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## **Centennial Circle: 500 bricks, countless campus memories**

Nearly 150 past and present students, faculty, staff and other university supporters from as far away as Florida gathered at the center of the YSU campus on a brisk fall day to dedicate Centennial Circle.

Five hundred personalized red bricks, engraved with messages that commemorate the accomplishments and memorable moments of alumni, faculty, staff and friends, encircle the life-size bronze sculpture of the late Howard W. Jones, YSU's first president, at the entrance to the campus core.

"Every day, thousands of people walk by this statue and these bricks on the way to class or lunch or wherever they may be going," President Cynthia E. Anderson said. "My hope is that every once in a while, they will stop and understand that YSU would not be the wonderful university it is today if not for President Jones and the people whose names are on these bricks."

Anderson, who became YSU's seventh president this summer, was joined at the ceremony by Marilyn Chuey, President Jones' daughter, and dozens of other university constituents who made donations to place bricks in the Circle. Donors in attendance ranged from Laddie Fedor, a 1949 graduate, to cheerleader Courtney Wolcalle, who will graduate this year. Elizabeth Arroyo Cuevas' brick celebrates the five degrees that she and four of her five children earned at YSU. Retired faculty member George Beelen and retired staff employee Elaine Beatty have bricks in the circle, while other bricks memorialize loved ones.

In all, 500 donors contributed to the brick campaign, raising nearly \$90,000 for the YSU Campus Beautification Initiative. The initiative seeks to establish an endowment to help sustain YSU's 2,000 trees and park-like campus for future generations. In addition to the bricks, the Beautification Initiative includes memorial trees and benches planted and placed throughout the campus.

For more information, visit [www.ysu.edu/treesbenches](http://www.ysu.edu/treesbenches) or call 330-941-3119.

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**‘Brazen, intimidating and physical’**

## **Professor researches female hoodlums**

While Fred Viehe was giving a presentation on organized crime last year at a conference in Beijing, one audience member raised her hand with a suggestion.

What about the women of the Underworld?

“She really stimulated my thinking and interest on the subject,” Viehe, YSU professor of American Urban History, said of the woman who asked the question, Judy Lattas, director of Women’s Studies at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia.



**Fred Viehe, YSU professor of history**

“I knew of individual women in organized crime, but generally speaking, our knowledge of them is reduced to cameo appearances before they disappear.”

One year later in June 2010, Viehe had a new paper with a fresh perspective to present at the same International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities, held this time in Los Angeles: “The Underworld Never Seemed So Fair: Women as Pirates, G’hals, Bridgets, Mafiosas and Gangsteristas.”

Researching infamous women like Hell-cat Maggie, who filed her teeth before street battles “to better chaw off an opponent’s ear;” Sadie the Goat, who head-butted her challengers and turned her street gang into a pirate crew that raised the Jolly Roger on the Hudson River; and Anne Bonny and Mary Read, who fought British marines when their ship was boarded, Viehe uncovered a world that seemed to belong only in storybooks—with one exception. These women were not the classic damsels in distress.

“These women leaders would do everything the men would do,” said Viehe, who joined the YSU faculty in 1985 and has made nearly 40 scholarly presentations at conferences worldwide. “They were extremely brazen, intimidating and physical, and the impression was that male gangs wouldn’t even mess with them.”

His paper focuses on Euro-American women of the Underworld in New York and Philadelphia during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and today. Viehe examines the various roles females played in organized crime—from participants in mixed street gangs to leaders in pirate crews to auxiliary wives of the legendary men-only Mafia. Women’s roller-coaster social status, he says, follows a pattern similar to men’s, and he highlights these issues in his History of Organized Crime course at YSU.

Viehe presented his findings in England this summer, leading a discussion at the Oxford Round Table at the Margaret Thatcher Center, Somerville College. His group of 25 scholars lived on campus for a week and met regularly at the library and local pubs to discuss females’ roles in social change. Viehe called it a “vibrant session” and one of the best conferences he’d ever attended.

Not forgetting his curious audience member in Beijing, Viehe also sent his paper to Lattas, who was amazed by his research. Viehe’s research is now concentrating on women in street gangs in the mid-nineteenth century—the only group of the Underworld that academically still remains a mystery.

Viehe earned a bachelor’s degree at Lewis and Clark College and a master’s degree in history and Ph.D. in American Urban History, American Economic History, Modern American History and Urban Politics at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His latest article, “Atavistic Monsters and Hedonistic Culture: A New Definition for American Organized Crime,” appears in *The International Journal of the Humanities*.

*Story by Andrea Armeni*

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## Two YSU-YEC students featured in statewide video



TaQuaesha Toney

Two graduates of Youngstown Early College who are now enrolled at YSU are featured in an article and video published by Ohio Education Matters, a statewide, public policy research organization.

David Bresko, who is studying environmental science, and TaQuaesha Toney, who is a pre-med student, both received full scholarships to attend YSU after graduating from YEC. They are among 10 graduates of Early College High Schools statewide featured on the Ohio Education Matters website at [http://www.ohioeducationmatters.org/fast\\_track](http://www.ohioeducationmatters.org/fast_track).

Youngstown Early College, started in 2004, is a high school located in Fedor Hall on the YSU campus that allows students to attend both high school and college classes. The program is a collaboration of the Youngstown City Schools, YSU and Eastern Gateway Community College.

Bresko graduated from YEC with 62 college credits. A self-proclaimed “language geek” and a nature enthusiast, Bresko credits supportive YEC teachers with helping him explore his interests and develop a leader’s mentality. “Thanks to Early College, I didn’t have to experiment. I already had my own experiences to draw on, so I could focus right away. I was ready,” he said.

Toney graduated from YEC with honors and an associate in arts degree and now resides in YSU’s Cafaro House residence hall. Aside from preparing for medical school, organizing events for the YSU chapter of Intervarsity

Christian Fellowship, starting a fundraiser for victims of the earthquake in Haiti and raising public awareness of human trafficking, Toney also finds time to tutor her three younger siblings and volunteer and sing at her church. But Toney didn’t originally envision such a direction after high school.



David Bresko

“I wonder if I would have been as interested in going to college if it weren’t for Early College,” she said.

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## **YSU alumnus, ODOT veteran heads YSU transportation center**

YSU alumnus Joann Iudiciani Esenwein of Lowellville, formerly the capital planning manager at the Ohio Department of Transportation, is the new director of the YSU Center for Transportation and Materials Engineering.

CTME, formed in 2006 in the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, is one of only 22 such U.S. Department of Transportation-funded research centers in the nation.

“We are excited to be able to bring an individual of Joann’s caliber to YSU,” said Martin Abraham, STEM dean. “Her background and skills will allow us to become more engaged in transportation research that has a direct impact on the Mahoning Valley.”

Esenwein has 30 years of experience with the Ohio Department of Transportation, including stints as a project engineer, design engineer, consultants contract coordinator, major/new coordinator and, for the last 10 years, capital planning manager. She earned a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from YSU in 1980, and a master’s degree in business administration from YSU in 2003.

Currently, CTME has about 10 ongoing research projects studying issues such as new brake rotors for vehicles, electric vehicle charging stations, vibrations resulting from vehicles entering bridges, and fish passage under bridges. Abraham said Esenwein will help put the focus of the Center squarely on transportation.

“We would like to become more engaged in the efforts of ODOT to develop the transportation infrastructure in our region,” he said.

For more information on CTME, visit <http://web.ysu.edu/stem>.



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## Faculty/staff awards, publications, presentations

**Kin P. Moy**, associate professor, Electrical Engineering Technology, served as the chair of the U.S. delegation to the International Standards Organization electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) test standards development working group meeting in Seattle, Wash., this October. He was also recently appointed by the president of the Automotive Research and Testing Center in Taiwan to serve on the committee to design and develop a new automotive EMC test facility.

**Peter Norris**, professor, Chemistry, presented the seminar "Synthesis and Chemistry of Diazo- and Azidodeoxysugars" in the chemistry department's of Wright State University and Penn State University in October.

**James J. Carroll**, professor of Physics and Astronomy, along with YSU students **Ben Detwiler** and **Geoff Trees** and international colleagues, authored "Discovery of highly excited long-lived isomers in neutron-rich hafnium and tantalum isotopes through direct mass measurements" in the October issue of premier physics journal, *Physical Review Letters*. The article was also featured as an Editor's Choice on the journal's website.

**Bob Hogue**, associate professor, Computer Science and Information Systems, presented a paper this fall, entitled "Work in Progress: Examining a Finished Product as a Means for Reinforcing Concepts," at the 2010 Frontiers in Education Conference in Arlington, Va.

**Rebecca Barnhouse**, professor, English, has authored a new young adult novel, *The Coming of the Dragon*, published by Random House and inspired by the Anglo-Saxon epic poem, *Beowulf*.

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## Research recognition

The School of Graduate Studies and Research honored faculty and staff at the 13th annual Research Recognition Luncheon earlier this month. From the left are James J. Carroll, professor of physics, who received the award for Superior Success in Obtaining External Funding; Greg Sturuss, professor and chair of physics, whose department received the award for Superior Success in Obtaining External Funding; Patricia Veisz, director of the YSU Small Business Development Center, who received a special award for Promoting Small Business and Economic Development; and Ganesaratnam Balendiran, associate professor of chemistry, who received a special award for Exemplary Success in Rapid Attainment of External Funding.



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## Get Alert!

The weather outside is getting frightful, and the snow will soon be building up, so sign up today for *YSU Alert*.

*YSU Alert* is the university's emergency notification system. In the event of a campus emergency - including closings caused by weather - *YSU Alert* will notify students, faculty and staff via text message and e-mail.

**But you must register to receive these important notifications.**

For more information and to register, visit <http://alert.yzu.edu/>.



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## **Veterans ceremony**

Tim Daniels, a student in the Dana School of Music, plays taps at the conclusion of the 13th annual Reading of the Names ceremony on Veterans Plaza at YSU. The names of 64 YSU students and employees who died while on active military duty were read. The ceremony also included the Color Guard from the YSU Western Reserve Battalion ROTC, below, a 21-gun salute from the Tri-State Detachment 494 Marine Corps League and, below. The event was sponsored by the YSU Office of Veterans Affairs.

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## **What's News**

### **BoT meetings**

The YSU Board of Trustees conducts its fall quarterly meetings in December.

The Internal Affairs, External Relations, Finance/Facilities, and Trusteeship committees meet beginning at noon Thursday, Dec. 2. The Investment/Audit subcommittees, Academic/Student Affairs and Executive committees, and Ad Hoc Subcommittee for Negotiations meet beginning at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7. The meetings are in the Presidential Suites in Kilcawley Center.

The regular quarterly meeting is 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15, in Tod Hall.

### **Carols & Cocoa**

With the holidays on the way, it's time again for the Dana School of Music's annual Carols & Cocoa and Holiday Concert, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 1, in Stambaugh Auditorium.

Carols & Cocoa features seasonal favorites, culminating in a holiday sing-along. And, of course, cookies and cocoa. The highlight of the Holiday Concert is Francis Poulenc's "Gloria."

For more information, call 330-941-3105.

### **Hoops time**

The Penguin men's and women's basketball squads tip-off the 2010-11 season with a busy slate of home games in November.

The men launched the season with victories Nov. 12 and 16 in Beeghly Center. The women start the home schedule this Saturday, Nov. 20 vs. Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne. The teams play doubleheaders Nov. 24 (men vs. Toledo and women vs. Bucknell) and Nov. 27 (men vs. St. Francis and women vs. Ohio).

For more information, visit [www.ysusports.com](http://www.ysusports.com).

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## **Blanket Bonanza**

The Bachelors in Social Work Student Social Work Association collected more than 100 blankets for Akron Children's Hospital earlier this fall. Pictured from the left are Joseph Mosca, dean of the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services; Stephanie Caruso, president of BSW Student Social Work Association; Shirley Keller, faculty advisor to BSW Student Social Work Association; Lynn Duffey, community liaison to BSW Student Social Work Association; Dennis Morawski, chair of the Department of Social Work; and Charmaine Uphole, member of BSW Student Social Work Association.

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## **Helping Hands Across America**

YSU and Sodexo Campus Services collected 7,100 pounds of non-perishable food items through the Helping Hands Across America food drive. The food was donated to three local charities – St. Vincent De Paul Society, The Rescue Mission of Mahoning Valley and Second Harvest Food Bank. Helping Hands Across America is a nationwide Sodexo program running simultaneously on college and university campuses across the country. For more information, contact Kim Bacchetti at 330-941-1977.

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## **Nominations open for Heritage Award**

The deadline is Dec. 31 to submit nominations for the 2011 Heritage Award at YSU.

The award, initiated in 1981, recognizes former faculty and professional/administrative staff who have made major contributions to the university. The 16-member Heritage Award Committee, comprised of representatives from each college, the administration, alumni and the YSU Retirees Association, reviews nominees.



Nominees must be former members of the faculty (full-time or part-time) or a former (full-time) professional/administrative staff that has been separated from the university for a minimum of one year, with no further expectancy of paid employment by the University. Nominees may be living or deceased.

Award recipients are honored with plaques mounted on the wall of the concourse of Maag Library at YSU. Fifty-nine awards have been given since the program was initiated.

The nomination form and the names of all past Heritage Award recipients are available on the YSU Human Resources website at [www.ysu.edu/hr](http://www.ysu.edu/hr) under "Employee Recognition". For more information contact Linda D. Moore in the YSU Office of Human Resources at 330-941-2137 or [lmoore@ysu.edu](mailto:lmoore@ysu.edu).