

Campus launches accreditation renewal



Bege Bowers

The two-year process to seek continuing accreditation for YSU begins in earnest this month, and university officials are hopeful it will result in the full, 10-year renewal of the institution's accreditation.

"Even with the upcoming centennial celebration and capital campaign, continuing accreditation is the single most important process that this campus will face in the next two years," said Bege Bowers, associate provost.

"It's important that the entire university community pull together to make this process meaningful and productive."

The purpose of this regularly scheduled, periodic renewal of accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools is to reconfirm that YSU is operating within its stated mission and goals, Bowers said.

"The self-study process is a chance to celebrate successes and address challenges," she said. "It's a campus-wide and even community-wide process that will assess every unit and every division and

every aspect of the university."

The intensive process includes a detailed self-study of the university's operations, followed by a site visit in February 2008 by a team of evaluators representing the Higher Learning Commission, which is responsible for accrediting nearly 1,300 colleges and universities in a 19-state region from West Virginia to Arizona.

Bowers; Jan Elias, professor of human ecology; and Sharon Stringer, professor of psychology and director of assessment, are the coordinators of the self-study.

A steering committee and five other accreditation committees – one for each of the criteria outlined by the HLC – have been formed and will begin meeting this spring. The committees, which include approximately 90 students, faculty, staff, trustees and community members, will seek broad input in determining how well YSU is meeting each of the criteria.

"We don't want to exclude anyone," said Bowers, noting that a special Web site (www.ysu.edu/accreditation) will be developed and updated throughout the re-accreditation process. "Everyone is invited to provide information."

By March 2007, each accreditation committee and a number of existing university committees will present reports to

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Junior Jill Little, Assistant Professor Loren Lease (middle) and senior David Parker examine a skull as part of Lease's human osteology course in DeBartolo Hall. Lease is part of the "new face" of YSU's sociology and anthropology department.

Sociology/anthropology: new faces, new research

There are only a handful of people in the United States who specialize in studying baby teeth in the dental anthropology field.

And Loren Lease, a new assistant professor of sociology and anthropology at YSU, is one of them.

Lease is part of the "new face" of YSU's sociology and anthropology department. In recent years, the department has lost three faculty members, including long-time professor and chair John White, and replaced them with a new breed of faculty with their own unique research interests.

Lease, who joined the YSU faculty in August, specializes in skeletal biology, which focuses on analyzing stature, gender determination, ancestry and pathology by studying bones.

In her doctoral dissertation at Ohio State University, Lease's findings were considered revolutionary: that a child's race can be determined by examining its teeth.

"Skeletal biologists take these analyses and apply them to the medical and judicial process to reconstruct trauma or identify victims," said Lease, adding that her dissertation findings can also help the legal community in missing person's cases.

Qi Jiang, an associate professor of sociology at YSU since 1994 and the new department chair, said she wholeheartedly supports Lease's research and efforts to increase students enrolling in her class.

Currently, the department enrolls about 40 anthropology majors and 80 sociology majors. "I would like the programs to become more integrated," Jiang said, noting that the two can work together by sharing resources and by faculty members encouraging students to take courses in both programs.

Another way Jiang said the number of majors can increase is by strengthening the programs through providing more research

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'Safe Zone' promotes diversity, tolerance

BY KELLY NOYES

Walk through just about any building on campus, and you're likely to spot one of the multi-colored, eye-catching Safe Zone signs in an office window.

Organizers of the Safe Zone project hope to see even more popping up in the months ahead.

"Our aim is to spread across the YSU campus as many of the Safe Zone signs as we can, showing that YSU is a tolerant campus interested in promoting and supporting diversity," said Sandra Stephan,

English professor and faculty advisor for YSUnity, a gay-straight alliance.

The Safe Zone program is a sensitivity training workshop in place at more than 200 university campuses nationwide designed to help faculty and staff become aware of the issues facing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning students.

Earlier this month, YSUnity, the Office of Student Diversity Programs and the Women's Studies Program presented a

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Sandra Stephan, English professor and faculty advisor for YSUnity, poses with the Safe Zone sign prior to training this month in Kilcawley Center.

Zzzzzzzz... New program will put them to sleep

BY KELLY NOYES

Flip through the pages of any trade magazine for respiratory care, and you'll come across dozens of job openings for sleep therapists.

From Windham Hospital in Willimantic, Conn., to Temple Community Hospital in Los Angeles, the opportunities are everywhere.

"There is a huge demand for sleep therapists right now," said Lou Harris, YSU professor of health professions. "Most sleep labs are booked months in advance."

YSU's respiratory care program is seizing on the trend and last fall began offering a new certificate program in polysomnography, the study of sleep disorders.

"This opportunity was just too good for us to pass up," said Harris, head of YSU's respiratory care program. "It is a wonderful thing for the students and ev-

eryone involved. Not only is the career in high demand, but it is a good moneymaker, too. Many sleep labs pay \$300 for one sleep study."

Harris said the polysomnography program was first brought to his attention by Janet Boehm, YSU professor of health professions and former president of the American Association for Respiratory Care.

"We read about it online and got literature from the national organization," he said. "We found out YSU was eligible, and it went from there."

The first class of the new certificate program will graduate in May. There are four participants. Harris said he hopes to have a full class of 10 to 14 students next year.

To earn the certificate, senior respiratory therapy students or graduates that have passed national board exams must complete

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Byline

Quest 2006: A Forum for Student Scholarship



By Jeff Dick
Director, Undergraduate Research

"Quest: A Forum for Student Scholarship" is enjoying its 17th year of success on campus and has become a YSU tradition.

A one-day event held in various locations throughout Kilcawley Center on April 4, Quest provides excellent opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to share their research and creative works with fellow students, faculty, other members of the university community, as well as the public.

Jeff Dick

This year's program features more than 175 undergraduate students and 75 graduate students presenting their findings and results of scholarly activities that represent the full spectrum of disciplines and degree programs at YSU.

For a preview of Quest projects, programs with abstracts will be available online beginning March 31.

Quest epitomizes YSU's commitment to undergraduate research. New to this year's program is a special session, "Beyond Numbers, Beyond Names: The Experience of Holocaust Victims," sponsored by the Holocaust and Judaic Studies Program.

As a continuation of last year's program, a special poster session dedicated to the national science honorary society, Sigma Xi, will showcase faculty research.

Much of the undergraduate scholarly activities at Quest are collaborative works between students and faculty mentors representing senior capstone projects, senior and honors theses, and undergraduate research-oriented courses.

These activities are supported by the undergraduate research grant and scholarship programs, PACER and URC grants, faculty grants, and local industries.

Examples of undergraduate scholarly works include:

- Sean Ludt, Physics and Astronomy, reporting on collaborative work with Dr. James Carroll on "Ge clover detectors at YSU's X-Ray Effects Laboratories."
- John McCormick and Dominic Vigarino, Geological and Environmental Sciences, reporting on collaborative work with Drs. Jeffrey Dick and Shane Smith on "Evidence of Ancient Hurricanes in the Sediment Record of San Salvador."
- Paul Gromen and Jamie Weber, Geography, reporting on collaborative work with Dr. Bradley Shellito on "Modeling the YSU Campus in 3-D Using GIS."
- Kathryn Williams, Marketing, reporting on collaborative work with Dr. Mark Toncar on "10 Days or 10 Weeks: One Person's Perspective of International Programs."

Graduates participating in QUEST are, for the most part, reporting on findings and outcomes of their degree-required master's thesis research.

Examples of graduate scholarly works include:

- Monica Wibwana and Vidya Tangudu, Computer Science and Information Systems, reporting on thesis collaborative work with Dr. Alina Lazar, "COGNOS: The On-Demand Business Intelligence Too."
- Alisa Balestra, English, reporting on her work with Dr. Gabriel Palmer Fernandez, "Can Feminism be Paternalistic?"

I encourage everyone in the YSU community to stop by Kilcawley Center on April 4 to see the quality of our students' work. I guarantee you will be impressed.

For more information, visit www.yсу.edu/quest. ■

Campus News Roundup

Professor's name added to annual Shipka Speakers Series



Tom Shipka

The Albert J. Shipka Speakers Series will now also carry the name of Tom Shipka.

Upon the unanimous recommendation of the faculty of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, the YSU Board of Trustees approved on March 17 a resolution to rename the speakers series the Dr. Thomas and Albert Shipka Speakers Series.

The Speakers Series was founded in 1993 to enrich the lives of students in the philosophy and religious studies department through special lectures and programs.

Albert Shipka played a major role in the unionization and representation of workers in the Mahoning Valley from the 1930s until his death in 1975. Among his titles was president of Local 2163 of the United Steel Workers of America, president of the Greater Youngstown AFL-CIO Council and a member of the YSU Board of Trustees.

Albert Shipka's son, Tom, has been on the faculty at YSU since 1969 and has served as chair of philosophy and religious studies since 1986. He is a three-time recipient of the Distinguished Professor Award, a two-time recipient of the Watson Merit Award, current chair of the Academic Senate and former president of the YSU-Ohio Education Association. ■

YSU, FOP schedule contract talks, appoint negotiating teams

Contract negotiations between the administration and the YSU-Fraternal Order of Police are scheduled to begin this month.

The chief negotiator for the administration's bargaining team is Steve Lucivjansky, YSU manager of labor relations. Also on the administration's team is Lt. Greg Clementi, staff/operations commander for the YSU Police Department; Elaine Jacobs, associate athletics director; and Matt Novotny, director of Kilcawley Center.

Chuck Wilson, an FOP staff representative, is the chief negotiator for the FOP team. The team also includes Sgt. Randy Williams, Officer Doug Pusateri,

Sgt. John Spencer and Dispatcher Dean DeMain.

The contract with the 23-member union expires March 31. The first meeting of the teams is scheduled for March 23. The last time the YSU-FOP contract was negotiated in 2003, talks did not begin until April 1, and the contract was settled by April 15, Lucivjansky said.

The university also is gearing up for negotiations with the YSU-Association of Professional and Administrative Staff, whose contract expires June 30. Jack Fahey, director of auxiliary services, has been named the administration's chief negotiator for the YSU-APAS contract. ■



Water falls...

Jack Walp of YSU's facilities staff vacuums water out of a hallway in Moser Hall after hundreds of gallons of water from a broken drain pipe spilled into the building on March 13. Water leaked into the second and first floors and basement levels of the south side of the building, which houses the Rayen College of Engineering and Technology. The water caused significant damage to a large computer lab as well as the college's materials and environmental labs.

Youngstown STATE UNIVERSITY

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Executive Director: Walt Ulbricht
Assistant Director: Jean Engle
Update Editor: Ron Cole
Associate Editor: Wendy Wolfgang
Student Writer: Kelly Noyes
Graphic Designer: Renée Cannon
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Marketing and Communications
133 Tod Hall, Youngstown, Ohio 44555-3519
racole.01@ysu.edu 330-941-3519



Ronald Berk

CATALYST lecturer aims to tickle the funny bone

Dr. Ronald A. Berk, former assistant dean for teaching at Johns Hopkins University, presents "Humor as an Instructional Defibrillator" 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, March 30 in Bresnahan Rooms I and II.

The presentation, sponsored by the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning at Youngstown State (CATALYST), focuses on how

using humor as a systematic teaching tool can bring students and course content to life.

The session will include evidence-based humor methods that can be integrated into syllabi, handouts, examples, case studies, discussion questions, homework problems, project outlines and tests.

Berk is professor of biostatistics and measurement at the School of Nursing at Johns Hopkins University. ■

Faculty/Staff

Presentations

Raymond Beiersdorfer, professor, Geological and Environmental Sciences, presented "The Failure of Paranormal Methods to Predict Natural Disasters" at the James Randi Education Foundation Amazing Meeting in January in Las Vegas.

G. Andy Chang, professor, Mathematics and Statistics, presented "Green Market Segmentation Associated with Forest Values" at the 33rd Annual Meeting of The Academy of Economics and Finance in Houston in February.

Allen D. Hunter, professor, Chemistry, co-presented "The Serendipitous Synthesis, Isolation, and Characterization of Three Complexes of Cu with the Ligand Di-2-pyridylmethandiol" at the 229th American Chemical Society National Meeting in San Diego.

Professional Activities

Samuel Adu-Poku, assistant professor, Art, presented at the Ohio Art Education Association Illustrating the Arts conference in Cleveland in November. He spoke on "Art Criticism: Exploring Afrocentric Perspectives." He also presented on various perspectives on art criticism at the same conference.

James Umble, associate professor, Dana School of Music, recently appeared at the Ohio Music Education Association State Conference in Cleveland as a soloist with the Canfield Middle School Band, directed by YSU alumnus Jim Volenik. Umble was

also the 2005 Featured Guest Clinician for the Three Rivers Saxophone Workshop in July at California State University of Pennsylvania.

Misook Yun, associate professor, Dana School of Music, performed *Musetta's Aria* with the YSU Wind Symphonic Ensemble at the Ohio Music Education Association convention in January 2006. In November 2005, she performed the role of Mimi in *La Bohème* produced by the opera Western Reserve, Youngstown.

Publications

Philip Brady, professor, English, has had his poem, "The Light of Evening," anthologized in *Chance of a Ghost: An Anthology of Contemporary Ghost Poems*.

Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez, professor, Philosophy and Religious Studies, and director, Dr. James Dale Ethics Center, published the chapter "Religion and Violence: War, Tyrannicide, Terrorism," in *The Just War and Jihad*, a Prometheus Book.

Kin P. Moy, assistant professor, Electrical Engineering Technology, had the technical paper "Latest Trends in International EMC Standards Development for Automotive Applications" published in the 2005 Asian Pacific Symposium on EMC. The paper was presented by his co-author, Dr. Tony Lee, a retired engineering executive from Delphi Corp. at the symposium in Taipei, Taiwan in December 2005. ■

Submit items for "Faculty/Staff" to Wendy Wolfgang, associate editor, at wawolfgang@ysu.edu

Student research focuses on coping with pet death

BY KAREN SCHUBERT

Jami Herring's research project on how people react to the death of a pet was more than just another college paper.

Herring, who graduated in summer 2005 from YSU with a double major in both sociology and anthropology, was in high school when her dog, Lucy, died.

"I had had her since I was a small child, and it was a very hard experience to get over," Herring remembers. "Actually, doing research on this topic was sort of helpful, because at times I still find myself missing my dog."

Herring of East Liverpool, worked with fellow YSU students Leighann Brush of Struthers, Erin Colella of New Waterford and Amanda Davis of Boardman on the project titled "The Type of Pet Loss Creates the Coping Individual."

The students, all of whom have graduated, conducted the research last spring as part of a YSU capstone class on death, dying and bereavement taught by Robert Weaver, sociology and anthropology professor.

The students presented the results at the North Central Sociological Association's annual meeting in Pittsburgh last April. NCSA, which seeks to further the development of sociology as a scientific and scholarly discipline, includes about 300 members in seven states and one Canadian province.

Weaver said the paper was so well received that the students were invited to speak at a symposium for undergraduate papers last April at Westminster College.

To research the topic, the students reviewed books, articles and Web sites and developed a survey to determine if there are variables that predict the intensity of mourning a person might feel after losing a pet. The survey included 161 YSU students.

Brush, who now works at Alltel Communications and plans to pursue a graduate degree at YSU, said the survey results revealed some correlations.

"We found that people who have had their pet longer grieved for a longer period of time," she said. "We also found that women grieve more severely, and perhaps more openly than men do. We feel that this is because women are more open when dealing with their emotions, and so it may be easier for them to really express how sad and upset they are."

The survey also revealed that the type of pet was not a good predictor for the amount of grief: survey respondents had lost dogs, cats, birds, hamsters, gerbils and even spiders. However, being the sole caretaker of a pet is a good predictor for greater mourning, the survey revealed.

The students also found that the way others react to those who grieve may make the sorrow more intense and the person feel more isolated, causing a prolonged time of sadness.

The paper explains that pet death is a kind of "disenfranchised grief," not recognized as a socially sanctioned sorrow like the loss of an immediate relative. Other types of disenfranchised grief include adolescent breakup, the death of a more distant relative, or miscarriage.

Weaver said that when a woman experiences a miscarriage people might say, "You're still young, you can have another," or "It's nature's way," thereby minimizing the loss. When people think their sadness is misunderstood, it may enhance their depressed feelings, he added.

He said that there is a benefit to studying death as a youth. "In the modern world, we're very much shielded from death; therefore, it becomes that much more difficult, and we're not very well prepared for it," he said. ■

College of Ed reorganized



Philip Ginnetti

Ginnetti said.

"By breaking it down, we will be better serving our students in those programs, and that's why I looked at these changes. The programs will be more manageable."

The education college enrolls 2,500 undergraduate and graduate students and is the third largest college at YSU.

Two of the three departments in the college have new names. Counseling is now the Department of Counseling and Special Education, and the Department of Educational Administration, Research and Foundations is now the Department of Educational Foundations, Research, Technology and Leadership.

Ginnetti said the process to reorganize the college began in spring 2005. He met with faculty and staff and the Dean's Advisory Council, which is comprised of representatives of the college faculty and administration, over a period of six months to discuss the change.

Prior to the reorganization, the teacher education department had 18 full-time faculty members, the largest in the college by far. Now, there are 10 full-time faculty in the department, which is now chaired by Dora Bailey.

On the undergraduate level, teacher ed-

ucation continues to offer early childhood, middle childhood, secondary or adolescent young adult, vocational education and multi-age grades programs. On the graduate side, the department continues to administer master teacher elementary and master teacher secondary programs.

The master teacher secondary educational technology tract was in the teacher education department, but will now be part of educational foundations, research, technology and leadership. Robert Beebe continues to serve as chair of that department.

There are now 11 full-time faculty members in the department, up from nine prior to the reorganization. The department will continue to offer post-master's certification and licensure and the doctorate in educational leadership.

Undergraduate and graduate special education programs were also part of teacher education before the reorganization. Now, the Department of Counseling and Special Education, with 13 full-time faculty members, will administer those programs. Prior to the reorganization, the department had six full-time faculty. Margaret Briley is serving as interim chair.

Counseling and special education continues to administer child and adolescent in community counseling, community counseling, higher education student services, school counseling and post master's course of study in clinical counseling, all graduate programs.

"Faculty and staff had input into the process, and this reorganization was the most logical plan that we could come up with," said Ginnetti. ■



Piano Week...

Instructor and piano recording artist Philip Thomson of Canada performs at the Butler Institute of American Art on March 8 as part of YSU's Piano Week. The weeklong series of concerts and classes featured the premiere performance of the concerto "Tipping Points" by David Morgan, YSU assistant professor of jazz studies.

Zzzzzzz.....

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eight credit hours of coursework and 200 clinical hours over two semesters. Clinical work in polysomnography has been done at St. Joseph's Hospital, St. Elizabeth Medical Center, Forum Health and Salem Medical Center.

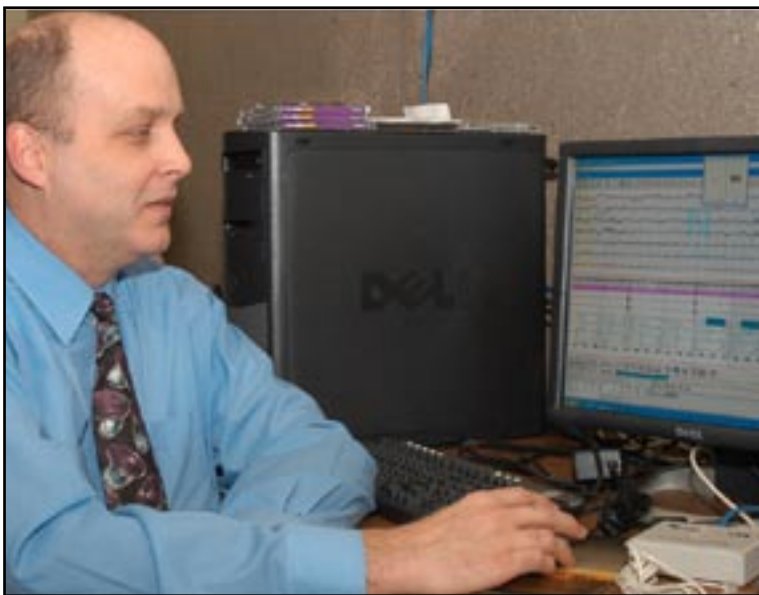
Mark Beebe is the part-time faculty member in charge of the curriculum and the sleep specific courses. He is a registered sleep technologist (RPSGT) at the sleep lab at Forum Health's Northside Medical Center.

The certificate qualifies students to conduct polysomnographs, or sleep disorder tests, which are conducted to diagnose sleep disorders such as sleep apnea, a disorder in which a person stops breath-

ing during the night perhaps without even knowing it. AARC estimates that as many as 18 million Americans suffer from the common sleep disorder.

There are two types of sleep disorder tests. One is conducted overnight in a lab with monitors measuring brain waves, muscle tension, eye movement, respiration, and oxygen levels in the blood. It also monitors audio for snoring and/or gasping, key symptoms of sleep apnea. The second type is a home monitoring test. Electrodes are attached to the body and are monitored all night. The subject is taught how to record his/her sleep with a computerized polysomnograph.

"Sleep apnea is the most common sleep disorder so it's the easiest for us to diagnose and treat," Harris said. "The students are learning how to use all of the proper machines and equipment used in sleep studies." ■



Mark Beebe, part-time faculty member in charge of the new certificate program on sleep disorders, monitors a computer in the polysomnography lab in Cushwa Hall.

Anthropology changes

(Continued from page 1)

opportunities for undergraduates.

And Matt O'Mansky, who joined the faculty in August, has the perfect research opportunity for them – helping to uncover an eighth-century, three-story Maya palace in Guatemala.

O'Mansky, an archaeologist, has worked at the site since he was a doctoral student at Vanderbilt University. The site was unearthed on an expedition in 1999 led by his dissertation advisor and professor at Vanderbilt, world-renowned archaeologist Arthur Demarest.

This May, O'Mansky plans on taking several YSU students with him for about a month to work the site, which has been identified as one of the largest and best-preserved ancient Maya palaces. The palace has 200 rooms built around 11 courtyards.

"I came to YSU because I wanted to work with undergraduates – to expose them to 'weird' stuff and then show them it's not that weird after all," O'Mansky said.

Though Paul Gordiejew, an assistant professor in the department since 2002, certainly appreciates how much can be learned about people by examining bones

and artifacts, he enjoys studying the living.

"I like my people to talk back to me," he said.

The next group of people he plans on talking to is residents of Youngstown and Boardman. Gordiejew, who lives in Boardman near Midlothian Boulevard, said he would like to develop a research project tentatively titled "Crossing Midlothian: Intersections of Race, Class and Religion in Greater Youngstown."

"There is a perception that there is a certain kind of neighborhood and people on one side of Midlothian and a different kind of people and neighborhood on the other," said Gordiejew. "Midlothian is a symbolic wall – a symbolic boundary that is firmly in place."

Gordiejew, who received his Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh and taught at Central College in Iowa before coming to YSU, said he would enlist the help of undergraduates to conduct the "ethnographic" field research and, perhaps build a class around it, where they would interview residents to uncover why this perception exists. ■

Accreditation renewal

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the coordinators and the steering committee. The coordinators will then draft the self-study document, which Bowers said will "honestly look at and evaluate our strengths, weaknesses and challenges."

"This will not be a PR piece or a sugar-coated report, but an honest self-evaluation of the university," she said.

The HLC evaluators will come to campus for three days, meet with various campus groups and individuals and verify that the self-study is accurate. The team will then issue a report, which goes to the HLC for action.

Bowers said it is extremely rare for institutions to complete the process and not get re-accredited, but the consequences of not getting re-accredited – from the loss of financial aid to the non-acceptance of credits earned at YSU – are such that the process must be taken very seriously.

"It's not option that we be re-accredited," she said. "It's essential."

For more information on the Higher Learning Commission, visit www.nca-higherlearningcommission.org. ■

Safe Zone

(Continued from page 1)

Safe Zone workshop for the seventh consecutive semester. Students, faculty and staff who complete the training receive a Safe Zone sign to display in their work area, signifying to others that in this space they may be honest about their sexual orientation or gender identity without fear of judgment or reprisal.

"Students are particularly vulnerable to homophobia in its many forms, and they need to know whom to trust," Stephan said.

"We want to make the campus more friendly and accepting of the LGBTQ community," said Cynthia Hirtzel, dean of the Rayen College of Engineering and Technology. "The more faculty who are involved, the better it is."

The workshops usually attract 20 to 35

Criteria committees...

Five committees – one for each of the criteria outlined by the Higher Learning Commission – will help develop YSU's self-study document for re-accreditation. Here are the criteria and committee chairs:

- Mission and integrity: **Tammy King**, chair, criminal justice.
- Preparing for the future: **Teresa Riley**, professor, economics; director of faculty relations.
- Student learning and effective teaching: **Sherry Linkon**, professor, English; co-coordinator of Center for Working-Class Studies.
- Acquisition, discovery and application of knowledge: **Jeff Smiley**, professor, chemistry.
- Engagement and service: **Paul Kobulnicky**, executive director, Maag Library.

faculty, staff and students.

"Whenever I walk into an office where I can see a Safe Zone sign, it makes me happy, like people are actually trying to make everyone feel welcome," said Jaclyn Kusluch, a YSU senior majoring in physics/astronomy and math.

"I think that the most important thing that people need to understand is that this isn't just a local issue," Hirtzel said. "Some parts of the country are more receptive to the LGBTQ community, but because of this program and the resources, we aren't far behind."

For more information, visit the YSUnity Web site at http://www.yсу.edu/stu_org/tongzhi/. ■

'One Day in September'...



David Pollak, a member of the 1972 Israeli Olympic team, spoke March 1 at the Butler Institute of American Art after a screening of the 1999 Academy Award-winning documentary "One Day in September." The film is about the murder of 11 Israelis during the 1972 Olympics in Munich, Germany. Pollak was scheduled to go to the games, but his military unit was called up shortly before his departure. The screening was co-sponsored by the Youngstown Area Jewish Film Festival/Judaic Holocaust Committee at YSU and the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation.