



**OFFICE OF  
STUDENT LIFE**

**Our Commitment to Student Success and Development at  
OHIO STATE**



**SPRING/SUMMER 2011**

## A message from the **VICE PRESIDENT**

Student Life is often perceived as being a non-technical area. While it is true that our greatest focus is on personal interactions, we do, in fact, use a lot of technology to help us create extraordinary student experiences. We use computers and other technical devices in multiple and creative ways to enable us to provide the support students need to be successful, the information they need to make important decisions, and the efficiency to ensure that we can use our resources wisely.

From scheduling intramurals to adapting course materials for those with physical limitations to securing residence hall doors to managing health records, Student Life staff create, maintain, and continually look for new ways to improve the technology supporting our services and programs. Keeping up with fast-changing technology is a challenge, but we strive to be at the right place at the right time. Right now, for instance, mobile applications are a hot topic, along with new interactive websites to assist students in managing the transition from quarters to semesters, and a new program to enhance and better coordinate career preparation.

Websites and technology will not replace experienced and caring staff, but they do make it possible to do more things for more students in an efficient, accessible manner.



## FOCUS ON **Technology**

Technology plays a role in just about every aspect of life today, and that includes Student Life. Computers and other “smart” devices are everywhere you would expect, and some places that might be more surprising, helping Student Life staff communicate more effectively, offer programs and services more broadly, and manage operations more efficiently.

Similarly, mobile applications, Twitter, Facebook, and blogs have joined websites and email as communications methods. Each year, fewer paper forms are needed, and standing in line to register for classes or pay fees is becoming as rare as student using a landline phone. Residence hall students renewing their contracts can select their rooms online, and training sessions for student organization presidents, treasurers, and advisers can also be done online.

The Student Health Center keeps its records electronically and its pharmacy uses a “smart cabinet” to fill common prescriptions. Both features add to the accuracy and speed of health care. The Counseling and Consultation Service and the Student Wellness Center have self-screening tools on their websites that help students do simple assessments of things such as stress and anxiety, alcohol use, and depression—with encouragement to meet with counselors if the tools indicate possible levels of concern.

Technology also improves the bottom line, as automated building systems save energy and promote environmental awareness. A pilot project in two residence halls last spring demonstrated that students who could see how much energy was being used in their building did a better job of conservation than those who did not.

From computer-aided design in Facilities Management and Logistics to BuckID card access to residence hall doors, technology assists Student Life staff in creating extraordinary experiences for all students.



**Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston**  
Vice President for Student Life



## OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE: Creating the Extraordinary Student Experience

The Office of Student Life is dedicated to creating a holistic and supportive educational experience for Ohio State University students. The staff, programs, and services are designed to help students transition into and through college and prepare them for a lifetime of learning and contribution to a global society. We provide opportunities that complement the academic curricula and help students overcome obstacles. We operate many of the programs and services of daily life, including housing, dining, recreation, student organizations, health care, counseling, and career development.

The Office of Student Life seeks to ensure that each student has a healthful and safe environment, supportive living conditions, appropriate counsel and assistance, multiple opportunities to develop leadership and citizenship skills, and experiences that lead to greater appreciation of diverse peoples and cultures, as well as opportunities to socialize, relax, and have fun.

## OUR COMMITMENT to student success and development at Ohio State

Enhance learning environments

Provide support for transformational student experiences

Promote positive climates of diversity

Reinforce resource stewardship

Strengthen staff development and culture

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT Tools for School

Livescribe Pulse Pens are innovative study tools that incorporate traditional note-taking and advanced technology. These state-of-the-art pens record spoken lectures while electronically archiving what the student writes. When studying, students can return to their notes, touch the Pulse Pen to a specific word, and hear what their professor was saying at that exact moment in the lecture.

This amazing product can contribute to any student's success, but Student Life's Disability Services department has identified the pens to be of particular assistance to students with ADHD, learning disabilities in reading/writing, and brain injuries.

In spring 2011, Disability Services received generous funding from William Zornes and Scitor Corporation to purchase 40 Pulse Pens for distribution to students in need.

**"We were thrilled to be able to offer this technology to our students," said Lois Harris, director of Disability Services. "Even though the Livescribe pen was not developed for specific use for persons with disabilities, it is a good example of how products with universal design can be particularly useful for persons with limitations."**



## Quick Contact with Students

Life on a college campus moves so fast that, many times, you only have a few seconds to make an impression. That is why some organizations are trying out new – and fast – ways to connect with students.

University Residences and Dining Services, Recreational Sports, and the Ohio Union Activities Board (OUAB), to name a few, recently started using QR (Quick Response) codes to promote upcoming events and other programs. Similar to the way grocery stores use UPC codes to scan product prices, event planners can provide QR codes on their marketing materials so that students can "scan" it into their smart phones and connect directly with a specific website to find additional information and details.

Use of this technology saves space in advertisements and time for students who want to learn more. As an added benefit, QR codes created through the university's new media department offer tracking and reporting services that allow improved assessment of marketing efforts.

# OUR TEAM

## STUDENT LIFE

By the numbers

### Student support departments

- BuckID
- Career Connection
- Center for Student Leadership and Service
- Counseling and Consultation Service
- Disability Services
- Multicultural Center
- Neighborhood Services and Collaboration
- Off-Campus and Commuter Student Engagement
- Ohio Union and Student Activities
- Parent and Family Relations
- Recreational Sports
- Recreational Sports Learning
- Student Advocacy Center
- Student Conduct
- Student Health Insurance
- Student Health Services
- Student Life Orientation
- Student Wellness Center
- University Catering
- University Residences and Dining Services
- Younkin Success Center

### Administrative departments

- Center for the Study of Student Life
- Office of the Vice President for Student Life
- Student Life Budget and Planning
- Student Life Development
- Student Life Facility Management and Logistics
- Student Life Fiscal Support Services
- Student Life Human Resources
- Student Life Marketing and Communications
- Student Life Technology Services
- Summer Conference Housing

### Affiliated departments

- The Blackwell Inn
- Drake Performance and Event Center
- The Fawcett Center
- The Jerome Schottenstein Center

### Last year:

More than **18 million** transactions (security access, debit purchases, meal swipes, activities) were managed on the BuckID system.

**12,529** devices ran on ResNet, the high speed internet network in the residence halls.

Disability Services converted nearly **2,000** textbooks and other course materials to alternative media formats and served nearly **5,000** students at the Assistive Technology Training Center.

More than **73%** of students reported that they use/visit Facebook 1-5 times per day.\*

Almost **70%** of students indicated that they prefer to receive general university updates via e-mail.\*

About **one-third** of students reported owning a smart phone (Blackberry, iPhone, etc.).

\*2010 Student Technology Survey.



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