

OHIO STATE

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

—
WINTER
2021
—

INSIDE

PRESIDENT JOHNSON
SHARES LONG VIEW
FOR OHIO STATE



Ice sages

—
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BRIGHT GENERATIONS OF
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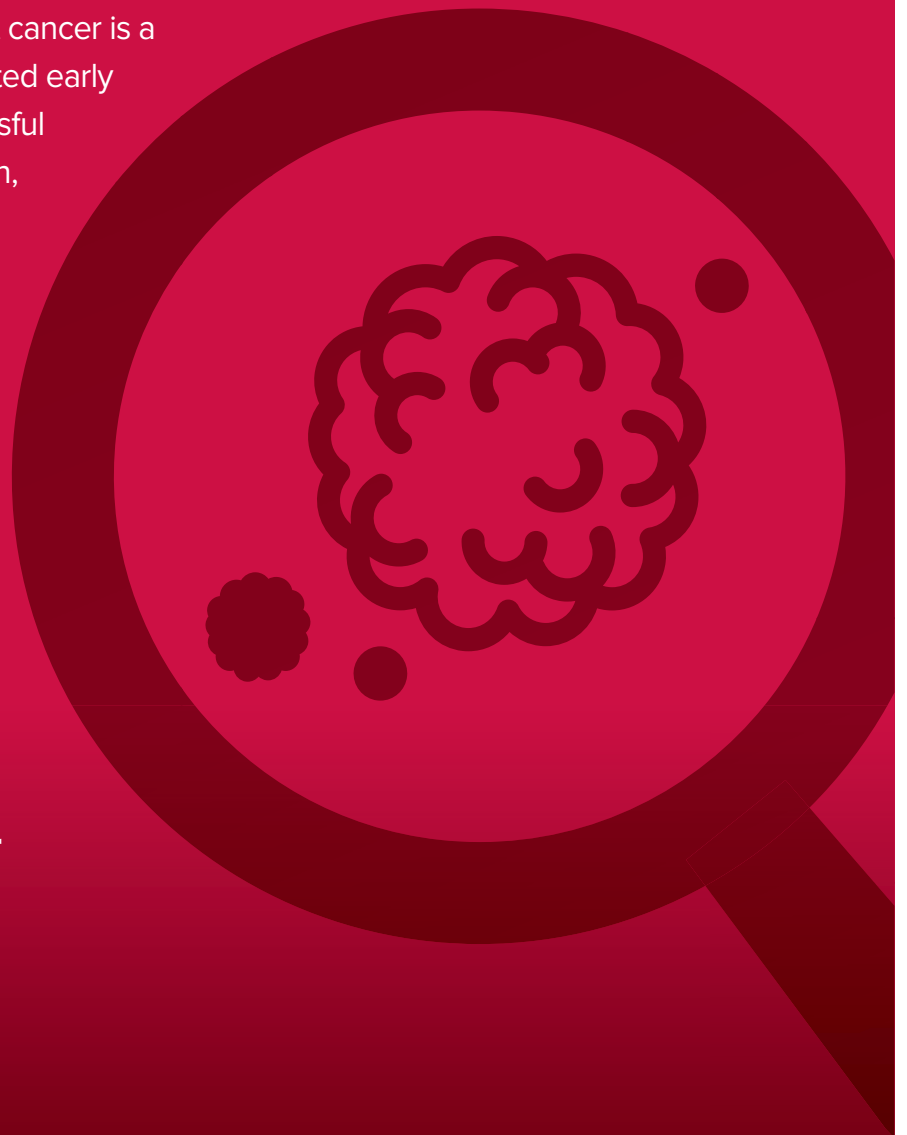
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OHIO STATE

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

VOLUME 113, ISSUE 2

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2200 Olentangy River Road
Columbus, OH 43210-1035
800-762-5646

Periodicals postage paid at Freeport, Ohio, and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Ohio State Alumni Magazine*, The Ohio State University Alumni Association, Inc., 2200 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, OH 43210-1035. Canadian Post Publications Agreement No. 40897507. WDS, Station A, PO Box 54, Windsor, ON N9A 6J5; cpcreturns@wdsmail.com.

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You're changing the world

In this season that invites us to reflect on kindness and gratitude, I'm excited to have so many reasons to celebrate our boundless Buckeye spirit. Ohio State alumni have an incredible capacity to create positive change around the globe when they share their experiences, ideas, talents and gifts. As you read this issue, you will see some of the many ways our fellow alumni are transforming possibilities into realities in people's lives and the places we call home.

You will learn more about President Kristina M. Johnson's unwavering commitment to creating limitless opportunities for our students, advancing critical research and discoveries, expanding entrepreneurship and increasing diversity. This includes her plans to ensure that over the next decade, Buckeyes will be able to earn their bachelor's degrees without the burden of debt.

The focus of her wife, Veronica Meinhard, on engaging more alumni and friends in growing scholarship support is an outstanding part of that vision. When these student scholarship recipients become alumni, they will be better equipped to choose the next steps on their journeys — opening doors for them to be as accomplished as the winners of our 2021 alumni awards, also featured here. Our honorees are serving others in communities near and far, and our new graduates will follow their examples.

As you turn the pages of this issue, you'll also read about Taylor Gruenwald '16, who already is working on \$100 million projects to build affordable housing and vibrant urban community hubs as a full-time developer with The Model Group. She's so passionate about transforming spaces to enhance the quality of life for residents that she does it in her spare time by volunteering



MOLLY RANZ CALHOUN



The DC Alumni Club welcomed Molly Ranz Calhoun (second from left), President Kristina M. Johnson and her wife, Veronica Meinhard (second and first from right, respectively), for a game watch this fall. Joining them are India Harris-Jones (left) and Melissa Wasser (center).

with the St. Bernard Community Improvement Corporation. Taylor balances new development with historic stabilization and preservation, always with people at the center.

Our support for future Buckeyes is one of the most significant ways we pay forward. Lonnie Thompson '73 MS, '76 PhD and Ellen Mosley-Thompson '75 MA, '79 PhD are known for their decades of groundbreaking climate research and daily contributions to a greener planet. Yet, they are most driven by their overarching mission: to prepare the next generation of scientists, who in turn will inspire their mentees.

All of our tomorrows are brighter because Ohio State alumni, including you, continue to illuminate paths for others. Share your stories with me, on Twitter (I'm @BuckeyeMolly) or with an email to OSUAAPresident@osu.edu. I want to know how you are leaving our world better than you found it, one person at a time.

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

© 2021 The Ohio State University Alumni Association, Inc. Member, Council for Advancement and Support of Education. *Ohio State Alumni Magazine* (ISSN 1072-3234) is published quarterly in March, June, September and December, with occasional special editions, by The Ohio State University Alumni Association, Inc. Our business partners and sponsors provide financial support for the programs and services of The Ohio State University Alumni Association. Sustaining membership in The Ohio State University Alumni Association includes a subscription to *Ohio State Alumni Magazine*.

Illustration, Michael Hoeweler; digital photo production throughout issue, Ammon Anderson



OUR CAMPUS CANVAS

SPECIAL MOMENTS SHARED with friends on the Oval have left indelible imprints on the memories of students and alumni. No doubt this scene will endure for the friends who created the Script Ohio in snow last winter for others to enjoy. This season, with this photo, it's a gift for all of us.

PHOTO BY JO McCULTY '84, '94 MA



OHIO STATE

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

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COVER STORY

Ice sages

They arrived on campus in 1970. Within a decade, with their master's and doctoral degrees complete, they were immersed in careers researching our changing climate. Now 73, Lonnie Thompson and Ellen Mosley-Thompson continue their work, which is more vital than ever before.

COVER PHOTO BY JO McCULTY



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President Kristina M. Johnson laid out her vision for Ohio State to become the absolute model land grant university of the 21st century during her investiture address this fall.



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Taylor Gruenwald '16 has never met a space she can't transform. From renovating her childhood home to spearheading large-scale development projects in Greater Cincinnati, she uses every tool in her belt to help her community flourish.



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Field general's trophy

Have a peek at the senior-season helmet of quarterback Rex Kern, who led the Buckeyes for three years, including to a national championship that capped off the 1968 season. "Now it's in a clear plastic case in the den of our home in Greenwood Village, Colorado," Kern reveals.

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OHIO STATE

ALUMNI DIGITAL MAGAZINE


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

A master at questions answers ours


 Matt Amodio '12, '13 MAS — whose recent 38-game streak on “Jeopardy!” enthralled viewers — tells us how his insatiable curiosity and attraction to questions like “Why?” and “How?” translated into the experience of a lifetime. It all came just months before he earns his PhD from Yale.



Extending their hands

 For social work graduate Morgan Weininger and the students she collaborates with, a typical day’s work is filled with what she calls “street outreach,” canvassing the University District to talk with people without homes.


Leading the way

 Wicked-smart scientists of the future will need to help the world deal with the consequences of climate change. Catch this video to learn why many of them will have the mentoring of Lonnie Thompson and Ellen Mosley-Thompson to thank for their strong foundation.

In Memoriam

Remember alums who have passed away.

Fuel to fight frazzle

 Do you have the energy you need to get through the day? Or are you feeling tired, unmotivated and frazzled? It may be time to focus on strategies to increase and sustain your energy. Here’s some guidance that will help you grow your vim and vigor just as we head into a season that lulls many of us into complacency and onto the couch.



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The gifts learning bestows

Only in America could three college degrees have sprung from such hardscrabble beginnings

BY CHARLOTTE JENKINS SHROYER '61

America truly is a land of opportunity. Given my start from humble beginnings in rural Ohio, I am convinced that the life I have led and the opportunities afforded me as I grew and experienced the world around me could never have happened anywhere else. The Ohio State University and all of my education experiences have been a significant part of my attaining that American dream.

My father, one of 13 kids growing up in southern Ohio near the Ohio River, had only a sixth-grade education in a little country school back in the holler. Life was hard. He often told the story of walking sideways past a neighbor's house on his way to school to hide the holes in his pants.

Dad wanted something more out of life, so he left the family log cabin in Appalachia and went to Columbus. There he met my mother, whose parents owned a local mom and pop store. Sometime after their marriage, he took her to Hamilton Road, once a rural unincorporated area east of Columbus, where he bought a parcel of land, dug a basement by hand and built a house from scratch.

When I was a very young child, we used a pump on the kitchen counter as the source of well water for the house, including water to flush the toilet. The home was heated only with a small coal stove in the living room. The fire glowed through the isinglass window in the stove's door. My room, my haven, was in the attic under the eaves.

With his humble start, my father never gave up the goal of making more of his life and always instilled in me the love of education. Part of his dream was to see me



It was an Ohio State art class in the 1960s that whet Charlotte Jenkins Shroyer's interest in painting. Years later, she "listened to the music of her soul" and left teaching to pursue art as a career.

go to college. His dream became my dream and then my reality. Elementary school was just a little country school (Courtright School), eight grades, seats bolted to the floor, blackboards and inkwells. It didn't take long for me to discover books.

I "broke the code" of the Dick and Jane reading method and could read just about anything thanks to my second-grade teacher, Mrs. Parsons, who taught phonics and the world of wonder in books.

On our weekly trip to Central Market in Columbus, my father took me to Bexley Public Library. While he waited in the car, I

excitedly dove into the magic and wonder that lay in the printed word. Wow, a stack of books to read through the week! Once I was given a second-hand bicycle at about age 10, I rode the 10 miles or so to the Bexley library to get my books and beyond to explore the city.

I have been fortunate. Education has enabled me to go places I never would have gone otherwise. My love of the printed word and the love of my second-grade teacher for her pupils and their education enabled me to become a very good speller — so much so that I became a Central Ohio

Spelling Bee champion in a competition sponsored by *The Columbus Dispatch* and with that a trip to Washington, D.C., to compete in the National Spelling Bee.

That trip was magical. It was my first outside Ohio other than one across the Ohio River when we visited my grandfather. In Washington, my parents and I stayed at the Willard Hotel. My eyes were wide open in wonder — dinner served on fancy plates set on linen-covered tables and awe-inspiring glimpses of our nation’s capital.

High school was another adventure. Students finishing eighth grade at Courtright School were given the choice of South High School in Columbus or Reynoldsburg High School. The lure of the city won me over, and four years of quality education at South High followed. My love of books only grew as I pursued a bachelor’s degree in French at Ohio State and a master’s and PhD in education at the University of Pittsburgh.

If I had been born in other parts of the world, it would have been difficult to climb the ladder to a life with a significantly better socioeconomic outcome. No one in my family had ever gone to college. But thanks to my father, there was never a question that I would attend college. And the only college in his mind was Ohio State. “If you say you graduated from Ohio State, everyone knows that university,” he’d say.

Dad was right. Ohio State was the right choice for me, but not because everyone would know of my alma mater. It was because campus life helped me grow and find my way intellectually, emotionally, socially and economically. New paths opened. I discovered a different world and began to know myself as a person.

My academic experiences at Ohio State took me in directions I never imagined. Two quarters as a journalism major, during which I covered campus events and wrote stories for *The Lantern*, prepared me many years later to write a monthly column for a newspaper in Carson City, Nevada, and later a travel guide for Taos, New Mexico. Those writing skills would earn me a Best Feature award for an Albuquerque newspaper article on Navajo weaving.

The launch of Sputnik in 1957 enticed me to take a class in Russian taught by a frail



Clockwise from top left: Charlotte Jenkins Shroyer at about 5. She rode her hand-me-down bike about 10 miles from the home her dad built to Bexley Public Library, where she scooped up a week’s worth of books. Charlotte and her dad, who first encouraged her to attend Ohio State.

Russian lady who had experienced the 1917 revolution. Had there been a Russian major then, it would have been mine. Rather, I majored in French. My love of that language and what I’ve been told is a pretty good adopted Parisian accent were instilled in me by a gruff Frenchman, Monsieur (and Professor) Charles Carlut.

I will always remember fondly the social side of university life and the excitement of football games on beautiful fall Saturdays. It was the Rose Bowl train to Pasadena in 1957 that introduced me to California, where I would eventually live.

I joined a small sorority with a house on Indianola Avenue. After 12 years of being bused to school, this “little country kid” could do something she had long dreamed of: walk to school with friends and participate in activities outside of class.

My education led me to become an

elementary teacher, a professor and the director of a nonprofit school-to-work program for people with disabilities.

Today, in retirement, I am an artist — for which I also can thank Ohio State. It was in a university post-degree program to become a teacher that I picked up a paint brush for the first time. High marks and positive comments from my professor were the seeds for a long journey. Those seeds were nurtured by later art classes and finally blossomed during a serendipitous trip to Taos, New Mexico, where I now make my home. And to think it all started 30 years before with that paint brush in Elementary Art Methods.

At 82, I still set and achieve my goals. And I know that the freedom and liberty in this country allow me to do so. My American dream has come true. Thanks to education, it continues to be my reality.

Goodwill reverberates

Readers of *Ohio State Alumni Magazine* online shared these sentiments after the spring and summer issues.

On the Power of 10 “Help a Neighbor” story: I, too, am concerned about the homeless population. However a person or family arrived there, they are still the human beings they always were. Like everyone, they need and deserve respect and dignity. Providing food for others, saying hello and helping them access resources are positive steps. Those with a desire to provide help must also bear in mind their own safety and well-being.

Judith Veley '91, '94

Homelessness is a large problem in many communities. I appreciate these insights. When I encounter these folks my thought is, “There but for the grace of God, go I.” We need to have compassion and share our blessings.

Keely Linda '70



The story about Shirley Brooks-Jones '94 made me cry. (“Responding with Goodness,” about a college scholarship endowment Brooks-Jones suggested to thank Newfoundlanders for their hospitality after 9/11.) Such kindness from strangers, and then to have the kindness reciprocated with such a committed and generous tradition.

Elizabeth Hosket '07

Combining a tragic point in our nation’s history, a beautiful response by a small community and the act of one Ohio State graduate and employee was heartwarming and inspiring. A testament to kindness and commitment to give back.

Dennis Raybuck '74

I’ve seen the play (“Come From Away”), which was emotional enough. But to know a Buckeye was so instrumental in paying forward to the community is extraordinary.

Nancy McCabe '63

I’ve heard this story many times and never realized there was a Buckeye driving the effort. How amazing she still is leveraging her Ohio State experience to make a difference for the students of Gander, Newfoundland.

Pamela Brown Yaeger '91

It is incredible to see the good that has come from that horrible day and heartwarming to know a Buckeye has had a major part in it.

Reminds me of a Phoenix rising from the ashes.

Jeanette Newman Lepinski '73

Pride is timeless

MY STORY IS A SHORT ONE that fits with the spirit of the recent Ohio State Class of 1971 50th reunion. I recall in the spring of 1971 conducting a campus tour, by bus, for the then-50th reunion of Ohio State’s Class of 1921. It was part of my volunteer service as a member of Ohio Staters.

My microphone on the bus broke, and my well-seasoned audience was hard of hearing. As you can imagine, I was hoarse by the end of the tour. Still, the passengers were grateful for the tour — and said so many times.

As a student, the best part of my glimpse into an Ohio State reunion experience was seeing pride in the faces of those Golden Anniversary attendees — pride in the past growth, present greatness and shining future of their beloved university. And pride in themselves for being a part of that adventure for 50 years.

As members of the Class of 1971, we stand on the shoulders of so many magnificent alumni, including that long-ago Class of 1921. This fall, it was our turn

for a 50th reunion — virtual campus tour and all. Like those before us, our class has seen more growth of our university, a greater present ranking among the world’s leading schools and always an even more shining future for our alma mater.

That vibrant pride always will be. Indeed, time and change already have shown this to be so.

**THOMAS L. KLUG '71
CHAPPAQUA, NEW YORK**

Contemplate that curfew

THANK YOU, CINDY WENTZ, for your recollections of keeping women safe and other discrimination of the early 1960s (“Signs of Those Times” letter, fall *Ohio State Alumni Magazine*). It sounds a bit like Saudi Arabia. When I asked in 1965 why the women had a curfew and the men didn’t, the answer was that once the women were in, the men would turn in, too. Why didn’t the authorities here and in Saudi Arabia think of restraining the men?

**EVELYN KINZEL '69, '69 MS
COLUMBUS**

A pleasure to rewind

READING “A FOCAL POINT IN TIME” by Nikole Prete Thomas '07 brought back a flood of memories. In the fall of 1970, as a newbie on campus in graduate school, I made a black and white 16mm film about Morrill Tower for my film class. In the next quarter, I made a color film about the ROTC pipe band.

It’s fun to recall those days. Keep up the good work with the magazine.

**ROBERT A. CURRY '71 MA
DEER PARK, WASHINGTON**

JOIN THE CONVERSATION We welcome your letters, which we ask be limited to 250 words or less. Letters selected for publication typically address topics raised in *Ohio State Alumni Magazine*, although the editor reserves the right to make exceptions. All published letters appear online at go.osu.edu/alumnimag, and a selection appears in print. We edit letters for space, clarity, accuracy and civility. When readers’ published views prompt others to write, the latter submissions are the last published on a particular topic. All letters represent the opinions of the letter writers, not those of the magazine staff, alumni association or university. To have letters considered for the spring print edition, please submit them by Jan. 14. Please send letters to alumnimagazine@osu.edu.

“
Since I worked full time and went to school full time, my best studying was done on my lunch break in my car. My space.”

COURTNEY LESSICK '07, '09



“
Writing helps us remember things. From brain to hand to brain, oh the knowledge you will gain!”

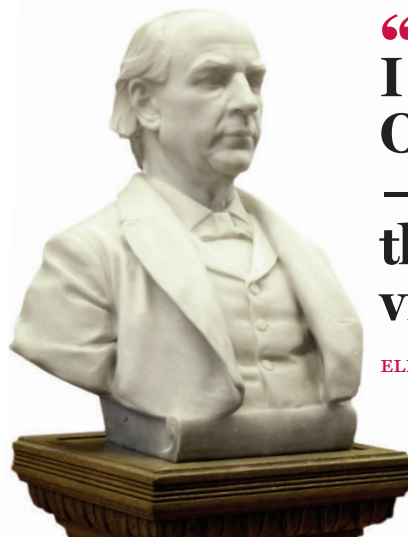
TERI SILVERSTEIN JORDAN '84

So, what was your study jam?

YOU HAD ALL THE MOVES. Finding quiet settings and classical music. Teaming up with study buddies and going it alone. Highlighting with abandon. And planners? Oh yeah, you had them. Here are a few of the hundreds of insights you shared when asked, “What study habits served you best?” Your advice was too good to keep to ourselves: We’ll find some first-years who’ll surely appreciate the lessons you learned. How would you answer The Ask and other Ohio State inquiries? Find out by joining Buckeye Room, an online community of more than 10,000 alumni whose insights influence university decisions and help improve experiences for Buckeyes around the world. Visit go.osu.edu/buckeyeroom. — MARY ALICE CASEY

“
Headed to Papa Joe’s for the buckets. (Just joking.)”

MICHAEL SMITH '94



“
I studied in the library at Orton Hall. Just gorgeous — and hardly anyone was there. It fit my Hollywood vision of a college library!”

ELLEN BARNEY SYCKS '88



“ I locked myself in the bedroom with earplugs in and earmuffs on to block out my wife and sons.”

RICHARD HOLLYFIELD '14

“ Exercising gave my brain time to recover, and it has physical and mental benefits.”

ADAM SICHEL '20



“ Finding a quiet corner of the library while everyone was at the football or basketball game.”

ANN KIBLER LUND '80 MPA

“ I picked a quiet spot along the northeast edge of Mirror Lake by the trees.”

JEFF FRANKLIN '73

OUR NEXT QUESTION Share a lasting memory from the Oval. Maybe your answer will appear in our next issue, just in time for spring days at this campus crossroads. theask@osu.edu



“ Studying alongside someone else. My ADHD really benefited from the presence of another person.”

HOPE HILL '12



1



2

OUR COMMUNITY

Focus on safety continues

President remains vigilant about University District crime, commits \$2 million more annually to enhance safety and security measures

BY TOM KNOX '10

LIKE MANY PLACES, the Columbus campus and University District looked much different this fall than last: The Oval and High Street buzzed with students, game-day celebrations returned and a high COVID-19 vaccination rate meant most fall semester classes met in person.

Unfortunately, another development across the country during the pandemic also was evident in Columbus, including in off-campus neighborhoods: crime and gun violence.

According to the FBI's annual crime report, released in late September, violent crime rose 5.6% nationally in 2020, and aggravated assaults were up 12.1%. The Columbus Division of Police reported a

24.2% increase in aggravated assaults citywide.

In a swift enhancement to the university's ongoing response, President Kristina M. Johnson announced new safety measures and a commitment to spend an additional \$2 million a year to enhance safety and security on and near campus, bringing annual total spending on public safety to \$35 million.

"There is nothing I take more seriously than student safety. Nothing," Johnson said during a mid-semester safety update. "We monitor where crimes occur and use fresh data to decide where to deploy resources. The Buckeye community's safety is and will always be my top priority."



3

RECENT STEPS FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY

The university, in partnership with the City of Columbus, took several additional steps fall semester to further enhance safety and security. Many were recommended by a university task force on safety and well-being, which Johnson formed in fall 2020. The group includes a wide cross section of university and community representatives, including students, faculty, staff, public health professionals, law enforcement and the Columbus mayor’s office. Among the measures implemented:

ENHANCING LYFT RIDE SMART (1), the university’s discounted ride-sharing program. Students can catch rides from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. seven days a week. Monthly ride caps were lifted, and service was expanded to include the Short North via High Street.

INTRODUCING BUCKEYE BLOCK WATCH (2), individuals who patrol on foot, on bike and by vehicle. Ambassadors are trained in best practices for public engagement, including mental health responses. They are neither students nor law enforcement, and they are separate from security patrols Ohio State has in place through private firms and students involved in the Campus Service Officer Program.



4

ADDING MOBILE LIGHTING (3) and cameras east of High Street.

PROVIDING PORTABLE PERSONAL SAFETY DEVICES (4) to students. Thousands of devices have been distributed. They can be clipped to a purse or backpack and emit a loud, siren-like sound when activated. Free window and door alarms and safety light timers also are available to students.

CREATING AN ONLINE SAFETY CLASS to help students enhance their personal safety measures. The module covers crime prevention, crime reporting and dealing with strangers, among other topics.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Safety is a complex and nuanced topic, and achieving it takes a holistic approach, says Tom Gregoire, dean of the College of Social Work. “We have an obligation to all the people who live around us to make sure they have as fulfilling a life as possible, that they’re safe and that their needs are being met,” he says. “There is real complexity to what it means to be safe in a community. What I need and what you need — they’re different.”

More examples of work in progress to further enhance community safety:

HOMELESS OUTREACH

Through a new partnership with Southeast Healthcare, Morgan Weininger ’15, ’17 MSW provides outreach to people who are homeless in the University District. Among the goals is to encourage understanding and empathy among students for all who live in the district. (Read more at go.osu.edu/districtoutreach.)

FEEDING THE HUNGRY

As part of the #BeKind initiative originating in the Office of Student Life, social work students hand out shelf-stable food to those experiencing food insecurity.

MEDICAL SERVICES

The student-run Columbus Free Clinic, an interprofessional health care practice, offers services for uninsured or underinsured individuals in the area. Services include primary care, physical therapy and more. Ohio State’s College of Medicine and Wexner Medical Center as well as OhioHealth, Mount Carmel Health and others are involved.

INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

Research by Bridget Freisthler, a professor of social work, uses geospatial mapping to examine how environments can be modified to create safer homes and prevent child abuse. Cecilia Mengo, assistant professor of social work, and Julianna Nemeth, assistant professor of public health, research structural inequality issues immigrant women of color face in trying to access domestic violence services. — **Shelley Mann ’03**

TIME AND CHANGE

A century of scholarship, leadership and service

Mortar Board alumni chapter supports undergraduates with funding and fellowship.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, Mortar Board members with Ohio State ties put out an urgent plea as they prepared to host the honor society's national convention in Columbus. Could alumni please help?

The graduates stepped up, hosting a tea in Oxley Hall for delegates from 13 chapters and 250 women in Ohio State's junior and senior classes. They had so much fun, they decided to form an alumni chapter.

Today, the Greater Columbus Alumni Chapter of Mortar Board is the oldest continually meeting chapter of its kind in the country and recently celebrated its 100th anniversary with a luncheon in Columbus.

The chapter has seen many changes — Mortar Board began including men in 1975, for instance — yet has always maintained its commitment to serve the university. Most notably, members created a scholarship fund for Ohio State students in 1953, and they've awarded more than \$2 million in scholarships to students in the years since.

Sheila Castellarin '58 heads the chapter's scholarship committee, which works with the Office of Student Financial Aid to identify undergraduates for the awards.

"We select the people who best demonstrate Mortar Board values, which are scholarship, leadership and service," Castellarin says. "That's what Mortar



Students walk on the Oval during the 2018 Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society Induction Ceremony.

“That’s what Mortar Board is all about — learning to serve your community.”

SHEILA CASTELLARIN '58

MORTAR BOARD MILESTONES

1921 Columbus Mortar Board Alumnae Club is founded.

1953 A scholarship fund for Ohio State undergraduates is established.

1975 Men are admitted to membership.

1989 Near Weigel Hall, the Mortar Board Court circle for ceremonies and concerts is dedicated.

2003 The national Mortar Board honor society names the Columbus group its Outstanding Alumni Chapter.

2014 The Mortar Board Centennial Suite in Thompson Library is dedicated.

2021 The Greater Columbus Alumni Chapter of Mortar Board marks its centennial.



Students walk along Mirror Lake for the 1919 Mortar Board induction ceremony.

Board is all about — learning to serve your community, first at Ohio State and then in the community where you live and work.”

Al Cho, 33, is a recent scholarship recipient. A junior majoring in social work, Cho worked for years as a chef before deciding to return to school.

“I used all of my personal savings to return, so I’m very grateful for this scholarship,” says Cho, who plans to specialize in hospice care. “I want to empower people and help folks through the end-of-life process, especially LGBTQ+ folks. As a member of that community, I believe they need special care, and there’s not a lot of research or

protocols to help them.”

In 2021, 87 students earned scholarship awards totaling \$48,500.

The Mortar Board alumni chapter is open to any central Ohioan who was inducted into Mortar Board anywhere in the United States. “It’s wonderful because we get to meet people from all over the country,” says Diane Miller Selby ’62. Members meet quarterly for fellowship and educational programming.

And each spring, harkening back to the hospitality of their predecessors in 1921, alumni assist in hosting a reception for new inductees and their parents. — ERIN

MACLELLAN

QUICK STUDY

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

MAKING MIRACLES

Student-run BuckeyeThon returned to the dance floor in person this November, raising \$1,025,812 to directly benefit families affected by pediatric cancer as well as the hematology, oncology and blood and marrow transplant unit at Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus. Thousands of students participate in the event, which celebrated its 20th anniversary this year. Over those two decades, students have raised more than \$13 million for the cause.

MOVING UP

Ohio State got a boost in the recent *U.S. News & World Report* higher education rankings, improving to 49th among universities nationally and 17th among public universities. The university ranked ninth among public institutions for the quality of its undergraduate teaching. Undergraduate nursing programs were ranked 10th in the nation and sixth among public universities, while the university also climbed in rankings for undergraduate business programs and among schools providing the best services for veterans.

A COMMUNITY BLOOMS

Ohio State student organization Engineers Without Borders will establish community gardens on vacant lots in Columbus, using a \$25,000 grant from the Ford College Community Challenge to complete the project. Buckeyes have earned funding from the annual challenge in three of the past four years.

GLOBAL HEALTH

Ohio State researcher Wondwossen Gebreyes, whose research has helped address the public health crises in Latin America, Africa, Europe and Asia, has been named to the National Academy of Medicine. Gebreyes was recognized for his work exploring the links between animal, human and plant health and the environment. “I’m very humbled,” Gebreyes says. “But the work starts now — it’s a place for service and more action.”

Her work continues to inform the global struggle against tuberculosis.



PROUD THEY'RE OURS

Ruth Ella Moore '26 BS, '27 MA, '33 PhD

BORN: May 19, 1903

DIED: July 19, 1994

COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS: Three-time alumna Ruth Ella Moore became the first Black woman in the United States to earn a doctorate in the natural sciences in 1933, delivering her dissertation on the bacteriology of tuberculosis. Prior to that, she earned a bachelor's in microbiology in 1926 and a master's in bacteriology in 1927. Born in Columbus in 1903, Moore was encouraged by her mother, Margaret, an artist and seamstress. As a scholar, Moore inspired her family, recalled her cousin Sandra Jamison, when Moore was inducted into Ohio State's Diversity Hall of Fame earlier this year. "She was really sort of on a pedestal as far as the rest of us were concerned," Jamison says. Moore also received two honorary degrees, from Oberlin College and Gettysburg College. Today, Moore's legacy lives on through the College of Public Health Ruth Ella Moore First Generation Student Scholarship, which provides support to students who have overcome substantial educational or economic obstacles.

"What relevance does Ruth Ella Moore have for students in public health today? Well, there's not only the work that she did as a microbiologist, a bacteriologist, that continues to be relevant, but there's also her impact as a trailblazer," says Dean Amy Fairchild.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS: Moore joined the Howard University College of Medicine as an assistant professor of microbiology in 1940, and by 1952, she was chair of the department of bacteriology. Her research helped curtail tuberculosis, detail the prevalence of different blood types among African Americans, and explain the reactions of gut microorganisms to different classes of antibiotics. Moore's work was published in several scientific journals, including *The Journal of the American Medical Association*. At Howard, where she retired in 1973, she was a teacher and mentor to generations of students. Moore also was known for her love of fashion and for her handmade, stylish clothing. In 2009, several of her garments were featured in an Ohio State Historic Costume & Textiles Collection exhibition.
— MISTI CRANE '96, '19 MPH

LIFE & SOCIETY

Back to their roots

The Wexner Center for the Arts mined its own storied collection, long out of the public eye, for spring's *To Begin, Again*.

FOLLOWING NEARLY TWO YEARS OF social and political upheaval, many of us are asking, "What now?" This spring, patrons will find the Wexner Center for the Arts in a similarly reflective state of mind. *To Begin, Again: A Prehistory of the Wex, 1968–89* — on view February 5 through May 8 — is composed of works from the center's own robust, little-seen collection. It was born in the early 1970s, not coincidentally another time of unrest and discontent, with students protesting the Vietnam War, racial and gender discrimination, rising tuition costs and a class registration crisis that erupted when course offerings didn't keep pace with enrollment.

"We're really trying to pick the Wexner Center up and see what's underneath it," says Daniel Marcus, associate curator of exhibitions at the Wex and assistant professor of practice in the Department of History of Art. "It's important, especially now during the pandemic and after protests [for racial justice], to have a sense that there is something solid that anchors you and guides your sense of the past and the future." At Ohio State, protests in the early '70s led to programs for Black studies and women's studies and greater representation of students in university decision making. What could emerge from 2020 and 2021? Stay tuned.

— KRISTEN SCHMIDT



▲ **UNIVERSITY GALLERY ARTIST TALK**

Minimalist artist Robert Morris (1931–2018) speaks with students in Sullivant Hall Gallery. Sitting behind the students is Betty Collings '70, '74 MFA (b. 1934). As director of The Ohio State University Gallery of Fine Art 1974–80, she led efforts to collect and exhibit cutting-edge art.

“THEORIES OF WAR: CIVIL DEFENSE”

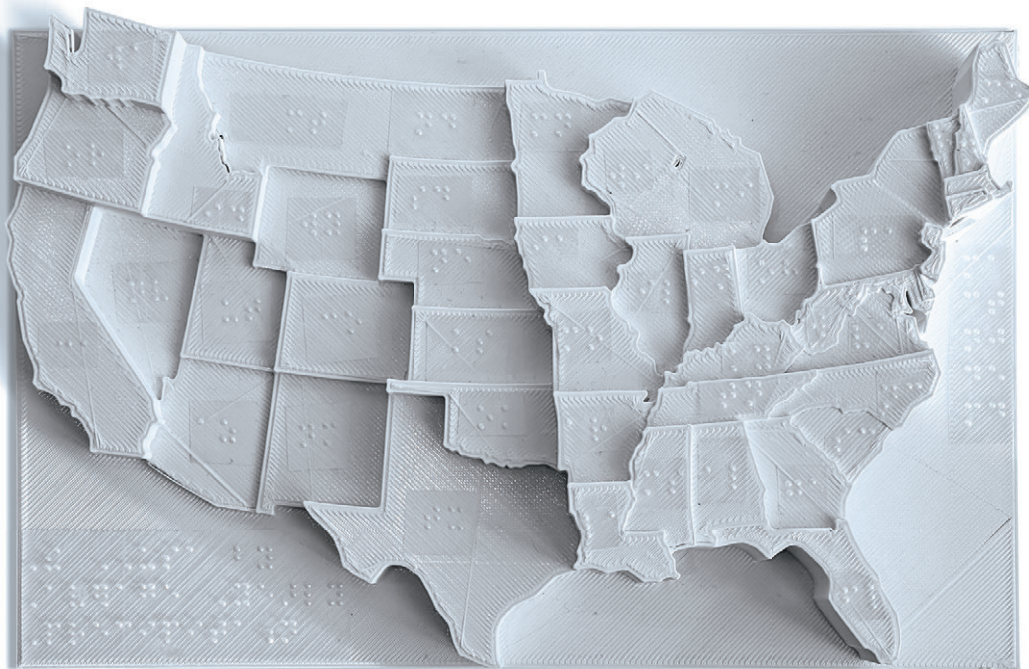
This painting, created by Gary Bower '62, '65 MFA (b. 1940) with his son Matt Bower, evokes the chaos of war. Smoke, blood and rain soak the canvas, while male figures in suits seem about to escape the picture. Gary Bower still uses this textured, layered approach in recent series, which have depicted woodland plants and gladiolas.



▲ **“TRAVELERS DREAM” (1978)**

The paintings of Elizabeth Murray (1940–2007) are a conversation with and evolution beyond minimalism and pop art. In the '70s, her works were “thickly painted and layered compositions [introducing] geometric forms using curved lines and complex shapes,” states her estate’s website.

Photos, University Archives (Moore, Morris); images from exhibit are courtesy of Wexner Center for the Arts and used with permission



U.S. PRECIPITATION MAP

This model depicts average annual precipitation in the contiguous United States. Precipitation is represented in vertical scale: The taller the state, the more precipitation. States are identified in Braille.

INNER EAR MODEL

This model demonstrates how the cochlea (leftmost spiral) and the semicircular canals (three loops on the right) relate. The model allows students to feel which canal is behind the other and relates that to a companion graphic for more information.



NEXT-GEN ALUMNI

A model for accessibility

An Ohio State senior is empowering students who are blind and have low vision to make their own discoveries through 3D models.

IN SIXTH GRADE, CAROLINE KARBOWSKI taught herself Braille so she could read on car rides without getting dizzy. In high school, she learned how to use 3D printers to make tactile models so students who are blind and have low vision can make their own educational discoveries instead of relying on others.

These creations led to a high school project called See3D, which printed and distributed models around the Cincinnati area and displayed them at maker and tech shows.

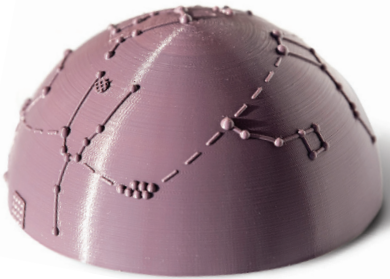
Since arriving at Ohio State, Karbowski has grown See3D into a nonprofit organization, promoting accessibility in many ways, including through those 3D-printed models. Since 2017, her team has distributed more than 1,400 models in 24 states and 16 countries. They also offer themed model kits with Braille and large-print learning guides.

Karbowski's most popular models? Human anatomy, welcoming students to learn, hands on, about the brain, inner ear and digestive system.

— ROSS BISHOFF



Ohio State senior Caroline Karbowski (left) and Garrett Carder, a senior computer science major, first pitched the idea for See3D to Ohio State's Innovation Studio.



**NORTHERN HEMISPHERE
CONSTELLATION DOME**

This half-sphere dome offers raised dots representing stars arranged in their constellations. The bigger the dot, the brighter the star. Solid lines invite the user to trace a constellation's shape. The left constellation is Taurus, and to its right is the Pleiades/Seven Sisters star cluster. Ursa Minor and Ursa Major (Little and Big Dippers) are to the right. Within Taurus is a textured circle representing a nebula, or star nursery. Dashes between each point of interest act as tactile guidelines.



DNA DOUBLE HELIX

DNA structure is a common biology topic starting in middle school. Understanding the structure of molecules and proteins is crucial because structure leads to function. This model displays the major and minor grooves in DNA, which are areas where other molecules can fit and interact.

HIGH FIVES

Head start with heart

For Lizzie Chung, finishing a degree at Ohio State Lima means a jump on achieving big goals for a medical career.



IN SPRING 2022, LIZZIE CHUNG will earn a bachelor's degree in biology from The Ohio State University. Two weeks later, she'll graduate from Delphos Jefferson High School. For four years, Lizzie has attended Ohio State Lima through the College Credit Plus Program. The soon-to-be 18-year-old plans to earn medical and doctoral degrees before she is 30. "Lizzie never takes no for an answer," says Courtney Roeder, Lizzie's academic advisor and the student success director at Ohio State Lima. "She understands that being successful means going beyond academics and has built relationships with her faculty members." Read more at go.osu.edu/LizzieChung. — PAMELA JOSEPH

Where do you think you would be if you hadn't come to Ohio State Lima straight out of middle school?

Going to college has given me the opportunity to expand my horizons. It has given me new perspective. If I was still in high school, I would just feel like I was lost, like I'm not pushing myself or I'm just doing the bare minimum of what I can do. For me, one of the most important things is to make sure that I'm pushing my boundaries and trying to stretch them.

How do you think finishing high school and college at the same time will make your mission to cure multiple sclerosis more possible?

Finishing both at the same time gives me more time in the future to study and research. A big part of college — the biology degree I am getting and majoring in a STEM field — has to do with critical thinking, analysis, reasoning, problem solving. Being able to take these classes at Ohio State gives me an opportunity to start early on fine-tuning those skills.

Do you look for a way to relate everything you do to your passion?

It does not matter what it is, I am looking for a way to relate it back to finding a cure. Even with my extracurriculars and hobbies, I do not want to do something just to do it. I like to draw and paint because I enjoy it, but also because it opens another area of our brain for us to take more perspective from and to think more about the world around us.

Photos, Logan Wallace (Karbowski, models), Jo McCulty (Chung)



Reuben Klamer (right) shows his enduring playful side in a moment with friend and fellow Ohio State alumnus Craig Stein.

Reuben Klamer '44

1922–2021 | The inventor of The Game of Life had a way of approaching his own that inspired others.

CHILDREN WERE Reuben Klamer's favorite people. He was constantly inspired by them, constantly creating for them. You'd expect as much from the man who invented The Game of Life and scads of other toys. But still, Klamer seemed to always be exceeding expectations.

Klamer, who earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Ohio State in 1944, died September 14 at his home in La Jolla, California. Even at



Klamer, shown around 1970 with some of his inventions, had a long-running hit with The Game of Life.

99, he was still a kid at heart.

“Children are the most wonderful people in the world. There is nothing more beautiful,” he told *Ohio State Alumni Magazine* in 2015. “There is a sort of magic to children — the things they say at an early age and, as they grow older, the interesting things they do. I love being around them.”

His playful approach to life made Klamer a delight to be around, too, says Craig Stein '07 MBA, '15 MS. These Buckeyes met when Klamer was 94, and they grew close in the years that followed. They bonded over their business educations and love of Ohio State football.

“Every year I was invited to watch the big games at Reuben’s place,” Stein says. “He would always be decked out in the finest scarlet and gray, topped off with the fanciest of sneakers.

“The thing about Reuben is he never, ever stopped creating,” Stein says of his friend, who also invented Tupperware Busy Blocks, Fisher-Price Preschool Trainer Skates, Gaylord the Walking Dog and hundreds of other innovations for kids and their families.

Stein recalled one get-together the two shared on Klamer’s birthday. A huge fan of TBDBITL, Klamer saw himself as a bit of a drummer, too.

“It just so happens that I have played drums my whole life, so for one of his birthdays I bought Reuben a set of brushes and gave him a drum lesson. The eternal kid inside of then-96-year-old Reuben proceeded to turn the drum brushes into cat whiskers!”

Stein will miss his friend, but he is grateful for memories to help fill the void.

“Even though, intellectually, we all know we are going to die, with Reuben you thought maybe the impossible was possible, and he was actually going to live forever,” Stein says. “Two weeks after I was told he was entering hospice, I called to see how Reuben was doing, and he answered the phone while enjoying lunch at the golf club. Maybe Reuben really was going to live forever! No doubt his warm, gentle, sparkly spirit will.” — MARY ALICE CASEY



John S. McDonald treasured this image of Woody Hayes in McDonald’s Ohio State office. The two forged a friendship from McDonald’s earliest days at Ohio State.

John S. McDonald

1938–2021 | His passion for medicine propelled him to build Ohio State’s anesthesiology faculty.

WHEN DR. JOHN S. “JACK” MCDONALD arrived for a 1978 job interview at Ohio State with a backpack in tow, recruiters knew they’d found the right person to chair the Department of Anesthesiology.

“Several of the doctors told me, ‘Here’s the kind of guy we need, with that boundless energy,’” says Debby McDonald, his wife of 44 years.

In 20 years at Ohio State, Jack McDonald, who died August 27 in Rolling Hills, California, built a top-quality anesthesiology faculty, pioneered pain relief techniques and conducted well-recognized research.

“He was supportive, always attuned to keeping up morale and reinforcing the positive things that people were doing,” says Dr. Ronald Harter ’89, a


longtime colleague who now chairs the department McDonald once led.

Born in Iowa in 1938, McDonald earned a scholarship to the University of Iowa, where he received undergraduate and medical degrees and was an All-American athlete in three sports. He became board certified in anesthesiology and obstetrics and gynecology.

“He was very much on the cutting edge of computer technology,” Harter says. McDonald and a partner created a virtual reality method of instructing medical students on epidurals.

McDonald retired from Ohio State in 1998 and moved to California, where he loved riding horses and spending time with family. Harbor-UCLA Medical Center recruited him in 2000 to chair its Department of Anesthesiology, where he worked until 2012 while lecturing worldwide.

McDonald is survived by his wife and four children. — ERIN MACLELLAN

 **SUPPORT HIS CAUSE** Memorial contributions in McDonald’s honor can be made to the Ohio State Anesthesia Research and Education Enhancement Fund. give.osu.edu/anesthesiaresearch



ICE **S**AGES





LONNIE THOMPSON '73 MS, '76 PHD
ELLEN MOSLEY-THOMPSON '75 MA, '79 PHD

COVER PROFILE

They are two of the world's most revered paleoclimatologists, and their careers at Ohio State have grown in tandem with humans' understanding of climate change. Paramount for them now is ensuring future scientists are prepared for this vital work.

STORIES BY LAURA ARENSCHIELD | PHOTO BY JO MCCULTY '84, '94 MA



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It was July 2019, and Lonnie Thompson, then 71, was leading a research team that drilled ice cores from the highest peak in the tropics and hauled down 471 meters of glacier ice.

The team had spent nearly a month at more than 20,000 feet above sea level on the mountain Huascarán in Peru, where scant oxygen makes breathing difficult, where winds whip at high speeds, where snow falls year-round.

Thompson, a distinguished professor of earth sciences at Ohio State and senior research scientist at the university's Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center, had been leading expeditions to recover ice from the world's tropical glaciers for the past four decades in order to understand how the world's climate has changed over thousands of years. He understood the conditions, and he knew how to help his team manage them. They had traversed crevasses, skirted an avalanche and brought the ice to a *refugio* operated by priests partway up the mountain. They needed to get the ice the rest of the way down the mountain, then to Lima, where it would be placed in freezers aboard a cargo plane and flown to the United States.

But there was one more hurdle: The people who lived nearby were gathering. They were angry. Thompson and his crew did not fully understand their reasons, but one thing was clear: The crowd wanted Thompson and his team gone, and they wanted them gone now.

Back in Columbus, Ellen Mosley-Thompson, Thompson's wife and research partner, was working furiously to help. Mosley-Thompson, a distinguished professor of geography at Ohio State and senior research scientist at the Byrd



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3



4

| 1 | Lonnie Thompson leads his research team up Huascarán in Peru. Its peak is the highest in the tropics.

| 2 | Thompson's team treks to the Guliya ice cap in China's Kunlun Mountains, where they drilled cores to bedrock from the 22,000-foot summit.

| 3 | Mosley-Thompson is shown in 2007 in Greenland, where her research is part of a multi-institution project funded by NASA.

| 4 | During an expedition to the South Pole in 1994, Mosley-Thompson processes ice cores.

Photos, courtesy of Lonnie Thompson and Ellen Mosley-Thompson

Center, had led 16 of her own expeditions to collect samples from ice fields in the polar regions. She knew that if the people agreed to let Thompson and his team leave with the ice, they would need to move quickly.

Mosley-Thompson started pulling every lever she had, coordinating the helicopter flights from the *refugio* with the arrival of freezer trucks rented in Lima. The goal was to get the team safely off the mountain and transport the ice as swiftly as possible to large freezers in Lima. She worried whether they would make it off the mountain without the ice melting. If not, their work for this expedition would be in vain. And, worse, the climate records held in the ice might disappear forever. Thompson and Mosley-Thompson knew that as the world continued to warm, the ice at the top of Huascarán would begin to melt. And once it was gone, it was gone.

Thompson and his team were, in a way, trapped between two worlds: The villagers, who were victims of climate change, and the people back home in the United States, many of whom didn't believe climate change was real or

caused by humans. When the Thompsons started their careers in the 1970s, they hoped to add to the body of scientific knowledge about climatology. But over the decades, their mission has expanded: They have made it a central part of their lives to educate the next generation of researchers — scientists who will help the world deal with the already-altered climate. They have watched the world's glaciers shrink, and they know we are running out of time.

"Lonnie has seen the accelerating changes and the lack of action on a global scale to address these issues that are more and more obviously [caused by humans], and he's frustrated," says Raymond Bradley, an internationally renowned climate scientist and distinguished professor at the University of Massachusetts. "And I think he felt like he had a responsibility to do what he could about that."

* * *

They met at a geology department Christmas party in 1969 at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. Ellen Stone Mosley, raised in Charleston, had come to

LIVES IN SCIENCE AND SERVICE

Lonnie Thompson and Ellen Mosley-Thompson come to Ohio State and work on master's degrees and PhDs over the next nine years. (Lonnie, right, works at Byrd Station in Antarctica in 1973.)



Ellen embarks on her first expedition and drills ice cores in Antarctica.



Lonnie testifies before a U.S. Senate committee on the effects of climate change, the first time he speaks publicly about what he is seeing at the glaciers.

Scientists begin to realize global warming could be a problem for the planet.

Public awareness of global warming grows with more droughts and record heat. The UN establishes the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to better understand human-induced climate change. Its first report two years later shows Earth's climate has been and likely will continue warming.

1972

1979

1986

1971

1977

1982

1988

1992

For the first time, ice cores show big climate shifts over the preceding 1,000 years. Droughts hit countries across Africa as well as Ukraine and India.



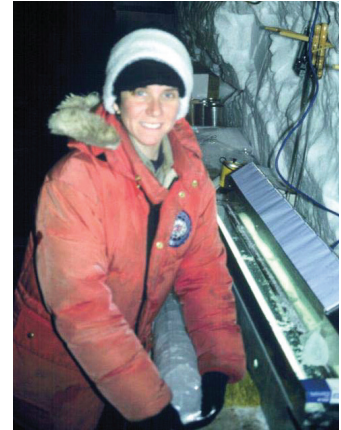
Lonnie examines ice at Ohio State in 1975.

Lonnie attempts to drill ice from a tropical glacier for the first time, but fails. He succeeds four years later.



Lonnie and his team at the Quelccaya ice cap in Peru

Ellen becomes the first woman to lead a remote field expedition in Antarctica.



Marshall to study physics, only the second woman to ever do so. During her first weeks on campus, the department chair called her into his office. "He sat me down and said, 'I want you to know that you are taking a spot that should have gone to a man,'" she recalls. "And I just said, 'Well, sir, I will try to make you proud.' We never spoke of it again."

Her time at Marshall made clear that being a woman in the sciences would be difficult. She didn't care: Science and math were her strengths, and she had been raised with a strong mother and grandmother as role models. "They made sure I knew that I could do whatever I wanted," she says.

Thompson had come to Marshall from Gassaway, West Virginia, a town of fewer than 1,000 people about 70 miles from Charleston. He had an aptitude for science, and a teacher inspired him to pursue it. Then, when he was 20, his sister, Regina, was killed in a car accident. His father had died two years earlier, and Thompson thought he

should stay home and take care of his mother.

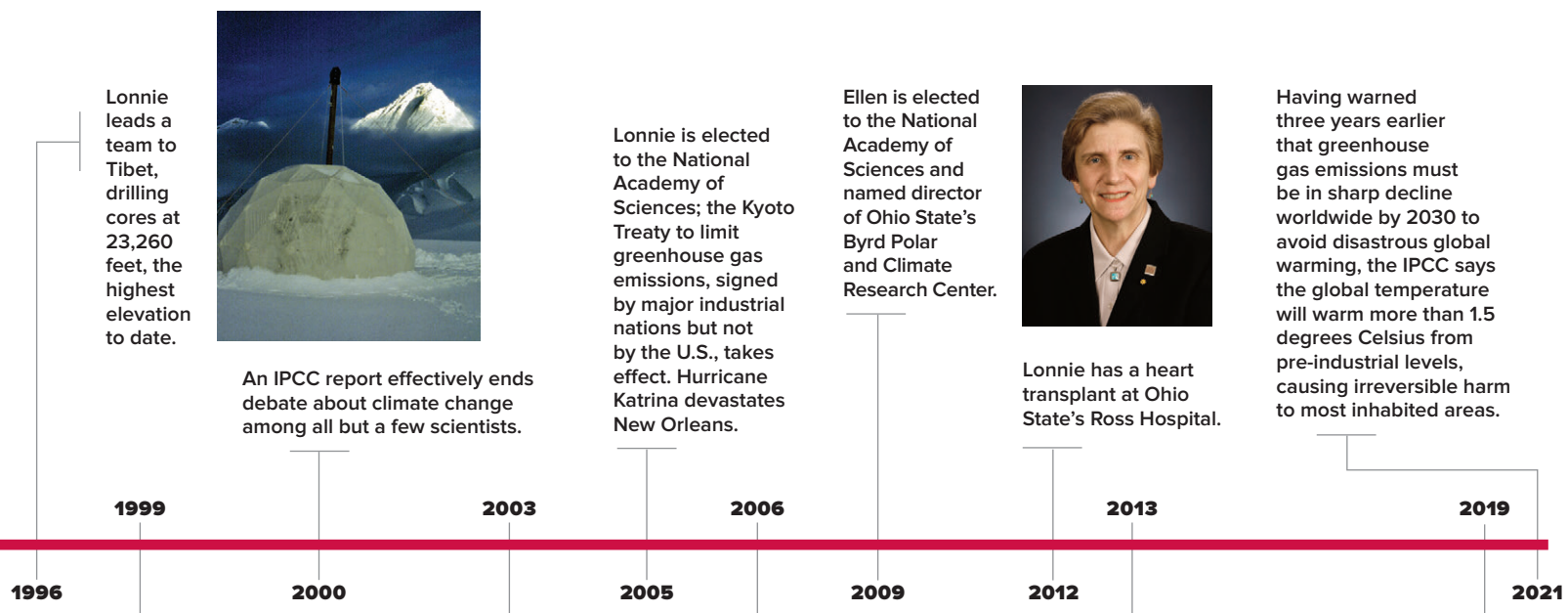
"My mother wouldn't hear of it," he says. "She told me I had to go back to Marshall and get out of Gassaway."

As the Christmas party ended, he and Ellen were the only two still sober. "So I took her home," Thompson says.

They graduated the next spring and got married. Lonnie started graduate school at Ohio State the following year, and Ellen joined him. In 1973, Lonnie finished his master's and Ellen began hers. Lonnie was offered an opportunity to study with researchers at what was then Ohio State's Institute for Polar Studies. Now the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center, it is the university's oldest research center and one of its most renowned.

* * *

The ice intrigued him. Researchers went on great adventures to collect ice cores — long columns of ice that reveal how much snow accumulated year over year and



Lonnie leads a team to Tibet, drilling cores at 23,260 feet, the highest elevation to date.



An IPCC report effectively ends debate about climate change among all but a few scientists.

Lonnie is elected to the National Academy of Sciences; the Kyoto Treaty to limit greenhouse gas emissions, signed by major industrial nations but not by the U.S., takes effect. Hurricane Katrina devastates New Orleans.

Ellen is elected to the National Academy of Sciences and named director of Ohio State's Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center.



Lonnie has a heart transplant at Ohio State's Ross Hospital.

Having warned three years earlier that greenhouse gas emissions must be in sharp decline worldwide by 2030 to avoid disastrous global warming, the IPCC says the global temperature will warm more than 1.5 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels, causing irreversible harm to most inhabited areas.

Michael Mann's "hockey stick" data show current warming is unprecedented. As the decade closes, Ellen has led seven expeditions to Greenland and Antarctica, and Lonnie has led 19 across the tropics.



Lonnie at a glacier on Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro in 2000

The collapse of Antarctica's largest ice shelf allowed glacier ice to slide into the ocean faster, contributing to a rise in the sea level.

The Thompsons serve as advisors on *An Inconvenient Truth*, a documentary about climate change by former Vice President Al Gore and filmmaker Davis Guggenheim. The next year, President George W. Bush awards Lonnie the U.S. Medal of Science.



Lonnie leads a team to an ice cap at 21,400 feet in Tibet. He leads several expeditions in the years that follow.



Lonnie leads a team to Huascarán in Peru, collecting ice cores at up to 22,200 feet.

what was in the air when the snow fell. The cores felt like time capsules to him. He joined an expedition to Antarctica.

Soon Thompson began a project comparing dust in ice cores from Greenland and Antarctica. The dust particles were similar, and he thought there must be a way to connect them. He had seen images of the tropics showing ice on the highest mountain peaks, and he thought: *That is where I need to be.*

It was a professional gamble for an early-career scientist. Another prominent ice core researcher scoffed, saying those elevations were too high for humans to work. And Thompson had exercise-induced asthma. Strenuous rock- and ice-climbing at high altitudes would be hard on his body.

But he believed the glaciers held important pieces of the paleoclimatology puzzle, so he went to the National Science Foundation (NSF) to seek funding for an expedition to the Quelccaya ice cap. It sits about 18,000

feet above sea level in the Andes Mountains in Peru.

"The guy who funded these projects said, 'Lonnie, it sounds great, but you know I can't fund that, because it's not north of the Arctic Circle or south of the Antarctic Circle, and those are the only places we fund,'" Thompson recalls. But then the guy called back.

"He said, 'I've funded all the real science, and I have \$7,000 left. What can you do with that?' And I told him, 'Well, I think we can get there.'"

It was the mid-1970s, and Mosley-Thompson was working on her master's in atmospheric science in the geography department. Thompson led a team to determine if Quelccaya's ice would be suitable for drilling ice cores. It was, but with limited funding, they could do nothing but come home.

The next couple of years were a blur: Mosley-Thompson earned her master's. Both finished Ph.Ds. Their daughter was born — they named her Regina, for Lonnie's sister.



Then, Thompson got another chance at Quelccaya, this time with funding to drill. He assembled a team, packed equipment typically used in Antarctica and headed to Peru. But the team quickly realized conditions were vastly different from those on the world’s southernmost continent. Helicopters couldn’t fly to the mountaintops to drop off their drill and generator. The equipment was too heavy for porters or horses. The trip was, by almost every measure, a failure.

“I could either give up and do what everybody was telling me to do, which was go back to the polar regions, or I could find another way,” Thompson says.

The team had an engineer, Bruce Koci, who designed a lightweight, solar-powered drill that could be carried up a mountain. They built it, then brought in big blocks of ice and piled them high next to a parking garage on West Campus. Carefully, they lowered the drill to the column of ice. It worked flawlessly.

Thompson returned to Quelccaya with the drill, worrying about his professional future. “I figured if I failed twice, my science career was probably over,” he says.

But the trip was a wild success: The team drilled the first cores ever collected from a tropical glacier. They sent samples to the scientist who had declared it impossible to drill on high-elevation glaciers. He later wrote that the isotope records — indicators of the climate present when ice forms — were among the best he’d ever seen.



Mosley-Thompson was building her own career. She drilled her first ice cores in Antarctica, at South Pole Station,

in 1982, then returned in 1985. Each time, she was one of few women at the research stations. The men treated her respectfully, she says, but there was a clear divide: The buildings had no facilities for women, because women had rarely been permitted to work in Antarctica. At South Pole Station, while the other scientists shared sleeping quarters, bonding over their adventures and work, Mosley-Thompson was relegated to a separate area.

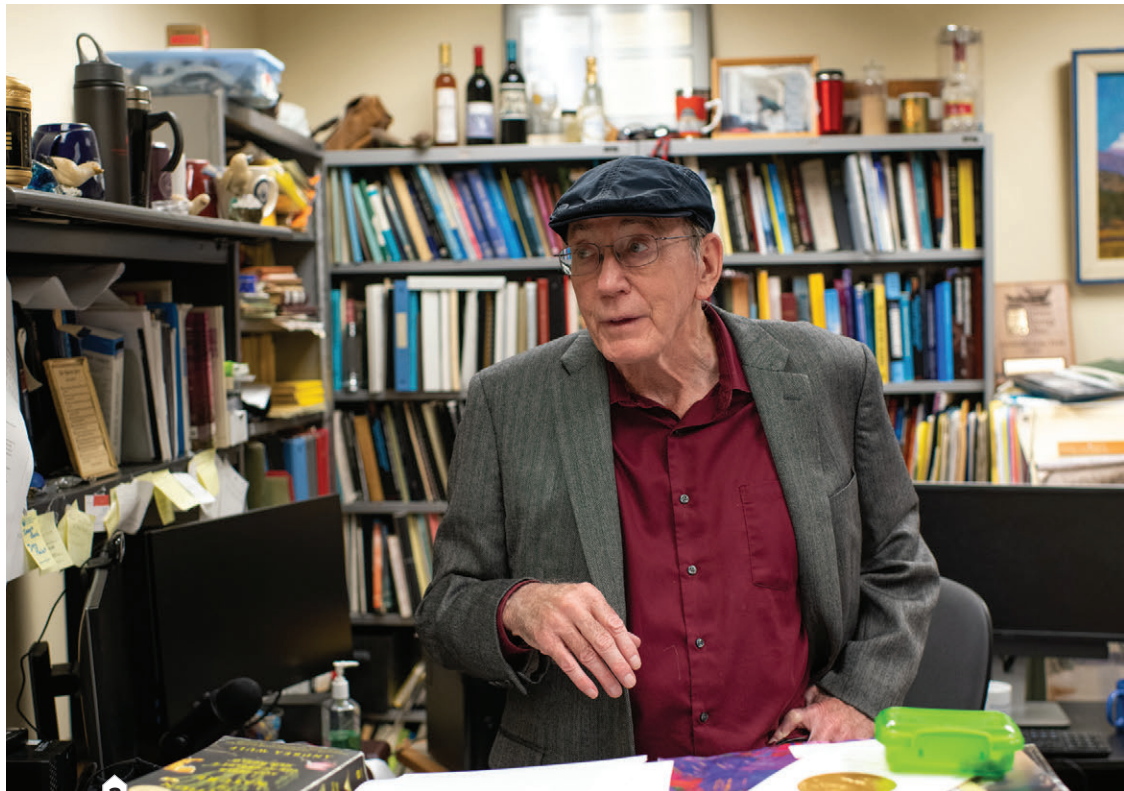
At the time, the agencies that funded ice core research only supported work near established bases on Antarctica. Mosley-Thompson knew focusing on the same places would only yield the same results. She wanted to go farther into Antarctica to see what the ice there held.

In 1986, she got her shot. Mosley-Thompson chose a site in East Antarctica, near the Pole of Inaccessibility. She named the camp Plateau Remote, after Plateau Station, a tiny American research station that had existed nearby in the 1960s. She was the first woman to lead a remote Antarctic expedition. The other team members were men.

All of Antarctica is cold; Plateau Remote is exceptionally so. Scientists at Plateau Station logged what had been the world’s coldest recorded temperature at the time: -99.8 degrees Fahrenheit.

“It was a surreal place,” Mosley-Thompson says. “The sky is very blue, and the ice and snow are very white, and the sun doesn’t really set, but just circles around 24 hours a day.”

The plane that dropped her and her team off was supposed to return in two weeks with more food and to start taking ice cores back to the South Pole. But when the appointed time arrived, the pilots radioed Mosley-



3

Thompson to say they couldn't find her camp.

"We could see them circling in the distance," she says, "but we had no way to direct them to us. Eventually, they left. And that's how I got 'lost' in Antarctica."

The team was in the middle of one of the coldest and most isolated places on the planet, with nothing but ice and snow for hundreds of miles. Mosley-Thompson knew the South Pole station managers wouldn't leave her team there, and she had prepared by packing extra food and fuel. So, while waiting for the plane's return, the team kept drilling.

They collected two 200-meter ice cores that provided a 4,000-year record. Once analyzed, they would show the first evidence of a volcanic eruption that spurred a cold period in the 1800s. The discovery solved a climatology mystery and cemented Mosley-Thompson's place in the annals of ice core science. She would go on to lead another 13 expeditions throughout Greenland and Antarctica and serve on and lead NSF groups overseeing Antarctic research. Her scientific contributions were so important that a valley in Antarctica is named for her.

* * *

On Huascarán, local police had warned Thompson that if he chose to talk with the community, they could not protect him. But Thompson felt he had to meet with the villagers. So, while Mosley-Thompson called in favors across Peru and negotiated with the Peruvian government, Thompson headed down to face the crowd.

In video from that day, villagers stand with crossed arms; some speak in raised voices. One waves a dead fish,

accusing the researchers of poisoning the water. Others insist the team was mining for gold.

"If you're working in a remote area, and an area where indigenous people have lived for thousands of years, you are the outsider," Thompson says. "And you don't judge what they believe. Your job is to try the best you can to get them to understand what you're doing and why you're doing it."

Thompson and his team stood before the crowd. He noted the melting glacier, the warming planet, the effect both were having on the community. Then, he listened.

* * *

Field seasons in Antarctica occur during the North American winter; those in the tropics are during our summers. For the Thompsons, who were raising a daughter, choosing regions with opposite field seasons made sense.

"I really came to appreciate that as I got older, when I was trying to balance my life and my career, that the decisions they made were deliberate, to try to have the family life balance with the science," says their daughter, Regina Thompson. "And I didn't really understand what they did until I was older. I just thought my dad was like Indiana Jones."

By the time Mosley-Thompson got "lost" in Antarctica, Regina was 10 years old. Her dad was home with her. There were no cellphones, GPS or satellite phones. At that time, too, the scientific community was sounding the alarm on

| 1 | Mosley-Thompson and Thompson visit with Keith Mountain '90 PhD, who has taken part in 30 of their expeditions. He recently retired as geography department chair at the University of Louisville.

| 2 | Mosley-Thompson teaches Global Climate and Environmental Change, an undergraduate honors class in the Department of Geography.

| 3 | Thompson talks with a colleague in his Byrd Center office, surrounded by mementos from his 48-year career at Ohio State.

» Continued on p. 32

HOW DO YOU COLLECT AN ICE CORE?

Gathering ice from the world's most remote places is an arduous undertaking. Here are the steps Lonnie Thompson and his team took to collect ice samples from the summit of Huascarán in Peru in July 2019.



GET UP THE MOUNTAIN

Thompson worked with the Peruvian government and local residents on necessary permissions. Nine hours of flight time and a four-hour road trip to the mountain's base positioned Thompson and his team to climb more than 20,000 feet above sea level and stay for a month. They ascended ice walls, navigated crevasses and avoided an avalanche.

DRILL AT THE SUMMIT

At an altitude of 22,000 feet, the air has considerably less oxygen, making it difficult to breathe. In temperatures of 23 to -4 degrees Fahrenheit, the team must erect tents for living quarters and drilling domes to protect the equipment. Then, they drill through the ice, removing long columns as samples.

HAUL THE ICE DOWN

Climbing the mountain is dangerous and difficult; descending with the ice is even more so. The team works with porters who help carry the ice samples and supplies. During this field expedition, they also arranged for yaks to assist in hauling the drilling equipment.

A FROZEN HISTORY OF EARTH'S CLIMATE

Glacier ice can be tens of thousands of years old. It traps whatever was in the atmosphere as it formed, freezing and preserving it in layers each year. Paleoclimatologists Lonnie Thompson and Ellen Mosley-Thompson study the cores to learn how Earth's climate used to be and find clues to how it has changed. Discover what they have found so far.

OXYGEN ISOTOPIC RATIO

This primary indicator of temperature when a particular section of ice formed helps scientists determine how Earth's atmospheric temperature has changed over centuries.



GREENHOUSE GASES

Gases that cause climate change are trapped in air bubbles in the ice. By studying the ice, scientists can see how gas concentrations have changed over time. Ice cores show that carbon dioxide levels began rising right after the start of the Industrial Revolution and have continued rising ever since.

VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS

When volcanoes erupt, they spew ash and sulfate aerosols into the atmosphere, where winds carry them around the globe, depositing some in that year's ice. Sulfate concentrations in ice cores can provide a timeline of volcanic eruptions.

Photos, courtesy of Lonnie Thompson and Ellen Mosley-Thompson



KEEP THE GEMS COLD

Ice cores yield the most information when they remain frozen, but that presents a chore in the tropics. On this trip, the team brought two chest freezers, leaving them in a *refugio* partway up the mountain. They used the freezers to hold ice prior to its transport to Lima and left them behind for use by the priests who operate the *refugio*.

TAKE FLIGHT WITH THE ICE

The team used helicopters to transport the ice from the mountain to a local airport. From there, freezer trucks transported the ice to Lima. There, it waited in freezers while Thompson and his team worked to clear the ice through customs. The ice was then loaded onto a plane, where it remained frozen until it reached the United States.

HEAD TO COLUMBUS

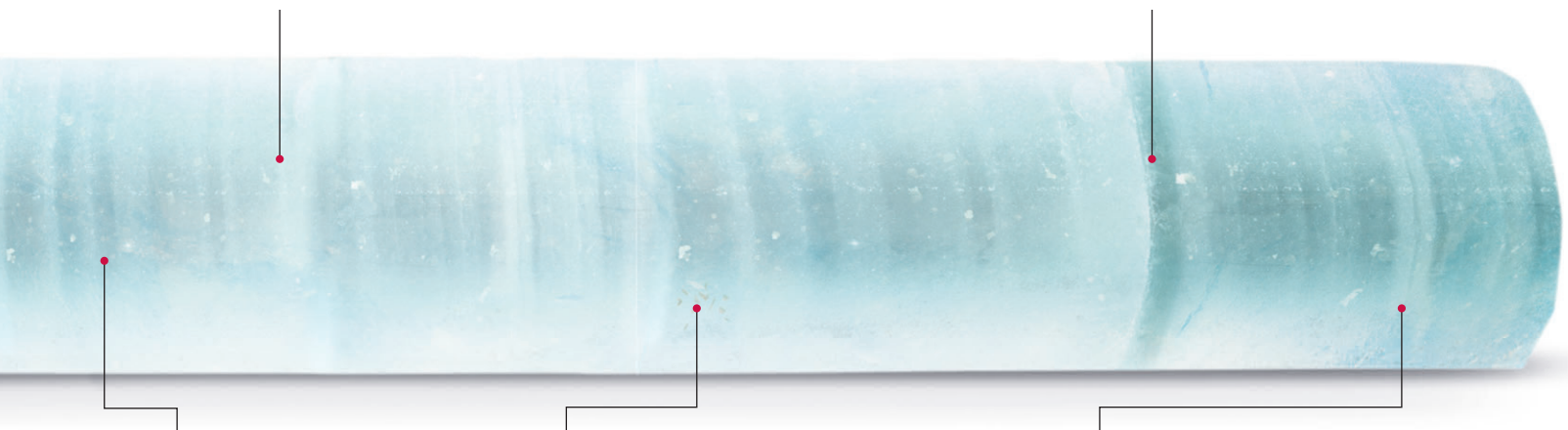
Once in the United States, the ice cores were placed on a freezer truck, which transported them from Miami to Columbus. Space had been readied in ice core freezers — the “frozen library” — at Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center at Ohio State.

COSMOGENIC NUCLIDES

These are rare isotopes that form in the upper atmosphere when it is bombarded by cosmic rays from the sun. Cosmogenic nuclides are trapped in glacier ice; tracing them through an ice core allows scientists to chart changes in the sun’s energy output over time.

DUST

This indicates droughts and changes in agricultural activity. One core Thompson collected from Mount Kilimanjaro shows a thick black ring of dust from approximately 4,200 years ago, near the time of a severe famine recorded on a pharaoh’s tomb.



BLACK CARBON

When wildfires burn trees and plants, they release black carbon into the air. Some carbon ends up being trapped in ice, leaving a chronology of fires that occurred near the glacier.

INSECTS

Pieces of insects that lived when ice formed can become trapped in glaciers. Ohio State researchers recently proved that fragments from viruses nearly 15,000 years old survived in glacier ice from Tibet.

POLLEN

Pollen indicates which plants once existed near the glaciers and how vegetation has changed in a certain region over centuries.

Photo illustration of ice core by Patrick Kastner



SUPPORT THIS CRITICAL WORK

ENSURING FUTURE SCIENTISTS ARE PREPARED to carry on work the Thompsons have dedicated their lives to is a priority for Byrd Climate and Polar Research Center. You can support high school, undergraduate and graduate students who aspire to help the world understand and adapt to climate change. give.osu.edu/climatescientists

THE BYRD CENTER FREEZER FOR ICE CORES has exhausted its capacity. You can help with the purchase of new freezer equipment to store ice cores gathered on future expeditions. give.osu.edu/icecores



Roxana Sierra-Hernandez of the Byrd Center ice core paleoclimate group places freshly cut ice samples into containers for chemical analysis.

Opposite page: The Thompsons examine an ice core in Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center. Founded in 1960, Byrd is Ohio State's oldest research center and one of its most renowned.

» *Continued from p. 29*

climate change. But in the mid-1980s, much of the general public did not accept that humans were responsible.

As they traveled through the world chasing ice, the Thompsons became more alarmed. The ice was melting; the glaciers shrinking. Sea levels were rising, storms becoming more intense. They knew the world was on a dangerous path.

By 1992, they had seen enough. That February, Thompson testified before a U.S. Senate committee about the changing climate and melting glaciers. It was the first time he spoke publicly about climate change. It would be far from the last.

"After that hearing, I got hate mail from people who didn't believe that climate change was happening or didn't believe that we humans were the cause of it," he says. "And the thing I thought then is the same thing I think now: The climate doesn't care if you believe it is warming or not. It's happening."



Over the next decades, as the couple traversed the globe gathering ice, the planet's atmosphere warmed more rapidly. Deep ice cores from Antarctica confirmed the increasing

levels of carbon dioxide after the start of the Industrial Revolution, and it was already well-known that carbon dioxide warms the atmosphere. So, the Antarctic ice showed without a doubt that human activity was to blame.

"It began to feel like we were racing against time, both because the glaciers were clearly melting — and so we had to get to that ice before it was gone — and because we were getting older," Thompson says.

Aging is a great equalizer: If we are lucky, it happens to us all — even Indiana Jones. Thompson was 61 years old in 2009, leading another trip to Peru, when his leg swelled so badly he could barely walk. A doctor there diagnosed him with congestive heart failure.

Back at the Ross Heart Hospital at Ohio State, his cardiologist had more bad news: Thompson needed a heart transplant. "I told him, 'You've got to be kidding. This heart has taken me to the top of some of the highest mountains in the world, and you want me to give it up?'"

The next year, still fighting the idea of a transplant, Thompson led an expedition to a glacier in New Guinea — ice that was melting rapidly — and encountered four tribes of indigenous people whose religion positioned the mountain as their god, and who thought he was drilling into that god's skull to steal its memories.

"They were right," he says. "I was taking the memories — the history — that the ice held. And I told them that the ice was disappearing, that there was no way to prevent that from happening, but that I could save these small parts of the ice in our freezers. I knew that one day soon, the only ice from this glacier that would remain on the planet would be here at Ohio State."

For Thompson, the experience crystallized the importance of working with indigenous people near the glaciers. "They have done nothing to induce climate change, and yet they are suffering the worst effects of it."

Thompson came home resolving to tell the stories of those most affected by climate change and to collect as much ice as he could before it disappeared. But then, while working in the Italian Alps, his heart all but gave out.

He had faced bandits on horseback in the Andes, lived for months at a time at the highest elevations in temperatures well below freezing, negotiated with the Chinese government and tribes in New Guinea. But his heart was out of time.

"He was dying," Mosley-Thompson says. "His heart was just failing."

Doctors at the Ross implanted devices to keep his heart working. They added him to the heart transplant registry. But he developed an infection, and the doctors told Mosley-Thompson it was unlikely he would survive.

But survive he did. It felt like a miracle. Yet it would be months before he could walk normally or return home.

Then, on May 1, 2012, while working in his office at the Byrd Center, his phone rang. A matching heart was available. The donor, a 22-year-old man from Coshocton, Ohio, had been an adventurer, too. Thompson underwent the heart transplant that would save his life.

The very next year, he led an expedition to Tibet. Then he went back to New Guinea, where the ice was



all but gone. He traveled to Peru four times. He drilled ice cores in China that have shown some of the most important discoveries of his career, including the fact that microbes and viruses can persist in ice for tens of thousands of years.

“Their work, in a word, has been transformational: The perfect tag team scientist couple, with Lonnie working the tropics and Ellen working the poles,” says Michael Mann, a renowned climate scientist and distinguished professor at Penn State. “And somehow, they still had time to teach, advise graduate students, testify to Congress and write groundbreaking paper after groundbreaking paper.”



In the Musho town square, facing angry and concerned villagers, Thompson continued to listen. One scientist on his team, Roxana Sierra-Hernandez '05 MS, '10 PhD, who is fluent in Spanish, translated and negotiated. After several hours, the community agreed to give the team five days to leave — with the ice. Thompson breathed a sigh of relief.

Those cores, he says now, are some of the best records of climate change he's drilled to date. Both Thompson and Mosley-Thompson believe that in 10 years, the ice atop Huascarán likely will be melting. And while they

and other researchers are now analyzing the ice Thompson's team collected, parts of those cores will remain preserved in the Byrd Center freezers for future generations.

Both are 73 now, and while their work is far from over, they also know that future scientists will find things in the ice that they haven't yet considered. And they continue to speak out, despite the anger climate researchers often face.

“I have watched their careers evolve, and I see the change that they're making right now to make themselves more available to media and to interviews,” Regina Thompson says. “They believe it is important to tell the story of climate change.”

“They have so much to offer in the way of inspiration: My mom, a successful scientist, had a child and all the things that come with that; she's nuclear-powered. And my dad's superpower is that he is so creative, and his power of positivity is unlike almost anything I have ever seen. He is always convinced that it's going to get better, and he's convinced that it's just around the corner. And today could be the day.” ✨

LAURA ARENSCHIELD is a science writer with Ohio State. She has covered the Thompsons' work for more than a decade.

DRILL DEEPER

WATCH THE VIDEO

Hear from the Thompsons and alumni they mentored about the urgency and importance of climate research.

READ MORE

How did these husband and wife researchers make life work while so steeped in their science? Catch a handful of their personal stories.

go.osu.edu/thethompsons

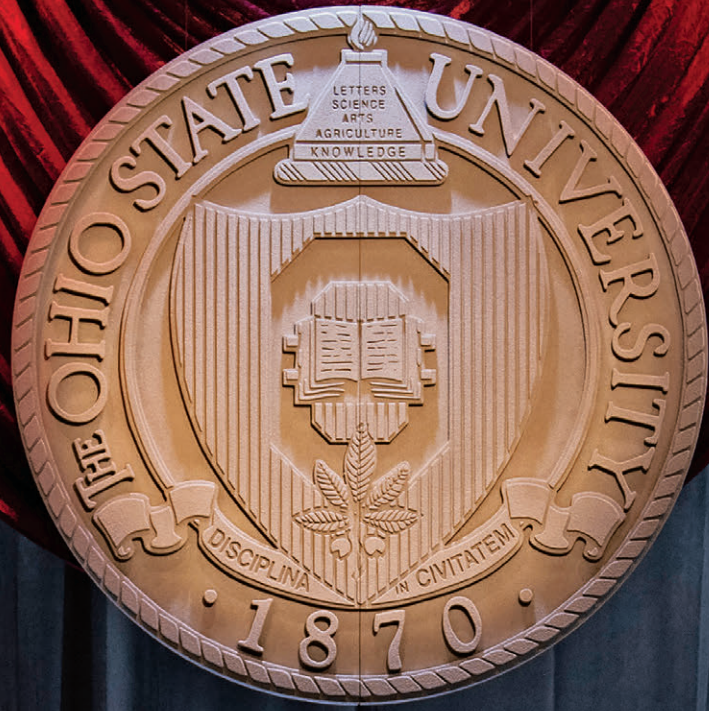
INVESTITURE OF OUR PRESIDENT

Vision for a model land grant

STORY BY MARY ALICE CASEY | ELIZABETH TARPY ALCALDE '77
PHOTOS BY LOGAN WALLACE

WHEN KRISTINA M. JOHNSON became the 16th president of The Ohio State University in September 2020, we were nearly six months into a global pandemic that continues to upend our lives. The situation has demanded her laser-focused attention, her agility in the face of shifting circumstances, her commitment to working with others and her optimism. Through it all, she was crystallizing the blueprint that will guide her tenure as our president. She laid out that vision — for Ohio State to become the absolute model of the 21st century land grant university — during her investiture in November.





Crisis can bring clarity.

Over the past 15 months, President Kristina M. Johnson has observed first-hand the remarkable response of the Buckeye community — students, staff, faculty and alumni — to a series of crises that wreaked havoc on the educational and social fabric of our nation and the world. The pandemic, especially, has tested the will and strength of every one of us.

In Johnson's estimation, the people of Ohio State rose to the challenge. And beginning her tenure in the midst of such chaos has given her a clear line of sight to the way forward.

"No one would have chosen to begin this role during a pandemic, a national awakening to structural racism and economic upheaval," Johnson said. "But it helped me see more clearly the power of The Ohio State University — its scale, its talent, its humor under duress, the incredible goodwill of this community and the willingness to take care of each other."

On November 19, 2021, on the occasion of Johnson's investiture — a university milestone in which a new president takes the oath of office and lays out long-range plans — she shared her vision for moving beyond the dilemmas of today and grasping ahold of the brightest possible tomorrow.

The time is now, Johnson declared, for Ohio State to become the absolute model land grant university of the 21st century, an institution dedicated to the advancement of its communities, local to global.

"We have the capacity to address so many of the obstacles holding Ohio and the nation back — in public health, in the environment, in cybersecurity, in infrastructure, in our democratic institutions and in our economy," she said. "As a land grant university, we have an obligation to address those obstacles and to open up new opportunities wherever we can."

Johnson acknowledged she is calling for a



1

1 | Associate Professor Jon Witter '98, '00 MS, '06 PhD shares details about Ohio State's Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster with Johnson during a visit last summer. Our deep roots in agricultural innovations are a strength the president sees leveraging to further benefit Ohioans.

2 | Provost Melissa K. Gilliam and Johnson speak with a student during a reception for Distinguished University Professors at Longaberger Alumni House in August.

transformational shift. How will we get there? By harnessing the potential of people with every imaginable talent and background while fiercely committing to excellence in five key areas: academics; talent and culture; the knowledge enterprise, including research, scholarship, creative expression, entrepreneurship and partnerships; service to the state, nation and world; and resource management. A parallel pursuit will mean a life-changing step forward for future undergraduates, who will have the opportunity to graduate debt-free under a new program, Scarlet & Gray Advantage.



Early in the pandemic, Ohio State faculty and staff worked quickly to improvise and experiment in delivering knowledge to students. Johnson sees valuable lessons in that agility and creativity.

With our increased flexibility, and by leveraging the video technology we've all become accustomed to, faculty can convene experts from around the world in their classrooms and research labs. An expansion of online learning options, greater use of



2

artificial intelligence tools and an education cloud that can be tapped by students and alumni alike are all within reach.

“As a general principle, we will recognize our students’ amazing diversity and breadth, and deliver an individualized education to each one,” Johnson said. “An individualized education also means interacting with excellent faculty who get to know their students and inspire them one at a time.”

To enable such attention, the president laid out a strategic hiring plan to address the loss of faculty positions that occurred at the same time Ohio State’s enrollment climbed — a plan that will reduce class sizes and the student-faculty ratio. In addition to retaining excellent faculty, the 10-year plan calls for hiring 350 net new tenure-track faculty.

Hiring in fields where the greatest job growth is projected is one area of emphasis, ensuring the university can support the future workforce needs of Ohio and the nation. Another priority is the new RAISE initiative — short for race, inclusion and social equity — which will add to Ohio State’s existing expertise in racial disparities by recruiting

faculty who focus on inequities in health care, STEM education, the arts, justice and public safety, the environment, economic resources and leadership.

“Ohio State should be widely known as the best place in the world for scholars and artists,” Johnson said. “Education at a great university is about much more than career preparation. As we work to deepen our students’ sense of their own humanity and develop their abilities to write persuasively, think critically and speak clearly, the arts and humanities writ large are key.”



An engineer and researcher herself, Johnson knows that the paradigm-breakers — those willing to take the risks required of exploration — often are scientists and scholars who follow their own curiosity, sometimes against great odds. They are encompassed by another area of emphasis: the knowledge enterprise, including research, innovation, entrepreneurship and partnership.

To bolster ingenuity, Johnson has moved forward on a recommendation to create the Presidential

WATCH THE SPEECH

Hear from President Kristina M. Johnson as she lays out her vision for Ohio State, and catch comments from other Buckeyes.

go.osu.edu/johnsoninvestiture



Research Excellence Fund, which will support the most exciting and innovative faculty proposals in areas of scientific, medical and engineering priorities. The new fund is providing seed money for two types of projects: Accelerator Grants of up to \$50,000 for small teams pursuing curiosity-driven, high-risk and high-reward research and Catalyst Grants of up to \$200,000 for convergent, cross-disciplinary research addressing challenges of national or international importance.

Johnson is the first Ohio State president since the 1940s with significant experience in the business and public policy sectors. She holds more than 100 U.S. and international patents and co-founded two companies. A convener of people and ideas, she wants to get more Ohio State research into the marketplace, where it can do good.

One base of operations for such work will be the 270-acre Innovation District under construction on West Campus, where people, ideas and disciplines can converge and startups will thrive. Building on that infrastructure are programs such as the new President's Buckeye Accelerator, where student entrepreneurs can innovate and gain support to get their projects off the ground.

"Working with JobsOhio, we intend to help keep the momentum going in Columbus, as it becomes a center for high-growth companies and a Midwest venture capital industry — in part by educating the STEM workforce for those companies," she said.



Universities have long played a crucial role in defining and responding to our nation's greatest challenges. And Johnson is calling for a recommitment to higher education as a public good — through service to the state, nation and world.

Speaking specifically to service close to home, she pledged the university would do more for Ohioans.

"The state of Ohio is a paradox," Johnson said. "It has the seventh-largest economy in the United States. It should rank very high on all measures of health and well-being. But instead, we are well below average."

Ohio ranks 37th among the 50 states in educational attainment, 42nd in public health and has the third-highest death rate from drug overdoses in the country, she said. "At The Ohio State University, we have so much accumulated knowledge to share that could help to turn these statistics around."

The 107-year-old Extension service is an ideal model for how the university can help build healthier, more vibrant communities. Johnson said Ohio State will "extend Extension" beyond its primary focus on agriculture into public health, engineering, business management, robotics, the

Feeling at home and invested

Meet Veronica Meinhard, half of a power couple with huge aspirations for Ohio State and the Buckeye family.

BY MARY ALICE CASEY

VERONICA MEINHARD PAUSES, reflecting on what she wants Ohio State alumni to know about her wife, President Kristina M. Johnson, and herself. Her authenticity comes through in her voice, her eyes, the way she leans forward.

"I want alumni to know we fully understand what an absolute privilege it is to be in the leadership position at this university. And with that comes a great sense of responsibility. Kristina and I are 100% committed," she says. "The other message I want to send is that whether or not you have time right now to be involved, know that the table's big and there's always a chair for you."

Meinhard's 26 years in higher education philanthropy and administration give her a strong foundation to envision how she will serve Ohio State, particularly in achieving a 10-year goal to ensure undergraduates can pursue their degrees without going into debt. Her four years as an All-American swimmer at the University of Florida, where she earned a bachelor's in sports management, helped her build grit and commitment to a team (and she's on ours now). Her upbringing in Caracas, Venezuela, MBA studies in Madrid, Spain, and love of travel contribute to her dynamic view of the world.

Join us for a chat in the couple's living room.

How have you met alumni in the midst of a pandemic?

We've been able to meet many alumni and friends in small, intimate gatherings. Instead of two hours with 150 people, it was two hours with six people. We could have in-depth conversations and really get to know stakeholders of the university, leaders in the



community, some of our students, members of our team, our athletic coaches. So we feel very lucky.

We learned how proud people are of Ohio State, whether they're alumni or friends. The passion is phenomenal. And as we look at Kristina's tenure here in Columbus, I think that will be the secret sauce in everything we do, that sense of pride. When Buckeyes do something together, the sky's the limit.

How are you involved in the debt-free initiative President Johnson announced this year?

It's really a personal topic for us. Kristina graduated \$500 in debt, and I graduated debt-free. We both had full scholarships, and that gave us the



READ MORE

Catch our full conversation with Veronica Meinhard.

[go.osu.edu/
VeronicaMeinhard](https://go.osu.edu/VeronicaMeinhard)



SCARLET & GRAY ADVANTAGE DETAILS

Learn more about the debt-free initiative, including how to support it.

advantage.osu.edu

freedom to choose the careers we wanted, go to graduate school, buy a house — whatever the next step was, unburdened by debt. Through this initiative, called Scarlet & Gray Advantage, we can give our students the opportunity to pursue whatever their next steps are.

That's why I am applying my fundraising and strategy skills to developing this program in collaboration with the Advancement and Admissions teams. When we are able to achieve debt-free degrees at scale at Ohio State, we will be the first to do it, and that is a great Buckeye challenge to take on.

How are you going about the work?

So, what's the easiest way to wrap your arms around Buckeye Nation? The alumni association is a great place to start. We are focused in our communities and starting to work with alumni clubs and societies. We have scholarship champions, very generous individuals who have provided dollars to match those raised by alumni groups. The funds raised will be invested in students from those clubs' areas or tied to societies because of their interests or areas of study.

The reception has been incredibly warm. When you have matching funds, and the money you raise is going to students in your own community, maybe your neighbor's kid, there's a lot of motivation. We're working with a small number of clubs and societies to get started, and if that's any indication of what's to come, it'll be a phenomenal grassroots effort. All Buckeyes who care about scholarships will be invited to be part of it.

It's also going to require looking hard at ways to reduce education costs and leveraging every state and federal resource. And students and families will have skin in the game. So will partners who can provide internships and practicums so students can earn funds to go toward the financial package while they gain career experience.

This is *not* about going to college for free. It is about graduating without debt. Those are two very different things.

What will realizing President Johnson's overall vision mean for all Ohioans?

We are passionate about the land-grant mission of Ohio State. We really see it as the university of all Ohioans. Kristina appreciates that a great deal. And that is the focus in how she conducts her work: how we can ensure Ohio State is a place where you belong — no matter where you're from in Ohio, what your social background is, what your ethnicity is, what your lifestyle choices are. The biggest gift we can give Ohioans is a university that cares about all of its citizens, where all can find their voices and prepare for the future.



Johnson connects with TBDBITL sousaphone player Luke Isler during a Skull Session at St. John Arena in September. A short time later, Isler dotted the i during pregame at Ohio Stadium. Johnson says students' spirit is one of her favorite discoveries as president.

arts — “everywhere we can contribute to the economic well-being of the state of Ohio and to its social well-being, health and happiness.”

A former U.S. undersecretary of energy, Johnson said Ohio State also must commit to practicing sustainability at every turn, in service to the world. Part of her personal contribution will be to teach a project-based class — Pathways to Net-Zero Emissions — beginning spring semester.

Noting the university already has pledged to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, she added, “We are going to ask the students selected for this class to help us develop plans to get Ohio State to net-zero carbon by 2040 at the latest — and to determine the costs to do so. Our students are the future stewards of this university, this state and this planet. I want to hear their voices and implement their very best ideas.”

Key to achieving every one of these goals is resource management, Johnson said. With leaders dedicated to being great stewards of the university's resources, Ohio State can achieve all of the other strategic priorities.

Operating with utmost efficiency also will help ensure an Ohio State education is affordable and accessible.



Creating more access and affordability may be Johnson's most significant goal — one that would greatly impact students and their families.

She explained: “Today, a university education is still the single best way for young people from all backgrounds to engineer their own rise. ... If you want to be a force for social mobility, the details matter — especially affordability. ... Today, about half of our students graduate with debt, and they owe an average of \$27,000.”

That is why Johnson has moved forward with a 10-year plan to ensure all undergraduates have the opportunity to leave college debt-free. The Scarlet & Gray Advantage program *does not* mean free college, she stressed. Student and family contributions are expected. Also, with the generosity of more than 600,000 alumni, plus friends, partner corporations and foundations, the university plans to raise \$800 million over the next decade for undergraduate scholarships.

“We are going to do this Buckeye-style,” Johnson said. “A grass-roots movement that inspires all of us who have wonderful lives, thanks to The Ohio State University, to pay forward.” *



You are the foundation of our tenacious family

Dear Buckeye alumni,

When I arrived on my first day as Ohio State's 16th president, I was excited, eager and, truth be told, just a little bit anxious. In one sense, I was coming home, returning to a campus where, as family lore has it, my grandfather met my grandmother before he graduated in 1896 — clearly a critical moment that set my life's trajectory long before I was even born.

I also was stepping into a great unknown, taking the reins of one of the nation's most prestigious land grant universities at the height of a public health crisis. Everything from how long we would be able to safely hold in-person classes to whether we would have a football season was up in the air.

We have come so far in the past 15 months, and I have learned so much about what it means to be a Buckeye.

I am inspired by the energy, spirit and, most of all, the abiding tenacity that defines the people of this university community — including alumni like you.

I have learned that Buckeyes are fearless and thrive in the face of adversity. We had many opportunities to hone these qualities in 2020–21, when we established a far-reaching COVID-19 surveillance testing program, which — combined with a mass vaccination effort — kept us teaching, learning, working and competing in athletics for the entire academic year.

Now, we have an opportunity to define what it means to be a model land grant university in another way — with a bold commitment to academic, research and service excellence — and an ambitious goal to offer all undergraduates the opportunity to graduate without student debt.

As you know better than anyone, our faculty are outstanding. And we are working to expand their ranks to provide students with the very best academic experiences. As part of those efforts, we will strengthen our already superb scholarship on inequi-

ties and racial disparities through an initiative called RAISE — short for race, inclusion and social equity — by recruiting additional faculty who focus on fields such as health care and STEM education.

We also are investing in our knowledge enterprise, with a \$750 million commitment to fund critical research over the next 10 years. This will take us to new heights of exploration and innovation, facilitating technological breakthroughs we cannot even begin to imagine today.

As alumni, you are incredible Buckeye ambassadors because you represent what is possible with an Ohio State education. And as we educate the next generation of doers, thinkers, dreamers and achievers, Ohio State — and the world — needs your help. Whether you support students through scholarships, mentor young alumni or give back to your alma mater in other ways, I am grateful for your continued support and connection.

Thank you for all you have done to make my first year as Ohio State president memorable and successful. Your friendship, counsel and expertise have helped me and my wife, Veronica Meinhard, through a year of unexpected joys, painful sorrow and complex challenges. Your courage and belief in our university family give us immense hope for what lies ahead.

We truly feel part of the Buckeye community, and we know we are exactly where we belong.

Sincerely yours,

KRISTINA M. JOHNSON, PhD
President, The Ohio State University



KRISTINA M. JOHNSON

Applying inspiration

TAYLOR GRUENWALD '16 has never met a space she can't transform. From renovating her childhood home to spearheading large-scale development projects in Greater Cincinnati, she uses every tool in her belt to help her community flourish.

STORY BY ASHLEY MOSTELLER RABINOVITCH '15 MPA
PHOTOS BY JO MCCULTY '84, '94 MA

Taylor Gruenwald '16 was in disbelief when she woke up to find her first home renovation TikTok video had gone viral, racking up 1.1 million views overnight. She shared only a brief glimpse inside the third-generation family duplex she was poised to gut and remodel, but the story she shared in mid-2020 struck a chord with viewers homebound by a pandemic and searching for DIY inspiration.

Over the next year, her following ballooned as she got her hands dirty and breathed new life into old spaces. It was Gruenwald's first fixer-upper, but it was just like the other development projects she tackles every day: messy, complex and well worth the effort.

Gruenwald never intended to return to St. Bernard, a one-square-mile village surrounded by Cincinnati on three sides, after college. "It's almost a mini Mayberry in that everyone knows each other," she says. But when her parents were ready to sell the 100-year-old duplex where she had spent most of her childhood, she couldn't pass up the opportunity to make it her own.

"It means the world to us that Taylor not only wanted to keep the house in the family, but she wanted to use her talents to fix it up," says her mother, Charity Gruenwald.

Over the next six months, the one-bedroom, one-bathroom lower level where





Taylor Gruenwald '16 stains window frames in the upper unit of her Cincinnati duplex, taking special care to preserve the historic character of the space.



| 1 | Marty and Charity Gruenwald, who were expecting Taylor at the time, pose proudly in front of the duplex they purchased from Marty's parents for their growing family.

| 2 | Gruenwald and her dad play in the backyard of her childhood home.

| 3 | The decor of the refurbished home speaks to her lively, eclectic style.

| 4 | Gruenwald and her fiancé, Charlie Vogt, trade ideas for the white tile they will install in the kitchen of their rental unit.

Gruenwald lives with her fiancé, Charlie Vogt, transformed from a sea of forest green — Charity's favorite decor color — and array of outdated wallpaper into a warm, modern blend of classic finishes and playful accent pieces. With the help of an army of friends and family, paid in pizza, Gruenwald meticulously laid subway tile in the bathroom, created a beadboard kitchen backsplash and restored original fireplaces and trim to maintain the historic feel.

Marty Gruenwald witnessed his daughter's determination as he and Charity worked alongside her to reimagine their former home. "Without a doubt, the most rewarding job — and the most backbreaking — was the two nights we spent covering nasty popcorn ceilings with new sheetrock," he says. "As far as we knew, Taylor didn't have any experience hanging drywall boards. But by the end of those two nights, she was taking measurements, cutting the boards, operating the lift

and screwing everything into place like a pro!"

Drywall was far from the lone uncharted territory for Gruenwald. "This project involved a lot of firsts for me," she says. "On TikTok, it was important for me to be transparent about the challenges and costs of this process so it could help other people tackle their own projects."

Despite the rapid proliferation of home renovation accounts on TikTok, Gruenwald managed to keep her followers engaged by giving them an honest look at the backbreaking effort that went into the various stages of demolition and installation. Over the course of a year, she posted nearly 50 short videos showing time-lapse shots of work completed, big reveals of finished spaces and before-and-after comparisons.

With every new post, she received comments from users who were undertaking projects of their own and eager for advice on topics from financing to floor plans. They celebrated with her when she tackled more enjoyable tasks, such as using a massive spray



gun to paint the kitchen, and commiserated with her while she painstakingly ripped up old tile and subflooring with a hammer and crowbar. Some devotees were Cincinnati locals who saw the duplex while walking by; others were international viewers with questions about American duplexes.

Gruenwald reached 300,000 followers halfway through the process — earning an astonishing 7 million views on a video summarizing her progress at the midpoint — and 450,000 followers by the time she unveiled the completed first-floor unit in April 2021. Her following put her among the top U.S. TikTok content creators of the time.

DISCOVERING HER PASSION

Gruenwald has always demonstrated a willingness to pour time and energy into her goals. At 13, she pursued a summer job as a golf caddy at Cincinnati's historic Maketewah Country Club. Long days on the links felt even longer when lugging

heavy golf bags. But she was spurred on by the potential for an Evans Scholarship, a full tuition and housing award that dozens of universities offer to selected caddies, and the knowledge that no other female caddy had lasted more than two seasons at Maketewah. She made it five.

The bigger reward, though, was the Evans Scholarship she earned to attend Ohio State, where she began as a pre-med student before discovering an elective in city and regional planning that would change her path.

“That was when everything clicked for me,” she remembers. Instead of competing with one another, her interests in areas as varied as social work, business, architecture and public policy coalesced around a single goal: to create cities and spaces where people can flourish.

Under the guidance of professors such as Kyle Ezell, whose introductory course in the Knowlton School sparked her interest in the field, Gruenwald

| 5 | Vogt records a video to document progress on the upstairs unit for Gruenwald's TikTok following.

| 6 | Resting on the steps to the upstairs unit, Gruenwald takes a well-deserved break with her dog, Remy.

| 7 | Wallpaper is back! Gruenwald shows off a modern floral aesthetic in the downstairs bathroom.

learned the nuts and bolts of city and regional planning. Looking back, she credits her semester-long studio classes for providing practical, real-world experience.

“I’ve always loved tight-knit communities with urban density, so I was drawn to the studio classes that involved a downtown component,” she says.

In her most memorable studio class, taught by Bob Oast, she devised a plan for downtown Fostoria, a small town of some 13,000 residents in northwest Ohio. Gruenwald and her classmates connected city leaders with funding sources and presented short- and long-term plans for restoring a business district hollowed out by job losses and recession.

“Through projects like these, the city and regional planning major gave me a tactile approach to solving problems,” she says. “I began to look at the world through the lens of a planner.”

Effective developers strike a delicate balance between opposing forces, Gruenwald learned in her years at Ohio State. “We don’t want to gentrify to the point where we displace long-term residents, while at the same time, we have to be open to change and progress,” she says. In the Midwest, known more for rolling farms and sprawling suburbs than vibrant urban centers, she is passionate about extolling the benefits of dense, walkable communities that attract newcomers while preserving the history and character of neighborhoods.

This mentality serves her well as a developer with The Model Group, an integrated property development, construction and management company. In a typical day, Gruenwald applies for funding sources for pre-development projects and evaluates new markets and growth opportunities in the Cincinnati area. And as she manages teams of architects, designers, engineers and consultants in implementing development plans, she draws heavily from the diverse skill set she learned in college and honed in previous roles.

Her ascent up the ladder has been swift. At 27, she is working on \$100 million projects. But in the stacks of financial statements and blueprints, she never loses sight of the end goal: to effect positive change in local communities. She chose to work at The Model Group not only to manage large projects, but because of the company’s commitment to create affordable housing and convert decaying urban blocks into thriving community hubs.

HOMETOWN VISION

Outside of work, she volunteers her time to the St. Bernard Community Improvement Corporation, a publicly funded organization that acquires land and buildings to promote development in the village.



1 | Gruenwald stains wood in the upstairs dining room. To the relief of her many TikTok followers who value historic preservation, she went with a light, subtle stain to match the existing trim.

2 | Charity and Marty Gruenwald say it “means the world” to them that their daughter has given their old home a new life.

3 | Around the corner from her home in St. Bernard, Gruenwald keeps an eye out for her next renovation project.

4 | For a peek at then and now, Gruenwald plays with her dog, Remy, while Vogt holds up a childhood photo of her playing with her cat on the same porch. Her parents pore over old photos behind her.



“I’ve always loved tight-knit communities with urban density, so I was drawn to the studio classes that involved a downtown component.”

— TAYLOR GRUENWALD



Jonathan Stuchell, mayor of St. Bernard and president of the CIC, invited her to come aboard in an advisory role when she moved back to the area after graduation. “My goal in getting involved was to empower my neighbors by giving them the knowledge I’ve accumulated over the years, particularly when it comes to future trends and core principles of responsible development,” she says.

For the past four years, Gruenwald has lent her development experience, strategic lens and bountiful connections to help the CIC undertake 10 residential and commercial development projects. Early on, she added substantial value by helping the group develop a new application process for potential business tenants and residents. “She’s incredibly systematic, and she points out things we wouldn’t think of otherwise,” Stuchell says. “We’re lucky to have her on our team.”

In one of her city and regional planning classes at Ohio State, Gruenwald was tasked with identifying a potential improvement project in her hometown. At the time, she chose a strip mall in St. Bernard that was following the same path of decline as countless counterparts across the country. There actually was a plan in place to sell the complex to a new owner, who wanted to keep it largely intact and add a few fast-food joints.

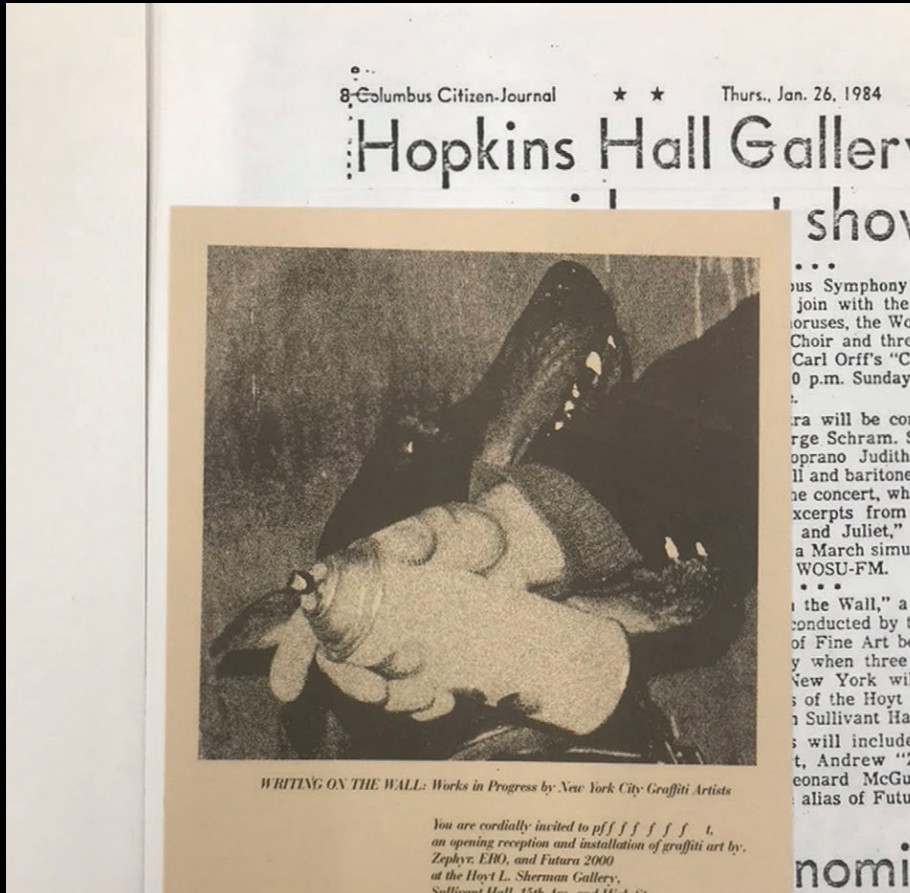
When that plan fell through several years later, Gruenwald stepped in with the connections and expertise to help the CIC pivot to a more advantageous approach. Soon, the site will be reborn as a \$37 million, 200-unit mixed-use space with businesses and apartments throughout. From Stuchell’s perspective, Gruenwald has been instrumental in the CIC’s push toward greater density as a strategy for attracting new businesses and increasing village revenue.

Many people shy away from spending their professional and personal time on similar pursuits, but Gruenwald has no qualms about doubling up when it comes to development. She’s eager to help her Greater Cincinnati neighbors learn to manage and finance their dream projects.

As for her own home renovation ventures, she doesn’t plan on stopping with the upper unit of her duplex. In fact, she is already hunting for the next property to renovate in St. Bernard. “I have the itch now,” she recognizes. “This is how I plan to spend my time and energy for the foreseeable future — contributing to the revitalization of my community. There’s nothing better than seeing transformation happen right in front of you.” ✨

ASHLEY MOSTELLER RABINOVITCH ’15 MPA is a brand journalist who specializes in higher education, entrepreneurship and health care. She lives in Columbus.

COMING FEBRUARY 4



Invitation for Writing on the Wall: Works in Progress by New York City Graffiti Artists at Ohio State's Hoyt L. Sherman Gallery, February 1-16, 1984.

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Andrew Collins '15 MA photographed this Buckeye relic. The Colorado resident studied earth sciences at Ohio State, and he has taken award-winning photos on four continents.

REX KERN CONSIDERS HIS NEW BOOK, *The Road to the Horseshoe and Beyond*, a thank you to everyone who shaped his life. Kern reflects on faith, race, leadership and mentoring in the book, co-authored with Lee Caryer. Read excerpts at go.osu.edu/authorRexKern

A field general's trophy

I WORE THIS HELMET MY SENIOR SEASON of 1970, my third as the Buckeyes' starting quarterback. Now it's in a clear plastic case in the den of our home in Greenwood Village, Colorado. It has always been something I wasn't going to let out of my possession.

Oh my goodness, I get hit by a swarm of emotion when I think about what this helmet means to me.

Look at the marks and scratches on it, the paint colors from opponents' helmets and the ripped Buckeye stickers. Those are battle scars. When I see this helmet, I think of how a lot of guys battled with me and for me, and how they believed in me.

This helmet makes me think of all my teammates and coaches, and the ones we've lost through the years. Those are relationships you



REX KERN '71, '73 MA, '83 PHD

can't put any amount of money on.

And those Ohio State relationships aren't just in football.

I saw myself more as an athlete up through my freshman year of college. But then I made a concerted effort to work at it academically. I was able to attract people who saw something in me, and they supported me. Academics became important to me.

People always identify me as a football player, but I have three degrees from The Ohio State University. Those three degrees mean a great deal to me.

My coach, Woody Hayes, used to say, "You win with people." Well, this helmet is about my relationships with people at Ohio State.

— AS TOLD TO TODD JONES



The nation's complex web of power lines is among Professor Abdollah Shafieezadeh's areas of expertise.

Is the U.S. energy grid ready for the future? Not really.

Lichtenstein Endowed Professor of Civil, Environmental and Geodetic Engineering
Abdollah Shafieezadeh fills us in.

BY ROSS BISHOFF

The United States' energy grid was largely built in the 1950s and '60s — before climate change, cybersecurity threats and a host of other challenges arrived on the scene. Today, power grid failures are increasingly common across the country. In particular, a trio of winter storms that left millions without electricity in Texas in early 2021 — leading to shortages of food, water and heat — captured the nation's attention, and lower-profile outages occur with regularity.

Abdollah Shafieezadeh, director of the Ohio State College of Engineering's RAMSIS Lab (Risk Assessment and Management of Structural and Infrastructure Systems), studies the risks our infrastructure systems face and helps



“To replace everything, the estimated cost would be around \$5 trillion. Of course, we don’t need to completely rebuild the grid.”

LICHTENSTEIN ENDOWED PROFESSOR ABDOLLAH SHAFIEEZADEH

the highest cumulative damage costs. That reflects the high diversity and frequency of severity of the weather and climate extremes that happen in that region. Texas, for example, experienced the highest number of billion-dollar disasters, over 110. It’s one of the few states impacted by all seven disaster types.

As far as the potential for catastrophes, there are a few. What they have in common is they happen without warning: An earthquake comes without warning. Cyberattacks are a huge concern. And climate change is a major concern because it is changing the way natural hazards are occurring.

Can power grid systems really be hacked? If so, what level of security do they need? — Sarthak Gupta ’21

The power grid is a complex cyber-physical system, meaning it integrates sensors, computational power, control and networking capabilities into a physical system. These cyber-physical systems are commonly connected to the internet for efficiency. That’s where the vulnerability stems from.

There was a study in 2015 that simulated a cyberattack on the eastern interconnection of the U.S. grid. The simulation targeted power generators. By only shutting down 10%, it created blackouts in 15 states and left 93 million people without power.

So yes, it can be hacked, and we need the highest possible security.

What would it cost to upgrade, modernize and properly secure the U.S. power grid? — Jeffrey Pascoe ’87

To replace everything, the estimated cost would be around \$5 trillion. Of course, we don’t need to completely rebuild the grid. If we focus on, let’s say, climate change as a

key driver of future vulnerability, it may impact many elements of the power grid. One estimate indicated to prepare for substantive hazards would cost \$120 billion to \$380 billion through 2099.

Many studies indicate this investment would reduce costs of the power grid by almost 50%. That’s a significant savings if we invest early and strategically.

Do you recommend that people who live in cities or suburbs set up their own backup power source? — Michelle Cooper ’96

For important facilities like hospitals, police stations or fire stations, it’s a must to have backup systems. That can be extended to households. The technology is getting more efficient and costs are going down.

One thing to be mindful of is the disparities it may cause. Although some of these technologies are subsidized, even the subsidized technologies are not affordable by a large portion of the population. What we could end up having is the people who can afford it gain a resilient system and may not even need to pay for the grid given normal conditions, so less people would contribute to maintaining the grid. Then the cost of maintaining the grid transfers to people who can’t afford these technologies. So the cost of their electricity increases, and they suffer the most during outages.

What should the United States prioritize in the next five years, 10 years and 20 years? — Jose Blanco ’04

The grid is facing a multitude of challenges. One issue we see is there’s no national standard that adequately addresses these problems. And time is running out. We need to develop strategic plans and implement them now.

inform strategic plans to meet these challenges. The Lichtenstein Endowed Professor of Civil, Environmental and Geodetic Engineering recently answered your questions about these potential crises.

Geographically, what areas are of greatest concern? What presents the most potential for catastrophe? — Lisa Nabors Rhude ’91

A study by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration collected and analyzed data on the impact of natural disasters around the country since 1980. It looked at billion-dollar disasters, major events like drought, flooding, freezing, sea storms, tropical cyclones, wildfires and winter storms.

They found the South has experienced

The category is ‘Winning’

This two-time alumnus held the nation’s attention for 39-straight games of “Jeopardy!” (Answer: Who is Matt Amodio?)

IS IT COINCIDENCE THAT MATT AMODIO '12, '13 MAS is both a two-time alum of Ohio State and the third-winningest “Jeopardy!” contestant? Not at all. Amodio’s 38-game winning streak came to a bittersweet end in October, but his awestruck grins and aw-shucks charm have won him fame and, yes, \$1.5 million-plus. Many of us followed his winning streak from our sofas, and now we can revisit some of Amodio’s greatest hits — Daily Doubles and Final Jeopardy! clues among them — to see whether we can match the champ. — **KRISTEN SCHMIDT**

FICTIONAL PLACES

A savage people called Zapoletes are contrasted with the inhabitants of the title place of this 16th century work.

1970S MOVIES

Writer Dan O’Bannon based a scene in this film on his own Crohn’s disease, which felt like things inside him fighting to get out.

MYTHOLOGICAL ANIMALS

After being born, this creature would bring the remains of its forebear to Heliopolis and put them on the altar of the sun god.

1930S AMERICA

Unpopular at the time, the man for whom it was named wasn’t invited to the Sept. 30, 1935, dedication of this landmark.

ASIA

This country became independent in 1946; in 1964, it officially switched its independence day from July 4 to June 12.

\$400 \$400

BEFORE AND AFTER

Late-summer arts festival in the desert that’s a basement hangout with TV and beer.

MOVIE TIME

This legendary Italian composer was 37 when he finally won his first competitive Oscar for “The Hateful Eight.”

\$600 \$600

AUTHORS

In addition to knowing many languages and making up his own, he also taught language at the universities of Leeds and Oxford.

COLORFUL PRO SPORTS TEAMS

One in the NBA and one in the NHL, these two pro sports teams are “golden.”

AFRICAN MONARCHS

Some devotees of this emperor who died in 1975 trace his lineage to King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba.



 **CHECK YOUR SCORE** See if you did as well as Matt Amodio (and catch an exclusive interview with him). go.osu.edu/mattamodio



Campus caretakers ensure the safe travel of students today just as their predecessors did in 1958, when these Buckeyes were crossing the Oval.

For the greater good, not glory

OHIO STATE WAS BORN WITH A SENSE OF PROUD TEAMWORK. Faculty helped with campus maintenance for much of the university's first decade because the state didn't provide money for building repairs or improvements until 1879, six years after classes first began. In those early years, Professor W.R. Lazenby and students from the mechanical department took responsibility for campus upkeep.

The teamwork continued when William C. McCracken was named Ohio State's chief engineer (later known as superintendent of buildings and grounds) in 1886. He worked 60 years in that role, and the service he and his staff provided led university leaders to name

the campus power plant after him.

That tradition of pride in campus upkeep shines forth today in the work of Facilities Operations and Development. Nearly 700 employees provide campus maintenance; custodial services; upkeep of roads and grounds; construction; environmental health and safety; and support for energy services and sustainability.

"They take a lot of pride in the quality of work that they do," says Aparna Dial '04, senior director of sustainability and strategic services for FOD. "The pride comes from a commitment to something larger than themselves — a commitment to The Ohio State University and to our campus and broader communities."

That dedication often shows up behind

the scenes. But in 2016, FOD earned the international APPA Award for Excellence from the Association of Physical Plant Administrators as a tribute to its stellar work in maintaining 244 buildings and 1,600 acres of green space on the Columbus campus.

Awards aren't why you'll see FOD employees from Campus Shop and Landscape Services throughout campus at all hours in a winter storm. They'll be removing snow and ice from about 40 miles of streets and 130 miles of sidewalk — because Buckeyes have always served a greater good.

"They know they're making a difference," Dial says, "and that the job has to be done." — **TODD JONES**



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75	5.4%
80	6.5%
85	7.6%



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We're friends for life

AS PART OF A LONGABERGER ALUMNI HOUSE RENOVATION PROJECT that underscores the importance of diversity and inclusion, Molly Ranz Calhoun '86 and her team worked to create a true home on campus for alumni from around the globe.

"When alumni come into the building, we want them to be able to see themselves here, regardless of where they are from," says Calhoun, president and CEO of The Ohio State University Alumni Association.

At each step of the project, which began with the lobby and atrium and will continue to the staircase and second-floor library, Calhoun would ask herself, "What could trigger a memory of time spent on campus?"

Surely no one leaves without memories of the Oval, and that's why newly installed flooring on the first floor nods to its distinctly Ohio State pathways and circles,

PLEASE DROP IN

You're invited to visit Longaberger Alumni House, 2200 Olentangy River Road, to say hello, see the renovations and pick up a complimentary buckeye. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and four hours before kickoff on football Saturdays.

as does a grassy living wall behind the reception desk.

And for an inclusive art installation, Calhoun turned to the alma mater. Its words, "How firm thy friendship," she feels, really capture the unbreakable bonds alumni form at Ohio State.

On a wall of the first-floor atrium, the word "friendship" is translated into 141 languages, reflecting the number of languages spoken at the university. Here, learn how to say "friendship" 10 different ways. — SHELLEY MANN '03

- 1 AFIKAANS **Vriendskap**
- 2 CHEROKEE **Oginalii**
- 3 DANISH **Venskab**
- 4 GERMAN **Freundschaft**
- 5 HMONG **Kev Phooj Ywg**
- 6 ICELANDIC **Vinátta**
- 7 PORTUGUESE **Amizade**
- 8 SOMALI **Saaxiibnimo**
- 9 VIETNAMESE **Hữu nghị**
- 10 ZULU **Ubungane**

Photo, Jo McCully

MEET YOUR BOARD

A relationship builder

ASK ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBER SAID SARIOLGHALAM '07, '09 MPA, '10 MPH about his Ohio State student experience, his work at Providence St. Joseph Health in Seattle or anything, really, and you will receive deeply thoughtful responses that immediately put a smile on your face.

“My Ohio State experience has been one of the most influential factors in shaping the person I am today. Ohio State has enriched my life for three main reasons: people, lifestyle and being part of something bigger than myself,” says Sariolghalam, who also is treasurer of the Seattle Alumni Club. “And now, having the honor of serving as a director on the OSUAA board continues to cultivate that perspective. With our 600,000 alumni all over the world, I think about how we can really harness the time, talent and treasure of the Buckeye community to improve our local communities.” — **DAN CATERINICCHIA**

What guidance would you give to your younger self?

Cherish every moment you have with people, because every experience is unique and can never be replicated. Also, advocate for yourself. It's important that you are heard in respectful and meaningful ways.

What is your idea of success?

I love this question! When your presence can make those around you feel loved, heard and uplifted. You will be remembered for how you made people feel. And if you can make them genuinely feel these things, you've succeeded.

What do you consider your greatest personal achievement? Professional achievement?

My greatest personal achievement is the relationships I have been able to cultivate throughout my life. I really value my relationships and the intentionality, depth and quality through which I approach them.

My greatest professional achievement is still in the future. But thus far, it's having had the opportunity to work for two institutions, Providence and the Government Accountability Office, that are big players in the world of performance improvement and accountability and health care. In my current role, I focus on enabling our leaders with analytic products that can improve the value equation, or highest quality of care at the lowest cost for the communities we serve.

Who are your heroes?

My parents. I've been blessed to have two pairs of loving and supportive parents in my life: my biological parents

and my surrogate parents. They all have played significant roles in influencing my journey, shaping the person I am today, and continue to do so. [Said was born in the United States. His biological parents are from Iran. Said lived with and met his surrogate parents in high school.] We have merged the families together, and they represent the best of human kindness and the good that exists in the world.

What's your motto?

Sorry, this is going to be more of a life philosophy. More listening and less talking. Be present. Be kind. Be curious. Remember that everyone is on their own unique journey, so don't be surprised by people's views. Let's not treat views that are different from ours as wrong.

How did your Ohio State experience contribute to the person you are today?

Being something bigger than myself — my Ohio State experience is the epitome of that. Being an RA in the residence halls. That role is so much about how you can support those around you to be uplifted and heard, and to navigate all the questions and decisions students have to make. And being part of Ohio Staters, Inc., is all about making the Ohio State experience more rich for the entire student body. I also was lucky enough to have two study abroad experiences, one to Europe and the other visiting countries in southern Africa, which exposed me to incredible people in the far corners of the world.

DAN CATERINICCHIA is an assistant vice president in the Office of Advancement.



Photo, Jovelle Tamayo

New board members welcomed

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

in September welcomed two new members and extended its thanks to Catherine Baumgardner, Rosa Ailabouni, Michael Lee and Craig Friedman, whose terms concluded.



S. Alice Mong '86

Executive Director
Asia Society Hong Kong
Center, Hong Kong



Melissa Wasser '17 MA, '17 JD

Policy Counsel, Project on
Government Oversight,
Rockville, Maryland

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation (REQUIRED BY 39 U.S.C. 3685)

Date of filing: September 30, 2021. *Ohio State Alumni Magazine* is published four times a year in March, June, September and December, with occasional special editions, at 2200 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, Franklin County, OH 43210-1035, with headquarters and business offices of the publisher at 2200 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, OH 43210-1035. The name and address of the publisher is The Ohio State University Alumni Association, Inc., 2200 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, OH 43210-1035. Owner of the publication is The Ohio State University Alumni Association, Inc., 2200 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, OH 43210-1035. There are no bond holders, mortgagees or security holders.

Total number of copies printed (average for preceding 12 months): 90,171. Total paid and/or requested distribution: 87,153. Free distribution by mail: 103. Free distribution outside mail: 2,060. Total free distribution: 2,684. Total distribution: 89,836. Copies not distributed: 335. Total: 90,171. Percent paid and/or requested circulation: 97.01%.

I certify the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

Mary Alice Casey, editor

THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE Nominations for four candidates to join the board in fall 2022 will be accepted through December 15, 2021. 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. Current life and sustaining alumni association members are eligible for nomination. go.osu.edu/BOD2022

The Ohio State University Alumni Association, Inc.

OUR VISION

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

OUR MISSION

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

ORGANIZATIONAL PURPOSE

To build a community of lifelong champions.

OUR CORE VALUES

- **Tradition:** We believe in Ohio State. We cherish the university's rich and vibrant history and work to enhance its reputation.
- **Excellence and impact:** We advance sustainable and evidence-based solutions through partnership.
- **Diversity and innovation:** We encourage open-minded exploration, risk-taking and freedom of expression.
- **Inclusion and equity:** We advocate for access, opportunity and empowerment.
- **Care and compassion:** We put people at the center of all we do.
- **Integrity and respect:** We build trust through transparency and authentic engagement.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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EX OFFICIO

Keith Key '89, Powell, Ohio
Jackson Stoller, student member, Centerville, Ohio

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Newark: John Whittington '74, Granville, Ohio

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Arts and Sciences: Diane Reynolds '82, Park Ridge, N.J.; 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: Sandra Cornett '65, '70, '81, Dublin, Ohio; Optometry: Christopher Smiley '01, Westerville Ohio; Pharmacy: Marialice Bennett '69, Columbus; Public Health: Stephen Smith '77, Antioch, Ill.; Social Work: Carlton Triolo-Sapp '99, Chicago; Veterinary Medicine: Tom Wood '87, Lorain, Ohio; Wexner Medical Center: Duane Reynolds '04, Smyrna, Ga.

ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVES TO VICE PRESIDENTIAL OFFICES

Academic Affairs: Joelle Davis Carter '97, Morrisville, N.C.; Athletics: Ted Adams '91, '92, New Albany, 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: Ted Adams '91, '92, New Albany, Ohio
Foundation Board: Keith Key '89, Powell, Ohio
WOSU Public Media: Christine Mortine '84, '84, '99, Columbus

BUCKET LIST ADVENTURES

with OHIO STATE ALUMNI TOURS



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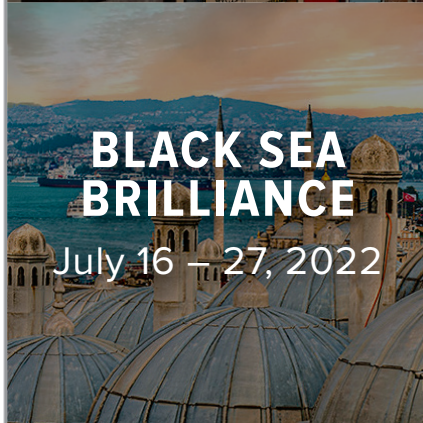
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May 4 – 8, 2022



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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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2021 **ALUMNI AWARDS**

These Buckeyes inspire us to give the world our best

FOR MUCH OF THE PAST TWO YEARS, many of us have faced some of the hardest days we've ever known. We wouldn't have gotten through those days without the people who bring light and hope to our lives. The eight individuals and one huge collective — The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center frontline workers — who earned Ohio State Alumni Awards this year are those bearers of light and hope. We hope you enjoy and find inspiration in their insights.

STORIES BY ERIN MACLELLAN

SALLY ROCKEY '80, '82 MS, '85 PHD | ALUMNI MEDALIST AWARD

Advancing science for good

“She is among the world’s leaders in research administration, and she also has raised the visibility of food and agriculture sciences across the nation as a cutting-edge enterprise.”

MARK E. KEENUM, CHAIR OF THE FOUNDATION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND PRESIDENT OF MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

This world-renowned scientist has made improving our lives her top priority.

SALLY ROCKEY '80, '82 MS, '85 PHD has made it her life’s work to create an environment where the best science can flourish and make a positive difference in people’s lives.

It’s a commitment that has led to a remarkable 30-year career as a world-renowned research administrator at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Institutes of Health. At those agencies, she created programs and grants that enabled the most capable scientists to pursue their dreams and make the biggest possible impact on science.

And when she could have retired, Rockey took

on a new challenge: as inaugural director of the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR) in Washington, D.C. The foundation supports public/private partnerships to tackle tough issues such as world hunger, the pandemic and climate change.

Tell us about a scientific program you created and how it’s changing lives.

When I was at the USDA, I helped establish the plant genome program. This work has led to an explosion of new technologies and new ways to breed plants for increased yield, allowing us to produce more food on less land. It also led to producing crops with fewer pesticides and to developing plants with higher nutritional properties to help people around the world have access to healthier diets.

Of your many accomplishments, what are you proudest of?

My work as executive director of the FFAR. We created an ecosystem of innovation that didn’t exist previously in the agriculture research enterprise, that of public/private partnerships. We’ve engaged with over 500 funding partners and hundreds of grants. It’s really accelerated the pace of science for the public good.

How did Ohio State prepare you for the work you do?

I owe so much to Ohio State. I was planning to go to vet school, but I took an entomology course my senior year and was so intrigued that I decided to go to graduate school in entomology. My training was fantastic, and my advisor, Dave Denlinger, was a stellar scientist who was always supportive. Ohio State helped me hone my scientific skills and connected me with the best in the field. I also worked as a field scout with OSU Extension, where I had my first in-depth experience in agriculture. And finally, I met my husband in graduate school, so I owe my entire personal life to this university.



DAVID EMERLING '81 | DAN L. HEINLEN AWARD

Building Buckeye bonds

An alum in the heart of TSUN, he's passionate about connecting fellow grads.

THOSE WHO KNOW DAVID EMERLING '81 say he has a superpower: recruiting alumni to join and lead the Alumni Club of Detroit.

Over 40 years, he's held every leadership role in the group, which earned The Ohio State University Alumni Association's 2020 Club of the Year Award, and he's brought hundreds of members into the club.

Emerling leads the way by raising thousands of dollars for Ohio State scholarships, recruiting students, creating a group for young alumni and spearheading events to raise money for Detroit residents in need.

After 29 years as an automotive engineer, Emerling took a job as industry collaborations director for Ohio State's Center for Automotive Research. He's based in Detroit, combining his passion for work with his zeal for his alma mater.

How do you inspire others to do great things?

One person can't run a club; you've got to have help. The key is finding people's passions — what they do the best and what they want to do. Let them go at it and give them control.

How do alumni benefit from being part of an alumni club?

We have a lot of fun at our events, and the networking is phenomenal. Beyond that, a lot of people feel like the university got them to where they are today, and they want to give back by recruiting students or fundraising. But I think the real reason people get involved is that they like being with other Buckeyes. It's a bond for life.

What's your favorite Ohio State memory?

The Ohio State-Michigan game my freshman year. I lived in Taylor Tower, and we all coordinated our dorm lights to write OSU on the face of the tower. When we won that game, we threw confetti out the windows and went to High Street for the victory celebration, which was just crazy.

What's it like being a Buckeye fan in the heart of Michigan?

It's actually quite fun. I think our alumni are drawn together more than if we lived in any other state because of the intense rivalry. It's important to stay together and have our safe places. My tagline for years has been, "It's a great time to be a Buckeye in Michigan."

“There are few people more committed to Ohio State than David. He proves that day in and day out through his work for Ohio State, his continued leadership and service within the alumni association and Alumni Club of Detroit, and unselfishly giving personally to Buckeyes everywhere.

MICHAEL E. GEORGE '17,
FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE
ALUMNI CLUB OF DETROIT



LISA COLEMAN '94 MA, '94 MA | DIVERSITY CHAMPION AWARD

Creating common ground

“While her generosity has carried her far, her resolve and commitment to truth and justice have carried her farther, and she’s pulled countless others with her along the way.”

NORM J. JONES, CEO OF INTEGRATED DIVERSITY LLC

This uniter sees a better world emerging when we talk things out.

WHEREVER SHE GOES, LISA COLEMAN '94 MA, '94 MA seeks to innovate and create a sense of belonging. She’s known for opening education’s doors to marginalized groups and for developing programs that bring people of divergent backgrounds and viewpoints together.

As senior vice president for global inclusion and strategic innovation at New York University, Coleman oversees diversity initiatives for the New York, Abu Dhabi and Shanghai campuses

as well as the university’s other global sites. A trailblazer in her field, Coleman headed up similar programs at Harvard University and Tufts. She has worked with other leaders to create, promote and develop partnerships across schools, industries and governments.

How did your Ohio State experience contribute to the person you are today?

In three ways. First, it taught me how to work with peers, build a team and work with a cohort. Second, Ohio State is a tremendous place to do research. With the university’s libraries, I could get documents from around the world. That has been foundational to my work today, which is largely informed by academic research. Lastly, leadership. I was the head of a student group and attended many leadership workshops. I would not be as good of a leader today without my Ohio State experience.

Who are your heroes?

Many are from my family. My mother was the first Black president of the American Business Women’s Association. My uncle was the first Black fire chief where I grew up, and my grandmother was a jazz pianist. My other heroes and heroines are people who have stood up and taken risks. People like Claudette Colvin, who was only a child when she wouldn’t give up her seat on the bus in Alabama (before Rosa Parks), James Baldwin, Toni Morrison and many others who helped build a better humanity.

What can each person do to make this world more inclusive?

We have to be able to come together and debate. We need to hash it out when we have differences and find common ground; that is how we create belonging. We’re all individuals, so no two people think alike, and we need to work across those gaps and differences without annihilating one another.



Lighting Buckeyes' paths

Whether lending her ear or her network, she is generous beyond measure.

MENTOR, COACH, GUIDE. That's how people describe Suzanne Scharer '06, who has helped hundreds of students and alumni of the Buckeye Leadership Fellows program find their way.

For eight years, Scharer has served on the advisory board for this highly selective undergraduate program. Not only is she its youngest board member, but she's also the one who students request most frequently when they reach out for advice. And the relationships don't end after a phone call. She's known for creating lasting bonds.

While Scharer has a busy career as a principal at Qualtrics, a software company in Salt Lake City, she is committed to being a Buckeye for life.

Why is it important for you to pay forward?

I had incredible support to pursue higher education. First, I earned scholarships for undergraduate and graduate school at Ohio State and Duke University, respectively. I've supported both schools financially so future students have access to great opportunities. Second, I had incredible mentors at Ohio State who helped guide me. Since graduating, I've shared my time and experiences, including mistakes I've made, and opened up my network to many students.

What are some ways you've interacted with students in the Buckeye Leadership Fellows program?

I've met students for coffee chats on campus and hosted students and alumni at my home. I've done mock case interviews for students interested in consulting, and I've helped students secure internships and job offers. Each year, I present a seminar on professional communications, and I get to know a lot of students that way. I've even attended comedy shows of students-turned-stand-up-comics.

What is your biggest accomplishment as a board member?

I think it's my reputation for being approachable. Networking can be scary. I'm often one of the first board members students interact with, and I make sure it's a safe and comfortable conversation. I give them confidence to continue our relationship, and I make recommendations of other board members or alumni to connect with.

What's a tip for connecting easily with people?

When meeting someone new, I always try to do research on who I'm meeting, and I also try to find an area of commonality so that we can build trust.

“Suzanne brings her energy, enthusiasm and leadership wisdom in a special program she's developed and delivers to members of each Buckeye Leadership Fellows cohort and is very active as an ongoing mentor and resource to students.”

MATT DESCH '80, CHAIR,
BUCKEYE LEADERSHIP
FELLOWS ADVISORY BOARD



KUNAL PARIKH '12 | WILLIAM OXLEY THOMPSON ALUMNI AWARD

Striving for others' joy

“Kunal is an inventor and entrepreneur who has simultaneously innovated scientifically and socially in order to create technologies and organizations to improve the human condition.”

DR. PRANAV REDDY '12, '12,
BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S
HOSPITAL, BOSTON

An understanding of suffering fuels this graduate's passion and compassion.

KUNAL PARIKH'S ACHIEVEMENTS since graduating from Ohio State in 2012 have been remarkable. He is on the faculty of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, founder of the Global Institute for Vision Equity and co-founder of the Social Innovation Lab in Baltimore. An inventor, he has 10 patents issued or pending.

In all pursuits, Parikh aims to create technologies and companies that improve the quality of life for people and enable equity in health care.



What is the source of your motivation to help others?

I was often sick or injured when I was young, which emphasized the importance of health. And whenever our family was able, we would visit India, which is where I really learned what it means to not have much. By experiencing and observing suffering, I was motivated to alleviate the suffering of others. Today, I'm driven by a desire for all living beings to be happy and a sense of gratitude that I can spend my time being of service to others.

How can we achieve equity in health care?

Health equity implies that each individual — regardless of socioeconomic status, race, location, etc. — has the opportunity to be healthy. An elderly person in rural India is going to face a very different battle to have access to health care than my mother in Columbus. We need a deep understanding of the barriers to health care for people around the world and cohesive efforts to implement tailored solutions to overcome these barriers.

What keeps you up at night?

There's an urgent need to enable access to health care, to improve quality and to address other challenges like poverty and access to education. I'm constantly thinking about how we can allocate more resources and talented people to work on solutions and how we can accelerate the development and deployment of those solutions.

What is an interesting fact most people don't know about you?

As part of a spiritual practice related to my faith, Jainism, I once climbed up and down a mountain in India seven times over two days without food or water. It has been my most difficult and worthwhile achievement, as I came to many fundamental realizations about how I want to live my life and what I'm prioritizing.

Tracing cancer to its end

This leading genetic counselor goes to great lengths to improve the health of others.

INSPIRED BY THE LOSS OF A CLOSE RELATIVE to cancer and motivated by a lifelong fascination with genetics, Heather Hampel '93 has dedicated herself to helping cancer patients and their families.

An Ohio State researcher and professor, Hampel is one of the most respected cancer genetic counselors in the world. Her research has changed the standard of care for colorectal and endometrial cancer patients in the United States and other countries.

A story shared by one patient, Jay McDaniel, exemplifies Hampel's commitment to her mission. He says Hampel took time out of her vacation to drive eight hours to test his family members at a reunion. A cousin tested positive and went for a colonoscopy. "They found polyps, removed them and saved his life," McDaniel says.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Demonstrating that you can screen colorectal and uterine cancers for Lynch syndrome at the time of diagnosis to identify people who are more likely to have a hereditary cancer syndrome known as Lynch syndrome. If they have it, we offer testing to their relatives. People with Lynch syndrome have increased risks for several cancers, but they can take steps to prevent these cancers or catch them early, when they are treatable.

What motivated you to become a genetic counselor?

I have always loved genetics, and I have always been interested in working with patients and trying to prevent cancer. I lost my maternal grandmother to peritoneal cancer two days before I graduated from high school. I thought that if I could keep any family from going through what we went through, that would be a success. Cancer genetic counseling is my dream come true.

What advances can we expect in the next 20 years in your field?

Genetic testing will be much more commonplace. I suspect that individuals will get genetic testing in early adulthood for many common diseases so they know if they have an increased risk for conditions that are actionable — meaning we can do something to prevent them or catch them earlier and improve outcomes.

What don't most people know about you?

I've been slalom waterskiing since I was 12 years old. We spend a lot of time on Lake Cumberland in Kentucky, and it's my happy place.

"Heather is the most well-known cancer genetic counselor in the world. She is a nationally and internationally recognized expert in cancer genetics, especially in the area of universal tumor screening for Lynch syndrome."

DR. WENDY L. FRANKEL,
KURTZ CHAIR AND
DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR
OF PATHOLOGY, OHIO STATE



SCOTT GALE '90 | RALPH DAVENPORT MERSHON AWARD

Guiding many to college

“Scott Gale has provided an exceptionally broad spectrum of contributions to our university, the state and the nation as a tireless leader and visionary while also making a difference one person at a time.”

JANET BOX-STEFFENSMEIER,
VERNAL RIFFE PROFESSOR
OF POLITICAL SCIENCE,
OHIO STATE

This alum knows the value of college, and he’s a resource for future Buckeyes.

SCOTT GALE '90 ALWAYS KNEW he wanted a career in government. He even envisioned attending college in Washington, D.C. Needing a more affordable opportunity, he chose Ohio State. “It wound up absolutely being the best choice,” Gale says, “and exceeded everything I could have wished for.”

That discovery spurred his passion to mentor Ohio State students and those who aspire to become Buckeyes.

At work, where he is chief deputy clerk of courts for Akron Municipal Court, employees

bring their kids to him, knowing he’ll provide tips for college. Fellow residents at his condominium complex ask him to help the young people in their lives prep for the SAT and ACT. And once students are enrolled at Ohio State, Gale encourages, advises and links them to scholarships, internships and jobs.

Why is mentoring important to you?

Mentoring is extremely important to me because I’m a first-generation college student. The first time I arrived on the Ohio State campus was orientation, and I didn’t know what to expect. Helping students, especially in their junior and senior year of high school, to get ready for college — that’s very meaningful. I want them to have what I didn’t always have and to see how many opportunities are out there.

What don’t most people know about you?

Quite simply, I struggled throughout my education. Everybody thinks it comes easy to me because I’m always preparing and reading, but I have to work harder to get things done. I had a reading disability, and it has taken a lot to overcome that. I work very hard to make sure that I’m educated on what’s going on, so I spend a lot of time preparing for board meetings. Whether I’m a presiding officer or a board member, I want to do well.

What do you consider your biggest achievement?

Being part of the team that helped change Ohio’s constitution and created a \$200 million parks and natural resources bond issue in 1993. To get that funding, we had to get it on the ballot. People had been trying for 24 years and it kept failing, but our team was able to do it. It passed overwhelmingly and created the NatureWorks program, which provides grants for parks and natural areas. I smile whenever I see the NatureWorks symbol.



Assisting on the journey

Personal experiences with cancer help her understand and meet others' needs.

RECEIVING A DIAGNOSIS OF CANCER can be devastating. And for those who must travel to obtain lifesaving treatment, the costs can seem insurmountable.

Jane Jacquemin-Clark '85 MA wanted to do something to help patients and their families. In 2009, Jacquemin-Clark and her husband, Kevin, founded Hope Hollow, a nonprofit organization that provides free meals, lodging, transportation and emotional support to cancer patients and their families who are traveling to receive treatment in Columbus.

The couple started by offering lodging in their own home, but the need was so great, they began booking hotel stays. Last year, they provided 1,500 nights of lodging.

A retired high school teacher and counselor, Jacquemin-Clark is a full-time volunteer and fundraiser for the organization. She's proud that Hope Hollow has never turned away anyone in need.

What led you to create Hope Hollow?

I am a two-time cancer survivor and have lost loved ones to cancer. My mother died of pancreatic cancer when I was 10 years old, and her sister — who became my second mother — later died of pancreatic cancer. I wanted to find a way to live the gratitude I had for surviving cancer and honor those I love. My husband and I founded Hope Hollow to offer hospitality to people who were away from home on the most difficult journey of their life.

What is your motto and why?

"Live the gratitude" and "Hope springs eternal." Gratitude and hope are foundational to my life. They gave me strength on my cancer journey and continue to give meaning to my life.

How did your Ohio State education prepare you for your missions in life?

I received my master's degree in counseling at Ohio State in 1985. My education served me well in my 40-year teaching and counseling career working with high school students as well as in supporting the cancer patients at Hope Hollow.

Do you have a favorite Ohio State memory?

When I was a child, I used to go to work with my dad, who was in the dairy science department at Ohio State. I'd play secretary in his office; it was such fun. As an adult, my favorite memories are attending football games with my husband, wearing our scarlet and gray, singing "Carmen Ohio" and eating Tommy's sub sandwiches together.

"Patients tell us the support Jane and Hope Hollow provide is the reason they have been able to access lifesaving or life-prolonging treatment at The James. We are forever grateful to this exemplary Buckeye and her nonprofit, Hope Hollow."

DR. WILLIAM B. FARRAR,
CEO, ARTHUR G. JAMES
CANCER HOSPITAL AND
RICHARD J. SOLOVE
RESEARCH INSTITUTE



FRONTLINE WORKERS AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER
E. GORDON GEE SPIRIT OF OHIO STATE AWARD

Embodying the Buckeye spirit

“The heroic frontline workers of Wexner Medical Center know first-hand what it is to be devoted to the mission of Ohio State.”

ANDREA BOWLIN, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The medical center’s frontline workers stood strong in the face of a tsunami.

ELIZABETH SEELY '90 couldn’t be prouder of The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center’s frontline workers and their response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Faced with incredible challenges, these dedicated workers stepped up to care for the community.

They had no road map, but they forged ahead, says Seely, the medical center’s chief administrative officer. When obstacles blocked their way, they pivoted and innovated until they found a solution. Here, Seely shares her experiences working with these frontline staff members who exemplify the spirit of Ohio State.

What was the biggest obstacle faced by medical center staff and faculty?

Uncertainty and fear, especially at the beginning of the pandemic. I like to use this analogy: Picture yourself in a boat in the middle of the ocean with a bunch of other people. You get a call over the radio that says, “There’s a tsunami heading your way. If everybody paddles hard and fast enough, you might out-paddle the tsunami. Meanwhile, your boat is going to leak, and people might fall overboard, and you’ll have to drag them back in. So you paddle as fast as you can, as hard as you can, for as long as you can.” Our team is still doing it, especially now with the Delta variant. Each and every day, our team is working exceptionally hard to outrun the tsunami.

Can you give some examples of frontline workers’ responses?

Whether it was our clinical teams delivering outstanding care at the bedside, our supply chain team making sure we had needed supplies and equipment, our clinical laboratory teams ramping up new testing platforms, our communications team getting information disseminated, our environmental services team making sure facilities were clean and safe — there was not a single person in Wexner Medical Center who didn’t have a role in our response. Our teams truly embodied the Buckeye spirit in everything they did.

How did Wexner Medical Center support frontline workers?

We provided respite hotel stays, meals, encouraging notes, grab-and-go items in the cafeteria, even toilet paper. The dogs in our Buckeye Paws therapy program visited staff to ease anxiety. Our mindfulness resources have been popular, and we created an employee resource center to assist anyone with nonwork challenges related to housing, food security or other issues. We continue to offer these services today.



Photo, Wendy Pramik

THE ROAD TO THE HORSESHOE AND BEYOND

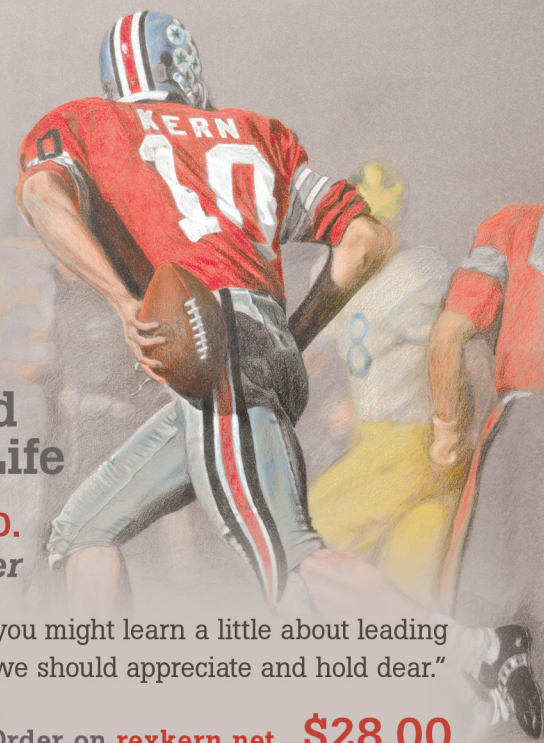
How a Small-Town Athlete Benefited from Ohio State Football to Build a Life

An autobiography by **Dr. Rex Kern, PH.D.** with Lee Caryer

"Rex takes us on the journey of his remarkable life. Along the way, you might learn a little about leading a life well lived, but also, when we reflect on our own lives, what we should appreciate and hold dear."

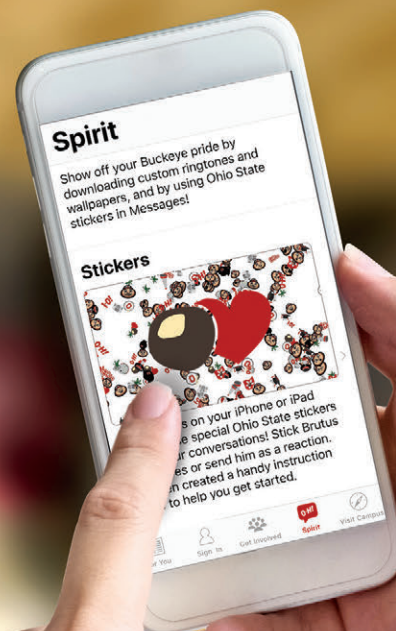
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What a lift

BRIGHT SUNSHINE LAST MARCH presented a unique opportunity for longtime friends on a ski lift at Keystone Ski Resort in Colorado. Tim Miller '74, far left, noticed their four shadows 50 feet below and suggested a quick O-H-I-O. Debbie Brown Atsberger '76, next to him, heartily agreed, as did Lyle Symonds '74, seated beside her. But the idea met resistance from Debbie's brother, Tim Brown, far right. He's a Michigan alum. After trying to form an "M," Brown relented to goading. The Detroit resident slowly raised his arms into an "O," sparking cheers from the three Buckeyes. "I was surprised he did it, but he saw how important it was to us," Miller says. "He took one for the team." — **TODD JONES**

 **HOW DO YOU SPELL O-H-I-O?** Tag images #BuckeyeForLife on social media or upload them at osu.edu/O-H-I-O and we'll consider your pics for a future issue.



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