

## Yemma retires, leaves 'large legacy'



John Yemma

John Yemma, a YSU alum who has led the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services as dean since the college was created in 1992, is retiring at the end of this month with 37 years of

university service to his credit.

"All I wanted to do was to make a positive difference, and I think I did that," Yemma said, noting that the Bitonte College has grown 60 percent over the last decade and is now the university's largest

college with more than 3,500 students and eight departments.

"We put in many new programs during this time, and I wanted to offer everything a student would need to get into the job market," he said. "The university has always supported me, and we have a wonderful faculty. They're so cooperative. That's why we've been able to achieve what we have."

Ikram Khawaja, interim provost, said Yemma's service and commitment to YSU over nearly four decades has been unparal-

leled.

"Under his leadership, the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services has evolved into a dynamic, progressive and growing academic unit with top-notch faculty and programs that directly serve the needs of the region," Khawaja said. "He leaves a large legacy and will be missed."

Yemma earned a bachelor's degree in education from YSU in 1961, then went on to pursue a master's degree in biology from Vanderbilt University and a doctor

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## Chancellor expects community college open by fall 2009

A committee of 40 regional education and community leaders has been formed to implement a plan to bring community college education to the Mahoning Valley.

The committee met for the first time last month at the Chevrolet Center in Youngstown. Eric Fingerhut, chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, said the committee will continue to meet through the end of the year to develop a strategic vision for the community college, to identify initial degree programs and how they will be delivered and to develop recruiting and marketing efforts and a governance structure.

Fingerhut said he expects the community college to "be up and running by fall 2009."

Among the committee members is Tom Maraffa, YSU special assistant to the president; Nathan Ritchey, chair of YSU's

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### Out with the old...

*Within hours of the conclusion of spring commencement, work crews started replacing the floor in the main gymnasium of Beeghly Center. It is the first time the floor has been replaced since the gymnasium opened in the 1970s. The project is expected to be completed in time for summer commencement on Aug. 17.*

## Centennial Mace

*Janet E. Del Bene, professor emeritus of chemistry, places the new YSU Ceremonial Mace in a cradle during commencement in Stambaugh Auditorium on May 17. The mace, commissioned in recognition of YSU's Centennial, will become a traditional part of all future commencement ceremonies. It was created by a team of artists led by Greg Moring, associate professor of art. For more information on the mace and commencement, including photos, visit eUpdate at <http://cfweb.cc.yosu.edu/marketcomm/index.cfm>.*



## eUpdate exclusives

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

- Four alums were honored at YSU's Centennial Commencement. The ceremony also featured the introduction of the new YSU Ceremonial Mace.
- Youngstown Early College, a partnership between YSU and the Youngstown city schools, graduated its first class. Four students received associate degrees.
- Two students have received Goldwater and Phi Kappa Phi honors.
- YSU welcomed the latest class of University Scholars.
- The Penguins hosted the Horizon League baseball tournament, but fell short.
- A new study shows that the vast majority of college graduates believe their education was worth it, even considering the time and money required to attend.
- Despite ongoing efforts to broaden global knowledge and understanding, a new national study finds that internationalization is not a high priority on most college campuses.
- Campus News Roundup features the Penguin Regatta, Cinco de Mayo, YSU's "outstanding" math team, and much more.

## Pollock Foundations pledge \$500K to Capital Campaign



William B. Pollock



Kathryn C. Pollock

The William B. and Kathryn C. Pollock Foundation and the Pollock Company Foundation have together pledged \$500,000 to YSU's Centennial Capital Campaign to help in construction of a new building for the Williamson College of Business Administration.

The Executive Board Room in the new building will be named for the Foundations in recognition of the gift.

"Having the Pollock Foundations join YSU in the construction of our new business school building is just another example of their commitment to the professional and intellectual renaissance currently taking place in Youngstown," YSU President David

C. Sweet said.

The Pollock gift is part of YSU's \$43 million Centennial Capital Campaign. With the Pollock Foundations' gift, the campaign total is \$42 million.

"The Foundations' trustees are pleased to continue the Pollock family's legacy of support to this most important institution," said Franklin S. Bennett Jr., co-trustee of the Foundations.

In 1931, William B. Pollock II became president and chief executive of the Pollock Co., a major producer of iron and steel equipment started by his grandfather in 1863. A native of Youngstown, Pollock was active in the region's business and civic communities and served on the boards of several institutions, including YSU. He died in 1990 at the age of 84.

The Pollock Foundations have also contributed to YSU's Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center, McDonough Museum of Art, Mad About the Arts and the Beeghly College of Education.

For more information, visit <http://www.yosu.edu/centennialcampaign/index.htm>. ■



## Faculty & Staff

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

**Shearle Furnish**, dean, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, has published an article titled "Thematic Structure and Symbolic Motif in the Middle English Breton Lays" in the journal *Traditio: Studies in Ancient and Medieval history, Thought and Religion*, Volume 62.

**Sherry Linkon** and **John Russo**, co-directors of the Center for Working-Class Studies, were the plenary speakers at the Rethinking Labour: Labour Affect and Material Culture Conference, held in Dublin, Ireland in April. Their presentation at the William Jefferson Clinton Institute for American Studies at University College was titled "Learning About Labour: A New Working-Class Studies Perspective."

**James J. Carroll**, professor, Physics and Astronomy, presented an invited talk in late March at the spring meeting of the Ohio Section of the American Physical Society. YSU undergraduate students

**Trevor Balint**, **Geoffrey Trees** and **Isaac Mills** also presented talks on work at the YSU Isomer Physics Project. The meeting was hosted by YSU and the theme was "Touring the Electromagnetic Spectrum."

**Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez**, professor, Philosophy and Religious Studies, and director, Dr. James Dale Ethics Center, delivered a lecture titled "Patriotism & Morality" at the Hale Ethics Lecture Series. The event was held at the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York.

**Annette Burden**, associate professor, Mathematics and Statistics, and Interim Distance Learning Director, has been elected to a two-year term as president of the International Society of Technology in Education's Special Interest Group for Technology Coordinators. SIGTC is a professional organization that helps technology coordinators meet the challenges of their rapidly changing field by addressing current legislation and advancements in technology leadership. ■

### In memoriam...

## William A. Wood



William A. Wood

William A. Wood, 56, professor and director of YSU's School of Technology, died May 27 at his home in McCandless Township, Pa., following an extended illness.

Wood joined YSU's faculty in September 1988. He was named Outstanding Professor in the YSU School of Engineering Technology in 1997 and 2001. He held bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from Cornell University and a Ph.D. and MBA from the University of Pittsburgh.

Among others, he leaves his wife, three sons and a sister.

Funeral arrangements were handled by the George A. Thoma Funeral Home Inc., in Wexford, Pa.



### Jones sculpture

Marilyn Chuey, daughter of Howard W. Jones, and YSU President David C. Sweet share a laugh during the dedication of a new sculpture of Jones, YSU's founding president. The sculpture, which shows Jones walking down a flight of three steps, is located at the entrance to YSU's campus core. Jones was president of Youngstown College and Youngstown University from 1931 to 1966. The sculpture is part of YSU's Centennial Celebration. For more information and photos, visit eUpdate at <http://cfweb.cc.ysu.edu/marketcomm/index.cfm>.



## Yemma retires

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ate in cytochemistry from Pennsylvania State University. He also completed post-doctoral training in the biology of membranes at Los Alamos National Laboratories in New Mexico. He has published 36 scholarly articles.

He joined the YSU faculty as a biology professor in 1971, has continued teaching graduate and undergraduate classes since then, and plans to teach pathophysiology classes on a part-time basis after retirement. He'll also continue as health commissioner for the city of Struthers, a position he's held since 1985.

Yemma was the first chairman of the Allied Health Department when it was formed in 1976, served briefly as dean of the former College of Applied Science and Technology before it was restructured, then assumed his present duties as dean in 1992.

"I have some reservations about retiring. I'm going to miss everyone, and I've loved every minute of working here," he said. "But I think it's time for me to spend some time on other things."

Among those things are his two sports cars, a 2000 Chevrolet Corvette and a Nissan 350-Z. "Basically, I just love driving them," he said. Yemma and his wife of 52 years, Rosetta, also plan to spend more time traveling and visiting their seven children and 18 grandchildren. ■

## Community college

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Department of Mathematics and Statistics; and John Pogue, chair of the YSU Board of Trustees. Also on the committee is Bruce Beeghly, a member of the Ohio Board of Regents and former chair of the YSU Board of Trustees.

At a news conference following the committee meeting in Youngstown, Fingerhut thanked YSU and President David C. Sweet for leading the effort to identify and understand the importance and value of providing a community college education in the Mahoning Valley.

"This is probably the best news the Mahoning Valley has had in decades," U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan said at the news conference.

Ryan said the community college initiative is critical for the future economic growth of the region. "The possibility of expanded community college education...is something that has the potential to play a large role in developing a 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce capable of taking advantage of the new technologies and new industries we are bringing to our community," he said.

The concept for expanded access to community college education in the Mahoning Valley began more than two

years ago, when YSU began studying the feasibility and demand for such a program. The effort became an important element in the Strategic Plan for Higher Education presented by Fingerhut in March.

Fingerhut said the effort to bring community college education to the Valley must be a collaboration between existing institutions of higher education, including YSU, Kent State University, Jefferson Community College and career and technical centers.

"What makes this initiative so exciting is that so many educational institutions are working together towards a common goal," he said. ■



U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan, left, and Eric Fingerhut, chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, talk before a news conference last month about a new community college for the Mahoning Valley.