February

**Leading health and wellness.** The position of executive vice president and chancellor for health affairs at Ohio State will be held by a nationally renowned executive with an unparalleled combination of expertise in academic medical center leadership and Fortune 50 company business development. President Michael V. Drake announced that Harold L. Paz, MD, will join the university in the spring. Paz is recognized as a visionary leader who advocates a comprehensive model to address health and wellness.

**Historic momentum.** Did you know that Ohio State’s first-year retention rate is a university record 94.5 percent — well above the national average? Or that applications, academic excellence, diversity, graduation rates, sponsored research, donor support and more are at all-time highs? President Drake highlighted Ohio State’s unprecedented momentum in his State of the University Address. He also shared a $45 million commitment to support affordability for students in 2019-20.

**Speaking of affordability...** Ohio State has committed more than $150 million in additional aid to support lower- and moderate-income families since 2015. Thus far, more than 33,000 students have been positively impacted. At the same time, the university is ranked No. 1 for controlling the cost of in-state tuition among U.S. flagship universities. Read more about Ohio State’s efforts to make an excellent education more accessible and affordable for Buckeyes everywhere.

**Renowned scholars.** Professor Dorota Grejner-Brzezinska has become the first woman from Ohio State to be named to the National Academy of Engineering. It is one of the highest professional distinctions an engineer can receive, recognizing outstanding contributions to research, practice or education. Soil scientist Rattan Lal received the 2019 Japan Prize, among the most prestigious honors in science and technology. It is awarded to two scientists each year out of about 15,000 nominees.

**For the kids.** The sun went down. The sun came up. The dancing never stopped. BuckeyeThon’s 24-hour dance marathon — bringing together Ohio State students with children diagnosed with cancer and their families — capped another record-breaking year. The university’s largest student-run philanthropic organization, BuckeyeThon raised a new high of more than $1.7 million to support Nationwide Children's Hospital. The group has raised over $9.8 million since its creation.