

# YSU hires first female architect to head renovation

By **JUDI SCHEPKA**  
contributing writer

Norma Stefanik was named architect for preservation and renovation in YSU's Facilities Maintenance Department. Stefanik is the first woman to be hired as an architect at YSU. Stefanik's thesis for her MA was based on a stone house and its relationship to Western Reserve architecture.

In 1980 Stefanik participated in a work-study program at Hale Farm in Bath, OH, where she worked part-time for three years.

In 1981, while involved in the work-study program, she applied for a supervisory position for the disassembling of a historical stone house that was being moved to Hale Farm. During that time, Stefanik recorded field notes, took photos and prepared sketches of the historical house. Every stone, board and rafter had to be numbered.

This feat took approximately four months to accomplish. After being moved to Hale Farm, the house sat in pieces for eight years before being reassembled.

Stefanik worked for the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area in 1982, where she was involved with various park projects. She also helped convert an 1832 farm house into an American youth hostel. A youth hostel is a place

where youths of all ages can "rent a bed," while providing their own sheets and towels. She also worked

as a project architect on the B & O Restaurant in downtown Youngstown in 1991.

Stefanik's friend referred her to the opening at YSU, where she was interviewed extensively by a panel of four people from various departments.

Rocco Mediate,

YSU's director of maintenance and building repairs, said Stefanik was chosen from a list of three finalists. She will work on such projects as the Salata Complex, the newly acquired Phelps Building, the rifle range in Beeghly Center and the Scholarships and Financial Aid Office renovation in Jones Hall, said Mediate.

YSU recently purchased the former Mahoning Valley Association of Churches building on Wick Avenue, which Stefanik will work on to transform archives for a into drawing center archives for historic preservation.

The YSU architect recalls her from her childhood that her father would bring her through houses that were being built and show her where each room was going to be. Stefanik designed her own home. "I never dreamed that I would actually be an architect someday and design my own home," she said.



**Norma Stefanik**