

Geology prof advances research into abandoned mine shafts

You have to go back more than 30 years to find the reason why Ann Harris is so consumed with abandoned mines.

It was June 13, 1977. The floor collapsed under a garage in a home on Youngstown's East Side, leaving a gaping, cavernous hole – the result of an abandoned mine shaft. Within weeks, two more shafts had collapsed in and around the city.

As the public and news media clamored to explain the events, Harris, a professor of geology at YSU, was a regular on the local news.

"Overnight, I became the resident expert on abandoned mine shafts," she remembers.

More than three decades later, Harris is still up to her ears in mines.

Shortly after the 1977 collapses, recognizing that there was no central source of information on abandoned mines, Harris set out to identify and catalogue abandoned mines throughout the region. Ten years ago, she led the development of a Web site listing dozens of abandoned mines in Trumbull, Mahoning and Columbiana

counties. And now, Harris and her colleagues have launched an enhanced and expanded Web site that includes information on more than 2,000 abandoned mines in 14 counties in Ohio and six counties in Western Pennsylvania.

"Hundreds of coal, clay and other mines dotted the landscape of this region in the early 19th century," said Harris, who joined the YSU faculty in 1961, retired

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Professor Ann Harris studies one of the hundreds of volumes of reference materials she has collected over more than 30 years of researching abandoned mines.



Consultant appointed; committee launches search for president

The YSU Board of Trustees has hired a presidential search consultant and appointed a 22-member Presidential Search Advisory Committee to assist in identifying a new president for the university.

President David C. Sweet has announced that he will retire June 30, 2010.

Scott Schulick, chair of the YSU Board of Trustees, said the firm of Storbeck/Pimental was selected from three firms that submitted proposals to act as a consultant for the search. Storbeck/Pimental is a minority-owned firm with headquarters in Media, Pa.

The search committee, chaired by Schulick, includes trustees, university faculty, staff, students and alumni, as well as representatives from the community. The committee, which met for the first time on July 28, will conduct a national search and present to the Board of Trustees no later than Jan. 15, 2010, a list of three to five candidates determined by the committee to be the best qualified. The Board will determine which of the candidates may be invited to campus for interviews. Schulick said the Board hopes to select a new president no later than March 12, 2010.

For a full list of search committee members, visit <http://cfweb.cc.ysu.edu/ta/download.cfm?id=692>.

eUpdate exclusives

For more news about YSU, read these and other stories in eUpdate at <http://cfweb.cc.yosu.edu/marketcomm/index.cfm>.

- **Work begins on refurbishing the AT&T Tower. The result will be a YSU sign that can be seen for miles around.**
- **President David C. Sweet gives his final State of the University Address 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 17, in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center. Sweet retires June 30, 2010.**
- **In response to state budget cuts amounting to more than \$5 million over two years, YSU Board of Trustees approves a \$117-per-semester increase in tuition for full-time, in-state students.**
- **Freshmen Outdoor Recreation Experience launched for new students.**
- **New head of YSU ROTC named.**
- **Campus News Roundup: Hispanic Heritage Conference set for Sept. 25; Homework Express nominated again for an Emmy Award; YSU participates in American Chemical Society's Project SEED Summer Research Internship Program; photo by part-time instructor Tom Delvaux wins second place in contest; team of marketing students helps Cafaro Co. with a marketing study for a Michigan mall.**

Youngstown STATE UNIVERSITY

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Faculty and staff volunteer time to save Summer Honors Institute

Thanks to the volunteer work of faculty and staff, YSU was able to offer the full two-week Summer Honors Institute in July, despite anticipated cuts to the program on the state level.

"Against all odds, our faculty and staff really stepped up to make this program work this year," said Amy Cossentino, director of the Institute at YSU. "I cannot say enough about the dedication that our faculty and staff have shown to the students in this program."

About 170 high school sophomores and juniors participated in the Institute at YSU the weeks of July 6 and 13.

The Institute, one of 17 held on university campuses across Ohio, is designed to provide gifted and talented high school students hands-on learning experiences with university faculty.

Students attended classes taught by YSU faculty and an alumnus of the University Scholars Program on a variety of topics and activities, from creating a documentary film and shooting potatoes out of a cannon, to investigating crime scenes and creating electronic music. In all, 10 classes were offered.

Due to the uncertainty of the state budget, however, many institutions across the state, including the University of Akron, University of Cincinnati and Baldwin Wallace College, were forced to cancel their programs this year, Cossentino said.

YSU had antici-

pated \$75,000 in grant funding from the Ohio Department of Education to conduct its two-week program. But, due to the budget crisis in Columbus, the university received only \$10,343.

YSU developed a contingency plan to offer only the first week of the program, using the ODE funding and other funds identified by Provost Ikram Khawaja and Cyndy Anderson, vice president of student affairs.

Upon learning that the second week would be cancelled, about 20 faculty and staff members who participate in the institute decided to forgo their pay for the program and instead to volunteer their time, allowing the second week of the institute to proceed as planned, Cossentino said. ■



James Neihesel, left, a classroom assistant, prepares a cannon to shoot potatoes in Smoky Hollow as Andrew Eisenhart of Beaver Local schools looks on. The potato-shooting activity was one of many that was part of the two-week Summer Honors Institute at YSU.

Faculty & Staff

Send items for "Faculty & Staff" to Cynthia Vinarsky at cevinarsky@ysu.edu.

Deborah Mower, assistant professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, presented a paper, titled "The DIT, Sentimentalism, and Moral Judgment," at the 10th International Conference on Ethics Across the Curriculum at Towson University. Mower also published an article titled "Teaching Ethics Via Sympathy" in the *International Journal for Applied Philosophy*, and presented an invited paper titled "Situationism and the Embeddedness Model of Confucian Virtue Ethics" at a meeting of the American Philosophical Association

Michael Clayton, assistant professor, Psychology, published a paper, titled "Increasing Seat Belt Use on a College Campus: An Evaluation of Two Prompting Procedures," in the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*. Clayton also presented four research papers and chaired a symposium at the International Association for Behavior Analysis conference in Phoenix, Ariz.

Weiqing Ge, assistant professor, Physical Therapy, published a paper, titled "Position Sensitivity of Feline Paraspinal Muscle Spindles to Vertebral Movement in the Lumbar Spine," in the *Journal of Neurophysiology*.

Stephen E. Rodabaugh, interim associate dean of the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, published a paper in June with co-author J. T. Denniston of Kent State University titled "Functorial Relationships between Lattice-Valued Topology and Topological Systems" in *Quaestiones Mathematicae* 32:2 (2009), pp. 139-186. He also presented and published a paper with co-authors Denniston and A. Melton, also of KSU, titled "Lattice-valued topological systems" in *Abstracts of the 30th Linz Seminar* (Universitaetsdirektion Johannes Kepler Universitaet), pp. 24--31, U Bodenhofer, B. De Baets, E. P. Klement, eds.

Ron Shaklee, professor, Geography, presented two papers at the 13th Symposium

on the Natural History of the Bahamas held in mid-June on San Salvador Island. The papers were entitled "The Search for San Salvador, A Cartographic Odyssey," and "A Longitudinal Study of Entombed Beach Debris at San Salvador Island, The Bahamas." Shaklee was elected to serve as co-chair of the 14th Symposium on the Natural History of the Bahamas, set for June 2011. He also published the monograph, "In Columbus' Footsteps: Geography of San Salvador, The Bahamas, Second Edition." The manuscript was published by the Gerace Research Centre in June.

Rebecca Keck, director of Students Motivated by the Arts (SMARTS), and the SMARTS Center are featured in the summer edition of Links & Threads, an electronic newsletter published by the Ohio Arts Council and the Ohio Department of Education. Located in the DeYor Performing Arts Center in downtown Youngstown, the SMARTS Center is a partnership between YSU's College of Fine and Performing Arts and the Beeghly College of Education and provides free art, music, theater and dance education to children in grades K-12.

Daniel J. Van Dussen, coordinator and assistant professor, Gerontology, was recognized recently at the Alzheimer's Association of Greater East Ohio's annual gala for his dedication, commitment and support of the association's cause.

Paul R. Carr, assistant professor, Educational Foundations, Research, Technology and Leadership, participated in the Association for Intercultural Research congress in Florianopolis, Brazil, in July, where he was a keynote speaker, organized a symposium, presented a paper and was elected executive of the association for a two-year term. His keynote address was entitled "Two different voices for a convergence related to the decolonization of knowledge." While visiting Brazil and Argentina, Carr also made a presentation, titled "Whiteness and Power Relations in Education," at Colegio Ward in Buenos Aires. Finally, Carr co-authored a

book chapter entitled "Beyond the conflicts between religion and science: Is there a place for an ethical epistemology in education." The chapter is published in the book *Science and Religion in Education: How Can We Respond to Children's Questions*.

Will Greenway, professor, English, had several poems published recently. The poem titled "In the Gulf" was published in *Whiskey Island Magazine*, a nonprofit literary journal; "Lifeguards" was published in *Southern Poetry Review*; "American Idol," "Whistler," "Minor," "Dog with a Ray Gun," and "Elegy Before the Wind" were published in the spring/summer edition of *Louisiana Literature*.

Xiangjia J. Min, assistant professor, Biological Sciences, presented a paper entitled "Comparative Assessment of DNA Assemblers for Assembling Expressed Sequence Tags" at the 2009 Ohio Collaborative Conference on Bioinformatics conference in June. The paper was also published in the conference proceedings.

Faculty, administrators conferred emeritus status

The YSU Board of Trustees recently authorized the conferral of faculty emeritus status on Barrent R. Kittle, associate professor of marketing (posthumously); Brendan P. Minogue, professor of philosophy and religious studies; and William A. Wood, chair and professor of the School of Technology (posthumously).

The board also authorized the conferral of administrator emeritus status on Harry E. "Jody" Patrick, senior academic advisor in the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services; and Janice W. Schnall, associate director of administration and operations in Maag Library.

Faculty and professional/administrative staff are eligible for emeritus status when retiring following at least 10 years of meritorious service. Individuals are recommended by the president and approved by the board.

Campus street renamed Armed Forces Boulevard

The refurbished section of Spring Street off Fifth Avenue will be named Armed Forces Boulevard in recognition of the service and sacrifices of those who have served in the military.

The short section of road leads east from Fifth Avenue and ends in front of the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center and near Veterans Plaza, which was dedicated in 1996 to honor military veterans.

The university is planning a dedication ceremony during the fall semester for the street.

The renaming, approved by the Board of Trustees, is in conjunction with the creation of the YSU Office of Veterans Affairs in the spring. The office is designed to help veterans with the transition from military life to college life.

The section of roadway is undergoing a \$1.2 million renovation known as the West Campus Gateway, which includes improved street surface, lighting, sidewalks and landscaping similar to improvements on University Plaza last summer. The work is expected to be finished by the start of fall semester classes. ■

Geology prof

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in 2000 and is now professor emeritus. "Some of them were up to 300 feet deep. When the mines closed, they were sealed up, and people forgot about them. Then, when these areas began to be developed, many of these abandoned mines were discovered.

"This website provides a comprehensive list of the known abandoned mines in this region. My hope is that realtors, contractors, developers, insurance companies, people who are looking to buy a home and anyone else who may want to know where one of these abandoned mines may be located will find this Web site useful."

The site, www.ysu.edu/mines, lists data on mines dating to the 1800s. Mines are separated by county and township, and each listing includes a map (when available), location and the type of mine. Many of the listings also include a quick history of each mine, including the date it opened and the owner of the mine.

Data on the site was gleaned from a plethora of reports, books, maps and other resources that today fill – from floor to ceiling – three rooms in the basement of Moser Hall on the YSU campus. There are atlases, mine inspector reports, water well logs, Pennsylvania and Ohio

geological survey documents, soil maps, county history books and much more dating to the early 19th century. They spill from dozens of bookshelves, filing cabinets, map cases and boxes scattered throughout the three rooms.

"I'm a detective," Harris said. "When I'm trying to identify an abandoned mine, I go to all of these resources, and I'm able to piece together a history."

The task now is to keep the site updated, adding more counties. "It's an ongoing project," she said.

Harris said the new Web site was developed by Ron Canacci, a YSU computer science alum. She also credited YSU student Troy Brant for his work on the site, as well as James Canacci, a YSU theater and English alum and a professor at Kent State Trumbull Campus, who volunteered to assist with editing content.

"As I look back over the years, all of the hard work, all of the students and colleagues, all of the rich experiences that have contributed to this website, I am truly grateful," Harris said. "I have so many fond memories, cherished relationships, and, of course, diligent work in what has been my profession and passion." ■



And, they're off...

A record 180 runners take off from the start line in the 5-kilometer Smoky Hollow Run on July 11. In all, a record 250 people participated in the run and the One-Mile Family Fun Walk, sponsored in part by YSU and WYSU. The event, in its sixth year, was part of a busy weekend in and around the YSU campus the weekend of July 11 and 12. The annual Summer Festival of the Arts attracted thousands to the campus core, while thousands more attended the annual Forte on the Fifty music and fireworks extravaganza at Stambaugh Stadium.