



# Excellence at Work

An e-newsletter for faculty and staff scholarly achievements

Aug. 21, 2019



## FEATURED

The teaching talents of two faculty in Mathematics are being recognized on the state and national levels.

**Alicia Prieto Langarica**, left, associate professor, has been awarded the national Henry L. Alder Award for Distinguished Teaching from the Mathematical Association of America. The award is presented annually to only three faculty members nationwide and recognizes extraordinary teaching that has influence beyond the classroom.

**Anita O'Mellan**, left, a professor of Mathematics and Teacher Education, has been selected to receive the Kenneth Cummins Award for Exemplary Mathematics Teaching from the Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics. The award, given annually to one Ohio math or math education faculty member, will be presented at OCTM's conference in October in Sandusky.

O'Mellan earned a PhD from Memphis State University, joined the YSU Mathematics faculty in 1993 and was cross-appointed with the Department



of Teacher Education in 2000. Her research interests focus on Graph Theory, Combinatorics and Mathematics Education. Prieto earned a PhD from the University of Texas at Arlington. Her research focuses on the intersection of mathematics and biology, specifically problems related to the medical field.

## HONORS



**Nicolette Powe**, assistant professor of Health Professions, has been selected to be part of the Obesity

Health Disparities Programs to Increase Diversity among Individuals Engaged in Health-Related Research Program. The two-year research training **program**, funded by the National Institutes of Health, aims to increase the number of underrepresented minority faculty having independent research careers focused on obesity disparities and chronic diseases related to obesity. The program is at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

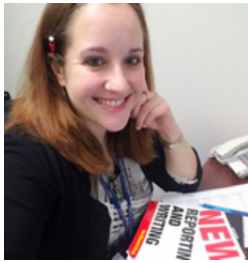
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**Shelley Blundell,**

## PUBLICATIONS



**Xiangjia “Jack” Min**, professor of Biological Sciences, and **Feng Yu**, associate professor of Computer Science and Information Systems, along with **Sarah Clark**, undergraduate Biological Sciences students, and in collaboration with **Lianfeng Gu**, professor of Fujian Agriculture and Forest University in China, recently published a **research article** in *Frontiers in Plant Science* entitled “Expanding Alternative Splicing Identification by Integrating Multiple Sources of Transcription Data in Tomato”. The work was supported by the University Research Council at YSU.



assistant professor of Communication Studies and Journalism, has been selected as

a 2019 College Media Association Adviser Awards winner in the Honor Roll Magazine Adviser, Four Year University category. Blundell will be recognized for her work with Yo Magazine at the National College Media Convention in Washington D.C. on Nov. 1. Blundell, who joined the YSU faculty in 2016, earned bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees from Kent State University.

## GRANTS



**Morgan Bagley**, assistant professor of Kinesiology and Sport Science, received

**Michael Butcher**, professor of Biological Sciences, is the principal author of an article in the *Journal of Anatomy* titled "Ontogenetic allometry and architectural properties of the paravertebral and hindlimb musculature in Eastern cottontail rabbits (*Sylvilagus floridanus*): functional implications for developmental changes in locomotor performance." The paper's co-authors include three former YSU students - **JA Rose**, **Z.D. Glenn** and **N.M Tatomirovich**. The study is the first report for a large collaborative study with colleagues at NEOMED and Kent State University-Stark. Butcher received funding from the National Science Foundation for the study using Eastern cottontail rabbits as a model. Two additional manuscripts by the group, one submitted to the *Journal of Experimental Biology* and the other to *Functional Ecology*, are currently in revision.

**Jennifer Pieren**, adjunct faculty in Dental Hygiene, is co-editor of the 5th edition of *Darby and Walsh Dental Hygiene: Theory and Practice* published by



a \$3,750 grant from the National Athletics Trainers' Association to help expand and enhance the department's partnership with the Youngstown city schools. The grant will help develop an athletic training camp on the YSU campus to provide hands-on education to city high school students about the profession of athletic training, emergency medical services and the importance of hydration. The grant was awarded by NATA's Ethnic Diversity Advisory Committee, which gives funding to educational institutions seeking to enhance ethnic diversity within the profession.

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Elsevier. Along with acting as co-editor, Pieren authored several chapters in the textbook, including "The Dental Hygiene Profession", "Tooth Polishing and Whitening", and "Preventing and Managing Medical Emergencies". Four other faculty members in Dental Hygiene also authored chapters: "Preventing and Managing Medical Emergencies" by **Diane Kandray**, professor; and "Neurologic Disabilities" by **Ruth Palich**, assistant professor; **Suzanne Smith**, assistant professor and program director; and **Mechee Thomas**, adjunct faculty.

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"Additive Manufacturing for Aerospace Maintenance and Sustainment" is the title of an article published by the Defense Systems Information Analysis Center and written by **Brett Conner**, associate professor of Manufacturing Engineering and director of the Advanced Manufacturing Research Center at YSU; **Eric MacDonald**, professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Friedman Chair for Manufacturing; and **Ashley Totin**, a project engineer for America Makes.

## FEATURED

**Tammy King**, acting dean of the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services, right, received the ATHENA Award, recognizing business and professional women who have

demonstrated excellence in their chosen career, provided leadership in the community and mentored or contributed to the growth of other professional women. Nearly 400 people attended the award ceremony at Mr. Anthony's in Boardman. Other nominees for the award included **Alicia Prieto Langarica**, associate professor of Mathematics and Statistics, and **Sara Michaliszyn**, associate professor and chair of Kinesiology and Sport Science. **Watch.**



## PRESENTATIONS

**Kristin Bruns**, assistant professor of Counseling; **Alison Kaufman**, coordinator of Assessment; and **Hillary Fuhrman**, director of the Office of Assessment, presented at the Association for Assessment of Learning in Higher Education Annual Conference. The presentation titled "A Collaborative Approach: Collaborating with Students to Use Institutional Data for Campus Improvement" was about a partnership between the Office of Assessment and the Student Affairs Counseling Program.




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**Thomas Madsen**, assistant professor of Mathematics, and **Gina McGranahan**, assistant director of Disability Services, presented at the Accessing Higher Ground Accessible Medis, Web and Technology Conference in Colorado. The session was

entitled "EIT Accessibility at Youngstown State University."

## STAFF

**Amy Cossentino**, dean of the Honors College, and **Mollie Hartup**, editor of the *YSU Magazine* and part-time faculty in the Honors College, co-authored "Reimagining the Airport as Classroom—Immediacy, Place and Presence," which has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Learning Spaces*. The article proposes a debriefing model which allows organizations to leverage affordances of face-to-face communication and geography of the airport, or other similar spaces, to maximize engagement and benefit.

JOURNAL OF  
LEARNING  
SPACES

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**Katrena S. Davidson**, university controller, received the YSU President's Leadership Merit Award. The award, approved by the YSU Board of Trustees, recognizes executive and administrative officers who have made distinctive contributions to the university's mission and ideals.



**Karla Krodel**, senior director of YSU's Office of College Access and Transition, was part of a panel discussion hosted by the City Club of the Mahoning Valley. The discussion was titled "College for All or College for Some? Access, Equity and Social Mobility".

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**Anne Lally**, assistant director of Student Counseling Services, has been appointed chair of the Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Board. Lally has served with the board for a number of years in different functions, including treasure, leader of the Human Resource Committee and most recently vice chair for the past two years.

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**Susanne M. Miller**, senior academic advisor in the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services, presented "Becoming an Academic Advising Wizard: Lessons from

Harry Potter" at the Northeast Ohio Academic Advising Conference at Kent State University Stark Campus. The goal of the presentation was to enlighten advisors on contemporary issues and struggles common to college students and create more empathic advising.

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**Lexi Rager**, coordinator of Student Recruitment and Engagement in the Honors College, has been awarded an \$8,500 Fellowship by the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, one of only 58 recipients nationwide to receive an award. Fellows must demonstrate evidence of graduate potential, undergraduate achievement and service and leadership experience. Rager received a bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Psychology from YSU this past spring and is pursuing a master's degree in Professional Communication.



**Robin Sakonyi**, associate director of the Center for Student Progress, and **Michael Greco**, assistant director of CSP Tutorial Services, presented at the Association for the Coaching and Tutoring Profession National Conference in Orlando, Fla. Their presentations were titled "Assessing the Impact of Tutoring on Student Success" and "Weekly Group Tutoring: An Alternative to Supplemental Instruction". In addition, **Tara Sydney**, an academic coach in the CSP, presented "The Magic of Relationship-Building with Minority Students in Academic Coaching".

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## IN THE MEDIA

**Fortune Magazine**  
"The Drake Effect"  
Adam Earnhardt,  
professor/chair of  
Communication

**CNN International,  
CNN.com and NHK**  
"Can Trump and Abe  
keep a critical alliance  
afloat"

Paul Sracic,  
chair/professor of  
Political Science,  
pictured right

**Public News Service**  
"Opponents Fight to  
Protect Ohio Wetlands"  
Colleen McLean,  
associate professor of  
Geological and  
Environmental Science



**WFMJ-TV**  
"The cost of Mexican tariffs"  
Ou Hu, chair of Economics

**Crain's Cleveland Business**  
"Being Environmentally Friendly"  
Dan Kuzma, manager of Recycling

**WKBN-TV**  
"Combating Stressful Tests"  
Ann Jaronski, director of Student  
Counseling Services

**Stuebenville Herald Star**

"Potential New Markets"  
Moussa Kassis, director of the Ohio Export Internship Program at YSU and director of the Ohio SBDC Export Assistance Network.

**Daily Kos**  
"Weekly Open Thread"  
Michael Jerryson, associate professor of Religious Studies



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***Excellence at Work***, published by the YSU Office of Marketing and Communications, recognizes and celebrates the scholarly work and honors of the faculty and staff of Youngstown State University. To submit items for inclusion, complete the **online form**.

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