Students and faculty in Ohio Northern University’s Getty College of Arts & Sciences are extraordinarily active in creative and scholarly collaborations. We see ourselves as members of a community of scholars, in which teachers and students learn together, create new knowledge, and apply what they have learned.

As the spring newsletter makes clear, arts and sciences students deepen their learning through undergraduate research, internships, study abroad and community service. The signature program in chemistry and biochemistry is sponsoring three undergraduate student researchers this summer, and ONU students are participating in research experiences for undergraduates (REUs) at West Virginia University, Stanford University, the University of Nebraska, and Ohio State University, among others. These exceptional research opportunities have enabled arts and sciences students to be recognized with Rockefeller scholarships seven years in a row.

Arts and sciences students share their knowledge and skills in a variety of ways. On campus conference presentations to professional competitors to artistic performances. Lloyd Butler, BM ’00, and six musical theatre students shared American musical traditions in San Luis Potosí, Mexico. In the process, they developed relationships both personal and professional, and we look forward to further opportunities to collaborate with colleagues in Mexico. Dr. Victoria Jungk’s physiology students presented the results of their research on texting and driving to the Ohio House Transportation, Public Safety, and Homeland Security Committee, directly influencing legislation.

Student organizations and honorary societies provide additional opportunities for hands-on learning, and the national recognition accorded our chapters of Phi Beta Delta and the Public Relations Student Society of America reflects the high esteem with which our organizations are held. These achievements are made possible by our dedicated faculty, who work closely with students to enhance their learning and to support their professional accomplishments. I invite you to join us on Facebook to follow the exciting achievements of A&S students and faculty!

Dr. Catherine A. Albrecht
Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences

Join us on Facebook!
Ohio Northern University
Getty College of Arts & Sciences

ART AND DESIGN CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE WITH ‘LATTITUDE’

Throughout 2010-11, Ohio Northern University’s Department of Art and Design has observed the 50th anniversary of its Bachelor of Arts degree with “Lattitude: Art & Design @ 50.”

“Since the department’s first Bachelors of Arts degree in 1961, graduates have shaped the visual world around us,” said professor Britt Rowe, BFA ’93, chair of the department. “As an educational program focused on the liberal arts and professional education, our curriculum provides breadth in the visual arts, supports a rigorous general education program, and develops students’ rational thought and intellectual capabilities.”

The department commemorated the special year with a series of exhibitions, lectures and special events recognizing the work of its faculty members, the success of its graduates, and the tremendous growth of the program’s reputation in the art and design communities.

Events included “What Lies Ahead” to showcase art alumni, “Artists Against Hunger” to raise funds for community initiatives, and “Influ- ence: Paintings” by James Devore, ONU professor of art emeritus, and Laura (Barnhardt) Corle, BFA ’77. A

THE COMMITTEE APPROACH TO PARTNERSHIPS

In fall 2009, a group of faculty members from Ohio Northern University’s Center for Teacher Education got together to improve the professional development of their students.

Calling themselves the School Partnership Group Committee, the group quickly concluded that the best way to accomplish its goal was to build stronger relationships with local schools.

“The education school desperately needs the cooperation of its local schools to fulfill its purpose of teacher training,” says Schud, assistant professor of education. “To get that cooperation from the public, education schools need to be genuinely concerned and active in the Westob school districts. We need each other.”

The committee next embarked on an online book discussion to build its knowledge base on partnerships.

In March, representatives from the Committee presented “Being and Giving: Journeying Towards Transforming a University Education Department into a Viable and Relevant Partner with Local Public Schools” at the Ohio Confederation of Teacher Education Organizations conference in Dublin, Ohio.

“In our book discussion, we learned that there are different models of school-university partnerships,” Schud says. “So we broke those models down and shared some examples of our pre-existing partnerships and how they each fit into the various models. We also shared the new partnerships that we are forming.”

The presentation was a success.

“It was very well received by the audience of teacher educators. They were interested in what we had to say, shared their own stories, and asked some tough questions. It was a wonderful experience for us.”

Students, faculty learn side-by-side around the globe

This spring, dozens of Ohio Northern University arts and sciences students left Ada to explore the world alongside their fellow students and professors. Here are two special trips highlighting ONU’s global outreach.

Musical theatre students sing in Mexico

Lloyd Butler, BM ’00, co-director of ONU’s musical theatre program, led a group of six ONU students to San Luis Potosí, Mexico, in March to perform a concert, “The American Musical Theatre Songbook,” with six singers in Mexico before an audience of more than 1,600.

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Undergraduate research is a priority because it benefits the students, college, and the University, according to Dr. Catherine Albrecht, dean of the college. “Through hands-on research activities alongside our outstanding faculty, students gain a deep and meaningful insight into their chosen discipline.”

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Singers were selected after an audition, which Butler conducted on campus and in Mexico with his colleague Kirsten Obst-Mariné, resident artist in music and co-director of the musical theatre program, who also served as vocal coach for the students.

“The value for the students was immense,” said Butler. “Not only was it tremendously rewarding musically, but culturally, as well. They had the opportunity to interact with many local San Luis residents and learn about Mexican culture. They also had a unique opportunity to share an artistic style that is truly American and share that with passion and pride.”

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UNDERGRADUATES SEIZE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

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Nathaniel Mabe, a third-year pharmacy and German major from Ashville, Ohio, was honored for his Goldwater research essay, “Regulator of G-protein Signaling (RGS) Proteins Modulate Protection from Ischemic Injury in the Mouse Heart.” Mabe is conducting his research at ONU under the guidance of Dr. Boyd Rorabaugh, associate professor of pharmacology and cell biology. Mabe presented his research at the Experimental Biology 2011 meeting in Washington, D.C., in April.

Mitchell Thayer

Mitchell Thayer received an honorable mention in the 2010 Goldwater Scholarship competition. Currently, Mitchell is a senior chemistry major at ONU. Along with Dr. Richard Miller, visiting instructor in chemical engineering and an expert in disloyalty to the Confederacy in the Civil War, and his advisor, Dr. Rema Suniga, associate professor of biology, Mitchell submitted a manuscript to the scientific journal Experimental Biology. The research project initiated in the students’ Medical Physiology 1 class, led by Dr. Richard Miller, which focused on the effects of beta-blockers on blood pressure. The research team initiated a study that examined the effects of beta-blockers on blood pressure in mice. The research team presented their findings at the Experimental Biology 2011 meeting in Washington, D.C., in April.

Research driven

Goldwater scholars selected

Two Ohio Northern University students were selected as Goldwater Scholars by the trustees of the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation. This marks the seventh 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.

Mitchell Thayer, a senior chemistry and physics major with minors in astronomy and applied mathematics) from Paintsville, Ohio, was honored for “Synthesis of Benzoquinone Derivatives and Analysis of Biological Activity.” Thayer conducted his research at ONU with Dr. Tosey Celenus, associate professor of chemistry. Thayer conducted additional research through two summer Research Experiences for Undergraduates, one at the College of Wooster and the other at Syracuse University. Last year, Thayer received an honorable mention in the 2010 Goldwater Scholarship competition.

Nathaniel Mabe, a senior chemistry and physics major (with minors in mathematics, the natural sciences and engineering) from Mansfield, Ohio, was honored for his Goldwater research essay, “Regulator of G-protein Signaling (RGS) Proteins Modulate Protection from Ischemic Injury in the Mouse Heart.” Mabe is conducting his research at ONU under the guidance of Dr. Boyd Rorabaugh, associate professor of pharmacology and cell biology. Mabe presented his research at the Experimental Biology 2011 meeting in Washington, D.C., in April.

ART AND DESIGN CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE WITH ‘LATITUDE’

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paintings and drawings exhibit by professor Rob Price, retired faculty from the University of Wisconsin-Stout and an Adia High School graduate, was featured during a gala celebration in January.

For Homecoming 2011, the “Good Girls” installation by Marilyn Lyschin-Cook, BFA ‘79, will be displayed. Lyschin-Cook has exhibited nationally and was featured in Ceramics Monthly magazine.

Brief history

This department’s roots go back to 1878, largely as an outgrowth of coursework in drawing for education, engineering and architecture students. In the 1980s, professor W.A. Smith taught sketching, from nature, oil painting and crayon painting, and classes in mechanical engineering and architectural drawing.

Originally designated as an independent academic unit at Ohio Northern, the department’s name was changed to the College of Fine Arts in 1960. In 1997, as the University’s curriculum and enrollment grew, the name was changed to the School of Fine Art. When the program merged with the College of Liberal Arts in 1985, the name changed to the School of Art. Under the leadership of John H. West in 1965, the Bachelor of Arts degree was first offered. Then, in 2008, the name of the department was changed again to reflect expanding educational opportunities for students.

About the visual identity

The identity for “Latitude: Art & Design” captures the essence of the liberal arts and professional education offered at Ohio Northern University. The ONU curriculum provides breadth in the visual arts, supports a rigorous general education program, and develops students’ rational thought and intellectual capabilities. Rowe created the visual identity for the anniversary. Bethany Schneck, a senior art major from Bosth Park, Pa., created the catalog for Price’s exhibit.

STUDENTS, FACULTY LEARN SIDE-BY-SIDE AROUND THE GLOBE

Continued...

Technological students study European industry

Meanwhile, across the globe, Dr. David Rouch, chairman and professor of ONU’s Department of Technology Studies, led a group of 10 students to Germany and Sweden over spring break to get an up-close and personal perspective of global industry. Dr. Richard Miller, visiting instructor in technological studies, and Douglass Degin, lecturer in technology, also accompanied the group.

Their travels took them to Switzerland to tour a nuclear power plant and IWC watchmaking, then on to Germany where they toured KUKA Robotics and BMW. John Deeke and historical sites such as the Dachau concentration camp, Deustches Museum, Oberammergau and Bavarian castles. Rouch played the plan-day with input from students, University colleagues and alumni.

“One goal was just to expose students to Europe firsthand, to see how other parts of the world operate and gain some confidence in dealing with people and cultures different than their own,” said Rouch.

For Corey Bettenbrock, of Pemberville, Ohio, a senior with dual majors in construction management and manufacturing technology, the trip was unforgettable.

“I cannot put a value on this experience,” he said. “For education, it was the best educational trip I could have taken. It is rare that we go a week now without talking about the trip. I think overall it gave us a new perspective of people and processes to use for management in whatever job we are able to attain, either in construction or manufacturing.”

Rouch said students are already talking about returning to Europe, and the recent trip opened up opportunities for student internships with KUKA Robotics in Augsburg, Germany.
Ohio Northern University’s public relations program captured the national spotlight recently, earning a number of award-winning projects and elevating its students to national leadership positions to outstanding college recognition. Dr. Steve Beem, chair of the Public Relations, Arts, and Justice and the Office of Multicultural Affairs. The symposium featured two panels: one made up of Division III administrators and coaches and a second consisting of current and former athletes.

“The headlines are dominated by the big-time athletic programs, but there is more to the story of American university athletics,” said Russ Crawford, assistant professor of history. “Division III athletes play mostly for the love of the game and face many issues that their top-time counterparts do not.”

The administration and coach’s panel tackled the issues of laboring in anonymity, applying the NCAA rules and opportunities, possible changes that might be needed, and future issues that may face the Division III athlete.

Members of the administration and coach’s panel were Paul Goveke, associate professor of management at ONU and faculty athletic representative to the Ohio Athletic Conference, Anthony Holson, BSB ‘88, head basketball coach at Heidelberg, Fred Barends, head track coach at Capital University, John Rhodes, head men’s basketball coach at ONU, and Tom Simmons, BSB ‘88, BA ‘86, athletic director at ONU.

The athletic panel, consisting of present and past student athletes, gave first-person insight into competing at the Division III level and issues they faced, such as the balance between sports and school, the positives and negatives of participating in athletics, and personal sacrifices made by Division III athletes.
HER TIME TO HELP

Kelly Morman, a senior political science major from Monroeville, Ohio, has finished an internship in Washington, D.C., with the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP). During her time in D.C., she worked with the education policy office, which exclusively addresses education issues.

Morman spent a significant portion of her time attending policy briefings on education issues such as teacher and principal evaluations, technology in rural education settings, positive student body image, and others that required memos summarizing the presentations for the staff members.

Other projects involved conducting research for staff members on issues such as parental involvement in Individual Education Plans for children with disabilities.

"Additionally, just working with the U.S. Senate and walking past senators discussing legislation that has the power to make a difference in peoples' lives is an incredible experience," she says.

Morman received her opportunity with HELP after much research and soul-searching, plus a lot of help from the College of Arts & Sciences.

"One day last summer, it hit me to look at the congressional committees that addressed education issues," she says. "When I went to the HELP website and saw that they had internships, I knew that I found what I wanted." Morman then worked closely with Mary Drzymkowski-Finn, assistant to the dean for student success, to perfect and submit her application.

After graduating this spring, Morman will train in Cleveland, Miss., to become a corps member of Teach For America. Following this five-week experience, she will begin a two-year commitment to teach secondary Spanish at a school in Arkansas or Mississippi.

"What I have learned and been exposed to during my internship has moved me to give back and help bring an end to the achievement gap that is present in our schools."

Volunteer and engage with a purpose

- Recruit new students — speak at a local high school, get involved with Alumni B.E.A.R.S., volunteer at a college fair
- Share your expertise with students — be a guest speaker, mentor students, fund a symposium, present to a class
- Volunteer for special programs — chaperone the marching band, serve as an assistant coach, judge a mock trial, be a District Science Fair judge
- Facilitate internships and other experiential opportunities
- Reach out to other alumni — host alumni gatherings, serve on committees, attend events
- Support excellence through gifts — donate equipment, provide technical assistance, develop research grant proposals, give to The Northern Fund and the Dean's Opportunity Fund, endow a scholarship, remember ONU in your estate plan

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