

## YOUNGSTOWN

# Khawaja named interim dean

He is the former chair of the Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences at YSU

By Bill Rodgers  
*News Editor*

The search for the new dean for the College of Arts and Sciences is still on hold, but a new interim dean has arrived to direct the college through the

end of the year.

Ikram Khawaja, former professor and chair of the Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences at Youngstown State University, has come



**KHAWAJA**

out of retirement to take the job. Khawaja retired in December 2002, but took the position Friday and will act as the interim dean until December 31.

Khawaja's contract

defines his annual base salary as \$120, 510. His actual salary for the six-month position will be \$60, 255.

During Khawaja's stay, university administrators plan to begin a new dean search with the direction of Robert Herbert,

YSU's new provost, who arrives on July 25. The search initially began when Robert Bolla, the former dean, announced that he would be leaving YSU on June 1 to become the dean of the grad-

please see **DEAN**, Page 2

**DEAN**, continued from page 1

uate school and vice provost for research at Bradley University in Peoria, Ill.

Jane Kestner, associate dean for the college, acted as dean after Bolla's departure. It is Khawaja's second time serving as the interim dean of the college. He held the position from July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002 prior to Bolla's arrival.

YSU contacted Khawaja

with the job offer while he was volunteering at a university in Pakistan, developing curriculum for earth and environmental science classes. This year was Khawaja's third year at the university. Interim Provost Bege Bowers said the choice of Khawaja for interim dean would work out well for the university.

"With Khawaja, we don't

have any vacancy to fill," Bowers said. "If someone currently on staff were appointed, there would have been that position to fill as well."

Bowers added that Khawaja, who was involved with YSU for 35 years, had a lot of loyalty to the university. She said he felt honored to be offered the position.

"He knows the university

well," Bowers said. "He's a capable and a fair leader."

Khawaja said Tuesday that he felt calm and prepared to take on the job of interim dean.

"I'm very comfortable here," Khawaja said. "I like the people in the office. After 35 years here I feel very calm and have no concerns or apprehensions in taking the position."

Khawaja said that he

believes that his record with the university was probably the administration's deciding factor in choosing him for the job.

He said he was prepared to stay longer than his contract period if the new provost and search committee are not able to find a replacement dean. He said he would provide any assistance he could to the search.

"I'm happy to be of service to YSU," Khawaja said. "Hopefully we can find someone early next year so I can get back, but I'm flexible. I can wait until a new person comes in. I don't have to pack up and leave exactly on December 31."

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