Wilma H. Schiermeier Olentangy River Wetland Research Park

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PRESS RELEASE
May 13, 2008

Undergraduate researchers at The Ohio State University predict the impact of the 5th Avenue Dam removal at 2008 Denman Forum on campus

Eleven undergraduate students from five departments and the Wilma H. Schiermeier Olentangy River Wetland Research Park (ORWRP) at The Ohio State University will present their research on the Lower Olentangy River near the university, where a 80-year-old dam will be removed in the next year or two. Their work is part of a research project partially funded by the City of Columbus and the ORWRP entitled "Lower Olentangy River Ecosystem Restoration Project." That project will evaluate the effects of the dam removal by measuring the same parameters after the dam is removed that these students measured prior to dam removal.

The students' research describes the current conditions in the lower Olentangy River prior to the removal of the 5th Avenue Dam. The 470-foot dam, constructed in the 1920s to create a reservoir mainly used for power plant cooling by the university, is expected to be removed from the river in the next year or two. Some of these undergraduate researchers will attempt to predict the conditions that may occur in this river pool when the dam is removed.

The results will be presented as 11 posters at the 2008 Denman Undergraduate Research Forum being held at the Recreation and Physical Activity Center (RPAC) on Ohio State University's campus on **Wednesday, May 14, 2008.** The list of posters is attached.

Public viewing is from 12 noon through 3 pm.

Students and their advisors are from the Departments of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Geodetic Science; Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology; Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering; and Geography; and the School of Environment and Natural Resources at Ohio State.

The 13th annual Denman Undergraduate Research Forum will take place on Wednesday, May 14, 2008 in the Recreation and Physical Activity Center (RPAC), with 416 students participating in 377 projects. Students will be judged by faculty, corporate, and external judges and $22,000 in cash will be awarded to this year's winners.

The Denman Undergraduate Research Forum (http://denman.osu.edu/) was created in 1996 and is a cooperative effort of The Ohio State University's Honors & Scholars Center, The Undergraduate Research Office, and The Office of Research. The Forum is an opportunity to showcase outstanding student research and encourage all undergraduates to participate in research as a value-added element of their education.

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Lower Olentangy River Ecosystem Restoration Project
at the
2008 Denman Undergraduate Research Forum

14 May 2008
RPAC, The Ohio State University
Public viewing: noon – 3 pm

Booth: 111

Land Use/ Land Cover Change Analysis of the Olentangy River Corridor, using Remote Sensing of Landsat Satellite Imagery and Historical Aerial Photos

Presenter(s): David Sanford, Scott Lowry
Advisor(s): Carolyn Merry
Civil and Environmental Engineering and Geodetic Science

Booth: 113

Elevation Analysis of the Olentangy River Corridor using LiDAR Imagery and Bathymetric Modeling

Presenter(s): David Sanford, Scott Lowry
Advisor(s): Carolyn Merry
Civil and Environmental Engineering and Geodetic Science

Booth: 201

Lower Olentangy River Ecosystem Restoration Project: Current Biological State

Presenter(s): Justin Walters
Advisor(s): David Johnson
School of Environment and Natural Resources (Fisheries and Wildlife Management)

Booth: 202

A Two-Year Study of Water Quality in the Reach of the Olentangy River Impacted by a Low-Head Dam Scheduled for Removal

Presenter(s): Kyle Chambers
Advisor(s): William Mitsch and Li Zhang
School of Environment and Natural Resources (Environmental Science)

Booth: 203

Sampling Flood Event Water Quality on a River: Implications for Floodplain Restoration after Dam Removal

Presenter(s): Christopher Cooley
Advisor(s): William Mitsch and Li Zhang
School of Environment and Natural Resources (Environmental Science)

Booth: 204

The Impact of the 5th Avenue Lowhead Dam on Denitrification Rates in the Lower Olentangy Watershed in Columbus, Ohio

Presenter(s): Gwen Dubelko
Advisor(s): Virginie Bouchard
School of Environment and Natural Resources (Environmental Science)

Booth: 205

River Ecosystem Temperatures in Transition: Monitoring Basal River Temperatures throughout the Olentangy River Restoration Project

Presenter(s): Eric Haas
Advisor(s): Bryan Mark
Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology; Geography

Booth: 207

Determining Channel Location and Stability in the Lower Olentangy Prior to Dam Removal

Presenter(s): Matthew Lane
Advisor(s): Virginie Bouchard
School of Environment and Natural Resources (Environmental Science)

Booth: 208

Estimation of Maximum Discharges of Flood Events of Selected Occurrence Frequencies

Presenter(s): Alexandra Naegele
Advisor(s): William Mitsch and Li Zhang
School of Environment and Natural Resources (Environmental Science)

Booth: 209

Vegetation Analysis of a Bottomland Hardwood Forested Wetland Upstream of a Dam Prior to Removal

Presenter(s): Monica Noon
Advisor(s): William Mitsch
School of Environment and Natural Resources (Environmental Science)

Booth: 210

The Effects of Sewer Overflows and the Fifth Avenue Dam on Water Quality in the Olentangy River

Presenter(s): Nikki Skrinak
Advisor(s): Jay Martin and Charissa Young
Food, Agricultural, and Biological Engineering