

New simulator trains cadets at YSU academy

Rick Mahan stands in front of a 10-foot by 8-foot screen on the wall of a room in the YSU Peace Officer Training Academy in Cushwa Hall.

A call squawks over his radio: A disgruntled employee is threatening to shoot his boss. A life-size video flickers on the screen. There's a man – screaming, waving a gun and threatening to kill his supervisor, who is cowering in a corner of the office.

Mahan draws his pistol. "Put down the gun," he shouts. "Put it down."

The employee waves the gun. "I'm going to kill him, right now," the employee says and points the gun at his boss.

Mahan fires three shots. The employee falls, and the boss runs from the office.

The screen goes blank.

"Some guys come out of here sweating," Mahan says as he slips his pistol into his holster. "Did I shoot too soon? Could I have done something differently? Did I follow procedure?"

As coordinator of YSU's police academy, Mahan regularly asks those questions
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Lina DeMarco of Struthers, a cadet in the YSU Police Officer Training Academy, aims at a suspect in the new state-of-the-art, computerized firearms training simulator in Cushwa Hall.

Annual Fund continues climb

YSU's Annual Fund continued to grow by leaps and bounds last fiscal year, recording an 18 percent increase in dollars and an 8 percent jump in the number of donors.

The annual campaign, which raises money for a variety of college and departmental programs as well as student scholarships, raised \$719,186 from 4,243 donors in the fiscal year that ended June 30, up from \$609,254 from 3,935 donors in the previous year.

Since fiscal year 2003, Annual Fund donations have increased by nearly \$235,000 or nearly 50 percent.

"The growth in the last three years shows that our alumni and friends in the

Mahoning and Shenango valleys and across the nation believe in YSU and are willing to support the university and its many programs," said Catherine Cala, associate director in the Office of Development, which runs the Annual Fund campaign.

Cala emphasized that the Annual Fund benefits the entire campus. More than \$500,000, or nearly three-fourths of donations last year, was designated to specific colleges or departments or for student scholarships.

Cala credited the increase in the Annual Fund to outreach efforts by the Office of Alumni Relations and the continued work of the development staff.

On the rise...

Since fiscal year 2003, donations to YSU's Annual Fund have increased by nearly \$235,000.

Fiscal Year	Amount	Donors
2006	\$719,186	4,243
2005	\$609,254	3,935
2004	\$535,104	3,289
2003	\$484,327	3,159

"Alumni Relations has done a fantastic job in reaching out to alumni both locally and nationally," Cala said.

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eUpdate exclusives

For more news about YSU, read these and other stories in eUpdate at <http://eupdate.ysu.edu>.

- “Pluto – a Goofy decision?” YSU astronomers talk about Pluto’s demise.
- Elaine Jacobs, YSU associate athletic director, writes about employee-athlete interactions.
- Seventeen faculty members receive University Research Council Grants.
- Bumper cars and oxygen parlors greeted students on their return to campus for the fall semester. See photos.
- A moon buggy, human-powered vehicle and concrete canoe were among the inventions on display at the Canfield Fair. See photos.

Preliminary figures show increase in fall semester enrollment

As the *YSU Update* went to press, fall semester enrollment was up by nearly 350 students compared to the same time last year.

Enrollment stood at 13,227 on the seventh day of fall semester classes, up 336 students or 2.6 percent from 12,891 on the same day last year.

Full-time equivalent enrollment was up by 228 students or 2.2 percent from 10,513 last year to 10,741 this year.

Enrollment is official on the 14th day of classes. Those numbers will be reported in the next edition of the *YSU Update*, as well as the *eUpdate* at <http://eupdate.ysu.edu>. ■

Youngstown STATE UNIVERSITY

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Student’s detention in Poland sparks media protest, apology



Stacey Torma

YSU student Stacey Torma always wanted to study abroad, and she finally got the opportunity this summer.

Little did she know that the trip would bring her international attention.

Torma, who plans on graduating fall semester 2006 with a bachelor of fine arts degree in photography, was in Poland for three weeks this summer to work on a project documenting 20th century Polish labor history. Her photos will be used in an exhibit titled “Factories and Factories of Death: A Century of Labor History in Poland,” which runs Sept. 10 to 30 at the Jewish Community Center in Youngstown. The exhibit is led by YSU history faculty members Helene Sinnreich and Tom Leary.

On her last day in Lodz, Poland, the 23-year old set out alone in a cab for various sites Sinnreich wanted her to photograph.

Her first destination was the Gillette Polska S.A. factory, a former World War II forced labor factory. Torma was across the street on a public road snapping photos of the outside of the building when a factory guard approached her.

“I was surprised to see him coming across the street,” she said. “I didn’t think I was doing anything wrong. He escorted me back to the guardhouse, put me in a room and motioned for me to sit down. While he radioed for someone who spoke English, I was locked in there for at least 15 minutes. I was scared, nervous and in shock.”

Finally, she said, someone from the company who spoke English came into the room and demanded to know what she had been doing.

“I lied,” said Torma. “I was afraid I’d get my teachers in trouble if told the truth. I told them I was a tourist. I was just focused on getting myself out of there.”

Torma was told that she was not allowed to photograph the Gillette factory, any factory in Poland or in Europe. She was then forced to delete the digital photos she had taken and told if she got caught taking photographs again, she could face serious repercussions.

The shaken student was finally released. She jumped back in a taxi and continued taking photos at the other sites.

After sharing her experience with Sinnreich and Leary, Torma discovered that she had done nothing illegal and that she had been illegally detained. The story reached *Gazeta Wborcza*, a large, influential Polish daily newspaper.

Torma was eventually interviewed by radio stations and other Polish media outlets, and her experience became the subject of numerous blogs, including the *Gazeta*

Wborcza’s online discussion site. On July 17, more than 20 photographers participated in a protest by taking photographs of the outside of the factory.

For photos of the protest and links to radio interviews, television broadcasts and newspaper articles about the incident, visit www.wolno.fotografowac.prv.pl/.

To Torma, the experience was worthwhile because of the public’s response.

“It was an amazing phenomenon,” she said. “I could not believe the support they gave me. Everyone I spoke to was so concerned that I would allow the actions of one corporation influence the way I felt about the city. It just blew me away.”

In addition, she received an apology from a representative of Proctor and Gamble, the parent company of Gillette. “The woman who called me promised there would be an investigation and that employees at the Lodz factory would receive additional training,” she said.

Overall, Torma took about 2,500 images in Lodz, Auschwitz, Warsaw, Krakow and Galicia. ■

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Stacey Torma

Arc flash 'like getting hit by lightning,' faculty expert says

It happens as many as 10 times a day in factories and industries across the country. It causes major burns, disability and more than 700 deaths annually. It can cost a company millions of dollars a year in medical and other related costs.

And it all happens in a flash.

"Being injured by an arc flash is like getting hit by lightning," says Dan Laird, assistant professor in the School of Technology at YSU's Rayen College of Engineering and Technology. "People get burned. People die."

Laird, who worked seven years as an engineer in industry before joining YSU's faculty four years ago, has evolved into a leading expert in arc flash, what causes it, how to prevent it and what companies can do to keep their employees safe.

"A combination of proper engineering, training, work planning and protective equipment is essential to maintain an electrically safe work environment," Laird said.

An arc flash is a short circuit through the air that creates a hissing fireball, a brilliant flash of light and a noise that sounds like a crack of thunder. The temperature of the blast can reach more than 23,000 degrees F, spreading hot gases, melting metal and causing severe burns or even death. The blast or pressure wave can also cause hearing and lung damage.

An arc flash can be caused by loose connections, insulation failure, poorly maintained equipment, voltage transients, unsuccessful short circuit interruptions and even animals, such as squirrels and snakes.

Laird was a field service engineer for General Electric Engineering Services in King of Prussia, Pa., for three years and

a staff maintenance engineer for Brush Wellman Co. in Shoemakersville, Pa., for four years before coming to YSU. In those capacities, he conducted arc flash hazard analysis studies.



Assistant Professor Dan Laird slips on a pair of protective gloves in a lab in Moser Hall. Laird is a leading expert in arc flash, what causes it, how to prevent it and what companies can do to keep their employees safe.

"Doing these studies allowed me to see what the current arc flash hazard was and recommend the appropriate protective equipment to work on it and ways to lessen the arc flash risk," said Laird, who graduated in 1994 from Drexel University in Philadelphia with bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering.

Laird, who currently is a senior controls engineer for Falcon Engineering Consultants in Cranberry, Pa., has made presentations about arc flash safety to employees of Kraft Foods in Syracuse, N.Y., Nabisco and Kraft Bakery in Hanover, N.J., and at the American Iron & Steel Technology Conference in Cleveland.

"It really opens people's eyes to learn about arc flashes," he said. "People are really grateful to take the steps to keep safe." ■

Faculty & Staff

Janet E. Del Bene, professor emeritus, Chemistry, presented talks at the Maria Goeppert-Mayer Lecture at the University of California, San Diego, and at the San Diego Supercomputer Center. She also lectured at the Sir John A. Pople Memorial Symposium at the American Chemical Society National Meeting, also in San Diego. She also spoke at the Symposium on Computational Quantum Chemistry: Methods and Applications at Pacificchem in Honolulu.

Virginia Ann Bendel Draa, coordinator, Merchandising: Fashion & Interiors, and assistant professor, Human Ecology, was selected for the Ohio Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Outstanding Dissertation Award for "School Uniforms in Urban Public High Schools" at the association's conference in Columbus. She was also installed as OAFCS secretary and presented "Identity Theft: Issues and Concerns for Consumers" and "School Uniforms: A Solution For Keeping Students Safe?"

Kathlynn Feld, professor, Health Professions, was appointed editor of "Helping Hands," the official publication of the Ohio State Society of Medical Assistants.

Alice D. Guerra, professor, Health Professions, received the Outstanding Service Award from the Eastern Ohio Area Health Education Network at a recognition dinner at NEOUCOM. The award was given to one individual from each of the three regional AHEC centers for their service.

Adam Earnhardt, instructor, Communication Studies, was selected to present his research, "Examining the Ethical Implications of the Los Angeles Times Iraqi War Photograph" at the Ohio Communication Association 70th Annual Conference in Perrysburg, Ohio.

Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez, director, Dr. James Dale Ethics Center, and professor, Philosophy and Religious Studies, presented "Ethics of Political Violence: Can Terrorism Be Morally Justified" at the Max Whol Center of the ACLU of Ohio. ■



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Bridge opens...

YSU President David C. Sweet and Mohamed Darwish, deputy director of the Ohio Department of Transportation District 4 in Akron, are joined by city and state officials and YSU students to cut the ribbon on the refurbished Elm Street bridge. Visit eUpdate at <http://eupdate.yzu.edu> for the full story.

New simulator (Continued from page 1)

of his students. Now, he has a new piece of equipment to help students come up with the answers.

The Law Enforcement and Security Training Platform is a state-of-the-art firearms simulator with more than 200 scenarios to teach cadets in YSU's police academy the appropriate use of force.

"Police officers make life and death decisions in split seconds," said Mahan, a former Niles police officer. "This simulator exposes our students to what they may run into out there."

In addition to cadets in the YSU academy, nearly 200 officers from police departments throughout the region used the simulator this summer for professional development training. Officers in the YSU Police Department also train on the new

equipment, Mahan said.

The \$79,000 simulator allows students to choose a variety of weapons – from chemical spray to an assault rifle – depending on the scenario.

At the end of each scenario, officers are asked to justify how they responded. "You have to be able to articulate why you did what you did," Mahan said.

"In these scenarios, no one knows what is going to happen next," Mahan said. "But, by going through this training, we're trying to give them an edge."

The YSU academy, certified by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission, opened six years ago and has trained nearly 300 cadets. The 576-hour program includes classes on topics ranging from riot control to evidence collection. ■

Annual fund (Continued from page 1)

"Engaged alumni have a stronger sense of attachment to their university and are more likely to contribute financial support."

She also said that the addition of two new development officers and the continued efforts of Jacqueline Daniel, coordinator of annual giving, have kept donations on the rise.

"We have stepped up our efforts to follow up personally with donors, and that helps build and maintain the kinds of relationships that are important for giving," Cala said.

The faculty/staff campaign for the 2007 Annual Fund will begin later this fall. ■