

Three new graduate programs set

By Maysoon Abdelrasul
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The Youngstown State University Department of Graduate Studies has announced three new graduate programs for the Fall 2005 semester.

The degrees will be a Master of Arts in American studies, a master's degree in financial economics and a master's degree in computing and information systems. The programs' coordinators said the new courses of study would give YSU students the opportunity to explore more options and be better prepared for the real world.

The Master of Arts in American studies will be a collaborative effort between a number of departments at YSU and community members. Stephanie Tingley, the MAAS coordinator, said community members would help shape the program through mentoring the students.

The interdisciplinary program will use a variety of materials from different academic departments and will be divided into two areas: a public practice track and a teaching track.

Tingley said the public practice track is geared toward applying skills to a non-profit organization.

"It highlights learning by

please see **PROGRAMS**, Page 2

PROGRAMS, continued from page 1

doing," she said.

She said theory in practice is part of the teaching track and teachers will use language arts and social studies teachers to teach American studies in their classroom. Tingley said she is excited about the program and is doing her best to get the word out. The teachers will work closely with the students to find where the students' interests lie in order to make it unique for each one. "The program is really flexible and gives people choices," Tingley said.