Ohio State increases financial aid by $50 million: In April, the university announced a $50 million increase in student financial aid over the next four years, to be funded through cost savings and new funding streams. Currently Ohio State awards approximately $100 million in institutional scholarships and grants; with the additional funds, the university will create a new scholarship program for high-achieving students and increase grants for families with financial need.

Two professors receive top honor: Professors Tina Henkin (microbiology) and Yasuko Rikihisa (veterinary biosciences) have been elected to the National Academy of Sciences, one of the most prestigious honors an American scholar can receive. Dr. Rikihisa is currently investigating how specific tick-borne diseases infect animals and humans. Dr. Henkin, who chairs the microbiology department and is the Robert W. and Estelle S. Bingham Professor of Biological Sciences, is working to develop a new class of antibiotics to treat bacterial infections.

Ohio State hosts national energy conference: More than 200 university, industry, and government leaders from throughout the United States were on campus April 30-May 1 to identify top energy-related challenges facing the nation and to discuss how to solve them. Participants included U.S. Senator Rob Portman; Norm Augustine, former chairman and CEO of Lockheed Martin; and the U.S. departments of Defense and Energy.

Researchers capture breakthrough images: Using a new, ultra-fast camera, Ohio State researchers have recorded the first-ever real-time images of two atoms vibrating in a molecule. The groundbreaking discovery is not only a significant step toward observing chemical reactions, but also controlling them on an atomic scale.

Partnership bridges research and market: Ohio State and Ohio University are investing $35 million in venture capital to help jumpstart entrepreneurial activity in Ohio. The partnership will help fund promising research and innovative technologies, aiming to bring discoveries and inventions to market faster.

Alumnae represent U.S. at Olympics: Two Ohio State graduates will travel to London this summer to compete in the 2012 Olympics. College of Social Work alumna Katie Bell (2011) is on the USA Diving National Team’s Olympic Performance Squad and training to become a 2012 Olympic team member. Margot Shumway, who graduated from Ohio State in 2002, qualified for the U.S. Olympic Rowing Team and will compete in the double sculls. The pair will be joined by a handful of current students who also qualified for the Olympics.

Marion students Pay It Forward: Ohio State Marion students are learning firsthand about the impact of philanthropy and charitable organizations through Pay It Forward Marion. The program, through which students work directly with area non-profits to learn about grant writing, volunteering, and fundraising, promotes civic engagement in students and improves the local community.

Wexner Medical Center milestone: The final steel beam of the new James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute and Critical Care Center was raised on May 21 in a “topping out” ceremony—a celebrated milestone in the $1.1 billion expansion project. When the 20-story center opens in 2014, it will transform comprehensive medicine, with dedicated spaces for research, education, and patient care on every level.