

Feb. 10, 2012

Task Force explores improving budget process

A task force charged with improving YSU's budgeting process is exploring a variety of options, including a more decentralized approach that is gaining popularity in some higher education circles.

Chaired by Budget Director Neal McNally, the task force was formed more than a year ago in response to the YSU 2020 Strategic Plan, which called for identifying new methods to develop the university's annual budget.

"We want a process that is more transparent and responsive to the institution's priorities," McNally said. "In this era of shrinking state funding, it is important that we have a process that will help provide some stability and ensure that we are spending our limited resources as effectively as possible."

The task force hopes to present its recommendations in June.

YSU currently utilizes an incremental budget model, which allocates funding to each university entity – college, department and office – based on the amount that was allocated the previous year, with incremental amounts added or subtracted depending on total funds available for that particular year, McNally said. He said most public universities use the incremental model.

One of the alternative methods being explored is called Responsibility Center Management.



Neal McNally

Under RCM, each entity on campus, such as a particular college, is funded based on the amount of revenue that it generates through tuition, fees and other funds, McNally said. Entities that do not generate revenue are funded via a surcharge to the revenue-generating entities.

This method, McNally said, is designed to allocate funds in areas that are growing and to encourage "entrepreneurial" activities in each college, such as the development of new programs and services that generate revenue.

Kent State University implemented the RCM model in July 2009. McNally, along with Vice President for Finance and Administration Gene Grilli and Paul Kobulnicky, executive assistant in Grilli's office, recently met with finance and budget



officials at Kent to discuss the approach. The model is also in place at the Universities of Pennsylvania, Michigan, Oregon, New Hampshire, Iowa and Illinois Urbana Champaign, among others.

In addition, the task force is studying performance-based budgeting, under which funds are allocated based on how each entity performs in relation to the university's priorities. The task force has had discussions with officials from the University of Cincinnati, which implemented performance-based budgeting in July 2009.

McNally said the task force is continuing to review the pros and cons of various approaches, including ways to make the system currently in place more transparent without changing the entire budget model. For instance, he said YSU could hold budget hearings, develop a university-wide budget committee and develop ways to better communicate budget decisions made on campus.

Other members of the task force are Kobulnicky; Marilyn Ward, assistant to the Provost/Academic Budget; Tod Porter, professor and chair of Economics; Peter Kasvinsky, associate provost for Research and dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research; Elaine Jacobs, associate director of Intercollegiate Athletics; Elaine Ruse, director of Financial Aid and Scholarships; Lisa Reichert, associate director of General Accounting; Rick Marsico, director of Computer Services; and Becky Geltz, director of Institutional Research.

(This is the first in a series of stories on the implementation of the YSU 2020 Strategic Plan.)

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Saying ‘so long’ to Model 204

When Model 204 was implemented at YSU in the mid-1980s, it was a state-of-the-art, fourth-generation database management system that revolutionized the way the university did business, from student accounts and registration to financial aid and human resources.

“It was cutting-edge stuff at the time,” remembers Rick Marsico, a 1979 YSU graduate who became a software specialist with the university the following year. He is now interim Chief Technology Officer and director of Computer Services.



Rick Marsico, interim chief technology officer, with hardware from the old Model 204 database management system.

Nearly 30 years later, with the Banner enterprise system fully implemented on campus, Marsico and others are about to pull the plug on Model 204 for good.

“For the university, it is the end of a technology era,” he said.

At 6:01 p.m. Friday, March 2, the old Model 204 system will be officially shut down. The IBM 760-H30 Multiprise 3000 mainframe, disk backup units and establishment controllers in Meshel Hall will be tossed.

As a result, Marsico estimates that the university will save about \$200,000 annually in hardware maintenance and software costs.

Model 204 was the university’s sole database system until 2004, when implementation of the Banner enterprise system began to be phased in. While Model 204 depended on the IBM mainframe environment, Banner runs on a much more sophisticated enterprise software platform.

The last step in phasing out Model 204 was archiving remaining historical data in the system, which Marsico said took place over the past two years.

Marsico acknowledged the team responsible for the conversion from Model 204 to Banner, consisting of Dennis Konik, Mary Noble, Lori Hinebaugh, Bob Forchione, Doug Sewell, Jim Hanek, Troy Cross and Dona Madacsi.

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Prof earns actuarial status; department seizes on growing interest in discipline

YSU is again poised to blaze a new trail, this time in actuarial science.

Thomas Wakefield, assistant professor of Mathematics and Statistics, has been named an Associate of the Society of Actuaries, the largest professional actuarial organization in the world serving some 22,000 members. As part of the award, YSU will receive \$5,000 from the Society to apply toward actuarial education. Wakefield is the first YSU faculty member to earn the distinction.

“Having a credentialed, full-time faculty member in actuarial science places YSU at the forefront of actuarial science training in the state of Ohio,” said Nathan Ritchey, chair, Mathematics and Statistics. “Tom’s accomplishments are yet another example of the

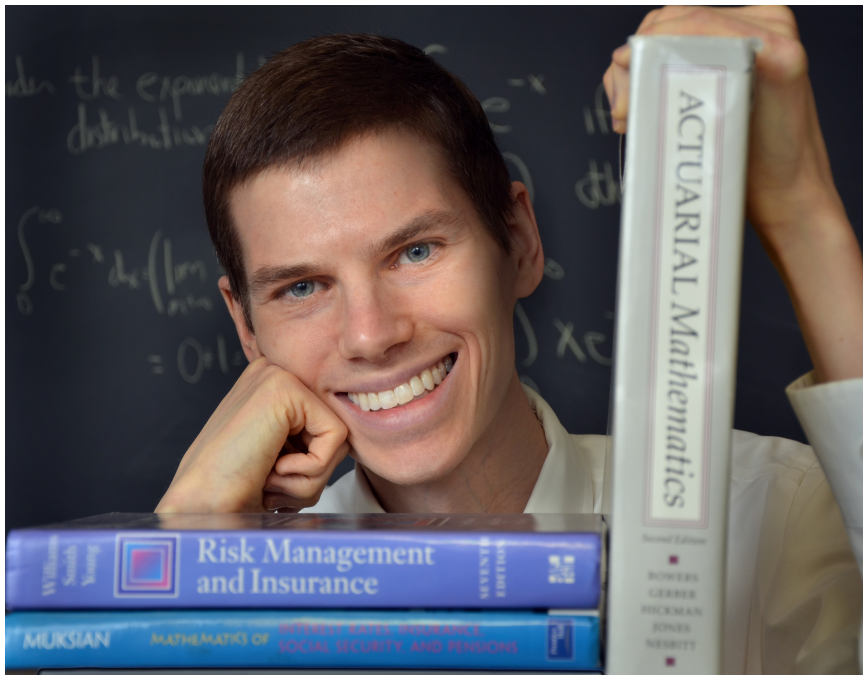
outstanding faculty members who work at YSU.”

The department began to form coursework in actuarial science about a decade ago. Wakefield joined the YSU faculty in 2009. A minor in actuarial science was introduced last year and a major is in the planning stages.

“Tom’s presence greatly enhanced our ability to offer the minor,” said Ritchey. “Now that Tom has become a credentialed actuary, YSU has the ability to realize a new goal

of becoming recognized by the Society of Actuaries as a Center for Actuarial Excellence.”

Actuarial science is the discipline that applies mathematical and statistical methods to assess risk in the insurance and finance industries. They are mathematical experts using statistical knowledge to solve business problems. Put simply, actuaries put a price on risk.



Tom Wakefield

Actuarial Science is historically one of the top-rated professions by the *Wall Street Journal* with a median salary of \$87,000. A 2011 study published by job search website, CareerCast, ranked the actuary profession as the third best job in the United States. Another study by *U.S. News and World Report* included actuary among the 25 best professions.

“There is a growing interest in actuarial science,” said Wakefield, who earned bachelor’s degrees in mathematics and economics from YSU in 2002 and master’s (2004) and Ph.D. (2008) degrees in pure mathematics from Kent State University.

“The Society is making a concerted effort to get more people in academia interested in actuarial science. They want the research being conducted to have the academic seal of approval, rather than just being conducted privately by firms and not being publicly shared. So, there are a lot of incentives to get faculty members to pursue this designation.”

The next step for Wakefield will be to attain the status of Fellow. He said the award of Associate is like attaining a master’s degree, while the award of Fellow is akin to a Ph.D. in the profession. He plans to pursue the investment track of study and expects to attain Fellow status in three to four years.

“I would like to see more outreach to high school and early-stage undergrads,” he said. “Actuarial science is most interesting because it combines economics, finance and mathematical modeling; it’s a really dynamic and growing area.”

Story by Robert Merz

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Spring enrollment reported

Spring semester enrollment is 13,698, a 3.9 percent decrease from last year.

The drop is not unexpected, said Jack Fahey, vice president for Student Affairs. Spring semester enrollment is directly tied to fall enrollment. Since fall semester numbers decreased 4.3 percent, the university fully expected spring enrollment to also decline, he said.

In fact, historically, spring semester enrollment is about 92 percent of fall enrollment. This spring's numbers are slightly ahead of that 92-percent level, Fahey said.

“We're hoping that that provides a bit of momentum as we gear up our recruiting, admissions and marketing efforts for next fall,” Fahey said.

The full spring 2012 enrollment report is available at http://web.yсу.edu/gen/ysu_generated_bin/documents/basic_module/Preliminary_Enrollment_Summary_14th_Day_Spring_2012.pdf.

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Faculty/staff awards, presentations, publications

Maria D. Delost, professor and director of Clinical Laboratory Programs, presented “Understanding NAACLS Standards and Preparing for the Site Visit” to more than 100 clinical laboratory program directors in November. The workshop was sponsored by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS).

Ruigang Wang, assistant professor, Chemistry, recently published two journal papers. The first paper is titled “Improved low-temperature reducibility of ceria zirconia by redox treatment,” published in the *Journal of Materials*. The co-author is Minghao Fang from the School of Materials Science and Technology, China University of Geosciences (Beijing). The second paper is titled “Synthesis, structure, and scintillation of Ce-doped gadolinium oxyorthosilicate nanoparticles prepared by solution combustion synthesis,” published in the *Journal of Applied Physics*. The other authors of this paper are from the University of Clemson, Los Alamos National Lab and Arizona State University.

James A. Conser, professor emeritus, and colleagues Rebecca Paynich (Curry College) and Terry Gingerich (Western Oregon University) have published the third edition of the textbook, *Law Enforcement in the United States*, Jones & Bartlett Publishers.

Weiqing Ge, assistant professor, Physical Therapy, published a paper titled “Plane of vertebral movement eliciting muscle lengthening history in the low back influences the decrease in muscle spindle responsiveness of the cat” in the *Journal of Applied Physiology*.

Helene Sinnreich, director of the YSU Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies, is a contributor for the book, *Sexual Violence against Jewish Women during the Holocaust*, which has been designated a finalist for the National Jewish Book Awards for 2011 in the category of Women's Studies.

M. Kathleen Leslie Cripe, assistant professor, Teacher Education, and **Sherri Lovelace-Cameron**, associate professor, Chemistry, presented their research, “Science and Mathematics Integration for Middle School Teachers” at the annual conference for Learning Forward in Anaheim, Calif.

Fred Viehe, professor, History, presented “The 1986 Report of the President's Commission on Organized Crime: A Twenty-five Year Historiographical Perspective,” at Hawaii University's International Conference on Arts and Humanities, and “A Flourishing Feminine Counterculture in Mid-Nineteenth Century Urban America: The G'hals of New York and Other Cities at Work and Play,” at the Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities, both in Honolulu.

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English chair receives national honor



Gary Salvner

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.

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.

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Grant workshops set for this month

The YSU Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs is offering a workshop for YSU faculty and staff on grant proposal development.

The workshop is titled “How to Transition – from Pre-Award Proposal to Post-Award Funding” (Grants 101) and is recommended for novices and less experienced PIs and project directors. The workshop will be 11 a.m. Monday or Tuesday, Feb. 27 and 28.

The same workshop is offered on two dates. The workshop will be in the conference room of Coffelt Hall.

Seating is limited. To register, call Ext. 2377 or email Cheryl Coy at ckcoy@ysu.edu

For more information, visit www.ysu.edu/ogsp.

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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."



Ray Charles Robinson Jr.

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.

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.

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Board of Trustees meetings set

The Youngstown State University Board of Trustees meets on the following schedule (all meetings are in the Trustees Meeting Room on the first floor of Tod Hall unless otherwise noted):

Thursday, Feb. 23: Noon, Board Luncheon, President's Conference Room, Second floor, Tod Hall; 1 p.m., Collective Bargaining and Negotiations Subcommittee, 2 p.m., Intercollegiate Athletics Subcommittee, 2:30 p.m., University Affairs Committee; 3:30 p.m., Institutional Engagement Committee; 4 p.m., Trusteeship Committee.

Tuesday, Feb. 28: Noon, Board Luncheon, President's Conference Room, second floor, Tod Hall; 1 p.m., Academic Quality and Student Success Committee; 2 p.m., Investment Subcommittee; 3 p.m., Audit Subcommittee; 4 p.m., Finance and Facilities Committee; 5 p.m., Executive Committee.

Wednesday, March 14: 3 p.m. Regular quarterly meeting of the board.

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Haines named Penguins of the Year

The YSU Penguin Club honors Dennis and Janet Haines as Penguins of the Year at the 22nd Annual Scholarship Ring Banquet Feb. 19 at Mr. Anthony's in Boardman.

Doors for the event open at 6 p.m., the buffet will start at 6:15 p.m. and the program is set to begin at 7:30 p.m.

For tickets contact Tom Morella at 330-941-2351 or Jim Morrison at 330-941-3270. Full tables of eight are \$800. A scholarship dinner package of four tickets, a student-athlete sponsored dinner and an autograph ball is \$500. Individual tickets are \$100, and a student-athlete sponsored dinner is \$25. Program advertising is also available by calling 330-941-7227.

All funds go directly to YSU athletics.



Dennis and Janet Haines

Dennis Haines is the managing partner of the law firm Green Haines Sgambati in Youngstown. He is a 1959 graduate of Ohio University and a 1962 graduate of George Washington University Law School. He saw his first YSU football game in the early 1950s at Rayen Stadium and has been a YSU sports fan for nearly 60 years. Together, the Haines have witnessed many milestones in YSU athletics history. They were in Statesboro, Ga., in 1991 when the Penguins defeated Marshall to win their first-ever FCS National Championship. They made the trip to Penn State to see the women's basketball team play their first NCAA Tournament game in 1996. They also were on hand to celebrate at Eastwood Field when the baseball program won the Horizon League Championship in 2004. Among the first sporting events their grandchildren attended were YSU football, basketball and baseball games. They sponsor the Haines Family Player of the Game as selected by the YSU radio broadcasters and have an endowed the Atty. Dennis and Janet Haines Scholarship.

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Earthquake hearing



Ohio State Sen. Capri Cafaro, center above, speaks during a legislative hearing last month in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center. The meeting of the Ohio House Agriculture and Natural Resources subcommittee focused on possible ties between brine injection wells and several recent earthquakes in the Youngstown area. Cafaro is flanked by subcommittee chair, State Rep. Dave Hall, right, and State Sen. Cliff Hite, left. Below, State Rep. Teresa Fedor speaks as St. Rep. Bob Hagan looks on.



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MLK breakfast

Gwendolyn E. Boyd, right, lit up the Chestnut Room in Kilcawley Center with a fiery keynote address at the 10th annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Diversity Breakfast last month.

Boyd, a prominent advocate for women's equality and for the recruitment of blacks Americans into science and engineering, is executive assistant to the chief of staff at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab and president of Delta Sigma Theta, the nation's largest black sorority.

At the breakfast, the annual Diversity Awards were presented to: Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., Rebecca Banks, Interfaith Youth Core, Antoine Watkins, Rosa Vega, the Rev. Jim Ray, Penny Wells, Goodness Grows, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. and Ron Allen.



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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 YSU.

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.ysu.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.

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.



Pamela Gay

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). 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 250th 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), 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), 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), 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.

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Center offers grants to nonprofit organizations

The Center for Nonprofit Leadership at YSU, 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.

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Holocaust Remembrance



Monika Flaschka, visiting assistant professor at the College of Wooster, presented “International Holocaust Remembrance Day: The Purpose and Politics of Memory” in the Gallery of Kilcawley Center last month.

Flaschka, who works in Wooster’s Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program, has served as a Charles H. Revson Foundation Fellow at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C. Her research has focused on sexual assaults during the Holocaust and the precipitating factors behind those assaults.

The presentation was sponsored by the YSU Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies, judaic@ysu.edu and was in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day. Jan. 27 marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. In 2005, the United Nations General Assembly designated this day as International Holocaust Remembrance Day, an annual day of commemoration to honor the victims of the Nazi-era.

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WATTS in action



YSU's WATTS indoor athletics center hosted two track and field matches involving athletes from more than a dozen colleges and universities on Jan. 27 and Feb. 25 and 26. WATTS will also host the Horizon League Championships Feb. 25 and 26.

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YSU night with the Phantoms



YSU President Cynthia E. Anderson, center, is joined by students Michael Koziorynsky of Alpha Phi Delta and Miranda James of Zeta Tau Alpha to drop the puck prior to the Youngstown Phantoms' games against Dubuque on Jan. 27 at the Covelli Center. It was YSU night at the game.