

YSU grads stay in Ohio, survey shows



Bernie Cummins

About two-thirds of YSU's nearly 2,000 graduates in the 2003-04 academic year are employed full-time, nearly half of them are making between \$25,000 and \$39,000 a year and less than one

of every 10 relocated outside Ohio after graduation.

Those are among the results of the latest Graduate Employment Report from the YSU Office of Career and Counseling Services.

"Knowing what happens to your graduates has become increasingly important in recent years," said Bernie Cummins, CCS director.

"Prospective students and their parents want to know what happens to a graduate after she/he has completed a degree. The success of a university's graduates in securing employment has become an increasingly more important factor in making decisions regarding which institution to attend."

Cummins said the 2003-04 report is

the first prepared by the university in 10 years. He said the reports will now be completed annually.

Of the 1,894 YSU students who received degrees during the 2003-04 academic year, 1,174 completed survey forms for the study. Data collection for the study included two mailings of surveys and follow up telephone calls to graduates who had not returned completed surveys.

Cummins said the most surprising result of the survey was that only 73 graduates, or about 6 percent, had relocated out of state, most of them to Pennsylvania (12), Florida (11), North Carolina (9), California (5), Virginia (4), Nevada (3) and New York (3).

"We have seen growing interest among the students we work with in exploring employment opportunities in other parts of the country, especially, for instance, the Carolinas and the Atlanta area," he said. "I suspect that we will see that number increase in future surveys."

The survey also showed that about 63 percent of graduates were employed full-time and 20 percent part-time. Eight percent said they were not employed and actively seeking employment. Nine percent said they were not seeking employment,

Staying home...

Less than one of every 10 YSU students who graduated in the 2003-04 academic year relocated outside Ohio after graduation, according to a new survey:

| Total respondents | 1,171 | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Did not relocate | 1,024 | 87 percent |
| Relocated out of state | 73 | 6 percent |
| Relocated 50-100 miles in Ohio | 54 | 5 percent |
| Relocated more than 100 miles in Ohio | 20 | 2 percent |

mostly because they were continuing their education or for family reasons.

In fact, the survey showed that about 27 percent of graduates who completed an undergraduate degree were pursuing additional education on either a full- or part-time basis, and more than half of them were attending YSU, the survey showed.

About 44 percent of graduates reported annual salaries of \$25,000 to \$39,000, and 23 percent reported annual salaries under \$25,000. About 17 percent of graduates

had annual salaries of \$40,000 to \$49,000, and 10 percent reported salaries of more than \$50,000.

Cummins said the survey results will help the CCS staff identify potential employers to work with who have previously hired YSU graduates but have not actively recruited at YSU.

"The success of these graduates in their organizations gives us a base to work from in building and strengthening recruiting relationships," he said. ■

Prof studies effectiveness of uniforms in urban schools

Requiring students in urban public high schools to wear uniforms results in increased attendance and graduation rates and fewer student suspensions, but it does not improve academic performance in reading and math.

Those are among the results of a new study conducted by Virginia Draa, assistant professor of human ecology.

"Uniforms alone do not improve student reading and math proficiency test scores, but they do help in addressing problems with discipline and attendance

in a school building," said Draa, who conducted the study as part of her dissertation for a doctoral degree in educational leadership at YSU.

"People should not expect miraculous improvements overnight in the school climate or even in one year" as the result of uniforms, she said. "As with many educational policies, it takes some time for students and school personnel to adapt to a change and for the improvements to be noticeable."

Draa, who received the Ed.D. degree at

Continued on back page

Labor panel issues report

The YSU Labor-Management Review Panel, appointed by President David C. Sweet last fall, issued a 12-page final report on Jan. 12.

The report is available online at http://www.yсу.edu/labor_report.pdf.

"Upon initial review, there appear to be many constructive recommendations that have potential for improving campus labor-management relations," Sweet said.

"For progress to occur, it will require both management and the leaders of our labor unions to work together to reestablish trust and respect."

Sweet formed the panel, chaired by Provost Robert K. Herbert, in the wake of strikes by the faculty and classified staff in August 2005.

Sweet said he plans to discuss the report with members of his administration and develop a full response.

The president also announced that, in response to the report, all members of the administrative bargaining teams for both the faculty and classified contracts will resign their positions on the teams and will not participate in the next round of contract negotiations.

"I am requesting that all members of the bargaining teams for the faculty and classified unions do the same," Sweet said. "This is a necessary, simple first step toward the goals underlying the report."

Sweet added: "The challenge that lies ahead is to develop a better understanding by all parties of the economic climate that exists for higher education in Ohio and seek ways to reach reasonable decisions through the collective bargaining process without the disruptive impact of a strike. I hope this report and recommendations will move us in that direction." ■

Edwards named dean



Joe Edwards

Joseph Edwards, a Youngstown native and a faculty member and administrator at YSU for 36 years, is the new dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts.

Edwards, interim dean of the college since January 2005, took the new position on Jan. 1.

"YSU has been a part of my life for more than four decades, and being appointed to this position is a great honor," said Edwards, who grew up in Youngstown's Brier Hill neighborhood, graduated from Ursuline High School in 1960 and earned a bachelor's degree in

music education from YSU in 1965.

"My primary goal is to build upon the college's long tradition of national excellence and service to the community."

The College of Fine and Performing Arts, with nearly 1,000 students, includes the Dana School of Music, the Department of Art and the Department of Communications and Theater and produces hundreds of art exhibits, theatrical productions and musical performances annually on campus and throughout the community.

"Joe is the consummate professional and a proven, respected campus leader," said Robert K. Herbert, YSU provost and vice president for academic affairs. "I am confident that the college will continue to excel under his leadership."

Edwards, who started his music career at the age of 11 playing saxophone

Continued on back page



Shooting star...

Eleanor Beecher Flad gestures to the dome of the Ward Beecher Planetarium during a reception in January celebrating the first major renovations in the planetarium's 38-year history. Through a \$750,000 grant from the Ward Beecher and the Florence Simon Beecher Foundations, the planetarium's seats have been replaced and a full-dome video projection system has been installed. A new star projector will be installed this summer. The planetarium has served about 1 million visitors and students since 1967.

Byline

Are you going to Mad About the Arts?



By Michele Grant
Development Officer
WYSU-FM

“Are you going to ‘Mad About the Arts?’”

This was one of the first questions I was asked when I first came back to Youngstown from Philadelphia.

I had been at a new job in downtown Youngstown for less than a week at that time, and I was impressed as I watched my new co-workers excitedly hurry to campus for this arts celebration.

That was five years ago. Five years later, as “Mad About the Arts” celebrates its 10th anniversary, I am still impressed.

On Friday, Feb. 24, the Mahoning Valley arts-loving community will gather at the McDonough Museum of Art for this event, which draws over 400 people annually. The goal is to raise funds for WYSU-FM, 88.5 and the McDonough and to enhance awareness of the importance of the arts to the community.

During the early 1990s, WYSU began seeking an outreach event that was exciting and collaborative. Catherine Cala, associate director of University Development who conceived the “Mad” idea while working as a development associate at WYSU, explained that the event was created to celebrate the arts, as well as take a strong stand on support of the arts during an era when arts’ funding was being threatened.

The McDonough was selected as the location, and a creative partnership was formed.

Throughout its history, “Mad About the Arts” has highlighted a wealth of artists and partnerships, showcasing both national and international art exhibitions, Dana School of Music musicians, jazz trios, swing bands, film festivals, piano duos and more.

This year’s Friends of the Arts preview reception, which begins at 6:30 p.m., will feature nationally recognized artist Al Bright, a professor of art at YSU. Famous as a pioneer in performance art, Bright will construct a painting to jazz played by the Jesse Dandy Jazz Ensemble. The completed painting will be auctioned later in the evening. On display throughout the evening will be the YSU Department of Art biennial faculty exhibition.

Dance band Rudy and the Professionals return again this year, as will the traditional selection of wines, champagnes and beverages provided by regional wine and brewery vendors. However, new this year will be hors-d’oeuvres and dessert samplings from area restaurants.

In honor of the 10th anniversary and for a limited time, a discounted ticket price of \$25 will be offered to YSU faculty, staff and students for the main celebration from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. This offer expires on February 3. Regular ticket prices are \$30 for WYSU-FM and McDonough members. Tickets for Fine Arts Alumni and YSU faculty, staff and students are \$40 for regular admission and \$75 for Friends of the Arts. Tickets can be ordered and more information can be obtained by calling WYSU at 330-941-3363. ■

Campus News Roundup



Penguins walk for children...

Members of the Penguin Icebreakers, a student recruitment team at YSU, braved freezing temperatures to walk to Pittsburgh Children’s Hospital in December to raise \$2,000 for the hospital. The Icebreakers, based out of the YSU Office of Undergraduate Admissions, also collected about \$9,000 for the hospital at the Pittsburgh Steelers football game on Jan. 1. Pictured are Lindy Kubic, Megan Villers, Shannon Pilipovich, Nadene Kotuby, Chris McKee, Bryan Morales, Todd Pilipovich, Howard Steritt, Ben Burk and Edward Cornman.

Books for Africa drive nets 40 boxes

Nearly 40 boxes full of more than 1,500 pounds of books were shipped from the YSU campus in late December as part of the Books for Africa drive.

“It was such a wonderful event,” said Paul Walker, YSU student trustee and the lead organizer of the book drive. “It really brought students, professors and administrators together.”

The campaign was assisted by YSU Student Government and a few members of the Golden Key Honor Society.

“Books for Africa” (www.booksforafrica.org), a nonprofit organization based out of St. Paul, Minn., has shipped more than 12.6 million books to libraries and classrooms to 26 countries throughout Africa since 1988.

Collection bins were placed in Kilcawley Center and in the YSU bookstore. Walker said some professors donated more than 50 books each. Walker said the campus is planning another book drive for the end of the spring semester. ■

Grad interns at National Geographic



Stephanie Hudzik

Stephanie Hudzik of Poland, who graduated from YSU in December, is among only nine students nationwide to be awarded a prestigious internship at the National Geographic Society for spring semester 2006.

Hudzik, 23, a 2000 graduate of Springfield Local High School, is the first YSU student to receive the internship at the National Geographic Society’s offices in Washington D.C. She was among 150 applicants nationwide.

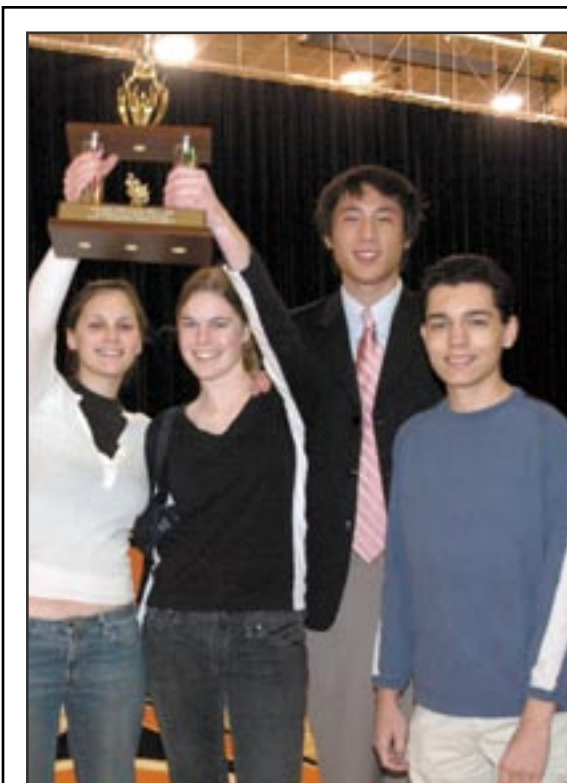
“I really feel that this is the opportunity of a lifetime, and I want to learn everything I possibly can and maybe work my way into a full-time position,” said Hudzik, who graduated magna cum laude from YSU with a bachelor’s degree in geography.

Craig Campbell, chair of YSU’s geography department, said the award reflects well on Hudzik and YSU’s geography program.

“It also will open many doors for Stephanie in the future,” he said.

Hudzik has been assigned to work in the Educational and Children’s Program Division at the National Geographic Society. The internship started Jan. 17 and concludes April 21.

Hudzik said she hopes to attend graduate school in the fall. She has been accepted into the geo-environmental master’s program at Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania. She said she would like to pursue a career working with the environment or conservation issues. ■



We are the champions...

Members of Howland High School’s Academic Challenge team loft the 2005 championship trophy during a presentation at the high school in December. Team members are Devon Watson, Kylee Headland, Timothy Lee and Mike Smylie. Academic Challenge is a quiz program broadcast Saturdays on WYTV News Channel 33. The program is co-sponsored by WYTV, YSU and the Northeastern Ohio Education Association.

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Faculty/Staff

Honors and Awards

Kin P. Moy, assistant professor, Electrical Engineering Technology, has been elected chairman of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Electromagnetic Immunity (EMI) Task Force and vice chairman of the SAE Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Standards Committee.

Gary Salvner, professor and chair, English, has been appointed to a second five-year term as executive secretary of ALAN, The Adolescent Literature Assembly of the National Council of Teachers of English. ALAN is the largest professional organization in the nation devoted to the study of young adult literature, and the executive secretary serves as its primary administrator.

Presentations

Steven Brown, professor, English, presented "Incorporating Research into ESL/EFL Materials Development" to the University of North Texas Linguistics Colloquium in December.

Paul Carr, assistant professor, Educational Administration, Research and Foundations, presented the paper "Educational Institutions Negotiating Democracy and Social Justice" at the annual conference of the Association for Moral Education in Boston in November.

Karen Duda, professor, **Alina Lazar**, assistant professor, and **Louise Popio**, student, Computer Science and Information Systems, presented "Enrollment Differences by Gender in Computer Science, Computer Information Systems, and Information Technology at Youngstown State University" at the Research on Women and Education, 31st Annual Fall Conference in Dayton in October. Popio is a student member of the YSU Board of Trustees.

Ricky S. George, associate director and **Heidi B. Hallas**, research associate, Center for Human Services Development, and **Tom Finnerty**, associate director, and **John Bralich**, research associate, Center for Urban and Regional Studies, and **Lt. Rod Foley**, Youngstown Police Department, presented "Geographic Analysis for

Evaluation" at the annual fall workshop for the Ohio Program Evaluators Group (OPEG) in Columbus in December.

Angela Jancius, assistant professor, Sociology and Anthropology, presented a paper on unions and mass unemployment in eastern Germany at a presidential session of the American Anthropological Association conference in December in Washington, D.C. In addition, at the meeting, Jancius assumed her role as the new anthropology news editor for the Society of the Anthropology of Work. She also recently edited a special issue on the anthropology of unemployment of the international journal ETHNOS.

Peter Norris, professor, Chemistry, and **Iulia Sacui**, MS student, Chemistry, presented the paper "Synthesis and Rhodium(II)-catalyzed decomposition of furanose-derived diazosugars" at the first Midwest Carbohydrate Symposium held at the University of Toledo in October. The paper was coauthored by **Rob Risi**, an undergraduate YSU Chemistry major.

Zbigniew Piotrowski, professor, Mathematics and Statistics, presented "Separate and Joint Continuity - An Easy Approach" to the Department of Mathematics of Matej Bela University in Banska Bystrica, Slovakia. He also presented "Semi-Topological and Paratopological Groups" at the Institute of Mathematics of the University of Gdansk, Poland.

Zara Rowlands, assistant professor, Human Ecology, presented "Food: Friend or Foe: Food Habits that Sabotage or Enhance Mental Performance" at the Health Elective Continuing Education Unit for the Ohio CPA Society's Annual Convention at the IX Center in Cleveland in September. She also presented a nutrition lecture, "Let Food Be Your Medicine," for the Humility of Mary Health Fair at Bethel Baptist Church in Youngstown in October.

Chris Bache, professor, Philosophy and Religious Studies, presented "The Eco-Crisis and the Future Human" at the Eco-Justice: Seeking A Non-Violent Future conference at YSU in November. ■

Fall commencement

'African connection' thrives in math area

BY KELLY NOYES



Olajide Ajayi

For many YSU students, the journey to school consists of a short daily drive to campus from neighboring cities, townships and villages.

But for Olajide "Israel" Ajayi, the journey started 5,700

miles away in Nigeria in West Africa.

That journey ended at YSU's commencement in December.

Ajayi, 31, who received a master's degree in mathematics, is part of a continuing trend of West African students coming to YSU for graduate studies in mathematics.

Currently, 10 of the 19 graduate teaching assistants in the mathematics and statistics program are from West Africa. Since 2000, approximately 23 West African students have received graduate degrees from the math department.

"Students are looking for higher education, and the support of the math department at YSU makes it hard to say no," Ajayi said.

The pipeline from West Africa to

YSU's math department started in 2000, when Stephen Rodabaugh, graduate coordinator of mathematics and statistics, sent some material about YSU's mathematics graduate program to a friend teaching at the University of Ghana. There has been a steady stream of students since.

Nathan Ritchey, chair of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, said most of the West African students advance to get their doctorates after graduating from YSU.

"Our African connection is one of the best things that has happened to the department. We're always sad to see the students go after graduation," he said. "They are polite, hardworking and some of the best people you could ever meet."

After receiving an undergraduate degree from the University of Nigeria at age 23, Israel worked for six years in three different banks and in the telecommunications industry in Nigeria. In 2003, he came to the United States and enrolled at YSU. Four months ago, he got married.

"It is a really good environment to live and to raise a family," Ajayi said about the United States. "The abundance of support and the numerous opportunities just make it even better." ■

Married couple among largest single Ed.D. class

James and Rebecca Shevchenko of Canfield have taken the concept of togetherness to a new level.

Married for nearly 26 years, they have worked together at the Mahoning County Career and Technical Center for almost 30 years. The couple also learned how to hang glide and scuba dive together. They even learned how to ride motorcycles alongside each other.

So, it is no surprise that they graduated together in December with doctoral degrees in educational leadership from YSU.

"I held off on graduating for one semester so we could participate in the ceremony together," said Rebecca, who started the program in 1998, one year before James. "I am excited to receive my doctorate. It's quite an accomplishment."

The Shevchenkos are among the largest graduating class of doctoral recipients since the university began conferring the degree in 1992. In all, eight students received the Ed.D. degree at fall commencement.

"We've always been a team," said James, who has a bachelor's in education and master's in educational administration from YSU.

Once Rebecca, who holds a bachelor's degree in education, a master's in curriculum development and a master's in

educational administration from YSU, began working on her doctorate, she soon discovered that the coursework and dissertation research would require a lot of time away from home and from her husband.

A year later, James, who teaches history, decided to enroll in the program.

"Going through a doctoral program alone would be hard on a marriage," said



James and Rebecca Shevchenko

James. "It was better for us to share in the experience. We've always inspired each other to do new things."

Though they have achieved the highest degrees in their field, the Shevchenkos don't plan on ending their nearly 30 year association with YSU.

"We love YSU. We plan on continuing to come to campus to see plays and musicals and to use Maag Library," said Rebecca. "We also look forward to the Summer Festival of the Arts every year." ■



Graduate honored...

Stephen Bartolin Jr., right, a YSU graduate and the chair, president and chief executive of The Broadmoor, a hotel in Colorado Springs, Colo., spoke at YSU's fall commencement in December in Beeghly Center. He is pictured here prior to commencement with his wife, Barbara, and YSU President David C. Sweet. About 600 students received degrees at the ceremony.

Higher ed: 'A great investment' for Ohio, report says

Ohio gets a 3-for-1 return on its investment in the state's public universities.

That is among the conclusions of the Inter-University Council of Ohio's Economic Contribution Profile released this month.

The 12-page report, available online at www.iuc-ohio.org, is released annually to show how public and private resources that are invested in Ohio's public universities are returned in the form of economic growth.

The report says that Ohio's public universities had operating revenues totaling \$6.6 billion in fiscal year 2004. Only 25 percent of that came from the state, with the rest generated by tuition, fees, grants, contracts and gifts.

"What this means is that for each \$1

the state of Ohio invested, an additional \$3.05 was generated, creating jobs and opportunities for Ohioans," says James McCollum, IUC executive director.

"Whether you look at actual dollars brought in and actual jobs created or the more difficult task of quantifying longer-term rewards, higher education is a great investment for Ohio's taxpayers."

Those long-term dividends include:

- Higher Standard of Living. Census Bureau data demonstrates that a college graduate makes, on average, about \$23,000 more annually than a high school graduate.

- Sponsored Research. Total research expenditures of Ohio's public universities grew nearly 130 percent from 1987 to 2002, from \$365.4 million to more than

\$839 million.

The report also found:

- More than 264,000 Ohioans attend Ohio public universities.

- Ohio public universities spent more than \$6 billion in fiscal year 2004 on items ranging from scholarships, plant operations and salaries.

Another \$900 million was spent on capital expenditures, including construction and equipment purchases.

- Ohio public universities bought more than \$870 million worth of goods and services from Ohio vendors in fiscal year 2004.

- An estimated 124,000 jobs for Ohioans were directly attributable to the state's public universities.

- Students at Ohio's public universities spent an estimated \$2.8 billion during the 2003-2004 academic year for housing, food, transportation and living expenses.

- An estimated 12.8 million people visited Ohio's public universities in academic year 2003-2004, spending an estimated \$387 million. ■

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Sources of operating revenue for Ohio public universities in fiscal year 2004:

| Source | Amount | Percent |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Tuition and fees | \$2.18 billion | 33.1% |
| State funds | \$1.5 billion | 22.7% |
| Auxiliary and hospitals | \$1.25 billion | 19.0% |
| Federal grants/contracts | \$757 million | 11.5% |
| Private gifts, grants, contracts | \$383 million | 5.8% |
| Sales and service | \$166 million | 2.5% |
| State grants/contracts | \$134 million | 2.0% |
| Endowment income | \$ 73 million | 1.1% |
| Local funds | \$ 18 million | 0.3% |
| Local grants | \$ 14 million | 0.2% |
| Other sources | \$118 million | 1.8% |
| Total revenue | \$6.59 billion | 100% |

Source: Inter-University Council of Ohio

Prof studies uniforms

(Continued from page 1)



Virginia Draa

YSU's commencement in December, is a former teacher and administrator in the Youngstown public schools, and she said she was surprised by the study's results.

"I was teaching when uniforms were

introduced in Youngstown, and, quite honestly, I was skeptical that they would have any impact," she said. "I wasn't sold on the idea. But now, I think I'm a convert."

Draa taught family and consumer sciences for two years in the Toledo public schools and for 10 years in the Youngstown public schools and also was a program coordinator in the curriculum/instruction department in Youngstown before joining YSU's human ecology faculty full time in 1998.

She is currently the coordinator of YSU's Fashion and Interiors Merchandising program and the teacher educator for Family and Consumer Sciences Education at YSU.

With her background in urban public schools and apparel studies, Draa thought that school uniforms would be a good subject for her doctoral dissertation.

Draa surveyed school administrators and examined proficiency test scores and rates of attendance, graduation, suspension and expulsion between 1994 and 2002 at 64 high schools in Ohio's eight largest school districts, six of which have uniform policies.

She concludes that school uniforms are effective in improving school attendance, increasing graduation rates and decreasing suspension rates.

The study also showed that requiring students to wear uniforms did not make any significant difference in student reading and math performance or in school expulsion rates.

"My advice to superintendents and principals, especially those in high risk school districts, would be that uniforms may help reduce problem behaviors and may create a more orderly environment for learning," she said.

"They are not a cure-all, but they certainly may help." ■

Edwards named dean

(Continued from page 1)

and clarinet in his father's wedding band, earned a master's degree in music performance as a woodwind specialist from Michigan State University in 1967. After two years on the faculty at Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa, Edwards returned to YSU in 1969 as an instructor in the Dana School of Music, where he taught clarinet and saxophone and directed the symphonic, concert and marching bands.

He was named assistant director of Dana in 1983 and became director in 1990. In 2000, he was named interim dean of the Beeghly College of Education, and returned to the College of Fine and Performing Arts in 2002 as associate dean. A year ago, he became interim dean of the college.

He performed 20 years with the

Youngstown Symphony Orchestra, and he also was part of the American Wind Symphony, the Sioux City Symphony, the Detroit Concert Band, the Blossom Festival Band, Cleveland Symphony Winds, Warren Chamber Orchestra, and the Dana Faculty Wind Quintet. He has recorded vinyl and compact discs with groups from Iowa, Michigan and Ohio.

Edwards was awarded the Distinguished Professor of Music Award from YSU in 1988 and the prestigious YSU Watson Award in 1996. In 2000, he was granted a chairperson's leadership award and was the first recipient of the College of Fine and Performing Arts Alumni Award.

A former member of the Struthers Board of Education, Edwards, his wife Karen, and their son reside in Poland. ■



I, Robot...

Victor Shaw and Jamal Freed of East Middle School in Youngstown work on a laptop computer in Kilcawley Center during the Northeast Ohio Robotics Competition on Jan. 10. Dozens of students from 18 middle schools in Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull counties participated in the event that features robots built by teams of middle school students. The overall winner of the competition was a team from Boardman Center Middle School. The competition was sponsored by the YSU Office of Associate Degree and Tech Prep Programs and General Motors Lordstown Complex.