YSU gets high marks for tuition, class size, retention

YSU charges low tuition, maintains small class sizes, retains a high percentage of students and is one of the most “cost efficient” universities in Ohio.

Those are among the results of the Statistical Profiles for Ohio’s Colleges and Universities 2007, prepared by the Ohio Board of Regents. The report previously was known as OBOR’s annual Performance Report.

“I want to congratulate our faculty and staff, and especially our students, for YSU’s high marks throughout this report,” YSU President David C. Sweet said. “It’s a credit to the hard work and commitment of everyone on campus and a reflection of the very best that the University System of Ohio has to offer.”


The report shows that YSU’s in-state undergraduate tuition of $6,601 this academic year is the lowest among comparable public universities in Ohio and nearly $2,000 less than the state average tuition of $8,520.

The report also shows that YSU’s average lecture class size is 30 students, compared to the state average of 33. The average lab size was 17 at YSU, below the state average of 20.

YSU also recorded a 69 percent first-to-second-year retention rate, meaning that

Sunil Ahuja, associate professor of political science, has been named an American Council on Education Fellow for the 2008-09 academic year, the first individual at YSU to receive the honor.

The ACE Fellows program, established in 1965, is designed to strengthen institutions and leadership in higher education by identifying and preparing promising senior faculty and administrators for positions in college and university administration.

Thirty-six individuals were selected this year in a national competition. Ahuja was nominated for the fellowship by YSU President David C. Sweet.

“Dr. Ahuja’s steady leadership on campus, particularly as chair of the Academic Senate, and his accomplished academic record make him an ideal candidate for a successful career in higher education administration,” Sweet said. “His selection to the ACE Fellows program is a reflection on both him and YSU.”

Ahuja said he is grateful for Sweet’s support and is honored to be selected for the program. “I am looking forward to beginning what will surely be a terrific experience,” he said.

ACE Fellows spend an extended period of time on another campus, working directly with presidents. Fellows also participate in three week-long national seminars and take on special projects and assignments while under the mentorship of a team of experienced administrators.

Ahuja, who specializes in American politics and legislative institutions, came to YSU in 2002. He earned a Ph.D. in

Campus Gateway

Jason Miller of JFM Industries places the final letter on the sign at the new and improved entrance to YSU on University Plaza. The sign is part of several improvements to the entrance, known as the East Campus Gateway. Other improvements include upgrades to the road, removal of utility poles, new lighting and landscaping and colorful banners. The sign, which includes the seal of YSU, is located at a new traffic circle at the intersection of University Plaza and Bryson Street. The East Campus Gateway project is part of the university’s Centennial Master Plan that, among other things, calls for improving the appearance of the major gateways to campus.
CJ changes name, adds ‘Forensic Sciences’

Forensic scientists are making headlines – cracking high-profile “cold” cases, foiling terrorist plots – and the positive press has bolstered YSU’s Forensic Science degree program.

Enrollment has grown more than 400 percent in five years.

Now the department that houses the major has been given a new name, the Department of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, to reflect its growing emphasis on the forensic science discipline.

Tammy King, associate professor of Criminal Justice and department chairperson, said 128 undergraduates are majoring in forensic science this spring, up from just 31 when the degree program was created in 2003.

Overall student numbers for graduates and undergraduates in what was formerly known as the Department of Criminal Justice are also on the rise, totaling about 767 in the fall, its highest level since the mid-1970s.

Faculty members are working with the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems to create a second baccalaureate forensic science major program, Computer Forensics. “It’s a changing world, law enforcement is becoming more technical and science based,” King said. “We’ve got to keep up.”

Planners expect the new Computer Forensics program to be approved by YSU’s Board of Trustees, university administrators and the Ohio Board of Regents by Spring 2009, she said, but students interested in the major will be permitted to start taking coursework as early as next fall.

Forensics typically involves working in crime labs, performing drug analyses and toxicological studies, comparing DNA, analyzing fingerprints, conducting ballistics tests and preparing courtroom evidence, she said.

Computer forensics differs in that it deals with cyber crimes such as computer system hacking, internet child pornography, embezzlement and identity fraud.

By collaborating with the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems, King explained, planners were able to adapt some computer courses already offered to create the new Computer Forensics curriculum. Working together to utilize another department’s faculty, course offerings and equipment was more cost effective than developing separate courses and hiring additional staff exclusively for the Department of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences.

Faculty used a similar strategy to create the program for Forensic Science majors, she said, forming partnerships with the Chemistry, Biological Sciences, Anthropology and Sociology and Health Professions departments to develop the appropriate curriculum without having to add many courses or staff. “It was a unique collaboration of five departments. Most of the courses were already there,” King said.

Story by Cynthia Vinarsky

Spring has sprung

Tailback Dana Brown tries to fend off a trio of tacklers during the Penguins spring football practice at Stambaugh Stadium. Spring practices wind up with the annual Red & White Game 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 18 at the stadium.
Stephen E. Rodabaugh, interim associate dean, College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, served as program chair for the 29th International Seminar on Fuzzy Set Theory, the Linz Seminar, held Feb. 12-16 in Linz, Austria. He also presented a paper at the event, titled “Functorial Generation of Non-Stratified, Anti-Stratified, and Normalized Spaces.” In March, Rodabaugh and co-author Aleš Pultr of Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic, published a two-part series titled “Category theoretic aspects of chain-valued frames: Part I: Categorical and presheaf theoretic foundations, Fuzzy Sets and Systems,” (available at http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.fss.2007.07.010) and “Part II: Applications to lattice-valued topology, Fuzzy Sets and Systems” (available at http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.fss.2007.07.012). Rodabaugh also authored an article titled “Functorial comparisons of bitopology and topology and the case for redundancy of bitopology in lattice-valued mathematics,” that will be published in May in the journal Applied General Topology.


Migdalia Diaz McClendon, assistant director, Undergraduate Admissions, was awarded the Shero/Herof of Health Award by the Ohio Commission of Minority Health. The award recognizes her efforts to narrow health disparities for minorities, leadership in the ethnic community and work with college-bound students and their parents.

Samuel Adu-Poku, assistant professor, Art, was a presenter for the National Art Education Association’s national convention, March 26-30 in New Orleans. His subject was “Poly(centric) Multicultural-ism: A Path to Inclusive Art.” Adu-Poku also presented two sessions at the Ohio Art Education Association Convention last November in Dayton. His topic there was “Developing Multicultural Consciousness.”

Will Greenway, professor, English, had several of his poems published in the anthology Other Land: Contemporary Poems on Wales and Welsh-American Experience, (Parthian, 2008). The following poems were selected: “Otherworld,” “Pit Pony,” “Welsh Courier Braves Daylight,” “Worm's Head,” “Halloween in Wales,” “At Arthur's Stone,” “Llyn y Fan Fach,” “The Train to Neath,” “Power in the Blood,” “Blodeuwenedd” and “Footpaths.”

James J. Carroll, professor, Physics and Astronomy, co-authored an article titled “High-Spin Multiparticle Isomers in 121,123Sb,” published in the March 2008 edition of the journal Physical Review C. His co-authors were colleagues from Argonne National Laboratory, TRIUMF (Canada), the University of Surrey in England, the University of Massachusetts Lowell, and Australian National University.

Steeltown USA: Work and Memory in Youngstown, a book by John Russo and Sherry Linkon, co-directors of the Center for Working-Class Studies, has completed three hardcover printings and is now in its third paperback printing at the University Press of Kansas. Russo is also coordinator of the Labor Studies Program.

Zbigniew Piotrowski, professor, Mathematics and Statistics, recently addressed the Mathematics Department at Shandong University in Jinan, China. His lecture was titled “Continuity on Product Spaces.” Piotrowski also gave an invited address, titled “Banach-Dudley Theorem,” at a mini-conference organized by the Auckland University of Technology in Auckland, New Zealand.

Take your child to work day

Maureen Wilson, a supervisor in Media and Academic Computing, and her grand-daughter, Alexia Joi Gilmore, work on a computer in Cushwa Hall during Bring Your Child to Work Day. Dozens of employees brought their children to work on March 27, participating in a variety of activities in Kilcawley Center.
Performance report
(Continued from page 1)

69 percent of full-time, degree-seeking freshmen in fall 2005 returned to YSU the following fall. That was the highest rate among open admissions public universities in the state.

“Retention rates are one measure of success in serving and educating first-year students,” said Bege Bowers, associate provost.

Bowers said YSU’s retention rate may be especially impressive given that 56 percent of YSU undergraduates are first-generation college students, the second-highest rate among public universities in the state.

The report also shows that YSU spent $10,813 per student in 2005-06, the lowest per-student expenditure among comprehensive public universities in the state and well below the state average of $14,106 per student.

ACE Fellow
(Continued from page 1)

political science from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1995 and previously served on the faculties of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and Seton Hall University.

At YSU, he is chair of the Academic Senate, and he is vice chair of the Ohio Faculty Council.

Ahuja is editor or author of eight books. His latest, titled Congress Behaving Badly: The Rise of Partisanship and Incivility and the Death of Public Trust, will be coming out soon.

From 1996 to 2006, Ahuja was co-editor of the Legislative Studies Quarterly, a leading international scholarly journal on legislative studies. From 2002 to 2003, he was president of the Northeastern Political Science Association, a regional political science association in the northeastern part of the United States. Ahuja also is currently a Fellow in the Ohio Academic Leadership Academy.

Friends of the University
Tony and Mary Lariccia share a laugh during the Friends of the University dinner April 3 at the Davis Center at Mill Creek Park in Youngstown. The Friend of the University award recognizes leadership and contributions to the university and the community. The Lariccias have a long history of giving to YSU. Their $4 million contribution to the YSU Centennial Capital Campaign is the largest gift by a private donor in the university’s history. Tony Lariccia earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from YSU in 1966.