



# Excellence at Work

An e-newsletter for faculty and staff scholarly achievements

Oct. 29, 2020



Watch Catherine Kobayashi interview YSU's Paul Sracic on NHK World Japan.

## FEATURED

It's election season, and that means a lot of work for Paul Sracic, YSU professor of Political Science and International Relations and a much sought-after source for U.S. political analysis.



Among Sracic's activities leading up to Tuesday's election: lectures to the U.S. Embassies in Bangladesh, [Kuwait](#), Ireland and Belgium; a press roundtable with reporters in Brussels; appearances on [NHK World Japan](#) and BBC Radio; and an [election night live chat and Q&A](#) sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. He has been quoted in dozens of articles in leading media around the globe, including the [Financial Times](#) of London, the [Jerusalem Post](#), [Yahoo News](#), the [Washington Examiner](#), the [Los Angeles Times](#) and [RealClearPolitics](#). He also authored a column in [Kyodo News](#), Japan's leading news agency; was a panelist for "The Valley Votes: What to Expect Next" hosted by [Mahoning Matters](#); and is scheduled for a post-election talk at the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber's annual [Economic Forecast Breakfast](#) on Nov. 5.

Sracic, who holds a doctorate in Political Science from Rutgers University, has received two Fulbright Awards to lecture in Japan and has given more than 40 international U.S. State Department-sponsored lectures in eight different countries.

## FEATURED

Willie Peterson, a lecturer in Social Work, led U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson on a tour of the Rockford Village EnVision Center on the city's East Side earlier this month. Peterson is executive director of the Center for Community Empowerment. The Youngstown facility is among the first of 62 EnVision Centers established by HUD nationwide to help low-income families with childcare, counseling services, community programming, school programs, a computer lab and a reentry program for people returning from incarceration.



Above: Willie Peterson, left, with HUD Secretary Ben Carson. [Watch.](#)

## AWARDS



**Nancy Wagner**, chair, Nursing, received an Award of Excellence at Case Western Reserve University's **Frances Payne Bolton School of**

**Nursing 2020 Alumni Awards** ceremony. The award recognizes alumni who demonstrate outstanding leadership and achievement in nursing and have made a significant contribution in nursing or related areas of health care. Wagner earned a bachelor's degree in Nursing from

## PRESENTATIONS

**Emre Ulusoy**, associate professor of Marketing, will co-chair a track session at the **Transformative Consumer Research Conference 2021**. Ulusoy



and Handan Vicdan, associate professor of Marketing at Emylon Business School in France, will chair the session titled "The Impact of Technology on Transforming the Food Consumption/Production: The Bright Future of Technologically De(re)contextualized Food Systems and

the University of Cincinnati, a master's from Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis and a doctorate from CWRU. She was a clinical nurse specialist at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center for 12 years before joining YSU's Nursing faculty in 1990. She has been department chair since 2013.

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**Jake J. Protivnak**, professor and Counseling Program coordinator, is the recipient of the 2020 Don Dinkmeyer Social Interest Award from the American Counseling Association. The award recognizes individuals making significant contributions in the counseling field in support of families. Protivnak was recognized in part for co-creating "**State of Mind: Hudson**," a citywide event in Hudson, Ohio, that featured educational programs to increase mental health awareness and reduce the stigma of individuals seeking treatment for mental health. Protivnak was to receive the award at the ACA Conference in San Diego in April, which was cancelled due to the pandemic.

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**Kendyl Clarkson**, assistant women's Lacrosse coach, was named to the Women's Lacrosse All-Decade Team for the State University of New York Athletic



Sustainability." The virtual conference is hosted by the University of Virginia.

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**Shelley Blundell**, assistant professor of Journalism and Communication, presented "Self-censorship and student government retaliation: Significant threats to U.S. collegiate media outlets" at the 2020 Virtual College Media Association National Convention. Blundell's presentation discussed findings from her 2019-20 mixed methods study that investigated the presence and impact of censorship and prior review at U.S. college media outlets, as related by college media advisers.

## PUBLICATIONS

**Johanna Slivinske**, part-time faculty, Social Work, had two poems accepted for publication in the journal *Blue Collar Review*. The first is a two-part piece about growing up in the Youngstown area after the closure of the steel mills. The second poem is titled "The New Gilded Age." A third poem, "Fishing on Chincoteague" was published in the book *Ohio's Best Emerging Poets*.

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**Amy Laurel Fluker**, the Robert W. Reeder I Memorial Endowed Professor of History, recently published the book, *Commonwealth of Compromise: Civil War Commemoration in Missouri*. The University of Missouri Press also recently published a

Conference. **Clarkson** played at Buffalo State from 2009 to 2012 and is second in school history with 385 career points on 145 goals. She joined the YSU coaching staff in July 2019 after six years of head coaching experience at the Division III level, most recently at Virginia Wesleyan University.

blog post by Fluker that gives further insight into the book. The post is titled "**We Have Drank from the Same Canteen: Veteran Company A, the Civil War and Reconciliation in Kansas City.**"

## Counseling Today

A Publication of the American Counseling Association

With a raging pandemic, increasing racial conflicts and various other challenges, 2020 has been an angst-ridden time for us all...and even moreso for children.

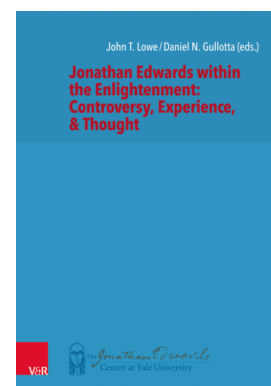
How to handle that anxiety is the topic of a new article co-authored by **Victoria Kress**, YSU professor of Psychological Sciences and Counseling. The article appears in *Counseling Today* and is titled "**Techniques for helping children navigate anxiety related to COVID-19.**" The article provides several strategies counselors can use to help children manage anxiety, including creating a routine, utilizing thought-stopping tools, and clearly communicating. "Children have many questions about the challenges we are currently facing," the article says. "Adults should explain things to children in clear, concrete terms."

### FEATURED

The bad – and the good – of pain is the subject of a new essay by **Lucas Hardy**, associate professor of English and World Languages.

The essay, titled "Jonathan Edwards and the Aesthetics of Pain," appears in *Jonathan Edwards Within the Enlightenment: Controversy, Experience & Thought*, a volume in the New Directions in Jonathan Edwards Studies Series curated by the **Jonathan Edwards Center at Yale University**.

Hardy examines the philosophy of pain developed by Edwards, a prominent 18th-century preacher and philosopher widely regarded as one of America's most important and original philosophical theologians. Hardy shows that Edwards, arguing against the prevailing Enlightenment belief that pain was either a symptom of injury or a form of divine punishment, advanced a theory that pain might





coincide with pleasure to produce new ways of experiencing the mind and body.

Hardy joined the YSU English faculty in 2012 after completing a Ph.D. in Early American Literature at the University at Albany, SUNY. He is currently completing a book-length study on pain and religious life in colonial New England.

## IN THE MEDIA

### **Tribune Chronicle**

“Not just a haircut: Barbershops, salons offer freedom and community”  
Patrick Spearman, professor, Education and Leadership



### **Business Journal**

“The Future of Rural Hospitals”  
Anita Hackstedde, chair, YSU Board of Trustees and president/chief executive of Salem Regional Medical Center

### **Wallet Hub**

"The Future of the Affordable Care Act"  
William Binning, faculty emeritus, Political Science

### **Tribune Chronicle**

“Instagram not media of choice for news”  
Adam Earnhardt, professor, Communication

### **Awaken**

“There’s No Such Thing As Free Will”  
Bruce Waller, professor emeritus, Philosophy and 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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