

International enrollment up 45 percent in three years

More international students are making the choice to study at YSU, resulting in a 20 percent increase in international enrollment this fall.

Jef Davis, director of YSU's Center for International Studies and Programs, said the university has 161 international students on campus this fall, compared to 134 a year ago.

Since 2005, international student enrollment is up 45 percent. Davis noted, however, that international students still comprise less than 1.5 percent of YSU's total student population. The university's goal, as part of its strategic plan, is to increase that number to 3 percent, or about 400 students, by 2013.

Faculty members and staff at the university's graduate and undergraduate admissions offices get much of the credit for boosting enrollment numbers, he said, because they have been providing the support and encouragement to international students who apply or inquire about study

at YSU.

"There has always been involvement of faculty, especially with international graduate student enrollments, and that's important," Davis said. "There's got to be someone shepherding those applications, communicating with the students, keeping interest high. Those students have options as to where they will go, so we must be responsive."

CISP assumed responsibility this fall for handling the international student admission process.

"Our goal is to provide consistency of contact for every need, and we want the international students to talk to the same person as they go through the admission and orientation process," Davis said. "Faculty and the admissions staff will still have a role – for example, the decision on whether to admit graduate international students will remain with the academic departments and the graduate school—but we want to provide a single place where

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YSU signs on to Voluntary System of Accountability

YSU and Ohio's 12 other public universities are now part of the Voluntary System of Accountability, a national program that allows the public to compare data from more than 300 colleges and universities nationwide.

"For YSU, participation in the VSA means that we will more effectively be able to assess what we do compared to others universities in the state and the nation," said Tom Maraffa, special assistant to YSU President David C. Sweet.

Enrollment in VSA is called for in the University System of Ohio's 10-year Strategic Plan for Higher Education, released earlier this year by Eric Fingerhut, chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents.

"It's a win for prospective students, families, legislators, policymakers, college faculty and staff who – for the first time – will be able to review data on price, financial aid, degree programs, retention

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Jones-ing for Jazz

Sean Jones, a 2000 graduate of the Dana School of Music, performed with his quintet before a crowd of about 1,200 people at YSU's Centennial concert Oct. 9 in Stambaugh Auditorium. Jones, a native of Warren, is lead trumpeter with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and a professor of jazz studies at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. For an online photo gallery of Jones' appearance in Youngstown, visit <http://www.ysu.edu/gallery/10142008.html>.

Grant helps recruit student poll workers

Patricia Miller is a proud booster of Barack Obama, and she's fascinated with this year's history-making presidential race.

So, when she learned about a drive to recruit YSU students as poll workers, she was among the first to sign up.

"I'm just really into this election," said Miller, a junior YSU art major from East Liverpool. "I want to get as many people as I can to vote, no matter what their political views are."

Miller is one of 85 students that YSU political science assistant professor Cryshanna Jackson has recruited to serve as

poll workers for the Nov. 4 election under a \$25,278 grant from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

"My goal was 40 to 50 students, but Mahoning and Trumbull counties still have a need for more poll workers. That's why I haven't stopped accepting volunteers," Jackson said.

Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner visited YSU last month and praised the program. She said YSU is the only college or university in Ohio to receive an Election Assistance Commission grant – the awards were given to 27 nonprofits in 18 states.

"This is a great way to give students an opportunity to become civically active," Brunner said, "and I think it will also have the effect of creating lifetime voters."

The grant covers the cost of wages for student assistants working with Jackson to promote the effort, along with advertising and training expenses. Poll workers will earn about \$125 for the day, to be paid by the Board of Elections in Mahoning or Trumbull counties.

Jackson set up FaceBook and MySpace pages where the student poll volunteers are encouraged to network, talk politics, and check for program updates. "We want to keep them engaged and interested," she said.

Stephen McDuffie, a freshman political science major from Cleveland who wants to pursue a law degree, said he had been looking for ways to get involved in the community. "It's community service, and I

want to do more of that," he said. "It seems worthwhile."

Another recruit, junior social work major Lori Eichelberger of Youngstown, expects the poll experience to improve her understanding of the voting process.

Finances were a factor for Todd Jones of Warren, a third-year social studies education major. "I definitely need the money," he said, "but I like the idea of doing community service, too. It's a little bit of both."

The Mahoning County Board of Elections staff welcomes the addition of young, computer-savvy poll workers, said Joyce Kayle-Pesta, deputy director, because many veteran poll workers are not comfortable with the technology used in new voting machines. ■

eUpdate exclusives

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

- **Faculty, staff and students are invited to the ceremonial groundbreaking for the new \$34.3 million Williamson College of Business Administration building 1:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 27, at the corner of Phelps Street and Rayen Avenue.**
- **Williamson Symposium, Shipka lecture, Rube Goldberg engineering project, ice skaters on campus, alcohol awareness activities, Dress for Success and much more in Campus News Roundup.**



Cryshanna Jackson, left, assistant professor of political science, and Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner, talk with student poll workers in DeBartolo Hall.

Youngstown STATE UNIVERSITY

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Paul R. Carr, assistant professor, Educational Foundations, Research, Technology and Leadership, wrote an article that is scheduled to be published in the November issue of the *International Journal of Critical Pedagogy*. The article is titled "But what can I do?: Fifteen things education students can do to transform themselves in/through/with education."

Patrick Durrell, assistant professor, Physics and Astronomy, is participating as a member of the U.S. International Year of Astronomy (IYA) Visitor/Science Centers, Observatories and Planetaria Working Group, which is helping to coordinate and promote educational activities related to the IYA in 2009.

Anne Lally, mental health counselor, Career and Counseling Services, was recently appointed chair of the Human Resource/Program Committee in addition to her duties as a board member of the Mahoning County Mental Health Board, to which she was appointed by the Ohio Mental Health Board in March 2006.

Jeffrey Buchanan, associate professor, English and Teacher Education, published the essay "Reading and Understanding:

Tim O'Brien and the Narrative of Failure" in the winter/spring edition of the *College English Association Forum*.

Xiangjia J. Min, assistant professor, Biological Sciences, co-authored a paper, titled "An Evolutionary Footprint of Age-Related Natural Selection in Mitochondrial DNA," which was published in the *Journal of Molecular Evolution*.

James Carroll, professor, Physics and Astronomy, was an invited speaker at the Nuclear Physics Conference in Mongolia Sept. 8-11. He spoke on the YSU Isomer Physics Project, a research effort that is investigating ways to release energy stored in nuclear isomers. Carroll also presented a seminar and participated in meetings at the invitation of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, Calif., Oct. 2 and 3.

William Greenway, professor, English, had his poems "Long Love" and "I Wake to My Parents, Fighting Again" published in the 2008 edition of the *Connecticut River Review*, the annual poetry journal of The Connecticut Poetry Society. His volume of poetry, *Everywhere at Once*, was published by the University of Akron Poetry Series. ■

In memoriam...

Richard Pirko

Richard Pirko, show producer and technician for YSU's Ward Beecher Planetarium in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, died Oct. 15 at the University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center in Chardon. He was 55.

A memorial service is planned for 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 25 in the planetarium.

Warren Young, the department's interim chair, said Pirko suffered an apparent heart attack on Monday, Oct. 6 at a small airport in the Chardon area.

A YSU alumnus, Pirko earned a bachelor's degree in combined science in 2000. He had been a full-time employee in the Department of Physics and Astronomy for 20 years, but Young said he had worked at the planetarium as a student and contract employee since the mid-1970s.

"We'll feel the loss everyday," Young said. "He had a unique combination of talents."



Richard Pirko

Leadership giving exceeds \$65,000 mark

YSU's top administrators, including President David C. Sweet, the President's Cabinet and college deans, have collectively contributed \$65,350 to the YSU Centennial Capital Campaign.

"This is an unprecedented level of support from our leadership," said Paul McFadden, YSU chief development officer. "Volunteer philanthropy is a sign of character. Clearly this level of generosity reveals our leadership's deep commitment to the mission and success of YSU."

The \$43 million Centennial Capital Campaign is in its fifth and final year. The campaign, a partnership between YSU and

the YSU Foundation, is the largest fundraising effort in YSU's 100-year history.

Major components of the campaign include funding for student scholarships, college academic endowments, a new indoor athletics practice facility, the Rich Center for Autism and a new building for the Williamson College of Business Administration.

Key objectives for the final year of the campaign include a broad-based solicitation to all alumni and a direct appeal to YSU employees.

"From the beginning, we have known that this final year would be the most im-

portant as we reach out to all of our alumni and employees with an invitation to participate," said Tony Lariccia, a 1966 graduate of Youngstown University, chair of the Centennial Campaign and the largest individual donor to the campaign.

The Office of University Development kicks off its fall faculty/staff Annual Fund drive in this month. All faculty and staff members will receive a packet of information about making donations to the Annual Fund.

For more information on the capital campaign, visit <http://www.ysu.edu/centennialcampaign/index.htm>. ■

International enrollment

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students can go to get all their questions answered, from the point of inquiry through matriculation.”

YSU has 70 international undergraduates, 70 graduate students, plus 21 students enrolled in the non-credit intensive English Language Institute. ELI is a resource for students who want to pursue a degree but need to first improve their use and understanding of English.

The fact that YSU’s graduate and

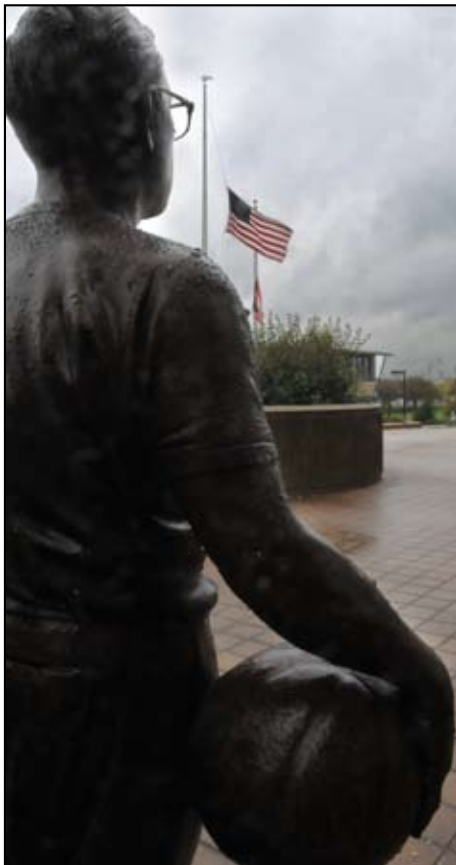
undergraduate numbers are equal is surprising, said Davis, because international graduate enrollment generally far exceeds international undergraduate enrollment at most state universities in Ohio.

Students from India make up 20 percent of YSU’s international enrollment, the largest representation, followed by 12 percent from Ghana, 7 percent from Canada, 6 percent from Eastern Europe and 5 percent from China. In all, students from more than 38 countries are represented.

The number of YSU students spending a semester abroad has also been rising. This year’s numbers for students studying abroad won’t be tabulated until spring, Davis said, but last year’s total was about double the number from the previous year. ■

International Student Enrollment:

2000	-----	124
2001	-----	125
2002	-----	125
2003	-----	131
2004	-----	127
2005	-----	111
2006	-----	131
2007	-----	134
2008	-----	161



Coach remembered...

By order of Gov. Ted Strickland, flags were flown at half mast last week in memory of legendary YSU men’s basketball and baseball head coach Dom Rosselli, who died Oct. 7 at the age of 93. This photo shows the bronze statue of Rosselli on the south porch of Beeghly Center, with the flag in the background. Hundreds of mourners attended Rosselli’s calling hours in the south lobby of Beeghly Center on Oct. 10. He guided YSU’s basketball and baseball teams for 38 and 31 years, respectively, accumulating more than 1,000 career victories.

Accountability

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and graduation rates, campus safety, student satisfaction and student learning outcomes in a standardized format that enables valid comparisons to be made between schools across Ohio and the nation,” Fingerhut said.

VSA, formed more than two years ago as a collaborative effort among the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, is designed to improve public understanding of how colleges and universities operate.

Under the program, VSA develops a five-page College Portrait for each university or college, which outlines data ranging from enrollment, tuition and financial aid to student diversity, academic preparedness of incoming students and student housing.

YSU’s portrait and those of the more than 300 other colleges and universities in the program are available on VSA’s website at www.collegeportraits.org.

Also included in the College Portrait is a summary of student satisfaction, as reported through the National Survey of Student Engagement. Sharon Stringer, YSU director of assessment, said NSSE is a “well-validated, well-regarded” survey given to both first-year and graduating students to measure their general satisfaction with the institution.

Stringer said YSU administered the survey in 2004, 2006 and 2007 and plans to do so again in spring 2010 to a yet-to-be-determined number of students. She also noted that NSSE only provides indirect measures of student learning. The campus community and constituencies recognize that NSSE data will need to be combined with other valid measures of student learning to help improve educational programs and policies at YSU, she said.

The College Portrait also includes data on student outcomes, as measured by the Collegiate Learning Assessment. CLA is a test given to both first-year and graduating students to measure problem-solving and writing skills. Stringer said YSU has never administered the CLA. A minimum of 200 students will be given the test in fall 2009. Stringer said discussions are underway on how to best administer the CLA without causing undue disruption for students and faculty.

Heading up YSU’s participation in VSA is Maraffa, interim executive director of institutional research; Stringer; Julia Gergits, coordinator of general education; Bege Bowers, associate provost; and Steve Taraszewski, senior research analyst.

“This is an institutional effort,” Maraffa said. “It requires the attention and cooperation of everyone on campus.” ■