



## Sword Play

*Demonstrating stage combat for area high school students attending the 31st annual YSU English Festival are, from left, Zachary Campbell and Vijay Welch. Dennis Henneman, professor of Theater and Dance, coordinated the demonstration, which was part of the three-day event in April that drew 2,500 junior and senior high school students to the YSU campus. This year more than 180 schools from across Northeast Ohio and Western Pennsylvania participated.*

## New site puts theses online

Since 1996, Frederick Stricker's thesis, "Faith in the Law," has gathered dust on the Archives and Special Collections shelf at YSU's Maag Library. Only YSU students and faculty interested in the topic were likely to access the document.

Today, however, the thesis is available to students, faculty and any other interested persons all over the world.

Adopting a worldwide library community trend, Maag Library is creating an Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) collection online, which will make every YSU graduate thesis and dissertation completed since 1968 available through Maag Library's D-Space and OhioLINK's ETD Center.

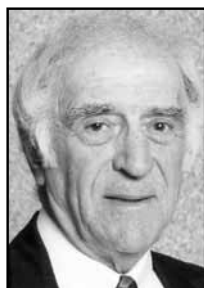
"There's an awful lot of buzz out there, and there are national conferences about ETDs," said Kevin Whitfield, catalog librarian and Maag Library ETD project leader. "Many institutions individually maintain their own collection of ETDs."

YSU, however, submits its theses and dissertations to the OhioLINK ETD Center, which also houses the documents of 25 participating institutions across the state at [www.ohiolink.edu/etd](http://www.ohiolink.edu/etd).

Although the collection began in 2001 with 118 scanned submissions, YSU's ETD project, with the help of Barb Jones, coordinator of Graduate Administrative Affairs, hit its stride in 2007 when all theses and dissertations were required to be submitted in PDF format for upload to the ETD Center. For the older documents that were submitted on paper, Maag archivist Salvador Barragan and several archival staff are scanning the documents and uploading them to D-Space. So far, 800 theses and dissertations have been

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## DiGregorio, Shipka receive Heritage Awards



Ed DiGregorio

Former head women's basketball coach Ed DiGregorio and former Philosophy and Religious Studies department chair Tom Shipka will receive the prestigious YSU Heritage

Award during the annual Faculty and Staff Awards Dinner May 1 in Kilcawley Center.

The Heritage Award was established in 1980 to recognize former faculty and staff whose contributions to the university have had a major impact on its development.

The Awards Dinner also honors retirees, Distinguished Service Award recipients and employees who have completed milestone years of service.

DiGregorio's storied 20-year career

as head coach of the Penguin women's basketball team included five consecutive Mid-Continent Conference regular season championships. His teams also won Mid-Continent Tournament Titles and appeared in the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament in 1996, 1998 and 2000. In 1998, he led YSU to its first NCAA Tournament win with a 91-80 upset over Memphis.

Shipka was honored for a career at



Tom Shipka

YSU that spanned 1969 through 2006, including 20 years as chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. He raised substantial funds for the Dale Ethics Center, the

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## eUpdate exclusives

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

- WYSU-FM raised a record \$103,688 during its recently completed spring pledge drive. The total surpassed the drive's \$100,000 goal. More than 1,000 listeners contributed to the drive, including 171 new members (both also records for a WYSU spring drive).
- Karen Crouse, a sports columnist for The New York Times since June 2005, is the keynote speaker for YSU Press Day. Crouse, who covers the New York Jets, will talk about her career and the future of the profession.
- The Rich Center for Autism at YSU recognizes Autism Awareness Month with a variety of events, including an open house Thursday, April 23 at the center in Fedor Hall.
- More on the second annual Diversity Leadership Recognition Celebration, including names of all award recipients. Sponsored by KeyBank, the event celebrates diversity at YSU and in the community.
- YSU graduate Riyad Mansour, ambassador and permanent observer for Palestine to the United Nations, visits campus as part of the high school Model United Nations meeting.
- Head Coach Jon Heacock leads the football squad in spring workouts; English Festival draws thousands to campus; YSU celebrates student research at QUEST.

## 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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# Instructor's photo book aids childhood cancer research

Photography and childhood cancer research have little in common, but a recently published book project led by YSU multimedia instructor Mark Roberts has brought the two together.

The book, titled *Pentax-Discuss Mail List (PDML) Photo Annual*, is comprised of photographs submitted by 59 photographers across the globe, with all of the profits from the book's sales going to the world's largest childhood cancer research organization, the National Childhood Cancer Foundation. NCCF works to identify cancer causes and to pioneer new treatments and cures.

Roberts' interest in childhood cancer research is linked with his partner, Lisa Teot, a pediatric pathologist at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and a member of the Children's Oncology Group, which is supported by the NCCF.

The idea for the photo book originated last year on the Pentax e-mail list, which includes photographers who use Pentax equipment. This year, Roberts committed himself to seeing the project through, employing his talents as well as those of other photographers on the list.

"I was familiar with the good work [NCCF does], and knowing that the whole effort is going to benefit a good cause makes all the participants more willing to do their best for it," said Roberts, a full-time instructor at YSU since 2006 who has published photos in national magazines such as *Runner's World*.

"I was astonished at the general quality of the photos we received. I don't think we'd have had such a tremendous response if we'd just been doing a book for its own sake."

In December 2008, members of the PDML from 15 countries, including Norway, Serbia and Hungary, began submitting their top photographs via Roberts'

Web site. Photos depicted a wide variety of subjects, ranging from serene landscapes to fast-paced fashion shows. Roberts edited and assembled the book electronically, and his knowledge of Photoshop allowed him to avoid printing a large number of proofs. As of Feb. 17, the 120-page book was complete and available for purchase online for \$32.95.

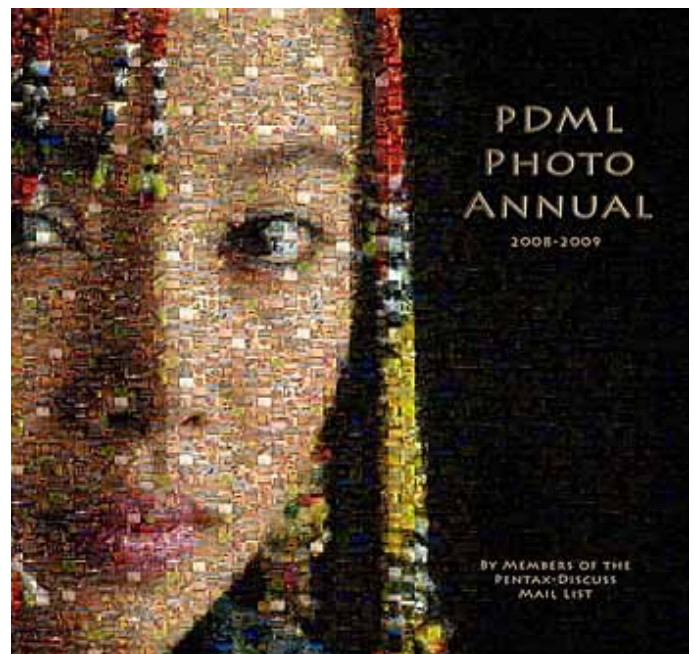
Although this was the first PDML Photo Annual, Roberts plans to have a hand in future photo compilation books by the mailing list's photographers. With his newly gained knowledge and experience in book construction, Roberts, who earned a master's degree in multimedia from Duquesne University, is already looking forward to further publications.

"After getting the first one done, I think we've learned enough to make the production of future editions go even more smoothly," he said.

The *PDML Photo Annual* is available at [www.blurb.com](http://www.blurb.com). It has earned a "Staff Pick" label and has been featured on the self-publishing Web site's "Best Sellers" section. Additionally, Blurb has requested permission to use the PDML Photo Annual as a sample to show prospective clients.

"That's a pretty good testament to how impressed they are at least," Roberts said. ■

Story by Britta Snowberger





## Diversity honors

*Mahoning Valley leaders and those on the YSU campus who are working to promote diversity and inclusion were honored at the second annual Diversity Leadership Recognition Celebration April 2 at Mr. Anthony's in Boardman. Among those honored at the event were: Front row, left to right, YSU student Domonique Price, State Sen. Joseph Schiavoni, student Ariel Foster, Rev. Philip Imler (accepting the award on behalf of his wife, Sylvia J. Imler, assistant professor, Counseling and Special Education), Rev. Louis Macklin II; and in the back row, YSU student Phaneendra Kolli, student Wilson Okello, Joseph Mosca, associate dean in the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services; and Brian Wells, academic advisor.*

## Faculty & Staff

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

**Paul R. Carr**, assistant professor, Educational Foundations, Research, Technology and Leadership, had an article entitled "It Takes Two to Tango: The Identity of Those Doing Research on Identity" published in the journal *Notos*.

**Bonnie Laing**, assistant professor, Social Work, will have an article entitled "A Critique of Rothman's and other Standard Community Organizing Models: Toward Developing A Culturally Proficient Community Organizing Framework" published in *Community Development: The Journal of the Community Development Society*.

**Jason Rakers**, director, Network and Telephone Services, presented his research on wireless networks at the Ohio Higher Education Computing Council 2009 Conference in Dayton. His research, "Measuring Wireless Network Success: An Analysis of a University in Ohio," explored the adoption of wireless by residential students at YSU.

**Sylvia J. Imler**, assistant professor, Counseling and Special Education, presented her research entitled "Becoming Culturally Responsive: A Need for Pre-service Special Education Teachers" at the Council for Exceptional Children 2009

Convention and Expo in Seattle in April.

**Bradley Shellito**, associate professor, Geography, presented "To The Point of Beginning" at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Las Vegas in March. His co-author was **Peter HappelChristian**, assistant professor, Art.

**Sherry Linkon**, professor, English, and **John Russo**, coordinator, Labor Studies Program, and co-directors, Center for Working-Class Studies, were the featured speakers in the Public Lecture Series, Knowledge, Power, and Social Justice: Educating Children Placed at-Risk, at Western Michigan University. Their topic was "Interdisciplinary Approaches in Studying Teaching and Community Organizing."

**James J. Carroll**, professor, Physics and Astronomy, was elected to the Executive Committee of the University Clean Energy Alliance of Ohio. Carroll also presented an invited talk at the 39<sup>th</sup> Winter Colloquium on the Physics of Quantum Electronics in January in Snowbird, Utah. Carroll also presented an invited talk at the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command's Isotope

Workshop March 12 at the Army Research Laboratory in Adelphi, Md. Along with colleagues from the Army Research Laboratory and Ecopulse Inc., Carroll published "Megavolt bremsstrahlung end point voltage diagnostic" in the March 2009 issue of *Reviews of Scientific Instruments*. Also, Carroll was chosen as an Outreach Contact for the National User Facility Organization.

**Jodie Krontiris-Litowitz**, professor, Biological Sciences, was selected to participate in the 2009-10 Biology Scholars Program Research Residency Program. The program is supported by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, the National Science Foundation, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science BioSciEdNet Collaborative, and promotes the understanding and practice of evidenced-based teaching and learning.

**Adam Earnhardt**, assistant professor, Communication, was invited to speak on the role of sports media in fostering community and peace at the "Peace Through Mass Media" seminar at Larry D. Black Auditorium in Columbus. ■



## JA in a Day

*Eres Brown, a graduate student studying accounting and finance, teaches a class as part of the JA in a Day program at Taft Elementary School in Youngstown on April 3. The program was sponsored by the Williamson College of Business Administration and the Monus Center for Entrepreneurship. Seventeen business students presented hands-on lessons to 400 pupils about business and free enterprise using lesson plans developed by Junior Achievement of the Mahoning Valley.*

## Poetry book celebrates 'others'



Mindy Kirchner

Mindy Kirchner wanted to give a voice to society's underrepresented members. She hoped to write poetry for the everyman, in a conversational tone and free of "abstractions and pretentiousness that are sometimes associated with contemporary poetry."

So, she penned her 18-poem chapbook, "Song of the Rest of Us," which recognizes people who Kirchner, a YSU limited-service faculty member in the English Department, calls society's "others."

"['Song of the Rest of Us'] addresses the 'other' in society, including the working class, the non-academic, and anyone who, for whatever reason, is overlooked or ignored by the mainstream," she said.

Winner of the 2007 Wick Poetry Chapbook Competition, Kirchner's collection of poems was recently published by Kent State University Press. The 2007

Northeast Ohio Master of Fine Arts graduate is excited about the career opportunities that publishing her work may bring.

"I feel extremely lucky to have this chapbook published," Kirchner said. "Not only does this mean my work will be read more widely, but that I will also become more marketable as a professor of poetry."

Although "Song of the Rest of Us" was Kirchner's first published collection of poetry, she has published poems in numerous journals and her poem, "In Medias Res," won the 2008 Whiskey Island Poetry Prize, a national contest. Three poems from Kirchner's chapbook are featured in "The Next of Us is About to Be Born," Wick Poetry Center's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary anthology.

Kirchner, who earned her bachelor's degree from Penn State University and resides in Liberty, said she is sending out full-length book manuscripts and continuing to work on new poems when she is not teaching. "Song of the Rest of Us" can be purchased online at <http://upress.kent.edu/books>. ■

## Heritage awards

(Continued from page 1)

University Professor of Islamic Studies, the American Studies Program and the Shipka lecture series.

Shipka led the drive to create the YSU chapter of the Ohio Education Association, the first faculty union at a public university in Ohio. He also was involved with the Ohio Faculty Council and National Education Association. ■

## New ETD site

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scanned, although the online availability of these older projects is sporadic for now, Whitfield said.

"Some of the older theses and dissertations have yet to be uploaded and made searchable," he said, noting the daunting, time-consuming task that is forming an ETD collection. "Scanning of retrospective theses and dissertations is finite, but this aspect of the project is not due to end any time soon."

When fully uploaded, the ETDs at YSU will be in PDF format and searchable by author's name, title, subject and keyword. Files can be downloaded from the Web, and OhioLINK keeps track of IP addresses and blocks those that suspiciously access large numbers of files.

Currently there are 202 files in YSU's OhioLINK ETD collection, and Whitfield said the online availability of these documents is invaluable for the university.

"This project provides people access to knowledge produced by the YSU community on a global level, and a number of these theses or dissertations on OhioLINK even show up in an open Web search," he said. "In February 2009 alone, there were 985 hits and downloads on the ETD Center site."

For access to current YSU ETDs, visit the OhioLINK Web site; retrospective ETDs are available at YSU's D-Space page, <http://dspace.maag.yzu.edu>. ■

Story by Britta Snowberger