

Ohio University-Chillicothe Campus News

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TO: Ohio University-Chillicothe community

FROM: Office of Communication

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Moe Pfeifer to deliver ‘Recognition of Graduation’ keynote address

Moe Pfeifer, a well-known motivational speaker from Washington Court House, Ohio, will deliver the keynote address at the Ohio University-Chillicothe “Recognition of Graduation” event at 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 13, in the Shoemaker Center. Pfeifer, who earned his master’s degree from Xavier University, was an educator for more than 20 years before embarking on a 20-year career as a Certified Financial Planner.

“As a former educator from this area, Moe brings a particularly relevant perspective. Having previously spoken on campus, he understands the steps our students need to take to utilize their college education to achieve rewarding careers and fulfilling lives,” OU-C Dean Richard Bebee said. “I am confident he will share especially valuable insights with the graduating students.”

This event will honor students who have earned associate, bachelor’s and master’s degrees. Admission is free, and the public is invited.

A reception will be held at 6:30 p.m. in Shoemaker room 215 for faculty and staff. A reception for the graduates and their families will be held after the event in the Family Service/Child Development Center.

A pinning ceremony for graduates of OU-C's nursing program will be held at 2:30 p.m. that day in the Shoemaker Center.

Formal commencement activities are held on the Athens campus.

Outstanding Graduates

Below are stories of some of the outstanding OU-C students who are graduating this year.

Passion fuels future vocation for OU-C student Amanda Cooper

Through perseverance and circumstance, Amanda Cooper is using her college degree from Ohio University-Chillicothe to blend her passion with her vocation.

After graduating from Waverly High School, Cooper's sights were set on the business world. With that focus, she earned a bachelor's degree in business management and information systems from the University of Kentucky in 2003.

However, while looking for her first full-time job, Cooper did some substitute teaching, and that experience opened her eyes to her ideal job.

"While substitute teaching, I discovered that I had a passion for teaching. I have always worked with children. In fact, even in high school, I was a babysitter and a lifeguard. So, I decided it seemed fitting to follow my heart and that I'd rather be happy doing what I enjoy than pursuing a paycheck," Cooper said.

With that in mind, she enrolled at OU-C in the fall of 2004 for a second bachelor's degree, which she will receive in middle childhood education this spring.

"At first, I wondered how I was going to make it through another four years of college," Cooper admits. "Looking back, it all went so quickly that it seems more like four minutes, and I wonder where the time went."

Cooper is certain she made the right decision.

"I have no regrets. This is an investment I made in myself, and I am excited to see what the future holds," she said.

In fact, her business background serves her well in her teaching pursuits.

"Different aspects of business continue to be very valuable in making me a better teacher, especially in areas such as classroom management, organization and interpersonal skills

in working with administrators and colleagues. I feel as if everything is coming together,” she said.

In all, her college experience has been a rewarding one.

“This has been an incredible journey. Throughout my college career, I have learned it is important to find what you enjoy doing in life and make that your career,” Cooper said. “Also, it is important to find a way to give back to the community and those who have helped you get where you are. If you go in unselfish and looking to help others, you will receive without wanting or asking.”

Cooper has made an impression on others in the OU-C community.

OU-C English Instructor Ruth McClain said, “Amanda’s work ethic is infectious, and her enthusiasm for her chosen profession of teaching is obvious. She is willing to share her expertise with others in her class, and she meets her obligations with a cheerful spirit. It has been a pleasure having her as a student.”

Cooper has flourished in the learning community on campus.

“Here at OU-C, you know almost everyone on campus and that adds to the educational value because it develops a support system,” Cooper said. “It creates a stronger learning experience because you learn together. Plus, you are able to develop a personal relationship with many of the faculty members and ask them for advice. It is good to have teachers who are genuinely interested in you and who become part of your career network. That opens doors to possibilities and opportunities.”

OU-C graduating student Sally Timmons takes creative approach to learning and to teaching

Sally Timmons’ college career at Ohio University-Chillicothe has been one of exploration, opening her mind to new possibilities and challenges. She incorporates that same zest for creative learning in her approach as a teacher.

“I believe that children have many different learning styles and that they need to explore different types of media. Some are visual learners, some learn by listening and others are hands-on learners. I try to give them opportunities to explore the world around them,” said Timmons, who often incorporates work from master artists such as Van Gogh and Picasso into the classroom while teaching preschool children at Pickaway Career and Technology Center.

“When you walk into my classroom, it’s not a normal setting,” admits Timmons, a graduate of Vinton County High School who now resides in Londenderry.

Timmons is earning an associate degree in child development from Ohio University-Chillicothe this spring and says she is “leaning toward pursuing a bachelor’s degree in education.”

Much of Timmons’ approach to teaching is shaped by her own quest for a well-rounded educational background.

“One of my favorite classes in college has been a playwriting class taught by Ken Breidenbaugh, during which I wrote a play called ‘The Woods.’ The play involves two children from different backgrounds whose personalities clash, but who find there is more to life than they realized,” Timmons said. “That class made me a better teacher by helping me remember what it is like to be a child and how children need to explore things on their own.”

She made an impression on Breidenbaugh as a student who is making the most of her educational experience.

“Sally is one of those 'non-traditional' students whom we seek each quarter! Focused, interesting, engaged, curious, dedicated -- all those good qualities. For my part, Sally was enrolled in an Intro to Fine Arts class, did beautifully, and from there took an interest in the OU-C theater program, bringing her young daughter to ‘Picnic’ and ‘Shakespeare in Hollywood,’ two experiences which she completely enjoyed -- found fascinating, even, I think, admiring the set, the actors, the special effects -- all of it,” Breidenbaugh said.

“And again, for me, the interesting thing was just how much she understood the whole thing. That's something. Then, finally, Sally was enrolled in my winter playwriting class. The assignment was to write a play, and what a script she produced. It is a fascinating story of two young girls who meet in a woods and play out the angst, frustrations and pseudo-adulthoods of young children. It is really quite sophisticated. In fact, I'm using Sally's script for a portion of my acting class this quarter.”

Timmons’ teaching style mirrors that of the Reggio Emilio approach, which emphasizes the students’ roles as active learners.

“In this approach, the teacher is seen as an investigator who helps students and urges them to ask questions and explore their environment. The search for the answer is an important part of the process,” Timmons said.

Learning has become a lifelong pursuit for Timmons.

“As an adult learner, I have especially valued my college career and have enjoyed all of the classes I have taken. I have grown a lot during college and have had the opportunity to think about and explore new things.”

USEC donation supports OU-C chemistry lab renovation

Dan Rogers, general manager of American Centrifuge Plant Operations for USEC Inc. in Piketon, Ohio, recently presented a donation of \$25,000 to Richard Bebee, dean of Ohio University-Chillicothe.

The donation completes a \$50,000 gift to OU-C that supports the recent renovation of the lab, which included new fume hoods, tables and floors. Renovations were undertaken during summer 2007 and the renovated lab was operational for fall quarter 2007.

“We are very grateful for USEC’s support of the learning environment for our students. This project directly impacts the learning environment for OU-C students in a positive way,” OU-C Dean Richard Bebee said. “We share USEC’s commitment to establishing partnerships that serve the region.”

USEC Inc., a global energy company, is a leading supplier of enriched uranium fuel for commercial nuclear power plants.

News Briefs

Nursing Outreach Program to Area Schools

More than 40 OU-C nursing students shared valuable health information with approximately 550 sixth- through eighth-grade students during a recent health fair at Vinton County Middle School. The OU-C students developed interactive learning experiences on a range of topics that are relevant to the students. For the past eight years, the campus’ nursing students have touched the lives of many students in the region through this educational outreach effort.

The middle-school students receive valuable insights and the participating OU-C students have the opportunity to gain practical experience that reinforces concepts they learn in the classroom. The program reinforces the campus’ commitment to utilizing higher education to make a positive impact on the region.

Daniel Preston joins OU-C staff as custodian

Daniel Preston has joined the OU-C campus community as a custodian in the Family Service/Child Development Center, effective June 2. He transfers to the Chillicothe campus from the Athens campus.

Faculty Notes

Pamela Kraft provides editorial commentary for text

Ohio University-Chillicothe faculty member Pamela Kraft is included in the acknowledgements of a textbook for which she provided editorial commentary. Kraft, a part-time instructor of English, submitted editorial suggestions for the eighth edition of *The Compact Reader: Short Essays by Method and Theme* by Jane E. Aaron. The text is used by several English instructors on campus.

Upcoming events on campus

- Art 211 exhibit through June 4 in Stevenson Center art gallery
- OU-C Theater Program presents 'Rose Colored Glass' at 8 p.m. on June 6 and 7 in the Bennett Hall auditorium
- Recognition of Graduation ceremony at 7:30 p.m. on June 13 in the Shoemaker Center
- Gates Scholarship event at 6 p.m. on June 17 in Bennett Hall art gallery
- Kids in College from July 7-18 in Bennett Hall and on campus