

## YSU lands record \$6.8 million in grants



Peter Kasvinsky

YSU secured a record \$6.8 million in grants in fiscal year 2008, eclipsing last year's total by nearly \$1 million, and officials say the university is on track for another banner year in 2009.

Incentives designed to encourage faculty to apply for grants have helped YSU to more than triple the amount of annual external funding revenue over the last decade, said Peter Kasvinsky, associate provost for research and dean of graduate studies and research

"The more grants we put in, the more grants we're likely to receive," he said.

"The idea is for us to create enthusiasm about writing grants."

YSU will celebrate its record year of grant receipts and will honor the faculty and staff who made it happen at its annual research recognition luncheon, planned for 11:30 a.m. Nov. 12 in the Ohio Room in Kilcawley Center.

Kasvinsky said YSU has had a success rate of approximately 66 percent on grant proposals, meaning that YSU receives funding for about two-thirds of the grants for which it applies. The national standard is about 35 percent, Kasvinsky said.

In the 12-month period ending June 30, 2008, YSU faculty and staff applied for a record 171 grant proposals for projects totaling \$31.4 million. That's up from 153 proposals for \$18.7 million in projects last fiscal year. This year's \$6.8 million in grants will fund 100 projects. Last year's

\$5.8 million in grants funded 108 projects.

Kasvinsky noted that YSU's 2008 fund total does not include Third Frontier grant awards YSU received this summer, such as the \$2 million grant to fund a materials research project in partnership with Fireline TCON Inc., a Youngstown manufacturing firm. Those funds will be part of the 2009 external fund tally, and that's why he believes next year's total will surpass this year's.

Ed Orona, director of grants and sponsored programs, said this year's grant awards are divided almost equally into three categories: research, service and education-related projects. The awards range in size from \$500 to as high as \$974,000.

YSU spent \$206,740 on internal grants and research assistant awards to faculty in fiscal 2008, seed money that aims to

*(continued on back page)*

## Enrollment hits highest point in 14 years

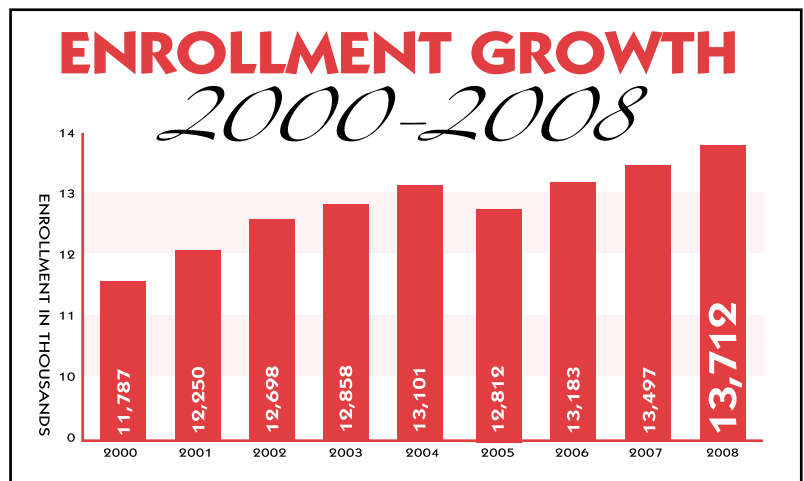
The last time YSU's enrollment was this high, Bill Clinton was in his first term, Newt Gingrich was speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Buffalo Bills were still losing Super Bowls and O.J. Simpson was leading police on a low-speed chase.

YSU recorded an overall enrollment of 13,712 students this fall semester, according to preliminary official enrollment numbers. That's an increase of 215 students or 1.6 percent from last fall semester and the highest enrollment since 13,979 students were attending classes in fall semester 1994.

"Higher education is a key factor in the future economic growth of our region and our state," YSU President David C. Sweet said. "Our successes in increasing enrollment over the past several years, in a region that continues to lose population, is a testament to our continued commitment to increase the educational attainment levels in the Mahoning Valley.

"It also is the result of the quality academic programs that we have developed and the hard work of thousands of talented and dedicated faculty, staff, students and community supporters."

The number of minority students on campus also continues to increase, from 2,338 last fall to 2,449 this fall. Since fall 2001, minority student enrollment has jumped by 1,025 students or 72 percent. ■



## eUpdate exclusives

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

- **YSU's newly renovated pedestrian bridge sends a message to passers-by.**
- **Members of the YSU Board of Trustees tour campus and surrounding neighborhoods, including the site of the new Williamson College of Business Administration building.**
- **YSU students again dominate the national MathFest competition.**
- **YSU's Homework Express launches fourth season with new technology.**
- **Campus News Roundup: The Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference comes to YSU; alum Sean Jones, a lead trumpeter of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, performs a concert Oct. 9 to celebrate YSU's centennial; provocative *AGENCY: Art and Advertising* exhibit comes to McDonough Museum; YSU Poetry Center kicks off new Reading Series; and much more.**
- **Eric Fingerhut, chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, visits YSU.**
- **Gov. Ted Strickland announces \$540 million in budget cuts, but higher education will be mostly unscathed.**

## Youngstown STATE UNIVERSITY

The *YSU Update* is published every other week during the academic year and once a month in the summer by the Office of Marketing and Communications. 8-003

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## The Hub: Three centers relocate to Maag

The English Language Institute, the Reading and Study Skills Center and the Writing Center moved over the summer and are now located in the lower level of Maag Library, creating a convenient hub for related student services and classes.

The services, which aim to support and educate YSU students, were transferred to Maag because of their similarities of purpose, said Charles Singler, YSU interim associate provost.

"The centers were spread all across campus, and they weren't readily available to students," he said. "With this new location, students can avail themselves to all options at once."

Formerly in Tod Hall, the English Language Institute offers non-credit intensive English programs for international students. The Reading and Study Skills Center, previously in Beeghly Hall, provides students assistance in improving reading, organizational, test-taking and study skills. The Writing Center, formerly in Coffelt Hall, helps students develop their writing abilities in one-on-one tutoring sessions.

Originally an open area for storage, the library's lower level was redesigned by the facilities department and fashioned by an outside construction company to house the three campus services at a cost of \$660,000, Singler said.

"They put up walls and made offices and laboratories for the three units to move into," he said. "All parties were involved in the design, and the final product should meet the needs of the organizations, at least in the short-term future."

Enthusiastic about the traffic and opportunities the library setting offers, Lynn Greene, English Language Institute coordinator, said she appreciates the new location.

"Before, our students were isolated, and now they get to mingle a bit

with the others," she said. "The location is so much nicer, and the approach to the new area is warm and welcoming."

Reading and Study Skills Center coordinator Karen Becker said the new location offers advantages to students and faculty alike. "The greatest part of this move is that it is putting our part-time faculty in a central space," she said. "They get to see students they've had in the past that they might not necessarily see again, so they develop a history with the students."

Singler said the previous locations of the three centers were relatively small, so it will not be hard to fill their old offices. "By shifting locations, we made the most efficient usage of the space that we had, and most importantly, nothing was short-changed," he said.

The Maag relocation was among several summer improvement projects on campus, including renovations to the pedestrian bridge over Wick Avenue, replacing the gymnasium floor in Beeghly Center, repairing the parking decks on Wick and Lincoln avenues and restoring numerous roofs on campus. ■

Story by Britta Snowberger



From the left, Karen Becker, coordinator of the Reading and Study Skills Center; Lynn Greene, coordinator of the English Language Institute; and Angela Messenger, coordinator of the Writing Center.

# Faculty & Staff

Send items for "Faculty & Staff" to  
Cynthia Vinarsky at [cevinarsky@ysu.edu](mailto:cevinarsky@ysu.edu).

**Ian J. Renne**, assistant professor, Biological Sciences, presented two papers at the Ecological Society of America meeting in Milwaukee. The first was titled "An empirical-based model for predicting scale-dependent shifts in grassland invisibility," and his poster presentation was titled "Eavesdropping in plants: A test of the biochemical recognition hypothesis." YSU student authors of the poster presentation were **Gregory W. Shook Jr.**, a graduate student and the lead author, with undergraduates **Brandon T. Sinn**, **David M. Sedlacko** and **Jessica R. Dull**.

**Thomas P. Diggins**, associate professor, Biological Sciences, and co-author **Erin K. Pfeil**, a graduate student, presented a paper titled "A conceptual model of forest succession and diversity in eastern riparian zones" at the Ecological Society of America meeting in Milwaukee.

**John Murphy**, professor, Theater and Dance, provided design, art direction and construction services for "The Contract," an HD movie short-film project. The movie was filmed in the Youngstown area last July and August.

**Rangamohan V. Eunni**, assistant professor, Management, co-edited a special issue of the *International Journal of Emerging Markets*, and that issue has been recognized as one of three highly commended special issues published by Emerald Group Publishing in 2007. The issue was titled "Small to Medium Enterprises in Emerging Markets."

**Paul R. Carr**, assistant professor, Educational Foundations, Research, Technology and Leadership, co-edited a book titled *Doing Democracy: Striving for Political Literacy and Social Justice*, published by Peter Lang. The book includes some 20 chapters by leading scholars from six countries, with a foreword by James A. Banks, one of the leading scholars in multicultural education. A book-launch at YSU is planned for November.

**Paul Rohrbaugh**, instructor, Educational Foundations, Research, Technology

and Leadership, devised a postcard game called Showtime Hanoi, his third in a series, which was published by *Against the Odds: A Journal of History and Simulation*. The game was used as a tournament competition by attendees of the 2008 Consimworld Expo Gaming Convention in Tempe, Ariz. in May. In addition, Rohrbaugh presented on educational gaming resources and considerations in June at the GAMA Origins Convention in Columbus, and in August he had an article titled "A Designer's Challenge: The Design and History of Pocket Battle Games," published in *Against the Odds: A Journal of History and Simulation*.

**Annette M. Burden**, assistant professor, Mathematics, and interim director, Distance Education, has earned certification in Systems Planning and Management and in Instructional Design and Facilitation. Burden was also elected president of the International Society of Technology in Education special interest group for technology coordinators, and she was appointed one of six faculty members from U.S. colleges and universities to represent academia on the Maple Academic Advisory Board.

**Will Greenway**, professor, English, had his poem titled "The Wheezy Pump" published in the spring-summer edition of *The Comstock Review*. His poems "Underground" and "Eurydice" were published in the fall-winter issue of *Ekphrasis* and the anthology *After Shocks: The Poetry of Recovery for Life-Shattering Events*, respectively.

**Kin P. Moy**, assistant professor, Electrical Engineering Technology, presented a paper titled "Integration of Electromagnetics and Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) into Electrical Engineering Technology Program" at the American Society for Engineering Education National Conference in Pittsburgh. The paper was also published in the conference proceedings.

**Teresa A. Volsko**, assistant professor, Health Professions, wrote a clinical perspectives feature article titled "Home Based Management of the Pediatric and Adult Cystic Fibrosis Patient,"

which was published in the *AARC Times*. The article described the advancements in research and clinical care over the past 25 years and their impact on longevity and quality of life for the chronic population. Additionally, Volsko was appointed by the president of the American Association for Respiratory Care as alternate representative to the American Heart Association's Executive Committee on Basic Life Support.

**Cameron Hughes**, programmer/analyst 4, Computer Services, co-authored a computer science book titled *Professional Multicore Programming: Design and Implementation for C++ Developers*. The book was published in September by Wiley.

**Sylvia J. Imler**, assistant professor, Counseling and Special Education, was awarded the Ohio Integrated Systems Model Follow-Up: Continuing the Work Grant for \$13,000 in the Region 5 State Support Team. The grant is to provide a series of OISM capacity-building learning activities and supports to districts in Region 5 that have previously participated in OISM-based professional development.

**Catherine Cala**, director of development, University Development, presented at the Council for Advancement and Support of Education's 2008 Persuasive Development Writing Conference. She was named a "Faculty Star" in recognition of her expertise and teaching abilities by virtue of feedback from conference participants.

**Philip Brady**, professor, English, was named 2008 winner of the Helen and Laura Krout Memorial Ohioana Poetry Award, given to an author whose body of work has made, and continues to make, a significant contribution to poetry. His essay, "This is Heyen Speaking," was named "Notable Essay of the Year" by *Best American Essays*, and his book of creative non-fiction, *By Heart: Reflections of a Rust Belt Bard*, will be available from the University of Tennessee Press October 15. ■

# Partnership signed with university in India

Faculty at YSU and Aligarh Muslim University in India will partner on research projects under a new agreement signed last month.

The memorandum of understanding signed by YSU President David C. Sweet and P.K. Abdul Azis, AMU vice chancellor, is YSU's first such agreement with a university in India.

"Faculty and deans are enthusiastic," said Annette El-Hayek, YSU's coordinator of international programs. "Dr. Azis and his university are looking to expand their horizons with the top universities in the U.S."

Azis, who essentially acts as the president of AMU, visited YSU in August and signed the agreement. Shakir Husain,

professor of civil/environmental and chemical engineering at YSU, is a graduate of AMU and helped coordinate Azis' visit to YSU, said Jef Davis, director of the YSU Center for International Studies and Programs.

"This is the first real step for both universities," he said. "We plan to look into cooperative research before expanding to faculty exchange, joint programs and eventually student exchange."

AMU, founded in 1875 and located in Aligarh in northern India, enrolls nearly 30,000 students and employs more than 2,000 faculty members. AMU also has agreements with the University of Wisconsin, George Washington University, Georgia State University, and the Univer-

sity of Massachusetts at Lowell.

YSU's agreement with AMU is part of the university's Academic Strategic Plan. The plan calls for promoting the internationalization of the YSU student experience through curricular revision and study-abroad experiences and increasing international student enrollment on campus.

This is YSU's fourth international agreement since 2006. Other institutions signing agreements with the university include Lunghwa University of Science and Technology in Taiwan, Yeditepe University in Turkey and Beijing Technical Business University in China. ■

## Research grants

(Continued from page 1)

encourage grant applications. Starting this year, for example, the university is offering grants of up to \$10,000 to help new, non-tenured faculty members with lab set-up and other costs of seeking external research funds.

YSU also awards 18 research professorships annually, with at least six of those reserved for newer, non-tenured faculty. Recipients are assigned a smaller teaching load to allow them more time to pursue external funding.

External funds benefit students, in

part, by providing research experience and opportunities to work with state-of-the-art equipment, Kasvinsky said, opening job

doors and improving graduates' chances of admission to competitive doctorate degree programs. ■

### External grant funding received by YSU faculty and staff over the past decade:

<b>2008</b>	<b>\$6.8 million</b>
2007	\$5.9 million
2006	\$4.8 million
2005	\$4.6 million
2004	\$6.5 million
2003	\$5.9 million
2002	\$4.4 million
2001	\$3.7 million
2000	\$3.4 million
1999	\$2.0 million



*Doug Price, right, associate professor of civil/environmental and chemical engineering, talks with Paul Brubaker, head administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Research and Innovative Technology Administration, during a tour of a materials engineering lab in Moser Hall. Brubaker, a YSU alum, was at YSU Sept. 16 to discuss the progress of YSU's Center for Transportation and Materials Engineering, funded through a \$2 million grant from the U.S. DOT. The YSU Center recently awarded funding for five research projects. Read the full story in eUpdate at <http://cfweb.cc.yzu.edu/marketcomm/index.cfm>.*