

## Fingerhut: 'YSU has an incredibly bright future'



Eric Fingerhut

Since being appointed chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents in March 2007, Eric Fingerhut has moved swiftly and boldly to bring change to higher education.

A member of Gov. Ted Strickland's cabinet, Fingerhut has worked with the administration and the Ohio General Assembly to increase funding, freeze tuition increases, boost financial aid, create the University System of Ohio and raise the educational attainment of Ohio.

The chancellor visited YSU last month, meeting with faculty, staff and students, and he even spent the night in the Cafaro House student residence hall. *YSUupdate* caught up with him to answer a few questions:

**YSUupdate:** *You have done a lot of traveling over the past several months to college and university campuses across the state, meeting with faculty, staff and students. What are you hearing?*

**Fingerhut:** People in this state are truly excited about what is happening with higher education. Ohio's history is built on intent to provide the best education to its citizens—from the founding of Ohio University before Ohio became a state to the creation of our regional and community colleges after World War II. While our nation and state are facing challenging times, people I meet are thrilled that our governor and General Assembly have made clear that higher education is the answer.

**YSUupdate:** *You visited YSU last month. After visiting the campus and talking with faculty, students and staff, what are your general impressions of the university and its future?*

**Fingerhut:** Youngstown State University has an incredibly bright future. YSU is one of what we call an "urban research university" in the University System of Ohio. It is a critical asset to the region, has wonderful leadership, and will be a key driver of Youngstown's economic growth in the future.

**YSUupdate:** *The University System of Ohio's strategic plan states that past practices in the state have discouraged YSU from playing a vital role in providing the talent and research base needed to grow new companies and industries in the Mahoning Valley. What is meant by that*

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## Herbarium hits 100,000 mark

As YSU celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, the herbarium at YSU has reached a milestone of its own.

Over the summer, the herbarium officially catalogued its 100,000<sup>th</sup> plant specimen — an ebony spleenwort fern from Marshall County, W.V. With the find, the YSU Herbarium is now in fourth place among the top preserved plant collections in Ohio.

And plants all over the world are dying to get in.

"Hitting the 100,000 mark is a significant accomplishment in my eyes, especially since there were only a couple hundred plants in the herbarium when I started," said Carl Chuey, professor of biological sciences and the herbarium's curator for more than 40 years.

Chuey now has his sights set on the top three herbaria in the state — Miami University with 620,000 plants, Ohio State

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Carl Chuey shows off one of the more than 100,000 plant specimens in the YSU herbarium in Ward Beecher Hall.

## eUpdate exclusives

For more news about YSU, read these and other stories in eUpdate at <http://cfweb.cc.yzu.edu/marketcomm/index.cfm>.

- **Physics professor James "Jeff" Carroll and a team of student researchers will spend the next year studying data they compiled this summer as the first Western scientists to conduct research at the tandem accelerator facility in Tokai, Japan. "We hope that we'll come up with some results that are interesting," Carroll said.**
- **The YSU geography department is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and to mark the occasion, the department has developed a "Wall of Honor" as a tribute to its graduates.**
- **A book by Paul Sracic, YSU political science chair and professor, is part of a book series awarded the prestigious Scribes Book Award by the American Society of Writers on Legal Subjects.**
- **The YSU Diversity Council announces its 2008-09 Community Diversity Program Series, featuring a variety of events and performances for the community.**
- **Steve Greenhouse, labor reporter for the *New York Times*, visits campus; students sign books they produced as part of recent trip to China; photos of "index card" project in engineering; Music at Noon concert photos; and much more.**

# Andrews Trust gives \$500K for new business building

The John and Doris Andrews Trust has contributed \$500,000 to YSU's Centennial Capital Campaign to help in the construction of the new building for the Williamson College of Business Administration.

In recognition of the gift, YSU will name the financial services lab in the new business building in the Andrews' honor.

"This generous gift is yet another indicator of the Andrews Trust's commitment to YSU and the Mahoning Valley," YSU President David C. Sweet said. "We are fortunate as a university to have such a great partner dedicated to the professional and intellectual renaissance of our community."

The gift is the latest donation to YSU from the Andrews Trust. In 2001, the Trust donated \$1 million to endow the John S. and Doris M. Andrews Chair in Accounting. In 2004, the Trust contributed \$2 million to the construction of the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center at YSU.

"I am certain that Jack and Doris would be delighted and honored to have their names associated with the new business school building," said Paul Williams, an Andrews trustee. "We believe YSU will play an integral part in determining the future of this community."

Natives of Jamestown, N.Y., John and Doris Andrews moved to the Mahoning Valley in 1932 when Jack was asked to open an office for Associated Financial Services Corp. Andrews spent more than 45 years in the financial services industry and also served for many years as a director of Commercial Intertech. After retiring in 1959, Andrews continued to serve for many years as a financial consultant and he and his wife remained very active in the community. They left their considerable estate to a trust fund to be distributed to non-profit organizations.

The \$43 million YSU Centennial Capital Campaign is in its fifth and final year. The campaign, a partnership between YSU and the YSU Foundation, is the largest fundraising effort in YSU's 100-year history. For more information on the campaign, visit <http://www.yzu.edu/centennialcampaign/>

[index.htm](#).

The \$34.3 million new business building will be a three-story, 106,000-square-foot facility located along Rayen Avenue at Phelps Street on the far sound end of campus. It will be about twice the size of the current building on Lincoln Avenue. YSU has committed \$18.3 million in state capital dollars for the project, and the remaining \$16 million is being raised through the capital campaign.

A ceremonial groundbreaking is scheduled for Oct. 27, with construction starting in January 2009. The building is scheduled to open in the summer of 2010. ■



## Music at Noon

*YSU student Sam Blakeslee of Columbus plays trombone with the Jazz Quintet at a recent Music at Noon concert in the Butler Institute of American Art. The free concerts presented by the Dana School of Music are Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. through Nov. 26. Featured this month is the YSU Percussion Ensemble (Oct. 15), YSU Jazz Combos (Oct. 22) and Chamber Winds (Oct. 29). See more photos at eUpdate.*

## Youngstown STATE UNIVERSITY

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# Maag's new podcast labs prove popular

In their first full semester of operation, YSU's podcast recording labs are up and running in Maag Library's fourth-floor Multimedia Center.

"Student interest has been pretty steady, and it has definitely picked up since the end of last semester," said Alyssa Jordan, interim librarian at the Multimedia Center. "Some students come in for class assignments, some come for personal use. A hip-hop group even came in to make a music video."

Constructed in March, the two podcast booths provide users all the equipment and software programs necessary to create and distribute a podcast, Jordan said. Each seven-foot-tall, glass-enclosed booth features an Apple computer with GarageBand and iMovie software programs, headphones and a microphone and is available for use by all YSU students, faculty and staff.

In addition to student traffic, faculty members have been known to work on their own projects in the podcast labs, Jordan said.

Because of the significant role podcasts play in new media, Adam Earnhardt, assistant professor of communications, gives students the option of creating podcasts for media campaign assignments in persuasive discourse and for working class profile assignments in media convergence.

"Knowing how to put together a podcast is pretty relevant. You need to know how to get the story out there," he said. "We want



*Freshman Kaneisha Teemer edits a recording in one of the podcast recording labs in Maag Library's Multimedia Center.*

to make sure students know the strategies and skills for communicating those messages. Most of that takes place before they even get in front of a microphone."

People unfamiliar with developing or distributing podcasts can easily find assistance in the Multimedia Center, Earnhardt said. "They always have people on staff who know what they're doing, and they're very good about keeping the equipment updated," he said.

Podcast labs may be booked in advance, but students are also welcome to walk-in. Lab users are encouraged to bring with them flash drives loaded with potential images and audio, scripts and overall ideas about their ideal podcasts, Jordan said.

The labs are available 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Users must have a valid library barcode. ■

*By Britta Snowberger*



## Gotta dance!

Award-winning dancer and choreographer Billy Siegenfeld conducted two workshops in YSU's Beeghly Center on Sept. 25, presented by the Department of Theater and Dance. Siegenfeld, who won an Emmy in 2007, is the founder, artistic director, principal choreographer, and ensemble performing member of Jump Rhythm Jazz Project. For more photos, visit eUpdate at <http://cfweb.cc.ysu.edu/marketcomm/index.cfm>.

## Fingerhut

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*and how do you propose to change it?*

**Fingerhut:** Higher education in Ohio hasn't, until recently, been aligned with common goals for the state. With institutions being funded based on how many students they have rather than their success, and rather than their impact on the region's economy, there has been little incentive for universities like YSU to play a bigger role in their region. Today, however, the state recognizes that the Youngstown region can succeed only by having a research university at its core, which can drive innovation and economic growth.

**YSUpdate:** *The creation of community college education in the Mahoning Valley is also part of the strategic plan. Could you please update us on progress being made on the community college? And, in your opinion, what impact will the community college have on YSU in terms of mission and enrollment?*

**Fingerhut:** We have made great strides in bringing community college education to the Mahoning Valley. Our plan is to have the initial set of programs available for fall 2009, and we're well on our way. Not only will a community college education be available for the Mahoning Valley, which is an important option for all students in Ohio to have, but it will help YSU to focus on building its centers of excellence and driving the region's economic growth.

**YSUpdate:** *What is your long-term vision for the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine?*

**Fingerhut:** NEOUCOM, Ohio's only freestanding public medical college, is a great asset to Northeast Ohio. Medicine is one of the fastest growing industries in the U.S., and will certainly play a role in driving the region's economic rebirth.

NEOUCOM will play an important role in expanding the System's ability to provide more doctors, pharmacists, and researchers for the region.

**YSUpdate:** *Can you please update us on ongoing discussions concerning the funding formula, especially discussions about tying funding to performance?*

**Fingerhut:** As we state in our strategic plan, the funding formula will change in order to reward success and quality rather than just awarding for numbers of students. We have been holding consultations

with university finance leaders across the state for the last few months, and will begin talking about components that will be a part of a new proposed funding model. We think this formula will help universities focus on what they can be great at instead of trying to be all things to all people.

**YSUpdate:** *And finally, as you are well aware, Ohio faces many fiscal challenges. The governor recently announced a series of budget reductions, and the outlook for the next fiscal year appears bleak. How do the state's fiscal woes impact the state's ability to carry out your strategic plan?*

**Fingerhut:** Frankly, the economic situation only makes us work harder. Our governor and General Assembly have been clear in their message that higher education is the answer to the state's challenges. We will be the creators of jobs, innovation, and growth for our state. If we succeed, Ohio will succeed. It is as plain and simple as that, and I am clear in telling everyone I meet that we will not back away from our goals. ■

## Herbarium

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University with 500,000, and the University of Cincinnati with 125,000.

Chuey said he hopes YSU's collection can hit the 130,000 mark by 2015, the herbarium's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Located in Ward Beecher Hall, the herbarium houses plants from every state, Canadian province and continent, and 20 percent of the collection is comprised of ferns, Chuey's specialty.

Keeping track of the steady stream of plant specimen submissions can be an arduous task, because the herbarium gains nearly 4,000 samples per year. Last summer, Chuey and a handful of students gathered the bulk of the year's donations, dedicating every weekend to gathering plants.

Faculty use the herbarium for reference, and students can examine specimens they may never see first-hand, Chuey said. Community members may also use the collection for research, a feature Chuey imagines will gain popularity when the plant inventory is placed online with the herbarium's new data-basing procedures.

After being hand-picked by Chuey or his students, the plants are dried and glued to paper, numbered, catalogued by family and genus, color-coded by geographical region and arranged by species. Each plant is also stamped and archived into the herbarium database.

"Right now, we have 100,567 specimens labeled, and we have more than 2,000 yet to be numbered," he said.

Dispersed throughout four rooms on the fourth floor of Ward Beecher, the plant collection is stashed in approximately 80, 7-foot-tall cabinets which are rapidly nearing capacity. If YSU is to uproot Cincinnati from third-place, Chuey said YSU needs more cabinets and space.

In 2006, the National Science Foundation gave YSU \$35,000 to purchase 35 cabinets for plant storage. Chuey is now working as co-principal investigator on an NSF grant request for \$494,000. The grant would help database and image herbarium specimens at YSU, Ohio University, Marietta College and Muskingum College. YSU would also receive 20 additional cabinets. ■

By Britta Snowberger

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