

\$4.1M allocation YSU's largest ever

At a news conference on the steps of Jones Hall, U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan presented a \$4.1 million check to YSU to help further redevelop the university's materials engineering program and provide pedestrian and roadway safety improvements on campus.

The money – \$2 million for the materials engineering program and \$2.1 million for campus roadway improvements – was included in the 2005 federal Transportation Efficiency Act of the 21st Century recently approved by Congress and signed by President Bush.

"This funding will help the Rayen College of Engineering and Technology move forward in developing a program that will provide the kind of training and research that could lead to innovative advancements in materials engineering," Ryan (D-17th) of Niles, who attended YSU, said at the Sept. 12 announcement.

"The money also will help develop the kind of safe pedestrian and roadway infrastructure that is needed for a growing campus in an urban area."

YSU President David C. Sweet noted that

YSU's \$4.1 million allocation in the transportation bill is the highest among universities and colleges in Ohio and the largest federal earmark ever for YSU.

"I commend Congressman Ryan for his hard work and persistence in assuring that the federal government recognizes the importance of YSU to the region's future," Sweet said. "This funding addresses the vital academic and infrastructure needs of the campus and community."

The \$2 million in funding for YSU's materials engineering program comes two years after Ryan secured \$500,000 in initial federal funding for the program.

Cynthia Hirtzel, dean of YSU's College of Engineering and Technology, said the funding will help expand the breadth, depth and scope of the materials engineering program, including research.

Ryan said the program could result in the development of special materials that could increase the fuel efficiency of vehicles and improve the durability and strength of the nation's infrastructure.

"With current concerns about the funding levels for infrastructure, as well as the cost of fossil fuels, any research that can save money in the long term is a good investment of public dollars," Ryan said.

Hunter Morrison, director of the YSU Center for Urban and Regional Studies, said the \$2.1 million in the bill for YSU campus roadway and pedestrian safety improvements focuses on safety, traffic and other enhancements along Wick, Fifth and Rayen avenues and the possible extension of Hazel Street.

Morrison said Wick, Fifth and Rayen avenues used to define the edges of campus but now run through the campus and need to be redesigned to improve safety and appearance. ■



U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan talks to reporters after announcing a \$4.1 million federal allocation to YSU.

Strike aftermath

Lessons learned; moving ahead

A month after two historic employee strikes at YSU, Tom Shipka, chair of the Academic Senate, shares his thoughts.



Tom Shipka

There are many lessons that we can learn from the YSU strikes, among them the extent to which YSU is a collaboration. The success of YSU depends on the knowledge, skill, energy, and dedication of nearly 2,100 full- and part-time YSU

employees spread across dozens of academic, administrative, and support units, and another 150 employees of private-sector food service, janitorial, and vending companies. Take a segment or two of this workforce out of the picture and the enterprise grinds to a halt.

Frequently faculty get the spotlight in university publications, news stories, and advertising. As vital as faculty are, however, faculty alone do not a university make.

It is tempting for an individual or department to inflate their own value to the university and to minimize or ignore or disparage that of others. All YSU employees from the president to the locksmith to the dean to the grounds worker to the professor to the advisor need to remind ourselves of our dependence on hundreds of others, many of whom we do not know personally, to accomplish the mission of the university.

Consider the following:

- In 2004-05, the staff in Financial Aid and Scholarships received 6,451 visits and 112,000 phone calls.
- At the request of faculty in the last school year, the staff in Maag Library provided 349 information literacy classes that served 7,543 students.
- The Center for Student Progress, the backbone of the university's retention strategy, served 5,844 students in 2003-04 and more than four out of five students who used the center's services consistently stayed in school.
- Materials Management purchased \$25 million in goods and services for the university community last year.
- Sodexo Food Service provides approximately 5,500 meals on campus in a typical week.
- In one week last year, the staff in Undergraduate Admissions had 558 contacts with prospective students.
- In a recent week, the Help Desk in Computer Services received 103 requests for assistance.
- Kilcawley Room Scheduling books roughly 150 events in Kilcawley Center a week.
- Media and Academic Computing, in addition to servicing 23 permanent multimedia-equipped classrooms as of fall 2005, picks up and delivers equipment for 60 to 75 classes a day.
- In a typical week last spring, the Development Office processed 241 donations totaling more than \$95,000.
- During peak periods such as SOAR, registration, and the week before commencement, an academic advisor counsels hundreds of advisees and clears dozens more for graduation.

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Snow shovel in tow, Herbert settles into YSU



Robert K. Herbert

As a going away gift, the chairs of the College of Liberal Arts at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, gave Robert K. Herbert a snow shovel.

"I think they must have ordered it," said Herbert,

former dean of liberal arts at SFASU. "I don't think you can buy a snow shovel anywhere in Nacogdoches."

Herbert, who earned master's and doctorate degrees from Ohio State University, returned to the Midwest this summer to

become YSU's new provost and vice president for academic affairs.

A native of Long Island, N.Y., and a first-generation college graduate, Herbert heads an academic division at YSU that includes more than 40 departments in seven colleges with nearly 400 full-time faculty members.

Now settled in his Boardman home with his wife, Barbara, and 16-year-old daughter, Herbert spent his first 10 days at YSU living in Cafaro House residence hall with his two sons, ages 18 and 20.

"It was very interesting," Herbert said. "The summer camps came and went. The soccer girls were very rowdy."

YSUupdate caught up with Herbert to talk about his new position, goals and first impressions.

Q. What attracted you to YSU, Youngstown and this new position?

A. Let me confess that I knew relatively little about YSU when I first read the announcement of the provost vacancy. The more that I read about the university's mission and its many accomplishments over the past few years, the more I became convinced that there might be a good match between the position of provost and my own background and interests.

Q. What are your general first impressions of the university, the campus, students and faculty?

A. When I first visited the campus last spring, I was very impressed by the faculty, staff, and students here. I suppose one of my

Continued on back page

State law requires meningitis documentation

Under a new state law, students living in university residence halls must disclose whether or not they have received the meningitis vaccine.

The law, which went into effect on July 1, requires universities to document which students have and have not been immunized for the potentially deadly disease.

Bill Sperlazza, YSU housing director, said students signing contracts for university housing must complete a separate form indicating if they have received the immunization. About 900 students live in YSU residence halls.

Dr. Anita Hackstedde, a physician in YSU's Student Health Services, said the law only requires universities to collect the information and does not require students to get immunized.

While YSU does not require the vaccine and the university has no documented cases of meningitis among residence hall students, Hackstedde said she recommends that students living in university housing get the shot.

"It's a highly preventable disease," she said. "The vaccine is very effective. It's also a very lethal if not debilitating disease once you get it."

Meningitis is an infection and inflammation of the brain and spinal cord caused by

bacteria, viruses or other organisms. It is fatal in about 10 percent of the cases.

People living in close quarters, such as university residence halls, are at increased risk of contracting the disease. Hackstedde said YSU's SHS annually sends letters to freshman residence hall students recommending the vaccine.

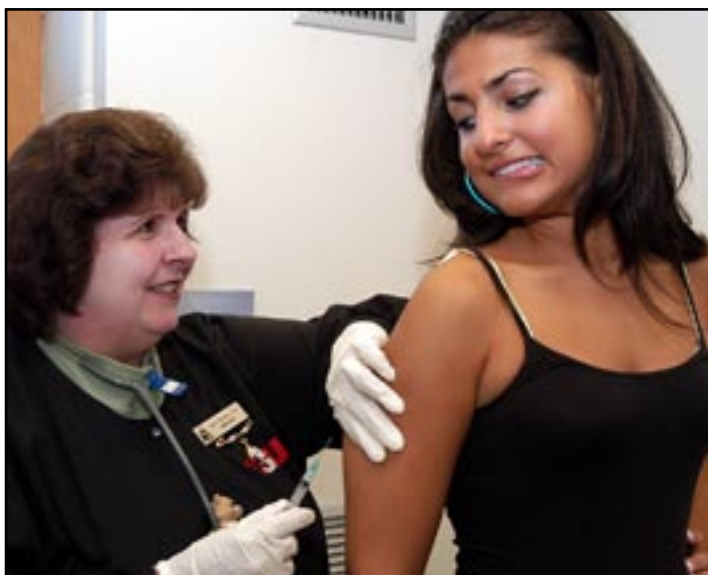
"They have the highest risk," she said. "Suddenly, they are going into a closed environment with many other people, and that increases the risk of contracting the disease."

The immunizations are available for a fee at SHS in Kilcawley House.

Susan Ferrier, nurse supervisor at SHS, said more and more students

and their parents are aware of the importance of receiving the vaccine. The new state law will help increase that awareness.

SHS immunized 26 students last year. Ferrier said that could double this school year. ■



Judy Pavalko, registered nurse in YSU's Student Health Services, administers a meningitis shot to Evanne Mihos of Warren, a freshman special education major.

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Byline

Madd Dog, yoga, wallyball....

Rec center has something for everyone



By Jack Rigney
Director, Campus Recreation and
Intramural Sports

The Department of Campus Recreation and Intramural Sports is currently gearing up for the long-awaited dedication and opening of the \$12.1 million Andrews Recreation and Wellness Center.

The dedication ceremony will take place on Sunday, Sept. 25, and the inaugural opening for the YSU student population will be at 6:30 a.m. Monday, Sept. 26.

The center is the home of a 200-meter indoor walk/jog track, as well as a 12,500-square-foot strength and conditioning space featuring treadmills, ellipticals, cycles, steppers and other cardio machines. The space also features a state-of-the-art cardio theater and music system and a strength system that includes free weight systems, plate-loaded systems and selectorized weight systems.

A multipurpose space will be used for Madd Dog spinning classes, conditioning classes and jump stretch programs.

The center has a 3,600-square-foot instructional aerobics/dance studio that will accommodate group exercise programs such as yoga, step aerobics, martial arts, kick-boxing, Tai Chi, ballroom dancing and a variety of other offerings.

Towering over the center is a 58-foot climbing wall. The climbing wall staff has developed programs that will address the basic beginner through the advanced climber with climbing, repelling, bouldering and lead climbing. The YSU Climbing Club will offer students the opportunity to expand their experience as they move to outdoor pursuit programs.

The 21,000-square-foot sports forum can be divided into four activities to accommodate basketball, volleyball, badminton and a variety of sports, recreation and fitness programs.

Two racquetball courts are available for handball, racquetball and wallyball play.

The wellness suite is designed to accommodate a holistic approach to wellness through programs that address the mind, body and spirit. Programming will include presentation on stress management, relaxation methods and other topics. The center also will provide fact sheets and resources on health, nutrition and fitness, as well as provide fitness assessments and guidance in developing training programs.

The Department of Campus Recreation and Intramural Sports has trained and employed approximately 135 students in a variety of positions to meet the fitness and recreation program and facility needs of the new recreation and wellness center, as well as the Beeghly Center and Stambaugh Complex.

Additional information can be obtained on the department's Web site at www.yzu.edu/reccenter/ or call Ext. 3488. ■

(Editor's note: Faculty and staff will pay a \$100 annual fee to use the center.)

Youngstown STATE UNIVERSITY

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Campus News Roundup

New eUpdate launched on YSU Web site

The *YSUupdate* goes electronic this month with the launching of *eUpdate*.

eUpdate is the online version of the *YSUupdate* and is available through the YSU Web site at <http://cfweb.cc.yzu.edu/eUpdate/index.cfm>.

This electronic version of the *YSUupdate* will consist of all of the stories and photographs included in the printed version of the publication. The Web page also includes a searchable database of *eUpdate* stories dating to February 2005.

As *eUpdate* evolves, we hope to include features, photographs, columns and other items that are exclusive to the online version.

Take a look and let us know what you think. *YSUupdate* Editor Ron Cole can be reached at 330-941-3285. ■



Fair-going...

Jerry Fullum, administrative assistant in the Rayen College of Engineering and Technology, talks with the Richardson family of Canfield – Loretta, Greg, Samantha and John – at the college's display at the Canfield Fair. "This event is probably the most important single event for the visibility of the college," Dean Cynthia Hirtzel said. "Tens of thousands of people visit, and most are awed by our displays."

New society recognizes YSU faculty donors

YSU is launching the Faculty Legacy Society to recognize faculty members who donate \$25,000 or more to the university.

Funds contributed by Society members will be used to support a variety of activities such as professional lectures, faculty release time, scholarships and student travel to professional meetings.

"Because the faculty is the best source of information regarding the needs of students, donors have complete flexibility in designing the gifts and designating their use," said Stephen Hanzely, professor emeritus of physics and astronomy.

"Such gifts provide a means of ensuring that important pro-

grams will be sustained even in times of budgetary constraints. Through these gifts, faculty can shape and perpetuate components of their discipline's future on campus."

The Faculty Legacy Society steering committee is made up of Janet DelBene, Douglas Faires, Saul Freidman, Lawrence Haims, Stephen Hanzely, Robert Hogue, Thomas Shipka and Louis Zona.

For more information, contact any of the steering committee members or Heather Chunn in the YSU Development Office at 330-941-1363 or Joe Cassese in the YSU Development Office at 330-941-2756. ■

YSU offers free tuition to hurricane students

Students enrolled in colleges and universities that have been closed or seriously impacted by Hurricane Katrina can attend YSU free of charge for the fall semester, Provost Robert K. Herbert announced.

"We extend our deepest sympathy to the residents of Louisiana and Mississippi who have been impacted by this tragic natural disaster," Herbert said. "Thousands of students attending colleges and universities in the region have been displaced. We want to reach out and do what we can to help."

Students already enrolled in accredited universities and col-

leges impacted by the hurricane, particularly students who are residents of Ohio, can enroll at YSU on a transient basis for the fall semester only and will not be required to pay tuition and fees, Herbert said.

University housing also will be provided at no cost to the extent that it is available, he said.

Katrina victims interested in enrolling at YSU should call Sue Davis, director of undergraduate admissions, at 330-941-2000 or 1-877-468-6978. ■



All smiles...

Freshman Monica Peace of Youngstown, left, and freshman Whitney McKee, also of Youngstown, laugh it up on the Interactive Inflatables activity during Welcome Week in Kilcawley Center.

Summer SMARTS students paint Tod Hall mural

Seven students from area schools created a mural at YSU as a part of the SMARTS summer arts education program.

The students in the Educational Mural Project designed and painted the colorful mural on a wall in the CATALYST office in Tod Hall.

CATALYST is the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning at Youngstown State and promotes and enhances teaching, research, practice, service and the scholarship of teaching and learning.

The mural encompasses concepts and symbols of learning.

Overseeing the project was SMARTS teacher Angela Speece of Ellsworth, a senior art education major at YSU. Speece has taught visual arts classes at SMARTS for more than two years while earning her degree at YSU.

SMARTS - Students Motivated by the Arts - is an arts education partnership of the College of Fine & Performing Arts and Beeghly College of Education. SMARTS seeks to motivate students to succeed in all areas of life by teaching them the discipline and focus that creating art requires. ■

Faculty/Staff

Awards and Honors

Bege Bowers, associate provost, received the College English Association's Lifetime Achievement Award, which recognizes exemplary career achievement, at the organization's annual conference in Indianapolis on April 2. She is a former journal editor and Web site manager for the national organization.

Ray Shaffer, professor, Accounting and Finance, was named YSU Beta Alpha Psi Professor of the Year at the 55th annual accounting spring banquet in April. Peter Woodlock, professor and chair, Accounting and Finance, was named Business Professional of the Year.

Norma Stefanik, urban designer, Center for Urban and Regional Studies, accepted a Community Revitalization award at the 130th Annual Meeting of the Mahoning Valley Historical Society, for the restoration design of the Jane Wooley House at 1226 Florencedale Ave. in Youngstown. The restoration design project was completed by the North Side Citizens' Coalition in 2002.

Michael Theall, director, CATALYST, received the "relating research to practice award – interpretive scholarship" from the American Educational Research Association at its 86th Annual Meeting in Montreal in April. Theall, along with his colleague Raoul A. Arreola of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, were selected for the award for developing the Meta-Profession Project, a re-conceptualization of the roles and work of the professorate. The complete project can be viewed at <http://www.cedanet.com/meta>.

Grants

Suzanne Giuffre, interim chair and assistant professor, Physical Therapy, received a \$500 University Research Council Grant for the project "The Influence of Hippotherapy on Strength, Balance, Posture and Gross Motor Skills in a Child with Down Syndrome." Hippotherapy, according to Giuffre's abstract, means "treatment with the help of a horse."

Isam Amin, assistant professor, Geological and Environmental Sciences, received a \$1,000 University Research Council Grant for "Experimental Verification of Some Groundwater Tracer Models."

Presentations

Ray Beiersdorfer, professor, Geological and Environmental Sciences, presented "Zeoponics: Soil for the Space Age" to the Warren Harding High School Academic Achievers in June.

Commencement features record number of MBAs

This was a record-setting summer for YSU's Williamson College of Business Administration.

The college graduated a record 46 students from its master's of business administration program at summer commencement on Aug. 20 in Beeghly Center.

That is the highest number of MBA students to graduate in any single commencement since YSU began offering the degree in 1971.

"Commencement is always a special time of the year, and it was particularly special this summer because we had three different groups of students graduating from our MBA programs," said Betty Jo Licata, WCBA dean.

"Working professionals are experiencing a continued need to enhance their business knowledge and skills to remain competitive in the workplace. These people chose to earn an MBA to increase their opportunities for career advancement and job mobility."

Among this summer's MBA recipients was the first class of YSU's corporate program at

Patrick Durrell, assistant professor, Physics and Astronomy, presented "Intracluster Stars – Stars Between the Galaxies" in May at the Department of Physics & Astronomy at Ohio University.

Kathlynn Feld, professor, Health Professions, presented "An Investigation of a Dysfunctional Immune System: Churg Strauss Disease" at the 48th annual Ohio State Society of Medical Assistants in Columbus in April.

Professional Activities

Christine Bidwell CPS, secretary 2, Equal Opportunity and Diversity, and **Deborah Yiannaki**, secretary 2, Communication and Theater, recently attained the Certified Administrative Professional (CAP) designation, which is awarded by the International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP).

Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez, professor, Philosophy and Religious Studies, was appointed to the Institutional Review Board at Forum Health.

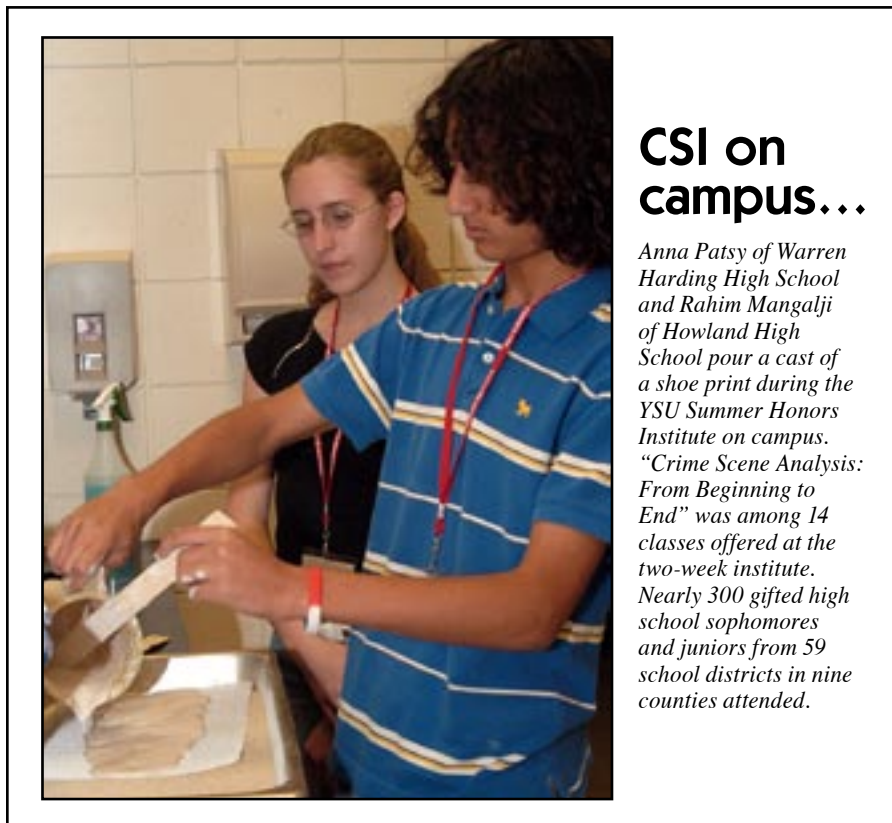
Daryl Mincey, professor, Chemistry, was an invited speaker at the annual meeting of the National Association of Flour Distributors in May in Key Biscayne, Fla. He spoke on bioterrorism and food security.

Publications

Larry S. Curtin, associate professor, Chemistry, recently co-authored and co-published the article "1,12-diferrocenyldodecane at 100 K" in *Acta Crystallographica*, section E, volume 61, part 6.

Hazel Pierson, instructor, Mechanical Engineering, and **Douglas Price**, assistant professor, Chemical Engineering, published "The Potato Cannon: Determination of Combustion Principles for Engineering Freshmen" in the May issue of *Chemical Engineering Education*.

David Stout, professor and Andrews Chair in Accounting, co-authored the article "Estimating the Weighted Average Cost of Capital," which won the Silver Medal in the Lybrand competition of the Institute of Management Accountants. Stout was presented with the award at the IMA's 86th Annual Conference and Exposition, held in Boston, Mass. in June. The award-winning article, co-written by Mike Pagano, a finance faculty member at Villanova University, Stout's former employer, was published in *Management Accounting Quarterly* in 2004. ■



CSI on campus...

Anna Patsy of Warren Harding High School and Rahim Mangalji of Howland High School pour a cast of a shoe print during the YSU Summer Honors Institute on campus. "Crime Scene Analysis: From Beginning to End" was among 14 classes offered at the two-week institute. Nearly 300 gifted high school sophomores and juniors from 59 school districts in nine counties attended.

35 faculty join YSU ranks

The YSUupdate welcomes the following new full-time faculty members to the university community:

Corey Andrews, assistant professor, English

Felicia P. Armstrong, assistant professor, Geological and Environmental Sciences

Judy Bowers, instructor, Teacher Education

Lori Carlson, instructor, Mathematics and Statistics

Paul R. Carr, assistant professor, Educational Administration, Research and Foundations

Linda A. Causey, assistant professor, Social Work

Michael C. Clayton, assistant professor, Psychology

Adam C. Earnhardt, instructor, Communication and Theater

Mary Lou Henneman, instructor, English

A.K.M. Islam, assistant professor, Civil/Environmental and Chemical Engineering

Deborah L. Jackson, assistant professor, Counseling

Brian D. Kiser, instructor, Dana School of Music

Carol M. Lamb, assistant professor, School of Technology

Dennis R. Latess, assistant professor, Human Performance and Exercise Science/Teacher Education

Loren R. Lease, assistant professor, Sociology and Anthropology

Brian Leskiw, assistant professor, Chemistry

Kin Moy, assistant professor, School of Technology

Barbara Nykiel-Herbert, assistant professor, English

Matt O'Mansky, instructor, Sociology and Anthropology

Jake Protivnak, assistant professor, Counseling

Peter Reday, assistant professor, Marketing

Sueann Rendano, instructor, Nursing

Molly Roche, instructor, Nursing

William Shuttleworth, instructor, Human Performance and Exercise Science

Helene J. Sinnreich, assistant professor, History

Dolores Sisco, assistant professor, English

Shane V. Smith, instructor, Geological and Environmental Services

Albert Sumell, assistant professor, Economics

Leslie Turner, associate professor, Marketing

Shawn Vondran, instructor, Dana School of Music

Mark Vopat, instructor, Philosophy and Religious Studies

Patricia Wagner, instructor, Criminal Justice

Maria Wildroutd, assistant professor, Biological Sciences

Yong Zhang, assistant professor, Computer Science and Information Systems

Larry Zielke, instructor, Management ■



H. S. Wang, left, chair of the Board of Trustees, and Provost Robert Herbert, bestow an honorary degree on Thomas R. Hollern, at commencement August 20. Hollern is area president of National City Bank, Northeast Region.

YSU restores 'Old Stone Bridge' campus landmark

YSU students can again "Meet at the Old Stone Bridge."

The stately, 26-foot-long bridge, a campus focal point before it was nearly covered with dirt about 40 years ago, was partially unearthed this summer as part of YSU's upcoming centennial celebration.

"Oh, I remember this bridge very well," Marilyn Chuey, the daughter of the university's first president, Howard Jones, said recently from the bridge.

"I think it's really something that the university is moving forward to restore it. It's an important part of our history."

John White, professor emeritus of anthropology, led a team of about a dozen volunteers – including about five YSU students – to carefully uncover the bridge.

"This is the best kept secret on campus," White said. "Now, when people ask, 'Do you know where the old stone bridge is?' Well, now everyone will know."

The bridge is located in the tranquil, little-traveled area between Maag Library and Wick Avenue. It was once part of the driveway to the Henry C. Wick Mansion on Wick Avenue and pre-dates Jones Hall, which was built in 1931 on the corner of Wick and Lincoln avenues.

Photographs in YSU yearbooks from the 1930s through 1950s show students sitting and walking across the small arch bridge, and one photo shows the members of the class of 1942 posed in front of the quaint structure.

Sometime in the 1960s, the bottom portion of the bridge was filled in with dirt, leaving only a few inches of the stone top above ground.

In the years since, the bridge has been mostly forgotten, yet Paul McFadden, YSU chief development officer, said he has met many alums nationwide over the past several

years who have inquired about the bridge.

"I'd tell them that I've been on this campus since 1979, and I've never seen any old stone bridge," he said. "I didn't know what they were talking about."

Then, one day about four years ago, McFadden was jogging along Wick Avenue, ventured into the area just east of Maag Library and ran across the stone top of the bridge.

"I stopped in my tracks and said, 'Hey, this is it. This is the bridge,'" he said.

He contacted John White, who set up the excavation crew.

"I've talked to couples who were engaged on this bridge, who met friends on the bridge and who walked across the bridge on their way to Jones Hall for commencement," McFadden said.

"It is part of YSU's forgotten history, and it's only appropriate that we try to return it to

its original grandeur and share it with today's generation of students, faculty, staff and friends of the university."

YSU President David C. Sweet said the bridge will become one of the symbolic focal points in the build up to the university's centennial celebration in 2008.

"As YSU prepares to bridge another century, it's only appropriate that we work to restore and celebrate this

campus landmark," Sweet said.

"Like YSU itself, the bridge represents tradition and strength. With its revival, the bridge allows us to reflect on the university's proud past and look forward to a promising future." ■



YSU students David Parker of Finley and Brittany Wylie of Hubbard dig around the Old Stone Bridge near Maag Library. Looking on are Mary B. Smith, former longtime YSU employee; Marilyn Chuey, daughter of Howard W. Jones, YSU's first president; and YSU President David C. Sweet. Inset is a photograph of the bridge in the 1920s.

Strike aftermath (Continued from page 1)

- The Mail Room processes about a ton of mail a week.
- And in a recent month, the YSU Police Department handled 1,498 service calls of all types.

These examples can be duplicated dozens of times across the campus in facilities, network services, athletics, payroll, WYSU-FM, student services, alumni relations, the bookstore, career services and all the other units that make up YSU.

As we strive in the weeks and months ahead to restore institutional equilibrium and to heal the wounds of labor-management strife, let us YSU employees remind ourselves regularly that we're part of a huge team of dedicated men and women across campus and that we need and deserve one another's respect, gratitude, and encouragement. Despite the fact that we may play quite different institutional roles, we are literally one another's support group. ■

Herbert settles in (Continued from page 1)

strongest impressions was that there was a real sense of shared commitment to the institution, its mission, and the community. The people whom I met during my campus visit convinced me that this would be a great place to work.

Q. What are your general first impressions of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley?

A. I did a bit of online research about Youngstown before I visited the town. The dry facts on the web don't give any indication of the vitality and very positive mood in this community.

Q. What are your major goals as you move into this position?

A. I would like to work with my colleagues to continue building strong undergraduate and graduate programs while also increasing our outreach and access to the university. I am very committed to programs that enable under-

prepared students to bridge the gap between high school and university. Another priority must be to continue the progress that has been made in diversity, especially the number of traditionally underrepresented and international students and faculty.

Q. What would you say are the major challenges facing the academic division in the next year or so?

A. Undoubtedly, the strategic use of resources. We need to be aggressive in our pursuit of new resources, but we also need to decide how we can best allocate the resources that we already have. There are often difficult questions tied up in such discussions. Strategic use of resources is really about planning for the future that we want to have.

Q. Much of your research and writings have focused on African language and culture. How

did you become interested in that?

A. As an undergraduate student in New York, I took a course on African languages in order to fulfill a graduation requirement. This was a requirement that I had put off until my last semester, and I'll confess that I didn't expect the course to completely redirect my scholarly and professional interests for the next 25 years. I was very fortunate to be able to live in southern Africa for almost eight years; my daughter was born in South Africa during this time.

Q. When you're not working, what do you do to relax and have fun?

A. I always enjoy reading. In Nacogdoches, I also spent hours developing a perennial garden to fulfill my dream of lawn-free home-owning. My favorite

vacation is to go off with my family to a cabin in the woods – each of us armed only with a boxful of books. ■

Provost at a glance...

Age: "Golden."

Born: Long Island, N.Y.

Previous position: Dean of liberal arts at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas.

Last book read: "Buddha's Little Finger" by Victor Pelevin.

Favorite food: A good hamburger topped with a fried egg and hot peppers.

Favorite movie: Memento (2001).