bruce, vice president of the Psi Epsilon Chapter, said that this year’s inductees more than met these requirements – they exceeded them.

Bruce also said that this year included a larger than usual inductee class, which was a welcome infusion of talent to the local chapter. “This past year has been a trying year for our chapter since almost all the members graduated last year,” Bruce said. “This year president Cody Chaffins, secretary Dakota Taylor, treasurer Cory McKnight and myself took it upon ourselves to be at almost every event, since we only had a few members to help with community service, duties and chapter responsibilities.”

continued on page 11
Southern Campus Represented at Nurses Day at the Statehouse

Sixteen faculty members and graduating BSN students traveled to Ohio’s capital on March 22 to represent the Southern Campus at Nurses Day at the Statehouse. The event, sponsored by the Ohio Nurses Association, welcomed more than 400 nurses and nursing students who spent the day meeting and speaking with legislators about key topics impacting nurses statewide.

The experience was also part of a course called Nursing Excellence (NRSE 4600), which focuses on the relationship between professional nursing and healthcare policy. The course emphasizes the nurse's role as a patient advocate in healthcare policy and politics.

For senior Carleigh Munn, the trip was eye opening. Munn said, “I understand now that nurses statewide are experiencing the same problems we are in our small towns of Ironton, Ohio, and Ashland, Kentucky. I have never been involved in a meeting with legislators, nor have I been around that many nurses in one room. It was a very interesting experience, and I felt very privileged to be there.”

This year, a primary focus was the need for legislation that would ensure safe staffing levels and that would limit mandatory overtime for nurses working across Ohio – to ensure patient safety and quality of care. Also, participants were introduced to new ways to reach out to their representatives. Jeb Ory, CEO and co-founder of Phone-2-Action, led a presentation about the impact that nurses can have by utilizing tools like social media to engage with lawmakers at the state and federal level.

Senior Sharnece Smith felt the day was a valuable experience. “I felt that it gave me more insight into what lobbying is about and more about the process that it takes to get laws introduced into the legislature,” Smith said. “When the legislators were on stage and talking about the issues that they want to get passed or changed for their district, I was happy to learn that they actually cared about the issues that nurses deal with on a daily basis such as understaffing, grants to further education and nurse turnover percentage.”

(From left to right) Martha Evans (faculty sponsor), Chelsea Tapp, Shalyn Miller, Cody Claffins (President), Dakota Taylor (Secretary), Jonah Miller, Mariah Seth, Brookelyn Sargent, Brandy Bruce (Vice President), Chelsea Blackburn and Megan Fields (Photo by Ohio University Southern student alumna Rachael Layne)

continued from page 10

“This past year, our chapter hosted a Safe Trick or Treat on campus; we donated more than a hundred books and baked cookies for the children at The Ronald McDonald House in Huntington, West Virginia; members volunteered at a prom for those with disabilities called ‘A Night to Shine’ and read and donated books to every child at the Ohio University Southern Child Development Center,” Bruce said. “We are excited to see what we will be able to accomplish next year with all the help from our new members.”

Taylor was also pleased to see the larger than usual number of new inductees. “These eight new members recognize the opportunities and values that Kappa Delta Pi provides for them,” Taylor said. “In the Tri-State region, we continue to witness a decline in our communities. Through KDP, all members have numerous opportunities to impact our communities in positive and beneficial ways. I hope we can continue to grow and gain more willing and hard-working members, so we can reach our full potential and bring significant changes to our community.”
On Dec. 9, faculty and staff warmly welcomed graduates and their families to the Bowman Auditorium on the Ohio University Southern Campus for two recognition events.

The first of these was the Pinning and Recognition Ceremony, which was hosted Friday afternoon to honor the 25 graduates of the Associate Degree in Nursing program. The Nursing Pinning Ceremony is designed to formally welcome new nurses into the profession. Each graduate is presented a pin by a member of the nursing faculty.

Katie Gould, Outstanding Nursing Student Graduate for her class, said, “Although we may have our own reasons for being here, I believe we share a few commonalities. We each have a heart for caring, we are devoted to our services and we feel called to serve more than just ourselves.”
Friday evening, the university honored 149 students who completed their degrees in the summer or fall semesters, 52 of whom attended that evening. The Fall Graduate Recognition Ceremony is a time of celebration – the ending of one chapter in life as another begins – a time for new beginnings as graduates leave the university to take on new challenges and goals.

Dean of Ohio University Southern Dr. Nicole Pennington acknowledged the dedication and sacrifice of graduates. Pennington said, “I commend the individuals who have overcome great odds to earn a college degree. Many have worked while completing courses—some have even worked more than one job. For others, they are the first in their family to attend college.” She added, “And I know we have single parents who have been raising children as they worked on their degree to provide a better life for them. We are so proud of every graduate and their perseverance.”
Assistant Professor of Nursing Mashawna Hamilton was recently named Associate Director of Nursing at Ohio University Southern. Hamilton has been educating student nurses at the Southern Campus since 2005.

Hamilton will be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day management of approximately 200 students within both the Associate of Science in Nursing (ADN) and the traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Degree Programs. She will Co-report to Ohio University Southern Dean Dr. Nicole Pennington (Ironton, Ohio) and Director of the Ohio University School of Nursing/Associate Executive Dean for Nursing Education Dr. Deborah Henderson (Athens, Ohio).

Hamilton is excited to begin a new chapter in nursing education as she takes on the challenge of serving students through her new role. Hamilton said, “Throughout my career at Ohio University Southern I have strived for excellence in fulfilling all aspects of my role as a faculty member. I am truly passionate about the teaching and learning that occurs during nursing education.” She added, “I take great pride in participating in the production of competent and compassionate graduate nurses who will enter the workforce both in our local communities and across the nation. I believe the investment I have and will continue to make into each student’s educational journey will be reflected in the care they deliver as they practice nursing. I feel there is no other arena in nursing where a greater impact can be made on the future of global healthcare than in nursing education. I look forward to this new experience and the opportunities it will allow me to support student success!”

During her years with Ohio University Southern, Hamilton was awarded the 2014 Elsevier Leading Stars in Education (ELSIE) Award. This is a national annual award recognizing the work of outstanding nursing faculty members who show exceptional skill, innovation and effectiveness in promoting student learning, professionalism and self-confidence. Hamilton was also recognized by Ohio Magazine for Excellence in Education and has been the recipient of the Ohio University Southern Outstanding Faculty Award for Teaching. She has published manuscripts regarding innovative teaching strategies and presented at multiple national, regional and state nursing conferences. She was tenured and promoted to associate professor in 2017.

Hamilton earned her bachelor of science in nursing from Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia in 1996 and a master of science in nursing, with an emphasis in nursing education, from Ohio University in 2009. She has a diverse clinical background focusing primarily on cardiac and respiratory patients and improving the health of the patient, family and community through community nursing.

Hamilton is both a native and current resident of Greenup County, Kentucky, where she resides with her husband of 23 years, Tim. She is also the proud mother of two Ohio University Southern Bobcats, Elijah and Emma.

Hamilton replaces former Associate Director of Nursing Molly Johnson who has been named the Assessment and Evaluation Coordinator for all Ohio University nursing programs including the Associate Degree in Nursing.
Two Ohio University Southern faculty members recognized for excellence, dedication

Two Ohio University Southern faculty members were recognized for their demonstrated excellence both in teaching and scholarship and for their outstanding record of service to the campus and university at the April 27 Graduate Recognition Ceremony.

Each year the regional campus system of Ohio University recognizes the outstanding performance of a professor and lecturer. This year, Associate Professor of Sociology Dr. Charles Jarrett was selected as the Regional Higher Education Outstanding Professor. Director of the Equine Studies program Kelly Hall was selected as the Regional Higher Education Outstanding Lecturer. Nominations are solicited from all of Ohio University’s regional campuses.

Both Jarrett and Hall have been an integral part of the Southern Campus, and their service has helped thousands of students achieve their academic, life and professional goals over the years.

Jarrett, who has been teaching for 33 years, has been recognized for excellence in education by Ohio Magazine, has received the Faculty Profiles in Achievement video series and has been recognized twice as a faculty newsmaker.

Ohio University Southern Dean Dr. Nicole Pennington said, “Dr. Charles Jarrett is a wonderful faculty member who truly cares about his students. He is very much deserving of the RHE Outstanding Professor Award.”

Jarrett said that he was incredibly honored to be recognized for this award. “The Regional Higher Education Outstanding Professor Award is absolutely the highest career honor a regional campus faculty member can receive. I consider this award a capstone achievement, a validation of my efforts to be the consummate professional educator,” Jarrett said.

He continued, “My research of the Gullah/Geechee community has taken me to the Sea Islands of South Carolina. I have been profoundly affected on a personal and professional level. My National Public Radio stories are an attempt to preserve this unique indigenous culture and promote social and cultural diversity among our students and the residents of southeastern Ohio.”

Molly Johnson

Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Master of Science in Nursing and Doctor of Nursing Practice at the Chillicothe, Southern, Zanesville and Athens campuses. Ohio University Southern will remain her home campus; however, Johnson will divide her time between all campuses.

Pennington said, “Molly’s extensive experience in assessment and evaluation will be of great benefit to the School of Nursing. Due to the growing programs at all campuses, the need for someone to be dedicated to this role has become crucial.”

Johnson is both a native and current resident of Lawrence County, Kentucky. She earned her bachelor of science in nursing from Marshall University and a master of science in nursing, with a pediatric nurse practitioner specialization, from the University of Kentucky. She has been certified by the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board as a pediatric nurse practitioner since 2005.

Teaching at Ohio University Southern since 2008, Johnson earned a Nurse Educator Certification from the National League for Nursing in 2012. She was tenured and promoted to associate professor in 2015.

continued from page 14

Molly Johnson

continued on page 16

Dr. Charles Jarrett
Hall, who has been teaching at Ohio University Southern for 18 years, has been director of the Equine Studies program for 10 years.

Pennington said that Hall is incredibly passionate about her program and her students. “She is committed to the success of her students and goes above and beyond. I am so pleased that her good work has been recognized with this special award,” Pennington added.

Hall said, “Many people do not understand the work we do in the Equine Studies Program and the Center for Therapeutic Horsemanship. This award illustrates that others recognize the hard work and passion that goes into teaching people about horses and how horses can improve the quality of life for people with challenges. I am thankful for the opportunity that Ohio University has given me to do what I love and believe in.”

Robert Pleasant wins Ohio University Accessibility Ally Award

Robert Pleasant almost always has someone sitting outside of his office door waiting to speak to him. With an easy smile and a “get it done” attitude, Pleasant who coordinates diversity and inclusion at the Southern Campus – along with his other duties – is always looking for ways to educate the campus community about how we can welcome everyone to the table. This passion for what he does often makes Pleasant a busy man, but he balances it with ease.

Pleasant was recognized for his hard work as he was awarded the 2017 Accessibility Ally Award at the 2017 University College Honors Ceremony hosted by the Athena Cinema in Athens on April 19. The award, introduced this year, recognized Pleasant for being an excellent advocate who has kept disability and accessibility a central consideration in the work that he does at Ohio University Southern.

Dean of Ohio University Southern Dr. Nicole Pennington said, “Robert is a true champion for making sure that our campus is serving all students to the very best of our ability. He is a strong student advocate and is always looking for ways to improve access and service to students.”

Dr. Carey Busch, assistant dean for Student Accessibility at Ohio University, said that she was personally very excited that Robert was one of the award’s first recipients. “I have had the pleasure of partnering with him for several years and have greatly appreciated his proactive approach to accessibility,” Busch said. “I think the support that he provides to our office at the Southern Campus as well as his work to keep disability as a part of the diversity conversation has led to a culture that will allow for students with disabilities to experience greater inclusion in the community and better support their success.”

The Accessibility Ally Award recognizes members of the Ohio University community who approach their work with students in a way that is inclusive of all abilities and supports the success and persistence of students with disabilities.
Ohio University Southern welcomes Sarah Diamond Burroway as director of external relations

On Nov. 14 Ohio University Southern welcomed Sarah Diamond Burroway as the new director of external relations. Burroway comes to the Southern Campus with a wealth of related experience in the Tri-State including her work with the Appalachian Family and Children First Council, the Lawrence County Board of Developmental Disabilities and most recently as director of grants and contracts at Ashland Community and Technical College.

Burroway’s work will focus on growing community relationships and bringing resources to the Southern Campus. “Our relationships and resources are vital to assisting students in achieving success and to meeting our goals as an institution,” she said. “I’m currently learning everything I can about our programs both in Ironton and Proctorville. My goals include working to secure funding for the new Student Resource Commons, student scholarships, science labs, as well as our growing nursing, equine studies and electronic media programs.”

“Ohio University Southern recently celebrated its 60th anniversary. We’ve shaped thousands of lives during those six decades, and our students, faculty, staff, alumni and community are the reasons behind our longevity,” Dean Dr. Nicole Pennington said. “But there’s still work to do to meet and stay ahead of workforce demands in the region. Sarah Diamond Burroway will work to secure grants, gifts and strategic partnerships to advance our goals – and we’re incredibly excited to have her aboard in this role.”

Southern Campus faculty member
Dr. Hayley Haugen hosts poetry reading and book signing

On Thursday, Dec. 1, in the Student Resource Commons, Southern Campus faculty member Dr. Hayley Haugen hosted a poetry reading and signed copies of her new book, “What the Grimm Girl Looks Forward To.”

“What the Grimm Girl Looks Forward To is close to my heart because it is my first published collection. The book contains 28 poems, selected from the past 20 years of my poetry. A few poems are from when I was in my twenties, and the book also contains my most recent poems as well.” ~ Dr. Haugen
NEW FACULTY & ADVANCEMENTS:

Mashawna Hamilton (Nursing) received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor.
Ginger Hardy (Nursing) was promoted to Senior Lecturer.
Dr. Debbie Marinski (Associate Professor of History) assumed the role of Academic Division Coordinator on July 1.

Michelle Napier joined Nursing as a Group II faculty member.
Nicole Stumbo joined Nursing as a Group II faculty member.
Michelle Theiss advanced from a Group II position in Nursing to become a Group I faculty member.
Tonya Lewis joined Nursing as a Group IV faculty member.

FACULTY RHE AWARDS:

Dr. Charles Jarrett (Associate Professor, Sociology) received the Regional Higher Education Award for Outstanding Faculty.

Kelly Hall (Senior Lecturer, Equine Studies) received the Regional Higher Education Award for Outstanding Lecturer.

SOUTHERN CAMPUS AWARDS:

Dr. Purba Das (Associate Professor, Communication Studies) received the campus award for Outstanding Service.

Ginger Hardy (Senior Lecturer, Nursing) received the campus award for Outstanding Teaching.

Dr. Charles Jarrett (Associate Professor of Sociology) received the campus award for Outstanding Research.
**Faculty Publications & Presentations**


**Dr. Hayley Haugen (English)** published a chapbook of poems, “What the Grimm Girl Looks Forward To,” with Finishing Line Press in Georgetown, Kentucky.

**Dr. Charles Jarrett (Sociology)** will present his paper “R/UDAT: Twenty Years After” at the historic St. James Baptist Church on Freedom Day (Feb. 4) during the 20th Annual Native Islander Gullah Celebration on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. His short story “Divine Time” was accepted for publication by Joggling Board Press in Charleston, South Carolina. National Public Radio accepted his reading of the story as part of the Storyboard collection heard on affiliates in Beaufort, South Carolina.

**Dr. Orianna Carter (Biology)** wrote a forensic biology textbook through Top Hat which is being adopted for the new Special Topics in Law Enforcement Technology Advanced Forensics class this semester. She is also working on a microbiology textbook with colleagues in Canada. She will be studying at NIH for a weekend on Genomics this summer, and she recently arranged a trip for her students to visit Athens, where they toured the facilities and spoke with both faculty and graduate students in biological sciences and physical therapy.

**Ohio Horse Park Director Kelly Hall** reports that The Ohio Horse Park received a grant from the Western Dressage Association of America to host an invitational horse show on Nov. 12. Eight schools and youth clubs were represented. In other Horse Park news, Safe Harbor, a shelter for victims of domestic violence, received a grant for equine-assisted learning for the children who are living in the shelter. A social worker (and former OUS Equine Studies and Social Work graduate) will be bringing the children each week to interact with horses.

**Faculty Development & Other Notables**

**Mary Lou Malone (Director, Computer Science and Technology) and Mike Donley (IT)** presented “Uniting Interdisciplinary Groups through 3D Printing” at the ASCUE (Association Supporting Computer Users in Education) conference in June 2017.

**Michelle Theiss (Assistant Professor, Nursing)** presented “Use of Polling Software as a Review Game in Live and Asynchronous Classes” at the AURCO conference in April.

**Hayley Haugen (Associate Professor, English)** accompanied three students to the three-day Athens Literary Festival in April. Students attended 12 hours of lectures and readings by internationally known, prize-winning authors of fiction, poetry and non-fiction.

**Dr. Pat McCoy (Senior Lecturer, Fine Arts)** directed and performed in two “Music of the British Isles” themed performances presented by the Community Band in March at the Ironton Briggs Library and Morning Pointe health care. The Community Band also played in the Ironton Memorial Day parade. In coordination with Sarah Diamond Burroway, McCoy also submitted a grant request for $800 for sheet music and a band instrument repair clinic at OUS as part of a bundled Arts and Humanities grant proposal.

**Dana Scott (Assistant Professor, Nursing) and Michelle Theiss (Assistant Professor, Nursing)** coordinated field trips for the junior and senior BSN classes to go to Nurses Day at the Statehouse in Columbus, Ohio, to demonstrate to the students how nurses can get involved in the legislative process to affect laws that have an impact on health and healthcare. This was a part of their NRSE 4600 Nursing Excellence course.
Jan Rader, a 2008 graduate of the Associate Degree in Nursing program, was awarded the 2017 Dr. Dan Evans Ohio University Southern Alumni Leadership Award at the Graduate Recognition Ceremony April 27. Nominations for this award are solicited from faculty, staff, alumni and the community.

Rader is a 22-year veteran of the Huntington Fire Department. She was unanimously confirmed as Huntington fire chief in March 2016, making her the first female fire chief for a professional fire department in the state of West Virginia.

Dr. Nicole Pennington, dean of Ohio University Southern, said that she was privileged to have had Rader as a student in her class. “Her services as a professional firefighter and registered nurse at Cabell Huntington Hospital from 2008 to 2016 have made her a vital asset in combating the region’s opioid epidemic,” Pennington said. “We are absolutely honored to recognize Jan as a Southern Campus graduate and for her dedicated community leadership.”

“Chief Rader has displayed stellar leadership during the most difficult of times,” Huntington Mayor Steve Williams wrote in his appointment letter to City Council members. “She will serve with integrity and lead the Fire Department with dignity and honor.”

Rader added, “When I graduated from Ohio University Southern, my toolbox was full, and I hold several of these tools with great regard. These have served me well throughout my entire career – respect, honor and gratitude. These tools have helped me to achieve the leadership goals that I still hold today. I hope that everyone graduating is leaving with a full toolbox.”

Williams assigned her to the Mayor’s Office of Drug Control Policy in 2015, a position that she still holds today. Rader is also chairperson of the Cabell-Huntington Health Department’s Harm Reduction Program Advisory Board, which oversees a comprehensive program that assists those addicted to drugs in our community. She also serves on the Mayor’s LGBT Advisory Committee and was a member of the Lawrence County Library Board of Directors from 2005 to 2016.
Ohio University Proctorville Center hosts 24th Annual Bobcat Bash

Sunny and unseasonably warm weather marked the 24th Annual Bobcat Bash at the Ohio University Proctorville Center on Saturday, Oct. 29. Nearly 240 students, alumni, staff, donors and their families participated in this volleyball tournament and picnic, which has become a long-standing campus tradition.

Campus volunteers welcome Southern Campus students

Campus volunteers provided snacks, assistance, games and a movie – all served accompanied by a smiling face – during Welcome Week as Ohio University kicked off spring semester classes Jan. 9.

Although the details may have changed over the years, Ohio University Southern (OUS) has been hosting welcome activities for new and returning students since the 1990s. This semester, an estimated 200 students participated in Ironton. The Proctorville Center also provided snacks and assistance throughout the week.

Director of the Human Services Technology program David Nelson was one of the volunteers greeting students. “I help as a faculty member to ensure that students are supported in finding their classes and other campus offices. I also enjoy getting to meet students that I may not have in my courses.”

Student Ambassador Bill Tussey assisted with the Welcome Week information tables and activities. Tussey believes that events such as these are important for campus culture – especially for OUS since it’s a commuter campus. “It is, for many students, their first time on a college campus. Having information tables helps to ease some of the awkwardness and intimidation they may feel during those first few days of classes,” Tussey said.

In addition to the good food, camaraderie and family-friendly entertainment, the Bobcat Bash brought out the competition this year with a total of nine teams vying for the top spot. In the end, “We Hit From the Back Row” took first place. Team members included Trace Adkins, Ethan Chapman, Tiffani Christian, Brett Curry, Chad Fisher, Adam Snyder, Caitlin Stone and Rob Thompson.

Brett Curry, student and team captain, said, “Winning the Bobcat Bash was a blast. My team and I had a good time competing against great teams and fighting our way to the championship after losing our first game to last year’s defending champs. We are excited for next year so we can defend our title.”

Student Services Specialist at the Proctorville Center Corbin Purdum said that the Bobcat Bash is a team effort.

“One of the things that makes the Bobcat Bash a success is the volunteers that come out excited and ready to help with the event,” he said. “It is great to see students and faculty take pride in being a part of this rich tradition, that I am told gets better each year.”

Tina Canter assists students at an informational table during spring semester Welcome Week.

Teams compete in the 24th Annual Bobcat Bash at the Ohio University Proctorville Center.
Ohio University Southern brings accessibility to table at 2nd Annual MLK Luncheon for faculty, staff

Ohio University Southern (OUS) faculty and staff participated in the 2nd Annual MLK Luncheon Jan. 20. The focus this year was about creating a culture of inclusion for students with disabilities. Participants were asked to explore the issues that our disabled students face and how we can better assist them.

Southern Campus Accessibility Coordinator Teresa McKenzie explained to attendees that, “Disability rights are civil rights issues.”

Assistant Dean for Student Accessibility Dr. Carey Busch said that higher education has a role in shaping outcomes for people with disabilities. Although we have made some progress, there is still work to be done.

She also explained that Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a key piece of legislation pertaining to education. It states that an entity that receives federal funding must assure that all goods, programs and services are accessible to those with disabilities.

Our local Student Accessibility Services office is a central location for services, accommodations and to get answers to questions, according to McKenzie. “Our office works to make sure that all of our university services are accessible to all of our student population,” she said. “Our office also serves as a liaison for faculty and staff.”

Associate Director of Student Resource Commons Robert Pleasant said that this year’s luncheon was an opportunity. “Each year we choose a topic to focus on for the MLK Luncheon and this year I thought it was important to highlight the area of accessibility, he said. “It was our goal to expand the term ‘diversity’, and to find ways for faculty and staff to have an open dialogue about the needs of students with disabilities and our role in creating a more inclusive environment for all students.”

Busch said, “There is still an 8 percent gap in obtaining post-secondary education between students with disabilities and those without. This is compared with the 2 percent gap between the same groups as it applies to high school graduation rates.”
Golfers take to the green for an Ohio University Southern tradition

In its 14th year, the 2017 Bernard L. Edwards Golf Tournament hosted 22 teams to the Guyan Golf and Country Club on Monday, May 1. The day started off wet; however, after a brief delay golfers ended the day with sunshine.

It’s well known that many deals have been struck, rain or sun, during a fortuitous golf outing. Legend has it that the Ohio University Proctorville Center’s current facility grew out of a conversation during an outing nearly two decades ago between the tournament’s namesake and another community fixture, Marshall Smith.

As the story goes, Edwards and Smith were golfing and the idea was proposed that Smith donate 19 acres of land on State Route 775 in Proctorville to Ohio University. Smith, a proponent of education, and the Proctorville community agreed. Today, the Ohio University Proctorville Center stands in honor of the commitment of these two men and the numerous others who donated money to make today’s 18,000-square-foot center a reality.

Ohio University Proctorville Center Director Stephanie Burcham said, “Since Marshall passed, we have been looking for a way to honor his legacy at the Proctorville Center. We reached out to his family when we began organizing this year’s golf tournament, and they were very supportive of our efforts.” Burcham added, “We all knew that Marshall had an impact on our community, but weren’t aware of how far-reaching until we began speaking with people in the area. It was incredible to hear how many lives he had touched.”

Proceeds from this year’s scramble will be used for the purchase of a flag pole and flag at the Ohio University Proctorville Center as a tribute to Smith, who died in December. Greg Smith Hall at the Center honors Smith’s late son.

The Electronic Media program and the Proctorville Center share responsibilities for the tournament organization and funds raised benefit each in alternating years.

Rusty Leep, a member of the Edwards family and this year’s winning team, said that the tournament is important because each year it raises money for the regional campus — aiding the Southern Campus to continue its commitment to higher education. Leep also said, “This tournament raises awareness of the higher education opportunities available to our community through Ohio University.” Leep added, “As a member of Bernard’s family, I feel the tournament is important because I know what it meant to Bernard to bring Ohio University to our community. I see the tournament as a tribute to him and two of his passions – Ohio University and golf.”

Ohio University courses were first offered in Proctorville in 1979 at the Lawrence County Fairgrounds. From 1980-1990 they were held in Fairland High School and for the two following years at the Chesapeake Community Center. Since 1992, Ohio University courses in Proctorville had been offered in an annex of the Proctorville Village Hall. In 2001, university officials changed the name of the center from the Eastern Lawrence County Center to the Proctorville Center. This year marks the 10th year in the current facility.

The Bernard L. Edwards family team took home first place for this year’s tournament. Pictured from left to right are Gary Leep, Bryan Ward, Rusty Leep and Greg Pittman.
Ohio University Southern hosts 18th Annual EMPixx Awards

Ohio University Southern hosted more than 200 high school students from 13 schools on April 7 for the annual EMPixx Awards. In its 18th year, the experienced-based programming and awards event gives participants a chance to hear from industry professionals in Electronic Media about key topics during a variety of workshops.

Dr. Nicole Pennington, dean of Ohio University Southern, said, “[EMPixx] is an outlet where local high school students could showcase their talents. Students compete in sports, band and academic teams, but we wanted to recognize those students with artistic talent in video, audio and multimedia areas.”

Associate Professor and Director of the Electronic Media Program Don Moore said that he was honored once again to highlight area high school media talent. “We saw a wide range of projects this year, from a comedic cow turned superhero to the seriousness and depth of a breast cancer story,” Moore said. “Our Best of Show winner not only shot most of his video, but edited, wrote and recorded the music for his entry – no small feat.”

A graduate of the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University, keynote speaker Amanda Barren anchors First at 5, 5:30 Edition, News Channel 3 Six O’Clock, and NewsChannel3 Tonight on channel WSAZ.

Barren recounted her time as a student and her experience with one class in particular that focused on how to search the Internet. “I never stopped to think about what was going to come next. I thought the Internet was just for chat rooms,” Barren said. “Then, I get my first job and realize that I have to post my story on the Internet. As a broadcast journalism major, I didn’t think I had to worry about anyone reading any of my papers.”

Suddenly, grammar and punctuation became extremely important to Barren and she was reminded of another influential class, Precision Language. “I wish I could take that class again,” Barren said. “Lessons learned in that class are vital to my work every day.”

Barren told participants that she wanted them to remember that every day is important. “Everything is important. Every person that you talk to is important. Every moment is important—whether you think it is or not, there’s something valuable in each element of your day,” she said.
The Weyerhauser Family Foundation recently approved a grant underwriting a new partnership between the Ohio University Southern Center for Therapeutic Horsemanship and Safe Harbor of Northeast Kentucky.

Equine-assisted learning sessions will be provided to Safe Harbor’s children as part of their overall case plan. Safe Harbor is one of the largest domestic violence shelters and outreach facilities in Kentucky and annually provides shelter and case management for more than 300 women, men and children. Located in Ashland, Kentucky, Safe Harbor serves residents in Boyd, Greenup, Carter, Elliott and Lawrence counties.

The program will be coordinated by Kelly Hall, director of equine studies at the park, and Kelsey Crowe, Safe Harbor’s child services coordinator who also is certified in therapeutic horsemanship.

“As a collaboration of the equine studies program and social work program at Ohio University Southern, I am so excited for the opportunity to combine two things I am very passionate about in order to help and serve others. I have seen therapeutic horsemanship and equine-assisted learning help individuals time and time again, and I am so glad the families and children at Safe Harbor will get to experience this,” said Crowe.

Children of domestic violence face tremendous challenges due to the trauma experienced individually and vicariously through their family situation, Crowe explained, adding they feel estranged from family and are unable to trust others.

The program will help create a framework for the children to overcome their fears, to learn to trust again, to assist them in the healing process and to help repair and rebuild family bonds.

The Weyerhauser Family Foundation is supported and governed by members of the Weyerhauser Family. The foundation is not affiliated with the Weyerhauser Company Foundation.
SOUTHERN CAMPUS STUDENT NURSES CONTINUE A TRADITION OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

The Ohio University Southern Student Nursing Association (SNA) is always on the lookout for ways to help in the community. At the beginning of the semester, the 20-member student organization focused on food insecurities in the region. The group generally organizes one to two drives per year.

SNA President Katie Frasher feels that Southern Campus student nurses are driven to serve the community because of the compassion and work ethic that are inherent to nursing. “Many [students] are juggling school work, jobs and families – never an easy task – and yet many of them are always willing to help in every way they can,” she said.

Frasher got involved with the SNA because she enjoys interacting with the other nursing classes and cohorts. She said, “We all share so many similarities. It’s great to have support from upperclassmen that have been in your shoes and to also be able to help provide support to the underclassmen and offer advice and study tips that helped me get through.”

“Being a part of this group has been one of my favorite parts of nursing school,” Frasher added.

Southern Campus team raises nearly $900 to benefit March for Babies Walk

This year’s Ohio University Southern team raised nearly $900 and participated in the March of Dimes “March for Babies Walk” April 22 in Ashland, Kentucky’s Central Park. Michaela Smith, junior BSN student, designed the team’s t-shirts and, even though the Southern Campus team didn’t win the t-shirt contest, it was a real winner in sales that went toward the team’s goal and was part of the nearly $72K raised at the event.

Associate Professor of Nursing Beth Delaney lead the team from the Southern Campus. Participating in the event for the past 10 years, the team was comprised mainly of nursing students and their families dedicated to the cause of helping mothers and babies for generations to come.

“As team captain, I am so thankful to the students, faculty and staff at Ohio University Southern who donated their money, time and energy to this year’s fundraising efforts,” Delaney

continued on page 27
Southern Campus Student Nursing Association participates in Red Nose Day

For the second year in a row the Ohio University Southern Student Nurses Association (SNA) participated in the Red Nose Day for America campaign on May 25. Red Nose Day was established to increase awareness and support for children living in poverty.

The SNA collected non-perishable food items for Harvest for the Hungry, an interdenominational food pantry located in Ironton, Ohio. The food pantry has operated since 1992 from contributions and donations, helping families in need in Lawrence County, Ohio.

Red Nose Day is a fundraising campaign run by the non-profit organization Comic Relief Inc., a registered U.S. 501(c)(3) public charity. Red Nose Day brings people together to have fun, raise money and change the lives of kids who need our help the most. Launched in the U.S. in 2015, the effort is dedicated to ending child poverty, both in the U.S. and in some of the poorest communities in the world. The money raised by Red Nose Day in the U.S. has benefited programs for children and young people in all 50 states and in 25 countries internationally.

Associate Professor of Nursing Beth Delaney said that the goal of Southern Campus participants was to raise awareness of the number of children who live in poverty and in some cases wonder where their next meal may come from. “Simply being aware of the needs in your community and stopping to think twice about what you might have that others don’t have is worth taking a moment to pause and reflect on,” added Delaney.

Associate degree nursing student Brianna Wilson knows very well the importance of providing nutritional meals to children. “I have three children of my own and being able to give food to local kids in the community is a blessing to me. I am able to feed my children every day and I don’t think any child should have to suffer without food,” said Wilson.