

## Gov's 'compact' may create \$3M shortfall

YSU is projecting a possible \$3 million budget shortfall under the "higher education compact" outlined in Gov. Ted Strickland's state budget.

"While I applaud Gov. Strickland for making higher education a priority and for recognizing the vital role higher education plays in building and growing a strong economy, the proposed compact could have a significant budgetary impact on YSU," YSU President David C. Sweet said.

"We will closely monitor and participate in the upcoming state budget hearings in Columbus. At the same time, we are beginning preliminary discussions on how to best address the projected shortfall in revenue."

The governor's proposal calls for all of the state's public universities and colleges to freeze tuition for fiscal year 2008. It also calls for a 5 percent increase in state share of instruction subsidy to the state's public colleges and universities in fiscal year 2008.

A 5 percent increase in the total SSI subsidy, however, would not translate into a 5 percent increase for each university. Instead, each university's allocation would be determined through an enrollment-driven SSI formula that is heavily weighted in favor of science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs and graduate-level programs. While YSU offers a wide range of STEM programs, 95 percent of YSU's full-time equivalent enrollments are at the undergraduate level,

said Neal McNally, YSU budget director.

Therefore, preliminary estimates from the Ohio Board of Regents indicate that YSU would receive an increase of 1.7 percent, or about \$667,000, in SSI funding for fiscal year 2008.

YSU projects that the proposed increase in SSI, in addition to the governor's proposed tuition freeze, and projected enrollment growth, would result in an overall \$1.3 million increase in revenue for fiscal year 2008.

But, McNally said YSU's contractual obligations are projected to increase by more than \$4 million in fiscal year 2008, including more than \$3 million in personnel expenditures, i.e. salaries and fringe benefits.

So, overall, YSU is projecting a possible \$3 million shortfall, he said.

Sweet said he shares

the governor's goal of avoiding unnecessary tuition increases and is pleased that the governor understands the fact that the level of state support is the principle factor in holding down tuition.

YSU's SSI subsidy has dropped by \$7

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"I look forward to continuing to work with the legislature to make Ohio's public colleges and universities more efficient and more affordable..."

Gov. Ted Strickland

## VP brings experience, philosophy to new job



Eugene P. Grilli

Eugene P. Grilli, YSU's new vice president of finance and administration, has a pretty simple philosophy that guides him through life: What do we live for if not to make life easier for each other?

"I plan to carry this with me to YSU and assemble a team that is willing to work together with goals and objectives that are in line with the mission of the university," Grilli said.

"I am excited to start this new position. Youngstown State has a great history, and I feel honored to be a part of it."

Grilli, associate vice president for administration and finance at California University of Pennsylvania, will start his new position at YSU on June 1.

"I am confident that Mr. Grilli's extensive experience in higher education will be a strong asset to our university," YSU President David C. Sweet said. "I look forward to his input on long-term strategic initiatives, as well as his financial guidance that supports the university's overall strategic plan and goals."

As YSU's chief financial officer, Grilli will provide leadership and direction to the areas of finance, facilities and support services, where he will supervise more than 150 full-time employees. In addition, he will oversee YSU's internal and external audit functions and serve as the liaison with the YSU Board of Trustees Finance and Facilities Committee, among other duties.

At California University, Grilli manages a \$92.5 million budget and provides guidance and supervision to more than 13 departments and offices. The university, with an enrollment of about 7,000 undergraduate and graduate students, is located

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## eUpdate exclusives

For more news about YSU, read these and other stories in eUpdate at <http://eupdate.yosu.edu>.

- **Campus News Roundup features the departure of two members of the YSU Board of Trustees, the opening of the "Worker Portraits: Faces of Strength" exhibit, a visit to campus by the author of "Freakonomics," the Penguins baseball team's home opener, the opening of spring football practice, a campus concert by the Marine Tuba-Euphonium Quartet and a campus visit by the vice president of marketing and advertising for General Motors North America.**
- **YSU and Delphi Packard Electrical/Electronic Architecture renew a research agreement.**
- **Gov. Ted Strickland has launched KnowHow2GoOhio, a multimedia and grassroots campaign established to help students in grades 8 through 10 prepare for and pursue higher education.**
- **U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings has unveiled FAFSA4caster, a new online tool that provides high school students with an early estimate of their eligibility for federal financial aid.**
- **Mid-level university and college administrators received a median 3.8-percent salary increase in the 2006-7 academic year, the largest increase in three years, according to an annual survey by the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources.**

# Social work: The 'art and science of helping people'



Bonnie Young Laing

Bonnie Young Laing concedes that she was "far from the perfect student" and a "troubled child" while growing up in Pittsburgh's Hill District.

So, when it came time to make a career choice, it wasn't too much of a surprise that she chose social

work.

"I wanted to understand myself and my neighborhood," said Young Laing, assistant professor of social work at YSU. "There was a lot of drama and struggle there."

Today, Young Laing is becoming a leader in studying culture-based perspectives, especially in African American culture, as applied to social work.

"Social work is the art and science of helping people recognize and use their strengths and capacities to solve their own problems," Young Laing said.

In April, Young Laing made a presentation called "Organizing Disadvantaged African American Communities: An African Centered Framework" at the 39th National Association of Black Social Workers Conference in Detroit.

In the presentation, she discussed how to use a culture-based approach to enhance a neighborhood and help its citizens. A culture-based approach attempts to integrate the culture a person values and identifies with in efforts to help them, she said. African American centered social work is just one culture-based social work perspective, she said.

Now in her third year at YSU, Young Laing became interested in African American centered social work because of her college experience. While studying for her bachelor's degree at Edinboro University in Pennsylvania, Young Laing struggled to apply the theories and models her professors lectured to what she knew about dealing with families and neighborhoods.

They "didn't really relate to my own experiences," she said.

After earning a bachelor's degree in psychology in 1990 from Edinboro and a master's degree in social work in 1992 from West Virginia University, Young Laing worked as a community organizer in a poor neighborhood in Pittsburgh. In that position, she tried to develop a strong interconnected community in a public housing neighborhood where drugs were being sold regularly. While helping people develop a stronger community, she noticed that the many residents were fearful to participate in neighborhood events.

"Some residents of the area wanted to have a block club, but were afraid that if they came out to meetings they would be labeled as a snitch," she said. "My job was to knock on people's doors and talk with them about their concerns and to help them get together with other residents to work collectively on their concerns."

Eventually, Young Laing's persistence paid off. "A core group of folks came together, and we were eventually able to get a mini police station placed in the neighborhood," she said.

As she started to examine the specific reasons behind why people were fearful and what made that environment develop, she decided to formally research the subject.

African American empowerment and community organizing became her focus while earning her doctorate degree in social work at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond in 2003.

As Young Laing continues to pursue her academic research even now, she said she would like to expand and investigate more cultural approaches.

"I have this dream of understanding the experience of black men who found themselves in trouble and made a shift to do something more positive," she said. She said she would also like to further understand what it takes to reject street life and street culture. ■

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## Youngstown STATE UNIVERSITY

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# Faculty & Staff

Send items for "Faculty & Staff" to [wawolfgang@ysu.edu](mailto:wawolfgang@ysu.edu).

"eLearning, Interactive Hypermedia, Neuroscience and Digital Learning Module Creation" by **Javed Alam**, professor, Civil/Environmental and Chemical Engineering, was published in the proceedings of the 6th IEEE International Conference on Advance Learning Technologies in Kerkrade in the Netherlands. He also presented this paper at the conference.

**Karen Becker**, coordinator, Beeghly College of Education, Reading and Study Skills Center, presented "Reading: 'WORK' in Progress" at the 18th Teaching Academic Survival Skills conference at West Palm Beach University in West Palm Beach, Fla. Becker presented ideas that will be introduced in an upcoming textbook.

**Paul R. Carr**, assistant professor, Educational Foundations, Technology, Research and Leadership, was invited by the Centre for Leadership and Diversity at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Educa-

tion of the University of Toronto to present the seminar, "Whiteness and Educational Policymaking."

**Christine L. Domhoff**, administrative assistant 2, Registration, has been appointed by Gov. Ted Strickland as a member of the financial planning and supervision commission for the Youngstown City School District.

**Patrick Durrell**, assistant professor, Physics and Astronomy, served as lead author, and **John Feldmeier**, assistant professor, also of Physics and Astronomy, was co-author on three papers published in the *Astrophysical Journal*: "Virgo's Intracluster Globular Clusters as Seen by the Advanced Camera for Surveys," "The Resolved Stellar Populations of a Dwarf Spheroidal Galaxy in the Virgo Cluster," and "The Metallicity Distribution of Intracluster Stars in Virgo." The first paper was published in the Jan. 10, 2007, issue of the

journal and the second two were published in the Feb. 20, 2007, issue.

**Gunapala Edirisooriya**, professor, Educational Foundations, Research, Technology and Leadership, reviewed the book "Ivy and Industry: Business and the Making of the American University, 1880-1980" by Christopher Newfield. The book review was published in the *Journal of History of Education*, volume 35, issue 3, page numbers, 409-411.

**Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez**, director, Dr. James Dale Ethics Center, professor, Philosophy & Religious Studies, served as judge for the XIII Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl; was discussion leader for David Luban's keynote address on interrogational torture at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics; and presented a seminar on "Ethical Issues at the End of Life" at the Omni Manor Health Care Center. ■

## New YSU employees

YUpdate and eUpdate welcomes the following employees to campus:

### Classified

#### Full Time

**Linda Cascarelli**, secretary 1, dean's office, Williamson College of Business Administration; **Susan O'Neill**, data entry operator 2, dean's office, College of Arts and Sciences; **Robert Allshouse**, electronics technician 3, Electronics Maintenance Services; **Rick Ritchie**, student services counselor, Student Accounts and University Receivables; **Cherryl Ellis**, secretary 1, Foreign Languages; **Jean Berger**, secretary 1, Teacher Education; **Carter Bidwell**, automotive mechanic 2, Grounds; **Donna Sarich**, clerical specialist, Financial Aid; **Kellie Betsa**, student services counselor, Student Accounts and University Receivables; **Melodie Marando**, data entry operator 1, Undergraduate Admissions.

#### Part Time

**Joyce O'Connell**, secretary 1, Metro Credit; **Karen Brown**, custodial worker, Housing and Residence Life; **Michelle Stur-**

**giss**, secretary 1, Urban & Regional Studies.

### Professional/Administrative

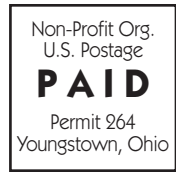
#### Full Time

**Monique Bradford**, coordinator of MBA programs, Williamson College of Business Administration; **Meghan Buck**, intervention aide, Rich Center for Autism; **Megan Bowser**, intervention aide, Rich Center for Autism; **Amanda Burns**, intervention aide, Rich Center for Autism; **M. Christine Connors**, coordinator, Upward Bound; **Kimberley Daniel**, learning resource coordinator, Nursing; **Amanda Egolf**, intervention aide, Rich Center for Autism; **Annette El-Hayek**, international program coordinator, Center for International Studies and Programs; **Yulanda McCarty-Harris**, director of equal opportunity and diversity, Office of the President; **Cynthia Harrison**, assistant reference librarian-science, engineering and technology, Maag Library; **Jonathan Jenyk**, web developer/site manager, Office of the Registrar; **Amy Manhollan**, intervention aide, Rich Center for Autism; **Jeff Mills**, assistant coach, Football, Intercollegiate Athletics; **Morgan McGarry**,

intervention aide, Rich Center for Autism; **Ross Morrone**, web developer, Marketing and Communications; **Erin Orr**, intervention aide, Rich Center for Autism; **Daniel Procopio**, evening operations manager, Kilcawley Center; **Erica Rovnak**, intervention aide, Rich Center for Autism; **Robert Schmidt**, assistant director of athletic marketing and promotions, Intercollegiate Athletics; **Nathan Smith**, coordinator, Undergraduate Admissions; **Eugene Soltis**, information systems coordinator, Dean's Office, Beeghly College of Education; **Jason Thomas**, database administrator, Computer Services.

#### Part Time

**William Brophy**, technology coordinator, Basic Communication Course, Communication and Theater; **James Dolan**, TV production studio engineer, Communication and Theater; **Kristi HappelChristian**, curator of visual resources, Art Department; **Wendy Pakalnis**, fundraising coordinator, Rich Center for Autism; **Carol Vitelli**, prospect research coordinator, University Development. ■



## Budget shortfall

(Continued from page 1)

million since FY 2000. The amount of SSI subsidy that YSU receives per student (\$4,232) is the lowest among the public universities in the state. At the same time, YSU's tuition is and has been for several years the lowest among the state's public, comprehensive universities.

Sweet said he thinks YSU can serve as a model for the type of efficiencies that the governor is seeking in the state's public universities.

He noted that YSU is the only university in the state that has voluntarily undergone a performance review by the state auditor. The university has implemented more than 90 percent of the auditor's recommendations.

He also noted that YSU's per student expenditure of \$10,108 is the lowest among the comprehensive public universities in Ohio, according to the Ohio Board of Regents.

In addition, Sweet noted that the university is in the midst of energy saving upgrades that will result in utility savings

of nearly \$1.3 million per year. And, he said a recent audit shows that an early retirement program for YSU employees has resulted in one-time savings of nearly \$592,508 and permanent base savings of \$587,888.

"We believe we serve as a shining example of how to operate an efficient, effective, quality institution," he added.

Meanwhile, the first meeting of the Northeast Ohio Universities Collaboration and Innovation Study Commission was conducted in Beechwood, Ohio, on March 15. The commission is to make recommendations on collaboration among YSU, Kent State, Cleveland State, University of Akron and the Northeast Ohio Universities College of Medicine. Sweet and John Pogue, chair of the YSU Board of Trustees, are among the commission's members. Bruce Beeghly, former chair of the YSU Board of Trustees and current vice chair of the Ohio Board of Regents, is also on the panel.

Also, Ohio House Bill 2 has won the overwhelming approval of the state House

and is now being considered by the state Senate. The bill makes the chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents an appointee of the governor, instead of an appointee of the Board of Regents. It also transfers the current powers and duties of the Board of Regents to the chancellor and makes the Board of Regents an advisory board to the chancellor.

"This legislation marks a significant turning point for higher education in Ohio," Strickland said. "I am deeply thankful to Speaker of the House Jon Husted for his leadership on this important issue. If approved by the Senate, this legislation will meaningfully improve the governor's ability to advocate for and strengthen higher education in Ohio. I look forward to continuing to work with the legislature to make Ohio's public colleges and universities more efficient and more affordable for Ohio's college students and their parents." ■

## Grilli

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about an hour south of Pittsburgh.

"Mr. Grilli brings a wealth of experience to this position," said Cynthia Anderson, YSU vice president for student affairs and chair of the 11-member search committee. "He was also very well received by the campus community throughout his interviews."

Anderson said more than 20 candidates from across the country applied for the cabinet-level position. After telephone interviews and reference checks, two candidates were invited to campus. Sweet made the final choice.

A higher education veteran, Grilli has worked at California University since

1972, first as a management trainee and assistant director of personnel. He has held his current position since 1979.

Grilli earned a bachelor of arts degree in natural science from California University of Pennsylvania and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Pittsburgh in 1976. ■