Youngstown State University

May 2009

Paul Sracic

The big dig…
Construction is underway on the new home of the Williamson College of Business Administration along Rayen Avenue. The $34 million facility, financed through a combination of private donations and state funding, is expected to be open by the start of fall semester 2010. Located at the corner of Phelps Street and Rayen Avenue, the 106,000-square-foot, three-story building will be about twice the size of the college’s present home on Lincoln Avenue and is designed to bridge the campus and downtown Youngstown.

Srasic named Fulbright Scholar
Professor and chair of political science Paul Srasic has been named a Fulbright Scholar and will lecture at the University of Tokyo and at Sophia University in Tokyo during the 2009-2010 academic year.

Srasic, who also directs the Rigelhaupt Pre-Law Center at YSU, is among 1,100 U.S. faculty and professionals who will travel abroad through the Fulbright program next academic year.

He will teach courses on the American Constitution and on the American presidency.

“I want to congratulate Dr. Srasic for this prestigious appointment,” said Shearle Furnish, dean of YSU’s College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. “Paul’s professional accomplishments and his contributions to the university and the community are many. He is most deserving of this opportunity, and I am confident that students in Japan will find him to be a great asset to their understanding of the United States.”

Srasic joins an impressive list of individuals who have participated in the Fulbright Japan-United States program. That list includes Nobel Prize Laureates, Pulitzer Prize winners and Supreme Court Justices.

A resident of Boardman, Srasic joined the YSU faculty in 1992 and was named chair in 2007. His most recent book is San Antonio v. Rodriguez and the Pursuit of Equal Education: The Debate over Discrimination and School Funding (2006). He has contributed articles to several academic journals and books. His op-ed columns have appeared in The Washington Post and USA Today, and he has been interviewed by several national media outlets, including CNN, NPR, The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times.

H&HS, F&PA deans named
A long-time YSU faculty member and administrator and a trumpet player and college administrator from Louisiana have been appointed deans at YSU.

Joseph Mosca, currently associate dean of YSU’s Bitonte College of Health and Human Services, has been named the new dean of that college. Mosca, who joined YSU’s faculty in 1989, replaces John Yem- ma, who retired as dean last summer.

Bryan DePoy, interim dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at Southeastern Louisiana University, has been named dean of YSU’s College of Fine and Performing Arts. DePoy replaces Joe Edwards, who retires (continued on back page)
eUpdate exclusives

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

• YSU history student presents a paper on “Women’s Work” at the national conference of the Appalachian Studies Association.

• Asteroid 2000 LS36 will now be known as Asteroid Pirko in honor of alumnus Rick Pirko, the late show producer and technician of YSU’s Ward Beecher Planetarium.

• YSU outlines its environmental and sustainability efforts and successes as part of the annual Earth Day celebration on campus.

• The YSU Department of Nursing wins the National Occupational Research Agenda Partnering Award for Worker Health and Safety, in recognition of its work in the “Safe Patient Handling and Movement” pilot project.

• Student activities and honors: Two respiratory care students are among a select few chosen to make a presentation at the LaunchTown Entrepreneurship Awards competition in Cleveland; four students in the new gerontology program present papers at the Ohio Association of Gerontology in Education Conference; and, members of the staff of The Jambar student newspaper win awards in the 2009 Society of Collegiate Journalists competition.

Archives, Melnick Museum appoint new objects curator

From bloodletting devices and 19th century amputation kits to World War II-era nurses’ uniforms and old YSU sweaters, Cassie Nespor collects old things.

Nespor, the first official objects curator for the University Archives and the Rose Melnick Medical Museum, is in charge of handling donations and developing exhibits of artifacts related to medicine or YSU.

Medicine-related items are displayed in the medical museum, founded along Wick Avenue in 1985 by Dr. John C. Melnick, and YSU-related items are showcased in Archives and Special Collections on Maag Library’s fifth floor.

“As objects curator, people are trusting me to provide the right environment for their artifacts, whether it’s to keep them from getting too hot or wet, and to catalog them correctly and use them in engaging, educational exhibits,” said Nespor of Sharon, Pa.

At YSU since January, Nespor earned a bachelor’s degree in history at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa., and a master’s degree in library and information science with a focus in archives, preservation and records management at the University of Pittsburgh.

She gained additional archives experience while organizing documents and helping to create exhibits at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh.

As objects curator, Nespor is taking over the work started by former Melnick Museum curator and university archivist Vic Fleischer. She’s expanded upon his work by developing a blog that details specific museum artifacts (http://rosemelnickmuseum.wordpress.com) and by reaching out to the community for donations.

“The more artifacts we get, the more interesting we can make our exhibits,” she said. “People who are interested in donating items should contact me first rather than simply dropping things off at the university; there is a simple but important process to transfer donations correctly.”

Visitors to the Rose Melnick Medical Museum may call to set up an appointment on weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. To donate to the museum, or for more information, contact Nespor by phone at 330-941-4662 or by e-mail at clnespor@ysu.edu.

— Story by Britta Snowberger

Youngstown State University

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Cassie Nespor, pictured in the Rose Melnick Medical Museum, is the new objects curator for the museum and University Archives.
Zara Rowlands, assistant professor, Human Ecology, had her posters “Social Context May Sabotage Diet Compliance in Latino Women with Diabetes” and “Gardening May Improve Vegetable Intake in Young Children” at the Ohio Association of Family and Consumer Sciences 2009 Annual Meeting in Westlake, Ohio.

Victoria E. Kress, associate professor, and Jake J. Protivnak, assistant professor, Counseling and Special Education, had an article entitled “Professional Development Plans to Remedy Problematic Counseling Student Behaviors” published in the journal Counselor Education and Supervision.


Mary F. Hake, administrative assistant, Dean’s Office, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, has been awarded recertification for her Certified Administrative Professional (CAP) designation by the International Association of Administrative Professionals.

Nina Stourman, assistant professor, Biochemistry, gave an invited talk at the Duquesne University American Chemical Society Student Affiliates meeting. The presentation entitled “Functional Genomics of E. Coli: Glutathione Metabolism” was accompanied by a poster delivered by Stourman’s students, Janelle Russell and Ashley Ruozzo.
Deans named (Continued from page 1)

as dean on July 1.
“We are pleased to bring these two very highly-qualified individuals into the leadership ranks of the university,” Khawaja said. “We look forward to working with both of them as we begin to reposition YSU as a premier urban research university.”

The new deans are expected to start their new positions on July 1.
“Dr. Mosca has experience that is deep both in the college and in the community and the region,” said Shearle Furnish, dean of YSU’s College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and chair of the search committee for H&HS.
Paul Kobulnicky, executive director of YSU’s Maag Library and chair of the search committee for the F&PA position, said there was widespread support for DePoy’s candidacy.
“We were impressed by his sophisticated understanding of (Ohio Board of Regents) Chancellor (Eric) Fingerhut’s strategic planning initiatives and the potential contributions of the College of Fine and Performing Arts to that process,” Kobulnicky said.

Final Four hoops at Beeghly

The basketball hoops from the 2009 NCAA Men’s Basketball Final Four in Detroit have found a new home – YSU’s Beeghly Center. The baskets and backboards, attained through an agreement with Spalding, were used during the Final Four for practices, both semifinal games and the national championship game April 6 when North Carolina defeated Michigan State at Ford Field. Following the game, the hoops were shipped to Youngstown. Here, Penguins guard Kelvin Bright dunks on the new hoops.

AASCU president, DelBene to speak at commencement

Constantine William Curris, president of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, will speak at YSU’s spring undergraduate commencement 10 a.m., Saturday, May 16 in Beeghly Center.
Janet DelBene, YSU professor emeritus in chemistry and an American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellow, will be the featured speaker at the spring graduate commencement 2:30 p.m. Saturday, May 16, also in Beeghly.

Student speakers for the morning undergraduate ceremony are Jennifer Houston and Hannah Vinsel. Houston, an honors student with a 4.0 grade point average, will graduate with a bachelor’s degree in art education and a bachelor’s degree in art history. Vinsel, a 2008-09 Beeghly College of Education Dean’s Dozen honoree, will receive a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education.
Molly Ceci will be the student speaker at afternoon graduate commencement. Ceci, a member of the Ohio Education Association and the Council for Exceptional Children, will graduate with a master’s degree in education as an intervention specialist.