

# Ohio University-Chillicothe Campus News

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TO: Ohio University-Chillicothe community

FROM: Office of Communication

SUBJECT: OU-C Campus News

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- **Karen Virgin named interim coordinator of Continuing Education, Training and Development**
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## **Jamie Harmount named director of Child Development Center**

*Veteran educator, administrator has strong, background  
for leading center that is a community resource*

Ohio University-Chillicothe Dean Richard Bebee has named Early Childhood Education Instructor Jamie Harmount as director of the Ross County/Ohio University-Chillicothe Child Development and Family Service Center, effective July 15. The center is located on the OU-C campus.

“We are fortunate to have someone with Jamie’s background as both a teacher and administrator in this position,” Bebee said. “She understands the mission of the center in bringing together various community groups to offer the type of educational experience that prepares area children for continued success. From the outset, this facility has underscored the campus’ commitment to improving the quality of life for the region.”

“As an instructor, she has first-hand insights into the value of the center in offering our students invaluable practical experience. I am confident that all who are associated with the center will find Jamie to be an outstanding resource and a leader with the ability to bring together individuals of diverse viewpoints and strengths to achieve success.”

Harmount, who joined the OU-C faculty on a full-time basis during spring quarter 2008, is a veteran educational administrator, having served as director of the Head Start program in Highland County for 11 years.

She earned her associate degree in applied business and master's degree in child and family services from Ohio University and her bachelor's degree in accounting from Wilmington College.

Harmount has a strong background in education. She is an instructor with the Ohio State University Early Childhood Quality Network, a consultant with the Ohio Community Action Training Organization and a former online instructor with Bay Mills (Mich.) Community College.

She replaces Dennis Leone, who is stepping down from his multi-faceted roles with Ohio University-Chillicothe to pursue teaching opportunities that build on his long career as a school educator. Leone will now devote his energy to his role in teaching college courses related to school administration. His departure from OU-C is effective Aug. 30, and Leone is working with Harmount during the transition period.

Leone, who joined OU-C in November 2005 as interim dean for development, has balanced the additional interim roles of special assistant to the dean and director of the Child Development/Family Service Center.

In filling Leone's other duties, the emphasis will be on identifying individuals who possess the professional skills and personal traits that are required or perhaps restructuring the positions.

"I am consulting with people across campus to gain broad-based input on how to best fill, on either an interim or continuing basis, the other roles that Dennis has held on campus. We are looking for individuals who can continue to move the campus forward in these areas," Bebee said. "I appreciate the contributions that Dennis provided to the campus and his willingness to take on a variety of projects. However, I also realize that education and the impact he can have in the classroom is his true calling. We wish him the best in his pursuits."

Leone said, "I have greatly enjoyed my time at the Chillicothe Campus and appreciate the opportunity Dean Bebee has given me. However, because of time constraints, I needed to decide which career path to follow. My true professional passion lies with school education and helping to prepare the next generation of school leaders. With the Child Development Center open and operational, this is an appropriate time to depart. I am confident that Jamie will do an outstanding job and am pleased that a colleague has been named to this position."

The Child Development and Family Service Center, which opened its doors Jan. 2, 2007, has been a rousing success in impacting the quality of life for Ross County residents. More than 320 local children and six local agencies utilize the center. Additionally, more than 300 OU-C students, primarily education majors, take classes in the center.

The \$3.4 million, 21,000-square-foot facility is debt-free.

Leone spent 33 years as a teacher and administrator. He was superintendent of schools in the Chillicothe City School District from 1997 before retiring in 2004.

Leone was the primary author of a grant proposal with the Appalachian Regional Commission to provide new computer equipment and furniture for the OU-C Learning Commons.

## **Karen Virgin named interim coordinator of Continuing Education, Training and Development**

Karen Virgin has been named interim coordinator of Continuing Education, Training and Development at Ohio University-Chillicothe, effective July 16. Virgin is a former student employee in the office.

A main focus of duties will be maintaining relationships with area employers to anticipate and meet their needs as part of the campus' business and industry training programs and continuing education courses and workshops.

Virgin replaces Kevin Bockrath, who held a similar, temporary position since January.

The business and industry portion of the office is being evaluated to determine how it can best meet the current and future needs of the campus and community.

Virgin has been a student employee in the Continuing Education, Training and Development office for three years. Among her duties, Virgin has provided technical support for instructors, assisted with workshop and seminars and has been the point of contact for individuals with questions about the office's programs and offerings.

She earned her associate degree in Business Management Technology from Ohio University in 2006 and her bachelor's degree in Technical and Applied Studies from the university in 2008.

She previously was general manager of VM Wireless LLC in Chillicothe and also was employed by Southern Ohio Communications in Waverly and Mead Fine Paper and O'Bryant Enterprises, both in Chillicothe.

"With her background in the office and knowledge of the region, Karen has an ideal background for this position. She also understands the office's mission in serving the region by offering the appropriate training for current and emerging career fields," OU-C Dean Richard Bebee said. "Also, I appreciate Kevin filling in during this interim period and keeping the office moving forward, as he agreed to do when he accepted this temporary role."

A lifelong resident of Ross County, Virgin graduated from Southeastern High School and later earned an adult certificate in computerized business office technology from Pickaway-Ross Career and Technology Center.

“I welcome this opportunity to become more involved in offering the type of training that helps individuals better achieve success. As a non-traditional student, I want to give back to OU-C and the local community,” Virgin said.

## **Kids in College emphasizes the joy of learning**

*For more than 20 years, the program is a staple of the summer experience at OU-C*

For more than 20 years, The Kids in College (KIC) program at Ohio University-Chillicothe has offered a non-traditional setting with hands-on learning and a fun environment.

The program, which is currently in session, includes half-day classes in two week-long sessions. This year’s dates are the weeks of July 7-11 and July 14-18. KIC is open primarily to students who have completed grades kindergarten through the sixth grade, with some classes designed for students through the eighth grade.

Because the learning is so enjoyable, teachers enjoy it as much as the students.

“If the teacher is excited, the students are excited. This is the fun side of learning,” said Lisa Thompson, who teaches about the rain forests in ‘A Walk on the Wild Side.’

The program offers a different environment and pace from that found in the typical classroom structure.

“Hands down, it’s the hands-on aspect that is what makes learning so much fun,” KIC Coordinator June Allred-Smith said. “It’s a comfortable, relaxed atmosphere for kids. There’s no rushing and the students can get more involved with the subject matter. Keeping it short and focused is important. Two hours is a good time frame.”

“What really makes this go is the unique group of teachers. They are dedicated, love kids and provide many different ways for students to keep activities going,” Allred-Smith said.

“The students are more involved and learn by process,” said KIC instructor Mary Ann Queen, who taught school for 31 years, including 27 years with Southeastern School District. “The kids choose areas of interest. Because of that, they want to be there, and that adds to the experience and makes it more enjoyable. Also, the classes are activity-based without the paperwork they have in a traditional classroom setting. “

Thompson added, “It’s a school away from school. The students are learning but, since they are having so much fun, they don’t realize they are learning. It’s a creative setting where they don’t have to follow standards as much as follow their interests.”

Faith Pitstick, who is in her third year as a KIC teacher, has been involved with the program in a variety of capacities. She is a former student and also was a volunteer assistant as a high school student. The program’s vitality keeps her coming back.

“The teachers want to be here, and the students feel that excitement. Although they are learning, it does not feel like school for the students because they are having so much fun. This builds on the students’ enthusiasm. As teachers, we look to make it as rewarding and exciting as possible,” Pitstick said.

Students echo the teachers’ enthusiasm.

Student Grant Kirby, who will fifth-grader at Westfall Elementary this fall, said, “Learning is fun. I learned that a bubble is not always round. I enjoy science because it’s fun.”

Allred-Smith, who is employed with the Ross County Educational Service Center, has directed the KIC program for seven years.

“I am reminded of why I enjoy this so much at the end of the day when I go in the classrooms and see how excited the students are,” Allred-Smith said.

The timing of the program is important to its success.

“It is perfect timing with it being in the middle of summer. The students have a break from last school year so they can have fun, then are engaged in the KIC learning environment, and have a chance to relax before school starts in the fall,” Thompson said.

With classes such as Ooey Goey Science, Bubblology and Zomes, Make a Music Video, Mad Science Express, Pirate Island, and Everything About Harry Potter, enjoyment and creativity seem to be the biggest prerequisites.

## **Faculty Accomplishments**

### **Article by OU-C faculty members posted in online journal**

A article co-written by Ohio University-Chillicothe faculty member Barbara Mahaffey and adjunct instructor Michael Lewis has been published and is available online at [http://counselingoutfitters.com/vistas/VISTAS\\_Home.htm](http://counselingoutfitters.com/vistas/VISTAS_Home.htm).

The article can be accessed by clicking on the ‘VISTAS 2008’ link at the left and scrolling the article’s title, “Therapeutic Alliance Directions in Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling.”

The site is maintained by Outfitters for the American Counseling Association, a professional organization that serves as a database of quality counseling resources.

The article is also included in the book, *Compelling Counseling Images: The Best of VISTAS 2008*.

Articles selected for VISTAS go through a rigorous review process to ensure the highest quality of professional viewpoints.

“Presentations first must pass review panels set up for the ACA (American Counseling Association) Annual Conference. This means experienced professionals looking for quality presentations that will truly educate and inspire conference attendees,” explained Garry Walz, one of the book’s three editors. “Then our own review panel goes through the approved presentations to select the very best of those for inclusion in VISTAS. In both cases, the main criteria are to find innovative, stimulating ideas, experiences and research that can be of use and help to counselors.”

Mahaffey, assistant professor and coordinator of Human Services Technology, is a published expert in the area of counseling, particularly in regards to couples and family counseling.

She is a licensed professional clinical counselor with supervising counselor credential.

## Upcoming events on campus

- Kids in College from July 7-18 in Bennett Hall and on campus
- Advanced Placement Summer Institute for Calculus from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily on July 21-25
- SOAR orientation sessions on July 25, Aug. 15 and Aug. 22
- Advanced Placement Summer Institute for Biology from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily on July 28-Aug. 1
- Governor Strickland’s Conversations on Education Reform forum at Ohio University-Chillicothe on Aug. 12 in the Bennett Hall auditorium (Attendance by invitation)
- OU-C Theater presentation of “Rose Colored Glass” on Aug. 15 and 16 in the Bennett Hall auditorium