MUSKINGUM UPDATE

The University Library: The Transformation Begins
Hands-on, original research is a hallmark of a Muskingum education. Each year, an elite group of high-achieving undergraduates — the Muskie Fellows — have the opportunity to partner with a University faculty member in collaborative original research or a collaborative creative endeavor.

Students are competitively selected to participate in the Muskingum University Summer Fellows Program and receive a stipend and University housing for the summer. During the summer of 2013, the program supported the nine student-faculty collaboration projects highlighted on these pages.

Since the Muskie Fellows program was established in 2000, more than 150 faculty-student collaborations have been supported. Numerous faculty-student teams have co-authored published journal papers and co-presented at professional meetings. The scope of the projects span the University’s academic fields, and many have incorporated faculty members’ multi-year associations with non-profit organizations and government agencies such as The Wilds and the Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District. Studying at the Audubon Center for Research of Endangered Species in New Orleans, creating the living history script for the John Glenn Museum, and curating the University’s own 125th Anniversary Exhibit are but a few examples of the wide range of Muskie Fellows experiences.

During the summer of 2014, the Muskie Fellows program will expand to include six fellowships with the Muskingum County Business Incubator (MCBI), the regional incubator for entrepreneurs chaired by Larry Triplett ’80. Each student will receive MCBI training and form a collaborative partnership with an MCBI client business.

Meet the Muskie Fellows:

Our Student-Faculty Collaborative Research Program

Ryan Burke ’15, Andrew Piper ’15, and Alece Powery ’15 teamed with Dr. Danny Ingold, Homer A. Anderson Distinguished Professor of Natural Sciences, and Dr. Jim Dooley, Bill and Martha Lovejoy Distinguished Professor of Biology, to advance multi-year research on the presence and nest success of grassland bird species at The Wilds conservation center. To address whether encroachment of invasive autumn olive bushes influences grassland bird species diversity and abundance, they conducted point counts of different bird species across a spectrum of habitats ranging from heavily-wooded to open grasslands, completed systematic nest searches, and collected woody vegetation data. The students also experienced field training with Ohio Department of Natural Resources wildlife biologists.

"Thanks to my Muskie Fellow project, I know that field research is exactly what I want to do.”
— RYAN BURKE ’15

Grassland Bird Species Conservation

Andrew Piper ’15, Dr. Danny Ingold, Alece Powery ’15, Dr. Jim Dooley, and Ryan Burke ’15
Re-establishing American Chestnut Trees

Sarah Francino ’17 partnered with Dr. Amy Santas, Associate Professor of Biology, using molecular biology to explore the influence of above-ground mushrooms in the re-establishment of the American chestnut tree. After the species was nearly eliminated from eastern United States forests by lethal chestnut blight, backcross breeding programs have successfully incorporated blight-resistant genes and given new chestnut tree plantings the ability to quickly establish on reclaimed surface coal mine sites. Analysis of the relationship between ectomycorrhizal macroscopic bacteria that interact positively with the root tips of the chestnut tree — and above-ground mushrooms could help support restoration of this economically- and ecologically-prized hardwood species.

Enhancing the University Archives

Connie Montoney ’15 and Marc Patti ’15 joined with Dr. William Kerrigan, Arthur and Eloise Barnes Cole Distinguished Professor of American History and University Archivist, to explore, catalog, and digitize previously inaccessible holdings of the Muskingum University Archives. They opened new aspects of our shared history to scholars and community members, including the rediscovered “Key of Knowledge,” which was ceremonially passed from the graduating senior class to the junior class each year from 1900-1932.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles for Search and Rescue

Working in cooperation with Assistant Professor of Computer Science Jay Shaftsall, Nicholas Rohozen ’15 and Phillip Krall ’16 developed a prototype Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) device incorporating facial recognition and artificial intelligence technologies. Their device, targeted for use by local law enforcement and emergency response departments, is designed to enable rapid location of survivors during civilian search and rescue missions.
Chris Deal ’14 partnered with Dr. Stephen Van Horn, Assistant Professor of Geology, to develop a computer model of shoreline erosion in man-made lakes. Based on wind speed and wind direction data they collected from Salt Fork Lake, their model predicts wave patterns in near-shore environments and identifies potential areas of new shoreline erosion.

Amanda Preslicka ’14 and Dr. Lois Zook-Gerdau, Associate Professor of Chemistry, collaborated with the Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD) to perform water quality research in the Salt Creek Watershed. To evaluate the impact of an Environmental Protection Agency grant which enabled agricultural producers in the Salt Creek Watershed to introduce a variety of conservation practices, they conducted follow-up research at each of the participating producers’ sites, comparing before and after water-quality measures and examining the cost-effectiveness and persistence of the implemented practices.
Caitlin Deep ’15 joined Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice and attorney Stacy Parker in her multi-year project examining clemency cases for a nonprofit organization. After completing a comprehensive data set on Ohio’s modern era of capital punishment through 2013, quantitative and qualitative analytical techniques are being used to determine the factors for and against clemency petitions by 12 currently condemned Ohio inmates.

Katherine Simms ’13 and Instructor of Business Kristine Pray researched the effectiveness of various branding strategies and integrated promotion techniques. They applied their results to assist a local entrepreneur’s market research and development of a large-scale product launch initiative.

“My Muskie Fellow experience was truly the opportunity of a lifetime!”
— MEGAN DUKE ’14
Welcome to the
Louis O. Palmer Gallery!

May all who enter be inspired by the power of the arts to uplift the human spirit, and be ever mindful of the words from Ecclesiastes 3:11, which are engraved upon its cornerstone: ‘He has made everything beautiful in its time.’

Louis O. Palmer Gallery!

Welcome to the

L to R: Tom McCalmont ’76, Andrew Wilson ’75, Julia Swan ’54, Spring Festi ’76, Frank Festi ’75, Carrie Middleton ’74, Pat Fridley ’76, and Gary Fridley

“May all who enter be inspired by the power of the arts to uplift the human spirit, and be ever mindful of the words from Ecclesiastes 3:11, which are engraved upon its cornerstone: ‘He has made everything beautiful in its time.’”

With these words, the University’s first dedicated art gallery — named in honor and memory of Louis Orton Palmer III (1915-1997), Muskingum Professor of Art from 1956-1981 — opened its doors during Homecoming Weekend.

Built through the generosity of Muskingum alumni, this final keystone of Muskingum’s Studio Arts complex is located between historic Paul Hall and the Ruth and John Neptune Center.

“With deepest gratitude, we recognize and thank the principal donors who have given this very special gift to the University — it is because of your generosity and commitment that the Palmer Gallery has come to fruition. Muskingum’s historic commitment to the arts is now visible to all who enter our campus and this gift will continue to unfold for generations.”

— ANNE C. STEELE, PRESIDENT

From the ribbon-cutting ceremony’s keynote address by Frank Festi ’75:

“The quote that captures the definition of an artist for me is from St. Francis of Assisi:

‘He who works with his hands is a laborer.
He who works with his hands and his head is a craftsman.
He who works with his hands and his head and his heart is an artist.’

While at Muskingum, the person who best exemplified what it was like to have one’s heart fully engaged with one’s hands and head in the performance — and I do mean performance — of his job was Professor Palmer. Louie was passionate about the arts in particular and about life in general. He had the uncanny ability to ingrain in his students an appreciation of the arts and an awareness of the finer things in life ... oftentimes in an unconventional fashion.

Louie appreciated the beauty in everything and in his own inimitable way, was able to instill that appreciation into his students ... He believed as stated by Goethe: ‘A man should hear a little music, read a little poetry, and see a fine picture every day of his life, in order that worldly cares may not obliterate the sense of the beautiful which God has implanted in the human soul.’”
Imagine how Louis Palmer would have conducted his classes in a campus space designed just for the study of art! For 25 years, he shared his dedication to art and excellence with his students, giving us all life-changing understanding.”

— HAROLD W. BURLINGAME ’62, CHAIR, MUSKINGUM UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

LOUIS ORTON PALMER III (1915-1997) SERVED MUSKINGUM AS PROFESSOR OF ART FROM 1956-1981. PROFESSOR PALMER’S LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE LEFT AN INDELIBLE IMPRESSION ON GENERATIONS OF MUSKIES WHO GAINED A LIFELONG APPRECIATION FOR THE ARTS IN HIS CLASSROOM.

HE STUDIED AT THE AMERICAN ACADEMY IN FONTAINEBLEAU, FRANCE, WITH COMPOSERS IGOR STRAVINSKY AND NADIA BOULANGER, AND EARNED HIS MASTER OF MUSIC DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO AND HIS BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE FROM LAKE FOREST COLLEGE IN SPEECH, ROMANTIC LANGUAGES, AND ENGLISH. DURING WORLD WAR II, HE SERVED WITH THE UNITED STATES ARMY IN ITALY AND NORTH AFRICA AS A BAND MASTER AND LIAISON TO THE FRENCH ARMY. PRIOR TO JOINING MUSKINGUM, HE TAUGHT IN ITALY AND AT LAKE FOREST COLLEGE, AND WAS THE MUSIC CRITIC FOR THE CHICAGO SUN TIMES, THE CHICAGO BROADCAST STATION WFMT, AND THE NATIONAL MAGAZINE MUSICAL AMERICA.

IL PROFESSORE, AS HE WAS KNOWN ON CAMPUS AND IN TOWN, CHARGED HIS STUDENTS TO: "LOOK UP, LOOK AT THE WORLD AROUND YOU; THERE IS BEAUTY EVERYWHERE; ALL YOU NEED DO IS LOOK FOR IT.”

MUSKINGUM UNIVERSITY EXTENDS ITS PROFOUND APPRECIATION TO THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPAL DONORS TO THE LOUIS O. PALMER GALLERY

NAMING DONOR
FRANK L. ’75 AND SPRING SARDELLI ’76 FESTI

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THOMAS ’51 AND JULIA KRICHAUM ’54 SWAN
ANN G. WILMOTH ’67
ANDREW M. WILSON ’75

“Imagine how Louis Palmer would have conducted his classes in a campus space designed just for the study of art! For 25 years, he shared his dedication to art and excellence with his students, giving us all life-changing understanding.”

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The Gallery’s inaugural exhibit featured works by Muskingum alumni of graduating classes ranging from 1947 to 2013. As a teaching gallery, it will continue to showcase the art of Muskingum students, faculty, alumni, and friends.
MUSKINGUM WELCOMES

Varsity Lacrosse Team

A new era opened for the Fighting Muskies when our men’s varsity lacrosse team took to the field at McConagha Stadium for their first interscholastic scrimmage. Established at the beginning of the 2013-14 academic year, the team’s inaugural season is preparing them to begin league play next year in the Ohio Athletic Conference of NCAA Division III. Lacrosse is the fastest-growing sport in the country at the college-level.

Sophomore business major Tyler Blaine ’17 has played a key role in the team’s development. “I’ve been playing lacrosse since I was in the third grade and had great experiences with the sport in school and community leagues in my hometown of Upper Arlington, Ohio,” he relates. “My dad and my sister are Muskingum alums [Trustee Judson Blaine ’80 and Chelsea Blaine ’13] and I told my family that if Muskingum didn’t have a lacrosse team by the time I enrolled, I would help start one.”

Tyler helps recruit prospective high school lacrosse players to Muskingum and also encourages his fellow Muskie student athletes to transition their skills from other sports. He explains, “Lacrosse is a very fast-paced and aggressive game. Athletes who have the drive to learn and be successful can begin contributing to the team even if they are new to the game, especially if they have experience running cross-county or track or playing soccer or football.”

Under the direction of Head Coach Nick Gallagher, the new team began practicing fundamentals indoors this fall. “After all of those 5:45-7:30 a.m. practices, it felt great to get out on the field and into that first game situation,” Tyler says.

“People see us with our gear around campus and are beginning to show their support for us — lacrosse is exciting to watch. People don’t know our true potential yet, but they’re beginning to recognize we’re serious about building a winning lacrosse program for Muskingum.”

— TYLER BLAINE ’16

Neither Rain, nor Sleet, nor Snow...

During one of the coldest and snowiest winters in recent years, preparing Sherman Field for the lacrosse team presented an unprecedented challenge for Muskingum Athletic Director Larry Shank. “The lacrosse season opens at the end of January — and at that time we had eight inches of snow and ice covering Sherman Field’s ProTurf,” he said. “We sought advice from NFL venues, and the Pittsburgh Steelers had the answer for us.” With lengths of plastic pipe installed on snow plow blades to protect the turf, the University’s grounds crew literally cleared the way for our new lacrosse program to begin.
Meet Muskingum’s First Men’s Lacrosse Head Coach: Nick Gallagher

Muskingum Lacrosse Head Coach Nick Gallagher has deep roots and a winning family tradition in Ohio lacrosse. A 2004 high school All-American and three-time All-Ohio and All-Midwest honoree, he was a four-year starter and captain for Dublin Scioto High School in Dublin, OH. He led his teammates to capture the 2003 Division I Ohio State Championship and the runner-up state championship positions in 2001 and 2004. He credits his father Chris, who has coached championship-winning teams for Thomas Worthington High School and is a member of the Ohio Lacrosse Hall of Fame, for first sparking his interest in the game.

During his collegiate playing career at Ohio Wesleyan, Coach Gallagher was a four-year lacrosse letter winner and captain and three-time all-league honoree, leading his team to the 2005 North Coast Athletic Conference Championship and four NCAA tournament appearances. He earned his Ohio Wesleyan bachelor’s degree in physical education with a concentration in sports management.

He previously served as the Assistant Men’s Lacrosse Coach for two NCAA Division III programs: Muhlenberg College (Allentown, PA), where nine of his players were named all-conference, and Clark University (Worcester, MA), where he helped manage the squad to its longest winning streak in the university’s history.

Coach Gallagher is excited about the opportunities that await the Fighting Muskies. “I think we have a great opportunity here to showcase Muskingum and set the foundation for a national-caliber lacrosse program,” he says.

Coming Soon … Fighting Muskie Women’s Lacrosse

Muskingum’s Women’s Lacrosse Head Coach Rachel Cibulas is actively recruiting players from among prospective and current Muskingum students and planning for her team to take the field in 2014-15.

Coach Cibulas joined Muskingum after serving for two years as Head Women’s Lacrosse Coach at Adrian College (Adrian, MI), where she guided the team to a 34-6 record, two league championships, and two appearances in the NCAA Division III National Tournament. She was previously Head Coach at NCAA Division II Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, NC.

She attended Robert Morris University (Pittsburgh, PA), where she was the first female player to sign a National Letter of Intent for their NCAA Division I lacrosse program. She was a two-time lacrosse letter winner and team captain, while earning her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. She holds a Master of Science degree in Sport Management from Slippery Rock University and is a registered athletic administrator through the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA).

Coach Cibulas is proud to carry on her family’s sports tradition — her grandfather Joseph Cibulas played professional football for the Pittsburgh Steelers and was inducted into Duquesne University’s Sports Hall of Fame.

“Muskingum has a proud academic and athletic history, and that’s a great foundation to build a team,” Coach Cibulas says.
Beverly J. Coen

Elected to the
Muskingum University Board of Trustees

Beverly J. Coen ’68 is the newest member of the Muskingum University Board of Trustees. She earned her Muskingum Bachelor of Arts degree in English and her law degree from Case Western Reserve University Law School.

Ms. Coen is Chief Tax and Risk Officer of Nordson Corporation, a world-leading manufacturer of precision dispensing equipment for consumer and industrial products, electrical component testing and inspection equipment, and surface curing and treatment process systems. From Nordson’s headquarters in Westlake, OH, she oversees the Corporation’s worldwide tax and risk management functions, and serves on Nordson’s Enterprise Risk Management, Retirement, and Pension Investment Committees, and as a Trustee and Secretary of the Board of the Nordson Corporation Foundation. Prior to joining Nordson in 1981, she was a member of Republic Steel’s Tax Department and taught junior high school English in the Bedford (Ohio) City Schools.

She is dedicated to community service and is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Ohio Buckeye Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and of the Great Lakes Theatre Festival. She was a founder and past President of the Cleveland Chapter of Interfaith Hospitality Network, which merged with New Life Community to form Family Promise of Greater Cleveland, and she continues to serve Family Promise as an Emeritus Board Member.

She is a Team Captain for the Annual Drive supporting the Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges, and she has volunteered with the Urban League of Greater Cleveland’s Career Beginnings Initiative and with the Cleveland Municipal School District. She has been recognized for her commitment with many honors and awards, including the 2011 Volunteer of the Year Award from the Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges.

Ms. Coen is an active Muskingum alumna and delivered the Opening Convocation keynote address for the University’s 2011-2012 academic year.
Matthew Mayforth ’12
Muskingum’s Fulbright Scholar in Austria

Matthew (Matt) Mayforth ’12 was awarded an internationally prestigious Fulbright grant in support of teaching and research in Austria. The Fulbright Program, established in 1946, is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. Grant recipients are chosen through a highly-competitive, nationwide application process.

The Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture is underwriting Matt’s support and extended his initial 2012-2013 appointment through 2013-2014.

Matt is in residence in Braunau am Inn, teaching English to 14-18 year old students preparing for business-oriented careers. By developing and presenting lessons based on current topics and cultural themes, he enhances their English capabilities and familiarity with American cultures. He has also had the opportunity to travel to Salzburg, Munich, and Vienna.

As an undergraduate, Matt studied abroad at Muskingum’s partner universities in Passau, Germany, and Toledo, Spain. He was an active campus leader in the German Club, the German House, the Spanish House, and Phi Sigma Iota, the international foreign language honor society. During the summer following his high school graduation, he also traveled to Germany, visiting two exchange students whom his family had hosted through the Friendship Connection program.

Matt is a native of Mount Eaton, OH, and he chose Muskingum for the opportunity to build a close working relationship with his world language professors. “And looking back on that I would still agree,” he recalls.

“My Muskingum education has given me a different perspective on the world and a wide variety of opportunities for the future,” Matt says. “Through the classes I took and the people that I met on campus, I opened myself to different cultures and different ways of living. And in terms of career choices, my Muskingum education opened the doors to the possibilities here in Austria and elsewhere.”

“My Muskingum education has given me a different perspective on the world and a wide variety of opportunities for the future.”
Harold ’64 and Elinor Phillips Saunders ’66

Harold ’64 and Elinor ’66 Saunders have a great love of travel and cultural exchange. “The more we understand other cultures, the more we understand ourselves, and the more we appreciate our common humanity,” Harold says. “I wasn’t able to study abroad during my college years, but the lessons learned at Muskingum stayed with me and enriched the travel experiences we began years later.” The Saunders have toured extensively throughout the United States and Europe, and have visited Tanzania, China, New Zealand, Australia, Turkey, and Greece. At home in Saginaw, MI, they have enjoyed serving as a host family for several international exchange students.

Harold, a history major, and Elinor, a religion major, met at Muskingum and were married in Brown Chapel following her graduation. They both attended the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where Harold earned a Master of Public Administration degree and Elinor earned a Master of Library Science degree.

Harold retired from Smith Barney after 22 years in the financial services industry and 16 years in municipal government; Elinor retired as a Branch Manager for the Public Libraries of Saginaw. Their two sons both attended Muskingum. Matthew, a technical writer and editor for the pharmaceutical industry, resides in New Jersey with his wife and children. Keith resides in Taiwan and is an English teacher, artist, and musician.

Through Harold and Elinor’s generosity, a scholarship fund has been established to support Muskingum students with study abroad opportunities. A study abroad information station will be created in the new University Library, providing a central location for students to explore and plan their international experiences.

“Travel and study abroad is a life-changing experience, and we want to help provide those opportunities for Muskingum students.”

Keith ’93, Elinor ’66, Andrew, Emily, Harold ’64, Mary, Christopher and Matthew ’92 Saunders
“The library was the key to my Muskingum education. It’s exciting to be part of its transformation for today’s students.”

For Dr. Ann Wilmoth ’67, “Muskingum is a place that is still home to me. It was the best college experience I could have ever had — it was exactly what I needed and wanted. The liberal arts prepare you for life. And the friendships I made at Muskingum have been life-changing and lifelong. Professor Louis Palmer was a profound influence in my life, and it’s very meaningful for me to help the University by supporting the Louis O. Palmer Gallery and now the University Library.”

Ann serves as a Vice President and Chairman of the Board of Wilmoth Interests, Inc., fifth-generation producers of oil and natural gas, headquartered in Marion Center, PA. After graduating from Muskingum with her Bachelor of Arts degree in History, she earned both her Master of Arts degree in History and Doctor of Philosophy degree in History from Penn State University. She worked as an urban planner in Lancaster, PA and taught history at Franklin & Marshall College before joining the family business.

“I learned at Muskingum that when you give, you receive ten-fold,” Ann notes. Her profound commitment to service and community leadership has led her to devote countless volunteer hours to improving the quality of life for others. She has served as a member of the board of directors of the Indiana Regional Medical Center, the Indiana Healthcare Foundation, the executive board of Citizens’ Ambulance Service, the Visiting Nurse Association of Indiana County and as an officer for the Armstrong-Indiana County Blind Association. She was recently honored with the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Boy Scouts of America.

“Muskingum was willing to give me a shot at playing football at the college level,” Jim Purdy ’85 recalls. “There were really no expectations. Somehow, though, in just a few years our coaches and players put together a program that was an envy of Division III football. The wins were nice, but the bonds the players and coaches forged are what truly resonate for me to this day.

“Through Muskingum’s solid liberal arts education, small classes, and personalized environment, I was able to develop study skills and learning habits that would eventually serve me exceptionally well in law school. So many of my professors were so knowledgeable and engaging — I can still remember at times being mesmerized by some of my history professors’ lectures — it was like being there.

“Muskingum has been so important in my life. I’m happy to be able to help the University now, so that future generations of students can benefit the way we did.”

Jim earned his Muskingum Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Business, and is a 1988 graduate of the Wake Forest University School of Law. He is the managing partner of Vittoria Purdy & Cavallaro LLP of New York, NY, where he specializes in estate and trust planning and administration for individual and corporate clients. He serves on the boards of numerous charitable foundations and is an active volunteer with community youth sports leagues. Jim and his wife Lisa reside in the village of Bronxville, NY, with their three sons, Jimmy (17), Scott (15), and Tommy (12).
An exciting transformation is underway as the c. 1960 library building evolves into our new home for the Muskingum University Library and the Teacher Preparation Program. With 15,000 square feet of new construction enveloping the existing 23,000 square foot structure, the exterior will feature four newly-designed facades and red-tile roof lines. The complete demolition of the current interior is making way for a new state-of-the-art design which will support and enhance the University Library’s continuing advancement as a digital resource for 21st-century learning and the Teacher Preparation Program’s mission of developing teacher-leaders who encourage, equip, and empower all learners. When complete, the new 38,000 square foot facility will complement neighboring Philip and Betsey Caldwell Hall and Montgomery Hall in the campus arrival plaza.