

## Edwards and YSU: A marriage with no regrets



Joe Edwards

When Joe Edwards tires from reading reports and shuffling papers, he gets up from his desk, grabs a cup of coffee and takes a stroll through the corridors of Bliss Hall, home to YSU's College of Fine and

refreshes me."

Later this month, Edwards will take a final walk through Bliss Hall as dean of the college. After nearly five decades at YSU – as a student, faculty member and administrator – Edwards retires June 30.

"I remember my father used to say that he never for one day regretted marrying my mother," Edwards said. "Well, I have never for one day regretted marrying YSU."

And what a marriage it has been.

Born and raised in the Brier Hill section of Youngstown, Edwards credits his father for his love of music. An auto mechanic by trade, Edwards' father played

*(continued on back page)*

Performing Arts.

"I can hear jazz or classical music coming out of the practice rooms," he says. "I might find a couple students rehearsing a scene from a play, or I can stick my head into one of the art studios. It

## Jakubek appointed to Board

John R. Jakubek of Canfield, an anesthesiologist and a graduate of YSU, has been appointed to the YSU Board of Trustees by Gov. Ted Strickland.

He will complete the unexpired term of Dianne Bitonte Miladore, which runs through June 2014. Miladore stepped down after being appointed to the board of trustees at the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine and Pharmacy.

Jakubek earned a bachelor of science degree summa cum laude from YSU in 1979 and is a 1982 graduate of Ohio State University College of Medicine. He serves on the staff of Bel-Park Anesthesia Associates Inc. and St. Elizabeth Boardman Health Center, where he is also a member of the Clinical Medical Executive Committee. He is a didactic and clinical instructor at the St. Elizabeth Health Center School for Nurse Anesthetists and medical director of the Surgery Center of Canfield. He also is a clinical assistant professor of anesthesiology at the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine and Pharmacy.

He is a member of the YSU Penguin Club, a lifetime member of both the YSU and OSU alumni associations, and a member of the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists, American Society of Anesthesiologists, Ohio Society of Anesthesiologists, Ohio State Medical Association, International Anesthesia Research Society and the Mahoning County Medical Society. ■



John Jakubek



## Summer work

In the shadows of Stambaugh Stadium, construction crews work on the \$1.2 million West Campus Gateway project on Spring Street. The project, funded through state capital funds, closely mirrors improvements made on University Plaza last summer and should be finished by the start of fall semester classes. Other summer campus construction projects include roof improvements to Fedor, Jones and Ward Beecher halls, as well as the roof over the swimming pool in Beeghly Center, and the start of a major overhaul to the inside of Coffelt Hall, which eventually will house the School of Graduate Studies and Research. In addition, work continues on the construction of the new home of the Williamson College of Business Administration along Rayen Avenue.

## Peace Officer Academy graduates 500th student

Nineteen students graduated this spring from the Peace Officer Training Academy at YSU, bringing to 500 the number of aspiring police officers the program has trained since it began in March 2000.

Now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year of operation, the academy has graduates working at police departments in cities such as Fayetteville, N.C. and Ocean City, Md., and with departments across the Mahoning Valley. One graduate landed a job as a special agent with the U.S. State Department and has traveled all over the world in the position.

"Job prospects seem to be pretty good, if you're willing to move," said Rick Mahan, academy coordinator and a former Niles police officer. "A fair share of our kids get jobs locally, too."

Housed in the Department of Criminal Justice in Cushwa Hall, the academy is cer-

tified by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission. Students who complete the 582-hour course and meet certain physical fitness standards qualify to sit for a state police officer certification examination.

Most cadets in the academy are also pursuing bachelor's or associate's degrees in criminal justice. For them, the course counts as 12 semester hours toward their degree. Out of 24 who joined the academy for spring semester, he said, 20 are working toward a degree.

The course is also available on a non-credit basis for people who have lost a job or are looking to jump-start a career in law enforcement. "Sometimes that's the way to go, especially if you want to start work right away," said Mahan, adding that police agencies sometimes hire academy graduates and then pay their college costs as a

fringe benefit.

Academy classes cover a range of topics, including firearms training, self-defense, first aid and CPR, field sobriety testing, riot control, bombs and explosives, and legal issues. Many of the instructors are police chiefs for departments in the region and active police officers.

While academy students are predominantly male, Mahan said the number of women has been rising steadily, as the demand for women in law enforcement grows. Class size is limited to 30, and some have had as many as seven women; the spring class had two.

"One thing we've seen is that every academy class has been full at the beginning, and we do no advertising. It's just word of mouth," Mahan said. ■

## Beeghly family receives Friends of the University award

The Beeghly family, longtime business leaders whose philanthropy has touched the region's educational, religious and health care institutions, was presented YSU's Friends of the University Award at a dinner this spring on the YSU campus.

Initiated in 1997, the annual award recognizes alumni, friends and donors who have had a significant impact on YSU.

Two YSU buildings – Beeghly Hall, home of the Beeghly College of Education, and the Beeghly Health and Physical Education Center – are among nine college buildings around the country that bear the Beeghly name.

Bruce Beeghly, president of Altronic Inc. in Girard, now serves on the Ohio Board of Regents. He is a former member and chair of the YSU Board of Trustees.

In 2005, he received an honorary Doctor of Science degree during YSU's commencement.

Bruce Beeghly's father, R. Thornton Beeghly, who died last October at age 96, also received an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from YSU in 1983, along with the YSU Alumni Association's Distinguished Citizen Award.

The family, through the L. A. Beeghly Fund, has made contributions to more than 140 organizations over a half-century.

Read more about the Beeghly family history in eUpdate at <http://cfweb.cc.yzu.edu/marketcomm/index.cfm> ■



*YSU President David C. Sweet presents the Friend of the University Award to the Beeghly Family at a dinner in Kilcawley Center. Accepting the award are Bruce Beeghly and Mary Alice Schaff. Beeghly is the grandson of Leon A. Beeghly, who came to Youngstown in 1918 and started the Standard Slag Co. Mrs. Schaff is L.A. Beeghly's daughter.*

### Youngstown STATE UNIVERSITY

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# Economics prof creates database of news stories

YSU economics professor and chair Tod Porter is an avid listener of National Public Radio news programs. As a hobby, he turned his casual listening habits into a search for interesting, timely lecture materials about economics.



Tod Porter

"Seven years ago, I started recording stories off the Internet, which I would play in class," he said. "The stories turned out to be successful teaching tools — they broke up the lecture, they provided concrete real-world applications of economic theory, and they were a good way to start class discussions."

The hobby has turned into much more. Porter, who was on sabbatical this

past academic year, turned his collection of economics-related NPR stories into a searchable Internet database called "Media for Microeconomics," a multimedia-central teaching tool and an interactive Web site rolled into one.

The database includes links to news stories touching on topics covered in introductory classes in microeconomics, and the site provides other economics instructors with user-friendly access to the database.

Porter, who lives in Poland and has been at YSU for 25 years, presented his sabbatical project at the 2009 Midwest Economic Association conference in March. "Media for Microeconomics," found online at <http://class.ysu.edu/~mfm>, will also be featured in the summer edition of the primary journal for teaching economics, the *Journal of Economic Education*.

The Web site, started in December 2008, is a searchable collection of links to ap-

proximately 300 audio or video stories from NPR, Fox News, BBC, CNN, and other sources.

Visitors, for instance, can search for "price fixing" and get eight results, ranging from a report from Fox News on manipulation of milk prices to a report from the BBC on Samsung's admission to price fixing. A search for "unions" turns up 17 reports on topics ranging from strikes in Belgium to the future of the AFL-CIO.

Porter, who earned a Ph.D. in 1984 from Syracuse University, also rates and provides a short commentary on each news story.

Since December, users have conducted nearly 1,000 searches on the site.

Porter, who was assisted in the project by graduate student Alysia D'Amico, said he plans to continue to update the site, and he hopes that users will eventually begin to contribute as well. ■

Story by Britta Snowberger

## Faculty & Staff

Send items for "Faculty & Staff" to Cynthia Vinarsky at [cevinarsky@ysu.edu](mailto:cevinarsky@ysu.edu).

**Helene Sinnreich**, director of Judaic and Holocaust Studies, History, had a chapter titled "Women and the Holocaust" published in the book, *Plight and Fate of Women During and Following Genocide*. As editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Jewish Identities*, Sinnreich, along with coauthor Kathy Leeper, will have an article published in the Journal's July issue.

**Norma J. Stefanik**, urban designer, Center for Urban and Regional Studies, and a registered architect, has passed the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design examination to become accredited as a LEED Accredited Professional.

**Bege Bowers**, associate provost, **Janice Elias**, interim dean of the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services, and **Sharon Stringer**, assessment director, conducted two accreditation workshops on "Conducting a Self-Study in Turbulent and Changing Times" at the annual meeting of the Higher Learning Commission in

Chicago. Their paper on the topic was also published in the conference proceedings.

**Helen Guohong Han**, assistant professor, Management, co-authored a paper with Peter D. Harms, entitled "Team Identification, Trust and Conflict: A Mediation Model," that has been accepted for publication by the *International Journal of Conflict Management*. Han presented her research professorship project, titled "Gee, he has so many connections, he might be a good leader: Examining the link between social networks, leadership, and workplace deviance," at the annual International Academy of Management and Business Conference in New Orleans. In August, she also plans to present "Bridging the Gap: Assessing Leadership and Career Satisfaction in a Diverse Context" at the 2009 Academy of Management Meeting in Chicago, and will present on "Trust and Career Satisfaction: The Mediating Role of LMX," at the annual meeting of American Psychological Association in Toronto.

**Graciela Perera**, assistant professor, Computer Science and Information Systems, co-authored a peer-reviewed publication titled "Tipping Point Evaluation of a Network Intrusion Detection System for Peer-to-Peer Networks," presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Computing Alliance of Hispanic-Serving Institutions Conference. The event was sponsored by Google and held in Mountain View, Calif. Perera will also attend the Women's Institute in Summer Enrichment. The institute is a residential program on the University of California, Berkeley campus.

**Melissa T. Smith**, professor, Foreign Languages and Literatures, translated the play "Russian Dream" which was staged recently at the Heartland Theatre in Normal, Ill. Smith's translation was first published in the book *Russian Mirror: Three Plays by Contemporary Russian Women*, and was chosen from a large number of Russian plays for production by the Illinois theatre and its community sponsors.

# New Office of Veterans Affairs opens on campus

In an effort to better serve members of the military returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, YSU has opened a new Office of Veterans Affairs.

Led by YSU graduate and Vietnam War veteran Jim Olive, the office is designed to help veterans with the transition from military life to college life, including assistance with admissions, financial aid, registration, academic advising and tutoring.

“At a time when the nation is anticipating the return of thousands of our



*Jim Olive, coordinator of the new YSU Office of Veterans Affairs, and Vernon Haynes, chair of the new YSU Veterans Advisory Council, listen at a news conference announcing the new office.*

courageous military men and women from war zones overseas, it is important that YSU be prepared to offer the special services needed by these individuals,” said Cynthia Anderson, vice president for Student Affairs.

“The office is designed to help smooth the admissions and registration processes for veterans and to help make their time at YSU – both in and out of the classroom – a fulfilling, successful experience.”

The office on the third floor of Tod Hall was developed in re-

sponse to the federal government’s new GI Bill for post-Sept. 11, 2001, veterans. The bill, which goes into effect in August,

will fund the full cost of tuition at YSU for veterans who are eligible for full benefits.

“We want to do everything we can to make these veterans feel welcome at YSU, and to ensure that they are successful as they move into this new chapter of their lives,” said Vernon Haynes, YSU professor and chair of psychology and chair of the new nine-member YSU Veterans Advisory Council.

For more information, call 330-941-2503. ■

## eUpdate exclusives

For more news about YSU, read these and other stories in eUpdate at <http://cfweb.cc.yosu.edu/marketcomm/index.cfm>.

- **Spring commencement. Graduate earns Fulbright.**
- **Student wins Phi Kappa Phi Award of Excellence.**
- **Graduate students honored by Ohio Public Health Association.**
- **New class of University Scholars introduced.**

## Joe Edwards

(Continued from page 1)

the drums and regularly took his five children to concerts. The sounds of Ravel, Debussy and Stravinsky filled the home. Father and three sons joined to make up the “Melodaires,” a wedding band that performed throughout the area.

“He inspired in us a sense of excellence,” he said.

Edwards played the saxophone, and later the clarinet. He graduated from Ursuline High School in 1960 and enrolled in the Dana School of Music at Youngstown University, working in a local grocery store to help pay tuition. Dana was located in a single house just north of Alumni House on Wick Avenue. Edwards remembers practicing in the basement.

The place has changed a lot since then. “The beautifying of the campus over the years is just a marvel,” he said. “It’s like nothing that I could have imagined.”

Edwards earned a bachelor’s degree in music education in 1965, and then went on to Michigan State University, where he received a master’s degree in music. After

two years as an instructor at Morningside College in Iowa, he enrolled in the doctoral program at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music in 1969. At about the same time, YSU called, asking him to accept a one-year faculty assignment. He did. After three more one-year contracts, Edwards received a tenure-track position.

At Dana, Edwards created the saxophone degree program, taught clarinet and conducted the symphonic, concert and marching bands. He also kept a busy performance schedule, including the Youngstown Symphony Orchestra, Blossom Festival Orchestra and American Wind Symphony. He played for Bobby Darin and Bobby Vinton, toured with the International Circus, and even sat in one night with the Motown band for the Temptations.

In 1983, after 21 years on the YSU faculty, he was offered a one-year assignment as assistant director of Dana. “I didn’t want to get involved in administration,” he said. “My love was performing

and teaching.”

He accepted the assignment, anyway. It turned into a 26-year career in college administration, first as Dana assistant director, then director, interim dean of the Beeghly College of Education, associate dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts and, finally, dean in 2005.

Edwards, who in retirement plans to return to YSU to teach part-time, said it has been a privilege to work with the talented, dedicated faculty in the college. And, although opportunity elsewhere has knocked, he says he is happy he stayed in Youngstown.

“There was something about the faculty here, about the growth and energy of the university,” said Edwards, who looks forward to having more time to travel, golf and practice his clarinet.

“I was part of the YSU family.” ■

*(Editor’s Note: Bryan DePoy, interim dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at Southeastern Louisiana University, replaces Edwards as dean on July 1.)*