Faculty grants top \$4 million

By Alicia Houston
The Jambar

A Wednesday afternoon luncheon honored several university faculty members who helped bring more than \$4.3 million in grant money to YSU.

Peter Kasvinsky, dean of Graduate Studies, hosted the Fifth Annual Research Recognition Luncheon. He said YSU received the most grant money with the least proposal submissions of all universities.

"It shows an interest in scholarship like never before," Kasvinsky said. "The grants contribute to the reputation of the university and raises our reputation on the national scale."

According to a YSU research fact sheet, the amount of money YSU has received from grants for research has increased nearly eight-fold in the last decade, from \$559,803 in 1992 to \$4.37 million this year.

In the past year, there has been a 17 percent increase in funding, from \$3.74 million in 2001.

Ed Arana, director of grants, said that the university was granted 67 percent of the 130 proposals that were submitted.

Stacey Lowery Bretz, associate professor of chemistry, obtained \$332,990 from the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education, which runs through 2004. It allows YSU to offer a graduate program in chemistry for local high school chemistry teachers.

Bretz said that the proposal she submitted was one of only 77 that were granted, less than 5 percent of the proposals the foundation received.

"What we have done is improved the content and teaching structure of high

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school science teachers in the region, which improves the students that come here in the science department," Bretz said.

Dean's Awards were presented this year to faculty and departments that have demonstrated outstanding success in obtaining external funding.

James J. Carroll from the department of Physics and Astronomy and Allen D. Hunter from Chemistry were recognized for "Superior Success in Obtaining External Funding."

The Chemistry department received the same award, collectively.

The "Perseverance in Application for External Funding" went to Economics Chair Tod S. Porter and Kriss Schueller of the department of Computer Science and Information Systems.

Teresa M. Riley, Rochelle Ruffer and Ebenge Usip from Economics received a grant from the National Science Foundation to help fund teaching microeconomic principles through a simulated economy on the Internet.

Sherry Linkon, English professor and coordinator of American Studies, received funding from the Center for New Designs in Learning and Scholarship for a visible knowledge project.

Linkon said that the grant will help faculty at YSU learn how to develop effective teaching strategies.

"This project will connect our American Studies faculty with a national cohort of people so that we can learn from our colleagues," Linkon said.

Linkon said that YSU is one of 12 host campuses for the project. She said the grant would bring prestige to the department, which will bring more money to YSU.

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