

Bridge project improves main gateway to campus

Drive along the Madison Avenue expressway, take the Fifth Avenue exit and proceed to the YSU campus.

What do you see?

Rusty bridge supports. Twisted metal guardrails. Cracked pavement. Sprouting weeds.

Not exactly the most attractive entranceway to campus.

The Ohio Department of Transportation, working with YSU and the city of Youngstown, hopes to change that.

ODOT in December launched a \$7.5 million project to refurbish six bridges over the Madison Avenue expressway (U.S. Route 422) on the northern fringes of the YSU campus.

In addition to resurfacing and enhancing the bridges, the project includes new lighting, replacing steel guardrails with textured stone walls, landscaping the

entrances to the bridges and improving pedestrian walkways.

Also, the project calls for incorporating YSU themes into the structures, including painting bridge beams red and installing new black fencing that features a "Y" design.

"This is not your usual boring bridge project," said Mohamed Darwish, deputy director of ODOT District 4 in Akron.

"This is a project that brings the community together, reflects the culture of the community and tells anyone driving into this area that they are in Youngstown and they are at Youngstown State University."

For Darwish, there's another reason why this isn't the run-of-the-mill bridge project.

"My heart goes back to Youngstown State," said Darwish, who holds both

To see drawings of the finished bridges, visit eupdate.ysu.edu

Continued on back page



Construction worker Michael Hedrick carries lumber across the Fifth Avenue bridge over Madison Avenue Expressway. Six bridges on the university's northern fringes are being rehabilitated as part of a \$7.5 million project to enhance the major entrances to the campus.

Industrial engineering students place first in regional competition

Two YSU industrial engineering students placed first at the Institute of Industrial Engineers Student Regional 4 Conference at Purdue University Feb. 10 to 12.

Seniors Ryan Englehardt's and Chris Hritz' paper, titled "General Electric Ravenna Lamp Plant: Utilizing Buffers in a Manufacturing Facility," beat papers from Ohio State University, Purdue University, University of Louisville and Wright State University.

"It was a great feeling to win," said Englehardt of Ellsworth. "We showed that our product has the potential to provide General Electric the opportunity to create \$200,000 more revenue per year."

Several Region 4

institutions, such as Case Western Reserve University, the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, Cleveland State University and the University of Cincinnati, were eliminated prior to the conference.

Continued on back page



Chris Hritz (left) and Ryan Englehardt won a regional industrial engineering competition in February and will compete nationally in May.

YSU prof: From rock 'n roll to Russian history



Brian Bonhomme

BY KELLY NOYES

In the early 1980s, Brian Bonhomme made a living playing rock 'n roll before screaming fans from England to Japan. Today, he's an assistant professor of Russian

history at YSU.

But to Bonhomme, it's not all that different.

"I've learned that teaching is a lot like performing, but without all the hotels," he said. "All eyes are on you. It just came naturally."

Bonhomme, 43, was the founder, guitarist and one of the principal songwriters of the British pop band, Roman Holliday, which at its peak played on

MTV and performed about 300 shows a year across Europe, Japan and the United States. The band's first record, "Cookin' on the Roof," debuted in 1983 and sold over 100,000 copies.

Bonhomme started the band in 1980 when he was 17 years old by placing an ad in the local newspaper in Harlow, England.

"We went through a bunch of band names," he said. "Someone suggested 'Roman Holiday,' a film with Audrey Hepburn. No one hated it, so it stuck."

The band, which opened for bands such as The Clash, Culture Club and The Stray Cats, released two records. "Cookin'" in 1983 produced two top 40 hits in England and three top 100 hits in the United States. The "Fire Me Up" album was released in October 1984.

In 1985, the band decided to call it

Continued on back page



Brian Bonhomme, center with guitar, and his Roman Holliday bandmates pose for this 1983 publicity shot. Bonhomme, who founded the band, is now an assistant professor of history at YSU.

Changes in HR, faculty relations aimed at improving labor climate

Ron Chordas is the new interim executive director of human resources, and Teresa Riley is the new director of faculty relations under personnel moves announced by President David C. Sweet.

The appointments come in response to recommendations of the Labor-Management Review Panel that Sweet formed after last summer's strikes by the faculty and classified staff unions.

"A major theme of the panel's report was the need to start fresh with new faces and leadership in labor negotiations," Sweet said. "With these actions, the leadership of the administration's labor relations team is being completely replaced."

Chordas, previously associate provost for academic administration, now heads the Office of Human Resources. Riley, professor of economics, takes over as director of faculty relations, replacing Tom Maraffa. Maraffa will remain special assistant to the president and coordinator of the university's enrollment management plan.

Nate Ritchey, chair of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, is the new interim associate provost for academic administration, replacing Chordas.

Hugh Chatman, former executive director of human resources, has been

Continued on back page

Byline

The foundation of Youngstown's future



By Rev. John Horner
Rector, St. John's Episcopal Church
Chair, Wick Neighbors Inc.

Successful neighborhood redevelopment in Youngstown needs strong collaborations.

A recent demonstration of that is the bill approved by the Ohio General Assembly in December and signed by the governor in January. The legislation lets Youngstown State University convey land for the Wick District-Smoky Hollow Development Plan without separate legislation for each transfer. The new law speeds the process and makes the plan – a \$250 million mix of housing, retail and office space – far more attractive to potential developers.

Elected officials, Wick Neighbors Inc. and YSU linked arms to move the legislation through the process in record-breaking time. That's true cooperation.

The first collaborations resulting in the founding of Wick Neighbors Inc. date to 2002 when the cultural, educational and religious institutions on and around Wick Avenue joined together. The goal was to serve as a catalyst for the area's redevelopment by developing a vision, a reinvestment strategy and enhancing the quality of life. By September 2003, these neighbors found common ground and created the nonprofit community development corporation, Wick Neighbors Inc. The organization recruited an experienced professional, Margaret L. Murphy, to lead the group.

Since then, many members have joined. Many come from the Wick District, but even more come from across the Mahoning Valley. Wick Neighbors Inc. is the result of a groundswell of community support and has become a rallying point. Such cooperation also serves as a catalyst and model for future reinvestment in other city neighborhoods.

This past year, many predevelopment goals of the Wick District-Smoky Hollow Plan have been reached, many relying upon community-wide collaborations. A Wick Neighbors Inc. committee now is reviewing developer proposals to carry out the development plan. The goal is to break ground within the next year.

These collaborations are creating a momentum that is changing Youngstown. In 1999, a study evaluating public life in the city concluded that Youngstown was a place "waiting for the future." Today, Youngstown is a place where people and institutions are laying the foundation for our future through community action. The cooperation is awakening a can-do attitude among people committed to making progress and believing it can happen.

Residents in historic Smoky Hollow considered their neighbors as extended family members. They turned to their neighbors in difficult times and always found a helping hand. They returned that support when called upon.

That collaborative spirit is what Wick Neighbors and YSU hope will continue in building a mixed-use, contemporary neighborhood for creative living, working and learning in the heart of the city. ■

Campus News Roundup

YSU hosts Holocaust conference

Scholars from around the world will present papers at "Beyond Numbers, Beyond Names: The Experience of Holocaust Victims" April 2 to 4 at YSU.

The conference, hosted by the YSU Judaic and Holocaust Studies program, also will feature a performance of "Remnants," a play about Holocaust survivors, and a screening of the documentary "Diamonds in the Snow."

There will be two keynote addresses: Tim Cole of the University of Bristol, the author of "Holocaust: From Auschwitz to Schindler, How History is Bought, Packaged and Sold" and "Holocaust City: The Making of the Jewish Ghetto;" and Dalia Ofer, chair of Holocaust Studies at Hebrew University and the author of "Escaping the Holocaust, Illegal Immigration to the Land of

Israel 1939-1944."

Other noted scholars presenting at the conference include: Boaz Cohen of Western Galilee College and Bar Ilan University; Gunnar S. Paulsson, author of *Secret City: The Hidden Jews of Warsaw, 1940-1945*; Stephen Feinstein, director of Holocaust and Genocide Studies at University of Minnesota; Martin Dean, research scholar at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum; Robert Moses Shapiro of Brooklyn College; and Daniel Magilow, Resnick Scholar at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

For a full agenda, visit <http://www.yzu.edu/judaic/conference.html> or call 330-941-1603. ■



Of Appalachia...

Award-winning poet Diane Fisher, left, meets with Sherry Linkon, co-director of YSU's Center for Working-Class Studies, prior to Fisher's presentation called "Of Appalachia and Miners" in Kilcawley Center on Feb. 16. The event, which also featured images from photojournalist Earl Dotter, was part of the CWCS lecture series and co-sponsored by the YSU English department.

Editor's note

When 300 trillion isn't far enough...

YSUupdate reported in the Feb. 8-21 edition that two YSU professors had discovered a new galaxy about 55 million lightyears from Earth, or more than 300 trillion miles.

Well, we were a little off.

In fact, 55 million lightyears translates into about 322 trillion miles, times one million. Or, about 322 quintillion miles. That's 322 followed by 18 zeroes.

That's a LONG ways away.

So, how much is a quintillion? *YSUupdate* turned to Angela Spalsbury, assistant professor of mathematics and statistics, for the answer.

"One quintillion, which is 10 to the 18th power, is a huge, huge number, and we know of few other numbers to compare," she said. Spalsbury put together a crack team of students to put quintillion in perspective:

- 1 quintillion pennies, if laid out flat like a carpet, would carpet the earth twice! Check out this Web site: <http://www.kokogiak.com/megapenny/eighteen.asp>.

- If you wanted to give 1 billion books to 1 billion people, you would need 1 quintillion books.

- For a person to travel 322 quintillion miles in a 747 airplane (traveling at an average speed of 555 miles per hour), it would take 6.643 times 10 to the tenth millenniums to get there! This is more millenniums than seconds in 10 average people's whole lives. (An average person lives 80 years or about 10 to the ninth seconds).

We stand corrected. ■



Guitar man...

Ryann Guitar Anderson, instrumental acoustic guitarist from Cleveland, performed in Peaberry's in Kilcawley Center on Feb. 15, sponsored by the Office of Student Activities. To listen to Anderson's music, visit his Web site at <http://www.myspace.com/ryannguitaranderson>.

Youngstown STATE UNIVERSITY

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Faculty/Staff

Presentations

Chris Bache, professor, Philosophy and Religious Studies, presented "Reincarnation and Humanity's Future" in January at the Marshall T. Steel Lecture Series, Hendrix College, Ark. for its Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies lecture, "Assessing the Evidence for Reincarnation."

Allen D. Hunter, professor, Chemistry, co-presented "Organometallic NanoMaterials" at Pennsylvania State University, Erie-The Behrend College in April 2005.

John Russo and **Sherry Linkon**, co-directors, Center for Working-Class Studies, were presenters at a "Learning Workshop on Representing Class, Ethnicity, Gender, and Race to the Public" at the Ford Foundation in New York in February.

Professional Activities

Kent Engelhardt, coordinator of jazz studies/assistant professor of jazz studies/clarinet and saxophone, and **David Morgan**, assistant professor, Dana School of Music, recently performed with jazz vocalist Kevin Mahogany at the 2006 Ohio Music Education Association Professional Conference and Cleveland's Bop Stop with the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra. Both faculty members are regular members of the CJO.

Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez, professor, Philosophy and Religious Studies, presented the following invited papers at the Annual Meeting of the Association of Practical and Professional Ethics: "Ethics of Weapons Development" and "Katrina and the Disaster Prevention Principle." He also served as judge for the XII Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl in Jacksonville, Fla.

Michael Gelfand, professor, Dana School of Music, completed his 13th year as Music Director/Conductor of the Ashtabula Area Orchestra, and his 3rd season as Music Director/Conductor of the Greenville Symphony in Greenville, Pa., during

the 2004-05 season. Performances with these orchestras included participation by the Messiah Chorus of Lake County, the Shenango Valley Chorale and the Greenville Area Community Theater.

Publications

Cynthia E. Anderson, vice president for student affairs and professor, **Mark F. Toncar**, associate professor, and **Jane S. Reid**, professor, all of Marketing, published "Perceptions and Preferences of Study Abroad: Do Business Students Have Different Needs?" in the *Journal of Teaching in International Business*.

Chris Bache, professor, Philosophy and Religious Studies, had the article "Reincarnation and the A-Field: A Dialogue with Ervin Laszlo" published in the Jan./Feb. issue of *World Futures*.

Steven Brown, professor, English, with Marc Helgesen, Miyagi Gakuin Women's University, Japan, published the book "Listening in the Practical English Language Teaching" series by McGraw-Hill.

William Greenway, professor, English, has published his memoir "Tuscan Places" in *Seattle Review*.

David E. Stout, professor and endowed chair, Accounting and Finance, coauthored "A Comprehensive Assessment Plan for a Graduate Accounting Program" in the December *Accounting Education: An International Journal*.

Ronald P. Volpe, professor, Finance, recently co-published the article "Private Investment Accounts and Social Security Reform: Promises and Pitfalls" in *The Ohio Business Technology Educator*.

Peter Woodlock, professor and chair, Accounting and Finance, published "Effective Audit Committees: What Shareholders Expect and Regulators Demand" in the *Journal of Corporate Accounting and Finance*. ■

Hannay boosts funding for Academic Achievers

Roberta Hannay of Vienna has made it possible for more low-income students from Warren G. Harding High School to get ready for college through YSU's Academic Achievers program.

Hannay recently notified YSU that she will increase her annual gift to the program from \$50,000 to \$70,000. Over the past 12 years, Hannay's gifts for Academic Achievers and, prior to that, a program called New Beginnings, total more than \$500,000.

Academic Achievers helps Harding students gain the skills necessary to successfully make the transition from high school to college. Hannay established the gift through the Roberta Marsteller Hannay Charitable Trust.

"I strongly felt that these students needed to see what they could gain from going to college," said Hannay, who created the trust, managed by Butler Wick Trust Co., in memory of her parents, Robert L. and Mary Wick Pollock Marsteller. "It has been gratifying to see the positive impact Academic Achievers has had on students' lives."

In 2001, the first 20 students were accepted into the program. Now, five more slots will be available.

"All of those who have benefited from Academic Achievers are so grateful to Ms. Hannay for her increased financial support," said Bill Border, Academic Achievers coordinator. "Because of her generosity, more students will have the opportunity to enrich their lives through education. Her commitment to the students has inspired them to succeed and has helped 100 percent of them graduate from high school. And many have gone on to college, right here at YSU."

Currently, 14 students who completed

the program are taking classes at YSU.

Border said Academic Achiever students are "kids who aren't failing and aren't excelling. They generally have the ability, but don't have the support to pull them through the academic system."

The students are recommended to Border by Harding teachers or Harding's social worker and are accepted into the program their freshman year of high school and continue, ideally, until they are seniors.

Throughout the school year, students in the program participate in after school classes Monday through Thursday that focus on ACT preparation and tutoring in

other subjects.

In addition, two Saturdays each month, the students participate in enrichment sessions at both YSU and Harding that include instruction in math, comprehensive sciences, composition and technology.

During the six-week summer residential component, students stay in Cafaro House and engage in a variety of academic, social/cultural and enrichment activities, from weeding flower beds and visiting other colleges to going to baseball games and making kites to learn about physics.

Before Academic Achievers, Hannay's trust financed New Beginnings for Academics from 1994 to 1999, an academic enrichment program for Youngstown city school students.

However, when Upward Bound was launched at YSU, another enrichment program for Youngstown city school students, the decision was made to modify New Beginnings and instead, offer a college prep program to Warren city school students. Prior to Academic Achievers, YSU did not offer such a program for Warren students. ■



Roberta Hannay presents a check to YSU President David C. Sweet for continued operations of the Academic Achievers program at YSU.



End-of-life care...

Howard Brody of Michigan State University talks with a student after his lecture on campus on Feb. 14. Brody, professor of philosophy and family practice and the former director of the Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences at Michigan State, talked about "Religion, Bioethics, and End-of-Life Care in America" as part of the Albert J. Shipka Speaker Series.

Resch Foundation donates \$175K for scholarships

YSU has received \$150,000 from the Marion G. Resch Foundation to provide scholarships to worthy and needy students and an additional \$25,000 to establish The Resch Scholars Program.

The latest grants bring the total amount received from the Resch Foundation in the last four years to \$625,000.

"Through the generosity of the Marion G. Resch Foundation, students who otherwise are not able to afford a college education can pursue their educational, professional and personal goals at YSU," said David C. Sweet, YSU President.

This is the fourth consecutive year that the Resch Foundation, managed by Butler Wick Trust Co., has provided \$150,000 for emergency scholarship aid.

The grant provides scholarships to worthy and needy YSU students from Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana counties as the very last and definite dol-

lar awards, said Paul McFadden, YSU chief development officer.

"There is no question that the Resch Foundation Emergency Scholarship Aid Program has saved students from suspending their education because of financial issues," said Elaine Ruse, YSU director of financial aid and scholarships.

The Resch Foundation has also committed to providing an additional \$25,000 to establish The Resch Scholars Program. Students in the program will receive scholarships equal to the balance of their tuition due after all other funding resources have been exhausted, McFadden said.

The Resch Foundation, established in 1997, makes grants to support colleges and universities within 100 miles of Youngstown. Mrs. Resch's husband, Paul, graduated from the Youngstown College of Law in 1933 and subsequently became an investment broker at Butler Wick and Co. ■



Discussing Dunbar...

A photo of poet Paul Lawrence Dunbar is projected over the shoulder of YSU Professor Victor Wan-Tatah at a faculty discussion Feb. 16 on Dunbar and his poetry. The event in Kilcawley Center was part of YSU's celebration of African American History Month.

Bridge projects

(Continued from page 1)

bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from YSU. "It's my alma mater, and I want to do what it takes to make the improvements."

Discussions about the bridge improvements date back about four years and have included several institutions on the North Side, said Hunter Morrison, director of the Center for Urban and Regional Studies.

"There have been a lot of hours spent looking at this gateway and designing ways to enhance the area within the scope of this ODOT bridge rehab project," said Morrison, who credited Youngstown City Councilman Richard Atkinson for playing a lead role in the process.

The project includes six bridges – Elm and Covington streets, Fifth, Belmont, Ford and Wick avenues.

Work is underway on Fifth and Ford avenues. The Ford Avenue project is expected to be completed by mid-June. On

Fifth Avenue, one lane will remain open in each direction, and the bridge is expected to be completed by the start of the YSU football season.

The Elm Street bridge will be closed to vehicular traffic in early spring, but pedestrian traffic will be maintained until the end of spring semester. The bridge, including pedestrian traffic, will be closed for 90 days when YSU is on summer recess.

The Belmont Avenue bridge will not begin construction until the Fifth Avenue bridge is complete. Belmont Avenue will have one lane open in each direction during construction. The Wick Avenue and Covington Street bridges are scheduled for construction beginning in 2007.

Darwish, who worked on a similar roadway enhancement project near the University of Akron, said work on the bridges should be completed by summer 2007, before YSU's centennial year of 2008. ■

Roman Holliday

(Continued from page 1)

quits after five years. "The record company wanted us to go mainstream," Bonhomme said. "That really wasn't our thing."

Bonhomme, who moved to New York City at 24, stayed for 14 years and wasn't sure what he was going to do.

"I wanted to start a new band, but I decided that I was sick of the lifestyle," he said. "So, I went to college."

Bonhomme chose to study zoology at City University of New York, but he eventually found his passion in Russian history.

"When I was in school, I hated history," he said. "I failed every class. I don't know what happened when I went to college, but it was interesting."

Or, he said, it could have been that he was trying to impress a certain Russian woman, who would eventually become his wife.

In 2000, Bonhomme earned a Ph.D. in late modern European history from City University graduate school. He and his wife moved to Arkansas, where he took a job as a visiting professor of history at the University of Central Arkansas.

"I really liked Arkansas," he said.

"The people were really nice and most everyone plays either the fiddle or the guitar. I could play any time I wanted."

In 2001, he self-released his first solo CD, "World Keeps Turning" (listen at <http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/bonhomme>), and followed that up with a second CD in 2002, "The River and the Mill" (listen at <http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/bonhomme2>).

He stayed in Arkansas for four years before coming to YSU in 2004 as an assistant professor of history.

"I like Youngstown, too," said Bonhomme, whose research interests are Russian and Soviet history and environmental history. "Plus, we're a lot closer to New York, where my wife's family lives."

Meanwhile, the members of Roman Holliday gathered for their last gig on July 13, 2001, at "The Borderline" in London. "It was sort of a mix between a family reunion and a funeral at the same time," Bonhomme said. "We'll probably never play again, but it was good while it lasted." ■

Labor relations

(Continued from page 1)



Ron Chordas



Nate Ritchey

"I want to thank Drs. Chordas, Riley and Ritchey for agreeing to step into these positions and to move the university forward in a positive manner," Sweet said. "I also want to thank Dr. Maraffa for his hard work and dedication as director of faculty relations over the past five years. And, I want to commend Mr. Chatman for his leadership in human resources."

On Feb. 23, the Board of Trustees' Internal Affairs Committee gave its unanimous support to Sweet's responses to the Labor-Management Review Panel's report and asked Sweet to move expeditiously with the implementation.

Sweet's full response is available at <http://www.yzu.edu/president/index.shtml>.

Trustee John Pogue, committee chair, said the board is "committed to improving the labor relations climate on campus as a long-term goal and giving the administration the resources needed to achieve it."

"It is time to move forward and to focus on the education of our students," he added. ■



Teresa Riley

reassigned to the position of executive director of regulatory compliance. Chatman will be responsible for implementing recent changes to federal employment laws and for reviewing and updating the University Guidebook.

Sweet also announced that the Office of Human Resources, which previously reported to the vice president for administration and finance, now reports to the president.

Industrial engineers

(Continued from page 1)

"It was great to represent YSU," said Hritz of Austintown. "We showed that students from YSU can beat students from schools that are generally thought of as higher caliber."

About 200 students, advisors and industrial guests attended the conference.

Englehardt and Hritz received an almost perfect score in the 75-point written part and almost perfect credit for the presentation, said Martin Cala, an associate professor of mechanical and industrial engineering and advisor of YSU's IIE student chapter.

The YSU students developed a push/pull buffer, which involved the pushing

of empty carriers and the pulling of filled carriers in or out of the main flowline, creating the equivalent of a continuous one-piece flow system.

The push/pull buffer can allow 2.9 percent more product to be produced annually. They built the buffer in the GE plant where Englehardt works as an intern out of \$2,000 worth of parts that were lying idle in the plant.

Englehardt and Hritz now move on to compete in the national IIE conference in May in Orlando. This will be the fourth time a group from YSU will have attended the national conference, but the first as regional winners. ■