



Excellence at Work

An e-newsletter for faculty and staff scholarly achievements

May 5, 2020

FEATURED

Do those beeping bursts of sound warning you when you're about to hit something or someone while driving actually work?

Absolutely, according to a new study by **Abdu Arslanyilmaz**, YSU associate professor of Computer Science, pictured.

The study, "Hazard Warning Systems to Improve Young Distracted Drivers' Hazard Perception Skills," is the cover story of the March 2020 issue of *Safety Journal*.



Arslanyilmaz set out to discover if the beeps and bells that sound in cars when a hazard approaches can improve driving performance of young and inexperienced drivers, especially those who tend to text while in the driver's seat. So Arslanyilmaz recruited 22 high school students to drive a game-based, multi-player online simulator, which he calls GMOST. What he found was that the beeps and bells work, leading to earlier detection and reaction to hazards. "Accordingly, a wide-spread use of the GMOST-like training applications by novice drivers would be a proactive approach to lower accident rates caused by texting while driving," the study concludes.

Arslanyilmaz earned a bachelor's degree from Gazi University in Turkey, a master's at the University of Missouri and a PhD from Texas A&M University before joining the



YSU faculty in 2007.

Pictured, game-based, multi-player, online simulated training (GMOST) used in Arslanyilmaz's study.

HONORS

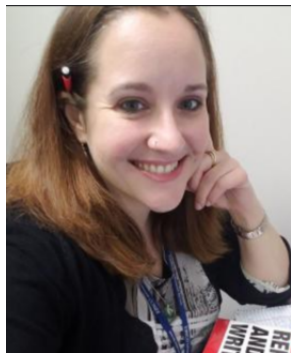
The Gone Away Place, the latest novel by YSU English Professor **Christopher Barzak**, is among only 20 books selected for the 2021 and 2022 Choose To Read Ohio booklist. The list was developed by an advisory council representing schools, libraries and literary organizations, with input from 59 Ohio teachers, librarians and other book lovers, under the auspices of the State Library of Ohio, the Ohioana Library Association and the Ohio Center for the Book. The booklist is Barzak's latest honor. His first novel, *One for Sorrow*, won the Crawford Fantasy Award and was made into the Sundance feature film, *Jamie Marks is Dead*. *The Love We Share Without Knowing* was a finalist for the Nebula Award and the James Tiptree Jr. Award, while *Wonders of the Invisible World* received the Stonewall Honor Award from the American Library Association.



PRESENTATIONS

Brad Shellito, professor, and **Peter Kimosop**, assistant professor, Geography and Urban-Regional Studies, hosted a series of workshops to assist faculty, students and area professionals with updates on working with multiple aspects of Geographic Information Science. Shellito presented as part of the "OhioView Presents Geospatial Applications" workshop. Shellito and Kimosop also hosted workshops titled "ArcGIS Pro: The Next Level." Participants included regional and local GIS professionals and graduate students from nearby universities. At one of the workshops, **Tiffany Wolbrecht**, Ward Beecher Planetarium lecturer, made a presentation about satellite imagery and geospatial data.

Shelley Blundell, assistant professor of Journalism and Communication, co-presented "The sounds of success: Using contextual problem-based learning activities to increase student



engagement” at the 2020 National Organization for Student Success Conference in Nashville. The presentation included sharing a community of practice **wiki**. Blundell invites interested YSU faculty to join the community of practice wiki by submitting a request for access within the wiki itself, or emailing sblundell@ysu.edu.

Pianist **Roman Rudnytsky**, professor emeritus, Dana School of Music, performed a Lunchtime Recital at St. Bride’s Church in London. A graduate of the Juilliard School in New York, Rudnytsky has won 10 international and national piano competitions and performed in 100 countries. Just last year, he played in the United States, Guam, Saipan, Chile and Australia, as well as recitals on two cruises of the Queen Mary 2.



PUBLICATIONS

Patrick Durrell, professor of Astronomy and director of the Ward Beecher Planetarium, co-authored two articles in the *Astrophysical Journal*: “An Initial Look at the Intergalactic Globular Cluster Population in the Perseus Cluster” and “The Discovery of Low-mass Galaxies and a New Galaxy Catalog in the Core of the Virgo Cluster.” He also is a co-author of “Newly discovered dwarf galaxies in the MATLAS low-density fields” in *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*.

COACH OF THE YEAR

Doug Kuberski, who turned YSU into a Top 10 bowling program in the 2019-20 season, has been named the National Tenpin Coaches Association Division I Coach of the Year. Kuberski is the first national coach of the year at YSU in any sport since then head football coach Jim Tressel captured the honor in 1997. In his first full season as head coach, Kuberski transformed the program from a fringe Top 25 team into a national contender, finishing the season ranked 10th in the country.

IN THE MEDIA

YSU professors **Jake Protivnak** and **Caroline Oltmanns** are featured on the covers of two magazines in Hudson, Ohio, this spring. Protivnak, professor and chair of Counseling, School Psychology and Educational Leadership, and his family, are on the cover of the March 2020 edition of *Hudson Neighbors* magazine. Inside is a three-



page story about Protivnak, wife Carrie and daughter Danica, as well as Zeda, their two-year-old Goldendoodle. And Oltmanns, professor of Piano in the Dana School of Music, is on the cover of the April 2020 edition of *Hudson Life* magazine. Oltmanns, an acclaimed classical pianist who has performed around the world, lives in Hudson with her composer-husband James Wilding, who teaches at the University of Akron.

"Rethinking style: Fashion professor at YSU champions positive body image"

Jennifer Frank, adjunct faculty, Human Ecology

The Vindicator

April 22, 2020

"Anchoring returns thanks to COVID-19"

Adam Earnhardt, professor and chair, Communication

The Vindicator

April 22, 2020

"YSU professors talk about challenges, rewards of online teaching"

Amy Crawford, professor,
Communication

Danielle Class, professor, Nursing
WKBN-TV

April 21, 2020

"The man who led YSU's transition to online-only classes"

Jim Yukech, chief information officer
WKBN-TV



April 20, 2020

"How this CPA professor teaches during a crisis"

Jessie Wright, lecturer, Accounting and Finance
Ohio Society of CPAs podcast
April 8, 2020

Faculty designs 3D-printed filters for medical masks

Darrell Wallace, professor and program coordinator for manufacturing engineering; **Brian Vuksanovich**, professor of mechanical engineering technology; **Eric MacDonald**, the Friedman Chair for Manufacturing; **Jason Walker**, assistant professor of mechanical and industrial engineering; **John Martin**, professor of engineering technology; **Pedro Cortes**, professor of chemical engineering; **Taci Turel**, professor of human ecology; **Mary Yacavone**, professor of health professions; **Joseph D'Uva**, professor of art; **Julie Gentile**, director of environmental, occupational, health and safety; and **Diana Palardy**, professor of world languages and culture.



Business Journal
April 7, 2020

"'A Harrowing Warning' to All as Hungary Hands Far-Right Leader Dictatorial Powers Amid Coronavirus Pandemic"

Jacob Labendz, Clayman professor and director of the YSU Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies
Common Dreams
March 30, 2020

For more stories on the activities of YSU faculty and staff, visit:

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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**.

For more information, contact Ron Cole, director of University Communications, at racole01@ysu.edu or 330-941-3285, or Becky Rose, assistant director of University Communications, at rarose01@ysu.edu or

330-941-2159.



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One University Plaza
Youngstown, OH | 44555 United States

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