

Faculty retirees boast nearly 800 years of service

If not for YSU, Al Bright may have ended up cutting hair.

Late in his senior year at South High School in 1959, Bright was on a waiting list to attend barber school in Cleveland. Instead, he decided to seek a college degree at Youngstown University.

"I've been here ever since," said Bright, a native of Youngstown who earned a bachelor's degree in art education in 1964 and joined the faculty of Youngstown University the next year.

Later this summer, Bright retires from YSU after a distinguished career spanning more than four decades, including 17 years as the first director of the university's Black Studies Program.

"I will miss my students the most," he said. "They are so stimulating to me."

Bright is among 23 YSU faculty members retiring this summer. Combined, they have 774 years of service to the university, or nearly eight centuries.

In the art department alone, three retiring faculty – Bright, Joseph Babisch and Richard Mitchell – have a combined 125 years of service. And in the math department, retiring faculty Doug Faires, Richard Burden and John Buoni combine for 108 years of experience at YSU.

While most of them will return to campus to continue teaching under the university's extended teaching service program, the retirements – combined with the departure of 19 veteran faculty members last spring – signal a significant changing of the guard for YSU.

"The current foundation of this university was built on the hard work and dedication of these faculty members," Provost Robert K. Herbert said. "Their creativity, their talent and their commitment to their disciplines will be missed."



Among the 23 YSU faculty members retiring this summer are art professors Joseph Babisch, left, Richard Mitchell and Al Bright, who have a combined 125 years of service to the university. They are pictured here at the YSU Honors Convocation this spring.

One of the more prominent retirees is Tom Shipka, whose 37-year YSU career may be most noted for his leadership in unionizing the university's faculty in the early 1970s.

Shipka, a native of Campbell, was president and/or chief negotiator for the YSU faculty union between 1972

and 1986, when he became chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. For the past three years, he has served as president of the Academic Senate.

"My greatest legacy will be the faculty union, but a close second is

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\$1M grant improves math, science

YSU has received two federal grants amounting to nearly \$1 million aimed at improving the teaching of math and science in 47 school districts across the tri-county region.

U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan joined YSU faculty members Ray Beiersdorfer, Greg Sturru, David Pollack and Howard Pullman at a press conference in May to announce the grants, which will create professional development programs for about 250 teachers in Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana counties.

Anthony Trevena, district representative for U.S. Rep. Ted Strickland, also attended the press conference.

The partners in the programs are YSU, Youngstown City School District, the Far East Regional School Improvement Team of the Ohio Department of Education and the Educational Service Centers of Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana counties.

Read a more detailed story online at http://cfweb.cc.yzu.edu/news/news_intro.cfm. ■

'Tell Someone' focuses on harassment, discrimination

When it comes to harassment and discrimination, silence is not golden.

And that's something that Jimmy Myers, director of YSU's Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, wants everyone on campus to know.

"We take discrimination and harassment claims very seriously, and all of us should do everything we can to prevent it," he said.

Myers has launched a new campus-wide campaign called "Tell Someone" to direct students, faculty and staff to his office if they have discrimination or harassment issues.

Currently, the campaign consists of posters and informational brochures. Myers said he also plans on holding educational programs.

"We hope to achieve with this

campaign a better informed campus where people know what the university's position is on discrimination and harassment and what to do if it occurs," he said.

Myers decided to start the campaign when his office discovered that some people had concerns about sexual harassment, yet walked away from them when they didn't know what to do.

He also said that the office can protect the privacy of a complainant and that a person should not let the lack of concrete proof stop him or her from reporting or asking questions about such incidents.

"It's not left up to the person to get proof," he said.

Myers said that if someone is unsure whether or not harassment or

discrimination has occurred, then he or she can contact the office to describe the incident. "Our office provides a safe place to talk, ask questions and decide what you want to do," he said.

While Myers said he does not feel such incidents are rampant at YSU, they do occur.

"When you have a community of thousands of people – a microcosm of society – you have the same kinds of problems that occur in society," he said. "But it's our goal to make the university a safe and welcoming environment for everyone."

For more information, call 330-941-3370. A chart showing examples of discrimination and harassment is available on the *eUpdate* at <http://cfweb.cc.yosu.edu/eUpdate/index.cfm>. ■

Student ombudsperson: 'Not my job to judge, but to help resolve'



Jack Fahey

Jack Fahey, director of auxiliary services, assumed the responsibilities of student ombudsperson at YSU this spring, taking over the post from K.J. Satrum, who has retired.

Fahey, a YSU staff member since 1980, said the position is designed to help make YSU a friendlier place for students, providing them with a specific person to help resolve problems and concerns. He said that about 230 students a year have come to the ombudsperson for help since the position was created in 2001.

"The ombudsperson has the official role of serving as an impartial, confidential resource for undergraduate and graduate students," he said.

Fahey said that the most common student problems involve academic issues, such as what to do or who to contact when a class is not offered in time for graduation. But other matters run the gamut from parking and housing

questions to campus social activities and concerns about the transfer of credits.

"I feel I am successful when I can help students resolve an issue, as well as help them understand university procedures and processes to prevent the problem from arising again," he said.

In addition, Fahey contacts faculty and staff members or departments and offices at the request of students.

"I want students and departments to feel good about the process. Everyone involved needs to know that I, as ombudsperson, am trying to work out a resolution for both

parties – that it's not my job to judge, but to help resolve." ■



Heritage Award....

John Gillespie, left, and George Beelen, emeritus professor of history, received the YSU Heritage Award at the Annual Awards Banquet May 5 in Kilcawley Center. Gillespie accepted the award on behalf of his late father, John P. Gillespie, former dean of men.

In memoriam...

Karen L. Duda

Professor and chair of YSU's Department of Computer Science and Information Systems, Karen L. Duda died May 6 in Forum Health-Trumbull Memorial Hospital. She was 56.



Karen L. Duda

Duda joined the YSU faculty in 1981 after completing a Ph.D. in vocational/business education at the University of Pittsburgh. She also held bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a master's in multimedia technology from Duquesne University.

She was named a YSU Distinguished Professor in Teaching in 1991 and 2000, received Master Teacher Designation from 1998 to 2000 and was inducted into YSU's chapter of Phi Kappa Phi. In 2002, Duda was named the Business Associate of the Year by the Shenango Valley Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Business Women's Association. She was chair of CSIS for five years.

Contributions can be made to the Karen L. Duda Memorial Scholarship Fund through the YSU Foundation. ■

13 faculty granted tenure

The following faculty members have been granted tenure:



*Diane Barnes,
History*



*Annette M. Burden,
Mathematics and
Statistics*



*Eleanor A. Congdon,
History*



*Lauren Cummins,
Teacher Education*



*Thomas P. Diggins,
Biological Sciences*



*Jay L. Gordon,
English*



*Diane P. Kandray,
Health Professions*



*Daniel Laird,
School of Technology*



*Till M. Meyn,
Dana School of Music*



*Bradley A. Shellito,
Geography*



*Angela Spalsbury,
Mathematics and
Statistics*



*Jamal K. Tartir,
Mathematics and
Statistics*



*Sheen Xin Liu,
Accounting and
Finance*

Faculty/Staff

Presentations

Carol Hawkins, assistant professor, Human Ecology, co-presented the workshop "Social and Emotional Development: Effective Assessment in the Preschool Classroom" at the Annual Ohio AEYC conference in April.

Professional Activities

Adam Earnhardt, instructor, Communication Studies, presented "Evolutionary Steps of Multi-player Internet Games: Effects of Online Gaming

on Interpersonal, Computer-mediated Communication" at the 91st National Communication Association Annual Convention in Boston, Mass. He also presided over the NCA Student Section business meeting and served as a respondent to the top papers in the NCA Student Section.

Jason Rakers, director, Network Services, recently served as judge in the network design competition at the State Leadership Conference of the Pennsylvania Future Business Leaders of America. He has been a judge at the annual event since 2002.

Publications

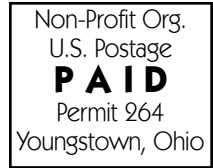
William Greenway, professor, English, has had three poems published recently: "Pantheon" in the *Georgetown Review*, "Now Is the Time for All Good" in *Slant* and "New and Used" in *Four Corners*.

G. Andy Chang, professor, Mathematics and Statistics, had the article "Taiwanese or Chinese? Independence or Unification? An Analysis of Generational Differences in Taiwan" published in a special issue of the *Journal of Asian and African Studies*. He also had "Ethnicity and Politics in Taiwan: An Analysis of Mainlander's Identity and Policy Preference" published in *Issues and Studies*. ■



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2005-06 graduating class largest in 20 years

The graduating class of 2005-06 at YSU is the largest in 20 years.

YSU reports that 2,132 students received diplomas during summer, fall and spring commencements, the most since 2,217 graduated in 1985-86.

Since 2000-01, the number of graduates has grown by 310 students, or 17 percent.

University officials say the increase is due in large part to a surge in enrollment between 2000 and 2004.

“Reaching a 20-year high in the number of graduates reflects YSU’s important contributions to this region and beyond,” YSU President David C.

Sweet said. “These graduates leave YSU as productive citizens and contributors to the economic future of the region, state and nation.”

For more coverage of commencement, read eUpdate at <http://cfweb.cc.ysu.edu/eUpdate/index>.



Graduates Janine Martindale, Beverly Townsend and Kristin Maceyak celebrate outside Beeghly Center after YSU’s spring commencement on May 20.

Retirees (Continued from page 1)

building what I believe is one of the strongest academic departments in the nation for philosophy and religious studies,” he said.

Virginia Phillips, who received a bachelor’s degree in education from YSU in 1967 and joined the university’s faculty that same year, said her students will be her greatest legacy.

“I can’t begin to relate how many thought I was ‘tough’ when they were students, but wrote back many years later to thank me for what they learned and relate to me their career successes,” said Phillips, a professor of computer science and information systems.

“My name will be forgotten,

but successful students who have a positive impact on the lives of others will enable my classroom efforts to continue to bear fruit.”

Richard Burden, professor of mathematics and statistics, said students are much the same today as when he joined the YSU faculty in 1970. “They are still a joy to be around,” he said. “I still very much enjoy teaching.”

Burden, who is now 62, was 26 years old when he came to YSU. Along the way, he met his wife, Annette, who in 1979 was a part-time instructor in the math department and now is an assistant professor. He said he plans to spend part of his retirement collaborating with his wife on a new

textbook.

Bright, the first African American to serve on YSU’s full-service faculty, has plenty of plans for retirement as well. In June, he will take his performance art show to the B.B. King Blues Festival in Mississippi. He will return to teach at YSU part-time in spring 2007. In 2007-08, he will serve a residency at Savannah State University in Georgia.

“To me, there will always be something very special about YSU and the students here,” Bright said. “Our commitment has always been to serve first-generation college students – like me. As I retire, my hope is that we will never forget that.” ■