

## Tuition reduced for Western Pa. residents

The cost to attend YSU will be drastically reduced for students from western Pennsylvania under a new initiative aimed at making YSU more accessible and affordable to Keystone State residents.

The Western Pennsylvania Advantage, which starts in fall semester 2009, slashes

the out-of-state surcharge paid by residents in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Crawford, Erie, Lawrence, Mercer and Venango counties.

The result is a tuition reduction of nearly \$2,500 a year for students in those counties.

“This plan makes YSU, our quality programs and faculty more accessible to our neighbors in western Pennsylvania and gives students and their parents more options when considering their educational

needs,” President David C. Sweet said.

The new tuition plan was unveiled Jan. 22 at a news conference in West Middlesex, Pa. The initiative was covered

extensively in the press and broadcast media in Pittsburgh and across western Pennsylvania.

Currently, full-time YSU students from the eight-county western Pennsylvania region pay a surcharge of \$2,692 per academic year, on top of the \$6,721 tuition charged to Ohio residents. That’s a total cost of \$9,413 per academic year.

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### The Western PA Advantage

Based on current tuition rates, students in eight western Pennsylvania counties will save nearly \$2,500 per academic year under a new tuition reduction plan:

Current	\$9,413
New rate	\$6,920
<b>Savings</b>	<b>\$2,493</b>

## New gerontology program addresses aging population

While parts of Pennsylvania and Ohio are sometimes known as the Rust Belt, an equally appropriate name may be the Aging Belt – Pennsylvania has the second oldest population in the nation, and Ohio ranks sixth.



*Daniel Van Dussen*

That’s where YSU’s new gerontology program fits in.

The new program, approved by the Ohio Board of Regents late last year, is just what the region is missing, said Daniel Van Dussen, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology and the program’s coordinator.

“There is a significant need for this program due to the demographic transition in our area, which exceeds the national average,” said Van Dussen, noting that the closest gerontology degree programs are at Penn State University and West Virginia University.

“Also, there is a strong job outlook within 50 miles of campus. According to a survey we conducted, there will be at least 907 job openings in the next five years in the field.”

Van Dussen, who earned a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, joined the YSU faculty three years ago to coordinate the gerontology program. It took the better part of three years and the help of Qi Jiang, sociology and anthropology chair, psychology professor Nancy White and sociology and anthropology professor emeritus Beverly

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*Roshelle Green, a guidance counselor at Hickory High School in Hermitage, Pa., poses with Pete the Penguin during a news conference Jan. 22 at the Radisson Hotel in West Middlesex, Pa. Green said the new tuition structure will make YSU even more attractive to residents in Western Pennsylvania.*

## eUpdate exclusives

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

- **Gov. Ted Strickland presents annual State of the State address.**



Ted Strickland

- **Africana Studies Program announces events for African American History Month.**
- **Campus News Roundup: WYSU and WKSU partner to better serve the area's news audience; STEM holds first annual awards dinner; Campus celebrates Darwin Day; 'Working Portraits: Faces of Strength' exhibited at public library; Albany Law School professor lectures on campus; Reporters forum focuses on election coverage; YSU, in conjunction with the Mahoning County Mental Health Board and NEOUCOM Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence, presents Mental Health Training, Response, and Awareness on Campus; Students and others honored at annual MLK breakfast; Career and Counseling Services presents Job Search Strategies for the Displaced Worker.**

# Prof's quirky one-liners offer a lesson about life

For YSU senior Joanna Zuckla, art professor Phillip Chan's lectures were a source of inspiration — perplexing, strangely worded inspiration, but inspiration nonetheless.

During her classes with Chan, Zuckla, a graphic design major, took note of the professor's unusual dialogue, scribbling the cryptic metaphors and peculiar one-liners he offered in his lectures in the margins of her notebook.

"I jotted down the funny things he would say that nobody paid attention to, and when he'd laugh at his own jokes, I thought it was beautiful," Zuckla said. "I wrote everything down for fun, but upon re-reading the quotes, I realized [Chan] was trying to teach us about more than the business — he was teaching us about life."

Zuckla decided to compile these short life lessons, memorializing her courses with Chan at the same time, in a 38-page paperback book that she designed as part of her senior project for the fall graduating senior art show in December at the McDonough Museum of Art.

*The Typofile's Guide to the Galaxy* took Youngstown native Zuckla one and one-half months to create, and it showcases Chan's quirky quotes amid black-and-white themed backgrounds. Released in early November, the book was made internationally available through an online publishing company, Blurb. "It was a step-by-step process. I created my designs to fit their format and went from there," Zuckla said. "The company allowed me to set my price and take control of my profit."

At \$22.95, Zuckla feels that the book will incite nostalgia in her former classmates and entertain and encourage her readers

for a reasonable price. For Chan, however, the book was free — and a surprise.

Until the senior art show, Zuckla kept her book a secret so that Chan would be surprised when she presented him with a complimentary copy. "The Typofile's Guide to the Galaxy" is available online at [www.blurb.com/book-store/detail/412975](http://www.blurb.com/book-store/detail/412975).

Story by Britta Snowberger



## Guitar hero

Francois Fowler, assistant professor of guitar in the Dana School of Music, performs a free Music at Noon concert in the Butler Institute of American Art last month. The free noon-time concerts continue on Wednesdays throughout the semester.

## Youngstown STATE UNIVERSITY

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# Faculty & Staff

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

**Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez**, director, Dr. James Dale Ethics Center, and professor, Philosophy and Religious Studies, published the chapter "Moral Cosmopolitanism" in *Morality and Justice*, and he was appointed to the Nominating Committee of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics and to the Board of Editors of the journal *Teaching Ethics*.

**Daniel J. Van Dussen**, assistant professor, Sociology and Anthropology, organized a symposium entitled "Who will Provide Services and Care to Older Adults? Education, Jobs and Underserved Elders," and he gave a presentation entitled "Perceived Emotional Relationship Quality, Self-rated Health, Physical Health and Psychological Well-Being Using Structural Equations Modeling" at the 61st Annual Gerontological Association of America meetings in Washington, D.C. He was also appointed to the board of the Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education and named chair of the Policy Committee.

**Carmella Hill**, instructor; **Victoria Kress**, associate professor; **Don Martin**, professor; and **Jake Protivnak**, assistant professor, Counseling, presented papers at the 25th annual All Ohio Counselors Conference in Columbus. Hill's presentation was entitled "The Missing Links in Professional Identity: Promoting Connectivity and Collaboration Among Professional Counselors," and Kress's presentation was entitled "Ethical DSM Diagnosis: Practice Considerations for Professional Counselors." Martin's presentation was "Counseling Male Delinquents," and Protivnak's presentations were "Failing Students' Reflections on Participating in School Counseling," "School Counselors Addressing Abusive Partner Relationships," and a post-conference presentation entitled "Evaluating and Reporting the Effectiveness of Your School Counseling Program."

**Gary Salvner**, professor and chair, English, presented a session entitled "Young Adult Verse Novels" at the National Council of Teachers of English Annual Convention in San Antonio.

**Kelly Bancroft**, coordinator, SMARTS, won both the first- and second-place awards for nonfiction with "Singer Sewing Machine No. 66 [With Attachments, For Family Use]" and "Crazy Horses," respectively, in the first MUSE Literary Competition, which was held in December by Cleveland's Literary Center (The LIT). MUSE is the quarterly journal of The LIT, a literary organization that promotes writers and their work throughout northern Ohio.

**Zbigniew Piotrowski**, professor, Mathematics and Statistics delivered an invited address, "An Extension of the Closed Graph Theorem for Separately Continuous Functions," at the Special Session on Set-Theoretic Topology at the meeting of the American Mathematical Society in Huntsville, Ala.

**Don Martin**, professor, Counseling and Special Education, received the OCA Research and Writing Award at the All Ohio Counselors Conference. The award is given to an individual who has demonstrated extraordinary research and writing ability as evidenced by journal publications for the counseling profession.

**Jake Protivnak**, assistant professor, Counseling and Special Education, received the OCA Herman J. Peters Award at the All Ohio Counselors Conference. The award is given to an individual who promotes innovative ideas and theories in the counseling field and has significant impact on future trends.

**Zara Rowlands**, assistant professor, Human Ecology, will present a paper entitled "The Challenges of an Asynchronous, Multi-Disciplinary, Multi-Instructor Online Course" at the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education (SITE) 2009, 20th International Conference in Charleston, S.C., on March 5.

**Anwarul Islam**, assistant professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, had a journal article entitled "Effective Methods of Using CFRP Bars in Shear Strengthening of Concrete Girders" published in *Engineering Structures of Elsevier*. This experimental research, which proposed a new formula for attaching carbon fiber polymer bars for strengthening concrete members in shear, was funded through a URC grant in 2006-2007. The author will also present the outcomes of this research at the Structures Congress in Austin, Texas, in April, and at the Fifth International Structural Engineering and Construction Conference in Las Vegas in September.

## In memoriam... Bart Kittle

Dr. Barrent Ryder "Bart" Kittle, 62, associate professor of marketing in YSU's Williamson College of Business Administration, passed away Jan. 16 at Hospice House in Boardman.



Services will be 11 a.m. March 21 in the Christ Episcopal Church in Clarksburg, W.Va.

Kittle received a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's of business administration degree from West Virginia University. He earned a Ph.D. in marketing from the University of Alabama. He joined YSU's faculty in 1994.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Student Advertising Competition Fund established by his family at YSU, or to Hospice of the Valley.

To read a more detailed obituary, visit [www.lanefuneralhomes.com](http://www.lanefuneralhomes.com).



## Commander in Chief

*A YSU student shows support for President Barack Obama during an inauguration celebration in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center on Jan. 20. Hundreds of enthusiastic students, faculty and staff attended the event to watch President Obama take the oath of office as the nation's 44th president. The celebration was co-sponsored by YSU African Studies, the Department of History, Office of Student Diversity Programs, Department of Political Science, Office of Student Affairs, and the Center for Working-Class Studies*

## Tuition

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Under the Western Pennsylvania Advantage, the surcharge will be cut to only \$200 per academic year. Based on current tuition rates, students would pay \$6,921 per academic year, a savings of nearly \$2,500 per academic year, or 26 percent.

"Youngstown State has always been a quality educational option for students in Mercer County," said Roshelle Green, a guidance counselor at Hickory High School in Hermitage, Pa. "With this new tuition plan, especially during these tough economic times, I think YSU will become an even more attractive choice."

Currently, nearly 650 students from the eight-county Western Pennsylvania Advantage region attend YSU. Starting in the fall, those students will experience an immediate drastic drop in their tuition costs.

Mackenzie Greenert of Butler, Pa., is one of those students. A 2008 graduate of Butler High School, Greenert said she will save nearly \$2,500 in tuition next year under the new tuition plan.

"YSU is one of the best kept secrets in this region," said Greenert, a freshman dental hygiene major.

Sweet said the Western Pennsylvania

Advantage is part of the larger initiative by leaders on both sides of the state line to pull the region together toward a shared vision of the future.

"In the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy, we cannot allow political boundaries and

state lines to stand in the way of progress," Sweet said.

For more information, contact the YSU Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 330-941-2000 or visit the YSU WPA website at [www.wpa.ysu.edu](http://www.wpa.ysu.edu). ■

## Gerontology

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Gartland, among others, to get the program rolling.

The gerontology program is in its first semester at YSU and offers a bachelor of arts degree in gerontology and a certificate in applied gerontology. A dozen students are currently pursuing the bachelor's degree, and 50 students are enrolled in the certificate program.

The program's applied, interdisciplinary nature is what sets it apart from other gerontology programs across the nation, Van Dussen said. "We bring food and nutrition, sociology and nursing courses into our program, for example, and it allows us to understand aging from multiple perspectives," he said.

With the interdisciplinary learning and professional experience that the pro-

gram offers, students will be prepared to enter any of a number of available jobs when they graduate. "There are job options in nursing, hospice, physical therapy, elder advocate groups, non-profit organizations and charities," Van Dussen said. "Some of our students even go on to law school."

Although the program is in its early stages, Van Dussen sees the program growing, enrolling 50 to 100 gerontology majors. Additionally, Van Dussen said that, in the near future, the university will hopefully be able to establish a graduate-level gerontology program and employ a few more faculty members.

For more information on the program, contact Van Dussen at 330-941-1683. ■