SOUTHERN SPOTLIGHT
60 YEARS OF CHANGING LIVES

3-D PRINTING TEAM WINS AT EXPO
FIRST BSN CLASS AT SOUTHERN GRADUATES
SOUTHERNMOST CAFÉ OPENS

2015-2016

Ohio University Southern
Ohio.edu/Southern
Six decades of changing lives at Ohio University Southern

It was a time when families gathered on Sunday nights to watch the Ed Sullivan show, when an individual could buy a car for $2,100 and when postage stamps were only three cents. This was the year that Elvis was taking over the airways and the average annual salary was $5,300.

It was also in 1956 that Ohio University Southern, then known as the “Ironton Branch,” began offering night classes at the old Ironton High School.

Throughout 2016, Ohio University Southern is celebrating six decades of changing lives and the university community has been looking back on our progress throughout the year. We are also looking ahead to our future of serving students in Ohio, northeastern Kentucky, western West Virginia and beyond – as new online courses open our doors to the world.

Just as in the early days, Ohio University Southern is committed to serving the needs of a diverse student population. Whether individuals come to us directly from high school, as an adult returning to the classroom after many years in the work force or as a first-time adult student, course subjects and schedules at Ohio University Southern are designed to meet their needs.

One of five regional campuses within the Ohio University system, Ohio University Southern has grown tremendously. 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.

From its humble beginnings of offering two-year evening courses for cadet teachers to having more than 30 high quality, low-cost degree and certificate programs, Ohio University Southern remains true to its mission of providing quality higher education opportunities for those whose commitments to jobs and families inspire them to remain within their communities while attending college.

Since its inception, the university has changed with its community. 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.

Today, Ohio University Southern employs nearly 80 full-time staff members and our most popular programs include the bachelor’s degrees in Early and Middle Childhood Education; Social Work; Nursing; and Healthcare Administration. Our associate's degrees in Environmental Engineering Technology, Equine Studies, Law Enforcement Technology and Electronic Media offer students educational options that are truly unique to our region.

Throughout its 60 years, one thing has remained constant. Ohio University Southern provides the academic experience of a nationally recognized research educational institution, while maintaining the individual attention and personal touch associated with a small-campus atmosphere.
Southern Success

A look back at the noteworthy accomplishments of Ohio University Southern that support the campus’ five-year strategic goals to:

- Increase enrollment, retention, course-completion and graduation rates
- Enhance campus environment and culture
- Cultivate new partnerships and revenue streams

BSN Program Received Approval Status

At OUS the first BSN class started in 2012 and graduated in May 2016. Additionally, the program was required to meet and maintain the requirements of Chapter 4723-5 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

OUS Dean, Nicole Pennington, said that a full review and comprehensive site visit of the program by the Ohio Board of Nursing occurred in late March. “I am so proud of our nursing faculty and staff for the hard work and dedication that they have put into this process, and I’m excited to now watch the program grow,” Pennington said.

Pennington said that OUS has had a two-year Registered Nurse (RN) degree since 2003, and the university added a four-year BSN degree to meet local industry needs. “Our region has a vital need for nursing professionals, and I’m happy that Southern can fill this need with our skilled BSN graduates.”

Pennington knows first-hand the work that went into bringing the degree to OUS and also what it means to produce highly-qualified BSN graduates for this region.

“I can tell you there were moments that we didn’t think we would be here,” she said. “It took hard work, dedication and perseverance on the part of many to make this program a reality – and I’m so glad we succeeded.”

Charles Baldwin, a BSN graduate and winner of both the Spirit of Nursing award and Outstanding Graduate award, has been intrigued by the medical field since he was a teenager. Baldwin said, “I wanted to be a pediatrician in high school, but at that time I didn’t know how I would pay for college— I just didn’t know how I could make it happen.”

“So, Baldwin worked and raised three children with his wife Angela. Two of his children were born premature and spent time in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). He wanted so badly to do what the nurses taking care of his children were doing. When his job at a leading retailer was eliminated, Baldwin took this as a sign that he should go back to school.

He, too, said that he couldn’t have done this without the support from family – his wife and children and also his nursing “family.”

He said that his nursing “family” was also a key throughout the past four years. “We couldn’t have done this without the tremendous staff and each other,” he said. “We’ve all been there for each other through tough assignments, marriages, births and deaths – just about every life event you can think of.”

Baldwin plans to work at Kings Daughters Medical Center and he hopes to realize his dream and eventually to work in the NICU.

First BSN class at Southern graduates

More than 300 Ohio University Southern (OUS) diplomas were granted this spring – and 18 of these were to students who were recognized as the first graduates of the OUS Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

As the former Associate Director of Nursing at OUS, Dean Nicole Pennington addresses the crowd during the 2016 pinning ceremony. (Photo courtesy of OUS student Jeffrey McClelland)
For students seeking answers about various facets of their academic career, navigating university channels to find answers can be frustrating. Ohio University Southern (OUS) launched an innovative way to provide student-centered support with a new case management approach to advising last October.

Students at OUS are paired with both an academic and a Student Services advisor that will follow them throughout their academic career at OUS. Prior to this case management approach, OUS used a traditional model of assigning students to a faculty advisor and a financial aid counselor who operated separately from one another. If students had questions about other topics, such as academic probation, they would be assisted on a first-come-first-served basis by a Student Services staff member.

Kim Keffer, director of Enrollment and Student Services, said that this new approach will allow OUS to provide a strong support system for students. She said, “This two-person team will work together to provide students with more comprehensive and personal service at our campus.”

Team advising assignments are based on a student’s declared major. This allows each faculty advisor to have a partner who can assist students with financial aid, guide a student through academic probation, explain additional services available to students and serve as an interim source of information during faculty vacation times.

“When students visit Student Services they will now have a point person to help them with the different components of their academic experience,” she said. “[Students] won’t speak to different individuals depending on their issue or question. Instead, one person will be coordinating with the student’s faculty advisor to make sure that we are providing students with all of the information needed to make the best choices for their personal situation.”
In February, Ohio University Southern Campus (OUS) opened a new, dedicated Lactation Room for new mothers on campus. The space was designed to add a comfortable, private and quite space for nursing mothers.

OUS Director of External Relations Viviane Vallance said, “As a working mother, having a Lactation Room is very reassuring for me, and I can continue providing for my two-month-old daughter.” Vance added, “In today’s modern society, all businesses should take note. We have a duty to accommodate our diverse workforce when needed and OUS has gone above and beyond.”

Dean Nicole Pennington worked with campus staff to identify space after recognizing the need to provide new moms a private and comfortable location to pump or breastfeed. Having been a non-traditional student when she was pursuing her education as a new mother, she identifies with the issues that new moms face while pursuing their own education. “I understand, first-hand, the challenges many of our students face while juggling me, and I can continue providing for my two-month-old daughter.” Vance added, “In today’s modern society, all businesses should take note. We have a duty to accommodate our diverse workforce when needed and OUS has gone above and beyond.”

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Dean Pennington has a long history of supporting new mothers. Her professional background includes years of experience as a maternal-child health nurse.

Director of Facilities Management Adam Riehl explained that in addition to the new Lactation room, OUS also has baby changing stations on the first floor of every building in both the men’s and women’s restrooms. Adding the changing stations to the men’s restrooms is also a recent addition to the campus. Family restrooms are available on the first floor of the Dingus Center and the third floor of the Riffe Center.

“Dean Pennington has made a special effort to make our campus and facilities family-friendly,” Riehl said. “Through the repurposing of existing space for the Lactation Room and the addition of changing station equipment in the existing men’s restrooms, we have been able to execute this vision in an effective and economical manner. I think it has turned out quite nicely and, as a father, is a fabulous addition to our campus.”

Ohio University Proctorville Center receives funding for park initiatives

The Ohio University Proctorville Center will move forward with the creation of new recreation space in front of the facility. Progress on these long-planned improvements are due, in part, to inclusion in the 2016 Capital Budget by Representative Ryan Smith and Senator Bob Peterson and additional re-appropriated funds. The $370,000 earmarked will allow the Ohio University Proctorville Center to create areas for physical fitness and recreation which will include an asphalt paved walking trail and two regulation sized soccer fields. It will also provide for a parking lot to accommodate those utilizing the park in addition to a storm water management pond.
Ohio University Athletics is slated to launch a new ESPN3 partnership project this fall. The project will give 30 Athens and regional campus-based students experience producing 35 live athletic events during 2016-17. Programming will be broadcast on ESPN3’s digital network, reaching millions of viewers via a brand with the strongest name in sports.

Students enrolled in “EM 2090 Sports Production” and “EM 2890 Sports Workshop,” through Athens this fall will be introduced to theory, evolution and practice of multi-camera sports remote production for mass distribution. The content involves analyzing, evaluating and participating in multi-camera remote sports productions.

Athletics reached out to Don Moore and the Ohio University Southern Electronic Media program to assist because of proven experience in sports production and sports course offerings. Director of Scripps School of Journalism, Robert Stewart, and Director of Media Arts and Studies, Drew McDaniel, have been closely involved—providing support and consultation on the ESPN3 project. Both schools will accept EM credits for their students interested in sports broadcasting. Media Arts and Studies is bringing in Ohio University alum and former producer/director, NBC sports, Tom Edwards, as a visiting professor. Edwards will join Moore in the classroom and direct the first few events.

Michael Stephens, Sr. Associate Athletic Director of Athletics said, “[This] partnership with Southern’s Electronic Media Department, Scripps College of Journalism and Media Arts and Studies will be the essential element to this project. Without this collaboration between university departments, this valuable project does not get off the ground.”

American Electric Power (AEP) Ohio met with officials at Ohio University Southern (OUS) Monday, June 13, to present the campus with a $25,000 energy incentive check for recently completed improvements.

This, the third capital improvement project of six planned that will focus on energy efficiency at OUS facilities, recognized the installation of a new HVAC heating and cooling system in the Collins and Riffe buildings in Ironton.

According to Adam Riehl, director of Facilities Management for OUS, the new HVAC system, installed late in 2015 and early 2016, will save the university approximately 15% each year in combined electric and natural gas operating costs for these two buildings.

“In this case, we were looking at replacing the HVAC system because of its age,” Riehl said. “Therefore, we decided this was a good time to also focus on efficiency, too. Our campus has made energy conservation a key priority for all of our new capital improvement projects.”

AEP Ohio Energy Advisor, Douglas Hood, educates companies and organizations about efficiency options and potential cost savings and rebates—a crucial role for companies planning to spend large sums of money to update operational equipment.

Hood said, “I promote the program and guide businesses planning improvements through our process. I also advise them about the best direction to go for their needs.”
The Southernmost Café, officially opened in the Ohio University Southern (OUS) Collins Center in January and offers patrons a wide selection of dining options.

The café, which is run by Ohio University’s Auxiliary Services, provides tasty hot and cold food – including healthy choices – that are affordable and convenient for the campus and community. The facility also provides real-world experience for two interns and two student workers.

General Manager of Regional Auxiliary Retail Operations, Christopher Schmitt, said that OUS is one-of-a-kind. “The Southernmost Café is the only regional campus facility that is student-run.” Schmitt explained, “Auxiliary services oversees everything while we have two interns serving as assistant managers at the café and receiving credit while they learn.”

Students are happy they now have a variety of options without leaving campus.

Breonna Baldridge, an early childhood major, said that she really appreciates having a lively place to sit and decompress between classes. “I drive a long way to get to campus,” Baldridge said. “[The café] is spacious and inviting. It’s very convenient.”

Studio art major and student worker Megan Cox said that convenience was important, but that she was most impressed by the café offerings. “Before the opening, we were all talking about how we hoped there would be a variety of food options,” Cox said. “To be honest, it has really exceeded my expectations. I’m really happy it’s here – plus I don’t have an excuse to not eat healthy anymore while I’m on campus.”

The Southernmost Café features “Make Your Own Quesadilla or Deli Sandwich” options, hot dogs, ready-made salads and sandwiches, bakery goods and both hot and cold snack foods. Operating hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday.

According to Shawn Aldridge, one of the interns/assistant managers, the café will offer several promotions throughout the campus. The first, Cookie Thursday, features $.50 cookies, a dollar savings.
Other Facilities Upgrades

• Completion of the Dean’s Conference Room, a fully equipped CIRT room for the campus

• Riffe Center lighting replaced with LED lamps, contributing to the reduction of power consumption, costs and carbon emissions

• Campus and Community Center roof replaced

• Proctorville Center Science and Art Lab improvements

• Ohio Horse Park electrical improvements

Other Southern Success Stories

• New Commercial Equine Business Management program launched

• Southern Campus awarded RAPIDS grant for environmental health, safety education

• Southern Campus program earns Intergenerational Educator of the Year award
Today it’s a model of the human heart – tomorrow the applications are limitless. For some Ohio University Southern (OUS) students, the 3-D printer is where art and science collide, and the result is possibility.

On April 14, more than 800 students gathered at the Convocation Center for Ohio University’s Student Research and Creative Activity Expo. Of these hundreds of students, 11 OUS students were selected and recognized for their collaboration and hard work in the Nursing and Regional Campus categories.

For Isaac Baisden, Charles Baldwin, Megan Cox, Jacob Jullett, Charles Hannah, John Kelley, Jeffrey McClelland, Sasha Riley, Jesse Rucker, Jarrod Schneider and Sara Wil- lis, this wasn’t merely a project that allowed them to bring home first place. For these students, this was an opportunity to collaborate with students both within and outside of their areas of study.

Mike Donley, one of the project instructors and an Information Technology staff member, was most impressed by the way these students from various disciplines worked together. “Students are generally used to working within their area of study. These students from these programs meshed on the first day, had a plan and were eager to work with one another. It was incredible to watch,” Donley said.

The project, “Education Inspired by Technology: How 3D Printing Can Revolutionize Hands-On Learning,” started off with heart patient case studies, which were researched by the nursing students. Using special software, the group designed hearts and arteries to illustrate their studies. Computer technology students assisted with the design and 3-D printing, and art students painted the realistic organs. Finally, the electronic media students documented the entire process with photos and videos and helped with the presentation and an overview video of the project.

The printer and collaborative project were a result of a vision that started more than a year 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 3-D printing capability to the campus.

In August 2015, the trustees of The Ohio University Foundation awarded funding for the innovative equipment. The grant made this hands-on class a reality.
On April 20, junior and senior Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students at Ohio University Southern (OUS) participated in a critical care simulation. All senior BSN students were responsible for planning the scenario and playing the roles of patients, family members, all hospital staff support including pharmacy, lab, chaplain, security and charge nurses, while all junior BSN students provided care for the patients. Ginger Hardy, OUS clinical lab coordinator, and Sheila Adkins, clinical instructor, supervised the event and played the roles of physicians for any needed orders that arose that were not planned as part of the script.

Senior students were involved in a simulated “Party Bus” crash. Over six weeks they spent a portion of their lab time planning each of the patient scenarios, details of vital signs, assessment findings - including paperwork needed - to make the scenarios as realistic as possible.

There were six patients with varied diagnoses, including a closed head injury, a spinal cord injury, a diabetic reaction, complications of a leg fracture, a panic attack resembling a heart attack and a collapsed lung. Each patient had a “family member” present that provided the junior students with additional assessment data. One student provided stage make-up to add to the real life feel of the experience.

“Simulation provides a learning experience, different than a clinical, where the students are able to practice being a real nurse - making real decisions - without risks of error. In the clinical setting, they must clear everything with their instructor and RN caring for the patients. I hope each of these students walks away with a better understanding of the need for thorough assessment, history gathering and analysis of data to give the best nursing care possible. Adding live patients versus our simulation mannequins also focuses on the importance of providing compassionate care,” said Hardy.

“With our SimMan, we are able to program certain responses and talk for the patient, but having live patients that will interact with them adds another element,” added Hardy.

Senior student, Sarah Dolan said, “It was awesome to be a part of this experience. It gave me the opportunity to work with underclassmen in order to watch their nursing skills evolve as the simulation continued.”

“The simulation was one of the best learning experiences that I’ve had so far,” said junior student, Holly Lawson. “I hope in the future some of these simulations can be worked into our clinical time,” added Lawson.

Four Ohio University Southern (OUS) student artists were selected to submit six pieces in the annual School of Art + Design Undergraduate Juried Exhibition in Athens during November 2015. The exhibition consisted of a variety of works by undergraduate students enrolled in any class in the School of Art + Design.

The artists, Matt Ferguson, Jayk Kelley, Linda Wilson and Jarrod Schneider, were celebrated at a reception in their honor February 4 in the OUS Collins Center. Family, friends and university staff marked their accomplishments. Each artist was recognized and took a moment to describe their work and the inspiration behind it.

Dean Nicole Pennington expressed her pride in the students and their work as she addressed the group during the reception. “We at the university are so proud of you – your willingness to put yourself out there. Stepping out of your comfort zone is something you often have to do in life,” she said.

Out of 165 pieces entered into the show by 89 artists, 64 pieces by 39 artists in their freshman, sophomore, junior or senior years were selected to be displayed in the 2015 exhibition.
Early on November 4, 2015, five members of the Ohio University Southern (OUS) Equestrian Team began their 13-hour trek to Tulsa, OK to compete in the Western Dressage Association of America (WDAA) World Championships. Students Katie Reed, Stephanie Bias, Kaylee Tilley, Grace Hill and Savannah Carr represented OUS at the 2015 competition.

Traveling and participating in both national and international shows can be a great learning experience for students and these opportunities are great building blocks for their future careers in the equine industry.

Kaylee Tilley, who attended the WDAA World Championships last year, said that she met some very influential individuals. “This is a great networking opportunity for us. We’re able to get to know people who are at the top of our profession.”

Traveling to competitions, especially ones this far away, can be very expensive. Not only is there the travel, room and board for students and staff, but also for their horses. The Equestrian Team set their goal and began fundraising activities. Hours of work, donations, silent auctions, bake sales, events and dinners raised much of their monetary goal; however, it was the $1,500 USEF Youth Sportsmanship Grant provided to WDAA to support participation by High School and Collegiate equestrian groups, which allowed them to meet their goal of $7,000.

Member Grace Hill said that the grant was a great honor for the team. “We worked very hard to be considered. Each of us had to contact teachers, family and former bosses and ask them to speak about our various skills and abilities—but it was well worth it. We’re so excited that we were selected.”

Lecturer and Assistant Coordinator of the Ohio Horse Park Center for Therapeutic Riding, Bradie Chapman, explained that this is the second year in a row that Ohio University Southern students were invited to participate. Thus far, OUS has been the only university group to compete. “This is a huge honor for us to be asked to step into such an international arena,” Chapman said.

As winners of the grant, the OUS team will work with WDAA to create a video blog that will be used on social media to promote the sport of Western Dressage. The team has also been featured in an article for the WDAA newsletter and website.
Adam Riehl, director of Facilities Management at Ohio University Southern (OUS), covers a lot of ground each day. One might pass him in Shafer Courtyard, in the halls of the Collins Center, at the Ohio Horse Park, at the Proctorville Center or anywhere in between.

It’s easy to take for granted a safe, clean and well-cared for college campus – and most don’t notice that anything is amiss until things deteriorate. Riehl has dedicated his career at OUS to making sure that the students here never experience a decline in their surroundings and that they have a positive experience during their time at OUS.

Last March, Riehl was awarded the 2016 Outstanding Administrator Award in Athens, Ohio in recognition of his hard work and efforts. He was one of only three Ohio University administrators selected for the honor from nearly 100 nominations.

Riehl, who is responsible for the management of OUS Facilities staff, physical improvements and property located on four sites over two counties consisting of 22 buildings and 267 acres of land, credited his parents, family, colleagues and God with his success.

Riehl described a moment, nearly a decade ago, that clarified the true impact of his job. In the past, Riehl was often asked what it was he did for OUS. He said that he would explain the “what” and the “how” of his day-to-day work, but that it was a chance spring day in 2008 – watching students rushing across campus to their next class – that really made the “who” clear for him and focused the passion of his work on the welfare of students.

“I realized that I am here for them,” Riehl said. “I am here to ensure that they can focus on their education and be unconcerned with the things that go on behind the scenes - in my world. I am here so that they have the same opportunity as I did to obtain a quality education that will make a difference in their future.” Riehl added “For at Southern, we not only change lives but potentially change generations. I am proud to be a part of that.”

Riehl was humbled by the nomination and for being selected for the award by his peers.

“This recognition brings me a great sense of pride. I also feel it recognizes the excellent work that Southern collectively contributes to Ohio University and to our campus community,” Riehl said. “This is an incredible honor which is well deserved by so many outstanding administrators at Ohio University. I feel very fortunate,” he added.

Ohio University Southern Dean Nicole Pennington feels fortunate to have Riehl as a colleague and she said that he “serves as a great advisor to me in my administrative role.”

Pennington added, “Adam is an exemplary employee. He consistently strives for excellence in his work, and his experience and level of expertise are invaluable assets to our campus. Adam is much deserving of being recognized at the university level for his outstanding work. The recognition at the university level reflects the good work being done on the regional campuses.”
Last March, Ohio University Southern Dean Nicole Pennington joined the highly esteemed class of female faculty and staff members who have completed the Higher Education Resources Services (HERS) Institute program.

Since 1976, nearly 5,000 of the world’s most talented female leaders from academia have completed the HERS intensive residential leadership and management development program, which is delivered via the HERS Wellesley Institute, HERS Bryn Mawr Summer Institute and HERS Denver Summer Institute each year.

Dean Pennington completed the HERS Wellesley Institute March 4, and described the experience as a powerful one.

“I found the networking experience invaluable,” Pennington said. “I met women leaders in higher education from all over the country. We had the opportunity to get to know one another and share our experiences. To know that I can reach out to this vast network of diverse and dynamic women is empowering.”

According to the HERS website, Institute participants generally hold mid to senior-level positions and bring expertise from all parts of a college or university. They also represent a range of ethnic and national groups, ages and years of experience in higher education and other fields.

“I feel privileged and honored to have had the opportunity to be selected and attend the Institute,” Pennington said. “It was truly an incredible learning experience and one which helped me to identify my strengths and areas that I need to improve.”

Institute participants must successfully complete the rigorous selection process. The curriculum for all three of the Institutes focuses on a deep exploration of a three-pronged leadership development model that includes self-knowledge, networking and institutional awareness. Work begins in advance of sessions with the assigned reading materials and other assignments to help determine what matters most to them and their institutions.

“The HERS faculty and staff are true role models for women leaders. They are committed to the HERS mission of equality and excellence in higher education,” Pennington said.

Pennington completes SLDP training

Ohio University Southern Dean, Nicole Pennington, DNP, RNC, completed the Ohio University Senior Leadership Development Program (SLDP) during the 2015-2016 academic year. The SLDP is designed to equip administrators with the leadership insights, skills and techniques needed to meet the ever-changing demands of higher education. The program consisted of an onsite orientation at the Developmental Dimensions International Headquarters in Pennsylvania followed by monthly leadership training sessions and a professional coach. Program assessment activities included a 360-degree multi-rater survey to provide insight into leadership strengths and development opportunities.

According to Pennington, the program provided her with additional leadership skills and helped her to identify areas in which she needs to improve. “I am grateful to Ohio University for providing this leadership development opportunity,” Pennington said.
Ohio University Southern (OUS) Associate Professor of Communication Studies Purba Das was selected as one of only five Ohio University Regional Higher Education faculty members to be a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) Fellow for the 2015-16 academic year.

State University of New York (SUNY) COIL Fellows participate in a variety of activities that involve “using technology to connect with partners – both domestic and international – in new ways, through classes, disciplines, or programs.”

For her submission, Das proposed changes to two Ohio University courses, Communication with Culture and Women and Health to include a focus on internationalizing curriculum. Her recommendations outlined ways to connect students in these courses to international faculty in various geographic locations.

Das feels that being a COIL Fellow will allow her to more deeply explore values she strives for in her classrooms – both physical and virtual. “I’m deeply committed to internationalizing our curriculum,” Das said, “and to add value to our courses by connecting global and international components.” She continued, “I want students to have first-hand experiences via interaction with faculty or possibly other students from various parts of the world so that they are prepared to work with a diverse workforce in a globalized world.”

The Ohio University Southern library hosted a book release and signing for author Don Moore, associate professor and director of the campus’ electronic media program, in August 2015.

The book, titled “You CAN Get There from Here: How David E. Carter Rose from Flatwoods, Kentucky, to the Top of the Creative World,” tells the story of a small-town kid who became known both nationally and internationally in the creative media world.

“I just want people in our area to know that just because you grow up in Appalachia it doesn’t mean you can’t be successful. I know several successful folks from our area, and Carter is one of them,” said Moore.

Carter was raised in Flatwoods, Kentucky, by a single parent with limited resources, and was told by a high school teacher that he wasn’t college material. He went on to obtain three college degrees – a bachelor of arts from the University of Kentucky, a master of arts from Ohio University, and a master of business administration from Syracuse University – and graduated from a three-year executive education program at Harvard Business School. He self-published his first book on logo design after being turned down by 17 publishers. He went on to become the best-selling producer in the graphic design world, with more than 110 books published.

Most recently, Carter has been very active in the Ohio University Southern electronic media program. He gifted the Creativity Center, a book collection/computer lab for students, and ’50s lounge/restaurant for faculty.

“More important than the monetary gift, is the time he has given to my students,” said Moore. “He is readily available to students when he’s in town, as well as communicating via FaceTime, Skype and e-mail,” added Moore.

Books are available through the Futura Foundation and digitally at Amazon.
Each year, the West Virginia American Legion selects an educator and honors them with the College Professor of the Year Award. This year, Ohio University Southern (OUS) Assistant Professor and Campus Liaison for Early Childhood Education, Martha Evans, was selected from among 35 nominees.

Evans, a former public school administrator in Cabell County Schools, has dedicated her career to education. She has worked with the West Virginia Department of Education on various committees and workgroups and she served for more than a decade as an adjunct instructor in Child Development for Marshall University. Evans joined OUS in the fall semester of 2015.

“I feel humbled to receive this award,” Evans said. “I just go to class and do the best job I know how to do – transferring the necessary information, from the text and resources, to students. To believe that a student felt inspired enough to nominate me for an award affirms the work that I do.”

Evans also described a deep appreciation for the organization that recognized her. “My family has served in our military and I have a deep respect for the sacrifices made by our military members,” she said. Evans attended the American Legion’s 35th Annual Mid-Winter Conference in Morgantown, West Virginia in early February to receive her award. The event, she recalled, was very ceremonial and honored each faction of the American Legion, POWs and MIAs of all wars.

Evans feels everyone should always do their best work regardless of recognition. “I want to learn things in a class that will help me to be successful in my future work, and my students trust me to bring that experience to them as well,” Evans said. “I will continue to promote excellence, inspire critical thinking and prepare future teachers to be successful in their classrooms – it’s a matter of paying it forward.”
New Faculty Positions

Glenn Abraham, PhD – Group One Social Work
Craig Bowe, PhD – Group One Chemistry
Maranda Clement – Group Two Nursing
Martha Evans, PhD – Group One Education

Faculty Awards & Honors:

Kim Riley, PhD (BSAM) successfully completed her dissertation, earning her Doctorate.

Purba Das, PhD (Communication Studies) and Kelly Hall (Equine Studies) received peer nominations for the Group 1 and Group 2 RHE Outstanding Professor and Lecturer awards, respectively.

Charles Jarrett, PhD (Sociology) and Tom Suter, MFA (Fine Arts) received funding for a 2016 Kennedy Lecture Series Program held on April 13 entitled “Celebrating Women.” Katherine Cox (Huntington Museum of Art) brought invited guests to present images of “feminist art” and to discuss the “Feminist Art Movement.”

Charles Jarrett, PhD (Sociology) was invited by Executive V.P. and Provost Pam Benoit to participate in the 1st Annual Ohio University Newsmakers Gala on September 28, 2015. The program honored Ohio University faculty members who raised the university profile through news-making events citing excellence in scholarship, teaching, and service. Jarrett was also nominated as a candidate for the 2015-16 Ohio University Presidential Teacher Award.

Judy Metcalf, PhD – Group Two Biology
James Stephens – Group Two Law Enforcement Technology
Michelle Theiss – Group Two Nursing

Faculty Publications & Conference Presentations


Hayley Haugen, PhD (English) recently had poems accepted for forthcoming publication in the journals Slant, Nerve Cowboy and Breath & Shadow. Her chapbook of poems “What the Grimm Girl Looks Forward To” was accepted for July 2016 publication by Finishing Line Press. She presented “Horrific Sympathies: The Commingling of Mental Illness and Violence in Stephen King” at the national Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference in Seattle in March. She also presented “Critical Mass: How’s Young Adult Author Wendy Mass’ Novels Inspire Readers to Explore Science” at the Midwest Popular Culture/American Culture Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio in October 2015, and she has accepted an appointment to serve as the 2016-2018 Area Chair of Disabilities and Popular Culture for the Midwest Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association conference.

Mashawna Hamilton, MSN, RN (Nursing) Co-authored with her OU Zanesville peers “Low-Fidelity Simulation to Enforce Patient Safety” in Clinical Simulation in Nursing.

Charles Jarrett, PhD (Sociology) participated in a Storyboard workshop at the University of South Carolina designed to refine an audio reproduction of his short-story entitled “The Anointment” for National Public Radio. He also attended the annual Gullah Celebration on Hilton Head Island as a past member of the Lowcountry Authors Forum. Susan Kammeraad-Campbell at Joggling Board Press

**Debbie Marinski, PhD (History)** Served as Chair and Moderator of “Book Panel 1: A New Disability History of the United States by Dr. Kim E. Nielsen” at the Ohio Academy of History Annual Conference, Kent State University at Stark, North Canton, Ohio, April 1-2, 2016. She presented “Falling Skies Fails American Indian History: An Examination of Historical Exclusions in a Popular Television Series” at the Popular Culture/American Culture Association National Conference, Seattle, Washington, March 22, 2016. She also presented “Falling Skies Failing History: The Exclusion of Native American History from Popular Television” at the Midwest Popular Culture/American Culture Conference in Cincinnati, OH in early October, 2015.


**Tom Suter, MFA (Art)** Presented at and exhibited art at FATE Monmouth Art Regional Mini-Conference at Monmouth College in Monmouth, Illinois in April.

**Steve Call (Sports and Recreation)** accompanied Ohio University Southern students to the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association’s Coaches Clinic in Columbus, Ohio, October 2015.

**Orianna Carter, PhD (Biology)** attended the 2015 National Center for Case Study Teaching in Science in Buffalo, New York, in September 2015, where she attended workshops on case study development and networking in video productions in development for the purpose of publishing in the NSF-sponsored National Center for Case Study Collection.

**Charles Jarrett, PhD (Sociology)** attended the Gullah/Geechee Conference in South Carolina in February 2016.

**Ella Jones, PhD (BSAM)** attended the Competency-Based Education Conference (CBE4OH) held at Columbus State in September, 2015.

**Debbie Marinski, PhD (History)** Member of the Program Committee for the Ohio Academy of History Annual Conference, 2015-2016. She was also selected to participate in a three year program titled “Native Americans in the Midwest: Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges” as part of an NEH grant with the Ohio History Connection (previously the Ohio Historical Society) 2013-2015 and participated in the third year conference in Columbus, Ohio, August 2015.

**Orianna Carter, PhD (Biology)** received a National Institute of Health Reutilization Program grant for the donation of science equipment for our labs (chemistry and biology). Estimated cost to purchase the same equipment: $50,000.

**Purba Das, PhD (Communication Studies)** served as a manuscript reviewer for Communication Culture Critique and the National Communication Association Annual Convention.
In its 23rd year, the Ohio University Southern (OUS) Bobcat Bash brought students, alumni, staff, donors and their families to the Proctorville Center on November 7, 2015. However, this is not merely an annual volleyball tournament that brings out more than 200 participants each year. The Bobcat Bash has become a deep tradition for the university community and a chance to celebrate autumn and campus life.

Jenny Gilmore, an OUS graduate, began coming to the event seven years ago as a student and continues to participate each year. This year, her daughters Marlie, currently an OUS student, and Lauren – along with her granddaughter Trinady – were in attendance.

“I first started coming to the Bobcat Bash when I was a student as a way to show my school spirit,” Gilmore said. “Now I come and bring my family because I believe education is very important to this area. I want to support the university and events like this so that they’ll be here for the future.”

Retired art instructor Gary Tillis, one of the event’s co-founders, mirrored these sentiments. “Many Southern students take the majority of their classes in Proctorville and don’t get to take part in the activities in Ironton,” he said.

Tillis continued, “Despite being a non-residential campus, we want to make sure that they still have a campus experience. We started the Bobcat Bash as a way to get out of the classroom and in a setting where they could have fun and get to know their fellow students.”

Director of the Proctorville Center, Stephanie Burcham, described the Bobcat Bash as an event that is as much about university service as it is a competition. Burcham said that she loves to see the faculty and staff members who come to the event each year.

“Many members of our university community give up their Saturday to help make the Bobcat Bash a success year after year. The fact that they are willing to challenge students in a game of volleyball, act as a team coach, or just chat—often in less than perfect weather—shows how much OUS faculty and staff value the students and their families,” added Burcham.

Proctorville Student Service Specialist and organizer of this year’s event, Corbin Purdum, said that although the event takes a lot of time and effort, it’s great to see the students enjoying their time together. “Our volunteers give a lot of their time to make this event successful year after year,” Purdum said. “I love to see the competition and comradery during the Bobcat Bash—makes it all worthwhile.”

Year-after-year the Bobcat Bash inspires competitive teams for the volleyball tournament that is at the heart of this event. This year, “Hit Me with Your Best Shot,” led by team captain Brooke Irby, took home the top prize. Second place went to “Notorious D.I.G.,” led by team captain Jamie Phillips. “Dat Ace Doe,” led by team captain Brett Curry, took home third place.
Southern Campus students roar with Bobcat pride for Spirit Week

“Battle for the Bell,” the long-standing rivalry between Ohio University and Marshall University (MU) is one Ohio University Southern (OUS) students take to heart. Just 19 miles between OUS and MU – and a mere river away for Proctorville Center students – this is no regular football game.

Last September, OUS students donned their Attack Cat shirts and showed their Bobcat spirit in several fun ways including corn hole competitions, “Get Your Green On” and a #OU-SouthernSpirit social media fan challenge for a chance to win tickets to the game, which was held in Athens this year.

Corbin Purdum, Student Services specialist at the Proctorville Center, said that this year’s Spirit Week was a fun way for OUS students to share in school pride. “Typically, our students come in, take their classes and leave. This was a great way to get them to cheer on their team with their fellow classmates.”

Kim Keffer, director of Enrollment and Student Services said, “Although our students are not residential, we try to provide them with a true university experience. Spirit Week is just one more way to engage our students and to strengthen their bond with Ohio University.”

OUS students, staff, community leaders and donors traveled to Athens and continued to show their spirit at the game as the campus hosted a tailgate event prior to kickoff.

OUS Dean Nicole Pennington said, “This is such a great tradition and we’re excited to be part of it.” She continued to explain that the tailgate event was an opportunity to showcase Ohio University Athens for students and community members from the Tri-State.

All of that spirit powered Ohio to a 21-10 win over Marshall and clenched the Bell until next time.

Shirts carry messages of hope, empowerment for domestic violence victims

Many women suffer in silence from domestic violence, and it is that secrecy that allows the abuse to continue. In October, Ohio University Southern (OUS) students and staff participated in a program to give survivors a voice and to honor women who have died. The Clothesline Project, an international movement that uses shirts as a way for those impacted to share their unique stories, was on display at OUS for a week.

The Clothesline Project began in Massachusetts 25 years ago as an effort to highlight domestic violence sufferers and as a way to educate the public. According to the Clothesline Project’s website, today there are an estimated 500 Clothesline Projects with an estimated 60,000 shirts on display worldwide. Locally, former OUS student Michelle Dotts spearheaded the initiative to bring the Clothesline Project to campus in March 2014 after seeing the shirts on display at Wright State a decade earlier. Dotts was committed to breaking her silence in an effort to help others. Coordinator of Diversity and Inclusion Robert Pleasant said that he was touched by the shirts -- in particular one with “Don’t hit my mommy” written on it. Though the Clothesline Project focuses primarily on women impacted by abuse, Pleasant said this shirt in particular highlighted the reach of violence. “Domestic abuse impacts women, men and children both directly and indirectly. Events such as this give those individuals a voice where they may not have had one before,” he said.

October is National Domestic Violence Prevention month, and in the United State alone, nearly one in four individuals is directly impacted by domestic violence. Whether a friend, family member, co-worker, or yourself – domestic violence is far-reaching. In addition to participating in the Clothesline Project, the OUS Council for Diversity and Inclusion partnered with the Lawrence County Domestic Violence Task force to host a series of events throughout the month including a Domestic Violence Awareness Evening that brought powerful messages of courage, hope and survival to the campus and surrounding community.
As people filed into Bowman Auditorium on the Ohio University Southern campus, many may have looked at Brett Eastburn as a man with a disability. However, the more than 60 attendees left focused far more on his “ability” instead.

Eastburn, who was born with no arms and no legs, doesn’t care for the word “can’t.” He told attendees “If you say you can’t do something, you’re right. You can’t. You have to believe that you can.”

As a child, Eastburn played basketball, wrestled, played football and swam competitively. Today, he is an accomplished author, inspirational speaker and stand-up comedian. During his presentation, Eastburn demonstrated many of his talents, including pitching a football with a perfect spiral into the audience, and he described how perseverance has been his approach to life since he was a small child.

During his September 24, 2015 appearance, he related this message to the audience by describing what he called his “Baseball Theory.”

“Generally,” he said, “most people try something three times and then give up if they can’t master it. You know, three strikes and you’re out. I wasn’t about to give in that easily and neither should you.”

Teresa McKenzie, accessibility coordinator at OUS, said that she hopes stories like Eastburn’s become common-place in the future. “As a society, we see more and more examples every day of people with disabilities achieving excellence.” McKenzie continued, “It’s celebrated in YouTube videos and on various social media sites. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if his visit wasn’t so unique? I’d love to see a shift in perspective from seeing someone as a ‘disabled person’ to seeing a ‘person who happens to have a disability.’”

Eastburn’s appearance was hosted by the Council on Diversity and Inclusion and Ohio University Student Accessibility Services.

A total of 32 trees were decorated by local businesses, individuals and third-graders from area schools. Additionally, nine wreaths were donated to the event. The Festival – an entirely volunteer effort – was a success.

Chamber director, Shirley Dyer, said that the individuals who volunteered their time were the reason for the event’s success. “I was surprised by the way and the level to which the community became involved with this event,” Dyer added. “During the decorating of the trees, many people who started off as complete strangers became friends by the time everyone finished decorating their trees. It was something that brought our community together.”

All of the trees and wreaths were sold during the event, and volunteers served nearly 200 children and their parents during the Breakfast with Santa.

Jill Roswall and her sons, Reno and Troy, enjoyed many of the Kid’s Day festivities including games and writing a letter to Santa. “From the time we arrived, the boys – especially my six-year-old—were so excited,” Roswall said. “He painted an ornament that’s on our tree. This was such a great family friendly event.”

Roswall enjoyed looking at the decorations. “The trees were beautiful,” she said. “It was really difficult to pick one to vote for, and I saw several ideas to inspire me as I decorate my home.”
Joan C. Browning picked a hundred pounds of cotton many days throughout her youth. In her late teens and early 20s, she volunteered with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. She was one of nine Albany Freedom Riders on the last freedom ride. Since that pivotal point in her life, Browning has become a renowned author, lecturer and advocate for the under-represented.

On January 28, Browning visited Ohio University Southern and shared her experiences and the wisdom she learned from many of the Equal Rights Era activists with those who participated at the 24th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration.

During her speech, Browning displayed her hand-written notes from October 12, 1961 where she listened to King speak at a town hall meeting in Atlanta. She also showed the audience an autograph that King provided for her. “I hate to think of what Dr. King thought of this girl asking for his autograph,” Browning said. “But as an 18-year old, he influenced my life immensely. It was an important moment.”

Browning’s appearance was part of the celebration themed, “Many Voices: Building the Beloved Community.” Students, faculty, staff and members of the community contributed artistically to the program with song, interpretive dance and a reading.

Community member Bonnie Holmes said that she has been coming to the celebration for at least 20 of the last 24 years. “There was just something about Dr. King. He had such a great magnetism that made you stop to turn your head and listen each time he would speak,” Holmes said. “It’s important to remember the man and the message.”

Rachel McWharter, a middle childhood education major, assisted with the event. “Even though I was working,” McWharter said, “I found tonight to be really emotional.” She described the audience standing together holding hands while singing. “Interacting with one another as part of the program was really great,” McWharter added.

Junior high and high school winners, selected from 40 entrants for this year’s Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest were recognized.
In an era of budget cuts and financial restraints, our country’s natural resources—state and national parks—are feeling the pinch. Reduced staff and resources often translate to fewer maintained trails and amenities for those heading out to explore nature as the weather warms.

However, Wayne National Forest’s Balancing Rock Trail was dedicated and officially opened due to the countless hours that were invested in the effort by volunteers. Among these were Ohio University Southern Equine Studies students who donated 63 hours to the trail revitalization project.

Recreation Team Leader and event organizer at Wayne National Forest Carol Boll said, “Everyone contributed and really jumped in to make this happen. It was a wonderful project.”

Boll added that the Balancing Rock Trail was the third of nine equine-centric projects. She said, “We are finding that the beauty of our area is not only enjoyed by our residents, but people from all over the state—and various parts of the country—are traveling here to enjoy our trails. We couldn’t make this possible without our volunteers, and we just loved working with OUS students.”

Volunteers and supporters included Ohio University Southern (OUS), the Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce, the Elkins Creek Horse Club and the Lawrence County Chapter of the Ohio Horseman’s Council.

OUS Senior Lecturer and Director of Equine Studies, Kelly Hall, believes that community service and learning go hand-in-hand to produce a rich experience for her students.

“We want our students to be community leaders and we emphasize that in our curriculum,” Hall said. “Giving back to the community is one way to develop leadership skills. By volunteering for our therapy program and for other community projects, such as the trail, the students realize they can cause positive change through their efforts.”

Southern Campus students assist with Balancing Rock Trail project, learn leadership lessons

Ohio University Southern student organization holds supply drive for Kanawha County flood victims

Ohio University Southern (OUS) nursing student, Daniel Bias, was driving through the Elkview and Clendenin, West Virginia areas on June 23 when flood waters began to ravage the region.

“I saw first-hand the devastation there and wanted to do something to help the people in need,” said Bias.

So, he and a friend organized a disaster relief supply drive at OUS Ironton and Proctorville campuses, as well as several area businesses. Assisting Bias with the supply drive were members of both the OUS Student Nursing Association (SNA) and the Student Social Work Association (SSWA). More than eight hundred items including bleach, bottled water, diapers, baby wipes and cleaning supplies were collected during the week-long drive to aid in the disaster.

Jaimie Phillips, an OUS social work student and SSWA officer, saw a community in need and coordinated the drive at the Proctorville Center, with the assistance of Stephanie Burcham, Proctorville Center director. “This experience has shown me that our community is willing to help those in need, and I’m proud to come from that kind of community,” Phillips said.

Associate Professor of Nursing, Beth Delaney, said that Bias’s initiative in this circumstance is an excellent example of the culture of students at OUS. “Students in all disciplines at OUS are always leading efforts to support the needs in our surrounding communities and we are very proud of them all,” Delaney added.

“I want to say thank you to everyone who donated time and items for the cause. The disaster relief drive was a huge success,” added Bias.