

# e·Update

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

*January 2012*

## **YSU recognized as Healthy Worksite**

YSU is being recognized for its commitment to the health and well being of its employees.

The university has been selected to receive the Healthy Ohioans-Healthy Worksite Bronze Level Award for 2011. In all, 34 businesses and organizations are receiving awards. YSU is the only university on the list.

Mari-jean Siehl, director of the Healthy Ohio Business Council, commended YSU for its “exemplary efforts to provide employees with programs that encourage physical activity, better nutrition and the prevention or cessation of tobacco use.”

“As you know, these efforts will have far-reaching implications not only for the health of your employees, but the health of your business as well.”

The award, which will be presented Tuesday, Jan. 31, in Dublin, Ohio, as part of the Health Action Council Ohio Columbus Kick-Off Conference, recognizes efforts by Ohio employers to facilitate and encourage employee health, enhance productivity and ensure a healthy work environment.

“This award recognizes YSU’s commitment to the health of our employees,” said Carrie Clyde, YSU’s Wellness coordinator. “We know that a proactive wellness program that helps create a healthy work environment will result in healthier, more productive and happier employees, which allows us to better serve our students and our community.”



Carrie Clyde

YSU began offering a worksite wellness program in August 2009. The program is known as Living Well.

“We want to increase employee’s knowledge about the relationship between lifestyle and health, and educate and empower employees to make healthy choices,” Clyde said.

In 2011, 53 percent of YSU’s more than 2,000 employees participated in some type of Living Well program, and nearly 450 employees took part in annual health screenings offered by the university and Medical Mutual of Ohio.

Living Well offers a variety of activities, including IMPACT Solutions EAP and Work Life Program and Seminars, Weight Watchers @ Work, health screenings and health risk assessments,

fitness classes, Walk Your Way To Wellness (pedometer spring/summer incentive campaign), YSU Weight Loss Challenge, and seminars on nutrition, disease and stress management, depression, smoking, diabetes and much more.

For more information on YSU's Living Well program, visit <http://web.ysu.edu/wellness>.

January 2012



Graduate student Brett Aiello, right, and Assistant Professor Michael Butcher are pictured with one of the turtles that are part of their research in a biology lab in Ward Beecher Hall.

## Research contributes to evolutionary understanding

Biological sciences graduate student Brett Aiello has been studying the movements and muscle actions of turtles for nearly a year and is already coming to discoveries he did not expect to find.

“These guys are a *lot* faster than their reputation gives them credit for,” Aiello said about the four South Carolina native turtles he’s using for his master’s thesis research.

Aiello, of Poland, Ohio, is working with Michael Butcher, assistant professor of Biological Sciences, in a lab in Ward Beecher Hall on research that investigates the muscle contraction activity of the turtles.

Butcher and Aiello are using the data to evaluate how the limb muscles affect bone strain and movement, an area that is not well understood, by combining several technologies that have not been attempted all at once in the past. The research makes a significant contribution to understanding the evolution of bone loading from animals of a sprawling position, like turtles, to those in upright stance, said Butcher. It could also ultimately lead biomedical engineers to design new materials for prosthetics or develop other bone repair and reinforcement materials.

“This could help us determine just how much bone strain is based on the counteractive forces that occur as the turtles walk and how much strain is influenced by muscle contractions,” said Butcher.

The team plans to publish an article detailing the research in the *Journal of Experimental Biology*.

To carry out their studies, Aiello first trains the turtles to walk on a small treadmill. “I put a mirror in front of the treadmill,” he said. “They see another turtle and keep moving toward it.”

After a month of training, the team then attaches a small gauge with three electrical sensors to the turtle’s femur. The gauge measures the strain on the bone, sending signals through wires to an amplifier and then to a computer during the



Graduate student Brett Aiello monitors a turtle on a treadmill.

test trials. They also place special crystals into a major hind limb muscle. These measure the relative length of the muscle at the time of peak bone strain. Two additional electrodes measure the amount of muscle electrical activity with contractions.

Once the gauges are in place, the turtles are tested on the treadmill. One experiment requires 50 walking steps, and an adequate data set requires at least four consistent experiments with four turtles—a process that takes several months.

This is the first time Aiello has worked with live turtles. Having earned his bachelor’s degree in zoology from Miami University of Ohio, he has worked with birds in the past but sees a big difference in training turtles.

“Turtles have more personality than birds,” he said. “It’s rare you get to work hands-on with any live animals, though, so I’ve been grateful for the opportunity here.”

The turtles—affectionately named Big Momma, Slider, Little Girl and Thaddeus—complete the reptile quartet for the research. Aiello spends a great deal of time maintaining a home for them that mimics their natural habitat, with a sizeable tank and powered sun lamps. He’s also careful that the turtles aren’t exposed to many hands for their safety.

“We have a responsibility for the welfare, health and general happiness of these animals,” said Butcher. “And we take that very seriously.”

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## Three deans launch F&PA scholarship fund

One current and two former deans of YSU's College of Fine and Performing Arts have teamed up to start a new scholarship fund to support students in the college.

The Reaching for Tomorrow's Stars scholarship is the first-ever scholarship campaign for the F&PA College.

Bryan DePoy, F&PA dean, and two former deans of the college – Joe Edwards and George McCloud – have together pledged \$10,000 to initiate the scholarship campaign. The initial fund-raising goal is \$100,000 to establish an endowment that will provide scholarship funding in perpetuity.



Bryan DePoy

“As deans, we have experienced the immense joy of shaking the hands of numerous graduates during commencement ceremonies,” said DePoy, who became dean in 2009. “We know that many of those students would not have completed their college careers without financial assistance of some kind.”

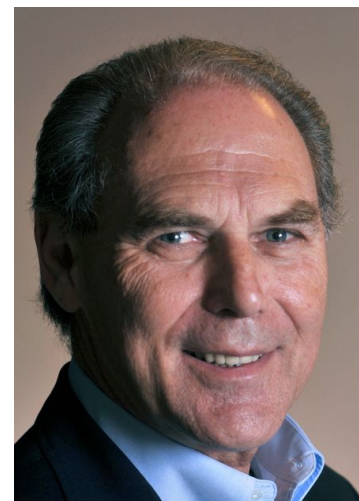
McCloud, F&PA dean from 1997 to 2005, said student scholarships remain critical to attracting and retaining students in the college. “That is why this scholarship fund is so important,” he said. “It will allow students to pursue and reach their professional goals and personal dreams.”



Joe Edwards

“The F&PA College strives to be a distinguished, nationally-recognized center for education in the fine and performing arts,” said Edwards, who served as F&PA dean from 2005 to 2009. “This scholarship extends the extraordinary tradition of excellence for the future.”

The dollar amount and number of scholarships will be determined by the amount of money raised for the



George McCloud

endowment. The scholarship is for undergraduate or graduate students pursuing any degree in the College of F&PA and is renewable based on academic standing and by meeting benchmarks indicating progress toward a degree.

For more information or to make a donation, call the YSU Office of University Development at 330-941-3119 or visit [www.ysu.edu/givetoysu](http://www.ysu.edu/givetoysu).

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## University conducts emergency response exercise

*It's the Monday morning after spring break. Classes are back in session. Faculty and staff are in their offices. The parking lots are filling. Students are all about.*

*At about 8:30 a.m., a custodian finds a written note taped to the wall of the men's restroom in Ward Beecher Hall. The note says a bomb will detonate in the building at 10 a.m. causing mass damage.*

That was the scenario presented to a group of more than a dozen police, fire and YSU officials who participated in an exercise earlier this month to talk through the steps that would be taken in the event of such a campus emergency.

“There are no right or wrong answers,” YSU Police Lt. Mike Cretella told the group before the exercise. “We are here to discuss what we would do and how we would respond. We are here to learn.”

The exercise, facilitated by retired Youngstown police Lt. Robin Lees, included participants from Youngstown fire and police departments, the YPD Bomb Squad, the YPD Tactical Response Team, the Youngstown-Mahoning County Crisis Response Team, Mahoning County Sheriff's Office and the Mahoning County Emergency Management Agency. Participating from YSU were the campus police and representatives from facilities, communications, environmental and occupational health and safety and the president's office.

Participants discussed how police and fire personnel would respond to the threat, if/how/when the threat would be communicated to the campus, if/how/when the building may be evacuated, traffic control in the event of an evacuation, etc.

Dennis O'Hara of the Mahoning County EMA gave the exercise a thumbs up. “It gives you the chance to go through and discuss things that you might not normally even think about,” he said.

Cretella said he plans similar exercises in the near future.



### YSU Alert

*When the snow flies and the weather turns nasty, you want to know if the university is closing or if classes are cancelled. Sign up for YSU Alert, the university's emergency text-message and e-mail system. In the event of an emergency or a closing/cancellation due to the weather, YSU Alert will send a text message and/or email directly to your cell phone or computer. For more information and to sign up, visit <http://alert.vsu.edu/>.*

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## **Faculty/staff awards, publications, presentations**

**Fred Viehe**, professor, History, published a review of Mark Brilliant's *The Color of America Has Changed: How Racial Diversity Shaped Civil Rights Reform in California, 1941-1978* in a January 2012 issue of *History: Reviews of New Books*.

**Virgil C. Solomon**, assistant professor, Mechanical & Industrial Engineering, gave a talk titled "Structural and compositional investigations of ceramic-metal composites produced by reactive metal penetration in molten Al and Al-Fe alloys" at the Materials Science & Technology 2011 Conference & Exhibition in Columbus, Ohio. The research was done in collaboration with **Anthony Yurcho**, STEM College graduate alum, **Matt Zeller** and **Tim Wagner** of the Department of Chemistry, and Klaus-Markus Peters and Brian Hetzel from Fireline Inc.

**Cheryl Bosley**, associate professor of Nursing, **Sue Miller**, senior academic advisor of Health and Human Services, and **Amy Novak**, student nurse, recently had an article, "*Anticipatory Guidance as an Advising Strategy for Pre-Nursing Students*," published in *Academic Advising Today*, an online publication of the National Academic Advising Association.

**William Greenway**, professor, English, had a poem published, titled "Rodeo Clown," in *Louisiana Literature*.

**Weiqing Ge**, assistant professor, Physical Therapy, along with **Daniel Yanek**, Physical Therapy student, had an abstract accepted by the American Physical Therapy Association's 2012 Annual Conference. The abstract, titled "Comparison of a facilitory and an inhibitory Kinesiotaping technique in treating chronic low back pain," discusses various techniques and effectiveness outcomes in treating lower back pain.

**Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez**, director, Dr. James Dale Ethics Center, and professor, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, published the article "Civilian Populations in War," in the *Encyclopedia of Applied Ethics*, Second Edition.

**Javed Alam**, professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering, is listed as the second author of the article "An Actor-Network Perspective of QR Utilization" published in the proceedings of the Fourth International Scientific Conference, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science, South-West University "Neofit Rilski", Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria. The first author is Malinka Ivanova, Technical University-Sofia, College of Energetics and Electronics, Sofia, Bulgaria.

**January 2012**

The holidays are over, another year has passed and 2012 is upon us. I hope everyone had a joyous and blessed holiday season and a Happy New Year.

As we look to the year before us, I want to again take the opportunity to thank all of you for your hard work on behalf of our students and our community. At commencement in December, our student speaker, April Hauser, talked specifically about the faculty and staff members who helped in her journey to earn her degree. It was a not-too-subtle reminder of the impact that we have every day on the students who have entrusted us with their futures. Thank you for your continued commitment to the success of our students and the university as a whole.

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### **Success Stories**

Success, in its many shapes, forms and sizes, is at the forefront of everything we do at YSU. I never pass up the opportunity to share those stories.

This past fall semester, Chancellor Jim Petro of the Ohio Board of Regents was on campus to designate the YSU Center of Excellence in International Business as a statewide Ohio Center of Excellence. YSU and the Youngstown Business Incubator formed a partnership called Phase Zero to help emerging small businesses get grants that they need to develop their products for commercialization. The university also announced the development of the Natural Gas and Water Resources Institute to provide education and research for the emerging shale natural gas industry. In late December, we formed an initiative that encourages city high school students to enter STEM-related fields. And, we also opened the WATTS indoor athletics facility, which will host the Horizon League Indoor Track and Field Championships Feb. 25 and 26.

Success also continued among our many talented and gifted faculty and staff members. In this past fiscal year, faculty and staff won nearly \$9 million in grants – 20 percent more than the previous year. The fall edition of the *YSU Magazine* featured more than 20 books, CD recordings and art exhibits created by YSU faculty members. That same edition of the magazine highlighted the many new academic programs that have been developed over the past several years – the result of a faculty whose commitment to their students and dedication to the university is second to none.

And, finally, students continued achieving success on the highest levels. Two students were nominated for the prestigious Marshall Scholarship. Seven students presented at the annual Undergraduate Research Conference at the Interface of Biology and Mathematics. Four students placed first in the state at the Music Teachers National Association of Collegiate Chamber Music Competition. Two students won awards at the national MathFest contest. These and dozens of other Student Success Stories are featured on our website at <http://web.yzu.edu/studentsuccessstories>.

### **Budget Considerations**

Budget challenges facing YSU, and all of higher education for that matter, were a major focus of 2011 and had a significant impact on the campus and contract negotiations this past summer and fall. The budget shortfall was caused by a 15-percent cut in state funding and an unexpected 4.3-percent drop in enrollment this past fall semester.



In late November, the administration presented a plan to the Board of Trustees that balances the university's general fund budget for fiscal year 2012. The plan calls for not filling numerous vacant staff and faculty positions and the controlled use of university reserve funds. Those steps are in addition to budget reductions made over the past several months, including more than \$3 million in cuts from the general operating budget. Also, as you are all aware, pay for classified, faculty and exempt employees has been frozen, and health insurance contributions for those same employees have been increased. The plan also assumes that enrollment will stabilize in this spring semester and grow slightly next fall, that tuition will be increased next fall and that nearly \$2.4 million in savings from the university's early retirement program will be used to help balance the fiscal year 2013 budget.

We believe this plan – carefully crafted and closely monitored – will balance the budget and, at the same time, allow us to maintain and enhance the university's academic and student services. In order to transition through this difficult fiscal period, it also is imperative that we maintain a tight control on spending and increase revenue through enrollment and student retention. I thank all of you for the concessions you have made to help make this plan work so that we can continue to serve our students in the best way possible.

### **Positions**

Nearly 90 staff employees have or will retire by the end of February under the university's early retirement incentive program. Collectively, these employees have devoted hundreds of years of service to the university. YSU certainly would not be what it is today without the contributions of each of these employees, and they will be missed.

As mentioned above, as an integral part of the plan to balance the budget, some of these employees will not be replaced. Filling these vacant positions requires a rigorous review and the approval of the Executive Cabinet and myself. We must learn to create efficiencies where possible.

There are two executive-level searches currently in process that I want to mention. In December, finalist candidates for the position of Associate Vice President for Information Technology visited campus. This is an important position as the university strives to provide the most up-to-date and efficient technological services possible to students and employees. We also are in the process of accepting applications for Vice President for University Advancement, a position that has been vacant for more than 18 months. Filling this position is vital as the university strives to maintain and improve its fund-raising and alumni activities. Also note that Paul McFadden, chief development officer for nearly a decade, is now the new president of the YSU Foundation. Catherine Cala, director of University Development, has been named interim chief development officer.

We also are searching for a new Chief of Police. Chief Jack Gocala retires at the end of this month. Over the course of 20 years, Chief Gocala has created one of the top university police departments in the region. I applaud him and everyone in the YSU Police Department for their hard work in keeping all of us safe.

### **Facilities**

We are in the process of planning several campus improvement projects that will begin this spring and will benefit everyone on campus.

In May, we will start major overhauls on auditoriums in Cushwa, Ward Beecher and DeBartolo halls. The auditorium upgrades, which should be complete by the start of the fall semester, represent the first phase in a multi-year plan to improve academic buildings across campus, including new flooring, lighting, wall finishes, major mechanical system upgrades and building exterior repairs. Also in May, we will embark on a project to update elevators across campus, starting with two elevators in Cushwa Hall and one in Kilcawley House. Also this spring, the second phase of the M2 Lincoln Parking Deck renovations will begin, as well as work on new recreation and athletics fields west of Fifth Avenue across from Stambaugh Stadium. Preliminary plans call for a new soccer field, track and softball field, as well as restrooms. This spring we also will undertake a project aimed at improving the university's underground utility tunnel system. Meanwhile, restoration work is continuing on the Pollock House on

Wick Avenue, and the second phase of new program space for the Office of Veterans Affairs in Beeghly Center is underway with completion expected by the end of spring.

The improvement projects are being funded through a combination of university bond funds, state capital funds and gifts to the university.

Finally, the university-owned Sacherman House on Lincoln Avenue was demolished earlier this month. After the Board of Trustees approved the demolition in September 2010, a group of community members expressed the desire to save the structure. In response, I formed a committee of university and community representatives to explore alternatives, including a request for proposals to assess any interest by third parties to develop and utilize the structure. This effort was not successful. The committee also considered working with local non-profit agencies and seeking state and federal grants. Again, these efforts were unsuccessful. More recently, the City of Youngstown cited the Sacherman House in violation of the City Property Maintenance Code, requiring the university to make repairs or face financial penalties. I had discussions with Mrs. Sacherman concerning the appearance and condition of the structure. Both parties acknowledged that it was not feasible, or practical, to make the necessary repairs; therefore, it was mutually decided that the university would demolish the house. The Sacherman family will be honored and recognized with an appropriate naming opportunity. I want to thank them for their understanding and their continued commitment to the university.

The university also owns the Peck House and Pilgrim Collegiate Church, both on Wick Avenue. YSU and the university-community committee are proceeding with an assessment of both of those structures as well.

### **Strategic Plan**

I am pleased to report that much progress has been made in the implementation of YSU 2020: The Strategic Plan of YSU, under the leadership of Provost Ikram Khawaja and Vice President for Finance and Administration Gene Grilli. In December, we provided a detailed progress report to the Board of Trustees. Allow me to highlight a few of the initiatives:

- In an effort to simplify and automate our business processes, the university is implementing “position request” and “performance evaluation” modules of the PeopleAdmin system in Human Resources and also is implementing automated and paperless time and leave reporting.
- An Enrollment Management Team has been formed to review and assess the university’s admissions standards/policies/deadlines/procedures and to guide overall enrollment efforts.
- The School of Graduate Studies and Research is continuing efforts to add and implement select graduate programs. Among the new/proposed programs in development and/or being implemented are the M.Ed. in Intervention Services, an Ed.S. in School Psychology, an MA in Interdisciplinary Communication and a Master of Respiratory Care.

We will continue to narrowly focus on the Strategic Plan in the months ahead and provide the campus with updates when there is new activity.

### **Happy Winter**

While the weather was mostly mild over the holidays, 2012 arrived with a burst of snow and wind that reminded us all of what may be ahead this winter. While I am always quick to thank our grounds crews for their excellent work in clearing campus roadways and sidewalks, I also want to caution everyone to be extra careful while driving and walking across campus in icy conditions.

Let me also take this opportunity to encourage anyone that has not already done so to sign up today for YSU Alert, the university’s emergency text-messaging and e-mailing system. In the event of an emergency or a closing/cancellation due to the weather, YSU Alert will send a text message and/or email directly to your cell phone or computer. To sign up, visit <http://alert.ysu.edu/>. And also remember that, with the winter weather upon us, the university realizes that some students and employees live a significant distance from campus. Individuals are not

expected to place themselves in a dangerous situation to get to campus. Use your best judgment in deciding whether it is safe to drive. Be safe, and stay warm.

### **Questions/Suggestions**

If you have questions regarding anything in this “From the desk of...” letter, or if you have issues that you would like to be addressed, please feel free to contact me at [ceanderson@ysu.edu](mailto:ceanderson@ysu.edu). Or, you can contact Shannon Tirone at [stirone@ysu.edu](mailto:stirone@ysu.edu) or Ron Cole at [racole01@ysu.edu](mailto:racole01@ysu.edu).

Here's to a successful spring semester!

January 2012

## YSU, YCS and AT&T unveil STEM Outreach Initiative

YSU is teaming with the city schools and AT&T to encourage high school students to pursue college degrees and careers in STEM fields.

The STEM Outreach Initiative is funded by a \$20,000 grant from the AT&T Foundation.

“This initiative will inspire high school students to pursue STEM

careers by nurturing and mentoring past and current YSU STEM students and by providing them with career experiences that give them a deep understanding of the opportunities of STEM education,” said Martin Abraham dean of YSU’s STEM College.

“Not only are STEM disciplines integral to communications technology and at the heart of our business, they are increasingly important to every business and the growth of our local economy,” said Stephen Kristan, director of external affairs for AT&T.

The fundamental objective of the initiative is to connect students at Chaney STEM High School with area STEM-related businesses as a means of encouraging them to pursue education and careers in STEM fields.

Abraham said the decision to work specifically with the Youngstown City Schools is intended to address populations that are nationally underrepresented in STEM disciplines.

The centerpiece of the initiative is an internship program starting summer 2012 for Chaney STEM students to attain hands-on, real-world experience in STEM-related fields.



Stephen Kristan, left, director of external affairs for AT&T, presents a check for \$20,000 to Connie Hathorn, center, superintendent of the Youngstown City Schools, and Martin Abraham, dean of the YSU College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The money will help fund the STEM Outreach Initiative.

“Such experiences help students to better understand the importance and relevance of academic coursework, giving them a better understanding of the academic rigor and requirements of a

STEM education,” he said. “Moreover, these experiences make students more desirable for potential employers during their college programs and after graduation, giving them a head start on a fulfilling lifetime career.”

In addition to internships, the initiative will include tutoring and mentorship activities that engage YSU STEM students and recent STEM College graduates to assist high school STEM students.

The initiative also will provide scholarships to students who graduate from the Chaney STEM High School, successfully complete the internship program, and enroll in the YSU STEM College.

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## **Commencement**

With the YSU mace in the foreground and the university seal in the background, YSU alumna Linda Gooden gives the address at Fall Commencement in Beeghly Center last month. Gooden, who earned a bachelor's degree in computer technology from YSU, is executive vice president of Lockheed Martin's Information Systems & Global Solutions business area and an officer of Lockheed Martin Corp. More than 600 students received diplomas.

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## **Paramount exhibit runs through Feb. 3 at McDonough Museum**

Visit the Liberty-Paramount Theater as it was in its heyday with photos, memorabilia, moving pictures and storytelling at the Paramount Project Exhibition that runs through Feb. 3 at the YSU McDonough Museum of Art.

Designed by the architect C. Howard Crane and originally titled The Liberty Theater, the facility in downtown Youngstown opened in 1918 as a 1700-seat theater, featuring silent movies and America's finest vaudeville stars. Despite modernization efforts, the renamed Paramount Theater was not able to survive the effects of deindustrialization and suburbanization and has lay dormant and in decay since 1976.



Rendering by Strollo Architects of the restored terracotta façade of the Paramount Theater in downtown Youngstown.

The Paramount Project Exhibition is part of The Paramount Project, a current effort aimed at restoration of the terracotta façade of the building. The remainder of the building is no longer viable for restoration and will be demolished to make way for an open gathering space. The McDonough exhibit includes a simulation of the vision for the gathering space.

In addition, the exhibit features the Paramount Oral History Project, videos of individuals' memories of the theater. It also features the YSU Students Motivated by the Arts' K-16 educational gallery. The SMARTS Stars of the Paramount Parade Tour was created by Becky Keck, Leslie Cusano, Heather Seno, Joyce Mistovich and features original work by renowned pop artist Chris Yambar.

The museum is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. Admission is free. Call 330-941-1400 or visit [www.mcdonoughmuseum.edu](http://www.mcdonoughmuseum.edu).

The Paramount Project Committee hosts a benefit event 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21 at the museum to celebrate initiation of Phase 1 of the project. The benefit event is free and open to the public.

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## **Diversity awards nominations due Feb. 1**

The deadline is Feb. 1 to make nominations for awards that will be presented at the Diversity Leadership Recognition Celebration in March.

Nominees should be leaders who have exemplified a commitment to the promotion and engagement of race, ethnicity, religion, culture, gender, disability, language, sexual orientation and organizational membership.

Recognition will be given in the following categories: Leaders of Tomorrow – an upper division YSU student (i.e. graduate student, senior or junior); Campus Leadership – YSU administrator, staff or faculty; and Community Leadership – individual, business, group, agency, organization or community initiative (must be in existence for at least three years). Nominations can be completed online or obtained at [http://www.yсу.edu/div\\_ysu/](http://www.yсу.edu/div_ysu/).

Award recipients will be recognized at the Diversity Leadership Recognition Celebration at Mr. Anthony's on Thursday, March 29, 2012, at 6 p.m. The cost is \$35 per person or a table of eight for \$280.

For more information or to make reservations, contact the YSU Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity at 330-941-3370. Proceeds from the event will fund student scholarships through an endowment that has been established with the YSU Foundation. For more information on the scholarship, visit the YSU Foundation's website at <http://www.yсу.edu/ysufoundation/welcome.shtml>. The scholarship application deadline is Feb. 15.



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## **1,000 and counting**

The YSU men's basketball program notched its 1,000th victory with a 68-64 overtime win Jan. 5 in Beeghly Center. Here, junior guard Blake Allen launches a three-point jumper. The Penguins went out two nights later and pummeled Illinois-Chicago 71-50, marking their best start to league play since joining the Horizon League a decade ago. The Penguins also notched their ninth win of the season, equaling the win total for all of last season. This past weekend, the Penguins fell to Valparaiso and Butler on the road, dropping their record to 9-8. The women's team is putting up equally impressive numbers, boosting its record to 8-6 with a win Jan. 7 against Valparaiso in Beeghly Center. It was the team's best start since the 1999-2000 season. Starting this Friday, Jan. 20, the men and women play a total of 13 home games in the span of five weeks. For schedules, visit [www.ysusports.com](http://www.ysusports.com).



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## **Game of Hope set for Feb. 4 in Beeghly Center**

The 8<sup>th</sup> annual Game of Hope Charity Basketball Classic, featuring celebrity teams coached by U.S. Rep. Bill Johnson and WYTV anchor Stan Boney will be 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4, in Beeghly Center on the campus of Youngstown State University.

Tickets for the game sponsored by the Hope Foundation of the Mahoning Valley are \$6 at the door or can be purchased on the Foundation website at [www.hopemv.org](http://www.hopemv.org). The game benefits the Hope Foundation of the Mahoning Valley, a non-profit organization that raises funds to help chronically/terminally ill children so that they may have the experiences generally afforded healthy children.

Teams are comprised of elected officials, community leaders and media from the region. Johnson's team features assistant coach Laura Meeks, president of Eastern Gateway Community College, while Boney's team features assistant coach Cynthia E. Anderson, president of YSU.

The event is sponsored by television stations WKBN 27 First News & FOX Youngstown; WYTV & MyYTV; radio stations 95.9 KISS, 93.3 "THE WOLF" and News Radio 570 WKBN; UAW Locals 1112 & 1714; Refresh Dental, NEOEA (North Eastern Ohio Education Association); Time Warner Cable and the Lamar Advertising Company.

The game has raised nearly \$60,000. It will be televised via tape delay starting Sunday, Feb. 26, and over the next three months is expected to reach a viewing audience of nearly 1 million people. Visit the Hope Foundation website for channels and times.

