

New Historic Preservation Program Developed



News Services
Dr. Ore

TAMMY KING
Staff Reporter

The history department at YSU has proposed a new program called historic preservation, which emphasizes identifying and preserving historical sites.

Developed by Dr. Janet Ore, history, the proposed program will be one of a few in the country to be offered at the undergraduate level.

Students in the program will learn the basic, marketable skills needed to work as preservationists.

These skills include identify-

ing and describing historic sites and evaluating the historical importance of the site. Sites can include houses, housing districts, public and industrial buildings and bridges.

Students also learn how to fill out state and federal forms and learn how to work with state and federal agencies, such as the Ohio Historical Society.

"This program will give students the general working knowledge to pursue a career in historic preservation," Ore said.

Many times it is the preservationist's job to maintain

the sites' historical setting or historical accuracy, according to Ore.

"Historical accuracy and how the site is presented to the public are very important to the preservationist," Ore said.

Until the proposed program is approved by the University and the Ohio Board of Regents, students will major in historic preservation under YSU's Individualized Curriculum Program (ICP).

The ICP program combines historic preservation, history, anthropology, geography and art. Students will also specialize in an area such as archaeology, museum

practices and planning.

Planning courses focus on city planning, transportation, geography, tourism planning and public administration.

Courses within the historic preservation area include introduction to historic preservation, presentation and interpretation of historical sites, American architectural history and cultural resource management.

Students will also complete a historic preservation internship in which they will get on-the-job experience before graduating.

See **HISTORY** page 6

History

Continued from page 1

According to Ore, preservationists will usually work as a consultant or an overseer within a restoration team of architects, designers and lawyers.

"Preservationists can also be called in to document worker neighborhoods, for example, if the site is to be destroyed," Ore said.

She added, "This way, there will be a record of the district, how it was constructed and what materials were used for posterity."

Although the field is highly competitive, Ore said students with a history background can get a jump on others because they have good research skills and good writing skills.

History students can also understand the sites' significance according to history.

"Houses and buildings can give people great insight into the history of the city, what kind of people live there and what their lifestyles were like," Ore said.

Ore was hired by the University in the fall to direct and create the program. While working on her Ph.D. in American history, she worked as a preservationist in Montana.