

Classroom upgrades top summer projects

When Jane Kestner joined YSU's psychology faculty in 1978, DeBartolo Hall was a brand-spanking new building on the campus' west side, the gleaming new home of half of the departments in the College of Arts and Sciences.

"There hasn't been a lot of updating of classrooms in those 27 years," said Kestner, now the associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "Some of the rooms are pretty run down."

Thirteen of DeBartolo Hall's 16 classrooms are being overhauled this summer – new flooring, lighting, ceilings and new multi-media teaching stations – as part of YSU's ongoing efforts to upgrade classrooms across campus.

"Our classrooms are the setting for our most important task at YSU – teaching," YSU President David C. Sweet said. "Therefore, it is important that we provide the most comfortable and technologically up-to-date classrooms as possible."

When he arrived at YSU in 2000, Sweet committed to providing \$1 million in classroom upgrades. This summer's improvements to DeBartolo Hall, as well as three classrooms in Beeghly Center, fulfill that commitment, he said.

In all, 39 classrooms have been upgraded, more than one-third of the classrooms on campus. The university previously upgraded classrooms in Fedor and Cushwa halls, as well as Maag Library and the Phelps Building.

Sweet also noted that the renovations were based on classroom standards developed by a committee of faculty and staff, chaired by Charles Singler, retired chair and professor of the Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences.

The upgrades in DeBartolo and Beeghly include installation of a permanent multi-media station in each classroom. Each station includes a computer with a DVD drive, a video-cassette deck, a ceiling-mounted LCD projector and four ceiling-mounted speakers, said Denise Donnan, manager of media services at YSU.

"We're real excited that these installations will allow our faculty to teach using the latest in technology," she said.



Mike Wolford of Aberdeen Construction in Boardman works in a classroom on the third floor of DeBartolo Hall, where major renovations are underway this summer to 13 classrooms.

The classroom upgrades – \$250,000 in DeBartolo and \$76,000 in Beeghly – are among about \$19 million in improvements underway this summer on the YSU campus, said John Hyden, executive director of facilities.

One of the more visible projects is the \$1.5 million renovation of two major parking lots on University Plaza. The East Campus Gateway project, which is scheduled to be finished by the

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Trustees OK 2005-06 budget

A \$147.87 million base operating budget for fiscal year 2006, which includes a 6 percent tuition increase, won the approval of the YSU Board of Trustees.

Also at its June 24 meeting, trustees passed a resolution in memory of board chair Larry E. Esterly, who died unexpectedly in May. The resolution designates Room 2069 in Kilcawley Center as the Larry E. Esterly Room and directs that a scholarship be established in Esterly's name to assist political science and pre-law undergraduate students.

Trustees also elected H.S. Wang as the board's new chair and John L. Pogue as vice chair. Two new trustees took the oath of office – Dr. Dianne Bitonte Miladore and Dr. Sudershan K. Garg.

For a full report on the board's activities in June, read "For the Record..." online at <http://www.ysu.edu/trustees/June2005.pdf>.

John Habat, vice president for administration, said the budget is based on a 6 percent tuition increase. Tuition for full-

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Falling buckeyes...

YSU's budgeted state appropriations have dropped by \$6.5 million, or more than 13 percent, since fiscal year 2001.

Fiscal year	Total state appropriations
2001	\$48.7 million
2002	\$46.9 million
2003	\$46.9 million
2004	\$43.5 million
2005	\$43.6 million
2006	\$42.2 million

Source: YSU Budget Office

YSU planetarium undergoes \$750,000 overhaul

Full-dome videos, a new star projector and the latest technological bells and whistles are among the improvements planned in a major renovation of the Ward Beecher Planetarium at YSU.

The improvements, which begin this summer and conclude in spring 2007, are funded through a \$750,000 grant from the Ward Beecher and the Florence Simon Beecher Foundations.

"After these improvements, we will be one of the best – if not the best – medium-sized planetari-

ums in the nation," said Warren Young, retired YSU professor of astronomy and former long-time director of the planetarium.

The planetarium opened in 1967 through a gift from the Ward Beecher Foundation.

"Any facility that has seen 37 years of use must necessarily show its age, and this is the case now facing the planetarium," said Sharon Shanks, planetarium lecturer.

The renovations begin this summer with replacing the planetarium's 150 seats, installing new carpeting, making improvements to the entry way and cleaning the 40-foot diameter planetarium dome.

The planetarium closed in June for the renovations and is scheduled to open again for public shows in October, Shanks said.

Also this summer, a new \$200,600 Spitz's SciDome Projection System will be installed, which will allow the showing of video on the full dome of the planetarium. Currently, the planetarium can show video only on parts of the dome.

The second phase of the improvements begins June 2006 and includes installation of a new \$489,000 star projector. The projector, which Shanks calls "the heart" of the planetarium, replaces the facility's original projector that was installed in 1967.

The final phase of the improvements in spring 2007 includes the installation of a new \$59,000 video projection system, featuring three high-definition video projectors.



Rick Pirko, right, producer/technician at the Ward Beecher Planetarium, and student Joe Neihsel stack seat cushions in the planetarium, which is undergoing a \$750,000 overhaul.

2005-06 budget (Continued from page 1)

time, undergraduate, Ohio residents will be \$6,333 a year, up from \$5,884.

In January, the board approved a 9-percent tuition increase, but the Ohio General Assembly included a 6-percent tuition cap in the state's biennium budget approved in June. So, YSU trustees voted to scale back the increase to the 6-percent limit.

Habat reported that the university budget also includes a 3 percent decrease in state funding.

Banner finance launch deemed successful

YSU's SCT Banner finance system was launched July 5, and one of the leaders of the project calls it a success.

"It has gone smoothly," said Eileen Greaf, co-project manager of YES – YSU Enterprise Resource Planning Solution. "There have been a few little bumps, but overall it has been a successful implementation."

SCT Banner is the \$12 million enterprise resource planning project that YSU selected to improve its administrative computing systems in

finance, human resources, financial aid, student records and alumni/development. University officials have said that Banner implementation is one of the most important projects facing the university over the next three years. Implementation is being phased in with the finance area first out of the blocks.

"It seems like everybody has been working in the system relatively well," said Donna Wainio, YSU technology and training specialist who has led the effort to prepare the campus for the new finance

system. "Some of the snafus were very minor, and they were able to be fixed as we went along."

In an e-mail message to the campus, YSU President David C. Sweet congratulated the hundreds of people who have been working the past year to implement the first phase of the Banner project.

"Getting the finance system up and running has been a long and sometimes arduous process, encompassing hundreds of hours of planning, training and energy," Sweet said. "Thanks to everyone who has had a hand in the first of what I know will be a series of many Banner Success Stories in the months ahead."

For guidance and support, users of the new finance system can visit the YES website at <http://www.yzu.edu/yes/>, where they will find answers to the most common Banner questions and a link to the YES newsletter.

The next phase of the project is the Advancement system, which encompasses University Development and Alumni Relations. That module is scheduled to "go live" in September. ■

YSU partners open higher education center in Lisbon

YSU is partnering with Jefferson Community College and Columbiana County Career and Technical Center to open the new Higher Education Center of Columbiana County.

The center, housed at the Columbiana County Career and Technical Center in Lisbon, is slated to open in August and will offer a variety of college courses ranging from introductory to graduate-level classes.

"Making a college education available in Columbiana County is the right opportunity at the right time," said Laura Meeks, JCC president. "All higher education benefits when more students are able to pursue a college degree. Ohio's economy benefits also, as more and more Ohioans are provided access to college success."

YSU President David C. Sweet noted that the Governor's Commission on Higher Education and the Economy recommended last summer that the number of Ohioans enrolled in higher education should be increased by 30 percent over the next 10 years.

"The new students who take courses at HEC will help Ohio meet that important

goal, benefiting themselves, the region, state and nation," he said.

For more information on the new center, call 330-965-5800, 740-264-5591 or 330-424-9561. ■

Arts fest

Alex Stoll of Collins, Ohio, who makes lawn art, shows a piece of his work to Carole and Bill Weimer of Youngstown during the Summer Festival of the Arts July 9 and 10 on the YSU campus. The annual festival featured nearly 60 artists from eight states, as well as ethnic food, music and children hands-on art activities.



Bank president to get honorary degree



Thomas R. Hollern

Thomas R. Hollern, area president of National City Bank, Northeast Region, will receive a doctor of humane letters degree at YSU's summer commencement 10 a.m. Aug. 20 in Beeghly Center.

Both undergraduate and graduate degrees will be awarded at the ceremony.

Hollern also will receive the YSU Distinguished Citizen Award at a

dinner on Aug. 11 at Mr. Anthony's in Boardman.

The annual award, considered to be the highest honor bestowed by YSU, is given to an area leader who has rendered exceptional service to the community.

Hollern is past chair, president and CEO of Ohio Bancorp and past president and CEO of Dollar Saving and Trust Co. As an active community leader, Hollern serves on the boards of a wide range of organizations.

For more information on the dinner, contact the YSU Office of Alumni Relations at 330-941-3497. ■

Retired prof takes interim dean position at A&S



Ikram Khawaja

Ikram Khawaja, a retired professor and former chair of the Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences, is the new interim dean of YSU's College of Arts and Sciences.

Khawaja, who retired from YSU in December 2002, started the new position on July 1.

"Dr. Khawaja has extensive and varied experience at YSU," said Bege Bowers, YSU interim provost. "He is a fair and capable leader who knows the university well, and we are happy that he is returning to YSU during this interim period."

Robert Bolla resigned as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences effective June 1 to assume the position of dean of the graduate

school and vice provost for research at Bradley University in Peoria, Ill. Khawaja will fill the interim post until a permanent dean is named. A national search for the permanent dean position is expected to begin after Robert Herbert becomes YSU's new provost on July 25.

It is the second time Khawaja has served as interim dean of the college. He also was interim dean from July 1, 2001, to June 30, 2002, prior to Bolla's appointment.

"I have a tremendous loyalty to YSU and am honored to return to this position," Khawaja said.

Khawaja joined YSU's faculty in 1968. During a 35-year career at the university, Khawaja served 17 years as chair of the Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences. He also was director of faculty relations from 1997 to 2000.

Since retiring, Khawaja has taught part-time at YSU and at Fatima Jinnah Women University in Pakistan.

"You can't just sit around and fish and play golf," Khawaja said. "I love teaching. I love the interaction with students."

Dr. Jane Kestner, associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, served as acting dean of the college between the time that Bolla departed and Khawaja arrived. ■

Board approves emeritus status

The YSU Board of Trustees has voted to confer emeritus status on 20 faculty members and nine administrators.

Hugh Chatman, executive director of human resources, said emeritus status can be conferred on faculty and professional/administrative staff who retire from YSU with at least 10 years of meritorious service and upon the recommendation of the president.

Faculty members receiving emeritus status are: **Richard H. Bee, Martin E. Berger, Sarah Brown-Clark, James A. Conser, Thomas A. Copeland, James H. Daly, Stephen A. Graf, Kathleen M. Kogl, Virginia Monseau, James C. Morrison, Eugene S. Santos, Helen M. Savage, Steven M. Schilderout, Charles R. Singler, Stephen M. Sniderman, John R. Turk, Sherry A. Gallagher Warden, Warren Young, James C. Zupanic and John R. White.**

Administrators receiving emeritus status are **Margaret A. Collins, Martha S. Countryman, Thomas W. Doctor, Karen S. Green, Susan D. Jacobson, John R. Loch, Sherri D. Martz, Angela K. Mu-drak and Marguerite J. Thomas.** ■

Canfield student named to Board of Trustees



Louise Popio

Louise Popio of Canfield, a junior computer science major, has been appointed a student member of the YSU Board of Trustees by Gov. Bob Taft.

Popio, whose term on the board will end May 1, 2007, replaces Charity Ann Pappas, whose term expired.

"I am honored by the governor's appointment, and I am thrilled by this opportunity to serve the university," said Popio, the daughter of Loren and Kathleen Popio.

Valedictorian of the 2003 graduating class of Canfield High School, Popio is a University Scholar at YSU and a member of the YSU Academic Senate.

She is the student multi-media developer in YSU's Department of Computer Science and Information Systems and a student assessment systems analyst in YSU's Department of Teacher Education.

She is a founding member of Sigma Alpha Lambda, spiritual co-chair of the Catholic Student Association, a member of the YSU Student Publications Committee and Residence Hall Association and formerly a tutor in YSU's Center for Student Progress. ■



Earthquakers...

Workers from Marucci and Gaffney Excavating in Youngstown work along University Plaza as part of the \$1.5 million first phase of the East Campus Gateway project. The project includes making the M-8 and M-19 parking lots more attractive and welcoming to potential students, their parents and guests. The work is scheduled to be finished by the start of the fall semester.

Youngstown STATE UNIVERSITY

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