



Around the Oval | May 7, 2025

From College of Arts and Sciences at Ohio State <ascomm@m.osu.edu>

Date Wed 07/05/2025 15:01

To Nahar, Sultana <nahar.1@osu.edu>



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Around the Oval

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Around the Oval will be published biweekly throughout the summer beginning with the May 7 issue. The next issue will publish May 21.

This week in the media



How declassified historic satellite images could help clear unexploded bombs in Vietnam 50 years later

Erin Lin, an associate professor in the Department of Political Science, was recently quoted in an [article by NPR](#) discussing unexploded bombs in Vietnam and how to detect them. "When a lot of these cluster bombs and the general purpose bombs actually hit some of these really fertile areas of Cambodia, they were essentially the areas that are the least likely for these bombs to go off," Lin said. "So you have farmers that are essentially in the most fertile areas who were the most afraid to farm because these are the most dangerous areas."



Best credit cards for May 2025

Lucia Dunn, Sports and Society Research Professor in the Department of Economics, was recently [quoted in a WalletHub article](#) discussing the best credit cards for the month of May in 2025. "Always read the fine print on credit card applications," she said. "A potential card user should compare interest rates, late fees, cash back, air miles or other perks, etc. And if this is an introductory offer, what happens when the introductory period expires. The goal should always be to minimize the cost of using a credit card, especially if the card user anticipates having to carry a balance at some point."

This week in awards and achievements



Nyama McCarthy-Brown's book receives Popular Culture Association award

An associate professor in the Department of Dance, **Nyama McCarthy-Brown's** book [Skin Colored Pointes: Interviews With Women of Color in Ballet](#) recently received the 2025 Harry Shaw and Katrina Hazzard-Donald Award for Outstanding Work in African-American Popular Culture Studies from the Popular Culture Association on April 18.



Dana Haynie selected as 2025 ASC Fellow by the American Society of Criminology

[Dana Haynie](#), Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor in the Department of Sociology, was recently selected as a 2025 ASC Fellow by the American Society of Criminology. This award honors scholarly contributions to criminology and distinction in the discipline and was given based on research excellence, service, leadership, and mentorship that characterize the candidate's professional record. The ASC Award Committee noted that Dr. Haynie's work has significantly advanced research on the processes related to crime and delinquency through the application of criminological and social network theories and methods.



Richard Petty elected to National Academy of Sciences

Richard Petty, a professor in the Department of Psychology, is among 120 members and 30 international members recently elected to the [National Academy of Sciences \(NAS\)](#). The NAS is committed to furthering science in America and its members are active contributors to the international scientific community. Members are elected in recognition of their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research and membership is considered one of the highest honors that a scientist can receive.



Nahar receives William Fowler Award

[Sultana Nahar](#), a research professor in the Department of Astronomy, has received the prestigious William Fowler Award for Distinguished Research in Physics from the American Physical Society. Nahar's research focuses on the fundamental physics and astrophysics of energy propagation through stellar interiors defined as the opacity. The award is named in honor of Ohio State alumnus William Fowler who won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1983 for his work on stellar nucleosynthesis.

This week in research and creativity



Researching white women in the slave trade led to unique opportunity for economics undergraduate

Undergraduate research in higher education institutions isn't rare. However, an undergraduate student being listed as a first author on a paper cited in *The New York Times* is significantly less common. [That is exactly what happened](#) to **Benton Wishart**, who graduated with an economics degree from The Ohio State University in May 2024. Wishart is listed as the first author of the paper, "Her Property Transactions: White Women and the Frequency of Female Ownership in the Antebellum Era," which went on to be discussed by *The New York Times* and *The Economist*.



Alumna Jean Carfagno '61 reflects on the impact of the devastating California wildfires — and how she can help

In her more than 30 years of practice, [Jean Carfagno has counseled people](#) who are dependent on everything from alcohol to opioids—but the one thing many of her clients have in common, what often precedes their addiction, is trauma: childhood abuse, sexual assault, war. All around Los Angeles now, there are similar echoes of tragedy.



Research shows human conversations offer value beyond chatbots

An associate professor in the School of Communication, **Jingbo Meng** [has co-authored a paper](#) titled, "Examining the Content and Form of Supportive Conversations with Chatbots," recently accepted for publication in the *International Journal of Human-Computer Interaction*. Her research revealed that people were more open to discussing their problems in detail when talking to humans rather than chatbots.

This week in events



Spring Plant Fundraiser

On **May 9** from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the [Biological Sciences Greenhouse](#) will be hosting its [annual spring plant fundraiser](#). Plants available include:

- Herbs: basil, oregano, thyme, rosemary, cilantro, dill, parsley
- Flowers: zinnia, marigolds, coleus, impatiens
- Vegetables: tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, lettuce, squash, eggplants
- Houseplants and succulents

If you would like to support the greenhouse financially beyond the plant sale, you can [make a gift online](#).

[Artists and Makers: Roadtrip Exhibition](#)

Through May 22

[Vessels in Red](#)

May 13 - June 7

["The Trump Administration's Domestic Policies: Insights from History"](#)

May 8, 4 p.m.

[The 21st Ballam Symposium](#)

May 9, 9 a.m.

[Falkenthal Graduate Research Colloquium](#)

May 9, 8:30 a.m.

[Artist Commune Journal Launch Party](#)

May 15, 6 p.m.

[9th Gateway NMR Conference and Inauguration Symposium](#)

May 15-16

Submit to Around the Oval

Around the Oval is the weekly newsletter of the Ohio State College of Arts and Sciences that shares the latest news, recognition and impact from around the college. We accept submissions of faculty, student, staff and alumni news and recognition, as well as college events, for consideration.

The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon for potential inclusion in a future newsletter.

[Submit news and events](#)



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