

Students 'Light the Wick' with new show

You're a busy member of the STEM faculty without much time to find out what's happening on the other side of campus. You'd love to put down your ring stands and slide rules every so often to get more in touch with your creative side.

Lucky for you, YSU telecommunication students are now producing "Light the Wick"—a weekly, live-to-tape show about people and events in Youngstown's own arts corridor. New episodes are uploaded Friday evenings to www.lightthewick.blip.tv.

"Interesting people are what we're looking for. We're about the lifeblood of Wick Avenue," said Fred Owens, communications professor and supervisor of the show. Junior telecommunications major Keith Stinson added, "We want to try to brand our show as the place you would go to find out what's fun and different at Youngstown State."

Each episode of "Light the Wick" runs only seven to eight minutes, but the first show alone was packed with stories on the new dean of Fine and Performing Arts, upcoming Dana concerts and YSU theater productions, "Music at Noon" at the Butler, swing-dancing students, the lighting of the AT&T tower, the M-2 parking deck, Homework Express and the YSU Marching Pride drum line... to name a few.

"Pretty much every aspect leading up to the actual production is incredibly stressful – from assigning stories, to putting the scripts together, to making sure everything gets done," said Cheri Jones, senior telecommunications major and executive producer of the show. "But when Friday comes and everyone is in position and ready to

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Kayla Marafiole, YSU student and technical director of 'Light the Wick,' works in the control room in Bliss Hall.

English prof appears in History Channel program

When English professor Scott Leonard was asked to lend his expertise on mythology to the History Channel's miniseries "Clash of the Gods," he was surprised to find his wisdom would be shared in front of the camera.

"They contacted me through e-mail," Leonard said. "They had discovered me based on the textbook I had written" – *Myth and Knowing: An Introduction to World Mythology*.

Leonard had originally thought that producers wanted him simply to correspond through e-mail as an expert reference. But earlier this year, they asked him to come to New York for filming. Plane tickets and an 18-page list of questions and topics to "brush up" on soon arrived.

February 11 was a whirlwind day for Leonard. He arrived in New York in the morning and was taken to the seventh floor

of a vacant apartment building where the shoot was set-up.

"The crew and producers were great and made me feel right at home," he said. "The toughest part was standing on a mark in front of a camera, answering questions and discussing matters of interpretation and historical context for five hours, almost non-stop. There was a break for a drink of water here and there,

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eUpdate exclusives

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

- **YSU will dedicate Armed Services Boulevard (formerly Spring Street, on the east side of campus) at a ceremony 5:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30.** The ceremony will include a fly-over by a Coast Guard rescue helicopter, a procession that includes all branches of the military, and a keynote address by U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown. Faculty, staff and students are invited to attend.
- **The Warren P. Williamson, Jr. College of Business Administration honors recipients of the 2009 WCBA Outstanding Alumnus Awards at the 14th Annual WCBA Alumni Banquet 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30 in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center.**
- **Campus News Roundup: Dana School of Music celebrates its 140th birthday; 'Where There's a Wheel, There's a Way' takes to the streets of downtown; Respiratory Care Program is featured in the October issue of the AARC Times; Etruscan Press offers a two-day course in Literary Publishing, featuring Dana Gioia, former chair of the National Endowment for the Arts; MBA students and faculty from the University of São Paulo in Brazil visit campus; the Monumental Ideas in Miniature Books project is on display through Oct. 30 in the Bliss Hall Gallery; Caroline Oltmanns, professor of piano, releases fourth solo CD.**

New atomic force microscope advances materials research

A new microscope that can make surface profile measurements on the order of a billionth of a meter is now part of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at YSU.

The \$150,000 atomic force microscope, which has the capability to image small objects down to the size of an atom, was funded as part of a \$900,000 grant from the Ohio Research Scholarship Program. The program provides grants to strengthen and increase the number of collaborative research clusters across the state.

The grant will help YSU advance its research into the surface of materials such as polymer multilayer structures being developed in collaboration with Case Western Reserve University as part of a National Science Foundation-supported Center for Layered Polymeric Materials, with which YSU is affiliated.

YSU received the allocation of \$900,000 as part of a \$15 million grant to the Research Cluster on Surfaces in Advanced Materials, of which YSU is a member along with Kent State and Case Western Reserve universities.

James Andrews, professor of Physics and Astronomy, said the cluster was formed in response to a fall 2007 joint request for proposals from the Ohio Department of Development and Board of Regents under the Ohio Third Frontier Initiative.

The microscope has a tiny probe tip which scans the surface of a material to create a 3-D image, as opposed to using traditional microscope techniques which utilize light to display a two-dimensional image.

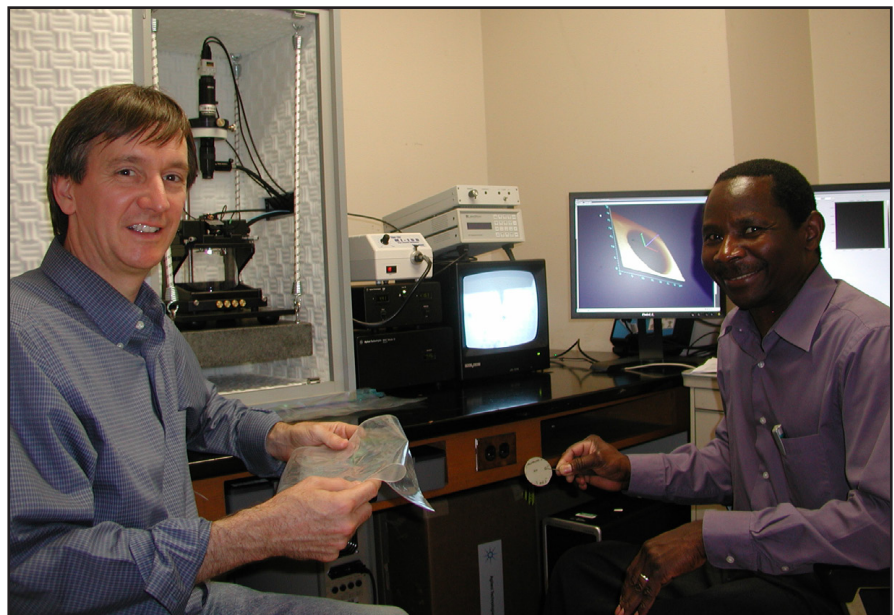
"It has become one of the fundamental tools for looking at surface materials," Andrews said.

Andrews, along with YSU physics professor Tom Oder and research scientist Guilin Mao, are the only members of the faculty who have been trained to work with the instrument so far, though they are looking forward to broadening its use and incorporating the microscope into the classroom.

"In addition to involving YSU students in our research efforts, coursework based on the AFM will be integrated into our upper-division courses on condensed matter, semiconductors and advanced instrumentation," Andrews said.

The remaining grant funds will primarily be used to purchase other instruments, including an optical parametric oscillator (tunable laser source), a Raman Microscope, a solar stimulator, a programmable spin coater and various related pieces for studying surfaces. ■

Story by Melissa Sullivan



Physics professors James Andrews, left, and Tom Oder with new atomic force microscope in Ward Beecher Hall.

Youngstown STATE UNIVERSITY

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Ying Wang, assistant professor of Marketing, wrote two journal articles. The first, entitled "Examining Chinese Students' Internet Use and Cross Cultural Adaptation: Does Loneliness Speak Much?" was published in the *Asian Journal of Communication*; the second, "Romanians' Attitudes toward Online Advertising," was published in the *Marketing Management Journal*. Additionally, Wang presented two papers, "An Online Advertising Model: Comparing China and the U.S." at the 2009 Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business Marketing Research Forum, and "What does IMC Mean in the Global Context?" at the Chicago Association of Direct Marketing Educational Foundation Integrated Marketing Communications Academic Roundtable conference. Wang is also the author of the book, *Connect, Disconnect and Reconnect: How Chinese Students Adapt to a New Culture via the Net*.

Raymond Shaffer, chair of Accounting and Finance, and **David Stout**, endowed chair of Accounting and Finance, presented a paper titled, "Service-Based Cost-Vol-

ume-Profit Problems for Use in Accounting and Tax Courses" at the 2009 Ohio American Accounting Association Meeting in May.

Jozsi Jalics, assistant professor of Mathematics and Statistics, co-authored a paper that was included in the proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences entitled "NMDA Receptor-Dependent Switching Between Different Gamma Rhythm-Generating Microcircuits in Entorhinal Cortex." The paper was accompanied by a commentary which not only appeared in the Academy of Science issue, but also appeared in *Science Daily* with another article titled "New Brain Link as Cause of Schizophrenia." In addition, Jalics gave a presentation entitled "Stimulus-Driven Traveling Wave Solutions in Neural Field Models" at the 2009 Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics Conference on Applications of Dynamical Systems in Snowbird, Utah.

Javed Alam, professor of Civil and Chemical Engineering, traveled to Washington

D.C. to serve as a member of a review panel for the National Science Foundation, reviewing proposals submitted to the NSF's Course, Curriculum and Laboratory Improvement Program in July.

Caroline Oltmanns, professor of Piano at the Dana School of Music, is releasing her fourth solo CD, her fifth overall, entitled *Pastorale*, a collection of favorites by Beethoven, Chopin and Wilding.

Fred Viehe, associate professor of History, published an article, "Atavistic Culture: The Bete Noire of Social Change," in the spring 2009 edition of *The Forum on Public Policy*.

James Ritter, director of Undergraduate Student Services in the Williamson College of Business Administration, presented "The Application of Covey's "Seven Habits" to Academic Advising Resulting in Increased Student Success" at the National Academic Advising Association National Conference on Oct. 1 in San Antonio, Texas. ■

"Sarah Wakefield, come on down!"

Amid the cheers of the "Price is Right" audience, YSU economics instructor Sarah Wakefield nearly missed the famous call: "Sarah Wakefield, come on down!"

Wakefield of Youngstown, who earned both bachelor's and master's degrees from YSU, is an instructor this semester in the economics department.

In late June, while vacationing in Las Vegas, she, her fiancé, brother and friend made the overnight journey to Los Angeles for a chance to be on the "Price is Right." Arriving at 5 a.m., the group secured a spot near the front of the line.

When the show started, Wakefield was the first to be called to Contestant's Row, and she made it on stage by guessing the price of a set of golf clubs. Upon Wakefield's arrival on stage, show host and Cleveland native Drew Carey gave his approval of her homemade "Ohio Loves Drew" t-shirt.

The game was "Squeeze Play," and Wakefield attempted to guess the price of an outdoor kitchen set. Unfortunately, she left empty-handed after both the pricing game, and her attempt at spinning the famous "Price is Right" wheel.

"It was very exciting," she said. "I encourage people to give it a shot if they're out there. It's a great experience and totally worth the long wait in line."

Wakefield's appearance was broadcast on Wednesday, Sept. 30 on local CBS affiliate, WKBN-TV Channel 27. The full episodes can be seen online at www.cbs.com and clicking on the "Price is Right" link. ■





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go, it makes the whole thing worth it.”

Jones and Stinson said that producing the show teaches what cannot be found in a book: experience. Owens added, “Our students are on a one-week production turn-around schedule, which is extraordinary because live-to-tape TV is high pressure and deadline sensitive. Students become extremely competent and capable problem-solvers, and it gets them out of their comfort zones.”

“It’s exciting to think that we’re putting together a show that might one day rival the productions from Kent State or Ohio University,” Jones said. “We just want to give the students, faculty and alumni from YSU something to be proud of.”

“Light the Wick” is also available through the Fine and Performing Arts homepage, <http://fpa.yzu.edu/index.shtml>, and the community can e-mail the show at light.wick@gmail.com.

In addition to “Light the Wick,” the telecommunications students are also working with the YSU Athletics Department on a new project that ensures TV coverage and live broadcasts of YSU Olympic-style sports. This September, YSU became the first school to stream a live broadcast of a game (women’s volleyball) from the Horizon League’s web site. ■

Story by
Andrea Armeni

Mythology

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though.”

He returned to Youngstown that night.

Leonard’s background in mythology dates back to his undergraduate studies at Humboldt State University in Arcata, Calif., where he had a professor who acted as a mentor.

“I took this stimulating mythology literature course with this instructor who really made me fall in love with it,” he said. “He showed us that myths aren’t just exotic ancient artifacts but living, breathing forces in all societies at all times, including our own.”

After earning a doctorate from Ohio State University in 1992, Leonard joined the YSU faculty, which just happened to need a professor to teach mythology.

“I continued to study and research the topic as I taught it until I became a generalist in the field of world mythology,”

he said.

Leonard appears in five of the nine “Clash of the Gods” episodes, giving commentary on a variety of topics and figures.

This will not be the last time Leonard will get in front of cameras to discuss mythology. *The World Book Encyclopedia* petitioned the professor for assistance in expanding its section on mythology and mythological figures. “I was recently re-contacted

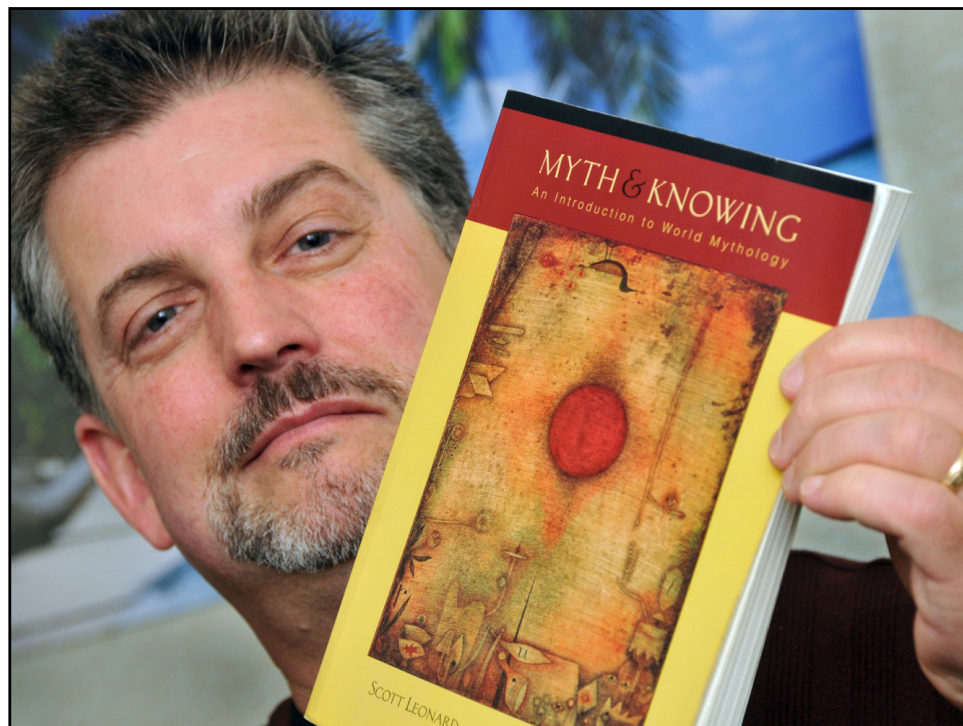
because they want to film a supplemental video,” he said. “These opportunities seem to keep coming up with increased interest in mythology these days.”

“Clash of the Gods” airs on The History Channel on Mondays at 10 p.m. The full episodes can be viewed online at www.history.com by clicking the “Clash of the Gods” link. ■

Story by Melissa Sullivan

“Myths aren’t just exotic ancient artifacts but living, breathing forces.”

— Scott Leonard —



YSU English professor Scott Leonard, pictured with his book on mythology, appears in the History Channel’s ‘Clash of the Gods.’