Adventist Missionaries Bring Bibles to Cuba

Although Seventh-day Adventists were unable to worship openly in Cuba until recently, members from Potomac Conference’s Seabrook church in Lanham, Md., have ministered there for more than three years. During the reign of Fidel Castro, things were very bad for Adventists, says Gavin Simpson, who organizes the trips. “Some men even went to jail for staying true to their faith. Thankfully, the government is now loosening religious restrictions.” To help combat the lack of Bibles, Simpson organized the group and spent more than $2,000 purchasing Bibles, tracts and various books by Ellen White. The president of the Cuban Union says that they were the first group of missionaries that he knew of who visited Cuba and invested in literature for the church.—Dawna-gene Milton and V. Michelle Bernard
Peruvian Missionaries Help Mountain View Conference Reach More Hispanics

This summer the Mountain View Conference (MVC) kicked off a mission project that connected Seventh-day Adventists on two continents. The project was born in early 2015, when the staff and student body of the Peruvian Union University (PUU) in Lima, Peru, challenged students to serve as missionaries around the world.— Valérie Morikone

Liberian Church Joins Pennsylvania Conference
A small group of members interested in reaching the more than 15,000 Liberians living in the Philadelphia area reached out to Pastor Matthew Kamara who was completing a doctorate of ministry at Andrews University (Mich.). Kamara previously served as the treasurer of the Liberian Conference in Africa and planted several churches there and in South Bend, Ind.—Pennsylvania Conference Staff

LivingWell Announces New General Manager
Potomac Conference administration recently announced that Laura Worf is joining the LivingWell (formerly the Potomac ABC) team as the new general manager. Worf will start her new role at the Silver Spring, Md., store in October.—Tiffany Doss

Read the entire September Visitor online!

More Adventist News

7 Ways That Science Points to Intelligent Design
Columbia Union Hosts Health Ministry Training
Couple Builds Laurelwood Youth, Pathfinder Experience
Highland View Academy Expands Academics Through STEM, Dual Credits
Kettering College Online Program Ranked 5th Best in Ohio
More Than 500 Attend Pennsylvania Conference Hispanic Youth Rally
REACH Philadelphia Church Organized
Volunteer at Faith for Family Event in Philadelphia
ADRA Opens Refugee Center in Belgrade
Adventist Missionaries Bring Bibles to Cuba

Michelle Bernard

Although Seventh-day Adventists were unable to worship openly in Cuba until recently, members from Potomac Conference’s Seabrook church in Lanham, Md., have ministered there for more than three years. And this summer, Seabrook church members Gavin Simpson, Noah Simpson and Audrey Clarke traveled with Margaret Cancelliere, a member from Pennsylvania Conference’s Pottstown church, and Kenton Rawlins, a member from Connecticut, for a third mission trip to Gibara, a small seaside town where they have worked for the past two years.

Story by Dawna-gene Milton and V. Michelle Bernard

During the reign of Fidel Castro, things were very bad for Adventists, says Gavin Simpson, who organizes the trips. “Some men even went to jail for staying true to their faith. Thankfully, the government is now loosening religious restrictions.”

Several years ago, the Cuban Union Conference, which has 317 churches and about 32,000 members, was able to open a printing press at the Adventist Seminary in Havana. But, because the average salary is about 65 cents a day, many cannot afford to purchase a Bible, which costs a week’s salary.
Simpson reports, “One of the sad realities, is that not many Adventists are undertaking mission projects in Cuba at the present time. Many still see the country as closed, but it has been opened to missionaries for almost 10 years. In fact, before the recent [restored diplomatic reconciliation] between the two countries took place, mission work used to be one of the only reasons the U.S. would allow a citizen you to visit Cuba.”

To help combat the lack of Bibles, Simpson organized the group and spent more than $2,000 purchasing Bibles, tracts and various books by Ellen White. The president of the Cuban Union says that they were the first group of missionaries that he knew of who visited Cuba and invested in literature for the church.

During their most recent mission, the team visited hundreds of homes, leaving a Bible, Great Controversy or other piece of literature at each home. They also visited the homes of sick and shut-in members. While there they read Bible passages and sang hymns in English with them. The team also hosted nightly evangelistic meetings, which resulted in 12 baptisms.
When asked about the recent reopening of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Cuba, Simpson says, “It is still a very strict country, but I am noticing a new stance on religious liberty, and the government allowing people to have Bibles and religious literature for themselves. In 60 years, Cuba is now seeing the most favorable conditions for evangelism. The people there have been cut off from the world for a long time and are now eager to again be a part of the global Adventist community.”

The group is already planning several mission trips to Cuba in 2016.
This summer the Mountain View Conference (MVC) kicked off a mission project that connected Seventh-day Adventists on two continents.

Story by Valerie Morikone

The project was born in early 2015, when the staff and student body of the Peruvian Union University (PUU) in Lima, Peru, challenged students to serve as missionaries around the world. Many members of the student body accepted and committed to serve. School leaders say their motivation was founded on the blessings that came from the missionaries who brought the Three Angels’ Messages to their homeland. In turn, they wanted to bless others across the globe through what they deemed the “I Will Go” call.

Meanwhile in the United States, Art Jeronimo, an MVC pastor, shared with PUU faculty the MVC’s need for more workers to follow up on the Voice of Prophecy Bible study request cards the conference sent out. Jeronimo also told them about the conference administration’s new initiative to expand the work to reach the growing Hispanic demographic in MVC.

Because of the two entities’ conversations, Maximina Contreras Castro, PUU president, invited Larry Boggess, MVC president, and Pastor Jeronimo to visit PUU and discuss the possibility of the two organizations partnering so both their mission goals could be realized. During that visit, the leaders made plans for senior Peruvian Union University student missionaries to work in the Mountain View Conference territory. This spring Jeronimo and Boggess returned to PUU to make the final selection of students to spend 12 months helping evangelize Mountain View areas with a large Spanish-speaking population.

Eleven missionaries from the PUU’s School of Theology arrived in July and will return home in July 2016. The 11 men started their mission by visiting Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va., for training and orientation.

“This newest initiative is an answer to prayer,” says Larry Boggess. “Many in this conference have had a growing burden to see the Hispanic work strengthened. [We are thankful that] the Peruvian Union University has entrusted us with these very gifted students.”
Liberian Church Joins Pennsylvania Conference

Michelle Bernard

A small group of members interested in reaching the more than 15,000 Liberians living in the Philadelphia area reached out to Pastor Matthew Kamara who was completing a doctorate of ministry at Andrews University (Mich.). Kamara previously served as the treasurer of the Liberian Conference in Africa and planted several churches there and in South Bend, Ind.

Story by Pennsylvania Conference Staff

Kamara agreed to help and started the journey to opening the Pilgrim church. In 2013 Kamara started commuting to Philadelphia on weekends. In 2014 he moved there and started working more intensely in the area. Now, after only two years, about 60 people attend each Sabbath.

This spring the fledgling group asked to join the conference. Upon further investigation by administration, it was recommended to, and voted by the conference executive committee, that the Pilgrim church join the Pennsylvania Conference.

“Under the leadership of Pastor Kamara and his capable elders and ministry leaders, we hope to see the church grow and prosper and start more African churches in the Philadelphia metro area,” says William Peterson, vice president of mission and administration.

View more photographs on the Pennsylvania Conference’s Facebook page.
Potomac Conference administration is pleased to announce that Laura Worf has accepted the executive committee’s offer and will be joining the LivingWell team as the new General Manager. Worf will arrive in October to begin her new role.

Prior to answering this call in Potomac, Worf served as Vice Principal for Finance and Facilities at Auburn Adventist Academy (Wash.) where she closely worked with a team to ensure the smooth and accurate management of the academy’s finances as well as managed the maintenance of its rental properties and industrial park. Worf also worked as chief executive officer for Olympia Master Builders (Wash.), a five-county, 1,000+ member company. There she successfully led the association through the housing crisis and, during that time, saw the association rise from 52nd largest home builders’ association in the United States to the 27th largest.

“As we reviewed the events leading to this point we were all convicted of God’s leading,” said Dave VandeVere, Potomac’s Vice President for Finance and chair for LivingWell’s board. “We are rejoicing in His blessings as we begin this new chapter with Laura as our leader. We extend our warmest welcome to Laura and her husband, Scott.”

Worf says she is humbled by the way God has ordered her steps. “I’m excited to be serving with the LivingWell staff,” she said, “as we work toward the goal of increasing the mission and sales of the store and provide products that promote health-living and a relationship with Jesus.”
Brandon Senior, a Bible worker in Chambersburg and Waynesboro, Pa., who preaches on creation, compiled seven points of scientific evidence that point to intelligent design. Feature photo by iStock.

The Monarch butterfly is a beautiful and most amazing creature. When the caterpillar spins a silk to dangle from it is preparing for metamorphosis. “Ten to 12 hours before shedding its skin for the fifth and last time, the Monarch caterpillar spins a silk for it to hang. After some initial wriggling the pupa skin hardens into a protective covering…”[1]

As the caterpillar is transforming, it literally is becoming a new creature. It is sort of like recycling. As you recycle a plastic bottle, it is melted down and then reformed into something else. So it is with a caterpillar to a butterfly. It even seems as though this process is uncomfortable for them. As I read and study the life of the beautiful butterfly, I am reminded of 2 Corinthians 5:17: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” (ESV)

Not only has Jesus created us, but He can recreate us as well and turn our sinful lives into something beautiful. “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). This is what God’s people have been teaching for 6,000 years. Many people now studying the subject of creation are looking for scientific evidence that points to a Designer of creation, a Creator if you will.

Below are seven points of scientific evidence that point to intelligent design:

1. Humans and many animals, insects and plants operate on a seven-day cycle

The relatively new science known as Chronobiology is the branch of biology concerned with natural physiological rhythms and other cyclical phenomena. This new field has studied the circaseptan calendar, or seven day cycle, in living beings. What was discovered is amazing, “…plants, insects, and animals other than humans also have weekly cycles…Biology, therefore, not culture, is probably at the source of our seven day week.”[2]

Some have proclaimed that the seven-day cycle has its roots in ancient Babylon. However, the number six is significant to Babylon not seven. For example there are 360 degrees in a circle, 60 minutes in an hour, 60 seconds in a minute, and six sides of a die…all of which has its roots in ancient Babylon.

Seven is a number that God seems to favor and is often related to perfection or completeness. The evidence that our bodies operate on a seven day cycle lends more credence to a literal seven day creation week.

2. Life cannot arise from non-life

In 1861 Louis Pasteur disproved the theory of spontaneous generation in his famous experiment and proved that life
cannot arise from non-living material. Science has been teaching, for the last 150 years, that life cannot come from something that is not alive while at the same time teaching that all life came from nothing (non-life) as seen in the big bang model.

If life cannot arise from non-life that means a living, intelligent, creative being had to have designed us.

3. Our place in the solar system (Goldilocks Zone)

The Goldilocks zone is the habitable zone in our solar system. Just like the children’s story, Goldilocks was looking for the perfect bed, not too hard or soft. Or the perfect soup, not too hot or cold. We are situated just where Goldilocks would prefer, the place where can flourish.

Planet Earth is 92.96 million miles from the sun. If we were any further away we would freeze and life would not survive on planet earth. If we were any closer the temperature would be too high and the radiation levels would not allow life to survive on planet earth.

The moon is an average of 238,855 miles away from planet earth. If it were any closer, due to the magnetic field, the waves in the oceans would create tsunamis and the resulting destruction of the massive waves would not sustain life on planet earth. If the moon were any further away there would be no waves/tides and the water would not oxygenate thus the waters would not support life on planet earth.

Our planet is rotating at 1,000 miles per hour. In our route in the solar system we travel at a mind blowing speed of nearly 67,000 miles per hour (Scientific American Travel, October 26, 1998). We are traveling at extraordinary speeds while never running into other planets and are positioned perfectly for life to operate optimally here on planet earth.
4. Lack of transitional fossils

Charles Darwin himself said “Why, if species have descended from other species by fine gradations, do we not everywhere see innumerable transitional forms?[3]

This is a most fascinating statement. If evolution were correct we should see one species gradually turning into other species in the fossil record. However, there seem to be no undisputed transitional forms. The claims of transitional fossils can be fully explained when studied in detail.

Let’s take the famous Archaeopteryx, for example. This is not a species that is somewhere between a bird and a reptile but is, in fact, fully bird. Its “reptile-like teeth” and wing claws are found in some birds today.

Examples such as Tiktaalik (a supposed half way between fish and tetrapod) and Australopithecus (an ape-like creature) can be easily and scientifically explained and do not provide the scientific proof we would expect for the transitional fossils. When fully studied no examples of transitional fossils provide indisputable proof for evolution. If we did not evolve then we were designed.

“As by this theory, innumerable transitional forms must have existed. Why do we not find them embedded in the crust of the earth? Why is not all nature in confusion instead of being, as we see them, well-defined species?”[4]

While evolutionists provide some purported evidence, their version of this evidence is not without dispute or debate even in the scientific community itself.

5. The Cambrian explosion

What came to be known as Darwin’s dilemma takes place at the Cambrian layer of the geological column. An explosion of life is seen here. That is not to say that there are no fossils below this layer but this sudden generation of so many life forms is what baffled Darwin. Why do so many life forms appear at once? Why, if evolution is correct, are there no successive steps of transformation from one species to another? Is it possible that God created us intact, the way we are?

6. Elements

Some scientists proclaim that the early, primitive atmosphere consisted primarily of Helium. How, then, is it possible that our bodies contain every naturally occurring element on the periodic table? Where did all the elements come from? How did they all get into our bodies? Is it possible that we were created that way?

7. Impossibility of accidental life

Two-hundred and fifty proteins are required for absolute minimal life to function. The chances of these proteins coming together to form life and then be able to reproduce rapidly enough before they die are 1 in a trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion…in other words, it doesn’t happen.

Transform Your Life

As you contemplate the power of a Creator God, remember that He loves you so much that He created you. He loves you so much that He died for you.
Let us close where we began...with metamorphosis. 2 Corinthians 3:18 says “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

The word for changed, in this verse, comes from the Greek word metamorphoo which means to transform. Jesus wants to transform your life. He can take all the sin and pain that we have built up inside and give us peace. The Bible calls it “the peace that passes all understanding” (Phil. 4:7).

If you have not yet done it, I encourage you to develop a personal relationship with your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Why not take the time now to accept His death on the cross as atonement for sin? What a wonderful life awaits you!

Read more from Senior at brandonseniorseminars.com.

References:


Read and share these stories from the September 2015 Visitor:

- September Feature: Bringing Up Boys
- Artículo especial de Visitor: Criando varones
- The Creation Debate: Why Does it Matter if it Happened in Six Literal Days?
- AWC, anfitrión del Retiro de Mujeres
- La Unión auspicia capacitación del Ministerio de Salud
- Pennsylvania emplea a un nuevo director
- Teaching Boys to Trust Again

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Columbia Union Hosts Health Ministry Training

Michelle Bernard

The Columbia Union Conference will host “Creating a Vibrant Health Ministry” October 2-4 at the Allegheny East Conference Center in Pine Forge, Pa. The comprehensive training will cover the Adventist philosophy of health and health ministry, methodological approaches and basic health knowledge to be shared in congregations and communities. Register here.

Story by Carolina Ramos
Couple Builds Laurelwood Youth, Pathfinder Experience

Michelle Bernard

When John and Janelle Rivera decided to work with the Laurelwood church youth again, they only planned to revive the Pathfinder club. However, they ended up leading a group of young people of varying ages, from juniors to young adults, many of whom did not grow up in Seventh-day Adventist homes or didn’t take their faith seriously.

Story by New Jersey Conference Staff

The Deptford church’s Laurelwood Lions Pathfinder Club sometimes functions more like a youth group, combining aspects of Pathfinders and Adventist Youth (AY) mixed with a dose of practical life lessons. Recently, the Riveras challenged members to create a $1,800 monthly budget for living on their own.

During the session, the Riveras helped the young people estimate their expenses. They then reviewed the lists with the group. John jokingly said to a participant, “I guess you’re going to eat your Xbox controller because you didn’t list down food.”

At the end of the exercise, one young adult, with a thoughtfully sober expression, said, “This was a lot harder than I thought it’d be.” This type of activity is helping the Riveras build relationships with the group.

“Until our kids learn to walk with Jesus on their own, we represent Him and are Jesus to them,” says Janelle. “Jesus’ example makes it very clear that, through simply being someone’s friend and mentor, the seed of faith can be planted. We recognize that their willingness to participate and follow our lead lies in loving each as Jesus loves them and empowering them to become leaders.”

Feature photo: John Rivera teaches the Pathfinders drill and marching steps last winter.
Highland View Academy Expands Academics Through STEM, Dual Credits

Michelle Bernard

Highland View Academy’s STEM certificate program launched this year with approximately 30 students enrolled. These students benefit from an intensive but well-rounded education that especially prepares them to pursue STEM-related college majors. New STEM classes include integrated STEM, anatomy and physiology, project-based learning, robotics, iOS app development and a pilot of Maryland’s new advanced placement Computer Science Principles course.

Story by Lori Zerne

Another way HVA is expanding academic opportunities for students is through dual-credit courses. Students can earn college credit for courses taken as part of the regular curriculum from HVA teachers who are qualified with a master’s degree or higher in their subject area. Currently HVA offers dual-credit classes through partnerships with Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., and the nearby Hagerstown Community College (HCC). Staff offers more than six courses in English, history, Bible, math and science, including a biotechnology STEM internship through HCC. HVA, HCC and Inova Health System (Va.) collaborated to develop the internship. Participating students will earn STEM internship credits as well as three college credits in biotechnology. They will also learn specialized biotechnology laboratory techniques in biotechnology and engage in research.

Dual-credit courses are especially beneficial to students because they allow them to earn high school and college credit simultaneously, they cost less than the usual college tuition and fees, and they give students a jump-start on earning their college degrees. “HVA continues to look for ways to expand its academic excellence,” says Mick Hutchinson, principal.

Featured photo: Senior Kayla Miller discusses her dual-credit options with Jairo Flores, a recruiter from Hagerstown Community College. Photo by Benjamin Lee
Ohio Online Colleges & Universities – Top Online Schools for 2016

Most Popular Pages
Select State
Select Degree
Select Subjects
Search schools

Best Online Colleges in Ohio for 2015-2016

Methodology +

Online distance education options in Ohio have created new opportunities for students wishing to pursue a college degree. By helping to alleviate some of the past issues students faced, such as proximity to a campus and balancing work, family and school work, these Ohio programs have been ranked as the best in the state when it comes to accessibility and excellence. Find out who made the list of Best Online Colleges in Ohio for 2015-2016.

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<td>1</td>
<td>Tiffin University</td>
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Established in 1888 and accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs, Tiffin University offers completion programs in four online undergraduate degrees, four graduate degrees and two certificate programs. Online students can choose between a BA or BS degree with a focuses in business, criminal justice, security, information technology or healthcare. Classes begin at six different times throughout the year and are taught by expert faculty with real-world experience. Online students receive the same accredited degrees as on-campus students. Students must have completed some coursework at another institution before enrolling in Tiffin University.
Ohio University-Lancaster Campus offers bachelor, master and certificate level degrees. Beyond traditional format, the Lancaster Campus offers a variety of online and hybrid courses, and as well as workshops and summer programs. Bachelor degrees can be everything in everything from applied management and communication studies, to human biology, social work and lifestyle studies. Graduate program offerings are designed for the working professional, with flexible schedules, nearby locations and technology-enhanced delivery. Master degrees are offered in arts and sciences, business, communications, education, engineering and technology and health sciences.

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<td>3</td>
<td>God’s Bible School and College</td>
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This non-denominational Bible college offers bachelor and associate level degrees. The curriculum provides students with ministry skills and a deep understand of scripture and theology, offering a unique, value-oriented education. The academic programs span across five divisions, and provide lifelong learning experiences for students to apply through life and ministry. The school offers 12 majors, six at the baccalaureate level and six at the associate. Degrees programs are offered in education and professional studies, ministerial education, intercultural studies and world missions, as well as music. Through the Aldersgate Distance Education Program (ADEP) undergraduates can earn a BA in Biblical and Theological Studies, Ministerial Education or in Church and Family Ministries entirely online.

| 4    | Cleveland State University | 97.20 | 19:1                  |               | 92%  |           |

The online study program at Cleveland State University contains 10 graduate and five undergraduate programs. The college focuses on degree completion programs, helping students with existing experience or college credit complete their bachelor's degrees. Students may also take individual online courses without pursuing an official degree. All online coursework is completed through the Blackboard system, and CSU offers some self-paced coursework combined with traditional semester-based coursework. Students are expected to complete assignments by specified due dates, and class discussions must take place within a set time frame - usually one to two weeks. All online programs are taught by the same instructors as traditional, face-to-face courses.

| 5    | Kettering College         | 97.13 | 10:1                  |               | 94%  |           |
Online education at Kettering College requires the same amount of time and focuses on the same studies as comparable courses of learning in the traditional, on-campus setting. Not only will students register online, but they will access their syllabus, coursework, grades and transcripts, and even pay for their education completely virtually. Depending on the individual, students can expect to commit between 12 and 18 hours a week in order to complete six to nine credits - or two to three courses - per semester. Online tutoring is available to students, and all books can be purchased online through the college's bookstore.

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Students can pursue graduate and undergraduate degrees as well as certificate programs completely online at Kent State University at Geauga. Online students will receive the same quality education that students receive at the physical university, but distance learners have the added benefit of learning from - and alongside of - a global network of instructors and peers from around the world. In addition, the Office of Continuing and Distance Learning also offers credit and non-credit workshops and conferences for working professionals seeking career advancement or further job-related training and education. These workshops can be taken completely online.

| 7    | Youngstown State University | 96.57 | 17:1                  | 96%           |      |           |

Both undergraduate and graduate students can pursue degrees at Youngstown State University completely online. All courses are fully-accredited and offered fully online. The Distance Learning program serves around 1,500 students per year. The web-based instructional system delivers learning materials in a variety of formats and caters to students who might need to balance work or family schedules. All degree programs must meet the YSU general education degree requirements, and all academic programs and course developments are based on the Best Practices for Online Education, the National Education Technology Standards and Quality Matters Rubric.

| 8    | Union Institute & University | 96.50 | 8:1                   | 90%           |      |           |
This private, non-profit university offers an interdisciplinary education for students to earn their bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees, as well as programs for professional studies and continuing education. The curriculum focuses on helping students pursue their professional goals, as well as help them to develop creative and critical thinking skills, scholarship and theory practices for real-world applications. Online bachelor programs are offered through the e-Learning platform in business administration and management, criminal justice, education, leadership, psychology and social work. Master degree programs, which can also be earned online, are offered for creative studies, health and wellness, literature and writing, leadership, public policy and social issues, as well as clinical and mental health counseling.

9  University of Toledo  96.38  21:1  96%

The University of Toledo offers associate and bachelor's degrees, and at the graduate level, students may pursue both master's and doctoral degrees. There are also several post-baccalaureate certificate programs available fully online. Students learn from tenured faculty and receive comprehensive support services from UC Online, as well as from Learning Ventures, which is a department that exists solely to support online students. The university welcomes students from other schools, and maintains a "Transferology" page to guide incoming students through the process of transferring previously earned credits. All programs are fully-accredited.

10  Franklin University  95.24  13:1  74%

Among the 36 undergraduate and nine graduate programs at Franklin University are accounting, healthcare, marketing, public relations and social sciences. Students may transfer up to 84 semester hours of credits earned at other qualifying colleges. Online graduates will receive the same degree as Franklin University students educated through campus-based instruction and online course instructors are the same faculty who teach traditional, campus-based courses. Online students also have the opportunity to interact with instructors from all over the world.

11  Wright State University-Main Campus  94.26  21:1  88%
The Wright State University Distance Learning program strives to maintain the structure and level of academic activity associated with traditional courses, while providing students the needed flexibility of scheduling. In 2014, the university instituted an interactive video program that moves beyond traditional e-learning. Courses and programs are completed through the Pilot learning program. Wright offers a range of completion programs, bachelor’s programs, master's programs and doctoral programs. Students can always receive technical support for online coursework through the CaTS system. The university, which is named after the famous aviation pioneers, is fully-accredited.

12  Hiram College  92.99  11:1  100%

Online students can pursue two different online bachelor degrees at Hiram College, both of which have six different start times throughout the year: two each in the spring, summer and fall. Up to 60 credits may be transferred from accredited, qualifying programs from other institutions, contingent on the student having received a C or better in the course. All courses are offered completely online through the Moodle program, and students receive instruction exclusively from approved Hiram faculty, many of whom also teach traditional classes on campus. Online students receive an on-campus ID card and may attend on-campus graduation. Students should expect to spend between 10 and 15 hours per week on each class.

13  Malone University  92.23  11:1  100%

With course materials available 24 hours a day, seven days a week via the Learning House Online Learning system, Malone University offers online degree programs for both undergraduate and graduate students. Malone’s programs include a BA in Business Management with degree programs in accounting, management, health services, organization and project management. Graduate student can obtain a master's degree in business administration or organizational leadership. Malone University Online students follow a specific course schedule and are expected to complete assignments by a deadline. They are not, however, required to be online at a specific time of day to complete assignments.

14  Mount Vernon Nazarene University  91.52  17:1  100%
Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, the Stark Campus of Kent State University, the largest regional campus of the eight-campus system, offers three master degree programs, 12 bachelor degree programs and three associate degree programs. Undergraduates can study applied communication, business management, English, history, Criminal Justice, and a number of health related degree courses as well. Master's degrees are offered in business administration, curriculum and teaching studies, as well as mathematics for secondary teachers.

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The Ohio State University Main Campus College of Nursing offers undergraduate degrees - as well as master's and doctoral - through online programs. Each level of study offers students the ability to choose from several different concentrations and minors. Aside from programs available through the College of Nursing, the university maintains an Office of Distance Education and eLearning, which offers extended education programs for adult learners, and Program 60, which enables students to take classes offered by OSU completely online. The nursing programs at all degree levels are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

| 16   | University of Akron Main Campus | 89.90 | 20:1                  | 90%           |      |           |

The University of Akron offers a wide range of bachelor's degrees, master's degrees and certificates completely online. All courses are taught by the same faculty who teach traditional courses at the university's campus. Online courses begin and end on the semester schedule and all coursework is expected to be completed by a set deadline. Courses are taken through the Springboard system, which provides complete interaction with instructors and other students. Students are advised to log in regularly to keep up with any changes to their curriculum or learning materials. An online orientation is available to students who are interested.

| 17   | University of Cincinnati-Blue Ash College | 89.06 | 15:1                  | 81%           |      |           |
This center for higher learning provides undergraduates with over 50 degree and certificate programs from which to choose. Small classes offer individualized attention, with each course taught from expert faculty. Bachelor's degrees are offered in applied administration and radiation science technology, which can be earned entirely online, as well as a wide range of associate's degrees in healthcare, social science, technology, education, business, leadership and administration, as well as arts and sciences. The curriculum at Blue Ash focuses on workforce development and prepares students for leadership positions in healthcare settings.

18  The University of Findlay

The University of Findlay's distance learning programs are offered completely online and aimed at working professionals who require flexibility in scheduling. All online classes are designed to mimic the coursework of the same classes taken in the traditional on-campus setting, with students learning from the same faculty who teach on-campus courses. When they aren't teaching, the university's instructors conduct research, author books and lead professional organizations. Students may pursue master's degrees, bachelor's degrees and associate degrees in a range of different fields completely online. Admission requirements vary depending on the chosen program.

19  Notre Dame College

This Catholic college, accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, is a small institution of higher education that awards associate, bachelor's and master's degrees. Students can earn their degrees in a wide range of fields, with 30 undergraduate majors in areas including nursing, criminal justice, education, business and psychology all of which are offered online. Students can conveniently and flexibly earn credit for their online degrees through Moodle course management system, a system to provide students with video lectures, online discussions and an interactive learning environment to meet the needs of a career-oriented education. Special and interdisciplinary programs are also offered.

20  Mount St. Joseph University
Mount St. Joseph University accepts students from nearly three dozen states, including Ohio Alaska, Georgia, Hawaii, Maine, Pennsylvania and Washington.
Mount St. Joseph online offers one online bachelor's degree program in nursing, one master's degree program in reading sciences and several endorsement and certificate programs. Students must have completed an associate degree in nursing before applying to the online bachelor's program. Some credits earned through traditional, on-campus coursework may be transferred to the school's online program. Students may transfer from online to on-campus study after they complete one semester, or two courses.

Search Accredited Ohio Online Colleges

The most effective way to find the online college program that best suits one's needs is to start by itemizing the most important points. For most students, the list will include items such as field of study, ultimate degree level and career goals, total cost and time available, both long-term and within one's daily schedule. After that, it becomes a matter of matching the individual's list with the program that best satisfies the items on it. The search tool below is designed to help students in Ohio quickly and effectively do just that.

Degree Level:
Tuition:
Student Population:
School Type:

116 results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>COLLEGE</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Student-Teacher Ratio</th>
<th>Financial Aid</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>MORE INFO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Ohio State University - Main Campus
Columbus, Ohio Four or more years

TUITION ACCEPTANCE RATE STUDENT POPULATION SCHOOL TYPE

TUITION: Acceptance Rate 56%
Student Population: 57,466
School Type: Public
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University of Cincinnati-Main Campus</th>
<th>Tuition</th>
<th>Acceptance Rate</th>
<th>Student Population</th>
<th>School Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cincinnati, Ohio Four or more years</td>
<td></td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>34,379</td>
<td>Public</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University of Cleveland</th>
<th>Tuition</th>
<th>Acceptance Rate</th>
<th>Student Population</th>
<th>School Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cuyahoga Community College District</td>
<td></td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>27,910</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland, Ohio 2+ years</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University of Columbus</th>
<th>Tuition</th>
<th>Acceptance Rate</th>
<th>Student Population</th>
<th>School Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Columbus State Community College</td>
<td></td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>25,249</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbus, Ohio 2+ years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University of Akron Main Campus</th>
<th>Tuition</th>
<th>Acceptance Rate</th>
<th>Student Population</th>
<th>School Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Akron, Ohio Four or more years</td>
<td></td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>24,932</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University of Toledo</th>
<th>Tuition</th>
<th>Acceptance Rate</th>
<th>Student Population</th>
<th>School Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toledo, Ohio Four or more years</td>
<td></td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>20,743</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami University-Oxford</td>
<td>Four or more years</td>
<td>TUTION</td>
<td>ACCEPTANCE RATE</td>
<td>STUDENT POPULATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami University-Oxford</td>
<td>Four or more years</td>
<td>TUTION</td>
<td>ACCEPTANCE RATE 67%</td>
<td>STUDENT POPULATION 17,901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland State University</td>
<td>Cleveland, Ohio Four or more years</td>
<td>TUTION</td>
<td>ACCEPTANCE RATE 63%</td>
<td>STUDENT POPULATION 17,497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wright State University-Main Campus</td>
<td>Dayton, Ohio Four or more years</td>
<td>TUTION</td>
<td>ACCEPTANCE RATE NR</td>
<td>STUDENT POPULATION 16,656</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ohio Online Colleges Spotlight

Online Departments in Ohio

Youngstown State University

How would you describe your institution's approach to online learning?

YSU's approach to online learning is to support the delivery of high-quality, accredited, fully online degree programs, and provide world-class customer service to assist in the gainful employment of YSU online learners. Additionally, YSU's approach is to supports and assist in the creation, delivery, training, and student support for our faculty teaching distance learners in all online degree programs offered.

What makes your online programs so valuable to students?

At YSU, we offer both high quality and highly sought after degree programs. We have world-class faculty and top-notch student service being offered out of the office of Distance Education. This will ensure current and future
service an unparalleled experience in pursing their online degree.

Where do you see your online programs in the next five years? Beyond?

In the next five years, we at YSU expect more online program offerings and for those to be unique, media rich and state-of-the-art in terms of design, development, and delivery. We also expect them to remain affordable and be exceptionally diverse in our student population by hopefully seeing enrollments from all 50 states and many other countries.

Online Colleges in Ohio: A Guide

In all states, including Ohio, private for-profit institutions dominated online learning for years. For over 10 years, traditional colleges in Ohio have been incorporating distance learning into their curricula, giving students the option of working toward certificates and degrees remotely. That trend is continuing, with an increasing number of Ohio schools entering the online education market or expanding their current programs.

The leading providers of online learning in the public college sector are the 14 universities of the University System of Ohio, whose biggest two campuses are Ohio State University in Columbus and the University of Cincinnati. Among programs of note offered by private, not-for-profit online colleges in the state are the University of Dayton in Dayton, Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland and Tiffin University in Tiffin. Distance learning programs are also offered by more than 25 2-year Ohio public community colleges.

One of the best methods of gauging a state’s current college environment is to take a look at what is happening in education in its biggest cities. Located in the center of the state, Columbus is both Ohio’s capital and its largest city, with approximately 800,000 residents. Its size and importance makes it one of the state’s postsecondary education centers. The next two sections focus on higher education in the Columbus metropolitan area.

Colleges and Universities in Columbus

Ohio’s state capital and largest city, Columbus has a celebrated past in higher education, primarily for its flagship campus of the Ohio State University (OSU). OSU offers 137 undergraduate degrees and hosts 57,466 undergrad students with the largest percentage of enrollments in engineering, business, arts and sciences, and education. OSU was ranked 16th among the best public universities in the country by U.S. News & World Report. The other public college in the city, Columbus State Community College, features 2-year degree programs targeting industries such as human services, business, health, information systems, technology, law and paralegal assisting.

Among private institutions, Ohio Dominican University has a Catholic foundation but serves students of all backgrounds. ODU provides a selection of 45 undergraduate and 11 graduate degree programs as well as a degree-completion program offered at night school. Columbus is home to several independent colleges and universities, including Franklin University, Ohio Business College, Capital University Law School, the Columbus College of Art and Design, Ohio Institute of Health Careers, and Bradford School.

Plugging In: Columbus Colleges Online

Columbus residents can complete a college degree without ever stepping on campus. Columbus State Community College is the largest Ohio provider of distance education, delivering offerings in entirely online or blended (hybrid) formats. Its extensive selection of associate degree programs include accounting, architecture, business management, digital design, environmental health and safety, finance, health information management, marketing,
nursing and supply chain management. OSU has been nationally recognized for its digital programs: U.S. News & World Report has ranked them among the best online offerings for bachelor’s programs and graduate programs in education, engineering and nursing.

Columbus is a city built of neighborhoods with diverse cultural and educational opportunities such as the Center of Science and Industry (COSI), the zoo, the Columbus Museum of Art and festivals throughout the year. Many of the city’s 810,000 residents enjoy the Short North Arts district, the bar crawl in the Arena District or the German Village Book Loft with over 32 display rooms, in addition to Buckeyes football games.

Cost Matters: Paying for College in Ohio

College hopefuls looking to study in Ohio need to be mindful of the numerous costs that come with higher education. At the most basic level, tuition serves as the principal college-related expense, and varies depending on school, location and residency. In 2012, Ohio students who had established residency in the state paid an average of $13,665 per year in tuition, placing Ohio 14th nationally when it comes to the priciest in-state tuition.

On top of tuition, most colleges and universities have fees associated with attendance, which can include parking, technology fees, lab fees and a small fee to secure access to the recreational facility. In 2012, fees at Ohio colleges averaged $479 per student per year, bringing the total tuition + fees for Ohio students to $14,144 per school year.

While tuition and fees make up the primary education costs for students, they also need to think about living expenses, most notably room and board. In general, the state of Ohio has a cost of living approximately 7 percent lower than the national average, a great sign for students on a budget. Here’s a closer look at the cost of living (COL) for Ohio’s major metropolitan areas compared to the national average (100).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Urban Area</th>
<th>Composite Index</th>
<th>Housing</th>
<th>Groceries</th>
<th>Utilities</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Health Care</th>
<th>Misc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Akron</td>
<td>100.21</td>
<td>99.68</td>
<td>105.09</td>
<td>107.94</td>
<td>107.08</td>
<td>86.81</td>
<td>95.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashland</td>
<td>88.54</td>
<td>72.11</td>
<td>100.70</td>
<td>92.06</td>
<td>98.19</td>
<td>88.78</td>
<td>94.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cincinnati</td>
<td>93.81</td>
<td>81.94</td>
<td>96.41</td>
<td>103.82</td>
<td>97.99</td>
<td>95.83</td>
<td>98.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland</td>
<td>101.05</td>
<td>93.32</td>
<td>108.07</td>
<td>109.03</td>
<td>101.45</td>
<td>104.26</td>
<td>102.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbus</td>
<td>92.00</td>
<td>86.21</td>
<td>91.59</td>
<td>100.20</td>
<td>99.11</td>
<td>107.65</td>
<td>90.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dayton</td>
<td>91.43</td>
<td>74.54</td>
<td>89.17</td>
<td>106.12</td>
<td>103.07</td>
<td>93.24</td>
<td>99.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Findlay</td>
<td>94.26</td>
<td>76.98</td>
<td>102.26</td>
<td>95.80</td>
<td>100.62</td>
<td>91.24</td>
<td>104.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lima</td>
<td>93.13</td>
<td>69.81</td>
<td>101.94</td>
<td>102.47</td>
<td>100.69</td>
<td>107.66</td>
<td>103.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Troy-Miami County</td>
<td>95.40</td>
<td>83.89</td>
<td>96.42</td>
<td>123.27</td>
<td>99.20</td>
<td>89.20</td>
<td>96.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wooster</td>
<td>92.64</td>
<td>72.12</td>
<td>99.49</td>
<td>123.42</td>
<td>103.00</td>
<td>94.59</td>
<td>95.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youngstown-Warren</td>
<td>90.35</td>
<td>77.65</td>
<td>92.55</td>
<td>110.22</td>
<td>92.42</td>
<td>86.85</td>
<td>94.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When it comes to making college affordable, Ohio students have a number of national, state and school-based options. Federal financial aid, for instance, can make a serious difference for students at all college educational levels. Federal aid starts with filling out the required FAFSA forms so Uncle Sam can distribute funds based on need. In Ohio, 71 percent of undergraduate students received federal aid in 2012, putting the state 16th in the nation.

Scholarships offer students another avenue of financial assistance, many of which can be used in conjunction with federal aid. In Ohio, students can receive scholarships from the schools themselves, or from top non-profit organizations, private companies and local governments. Some of Ohio’s major entities that offer scholarships include:

1. AA Plumbing
2. Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange
3. Kiwanis Club of Sydney, OH
4. McColloch-Baker Insurance Agency
5. NTA Ohio
6. Ohio Baptist Education Society
7. Ohio Safety Officers
8. Ohio Travel Association
9. PMI-NEO Leadership Institute
10. Ratermann Insurance Agency
11. RCF, Inc.
12. Robert E. Grubbs Foundation
13. Shelby County, OH – Law Student Assistance Fund
14. The Ohio Academy of Science

Accreditation for Ohio Online Colleges

Whether receiving federal aid, a scholarship or another sort of funding, every Ohio college hopeful needs to consider accreditation. In order to receive financial assistance of any kind, the school you plan to attend must meet certain quality standards, often set by a regional or a national accrediting agency. The primary accrediting body active in Ohio is the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. This private agency visits post-secondary institutions in Ohio (and elsewhere in the region) to ensure they adhere to peer-reviewed quality criteria. Also, Ohio universities may seek accreditation for special programs or schools within the institution. For example, Ohio State University’s Moritz College of Law receives accreditation from the American Bar Association.

Great Resources for Online Students in Ohio

The internet is responsible for the biggest explosion in education innovation in several generations. Not only is it now possible to earn a quality, fully-accredited postsecondary degree from a well-established and reputable college or university, anyone with a high-speed internet connection has access to an impressive number of education-related resources to support his or her academic success. The range of these resources is incredible, with databases, applications, books and other reference materials only a Google search and mouse click away. The list below offers a small but representative sample of the tools and resources available today, online and free of charge.
Major Ohio Educational Resources:
Philadelphia Churches Prepare for Pope’s Visit

Michelle Bernard

As soon as Allegheny East Conference’s Delaware Valley Ministerium (DVM) learned of the pope’s scheduled visit to Philadelphia in September, leaders started strategizing ways to reach the thousands who will congregate for his arrival.

Story by LaTasha Hewitt, Allegheny East Conference

To play off the pope’s World Meeting of Families theme, Philadelphia area pastors will focus their outreach efforts on the family. Rodney Grissom, associate publishing director (Bay and Delaware Valley Area), is leading the efforts and helped formed the initiative Project Family 2015, or PF15.

“This event is a great opportunity for us to be a witness. In a world where the definition of family has been modified, our members share with we believe as Christians,” says Henry J. Fordham, AEC president.

September 26 and 27, church members will distribute 30,000 copies of a special family of Message magazine. In addition to articles on strengthening the family, the issue will be packaged with information on programs at local Seventh-day Adventist churches. Readers will also find contact information to request Bible studies, receive more information about a service or simply ask for prayer.

For more information about participating, email projectfamily15@gmail.com or call the communication department at (610) 326-4610, ext. 317.

Click here to see how the Pennsylvania Conference is participating in the event.
Refugee crisis in Europe continues, ADRA opens refugee center in Belgrade

ADRA founded Asylum Info Center is frequented by refugees, who are able to use free Wi-Fi and computers.

Center used as an information center for refugees passing through Serbia.

September 08, 2015 | Belgrade, Serbia | Natalia López-Thismón

As tens of thousands of refugees continue to flee to Europe, ADRA is working over time in Serbia to ensure that vulnerable families are cared for in this time of crisis.

Last week, ADRA and its partners (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Municipality SavskiVenac, Belgrade Center for Human Rights and NGO Klikaktiv) opened the Asylum Information Center in Belgrade to assist refugees passing through Serbia by providing reliable information about their rights and available resources in their own languages. Information is being provided in Arabic, Urdu, Farsi, Pashtu, English, and French. Translators are also provided to assist with questions or concerns regarding legal asylum-seeking procedures, everyday life-issues, and medical or psychosocial support.

Refugees who visit the center can use computers and Wi-Fi, free of charge, to find information or stay connected to loved ones.

“This kind of center is critical," says Igor Mitrović, ADRA Serbia County Director. “A large number of refugees do not want to apply for asylum status in Serbia, putting them in a difficult situation. They are vulnerable and our objective is to empower them, because this may be essential to their safety, health and dignity.”

If they do not register, he says, they cannot claim rights and services and are deprived of medical assistance. Mitrović explained that many refugees are sleeping outdoors with lack of proper hygiene, and no food.

ADRA has already distributed 2,000 meal kits and water to refugees entering Zajecar in eastern Serbia. The agency has also distributed hygiene items, diapers, baby formula, shoes, sanitary towels, etc.

According to the United Nations, there are 1,000 refugees crossing daily into Serbia on their way to the European Union. Officials in Serbia are estimating that by the end of 2015, there will be about 120,000 refugees in Serbia on any given day, mostly in transit.

The need for food, water, shelter, mobile toilets and showers increases as refugees travel through Serbia on their way to Hungary.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency International is the humanitarian arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Its work empowers communities and changes lives around the globe by providing sustainable community development and disaster relief. For more information, visit ADRA.org.
Refugee crisis in Europe continues, ADRA opens refugee center in Belg...