

Abraham named founding dean of STEM



Martin Abraham

Martin A. Abraham, dean of the College of Graduate Studies at the University of Toledo, has been named the founding dean of YSU's new College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

"The merger of science and engineering creates opportunities at YSU that other universities will not be able to duplicate, and that makes this a particularly exciting opportunity," said Abraham, a professor of chemical and environmental engineering at Toledo.

The STEM college is being created under an academic reorganization announced earlier this year by Provost Robert K. Herbert. The College of Arts and Sciences and the Rayen College of Engineering and Technology will be reconfigured to form the College of STEM and the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

"I'm looking forward to leading the development of this new college and watching it grow," Abraham said. "You just don't get those kinds of opportunities very often."

The STEM college will include 10 academic departments: Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Civil/Environmental and Chemical Engineering, Computer Science and Information Systems, Elec-

trical and Computer Engineering, Engineering and Technology, Geological and Environmental Sciences, Industrial & Systems Engineering with Mechanical Engineering, Mathematics & Statistics, Physics and Astronomy.

"Dr. Abraham, whose academic credentials are widespread and impressive, brings the right mix of academic and management acumen and imagination that is needed to lead this new, innovative academic unit at YSU," Herbert said.

YSU received applications from 55 candidates nationwide for the position. A 13-member search committee, led by Peter Kasvinsky, dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research and interim dean of the Rayen College of Engineering and

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New degree, certificate highlight spring commencement

Spring commencement was highlighted by two firsts.

The first graduates of the new master's degree program in American Studies received their diplomas. And YSU also awarded its first two Certificates in Entrepreneurship.

Jamie Bartholomew of Canfield, Krista Wagner of Fredericktown, Ohio, and Jason Sotlar of Youngstown made up the first graduating class of the American Studies master's program, which was started in fall semester 2005.

"We have been very pleased with the program, the partnerships it has produced and the energy that has been created between students and the community," said Stephanie Tingley, professor of English and director of the American Studies program.

The Certificate in Entrepreneurship was presented to Tim Moyers and William

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It's all thumbs up for YSU fine and performing arts graduates at commencement on May 19 in Beeghly Center. From the left are Erin Mazzant, Janelle L. McDonald and Tyler Morton, all of whom received bachelor's degrees.

eUpdate exclusives

For more news about YSU, read these and other stories in eUpdate at <http://eupdate.yosu.edu>.

- **Sympathy books containing the signatures of more than 1,100 YSU students and employees have been sent to the families of the 33 victims of the Virginia Tech shootings.**
- **The St. Anthony's Society of Struthers has donated \$33,588.45 to YSU.**
- **The 15th class of the Leslie H. Cochran University Scholars features 40 outstanding graduates from high schools in Ohio and Pennsylvania, including 27 high school valedictorians.**
- **Spring commencement stories: First master's in American Studies awarded; First Certificates of Entrepreneurship awarded; Graduate overcomes health problems to reach dream; Grad's effort paves the way for women in engineering; Charter members of honor society graduate.**
- **David E. Stout of Canfield, the John S. & Doris M. Andrews Chair of Accounting in the Williamson College of Business Administration, receives two prestigious state and national awards.**
- **Campus News Roundup features photos and stories on the Penguin Regatta, national awards for physical therapy student and faculty member, and a campus workshop on "Selling in India."**

Youngstown STATE UNIVERSITY

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Students span the globe

YSU students Lindsay Gerish and Troy Brant are going to Buenos Aires, Argentina, this summer as part of YSU's study abroad program.

But first, they're getting married.

Gerish and Brant, who met two years ago at the Beat Coffeehouse on Lincoln Avenue, will tie the knot July 13. After a honeymoon cruise to Grand Cayman and Cozumel, the newlyweds will head to South America.

"It's a crazy way to start a marriage," said Gerish, a 2001 graduate of Lordstown High School.

Gerish is a secondary education major who wants to teach high school Spanish. Brant, a 2002 graduate of Hubbard High School, is a chemistry major who has to fulfill a foreign language requirement.

"The best way to learn the language is to study abroad," Gerish said. "But I felt really bad leaving him right after we got married. So, I said, 'Why don't you come along?'"

Gerish and Brant are among 10 YSU students studying abroad this summer through the Center for International Studies and Programs.

"Study abroad students gain knowledge and experience from living in another culture that is not possible in any other circumstance," said Annette El-Hayek, CISP international program coordinator.

Over the last six years, 72 YSU students have participated in individual study abroad programs. In addition, over that same period, 175 YSU students have participated in overseas group tours to Costa Rica, Italy, Russia, Brazil, England, Ireland and the Bahamas. This summer, for instance, faculty-led group trips are planned for Italy (22 students) and Guatemala (three students).

CISP Director Jef Davis said his goal is that YSU will

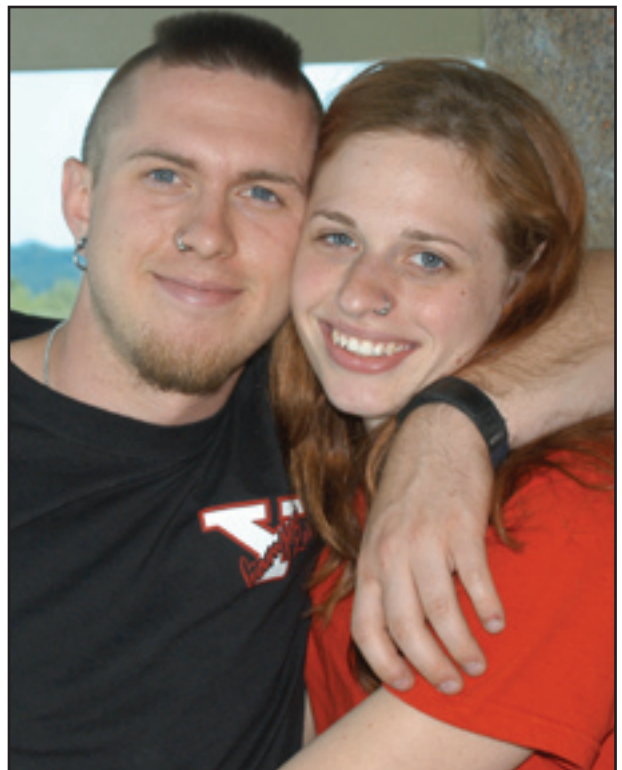
have 250 students per year participating in study abroad programs by the year 2013.

"A big part of making that goal is marketing," Davis said. "A lot of YSU students are just not aware of the opportunities."

YSU offers for-credit study abroad opportunities year-round in more than 40 countries. Some study abroad programs actually cost less than studying at YSU, and most financial aid and scholarships transfer, El-Hayek said.

"We can find a fit for most students as far as choices of courses and budget," she said. "With study abroad on your resume, you become more attractive to graduate school recruiters and potential employers who know that study abroad participants have expanded their knowledge, confidence and cultural awareness in a way that they would not have had they stayed on their home campus."

For more information, visit www.yosu.edu/cisp/ or call 330-941-2336. ■



YSU students Troy Brant and Lindsay Gerish will marry in July and a few days later head to Buenos Aires, Argentina, to study abroad through the Center for International Studies and Programs.

Faculty & Staff

“The Distribution of Mortality in the U.S.: The Effects of Income (inequality), Social Capital, and Race” has been published in *Omega: The Journal of Death and Dying*, by **Robert R. Weaver**, professor, Sociology and Anthropology.

Diane Barnes, associate professor, History, presented “Frederick Douglass: Federal Marshal” at the annual meeting of the Nineteenth Century Studies Association, at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pa.

Huaiyu (Peter) Chen, professor, Finance, presented “Estimation Issues in Executive Compensations with Time - Series Cross - Section Data” at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Academy of Finance in Chicago.

Patrick Durrell, assistant professor, Physics and Astronomy, presented “Modes of Star Formation in an Early Universe Laboratory: HST/ACS Imaging of Hickson Compact Group.” He also presented a poster at the recent meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Seattle.

Gunapala Edirisooriya, professor, Educational Foundations, Research, Technology and Leadership, contributed to the Annual Conference of American Educational Research as follows: presented a paper, “Methodological Aspects of Educational Survey Research: A Brief Historical Review;” chaired a paper session in survey research in education; contributed as the discussant of a paper session in survey research in education; chaired the Division H Best Presentation Awards Competition Committee; chaired the Division H Best Dissertation Awards Competition Committee and selected as a mentor for junior faculty and advanced doctoral candidates by the Committee on Scholars of Color in Education.

Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez, director, Dr. James Dale Ethics Center, professor,

Philosophy & Religious Studies, served as judge for the XIII Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl; was discussion leader for David Luban’s keynote address on interrogation-torture at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics; and presented a seminar on “Ethical Issues at the End of Life” at the Omni Manor Health Care Center.

Deborah L. Jackson, assistant professor, Counseling and Special Education, presented “Psychoeducational Groups as an Effective Strategy with Collegiate Alcohol and Other Drug Offenders” at the 2007 American College Personnel Association/National Association of Student Personnel Administrators National Conference, in Orlando, Fla. Jackson presented with graduate student **Melissa Kirby** from the Student Affairs Leadership and Practice program.

Alina Lazar, assistant professor, Computer Science and Information Systems, presented “Getting Started with Research, Finding Funding and Research with Undergraduates” at the CRA-W workshop at 2007 SIGCSE (Special Interest Groups for Computer Science Education) in Cincinnati.

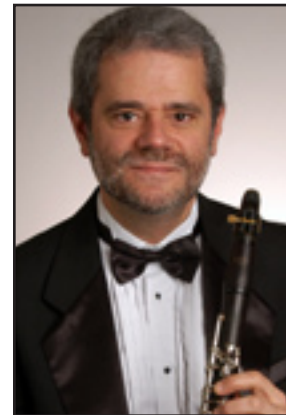
Frank X. Li, assistant professor, Electrical & Computer Engineering, presented “Electron Spin Resonance Detection Using Local Probes” to the Department of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science at Case Western Reserve University.

Jane S. Reid, **Mark F. Toncar** and **Cynthia E. Anderson**, all professors of Marketing, presented “Practical Application of Revised SELEB Scale to Measure the Differences in Students’ Ratings” at the Association of Marketing Theory and Practice Conference. ■

Send items for “Faculty & Staff”
to wawolfgang@ysu.edu.

In memoriam

Robert D. Fitzer



Robert D. Fitzer

Robert D. Fitzer, instructor of clarinet at the Dana School of Music, died May 16 of cancer. He was 50.

A native of Youngstown, Fitzer is the son of the late musicians/teachers James

Robert and Dolores Severino Fitzer, who both also were Dana faculty members.

He had a distinguished 25-year career as a clarinetist and music educator, joining the Dana faculty in 1996. He oversaw and taught a studio of 25 clarinet majors, and he formed two clarinet choirs and several clarinet trios and quartets.

He performed with orchestras from Chicago to Italy, San Antonio to Austria. He also played on various motion picture soundtracks in Hollywood and many long-run Broadway shows on tour.

In addition, Fitzer was active in Youngstown-area affairs, as president of the Citizens’ League of Greater Youngstown, a member of the Mahoning County Democratic Party Executive Committee and chairperson of the Wick Park Model Neighborhood Project. He ran several successful political campaigns, produced a film festival, hosted and produced WYSU-FM’s radio show *Commentary Café*, and was credited with saving several historic buildings in downtown Youngstown.

In support of Fitzer, the Dana School of Music Clarinet Studio raised more than \$3,000 for the American Cancer Society in this year’s Youngstown Relay for Life. Throughout the spring semester, the studio raised funds by e-mailing Fitzer’s former students and Dana faculty, posting signs around Bliss Hall, and performing two benefit concerts. The students called the effort “Bob-ing for a Cure.” ■

New STEM dean

(Continued from page 1)

Technology, narrowed the pool to five candidates, who were interviewed by telephone. Three candidates came to campus for interviews with the committee, faculty, staff, students, administrators and a group of business leaders with close research connections to YSU. Abraham begins the new position on July 1.

“Dr. Abraham brings to the position a distinguished and balanced record of publication, teaching and service,” Kasvinsky said. “He is a chemical engineer, and his research involving hydrogen fuel cell catalysts has both applied and basic components. Because of these qualifications, his expertise provides a strong bridge between engineering and the basic science departments of the new College of STEM.”

Abraham, who holds a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Delaware, joined the faculty of the University of Toledo in 1996. He was associate dean of research and graduate studies in the College of Engineering between 2000 and 2004, at which time he became dean of the College of Graduate Studies. In his current position, he oversees more than 3,000 graduate students in more than 100 master’s and doctoral programs.

He previously was an assistant professor and later an associate professor of chemical engineering at the University of Tulsa.

Abraham has a strong record of scholarly publications and research, including more than 60 refereed publications and nearly 150 technical presentations.

For more details, including a full curriculum vitae, visit www.eng.ysu.edu/news/STEM_Dean/ ■

Commencement

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Leek, both of Warren.

The program, established in 1999, is an integral part of The Nathan and Frances Monus Entrepreneurship Center and is designed to provide a broad based understanding of the entrepreneurial process and the unique problems and challenges faced by new ventures.

In all, more than 1,100 student received degrees.

For more commencement coverage, read *eUpdate* at eupdate.ysu.edu. ■



Summer work...

Karl Kopezak of Akron Rebar Co. works on improvements to University Plaza, YSU's main entrance for visitors and prospective students. The \$1.6 million, state-funded Campus Gateways project includes improving the street, removing utility poles and installing new lighting. It also includes improvements to the Elm Street entrance to campus.