

OHIO STATE

A L U M N I M A G A Z I N E

FALL
2020

HOW YOUR
UNIVERSITY
IS FIGHTING
RACISM

DISCOVER
BEAUTIFUL
UNSEEN
WORLDS

STUDENTS
REFLECT ON
A FALL LIKE
NO OTHER

Light in the storm

**KRISTINA M.
JOHNSON** BRINGS
A KEEN INTELLECT
AND BIG HEART TO
PRESIDENT'S ROLE.



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OHIO STATE

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

VOLUME 112, ISSUE 1

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Photos: Courtesy of Wexner Medical Center (Bowen); courtesy of U.S. Air Force (Lawrence); illustration: Michael Hoeweler

Our narrative can be richer

The Broadway hit “Hamilton” ends with a poignant song that asks, “Who lives? Who dies? Who tells your story?” No need for a spoiler alert here: The finale underscores a central theme of matters of race. Who tells a story — who *gets to tell* a story — is a primary driver of *what* story is told and *how* that story is told.

With *Ohio State Alumni Magazine*, our role is to convey a full story of Ohio State, our students and alumni along with the issues that affect us. The tragic killing of George Floyd and many others has led our country to more deeply examine issues related to race relations, racism and justice. This edition explores these topics with the help of Ohio State’s own experts — alumni, faculty, staff and students.



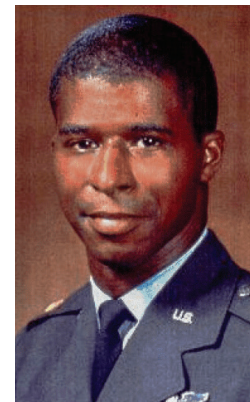
MOLLY RANZ CALHOUN

As I was reading through plans for this edition, I couldn’t help but think about stories that have been told through the naming of buildings in the North Residential District, a project I oversaw and, as some of you know, is near and dear to my heart.

Most of the original buildings on north campus were named for students and alumni who served in World War I through the Korean War. When we expanded the area in 2016, we had the opportunity to decide the names of new buildings and what to do about those that had been torn down: Would we reuse the names or start over with a completely new naming convention?



Clotilde Dent Bowen



Robert Lawrence Jr.

We chose to maintain the tradition of honoring service members by reutilizing the former buildings’ names while intentionally telling a more robust and representative story.

With research and support from our project team, passionate students, the Department of Military Science and the Office of Military and Veterans Services, we dug into the archives to identify a more recent and diverse group of heroes. Among them were Robert Lawrence Jr. ’65 PhD, America’s first African American astronaut, and Clotilde Dent Bowen ’43, ’47 MD, the first Black woman to earn an Ohio State medical degree and the U.S. Army’s first female doctor.

These are just two Buckeyes whose stories deserve to be told. I am proud that this edition of the magazine shares others’ views on important and complex issues related to race.



MOLLY RANZ CALHOUN '86
President and CEO
The Ohio State University Alumni Association

SEE THE HONOREES Learn more about those remembered through the North Residential District project. go.osu.edu/militaryhonorees

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FALL 2020

Buckeye View

O MARKS THE SPOT

Students starting their fall semester on the Columbus campus in August were greeted by quite a sight: 583 O's dotting the Oval's comforting landscape. Eight feet in diameter and spaced at least 15 feet apart, the circles provided a way for Buckeyes to enjoy the heart of campus while maintaining safe physical distance in an era of COVID-19. Students used them that first day of classes for studying, working out and eating lunch alfresco with friends. — MONICA DEMEGLIO '02

PHOTO BY AARON NESTOR



OHIO STATE

A L U M N I M A G A Z I N E

FALL 2020 | VOLUME 112 | ISSUE 1

24

COVER STORY

Light in the storm

Kristina M. Johnson joined us as president as this extraordinary academic year began. An accomplished scholar and researcher with many academic, government service and entrepreneurial feats under her belt, she assumes the presidency as the world is being rocked by a pandemic, economic turmoil and strident pleas for racial justice — all issues that place unique challenges on Ohio State. She is not dissuaded; she is motivated.

COVER PHOTO BY
LOGAN WALLACE



UP FRONT

NEWS AND NOTES FROM CAMPUS

12 Safely distanced, in it together

Our students, faculty and staff are being challenged in extraordinary ways during an extraordinary fall semester.

14 A strategic attack

Researchers with Ohio State's Infectious Diseases Institute are devising ways to treat the coronavirus, stunt its effects and prevent us from landing in this scenario again.



16 The land contains stories

John Low, director of the Newark Earthworks Center, sees a higher local and global profile for the sprawling ancient mounds in central Ohio.

19 Hidden treasures

Students have tucked anonymous notes of support and inspiration into an antique desk in Orton Hall.

20 In appreciation

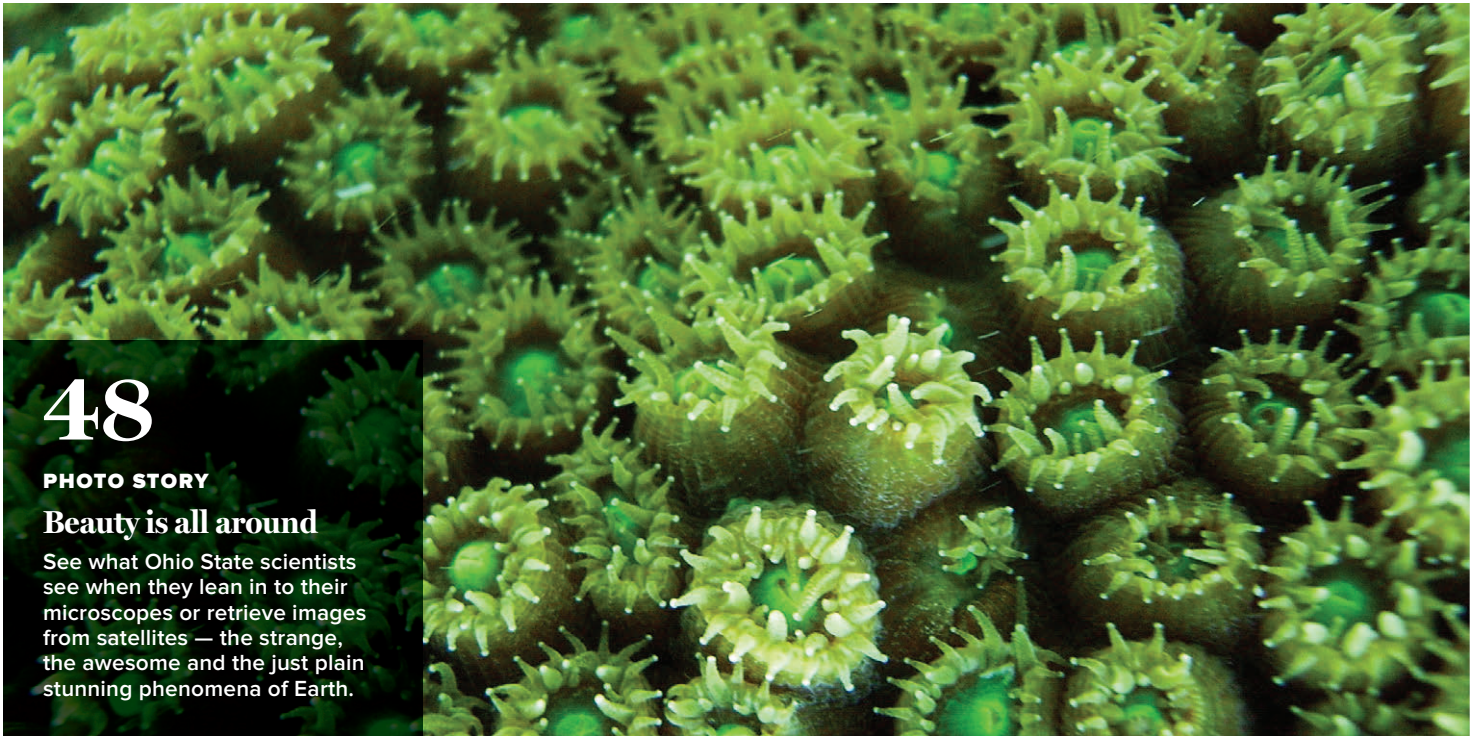
We bid farewell to four bright Buckeye lights, including Annie Glenn (right).



32

The only way is through

We will confront racism and its manifestations, even when the effort feels overwhelming. What will you do to create a more equitable and just present and future? We hope the people you meet in these stories will lead you by their examples of grit, intellect and righteous determination.



48

PHOTO STORY

Beauty is all around

See what Ohio State scientists see when they lean in to their microscopes or retrieve images from satellites — the strange, the awesome and the just plain stunning phenomena of Earth.



58

POWER OF 10

What's your major?

Drawn to the halls of government or blades of grass, the open skies or a TV studio, students at Ohio State can impress future employers with these 10 under-the-radar fields of study.

ALUMNI VOICES



1 How Firm Thy Friendship

Our narrative can be richer.

6 Letters to the Editor

Admiration for student journalists of *The Lantern*, coronavirus researcher Linda Saif and alma mater

10 The Ask

What does “Education for Citizenship” mean to you?

60 The Object

A trophy of intramural football glory

72 O-H-I-O

Reaching Machu Picchu was just one high point of this trip.

ON CAMPUS



2 Buckeye View

62 The Legacy

The University of Guam owes its roots to Ohio State.

64 Alumni Association

A Q&A with alumni association board member Craig Friedman '89, plus meet three new board members.

61

OHIO STATE OF PLAY

TBDBITL Obscura

You think you know TBDBITL? Test your knowledge with this quiz on some of the marching band's lesser-known history.



A simple tradition transports us

I CONFESS THAT I DON'T ALWAYS READ the alumni magazine, but the summer 2020 edition came the day I left for vacation and I took it with me. I am so glad I did!

I have been struggling in many ways through the pandemic, and the stories filled me with hope and encouragement. I could comment on each one, but "A Spirited Beginning" of four new graduates forming O-H-I-O evoked a special memory. I met Melissa Cunningham Pack '89 on the first day of classes our freshman year. We had the same schedule, and at the end of the day, we decided that if we were going to have class together, we might as well be friends.

Thirty-five years later and separated by 9,500 miles, we are still friends. Melissa moved to Australia right after graduation and has lived there ever since. We catch up whenever she's in the States.

MARTHA LANDRUM BUCKNER '89
ASHLAND, OHIO

The Lantern: wielding influence then and now

AMID ITS REPUTATION for excellent news coverage and training journalism students, as noted in your spring issue, *The Lantern* also should be remembered for two public service campaigns it conducted 60 years ago that had a major impact on the Ohio State community.

During the 1959–60 school year, under the editorship of Don Bandy, the paper campaigned for ending discrimination on university housing lists that then specified racial preferences for private off-campus rooming houses. Student Senate also had prodded the administration to address the problem, and in July 1960, Ohio State adopted a policy calling for campus-area rooming houses to have their university registration revoked if they were found to discriminate against students on the basis of race, creed or national origin.

During the following year, when I had

the honor to be editor, *The Lantern* campaigned for ending mandatory ROTC. Student Senate had recommended a switch to voluntary ROTC in early 1959, and faculty endorsed the recommendation in spring 1960. In our first issue of the 1960–61 school year, *Lantern* editors pushed for action. Trustees voted to make ROTC voluntary in my final month at Ohio State in spring 1961.

Thirty years later, I had the opportunity at a dinner in London to meet Roswell Gilpatric, who was deputy secretary of defense in the Kennedy administration when I was editor of *The Lantern*. I introduced myself as the

editor whose staff had campaigned for voluntary ROTC. I didn't know what his reaction would be. To my pleasant surprise, he said the Defense Department was pleased we had done so, because it enabled the government to concentrate its resources on students who wanted to become officers rather than those who did not, a point we made in our editorials.

Long live *The Lantern* and its dedication to the best in journalism and public service!

MYRON BELKIND '61
RETIRED ASSOCIATED PRESS
INTERNATIONAL BUREAU CHIEF
WASHINGTON, D.C.



Love for science and fellow Buckeyes

Readers of *Ohio State Alumni Magazine* online shared these comments on stories in the summer issue.

THE STORY ABOUT DR. LINDA SAIF was so fascinating. She has dedicated her entire career to help the rest of us prepare for this worldwide pandemic moment. As a child growing up on a farm, she asked herself, “Why does this happen?” And look where her curiosity has taken her — four decades later. She is an inspiration to so many young inquiring minds.

Beth Schultheis D’Antonio ’84
Columbus, Ohio

IT’S NICE TO SEE THESE SCIENTISTS highlighted and recognized for their enduring commitment to the health and safety of the people of the world. Linda Saif is someone few might know about if it weren’t for the current pandemic. I appreciate reading success stories of women in science.

Marlene Parker ’04 MS
Powell, Ohio

IT WAS INTERESTING TO LEARN that a scientist from Ohio State has been researching coronaviruses for 40 years now and to see her information and perspective on this timely and important topic. Thank you for interviewing her for *Ohio State Alumni Magazine*.

Melinda Juchem Reed ’92
Avon, Ohio

DR. SAIF’S STORY AND RESEARCH make me proud to be a Buckeye! I am hopeful that she will be part of the solution to the COVID-19 pandemic by helping to develop a vaccine that is both safe and effective.

Virginia Miller ’73
Lubbock, Texas

THE MORE WE HEAR from experts like Dr. Saif, the better we can accept and carry out the obligations of citizenship in facing the future.

Tom Baxter ’69
Worthington, Ohio

IT IS WONDERFUL AND ENCOURAGING to see a young girl from rural Ohio growing up to become a prominent Buckeye virologist involved in researching the coronaviruses, causing SARS, MERS and SARS-CoV-2/ COVID-19.

Sarah Stone Hoy ’08 MS
Essex Junction, Vermont



SARS-COV-2 IS A DANGEROUS

CORONAVIRUS. In the past few months, I’ve read everything I could find that I had any chance of understanding. I hope a safe cure is found and that especially people in the United States will take this virus seriously. I grew up during a time when antibiotics became commonplace, and we thought doctors could cure almost any disease. I am glad to see Ohio State at the forefront of this coronavirus.

Darlyne Reising ’96 MIS
Medford, Oregon

THE MORE INFORMATION AND STUDY on this worldwide dilemma, the better for everyone. Linda Saif has my admiration.

Sheila D. Lehman ’86 MS
Columbus, Ohio

IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE the vast expertise of our staff and alumni. The article on Dr. Saif was quite interesting and informative.

Judy Greenawalt McDermott ’87 MS
Treasure Island, Florida

IT IS HEARTENING TO KNOW that Ohio State is at the forefront of so many life-altering fields of research.

Dave Eastburn ’72 MS
Todd, North Carolina

As a health care professional, trying to learn more throughout this crisis is important to me. Thanks for the helpful feature on Dr. Linda Saif.

Barb Settles Huge ’81
Fishers, Indiana

It’s refreshing to know that Dr. Andrew Thomas, a beloved Ohio State alumnus, is at the forefront of mitigating COVID-19 and the staff, space and supply chain it has impacted.

Lisa Clarke Hill ’00 MSW
Moultrie, Georgia

Dr. Thomas has always been our “go to” person at Ohio State. I was pleased to learn more about his background and his role in the community.

Ron Kauffman ’62
Columbus, Ohio

I love reading stories about university leaders and their connections to Ohio State. I’ve had the pleasure of working near, with and for new alumni association President and CEO Molly Ranz Calhoun ’86 for my entire career at Ohio State. (I even lived in the Stadium Dorm after she oversaw its renovation!) Her energy is boundless and contagious. Great hire by the alumni association!

Tom Reeves ’93, ’05 MA
Columbus, Ohio



The travels of Grandma Joy and Brad Ryan have been very inspirational! This article did a great job providing the background for their journeys. I am 68 years old, and my grandson is 11 years old. His father passed away three years ago, and he and I have taken a road trip every summer since. Last year, we covered over 7,500 miles, including several national parks. I concur with Brad and Joy that there is much to learn in all these journeys, and much is to be gained by crossing generational lines. Thank you for this article. It was very insightful and inspirational!

Steve Cammett
Trail Creek, Indiana

Our promise — and invitation

THIS ISSUE MARKS THREE YEARS since *Ohio State Alumni Magazine* received a makeover in body and spirit. Readers tend to notice the body part — the contemporary look of the magazine, the beautiful photography and design. Speaking as a member of the team that brings you this magazine every quarter, that's the relatively easy part. There are rules, hard and fast, down to the amount of space between lines of text. The part we pour love and labor into, what we nurture and worry about, is the spirit. With each issue, are we meeting the promise we made to you — to make this publication a gathering place for Ohio State's vast alumni family? Are we honoring our pledge to create space to celebrate achievements and engage in important dialogues, just as we might with our own family members?

With a 16-page package of stories about racism in this issue, we unequivocally recognize systemic racism, a plain fact that is bewilderingly divisive. We state this plainly and without reservation: Racism is not only alive in America. It is thriving and breaking bodies and hearts. It will not be legislated or marched or wished away. Racism — the created notion that skin color denotes human value and privilege — is inextricably rooted in American life.

We can debate and disagree on so many things. What does “defund the police” really mean? What are the best ways to create access to quality education for all children? How can every American receive state-of-the-art health care? How will we ensure the treasures of our culture — our works of art and creative expression — reflect our entire culture? But we will not debate the truth at the heart of those questions: Our nation is rife

with inequities, and those inequities must not stand.

With this collection of stories about racism — including acknowledgement that Ohio State must work harder in its quest for equity — we are inviting you to conversations that make some people squirm. We can't make this easy or comfortable. But we have made our best effort to make it constructive

and thought-provoking. We, an all-white magazine staff, could not have done this work without the advice and input of a team of advisors from many areas of the university, including the people who appear on these pages. We have blind spots, and these alumni, faculty, staff and students helped us recognize them. We have relied on

the constructive and refreshingly pointed feedback of colleagues who are Black, Indigenous and people of color who have questioned our assumptions, led us toward knowledge and served as full partners in delivering these stories to you. We could not — and should not — have done it without them.

In the same vein, this magazine is nothing without you and your voices. We hope never to become a monolith speaking at you from a faceless institution. We hope to both reflect and shape Ohio State through the voices in this gathering place. We always invite your letters and reactions to this magazine, and we redouble that invitation now. As we say in the message that opens our stories about racism, the only way is through. We can't sit out this conversation or wait for it to pass. It will not pass. It will continue to fester and destroy lives and generations of our neighbors. Let's do the hard work together. Let's talk about it and act on it. ✨



KRISTEN SCHMIDT
ASSOCIATE
EDITOR

Thanks, Ohio State

THIS COVID-19 PANDEMIC had taken all the wind from my retirement sails. After working for over 45 years, my wife and I had planned on travel, leisure and all the fruits of a life well-spent. Now we have been nearly house-confined for over six months with no end in sight.

In reaching out to old friends, we called ones in Florida whom we had not seen in 20 years. We talked and laughed and got caught up. Al's youngest granddaughter in Florida had just graduated from college. “Where from?” I asked. “She went to Ohio State,” he said. “Did she like it?” “She LOVED IT!”

Out of the blue I went from depression to elation. An old relationship rekindled. A new alumna with memories for a lifetime. Amazing how the Ohio State experience still tantalizes.

STUART FISHER '66 MD
LOS ANGELES

Disturbance abated

I was at Winn-Dixie in Venice, Florida, wearing my Ohio State T-shirt. A child was screaming near me with both parents there. I am thinking, “Can't they shut him up? Bad parents.” Then I hear a parent say, “Yell it louder!” OK, he is yelling “O-H”! I had to answer, “I-O.”

NANCY SHAFFER WEAVER '74
TIFFIN, OHIO



JOIN THE CONVERSATION We welcome your letters, which we ask that you limit to 250 words. Letters selected for publication typically address topics raised in *Ohio State Alumni Magazine*, although the editor reserves the right to make exceptions. All letters accepted for publication appear online at go.osu.edu/alumnimag, and a selection appears in print. To have letters considered for the winter 2020 print edition, submit them by October 16, 2020. We edit letters for space, clarity, accuracy and civility. Send them to us at alumnimag@osu.edu or Letters to the Editor, *Ohio State Alumni Magazine*, 2200 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, OH 43210-1035.

OHIO STATE

ALUMNI DIGITAL MAGAZINE

Visit go.osu.edu/alumnimag for web-exclusive stories, plus video, audio, images and other fun extras.

The only way is through

Malcolm in the lead

 New Orleans Saints safety and Ohio State football standout Malcolm Jenkins '09 took questions from members of Redefining Athletic Standards, an organization for Black male student-athletes. Listen in on the conversation in our video.




Fifty years of advocacy

 Rose Wilson-Hill has worked in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion from the day it opened. In our video profile, she shares some stories and favorite memories of her time lifting up students of minoritized communities.




Meet the artist


 Meet Adrian Franks, the artist behind the striking illustrations in the feature about racial injustice and learn what inspires him and how he feeds his creativity.



Stress less

 If the anxiety of living through COVID-19 is throwing you off your game, harness these tools of positive psychology to increase calm and happiness.

TBDBITL trivia challenge

 How well do you know the 142-year history of the Ohio State marching band? Our quiz is sure to test your knowledge — and give you some good fodder for stumping your friends.

In Memoriam

Remember alums who have passed away.

 **Keep up with The Ohio State University Alumni Association on social media!**

 **FACEBOOK**
[Facebook.com/OhioStateAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/OhioStateAlumni)

 **TWITTER**
[@OhioStateAlumni](https://twitter.com/OhioStateAlumni)

 **INSTAGRAM**
[@theohiostatealumni](https://www.instagram.com/theohiostatealumni)

“

Education for citizenship means teaching American history as it occurred in the context of the times via original documents, not the revisionist history of current university textbooks and lectures.”

JENNIFER GUY '70



“

Higher education affords the learner a broader view of the world, allowing for a greater chance for understanding the views of others.”

SCOTT SMITH '87

“

[It means] grasping that vilifying those holding opposing views of issues only empowers ignorance.”

GARY SOLAMON '81 MBA, '83 MACC

What does the university's motto mean to you?

“

It means learning about America's history — the good and the bad — so that I can make informed decisions. We should always be refining our viewpoints based on our life experiences.”

TERESA HORSTMAN '86



“
The education one receives from Ohio State has a global impact, equipping the scholar with unparalleled human, social and cultural capital to navigate any academic, social or professional space in the world with excellence. Education for global citizenship.”

SEAN PLASKETT '11

Ohio State adopted its motto “Education for Citizenship” — expressed in Latin as “Disciplina in Civitatem” on the university seal — in 1938. Recently retired President George W. Rightmire had selected the motto, and in a letter reprinted in *The Lantern*, he shared his view that a lack of civic engagement had enabled the Great Depression. Rightmire made clear what the motto meant to him: “Democratic government is in the balance. The motto is a clarion call to a lapsed responsibility!” In the current climate of turmoil and debate, protest and reckoning, we asked what “Education for Citizenship” means to you. — KRISTEN SCHMIDT

“
For a democracy to work, an informed and participating citizen is required!”

JAMES ROBERTS '56



“
We strive to make the world a better place through the discovery, advancement and sharing of knowledge. Our people — students, faculty, staff, doctors, patients, clients — are changing our communities and our world for the better.”

SARAH SIPOS '13, '13, '15 MA

“
Education for citizenship is the heart of higher education. Teaching students to think critically, to know what they believe — and why — and to argue civilly while understanding and accepting multiple viewpoints exist is the most important purpose of a college education.”

MELINDA SPENCER '83, '85 MA

ANSWER OUR NEXT QUESTION What was the best excuse you ever gave for a late or missed assignment? Email your answer and it might appear in an upcoming issue. theask@osu.edu



Donald Isom, a Department of Dance lecturer, teaches a hip hop class in a performance tent on South Oval on the first day of autumn semester.

TIME AND CHANGE

The ties that bind us are unbroken

As this strangest of academic years opens, with abundant caution and few of our most treasured traditions, we follow the lead of students who are driven to learn and adapt.

BY MONICA DEMEGLIO '02

IT'S THE FIRST DAY OF FALL SEMESTER, and the sun is rising over the Oval. A summer symphony of crickets and cicadas fades as students emerge from their residence halls and houses east of High Street. They are heading to 7:30 a.m. classes, stepping their way into a new year.

In quieter moments on campus, sitting under a tree canopy, you can almost forget about the virus. The one that has gripped the globe since early 2020 and sent students home in the spring. Five months later, here we are, back together while trying to stay 6 feet apart.

A lot has changed.

For this first day of classes to happen on Ohio State's campuses, the university had to reconsider every aspect of the student experience.

In Columbus, move-in occurred over 12 days, without the warm greetings of

Orientation Welcome Leaders (OWLs) — that army of energetic volunteers who made Ohio State’s seamless process a logistics marvel in years past. There were fewer family members to offer that one last hug at the curb. Final pictures in front of residence halls were taken with masks on.

Auditoriums and performance halls are learning spaces now. Classroom furniture is spread out to keep students and those teaching at a safe distance. Have a class with more than 50 people? You’re taking it online.

The Blackwell Inn has been converted into student housing. Dining halls are operating with mobile ordering and pickup. Gatherings are limited to 10 people, and student organizations’ events are on hold. Heartbreakingly, some of our favorite fall traditions are just not happening.

It would be easy to focus on all that’s changed, on all that’s being sacrificed. For sure, the college experience these students are having this year is different from anything alumni could imagine.

But, as I look out on the Oval on the first day of fall semester, I see a lot that is familiar, too.

I see students who are ready to learn together. I see people who are ready to push the boundaries of what we know today. I see people who are taking this very strange time and allowing it to shape their college experience in inspiring ways.

There is ingenuity in the dance class carrying its ballet barres to a tent on the South Oval. There is adaptability in the students moving their workouts outside on a hot summer day. Determination is everywhere, as students don masks and go about their days.

As the sun rises on the Oval, it rises on this new generation of Buckeyes.

In time, these students will show us what we can learn and how we can grow from this longest of walks. ✨

MONICA DEMEGLIO is a content strategist in University Marketing. She was campus editor of *The Lantern*.



LIZ WEBB
PUBLIC MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP AND POLICY
“I’m focusing on making the most of my senior year, while also starting to explore the job search process. I’m coping with the pandemic by helping my community in any way possible and strengthening my friendships.”



BAILEY CONRAD
BIOCHEMISTRY
“It’s different, obviously, but I am excited to be here, walking around campus, being outside in this atmosphere. I am a little nervous just because so many adaptations have to be made. But it’s important we remain open-minded and willing to adapt to these times.”



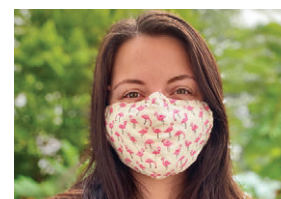
BRAXTON DANIELS III '19
SOCIOLOGY
“I love the feeling of being back on campus. I enjoy seeing classmates and helping freshmen. Being an art minor, I’m not the best online learner. But the faculty at the Mansfield campus makes it comfortable, and they’re patient.”



ANGELA PROVENZANO
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
“It’s exciting but nerve-wracking. I’m trying to make the most of any opportunity we have to interact with classmates or professors and really trying to be engaged in the learning environment. I feel like I took that for granted a lot before the pandemic.”



FARIS REHMAN
COMPUTER SCIENCE
“My personal focus has shifted toward completing my education as swiftly as possible so I can get out there and do my part to make the world a better place. I think it’s clear that there’s a lot of work to be done to that end.”



KATHERINE HUNTER
INTERIOR DESIGN
“My focus is on my senior thesis as well as making sure my roommate and I stay as healthy as possible. We don’t go out with friends outside our quarantine circle, we exercise daily, and we are always reminding each other to hydrate, hydrate, hydrate!”



ISHAN PATEL
PHYSICS, PRESIDENT OF BUCKEYETHON
“I want to finish my final year in BuckeyeThon strong. Although our year looks different, we’re doing everything we can to fundraise for children battling pediatric cancer and blood disorders. I’m going to try my hardest to lead.”



KATIA MARTINEZ
OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT
“I am very happy to be back in school. I missed the interaction with professors and participating in class. I enjoy my morning walks through the Oval and seeing people. It’s my first year as a Buck-I-SERV board member, which has made me more excited.”



FAITH NIMELY
ACCOUNTING
“There are moments I’m exceedingly thankful to be back on campus. I’m happy I am working with residence life staff because we’re making a positive impact on residents. It’s nice to feel that sense of community in our effort to fight this virus.”

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Attacking COVID-19 from all angles

Researchers at Ohio State’s Infectious Diseases Institute are in search of ways to slow, treat and prevent the virus that has come to define our time.

BY ROSS BISHOFF

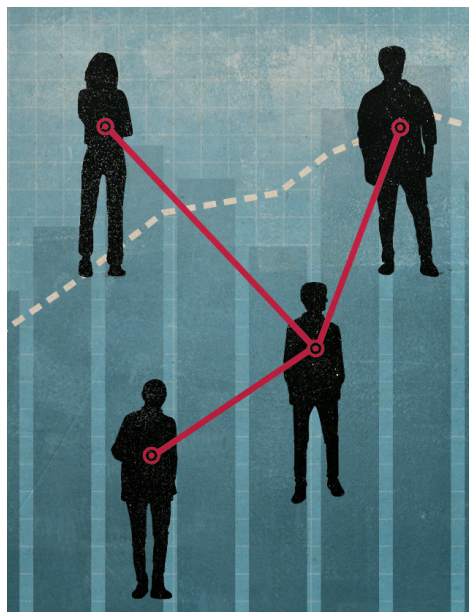
WHEN MICHAEL OGLESBEE ’84 DVM, ’88 PHD led the effort to establish what would become Ohio State’s Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI) in 2017, he was envisioning a threat exactly like COVID-19.

Since that threat became reality, the institute’s multi-disciplined, collaborative approach to combating disease has delivered critical information to Ohio’s public health experts and policymakers.

“COVID-19 illustrates the challenge of emerging infectious disease,” says Oglesbee, the institute’s inaugural director. “It is caused by a virus that originated in an animal reservoir and spread worldwide in less than six months, with over 25.5 million cases and 848,000 deaths as of Sept. 1.

“The IDI was formed to address the complexity and magnitude of this challenge. The diversity of relevant expertise is unprecedented.”

IDI encompasses six interdisciplinary research networks that comprise 248 faculty members from 13 colleges at Ohio State and



the Abigail Wexner Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s Hospital.

The COVID-19 outbreak has led to a partnership involving the IDI, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Ohio Hospital Association to help Ohio officials and residents through a myriad of responses. We asked Oglesbee to walk us through four of the institute’s ongoing projects.

Predictive Modeling

In the early stages of Ohio’s COVID-19 response, IDI’s Ecology, Epidemiology and Population Health team spearheaded an effort to use predictive modeling to forecast outbreaks. Its “contact network” model showed how physical distancing could prevent initial surges.

Those models helped the state “flatten the curve” so Ohio’s health care providers could

adequately manage patients with severe COVID-19 symptoms, allowing facilities to have enough hospital beds, ventilators and personal protective equipment for staff.

“The governor’s office used this to guide policy decisions, including a strategy for reopening businesses in a way that would allow us to contain new outbreaks of infection,” Oglesbee says.

Ongoing predictive modeling efforts will come from the recently formed Comprehensive Monitoring team, which draws members from IDI, ODH and Ohio State entities such as the College of Public Health, the Sustainability Institute and the Translational Data Analytics Institute.

That group will forecast the progression of infections and hospitalizations along with implementing strategies for contact tracing and containing new outbreaks. It also has informed the reopening of Ohio State’s campuses and research facilities this fall.

Treatment strategies

IDI’s virologists and immunologists are helping to develop a two-punch treatment that alleviates suffering for those infected and limits the virus’ contagion.

COVID-19 is highly contagious because when it enters a person’s body, it survives by replicating and shedding. The shed virus infects other people through respiratory droplets sneezed or coughed out. Once it finds a host, the virus starts in the nasal passages before taking root in the lungs. Excessive inflammatory responses in the lungs can result in severe cases of the illness.

In response, the institute’s teams are developing anti-viral drugs to block the replication that enables easy spread.

Meanwhile, to help those already battling illness, the teams are studying the immune response to create better treatments. Teams also are exploring treatments that work on other viruses along with antibody approaches that might neutralize the virus. Another study seeks to understand how many Ohioans have been infected in order to anticipate the virus’ pattern of spread.

Vaccine development

Many teams around the world are working furiously to develop a COVID-19



Michael Oglesbee directs Ohio State’s Infectious Diseases Institute.

“The [institute] was formed to address the complexity and magnitude of this challenge.”

— MICHAEL OGLESBEE '84 DVM, '88 PHD

vaccine. And that’s a good thing.

“This is a trial-and-error process, making it imperative that we examine a multitude of approaches in order to establish a vaccine that is both safe and effective,” Oglesbee says.

Researchers within IDI are using their knowledge of coronaviruses, vaccine platforms, adjuvants — immune response boosters — and mucosal immunity to support both vaccine design and ways to make vaccines more effective.

“Mucosal immunity is the body’s defense in the lining of the airways — the site of infection,” Oglesbee says. “Our approach to developing a vaccine uses

delivery systems that specifically enhance immune responses at this site, for example, through the use of unique delivery platforms and adjuvants.”

Preparing for the future

Much of what is being learned through the pandemic is helping IDI build the capacity of Ohio State and Ohio to respond to future outbreaks of other viruses.

The lessons learned are many, including how to effectively communicate infectious disease risk to the public, understanding behaviors that can contain an outbreak and studying the transmission of a virus from animals to humans.

“Understanding the mechanisms that lead to spillover events is key to preventing future human pandemics,” Oglesbee says.

The Comprehensive Monitoring team continues to build on relationships established in recent months. These ties will be invaluable in efforts to address future infectious disease outbreaks.

“We have the expertise and are building [more],” Oglesbee says. “Our efforts thus far have sweeping research and educational impacts that go beyond COVID-19.” ✱



Ohio State Newark faculty member John Low is director of the Newark Earthworks Center.

ARTS & CULTURE

This land has stories to tell us

Meet the professor who is helping steward the Newark Earthworks and their history toward a secure future.

A MEMBER OF THE POKAGON BAND of Potawatomi Indians, John Low has served his tribe his entire life.

“I grew up in the Pokagon Potawatomi community,” he says. “I’ve been a tribal attorney for the tribe. I’ve been on tribal council. I still serve on the traditions and repatriation committee for the tribe. I’m embedded in the community.”

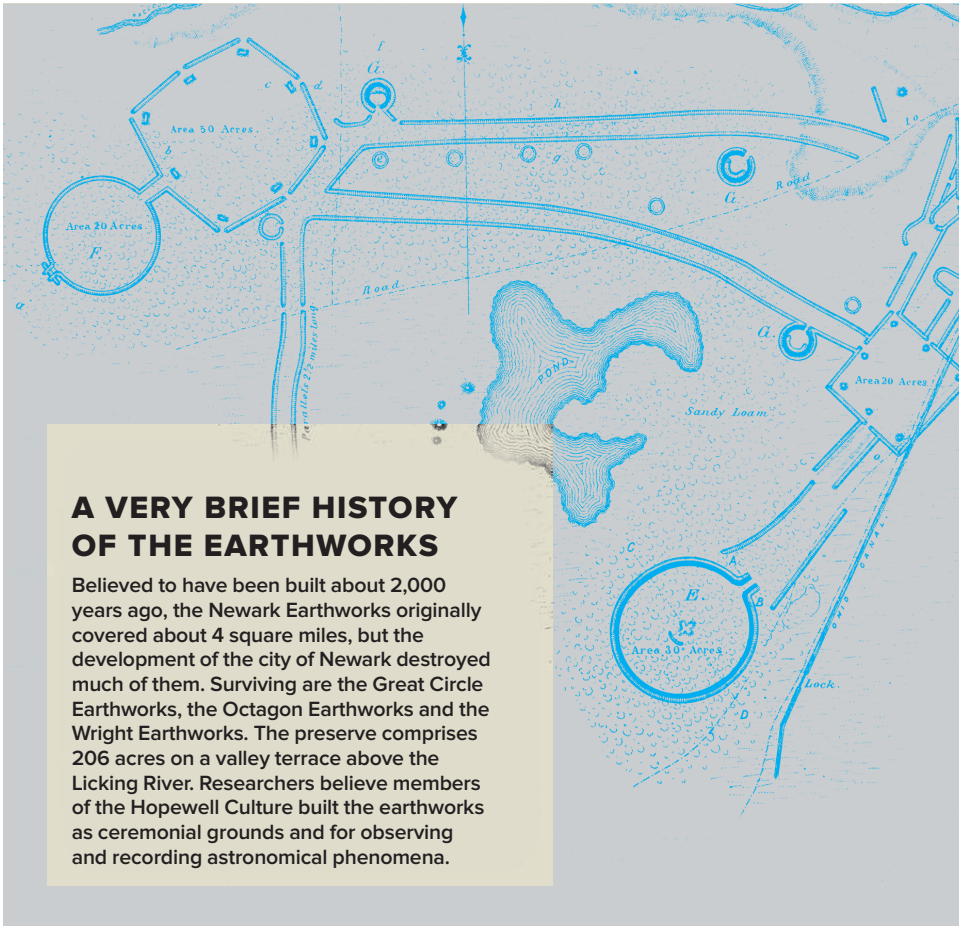
When he was named director of the Newark Earthworks Center in September 2019, he accepted a new responsibility that marries his service to community with a commitment to preserve history and educate the broader public about it.

“It’s exciting and important to me as a native person,” he says. “I believe that my ancestors either participated in the building of the mounds in Ohio or intermarried with people who were the descendants of the mound builders, so

that blood flows in my veins, it’s in my DNA. I’m definitely on a personal level a stakeholder in the earthworks throughout Ohio, all of these ancestral sites.”

Low is an associate professor in comparative studies at Ohio State Newark, where he also coordinates the American Indian Studies minor, teaching courses that touch on history, literature, culture — and how we preserve and remember them. He also has a background in museums, having worked as executive director of the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian in Evanston, Illinois, and served on the advisory committee for the Indians of the Midwest Project at the D’Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies at Chicago’s renowned Newberry Library.

Faculty and staff working for the Newark Earthworks Center, founded in



A VERY BRIEF HISTORY OF THE EARTHWORKS

Believed to have been built about 2,000 years ago, the Newark Earthworks originally covered about 4 square miles, but the development of the city of Newark destroyed much of them. Surviving are the Great Circle Earthworks, the Octagon Earthworks and the Wright Earthworks. The preserve comprises 206 acres on a valley terrace above the Licking River. Researchers believe members of the Hopewell Culture built the earthworks as ceremonial grounds and for observing and recording astronomical phenomena.

KEEP EXPLORING

Read about efforts by Ohio historic and education institutions to win UNESCO World Heritage designation for the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks and other sites in Ohio. worldheritageohio.org

Virtually explore the Newark Earthworks. Ancientohiotrail.org/sites/Newark

And learn more about the Newark Earthworks Center and events. go.osu.edu/earthworkscenter

2006, have filled several roles. They educate Ohioans about the earthworks and the indigenous people who built them. They support tribal governments in preserving and stewarding historic sites within ancestral lands. And they foster research and projects between tribal governments and Ohio State.

For now, the center is a virtual space, but one of Low's goals is creating a physical space. "My vision is to expand beyond the Newark Earthworks to ancestral indigenous sites throughout Ohio ... because they're all connected," he says. Ohio State supports an ongoing effort to secure designation of the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks — comprising seven sites in Ohio, including the Newark Earthworks — as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, or UNESCO, World Heritage Site.

Heritage site status raises the international profile of a designated site, encouraging conservation and preservation. Of 1,121 sites on the list, 24 are in the United States, including Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, an earthworks not far from present-day St. Louis. — JOHN JARVIS ✨

QUICK STUDY

A quarterly collection of high points and hurrahs that make us feel great about Buckeye Nation

BUCKEYE GENEROSITY

An Ohio State professor emerita and alumna has committed \$7.5 million from her charitable fund with The Columbus Foundation to the College of Education and Human Ecology — the largest philanthropic contribution from an individual or foundation in the college's history. The gift, from Gay Su Pinnell '68 MA, '75 PhD, will support funds for literacy education, an endowed professorship in reading and the first endowed clinical professorship at Ohio State, also for reading.

MAJOR TRYOUT

In a first-of-its-kind virtual tryout process in early May, the marching band selected its drum majors for the 2020 season. Brayden Deemer, an air transportation major, is the 63rd drum major of the band. Kyle Hustek, a computer science and engineering student, was selected as the assistant drum major for 2020.

KINDNESS CALLS

Some 18,000 first-year and graduating students received a surprise in late April as part of the Office of Student Life's Kindness Callers campaign. Staff from Student Life, Advancement, the alumni association, colleges and other units volunteered to call students to check in and make sure they were aware of university resources, including counseling and financial aid. "We wanted to tell them, 'We are still right here, ready to support you,'" says Vice President for Student Life Melissa Shivers.

SPECIAL EDITIONS

The fall 2019 *Ohio State Alumni Magazine* celebrating the university's 150th anniversary earned gold in the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education's national awards program in June, while the email newsletter coinciding with it landed bronze. One judge observed of the magazine: "The tone was consistently, unabashedly proud and sentimental about the institution and its goals." The email, which promotes digital content at go.osu.edu/alumnimag, was singled out for its clean look, great art and creative approach to content. All the more reason to keep reading!

BUCKEYE BUZZ

When alumni come together, they accomplish great things.

HAPPY TRAILS

Bob Darrow '71 of Tarpon Springs, Florida, represents us well along the Gulf Coast. Earlier this year, he recruited friends and family (Buckeyes at heart, though not by diplomas) to adopt mile 45 of the scenic Pinellas Trail, beloved by walkers and cyclists. Every other month, they collect litter along the trail, which Darrow walks regularly. He also volunteers three hours a week at the local food bank and two hours a week helping with maintenance at an area church. "I hope other retirees do the same wherever they live," Darrow says.



OVERSEAS 'O-H'

Buckeyes in China mobilized quickly this past spring in response to a call for personal protective equipment to aid in the COVID-19 response. Upon hearing of the need from Ohio State's China Global Gateway, alumni and parents of current students raised \$28,047 in 72 hours to purchase 60,000 masks. Qiang "Bill" Chen '13, '14 MBE, a sourcing manager with DHL, arranged for the global cargo company to cover the cost of shipping the items to Columbus. The masks aided Wexner Medical Center staff as well as international students, who received them from volunteers with the Chinese Students and Scholars Society.

JOIN THE CLUB Share news of how your group is paying forward. go.osu.edu/buckeyebuzz



HEALTH & WELLNESS

The eyes have it

Research concludes blue-blocking glasses are more style than substance. Try 20-20-20 instead.

AS AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR at the College of Optometry, Phillip Yuhas '14 MS, '14 OD, '19 PhD, conducts research and sees clinic patients. One of the most frequent questions patients ask is whether they should buy "blue-blocking" glasses to protect their eyes from the light they see while staring at computers or smart phones all day.

His answer, after years of interest in the topic, is no.

Blue light has gotten a bad rap because it has a short wavelength, which translates to high energy. With so many people spending so much time with their faces fewer than 2 feet from computer or phone screens, companies have marketed blue-blocking lenses under the claim they can protect the delicate tissue that covers the back of the eye.

The truth is, while laboratory studies have shown that prolonged exposure to blue light damages retinal cells in mice,

studies on people have not yielded similar results. The difference? Humans have natural protective features that act as blue blockers.

The marketing around the issue intrigued Yuhas as he completed his degrees at Ohio State and determined blue light isn't a patient's biggest concern.

"The effect this has on your eyes typically comes from staring at the computer screen for long periods," Yuhas explains. "The blink rate drops while you're on the computer and your tears evaporate, causing the surface of the eye to become inflamed."

He recommends taking 20-second breaks every 20 minutes to look at something about 20 feet in the distance, using lubricating eye drops and setting devices aside before bed to prevent sleep loss.

"Read your favorite paperback instead," he says. — **LAURA NEWPOFF** ✨



TIME AND CHANGE

We haven't met

Students have long tucked anonymous notes of support into an antique desk.

AT FIRST GLANCE, there appears to be nothing out of the ordinary about the desk at the north end of the reading room in Orton Hall — until you open a drawer. Pick up any one of the many letters left behind there by students, and you are bound to be moved by words of wisdom. Nearly every one of the 38 drawers of the desk is stuffed to the brim with notes to be discovered by strangers, like the one letting “whoever is reading this” know that everything is going to be OK. Students often respond back to each other, building a community inside a piece of furniture. “It’s just so beautiful. I don’t know who started it, but they were a smart cookie,” says Patti Dittoe, Orton Hall library manager. The desk originally belonged to Edward Orton Jr., an alum and son of Ohio State’s first president. *The Lantern* first wrote about the notes in August 2019. Since COVID-19 changed life on campus, the desk’s chair has been removed and the roll top has been closed. And Dittoe has tucked the notes safely away until they can be returned to their drawers. — **JASMINE HILTON** *

Dear letter

I just want you to know that everything will be okay, it might not seem that way right but I promise you, it all works out.

you are capable of amazing things

Never feel like you need to apologize for the circumstances of your birth. Nor should you ever feel like you are defined by them. Everyone has the potential for greatness within them. Uncluding you.

Hello Secret Desk Society, I am a humble first year and feel blessed to have discovered this untold network of support and wisdom. I found an empty drawer and decided to write too. I guess curiosity led to amazing things, for all who have written a time of struggle, your have lifted my spirits! here to spread the love! (do you feel the love?) →

If anybody has green or blue feel free to color it in/ add leaves

This is what I imagine the world would look like if it was made out of tree roots

Do you see it???

Antarctica

11/21/2015

I assure you that college may seem, you come out on the other side. Cherish your time at Ohio State, near your friends, free to do and activities that interest you while you have the time that you have a whole university and alumni association of support, so if you need help, all you have to do is ask!

18th Avenue Library, 3rd floor
175 W. 18th Ave., Columbus, OH
library.osu.edu/researchcommons
researchcommons@osu.edu

HOW
2/9/17

Secret Desk Society,
I've been here in a while, but the desk back to when I first found it freshman year. I'm a fifth year I'm graduating in a month. It's think about my past 5 years here the incredible ups & downs that with it. The past year has seen highs & lowest lows and I've learned to not be okay all the time. 20s and don't need everything to be figured out. We're still allowed

Their lights still shine

THE OHIO STATE FAMILY HAS NOT BEEN EXEMPT from the grief and loss that seem to pervade these months. Perhaps, having slowed down and contracted the scope of our lives, we feel all loss more keenly. What if we also choose to feel the lasting warmth of these bright lives more keenly? We hope you'll be able to do just that in these stories of five Buckeyes.



Annie Glenn

1920–2020 | With strength and resolve, she found her voice. And through her goodwill and kindness, she helped others find theirs.

ANNA CASTOR GLENN, wife of the late spacefaring Sen. John Glenn, passed away May 19 near St. Paul, Minnesota, due to complications from COVID-19. She was 100 years old. Her husband of 73 years preceded her in 2016.

Glenn's spirit endures through the lives of those she touched. There were many in that category at Ohio State, from clients of the Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic to the students, faculty and staff of the

Department of Speech and Hearing Science and the John Glenn College of Public Affairs. An adjunct faculty member in speech-language pathology for 19 years (until 2019), Glenn lit up every room she entered, but her humility ensured everyone she met felt included.

"She always radiated this invincible spirit, but she was so warm, gracious, compassionate and caring," says JoAnn Donohue, former assistant director of the

Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic.

During the height of the space race in the 1960s, Glenn was thrust into the public eye. So, too, was her severe stutter, which made everyday tasks insurmountable.

After years of struggling, Glenn discovered Hollins Communications Research Institute, which offered an intensive treatment program in Roanoke, Virginia. It was at Hollins where she met Sander Flaum '58, who also stuttered. The two spoke over the phone often to practice their speech, and every year, they would return to the institute for follow-ups. She, Flaum and John Glenn formed a close friendship.

"I was always so flattered that whenever I spoke at Ohio State, John and Annie were there in the front row every time," says Flaum, founder and principal of Flaum Navigators, a marketing insights group. Flaum established Ohio State's Sander and Mechele Flaum Designated Professorship in Fluency, which advances speech fluency through teaching, research and community service. He also serves as an advisor to the Glenn College, the College of Arts and Sciences and Fisher College of Business.

In the Department of Speech and Hearing Science and the Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic, Annie Glenn built on her impassioned advocacy for others with communication disorders.

"The Glens were the living embodiment of the university motto, 'Education for Citizenship,'" says Glenn College Dean Trevor Brown. "They showed us what public leadership means."

Glenn took pride in her accomplishments, including the honorary doctor of public service degree Ohio State awarded her in 2009, but her aim was focused on lifting others.

"They were just genuine and decent people," Donohue says of the Glens. "Their mission was, 'I was fortunate and blessed to have some outstanding life experiences. How can I turn those life experiences around and focus on you and help you?'" — **JOSH FRIESEN** *



Wendell Ellenwood '43, '47 MA

1922–2020 | He championed and nurtured the Ohio Union not just as a campus landmark but as a gathering place for all.

OH, THAT RED JACKET. The one with the Ohio State seal on the breast pocket. Wendell Ellenwood '43, '47 MA wore that sport coat everywhere during his 25 years as director of the Ohio Union. His heart was forever beholden to his alma mater, the Union and all those students he treasured second only to his family: his wife of 62 years, the late Mary Janet Ellenwood, and their four children and seven grandchildren.

Ellenwood kept donning his jacket after retiring in 1983, kept doing what he'd always done throughout the community. Planning and gathering. Hosting and leading. "It didn't make

any difference how bad it got or what was happening," says John Ellinger '70, '72 MA, his co-worker and eventual successor as Ohio Union director. "He always focused on the positive with everyone."

During campus riots in 1970, Ellenwood stood outside the Union, passing wet towels to students retreating inside, eyes burning from tear gas. Many were Vietnam War protesters. Ellenwood had served in World War II, earning a Purple Heart in the Battle of the Bulge as an artillery forward observer in Patton's Third Army. Differences didn't matter. He considered students the heart of the university. "We looked upon the Union as a union — people coming together," Ellenwood once said.

His optimism was always active, just like the sleeves of his red jacket when he led groups in "Carmen Ohio." "Don't let it drag," he'd tell the singers.

Wendell Ellenwood lived with equal vigor. His loyalty to family, friends and Ohio State didn't flag even in death, a milestone he reached on Jan. 28 at the age of 98. He was buried in that red jacket. — **TODD JONES** *

**Oliver George
McGee III '81**

1957–2020 | He nurtured early-career professors and advocated for diversity in engineering — after achieving the status of TBDBITL drum major.

OLIVER GEORGE MCGEE III '81, who died June 7, 2020, at age 62, was a barrier-breaker, unafraid to buck convention, who leveraged his professional success to lift others — especially students and junior colleagues — and to diversify the ranks of his field. As an undergraduate, he became only the second African American student to serve as drum major of The Ohio State University Marching Band.

After graduating, McGee attended the University of Arizona, where he earned his master of science in civil engineering in 1983 and his PhD in engineering mechanics in 1988. He held positions at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Georgia Institute of Technology. During this time, McGee also was a policy advisor and deputy assistant secretary of transportation in the Clinton administration. In 2001, McGee made history at Ohio State when he was named professor and chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Geodetic Science (now Civil, Environmental and Geodetic Engineering). He was the first African American to be named a full professor and department chair in the College of Engineering.

During his tenure at Ohio State, the department was recognized for recruitment and retention of women and minority faculty and for creating a supportive environment for diversity and related initiatives.

“Oliver was very helpful to me as I learned the system at Ohio State,” says Halil Sezen, professor of structural engineering at Ohio State, who joined the



university in 2002. “He provided the assistance and advice that young faculty needed concerning teaching classes, writing research proposals and mentoring graduate students.”

During the first Obama term, McGee jumped the political aisle, writing books and appearing on television as a conservative commentator. This made him a vocal, but still very loved, political outsider in his own family. “Oliver was a bit of a rebel. He was one of the few

Republicans (literally three) in a family full of progressives and could hold his own through many telephone, backyard and dinner discussions with pretty much all of us scrutinizing his views,” his family wrote in his obituary. “We’ll miss the arguments before dinner, his love of tennis and the strong opinionated Black man he grew up to be. Most of all, we’ll miss that smile and his presence among us.” — **KRISTEN SCHMIDT, WITH REPORTING BY KEVIN SATTERFIELD '94** ✨

Gay Hadley

1930–2020 | Having forged her own nontraditional path to higher education, she dedicated her professional life to clearing it for other women.

RAISING FOUR CHILDREN was only the first job of many in the compelling life and career of Gay Hadley '75 MA, '82 PhD, who died in May at age 90. Hadley is remembered for championing others to greater heights. After her children were grown, she earned her doctorate in education from Ohio State and began working at the university; when she retired in 1995, she was the associate vice president for human resources.

Hadley was president of the Junior League of Columbus, campaigned to desegregate Columbus public schools and co-founded a career counseling service. Through this work, she met Martha M. Garland '75 PhD, former vice provost for enrollment services and dean of undergraduate education, who suggested

Hadley apply for a job in the Office of Continuing Education. Thereafter, Hadley credited Garland as the catalyst of her career. "If true," Garland says, "it is surely one of my most important contributions to the university."

Garland remembers Hadley's focus as "always with an emphasis on helping people find opportunities, on making the best out of their lives ... and on enabling a positive experience for women on campus."

Among Hadley's achievements: creating an orientation program for women resuming their studies; launching a support program for staff pursuing course work; co-founding the Critical Difference for Women grant program; and co-founding Campus Campaign, through which employees donate to the university. For this, Hadley was awarded the 1992 Reese Medal, Ohio State's highest honor recognizing exceptional service in private philanthropy, and the 1998 Distinguished Service Award for exceptional service to the university.

Says Garland, "What really stood out about her was her remarkable positive vision. She was a real blessing to her whole community, and especially to the university." — **BROOKE PRESTON** ✨



Thomas Sawyer

1945–2020 | Known for his innate ability to lead and mastery in public affairs, he lifted people and programs alike.

TOM SAWYER '67, '68 MA, '73 PHD had a remarkable knack for pushing people and organizations forward, friends say. Sawyer died Feb. 18 after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. He was 74.

"Tom was always very thoughtful, forward-looking and a broad thinker," says Dan Heinlen '60, a friend and former president of the alumni association.

Sawyer had sprawling connections to Ohio State. As an undergrad, he served as president of his class and held leadership positions with Ohio Staters (where he first met Heinlen), Freshman Senate and the Sigma Pi fraternity.

Sawyer's career as a political media expert led him back to Columbus in the 1990s. Sawyer opened a public affairs consulting firm and taught at Ohio State. He served on the President's Alumni Council as well as on the alumni association's board of directors. As its chair, he oversaw the expansion of the Advocates program.

"Tom was an all-around good person," Heinlen says. "Whether it was leadership or servanthip, you knew you could always rely on him."

— **AARON GREEN '10, '12** ✨



Meet our new president

Light in the storm

Kristina M. Johnson joined us as this most extraordinary academic year began. She's undaunted by the challenges and inspired by the Buckeyes she now leads.

Stories by Mary Alice Casey
Photo by Logan Wallace





Some 20 years ago, Kemi Doll and a few other Duke undergrads were eating pizza during their National Society of Black Engineers chapter meeting when the dean dropped by unannounced.

Today, Doll is a gynecologic oncologist, researcher and assistant professor in Seattle. Her former dean is Kristina M. Johnson, 16th president of The Ohio State University. It's been years since the two last conversed, but each credits the other for imparting precious knowledge.

"What struck me most is that she would come to our events. I remember the first time just being like, 'You're the dean. Why are you *here*?' Her response was something like, 'Because I want to know what your experience is. You all have an experience nobody else has at this school. You have incredibly valuable information for me.'"

Between that first meeting and her graduation in 2004, Doll faced hardships that forced her attention away from her studies. She recalls Johnson coming to her dorm room to help her make a plan to quickly get home to Atlanta and then later, when poor grades forced Doll to sit out two terms, the dean gave her a job while she prepared to reapply to the biomedical engineering program.

"It was a very empowering position for me, as I continued to move through medical school and residency and all these places where being 'the only' again was very normal, to realize, 'Wow, I have this incredible value to bring.' She was the first person who articulated that to me."

Examples like this — of Johnson's lasting effect on others, through small gestures and huge achievements — come to mind easily for former students, longtime colleagues and cherished friends. Listening intently and



speaking authentically in every conversation. Earning the prestigious John Fritz Medal and a spot in the National Inventors Hall of Fame for her expertise in optoelectronic processing systems and 3D imaging. Seeking out the daughter of a search committee member to share appreciation for her new Buckeye mask. Securing more than 100 U.S. and international patents. Stooping to pick up a piece of litter and carrying it to the next trash can.

This is who Kris Johnson is. How she moves through life and brings others along.

And what a life it's been. Johnson, 63, officially joined Ohio State on Sept. 1, but was deeply engaged with the university community in the weeks leading up to this extraordinary academic year. She was born in St. Louis and grew up in Denver before heading to California for her bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in electrical engineering from Stanford and then to Ireland for a postdoctoral fellowship at Trinity College.

When it came time to join a faculty, she accepted an offer from the University of Colorado at Boulder. In her 14 years there, she founded a National Science Foundation-supported center in optoelectronics and spun out several companies, including one that brought new 3D technology to market for films such as "Avatar."

Next she served eight years as dean of engineering at Duke and two as provost and senior vice president at Johns Hopkins before President Obama tapped her for

the role of undersecretary of energy. She accepted and was unanimously confirmed by the Senate.

Following that government service, Johnson founded (and with technology innovations quickly grew) a company to generate sustainable hydropower, an industry her grandfather and father helped pioneer. In 2017, the lure of academia led her to the role of chancellor of the 64-campus State University of New York system. And on June 3, 2020, The Ohio State University Board of Trustees named her to succeed former President Michael V. Drake.

"Ohio State has always been a special place to me, well beyond its standing as one of the most respected teaching, research and patient-care institutions in the world," says Johnson, whose paternal grandfather was a Buckeye. "This is an iconic, inspiring, storied institution. Our size, scale, scope — with 15 outstanding colleges, a respected graduate school and top institutes and medical center — enables limitless potential to do great things."

But Johnson isn't naïve. She knows the road ahead is fraught with unavoidable adversity: a pandemic to overcome, structural racism to continue tearing down, concerns about college access and affordability. These are only a few. Yet she's not dissuaded; she's motivated.

"I think different times require different types of leadership," Johnson says. "Calm, agile, optimistic, collaborative, empathetic — these are traits I feel I draw my strength from. And an always-present sense

LEFT: During an interview before taking office, Johnson conveys the energy she finds in this moment. "I'm an engineer. I love solving problems. I view them as opportunities, challenges — and I'm inspired by challenges."

ABOVE: Johnson and her wife, Veronica Meinhard, speak with former President Michael V. Drake on the day of Johnson's appointment.



1



2

of urgency. If you want to be the best and have a world-class research and educational operation, you have to have a sense of urgency. You have to get things done.

“I’m also pretty competitive, but in a good way. And being competitive, putting in the work, having a winning spirit — I think that matches really well with The Ohio State University and Buckeye Nation. I mean, we want to win. That’s who we are.”

Johnson stresses she is all about teamwork — and former associates back that up with numerous examples.

“I want to hear from everyone, and I want to make sure that we look at issues from all the important aspects so that when we make a decision, we appreciate and understand the impact. What excites me about Ohio State is our ability to do innovative things because of our capacity and our influence. When we do something, we’ll make an impact.”

• • •

Bob Freelen easily recalls Johnson’s lasting first impression. He and his wife, Sally, were residence hall fellows at Stanford, and Johnson was a freshman whose room was next door to their apartment.

“She knocked on our door and said, ‘Do you have a drill?’ I looked at her and said, ‘Not really.’ What she did when she eventually found a drill was hook her bed to a pulley arrangement so she could fold it up against the wall

during the day. She thought the twin bed frame took up a little more room than it needed to, so she rigged it up.”

The Freelens were Johnson’s dorm mentors for just two years, but their friendship has spanned 45.

When Johnson’s mom visited that first year, the Freelens honored her request to stay silent about the used motorcycle she’d purchased to tool around town. They followed her athletic career — she played varsity field hockey and founded Stanford’s lacrosse club, among other achievements — and applauded her academic successes. When she defended her PhD dissertation after surgery to remove her spleen and months of radiation to treat Hodgkin’s lymphoma, they were there. (On overcoming lymphoma, Johnson says, “It taught me a lot. About optimism, courage, being strong and how to face unpleasant events and deal with them. It’s not a club I wanted to be part of, but I’m glad that I am.”)

For Bob Freelen, who went on to roles as Stanford’s dean of students, alumni director and vice president of public affairs, watching Johnson’s career unfold has been pure joy. “The combination of outstanding academics and entrepreneurship is really quite rare. You just don’t see very many people who can combine those two things and really be extraordinarily successful at both.”

That ability to lead a complex academic enterprise and navigate the worlds of industry, government and technology — and to do so while putting people first —



1 Johnson bumps elbows with a parent during move-in. Normally a one-day feat, the process was extended to 12 days to limit campus visitors because of COVID-19.



3

2 The president leads a session with her cabinet of senior leaders during her first day on the job. Her initial meeting with the Board of Trustees came later in the week.

3 A desire to interact more with students such as freshman Emily Smith is a big reason Johnson chose to move from the role of SUNY chancellor to Ohio State president.

elevated Johnson to the top of what Ohio State Trustee Lewis Von Thayer believes was a field of “the best candidates in the country” for the president’s job.

“We definitely wanted to find a hybrid candidate, somebody who had succeeded in academia but also had had to succeed in the business world or government or somewhere like that,” says Von Thayer, who chaired the presidential search committee that worked closely with an advisory group of students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members. “We wanted somebody who, at their core, was an academic and could understand the academy, work in that shared-governance structure, but also could push to get things done and drive schedules in weeks and months instead of semesters and years.”

Von Thayer understands the importance of that pace better than most. For three years he has been CEO of Battelle, the world’s largest independent research and development organization. Its headquarters is right across King Avenue from the Columbus campus.

“I think if there’s bureaucracy that gets in the way too often, Kristina will find ways to move that out. When

the scientists work together, stuff usually goes pretty well; smart people like working with smart people,” he says. “An ability to focus on academic excellence, to partner beyond the university and do bigger things — she brings exactly that skillset. And there are a lot of smart Buckeyes around here.”

Johnson has the same impression about ingenuity within the Ohio State community. She recognizes the grand challenges already being met by colleges, institutes and centers across the university and expresses eagerness to more deeply explore existing and potential interdisciplinary links.

“We have all the pieces. What I’ve done in my career is connect the dots on the various pieces through cross-disciplinary and what now we refer to as convergent research,” she says. “What I mean by connecting the dots is getting together and identifying really important problems that society needs to solve. And then putting together the networks on campus and in the greater world to converge with a singular focus and make an impact on a particular problem.”



Charles Johnson (middle row, second from left) was on the 1895 Ohio State football team.

JOHNSON GENERATIONS: DRIVEN BY FAMILY VALUES

Kristina M. Johnson didn't know her paternal grandfather, Charles Johnson. He died in the 1917–19 flu pandemic when Johnson's dad, Robert, was just 5. Johnson lost her own father when she was a sophomore in college. While these loved ones from three generations spent too few years together, they shared important commitments — to education, sustainability and, now, the Buckeyes.

Charles Johnson, an 1896 graduate of Ohio State, studied engineering and played right guard on the football team. Family lore suggests her grandparents met on campus. While working for George Westinghouse in the early 1900s, Charles Johnson launched Casino Technical Night School, named for the restaurant where classes met.

"He recognized that women and African Americans were not the engineers of the world," Johnson says. "So he started night classes to educate anyone who wanted to get into the technical tracks within Westinghouse."

Among Johnson's prized possessions is a 1920 letter Black employees of Westinghouse sent her grandmother, Evelyn Vaughan Johnson, recognizing her late husband's "great service ... to Negroes in the community of Pittsburgh."

Johnson's dad worked for Westinghouse, too, and like his father, in hydropower. When her term as undersecretary of energy ended, Johnson saw her own path to the field. She founded Enduring Hydro, which evolved to Cube Hydro with support from a private equity firm, and brought in Neal Simmons, one of her former Duke postdoctoral fellows, as vice president for engineering and innovation. They built the first new hydroelectric facility in western Pennsylvania in 25 years and modernized 18 existing plants in five states.

"Working with Kristina is a tremendous amount of fun," says Simmons, a Duke professor who is CEO of the company Johnson stepped away from to lead SUNY. "We did a lot of important things in a very short time. She really just drove her vision throughout the company to innovate and bring technology to hydropower where it hadn't been."

Johnson attributes her commitment to sustainability to being one of seven kids raised by parents who grew up in the Depression. "My mother's favorite saying was, 'Waste not, want not.' There are only so many resources in the world and to waste them is just not right."

• • •

Ram Narayanswamy has seen that laser focus up close. He worked with Johnson as a grad student at the University of Colorado beginning in 1991 and through a two-year postdoctoral fellowship.

"I still remember when I met her. It was brief; her calendar is very busy. I mean, she's always going somewhere, right? It was probably a 20-minute meeting, but that really left a mark on me. I thought, 'Wow, she is really visionary. She has all this energy.' I don't remember what we talked about, but I said, 'Hey, I want to work for her.'"

“Kristina’s very courageous, and she’s not afraid of a challenge. She is passionate about this job and about becoming a Buckeye.”

— OHIO STATE TRUSTEE LEWIS VON THAER,
CHAIR OF THE PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Narayanswamy was undecided on his focus when he joined Johnson's research group. They explored options and talked with colleagues, and on her recommendation, he chose to develop what we now know as artificial intelligence to improve the effectiveness of Pap test cancer screenings. He developed the means to isolate data that fell outside the normal range so doctors and technicians could bring their experience and judgment to bear in the most crucial cases.

"Academics can be very focused on doing what they do. Kristina is able to connect it to a bigger horizon and say, 'Listen, there's some greater good in this. There's some technology here that we can use to solve big problems.' She's an amazing bridge builder that way, understanding some of these issues and how technology can solve them."

One solution badly needed throughout public higher education is the creation of more opportunities for students and faculty from diverse backgrounds. Johnson admires the gains made during Drake's presidency and vows diversity, equity and inclusion will remain a priority during her tenure.

"We need to push it. At the end of my term here, I would like to see a significant change in our demographics," she says. "It's keeping your eye on the recruitment processes and procedures, bringing people into the system so they can be seen and be productive and get the opportunities that everybody else has."

Robert Clark was a professor and researcher at Duke

Johnson and Ken Lee, a professor of food science and technology, zip between meetings. Despite the pace, she's listening intently, a trait mentee Dr. Kemi Doll saw decades ago: "She has her ear to everyone in this very genuine way. It just creates such confidence in what she can do."



when Johnson persuaded him to take on an associate dean role. Now provost at the University of Rochester, he and Johnson brought greater racial and gender diversity to Duke's engineering faculty by creating new faculty lines and holding search committees accountable for widening their candidate pools.

Clark says fostering opportunities for others is at the heart of who Johnson is and how she views her responsibility as a leader. "Kris is a very warm person, a very caring person. And so her interest in people is in *all* people. It doesn't matter what your race is or what your culture might be or what your gender identification is."

All of this came through to Von Thaer and others charged with finding the next person to lead Ohio State's six campuses, more than 68,000 students, 50,000-plus faculty, some 28,000 staff members, nearly 600,000 alumni and a \$7 billion annual budget.

"Kristina's very courageous, and she's not afraid of a challenge. She is passionate about this job and becoming a Buckeye," he says. "It's never easy to step into the crisis when you come in on your first day, but leaders do that. They're not the ones who run away from the fire. They run into it and try to solve things for their organizations, to make it better. She's showing that spirit." ✨

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

Family ties: The sixth of Kathleen and Robert Johnson's seven children, she has four sisters and two brothers. She is married to Veronica Meinhard, a 26-year veteran of higher education philanthropy and administration.

For fun and fitness: She and Veronica, a four-time All-American swimmer at the University of Florida, enjoy hiking, cycling and, though she doesn't find much time to play it, golf. As she longs for the return of live music, she is tiding herself over with selections from Eric Clapton, Darius Rucker, and various jazz and alternative rock artists.

Among her honors: Johnson has been awarded five honorary degrees and served on several corporate boards, including currently for Cisco Systems Inc.

Source of inspiration: Wangari Muta Maathai (1940–2011) of Nairobi, Kenya, who earned the 2004 Nobel Prize for her contributions to sustainable development, democracy and peace, is among Johnson's heroes. She started a grassroots movement encouraging women to plant trees and think ecologically. It spread to other African countries and led to the planting of more than 30 million trees.

Parting message: "Veronica and I are so excited to be here, and we really want to engage with everyone. I am so proud to be a Buckeye."




ILLUSTRATIONS BY ADRIAN FRANKS



The only way is through

WE WON'T TURN AWAY.

Whether our blinders were torn off in May or we are bearing the pain of the millionth cut, we will confront racism and its manifestations. There are many, and they are overwhelming and burrowed deeply into the fabric of our society and its institutions. Though Ohio State has a history of integration and initiatives created to diversify our community and to build access to higher education, it also has a history of inequity. Effort does not absolve us. Our shortcomings must not deter us. • No person, organization, business or elected body in the world has the power to reconcile 400 years of systemic racism. Yet we're not helpless. When we see that the deep, abiding change we seek is out of reach, we'll search within ourselves to understand how we can be part of solutions. We will sit with our discomfort and flaws. We'll keep pushing institutions — the businesses we patronize, the cities where we live, the alma mater we love — to do better. We will not turn away. • We can learn a lot from the Ohio State faculty and staff who have dedicated their careers to tugging out rotten threads of our history and replacing them with equity and justice. And from alumni who lift their voices and skills in service to people who have been disenfranchised. And from students who have marched and written and organized. Individual actions do matter. What will you do to create a more equitable and just present and future? We hope the people you meet in these stories will lead you by their examples of grit, intellect and righteous determination. — KRISTEN SCHMIDT *

 **MEET THE ARTIST** Read an interview with illustrator Adrian Franks in which he explains the inspiration for and ideas behind his work for this story and what sparks his creativity. go.osu.edu/adrianfranks

Talking about race is not optional

BY ANDREA N. WILLIAMS

ANDREA N. WILLIAMS IS AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND INTERIM DIRECTOR OF THE WOMEN'S PLACE.

WHEN I TEACH THE COURSE Colonial and U.S. Literature to 1865, often a student mentions, "I thought this class was supposed to be about literature. We keep talking about race." Yes, we cover familiar writers of the period such as Thomas Jefferson, Herman Melville, Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman. But for my slightly disgruntled student, the class had gone a step too far in delving into the world around those authors, beyond their printed pages, to ask additional questions: What realities are not reflected? Whose voices are missing? As I insist, we also need to read William Apess' "An Indian's Looking-Glass for the White Man" and Indigenous writing that resisted land dispossession. We need to know the fiery anti-racist writings of David Walker and the rhythmic poetry of Black feminist abolitionist Frances Ellen Watkins Harper. To understand the fuller story of the period, we need to talk about race.

But addressing race isn't simply a matter of adding the voices of Black, Latinx, Asian



"... We must challenge ourselves to repeatedly ask a crucial question: What role has racism played in creating the conditions around me?"

American or Indigenous people to our reading lists or, by extension, to our everyday experiences. Whiteness is charged with its own racialized history, one that we too often allow to appear dominant, universal and neutral. That assumption led my student to initially imagine that "American" literature and "race" appear in isolation.

People of color often are accustomed to examining and protesting inequality, whether through lived experience or study. But all of us, regardless of our backgrounds, can broaden the scope and depth of our knowledge. By talking about race in the context of literature, history, science, business, the arts and other fields, we can

reveal and challenge structural inequities.

For many, meaningful change begins with talking about race reflectively, repeatedly and responsively.

Beginning with self-reflection, we can think about our individual place within longer histories of racial oppression. Reading, viewing or listening to new perspectives can prepare us to talk honestly with our family, colleagues and neighbors. Whether having spontaneous or planned conversations, think about what you'd like to accomplish with the time and insight you have at the moment. Then introduce new social concepts as the foundation for having more informed ongoing dialogue.

When shaping a conversation about race in public spaces, be aware of the power differentials between participants based on their identities. Don't expect one person to represent the views of others who share the same racial identity. Make space for less prominent voices to contribute voluntarily, respecting people's boundaries around what they feel comfortable sharing publicly. Discussions proceed best when mutual trust is established.

In pursuing racial justice, we must challenge ourselves to repeatedly ask a crucial question: What role has racism played in creating the conditions around me? By doing so, we expose the myths of white superiority — in our traditions, symbols, policies and language (as with metaphors of darkness as evil).

Finally, we can talk about race responsively, ready to act. To move beyond conversations to lasting change, we must implement steps, goals and realistic timelines for transformation. We have to marshal our various resources of time, funding and collaboration toward dismantling inequality.

I am always pleased to hear from past students who write back to say that, yes, learning more about race, gender, class and social difference equipped them as more critical thinkers and ethical leaders as alumni. Yet, especially in the wake of national crises in 2020, our need to address racism is much too urgent to wait for awakenings years from now.

So, yes, let's keep talking about race. There is more to say. But much more than that, there is more to do. ✨

Photo: Jo McCully

WHAT YOU'RE SAYING

We asked Ohio State alumni to share what they're thinking and feeling right now about the nationwide dialogue about racism and how they are participating in that conversation.

FINDING OUR ROLES

"I am a parent in a very non-diverse community, so it is crucial for open conversation at home while we do not have much opportunity for 'interactive education.'"

JODI REED '04

"I have really focused my role on educating family members on the impact of systemic racism and how we as a white family contribute to the problem."

ALYSON SCHOENER '16

"It is my role to be honest and candid without the burden of placing others' comfort above my own. The courage to engage in tough conversations is integral."

KRISTI WARREN-SCOTT '03

CONVERSATIONS AND PROTESTS

"I have been encouraged with the continuation of the protests throughout the country and the world. Despite those who would like to incite negativity and discord, the protests still march on. I just hope the candid conversations lead to permanent awareness for what's right — and a diminishing of attitudes and beliefs that are wrong."

VAUGHN BROADNAX '84

"I am happy to see so many conversations happening around the issue of racial injustice, inclusion, diversity and equity. However, so many tragic events had to take place in order to reach this point. I've loved to hear the other sides of this conversation, from leaders in law enforcement, and especially those whose communities are impacted by police brutality. As a person of color, it is a lot to take in. It is all consuming, on top of the current state of the pandemic. I do feel change will take place, and I hope it is change that is systemic and not just systematic."

OLIVIA CORA '12



ACT

to create racial justice, start conversations, acquire knowledge, be anti-racist. odi.osu.edu/racial-justice-resources



LISTEN

to "The Least You Could Do," an episode of the podcast Reply All, hosted by Emmanuel Dzotsi '15. gimletmedia.com/shows/reply-all



LEARN

about your implicit biases with the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity. kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/implicit-bias-training



1

| 1 | Fraternities such as Alpha Phi Alpha, which in the 1930s included Jesse Owens (seated, far right), as well as sororities remain a source of affirmation for Black students.



2

| 2 | Doris Weaver sued Ohio State in 1932 to live on campus in the Home Management House. She was unsuccessful.



3

| 3 | Students came together in 1969 for a program marking the fourth anniversary of the assassination of human rights activist Malcolm X.

| 4 | A diverse group led by students gathered in early June to protest the killing of George Floyd and other victims of police brutality.

Students lead us closer to justice and equity

BY HASAN KWAME JEFFRIES

HASAN KWAME JEFFRIES IS AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY.

OUR NATION'S PROGRESS in embracing racial diversity and fairness has been excruciatingly slow and hard-fought. The same can be said of our strides at Ohio State. Yet, throughout our university's history, we have benefited from the constant and impassioned voices of Black students urging us to be better.

Even when the university began admitting more African Americans, it let in very few, and Black students achieved by closing ranks. Excluded from white fraternities and sororities, they formed their own Greek organizations, the first

being Pi Gamma Omicron in 1906. These groups allowed Black students to be themselves, affirming their lives mattered.

The transformation of Ohio State from an institution that practiced racial segregation to one that today values diversity and inclusion came haltingly. Change occurs over time, not because of time. Black students have worked hard for every advancement, often in the face of opposition from white faculty, administrators and students.

William Oxley Thompson, who served as president from 1899 to 1926, saw the injustice in "race prejudice," but there is no known evidence he saw benefits in addressing it. In a 1911 letter to a fellow university president, he wrote, "The race

problem is growing in intensity every year, and I am disposed to doubt the wisdom on the part of the colored people of taking any move that practically forces the doctrine of social equality."

It appears based on documents from the time that Black students could not live on campus until the 1950s, and then only a small number did. In 1932, Doris Weaver sued the university to live in the Home Management House, as required by her home economics major. Alumnus John Bricker, then state attorney general and later a member of Ohio State's Board of Trustees, persuaded the Ohio Supreme Court to let this separate and unequal practice stand.

Not even Olympic glory could change this whites-only residential practice. Jesse Owens won four gold medals at the 1936 Summer Olympics. In Adolf Hitler's Germany, he slept in integrated housing. At Ohio State, he had to sleep off campus.

Students' protests intensified in the mid-1900s, culminating in a dramatic takeover of what is now Bricker Hall on April 26, 1968, by about 60 Black Student Union members. Indictments and expulsions followed, as did more protests.



4

“Black students ... continue to push their university to be the diverse and equitable institution they know it can be.”

The students’ courage and conviction led to creation of today’s Department of African American and African Studies and Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

Recruitment and retention efforts initiated by Vice Provost for Minority Affairs Frank W. Hale Jr. in the 1970s and ’80s resulted in gains in Black student enrollment. Ohio State has built on Hale’s vision. Enrollment grew steadily through the 1990s, but waned from 2004 to 2017, in part due to changes in a federal reporting process. Since then, enrollment of Black students has been on a steady rise to a high of about 4,000 students on the Columbus campus last academic year.

A staunch determination to continue

our university’s evolution endures. In fact, I believe Black students’ commitment to eliminating racial discrimination on and off campus has never been stronger.

Following George Floyd’s killing by Minneapolis police in May, Black students joined hundreds on campus, thousands in Columbus and millions around the country in marching for justice for victims of police violence and an end to systemic racism. Many are calling on Ohio State to sever ties with the Columbus Division of Police after numerous accounts of inappropriate use of force against African Americans. Their demand is not unlike that made by Black students of the 1980s, who called on the university to divest of companies doing business in pro-apartheid South Africa, which it eventually did.

As these and other examples illustrate, Black students have been on the right side of history, and they continue to push their university to be the diverse and equitable institution they know it can be. Tremendous work still needs to be done. If this year’s Black Lives Matter protests are any indication, Black students will keep agitating for change, and in doing so, they will make Ohio State a better university for everyone. ✨

University Archivist **TAMAR CHUTE** contributed research for this story.

OUR STORY IS MISSING YOURS

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES is working to better reflect the experiences of Black students and other underrepresented individuals at Ohio State within its collection. Tamar Chute, university archivist, explains: “Archives are not neutral. Archivists have historically collected the records of upper administration and other privileged members of our society, unintentionally or sometimes purposefully ignoring other records. To address the archival silences, we are pursuing records from underrepresented individuals who can help us fill in gaps in our university’s history.” Help archivists ensure the collection is inclusive in its representation of the Ohio State community. Contact University Archives at archives@osu.edu.



WATCH

a two-part dialogue on the role of land-grant institutions such as Ohio State in societal conversations and changes around race, justice and equity. go.osu.edu/landgrantrole



LEARN

about unsung minoritized and marginalized alumni in the Carmen Collection, curated by Ohio State archivists. carmencollection.osu.edu



WATCH

Malcolm Jenkins ’09, NFL star and Buckeye football alum, answers questions from Black male student athletes. go.osu.edu/JenkinsQA

RIPE FOR CHANGE

health care settings, the legal system, cultural institutions and business remain unjustly different from those of white Americans. These alumni, faculty and students devote themselves to casting light on inequity and fomenting change. How will they inspire us to also live by example and demand better?

Though our country has taken steps to mitigate the legacy of colonialism and slavery, experiences for Black, Indigenous and people of color in American schools,

A force for the children

DONNA FORD IS A DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR IN THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN ECOLOGY.

DONNA FORD WAS BORN A FIGHTER

and lives a fighter. On the morning we talk, she is battling an academic journal's plan to dedicate an issue to Lewis Terman, who was a psychologist and leading proponent of eugenics. Conversely, she also is energized by the previous evening's meeting of a five-part public course she is co-teaching called *Black Minds Matter*.

"I started off talking about one of the worst things going on in the field of gifted education, but I also have these bright moments that I can rely on to stay optimistic and faithful," she says. "That's what I look to so I don't just snap, crackle and pop."

Ford, distinguished professor in the Department of Educational Studies, is a leading expert in gifted education, specifically in closing the gap in access to gifted education for Black and brown children and for youngsters who live in poverty. Reasons they are underrepresented include a lack of teacher referrals and the bias of evaluations to determine giftedness toward white, economically privileged children and districts. Ford has frequently and powerfully spoken about her personal



LISTEN

to an episode of The Ohio State University Inspire podcast in which Donna Ford is interviewed about her education and early career and her painful, path-altering awakening to discrimination in gifted education. go.osu.edu/inspirepodcast

history as a gifted student — and the parent of a gifted child — who defied systemic discrimination to become an advocate for children.

What are some changes in gifted education you've seen in your career?

When it comes to underrepresentation of minoritized students, in particular Black

and Hispanic, honestly, and sadly, and unfortunately, I don't see many changes. The underrepresentation has basically stayed the same over my 30 years in gifted education, and I've written about and exposed those discrepancies. Black students are usually underrepresented by an average of 50% in the United States. For Hispanic students, it's around 40%. That is severe,

that is inequitable. But I do see individual school districts willing to have professional development, have honest discussions and dialogues and change their policies, procedures and instruments. I see more willingness; I'm just waiting for the results from a national level. I'm not happy with what's going on thus far.

Whenever people think about gifted education and Black and Hispanic students, as well as those who live in poverty, they think about Donna Ford. I'm not bragging. It relates to me being blunt and direct, it relates to my publications, and it relates to a court case in [Elgin, Illinois] District U-46, where I was able to quantify equity. I am proud to have co-created the Bloom-Banks Matrix, the only matrix that helps teachers promote a rigorous, relevant, multicultural curriculum. Anti-racist education is essential for all students.

“For me, silence is not the way to address inequities and injustices. I have to speak up.”

What helps you keep the faith?

I just refuse to give up on the children. If I give up on our children, the situations get worse. I believe there are good teachers out there — not enough, I have to say — and administrators and leaders out there. For me, silence is not the way to address inequities and injustices. I have to speak up. I think about the late Congressman John Lewis saying “get in good trouble.” It was only recently that I heard he had said that. I'm willing to take on any and everyone, including the field, to do what is right for children who need advocates. When we work together, we won't have these injustices. Yes, we have to work more for those who have the least. That's what I do, and that's what keeps me going. —

KRISTEN SCHMIDT ✨

Photos: Jo McCully



Heeding an outcry for change

SHAYLA FAVOR '03 IS
A LAWYER AND MEMBER OF
COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL.

GIVEN RECENT CIVIL UNREST,

Columbus City Council members announced we would embark on a path to intentionally explore criminal justice reform. This idea of reimagining public safety in Columbus has started with exploring police demilitarization, potential hate-group affiliation by police officers, no-knock warrants and the implementation of a civilian review board.

The real work of criminal justice reform should not and does not happen overnight. But we've accelerated some of these issues because of the outcry from residents and to further demonstrate our commitment to reform. This is one of the most important issues we've

tackled since I've been a member of council. We have received thousands of emails, not just from Columbus residents but from our suburban communities and from around the country, calling for change — all different types of change, but all on the subject of public safety and our police department.

This is not a new movement. These are battles that members of the African American community have been fighting forever. But now it has gotten the attention of the masses, and it's important that we as a council don't let this moment pass us by. People are very uncomfortable with having conversations about race, but I welcome that uncomfortable conversation. That means minds are being changed, hearts are being changed, priorities are being shifted. That's when things start to move.

— **AS TOLD TO SHELLEY MANN '03** ✨

It's time to change policing

JUDSON JEFFRIES IS A PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES.

WHEN PEOPLE OF COLOR encounter a police officer, your goal is: “Let me see if I can navigate this situation in such a way where I’m able to drive away safely or walk away.”

You can’t have a true democracy when those who are sworn to serve and protect us are seen as the enemy and are murdering us with impunity.

My older brother was a police officer. I understand it’s a very stressful, tough



job. Expecting them to be a Swiss Army knife for every societal issue is a burden that shouldn’t be placed on them. At the same time, police officers should be held to a very high standard. Americans encounter them frequently and, in many instances, their job involves preservation of life.

The folks who broached this idea of defunding or abolishing the police weren’t entirely clear about what they meant. Wholesale defunding? That’s absurd. Abolishing the police? That’s impractical. Redirecting resources and funneling them to another area to positively impact people’s lives? OK, great, because they don’t need this money to buy tanks.

If we don’t pressure people to take this opportunity to improve policing, then I’m afraid we will never see significant changes. This is the time to do it. — **AS TOLD TO TODD JONES** ✨



Use privilege in service to others

NIKKI BASZYNSKI '13 JD IS LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE, A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION WORKING TO END DEHUMANIZATION AND EXTREME VULNERABILITY.

THE LIMITS OF THE LAW TO DELIVER CHANGE should by now be readily apparent. Justice, freedom, equality — these are not realities achieved through legal briefs or bestowed through court orders. Certainly, small strides can be made using the law, but those steps will never be enough to get us to a future that people across the country have taken to the streets to demand.

White supremacy is the root of our problems. I believe it is my responsibility as a white person and a white lawyer to work to dismantle systems of white supremacy. It is work that cannot — should not — be done alone. We must work in partnership with and in service of the movement.

People are organizing together and

pushing for change in ways that I’ve never seen in my lifetime, to defund the police, to empty our prisons, to reimagine public safety. Volunteering with the National Lawyers Guild has given me opportunities to support those efforts.

For me, supporting the movement means being in relationship to others, listening and following the lead of those directly impacted. It means figuring out what tools can help those pushing for change navigate an intentionally opaque legal system and doing what I can to provide those tools and resources.

Studying the problem and learning our history helps me do my best — though I’m sure I fail — not to unintentionally harm or undermine community efforts. I hear people say this work will make you uncomfortable. But if you’re really reckoning with our history of racial oppression and violence, it won’t just make you uncomfortable — understanding why we need to do the work will devastate you. — **AS TOLD TO SHELLEY MANN '03** ✨

Our race shouldn't determine our health

DR. J. NWANDO OLAYIWOLA IS CHAIR AND PROFESSOR IN THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER'S DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MEDICINE.

DR. J. NWANDO OLAYIWOLA'S WORK has long focused on the effects of racism on the health of minority populations. An international leader in innovating ways to improve health care for underserved populations, Olayiwola '97, '01 MD returned to her alma mater in 2019 to chair the Department of Family and Community Medicine at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.

Within your own practice, are you seeing disparities among COVID-19 patients?

What we're seeing in central Ohio is not far off from what we're seeing across the country — higher rates of both infection and more severe illness in African American populations than in white populations. Additionally, we have housing insecurity, homelessness, food insecurity, chronic disease, poverty, congested living conditions, economic injustice and many other derivatives of racism and structural oppression that perpetuate health risks for

Black and minority populations and make them more vulnerable. If you combine these and then layer on a pandemic, it should not surprise us when we see magnified health disparities. But we cannot resign and blame the vulnerabilities — we must act.

How can we address these obstacles?

It's important that we understand the needs of the communities we serve and where the greatest vulnerabilities are. For example, some of the early testing sites were not in communities of color, so it was hard for people to get tested. Fortunately, Ohio State already was focused on community engagement and community health. Longstanding relationships with trusted partners were able to be leveraged for action. It wasn't like we were trying to create this network

once COVID-19 hit. But there is a long road ahead. We didn't get here quickly, and we won't eliminate these problems quickly.

Can you tell us about the medical center's new anti-racism action plan?

I am so proud to be part of this work. We felt it was essential to apply anti-racist thinking and action in policies, education, training and activity. We need to continue educating people that racism is a public health crisis and work to create a culture of accountability and safety for all Ohio State leaders, students, trainees and employees. This plan moves us from rhetoric to action. Fortunately, a lot of people want to do the work; they are asking to be involved. We are building something at Ohio State that can truly be useful well beyond our environment and our state. I am so happy I came back to be here in this moment. — **JOSHUA WRIGHT** ✨



Photos: Jo McCully, Courtesy of Judson Jeffries



READ

the essay "How Defund and Disband Became the Demands" by Amna Akbar, associate professor in the Moritz College of Law. go.osu.edu/akbaressay



WATCH

a music video for "Constitution Song," created by Peter Shane, professor in the Moritz College of Law. go.osu.edu/constitutionsong



Joseph Stulberg



Carl Smallwood

Give cities tools to change and heal

LAWYER CARL SMALLWOOD '77, '80 JD AND JOSEPH "JOSH" STULBERG, EMERITUS PROFESSOR IN MORITZ COLLEGE OF LAW, ARE CO-DIRECTORS OF THE DIVIDED COMMUNITY PROJECT.

IN THE AFTERMATH OF CIVIL UNREST following the 2014 death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, lawyers and mediators met to discuss how they might be able to support local leaders and community stakeholders in addressing conflict in their communities.

What emerged from the conversation were ideas on how to address and resolve differences outside of a courtroom. Those ideas grew into the Divided Community Project, now co-directed by Joseph "Josh" Stulberg and Carl Smallwood '77, '80 JD. "A government leader from Sanford [Florida, where Trayvon Martin was killed in 2012] said: 'You know, we think about and have plans for what to do in the event of a hurricane, ... but nobody in a city government plans for what to do with events of community unrest. And we ought to do that,'" says Stulberg, a mediation expert.

Housed at Moritz, the initiative offers

cost-free mediation tools to help local leaders respond effectively to unrest. The mission is to assemble coalitions of faith leaders, city managers, civil rights advocates and mediators, with an end goal of building trust between groups that often don't know each other and facilitating conversations that are long overdue.

How do you define a divided community?

Smallwood: The conflicts can come along racial lines, immigration status, religious differences. Often, those divisions are below the surface. But they are a part of the everyday life of the citizens in the community, and they divide those communities quite clearly. If not addressed, they have the potential to turn into unrest.

What is a successful outcome?

Stulberg: If there are sustained collaborations, we would view that as a

very positive sign — not just in a one-off, we're past that incident kind of thing, but an initiative that in a tangible way is trying to make the community resilient.

What are some of the biggest lessons learned?

Stulberg: One thing we've learned is that when the person who communicates the initial message, the leader, responds promptly — even without “full information” — it's a positive contributor to the people who are experiencing harm. Contrast that with, “We're still in the process of gathering information.” That response, in these situations, has an adverse impact.

“We have avoided a conversation about issues that divide us and our differences for too long ... and it has now given rise to pain along so many fractures in our communities.”

Why is your work vital at this moment?

Smallwood: We have avoided difficult conversations about issues that divide us for too long — in some cases, for 400 years — and it has now given rise to pain along so many fractures in our communities. If we are truly going to live up to the values that most Americans think we hold dear, the tools the Divided Community Project has to offer — a means to bring people to the table, to hear the voices of those who are unheard, to address the concerns of the community in a way that will deal with those concerns justly, and at a time when racial injustice is at the fore — these tools are needed urgently by communities to support change. — **SHELLEY MANN '03** ✳

Photos: Jo McCully, Paul Sebring (Stulberg)



All art is political

JARED THORNE IS A PHOTOGRAPHER AND ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ART.

JARED THORNE PHOTOGRAPHS mainly with what he calls an “antiquated 4x5 view camera that slows everything down.” Straightforward as his images appear, they dissect dominant white ideas about whom art is for, by and about.

How did living in post-apartheid South Africa inform your work?

People forget or refuse to acknowledge the United States was founded on state-sanctioned racism and segregation, so living in South Africa felt eerily familiar. At least in South Africa, the people in power admit these atrocities transpired. In the global south, references are less Eurocentric. If the history of art doesn't begin and end

in Europe, new ideas can be cultivated. It was refreshing to walk into galleries where the blue-chip artists are men and women of color. I brought back different sets of references on how to address issues of subjectivity and identity.

Toni Morrison talked about art free of the white gaze. How do you bring this approach to your work?

Far too often, those questions are asked only to people of color. It would be interesting to ask more white artists about the role that white supremacy plays in their work. I'm interested in the complexity of Black subjectivity. Blackness not as a response to whiteness, but Blackness in all of its inherent nuances and complications.

How can art dismantle racism?

All art is political. Art is something that's deeply personal and sometimes the politics will be displayed more overtly. People need to put their work out in the world and see what happens. You can't control how people will respond to your art, but you can control your output. — **KRISTEN SCHMIDT** ✳



FOLLOW

composer Mark Lomax II '07, '10 MM, '13 DMA on YouTube, where he leads Drumversations — thought-provoking conversations about racism and injustice punctuated by his incredible musicianship. youtube.com/cfgmultimedia



Home is the key

RACHEL GARSHICK KLEIT IS ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR FACULTY AFFAIRS IN THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND A PROFESSOR OF CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING.

MOVE TO PROSPER is a program that blends housing support with comprehensive coaching to free families of the cycle of housing instability. Rachel Garshick Kleit serves as its steering committee chair.

“These folks are working full time, trying to build a good life for their kids. Safety is a huge motivator for them. The extraordinary stress they live under is bad for their health and their kids’ health. They don’t have a choice really, because of their credit scores, and their income, and a housing history that is created by our system. The reason [landlords are] willing to work with us is because the participant has a coach who is there to help them. What if you always had negative relationships with landlords? What if you’ve never been able to budget because you paid too much for housing? That’s the biggest thing: people being able to save a little money. The reason they’re able to do it is because they have stable housing. They’re not stressed out. After six to nine months, the families have settled in, and the women are able to start thinking about, ‘OK, now what do I want to do? How do I want to do this?’”

— KRISTEN SCHMIDT ✳

This is everybody’s business

EBONY IGWEBUIKE-TYE ’93 IS A SERIAL ENTREPRENEUR AND REALTOR IN COLUMBUS.

FOR A BUSINESS, STANDING AGAINST RACISM now is not risky because other companies are doing it. Companies need to do more than make commercials showing support with the new buzzword. They need to say, “Not only do we care about you as a consumer, but we also care about you as a population group. How can we help identify and fix some of these issues that are affecting you?”

Meaningful change starts internally with tolerance policies, diversity training and continuing education requirements on diversity. Have external people come in and do an actual internal analysis of your process. Is the company’s culture conducive to people of color? Do they feel like there are opportunities for advancement — the same for them as other people? Companies must make sure that people of color are around the tables

at the board and upper-management levels. Tie senior executives’ pay to measurable progress on diversity goals. That would force meaningful action.

The playing field is not level. The system keeps African American businesses from being able to grow their companies. Financial institutions need to champion African American businesses. Everybody’s business is literally trying to hang on by a thread because of this pandemic. But when you lead an African American business, you don’t have the same access to capital. You don’t have the same access to loans.

It’s so important to keep the momentum going. It’ll take people saying, “Listen, I’m not just worried about this right now, but I’m worried about this until it gets resolved.” Then it’ll feel like it’s not just African Americans who are concerned, but it’s Americans concerned about fellow Americans. I’m optimistic, but I’m also realistic.

— AS TOLD TO TODD JONES ✳



GIVE

to Move to Prosper, a program led by Ohio State that places families in stable housing in opportunity neighborhoods. go.osu.edu/movetoprosper

Finding truths in data

TREVON LOGAN IS THE HAZEL C. YOUNGBERG DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS AND ASSOCIATE DEAN IN THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES.

AROUND 10 YEARS AGO, economist Trevon Logan began investigating the effects of segregation — the degree to which people sort themselves spatially according to racial identity. Logan writes and researches at the intersection of history, economics and geospatial mapping, work that has revealed segregation’s relationship to lynching and other violence, health outcomes, access to wealth and homeownership.

His findings appear intuitive: You can understand how segregation could create conditions for discrimination that bridge generations. “But it ends up being novel,” Logan says. “It has strong practical import for people who think about historical context and what that might mean today. It’s important historically, and we think it’ll be important today. It turns out that it is.”

Segregation, Logan’s work shows, is a predictor of many aspects of a Black or brown person’s life in a given community — and concurrently an indicator of the attitudes and beliefs of white people in the same place. This work has pushed past old measurements and assumptions. Studies of racial harmony or discord in the past might be examined through the proportions of white and Black people in a



“We are able to speak to issues that are pertinent today because we come from these communities.”

given Census tract, for example, not through a close investigation of who lived next to whom. Logan’s work demonstrates the identity of your neighbor matters.

In the context of nationwide calls for justice, his research has broader meaning. “We would not be able to draw these links between segregation, political

participation and police shootings without diverse perspectives, which are predominantly African American,” he says. “We are able to speak to issues that are pertinent today because we come from these communities and we’re thinking about the mechanisms.”

For Logan, the intensified relevance of his work tells a story about why it’s crucial for universities to invest in faculty and researchers. He considers the work of researchers who have dedicated careers to studying coronaviruses. “You really do need those virologists and those public health researchers. You want a community of scholars thinking deeply about [these issues] because you’ll need their expertise and their perspective,” he says. “These things really do lend themselves to the reason, the justification, for why we study these topics and why we have research universities.” — **KRISTEN SCHMIDT** ✨



READ

“Challenging Race as Risk,” a report by Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity researchers on the effect of implicit bias on housing opportunity and suggested next steps. go.osu.edu/housingbias



WATCH

economist Trevon Logan’s 2018 Masterminds series talk “Finding Missing Economic Narratives.” go.osu.edu/loganmasterminds

OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AT 50

IT WAS A SUNNY DAY during the tumultuous spring of 1968. Hunger for change was in the air, and so when four Black students were ordered off an Ohio State shuttle bus by a white driver, Black Student Union leaders swung into action. They mounted a day-long occupation of Ohio State's Administration Building — now Bricker Hall, detailing simple but powerful demands: Establish a Black studies department, recruit more Black students, hire more Black faculty. The day ended in controversy when 34 students were arrested. Eventually, eight were expelled. By 1970, the university had established a Black studies department and created the Office of Minority Affairs, headed by Frank W. Hale Jr., to recruit Black graduate and undergraduate students. Known today as the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, this structure built from bricks of that 1968 demonstration supports thousands of students with scholarship, tutoring and enrichment programs. It's at the heart of the university's renewed sense of urgency to address persistent racial injustice and inequity. — **AARON MARSHALL** ✨



JOIN

sources for this package of stories and President Kristina M. Johnson for a fall webinar series on Ohio State's role in addressing racial inequities. odi.osu.edu/odi-osuaa-diversity-series



WATCH

a video profile of the inimitable Rose Wilson-Hill, who for 50 years has nurtured the academic careers of students of color at Ohio State. go.osu.edu/rosewilsonhill



ACT

by nominating a deserving person for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion's inaugural hall of fame class. Nominations are due by Oct. 30. odi.osu.edu/odi-hall-fame-award



James L. Moore III



Tom Gregoire

Addressing deep-rooted inequity

JAMES L. MOORE III IS OHIO STATE'S CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER AND VICE PROVOST FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION. TOM GREGOIRE IS DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK.

HOW DO YOU RIGHT THE WRONGS of systemic racial inequity? That's the challenge issued to the 17-member Task Force on Racism and Racial Inequities. We spoke to co-chairs James L. Moore III and Tom Gregoire about the long road forward.

How is this conversation going so far?

Gregoire: I have seen more compassion and more courage in the last few months from my colleagues than ever before. People who might have seen themselves as bystanders are contemplating the possibility that isn't helpful anymore and really never was.

Moore: We have some of the best minds in the world, but they don't feel comfortable talking about these issues. We have to do a better job of giving people the tools to engage in this work.

What can alumni do?

Gregoire: All of our alumni could begin by being curious. We've all been taught a particular way of thinking about race. How else could I view this and what are the implications if I do?

Moore: The greatest ambassadors for our university are our alumni. They need to continue to be leaders and carry forward this banner of multiculturalism and inclusion. I would hope our alumni continue to feed their own reservoir of change by taking the continuing education courses and free webinars that are available.

How do you ensure this task force results in action, not just talk?

Moore: President Kristina Johnson has given us the autonomy to look under rocks as we see fit and to commission people to have deeper conversations.

Gregoire: Some very intelligent people have convened us with an eye toward action. They have written a big check here and know they have to cash it. Our job is to give them something to act on.

— **AARON MARSHALL '15 MA** ✨

STUDENTS SPEAK

University students assume a unique role in movements for civil rights and social justice. While protests across the United States this year have been remarkable for their diversity —

embraced by several generations and people who claim diverse identities — students remain critical voices in leadership. Meet eight Ohio State students taking action for justice, peace and equality. — JASMINE HILTON



EYAKO HEH

FOURTH-YEAR STUDYING POLITICAL SCIENCE

IN JULY, HE WROTE A GUEST COLUMN IN *THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH*.

“What I really wanted to convey was that there’s a want in the community to divest from law enforcement and reallocate resources toward other avenues, specifically on campus. We have to be there for our Black and minoritized students and faculty, and other members of the campus community, by addressing these demands.”



JOSEPH OTENG

SECOND-YEAR LAW STUDENT

CREATOR OF YOUTHFUL LIFE WORKSHOPS, INSTAGRAMS AT @DRJOTENGII

“This summer, I spent a lot of time building a series of workshops and videos and infographics to educate people on anti-racism, allyship and social justice. How can I welcome people to a conversation that they’ve always been invited to in ways that are accessible, with grace and kindness, and provides them the space and time to cultivate that sense of racial literacy?”



OSE ARHEGHAN

THIRD-YEAR STUDYING POLITICAL SCIENCE AND CHINESE

CHAIR OF THE NEWLY FORMED UNDERGRADUATE BLACK CAUCUS

“A lot of the students who are on the front lines organizing on Ohio State’s campus, we’re not just Black, we’re queer Black students, or we’re Black students with disabilities or we’re Black students who have mental health issues. We all hold multiple identities. I think that when we’re talking about justice, it really is important to acknowledge that we’re talking about justice for all.”

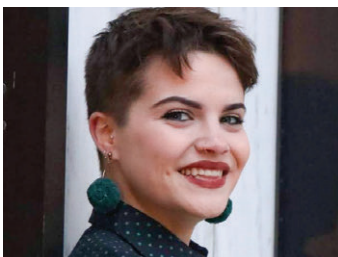


RACHEL THURMAN

FOURTH-YEAR STUDYING POLITICAL SCIENCE

ACTIVIST AND ORGANIZER

“The first protest I went to — a little crazy, but it felt really good. It got me really motivated knowing that there are tons of people who are willing to be active in this movement. I’ve been spending the last couple weeks organizing an event that celebrates the voices of Black women and members of the LGBTQ-plus community. My parents have always told me, ‘Use your voice.’ What’s the worst that could happen? Someone says no?”



JESSICA KAVINSKY

FOURTH-YEAR STUDYING GERMAN AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

ACTIVIST, ORGANIZER AND CURATOR OF TEDXOHIOSTATEUNIVERSITY

“That first Thursday night was the first time I’ve ever been face-to-face with someone who wanted to do violence to me. I was looking the cop in the eye and it was the first time I’ve ever feared like that. That was a privilege, to never have experienced that before. Since that night, it’s kind of just been like, trying to just do my part that I can as a white person, to use my privilege to help the movement.”



KEJI LATIO

THIRD-YEAR STUDYING RESPIRATORY THERAPY

VICE CHAIR OF STUDENT EXPERIENCE, UNDERGRADUATE BLACK CAUCUS

“People most know me for my bakery. It’s been a hobby, but then it kind of turned into a community commitment thing when I realized I have this talent and when I share it with other people, they really enjoy it. We were able to raise \$4,000 for the Louisville Community Bail Fund in about nine days. [It] was exciting to see how one hobby can mobilize a lot of change.”



ROAYA HIGAZI

FOURTH-YEAR STUDYING CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT, SIGNATORY OF A LETTER DEMANDING OHIO STATE BREAK TIES WITH COLUMBUS POLICE

“It was really important to push our university to be accountable. A lot of times student government plays an apolitical role ... To me, and through my lived experiences, this isn’t political. This is something that every Black student at our university experiences. It’s a fear that they carry with them.”

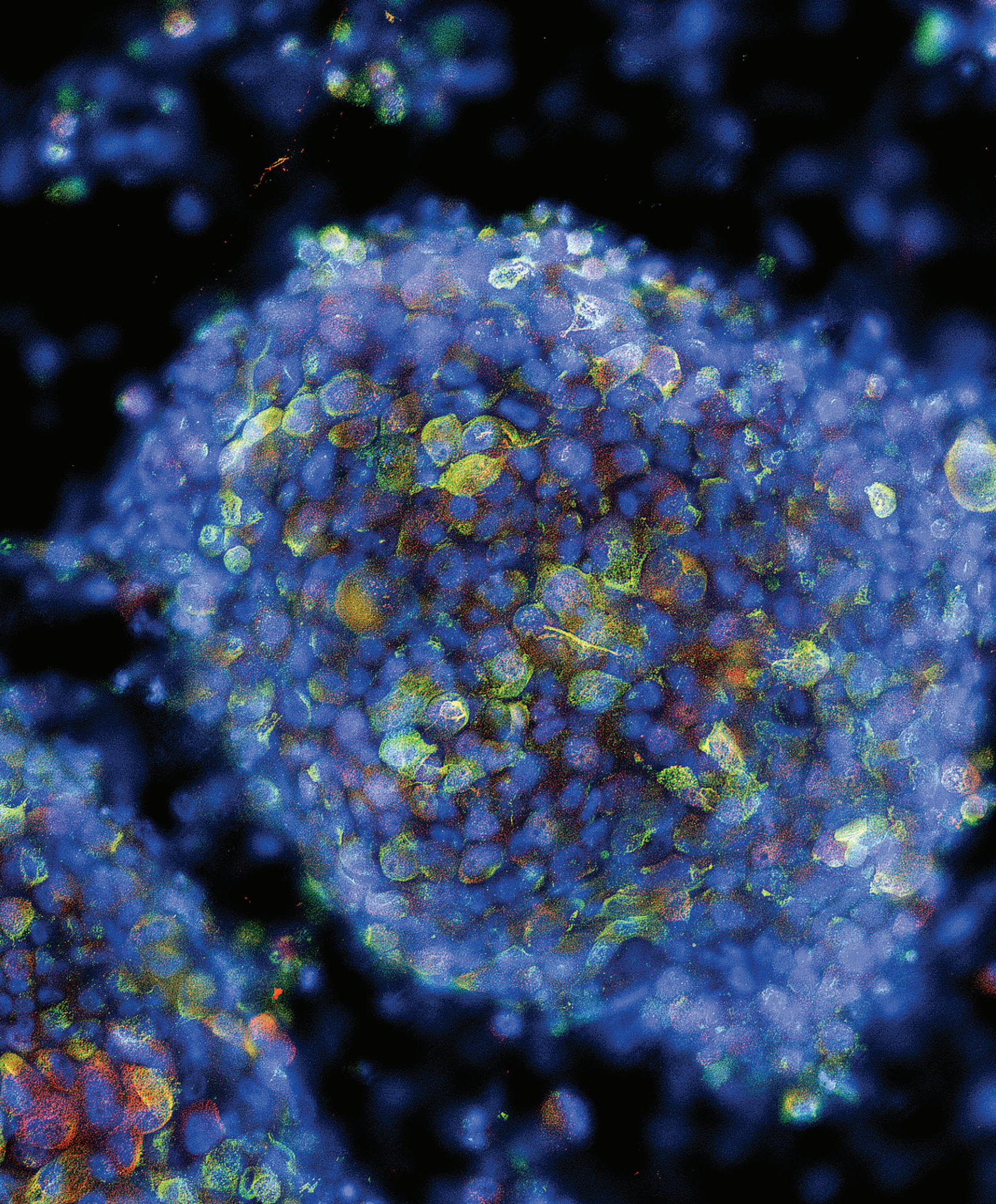


MORGAN MCDONALD

THIRD-YEAR STUDYING ART EDUCATION

ACTIVIST, ORGANIZER AND ARTIST

“I’ve been doing a lot of educating myself and putting that back into art. I just want people to pause for a moment. Where people look at it and kind of stop and they’re like, ‘Oh, maybe I really need to reconsider that view I have.’ Because if you hate someone, or you have disdain toward someone, and you don’t change that feeling, then you’re just going to continue acting on that hate.”





See what Ohio State scientists see when they lean in to their microscopes or retrieve images from satellites — the strange, awesome and just plain stunning phenomena of our world.

Beauty is all around

Curated by Jo McCulty | Stories by Laura Newpoff



My dad dunked a wiggly piece of yellow rubber tubing into a liquid, then put it on the floor and stepped on it with his wingtip shoe. It gave a loud pop and shattered into pieces that clinked across the concrete floor. What an instant rush of joy and wonder! The experiment my 5-year-old eyes witnessed, a demonstration of the transfer of thermal energy, convinced me that the world is an amazing place — one worthy of close observation.

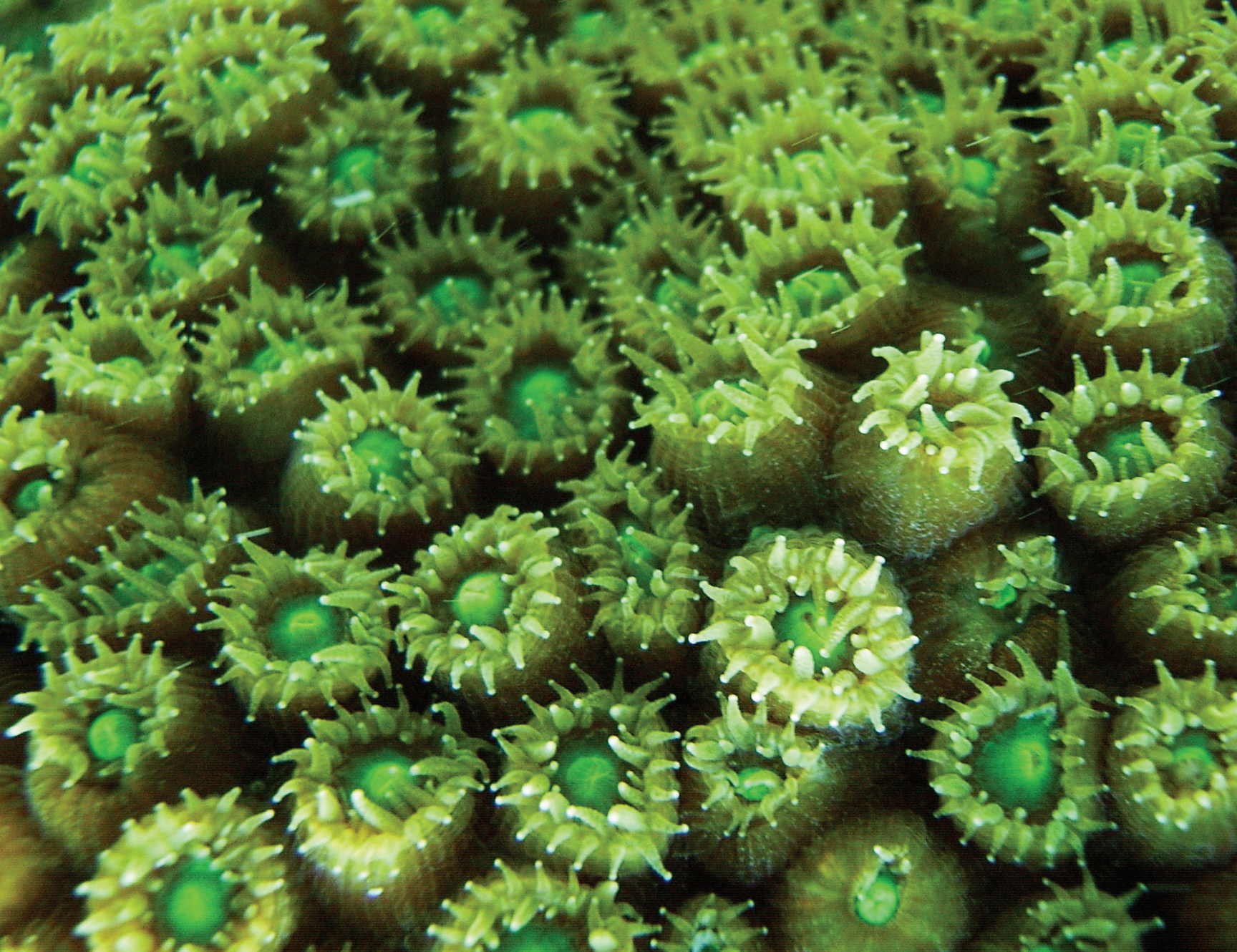
I did not follow my dad's path into science as a research chemist, but I enjoyed numerous science classes throughout college. The biochemistry of food fascinated me, as did courses in physiology, kinesiology and anatomy. I am grateful for the many people who choose a career in science. When I stop to think about the degree to which scientific innovations have improved or even saved my life, I am in awe.

Discoveries in agriculture, astronomy, biology, engineering, earth science, medicine, physics and more have informed crucial solutions benefiting people around the globe. Rigorous research can dispel ignorance and

superstition by putting forth facts that allow for a more humane comprehension of our world. It all begins with asking questions.

As a longtime staff photographer for Ohio State, I have had the distinct pleasure of photographing researchers from a wide range of disciplines. Their work is the result of their immense curiosity for discovery and reminds me of a favorite quote attributed to Albert Einstein: "The fairest thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the fundamental emotion which stands at the cradle of true art and true science. He who knows it not and can no longer wonder, no longer feel amazement, is as good as dead, a snuffed-out candle."

Ranging from sub-atomic particles to galaxies many light years away, scientists use electron microscopes, X-rays, PET scans, cameras, drones, satellites and telescopes to record and create images that reveal valuable new intellectual knowledge. These images also can be remarkably abstract, surprisingly illuminative and stunningly beautiful. Please enjoy a view of this intersection of art and science from a few of our esteemed scientists and researchers. — JO McCULTY '84, '94 MA ✨



NATALIA HIGUITA-CASTRO



Biomedical Engineering



Immunofluorescence image

The smallest spare parts

(previous page)

Novel nanotechnology is helping researchers in the Department of Biomedical Engineering develop therapies for metabolic disorders such as diabetes. In a person with type 1 diabetes, pancreatic islets that normally carry out the endocrine function of the pancreas are compromised or damaged. This image, captured by Lilibeth Ortega-Pineda, a doctoral student in the Higuita-Castro lab, depicts

an engineered, or lab-produced, islet. “Our goal is to develop approaches to engineer islets to address such deficiencies,” says Natalia Higuita-Castro, assistant professor in biomedical engineering and surgery. In the image, the colors red and green represent positive expression of hormones normally produced by the pancreas to regulate glucose metabolism. Blue represents the cell nuclei. “The beauty lies in the fact that these microscopic structures are fundamental to maintain proper pancreatic function and to sustain vital functions of organs and systems in the human body,” Higuita-Castro says.



ANDRÉA GROTTOLI



Earth Sciences



Underwater digital camera

Coral signal sea changes

In her role as director of the Coral Bleaching Research Coordination Network, Andréa Grottoli and a team of researchers study coral reefs’ physiological responses to stress, including rising temperatures that can cause them to expel their colorful algae. One way corals — like these *Orbicella faveolata* growing on the reef near Puerto Morelos, Mexico — cope with stress is to increase



feeding with their tentacles by capturing plankton and putting it in their mouths. "This is a good photo showing tentacle extension during the day," says Grottoli, a professor in the School of Earth Sciences. Knowing how much coral feed is a strong indicator of their ability to survive rising seawater temperatures and climate change. "As we work to reduce threats to coral reefs globally, this research can help scientists, students, public policy makers, and environmental and government managers."



KATRINA CORNISH

Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering

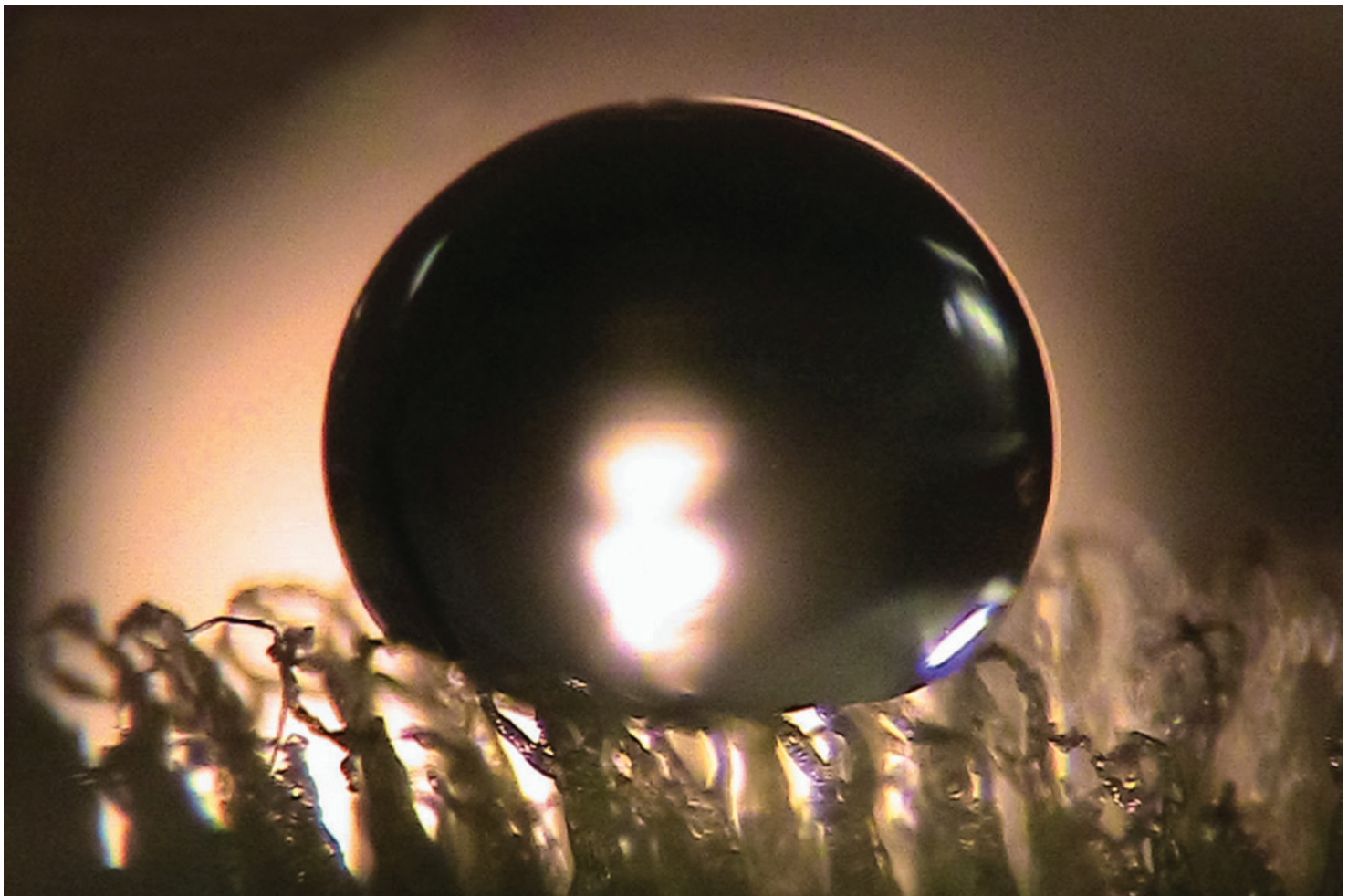
Microscopy

A dandelion for good

Nope, it's not heavy metal album cover art. It's a microscopic image of Buckeye Gold, a dandelion bioengineered to serve as a sustainable source of natural rubber. Katrina Cornish, endowed chair and professor in the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and global authority on the production of alternative natural rubber, aims to establish Buckeye

Gold in Ohio to reduce our dependence on tropical rubber trees. Cornish is working to make the fragile plant more vigorous and to produce a dandelion without parachutes that carry seeds where they're unwanted. The shimmering vertical strands you see in this image are the seed parachutes. "A stronger dandelion without wind-dispersed seed will help make domestic rubber production a reality," she says. "This can lead to productive alternate systems that farmers will adopt to help us diversify the supply of rubber, which is desperately needed."

Photos: Lilibeth Ortega-Pineda (previous page); Andrea Grottoli, Molecular and Cellular Imaging Center (MCIC)



**BHARAT
BHUSHAN**

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 Mechanical
 and Aerospace
 Engineering
 //////////////////////
Optic image

Nature offers the finest models

Having evolved over 3.8 billion years, nature is a powerful tool for researchers pursuing novel commercial applications. This image of a water droplet on a lotus leaf, captured with an optical microscope, allows Bharat Bhushan, professor in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, to view the formation of an air pocket, which demonstrated that the leaf repelled water. The discovery will assist in the development of repellants and self-cleaning surfaces that can be commercialized for use in water collection or the mitigation of oil spills. “We were happy with what we saw. Now we understand how nature does what it does; that amazes us,” Bhushan says. Modeling natural surfaces with multiple scales of roughness that repel water, researchers can develop optimal designs and use smart materials and manufacturing to create new structures. In this case, Bhushan says, the impact on the environment “cannot be measured in dollars.”



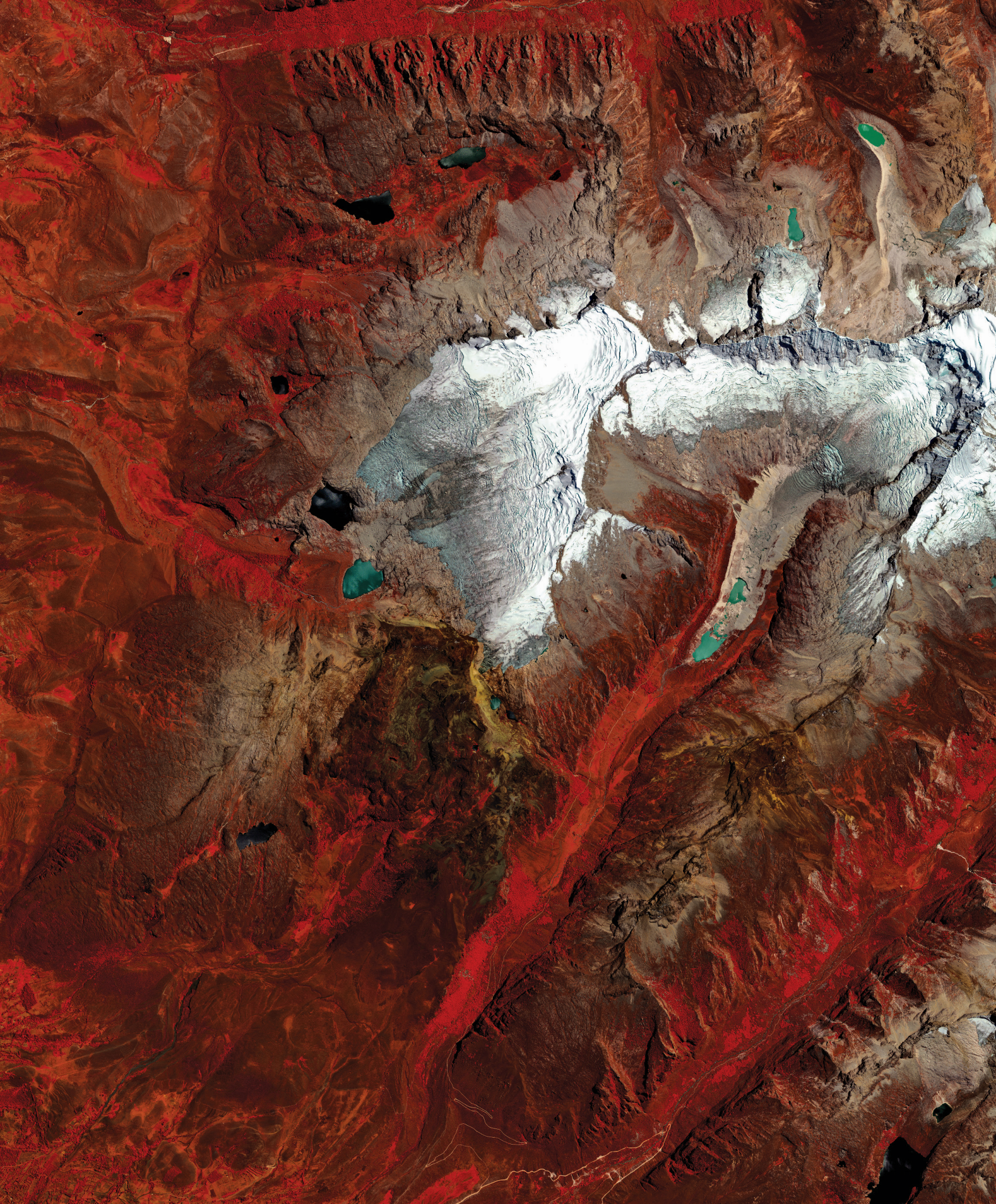
**FORREST
SCHOESSOW**

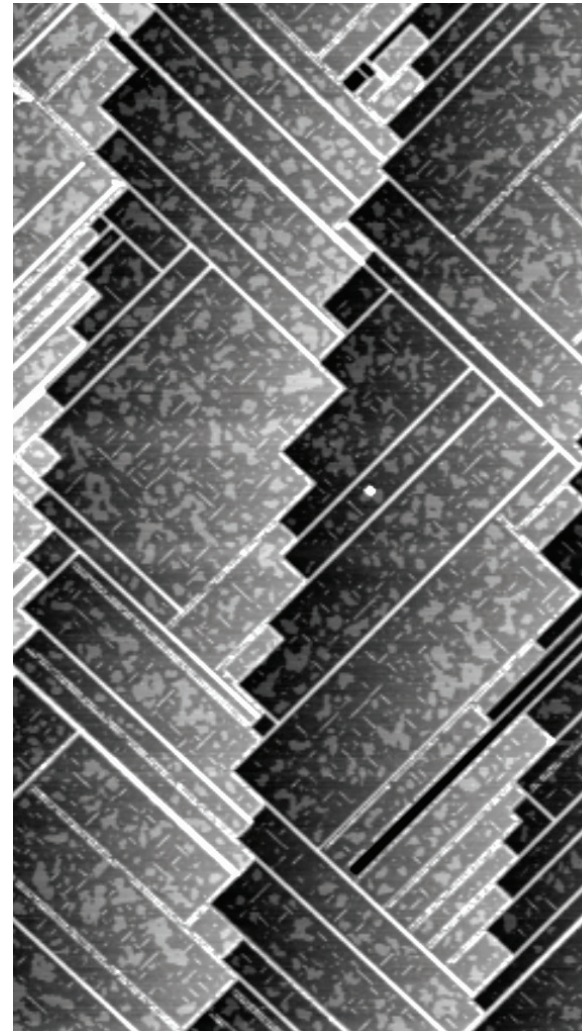
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 Geography
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*Multi-sensor
orthomosaic*

Telling pieces of the puzzle

In the Central Andes of Peru, melting glaciers threaten the lives and livelihood of roughly 1 million people who live in the valleys below them. Forrest Schoessow, a doctoral candidate in geography conducting research in the Glacier Environmental Change Laboratory at Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center, studies the life and death of glaciers. His aim is to better understand not only the causes of a rapidly changing climate but also the effects: depleted water resources and increased potential for landslides and flooding. Schoessow uses high-altitude images like this one to monitor rapid changes in glaciers in high-mountain environments such as the Andes. “These images describe a point in time and provide a fleeting glimpse of what was and what no longer will be,” Schoessow says. “It’s imperative that we, as Earth’s data detectives, piece together the clues within these images to figure out the rate of the change. The past can help us understand the present and better prepare for the future.”

Photos: B. Bhushan and J. Hunt (above); NASA, ESA, Ohio State Mountain Drone Team, Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center (right)





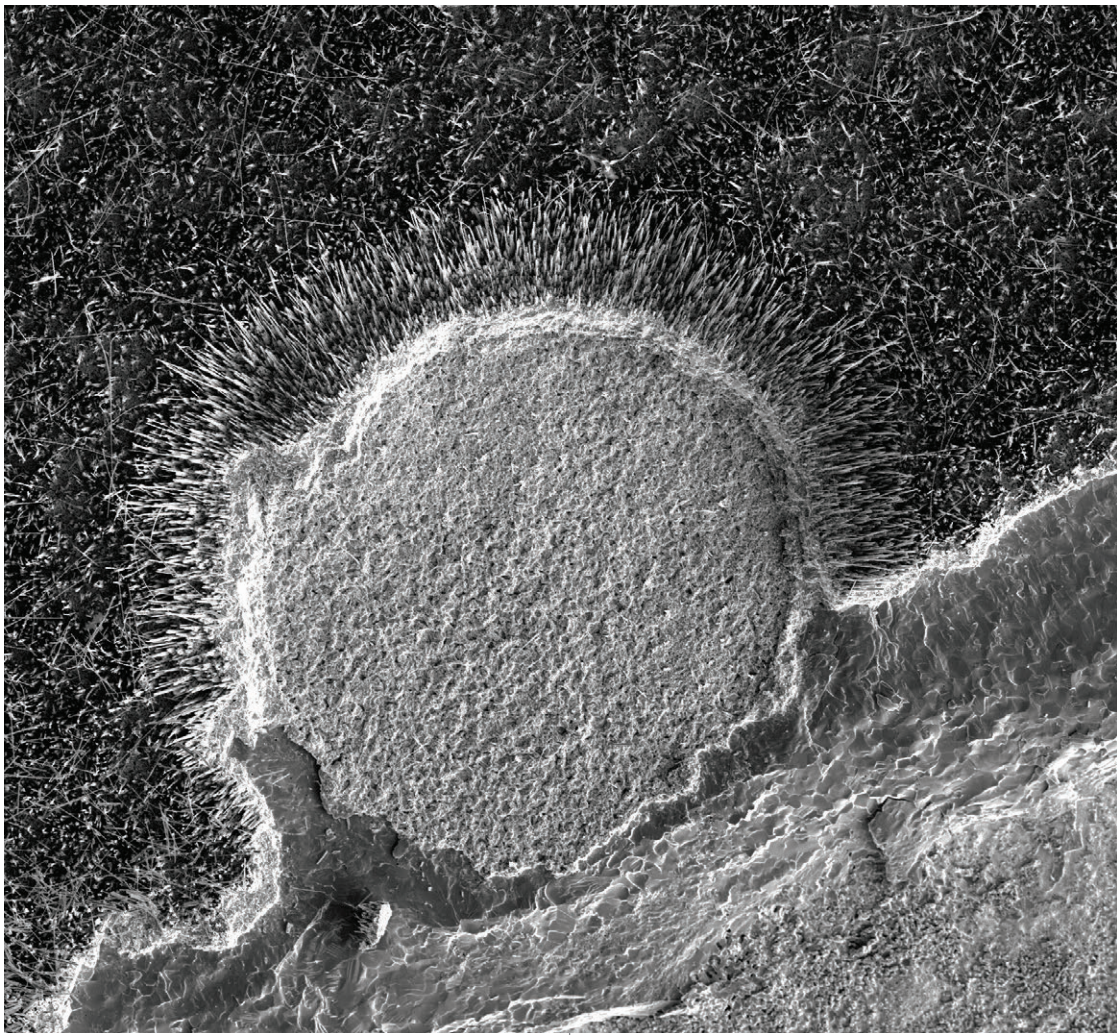
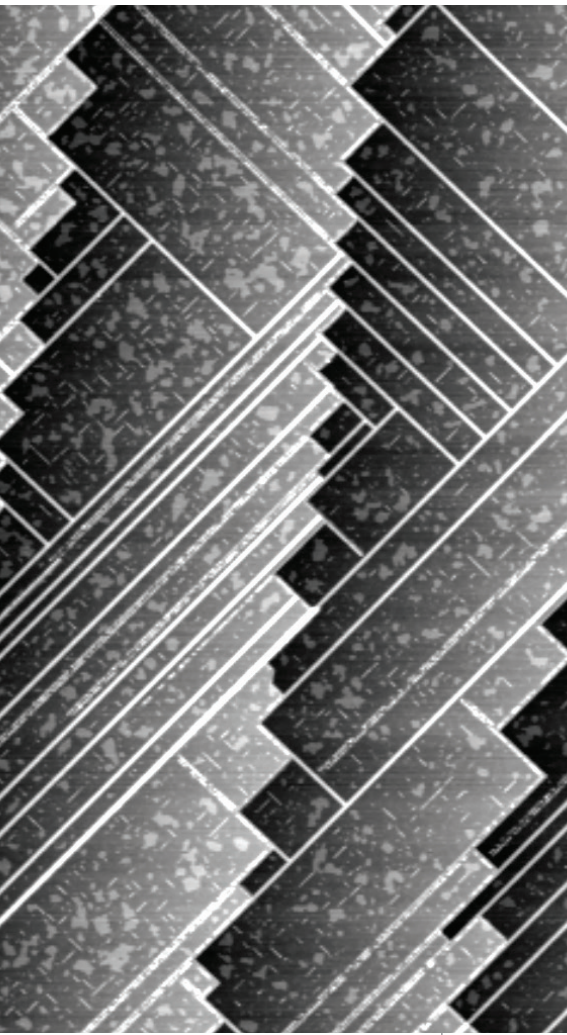
ZACHARY LAHEY

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 Evolution, Ecology
 and Organismal
 Biology
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Microscopy

Details lead to discernment

Relax: That gaping maw is attached to an insect the size of a ballpoint pen tip. It also is a defining characteristic of the genus *Pulchrisolia*, a group of parasitic wasps from Africa. Since their discovery in the early 1900s, only about 150 specimens have been collected. “The photo was taken to show the peculiar mouth parts that these insects have,” says Zachary Lahey, a doctoral student in the Department of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology. Lahey works in the lab of Norman Johnson, the Martha N. and John C. Moser Chair in Arthropod Systematics and Biological Diversity. “These images allow me to see characteristics that are useful in differentiating between species. They show the intricate sculpturing of these insects, which really details their beauty.” The ultimate goal is to describe new species and document their distribution, information that can be used by conservationists to protect the habitats of Lahey’s “fantastic creatures.”

Photos: © Simon van Noort, Iziko Museums of South Africa, Jacob Repecky, Seth Shields



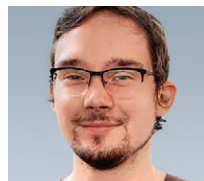
**JACOB
REPICKY**

Physics

*Scanning tunneling
microscopy*

An unexpected assemblage

Jacob Repicky, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Physics, studies the behavior of matter on the smallest scales. What you see here is a chromium surface that is the width of one one-hundredth of a strand of human hair. This research, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, is built around an instrument called a scanning tunneling microscope that allows him to view images such as this one. “We were particularly interested in chromium surfaces because they are known to be magnetic, and we were hoping to visualize this magnetism using this microscope,” he says. “Preparation of the chromium surface for the microscope requires heating the metal to 1,100 degrees Celsius, which is near the evaporation point. As the metal is heated up and cooled down, these chromium wires had spontaneously assembled, much to our surprise.”



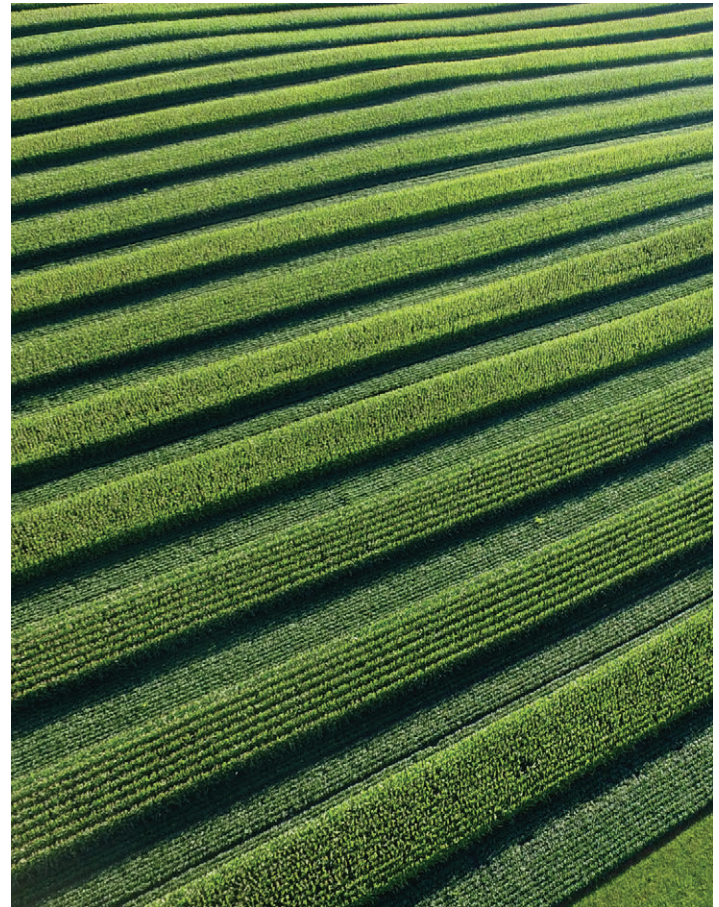
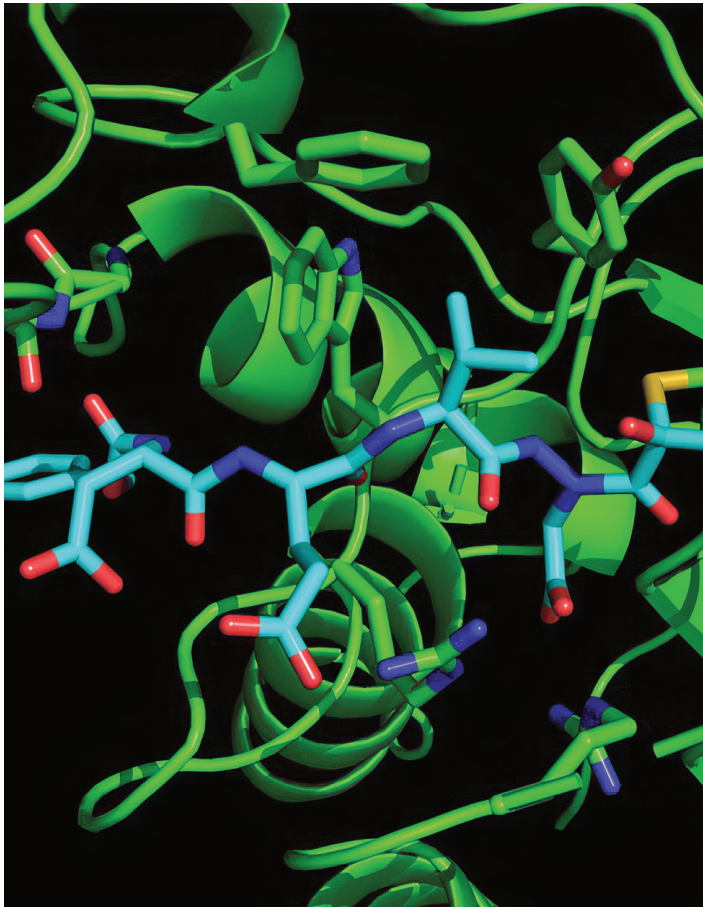
**SETH
SHIELDS**

Physics

*Scanning tunneling
microscopy*

On the spectrum of a CO₂ solution

Graduate student Seth Shields’ research toward removing carbon dioxide from Earth’s atmosphere and converting it into fuel occurs on a film of copper dioxide so thin it cannot be seen with the naked eye. Ideally, the film would be a model for a catalyst that can convert carbon dioxide back into hydrocarbon fuels. What we see here is an imperfect attempt. Shields, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Physics, takes it in stride. “We produce these photos because we need to know how it’s growing and whether the films are extremely atomically flat so I can perform my main measurement technique of scanning tunneling microscopy on them,” he says. “Humanity is pumping CO₂ into the air like nobody’s business. Even though this growth wasn’t flat enough to be successful, it can be a small piece that can help guide others who are working to solve this problem.”



**OZLEM DOĞAN
EKICI**



Chemistry and
Biochemistry



*X-ray crystal
structure image*

Elements of drug development

This tangle of loops that resembles an electrical project gone wrong is a precise experiment. The image was obtained by Craig McElroy, research assistant professor in the College of Pharmacy. It depicts the atomic-level interaction between enzymes and a compound designed to stop them from wreaking havoc on the human brain. The compound is the work of Ozlem Doğan Ekici, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry at Ohio State Newark, where she develops novel protease inhibitors — potential drug candidates designed to treat a variety of diseases. Proteases are enzymes that accelerate the breakdown of peptide bonds in proteins, a process called proteolysis. Uncontrolled, excessive proteolysis can lead to diseases such as cancer, Alzheimer’s, ALS and Huntington’s. Ekici hunts for compounds that will slow or stop that phenomenon. “This is just a small piece of what I’m trying to achieve,” she says. “My goal is to be able to come up with a molecule that can be a potential drug against a certain disease. This is the first baby step in that very big process of drug development.”



**ANDREW
KLOPFENSTEIN**



Food, Agricultural
and Biological
Engineering



Aerial photograph

Perfectly patterned

Where a gardener might get on hands and knees to examine a tomato plant for signs of health, Andrew Klopfenstein evaluates his growing crops from above — high above. Klopfenstein, a senior research associate engineer in the Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering, is developing ways to help farmers increase their crop yields. One method he’s testing employs robotics to plant corn and soybeans together, which makes the nutrients more efficient and results in a yield increase of up to 50%. Throughout the mid-April to October growing season, Klopfenstein takes overhead photographs every seven to 10 days to evaluate crop health at the Molly Caren Ag Center 30 minutes west of Columbus. “Everyone benefits if yields increase,” he says. “Farmers will be able to produce more food on the same amount of acreage. As farmland declines, this allows farmers to be more efficient as their resources dwindle.”



ANNA DOBRITSA

////////////////////
Molecular Genetics

////////////////////
Confocal fluorescent
microscopy

Mysterious chambers

“People have been staring at pollen grains for close to 300 years, ever since the early microscopes were invented. Yet we still know little about how these walls and patterns develop,” says Anna Dobritsa, associate professor in the Department of Molecular

Genetics. “You take a species of a plant that you don’t know much about and put its pollen under a microscope to see the diversity of patterns and to record effects of mutations.” This psychedelic image depicts the stamen — the purple portion — of *Arabidopsis thaliana*, or thale cress, a plant convenient for research because it grows quickly, stays small and produces ample seeds. The green structures are

developing pollen grains, tucked into four chambers on top of the stamen. “If you look closely,” Dobritsa says, “you can notice that cells in the leftmost chamber look smaller than in other chambers. Cells in this chamber have already undergone a specific type of cell division that puts them on the path of becoming mature pollen grains and started producing one of the proteins that we study, visible in these cells as bright green dots.”

Major prospects

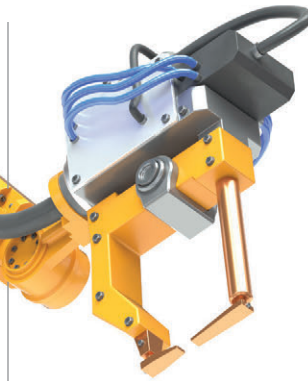
EACH FALL SEES A WAVE OF FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS certain they want to commit to computer science, engineering, business, psychology or another sought-after major. Meanwhile, Peter Spreitzer and his University Exploration team work with students still exploring their academic and career options. As an academic advisor for a decade and director of his department for the past year and a half, Spreitzer loves helping students discover under-the-radar options. He shares 10 majors you may not have realized Ohio State offers — **SHELLEY MANN '03** ✳



1 Engineering Technology

Train for high-demand jobs running the factories of tomorrow with this brand-new major the College of Engineering developed in response to the needs of Ohio's manufacturing industry. It's available exclusively on three regional campuses: Lima, Marion and Mansfield.

Group to join: Society of Manufacturing Engineers



2 Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering

Learn to identify and solve engineering problems related to renewable energy, environmental issues and safe food production for a sustainable and secure future with this College of Engineering option that melds three vital specializations.

Study abroad opportunity: Install solar panels on Haitian schools



3 Geographic Information Science

Prepare for a career in environmental planning, conservation, cartography, spatial database development or urban planning with this major in the College of Arts and Sciences. The U.S. Department of Labor identifies GIS as an important, emerging and evolving field.

Potential internship: Ohio Department of Transportation



4 Consumer and Family Financial Services

Easily hop between the worlds of personal finance and corporate finance with a degree from this program in the College of Education and Human Ecology. Post-grad career opportunities range from financial planner to legislative advocate to market research analyst to credit counselor.

Life skill: You'll rock budgets, including your own family's balance sheet.

5 Moving Image Production

Develop critical storytelling and visual literacy skills in this new filmmaking program offering a deep dive into animation, documentary, experimental and narrative cinema. Beyond film and television, a moving image production degree can lead you to a job in arts administration, film programming, criticism, journalism or education.

Internship opportunity: Podcast production internship with Macmillan Publishers



6 Turfgrass Management

Want to work in the professional sports industry or great outdoors? A major in turfgrass management at Ohio State's Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster may be the fit for you. Learn how to plant, irrigate and care for grassy areas such as parks, golf courses or playing fields for professional sports teams.

First job: Manicure an NFL field



7 Entomology

Ohio State is home to the only entomology major in Ohio! Study insects in the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and go on to protect human and animal health, crops and natural resources.

Cool skill: Learn to cultivate ladybugs, praying mantises and other insects that can reduce the need for pesticides.



8 Social Work

Psychology gets a lot of love, but a College of Social Work major is an ideal path for those with a passion for social justice and human dignity. Get credentialed at the undergraduate level and fast-track your graduate degree with the accelerated master's program.

Service opportunity: Provide emotional, behavioral and mental health services for kids at The Buckeye Ranch.

9 Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Looking for intellectual stimulation? This heady intersectional major in the College of Arts and Sciences prepares you to look across traditional boundaries and address complex problems.

Sample course: Tradition, Progress and Utopia



10 Aviation Management

Study logistics, analytics and aviation regulations as you prepare for a career in the airline industry as an air traffic controller or in airline operations, aircraft records or noise analysis. Runways exist in Fisher College of Business, the College of Engineering and the College of Arts and Sciences.

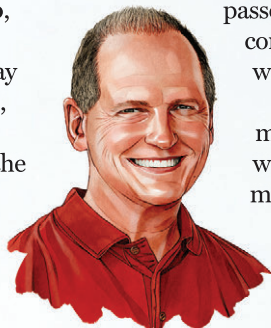
Sample course: Private Pilot Fundamentals



My championship trophy

LIKE MANY BOYS FROM CIRCLEVILLE, OHIO, I grew up dreaming of playing football at Ohio State. It was not to be. But on Thursday nights each fall from the early to mid-1980s, I channeled my aspirations to intramural football. My teammates and I even took to the field in Ohio Stadium, which you could do back then.

Fast forward to our 1984 season. My buddies and I signed up as The Wasteproducts. Despite the name and less-than-earnest attitude of some of my friends, I took each and every game seriously. I quarterbacked the squad, and somehow, some way, we wound up with a winning record and victories in our playoff games. In late October of that year, we played in the championship game. I threw two touchdown



**ROBERT
HAWK '86**

passes and ran for about 100 yards. My teammates contributed two running touchdowns, and we won 28–21.

Until that night, I had never won anything in my life! Elementary, junior high, high school — I was always on the runner-up team. To this day, my beloved intramural honor stands as my only team or individual championship.

My keepsake I can't part with? It's the T-shirt I earned that night. Sure, my shirt is faded and worn thin, and in no way, shape or form does it still fit me. But I could never throw it away. My wife and sons know to keep my treasure out of the trash, too. It's my championship trophy — a tangible keepsake representing one of my fondest memories of Ohio State. It always will be.

— **ROBERT HAWK '86** *



The fun marches on

WE'RE GONNA GIVE YOU A MENTAL BREAK, a few moments to feel some lightness in defiance of the weight of the world right now. For Buckeyes, especially at this time of year, the sounds of The Ohio State University Marching Band are the sounds of joy, the notes that bring smiles to our faces and memories to our conversations. We can't bring you a rousing rendition of "Buckeye Battle Cry," but we can help you bring friends and family together for some good old-fashioned trivia wars. Can't get enough — or want to spread the fun to distant Buckeyes? We made a shareable jumbo quiz on our website. — **TODD JONES AND KRISTEN SCHMIDT** ✨

1. The drumline logo includes which motto?

- Heartbeat of the Buckeyes
- The beat goes on
- First on the grass
- Drum beat Xichigan

2. When was the first band alumni reunion held?

- 1992
- 1966
- 1888
- 1908

3. The music that accompanies Script Ohio is loosely associated with which French export?

- The path walked by prisoners from their cells to the guillotine during the French revolution
- A poem written in the aftermath of the Franco-Prussian War
- The gavotte, a French folk dance
- A military tune that dates to the reign of Napoleon

4. What piece of technology has the band used in recent years to help design its popular halftime formations?

- There's an app for that!
- A computer model created by two Ohio State engineering students
- The formations are built using only paper and pencil, based on a formula built in the 1950s.
- It's a contemporary version of a computer program built by Professor Charles Csuri in the 1970s.



5. Which of these formations did the band perform during the Snow Bowl of 1950?

- A dinosaur
- A marriage proposal
- A bikini-clad woman
- A soaring football

6. What instrument must a band member play in order to be chosen to dot the "i" during the Script Ohio formation?

- Theremin
- Mellophone
- Sousaphone
- The E-flat cornet

7. Which of these songs did the band perform in its 2018 debut in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

- "No Sleep Till Brooklyn"
- "New York, New York"
- "New York State of Mind"
- "Empire State of Mind"

8. Which balloon trailed directly behind the band in that parade lineup?

- A Paw Patrol dog
- The Goodyear blimp
- The Pink Floyd pig balloon
- Hello Kitty

9. G. Edwin "Tubby" Essington, drum major from 1920 to 1922, is credited with being the first drum major to exhibit showmanship. Which of these stunts actually happened?

- He walked a leashed wolverine across the Diag in Ann Arbor.
- He marched a parade through the streets of Chicago after the Buckeyes defeated the University of Chicago.
- For a game against the University of Iowa, he replaced his baton with a corn stalk.
- He's credited with leading students in a prank to light up Pitt's Cathedral of Learning with scarlet bulbs.

10. What is the correct origin story of the term Skull Session?

- It evolved from slang to describe athletes using their brains during practice.
- The term evolved from rowing, in which oars are called sculls.
- A group of early Ohio State medical students is credited with originating the name.
- The term was coined in the 1920s at the peak of the Egypt Revival craze.

SUPPORT THE BAND Turn movie night into a boost for marching band members. Proceeds from the rental or purchase of the documentary "TBDBITL 141" go toward marching band student scholarships. The University Communications team of Joe Camoriano, director and producer; Chris Davey, executive producer; and Aaron Nestor and Chris Booker, associate producers, created the film. It follows the marching band through the 2018 season. go.osu.edu/tbdbitl141

MARCHING ON COVID-19 didn't stop TBDBITL from playing — it just made members more creative. Visit the band's YouTube channel to see members playing physically distanced renditions of "Buckeye Battle Cry," "Carmen Ohio" and "Hang on Sloopy." youtube.com/TheOhioStateUniversityMarchingBand



The University of Guam is perched on the island's eastern coastline in the North Pacific Ocean. With a hand from Ohio State, the school began offering classes in 1952.

Buckeye footprints on Guam

EVEN THE MOST BEAUTIFUL DAY at Ohio State doesn't feature an ocean breeze blowing across a beach. Still, our Midwestern university has a direct tie to the tropics — a fact only history aficionados seem to realize nearly seven decades after a partnership formed to improve education on a western Pacific island.

History proves Ohio State and the University of Guam are much closer than the actual 7,640 miles between their two campuses. In fact, the former birthed the latter, which opened in 1952 as the Territorial College of Guam. The first class had about 190 students.

Jose Palomo '28 MA, '38 PhD, who headed Guam's department of education at the time, had taught Spanish at the Columbus campus. He asked Donald Cottrell '23, dean of Ohio State's education college, to help him establish a two-year college to train teachers, who were much-needed on the island. In May 1952, Ohio

State agreed to send education faculty to serve as deans of the Territorial College for five years. First in that role was Edward "Hi" Lewis, then a professor emeritus.

Ohio State extended its original agreement three years, helping the Territorial College of Guam achieve junior college status in 1959. A year later, a new campus overlooking Pago Bay opened in Mangilao. The college became an accredited four-year university in 1965, and seven years later Congress designated it a land-grant institution. Today's enrollment is about 3,800, and the most popular majors are business administration, education, nursing and social work.

"As a land-grant university, we are a smaller version of Ohio State," says Sereana Dresbach '92 PhD, associate dean in the College of Natural and Applied Sciences. "What makes the University of Guam the same as Ohio State is that we are here to serve the people." — **TODD JONES** ✨



Photos: Courtesy of University of Guam

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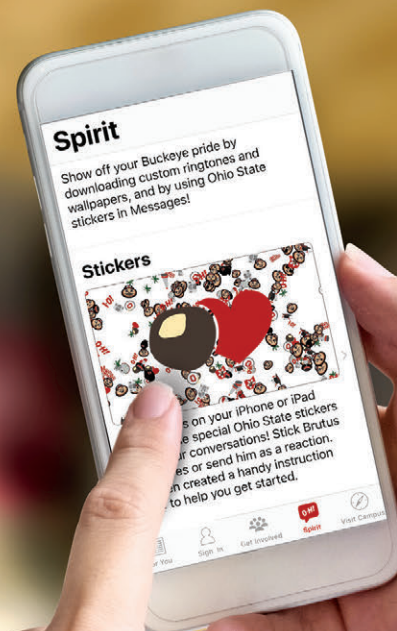
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MEET YOUR BOARD

Agile and altruistic

CRAIG FRIEDMAN '89 KNOWS HOW TO TELL A STORY from any angle and the power that comes from being able to reinvent yourself. After earning his degree in journalism, he embarked on a career of more than 20 years in that field before switching gears in 2012 to work with the media in a different way as vice president of regional media relations for PNC Financial Services Group. As a member of The Ohio State University Alumni Association Board of Directors, Friedman embraces giving back to ensure current Buckeyes have the skills and experience they need to thrive professionally.

“As an alum, I realized the importance of paying forward early on, filling in for a journalism instructor who took an extended leave in 1996 and helping my students enter the competitive field of TV news,” he says. “Most recently, I’ve served as a mentor to students in the Arts and Sciences’ Match Mentor Program. It doesn’t hurt living in the Columbus area, either, meeting with students and organizations whenever I can.” — **DAN CATERINICCHIA**

How did your Ohio State experience prepare you for your professional career and for your role as a volunteer/leader beyond the university?

I had amazing instructors who taught me the importance of developing skills, being creative and having a positive attitude. They told me to gain as much experience as I could, not to mention becoming the best writer I could be.

What is your most memorable day as a Buckeye?

I was sitting in the Horseshoe during commencement on a rainy June day. As I left the stadium, I heard the Victory Bell, which has marked so many Buckeye victories. That day it felt like we all won! I’m still amazed by how thousands of us received our diplomas that day. How cool was that? My friends who attended other universities say that just doesn’t happen. Instead, their diplomas would be delivered to them in the mail. At Ohio State, amazing things happen every day.

What one piece of advice would you give to students? To alumni?

Once you land that first job, always have a backup plan, even though it might take you out of your comfort zone. Now more than ever in these challenging times, being able to

reinvent yourself is critical. Having a Plan B or even a Plan C could increase your skill set, and it’s so important to be versatile.

What would you tell future students?

You can make Ohio State as big and, more importantly, as small as you want. Sure, you could be sitting in a freshman lecture at Hagerty Hall with a few hundred of your closest friends. But in your journey, the class sizes ultimately get smaller — and you’ll develop relationships with people who will be your lifelong friends and mentors.

Why do you serve on the OSUAA board?

While serving on the Arts and Sciences Alumni Society Board, I realized the need to get our graduates more engaged. Many alums would come back for our annual Homecoming football tailgate, but we weren’t connecting with them as much as we should the rest of the year. We took steps to improve that, but we can still get better. When the opportunity came to join the alumni association board, I made increasing engagement my top priority — and that includes reaching out to our current students to educate them about what we offer beyond getting their diplomas.



Photo: Jo McCully

DAN CATERINICCHIA is assistant vice president for strategy and administration in the Office of Advancement.

Association board welcomes three

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS welcomed three new members and extended its thanks to Janelle Jordan, whose five-year term concluded, in September. New to the board are:



Ted Adams
'91 JD, '92 MA

Co-founder and chair
Grant Street Partners LLC
New Albany, Ohio



Susan Bon
'92 JD, '94 MA, '96 PhD

Presidential faculty fellow
Faculty civility advocate
Professor, Department of Education
Leadership and Policies
Affiliate professor,
College of Law
University of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina



Said Sariolghalam
'07, '09 MPA, '10 MHA

Senior program manager,
clinical analytics
Providence St. Joseph Health
Seattle, Washington

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS Nominations for three candidates to join the board in fall 2021 will be accepted through Oct. 15. The nominating committee seeks experienced leaders, diversity in all respects, including professional background and achievements, board experience and strong connections with Ohio State and the alumni association. Active alumni association members are eligible for nomination. go.osu.edu/BOD2021

The Ohio State University Alumni Association, Inc.

OUR VISION

To be the heart of the Buckeye alumni community, inspiring and cultivating engaged citizens.

OUR MISSION

Through time and change, we enrich firm friendships among Buckeye alumni and The Ohio State University.

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- **Tradition.** We believe in Ohio State. We cherish the university's rich and vibrant history and work to enhance its reputation.
- **Integrity.** We keep our promises. Our reputation rests on honesty, fairness and treating everyone with respect.
- **Service.** We go the extra mile. We provide the highest levels of service to our members, growing alumni community and the university.
- **Quality.** We expect to be held to standards of excellence in everything we do.
- **Diversity.** We value diversity. We embrace inclusion in everything we do.
- **Innovation.** Our success depends on continuous improvement, adaptation and embracing change.

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Chair: Catherine Baumgardner '84, '86, Lancaster, Pa.

Vice Chair: Vaughn Broadnax '84, Carmel, Ind.

Vice Chair: Matthew Hall '93, Columbus

Treasurer: Mark Eppert '88, Atlanta

Secretary: Molly Ranz Calhoun '86, Columbus

BOARD MEMBERS

Ted Adams '91, '92, New Albany, Ohio; Rosa Ailabouni '01, '01, Columbus; Susan Bon '92, '94, '96, Columbia, S.C.; Craig Friedman '89, Columbus; Matthew Hall '93, Columbus; Margie Harris '82, Houston; Leonard Haynes '75, '90 HON, Silver Spring, Md.; Cathy Lanning '00, '00, '04, Worthington, Ohio; Michael Lee '06, San Francisco; Michael Papadakis '04, New Albany, Ohio; Stacy Rastauskas, Worthington, Ohio; Said Sariolghalam '07, '09, '10, Seattle, Wash.; Bernie Savarese '00, '11, Summit, N.J.; Gilda Spencer '83, Vernon Hills, Ill.

EX OFFICIO

Amy Rohling McGee '92, '94, Columbus

Claire Burton, student member, Wapakoneta, Ohio

ALUMNI ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chair: Amy Rohling McGee '92, '94, Columbus

Vice Chair: Keith Key '89, Powell, Ohio

ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVES TO THE REGIONAL CAMPUSES

Lima: Teresa Hirschfeld '81, St. Marys, Ohio

Mansfield: John Shuler '85, '85, Galion, Ohio

Marion: Roger George '72, '75, Marion, Ohio

Newark: John Whittington '74, Granville, Ohio

ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVES TO THE COLLEGES

Arts and Sciences: Stephen Habash '74, '78, Dublin, Ohio; Fisher College of Business: Sandra Harbrecht '74, '82, New Albany, Ohio; Dentistry: Robert Haring '85, '87, Dublin, Ohio; Education and Human Ecology: Steve Tipps '80, Flat Rock, N.C.; Engineering: James Dickey '83, Westlake, Ohio; Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences: Bruce Kettler '87, Westfield, Ind.; Graduate School: Mary Elizabeth Arensberg '81, '93, Columbus; John Glenn College of Public Affairs: Mari-jean Siehl '77, '06, Hilliard, Ohio; Medicine: Joel Goodnough '75, '79, Jackson, Ohio; Moritz College of Law: Amy Kellogg '86, Avon, Ohio; Nursing: Kitty Kisker '66, '67, Columbus; Optometry: Christopher Smiley '01, Westerville Ohio; Pharmacy: Marialice Bennett '69, Columbus; Public Health: Stephen Smith '77, Antioch, Ill.; Social Work: Amy Rohling McGee '92, '94, Columbus; Veterinary Medicine: Tom Wood '87, Lorain, Ohio; Wexner Medical Center: Duane Reynolds '04, Smyrna, Ga.

ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVES TO VICE PRESIDENTIAL OFFICES

Athletics: Stephen Chappellear '74, '77, Pataskala, Ohio; Distance Education and eLearning: Steve Lieb '09, Columbus; Diversity and Inclusion: Valerie Lee '76, Gahanna, Ohio; Enrollment Services: Bradley Myers '77, '80, Columbus; Research: Liza Reed '06, '10, Cleveland; Student Life: Kelley Griesmer '93, Gahanna, Ohio; Undergraduate Education: Kathryn Koch '01, Westfield, Ind.; University Marketing: George Wang '03, Menlo Park, Calif.

OTHER AREAS REPRESENTED

Board of Directors: Matt Hall '93, Columbus

Foundation Board: Keith Key '89, Powell, Ohio

WOSU Public Media: Christine Mortine '84, '84, '99, Columbus

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Duane Elliott Reynolds
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ALUMNI CITIZENSHIP
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Brian L. Amison
'97 DDS

**WILLIAM OXLEY THOMPSON
ALUMNI AWARD**

Neethi Johnson '10,
'19 MBA

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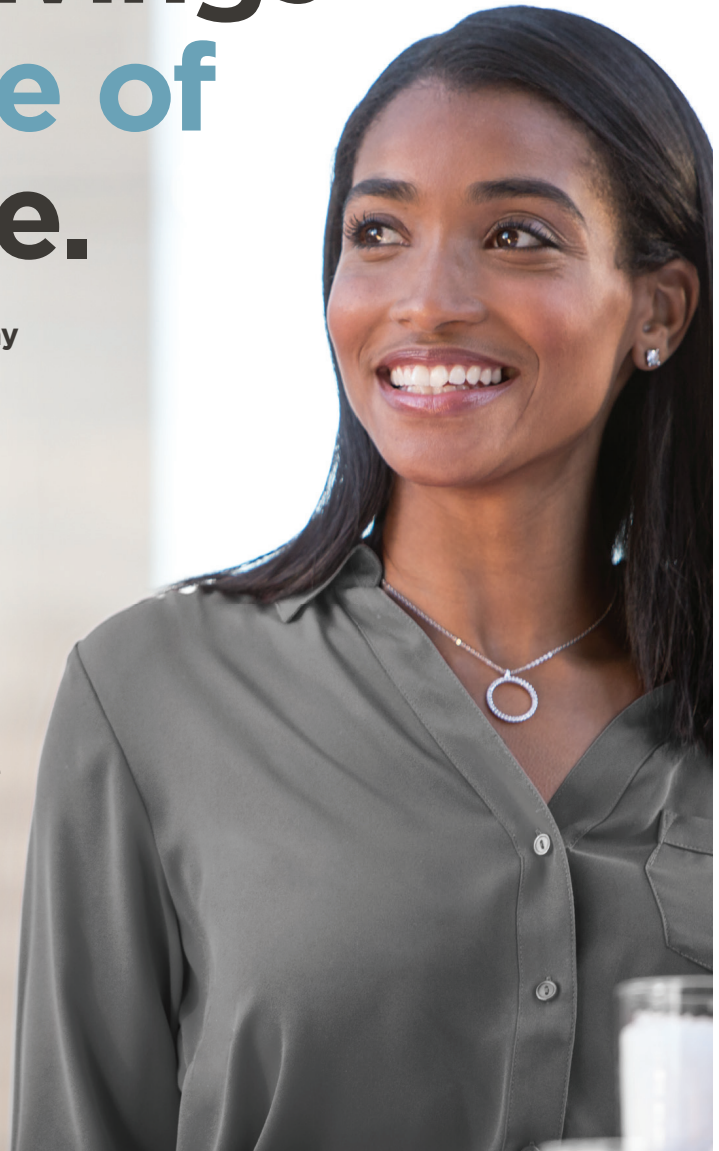
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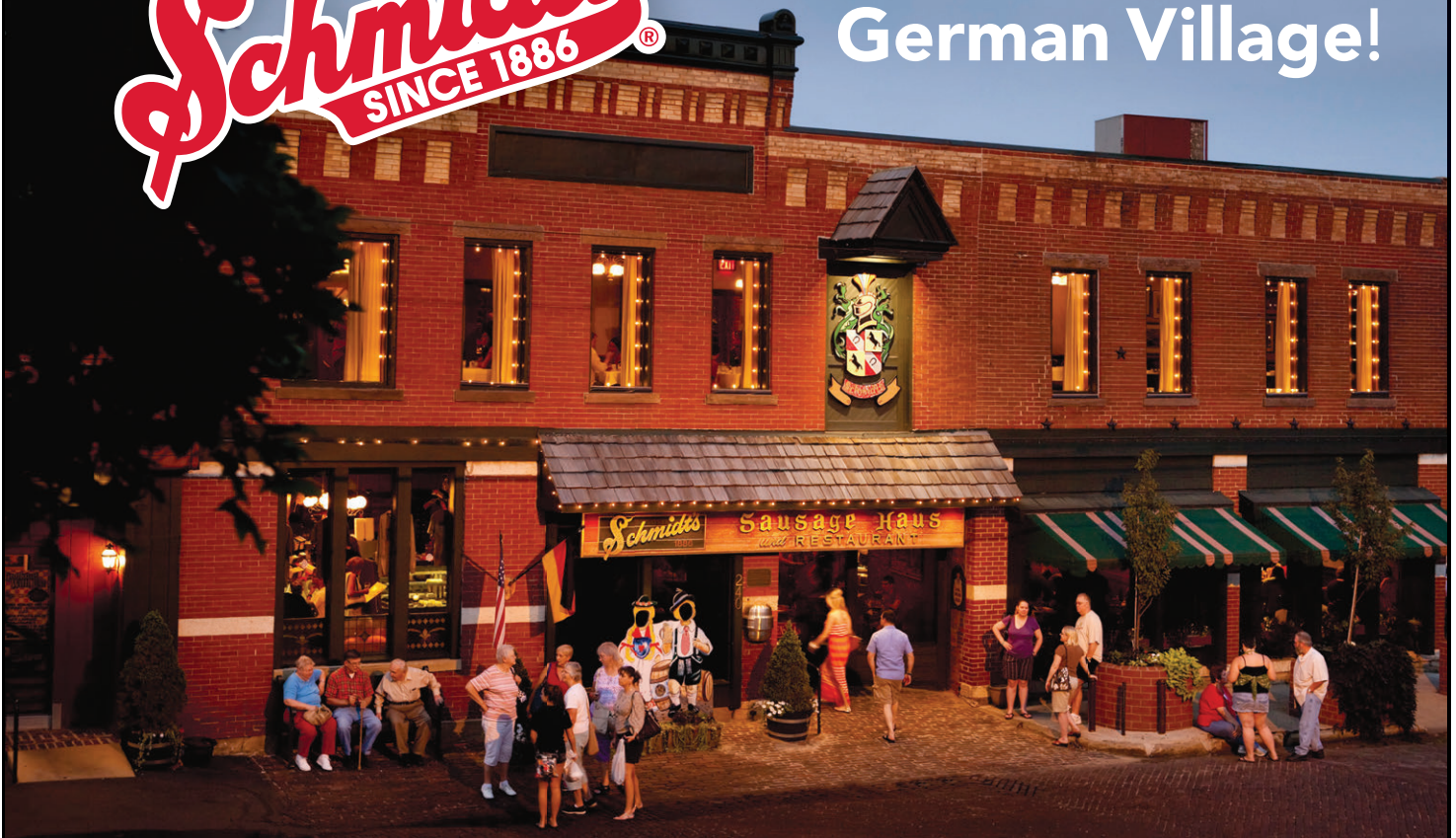


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A mind-opening view

Ohio State volleyball teammates, from left, Becca Mauer, Mia Grunze, Adria Powell and Mac Podraza were awestruck by the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu. They had seen photos of the sprawling 15th century Incan site, including its iconic central citadel, before the team's trip to Peru last year. But images couldn't compare to real life, especially when looking *down* to an elevation of 7,970 feet where the Andes Mountains meet the Amazon basin. "I had chills in that moment," says Powell, a third-year student from Hubbard, Ohio. "Machu Picchu was so much more beautiful in person. I was absolutely speechless. That sparked a new interest in my life: to travel and see places I'm reading about." — **TODD JONES** ✨

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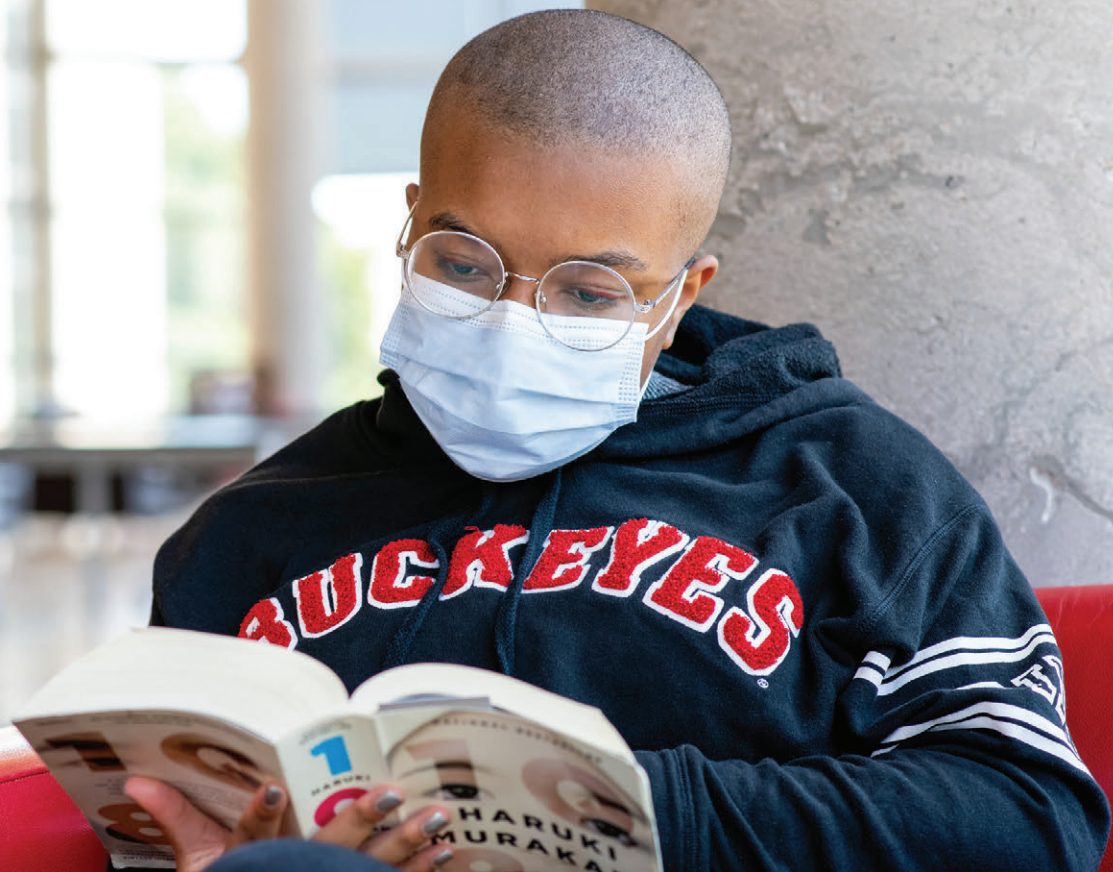
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