



Excitement in STEM: Grants Galore!

ALYSSA PAWLUK
alpawluk@student.yzu.edu

On Aug. 15, the National Science Foundation awarded the Youngstown State University College of Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics two equipment grants — led by two STEM professors — both of which will help progress the future research materials of faculty and students.

The first grant, totaling \$307,422, was a collaborative effort led by Tom Oder, professor in the department of physics and astronomy. The co-principal investigators include Pedro Cortes, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering; Ruigang Wang, assistant professor of materials chemistry; Virgil Solomon, assistant professor of chemistry and mechanical engineering; and Klaus-Markus Peters, director of engineering at Fireline Tcon Incorporated, a nonmetallic mineral statuary in Youngstown.

Oder said this grant will be used to purchase an advanced plasma etching device. The device works by inserting a material and using plasma — charged particles that react chemically with material — to remove layers from the material and study the inside of it.

“To etch is to remove. It’s kind of like an artist using a chisel to sculpt art,” Oder said. “You have a big piece of material and then you want to remove part of it so that you end up with some design. So in this sense, the design is the device. So you’re subtracting material to enter with the design.”

The second grant, led by Wang, was \$200,640 and will be used to gather further research in improving catalytic conversion systems in cars. These systems are used to convert harmful pollutants from an engine’s exhaust into cleaner emissions.

YSU’s STEM College has been successful at getting three of these Major Research Instrumentation grants for three consecutive years, which is something Oder sees as a source of pride.

“It’s a big honor. It is a very competitive grant. It’s a nationwide competition, and in a particular year, you may have thousands of faculty and even



Tom Oder, professor of physics and astronomy, demonstrates the rudimentary plasma etching system that he and his students built themselves in Ward Beecher Hall.

industries competing for that part of the money. Not everybody gets it. We’ve got it three times in a row. It’s based on the quality of the proposal. So that tells you the quality of the proposal is really that great,” Oder said.

Cortes said that he wants to use carbon nanotube field-effect transistor structures in the new plasma etching device to detect toxic substances, drugs or explosives in these materials.

“These CNTs-FET structures will serve as the sensing platform for detecting bio-chemical agents,

such as explosives, toxic substances and drugs. The development and incorporation of unique electrical platforms [FETs] on nanosensing devices is a critical element for tuning the detection sensitivity of CNTs. These exclusive electrical platforms can be precisely manufactured using an etching plasma system. This is the reason for my participation in this grant,” Cortes said.

**STEM
PAGE 2**

Students Prepare for Career Fair



PHOTO BY GRAIG GRAZIOSI/THE JAMBAR.

Recognizing the need for young men to look professional while job hunting, the Columbus-based tailor Pursuit visited campus to fit young men and offer deals on suits.

BILLY LUDT
wrludt@student.yzu.edu

Youngstown State University held a career and job interview resource seminar Wednesday in the Ohio Room located in Kilcawley Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Juniors and seniors were

encouraged to attend the event as preparation for the Career Fair being held Sept. 30.

Services at the seminar included resume analysis, suit fitting, job interview advice, hair and color consultation and even how to tie a tie. Attendees were also offered one free, lightly-worn professional outfit.

Jennifer Johnson, director of career services, stressed the importance of appearance for a job interview.

“Students just really need to know how they have to dress for career fairs,” Johnson said. “This especially depends on their majors.”

**CAREER FAIR
PAGE 4**

YSU’s Hopes for 2015

JENNA LATCHERAN
jennalatcheran@yahoo.com

On Sept. 4, Youngstown State University reported their official 14-day enrollment numbers at 12,551 students — a 6.3 percent drop from fall 2013 enrollment numbers. Though the decrease was .2 percent better than expected from the preliminary enrollment numbers, it is still one of the sharpest decreases in YSU’s history.

With this being the fourth consecutive year of enrollment decline, should YSU students expect another year of dropping enrollment and what is YSU doing to work toward climbing numbers in fall 2015?

Gary Swegan, the associate director of enrollment planning and management, said that when he arrived only a year ago in 2013, another year of enrollment decline was predictable, due to the economy — which had driven people to universities during the recession and has now improved and driven people to the workforce — the restriction of the university’s open enrollment policy and a host of other factors.

“I didn’t have to get here to look at the data; I have done this long enough. I knew — with three down years and the fact that the president at the time had just moved us to open admission to open access, just a fancy way of saying that we are now just a little bit selective — we were going to be down this year,” Swegan said. “This was a new world order. You know, the state-funding model has changed; we have just become moderately selective. You don’t know exactly what the impact is going to be, but I had, as I said, models that went all the way from 2.5 to 6.2 percent. Dunn, who at the time was still here, wasn’t about to hear a 6.2 percent.”

One of the most important steps to improving enrollment and overall conditions at the university is retaining students that are already at the university until graduation.

With the state-funding model now focusing on rewarding student success, graduation and retention rates are now of paramount importance in the distribution of state funding, causing YSU to drop significantly in the percentage of the budget composed of state funds. In fiscal year 2001, state funding composed more than 50 percent of the budget. Now,

**HOPES
PAGE 3**



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A FISTFUL OF CONDOMS

Safer Sex Week Returns to Campus

DANIEL HINER
dghiner@student.ysu.edu

From putting condoms on bananas to high school lessons on birth control, the benefits of safe sex have been made explicitly clear. For many, though, the message has been lost in awkward middle school video presentations. Youngstown State University is once again setting out to re-teach this classic message in new and entertaining ways through their annual Safer Sex Week.

Taking place Sept. 14-19, Safer Sex Week is a week of learning for YSU students, both on and off campus. YSU will attempt to engage students with an assortment of events that try to impart essential information on safer sex.

One of the most popular events is the resource fair that was held on Monday in the Chestnut Room in Kilcawley Center.

In addition to offering students the necessary resources to lead a safe sex life — from pamphlets to colored condoms — Jason Ottley, a nationally circulating relationship expert, will also speak about building healthy college relationships.

In addition to the resource

fair, programs such as Going Down in the Elevators use provocative and eye-catching names to attract the attention of students, while trying to provide pertinent information.

Macey Nortey, a YSU graduate student who is coordinating Safer Sex week along with three other grad students, said the Going Down program takes place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and students will take a ride in the elevators in all the residence halls. As the elevator travels to the bottom, students will receive safe sex facts.

“We do it in all the residence halls three nights out of the week,” Nortey said. “Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for an hour we’ll go down in the elevators giving sex facts and poke fun at the idea of going down in the elevators.”

YSU residents are also able to participate in event creation by contacting their RA, who is in contact with the graduate students in the residence office.

“Our residential assistants that are in each residential building, they usually get feedback from their residents that go through each program. We get a lot of feedback from our RAs,” Nortey said.

The university works in tandem with the graduate students to approve and or-



PHOTO BY DUSTIN LIVESAY/THE JAMBAR.

Information concerning safe sex practices was made available through an information fair at Kilcawley Student Center, the first of many events planned for Safer Sex Week.

chestrate the various events throughout the week. Jacob Stanley, the assistant director of housing for residential education and development, is in charge of approving any of the proposed ideas that come from the graduate students in the residence office.

Stanley, along with other YSU employees, essentially act as quality control to make sure the events successfully relay their message.

“If there are red flags that pop up in my head, then we will definitely look at it a little deeper,” Stanley said. “Is it worth it, or are we doing it

because it sounds cute? What information are the students going to get out of it? What is the value of the program?”

He said the university has been accepting of the proposed events.

“I don’t think they ever told us no to a program. I know there are programs in the past that weren’t really a big deal but they lost their value or got old and we try to do other things,” Stanley said. “My director and the university and the offices we collaborate with have always been very supportive.”

Stanley added that Safer

Sex Week is all about the students and providing them with options and education, not about pushing a certain life style or agenda.

“We’re not trying to push any kind of certain agenda,” Stanley said. “The programs we’ve had the past couple of years have been about getting good information out to the students. Get good resources out there to them so they know what’s going on, they know where to go if they have questions and how they can be a better responsible person while they are here at Youngstown State.”

Professor Accused in Death of Her Alleged Rapist Pleads Guilty

PALOMA ESQUIVEL
Los Angeles Times
(MCT)

SANTA ANA, Calif. — A professor of psychology who was arrested nearly two years ago in the cold case slaying of a man she said had raped her pleaded guilty Friday to a reduced charge of voluntary manslaughter.

The Orange County case had drawn wide attention and gained support from advocates for rape victims who said she was being unfairly targeted.

Norma Patricia Esparza, who grew up in Santa Ana and went on to become a profes-

sor in Europe, was charged along with three others in the death of 24-year-old Gonzalo Ramirez while she was a college student in Claremont, Calif., almost 20 years ago.

Esparza was accused of conspiring to commit the slaying, though she did not actually carry it out.

She is expected to be sentenced to six years in state prison and will testify against her co-defendants, the Orange County district attorney’s office said in a news release.

According to prosecutors, Esparza and a group that included her ex-boyfriend went to a Santa Ana bar in the spring of 1995 so she could point out Ramirez, who she said raped her in her dorm room.

The following morning, Irvine police found Ramirez’s

body on the side of a road. He had been beaten and hacked to death with a meat cleaver.

Born in Mexico, Esparza came to Santa Ana as a child and her life was forever changed when she obtained a scholarship to attend the elite Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire.

She was a student at Pomona College when the slaying occurred and was working at Webster University, Geneva, when she was arrested.

Esparza told a grand jury that she never meant for Ramirez to be killed and that her ex-boyfriend, Gianni Anthony Van, forced her to point him out after she told him about the rape.

In an interview with the Los Angeles Times, she said she was naive about Van’s in-

tentions.

“Many people say you’re so intelligent, you have a Ph.D., how did you not see that coming?” Esparza told the Times late last year. “The fact is there’s different types of intelligence. You can be intelligent and not be street-wise ... not foreseeing the bad intentions in other people.”

Esparza’s attorney, Jack Earley, said his client, who is married and has a young daughter, was unwilling to risk a life sentence if convicted of murder.

Though Esparza did not intend for Ramirez to be killed, he said, she was not forthcoming about the slaying when police confronted her about it almost two decades ago.

“She was frightened,” he said. “And she realizes that ...

there’s a chance people will hold her accountable for that. It’s very hard for someone to put themselves in her situation. At trial they’d be looking at a 40-year-old instead of what she was at the time, which was a 20-year-old girl.”

Co-defendants Van, 45, and Shannon Ray Gries, 43, are charged with felony murder in the commission of a kidnapping. They are expected to go on trial next year.

A third suspect, Diane Tran, 45, of Costa Mesa, Calif., pleaded guilty this year to voluntary manslaughter and is expected to be sentenced to four years in prison, prosecutors said.

Tran’s husband, Kody Tran, who was also a suspect in the case, shot himself during a standoff with police.

STEM
PAGE 1

Wang explained his part in the research aspect of the grant, and said he wanted to use the device to change the surface structure of catalysts — which are substances that speed up chemical reactions.

“One of our current research areas is in metal oxide catalysts,” Wang said. “Our preliminary results showed that the plasma etching treatment could modify the surface structure of catalysts, which allows us to tune the catalytic activity of materials.”

Solomon explained that his part in the pursuit of the grant was to use the plasma etching device to use shape memory alloys — metals that remember their original shape — to produce micro-electrical mechanical systems. The results will further his research at YSU.

“I am planning to use the instrument for my research. Besides, the instrument will enhance YSU’s materials research capabilities. I am actively involved in the YSU’s PhD program in materials science and engineering, and I support any step we take toward the program’s de-

velopment,” Solomon said. “We’ve done well, so far. The program was accredited two years ago; we have new doctoral students, and new facilities like the electron microscopy, x-ray diffraction, additive manufacturing and more.”

Cortes said that he is satisfied with the progress that he and his colleagues have achieved in the pursuit of the grant.

“We have created an excellent synergistic collaboration in order to succeed in this grant,” Cortes said. “I am very happy with the progress achieved so far.”

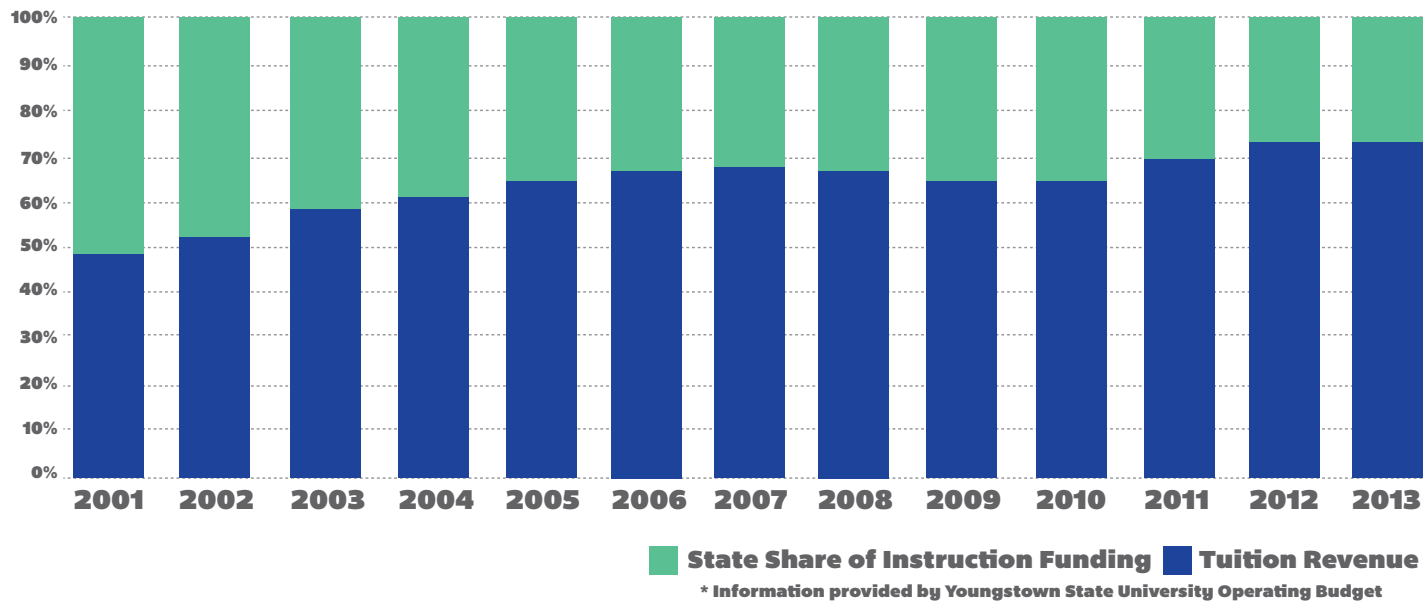
Oder said that the grant allows anyone that is willing to enhance their research.

“It’s a big deal for us because it makes us able to do a lot of things that we couldn’t before as far as research is concerned. It now gives us the capability to do research at a level that we have not been able to do before,” Oder said. “We can make a minute device, microelectronics, nanoelectronics and it’s really going to boost our [students and faculty] research efforts and our ability to study materials.”



HYPNOSIS FOR TEST ANXIETY AND STRESS REDUCTION Group session in Jones Room of Kilcawley Center 7:30pm September 24, 2014 Admission \$50.00 For more info, go to www.sunrisehypnosis.net

STATE FUNDING AND TUITION REVENUE



it makes up approximately 25 percent of the budget.

As a result, YSU has focused on targeting students with higher retention potential by tightening standards, hiring third-party enrollment groups like Royall & Company and improving the retention of current students.

Fortunately for the university, Jonelle Beatrice, executive director of Student

Life, indicated that retention rates have actually risen.

“By retention, we mean measuring the first freshmen full-time students and seeing if they return for the following semester. Retention numbers have been steady and as of last week, retention has been up,” Beatrice said.

This sustainment of retention is likely due to YSU’s denial of the lowest achiev-

ing students, who typically had among the lowest graduation and retention rates.

“I keep making these new discoveries. Even though, to the general public, all it looks like is the sky is falling. I get that,” Swegan said. “Let’s take four years ago, it was the height of our enrollment. ... If we take the students we denied admission to this year, and we go back to

say ‘05 to ‘09, and we look at [similar students] ... what do you think their graduation rate is? 1.2 percent.”

In order to ensure first-year student success — and subsequently increase retention — Beatrice encouraged students to frequently visit the Center for Student Progress on campus, meet with a peer mentor and seek weekly tutoring during their first

year.

Cole Blakeley, a third year Supplemental Instruction leader for the Center for Student Progress, made positive comment on the university’s support services.

“One major factor in having success as a student is having resources that are necessary in promoting success,” Blakeley said. “Visiting with your peer mentor and making connections for first-year students will aid in achievement for the rest of your college career. There are also study sessions for challenging classes that provide support, extra study time with well engaged tutors.”

Blakeley also noted that by providing students with extra tools for success helps them perform better on exams and decrease the dropout rate. Students who visit the CSP weekly have a retention rate of around 70 percent.

Between increased retention efforts and new methods to attract strong, new students, YSU hopes to begin fall 2015 swinging.

Additional reporting by Liam Bouquet.

Student Suicide: School Says Bullying Policy ‘Fully Enforced’

TIFFANY WALDEN
Orlando Sentinel
(MCT)

The parents of a boy who killed himself at school last week held an emotional news conference Monday to speak about ongoing bullying before their son’s death. Hours later, school officials released a statement addressing the allegations.

Lamar Hawkins, 14, fatally shot himself Wednesday at Greenwood Lakes Middle School, in Lake Mary, Fla., near Orlando.

The boy’s mother, Shaniqua Hawkins, fought back tears at a news conference at law firm Morgan & Morgan’s on Monday. She blamed bullies for pushing her son over the edge, saying she tried doing everything possible to help him.

Seminole County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Walt Griffin released the following statement:

“This is a very tragic circumstance and our hearts and prayers remain with the family during this difficult time. We are aware the family held a press conference this morning and allegations of bullying were discussed. The School Board has a comprehensive bullying police that is fully enforced in all of our schools.”

An investigation into Lamar’s death is ongoing, according to Kim Cannaday, spokeswoman for the Seminole County Sheriff’s Office.

At the news conference, Hawkins’ mother said her son had been battling bullies for years.

The family recently moved from New York to Sanford because of bullying, she told reporters.

The mother said she felt paralyzed by the inability to stop the bullying. Her husband, Lamar Hawkins Sr., consoled her as she spoke to the media.

“It was a feeling I hope no other parent has to feel,” Shaniqua Hawkins said. “They won, because he took his life as a result.”

Also at Monday’s news conference was Tricia Norman, whose 12-year-old daughter, Rebecca Sedwick, jumped to her death in September 2013 from a tower at an abandoned cement plant in Lakeland, Fla., after months of alleged cyberbullying.

Both families are clients of Morgan & Morgan. Attorney Matt Morgan announced the family’s fund-raising website today.

“The family is planning on using any money raised towards funeral expenses as well as out of pocket expenses relating to the death of their son,” attorney Matt Morgan said in a statement.

Sheriff’s investigators said Lamar shot himself with a gun that belonged to his father. No charges have been announced.

Hawkins Sr. didn’t speak at the news conference. Lamar’s family didn’t answer questions from reporters.

Deputies said the boy’s mother arrived at the school to pick up her son about 5 p.m. Wednesday, but he wasn’t there.

About 7 p.m., the family went to law enforcement to report the boy missing.

Deputies searched the family’s neighborhood and surrounding area. When they began searching the school, they found the boy.

The suicide prompted hundreds of mourners to gather for a vigil across the street from the school late Friday, two days after investigators say Lamar shot himself in the head in a restroom stall on campus.

Years of bullying led the teen to kill himself, Morgan said. “The child was a relatively small child for his age due to complications early in life,” Morgan said Friday. “As a result, he became a very easy target for mean-spirited bullies.”

CANINE CUDDLE TIME



Brandon Burdette (Bottom Left) and Katie Hirsch (Bottom Right) play with puppies outside of Kilcawly Center on Monday morning. The puppies were there to raise money for New Lease on Life charities by the TKE fraternity.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Dance Workshop Scheduled

The YSU Theater and Dance Department along with the YSU Dance Ensemble will be hosting the YSU Dance Festival Sunday, Sept. 28, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Beeghly Center. The cost is \$40, which includes a choice of four master classes and an informal concert with performances by guest artists. For more information, contact Christine Cobb, professor of dance, at 330-941-1896 or ccobb@ysu.edu.

Musical Narrative Premieres in Bliss Recital Hall

"Sarah's Song," an original musical narrative by part time Dana faculty member Suzanne Rouse Rudnytsky, will premiere on Monday, Sept. 22, at 7:30 p.m. in Bliss Recital Hall. The autobiographical performance is free and open to the public.

Ward Beecher Planetarium Opens Season with New Show

YSU's Ward Beecher Planetarium begins its 2014-15 season Sept. 16 at 8 p.m. with a new show: "Dynamic Earth." The show will also play Thursday Sept. 18 for the 7 Days of STEM celebration. Regularly scheduled shows begin this week on Friday and Saturday with "Fall Skywatch" at 8 p.m. and "This is Our Sky" at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Saturday. All shows are free and open to the public.

Pursuit is a tailoring company aimed at young men that operates out of Columbus, Ohio. The company was founded by two MBA students from Ohio State University.

Jake Mendel, director of development at Pursuit, sat in the Ohio Room and spoke with attendees on the importance of appearance in a job interview.

"I actually train recruiters for Fortune 500 companies on how to size-up and identify potential candidates simply based on what they're wearing," Mendel said. "The fact that a Fortune 500 company would come to me and say that 'I want you train recruiters to be able to spot well-dressed guys' shows you how important it is to dress up."

Pursuit made their first trip out of Columbus to come to YSU's campus. Their truck, parked outside of the Chestnut Room, was open for men to visit and receive a suit fitting.

"The most important thing when dressing professionally is to nail the fit," Mendel said. "If you nail the fit, it shows that you're comfortable in your clothes, you understand what you're doing and you're not borrowing a suit from your dad."

Operating out of a physical and online store, Pursuit offers services to young men at local universities and plans to expand outward to visit more campuses.

Attendees had the opportunity to speak with human resource experts from Mass Mutual, VEC and Vallourec. Representatives spoke with students about what they should expect from employers at the upcoming Career Fair.

Sayward Elliot, agency recruiting coordina-

tor at Mass Mutual, advised many students on the ins and outs of job interviews.

"Look at the career services website in advance," Elliot said. "Don't just show up to the career fair that day, look at the book and see who the employers are."

Elliot, like many other employers, will be attending many career fairs in the next six weeks. Elliot said that she speaks with at least 100 students at each of these.

"I'm not going to remember them," Elliot said. "What I will remember, though, is a student that leaves here and goes 'I really liked that. I'm going to email her just to say thanks so much for coming to the career fair today.'"

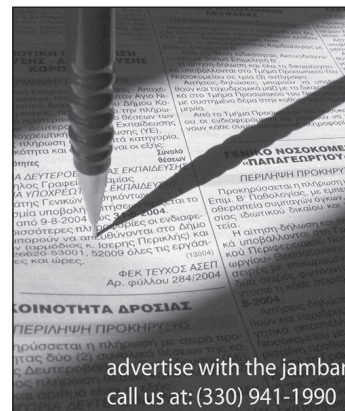
The event was organized by Career Services in collaboration with Phi Kappa Phi, the Fashion and Interior Design Merchandising Program, Student Affairs, Bridges Out of Poverty Student Union and Student Government Association.

Karen Becker is the coordinator of the Reading and Studies Skill Center, an affiliate of SGA and a member of Phi Kappa Phi.

"We started off doing this as a career service event before the career fair," Becker said.

Becker spoke about students in need of proper attire for internships, careers and interviews. It is hoped that there will eventually be a closet on campus for students to acquire fitting clothes for future endeavors.

"We're working toward an idea where students who are in need can get vouchers [for clothes] from an adviser to connect with us," Becker said. "This is just the beginning."



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Prior to founding OfficeMax, Mr. Feuer spent 15 years at Jo-Ann Fabrics as Senior Vice President.

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YSUscape Officially Opens Mural



PHOTO BY GRAIG GRAZIOSI/THE JAMBAR.

SPENCER CURCILLO
smcurcillo@student.ysu.edu

On Saturday Sept. 6, YSUscape held the grand opening of their mural, located at the corner of Elm Street and Madison Avenue.

The mural is a part of YSUscape's ongoing effort to restore and beautify the Youngstown area. It depicts symbols that people identify with the area, such as penguins — the mascot of Youngstown State University — and the 5th Avenue Bridge.

Kenna Fusillo, a member of YSUscape, participated in the mural's cre-

ation as well as other projects with the organization.

"We're just trying to make [the Youngstown area] nicer for everyone to have a good time, and have nice properties around them, and create an environment where people want to be down here," Fusillo said.

The members of the organization created the mural with help from local artists Jacob Harver and Jason Van Hoose, both graduates of YSU.

The mural, originally conceived during the spring 2014 semester, was completed on Thursday, Sept. 4 after several months of work.

Anthony Marchionda, YSUscape's treasurer, was pleased with the outcome of the mural, but he believes

there is more the group can do for the area.

"The mural is done, but we're not done with this area yet," Marchionda said. "We want to do some more landscaping around here and make the lots nicer; maybe touch up the building on the other side [of the mural]."

Marchionda said the mural's location was chosen largely due to its visibility.

"The reason we picked this location for the mural is that we wanted something for people to see. People driving up Elm Street to the north side every day get to see this. Kids coming back from class going to Cafaro, Lyden and The Flats — they have something to see," Marchionda said.

Fusillo said seeing what the city of Youngstown was and could be again is a driving force for the group.

"Seeing all the potential [the Youngstown area] has and all the ruins it has; seeing everything that's run down and how nice it can be motivates us," Fusillo said.

The mural itself is painted on one such ruin. The building whose wall acted as the canvas was a rundown store front, formerly housing the now closed R&S Foods.

Marchionda encourages people to join the organization as they continue their efforts to improve the area.

"At YSUscape, anybody can join ... anybody can get involved and volunteer," Marchionda said.

NATURAL GAS CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER IN TEXAS, STUDY SAYS

NEELA BANERJEE
Tribune Washington Bureau (MCT)

WASHINGTON — Natural gas production near homes in a Texas subdivision contaminated residents' well water, according to a study published Monday. The discovery was made in a community where the Environmental Protection Agency halted its own investigation two years ago.

In the course of a broader effort to determine the origins of high methane levels in drinking water aquifers near gas wells in Pennsylvania and Texas, scientists found that water in two homes in Parker County, Texas, changed over nine months from containing trace amounts of methane to having high levels.

The newly identified cases "caught this contamination in the act," said Robert Jackson, a study co-author and professor of environmental science at Stanford University.

The discovery poses a challenge to a long-standing assertion by the oil and gas industry that the energy boom sweeping the country has not damaged water supplies. Other studies have found that water wells near natural gas production are at greater risk of containing methane than those farther away. But industry has contended that the methane found in water wells is naturally occurring and was there all along, prior to the start of gas production.

Each of 20 homes tested in Parker County has detectable methane in its well water because of many layers of oil and gas in the ground, the researchers said. Methane that enters homes through drinking water poses an explosion risk if it accumulates in rooms or spaces.

The two homes whose water had negligible amounts of methane in 2012 were tested again in August and November 2013, when they showed far higher levels, the study said. Further, the methane in the homeowners' water no longer had the chemical makeup of the naturally occurring trace gas, according to the study. Instead, it had the same chemical fingerprint as natural gas deposits far below the aquifers, the scientists found.

"All the gas chemistry in the water changed so that it wasn't just higher methane levels but higher methane from a totally different source," said Thomas Darrah, assistant professor of earth sciences at Ohio State University and the study's lead author.

Darrah and his colleagues concluded that the water contamination occurred when natural gas from a lower geological depth migrated higher into drinking water sources because of a faulty cement job around the well.

The researchers believe that in nearly all the cases, the water contamination occurred because poor casing or cementing around the gas wells allowed methane to leak out the sides and into aquifers. Said Darrah, "The good news

is that most of the issues we have identified can potentially be avoided by future improvements in well integrity."

The findings of the study, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, spotlight the EPA's controversial decision in 2012 to halt its investigation into possible well-water contamination in Parker County by the energy company Range Resources.

The EPA got involved in 2010 because Range Resources and Texas regulators failed to act immediately on homeowners' complaints of possible drinking water contamination, according to a 2013 report by the EPA inspector general. When the EPA conducted its own tests of well water in some Parker County homes, it found such high levels of methane in the water supply of

two homes that it posed a risk of explosion, the report said.

The Justice Department filed a complaint on behalf of the EPA against Range in January 2011 but withdrew it by March 2012. The EPA and Justice Department reversed course because the EPA worried about the costs and legal risks of the case, the inspector general's report said. Texas authorities and Range deny that the company's gas development had contaminated the residents' water.

The two Parker County homes that showed new contamination are near wells drilled by Range in 2009 and sold in 2011 to Legend Natural Gas.

The new contamination was identified as part of a wider study that tested drinking water in 20 wells in the Barnett Shale in Texas and

113 wells in Pennsylvania's Marcellus Shale area.

In Texas, extremely high levels of methane were found in five homes, including the two whose contamination the researchers captured through their testing. In Pennsylvania, high levels of methane were found in 20 homes.

At least one house in Pennsylvania had high levels of methane that was there all along, unrelated to gas production. But for the other homes in the two states, the chemical fingerprint of the methane at high levels in drinking water was the same as natural gas in deeper formations, the study said. The second line of evidence, the chemical fingerprint of gases found with methane in the Texas and Pennsylvania, also indicated the methane came from lower depths, according to the study.

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REUNION Revisits Art of Former Students



PHOTOS BY GABRIELLE FELLOWS/THE JAMBAR.

GABRIELLE FELLOWS
gabbymfellow@gmail.com

The McDonough Museum welcomed the Reunion II Alumni Invitational last Saturday with a public reception that was sponsored by Martini Brothers.

The reception was held from 6-8 p.m. and featured a display of one of the moving pieces of art in the museum, along with finger foods and beverages.

The exhibit features a selection of Youngstown State University alumni, many of whom reached national and international recognition for their work. Fifty-six local artists are featured in this exhibition including Jim Cliff, Kirk Poffenberger, Lezlie Thorn-dike and Vaughn Wascovich.

One of the most outstanding features of the exhibit is Wascovich's Rodeo Series. The pieces are installed on the exterior of the building and depict long exposure photos of people riding horses or bulls at a rodeo.

The McDonough will also offer a limited edition T-shirt designed by Justin Carolyne for sale in the

museum.

In addition to the artwork, there will also be a fall lecture series offered that will showcase multiple alumni. Bill Tomory, an accountant representative at Knepper Press, will speak on Oct. 8 and Chris Ross, preparator at the Akron Art Museum, will speak Oct. 15. Both lectures will be from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the museum and are free and open to the public.

The Reunion II Alumni Invitational was funded in part by tax dollars provided by the Ohio Arts Council to "encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans."

Many university students were found at the event on Saturday and have a positive view towards the exhibit being introduced into the museum.

Brian Beck, a sophomore at YSU, said that having the Reunion II Alumni Invitational art and lectures featured in the museum are extremely beneficial to the university students.

"It's great to see the different paths the alumni have taken after they left YSU. People think that after you graduate it's all over ... this shows that it's pos-

sible to make a name for yourself," Beck said. "Being a college student, I don't have much money, so having the art and the lectures free of charge is awesome. I can be cultured and actually view pieces and hear lectures that I'd normally have to pay for."

Julia Miglets, a YSU freshman, said that she enjoys seeing different pieces of artwork brought in from alumni that have travelled to different places.

"It's cool getting to see traveling artwork because it's something new that we don't usually get to see on campus," Miglets said. "Anytime something new is brought to campus, it makes student life more interesting and being here becomes more enjoyable."

Jenna Henshaw, a sophomore at YSU, said that she thinks it's interesting to have alumni artwork showcased at a local exhibit.

"It's pretty cool that we can see different things done by people who used to be and still are, in some cases, local," Henshaw said.

The exhibit will continue through the month of September and will end Nov. 7. The museum is open to the public on Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

From Handcuffs to the Stage

ALEXIS RUFENER
arufener@student.ysu.edu

Laura Phillips said she went to her first play when she was 10 years old. Once the lights turned down and the curtain rose, a dream grew in that little girl. Since that day she's been living it.

Phillips graduated from the Youngstown State University police academy and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts with an emphasis in theater.

When she went looking for work, she decided to put her acting dream on hold to begin

working part time as an undercover narcotics officer for the Canfield police in 1992.

Phillips would patrol the streets for drug activity and would occasionally have to buy drugs undercover in order to catch the criminals.

"I know that my degree helped me," Phillips said. "To take on another persona, my theater skills transferred immediately."

After getting a taste of the life of an officer, Phillips was interested in getting a full-time job. She was later hired on the spot in 1994 at Campbell and was the first full-time female police officer at the station.

Her duties included drug sweeps and being the negotia-

tor for hostage situations and occasional domestic disputes. She also became the first female to make rank in Campbell as Detective Sargent.

Even though she had a passion for police work and busting criminals, she took time off duty after she was in a dangerous altercation with a felon that resulted in pain to her lower back, industrial asthma from ingesting mace and post-traumatic stress disorder.

She returned to police work around one year later, but shortly after returning the pain in her back started to intensify so much that her job became too much for her to handle again. She officially retired from Campbell in 2004.

She came back to YSU and started teaching the Understanding Theater course and continues to teach it to this day. Despite not having a graduate degree in theater, she was hired by Frank Castronovo, the professor emeritus of theater.

"The fact that she did not yet have a graduate degree is testament to the faith I had in her intelligence, maturity, judgment and interpersonal skills," Castronovo said.

During her theater career, Phillips landed many lead roles in plays at Youngstown Playhouse, Salem Community Theater, The Oakland and also the Environmental Protection Agency located in Columbus.

She played Lil in "Last Summer at Bluefish Cove," M' Lynn in "Steel Magnolias" and Susie Hendrix in "Wait Until Dark." Phillips has also been featured in commercials for Foxburg Winery and Flip Bingo.

"I enjoy doing theater, not just for the money — more so that's me giving back to the community," Phillips said.

Along with teaching, Phillips is currently ranked with a 4.0 GPA and studying to obtain her master's degree in English and language arts. She will also have a certification in Teaching English to Students of Other Languages, or TESOL. She is set to graduate in spring of 2015.

EDITORIAL

MY *INSINCEREST* APOLOGIES

Urban Outfitters has issued an apology for their sale of a vintage Kent State University sweater, which features what appears to be bloodstained fabric — a seemingly macabre reference to the 1970 Kent State Massacre.

Here's an excerpt from that apology: "Urban Outfitters sincerely apologizes for any offense our Vintage Kent State Sweatshirt may have caused. It was never our intention to allude to the tragic events that took place at Kent State in 1970 and we are extremely saddened that this item was perceived as such. ... Again, we deeply regret that this item was perceived negatively and we have removed it immediately from our website to avoid further upset."

We take serious issue with

this apology.

It is hard to believe — considering that products are tested and vetted before going on sale — that Urban Outfitters never had inkling that the product could be offensive.

But even if we assume that Urban Outfitters legitimately never foresaw that their product could be seen as an insensitive reference to the Kent State Massacre, their statement is still inaccurate.

We'd like to point out that Urban Outfitters failed to take direct responsibility for their offense in their so-called apology. Look closely at the language of their statement. Urban Outfitters is not sorry that the sale of their product was insensitive, but that the "item was perceived negatively."

Urban Outfitters has effectively blamed the public for perceiving their product to be insulting. Their apology is akin to saying something like this: we are sorry that the public is upset with us.

An apology should be an admission of fault, not a well-crafted political statement that is issued merely to counter negative press. And an apology certainly shouldn't allocate blame to others.

It must be understood, of course, that companies must step lightly when apologizing. Any lawyer, in any field of law, will tell their client to never admit fault when there is a chance of litigation coming against them.

Though it seems unlikely that any such lawsuit will come against Urban Outfit-

ters, with freedom of speech more or less standing in their favor, caution is simply the way of the modern world — especially concerning sizable chains.

This being said, the method they chose for their apology, one where they deftly dodged any claim of guilt while simultaneously trying to garner forgiveness, is almost worse than saying nothing. It practically drips insincerity, and it only expresses that they are sorry they screwed up — assuming this wasn't some clandestine marketing ploy.

This also reflects a tendency of so many other corporations to express their palpable remorse without actually saying anything worthwhile or attempting to make amends. Forgiveness for mistakes — whether they

are for destroying the economy, dumping gallons of oil into the coast or simply for acting in poor taste — must be earned.

To simply express your sorrow at whatever mistake you made through some faceless, nameless release — that was likely carefully crafted by the hands of a small band of press secretaries who were tangentially involved — is insulting.

We therefore reject Urban Outfitters "apology" because it is simply not an apology; it fails to accept an error or fault, and its sincerity is questionable.

It'd be better labeled as "press release," "media statement," or "positive spin" — but certainly not as "apology."

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COMMENTARY

The Grail Memorandum

Zombies

Group health insurance created America's zombie class of beneficiaries that regard themselves as normal, something like those unknowing once-human creatures in the old Twilight Zone episode.

How many people know of the dark secrets of group health insurance? I once thought just about every educated person grasped how skeezy the idea really was. Expectations lowered, I guesstimate about 50 people nationwide out of some 300 million know that.

There's possibly an archivist in Chicago or Dallas who saw a document with a jarring subject line or chilling handwritten marginalia; or, a policy dude in D.C. who got tipped off about something the public wasn't meant to know ever; an econ or math guy who can't make health insurance work in his study; or, a journalist who suspects a revealing memo somewhere that ties together loose ends or opens windows. The reason I know those people exist is that I've spoken to and corresponded with some of them.

They'd surmise, correctly and wisely, they'd have to go "samizdat" or deep-guerrilla to get the truth out. Even if they were believed, who'd care?

But how was it that Americans morphed into unknowingly radicalized zombies?

Roem's Folly

1943 changed everything with respect to health care. America's wary alliance with the Soviet Union emboldened the American Left, which proposed the taxpayer-funded Wagner-Murray-Dingell national health idea.

Wagner-Murray-Dingell had its detractors. They revived economist Clarence Roem's failing group health insurance idea to block.

Both Wagner-Murray-Dingell and Roem's groups were motivated by the same thoughts. Otherwise, they were as different as chicken soup and chicken droppings.

People feared illness and the costs of medical treatment. Getting health care for sick people was regarded as a good thing, a fact attested to by sectarian hospitals and those with charity and mercy in their names. The feeble experience-rated health insurance markets of the time didn't like sick people — you'd be insured only if you were healthy.

Wagner-Murray-Dingell regarded that last as a failing. Its authors solved the problem by insuring everyone.

Roem ignored that failing. His groups were a proxy for the presumptively healthy. Like experience-rated health insurance, Roem's groups didn't like sick people.

Wagner-Murray-Dingell was a graduated income tax. Roem's groups were an excise tax

— on labor!

Wagner-Murray-Dingell had the force of law and expelled no one. Roem's groups were a muddy blend of iron template in a scrum of arbitrarily defined dependents and customary beneficiaries. If you were in, you were in. If you weren't, you weren't.

Wagner-Murray-Dingell couldn't tax for health care more than people earned. Roem's groups could.

Wagner-Murray-Dingell believed getting health care for sick people was a good thing. Roem's groups didn't, because his groups insured the wrong people.

Wagner-Murray-Dingell was slugged as socialized medicine. Modeled on Soviet lines and imposed from above, Roem's groups were hailed as free markets in action. The zombies still believe that muck.

Roem won. Go figure.

The Grail Memoranda

The grail memoranda are historical documents that shed light on decisions that transformed America's medical economy from cash medicine buttressed by a charitable ethos into what can only be described as something extraordinary. That's not a compliment. Future writers will describe today's America disparagingly as a life support system for a Hippocratic state.

The existence of grail memoranda can be very reasonably inferred by looking at historical phenomena reported in newspapers and journals, first citations of important terms, displacement of terms by superseding terms, direct or inferred knowledge of who the players were who generated the documents and theoretical understanding of insurance.

One grail memorandum, for example, is believed to have originated in the mid-1970s in the legal department of a political lobby so influential that it and its collaborators amount to an authority with an essential veto power over political decisions. The memorandum will have been written about the time that "medically uninsured" displaced "medically indigent" and "poor" in journalism and common speech. Feverish handwritten marginalia will show an intense concern with criminal liability and the prospect of mass indictments.

When will the grail memoranda and other health care truths reach the public eye? Only a massive Congressional inquiry sparked by enormous economic and political pressure will do the job of revealing the power of the insurance group as a really rotten idea. That Congressional inquiry, I believe, is coming soon. End.

Jack Labusch

ROOKERY NEWS: WF 8^{PM} | 10^{PM}

A Strong Team

YSU men's golf team looking towards a successful season

DANIEL HINER
dghiner@student.yzu.edu

Though early in the season, the Youngstown State University men's golf team has already experienced a degree of success, having won their first two tournaments.

This success is due in part to the team's veteran experience, as the roster contains one senior and three juniors — all of whom help lead the team.

Tony Joy, the men's golf coach, positively commented on senior Bryan Yeo's leadership, indicating that Yeo can keep the team focused and ready for competition.

"Brian Yeo is our team captain this year," Joy said. "Brian is a senior — he's the lone senior on the team. He's basically been in the program for five years. He's kind of the guy we rely on a little bit, especially when we go on these travels."

Three juniors — Brandon Pluchinsky, Bill Gaffney and Denis Holub — also provide leadership, and a large part of the team's success is determined by the play of these three.

"The three juniors ... really played well last year along with Bryan Yeo. Any one of those guys can go to an event and win individually. So, collectively, it really gives us a strong team," Joy said.

The Penguins began their season at the Whistling Straits Collegiate Tournament in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, where the team had four members finish in the top 10.

This strong start comes as no surprise to Joy.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TONY JOY.

The YSU men's golf team holds an award after winning the Whistling Straits Collegiate Tournament. The team has gotten off to the best start in program history.

"The kids have all worked hard over the summer," Joy said. "We've got a lot of good individual performances over the summer, with the kids qualifying for the U.S. Amateur and the U.S. Public Links. And, Bill Gaffney was one of the top finishers in the New York State Am."

Justin Hallapy's performance at Whistling Straits was surprising, though. The sophomore, who sat out last

season, shot a 70 in his final round to finish tied for 10th place in the tournament.

"The big surprise was Justin Hallapy from Hubbard. Justin was a walk-on freshman last year, basically redshirted," Joy said. "The last round of 70 was a pretty incredible round especially for him — it being his first collegiate start."

Over the weekend the team played at Joe Feaganes Marshall Invitational in

Huntington, West Virginia, where the team won their second straight tournament. The last time the men's golf team won back-to-back tournaments was the spring of 1997.

Gaffney finished second at the Marshall Invitational, and Holub and Pluchinsky both finished in the top 10. With the win at Marshall, the men's golf team has gotten off to the best start in program history.

The golf team is ready to make another run at the Horizon League Championship. After finishing third in the championship tournament last season, the Penguins believe the talent-rich team could lead to a Horizon League title.

"We're going back to the same course we played at last year. We're pumped to play there again this year," Pluchinsky said.

Teammates, Friends, Sisters

DREW ZUHOSKY
atzuhosky@student.yzu.edu

The women's cross-country team at Youngstown State University has learned that success occasionally comes in threes.

The Klim triplets — sophomores McKinsie, Melissa and Michelle — have already made positive contributions to the cross-country team, having clocked the best times for the Penguins during their first meet at the Duquesne Duals.

This year is the first season all three triplets are running for the Penguins cross-country team. While McKinsie began her collegiate cross-country career at YSU, Melissa and Michelle transferred to YSU from Ursuline College last spring.

McKinsie cites herself as a motivating force that influenced her sisters' decision to come to YSU.

"I talked about how many different places we've been for competitions," she said. "I talked it up to make them want to come here."

Since transferring, both Melissa and Michelle have expressed satisfaction with YSU's cross-country team.

"The girls on the team are really friendly and im-



PHOTO BY DUSTIN LIVESAY/THE JAMBAR.

McKinsie Klim competes in an invitational track tournament at the WATTS Center last spring. McKinsie, along with her sisters, will look to build upon last year's successes during this cross-country season.

mediately made me feel welcome," Melissa said. "They're not only people I practice with, but also my friends."

Michelle echoed Me-

lissa's positive sentiments regarding the cross-country team.

"I was ... attracted to the team and how they worked together," Michelle said.

The triplets also indicated that being bonded as teammates has made their friendship and sisterhood stronger.

"It made us close because now we go on runs together,"

McKinsie said. "And we're around each other a lot more. It's nice."

Michelle agreed, but also said that sometimes the sisters see too much of one another.

"Being teammates with my sisters is pretty cool," she said. "And it does make our friendship better, although since we live with each other now, sometimes it's nice to get away from one another if one of us has had a bad day."

Having the Klim sisters on the cross-country team has provided an added spark to practices.

"Michelle and McKinsie are both really enthusiastic about running, and they encourage the team through workouts and meets," Melissa said. "Both of my sisters try to have a positive outlook about running and try to get the team in the same mindset."

McKinsie took a moment to discuss her and her sisters' intangible qualities.

"We compete with each other," she said. "So it's just going after each other that makes us want to go faster."

The women's cross-country team won the Horizon League Championship last year. McKinsie said the team definitely has what it takes to repeat a league win this year.