



College of Ed partners with Liberty schools



Gail Saunders-Smith

YSU and the Beeghly College of Education have entered into a partnership with Liberty Local Schools that aims to expand learning opportunities for YSU student teachers and for Liberty students in grades K-12.

The agreement is the first of its kind for the Mahoning Valley and for YSU, said Gail Saunders-Smith, an assistant professor of Teacher Education and the program liaison.



Alison Harmon

It is modeled after other local school/university partnerships across the country, known as Professional Development Schools, or PDS.

"This is truly a reciprocal relationship that will benefit our teacher candidates, the students and the teachers in the Liberty schools," Saunders-Smith said.

One highlight of YSU's PDS relationship with Liberty is that participating YSU student teachers will spend two consecutive semesters in the same Liberty school building, the first in a pre-clinical field experience, the second in a student teacher assignment. Those preparing for a teaching career with younger pupils will be in the same classroom for the full academic year.

Twelve YSU students are beginning the year-long PDS internship program in Liberty now. Five middle school teacher candidates are at Guy Middle School and

seven early childhood teacher candidates are at E.J. Blott Elementary School.

Typically, YSU teacher candidates are assigned a one-semester clinical experience in an area school district, and then to a second semester of student teaching, usually in a different school district.

"The year-long clinical placement is unique because it allows the teacher candidate to experience the opening and closing of the school, parent conferences and

professional development," said Saunders-Smith. "They can hit the ground running when they start their student teaching because they already have rapport with the students and the cooperating teacher."

Liberty students and educators benefit by having more teacher candidates in the classrooms, which has the effect of reducing the student-teacher ratio and allowing for more intervention and small group

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Jambar archives now online

Locating a particular print edition of any newspaper from the 1930s can be an arduous task. And once you've found it, leafing through its 70-some-year-old discolored, brittle pages for a specific article can be nerve-wracking and bothersome.

Now, readers and researchers of YSU's student newspaper, *The Jambar*, can forget about spending hours digging through stacks of archived newspapers to find a single news story. Thanks to Salvador Barragan, head of archives and special collections, and Maag Library's archives department, all 3,240 editions of *The Jambar* dating back to 1931, comprising thousands upon thousands of news pages, are now available online.

"The reason we decided to place these newspapers online is two-pronged," Barragan said. "I'm a big

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Salvador Barragan, left, head of university archives and special collections, and assistant university archivists Brian Brennan and Lisa Garofali with copies of YSU's student newspaper, *The Jambar*. University archives recently finished digitizing all 3,240 editions of *The Jambar* dating back to 1931.

Trayless Tuesdays: Reducing waste, saving energy, water

On most days, YSU students at Christman Dining Commons meander through the buffet lines, piling their trays high with large plates and bowls of food, cups filled with various beverages and, of course, that extra dessert that they may or may not eat.

Tuesdays at Christman, however, are a different story.

In an effort to cut down on food waste and to conserve water, Tuesdays at Christman were “tray-free” during the fall semester, meaning that the traditional cafeteria trays were nowhere in sight. Instead, students who may normally stack their trays with food must make multiple trips to the buffet tables.

“Most of the waste we see is from students who take more food than they can carry and end up discarding 80 percent of what they couldn’t eat or didn’t need,” said Dan Kuzma, manager of YSU Recycling.

Christman’s tray-free practice works hand-in-hand with YSU Recycling’s compost bins, located adjacent to the dining hall, in successfully reducing and eliminating food waste. “Trayless Tuesdays’ have gone very well from what I can see,” Kuzma said, noting that average food waste at Christman amounts to 150 to 200 pounds per day. “Although I haven’t quantified how much food waste has been saved thus far, I can visually tell there is a difference.”

In addition to reducing student food waste, eliminating trays conserves water and cuts water heating costs, Kuzma said.

“They use less water because they have less to wash, and since the water needs to be heated, they save money on heating costs,” he said.

Kuzma said he is hopeful that Christman will adopt a tray-free policy every day of the week. Universities across the nation with tray-free policies have reported tremendous savings. The University of California at Santa Cruz, for instance, re-



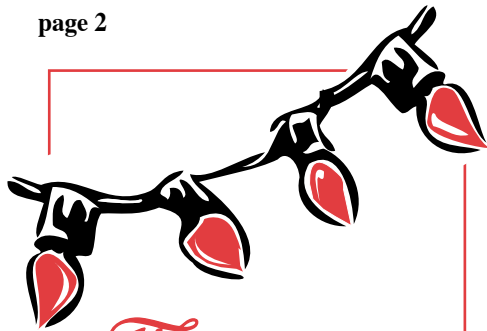
To reduce food waste and conserve water and energy, trays are nowhere to be found in Christman Dining Commons on Tuesdays. The experiment has worked, and YSU’s recycling chief hopes the program is expanded.

ports conserving 20,000 gallons of water a month, and St. Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y., reports saving 23 tons of food a year as a result of being tray-free, according to *Inside Higher Ed*.

If YSU is to achieve similar conservation gains, Kuzma said students must bring the same open-minded attitudes to the tray-free dining hall that they bring to the compost program.

“The compost program is very successful, and students help out because they are concerned about the environment,” he said. “The problem with trays is that students get used to their conventional ways, and it’s difficult to get them to change.”

Story by Britta Snowberger 📖



*May your
Holidays
be
Merry &
Bright!*

*from the
YSU Update Staff*

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Faculty & Staff

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Paul R. Carr, assistant professor, Educational Foundations, Research, Technology and Leadership, had an article entitled "Youth Culture, the Mass Media, and Democracy" published in the winter edition of *Academic Exchange Quarterly*. He also presented a paper entitled "Multicultural Education, Social Justice and Democracy in Education" at the Annual National Association of Multicultural Education Conference in New Orleans.

Denise A. Narcisse, assistant professor, Sociology and Anthropology, presented the paper "Pedagogy and Closing the Achievement Gap: Using Life History Projects to Engage, Motivate, and Teach Minority Students" at the Association of Applied and Clinical Sociology annual conference in Jacksonville, Fla. Narcisse also discussed the importance of public transportation to student access to higher education and to the economic revitalization of Youngstown on WYSU's radio program "Lincoln Way," which aired in October.

Shearle Furnish, dean, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, had a lyric, "The Intensity of Flowers," reprinted in *Big Land, Big Sky, Big Hair: Best of the Texas Poetry Calendar*, published by Dos Gatos Press.

Annette M. Burden, associate professor, Mathematics and Statistics, will present at the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC) Conference in Washington D.C. with Alan Bass, assistant professor of mathematics at San Diego Mesa College. Burden is also spearheading an innovative developmental algebra pilot project with Mahoning County Career and Technical Center. Preliminary implementation of the pilot is expected to begin in January 2009 with full implementation slated for the fall.

William Binning, professor emeritus, Political Science, served as a panelist on an Election Analysis Forum at the California University of Pennsylvania, as part of the American Democracy Project.

Gunapala Edirisooriya, professor, Department of Educational Foundations, Research, Technology and Leadership, presented a paper, "How to Teach Statistics to Those Who Claim to Suffer from Math Phobia," at the 38th Annual Meeting of the International Association for Exploring Teaching and Learning in Las Vegas.

Bradley Shellito, associate professor, Geography, published a paper entitled "SATELLITES: A Geospatial Technology Program for Teachers and Students" with coauthors Mikell Hedley, Kevin Czajkowski, Terri Benko, Rick Landenberger, Mandy Munro-Stasiuk and Janet Struble in the most recent edition of *The Earth Scientist*.

Shane V. Smith, assistant professor, Geological & Environmental Sciences, presented "Sedimentology and Stratigraphy Fieldtrips in the Urban Jungle of Youngstown, Ohio" at the 2008 Geological Society of America annual meeting in Houston. 🏠



Euphoric euphonium...

Christopher King, a sophomore from Jackson Milton, plays the euphonium during a recital at the Butler Institute of American Art last month. The recital was part of the Dana School of Music's free "Music at Noon" concert series.

Liberty schools

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teaching opportunities.

Additionally, the PDS relationship with YSU will make college-credit courses available to Liberty High School seniors who qualify. Alison Harmon, associate dean of Education, said that aspect of the relationship replicates a facet of Youngstown Early College, a partnership between YSU and the Youngstown City School District where students can earn college credit while still in high school.

Philip Ginnetti, dean of the College of Education, has envisioned the creation of


educational partnerships with several local school districts, said Harmon, who is providing leadership for the Liberty PDS. Organizers will focus first on Liberty, she said, seeking grants to help pay for the program and conducting research on the teacher training aspects of the partnership.

"Once the foundation of the Liberty PDS is firmly established and we collect the research data, then we'll be ready to move on to relationships with other school districts," Harmon said.

YSU and the Beeghly College of Education had an informal working relationship with the Liberty schools for decades, Saunders-Smith said, but decided to formalize the partnership about two years ago. The Liberty school district was

chosen for the PDS because of that history, because of its proximity to the YSU campus, and because Liberty's changing demographics allows YSU education students to work with a diverse population.

"We are extremely excited about this partnership, and we see nothing but a win-win situation for our students and for the university," said Kathie Carlile, director of curriculum, grants and education technology for the Liberty schools.

Carlile said Liberty school officials are also meeting with representatives from other YSU departments and hope to initiate more educational partnerships with the university. "We want to open as many doors as we can for our students," she added. 

Jambar

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believer in digitizing, and we get so many inquiries for old newspaper articles, this will make our research faster. Plus, the old *Jambars* are falling apart, and this way, we can preserve them and make them accessible at the same time."

After scanning the print editions and converting them to portable document format (PDF) files, Maag archivists apply OCR, or optical character recognition, to each document. Converting images of text into characters, OCR allows persons to search for keywords among the newspapers. Internet users who access the digital collection may search by title, date and subject. "Say you wanted to do a search on Vietnam," Barragan said. "The OCR will allow you to quickly find the *Jambar* articles that mention the word 'Vietnam.'"

The process of digitizing the student newspapers cost more than \$14,000 and took four months to complete, and Barragan thinks the result is well worth the money and the effort. "We have alumni worldwide who request these papers, and now they're available permanently online, and they're accessible all over the world."

Electronic versions of *The Jambar* are available online by choosing "Collections," "Archives and Special Collections," "Digital Collections" then "Jambar Newspaper Archive" from the Maag Library Web site, or directly at <http://dspace.maag.yzu.edu:8080/manakin/handle/1989/3495>.

Story by Britta Snowberger 

Parsons CEO honored at fall commencement



John Allen Scott

YSU alum John Allen Scott, president and chief operating officer of Parsons Corp., receives an honorary doctor of science degree at YSU's fall commencement 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14 in Beeghly Center.



Nicole Caravella

Nicole Caravella, who receives a bachelor's degree in advertising/public relations and marketing management, is the student speaker at the ceremony.

Scott, who lives in Arcadia, Calif., earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from YSU in 1971 and a master's degree in industrial engineering from Texas A&M University in 1973.

Boasting 12,000 employees and \$4 billion in annual revenue, Parsons is one of the world's largest engineering and construction companies with infrastructure and defense projects across the globe.

Scott, a member of the YSU President's Council and the YSU Centennial Capital Campaign Cabinet, is a recognized expert in the technologies and processes for the destruction of the world's stockpile of chemical and biological agents and weapons. He holds multiple patents on the processes to dispose of chemical agents and explosives and has authored and presented numerous papers on related subjects throughout the world.

Caravella has been a member of Alpha Delta Sigma, American Marketing Association, Beta Gamma Sigma, Golden Key International Honor Society and Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society. She is in the YSU Honors College and has been on the Dean's List every semester of her college career. 