

March 9, 2012

Student Success Stories

Success from half a world away

It's a long way from Australia to YSU, but Olivia Arnold found her way here and is now glad she made the trip.

“The weather is the biggest thing I’ve had to get used too,” said Arnold, a native of Rutherglen,

Australia, who came to YSU in 2006 to join the swim team. “I’d never seen snow before.”



Olivia Arnold, graduate student and YSU Student Success Story

Now a graduate assistant in the YSU Office of Housing and Residence Life, Arnold recently received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award from the Great Lakes Association of College and University Housing Officers.

She is one of the latest additions to the YSU Student Success Stories webpage at <http://web.ysu.edu/studentsuccessstories>. The page features the stories of dozens of successful YSU students. Other recent additions include YSU’s cyber defense team, the staff of *The Jambar* and student Cary Dabney, who was featured in a podcast of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

As a member of the swim team, Arnold set YSU records and earned 2008-09 Student Athlete of the Year accolades. She received a bachelor’s degree in political science and sociology in 2010 and is currently enrolled in the master’s program in Health and Human Services. She will graduate in May.

As a graduate assistant, Arnold has helped implement campus programs for Safer Sex Week and Alcohol Awareness Week. She has also done extensive research on how international student’s health and well-being is affected by current university programs. Her master’s thesis examines how sleep impacts the academic success of undergraduate students.

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Penguin Playhouse: ‘Cultivating a younger audience-base’

“It’s all got to fit in a trunk.”

That’s how Frank Castronovo, chair of YSU’s Department of Theater and Dance, describes a new initiative named Penguin Playhouse.

The fledgling theatrical program is an outgrowth of the Regional Engagement cornerstone of the YSU 2020 Strategic Plan, which calls for developing diverse art and cultural activities that enrich the campus and community.

Penguin Playhouse will offer live theater performances to a target age group of 5- to 9-year-olds. “The entire production can be put in a trunk, literally, and taken wherever it needs to go,” Castronovo said.



Senior Kaleigh Locketti and sophomore John Cruz pose with the “trunk,” which houses everything necessary to perform Penguin Playhouse’s “Hansel and Gretel.”



The first production, “Cinderella,” was performed last May. Currently, casting is underway for “Hansel and Gretel,” which is set to launch April 28.

“The place that our department has not had a presence has been in the area of children’s theater,” said Castronovo. “We’d like to run up our flag in that area. We like to train our students to do theater in multiple venues, so we look upon this not only as outreach, but as an enhancement to our training mission.”

Bryan Depoy, dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts, agrees.

"Penguin Playhouse is critical to the college because not only are we reaching out to the current constituency, but we are cultivating a younger audience-base," he said. "We are not only about meeting the artistic and cultural needs of the community, but to a certain extent we hope to use this as an audience building tool, as well as a way to build general awareness for the role of arts and culture."

Castronovo, who after 41-years of service to YSU is set to retire June 30, stresses that the program will be kept simple.

"We want to be able to do these productions at any venue," he said. "The plays will be done in such a way that they can be set up in a classroom, Kilcawley Center or any community center in town."

DePoy and Castronovo note that the program has already attracted the attention of some of the larger community organizations in the region.

"Right now what we want to do is build a general awareness that we are establishing this youth theater program, one that fills a niche within the community," said DePoy. "This is as much about reaching out into the community as it is about bringing the community onto campus."

"We'd like to have one, maybe two of these productions available at any given time," Castronovo added. "Then, we can take them out and show young people that there is a lot of fun to be had in live theater."

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

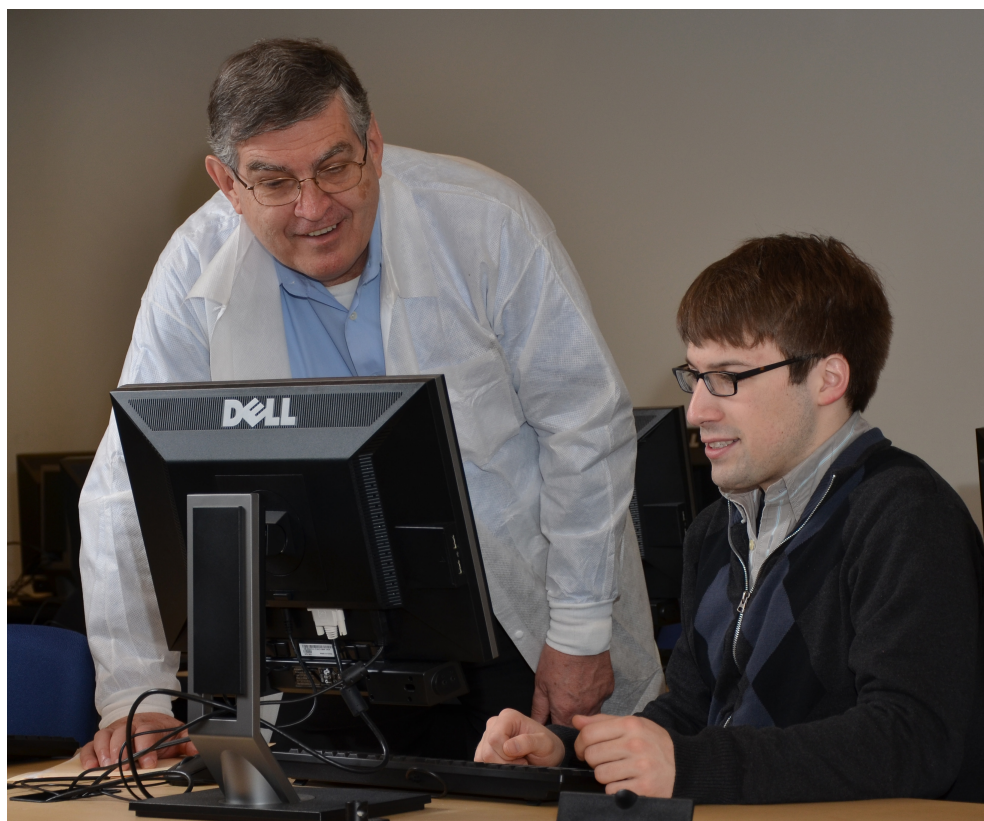
Story by Robert Merz

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Prof explores use of voice recognition in healthcare

With ever-burgeoning smart phone and tablet technology, it is almost unfathomable that medical records are still predominantly in paper format. One YSU professor is determined to change that by conducting a new research project on voice recognition technology.

Joseph Lyons, an assistant professor in the Department of Health Professions, was recruited by YSU last fall for his expertise in health informatics – the specialty study of computer information systems and their influence on the delivery of care. His focus is to develop courses in the areas of healthcare administration and health information systems.



Joseph Lyons, assistant professor of Health Professions, and sophomore Chris Palmer, one of the students who is helping Lyons with research on voice recognition technology in the healthcare industry.

“We need to build an information super-highway for healthcare,” said Lyons, who has more than 20 years of experience in the field of informatics. “In this day and age where there is a computer on every desk and a phone in every hand, there should be access to any patient’s medical information – anytime, anywhere.”

That is the vision of Lyons’ new research project, which will be in a controlled, laboratory setting on the third floor computer lab in Cushwa Hall. Lyons will involve five undergraduate or graduate student volunteers with the goal of teaching them to use voice recognition software to study the variances among age, sex and culture. Sophomore music major Chris Palmer has been

hired to assist Lyons 10 hours a week in the voice recognition lab.

The term "voice recognition" refers to recognition systems that must be trained to a particular speaker – as is the case for most desktop software. The user's audible input can then be converted directly into text.

"I specifically want to see the student's take on it," said Lyons, who earned a bachelor's degree from Bloomsburg University, master's at Penn State and a doctorate of science from Johns Hopkins University. "After the students have gotten good with the software, I want to introduce a medical dictionary and database for them to work with."

Despite the wild popularity of Apple's new iPhone assistant, Siri, the adoption of voice recognition has somewhat lagged behind technical development, especially in the healthcare industry.

"Across the country, the major hospitals have spent enormous amounts of money on their paper system," Lyons said. "I want to study why every hospital in the country is not using voice recognition, because we know it's going to save time and money – and it's going to be more accurate."

He said that more than 300 hospitals nationwide have implemented voice recognition software and integrated it into the electronic medical record. Why haven't the others adopted the technology? Lyons speculates the problem is not the voice technology itself, which he admits can be "frustrating to use." It is the people and the learning curve involved with the new technology.

"Part of the problem is learning the technology," he said. "Physicians are overburdened. The technology is marvelous, but it is omnipresent; no one wants to be a slave to a machine."

Lyons; Joe Mosca, dean of the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services; Joe Mistovich, professor and chair of the Department of Health Professions; and Sal Sanders, associate professor and director of the Allied Health program and the Masters in Health and Human Services; plan to meet with local hospital administrators to discuss the voice recognition studies and a possible new YSU program in Health Informatics and Health Care Administration

"As we move along, we want to be able to use this technology to ultimately improve care," Lyons said.

Lyons and Palmer are interested in getting student volunteers to use the voice recognition software and report on their findings, likes and dislikes. Students interested in volunteering for the research project should contact Lyons at jplyons@ysu.edu.

Story by Robert Merz

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Two YBI companies receive Innovation Fund awards

The Innovation Fund, in partnership with YSU, has announced a \$125,000 investment for two portfolio companies of the Youngstown Business Incubator.

“We are proud to work in this unique program to boost entrepreneurship in northeast Ohio,” YSU President Cynthia E. Anderson said. “This is not only good for the economy, but the internships and other opportunities that it affords are good for our students as well. As an institution, YSU is proud to support our local businesses in other ways as well.”

Barb Ewing, chief operating officer of the YBI, added: “YBI is so grateful to YSU for their support for this incredibly important regional initiative. This is one of those instances where you can definitely say that the ‘whole is greater than the sum of the parts.’ If we are going to be able to continue to drive our economy forward, our region has to be able to tap into these types of resources. On behalf of YBI and all of our portfolio companies, I’d like to again thank the University, and offer congratulations to all our companies that successfully applied. They are changing the face of community.”



IF is supported and administered through a regional and state network of higher education, government and economic development partners to nurture a technology-based entrepreneurial environment for wealth creation and job growth in Northeast Ohio. YBI and YSU are among the partners. As a partner, YSU provides direct financial support, as well as technical assistance.

The IF provided a \$100,000 award to via680 to further develop its product, Ving, a web application that enables users to create multi-media communication packages with video, surveys and documents. In addition, IF awarded \$25,000 to Campus Shift, which offers a textbook search engine that allows students to compare textbook prices in real time, and arrange for a direct sale or swap. Another company affiliated with YBI, Quixby, also received \$25,000 in IF funding.

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Faculty/staff awards, presentations, publications

Deborah Mower, associate professor, Philosophy and Religious Studies, gave an invited address at the Center for the Study of Ethics in Society Lecture Series at Western Michigan University as well as the Center for Ethics and Public Policy at the University of Minnesota Duluth on “Scripting Situations in Moral Education.” She also published two papers titled “Situationism and Confucian Virtue Ethics,” in *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* and “Scripting Situations in Moral Education” in *Teaching Ethics*.

Dan Kuzma, manager of YSU’s Recycling Program, recently finished 5th in the run division of the Arrowhead 135 race with a time of 47 hours, 12 minutes. The 135-mile race, now in its seventh year, is held in northern Minnesota’s Superior National Forest on the Arrowhead State Snowmobile Trail. Participants may compete on foot, skis or mountain bike.

Steven Brown, professor of English, published the chapter “Japan/Anglo-American Cross Cultural Communication,” in *The Handbook of Intercultural Discourse and Communication*. His co-authors were Brenda Hayashi of Miyagi Gakuin Women's University and Kikue Yamamoto of the Cross-Cultural Consulting Company Office.

Kin P. Moy, associate professor, Electrical Engineering Technology, received the Technical Standards Board Outstanding Contribution Award from the Motor Vehicle Council of the Society of Automotive Engineers. Moy was the only person from an academic institution selected for the award. He was officially recognized at the SAE World Congress in Detroit.

David E. Stout, Andrews Chair in Accounting, was awarded the 2011 Mark Chain Federation of Schools of Accountancy Teaching Innovation Award for “Modeling Uncertainty in C-V-P Assignments: Going Beyond the Basics.” The award recognizes successful innovative practices in teaching graduate-level accounting and is selected each year by an AICPA Task Force from among the accepted submissions to the Effective Learning Strategies Forums at the American Accounting Association’s annual meeting.

Tom Oder, associate professor, Physics and Astronomy, and YSU Physics undergraduate students **Andrew Smith** and **Michael McMaster**, made a poster presentation at the Fall meeting of the Materials Research Society in Boston. The title of their presentation was “Effects of substrate pre-deposition annealing and deposition parameters on the properties of RF sputter-deposited ZnO films.” Oder also made an oral presentation titled “Optimum Conditions for deposition of ZnO semiconductor films by RF sputtering” at the Electronic Materials and Applications 2012 meeting in Orlando, Fla.

Richard W. VanVoorhis, assistant professor; **Audrey E. Ellenwood**, associate professor; **Kenneth L. Miller**, professor; and **Melinda Wolford**, assistant professor, all from the Department of Counseling and Special Education, presented “Planning for National School Psychology Program Expansion: A Collaborative Approach” at the National Association of School Psychologists Conference in Philadelphia. The purpose of the presentation was to provide school psychology program development information and encourage discussion regarding national school psychology training expansion.

Fred Viehe, professor, History, published "The G'hals of New York and Other Cities at Work and Play: A Flourishing Feminine Counterculture in Mid-Nineteenth Century Urban America" in *The International Journal of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences*, Vol. 6. Viehe also presented “Characteristics of American Organized Crime” to the Youngstown Lions at the Youngstown Club, and he presented a lecture to two classes at the Youngstown Early College on prohibition, urbanization, organized crime and political corruption.

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Farewell



Barb Jones, left, coordinator of Graduate Administrative Affairs, is greeted by Provost Ikram Khawaja during her retirement party in Coffelt Hall on Feb. 29. Looking on is Rebecca Wittenberger, a graduate assistant in the School of Graduate Studies and Research. Jones, with a YSU career spanning 36 years, is among the final employees to retire under the university's Early Retirement Incentive Program. In all, 86 non-faculty employees have retired under the program since April 2011.

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What's News

New master's degree

The Board of Trustees has approved a new master's degree in interdisciplinary communication. The degree now must win the approval of the Ohio Board of Regents.

The program is designed to provide students with the background and skills to succeed in professional writing, public relations and management positions. It will be housed in the Department of Communication in the College of Fine and Performing Arts and will be administered jointly by the departments of Communication, English and Marketing.

Name change

The Department of Counseling and Special Education has added "School Psychology" to its name.

Faculty in the department unanimously approved the change to more fully include and represent the new graduate degree program and professional discipline of School Psychology that was recently added to the department.

Quest coming

Quest, YSU's annual celebration of student research is Tuesday, April 3 in Kilcawley Center. Dozens of undergraduate and graduate students will share their scholarly pursuits with the university community.

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NewsOutlet students report on gas drilling during spring break

Students in Youngstown State University's TheNewsOutlet.org program will travel to Texas and Arkansas during spring break March 12 to 16 to report stories about how communities there have been impacted by gas and oil well drilling.

The student journalists will talk to people who live in communities that have long been experiencing the economic, environmental and social effects of Fracking and gas exploration.

The trip is the latest project of TheNewsOutlet.org, a media collaboration started and headquartered at YSU's journalism program. The News Outlet links student reporters from YSU, Kent State University and the University of Akron with professional media outlets in Northeastern Ohio, including *The Vindicator*, *The Akron Beacon Journal*, WYSU FM, Rubber City Radio and *The Ravenna Record Courier*. Student journalists have produced more than 150 print, radio and video stories on important community and regional issues ranging from abuses at a local mental health facility to problems with state tax collections on the gas and oil industries.

"This trip will add to the tremendous success TheNewsOutlet.org has had in engaging students, local media and residents in our region, its challenges and its successes," said Tim Francisco, YSU assistant professor of journalism. Francisco and Alyssa Lenhoff, journalism instructor, founded and co-direct the TheNewsOutlet.org project.

Students from journalism, art and computer science working together with The News Outlet will produce radio, video, print and interactive graphic packages from the road. Lenhoff, Francisco, and Karl Henkel, business reporter at *The Vindicator* who has been covering gas and oil exploration locally, will travel with the students to help direct them as well as report for the daily newspapers.

TheNewsOutlet.org is funded by The Raymond John Wean Foundation, The Youngstown Foundation, The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, WYSU FM and The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLASS) at YSU.

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Women's History Month features lectures, exhibits and more

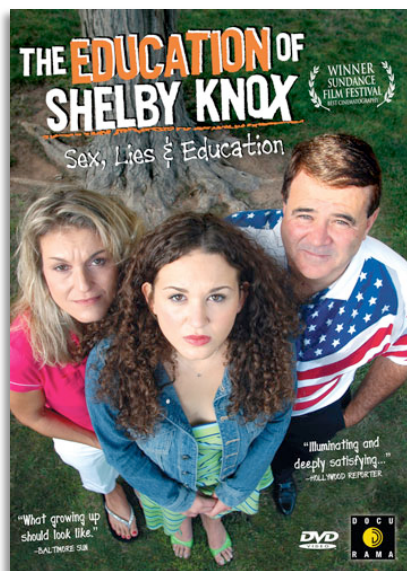
"Healthy Women: Strong Communities" is the theme of this year's celebration of Women's History Month at YSU, featuring exhibits, lectures and other events on a variety of topics. The celebration is sponsored by YSU's Women's Studies Program. All events are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Mehera Gerardo at gmgerardo@ysu.edu or 330-941-3459

Here are the activities planned for the month:

Contraception in the 20th Century: Pieces from the Percy Skuy Collection, March 5 through 30 at the Rose Melnick Medical Museum on Wick Avenue at YSU. The Percy Skuy Collection of the Dittrick Medical History Center at Case Western University includes approximately 1,100 artifacts.

Pretty Women & Mad Men, March 7, 4 p.m. in Room 3423 of Williamson Hall. Screening of AMC's Mad Men episode, "The Beautiful Girls," followed by panel discussion.

International Women's Day, March 8, 5:30 p.m., fifth floor of Maag Library. Panel discussion and wine and cheese happy hour.



Reproductive and Sexual Health Sleeping with Uncle Sam, March 21, 5:30 p.m., McKay Auditorium in Beeghly Hall. Lecture by Alexandra Lord, National Park Service.

The Education of Shelby Knox, March 22, 4 p.m., McKay Auditorium in Beeghly Hall. Screening and panel discussion of the 2005 documentary (left) about, Shelby Knox, a teenage girl who joins a campaign for comprehensive sex education in the high schools of Lubbock, Texas.

Sex + Money: A National Search for Human Worth, March 23, 4 p.m., Room 132 of DeBartolo Hall. Screening and discussion with members of Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative Anti-Human Trafficking Core Team of the documentary about domestic minor sex trafficking and the modern-day abolitionist movement fighting to stop it.

Virtue, Vice, and Contraband: A History of Contraception in America, March 26, 10 a.m., Rose Melnick Medical Museum. Lecture by James Edmonson of the Dittrick Medical History Museum at Case

Western Reserve University.

The Issues of Today's Women, March 28, noon at the Main Branch of the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning Valley, 305 Wick Avenue. Women's achievements are integral to the fabric of history. We learn from their tenacity, courage, intellect and creativity as tremendous sources of strength.

Retirement Security, Women's Security, March 28, 3 p.m. Channing Hall, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Youngstown, 1105 Elm St. Panel discussion with Tammy Thomas and members of Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative Health Equity Campaign.

Of Clubs and Whiskers: Gender, Honor, and Violence in the Brazilian Backlands of Ceara, 1845-1889, March 28, 5:30 p.m., fifth floor of YSU's Maag Library. Lecture by Martha Santos of University of Akron.

Sin by Silence, March 30, 1 p.m. in YSU McDonough Museum of Art, co-sponsored by United Purpose II. Screening and discussion of the film about the first inmate-initiated and led support group in the U.S. prison system that reveals the history and stories of the members of the group, Convicted Women Against Abuse.



[Sin by Silence](#), a documentary about Convicted Women Against Abuse will be screened at YSU as part of Women's History Month.

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Social Work Day March 23

Victoria Marion, president of the Ohio chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, is the featured speaker at Social Work Day on Friday, March 23 on campus.



The event, which runs from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center, is held in recognition of Social Work Month in March.

Marion, whose presentation is titled “The Future of Social Work,” speaks at 9:50 a.m. She is preceded on the program at 8:50 a.m. by Danielle Smith, executive director of the Ohio chapter of NASW, who will talk about “The Legacy of Social Work.” Also on the agenda is Dennis Morawski, chair of YSU’s Department of Social Work, and Bradley Smith, director of Ohio NASW Region IV.

The YSU Department of Social Work sponsors Social Work Day to celebrate the profession of social work and to honor—and thank—the many field educators who give of their time and expertise each year to supervise BSW and MSW student field interns.

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Contraception exhibit at the Dittrick Medical History Center at Case Western Reserve University.

New Melnick exhibit focuses on contraception

An exhibit of contraception items, prototypes and manufacturing devices opens March 5 and runs through the end of the month at the Rose campus.

The exhibit, part of YSU's celebration of Women's History Month, features artifacts that are part of the Percy Skuy Contraceptive Collection currently under the auspices of

the Dittrick Medical History Center at Case Western Reserve University. The exhibit depicts the social and cultural climate that influenced birth control decisions in the United States since its early history.

The collection includes a wide range of contraception items, prototypes, and manufacturing devices. Skuy, past president of Ortho Pharmaceutical of Canada, assembled the world's most comprehensive collection of historical contraceptive devices. Through donations and museum purchases, his original collection grew from 650 to approximately 1,100 artifacts. The Dittrick also maintains a collection of literature on the topic, including primary source material as well as historical writings.

In connection with the exhibit, James Edmonson, chief curator at the Dittrick, will talk about "Virtue, Vice, and Contraband: A History of Contraception in America" at 10 a.m. Monday, March 26 at the Melnick Museum.

Edmonson's lecture is free and open to the public.

The Museum is open to the public by appointment Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free. Visitors can call Cassandra Nespore at 330-941-4661 to schedule an appointment. Free parking is available next to the Museum. For more information on Women's History Month events, contact G. Mehera Gerardo at gngerardo@ysu.edu or 330-941-3495.



James Edmonson