

\$2.1M grant will create new materials center at YSU



Tim Wagner

YSU will establish a Center for Excellence in Advanced Materials Analysis as part of a \$2.1 million award recommended by the Ohio Third Frontier Commission.

The award will allow YSU to purchase high-end materials analysis equipment, including two electron microscopes, in order to develop a campus laboratory aimed at analyzing the internal chemical structures of advanced materials.

In collaboration with Fireline TCON Inc. (FTi) in Youngstown, a subsidiary of Fireline Inc., the equipment will be used to carry out research on TCON ceramic-metallic composites.

"The new facility will greatly expand YSU's capabilities for materials research by permitting analysis at the nano scale and atomic level," said Tim Wagner, YSU professor of chemistry and director of the center project.

"The equipment in this center will give us analysis capabilities that few universities in the nation currently have," said Daryl Mincey, professor and chair of the YSU Department of Chemistry.

Martin Abraham, dean of the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, said: "This award is part of the university's continuing efforts to obtain the instrumentation and expertise needed to establish world-class laboratories so our faculty and students can engage in cutting-edge research."

The award, which still must be ap

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A visit from the top...

Arden L. Bement Jr., director of the National Science Foundation, left, listens as YSU graduate student Nathaniel Barasa presents his research involving proteomics. Barasa was among more than two dozen students and faculty to present their research findings during Bement's visit to campus on June 23. Bement also met with faculty and community leaders at a breakfast in Moser Hall, made remarks to a standing-room-only crowd in Ward Beecher Hall, helped cut the ribbon on the new Analytical Materials Instrumentation Facility in the chemistry department and attended a luncheon at which faculty outlined their various research endeavors. For the full story, read eUpdate at <http://cfweb.cc.ysu.edu/marketcomm/index.cfm>.

ROTC returns to battalion status



Michael Stull

it lost in 1990.

YSU's Army ROTC will stand alone, no longer a partnership program of Kent State University as it has been since 1995. The change will mean more full-tuition ROTC scholarships available to YSU stu-

Expect to see more students and faculty in military uniform on campus this fall, now that YSU's Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps has been restored to the host battalion status

dents and more ROTC staff.

Army Major Michael C. Stull, officer in charge of ROTC on campus, said the battalion status comes with higher expectations.

The program had 38 cadets enrolled last year and has commissioned 17 second lieutenants over the past three years. As a battalion, he said, its new goal is to enroll at least 60 cadets this fall and to commission 12 officers annually, beginning in 2012.

"The Army has charged us with that mission, and it will provide us with the resources we need to do the job," said Stull.

YSU ROTC will offer eight full-tuition (continued on back page)

eUpdate exclusives

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

- **The head of the National Science Foundation visits YSU and is impressed by what he sees and hears. See photo gallery. Read his remarks.**
- **Centennial Capital Campaign reaches two fund-raising milestones – doubling the goal for scholarships and surpassing the \$1 million mark in the Annual Fund.**
- **Familiar faces in familiar places: Ikram Khawaja named provost; George McCloud gets VP title; and Scott Schlick elected Board of Trustees chair.**
- **David Vosburgh, adjunct professor of theater, gets a big “Thank You” on national Tony Awards broadcast.**
- **OSU President Gordon Gee visits campus and takes a “Fear the Penguin” t-shirt back to Columbus.**
- **Political science grant recruits poll workers; respiratory care wins national award; student’s effort results in marker for philosopher; Summer Festival of the Arts; Forte on the Fifty.**
- **New softball coach named; Gateway Football Conference changes name; track team congratulated; YSU vs. OSU football tickets.**

Theater student directs play at prestigious NYC festival



Brandon Martin

When YSU theater major Brandon Martin was choosing a senior project, he wanted to do more than entertain. He wanted to move people to action.

Martin said he found a vehicle to do just that - a play that suggests five prison inmates have been unjustly sentenced to death row for their roles in a riot at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility at Lucasville, Ohio, 15 years ago. He'll be directing the controversial show at the prestigious New York International Fringe Festival in August.

Titled *Lucasville: The Untold Story of a Prison Uprising*, the play was written by Niles attorney and civil rights activist Staughton Lynd, with co-authors Gary Anderson and Christopher Fidram. “There’s an emotional tie to this play. It’s about real people, and there’s something you can do about it,” Martin explained. “That’s what makes it different.”

Martin’s production, one of 200 acts to be staged at the 12th Annual Fringe Festival, was chosen from more than 800 plays competing for inclusion in what is billed as one of the largest multi-arts events in North America.

FringeNYC, as it’s also called, has been a launching pad for several successful theatrical projects, including the Tony Award-winning musical *Urinetown*. “The Fringe Festival is sort of a theater contest, so there will be judges and awards. You never know what could happen,” he said. “It’s a really good place to do theater.”

Frank Castronovo, chair of the Department of Theater and Dance, said Martin’s place on the Fringe program speaks well of the YSU program. “It’s an indication that our students are learning their craft, and learning it well enough to do it in a profes-

sional setting,” he said. “We’re proud of Brandon for this achievement.”

Martin, who lives in Youngstown, first heard of the Lucasville drama in 2005 when he was performing in the Oakland Center of the Arts production of *The Exonerated*. Lynd invited cast members to audition for *Lucasville*, Martin won a role in the play and subsequently performed in seven Ohio cities on a tour sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio.

Set to graduate with a bachelor’s degree in August, Martin decided to produce the play locally as his senior project, with Ray Beiersdorfer, YSU geology professor and fellow *Exonerated* cast member, acting as his faculty advisor. The YSU theater faculty has also been supportive, said Beiersdorfer, noting that he’s collaborated with faculty from more than a dozen different disciplines in his 15 years at YSU.

For his senior project, Martin directed and played a small role in a three-performance run of *Lucasville* at Bliss Hall in April. The play impressed audiences enough, he said, that many signed petitions calling for new trials for the five inmates.

Beiersdorfer proposed that they try submitting a videotape and the script of *Lucasville* to the Fringe Festival, as well, and it was accepted. The cast of 12 will include four YSU students, including Martin.

Fringe Festival organizers haven’t yet assigned the play a date or a venue for its New York City debut, but the student director is already working with Beiersdorfer to promote the project. “We could end up with a full-house or we could have an empty theater,” Martin remarked. “It’s all about how well we promote the show.”

Beiersdorfer said media interest in the play is already building. *Time Out NY*, an entertainment magazine, featured *Lucasville* in a recent issue, and New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty, an activist group, has contacted him as well. “They want to get the word out about the play to their membership,” he said. ■

Youngstown STATE UNIVERSITY

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Zbigniew Piotrowski, professor, Mathematics and Statistics, recently addressed the Mathematics Department of the University of Auckland, New Zealand. His lecture was titled "Algebra-Free Topological Algebra."

Will Greenway, professor, English, had two poems published in the Spring/Summer edition of *Atlanta Review*. The poems are titled "Karmageddon" and "Outlet Mall." A third poem, titled "Applesauce," has been published in *RHINO Magazine*, a poetry journal, and a fourth, "Pwll Du," has been published in *A Swansea Anthology*.

Ricky S. George, associate director, Center for Human Services Development, attended the Northern Ohio Violent Crime Consortium April 2-3. The training focused on violence prevention and a new crime reduction tactic called Operation Ceasefire.

Julie Blaskewicz Boron, assistant professor, Psychology, co-authored a recently published chapter, "Midlife Cognition: The association of personality with cognition and risk of cognitive impairment," with Sherry L. Willis of Pennsylvania State University. She also organized a symposium, titled "CREATE: Understanding the potential of healthcare technology to improve the lives of older adults," which was presented at the Annual Gerontological Society of America Conference in San Francisco. She presented a paper at the symposium, "Complexity of Older Adults' Medication Regimens," and presented two posters on cognitive development in adulthood based on participants of the Seattle Longitudinal Study. Additionally, Boron recently attended the Cognitive Aging Conference in Atlanta where she presented a poster, "Effects of facet-level personality on cognitive ability in adulthood: Seattle Longitudinal Study," and co-authored a poster titled "Understanding older adults' attitudes about technology use in the home."

Michael Clayton, assistant professor, Psychology, presented two papers at the annual international Association for Behavior Analysis conference in Chicago. The

first, titled "The Use of Visual Feedback to Reduce Paper Use in a University Computer Lab," was part of a symposium on "Behavioral Approaches to Environmental Consciousness and Sustainable Practices." The second paper, titled "Increasing Turn Signal Use by Drivers Exiting a University Parking Garage," was presented at a symposium on Antecedent Events and Traffic Safety. Clayton also published a review of "The Psychology of B.F. Skinner" in *The Psychological Record*.

Paul R. Carr, assistant professor, Educational Foundations, Research, Technology and Leadership, received an Award of Distinction for Excellence in Scholarship from the Canadian Race Relations Foundation at its biannual conference. Carr was recognized for his recently published book, *The Great White North? Exploring Whiteness, Identity and Privilege in Education*. He also had three articles published recently. "Education Institutions Negotiating Democracy and Social Justice: The (Im)balance of Power and Accountability" was published in the *Journal of Canadian and International Education*; and "Experiencing Democracy Through Neo-Liberalism: The Role of Social Justice in Democratic Education," was published in the *Journal of Critical Educational Policy Studies*. Carr and co-author Gina Thesee published an article titled "Environmental Interculturalism: The Connection Between Social Justice and Environmental Justice," in the *Journal of Canadian and International Education*.

John Feldmeier, assistant professor, Physics and Astronomy, is a co-author on the paper "Planetary Nebulae in Face-On Spiral Galaxies I Planetary Nebula Photometry and Distances," to be published in the *Astrophysical Journal*. Kimberly Herrmann of Penn State University was the lead author.

Jonelle Beatrice, associate executive director of Student Life and director of the Center for Student Progress, and **Pat Shively**, associate director of the Center for

Student Progress, presented "Youngstown State University's Center for Student Progress: A Year of Success, Recognition and Impending Change," at the Educational Policy Institute's Retention 2008 international conference in San Diego, Calif.

Cryshanna A. Jackson, assistant professor, Political Science, was the featured speaker for the Junior Civic League's annual scholarship luncheon in June at the Holiday Inn in Boardman.

Martin Abraham, dean of the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, co-authored a paper that was published in a special edition of the journal *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry Research*. The paper, titled "Production of Hydrogen from Glucose as a Biomass Simulant: Integrated Biological and Thermochemical Approach," focused on the production of hydrogen for use with fuel cells and the generation of hydrogen from biomass-derived resources, also discussing possible system implications of the production process. Abraham's co-authors were Sadashiv M. Swami, Vaibhav Chaudhari, Dong-Shik Kim and Sang Jun Sim.

Ray Beiersdorfer, professor, Geological and Environmental Sciences, and **W. Greg Sturrrus**, professor and chair, Physics and Astronomy, received a \$566,467 grant from the Ohio Department of Education to fund continuation of the Ohio Partnership for Far East Region Science Teachers (OPFERST). This is the third year for the three-year project, which provides high-quality inquiry-based professional development for 350 K-12 teachers in the region. Beiersdorfer and Sturrrus made a presentation on OPFERST in March at the spring meeting of the Ohio Section of the American Physical Society.

Sherri Lovelace-Cameron, associate professor, Chemistry, and **Katie Cripe**, part-time instructor, Chemistry, have published an article titled "Changing Science Teachers' Beliefs" in the summer edition of the *Academic Exchange Quarterly*. ■



Materials center

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proved by the State Controlling Board, was part of \$19.6 million in funding recommended through the Ohio Third Frontier Wright Projects Program.

Fireline manufactures high-performance ceramic components utilized by advanced technology industries

such as the aerospace industry. Fireline established FTi in 2002 in order to commercialize the TCON process and diversify into new markets.

Abraham said the new center at YSU will analyze the chemical structures of

materials produced by FTi in order to improve the materials' performance.

The announcement of the award came only days after Arden L. Bement Jr., director of the National Science Foundation, visited YSU to cut the ribbon on a new NSF-funded Analytical Materials Instrumentation Facility, also in YSU's chemistry department. The facility features a new Nuclear Magnetic Resonance lab that will allow faculty and students from across the Northeast Ohio region and beyond to conduct cutting-edge research in biotechnology and nanotechnology.

During the visit, YSU faculty and students presented various research projects to Bement, who commented that he was impressed by the level of engagement by undergraduate students in research.

"At many universities, undergraduate students don't even get in the laboratories, let alone get close to the equipment," Bement said. "Here, they're encouraged to do that and encouraged to participate in research."

He added: "Students (at YSU) do graduate-level research and PhD-level research, (and are) so energized and so eager and so excited about what they're doing. This is a real success story as far as I am concerned."

For more details on Bement's visit, read *eUpdate* at <http://cfweb.cc.ysu.edu/marketcomm/index.cfm>. ■

ROTC

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scholarships this fall, double the number offered last year, for students willing to make a commitment to military service after graduation.

Generally, Stull said, students are not required to make a military commitment until the start of their third year in ROTC, and lesser scholarships are available for students not ready to make a commitment. Any YSU student may take the course as an elective and earn college credit with no military commitment.

Reinstatement of the YSU-ROTC Battalion is a victory for members of the YSU ROTC Alumni Chapter who fought to keep the program when it was targeted for elimination in the early 1990s due to federal defense budget cuts.

"The government was going to shut it down, but alumni made some calls to the Pentagon," recalled alumnus Pat Billet, an ROTC instructor, master sergeant in the Army Reserves and district administrator for the Ohio Environmental Protection

Agency. "To make a long story short, they saved the program from being eliminated."

Alumnus Carl Nunziato, a retired bank attorney and disabled Vietnam War veteran, said he worked to keep the program in the 1990s because he saw the value of its leadership training, both for military officers and in the private sector.

"One reason I was so anxious to help is that, in my experience in banking, I saw how ROTC training gives an understanding of the concept of leadership responsibility and dedication," Nunziato said.

The battalion will continue to be housed in the basement level of Stambaugh Stadium, but some renovations will be necessary to accommodate the additional five full-time and two part-time employees, said Stull.

For more information or to apply for a scholarship, contact the ROTC office in the Department of Military Science, 330-941-3205. ■