

## YSU awarded grant for summer STEM



G. Jay Kerns

The Ohio Board of Regents has approved a \$340,000 grant to develop a summer program at YSU to help prepare high school students for teaching careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The Lake-to-River T4 (Teaching Tomorrow's Teachers Today) Summer STEM Academy is a partnership with Kent State University's regional campuses and Jefferson Community College. It is among 10 Regents STEM and Foreign Language Academies approved by OBOR.

"It's a dynamite program," said G. Jay Kerns, assistant professor of mathematics and statistics at YSU. "It's an incredible opportunity for these students."

The summer academies are in response to House Bill 115, which appropriated funds to better prepare high school students for college and work and to increase the number of teachers in STEM and foreign language fields.

The YSU academy will include 80 high school students from Mahoning, Trumbull, Columbiana, Ashtabula and Jefferson counties. Students will participate in a two-week residential program at YSU in June, where they will take classes in statistics, biology and chemistry, Kerns said. Students will earn both high school and college credit for the classes, which are offered free of charge. Participating students also will receive a free laptop computer.

Students will continue various activities after the two-week residential

*continued on back page*



### Brain Power...

*Nancy Landgraff, center, associate professor and chair of physical therapy, points out parts of the human brain during a class in applied neuroscience in Cushman Hall. Students from the left are Sarah McHugh, Michelle Klettlinger, Crystal Burns and Nicole Hendrick.*

## Timeline revised for launch of Student and Financial Aid systems

The timeline for the launch of the new Student and Financial Aid systems of the SCT Banner administrative computer project is being revised.

"Altering the timeline of these two important systems is in the best interest of YSU students and the entire campus community," said Cynthia Anderson, vice president for student affairs. "It is vital to our students that we get this right. This new schedule allows us to make sure that we are fully prepared to successfully implement the system and serve our students."

The implementation of the systems will be pushed back one year. The Financial Aid system and the Student Accounts module of the Student system will now be

launched in January and February 2008, and the balance of the Student system will start March 2008.

"These new systems, once in place, will have a significant impact on how our students do business with the university," said Jeanne Herman, associate registrar and head of the Student implementation team. "Students will have increased accessibility to university services that will take them from application to graduation via the internet. We want to make sure the system is thoroughly tested and the integrity of student records is not compromised during the implementation process."

Donna Esterly, YSU chief technology officer and executive director of information technology, said the decision to revise

*continued on back page*

## eUpdate exclusives

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

- **The late Robert G. and S. Ann Berich Maigetter have established a \$1.05 million trust to provide scholarships for YSU students in geography, economics, philosophy and political science. Mrs. Maigetter, who died in February 2006, taught part-time in YSU's geography department in the 1970s and early 1980s.**
- **Twenty-two students and five faculty in the Williamson College of Business Administration spent their January break participating in study tours to England/Ireland and India.**
- **'Game of Hope' charity basketball game raises \$8,500 for Paul Newman's Hole in the Wall Gang charity and Tod Children's Hospital.**
- **More details on YSU's scores on the 2006 Performance Report for Ohio's Colleges and Universities.**
- **Student Government sponsors Red Cross blood drive in Kilcawley Center.**
- **Seven home games, three first-time foes and two other rare opponents highlight the 2007 Youngstown State football schedule.**

## Youngstown STATE UNIVERSITY

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Update Editor: Ron Cole  
Associate Editor: Wendy Wolfgang  
Layout Design Artist: Renée Cannon  
Photos: Jim Evans  
Printing: YSU Printing Services

Marketing and Communications  
133 Tod Hall, Youngstown, Ohio 44555-3519  
[racole01@ysu.edu](mailto:racole01@ysu.edu) 330-941-3519

# Professor's book explores school-funding case



Paul Sracic

To the average reader, the title of Paul Sracic's new book – "San Antonio v. Rodriguez and the Pursuit of Equal Education: The Debate over Discrimination and School Funding" – may seem a little daunting.

But the "average reader" is exactly who Sracic intended to reach because that's who the school-funding issue continues to impact today.

Sracic, a professor of political science at YSU, said more than 30 school-funding cases are currently being debated in state courts across the country, including the recent cases in Ohio.

The 176-page book, published by University Press of Kansas, explores the 1968 class-action suit filed on behalf of Mexican-American school children in San Antonio, Texas, claiming inequality of education funding.

Sracic's book is the only one that has ever been written about the landmark case, which essentially argued that equality in education, not just basic schooling, was a fundamental right protected by the Constitution.

Sracic also serves as YSU's pre-law advisor, director of the Rigelhaupt Pre-Law Center and coordinator of the general education program.

The book has won widespread praise and has already been adopted for classroom use by the University of Wisconsin at Madison, University of Texas at Austin, University of California at Berkeley, St. Louis University and the University of Oklahoma.

Mark Yudof, chancellor of the University of Texas System and a participant in the *Rodriguez* case, said the book is the best work he has ever read on the case. "Sracic has done his homework, and it shows on every page," Yudof said.

Some of Sracic's "homework" consisted of interviewing Arthur Gochman, the lawyer who argued the case before the Supreme Court, and Demetrio Rodriguez, the parent

whose named headlined the original suit, among others.

When the case was first filed in 1968, *Rodriguez* was essentially hot on the heels of the ground-breaking 1954 federal education case, *Brown v. the Board of Education*.

A Texas district court agreed with the parents, deciding that inequality of education funding existed in the Lone Star State, and that this inequality violated the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. But, when the case went before the Supreme Court, the district court's decision was overruled, 5-4, with the Supreme Court declaring that education is not a fundamental right under the U.S. Constitution.

Justice Lewis Powell, who Sracic points out had sat on the Virginia Board of Education and written part of that state's constitution, argued that if funding had to be equalized, it would more than likely be equalized down.

Justice Thurgood Marshall, who had been the NAACP's chief counsel for the plaintiffs in *Brown*, disagreed. He argued that the Texas funding scheme violated the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which requires states to provide equal protection under the law to all persons within their jurisdictions.

"Essentially, the Supreme Court told the states it was constitutional to fund schools as they had been funded – that the Constitution does not demand equal funding for education," said Sracic, who earned a Ph.D. in political science from Rutgers University.

"The case established parameters of the equal protection clause – what will be seen and what will not be seen as a violation of the clause. In some way, all of the present day school funding cases are a product of *Rodriguez*. Those who want to challenge exiting school funding schemes know that they have to rely on their own state constitutions, since the Supreme Court has already denied relief under the federal Constitution."

Sracic noted that the book emerged from his classroom lectures on how courts interpret the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. "It always surprises students that there's no federal right to an education," he said. ■

# Faculty & Staff

**Jim Andrews**, professor, Physics, co-authored *Student Workbook for College Physics: A Strategic Approach*, with Randall D. Knight of Cal Poly. The two-volume workbook has been published by Pearson/Addison Wesley.

**Paul Carr**, assistant professor, Educational Foundations, Technology, Research and Leadership, had the article "Race and Identity in Education in Quebec" published in the summer 2006 issue of *DIRECTIONS: Research and Policy on Eliminating Racism*.

**Dawna L. Cerney**, assistant professor, Geography, received a \$500 University Research Council Grant for the project "Mapping and Database Development of the Storr's Lake Archeological Site on the Island of San Salvador, Bahamas, Using Global Positioning Systems and Geographic Information Systems."

**Andy Chang**, professor, Mathematics and Statistics, published "Determinants of U.S. Wildlife-Watching Consumption: A Tobit Analysis" in *Tourism Analysis*. He also had "Political Tolerance in a Democracy under External Threats: A Survey of Public Opinion in Taiwan" published in *Political Research Quarterly*.

**Janet E. DelBene**, professor emeritus, Chemistry, co-published "On the Relationship Between the Preferred Site of Hydrogen Bonding and Protonation" in the *Journal of Physical Chemistry*.

**Gunapala Edirisooriya**, professor, Educational Foundations, Research, Technology and Leadership, was an invited delegate to the Oxford Round Table at Oxford University to a symposium on the influence of Sir William Blackstone on American education. In addition, he presented the research paper "An Economic Analysis of the Latter Half of the 19th Century American Higher Education Sector" and was the lead discussant of a research paper session.

**Priscilla N. Gitimu**, assistant professor, Human Ecology, co-presented with Jane Workman of Southern Illinois University, "Influence of Strategy Choice on Spatial Performance in Apparel Design" at the International Textiles and Apparel Association in San Antonio, Texas, in November.

**Patricia Hauschildt**, associate professor, English/Teacher Education, published the article "Worlds of Terrorism: Learning through Young Adult Literature" in the summer 2006 issue of *The ALAN Review*.

**Joseph J. Mistovich**, professor and chair, Health Professions, co-published "Respiratory Assessment and Diagnosis" in *Emergency Medical Services*, Volume 35, Number 2.

The article "Contemporary Religious Terrorism" by **Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez**, director, Dr. James Dale Ethics Center, and professor, Philosophy and Religious Studies, has been translated into Norwegian and reprinted in the journal *Fri tanker* (Free Thinker.)

**Paul Sracic**, professor, Political Science and director, Rigelhaupt Pre-Law Center, led the symposium "Justice Powell and the Creation of Judicial Purgatory: School Funding and the U.S. Supreme Court" at the Appellate Judges Association 2006 Fall Meeting at the Dublin Embassy Suites in Dublin, Ohio.

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



## Music at Noon

YSU students Chris Coles, left, and Tony Falk play during a recent Music at Noon performance at the Butler Institute of American Art. Playing bass in the background is Jared Craig. The free Music at Noon concerts by the Dana School of Music are held at 12:15 p.m. on the following Wednesdays: Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28, March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 25, and May 2.



## YSU scores high marks again on state performance report

YSU again ranks high in many categories of the annual Performance Report for Ohio's Colleges and Universities produced by the Ohio Board of Regents.

"This report once again shows that YSU, our faculty and staff, and especially our students are among the best in the state," President David C. Sweet said.

The report shows that YSU's undergraduate tuition is the lowest among Ohio's 11 comprehensive public universi-

ties; that the average number of students in a lecture class at YSU was 30 in fall 2005, below the state average of 33; and that YSU's first-to-second-year retention rate of 72 percent in 2004-05 exceeded the 69 percent average for all public universities in Ohio.

For more details, visit the eUpdate at <http://eupdate.yzu.edu>. The full report is available at <http://www.regents.ohio.gov/perfrpt/>. ■

## Banner timeline (Continued from page 1)

the timeline was made based on several factors, including the need to complete the conversion and verification of thousands of student records in the new system and to thoroughly test each system component before bringing each system into production.

"We looked at various scenarios on how to best implement these systems given the work that still needs to be done and the open issues that still need to be resolved, and we decided it was best to revise the timeline in such a way that allows us to give full attention to ensuring that the system is fully functional when it is introduced to students and the campus," Esterly said.

The revised timeline was recommended by the SCT Banner Implementation

Team, the YES Advisory Council and the Student and Financial Aid implementation teams.

Anderson said the new timeline also gives the university the opportunity to more fully engage the university community (faculty, staff, advisors and students) in re-engineering business processes to maintain and enhance current levels of student service in the new systems.

The Financial Aid and Student systems are the final major components of the three-year SCT Banner enterprise resource planning project. Systems in Advancement, Finance and HR/Payroll, in addition to the launch of the first phase of the MyYSU portal, have already been successfully implemented. ■

## STEM (Continued from page 1)

program, culminating with a STEM Conference in the fall, Kerns said.

In the end, the academies hope to encourage students to consider careers in teaching on the high school level in STEM and foreign language fields.

The academies are part of Ohio's ongoing efforts to increase the number of students entering STEM fields. Nationally, the number of jobs in STEM fields is growing at five times the rate of other occupations, yet the number of Americans receiving college degrees in STEM fields is on the decline. Ohio currently ranks 36<sup>th</sup> in the nation in the percentage of undergraduate students earning degrees in STEM fields.

The Business Roundtable recently released a report that calls for doubling STEM college graduates by 2015. To meet this goal, Ohio must graduate 16,660 science and engineering students in 2015, up from 8,330 graduates.

In response to the increased attention on STEM and to strengthen the focus on liberal arts and social sciences, YSU is reorganizing its academic structure. The result will be one college focusing on STEM disciplines and a second college called the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, or CLASS. The new colleges are expected to be in place in time for the start of the fall 2007 semester. Advertising has started to find deans for the two new colleges. ■