

2026 Impact Report

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
MANSFIELD


BRUTUS




OHIO STATE BUCKEYES



Mansfield Campus by the numbers

330
Students living on or near campus

941
Total Enrollment for Fall 2026

$10,064
In-state tuition

16.8%
Increase in first-year enrollment (472 total students)

61.1%
Incoming class selected Mansfield as their first choice.

252
First year students are first in their family to attend college.

BOARD MEMBERS

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Student Board Member

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Student engagement remains at the heart of the Ohio State Mansfield experience, creating opportunities for connection, involvement, and growth both inside and outside the classroom.

FROM THE DEAN AND DIRECTOR

Experience Extraordinary: Building the Best of a Small-Campus

At Ohio State Mansfield, size is one of our strengths.

On our small campus, we get to know our students personally. We can respond quickly to their needs and forge meaningful connections that help them succeed. Over the past year, we have focused on enhancing what makes Mansfield unique while advancing Ohio State's commitment to experience the extraordinary—all while continuing our four-year growth trend, including the second year in a row of 15% or greater increase in new first year students.

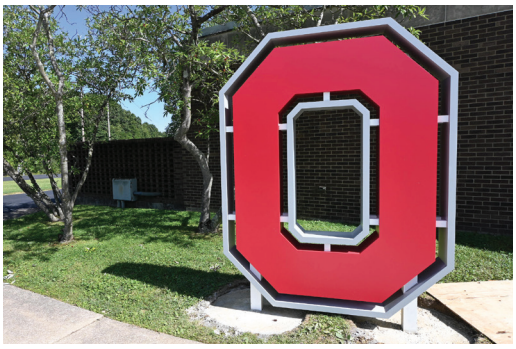
One of our most important priorities has been helping students connect with each other. We're combatting the social isolation that emerged during the pandemic.

It's working. Our campus isn't just getting bigger; it's getting livelier. Students are attending events, joining organizations, spending more time on campus, and building friendships beyond the classroom. To support those efforts, Student Life, Marketing and Communications, and our mental health team have partnered on a new initiative called Find Your Color, Find Your People. The program helps students connect their interests and passions with organizations, activities, and events that match them, making it easier to find community and a sense of belonging.

Creating a welcoming campus experience also means paying attention to the details. Over the past year, we've made a number of "small-campus tweaks" designed to strengthen Buckeye pride and create a more engaging environment. Investments in student-focused areas help reinforce an important message: students at Mansfield are part of The Ohio State University. This year's additions include a classic university entrance sign and the Campus Recreation Center Block O sign. More than landmarks, they mark the Mansfield campus as Buckeye soil.







Top Left: Dean Jason Opal engaging with the panel at the annual Constitution Day Lecture. Top Right: Student engagement remains a priority for Dean Jason Opal, who regularly connects with students to hear their perspectives and address issues important to campus life. Bottom Right: The newly installed Block O serves as a symbol of Buckeye pride and has become a popular campus destination.

Connection is also built through relationships. One of my favorite additions this year has been Coffee with the Dean, a monthly opportunity for students to stop by the Scarlet and Gray, enjoy a complimentary drink on my dime, and share what's on their minds. These conversations are informal, but tremendously valuable. They provide insight into the student experience and reinforce that every student deserves to feel heard, supported, and connected to campus leadership.

Our campus residential experiences are part of building connections. I am proud to partner with our friends at Buckeye Village, which will soon become part of Ohio State's Off-Campus Housing Network--the first private housing property outside Franklin County to join the program. This addition strengthens our local housing options and supports the development of a more vibrant residential experience. Students who live, learn, and connect together are more likely to become engaged members of the campus community.

Academically, we continue to evolve to meet the needs of students and employers throughout north central Ohio. Recent growth in programs such as Engineering Technology and Biology demonstrates the demand for high-quality academic pathways that lead directly to career opportunities. Building on that momentum, we are actively exploring additional academic offerings that will expand access to an Ohio State degree while addressing workforce needs across the region.

Together, these efforts reflect a broader vision for Ohio State Mansfield. We are investing in the student experience, strengthening our campus identity, creating new opportunities for engagement, and expanding pathways to academic success. The goal is not to become a larger campus. The goal is to become an even stronger one, and a point of pride across Buckeye nation.

That is the advantage of a small campus. We can create personal experiences, meaningful relationships, and opportunities for students to thrive. Through every improvement, partnership, and program, we remain committed to extraordinary experiences that ensures that every student who chooses Ohio State Mansfield feels connected, supported, challenged, and proud to be a Buckeye.

None of this happens alone. The opportunities our students experience every day are made possible through the support of our community partners, alumni, friends, and donors who believe in the transformative power of education. Their investments help us create access, strengthen programs, enhance the student experience, and open doors for future generations of Buckeyes. On behalf of our students, faculty, and staff, thank you for helping Ohio State Mansfield continue to grow, innovate, and serve our region.

Sincerely,

Jason Opal



Left to right, Dean Jason Opal and Dawn Kitchen, professor of anthropology, listen as Makenna Northcutt, an education major and Buckeye Ambassador, delivers the Convocation welcome address.

Regional Campus Commitment Opens Doors for Ohio State Mansfield Students

For some students, the dream of becoming a Buckeye can come with an important question: Can my family afford it?

For students at The Ohio State University at Mansfield, the Regional Campus Commitment is helping change that conversation.

For Ohio State Mansfield student Emma Sulyok, the commitment helped turn a longtime dream of becoming a Buckeye into an affordable reality.

“I always wanted to go to Ohio State, even at a young age,” Sulyok said. “When I saw that my tuition would be free due to my household income, it made me more inclined to attend OSU.”

Sulyok and her mother had been preparing for the possibility of taking out loans. Without the RCC, she said financial considerations likely would have led her to another college.

“RCC changed me for the better; it reduced my financial stress significantly so that I can focus on my studies rather than worrying about income to afford college,” Sulyok said.

Student Dharshan Rajubettan described a similar sense of relief. His family had expected to finance college through loans, scholarships and savings.

“The RCC has made college so stress-free financially, for me and my family,” Rajubettan said. “It gives me peace of mind and helps me focus a lot more on my academics than if I had not had the RCC.”

For Rajubettan, Ohio State was still his choice regardless of the financial assistance.

“I take a lot of pride in being a Buckeye, and having the opportunity to attend Ohio State meant that I had been given the freedom to grow and the resources I need to

pursue my goals and dreams," he said.

Launched in autumn 2026, the Regional Campus Commitment helps qualifying Ohio students from families with annual incomes of $100,000 or less cover remaining tuition and mandatory fees after other applicable aid. Approximately 24 Mansfield students received the commitment during its first semester.

"The Regional Campus Commitment communicates to students and families that there is a place for them at Ohio State," said Cynthia Callahan, associate dean of student affairs. "In clearing away financial obstacles, the RCC makes it possible for students to take advantage of the opportunities on our campus and across the university."

The program also helps students remain focused once they arrive.

"The Regional Campus Commitment not only assists students in being able to attend college, but it also helps them stay on track and fully engage in the opportunities that make a Buckeye education transformational," said Jeanne Mauriocourt, academic adviser.

For eligible students, the commitment can continue for up to eight semesters, including after transitioning to the Columbus campus.

Diane Kanney, director of regional campus recruitment strategies and initiatives, said the program is changing how some families view Ohio State.

"The Regional Campus Commitment is opening doors for students who may never have considered Ohio State Mansfield simply due to cost, shifting the conversation for many Ohio students from 'Can I afford college?' to 'How do I apply?'" Kanney said.

That focus on access reflects Ohio State Mansfield's longstanding mission. Jason Opal, dean and director, has described it as "the right of every Ohio citizen to earn an Ohio State degree" and being "excellent, not exclusive."

For Sulyok, that mission has become personal. She described Mansfield as a "small but mighty" campus.

"Becoming a Buckeye means the whole world to me," she said. "Not only has the campus been amazing, but it is also even better that my mom and I can afford it!"

Sixty years after Ohio State Mansfield began bringing an Ohio State education closer to north central Ohio, the Regional Campus Commitment continues that mission — helping students see that an Ohio State education is within reach.

Financial Aid Stats

Ohio State Mansfield, Fall semester 2026

PROGRAMS THAT COVER TUITION

Regional Campus Commitment
Covers remaining tuition and mandatory fees for new first-year Ohio residents with family income of $100,000 or less.

Buckeye Opportunity Program
Covers remaining tuition and mandatory fees for Pell-eligible Ohio residents with a significant financial need.

51% of new first-year students at Ohio State Mansfield had their tuition and fees covered in 2026-27.

AVERAGE AWARD PER STUDENT

$8,014
Regional Campus Commitment

$10,642
Buckeye Opportuity Program

Average amount disbursed, 2026-27

A GROWING CAMPUS

941 students, up 10.8% since 2024

472 new freshmen, up 38% since 2024

Fastest two-year growth in first-year student enrollment among Ohio State regional campuses (Autumn 2026)

HOW TO QUALIFY

- File the FAFSA by the Feb. 1 priority date, every year.
- Be an Ohio resident.
- Enroll full time.





A.J. Mooney's scholarship support allowed for him to pursue his education while providing for his family.

Mansfield Campus In the News

FINDING HIS CALLING: FROM UNCERTAINTY TO THE CLASSROOM

For years, A.J. Mooney searched for a career that felt right. After stepping away from college and exploring different paths, he discovered a passion for helping others through training coworkers at Amazon and coaching youth football.

In 2021, he returned to school at Ohio State to pursue a degree in education, but the road to graduation was filled with challenges. While balancing full-time work, raising a young family, and renovating a home, he also deployed to Syria with the Ohio Army National Guard and later navigated a campus transfer due to program changes.

His greatest test came during student teaching, when he could no longer maintain his regular work schedule while supporting a growing family. Scholarship support became a lifeline. After applying for more than 100 scholarships, he was awarded two that eased the financial burden and allowed him to remain focused on his studies. Their impact extended beyond financial assistance, providing reassurance that his hard work and sacrifices were leading him toward the future he envisioned.

After graduating Cum Laude in spring of 2026, Mooney received the phone call he had been working toward for years: an offer for a full-time social studies teaching position.

Today, he is inspiring the next generation of students. His journey is a powerful reminder that perseverance, family support, and scholarship assistance can help turn uncertainty into purpose and dreams into reality. For A.J., scholarship support was more than financial assistance. It was an opportunity to continue pursuing his education, provide for his family, and ultimately step into a career where he can make a difference in the lives of future generations.

Because of generous donors, students like him can focus on what matters most: turning hard work, determination, and passion into lasting impact.

TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS EARN TOP NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Future elementary teachers at The Ohio State University are receiving some of the strongest preparation in the nation to teach children how to read.

The National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) recently awarded A+ ratings to Ohio State's Primary Education programs for their alignment with the science of reading and evidence-based literacy instruction. Offered on the Columbus campus and at all Ohio State regional campuses, including Mansfield, the programs prepare future educators to enter the classroom ready to help young learners succeed.

The recognized programs include both the Bachelor of Science in Education in Primary Education at Mansfield Campus (P-5) and Master of Education in Primary Education (P-5) at Columbus Campus.

According to NCTQ's Teacher Prep Review: Decoding Progress in Reading Preparation, Ohio State prepares teacher candidates in the five essential components of reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. The review also found that the programs avoid instructional methods that research has shown to be ineffective.

"We are grateful that the National Council on Teacher Quality has recognized our faculty and staff for their excellence in preparing future teachers," said Erik Porfeli, interim dean of Ohio State's College of Education and Human Ecology. "Our students learn proven instructional strategies that help children become successful readers and develop a love of reading."

Faculty members conduct nationally recognized research in early literacy, reading intervention, language development, dyslexia screening and special education, helping ensure coursework reflects current evidence-based practices.

Ohio State Mansfield offers a dual-licensure Primary Education program that may include an optional Visual Impairment credential. Students can learn specialized literacy strategies including supporting children with low vision or blindness, and Braille instruction.

For Binaya Subedi, interim chair of the Department of Teaching and Learning, the recognition highlights the impact Ohio State graduates continue to have in schools across Ohio and beyond.

"We are committed to the quality and growth of our teacher preparation programs," Subedi said. "This recognition demonstrates the strength of our work in literacy education and the value our graduates bring to classrooms."

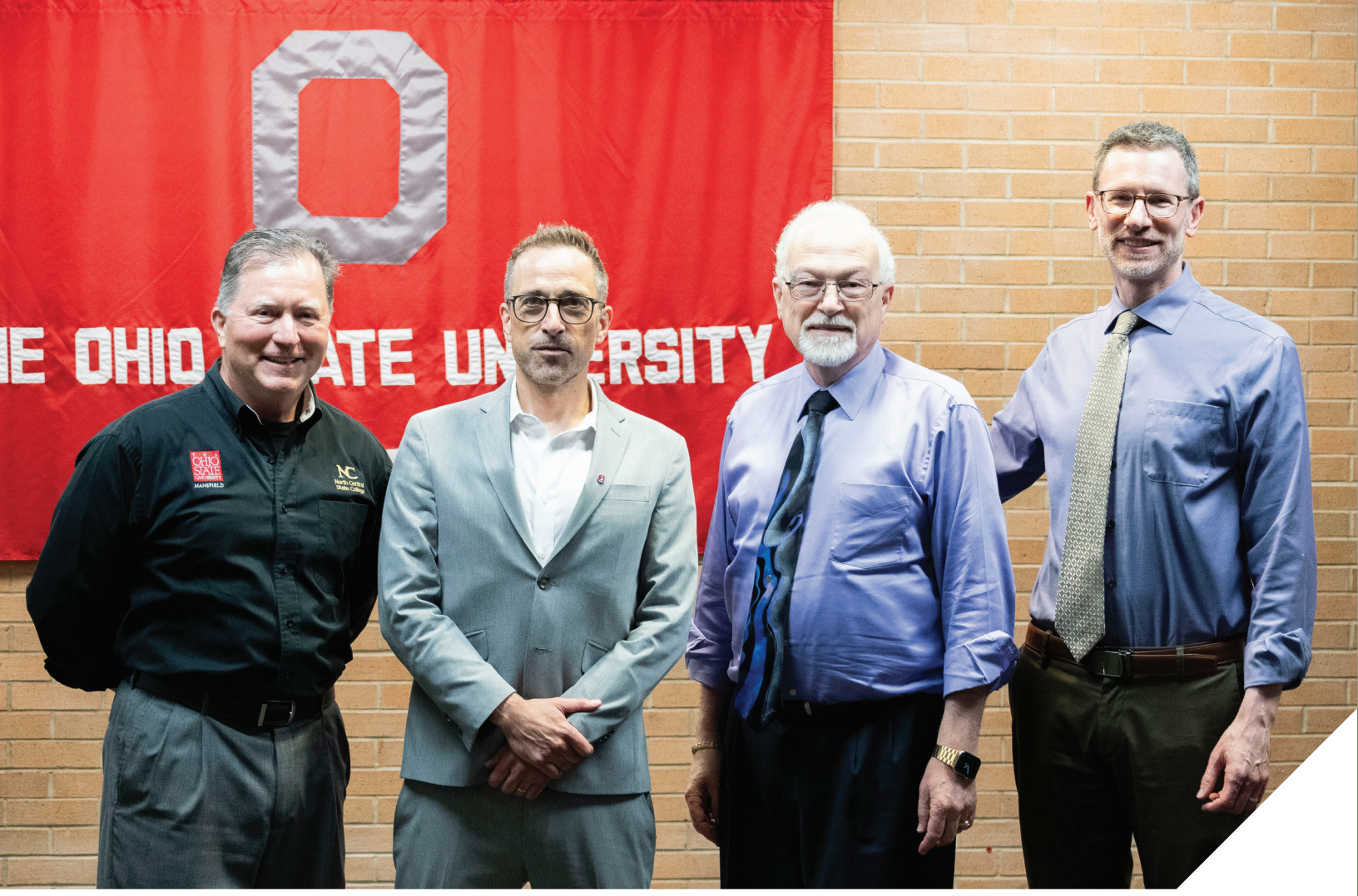
OHIO STATE ARMY ROTC PROGRAM EXPANDS TO MANSFIELD CAMPUS

Ohio State Mansfield is expanding opportunities for students interested in leadership development with the introduction of Army ROTC courses beginning in Fall 2026. Students can take foundational military science classes on the Mansfield campus, allowing them to explore the Army ROTC program closer to home.

The new courses introduce students to leadership, personal development, and teamwork while supporting those interested in pursuing an ROTC pathway alongside their academic studies. Open to all full-time students, the classes require no prior military experience or initial service commitment.

For some, the courses may serve as a first step toward a commission as an officer in the U.S. Army, Army Reserve, or Army National Guard. For others, they provide an opportunity to build confidence, strengthen leadership abilities, and gain valuable experience that can support success in virtually any career field.

The expansion reflects Ohio State's commitment to making leadership training and officer preparation more accessible across the Ohio State system, giving Mansfield students new opportunities to develop skills that will benefit them both during college and long after graduation.



Mansfield Campus Leadership: Dr. Steve Gavazzi, dean (2011-2017) and director of CHRR; Dr. Jason Opal, current dean and director; Dr. Dorey Diab, president of North Central State College; and Dr. Norman Jones, dean (2017-2022) and current vice provost for undergraduate education.

Elevating Opportunity, Inspiring Citizenship

OHIO STATE MANSFIELD EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Ohio State Mansfield has been recognized as an Opportunity College by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, a distinction earned by only 16% of colleges and universities nationwide.

The designation recognizes institutions that provide broad access to higher education while helping graduates achieve strong career and earnings outcomes.

For Ohio State Mansfield, the recognition reflects a continued commitment to affordability, accessibility and student success. Graduates earn significantly more than their regional peers, while initiatives such as the Regional Campus Commitment are helping make an Ohio State education more affordable for students and families.

Campus and community leaders gathered in June to celebrate the national honor. The recognition drew support from elected officials at the state and federal levels, with representatives from several offices joining the celebration. State Sen. Mark Romanchuk praised the campus and its collaborative, student-centered approach. State Rep. Marilyn John and the Ohio Legislature also recognized Ohio State Mansfield for the achievement.

“This is about bringing attention to a lot of work that’s typically unseen,” Dean and Director Jason Opal said. “Student outcomes and student success don’t always make headlines, but they require intensive work and dedication.”

OHIO STATE MANSFIELD DEAN DELIVERS UNIVERSITY CONSTITUTION DAY ADDRESS

Ohio State Mansfield Dean and Director Jason Opal took center stage in a university-wide celebration of Constitution Day on Sept. 17, delivering Ohio State's annual Constitution Day address at the Wexner Center for the Arts.

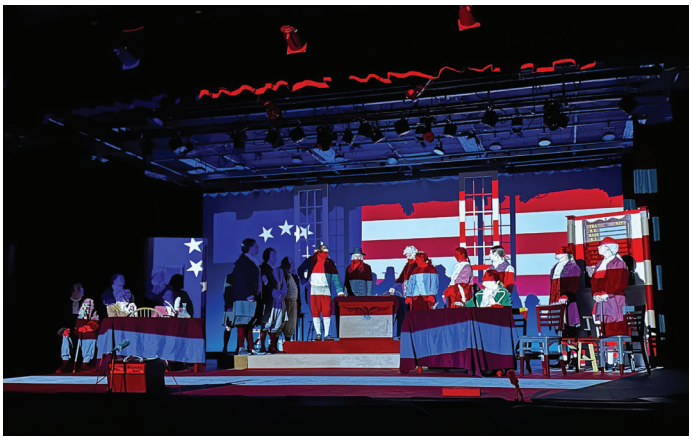
Opal, who is also a professor of history, invited members of the university community to consider the Constitution's call to form "a more perfect Union."

His address explored the idea of Union throughout American history, including the political divisions and contradictions that ultimately led to the Civil War, while challenging the audience to consider what the concept can offer Americans today.

"The memory of the way the Union worked, not as a nation where everyone was the same or had to be made to be the same, but as a union where people were choosing to live together precisely because they were distinct and different, might light our way or help us," Opal said.

The program continued with a panel discussion featuring Ohio State scholars Benjamin McKean and Margaret Newell, moderated by Christopher McKnight Nichols, examining the Constitution's history and continuing relevance.

For Ohio State Mansfield, Opal's selection as the university's Constitution Day speaker reflects the campus's contributions beyond North Central Ohio, bringing its academic leadership and scholarship to audiences across the broader Ohio State community.





From revolution to tragedy, our students brought history and classical literature to life on stage. Scenes from last year's productions of 1776 (above left) and Medea (above right) showcase the talent, creativity, and dedication of The Ohio State Mansfield Theatre.

2026-27 Theatre Season

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead

by Tom Stoppard

Performances in Founders Auditorium: October 23 -26

CATO: The Play that Made a Nation

STAGED READINGS AND CONVERSATION

Performances in Founders Auditorium: November 8 & 11

The Play's the Thing **by Ferenc Molnár**

Performances in Founders Auditorium: March 5 - 8

Live Long and Prosper

UNPRODUCED ORIGINAL STAR TREK SCRIPT READINGS

Performances in Founders Auditorium: April 5

Performances in Thompson Memorial Library, Columbus: April 7

General Admission - $10
Students/Senior/Faculty Admission - $6

Tickets can now be purchased through The Ohio State University Alumni Association's Engagement Center in three ways:

Online: Online ticket reservations are available only to current students, faculty/staff, and alumni.

Go to: go.osu.edu/mansfield_tickets

If you have never ordered tickets for an event before, please call 800-762-5646 or 614-247-4105 to create your login access through the Engagement Center and purchase.

By Phone: 800-762-5646 or 614-247-4105
Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., and Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

In Person: Tickets available at the box office 45 minutes before showtime. Please arrive 15 minutes early.

For general questions contact *mansfieldtheatre@osu.edu* or call the Theatre Box Office at 419-755-4045



Dr. Ozeas Costa, Professor of Earth Sciences, measuring physical-chemical parameters using portable sensors.

Beyond the Classroom

Research and scholarship at Ohio State Mansfield reach far beyond campus, with faculty advancing knowledge, addressing complex challenges, and contributing expertise that shapes communities, professions and fields of study around the world. Highlights from this year's publications, presentations and scholarly achievements include:

Advancing Medieval Women's History

Heather J. Tanner, professor of history, continues to build international recognition for her scholarship on medieval women and governance. Recently elected vice president for North America of the Haskins Society, Tanner co-organized an international conference in Spain, presented new research on medieval leadership, and is co-editing an upcoming book exploring the power, authority and agency of medieval women. Her work advances the influential Beyond Exceptionalism movement, which has demonstrated that women were integral not only to medieval politics and the exercise of power but to all aspects of medieval society and its history.

Connecting Classic Literature to Contemporary Audience

Jamison Kantor, associate professor of English, is helping connect literary scholarship with broader public audiences through engaging lectures and academic leadership. Over the past year, he delivered invited public talks on Jane Austen's enduring cultural influence and the role of monsters in modern film at public libraries in central Ohio. His book, "Honor, Romanticism, and the Hidden Value of Modernity," was recently shortlisted for a major prize in the field, recognizing its scholarly impact. Kantor also begins a new leadership role as chair of the university-level academic assessment committee for Ohio State's General Education theme: Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations.





Top left: Professor Jamison Kantor delivers a lecture at the Bexley Public Library on November 15, 2026, titled Jane Austen at 250: Life, Legacy, and the Fantasy of *Pride and Prejudice.* Top Right: Professor Heather Tanner and attendees of the second Beyond Exceptionalism Conference gather at the John Rylands Library in Manchester, England, July 2022.

Exploring History, Science and Culture

Tim M. Berra, Academy and professor emeritus, continues to share his passion for discovery through writing and public engagement. In 2025, he published "The Peopling of Polynesia: From Taiwan to Easter Island," his 10th book, exploring the origins and migration of Polynesian peoples across the Pacific. Berra has presented the work through lectures and book launches at Ohio State and community venues, while also sharing insights on topics ranging from Easter Island's iconic moai to the history and science of bourbon. Never one to slow down, he is already at work on his 11th book, which will examine the Battle of Okinawa.

Honoring Three Decades of Editorial Excellence

Glenn Hartz, professor of philosophy, received a distinguished honor from The Leibniz Review, which dedicated its 2025 volume to him in recognition of his 33 years of service as the journal's founding editor. Established in 1991, the peer-reviewed journal is published by the Leibniz Society of North America and distributed to institutions around the world, helping advance scholarship on the philosophy and legacy of Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz. The tribute reflects Hartz's longstanding contributions to the field and his leadership in fostering international academic dialogue.

Investigating the Health of America's Lakes

Ozeas Costa Jr., professor of earth sciences, is contributing to research that deepens understanding of the environmental challenges facing aquatic ecosystems. As part of a study of more than 1,000 lakes across the United States, Costa and his colleagues identified a potential link between invasive zebra mussels and increased levels of harmful cyanobacteria and associated toxins, offering important insight into factors that influence water quality and ecosystem health. His recent research in phytoremediation also examines innovative approaches to nutrient and toxin removal from water bodies, and the role of microbial communities in artificial floating island systems. Together, these projects advance scientific knowledge that can inform environmental management, water resource protection, and ecosystem restoration efforts.

Pioneering Research in Phage Therapy

Steve Abedon, professor of microbiology, is advancing internationally recognized research on phage therapy, an emerging approach that uses bacteriophages, or viruses that target bacteria, to combat antibiotic-resistant infections. Through a prolific body of recent scholarship, Abedon is exploring how phages can be used to develop more effective, longer-lasting treatments while reducing the likelihood of bacterial resistance. His research spans health care, food safety and agriculture, helping to expand scientific understanding of how phage-based therapies may address some of the world's most pressing infectious disease challenges. As interest in alternatives to traditional antibiotics grows, Abedon's work is helping shape the future of evidence-based phage therapy research.



Ovalwood Hall, shortly after opening. Photo courtesy of The Ohio State University Archives, 1967.

Ovalwood at 60:
The Academic Heart of Ohio State Mansfield

For six decades, generations of Buckeyes have walked through the doors of Ovalwood Hall — entering classrooms, meeting professors and beginning experiences that would shape both their education and their connection to the Mansfield community.

Ovalwood has remained at the center of Ohio State Mansfield through generations of students, faculty and campus leaders since opening in 1966.

The building itself has also been transformed. Classrooms have evolved, programs have expanded and technology has changed the way students learn. Despite those changes, Ovalwood has remained what current Dean and Director Jason Opal calls the "academic heart" of the Mansfield campus.

"Ovalwood is the academic heart of our campus, it's where we teach everything from Shakespeare to Calculus to Cell Biology."
Jason Opal, Dean and Director

Its 60th anniversary provides an opportunity not only to look back at the building's history, but at the different eras of leadership that helped shape the campus around it.

Six Decades of Leadership

During Dr. John Riedl's tenure, Ohio State Mansfield experienced a period of change that included the addition of the business management program and plans that would ultimately reshape Ovalwood itself.

Those developments reflected a pattern that would continue throughout Ovalwood's history: as the needs of students changed, the campus changed with them.

Dr. Evelyn Freeman recalled an era of significant physical and student-life growth. During her tenure, Riedl Hall was constructed, Ovalwood underwent a major renovation, the Cyber Café was added and opportunities in engineering and student services expanded.

The changes were about far more than the physical buildings. They reflected an evolving campus and the changing needs of the students who came to Mansfield for their Ohio State education.

Reaching New Students

That evolution continued under Dr. Steve Gavazzi, who reflected efforts to broaden the campus's reach beyond its traditional geographic area.

Campus leaders saw an influx of students from Cleveland, Akron and Canton and began exploring ways to create a more residential college experience. Those efforts ultimately contributed to Buckeye Village and the broader Campus District concept.

Through it all, Ovalwood remained the academic home at the center of a growing campus.

Deans and Directors of Ohio State Mansfield

1958	**W.L. Miller**
1966 AUTUMN QTR	**Richard Q. King**
1967 WINTER QTR	**Dr. Dennis Bell**
1967-1968	**Dr. George J. Bart**
1968-1971	**Dr. Robert C. Gibson**
1971-1978	**Dr. James B. Heck**
1979-1980	**Dr. Richard L. Wink**
1980-1985	**Dr. David W. Kramer**
1986	**Dr. Laurine E. Fitzgerald**
1986-2003	**Dr. John O. Riedl**
2003-2011	**Dr. Evelyn B. Freeman**
2011-2017	**Dr. Stephen M. Gavazzi**
2017-2022	**Dr. Norman W. Jones**
2022-2024	**Dr. Eric M. Anderman**
2024-2026	**Dr. Jason M. Opal**

Adapting Through Change

Perhaps no period tested Ovalwood's role more than the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Norman Jones recalled the challenge of maintaining teaching and learning when classes moved beyond the building's walls. The campus adapted through outdoor programming and Wi-Fi hotspots that helped students stay connected.

The years that followed brought renewed growth. Dr. Eric Anderman highlighted progress toward the Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology program and a renewed university commitment to Ohio State's regional campuses.

Throughout each transition, Ovalwood remained a constant, evolving alongside the students and programs it serves.

A Building That's Booming

Now, as the building enters its seventh decade, another period of change is underway.

Dr. Opal said Ohio State Mansfield's population of new first-year students has grown 38% over the past two years, drawing students not only from Richland and Cuyahoga counties but throughout the campus's 21-county service area and across the state.

"Ovalwood, like our campus more broadly, is booming," Opal said. That growth is creating new demands for the building that has served students since 1966.

Plans are focused on upgrading Ovalwood's fourth-floor life sciences laboratories and improving digital and collaborative learning spaces on the first and second floors. Founders Theatre, which is connected to Ovalwood, also needs modernization.

The changes reflect how dramatically the college classroom itself has evolved.

"Students now learn best with frequent break-out groups, collaborative projects, and closely supervised and carefully chosen applications of AI technology," Opal said. "Ovalwood needs to evolve as such, especially with collaborative learning spaces in classrooms and study spaces."

Those improvements would directly support many of Ohio State Mansfield's 12 four-year majors, including biology, business, psychology, English, history, criminology, social work, and sociology.

Looking Ahead to 2066

Even as the building changes, Opal sees its fundamental role remaining much the same. "It will remain the academic heart of campus — the centerpiece of Mansfield campus as 'Ohio State's small college,'" he said.

And when another generation looks back on Ovalwood's history at its 100th anniversary in 2066, Opal hopes the late 2020s will be remembered as another defining period in the building's history.

"I hope and expect that they will see the late 2020s as the time when we trusted what we do best — deliver a transformative undergraduate experience open to all Ohioans — and invested accordingly, bringing in community partners and the university at large to upgrade, enhance, and uplift the heart of campus."

Sixty years after Ovalwood first opened its doors, the classrooms, programs and people inside them continue to change.

But for the generations of Buckeyes still walking through those doors, its purpose remains remarkably familiar: a place to learn, connect and begin their Ohio State story.

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

MANSFIELD

One unexpected bill shouldn't end a student's semester

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY!

Richland Gives runs Nov. 16–Dec. 1.

Your gift to the Ohio State Mansfield Student Emergency Fund helps students navigate unexpected financial hardships and continue pursuing their goals.

mansfield.osu.edu/story/help-college-students-need

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY AT MANSFIELD
Cindy Wood, Director of Development and Community Relations
1760 University Drive, Mansfield, OH 44906
wood.1183@osu.edu | 419.755.4113
give.osu.edu/mansfield