Ohio State President E. Gordon Gee makes the case that the university he heads is Ohio’s economic engine. “Ohio State is in the progress business,” he said recently. “Our mission is nothing less than to serve as Ohio’s incubator of human aspiration.” That incubation takes place in myriad ways. One of the more unique is in the lives of Ohio State Marion employees Barbara and Dave Kaelber. Barb is administrative associate to Dean and Director Greg Rose. Dave keeps the campus running smoothly as part of the maintenance staff. They met when he was a construction supervisor, building Ohio State’s Parker Food Science Building, and Barb was Assistant to the Director of the Food Industries Center under OSU’s Department of Food Science. A five-year courtship resulted in a 2004 marriage that is now a true business partnership as the couple develops their Richwood-area farm into an all-natural beef, lamb, and egg operation. When he’s not keeping the Ohio State Marion campus operating, Dave practices rotational grazing techniques with the couple’s 20 head of grass-fed Red Poll cattle. When she’s not organizing the dean’s schedule, Barb is organizing the farm’s books and delivering freezer beef, lamb, and eggs to the farm’s growing list of customers. She delivered over a half ton of meat and hundreds of dozens of eggs in 2010. Many of the couple’s customers are Ohio State faculty and staff—those who are choosy about the origins of their food. Dave and Barb have tapped into a growing local and healthy foods movement and are growing their operation into what they hope will be a lucrative retirement business. Their products are marketed by word of mouth, through e-mail at rustlingoaksfarm@gmail.com, and through a national website, www.localharvest.org. “We’re blessed to work together at Ohio State and then share more time together building our farm business,” says Barb. The juxtaposition of Ohio State and the Kaelbers’ growing ag business even extends to the hens who produce Rustling Oaks’ eggs. They’re a special breed developed in northern Ohio, says Barb. The scarlet birds are known, yes, as “Buckeye” chickens. Naturally.
Traditions

Over the years, Ohio State’s regional campuses have been given different generic names, ranging from “branch campuses” to President Gee’s “extended campuses” or “engaged campuses” to, most recently, “smaller campuses,” given his view of Ohio State as “One University.” In this issue of Traditions are examples of how Ohio State Marion is an “engaged campus” committed to furthering education in our communities. We are engaged across the spectrum – with the young through “Go Buck$” and Kids’ College to the young at heart through the Learning Enrichment Institute (LEI). We engage eleventh and twelfth graders through the Ohio State Academy that enrolls qualified high school students in university classes on the campus. We engage senior citizens in Program 60 through which they audit regular Ohio State courses on a space available basis. And for 54 years, we have been engaging students of all ages pursuing their university higher education goals, whether they enroll in a bachelor’s degree program offered in Marion or begin here before completing a bachelor’s degree on the Columbus campus. As you’ve read in previous issues, some students also are providing service learning in our communities. But we are always on the lookout for other ways in which we can enhance our engagement. Please share your ideas with us!

From the Dean and Director

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

Lifelong Learning for All Ages

From our first breath, we are learners. The world around us shapes how we think, how we feel, and how we react. And as we add to our body of experiences – through work, play, and education – we further strengthen our status as “lifelong learners.” The Ohio State University at Marion provides a variety of experiences for lifelong learners of all ages – from elementary school through the senior years. Here are two exciting programs offered on our campus.

Kids’ College was established on campus in 1998. The goal of the program is to provide opportunities for students ages 7-13 to attend summer day camps that offer enrichment experiences while introducing them to a college campus. Courses have been presented ranging from Art, Music, and Dance Around the World to CSI Marion to Survivor: The Rainforest to GarageBand Podcasting. In addition, students have had the opportunity to learn the basics of fishing and basketball, explore the interaction between art and recycling, and study engineering through the LEGO approach. Professionals and teachers specializing in the various topics presented each year are targeted to teach these classes. Since its inception, Kids’ College has made a significant impact on the youth of our area by planting seeds of opportunity for a formal higher education. Limited scholarship assistance is available.

The Learning Enrichment Institute (LEI) is an opportunity for individuals 50 years of age or older to broaden their experiences through a schedule of short-term, non-credit courses that promote creativity, free thinking, and personal growth and development. LEI combines the resources of The Ohio State University at Marion, Marion Technical College, other community organizations, and dozens of volunteers to offer two terms of programming that meet the diverse needs and interests of our communities. Current spring 2011 offerings include All About Herbs; Indians of North America: Myth, History, and Reality; Vocal Music: Modern and Medieval; and Computing Trends in 2011.

Additional information about the programs described above is available by visiting our website at www.osumarion.osu.edu or by calling 740/725-6340.
Ohio State recently suffered the loss of our Senior Vice President of Development, Dr. Andrew Sorensen. Andy was a warm and personable leader. He’d been president of both the University of Alabama and the University of South Carolina prior to answering his friend Gordon Gee’s request to lead Ohio State’s advancement efforts. He tackled the assignment with vigor and good humor. Tragically, his heart stopped after a Sunday morning bicycle ride.

We were fortunate to host Dr. Sorensen for a day here in Marion. Those who met him can attest to his genuine interest in Ohio State’s success—but more importantly, to the success of the students for whom Ohio State is the means to a productive life. His training as a Presbyterian minister informed his passion to improve lives—and that passion was an inspiration to all who served with him.

Dr. Sorensen made it simple. Fundraising for Ohio State wasn’t a chore. It was a joyous mission. He knew the dollars raised for scholarships and facilities would translate into healthy lives and quality communities.

We are fortunate to have this piece of The Ohio State University in our midst. Marion can certainly benefit from the education and economic stimulus this great institution brings. While our time with him was short, we knew Andy Sorensen long enough to be inspired by his vision—and, as a tribute to him, to dedicate ourselves to his mission of making Ohio State a catalyst for prosperity.

Go Buck$ Update

Gary Iams and Dave Claborn were on hand for a recent GoBuck$ rally at Rutherford B. Hayes Elementary School in Marion, Ohio. Pictured are fifth grade students receiving Ohio State Marion tuition vouchers earned by meeting attendance and achievement goals.
The Western Trip: Discovery, Understanding, and the Death of a President

July 22–23, 2011

Join us for the second annual event exploring the life and times of America’s 29th president. This summer we will examine the Voyage of Understanding, the ill-fated, cross country train trip to the western states, Alaska, and the Pacific Northwest undertaken by President and Mrs. Harding during the summer of 1923.

We will begin on Friday evening with a wine and dessert reception at Marion’s Union Station, a location fundamental to the political and social lives of the Hardings. The featured speaker will be Stuart Caul from the Southeastern Railway Museum in Duluth, Georgia. He is curator of The Superb, the Pullman private train car used by President and Mrs. Harding during the western trip.

On Saturday morning participants will have the opportunity to tour the Harding Home and Museum, the Harding Tomb, and the exhibits at the Marion County Historical Society. In the afternoon, three workshop sessions will be presented. Sherry Hall, site manager and researcher at the Harding Home and Museum, will use priceless artifacts and actual sound bites of Harding speeches to describe the historical and political significance of the trip. Jim Geraghty, noted Alaskan researcher and historian, will join us from Juneau, Alaska to discuss the dramatic effects of Harding’s visit to that territory, the first by an American president. And finally, Dr. Richard Harding, great-nephew of President Harding, will discuss the mysterious decline and subsequent death of the president based upon his research of the notes and memoirs of Harding’s attending physicians. The symposium will conclude on Saturday evening with a dinner and panel discussion featuring all the presenters.

For more information, please visit our web page at www.osumarion.osu.edu/harding or phone the Office of Development and Community Relations at 740/725-6340.