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Institute focuses on emerging natural gas industry

YSU hopes to play a role in the industrial opportunities and environmental challenges facing the shale natural gas industry by developing the YSU Natural Gas and Water Resources Institute.

The new Institute is designed to educate professionals and provide research for the emerging multi-billion dollar Utica and Marcellus shale natural gas industry in Ohio and Pennsylvania.



Martin Abraham, dean of YSU's STEM college, talks with reporters after announcing the new YSU Natural Gas and Water Resources Institute. The announcement was made at the Youngstown Ohio Utica and Natural Gas Conference at Expo Nov. 30 in the Covelli Centre in downtown Youngstown.

It will provide bachelor's degree level courses in science and engineering that will lead to an academic minor in gas technologies and also will provide research opportunities for industry focusing on analysis of water used in the shale gas extraction process.

"Given YSU's location in the heart of the Utica shale region, this new Institute is well-poised to meet the educational and research demands and needs central to this new and growing industry," said Martin Abraham, dean of the YSU STEM college. "Establishing YSU's presence in this fast-changing field is a critical

necessity if we are to have a role in educating the future workforce to support this economic growth opportunity."

Formation of the Institute was announced Nov. 30 at the Youngstown Ohio Utica and Natural Gas Conference and Expo in the Covelli Centre in downtown Youngstown. The concept of the new Institute was presented to the YSU Board of Trustees this month, and the Academic Senate still must approve the new minor.

Abraham said he hopes to establish an external advisory board to identify specific research targets for the new institute and complete the development of the minor in natural gas and water resources by next fall. The first students in the new minor could graduate as early as May 2013.

The Utica shale rock formation thousands of feet below the surface contains natural gas in volumes so large that it is expected to become a dominant source of natural gas in the United States in this decade.

One of the significant issues for the extraction of the gas is the use and recovery of large volumes of water used in the hydraulic fracturing process and the need to treat, analyze and monitor this water.

Abraham said the new YSU Institute will provide research on water-related issues such as analysis and monitoring, remote sensing, remediation and treatment, and reuse and recycling. The Institute will utilize faculty and facilities in YSU's chemistry, mechanical engineering, environmental science, chemical engineering, geology and civil engineering departments.

Most of the faculty, expertise, courses and laboratory components for the new minor already exist in the STEM college, Abraham said. A few new courses will be created to provide specific technical competencies required for understanding water resource issues associated with the Utica and Marcellus formations.

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‘It’s been a good ride...’

It’s hard to imagine anyone on campus who doesn’t know Mike Ashby.

You know Mike. He’s the guy in the truck, driving through and around campus, hauling boxes and delivering them to offices across the university. You know, the guy with the beard and the hat who almost seems to be everywhere all at once.



Mike Ashby, the “campus delivery guy,” retires Dec. 31 after 38 years on campus.

Well, after 38 years roaming the YSU grounds, Mike Ashby retires Dec. 31.

Of the 84 non-faculty employees who have or will retire by the end of February 2012 under the university’s early retirement incentive program, Ashby has the most years of service.

“I have mixed feelings about leaving,” he said. “I’ll miss the job and all of the people, for sure.”

Ashby, who turns 65 in January, came to YSU in October 1973, worked one year in the grounds department, two years as a mover and four years in maintenance before landing the job in delivery services in 1980. He’s been running packages across campus ever since.

“It’s been a good ride,” says Ashby, who lives in Columbiana with his wife. He has five children and seven grandchildren.

To see a full list of retirees, visit http://web.yzu.edu/gen/ysu/Retirees_m1722.html.

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Phase Zero helps emerging businesses compete

YSU and the Youngstown Business Incubator are partnering to create Youngstown Phase Zero, a program to help local entrepreneurs and emerging businesses better compete for federal and state grants.

Under the program, technology-based start-up and small businesses can receive up to \$5,000 for data gathering, lab testing, research, analysis and other reasonable expenses incurred to pay for the necessary preliminary work in applying for government grants that will help them develop new products for commercialization.

“The result will be that these businesses will be able to prepare higher quality grant proposals that will greatly improve their chances of receiving the federal and state funding that is crucial for them to move forward with the development of their new products,” said Peter Kasvinsky, dean of the YSU College of Graduate Studies and Research.

Youngstown Phase Zero is administered by YSU in collaboration with the YSU College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics; YSU School of Graduate Studies and Research; and YBI. The Raymond John Wean Foundation, as well as YSU Graduate Studies and Research and STEM, fund the program.



“These kinds of partnerships are absolutely crucial to diversifying our local economy and spurring the development of new products, processes and technologies in the Mahoning Valley,” said Barb Ewing, YBI chief operating officer. “We hope that local businesses will take advantage of this resource as they look to become more competitive in the world economy.”

“We are proud to support an initiative that will continue the transformation of our local economy from traditional manufacturing into high tech industries,” said Jeffrey M. Glebocki, Wean Foundation president. “YSU and YBI have formed this program that will help small firms compete in an increasingly complex global economy.”

YSU STEM Dean Martin Abraham said the program would better connect business with YSU faculty, who can then undertake some initial concept development that could lead to potential commercial breakthrough.

“Many of these projects need some preliminary data before a funding agency will even consider the concept,” he said. “This program provides the funding needed to complete that preliminary work, so that our faculty and their business partners can develop a competitive proposal. And the success of the project then leads to commercial activity, which creates more jobs for our graduates.”

Applications for Youngstown Phase Zero grants will be handled through Mike Hripko, director of YSU STEM Research and Technology Based Economic Development. An independent review panel that consists of representatives from YSU and YBI, as well as one or more individuals from academia, government, economic development agencies or other similar entities, will review the proposals and determine the grant recipients. For more information, contact Hripko at 330-941-4634.

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YSU's NewsOutlet wins national grant

The NewsOutlet at Youngstown State University has won a \$62,000 Community Information Challenge grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

It is the second consecutive year that the NewsOutlet has won a grant from the prestigious Knight Foundation.

The NewsOutlet, a partnership between YSU, WYSU-FM, *The Vindicator*, Kent State University, *The Akron Beacon Journal*, the University of Akron and Rubber City Radio (Akron), links student reporters with media professionals and journalism faculty to provide critical information to Ohio citizens through investigative and enterprise journalism.

The Knight Foundation grant matches a \$30,000 grant from The Raymond John Wean Foundation, and a \$15,000 grant from The Youngstown Foundation, while Kent State University and University of Akron have contributed an additional \$12,000 for the project. YSU has provided ongoing support for the project.

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“The Wean and Youngstown foundations and others like it are part of a growing number of community and place-based foundations working to ensure that residents have the information they need to make informed and important decisions about their communities,” said Trabian Shorters, Knight Foundation’s vice president for engaging communities. “Ultimately, our democracy will only thrive if we have informed and engaged communities.”

Co-directed by YSU journalism faculty Tim Francisco and Alyssa Lenhoff, The NewsOutlet has produced dozens of investigative and enterprise stories that have raised awareness about key issues in the community. Recent stories have included an investigation of the Mahoning River and its likelihood of ever being cleaned from years of dumping by former steel companies and an examination of food deserts in the region.

Jeffrey Glebocki, president of the Raymond John Wean Foundation, said The NewsOutlet is an important project for the Mahoning Valley and that the board of the Warren-based foundation recognizes how important vibrant media is to the health of the Mahoning Valley.

“We were pleased to offer initial and ongoing support for this exciting project and believe that it has already made an important difference in the type of news and information available to citizens of the Mahoning Valley,” Glebocki said.

For more information, contact Jeff Glebocki at the Raymond John Wean Foundation at 330-394-5600 or jglebocki@rjweanfdn.org.

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Faculty/staff awards, publications, presentations

Karen Larwin, assistant professor of Educational Foundations, Research, Technology and Leadership, presented her research on ROI and meta-analytic approaches at the 2011 Annual Conference of the American Evaluation Association. Her presentation was titled “The Value of Meta-Analytic Research When Formulating an Evaluation Plan: Implications for Return on Investment in a Federally Funded Wellness Initiative.” This spring, she also published “A meta-analytic study investigating the impact of computer-assisted instruction on student achievement in post-secondary statistics instruction: What 40 years of research suggests,” in the *Journal of Research on Technology in Education*. This summer, Larwin presented two of her papers: “Engagement Theory: Expanding on In-Test Mnemonic Aids Research” at the United States Consortium on Teaching Statistics Biennial Conference in North Carolina, and “Narcissism, Entitlement, Self-Efficacy and Student Performance: Profile of a Regional Campus” at the 83rd Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association in Chicago. In addition, Larwin was recently nominated and elected to be chair of the American Evaluation Association Quantitative Methods: Theory and Design section. Her term begins in January.

Joy Polkabila Byers, director of Campus Recreation and Student Programming, received the 2011 Honor Award from the Ohio Recreational Sports Association this fall. The award is presented a maximum of every other year to a campus recreation professional from Ohio in recognition of his or her dedication, exceptional leadership and outstanding contributions to the recreational sports profession. Byers was honored with the award at the 37th annual Ohio Recreational Sports Association Conference, hosted by YSU’s Department of Campus Recreation and Student Programming this November. More than 215 attendees from 30 Ohio universities and colleges attended.

Carla Simonini and **Diana Palardy**, both assistant professors of Foreign Languages – Italian and Spanish, respectively – presented papers at the fourth Crossing Over Symposium, sponsored by Cleveland State University. Simonini presented “Re-Visioning Little Italy with Italian Eyes: The Italian Immigrant Experience in Early 20th Century America as Portrayed in Melania Mazzucco’s *Vita*,” and Palardy presented “The Metaphorical Consumption of the Racial Other in Spanish Advertising.”

M. Kathleen Leslie Cripe, assistant professor, Teacher Education, and **Sherri Lovelace-Cameron**, associate professor, Chemistry, presented their research with middle school science and mathematics teachers, titled “Results from a Science and Mathematics Integration Professional Development Program for Middle School Teachers” at Mid-Western Educational Researcher in St. Louis.

Karla Krodel, director, Metro Credit Education Outreach, presented a paper titled “Studying Class to Improve College Success” at the Ohio State University International Poverty Solutions Collaborative's conference, Building Solutions to Poverty: Methods and Metrics to Identify Success, in Columbus this fall.

Michael Theall, professor, Teacher Education, received the Robert Perleoni “Spirit of Professional and Organizational Development” award at the annual conference of the Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education. The award recognizes members who have made selfless contributions through their long-time professional service to the organization and the field. Selection is based upon a combination of several attributes, including exercising innovative leadership in the organization, exemplifying the philosophy and practices of POD and contributing substantially to the profession of faculty, instructional and organizational development and to the higher education community.

John Russo, co-director of the Center for Working-Class Studies and coordinator of the Labor Studies Program, made a presentation at the North American Labor History Conference entitled “ ‘Why, OH Why, OH Why, OH’: Issue 2 in Ohio 2011” as part of a panel of changes in public sector bargaining law in Wisconsin, Michigan and Ohio.

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Riley replaces Singler in Provost's Office

Teresa Riley, professor of Economics and director of Faculty Relations, will assume the position of Associate Provost for Academic Administration on Jan. 1, 2012. She replaces Charles Singler, who is retiring Dec. 31.

Riley has been a faculty member in the Department of Economics since 1984. She also has served as Associate Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences in 2006-2007, Associate Dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences in 2007-2008, and Acting Chair of the Department of Economics from 2008-09.

Riley's responsibilities will include providing leadership on behalf of and as delegated by the Provost in areas of academic resource planning and management, programming evaluation, and personnel activities of the Division of Academic Affairs. She will be working closely with academic deans and executive directors in advancing the academic enterprise, and in guiding strategic processes of the Academic Division and of the University.

Provost Khawaja said he is pleased to have Dr. Riley fill this role in the Office of the Provost, and he wishes Dr. Singler the best in his future endeavors.

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McFadden named head of the YSU Foundation

Paul McFadden has moved from his office in Tod Hall and across the street to Alumni House to become the new president of the YSU Foundation.



Catherine Cala

McFadden, YSU's chief developer officer for nearly a decade, replaces Reid Schmutz, who retires after more than two decades at the Foundation's helm.

Catherine Cala, director of University Development, has been named interim chief development officer for the university.

"It is an honor to receive this responsibility from the YSU Foundation Board of Trustees," McFadden said. "It is a special honor to follow Reid Schmutz. I have followed Reid for almost 20 years as a colleague and a mentor. He has set the bar very high."

The YSU Foundation, founded in 1966, is a private, non-profit foundation that supports YSU exclusively, mostly through scholarships for students. The Foundation, with assets of \$180 million, funds 3,500 to 4,000 scholarships annually.

McFadden, chosen after a national search, was a star placekicker for the YSU Penguins' football team in the early 1980s and went on to kick in the National Football League. He earned a bachelor's degree in history from YSU in 1991 and a master's in philanthropy and development from St. Mary's University of Minnesota in 2000. McFadden has been raising money for YSU for nearly two decades, as director of Athletic Development, director of University Development and chief development officer.



Paul McFadden



Reid Schmutz

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Linda Gooden

Lockheed Martin exec speaks at fall commencement on Dec. 18 in Beeghly

YSU alumna Linda Gooden, executive vice president of Lockheed Martin's Information Systems & Global Solutions business area, speaks at YSU's fall commencement at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, in Beeghly Center.

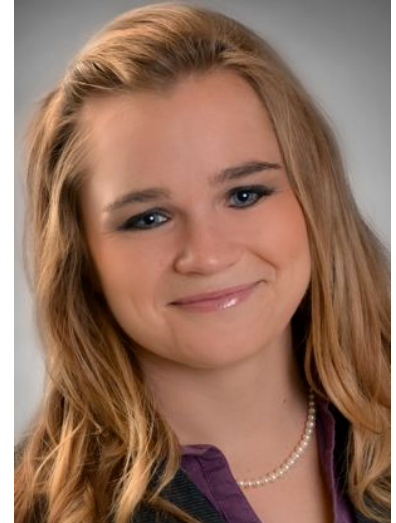
The featured student speaker is April Hauser of Andover, Ohio.

IS&GS provides integrated information technology solutions, systems and services for civil, defense, intelligence and other government customers. IS&GS operates in all 50 states and

about 20 countries and generated nearly \$10 billion in sales in 2010.

Gooden earned a bachelor's degree in computer technology from YSU and bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from the University of Maryland. She was inducted into the prestigious Career Communications Hall of Fame this year. President Obama appointed her to the National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee in 2010. *Fortune* magazine named her one of the Top 50 Most Powerful Women in Business in 2010, and *Black Enterprise* magazine featured her in its 100 Most Powerful Executives in Corporate America in 2009.

Hauser, who graduates with a bachelor's degree in applied science, was a student in Youngstown Early College, graduating high school with 45 college credits complete and beginning her YSU career as a sophomore. She plans to attend law school and pursue a career in criminal prosecution.



April Hauser

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Speaker calls for civility on campus

Denise Pietzsch knows what it's like to be shunned for doing the right thing. It happened to her years ago when she reported a coworker for physically abusing a client with severe physical and mental disabilities.

“After that, I was a pariah, I wasn't part of the ‘in crowd’ anymore,” she said, “but I've never, ever been sorry.”



Denise Pietzsch

Now the founder and director of Etiquette and Protocol Image Consultants LLC in Columbus, Pietzsch spent a day on the YSU campus, talking with small groups of students, faculty and staff about the importance of doing the right thing, even at personal risk. Her visit was sponsored by Student Affairs and the Office of Housing and Residence Life.

“We want to encourage people to become proponents of change and supporters of kindness on campus,” explained Jack Fahey, vice president for student affairs.

Pietzsch spends most of her workdays at Ohio State University and other college campuses, she said, promoting the Civility Counts Movement, a long-term global effort to get people to embrace a code of conduct based on respect, responsibility and restraint. She shares her insights with academic departments, fraternities, sororities, and other groups.

“One of my main messages is that individuals can make a difference,” she said. “But the difficult thing about civility is, it's not selfish, it's not lazy. It takes some work to step out of our selfish, protected lives and do something for someone else.”

On a college campus, she said, many students are looking at faculty and staff to be role models, not only in their professions, but also in the “soft skills” that create a kinder, gentler world. “Put on a ‘yes’ face and greet people, turn off your phone for a few minutes and listen,” she advised one group of Student Affairs staffers. “Learn how to fight fair. We're all completely different, so we're not going to agree on everything, but you can learn to disagree appropriately.”

And sometimes – as in the case of a suicide threat or a crime that must be reported – civility means doing something outside your comfort zone. “Pay the price of being anxious and afraid for two minutes and make the phone call,” Pietzsch said. “Be afraid, but do it anyway.”

Going that extra mile for a student can sometimes have great rewards, remarked Jonelle Beatrice, director of the YSU Center for Student Progress and a participant in one of Pietzsch’s campus sessions. Beatrice remembers a non-traditional student in one of the critical thinking classes she taught who started off strong, then dropped out. She called to offer help, he came back to class, they developed a mentoring relationship and eventually he graduated with a bachelor’s degree. “I was surprised. He named his little girl after me,” she said. “She’s 11 now, and her name is Jonelle.”

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The WATTS hosts first meet

YSU opened the new Watson and Tressel Training Site in high style on Dec. 2 in a seven-team track and field meet, the first in the new state-of-the-art indoor facility on the campus' north side. Among the gold medalists was high-jumper Katrina Rettburg, left, whose first place jump of 1.71 meters was just .02 meters shy of her school mark that she set last year. Meets at the WATTS are also scheduled for Jan. 27 and Feb. 3 and 4. In addition, the WATTS will host the 2012 Horizon League Championships on Feb. 25 and 26. Visits www.ysusports.com for more information.

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Four tons plus!

So how much is 8,050 pounds?

It's about the size of a female elephant. Or four Volkswagen Beetles.

It's also the amount of food that was donated during the Helping Hands Across America food drive sponsored by Sodexo Campus Services and YSU in November.

The four tons of food was loaded into a truck and donated to the St. Vincent DePaul Society, the Rescue Mission of the Mahoning Valley and Second Harvest Food Bank.



Pictured here with the food are, from the left, front row, Tom Totterdale and Ramona Moton of Sodexo, and back row, Carl Davison, Dan Calai, Toni Costarella, Dina Daltorio, and Brandi Hess, all YSU students.

Several departments on campus, including the Bookstore, Center for Student Progress, Criminal Justice and Forensic Science, Maag Library, Payroll and Student Affairs, participated in the food drive by collecting canned goods as part of Homecoming week in October.

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2012 football schedule released

The YSU football team opens the 2012 season at Pittsburgh on Sept. 1, then have a three-game homestand, featuring contests against two FCS playoff squads. YSU also has three consecutive games against teams who reached the postseason this year.

YSU has previously traveled to Heinz Field to play the Panthers in 2005 and 2009.

In all, YSU plays six games at home in Stambaugh Stadium.

Here is the full 2012 schedule:

Sept. 1 at Pittsburgh
Sept. 8 vs. Valparaiso
Sept. 15 vs. Albany
Sept. 22 vs. UNI*
Sept. 29 (IDLE)
Oct. 6 at North Dakota State*
Oct. 13 at Illinois State*
Oct. 20 vs. Southern Illinois*
Oct. 27 at South Dakota State*
Nov. 3 vs. South Dakota*
Nov. 10 at Western Illinois*
Nov. 17 vs. Indiana State*
Nov. 24 FCS Playoffs

*MVFC Contest

Season tickets for the upcoming season are available now in the Athletic Ticket Office at 330-941-1978.

