Every morning on route to work, Michael Roediger, BA ’90, gazes upon “Pathway”—an outdoor sculpture by JohnSafer that graces the grounds of The Dayton Art Institute. Constructed of polished steel and soaring 70 feet in the air, “Pathway” is a work of art striking for its sense of momentum and optimism. “It’s one of my favorite works of art,” says Roediger. “It reminds me that the sky is the limit. What a great way to start each day.”

Continued pg. 2
Art – in many forms – has inspired Michael Roediger his entire life. His mission is to share that inspiration with others. When he took the helm of The Dayton Art Institute last fall, he immediately established an exciting long-range vision for Dayton’s most iconic institution, with plans to double endowment and transform the museum into a destination hub where people of all ages can discover and rediscover the arts in new ways.

With a collection of more than 26,000 objects spanning 5,000 years of art history, The Dayton Art Institute is ranked one of the nation’s best mid-sized art museums. The museum is a true community treasure, says Roediger. A third-generation Daytonian, he remembers visiting the museum as a child and taking classes there with his dad. “It’s been part of the fabric of my family’s life, and of so many others, for decades,” says Roediger.

Roediger not only wants his employees to love working at the museum, but also wants community members to love frequenting the place. He plans to grow revenue and increase the number of visitors each year through enhanced programming and guest curators, including a renovated café and a new wine and coffee bar. He also wants to double the museum’s endowment to create a sustainable and stable future.

“I know it sounds like a cliché, but art really does change lives,” says Roediger. While he feels privileged to be in a unique position to preserve and promote the arts, he encourages everyone to connect with art and celebrate this important element of human history. “Come visit The Dayton Art Institute. Trust me, it’s worth the drive!”

Michael Roediger, BA ’90, is pictured with BOLD ENDEAVOR (1998) by John Kuhn, at the Victoria Theatre Art Gallery of Glass. Photo by Ken Miller/Baekerville Photography

Kritzler Lectureship in Chemistry
Dr. Bruce Maryanoff
Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. Freed Center for the Performing Arts
Dr. Bruce Maryanoff retired from Johnson & Johnson in 2010 after 36 years of service. He is now affiliated with the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, Calif., the Pennsylvania Drug Discovery Institute in Doylestown, Pa., and the Institute for Hepatitis and Virus Research in Doylestown, Pa. and is associate editor of ACS Medicinal Chemistry Letters. Maryanoff invented TOPAMAX, a unique sugar sulfamate drug marketed worldwide for treating epilepsy and migraine, with annual sales of more than $2 billion. He is an internationally renowned expert in drug design and discovery, especially the application of protein structure-based drug design. Since 1991, he has pursued cardiovascular therapeutics, while seeking drugs for pulmonary inflammation, metabolic disorders and epilepsy. His efforts have led to many new chemical entities entering preclinical development, with 13 advancing into human clinical trials. Maryanoff is an author of 270 scientific publications and inventor of 100 U.S. patents (issued/pending). Maryanoff has received numerous awards and was inducted into the ACS Medicinal Chemistry Hall of Fame in 2008.

At many universities, students don’t enter a research laboratory until graduate school.

Dr. Nancy Woodley, professor of biological sciences, and a team of biological and allied health sciences professors are making sure that isn’t the case for ONU students. In fact, just two years after putting undergraduate research at the forefront her classroom, some of Woodley’s students have presented their research to the Ohio Academy of Sciences – and even played a role in the Ohio legislature.

Woodley has redesigned her curriculum to create a year-long research-intensive experience as part of a medical physiological laboratory series. She is working in collaboration with Dr. Vicki Metz, visiting assistant professor Dr. Nema Suniga, associate professor, and Tammy-Hunnaman, animal technician, to provide a variety of research opportunities for students.

This student-driven research involves an entire semester dedicated to a research proposal. Students are given time to develop a research protocol that has to be approved by an institutional review board (IRB) or institutional animal care and use committee (IACUC). At the end of the term, students submit their proposal to the faculty.

During the second semester, students conduct the research that has been approved. ONU’s physiological lab allows students to monitor human blood pressure, heart rates, reaction time and more.

“One of the ways to measure the success of research involving students is to test what they have learned in the classroom. Dr. Woodley has designed a model that allows students to engage with the community in ways that might not have been possible otherwise,” says Dr. Robert Alexander, professor of political science. “Young people are interested in social justice and making a difference, and this research model provides an invaluable learning opportunity.”

Woodley’s students have presented their research to the Ohio legislature during the fact-finding stage of the Reclaiming Futures project, which is to develop a comprehensive plan to prevent future recidivism. As a result of the research performed during the fact-finding stage, ONU students have been asked to present their research to the Ohio legislature during the fact-finding stage surrounding proposed legislation about texting while driving.

**Students’ Undergraduate Research Projects at Undergraduate Level**

**Cordiner Engaged**

Panel discussions and lectures, however, are only small pieces to ONU’s development of a Center for Civic Engagement.

Dr. Keith Durkin, professor of sociology, has been a major asset to the University’s civic engagement initiatives. Over the years he has helped psychology, sociology and criminal justice students find internship opportunities with LifeWorks in Lima, Ohio. Students work in data collection and analysis or work directly with clients as tutors and mentors. They learn to use assessment tools in the evaluation of clients and have the opportunity to train with probation officers.

Outside the classroom, Durkin provides data analysis within the juvenile court system to help maintain grant funding for the Reclaiming Futures drug rehabilitation programming. He also serves as a member of the Ada Police Department’s SAFER (Seeking Art For Every Resident) Committee and sits on the Hardin County Emergency Management Associations Homeland Security Grant Board. “I think that as a faculty member and institution we have an obligation to engage with the community in which we reside,” says Durkin.

Dr. Robert Alexander, professor of political science, also is instrumental in encouraging students to become more civically engaged in the traditional sense. His students are partnered with Ada Local Schools, campaigning for a school levy and communicating to students about the importance of voting and elections. This fall, Alexander and his students plan to host presidential election student debates and an election-day watch party.

Personally, Alexander has engaged in more than 150 civic engagement discussions and interviews with community leaders, TV stations, radio shows and newspapers. He also has been the chief faculty proponent of the developing Center for Civic Engagement and Ada Civic Engagement Day and serves on multiple community-building committees.

“Many of these efforts take myself and others right into the Ada schools, as well as churches, etc.,” says Alexander. “There is a deep, yet quiet, bond between ONU and Ada.”

It is important for ONU students to feel a sense of belonging not only at the University, but also within the community. With students of all backgrounds coming to ONU for four years or more, it would be unfulfilling not to make an impact off campus. Community members also can find benefit in using ONU facilities, attending events and interacting with students.

The opportunities for students to achieve firsthand interaction with faculty and civic leaders also speaks to the unique, well-rounded perspective of ONU’s College of Arts & Sciences.

“Arts and sciences graduates graduate with an exceptional academic foundation, strong leadership abilities and a sense of engagement with the larger community,” says Dr. Catherine Albrecht, dean.

Civic engagement at the forefront of advancing issues, the College of Arts & Sciences will continue to help bridge the gap through events, programs and outreach this coming school year.

—Steve Saunier, a senior political science major from Centerville, Ohio
ENGAGING STUDENTS ACROSS DISCIPLINES

TWENTY-FIVE OHIO TEACHERS ARE IMPROVING THEIR TEACHING TECHNIQUES AND CURRICULA, THANKS TO A TEAM OF OHIO NORTHERN UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS.

ACROSS DISCIPLINES
ENGAGING STUDENTS

spent two weeks going over activities, in ONU’s nine surrounding counties, The teachers, who are from schools and technology.” Gallagher. “We want them to be able to integrate the STEM subjects,” says Dr. Gallagher. “We want them to be able to connect the math, science, technology, and engineering.”

Throughout the process, the teachers explored how to incorporate concepts such as the scientific method, techniques for building and designing, and incorporating mathematics in calculating the height of each rocket.

The STEM 2 workshop also brings the teachers up to common Core State Standards.

Perhaps more importantly, the training will have a profound impact on students. As the ONU group found during a follow-up symposium after they trained teachers last year, the teachers reported success in the classroom.

“One of the teachers mentioned that, once she started doing the activities, the students were much more motivated to come to her math class much more engaged,” says Gallagher.

Teachers who are interested in incorporating some of the same hands-on activities used in the workshop can find all materials used by the teachers in the workshop here.

Ohio Northern University was the site of the West Central District Science Day in March. More than 200 projects by students in grades seven to 12 from Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Logan, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, Seneca and Wood counties were displayed in the ground-floor classrooms of ONU’s Meyer Hall of Science. Projects in several science disciplines were displayed, including psychology, basic behavioral science, engineering, chemistry, physics, math and biology. All present projects had previously received a “Superior” rank at their school science fairs. Dr. Nancy Woodley, professor of biological sciences and allied health, is the District Science Day director.

SENATORS PRESENT AT NATIONAL MATHEMATICS MEETINGS

At the Joint National Mathematics Meetings in Boston, senior mathematics majors Lauren Cassell from Vandalia, Ohio, and Joseph Milosevic from Tiffin, Ohio, presented posters as part of the undergraduate poster session sponsored by the Mathematical Association of America. Cassell’s presentation was titled “Guard a Koch Fractal Art Gallery.” Milosevic’s poster was titled “Paths of Melody Lines on Circles.”

Cassell’s poster dealt with calculating the density of watchmen needed to guard an infinitely-sided fractal art gallery. Milosevic’s poster dealt with a method of graphing the flow of musical phrases on a circle. The work that the students reported on was done as part of their senior capstone experience. Both students have Dr. Bill Fuller, associate professor of mathematics, as their capstone advisor.

Ohio Northern University’s Percussion Ensemble and Steel Drum Band played local schools, the University of Cincinnati, and the University of Kentucky in April. The ONU Percussion Ensemble performed for steel drum players and drummers by composer Gary Powell Natz, a professor of music at Fisk. These works included a concerto for horn and percussion ensemble that featured Brandon Guillen, a second-year pharmacy from Lima, Ohio, and “Defiant” by David Holst, a student in Jones II, a junior music education major from Lima, Ohio, on drums.

In addition, David Rosmary, assistant professor of music, and Waters presented Nash’s “Intersections for Trumpet and Percussion,” a piece for trumpet and percussion solists.

PUBLIC RELATIONS STUDENTS EARN THE NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Ohio Northern University student-run public relations firm, True North PR, garnered first place in a national competition sponsored by Theatrics’ Mass Participation TV. The competition was to develop a grassroots campaign that used traditional and non-traditional methods to promote an increase in auditions for “Beckfindex,” an online web series.

The members of True North PR are public relations majors Joseph Sokol, a senior from Broadview Heights, Ohio, Lauren Tenen, a senior from Houston, Texas; Kate Holan, a junior from Homerville, Ohio; Kelsi Ruenberg, a sophomore from Wakapuna, Ohio; and Marissa Henderson, a senior from Saint Clairsville, Ohio.

Ashley Maurer, an Ohio Northern University junior communication arts major from Graytown, Ohio, was elected to the Public Relations Student Society of America’s (PRSSA) National Committee as FORUM editor-in-chief of its national assembly.

FORUM is the official newspaper of PRSSA and is published three times this year. As editor-in-chief, Maurer will coordinate the production of FORUM and the PRSSA blog.

Maurer is the 11th ONU student to hold a seat on the PRSSA National Committee. To be nominated for FORUM editor-in-chief, applicants must submit a plan book, which must include biographies of all staff members, writing samples, demonstrated capability through the chapter and research. STEEL DRUM BAND AND PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE PERFORMS IN NASHVILLE

Ohio Northern University’s Percussion Ensemble and Steel Drum Band toured historic Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn., this spring. The ONU band, under the direction of Dr. Sarah Smith (Waters), an assistant professor of music, stopped at Elder and Seton high schools in Cincinnati before heading to Nashville.

The ONU Steel Drum Band and Percussion Ensemble performed for steel drum and percussion drummers by composer Gary Powell Natz, a professor of music at Fisk. These works included a concerto for horn and percussion ensemble that featured Brandon Guillen, a second-year pharmacy major from Lima, Ohio, and “Defiant” by David Holst, a student in Jones II, a junior music education major from Lima, Ohio, on drums.

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DUNN AWARDED GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP, NEW CHEMISTRY SCIENTIST

Ohio Northern University student Zachary Dunn, a senior ACS chemistry and applied physics double major with an astronomy minor and an education concentration, has been selected as a Goldwater Scholar by the trustees of the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation. This marks the eighth consecutive year that Ohio Northern students have received this honor, the premier undergraduate award of its type in the fields of mathematics, the natural sciences and engineering.

A native of Hartford, Ohio, Dunn was honored for his Goldwater research essay, “Photodetectors Based on Porphyry Polymeric Donor Materials: A Computational Study of Light Extraction.” Dunn is conducting this research at ONU under the guidance of Dr. Trilisa Perrine, assistant professor of chemistry. Dunn presented this research three times last fall: at the Midwest Regional Undergraduate Symposium on Undergraduate Research in Chemistry at Michigan State University; the Joint ACS-Great Lakes Regional ACS Meeting in St. Louis; and the ONU Chemistry Department Student Research Poster Session. He presented further research on this project at the ONU Student Research Colloquium and the University of Kentucky Regional Poster Competition this spring.

Dunn also was instrumental in organizing a new honor society on campus. This year’s Honors Day saw the inauguration of a chapter of the Sigma Sigma Epsilon chemistry honor society at ONU, the first of its kind for the department and the 44th at ONU. The chemistry honorary was founded in 1919 at Davidson College and seeks to “foster a more comprehensive and cooperative study of that great branch of science.” The honor society has more than 40 active chapters nationwide.

No student, whether majoring in literature, creative writing or professional writing, graduates from ONU without practical experience with publications in his or her resume,” adds Robeson.

ONU HOSTS DISTRICT SCIENCE DAY

During the past two weeks, ONU professors taught workshops in every discipline, discussing pedagogy, and working on classroom communication and problem-based learning.

As part of their training, they each chose one hands-on activity with the ONU professors: rockets, robots, LEGO Mindstorms.

Gallagher led the rocket team. “We start out with an Alka-Sebel rocket, then we build straw rockets, water bottle rockets and the Estes rocket,” she says.

Throughout the process, the teachers explored how to incorporate concepts such as the scientific method, techniques for building and designing, and incorporating mathematics in calculating the height of each rocket.

The STEM 2 workshop also brings the teachers up to common Core State Standards.

Perhaps more importantly, the training will have a profound impact on students. As the ONU group found during a follow-up symposium after they trained teachers last year, the teachers reported success in the classroom.

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Today an English degree, tomorrow the world

English majors are often bombarded with doom-and-gloom predictions from family and friends, says Dr. Lisa Robeson, professor and chair of the Department of English. “They hear: ‘What are you going to do with that? Teach? If not, you'll never find a job.’”

ONU English graduates, however, discover these predictions to be completely unfounded. In 2011, the English department placed 200 percent of its graduates in jobs or graduate school. In the past six years, the department has placed 90 percent placement rate. ONU English graduates embark on fulfilling careers in law, government, marketing, advertising, education, journalism, business and nonprofit management, and other fields.

According to Robeson, three factors contribute to the English department’s exceptional placement rates: experiential learning, dedicated advising and top-notch academics.

ONU English majors havecountless opportunities, through classes, internships, study abroad and extracurricular programs, for hands-on learning that builds their résumés. Lydia, for example, graduated from ONU without practical experience with publications in his or her resume,” adds Robeson.

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A&S Newsletter

SAVE THE DATE

KEISER DISTINGUISHED LECTURESHIP IN LIFE SCIENCES – DR. SYLVIA A. EARLE

SEPT. 18, 7 P.M.

FREED CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Dr. Sylvia A. Earle, called “her de profundis” by the New Yorker and The New York Times, “holy legend” by the Library of Congress, and first “hero for the planet” by Time magazine, is an oceanographer, explorer, author and lecturer with experience as a field research scientist, government official and director for corporate and nonprofit organizations, including the Kerr McGee Corporation, Dresser Industries, One Energy, the Aspen Institute, the Conservation Fund, American Rivers, Mote Marine Laboratory, Duke University Marine Laboratory, Rutgers Institute for Marine Science, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Research, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, Ocean Futures, and Ocean Conservancy.

Formerly chief scientist of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Earle is a National Geographic Explorer in Residence and founder of SEAlliance, Mission Blue, and Deep Ocean Oceanographic Institution Research, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, Ocean Futures, and Ocean Conservancy.

As part of the initial phase of the Grow ONU Project, the Department of Art and Design is piloting the new AIGA/ONU Alumni Mentor Program for its students. The goal is to successfully pair AIGA members with an active design professional. This has the potential to increase ONU alumni and student participation in chapter activities, provide students with valuable alumni insight, and prepare students for the job market.

“The AIGA/ONU student chapter feels this is a great addition to the program,” said Brit Rows. BBA ’03, chair and associate professor of art and design. “Student members are excited to begin interacting with alumni.”

Art and Design pilots mentorship program