



# Excellence at Work

An e-newsletter for faculty and staff scholarly achievements

March 4, 2020

## FEATURED

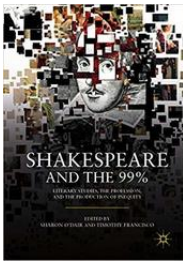
**Michael Butcher**, professor of Biological Sciences, co-authored a research article in the *Journal of Experimental Biology* that has caught the attention of national science media. The article, titled "Variation in limb loading magnitude and timing in tetrapods," has been featured in *Phys.org* and *Science Daily*, as well as on the website of the New York Institute of Technology. The NYIT story starts off with a question that the research article answers: "Why do tigers saunter but crocodiles lumber?"



Video of tiger locomotion (Credit: Daniel Schmitt).

## PUBLICATIONS

An article written by **Joseph Sanson** and **Robert J. Korenic**, associate professors, Civil and Construction Engineering Technology, and titled “Youngstown State University Civil and Construction Engineering Technology Mini Capstone Final Project implementation and assessment,” has been accepted to be published in the *American Society of Engineering Education Journal*. The paper was presented at the annual 2020 Conference for Industry and Education Collaboration in Orlando, Fla. Korenic and Sanson both earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Civil and Environmental Engineering from YSU.



*Shakespeare and the 99%*, a collection of essays co-edited by **Tim Francisco**, professor of English and director of the YSU Center for Working Class Studies, received a positive review in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*. The review by James Shapiro, professor of English at Columbia University, said the essay collection is the first book that “gives voice to a seething and justified resentment of the academic elite by those teaching at non-elite institutions.”

## FEATURED

**Ewelina Boczkowska**, associate professor in the Dana School of Music, co-edited *Music, Collective Memory, Trauma, and Nostalgia in European Cinema after the Second World War* with Michael Baumgartner of Cleveland State University. Published by Routledge, the 341-page book explores one of the most integral elements of the cinematic experience—music. The essays consider the numerous ways in which post-war European cinema from 1945 to 1989 dealt with memory, trauma and nostalgia, showing how the music of the films shaped the representation of the past.



Among the movies examined are *Nybyggarna*, a 1972 Swedish film directed by Jan Troell and starring Max von Sydow and Liv Ullmann; *Muriel*, a 1963 French drama directed by Alain Resnais; *La Luna*, a 1979 Italian movie directed by Bernardo Bertolucci and starring Jill Clayburgh; and *Riso Amaro*, a 1949 Italian film directed by Giuseppe De Santis and produced by Dino De Laurentiis.



## PRESENTATIONS



Paul Sracic, professor and chair of Politics and International Relations, was among the speakers at the **Edwin O. Reischauer Center for East Asian Studies Seminar Series** of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. The title of the seminar was “U.S.-China Relations and Implications for Washington-Tokyo Ties: Congressional Perspectives.” Sracic, who has served two Fulbright Awards in Japan, is a frequent guest and commentator in national and international news media, most recently on CNN, **pictured here**, and on **NHK World** in Japan on the eve of the New Hampshire primary in February.



Virginia Draa, professor emeritus of Human Ecology, co-curated an exhibit at the Tyler

## HONORS

Yiyang Zhang, assistant professor of Accounting, received the Accounting Information Systems Section Midyear Meeting Best Research Paper Award from the American Accounting



Association. Only one paper was selected from all submissions at the conference in San Antonio, Texas. Zhang also won the Best Research Paper Award at the AAA’s Ohio Region Meeting. Again, only one paper was selected. Zhang joined the YSU faculty in 2018 after earning a PhD in Accounting from the University of South Florida.

Jessie Wright, a lecturer in the Lariccia School of Accounting and Finance, has been named a **40 Under 40 honoree** by CPA Practice Advisor magazine. Wright, who earned an MBA from YSU, is a manager at Schroedel, Scullin and Bestic in Canfield, Ohio, a CPA, a Certified Valuation Analyst and a member of the 2017 American Institute of CPAs Leadership Academy .



History Center in Youngstown titled "Embellishment and Excess: Victorian Era Crazy Quilts." The exhibit features crazy quilts and textile tools from the collection of the Mahoning Valley Historical Society. It was co-curated with MVHS Collections Manager Jessica Trickett. At YSU, Draa coordinated the Family and Consumer Science Education and the Merchandising: Fashion and Interior programs. Draa earned a doctorate in Educational Leadership from YSU in 2005.

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**Birsen Karpak**, Distinguished Professor; **Jessie Wright**, lecturer; and **Kerri A Henderson**, lecturer, all in the Lariccia School of Accounting and Finance in the Williamson College of Business Administration, presented their paper, "Managerial Accounting Concepts with SAP transition from ERP to S/4HANA" and published the article in the Proceedings of the SAP Next-Gen Chapter Conference in Milwaukee, Wis.



Three faculty members are part of this year's "25 Under 35," an awards program hosted by the Mahoning Valley Young Professionals. Pictured from left are honorees include **Jason Walker**, assistant professor in the department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering; **Joy Tang**, assistant professor of Psychology; and **Amanda Fehlbaum**, assistant professor of Sociology.

## FEATURED

The ways in which marriage and abstinence from sex are described in U.S. high school textbooks are inconsistent with modern realities of adult relationships, concludes a new study by **Amanda Fehlbaum**, YSU assistant professor of Sociology.

"It is not exactly realistic to expect most young people to wait until their mid-to-late 20s to have sex, which is what the textbooks are telling them to do," Fehlbaum said.

The article titled "**Delaying Gratification: How High School Health Textbooks Portray Marriage and Sex**" is published in *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*.

The study uses a content analysis of nine U.S. high school health textbooks to examine how the textbooks address marriage, reasons for remaining abstinent until marriage,



and adult life outside of marriage. The article says abstinence-only-until-marriage ideology continues to be promoted in U.S. high schools as part of sex education, despite its well-documented lack of success at delaying onset of sexual initiation and sexual risk avoidance.

## IN THE MEDIA

### **New York Times**

#### "On College Campuses, Social Media Provides Private Spaces for Thousands"

A.J. Sumell, professor, Economics

A scholarly article co-authored by Sumell was quoted in a recent **New York Times** story about the use of social media by today's college students. The article by Sumell and Eric P. Chiang, economics professor at Florida Atlantic University, was published in the *Journal of Economic Education* and titled "Are Your Students Absent, Not Absent, or Present? Mindfulness and Student Performance." The survey of 922 Economics students at YSU and FAU showed a significant association between mindfulness, time spent on mobile devices, the frequency of test anxiety and overall student performance. "The implications are that teachers should consider adopting strategies to reduce student distractions levels in the classroom, and universities should consider investing additional resources to help mitigate student stress and anxiety levels outside of the classroom," Sumell said.



### **WFMJ**

#### "Social Media Impact on the 2020 Election"

Adam Earnhardt, professor and chair, Communications

### **WKBN**

#### "YSU's Maag Library holds thousands of hidden gems, including the Valley's oldest book"

Cassie Nespor, curator, Maag Library



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