


ENCOUNTERS

ALUMNI MAGAZINE • VOLUME 6 • ISSUE 1 • JULY 2008

Growing Greatness

Record Breaking
Graduation

\$500,000
in Scholarships



Success

OWENS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION™

As Noted



As you read this Encounters, you will notice a theme – Growth. Throughout the issue there are examples of growth of programs, growth of student success and growth of opportunities, but one of my favorite examples of growth is the new Organizational Leadership Certificate being offered at Owens Community College.

This past year, I was privileged to work with Gretchen Carroll, Owens Professor of Business Technology, and Verne Walker, Assistant Dean of Students on the Findlay-area Campus, to create this new leadership development program that will begin Fall Semester 2008. Both are well-suited to the task as they are co-directors of the Owens Leadership Academy, an innovative way that we grow our own leaders.

The new Organizational Leadership Certificate focuses on the development of individual leadership skills and their application to organizational and community development. Currently, Owens' Academic Services is working to partner with Lourdes College on a bachelor's degree completion program. As a 2005 graduate of Lourdes College with a master's in organizational leadership, I am proud of the partnership that Owens and Lourdes have forged over the years and look forward to the successful completion of this project.

Owens has always been dedicated to serving the community and our students. Within the past year, the College has introduced several new

programs to better meet students' needs including:

- The only photovoltaic, or solar energy, installation certificate program in the state of Ohio, offered through Workforce & Community Services;
- An on-line associate's degree program in cancer information management; we are one of only three community colleges in the country to offer this program completely on-line;
- A Summer Weekend College to complement the Weekend College program offerings in spring and fall;
- A nurse assistant training program offered at The Source in downtown Toledo;
- Associate degree programs in music business technology, commercial photography and interior design.

Gretchen Carroll often says "you can lead from where you are" and "be the change you want to see." Here at Owens, staff, faculty and alumni are trying to be the change we need and that change is leading to the tremendous growth of Owens.

Sincerely,

David W. Seeger
President

Owens Community College Alumni Association

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Outstanding Service

The Alumni Association held the fifth annual Outstanding Service Awards on April 25. Area police, fire and emergency medical professionals were recognized for their tremendous contributions to Northwest Ohio's surrounding communities.

The award winners are:

Outstanding Police Officers
William M. Gilley, Sergeant
 Hancock County Sheriff's Office

Thomas L. Miller, Deputy
 Hancock County Sheriff's Office

Mark A. Price, Deputy
 Hancock County Sheriff's Office

These three were nominated by Sheriff Michael E. Heldman from the Hancock County Sheriff's Office for their heroic response to an apparent suicide call. The team encountered a

horrific and surprising scene where one woman had injured herself, her mother and her roommate. The police were able to apprehend the suspect and save one of the victims.

Outstanding Service to the Community
Steven Forrester, Sergeant
 Toledo Police Department

Bart Beavers, Detective
 Toledo Police Department

Tom Ross, Investigator
 Lucas County Prosecutor's Office



Nominated by Captain Ray Carroll from the Toledo Police Department, Sergeant Forrester, Detective Beavers and Investigator Ross are members of the Lucas County Cold Case Unit and are responsible for solving several long-standing, unsolved crimes and bringing justice for the victims and their families.

Outstanding Firefighter
Randy N. Roslin, Medic/
 Firefighter – Toledo Fire and Rescue Department

Jeremy A. Wilkins, Firefighter
 Toledo Fire and Rescue Department

Nominated by Battalion Chief David Hitt from the Toledo Fire and Rescue Department, these two firefighters were able to save the lives of two children by reacting quickly to a raging fire, breaking through an apartment wall when no other entry ways were passable. ●

Detective Keith Dressel Memorial Scholarship Recipient



Benjamin L. Cousino, a Criminal Justice Major, was selected to receive the first Detective Keith Dressel Memorial Scholarship in April.

As the son of a police officer and as captain of the Toledo Police Explorers Post 2028, Cousino has gained hands-on experience learning the basic tasks of a police officer. He is also a volunteer for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

"Police officers have always been my role models," said

Cousino. He adds "ever since I can remember, I have wanted to be a police officer."

After receiving his degree from Owens, he plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice at the University of Toledo and ultimately join the Toledo Police Department. He looks forward to serving the community and to following the example set by Detective Keith Dressel.

In tribute and appreciation for the memory, life and

heroism of Detective Dressel, the Owens Community College Alumni Association established the Detective Keith Dressel Memorial Endowment Scholarship in 2007.

The Scholarship is awarded annually to an Owens student who has the courage to become a police officer and embodies the passion, conviction and perseverance demonstrated by the late Detective Dressel during his career. Beginning in 2008, additional funds will be raised at the annual Golf Classic. ●

BACKPACK TO THE FUTURE

You may think July is too soon to start thinking about the upcoming school year, but have you noticed how early the school supply sales start? Each year, they seem to start earlier.

If you have children, you know how quickly the cost of a few number two pencils and packs of wide-ruled loose leaf notebook paper can add up. Now imagine trying to make those purchases if money is tight. Owens Community College's Alumni Association is once again collecting supplies to benefit those in need.



"Backpack to the Future" runs through August 18. The Association is accepting gently-used or new backpacks and new school supplies from area residents during the summer months. Items collected will be given to low-income elementary school children throughout Northwest Ohio.



In addition to the gently-used or new backpacks, individuals can donate crayons, markers, bottles of glue, glue sticks, colored pencils, pencils, pink erasers, school boxes, pocket folders, marbled covered composition books and Kleenex tissues. Charitable donations are accepted at the College's Office of Alumni Relations on the Toledo-area Campus or at Enrollment Services on the Findlay-area Campus.

Drop off locations include:

- Owens Community College
Toledo-area and Findlay-area campuses
- Books-A-Million
- Great Lakes Credit Union

Record Numbers Graduate

Nearly 800 graduates were recognized at the Spring 2008 Commencement Ceremony held May 9. This group is the largest single graduating class in Owens Community College's history. Of the graduates, 653 were from the Toledo-area Campus, while 120 were from the Findlay-area Campus.

The following degrees were awarded: 183 Associate of Applied Business; 481 Associate of Applied Science; 72 Associate of Arts; 27 Associate of Science; 10 Associate of Technical Studies.

This graduating class brings the College's historical total to more than 26,776 associate degree graduates.

The keynote speaker was Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur. The Class Representative was Melinda Boehler, candidate for the Associate Degree of Applied Science, Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

In addition, 40 students were recognized as Ohio Basic Peace Officer Training Academy graduates at a separate ceremony on May 6. More than 140 nursing students were bestowed honorary pins by the School of Health Sciences signifying their graduation from the registered nursing program.

One of those registered nurses was honored with the Spirit of Nursing Award. The national award was presented to Ashley Meyer by the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and the National Student Nurse Association. ●



New Dean of Academic Services Appointed

Owens Community College has named Tamara Williams as the new Dean of Academic Services. Her responsibilities will include assisting with all aspects related to the coordination and development of instructional programs and support services on the Toledo-area and Findlay-area campuses.

In addition to providing assistance in curriculum development, Williams will be responsible for special programs related to Outcomes Assessment, Tech Prep, the Weekend College, Post-Secondary Enrollment Options and the College's satellite learning centers. She will also assist with Owens' Program Review and Evaluation Process and Assessment of Learning Outcomes and work closely with the fellow academic deans to enhance educational opportunities and resources for current and future students.

"Owens Community College is honored to have Tamara Williams serving as the new Dean of Academic Services," said Dr. Bruce Busby, Owens Vice President of Academic Services. "Tamara brings to the College a distinguished academic career and extensive knowledge and experience in higher education that will be invaluable."

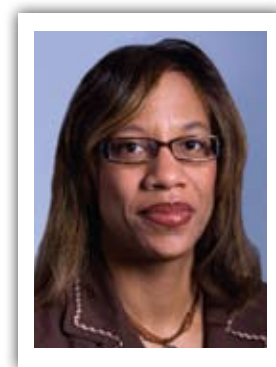
Since August 2005, Williams had served as the Academic Dean of Career Education for the Wayne County Community College District. While at Wayne County, she was responsible for the strategic direction

and development of academic policies and programs for the academic institution.

Prior to her position at Wayne County, Williams served as the Associate Director of Cooperative Education and Diversity Initiatives at The University of Toledo for six years, where she directed and coordinated student programs and developed and marketed cooperative education/career services to local and national industries.

Her professional and community involvement includes membership with the Michigan Occupational Dean's Council, the Community College Leadership Team, the Ohio Cooperative Education Association, the Greater Toledo Urban League and Leadership Toledo. Williams also serves as an Ohio Reads tutor and as a United Way and Boys and Girls Clubs of Toledo volunteer.

The Toledo resident holds a master's degree in education and a bachelor's degree in communications from The University of Toledo. Williams is currently pursuing her doctorate in higher education administration from The University of Toledo. ●



Alumni Association Membership Hits Record High

Since the re-establishment of the Owens Alumni Association, the organization has grown dramatically. From 64 paid members in 2002, the Association has grown to 685 paid members in 2007 and an even more impressive 765 paid members as of June 2008! Thanks to a dedicated and involved Board of Directors, the Alumni Association has created signature events such as the Outstanding Service

Awards, the Backpack to the Future campaign and the Annual Golf Classic, among many others. Each year the Association recognizes the region's outstanding police, fire and emergency medical personnel, gathers school supplies for needy kindergarteners, and raises money for student scholarships. These events and activities demonstrate the strength of the Association's community connections throughout Northwest Ohio. ●



Growing Great & Reaching Further

Growth abounds at Owens Community College. And when we say growth, we mean not only in our physical footprint, but in student opportunities.

You have probably heard that Owen's mission is serving our students. The faculty and staff at Owens take that mission to heart. It is the barometer by which we measure all of our decisions. The question, "*Is this good for students?*" is constantly asked.

Here at Owens, that question has been asked a lot lately... and answered. In this article, you will read about the new ways we go above and beyond to serve our students.

Penta Purchase Agreement

Owens is in the process of purchasing Penta Career Center, which includes 56 acres of land and almost 326,000 square feet of classrooms, offices, labs, storage space and parking lots at the current Penta campus, adjacent to the Toledo-area Campus. Owens will take possession of the property this summer when Penta moves to their new facilities. The new parking and classroom space will be a great asset to our students and open doors to many new possibilities. Stay tuned for more information.

Workforce Relocation

In addition, the Workforce and Community Services Division of Owens is moving to a new educational service center at Arrowhead Park in Maumee, Ohio. Currently, it is located on Tracy Road in Northwood. The new 38,000 square-foot site will feature multiple classrooms and computer labs and will be used for workforce training and education that meets the needs of the business community.

Putnam County Opportunities

Owens is offering free educational seminars each month this summer at the Putnam County Educational Service Center located on Putnam Parkway in Ottawa, Ohio. The educational seminars are open to the public and directed toward people interested in pursuing a higher education. Topics include applying for financial aid, career options, business and information systems and more. In addition, enrollment services representatives will be available the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for students who would like to learn more about academic

offerings, programs and financial aid. For more information on the services offered at Putnam County Educational Service Center, call the College's Findlay-area Campus at (567) 661-3656 or 1-800-GO-OWENS, Ext. 3656.

Summer Weekend College

This summer, the College is offering a new Summer Weekend College on both the Toledo-area and Findlay-area campuses. The eight-week courses are offered in conjunction with the weekend courses we began offering last year. The programs are to help students with limited availability get a college degree by taking classes only on weekends. More than 160 classes are offered as part of the Weekend College program.

More Locations

In addition to offering higher education on its Toledo-area and Findlay-area campuses, within the past year Owens has expanded its access to educational opportunities within Northwest Ohio through the creation of new on-site academic and support services at The Source, Lucas County's One-Stop Employment Center in downtown Toledo. The College has also collaborated with Toledo Public Schools and made available its first-ever academic courses at the new Rogers High School. Additionally, Owens has longstanding off-campus educational partnerships with schools that include Arcadia High School in Arcadia, Liberty Benton High School in Findlay, Riverdale High School in Mt. Blanchard, Springfield High School in Holland, Eastwood High School in Pemberville and Swanton High School in Swanton, among others.

Is this good for students? As you can tell by reading about the new growth and opportunities, we can safely say "yes". With the variety of new programs, locations, times and ways to access classes, we will make earning a degree easier for the individuals we serve. We will continue to strive as an institution to do more to broaden access to higher education for the communities we serve. That is our mission. ●



Quality Nurtured = Student Success

Since Owens Community College became a comprehensive community college in 1994, enrollment at Owens has more than doubled. Although this dramatic growth can be considered one indication of the College's success, success is about more than mere numbers.

The Board of Trustees for the College adopted its strategic plan "Choosing Our Direction" in 2004, and from there developed its Mission and Vision.

Mission: "We believe in serving our students and our communities. *Your success is our mission.*"

Vision: "Owens faculty and staff are committed to strengthening the community by providing a superior educational experience through *excellence, innovation and collaboration.*"

The Board also identified its Core Values – Service, Learning, Innovation, Collaboration and Excellence.

Recognizing that "success" for the College is defined by the students' ability to complete their academic and career goals, the College's staff embarked on a number of new initiatives to fully realize the Mission, Vision and Core Values.

The **Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP)** links accreditation with a continuous quality improvement process and provides for more frequent feedback than the 10-year accreditation process culminating in an intensive site visit. The program is overseen by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, the accrediting body for colleges. One added benefit to pursuing this alternative accreditation process is that as the College pursues quality improvement through Process Management or other similar initiatives, the College administration

will provide ongoing, regular reports to the Higher Learning Commission. In other words, Owens will reap reporting benefits from the quality improvement work in which it is engaged through the Process Management initiative.

The **Process Management** initiative helps colleges such as Owens streamline and improve their processes and thus enhance the quality of work life for faculty and staff, as well as providing enhanced services to students and community members. Process Management encourages Owens Community College faculty and staff to become involved, make a difference and build a more collaborative culture that befits every member of the Owens community.

Through the **Owens Leadership Academy**, the College has invested in Owens employees, fostering personal and professional growth and creating new opportunities for employees to enhance their skills and make a difference within the College, the surrounding communities and in their personal lives.

"The Academy has flourished and is recognized nationally among community colleges for leadership development of employees," said Dr. Christa Adams, President of Owens.

Other exciting initiatives such as the **First Year Experience** and the **Foundations of Excellence** are designed to increase student retention and success. All of these initiatives will enable the College to support the State of Ohio's goals of increasing college enrollment, graduating more people, retaining them in-state after graduation and attracting more talent to the state. ●



Success on the Field and in the Classroom

The College's tradition of fielding strong athletic teams continued during the 2007-08 academic year as six Owens teams competed at their respective regional NJCAA championship tournaments. Four teams – men's soccer, co-ed golf, women's basketball and women's volleyball – were the runners-up at the regional tournaments. In addition, the golf team made it to the NJCC National Championships and finished in tenth place. In all, 31 athletes received recognition on their sports' All-Conference teams.

The College is proud that Owens' student athletes are successful both on and off the athletic field. Owens' athletes have a long-standing tradition of academic excellence in the classroom.



In August 2007, Owens Community College's athletes were honored for academic excellence by receiving the Ohio Community College Athletic Conference (OCCAC) All-Academic Award for the 2006-07 academic year, the sixth time in the College's history that Owens' athletes earned this distinction.

"Owens Community College is very proud our student-athletes, not only for their outstanding performances during intercollegiate competition, but also for their strong work ethic within the classroom. The academic success of our student-athletes would not be possible without the guidance of Owens' excellent faculty and outstanding coaching and support staffs," said Michael Rickard, Director of Athletics, and a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Selection criteria for the All-Academic Award are based on the highest number of student-athletes within the OCCAC achieving a 3.30 grade point average or higher. Owens' athletes earned the highest honor with 21 student-athletes attaining a 3.30 grade point average or better. ●



More than a Half Million in Scholarships

The mission of the Owens Community College Foundation is to develop and provide resources to advance the College's mission of serving our students and our community. In support of that goal, since 2002 the Foundation has awarded more than \$500,000 in scholarships, including more than \$108,000 during the 2007-08 academic year.

With the Foundation's vision that higher education should be available to everyone, the Foundation is dedicated to removing barriers to higher education by providing student scholarships and supporting growth and innovation at Owens Community College.

The Foundation has created three new scholarship initiatives to be implemented during the 2008-09 academic year. First, the Success Program, to be piloted at Woodward and Findlay High Schools, will provide grants for high school graduates who demonstrate financial need. The grants will bridge the gap between a student's financial aid and the cost of an Owens education. The goal is to boost high school graduation and college enrollment rates.

Second, the Honors Scholarship provides scholarships to students in the Honors Program at Owens, regardless of financial need. And third, Leadership Scholarships will be awarded to students who demonstrate leadership qualities in their schools or communities, regardless of financial need.

Through these and other scholarships, the Foundation is committed to helping students achieve their dream of a college education and to reward students' hard work and commitment. ●

CLASSNotes

80s

THE EIGHTIES

A. Edward Vonk (Accounting '80) is employed as a Senior Auditor with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Columbus, Ohio. He lives in Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

James R. Cussen (Civil Engineering '81) obtained a Bachelor of Science in Commercial and Industrial Construction Management from Bowling Green State University. Cussen is employed with Cameron Construction in Eltham, Australia.

90s

THE NINETIES

Debra Lynne Stahl (Dietetic Technology '90) became a Registered Nurse in 2005. She is employed with The Toledo Hospital and lives in Curtice, Ohio.

Barbara Coffin (Registered Nursing '94) works as a PRN in the cardiac rehab unit of Lima Memorial Hospital in Lima, Ohio. She and her husband David, a Lutheran minister, reside in Ada, Ohio. Pastor Coffin feels like he too attended Owens, because he made meals and did typing for his wife when she returned from classes and clinicals. Both have been Alumni Association members since 2006.

Shelly (Stevens) Simon (Info Processing/Secretarial '96 and Agribusiness Management '82) teaches business/computer at Upper Sandusky High School in Ohio. Shelly transferred her credits to Bowling Green State University at the suggestion of her Owens instructor,

earning a bachelor's degree in business education in 1996. She received a master's degree in classroom technology in 2003, also from BGSU. Simon has taught several classes at the Owens Findlay-area Campus over the past five years.

Diana L. (Harmon) Williams (Basic Supervision Certificate '96) is employed by Bowling Green State University. She obtained a Master of Arts in Organizational Management in 2005 and a Bachelor of Arts in Management and Organizational Development in 1997 from Spring Arbor University. She also obtained an associate's degree in applied business in 1991 from Bowling Green State University. Williams has published a number of her articles and poems in newspapers and magazines.

00s

THE AUGHTS

Robin Chlebowski (Digital Media '03) says that without her education at Owens, she would never have had the opportunities she has today. She recently won a logo contest for the city of Toledo for the Frogtown Fair. Her logo will appear on letterhead, banners, t-shirts and bags for this event. Chlebowski graduated with a bachelor's degree in education from The University of Toledo. She is currently employed by Tolco Corporation and resides in Walbridge, Ohio.

Gail Reinhart (Landscape and Turfgrass Management '00) has returned to Ohio after four years of working at a landscape company on the East Coast. She is employed by M.J. Design Associates,

who provide landscape installation and maintenance in the Columbus area. Reinhart lives in Hilliard, Ohio.

Jason W. Hoffman (Fire Science '01) resides in Defiance, Ohio. He is a Firefighter and Paramedic for the Defiance Fire Department.

Brian M. Barnhouse (Agribusiness Management '02) is employed as Field Scout, Warehouse Operations and GPS Service Technician for Widmer and Associates Ltd. of Gibsonburg, Ohio. Barnhouse lives in Oregon, Ohio, and thanks Owens for providing the education he needed to be successful.

Amy Ebersole (Digital Media Certificate '03) feels that many good things have happened to her as a result of her certificate in graphics. With the help of the J.O.B.S. Office, she obtained a job where she was employed for a year. She has also done freelance work for Hospice of Northwest Ohio. Ebersole contributed her graphic layout skills to My Special Someone is Very Sick, a workbook for children developed by the Social Services Department at Hospice.

Allison Hiser (Registered Nursing '03) has been a travel R.N. for three years and loves it. She and her sons have enjoyed seeing the States through her job. Hiser is currently on assignment in Baltimore, Md., in the cardiac stepdown unit of Union Memorial Hospital. Her next assignment may be overseas. She would love e-mails from classmates (ajhiser@hotmail.com).

Destiny Joy Carpio (Registered Nursing '04) graduated from The University of Toledo with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in May 2008.

Jennifer Daniels (Early Childhood Education '05) works as a Middle Toddler Care Teacher at the Norwalk Childcare Center in Norwalk, Ohio. She has a daughter, Addison, who was born in June 2007.

Lyndsey Fish (Liberal Arts '05) will graduate from the University of Michigan this year. She plans to attend The University of Toledo College of Law.

Thomas M. Knopf (Accounting '05) works as an Insurance Coordinator for Behavioral Connections of Wood County, Inc. He was the Democratic Party's candidate for Mayor of Findlay in 2007.

Monica Shoupe (Registered Nursing '05) is R.N. Supervisor at Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek in Holland, Ohio. Monica lives in Toledo.

Regina Woodson (Registered Nursing '05) was inducted into Sigma Theta Tau, the International Nursing Honor Society in April 2008. She is graduating with a bachelor's degree in nursing from Lourdes College in the summer of 2008.

Amanda Cichocki (Pre-Business Transfer '06) is working as a Marketing Coordinator for BizTech in Toledo. She received a bachelor's of business administration degree from The University of Toledo in May 2008. Cichocki majored in marketing with a minor in international business.

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join the
fun

Membership Application

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City _____

State _____ Zip _____

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E-mail _____

Graduation Date/Years Attended:

Please complete and mail with payment to:

Owens Community College
Alumni Association
P.O. Box 10,000
Toledo, OH 43699-1947

or complete online at:
www.owens.edu

Annual dues only \$20 per year, or \$40
with spouse. **Join Now!**

Membership Year
January 1 - December 31

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Tisha Fugitt (Registered Nursing '06) considers returning to school for nursing as the best thing she's ever done. Fugitt is employed as a Registered Nurse at Fremont Memorial Hospital and resides in Tiffin, Ohio.

Cathy McGinnis (Occupational Therapy Assist '07) is a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant employed with Genesis Rehabilitation Services in Toledo.

Paul D. Solnick (Basic Supervision Certificate '07) was recently inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, the International Honor Society for two-year colleges. He has maintained a 4.0 average in two supervision certificate programs.

Chadwick Coutcher (NDA '02) is serving on the U.S.S. JARRETT as an Operations Specialist (SW) Second Class with the United States Navy. He lives in San Diego, Cal.

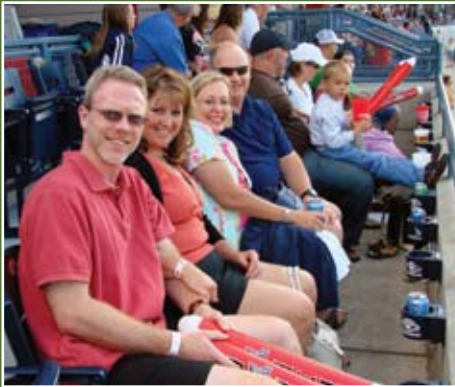
Correction to April 2008 Encounters:

Susan Deutschman (Health Information Management '06) is an Adjunct Instructor and Academic Fieldwork Coordinator for the Health Information Technology Program at Owens (not the Medical Imaging Technology Program, as previously reported).

NDA = non-degreed alumni

Mark Your Calendars

UPCOMING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EVENTS



Mud Hens Night Friday, August 8, 2008

Join the Alumni Association for food, fun and fireworks on Friday, August 8, as members cheer the Toledo Mud Hens at Fifth Third Field. The event will kick off at the Roost at 5:30 p.m. with food served at 6 p.m. The Association's Annual Meeting will take place between 6:30 and 7 p.m., with game action against the Indianapolis Indians starting at 7 p.m. Fireworks will directly follow the game.



Alumni Golf Classic Monday, September 29, 2008

The Alumni Association, along with Northwest Ohio business leaders and community members, will tee off in the sixth annual Alumni Golf Classic at Belmont Country Club in Perrysburg. Action will begin at 11:30 a.m. and will continue throughout the day. Sponsorships and team slots are available, so sign up soon! Proceeds benefit the Detective Keith Dressel Memorial Scholarship and Alumni Legacy Endowed Scholarship Funds.



Successful Connections Kicks off fall 2008

A career path can turn into a winding road. Help a student straighten it all out. Sign up to be a part of the Successful Connections program at Owens Community College. Be an alumni coach and partner with a student for the school year. Help our students reach their career goals. Applications can be found at www.owens.edu/alumni.

For more information on any of these events, please contact the Alumni Association at (567) 661-7876 or at alumni@owens.edu.

NOT A MEMBER? JOIN ONLINE AT WWW.OWENS.EDU, E-MAIL AT ALUMNI@OWENS.EDU OR CALL THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

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