

Self-study completed; accreditation team visits this month

An evaluation team of 10 faculty and administrators from universities across the north central United States visits campus later this month as part of YSU's periodic institution-wide accreditation process.

During the site visit Feb. 18 to 20, the team representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools will evaluate the university against the criteria for accreditation and verify the accuracy of YSU's institutional self-study.

The self-study is a four-volume, three-inch-thick report submitted by YSU in

late January that outlines the university's strengths and challenges in everything from enrollment and diversity to effective teaching and learning and engagement with the community.

Bege Bowers, associate provost and one of three self-study coordinators, said the two-year self-study process, which involved hundreds of hours of work by dozens of faculty, staff, students and community members, went "amazingly well."

"It was a very open process that encouraged meaningful dialogue, which is good for the university and the students

we serve," she said. Other self-study coordinators are Jan Elias, chair and professor of human ecology, and Sharon Stringer, director of assessment and professor of psychology.

The self-study report is available online at <http://www.yzu.edu/accreditation/>.

"Overall, the results are extremely positive," Bowers said. "We have much to be proud of. The accomplishments of our students, graduates and employees are very impressive. At the same time, the

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New transportation center seeks research proposals

The new Center for Transportation and Materials Engineering at YSU is now accepting proposals from faculty and others to participate in the center's research activities.

The Center is funded through a \$2 million grant from the U.S. Depart-

ment of Transportation.

"The economic future of the United States is inextricably tied to the safe and efficient operation of the nation's transportation systems, and that makes the work of this Center vital," said Martin Abraham, dean of the College of Science, Technol-

ogy, Engineering and Mathematics.

Congress passed legislation nearly three years ago to fund 22 University Transportation Centers across the nation to advance technology and expertise in

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Emeritus Centennial Celebration

More than 60 retired faculty attended the Emeritus Faculty Luncheon Jan. 28 in Kilcawley Center as part of YSU's Centennial Celebration. Here, Vindicator reporter Harold Gwin snaps a photo of, from the left, Stephen Hanzely (physics and astronomy), Hassan Ronaghy (economics) and Al Bright (art). For a list of YSU Centennial events, visit www.yzu.edu/centennial.

eUpdate exclusives

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

- **The statewide concrete canoe and steel bridge competition is coming to YSU as the university hosts the American Society of Civil Engineers' annual Ohio Valley Student Conference April 3 to 5.**
- **YSU receives the American Humanities Excellence in Internships Award.**
- **The YSU Africana Studies Program's African American History Month celebration continues with a series of events throughout February.**
- **The Game of Hope Charity Classic in Beeghly Center raised more than \$9,000 this year. In three years, the game has raised nearly \$20,000.**
- **The Postal Service unveils the 2008 Black Heritage stamp at the Martin Luther King Jr. Diversity Breakfast at YSU on Jan. 24. Diversity Awards were also presented at the breakfast.**
- **College and university endowments earned an average of 17.2 percent last fiscal year, a new report says. The report said that the number college and university endowments of \$1 billion or more increased from 62 in fiscal year 2006 to 76 in fiscal year 2007, with Harvard leading the way at \$34.6 billion. The report lists the YSU Foundation at \$173 million, up from \$152.3 million last year. It is the 16th largest in the state and the 290th largest in the nation, according to the report.**
- **Leaders of the U.S. Senate have written to the 136 colleges with endowments of \$500 million or more, asking a series of questions about endowment growth and spending on student aid. "Tuition has gone up, college presidents' salaries have gone up, and endowments continue to go up and up," Sen. Chuck Grassley said. "We need to start seeing tuition relief for families go up just as fast."**
- **A nationwide survey of college freshmen shows that they are more concerned about academic quality and affordability than they have been in decades. Freshmen also say that financial-aid offers are a big key to where they select to go to school.**

\$850K grant to YSU funds city after-school program

Arlene Floyd, director of associate degree and Tech Prep programs at YSU, believes in community outreach. An \$850,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Education will allow her to do just that.

"The core of our work is partnership," Floyd said, "between YSU, school districts, business and the community."

The five-year grant will be used to implement the Youngstown City School District's 21st Century Community Learning Center High School Project. The plan is for eight teachers and four tutors to engage students in grades 9 through 12 in active learning after school, Monday through Thursday, at East and Chaney high schools.

The goal of the project is to increase academic performance, to get students to achieve at grade level and to pass the Ohio Graduation Tests. The project also aims to increase graduation rates and prepare students for college or careers.

The program is slated to start by February. Floyd will continue working with the schools as project director, but a program manager will be hired to oversee operations.

Floyd said approximately 40 percent of YSU's College Tech Prep students come from Youngstown city schools, so the grant is one way to increase the success of students who may enter the Tech Prep program.

Another reason for the grant, Floyd said, is the academic and financial challenges the city schools face. "Plus," she added, "many of the other 21st Century programs target elementary and middle schools, but we know things can still be done with high school students to turn them around."

The program will be a combination of traditional, hands-on and technology-based methods. Floyd said that two-thirds of the time will be used for academics, and the other third will be set aside for enrichment activities.

"This is not meant to be an extension of the normal day," Floyd said. "And this is not a study hall. The key is engagement."

Floyd said her office is working on another grant on behalf of the Youngstown city schools to provide students with a summer program as well.

YSU's Center for Human Services Development also received a five-year, 21st CCLC grant last year, for \$1.7 million for programs at East Liverpool and Weathersfield school districts.

The Ohio DOE has awarded 62 of the federally funded 21st CCLC grants for fiscal year 2008. Nationally, close to 3,000 grants have been awarded, providing assistance programs before or after school for more than one million children. ■

Assistant editor named

Cynthia Vinarsky is the new assistant editor in the YSU Office of Marketing and Communications.

Vinarsky comes to YSU after more than two years as a senior reporter with *The Business Journal* in Youngstown. Previously, she worked for 18 years as a reporter and business writer at *The Vindicator* in Youngstown. She also had worked as a freelance copywriter for Prodigal Media Co. in Boardman.

Vinarsky will serve as editor of the *YSU Magazine* and the *YSU Insider*. She also will write for the *YSU Update/eUpdate* and perform

other communications and public/media relations duties in the office. She can be reached at 330-941-1703. ■

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Faculty & Staff

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Helene J. Sinnreich, director, Judaic and Holocaust Studies, History, gave two invited lectures in Mississippi in the fall, one at Rust College in Holly Springs on comparative genocide, and the other a presentation at the University of Mississippi on women of the Lodz Ghetto.

Sylvia J. Imler, assistant professor, **Sally Lewis**, assistant professor, **Marianne Dove**, professor, and **Kenneth Miller**, associate professor, all of Counseling and Special Education, have had published "Using the Ohio Integrated Systems Model (OISM) to Promote Strategic Planning and Student Achievement" in *The Ohio Journal of Teacher Education* (Fall 2007). Imler and Lewis have also had published "Leadership through Collaborative Strategic Planning: One School's Journey" in *Academic Leadership Journal*, Vol. 5 Issue 3, October 17, 2007. The grant team's work on the Ohio Integrated Systems Model has resulted in a new website at www.ysu.edu/nooc.

Denise A. Narcisse, assistant professor, Sociology and Anthropology, presented the paper "Her Long and Winding Road Into a Profession: Suggested Career Consequences and Policy Implications" at the Association of Applied and Clinical Sociology Annual Conference in Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti, Mich. She also discussed sociological factors that contribute to poor nutrition among the poor in a WFMJ Channel 21 television feature titled "Being Poor and Eating Poor," which aired in November.

John Russo, co-director, Center for Working-Class Studies, and coordinator, Labor Studies Program, was a participant in the Global Organizing Summit: Organizing, Recognition, and Union Rights, sponsored by the Council of Global Unions at the National Labor College in Washington D.C.

Daniel J. Van Dussen, assistant professor, Sociology and Anthropology, presented a paper titled "Self-Rated

Health and Recovery of Lower Physical Activities of Daily Living among Older Adults with Hip Fracture" at the 60th annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, San Francisco, in November. At the same meeting, he also presented a symposium paper, "Depressive Symptoms Among a Sample of Continuous Care Retirement Community Residents."

Ricky S. George, associate director, Center for Human Services Development, presented at the 19th Annual Ohio Prevention and Education Conference in Columbus. His session was called "Does Your Strategy Work? A Need for an Evaluation." Also, he was elected to a two-year term as chair of the Mayor's Task Force on Crime and Violence Prevention in the City of Youngstown.

Rachael J. Pohle-Krauz, assistant professor, Food & Nutrition, Human

Ecology, had the article "Novel Calcium-gelled, Alginate-pectin Beverage Reduced Energy Intake in Nondiabetic Overweight and Obese Women: Interactions with Dietary Restraint Status" published in the December 2007 *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. She also had "Dietary Restraint and Menstrual Cycle Phase Modulated L-phenylalanine-induced Satiety" accepted for publication in the journal *Physiology & Behavior*.

Kin P. Moy, assistant professor, Electrical Engineering Technology, has received a \$10,000 research grant from the Automotive Research & Technical Center, Taiwan, to develop an Electromagnetic Compatibility Test Plan and Load Simulator for automotive electronic modules. The research will be conducted in collaboration with YSU's Electromagnetic Field Research & Instrumentation Center of Electrical & Computer Engineering.



Music at Noon...

Alice Wang, assistant professor in the Dana School of Music, conducts a Music at Noon clarinet concert in the Butler Institute of American Art. The free noontime concerts, featuring Dana faculty and students, continue at the museum throughout the semester on the following Wednesdays: Feb. 13, 20, 27, March 19 and 26, April 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30.

Transportation

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transportation. The strategic plan for the YSU Center was recently approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The Center will focus on research such as: developing lighter-weight, more fuel efficient vehicles; increasing the longevity of the nation's transportation infrastructure; improving bridge safety and protecting bridges from terrorist attacks.

"Building on YSU's established expertise in materials research and engineering, this Center will strive to develop approaches that will improve the nation's roadways," said Cynthia Hirtzel, executive director of the new center.

For more information, contact Hirtzel at 330-941-2421 or cshirtzel@ysu.edu or ctme@ysu.edu.

Self-study completed

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self-study is an honest evaluation of the university. The accrediting agency expects us to be self-critical and open about the challenges that we face."

The purpose of the regularly scheduled, periodic renewal of accreditation is to reconfirm that YSU is operating effectively within its stated mission and goals, Bowers said. The Higher Learning Commission is responsible for accrediting colleges and universities in a 19-state region from West Virginia to Arizona.



Little help from her friends...

Friends and family of YSU student Laura Neely accept the Outstanding Student Leadership Award at the Martin Luther King Jr. Diversity Breakfast in Kilcawley Center. Neely could not attend the breakfast. Accepting on Neely's behalf were, from the left, her mother, Mary Davis; brother, David Neely; and YSU students Brittany Hines, Elisa Hosey and Ra'Shawn Davis. Former State Sen. C.J. Prentiss, the governor's special representative for closing the achievement gap, gave the keynote address. The breakfast was sponsored by the YSU Office of Student Diversity.

The evaluation team is chaired by Jane Toot, dean of the College of Health Professions at Grand Valley State University in Michigan. During the 2 ½-day visit, team members will meet with individuals and groups on campus, including open forums for faculty, staff and students.

In spring, the team will issue a draft written report. The Higher Learning

Commission is expected to act on the accreditation in October 2008, and university officials are hopeful to receive a full renewal of accreditation.

The team also will evaluate YSU's request to offer a doctor of physical therapy program and more extensive distance learning. The HLC is expected to act on the physical therapy request in June 2008.