Tom Stevick, Vice President for University Advancement

I’d like to thank our faculty and staff for supporting the 2009-10 Campus Campaign—a 66 percent participation rate sends a strong message of your commitment to this great school.

ONU is blessed to have many generous supporters. Because of you and so many others who believe in Northern, we are helping prepare tomorrow’s leaders. I am very proud of our accomplishments to date and look forward to sharing our aspirations to further the campaign's mission for the University community.

For ONU,

Tom Stevick

What does the campaign mean for ONU?

The campaign goals emphasize the ONU experience with the next generation of students while offering 21st century programs, faculty, facilities and support.

“We are beginning the process of creating an exciting future for ONU—a future that includes state-of-the-art technology, innovative programs and exceptional faculty who will help us contribute both knowledge and talented graduates to our society.”

— Oscar Mifsud, BSBA ’70

National Campaign Chair and Trustee

The four major funding priorities:

Increasing Student Aid

By increasing the amount of available financial aid, ONU will be able to attract and retain the most talented students from Ohio and other states and countries.

Enriching Academic Programs

ONU professors, highly qualified and distinguished in their fields, always put teaching first. By increasing faculty funding, ONU can support current professors and attract new professors with resources for endowed chairs, more research opportunities and professional development. A significant portion of the Tomorrow campaign is earmarked for adding new faculty positions.

Improving the Living-Learning Environment

A campus’s facilities are the most visible signs of vitality. All across Northern’s campus, there is evidence that ONU is vibrant, growing and committed to providing students with the best possible living and learning environment—from the James F. DiEck Hall (2003) to the Mathile Center for the Natural Sciences (2009) to The Inn at Ohio Northern University (2008). However, more work needs to be done to renovate older facilities and construct new ones to meet today’s needs of students.

Strengthening The Northern Fund

The Northern Fund supports ONU with annual operating costs and the University’s highest priorities—student scholarships, financial aid, faculty research and campus improvements. The impact of loyal, recurring annual gifts cannot be overstated. Adding to The Northern Fund during the campaign strengthens the University and demonstrates the faithful support of the campus community.

Campaign Progress Update

(as of Nov. 18, 2009)

TOTAL CAMPAIGN GOAL: $100 Million

Campaign Priorities

Student Aid:

$20 Million
  • Create Endowed Scholarships
  • Create No-Interest Loans

Program Enrichment:

$25 Million
  • Faculty Support
  • Program Support

Capital Projects:

$45 Million
  • Mathile Center for the Natural Sciences
  • Campus projects (engineering renovations, stadium lighting, law library and classrooms, Pharmacy Skills Center)
  • Campus Center

Northern Fund:

$10 Million
  • Build operational support

2006: Silent phase of campaign begins

Become a fan of the Campaign on Facebook
What is your role in Advancement with the ‘Tomorrow’ campaign?
My role as coordinator of proposal development contributes in a number of ways to The Campaign for ONU’s Tomorrow. The University encourages efforts by faculty and staff to secure external funding for projects that build the University’s recognition and reputation as a top-notch institution. Grants received from corporations and private foundations provide the University with funding to support students, faculty development, programming and facilities which are the major components of the campaign. By obtaining grants to fund academic and student programming, we contribute to the University’s “Tomorrow.”

Do you have a favorite fundraising memory?
1. The proposal I worked on for the Summer Honors Institute from the Ohio Department of Education when I first came to ONU. The proposal was funded in 2003 and has been funded every year since then, until the state cut funding for the program this past summer. Now, we are working on proposals to other organizations to help cover the 2010 camp.

2. The proposal to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the Prison Management Certificate Program because it is such a unique and exciting opportunity for the University.

What are three words that describe you?
Determined, friendly, inquisitive.

Describe your typical day.
On any given day, I can be writing a proposal, editing someone’s else proposal, gathering information and completing required forms and documents for submission, helping with budget preparation, checking proposals against guidelines, or searching for new opportunities and connection with corporate and foundation folks. As the authorized organizational representative for the University, I submit faculty research proposals to government agencies like NIH, NSF, etc.

What’s your advice for faculty and staff who are interested in pursuing funding opportunities?
Start early and don’t push the deadline; discuss your project with your department chair and dean and contact me; speak with the appropriate program officer at the funding agency.

Contact Beckie at 419-772-2038 or r-watercutter@onu.edu

We put the “FUN” in “FUNDRAISING”
The Office of Annual Giving employs more than 40 students who call 26,000 alumni, parents and friends of the University asking for their support each year. During fall 2009, more than $200,000 in gifts and pledges came from our student caller efforts.

Q: Tell us about your role as a phone-a-thon caller.

A: It’s a pretty interesting job. You talk to a lot of people with different stories about ONU. Two shifts are never quite the same. I like it because I love to talk while raising money for a great school.

Heather Fishbaugh
Junior, Psychology
Bowling Green, Ohio

A: I remember my first call I ever made. I was so nervous I could barely get out the words! The alumnus was very patient with me and decided to raise her contribution because I tried so hard to involve her in the conversation instead of just asking for money.

Jacob Schwab
Sophomore, Public Relations
Willard, Ohio

A: This job is one of the most important student jobs on campus. We are raising money for ourselves and our peers. My scholarship is the reason that I came to ONU. It is great to know that I am helping others so that they have the opportunity to attend this institution as well.

Katie Heckerd
Senior, Finance
Bloomville, Ohio

* “Ohio Northern Sun” and “Polar Bear Express” are now one e-communication: “Northern Express.”
Please look for our next regular issue the first week of December.