

# News•Briefs

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

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## *Featured in this week's YSU News Briefs:*

**\*Ray Charles' son is Skeggs lecturer Feb. 16**

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**\*Women's Club scholarship applications**

**\*Trio Abelia performs Music at Noon concert**

## **This Week**

**Wednesday, Feb. 8, 12:15 p.m.** The YSU Dana School of Music presents guest artists Trio Abelia in a recital as part of the Music at Noon concert series at the Butler Institute of American Art. Free. See News Brief below.

**Thursday, Feb. 9.** About 250 Mathletes from 26 middle and junior high schools participate in the 2012 MATHCOUNTS competition on campus. See News Brief below.

**Thursday, Feb. 9, 5 p.m.** Reception, Bliss Hall Art Gallery, **6 p.m.** Panel Discussion, McDonough Museum of Art: Reception and panel discussion on African American Artistic Display "The Art of Louis Burroughs." Part of YSU's celebration of African American History Month.

**Thursday, Feb. 9, 7:05 p.m.** YSU men's basketball team takes on two-time Final Four participant Butler in Beeghly Center. The team also plays **Saturday, Feb. 11, 7:05 p.m.** against Valparaiso in Beeghly.

**Friday, Feb. 10, noon.** Men's tennis squad plays Chicago State at the Boardman Tennis Center. The men's and women's tennis teams play Xavier at BTC **6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11.**

**Saturday, Feb. 11, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Free income tax assistance is available in Williamson Hall as part of YSU's VITA program. Also **3:30 to 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 13.** Call 330-941-3084.

## **Ray Charles' son is Skeggs lecturer Feb. 16**

Ray Charles Robinson Jr., the oldest son of music icon Ray Charles, speaks 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, in Kilcawley Center on the campus of Youngstown State University as part of the Skeggs Lecture Series. The topic of the lecture is "Character, Education, Self-Reliance and Intellectual Independence."

The lecture is free and open to the public. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Free parking is available in the M1 parking deck on Wick Avenue. For more information, contact the YSU Office of Alumni and Events at 330-941-3497.

In addition to the public lecture, Robinson will attend a screening of the movie about his father, "Ray," at 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16 in the auditorium in the new Williamson Hall at YSU. The screening a question-and-answer session that follows are free and open to the public.



Ray Charles Robinson Jr.

Robinson will also visit Williamson Elementary School in Youngstown at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15, to talk with students about character. And at noon that day, Robinson will attend a performance by students in YSU's jazz program at the Butler Institute of American Art.

Robinson is an independent film producer. He was co-executive producer of *Ray Charles: 50 Years of Music*; co-producer of *Christmas Jubilee/Ray Charles with the Voices of Jubilation*; producer and appeared in *Black Prince*, an Anetole Ivonov Film, and a Grand Jury Prize award winner of the New York International Independent Film Festival; co-producer of *Ray*; and co-producer of *Hotel California*, in addition to many other projects.

He is the author of *You Don't Know Me: Reflections of My Father Ray Charles*, which offers an intimate glimpse of the man behind the music. *You Don't Know Me: Reflections of My Father Ray Charles* was the winner of the 2011 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work for a Biography/ Autobiography. He is the founder of the Ray Charles Jr. Foundation for America, a public charity with an enduring commitment for creating positive, lasting results through implementing innovative solutions to critical social issues impacting economically challenged communities across America.

The Skeggs Lecture was established in 1966 in memory of the late Leonard T. Skeggs Sr. Skeggs came to Youngstown in 1919 as educational secretary of the YMCA. In 1924, he became general secretary, a position held until his death in 1933. It was Skeggs who prompted Howard W. Jones to become the first president of what eventually became YSU. He was also instrumental in raising funds for the fledgling school.

## Business students attend international forum

Alexandria Airhart, an Advertising and Public Relations major from Warren, and Kevin Bell, an Accounting major from Austintown, represented the Williamson College of Business Administration at the Beta Gamma Sigma Student Leadership Forum in Charleston, S.C., Feb. 2 to 5.

The event brings together student members from colleges and universities around the world for a chance to improve their leadership skills. A hands-on experience, the Student Leadership Forum challenges participants to examine questions such as, "What Kind of Leader Will I Be?" Team-building exercises, social activities, networking and other activities make the Student Leadership Forum a positive step forward in the professional lives of participants.

Membership in Beta Gamma Sigma is the highest recognition a business student can receive in an undergraduate or master's program at a school accredited by AACSB International – The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Only 5 percent of business schools worldwide have AACSB accreditation. Since the YSU Beta Gamma Sigma chapter was installed in 2000, 491 business students have been inducted into the organization.



Alexandria Airhart and Kevin Bell.

For more information, contact Christine Shelton, coordinator of External Relations, Williamson College of Business Administration, 330-941-3068.

## Women in Science and Engineering is March 3

Astronomer, writer and podcaster Pamela Gay will be the keynote speaker at the 15th annual Women in Science and Engineering Career Day March 3 at Youngstown State University.

The event will be 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and is designed to expose young women in grades 6 through 12 to career opportunities in science and technology. Panel discussions will be held during the morning and hands-on activities and lab demonstrations will be held in the afternoon in Kilcawley Center on the YSU campus.

The free event is open to all middle and high school girls from Mahoning and Trumbull counties and western Pennsylvania. Parents can receive college planning and financial aid information and take campus tours while their daughters participate in the workshop.

Registration deadline is March 1. The workshop and lunch are free to all students. Information about the workshop and online registration is at [www.yсу.edu/WIS](http://www.yсу.edu/WIS). For more information or to receive a registration form in the mail, contact Diana Fagan YSU professor of Biological Sciences, at 330-941-1554 or [dlfagan@ysu.edu](mailto:dlfagan@ysu.edu).

Gay is an Assistant Research Professor of Graduate Studies and Research at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and executive director of the Astrosphere New Media Association. She earned a bachelor's degree in Astrophysics from Michigan State University and both a master's and Ph.D. in Astronomy from The University of Texas at Austin.

Her research focuses on how to most effectively engage the public in learning and doing astronomy online. She is the co-host of

Astronomy Cast ([www.astronomycast.com](http://www.astronomycast.com)). Each week she and co-host Fraser Cain (Universe Today) take their listeners on a facts-based journey through the universe that tells them not only what we know, but also how we know it. Astronomy Cast just produced its 250<sup>th</sup> episode. In addition to podcasting, she is also active in citizen science, and is one of the founders of the

CosmoQuest citizen science community ([cosmoquest.org](http://cosmoquest.org)), which engages people in using NASA images to do necessary science analysis in an online environment that includes online-lectures and star parties, as well as social media. This program builds on the legacy of the 2009 International Year of Astronomy, a UN-endorsed celebration of astronomy that Gay helped organize as chair of the New Media Task Force. In this role, she was an organizer and contributor to the daily podcast 365 Days of Astronomy ([www.astronomy2009.org](http://www.astronomy2009.org)), which continues today. The podcast was awarded the prestigious Parsec Award, which recognizes excellence in science and fiction podcasts. In addition to her work in citizen science and podcasting, she writes her own blog, Star Stryder ([www.starstryder.com](http://www.starstryder.com)), which focuses on astronomy and academics. At the Career Day, Dr. Gay will discuss her career and touch upon various types of careers in astronomy and science education available today.



Pamela Gay



## English chair receives national honor

Gary Salvner, professor and chair of the English Department at Youngstown State University, received the Ted Hipple Service Award by ALAN, the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of the National Council of Teachers of English at its National Convention in Chicago.

The Ted Hipple Service Award is named for the organization's founding executive secretary, who served ALAN in that capacity for 26 years. It is given annually to an individual who has provided exemplary service to the organization and to the field of young adult literature.

Salvner succeeded Hipple as only the second executive secretary in the organization's history, serving in that capacity for 10 years. He served on the ALAN board for more than 15 years, including a term as president.

Salvner was also recognized for his service to the field of young adult literature. He co-directs the YSU English Festival, recognized nationally as an innovative and effective program for encouraging and rewarding reading and writing among young people.

Salvner is a founding member of the English Festival Committee, having assisted with the program for all of its 34 years. He has served the last 20 years as the Festival's chair or co-chair.

Gary Salvner

Salvner has published three books and numerous articles in young adult literature, served on NCTE's Commission on the Study of Young Adult Literature, and co-edited the book review section of *The ALAN Review*. He has received three Distinguished Professorship Awards from YSU and the Chairs' Leadership Award and Watson Award for his service as department chair.

## Center offers grants to nonprofit organizations

The Center for Nonprofit Leadership at Youngstown State University, housed in the Williamson College of Business Administration, is announcing the availability of grant funding through the "Pay It Forward: Strengthening Communities through Student-Led Philanthropy Initiative."

The initiative helps students learn how to be engaged citizens and to understand the important role philanthropy plays in the health of local communities.

"This project continues to engage our business majors and nonprofit leadership students in professional development opportunities with the nonprofit community," said Laura McCaskey of the YSU Center for Nonprofit Leadership.

The Center received funding from Ohio Campus Compact/Learn and Serve America to add a philanthropy component to the Nonprofit Community Service course in spring semester 2012. Students in the class have \$2,000 to award to up to two regional nonprofit organizations. Organizations operating in Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana counties are eligible to receive funding. Applications are now available. All applications must be received by 5:00pm on Friday, March 9, to be eligible for funding.

Students have decided to focus funding decisions on programs/projects that fit into these categories: Arts & Culture, Neighborhood Revitalization, and Youth Development.

YSU students also participated in the Pay It Forward Initiative during the spring semester of 2010 and 2011. In total, students have awarded more than \$27,000 to regional nonprofit organizations and performed more than 2,700 hours of community service. Students enrolled in Pay It Forward courses are required to perform 15 hours of community service.

This initiative is made possible through Ohio Campus Compact, in partnership with Kentucky Campus Compact and Michigan Campus Compact. Funding for Pay It Forward is made possible through the Corporation for National and Community Service (Learn and Serve America Higher Education) and Ohio Campus Compact.

The YSU Center for Nonprofit Leadership offers a certificate/designation and a minor in Nonprofit Management and Leadership, which can be combined with any major on campus.

For more information, contact Laura McCaskey at 330-941-1870 or [LJMcCaskey@ysu.edu](mailto:LJMcCaskey@ysu.edu).

## MATHCOUNTS competition set for this Thursday

About 250 Mathletes from 26 middle and junior high schools will participate in the 2012 MATHCOUNTS competition Thursday, Feb. 9 on the campus of Youngstown State University.

The competition is sponsored by the Mahoning Valley Society of Professional Engineers and YSU's William Rayen School of Engineering and Engineering Technology in the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Teachers and students have been preparing for the competition since the fall, and after several months of coaching, participating schools select students to compete individually or as part of a team in written and fast-paced oral matches. Participants will tackle problems that include algebra, probability, statistics and geometry. The top three teams plus the top six individuals from the local competition advance to the state MATHCOUNTS competition in Columbus on March 10. The top four finishers in the state competition earn the opportunity to represent Ohio in the national finals at the 2012 Raytheon MATHCOUNTS National Competition in Orlando, Fla., on May 11.

The local contest begins at 9 a.m. in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center on the YSU campus. During the morning's written component, teams of four students as well as individual competitors from each school will answer a variety of questions that include topics covering probability, statistics, linear algebra and polynomials. The afternoon Mathbowl competition begins at 2:15 p.m. and follows a game-show format as teams of students from each school openly compete attempting to score points by correctly answering math questions. The final event is the Countdown Round, sponsored and funded locally by YSU Arby's Restaurant. This contest features a head-to-head competition among the top 16 contestants.

Awards will be presented at a banquet 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 23, at Ala Cart Catering in Canfield. The guest speaker will be professional engineer Bernard Petro. John Ritter, YSU professor emeritus of the Civil Engineering Department, coordinates the regional program. Major funding for the local program is provided by Dominion East Ohio.

Participating schools include: Austintown Middle School, St. Joseph/Immaculate Heart of Mary, Boardman Center Middle School, Boardman Glenwood Middle School, St. Charles School, Canfield Middle School, Crestview Middle School, Heartland Christian School, Lakeview Middle/High School, East Palestine Middle School, St. Rose School, Reed Middle School in Hubbard, W.S. Guy Middle School in Liberty, Lisbon David Anderson Jr/Sr High School, Holy Family School in Poland, Poland Middle School, Willow Creek Learning Center, Struthers Middle School, Howland Middle School, Jefferson School, John F. Kennedy Jr/Sr High School, Lincoln School, McGuffey School, Willard K-8 School, Chaney High School and the Montessori School of the Mahoning Valley.

*(Editor's note: The Mathbowl Contest and the Countdown Round provide the best action photo possibilities. The Mathbowl preliminary rounds take place in Kilcawley Center's Chestnut Room and Ohio Room from 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., with the final round in the Chestnut Room at 1:30 p.m. The Countdown Round begins approximately at 1:45pm and ends around 2:15 p.m. A breakdown of schools participating in the local competition is attached.)*

## **Women's Club scholarship applications due Feb. 15**

Application deadline is Feb. 15 for the \$1,000 Youngstown State University Women's Club scholarship and the \$1,000 Martha Kryston Shuster Memorial Scholarship, both for currently enrolled YSU students.

The Women's Club scholarship is based primarily on need and will be awarded to full-time female students who have a minimum grade average of 3.3, have completed 31 semester hours and have declared a major.

The Martha Kryston Shuster scholarship, awarded in memory of a former YSU employee and Women's Club president, provides \$1,000 awards to one male and one female undergraduate student, and one graduate student. Undergraduates need to have a minimum grade average of 3.3 and have completed a minimum of 31 semester hours at YSU. The graduate students must have completed one-third of their degree requirements and have a minimum of 3.5 grade average. The Shuster awards concentrate on academic performance.

A short essay explaining the applicant's academic and career objectives should accompany both scholarship applications. The application deadline for both scholarships is 5 p.m. Feb. 15. Application forms are available at [www.ysu.edu/finaid/scholarships](http://www.ysu.edu/finaid/scholarships) or from the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships in Meshel Hall. Applications should be directed to the Chair of the Committee, Denise Walters Dobson, YSU College of STEM, Moser Hall, room 2325, Youngstown, Ohio 44555.

## **Trio Abelia performs Music at Noon concert this week**

The Dana School of Music presents guest artists Trio Abelia in a recital as part of the Music at Noon concert series, 12:15 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8 at the Butler Institute of American Art.

The concert is free and open to the public. Parking is available for a nominal charge in the Wick Avenue Deck. For more information, contact the Dana School of Music at 330-941-3636.

The trio consists of GERALYN GIOVANNETTI, oboe; DENISE ROOT PIERCE, horn and DAVID PALMER, piano.

Giovannetti is professor of Oboe at Brigham Young University and a member of the faculty quintet, Orpheus Winds. She graduated from the University of Western Ontario in her native Canada and has a doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Michigan. Palmer, a professor emeritus in the School of Music at the University of Windsor, Ontario, pursues a career as both collaborative pianist and organist. He and duo-piano colleague Gregory Butler performed frequently in the Great Lakes area. Root Pierce has performed throughout the United States, Japan, China, Mexico, Europe and in South America. She is a former member of the Bogotá Philharmonic Orchestra, the Lansing Symphony, the Kalamazoo Symphony and Keith Brion and his New Sousa Band. In addition, she has performed with the Tucson Symphony, Albany Symphony, Hartford Symphony, Monterrey Mexico Symphony Orchestra, Ann Arbor Symphony, and the Flint Symphony Orchestras.



**Trio Abelia**