Jesse Owens’ story never grows old. And so it is fitting that — with the 80th anniversary of the Buckeye Bullet's four-gold-medal performance at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin approaching this summer — the motion picture “Race” has brought his inspiring tale to a younger generation.

Set for release on DVD at the end of May, the movie was previewed on campus in February, two days before a New York City premiere and four days prior to the movie’s general release. The showing gave students a sneak peak at the film and a chance to meet two of Owens’ three daughters and “Race” leading man Stephan James. The film celebrates Owens’ athletic and personal achievements and showcases the role Ohio State athletic and personal achievements played in his development.

Owens’ story is one of many that make up Ohio State’s rich history and it serves as a source of inspiration for students and alumni alike. This special section of Ohio State Alumni magazine provides readers with a glimpse into the life of an icon and the lasting legacy he left behind.

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**Following a father’s lead**

Film and family reflect on Jesse Owens’ legacy of inspiration

By Jessica A. Johnson

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**A family’s influence**

Owens’ parents were sharecrop-pers in Oakville, Alabama, before his father moved the family to Cleveland at the start of the Great Depression. His mother and father instilled a strong work ethic, believing Owens could achieve anything he put his mind to, even in a segregated America that made it extremely difficult for blacks to prosper. Jesse and Mildred “Ruth” Solomon Owens passed on these values to their daughters, who recently spoke with Ohio State Alumni magazine about life lessons their father taught them.

“Our father always told us to live with your fellow man and that we have a responsibility to help others,” Hemphill said. “He told us that any black person who starts to achieve in this country could not only think in terms of himself but must reach down to help another black child.”

“He taught us responsibility and how to be loyal, to always have a dream and an appreciation for success,” Rankin added.

“Our father wanted us to get an education,” Prather said. “He told us that once we had knowledge, no one could take that away from us.”

The sisters also recall their slightly overprotective father wanting them to be “ladylike.” The family lived in Detroit from Hemphill’s elementary to high school years, and she was captain of the girls basketball team during her senior year at John J. Pershing High School. Her father didn’t like the idea of her playing the sport, even though girls mostly played half-court in the 1940s.

“Do you know what time it is?” Prather said. “He told me after that..."