

June 2010

Solar panels at Moser will be among largest in NE Ohio



U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown was on campus to announce plans to install a solar array at YSU.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown and YSU have announced plans to install a 10,000-square-foot solar array on the roof of Moser Hall – a major investment in clean energy efficient technology on campus.

“YSU is once again proving to our state and our nation that innovation, job creation and energy independence can happen right here in our own community,” Brown said.

friendly, sustainable campus and to making the greater Youngstown region a center of emerging energy technologies,” YSU President David C. Sweet said.

“YSU is committed to building an environmentally-

Brown, Sweet and Youngstown Mayor Jay Williams were joined at the announcement by representatives from the Ohio Environmental Council and Carbon Vision, the Cleveland-based renewable energy developer that will coordinate the installation of the solar panels.

The solar array, funded by Carbon Vision with no cost to YSU, is the first such installation at YSU and one of the largest of its kind in Northeast Ohio. YSU will, in turn, purchase from Carbon Vision electricity generated by the solar panels. Installation is expected to take place later this summer and early in the fall.

The solar array is the latest step by YSU to improve energy efficiency on campus. YSU recently committed to \$10 million in energy efficiency upgrades, resulting in a campus-wide 20 percent reduction in energy consumption and savings of \$500,000 per year in lighting costs alone. In a single year, YSU will save enough electricity to power 2,000 single-family homes.

June 2010



President David C. Sweet speaks outside the new entrance to Tod Hall during the opening of the new East Campus Gateway.

YSU celebrates opening of East Campus Gateway

YSU officials and community members celebrated the completion of the East Campus Gateway, a project designed to enhance the appearance of one of the main entrances to the campus.

The project along University Plaza on the East Side of campus includes a glassed entryway to the Tod Hall administration building, major renovations to Coffelt Hall, a visitors parking lot, a new marquee sign outside Bliss Hall, and new lighting, landscaping, banners and traffic circle.

“This project plan was developed several years ago as a way to improve the impression that prospective students, their parents and other visitors have of YSU when they first arrive on campus,” President David C. Sweet said.

“With the improved entrance, the visitor-friendly parking lot, the colorful new banners, the renovations of Coffelt Hall and the beautiful new entrance to Tod Hall, we now have a well-designed, attractive and welcoming gateway to the university that leaves an impression of a progressive, growing institution.”

The East Campus Gateway project, part of the YSU Centennial Master Plan, started three years ago with upgrades to University Plaza, which runs off Wick Avenue and into the heart of campus. The roadway, featuring new lighting and banners and a stone-walled traffic circle, leads to a new visitors parking lot and then to Sweeney Hall, home to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

Through nearly \$750,000 in state capital funds, Coffelt Hall, also located on University Plaza, was renovated and is now the home of the School of Graduate Studies and Research. As a result, the two offices that deal most directly with student admissions – graduate and undergraduate – are now situated at the main entrance to the university and next to the visitor's parking lot.

Also part of the project was construction of a new formal entrance on the northeast corner of Tod Hall, adjacent to University Plaza. The \$572,000 project, which includes a new glassed-in stairway and atrium, was funded through the state capital budget and private gifts, including a \$50,000 donation from the Tod family.

The sidewalk leading from the new visitor's parking lot to the upgraded Tod Hall entrance was also improved in compliance with ADA standards, providing visitors an attractive walkway to the core of campus. The project also included improvements to the entrance of University Plaza at the intersection with Wick Avenue. In addition, a new marquee sign outside Bliss Hall, near the University Plaza-Wick Avenue intersection, has been erected to advertise musical performances, theatrical productions, art exhibits and other activities in the College of Fine and Performing Arts.

Tod Hall

A noted Youngstown philanthropist and industrialist John Tod (1870 to 1953) was one of the largest contributors to the campaign to build the Youngstown College Library, which opened in 1952. At that time, a wing on the north end of the new building was named John H. Tod Hall. The building remained the school's library until 1976, when the Williams F. Maag Library opened next door. The building was remodeled and, in 1978, became home to the university's administrative offices. It has been known as Tod Hall ever since.

Coffelt Hall

John J. Coffelt was YSU's third president. The building was constructed in 1933 as the quarters for the American Legion Post #15. In 1974, YSU purchased the building and used it for various purposes over the next several years, including the Public Service Institute and the YSU Writing Center. It is now the home to the School of Graduate Studies and Research.

Bliss Hall Marquee

A new, fully-digital, LED marquee sign has been installed in front of Bliss Hall on Wick Avenue. About 65,000 people annually attend performances and productions at the YSU College of Fine and Performing Arts. The new sign gives the university a much-needed upgrade for efficient and adaptable means of communicating and relaying information.

June 2010

FY 2011 budget, tuition increase to be approved

The YSU Board of Trustees is expected to approve a \$178.14 million fiscal year 2011 operating budget this week.

The budget, which is 2.5 percent higher than last year's spending plan, assumes no growth in enrollment, a 3.5 percent tuition increase and generally flat state operating appropriations.

Neil McNally, university budget director, noted that YSU's state funding for both fiscal years 2010 and 2011 includes about \$7 million in one-time federal stimulus dollars. If those dollars are eliminated in fiscal year 2012, the result could be a significant loss in state funding, he told the board's Finance and Facilities Committee.

"The storm continues to brew," Trustees Chairman Scott Schulick said. "We are not out of the woods."

Although the university is projecting an increase in enrollment for fall 2010, President Designate Cynthia E. Anderson told the board that enrollment historically decreases as the state and national economies improve. "This enrollment growth will not last forever," she said.

The 3.5 percent tuition increase is the maximum allowed by the state. Other public universities in Ohio, including Kent State and the University of Akron, have already approved 3.5-percent increases. For Ohio residents, tuition for full-time students will increase \$122 per semester, from \$3,478 to \$3,600, or \$7,200 per academic year. That is still well below the \$8,633 average among Ohio's public universities.

June 2010

YSU dedicates archives, unveils portrait of President Sweet

The presidential portrait of retiring YSU President David C. Sweet was unveiled and the exhibit area of the YSU Archives was dedicated in Sweet's name at a ceremony on campus on June 1.

The 30-by-40-inch oil portrait will hang in the first-floor foyer of Tod Hall on campus, alongside portraits of the university's five previous presidents. The painting is by Pennsylvania artist Jeffrey Martin, who has completed more than 700 commissioned portraits over the course of his career.



President David C. and Mrs. Pat Sweet with the presidential portrait.

“Dr. Sweet’s accomplishments at YSU over the past decade are many and widespread, and his impact will be felt on the campus and in the community for years to come,” said George McCloud, vice president for University Advancement. “It is appropriate that he takes his place alongside the university’s other presidents who have helped guide the institution in years past.”

At the same ceremony, the university designated the exhibit area of the YSU Archives on the fifth floor of the YSU Maag Library as the David C. Sweet Exhibit Gallery.

“The creation of the YSU Archives was an important vision that President Sweet had when he came to the university 10 years ago,” said Paul Kobulnicky, executive director of Maag Library. “He guided the development of the Archives, recognizing the power of images and artifacts in connecting individuals to the university and to sustaining the rich history of the university.”

The gallery currently includes an exhibit titled “YSU Presidents: The Men and Their Legacies.” Through photographs, news articles, artifacts, audio and video recordings and other materials, the exhibit explores the six men who have served as university president. The previous exhibit in the gallery was titled “Penguin Spirit: 100 Years of YSU Tradition,” which celebrated YSU’s rich and varied traditions and customs, from Pete the Penguin and *The Jambar* to Homecoming and The Rock.

Sweet, former dean of the Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University, came to YSU in 2000. He retires June 30. Cynthia E. Anderson, YSU vice president for student affairs, will become the university’s seventh president on July 1.

June 2010

Work begins on Harrison Commons in Smoky Hollow

Ground was broken June 2 on Harrison Commons, a park in the Smoky Hollow neighborhood of Youngstown that officials believe will serve as the beginning of the rebirth of the historic neighborhood adjacent to Youngstown State University.



Ground has been broken on the new Harrison Commons in Smoky Hollow. From the left are the Rev. John Horner, Youngstown Mayor Jay Williams, former Youngstown City Councilman Artis Gillam, former director of Wick Neighbors Margaret Murphy, YSU President David C. Sweet, Councilwoman Annie Gillam, Atty. Paul Dutton, Michelle Bandy Zaletoris and Josh Butler.

The project, which will include a brick paved plaza, an arbor for events such as plays and concerts and a large historic map of the Hollow, is funded through a \$396,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

The park, which is scheduled to be completed in October, was conceived by Wick Neighbors Inc., in cooperation with YSU and the city of Youngstown, as part of a larger plan to revitalize Smoky Hollow into a new residential development.

“This park celebrates the past and the future of a neighborhood that represents Youngstown’s rich history and promising future,” YSU President David C. Sweet said.

“This is a visible first step in what we believe will be the rebirth of this once proud and vital neighborhood,” said Paul Olivier, senior vice president of business development at Humility of Mary Health Partners and chair of Wick Neighbors Inc.

Sweet and Olivier were joined at the ground-breaking by Margaret Murphy, former executive director of Wick Neighbors Inc., and the Rev. John Horner, former pastor of St. John’s Episcopal Church and the founding chair of Wick Neighbors Inc., as well as Youngstown City Councilwoman Annie Gillam.

The park is located along North Walnut Street, across from YSU's Wick Avenue parking deck, in Smoky Hollow, a neighborhood that in the first half of the 20th century was an ethnic melting pot of blue collar families and businesses. The five-acre Harrison Field was home to sports played in the Hollow.

In 2002, YSU and the religious and cultural institutions along Wick Avenue created Wick Neighbors Inc., which developed a plan to revitalize Smoky Hollow. The plan calls for new streets, sidewalks, curbs and pedestrian pathways, new townhouses, condominiums and homes, commercial and retail space, and 10 acres of public green space, including a central park called Harrison Commons.

The Commons, located on the west end of Harrison Field, will include a brick paved plaza with a sandstone seating area, in addition to the arbor. Also featured will be a permanent map of historic Smoky Hollow from the 1920's that will be inlaid on the north side of the plaza showing former residents' homes and property. New trees and landscaping are also part of the project.

The project will be constructed from designs by Behnke Associates of Cleveland and managed by YSU's Planning and Construction Department. Contractors for the project are DSV Builders and Santon Electric.

June 2010

YSU, BizVeo partner for video production

YSU's Telecommunication Studies program has launched a collaboration with BizVeo LLC in Youngstown to provide television and video content.

BizVeo, a portfolio company of the Youngstown Business Incubator, provides corporate education and communication to employees and customers through a secure Internet portal. For example, through BizVeo's products, a hospital system can deliver a personalized educational video to a patient, then provide additional support documents, conduct a patient survey, and link that patient to other training videos.

Under the collaboration, YSU telecommunications student Bill Rusu is serving a professional residency at BizVeo through the end of September. Rusu, a senior at YSU, is an accomplished television and video producer and director and is providing television and video content for BizVeo's communication protocol.

Rusu is using YSU's field and studio facilities in Bliss Hall, as well as production personnel from the Telecommunication Studies major.

"It is no surprise that YSU continues to provide excellent interns for companies like ours," said Tony Acentis, Chief Executive Officer of BizVeo. Acentis said BizVeo has also worked closely with two interns from the YSU Williamson College of Business Administration, 2010 graduate Rose Shaffer and senior Chuck Housteau.

Fred Owens, professor of communication, said this is the College of Fine and Performing Arts' first ongoing collaboration with a Youngstown Business Incubator company.

"We are hopeful that this collaboration with BizVeo will evolve and expand in the months and years ahead," he said.

Dean Bryan DePoy added, "Students in the College of Fine and Performing Arts have many opportunities for real-world experiences, often early in their curricula – this is a fine example."

For more information on BizVeo, visit www.BizVeo.com. For more information on the College of Fine and Performing Arts, visit <http://web.ysu.edu/fpa>.

June 2010

More than 100 attend Sustainable Energy Forum

U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan was one of the speakers at the opening of the second annual YSU Sustainable Energy Forum this week in Kilcawley Center.

Below, Warren Mayor Michael O'Brien addresses the forum in the Chestnut Room. Also speaking at the opening of the forum was Anthony Cugini, director of the National Energy Technology Laboratory, and Charles Lucius, vice president of

sustainable energy solutions at the Battelle Institute. The forum attracted more than 100 participants from as far away as Israel and China.



June 2010

YSU SMARTS is semifinalist for national award

For the second time in four years, YSU SMARTS program has been recognized as one of 50 semifinalists nationwide for the prestigious 2010 Coming Up Taller award.

SMARTS – Students Motivated by the Arts – was selected from nearly 500 nominations for the award that recognizes outstanding community arts and humanities programs for America’s young people. Finalists will be named by the end of June.

“We are highly impressed with the successful work your organization and the other semi-finalists have accomplished in youth after-school and out-of-school arts and humanities learning,” says the letter notifying SMARTS.

“We value your important work and thank you for your organization’s time, energy and expertise devoted to our America’s youth,” the letter says.

The letter is signed by the leaders of the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

“SMARTS’ success is the result of much hard work and dedication by the SMARTS staff, teachers and students, the generosity of many local foundations and donors, and the support of YSU,” said Becky Keck, SMARTS director.

SMARTS was also named a semi-finalist in 2006.

SMARTS, created in 1997, is an arts education project of the YSU College of Fine and Performing Arts, the Beeghly College of Education and the many vital arts organizations in the region. It is one of YSU's premier programs for diversity and community engagement. The program gives students in grades kindergarten to 12 free classes in visual arts, music, dance, theater, and creative writing and early learning opportunities in a living/learning laboratory for YSU students. SMARTS after-school, Saturdays, and summer programming reaches thousands of students and community members each year.

For more information, visit www.fpa.ysu/smarts.

June 2010

McDonough exhibit features women artists

“28th Women Artists: A Celebration,” an exhibit of women artists in the region, opens June 19 at YSU’s McDonough Museum of Art.

The exhibit by the YWCA of Youngstown runs through July 23. A preview party is scheduled for 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, June 19, at the museum.

The exhibition is an opportunity for local, regional and national women artists to gain recognition for their work. It also offers support and encouragement to women artists in the community and provides them with a venue to express their creativity and display their artwork.

The juror for the exhibit is Hilary Robinson, dean of the College of Fine Arts at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. Works in various media are featured, including painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, fiber, ceramic and metal work.

For information on tickets to the preview party, call the YWCA at 330-746-6361. The party will include live music, wine, punch and hors d’oeuvres. The corporate sponsor is the Home Savings Charitable Foundation. Proceeds will benefit the YWCA Barbara Wick Transitional House.

Hours at the McDonough Museum are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, The Museum is open to the public and admission is free. For more information, call 330-941-1400.



Marks of the Battle by Janie Morris is among the art featured in “28th Women Artists: A Celebration” at the McDonough Museum of Art on the YSU campus.