

Board approves new programs

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The Ohio Board of Regents has approved a new journalism degree program and a nurse anesthetist track within the nursing graduate program.

The new journalism program goes into effect immediately and allows current journalism students, who are all currently in the Individualized Curriculum Program, to join the new program if they have not had senior evaluations and if they have not completed a significant part of their emphasis, according to Dr. Dale Harrison, assistant professor, journalism, and director of journalism.

Students may begin taking classes in the nurse anesthetist track in the fall.

According to Alice Burger, interim dean, Bitonte College of Health and Human Services, serious discussions of the nurse anesthetist program began between John Yemma, dean, College of Health and Human Services, and the St. Elizabeth Health Center School for Nurse Anesthetists Inc. in fall 1999. Burger said enrollment

in the nursing graduate program should increase due to the new program.

"[The program] should double the enrollment for the entire program," she said. "There have been a large number of applicants, and there have been a high quality of students accepted into the program [already]."

Burger added that there are 12 students enrolled for the fall, and the college is still in the acceptance process.

Discussion of the Journalism Degree Program began fall 1999. Harrison said there has been a lot of interest in having a journalism major at YSU, and the new degree program will allow the journalism department to expand.

"[Offering the journalism major] brings a level of legitimacy to the program that was impossible to establish with the ICP," Harrison said. "In the last few years, our students have been extraordinarily successful at getting highly competitive internships and jobs, and The Jambar has steadily improved. Now we can expect to begin seeing

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those kind of accomplishments with greater frequency and greater numbers."

Harrison said the difference between the new journalism program and the ICP is the new program does not have the emphasis category the ICP has. Instead, journalism students are to declare a minor. The difference between an emphasis and a minor is that the department the minor is from pre-determines minor courses. The student decides courses taken in an area of emphasis. Also, 15 hours of courses are required for an area of emphasis; 18 hours are required for minors.

Alyssa Lenhoff, The Jambar adviser for fall 2001, will be joining the new journalism program in the fall. Her position is a one-year temporary position that is expected to become a tenure track position next year, according to Harrison. Harrison's position as director of journalism is a tenure track, and there are also many part-time journalism instructors who teach throughout the year. According to Harrison, as the program expands, new instructors may be brought in from various newspapers and venues.

Harrison said the approval of the new program has been the product of hard work and time put in by many of his colleagues.

"It has required the cooperation of many individuals in the department and the college and the university. This never could have happened without the support of my colleagues and the part-time faculty, who are delivering an excellent journalism education," he said.