



SEPTEMBER 2026

THE PRESIDENT'S PULSE



During my first three months as President, I've spent a lot of time listening.

I've listened to students, faculty and staff. I've met with community and business leaders across Ohio. And I've had the chance to sit down with many of our alumni, hear their Muskingum stories, and see how Muskingum remains woven into their lives long after their student days in New Concord.

(Click to continue reading Dr. Lilly's message [here](#))

LIFE MORE ABUNDANT



Johnny Barba '18 Finds His Way Home Through Medicine and Community

For Johnny Barba '18, coming home isn't an obligation. It's simply where he belongs.

That idea has followed Barba from his childhood in Byesville, Ohio, to Muskingum, through medical

school and public health training at The Ohio State University, and now into his dermatology residency. It was also at the heart of his return to Muskingum as the 2026 Opening Convocation speaker.



Building the Next Generation of Tech Talent

For retired Muskingum University professor Jay Shaffstall, stepping away from the classroom did not mean stepping away from teaching.

This summer, Shaffstall returned to a familiar role—helping young students discover what they can accomplish through technology—as co-instructor of the first Muskingum County TECH CORPS Techie Camp, held July 27-31 in New Concord.

WHERE KNOWLEDGE STILL IS HOLY



Muskingum Senior Puts Wildlife Education Into Practice at Bear Center

This summer, senior Ella McClelland, spent three months as a Bear Educator Intern at the North American Bear Center in Ely, Minnesota. The center's mission is to replace misconceptions and myths about bears with scientific facts, and she supported that mission by leading educational tours and presentations that taught visitors about black bear biology and behavior.



A New Path to Occupational Therapy for Today's Muskies

Muskingum students who dream of becoming occupational therapists now have a new way to get a head start.

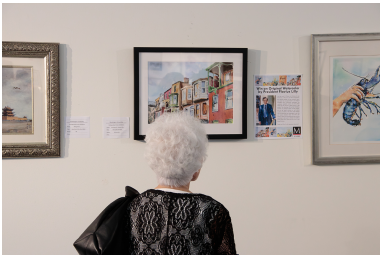
The University's new Occupational Science (OCSC) minor gives undergraduate students interested in occupational therapy the opportunity to begin preparing for Muskingum's Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) program while completing their bachelor's degree.

TO DO THEE HONOR



Faculty Development Grant Supports New Film Music Course

A Muskingum University faculty development grant provided Associate Professor of Music David Turrill with the opportunity to become a student again this summer while preparing to launch a new General Education course at Muskingum.



Palmer Gallery Features Regional Talent in Fall Exhibitions

Muskingum University recently welcomed visitors to the Louis O. Palmer Gallery for *Embracing a New Era with New Perspectives*, an exhibition celebrating creativity, artistic innovation, and diverse cultural viewpoints. Running from September 10 through October 1, 2026, the exhibition has brought together artists from Southeast Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, Northern West Virginia, and China, creating a dynamic exchange of regional and international artistic voices.

YOUTH TRIUMPHANT



Muskies Rally for Student-Athletes

For one day in September, Muskies everywhere rallied around a shared purpose: supporting the student-athletes who represent Muskingum in competition, in the classroom, and in their communities.

The result was an impressive show of support.



Muskingum Athletics Joins Lt. Governor Jim Tressel to Inspire the Next Generation

Excitement, energy, and a passion for healthy living filled the gymnasium at John McIntire Elementary School in Zanesville, Ohio, as Muskingum University Athletics teamed up with Ohio Lieutenant Governor Jim Tressel and the Team Tressel Fitness Challenge to deliver an unforgettable experience for local students.

THY LOYAL CHILDREN

Council Connections



The Relationships That Last: Meet Jen Noble '03

For Jen Noble '03, some of the most important lessons she learned at Muskingum had little to do with what appeared on a syllabus.



Paying It Forward: Meet Cliff Wiltshire '86

When Cliff Wiltshire '86 arrived at Muskingum for freshman orientation, he was 600 miles from home—and seeing the campus for the very first time.



Adventure to London with the Muskies

Join fellow alumni and students March 6-14, 2027, for an unforgettable Muskie adventure in London, led by Professor Kekoa Kaluhiokalani. Explore world-class landmarks, discover centuries of history, and share in the spirit of global learning—together.



Homecoming 2026: A Weekend to Remember

There is nothing quite like coming home to Muskingum, and this year, Homecoming promises to be especially memorable.

Homecoming 2026, October 9–11, will bring generations of Muskies together for a weekend filled with tradition, celebration, reconnection, and a historic moment in the life of the University: the inauguration of Dr. Flavius Lilly as Muskingum's 22nd President.

IN THE NEWS

ICYMI: Muskingum University Named Ohio's Top Best Value University, Rises in U.S. News & World Report

[Rankings](#)

[Laudations](#)

ON CAMPUS AND BEYOND

Visit our Online [Events Calendar](#) for details on arts, athletics, lectures, presentations, and more!

Upcoming Alumni Events:

- **104th Magenta Homecoming Celebration**
Friday, October 9 through Sunday, October 11
[Register to attend now!](#)
- **22nd Presidential Inauguration of Dr. Flavius Lilly**
Saturday, October 10, Brown Chapel
[WATCH PRESIDENT LILLY'S INAUGURATION LIVE](#)
- **Spring Break in London**
March 6-14, 2027
[Sign up for more information here.](#)

Concerts:

- [Muskingum Collage Concert, October 9](#), 8:00 p.m., Brown Chapel
- [Homecoming Chapel Service Chamber Singers](#), October 11, 10:00 a.m., Brown Chapel
- [Zawa! Flute Duet Concert](#), October 12, 7:00 p.m., Brown Chapel

Theatre: Caldwell Hall

- [The 2026 First Year Show: Babinski and Smith's Summer Show](#), Caldwell Hall
October 10, 7:00 p.m.
October 11, 2:00 p.m.

Art: Louis O. Palmer Art Gallery:

- [Embracing a New Era with New Perspectives](#), September 9-October 1, 2026, Palmer Gallery
Reception held **Wednesday, September 9, 3:00pm – 5:00pm**
Lecture by artists, **Wednesday, September 16, 1:00 – 2:00pm**

Athletics:

- All Fall Fighting Muskie schedules can be [found online](#).

STAY CONNECTED

- **Class Notes:** Submit a Note and Catch Up with Fellow Muskies
- **Update Your Contact Info:** What's new with you? Job, address, addition to the family? Have you retired or changed email addresses?! We want to know so we can stay connected!

FROM THE ARCHIVES



An alumna revisits her 1961 yearbook—this time on an iPad—during her 50th class reunion at Alumni Weekend in June of 2011, blending cherished memories with modern technology.

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