GoBuck$ Tuition Voucher Program: 
A New Community Partnership

Traditionally, students collect scholarships in their senior year of high school as they prepare to head off to college. The scholarships are a reward for a job well-done and down-payments on a student’s future. But starting this fall, thanks to a new partnership between The Ohio State University at Marion and the Marion City Schools, students as young as five years old can begin earning scholarship dollars. The “GoBuck$” program provides $25 and $50 tuition vouchers for use at Ohio State Marion as rewards for high attendance and achievement goals set by individual Marion City school principals. The vouchers can be earned quarterly from kindergarten through 12th grade. Initially, the GoBuck$ vouchers will draw against scholarship dollars designated for Ohio State Marion students from Marion County through the George Alber endowment managed by the Columbus Foundation.

“What we really like about this concept,” said Marion City Schools superintendent Jim Barney, “is it doesn’t just reward students at the end of their high school careers, but it reaches down into the earliest grades, helping students establish good study and attendance habits. It also ties them early-on to the concept of higher education and gives them a real boost toward achieving that goal.”

“The GoBuck$ program provides Ohio State Marion with yet another avenue where we can be connected to our community and be an integral part of the educational attainment of its citizens,” said Dr. Greg Rose, Ohio State Marion’s dean and director.

“We plan to hang the certificates on the walls in our buildings to provide tangible evidence of achievement,” said Dr. Barney. The City Schools will measure attendance and achievement scores over time to see whether the GoBuck$ program is moving the needle in a positive direction. If this pilot project is successful, it could be duplicated in other school districts served by Ohio State Marion but not without the development of additional donor dollars. At least one additional school district has contacted the university about expanding the voucher program to their students. Those interested in helping expand the GoBuck$ tuition incentive program can contact Dave Claborn, director of development at 740/725-6360 or at claborn.17@osu.edu. “If we’re seeing success in Marion City, we hope to establish a new scholarship fund through our foundation to take this concept further,” he said.
Join us for another exciting season of Five Nights on Campus. The 2010-2011 season highlights a variety of musical styles and groups running the gamut from Appalachian, a cappella, big band, classical, to jazz, pop, and Hispanic music. For more information, contact Bronwen Babich at 740/725-6341 or visit www.osumarion.osu.edu/5-nights.

Traditions

From the Dean and Director

Dr. Gregory S. Rose, Dean and Director, The Ohio State University at Marion

While Ohio State Marion’s faculty are busy teaching our students, conducting scholarship, and serving the campus and their disciplines, they also are engaged with our communities. Recently, some faculty have taken the next step to engage their students with our communities through their academic programs. One example is the grant-supported “Pay It Forward Student Philanthropy Initiative” starting this Autumn at Ohio State Marion. As part of a course, students learn about community needs and the efforts of local non-profit organizations to meet those needs by meeting with the organizations and potentially with their clients, conducting service for the organizations, and finally soliciting proposals for small grants to fund projects identified by the organizations. United Way of Marion County is serving as the community liaison for this project. Ohio State Marion students will assess the proposals and issue grants of between $1,000 and $4,500 to as many as three organizations per quarter to support the proposed projects. Not only will students earn academic credit through this process, but they will gain a better understanding of the role of philanthropy in making our communities better places and see how they can become engaged citizens themselves.

The Man, the Myth, and the Legacy was the first event sponsored by the Warren G. Harding Symposium on July 23 and 24, 2010. The event was attended by guests not only from the Marion area but from throughout Ohio and other states as well. All proceeds benefited Hometown History on Wheels, an educational outreach project of the Harding Home.

The activities began Friday evening with a VIP reception and open house held on the grounds of the Harding Home & Museum. Nearly 125 guests participated in self-guided tours of the home and enjoyed light refreshments, a variety of Ohio wines, and musical entertainment provided by The String Connection.

On Saturday morning, guided tours of the Harding Home & Museum, the Harding Tomb, and Heritage Hall were offered. Afternoon study sessions included presentations by noted Harding author, James Robenalt, Sherry Hall, and Dr. Warren G. Harding III, the great-nephew of President Harding.

The event culminated with a dinner and reception in the Guthery Room in Maynard Hall, where guests participated in a panel discussion by the featured presenters and viewed a video prepared by Dr. Niall Palmer, noted British author and expert on the political history of the 1920’s and the administration of President Warren G. Harding.

The next event to be sponsored by the Warren G. Harding Symposium will be The Music of Florence Harding, a musical and theatrical presentation featuring the music played and enjoyed by the former first lady. It will be held Thursday, January 20, 2011, at 7:30 p.m., in the Morrill Hall Auditorium. For more information, please call 740-725-6340.
The Greatest Generation…

Karen Rean
Assistant Director of Development and Community Relations of The Ohio State University at Marion

“The Greatest Generation,” as characterized by journalist Tom Brokaw, comprises those who grew up during the Great Depression and lived through World War II. This generation suffered great hardships but survived those trials, at the same time giving so much of themselves to alleviate what were, at the time, society’s most compelling needs. These are among the first individuals who influenced me, as I am a proud Baby Boomer. As a society, we now seem to label each generation and attribute certain uniqueness to each. But each generation has the power to make a lasting impact in this world and there are many ways to accomplish this.

Why tie this to Traditions? You will note in this issue that we are asking you to consider a gift to Ohio State Marion. This is the first time we’ve included this request in Traditions. Regardless of which generation you fall into, we hope you will think about the needs that we have on this campus and how you might help Ohio State Marion advance. Our first priority is providing our students with the best opportunities to succeed. What better place than Ohio State Marion and what better time than now to assist with the challenges of the future?

Laurel Leffler Fund Update

In the last issue of Traditions, we told the story of Laurel Leffler and her generous bequest to the Marion Campus. We sought your help to secure the additional funding necessary to establish the Leffler Minority Scholarship Fund. We are pleased to report that the initial funding for this scholarship has been completed. Key contributors to this effort were local campus supporters Lowell Thurston, Howie Smith, and Dr. Tarlok Purewal. They were joined by others from around the state, including many former friends and colleagues of Mrs. Leffler. Thanks to their generosity, Ohio State Marion students will soon benefit from this much-needed, new scholarship program!
Each year dozens of alumni and friends of The Ohio State University make contributions to the Marion Campus. Whether their support goes to student scholarships, faculty enrichment, operating costs, research, or special initiatives, the much-needed funds are essential for us to remain the vibrant and vital institution beloved by Buckeyes throughout our seven county service area.

Your tax-deductible gifts can be earmarked for a wide variety of programs. Kids’ College, the Kuhn Fine Arts Gallery, Five Nights on Campus, the Prairie Nature Center, and the I CAN Center for Excellence are just a few. You can also consider an unrestricted gift allowing us to support emerging needs and initiatives for our growing campus.

Simply complete the form below and send it along with your tax-deductible gift to:
Ohio State Marion, Office of Development, 1461 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Marion, OH, 43302
For more information, please call 740/725-6340

Name ___________________________ Phone _______________________
Address ___________________________ E-mail _______________________
City ___________________________ State ___________ Zip ___________
Amount Enclosed $ _______ Gift Designation _______________________

Please make check payable to The Ohio State University and mail along with this form to:
Ohio State Marion, Office of Development, 1461 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Marion, Ohio 43302

-OR-

Please charge my Mastercard or Visa

Card number _______________________
Exp. date _______________________
Name as it appears on the card _______________________
Signature (required) _______________________

Traditions
Dr. Gregory S. Rose, Dean and Director
Dave Claborn, Director of Development
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