

[*Y Alumni Magazine*]

Summer 2021



[\(/magazine/summer-2021/it-s-been-crazy-year\)](#)

FEATURED

“IT’S BEEN A CRAZY YEAR” (/MAGAZINE/SUMMER-2021/IT-S-BEEN- CRAZY-YEAR)

The clouds are clearing. The sun is peaking over the horizon. The promised better times – a return to “normal” – seems to be closer than ever. [Read more \(/magazine/summer-2021/it-s-been-crazy-year\)](/magazine/summer-2021/it-s-been-crazy-year).



[\(/magazine/summer-2021/macte-virtute\)](/magazine/summer-2021/macte-virtute)

MACTE VIRTUTE (/MAGAZINE/SUMMER- 2021/MACTE-VIRTUTE)

YSU President Jim Tressel feels cautiously optimistic about the months ahead. "Take it from an old football coach who has been through a fair share of last-second nail-biters, the certainty of victory comes only when the clock ticks no more. That's why, even-though it appears we may have beaten back this incessant threat of COVID-19, it's best that we remain vigilant and cautious." [Read more \(/magazine/summer-2021/macte-virtute\)](/magazine/summer-2021/macte-virtute)



[\(/magazine/summer-2021/class-notes\)](/magazine/summer-2021/class-notes)

CLASS NOTES (/MAGAZINE/SUMMER-2021/CLASS-NOTES)

Read about outstanding graduates across more than 70 years - from a 1950 alum who turns 100 later this year to a slew of graduates in their early-20-somethings. [Read more \(/magazine/summer-2021/class-notes\)](/magazine/summer-2021/class-notes).



[\(/magazine/summer-2021/class-notes-extras\)](/magazine/summer-2021/class-notes-extras)

CLASS NOTES - EXTRAS **(/MAGAZINE/SUMMER-2021/CLASS-NOTES-EXTRAS)**

Covering the big stories...Dean of the Island...Alumni Recitals...Beauty from ashes...Batman and his strange romances...Helping youth find their way...Pandemic, biology, virtual learning [Read more \(/magazine/summer-2021/class-notes-extras\)](/magazine/summer-2021/class-notes-extras).



[\(/magazine/summer-2021/our-students\)](/magazine/summer-2021/our-students)

OUR STUDENTS (/MAGAZINE/SUMMER-2021/OUR-STUDENTS)

“The academic achievements of our students, particularly when they go head-to-head against students from other universities, is nothing short of remarkable,” said Brien Smith, YSU provost. “The accomplishments are even more noteworthy given the challenges of the pandemic over the past several months.” [Read more \(/magazine/summer-2021/our-students\)](/magazine/summer-2021/our-students)



[\(/magazine/summer-2021/our-campus\)](/magazine/summer-2021/our-campus)

OUR CAMPUS (/MAGAZINE/SUMMER-2021/OUR-CAMPUS)

A roundup of campus activities, initiatives and news, from moving the YSU Summer Festival of the Arts downtown and continued work on Fifth Avenue renovations, to workforce development projects and the introduction of the university's fifth doctorate degree. [Read more \(/magazine/summer-2021/our-campus\)](/magazine/summer-2021/our-campus)



[\(/magazine/summer-2021/our-donors\)](/magazine/summer-2021/our-donors)

OUR DONORS (/MAGAZINE/SUMMER-2021/OUR-DONORS)

The governing boards for both YSU and the YSU Foundation pulled out their wallets earlier this year to support the leadership legacy of President Jim Tressel. [Read more \(/magazine/summer-2021/our-donors\)](/magazine/summer-2021/our-donors).



[\(/magazine/summer-2021/our-faculty\)](/magazine/summer-2021/our-faculty)

OUR FACULTY (/MAGAZINE/SUMMER-2021/OUR-FACULTY)

Excellence at Work...Scholarly achievements and activities of YSU faculty and staff. [Read more \(/magazine/summer-2021/our-faculty\)](/magazine/summer-2021/our-faculty).

In Every Issue

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Macte **Y** Virtute

BE INCREASED IN MERIT

POST-PANDEMIC ERA

"By all accounts, we are in good hands"

Take it from an old football coach who has been through a fair share of last-second nail-biters, the certainty of victory comes only when the clock ticks no more. That's why, even-though it appears we may have beaten back this incessant threat of COVID-19, it's best that we remain vigilant and cautious.

That's exactly what we've done and will continue to do here at YSU as we look forward to fully reopening the campus for the start of the Fall Semester in August. By then, it will have been nearly 18 months since we curtailed most on-campus classes and activities. We are thrilled to be able to bring students back into classrooms and return to a near-normal teaching and learning environment.

So, with a cautious eye on the past, we look ahead with great expectations, and this online version of *YSU Magazine* gives us every reason to do so. Two parts of the magazine in particular best reflect our proud past, as well as our promising future.



President Jim Tressel

The Class Notes section features the extraordinary work that our graduates are doing in classrooms, laboratories, small businesses, hospitals, theaters, financial institutions, newsrooms, concert halls and courthouses across the region and the country. Featured are artists, college deans, musicians, bankers, doctors, engineers, writers, judges, chemists, nuns, coaches, principals and historians active in advancing their chosen professions and the futures of communities in which they live. More than anything, these folks are our lasting legacy.

Then, also make sure to read the Our Students section – filled with news about the accomplishments of current YSU students. Even in the midst of a global pandemic, our students never failed to amaze, earning national and international recognition and representing YSU and the entire Mahoning Valley on the global stage. We look forward to their continued success and following their careers beyond their alma mater.

It's tempting and easy sometimes to get lost and lose focus in the midst of crisis. Here at YSU, we have not. The center of all we do remains ensuring that our students become successful, productive and contributing members of society, both professionally and personally. These are the young men and women who will lead us through the post-pandemic era. By all indications, we are in good hands.

Stay safe, remain well and as always...

Go Penguins,



James P. Tressel, President

In Every Issue

[CLASS NOTES \(/MAGAZINE/SUMMER-2021/CLASS-NOTES\)](/MAGAZINE/SUMMER-2021/CLASS-NOTES)

COVID-19 UPDATE: "IT'S BEEN A CRAZY YEAR"

Looking to Fall Semester for return to "normal"

The clouds are clearing; the sun peaking over the horizon. The promised better times – a return to “normal” – seems to be closer than ever.

More than a year after that fateful Spring Break week, when the COVID-19 pandemic swept the globe, halting all on-campus classes and transforming the lives of students, faculty and everyone else, YSU is emerging with plans to a return to a regular Fall Semester starting in August.

“We have made great progress as a state and a nation, and as a university, in battling the coronavirus, and you are all to be commended for keeping yourself, your friends, family and community safe,” President Jim Tressel said in a memo to campus in May.

The university, which for the past year has held most classes remote and off campus, is planning for a full return to regular, in-classroom, face-to-face classes in the Fall, Tressel announced earlier in the spring.



Maybe the best

indicator that the corner was turned came May 7 and 8, when hundreds of

parents, families and friends joined together for three in-person commencement ceremonies outside at Stambaugh Stadium. One of the ceremonies honored members of the class of 2020, whose commencements were cancelled due to the pandemic.

"With all of the unprecedented challenges that the class of 2020 faced and overcame, this has to be one of the most satisfying and exciting commencements in our 113-year history," Tressel told the graduates.

Kristin Fox, a YSU graduate and school teacher/administrator, spoke at the May 8 afternoon ceremony.

"Whew! Ok. We are here. We have arrived," Fox told graduates after being helped to stand behind the podium at Stambaugh Stadium.

In March 2020, as the pandemic hit, Fox was hospitalized with Influenza A, leading to several complications, resulting in the removal of her arms below her elbows and legs below her knees.

"I need to take a moment to take all of this in, as I'm sure many of you do," she said, scanning the graduates and audience. "It's been a crazy year. Not only for me and my family, but for all of you. To be here today is truly a blessing for all of us."



In Every Issue

[CLASS NOTES \(/MAGAZINE/SUMMER-2021/CLASS-NOTES\)](https://ysu.edu/magazine/summer-2021/class-notes)

CLASS *Notes*

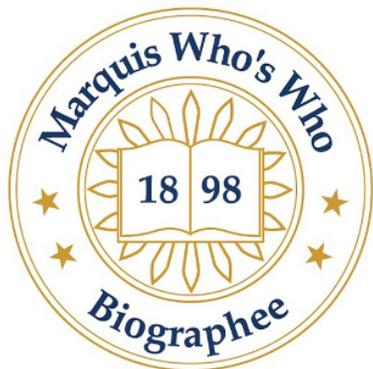
[1950s](#)[1960s](#)[1970s](#)[1980s](#)[1990s](#)[2000s](#)[2010s](#)[2020s](#)

'50S

Earl Peter Taflan, Business Administration, 1950, turns 100 on Nov. 24 this year. A lifelong resident of Canton, Ohio, Taflan served in the Army and then attended Youngstown College on the GI Bill. He remembers taking an Economics class taught by Howard Jones, the iconic first president of YSU. Jones, he said, "was a very good teacher." Taflan retired in 1982 as vice president of Dyneer Corp. He's been playing Bridge since his Army days. For the past 35 years, Taflan and the same group of guys get together every week to play.

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'60S



Ellene Tratras Contis, Chemistry, 1968, received the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award from Marquis Who's Who. Contis is a professor of chemistry at Eastern Michigan University and director of the Creative Scientific Inquiry Experience program. She also served as associate vice president of Academic Affairs, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, director of the Women's Studies Program

and was a Fulbright specialist scholar. She also holds a master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh and a PhD from the University of Michigan. She has contributed articles to multiple scientific journals, chapters to several books and recently released the third edition of her own book. She is also an elected fellow of the American Chemical Society and received the EMU Distinguished Faculty Award, a Distinguished Faculty Award from the Michigan Association of Governing Boards and a Michigan Philanthropy Award.

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'70s

Sister Mary Alyce Koval, Education, 1970, is Parish Leader at St. Luke Parish in Boardman, Ohio. She is among five parish leaders in the Catholic Diocese of Youngstown who serve in lieu of resident pastors. Sister Mary Alyce, a member of the Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown Leadership Team, served as the education director for Beatitude House from 2009-2017 and prior to that was principal at St. Joseph School in Austintown, St. Rose School in Girard and St. Charles School in Boardman. She taught at several elementary schools, including St. Luke's. "After entering the Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown following graduation, it



*Sister Mary Alyce
Koval*

didn't take long to realize that there were more doors to new adventures in my life than I could ever imagine," she said in a diocese news release. "My heart is filled with gratitude."

Larry Davis, Fine Arts, 1976, who has had decades-long successful creative career at the Walt Disney Co., presented as part of the Alumni Lecture Series program in February. The lecture, titled "How YSU Faculty Helped Shape My Career Trajectory," is on the Alumni Engagement Facebook page. Davis, who also holds a master of Fine Arts from California State University in Long Beach, started his career at Disney in 1980 and has held numerous positions in a variety of creative roles, retiring from Walt Disney Imagineering as executive producer and creative director, for the Shanghai Disneyland Main Entrance.

Terence Blevins, bachelor's and master's in Mathematics, 1979 and 1980, has been named a Fellow of The Open Group and owner of Enterprise Wise LLC. The Open Group is a global consortium of more than 800 organizations that enables the achievement of business objectives through technology standards. Blevins is currently a director of The Open Group Governing Board and an active contributor to the TOGAF® Standard. Blevins has been involved with the architecture discipline since the 1980s, much of which was done while he was director of Strategic Architecture at NCR Corp. He was co-chair of the Architecture Forum and a frequent contributor of content to the TOGAF Standard, including the Business Scenario Method. He also was vice president and CIO of The Open Group.

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'80s

Jeff Tolnar, Electrical Engineering, AAS 1984, BSAS 1986, has been named senior vice president of Electric Vehicle Solutions at Shoals Technologies Group Inc., a provider of electrical balance systems solutions for solar, storage and electrical vehicle charging infrastructure. Tolnar previously was chief commercial officer

for Shell Greenlots and president of Global Software Solutions for Honeywell's Homes, Buildings and Utilities businesses. He also holds a master's of Business Administration from Baker University.

Michael Malmer, D.O., bachelor of Combined Science, 1985, has joined Southwoods Health's network of primary care physicians. Malmer is board certified in internal medicine and earned his doctorate from Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed his medical residency through Western Reserve Care System.



George Hachem

George Hachem, bachelor's and master's degrees in Electrical Engineering, 1986 and 1996, an associate principal in the Raleigh, N.C., office of Syska Hennessy Group, has been appointed to lead the engineering firm's life sciences practice nationally. Over the course of a three-decade career, Hachem has worked with some of the biggest companies and academic institutions in the sector, including Baxter, Bayer, the University of North Carolina, GlaxoSmithKline, GE Healthcare, Johnson & Johnson, and Lilly Research Laboratories. He is an active member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-

Conditioning Engineers.

Joe Conroy, Business Administration, 1987, has joined Premier Bank as senior mortgage loan specialist serving the Mahoning Valley. Conroy, who has 30 years of mortgage lending experience, most recently served as a senior mortgage loan officer at a regional bank headquartered in Columbus.

Karen DeSalvo, Business Administration, 1988 has been named the first chief experience officer at ValleyStar Credit Union. DeSalvo previously served on the executive committee for the Women's Council for Novant Health Forsyth Medical Center Foundation, NCR Corporation's Solution Advisory Board, Carolina Credit Union Services board of directors, the American Heart Association Heart and Stroke Walk Executive Leadership Team, the Women's Fund, and served as the communications chairwoman and officer for the United Way of Trumbull County,



Karen DeSalvo

Ohio. She was a 2018 recipient of the Triad Business Journal Women in Business Award and was a past ATHENA nominee for the Youngstown-Warren Chamber. She is a nationally Certified Financial Marketing Professional and a graduate of the American Bankers Association School of Bank Marketing and Management.

Michael A. Christman, Business Administration, 1988, has been named assistant director of the FBI's Criminal Justice Information

Services Division in West Virginia. He most recently served as the special agent in charge of the Pittsburgh Field Office. Christman joined the FBI as a special agent in 1992 and has served in a variety of roles in Salt Lake City, Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Washington D.C.,

including supervisory special agent at the Criminal Investigative Division at FBI Headquarters in Washington, leader of the Greater Pittsburgh Safe Streets Task Force, deputy assistant director of the CJIS Division's Operational Programs Branch and was special agent in charge of the Pittsburgh Field Office.



Aaron Bartlone, Chemistry, 1989, has been named chief operating officer of Cybin US Holdings Inc., a biotechnology company focused on progressing psychedelic therapeutics. Bartlone, who also holds a master's degree in Analytical Chemistry from the University of Notre Dame, was previously president and managing director at AB Dynamix LLC, commercial president and chief quality, patient safety, health safety & environment and risk officer UCB Inc., a global pharmaceutical company, and various director-level research, quality, regulatory and managerial positions at Eli Lilly.

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'90s



Caroline McCombs, a 2008 YSU Hall-of-Fame inductee, is pictured coaching the Stony Brook University women's basketball team.

GW ATHLETICS | Contributed

Caroline McCombs, Food and Nutrition Dietetics, 1998, who played basketball for the Penguins 1994-98 and was inducted into the YSU Hall of Fame in 2008, was hired by George Washington University as its women's basketball coach. McCombs has been the coach for seven years at Stony Brook on New York's Long Island, leading the school to the NCAA tournament this past season after winning the America East Conference tourney. In her career at YSU, she scored 1,577 points, dished out 493 assists, grabbed 473 rebounds and had 236 steals.



McCombs, when she played for the Penguins.

Jorge Cadena, Chemical Engineering, 1996, has joined NOXCO as vice president of Business Development. NOXCO is a pioneer in the power generation industry. Cadena was previously vice president of Engineering and Business Development at Gas Turbine Efficiency. He is also the



Jorge Cadena

founder/president of Fusion Environmental Corporation. He also earned a master's of Business Administration degree from the University of Florida.

Charu Manocha, master's of Business Administration, 1999, has been named chief people officer at GreenLight Biosciences, where she will oversee talent management, culture and DE&I, among other areas of the human resources. Manocha has nearly 30 years of experience in

HR, most recently as group vice president of talent strategies at Bright Horizons Family Solutions. She also held chief HR roles at iRobot, Keurig Green Mountain Inc. and Dana Corp. She also holds a bachelor's degree in Math, Physics and Computer Science from Delhi University.



Ralph Blanco

Ralph Blanco, Management, 1996, has been named a 2021 ENX Magazine Difference Maker. Blanco spent the first seven years of his career working in information systems for what is now Mercy Health Systems, and in 1999 acquired Executive Computer Solutions and renamed the company Executive Computer Management Solutions Inc. The magazine says ECMSI prides itself on an average 19-minute response time that has helped the company earn a spot on CRN's 2021 MSP 500 list. ENX is a monthly publication dedicated to the office technology and document imaging industry since 1994.

John Colonna, Finance, 1998, has been named president and CEO of K2-MDV Holdings, with responsibility for the MDV and K2 Sports business. Currently serving as president of K2 Sports, Colonna will oversee the global presence of the K2 Skis, K2 Snowboards, Marker, Dalbello, Völkl, RIDE Snowboards, LINE Skis, Full Tilt, Backcountry Access, Atlas Snow Shoe Co., Tubbs Snowshoes, Madshus and K2 Skates brands in his new role. Over the past 25 years, he has held senior-level leadership roles with global lifestyle brands such as Burton Snowboards, Rusty, Nike, Levi's and Converse.

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'00s

Sara Stiffler, Theatre Studies, 2002, manages a Civic Education Program at the Ohio Supreme Court that received the 2021 Sandra Day O'Connor Award for the Advancement of Civics Education, presented annually by the National Center for State Courts. The program was selected for its multi-faceted approach to civics education, its longevity, its continued program expansion, and its ability to be replicated in other jurisdictions around the country. Stiffler is an alumna of the YSU Honors College.



Sara Stiffler



Kayla Boye

Kayla Boye, Professional Writing & Editing, 2013, is the new executive director of the Youngstown Playhouse. Boye previously was the theatre's development director and helped sustain the organization through the pandemic. A member of Actors' Equity Association, Boye has performed across the nation, including Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Drury Lane Theatre, Mercury Theater Chicago and Capital City Theatre, as well as Bigfork Summer Playhouse, Huron Playhouse and Youngstown Playhouse. She has worked in development, marketing and finance for nationally-recognized institutions such as Goodman Theatre and

Writers Theatre, and she has served as a producer for Steppenwolf Theatre Company's critically-acclaimed Garage Rep series. She worked for several other organizations as a consultant with Artistic Fundraising Group, including Arts of Life, BrightSide Theatre and Chicago Mosaic School. She cultivated her local development background with positions at the YSU Foundation, the American Red Cross and Akron Children's Hospital.

David Perrico, Music, 2003, and an award-winning “Best of Las Vegas” trumpeter, composer, producer and conductor, was featured in a recent episode of “Talk About Las Vegas.” In the [livesream interview \(https://talkaboutlasvegas.com/talking-with-david-perrico-february-8-2021/\)](https://talkaboutlasvegas.com/talking-with-david-perrico-february-8-2021/), Perrico talks about his ongoing commitment to paying tribute and honoring the excellence behind the music of black artists; his love of live music and the interaction it provides; the challenges of performing when the audience is not in the room; how he balances all his roles in a given day; and the importance of live music to the future of Las Vegas. Perrico also holds a master’s degree in Music from the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

Heather Kaminski, Education/Life Science, 2005, has been named associate principal of Lewis F. Mayer Middle School in Fairview Park, Ohio. Kaminski was previously a teacher and department chair at Avon Lake City Schools and taught 10th grade and honors Biology at Elyria City Schools. She also holds a master’s degree in Educational Administration from Bowling Green State University and a bachelor’s in Exercise Physiology from Mount Union College.



Stacy Krueger

Stacy Krueger, master’s of Education, 2006, was appointed judge to the Coconino County Superior Court. Krueger, who holds a law degree from the University of Toledo, has been a prosecutor with the Coconino County Attorney’s Office. She has volunteered for the High Country Stand Down for Veterans, Wills for Heroes, Northland Family Help Center, Big Brothers & Big Sisters and the Flagstaff Family Food Center. In 2018, she was named the Arizona Prosecutor of the Year by Mothers Against Drunk Driving and the Citizen of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers - Arizona Chapter, Branch 3.

Dan Welch of Boardman, Instrumental Music Education, 2008, will be a speaker at the Seventh Annual [Emerging Civil War Symposium \(https://emergingcivilwar.com/2021-symposium/\)](https://emergingcivilwar.com/2021-symposium/) in August. Welch previously was the education programs coordinator for the Gettysburg Foundation, the non-profit partner of Gettysburg National Military Park. He continues to serve as a seasonal Park Ranger at Gettysburg National Military Park. He also holds a

master's degree in Military History with a Civil War Era concentration at American Military University. He has been a contributing member at Emerging Civil War for over seven years and is the co-author of *The Last Road North: A Guide to the Gettysburg Campaign, 1863*.

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Dan Welch

'10s



Wilson Kwamogi Okello

Wilson Kwamogi Okello, Education, 2010, assistant professor in the Watson College of Education at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, presented “We Wear the Mask: Contending with Racial Battle Fatigue In and Beyond the Classroom Context” at YSU in March. The virtual presentation was sponsored by the Minority Education Association at YSU. Okello, Scholar-In-Residence for the Coalition on Men and Masculinities at the American College Personnel Association, is an interdisciplinary scholar whose work has been

published in leading publications, including the Journal of College Student Development, International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education, and the Review of Higher Education. He has made more than 100 invited presentations. He also holds a Ph.D. from Miami University and master's degree from the University of Rhode Island. He is the recipient of the University of Rhode Island's

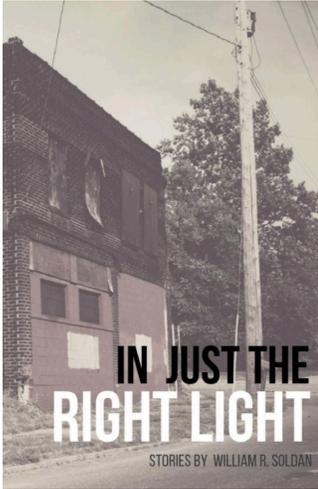
Distinguished Alumni Rising Star Award, the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators' Outstanding Professional Award, YSU Outstanding Alumni Award, and the Dissertation of the Year award from the American Association of Blacks in Higher Education.

Corban Baker, Telecommunications, 2012, has been named the new outreach coordinator for the Mahoning County Veterans Service Commission. Baker served in the Marine Corps from August 2003 to December 2008, including six months on the Harry Truman aircraft carrier during Operation Iraqi Freedom and seven months in Al Asad, Iraq. He also fulfilled a six-month deployment to Japan and South Korea. He performed as a standup comedian throughout southern California, including at The Comedy Store, a well-known club on Sunset Boulevard in West Hollywood. And he was a production specialist, videographer, editor and director at the NBC affiliate in Palm Springs, Calif., working his way up to become a weekend anchor and cover sports. When he returned to the Mahoning Valley, Baker covered YSU Penguins basketball games on the Horizon League's website and also was a news anchor for WYTV Channel 33.

Heidi Palipchak, Nursing, 2013, an aesthetic nurse practitioner at Apex Dermatology and Skin Surgery Center with locations throughout Northern Ohio, recently co-authored an [article](https://www.apexskin.com/2021/03/10/why-now-coolsculpting/) (<https://www.apexskin.com/2021/03/10/why-now-coolsculpting/>) on CoolSculpting on Apex's website. After graduating from YSU, Palipchak moved to Florida and worked with cardiac and stroke patients for five years. During that time, she became a board-certified family nurse practitioner with the goal of transitioning into dermatology. She has worked in aesthetic dermatology since 2018 and returned to Ohio in 2020. Palipchak also holds a master's from Chamberlain College of Nursing.



Heidi Palipchak



William R. Soldan of Youngstown, English Literature, 2014, and master's of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, 2017, is the author of *In Just the Right Light* (<https://storgy.com/2021/01/26/in-just-the-right-light-by-william-r-soldan/>), a collection of interconnected short stories. It is Soldan's first book. His second collection, *Houses Burning*, is also set for publication. Soldan, who also holds a master's degree in Fine Arts from the Northeast Ohio Master of Fine Arts program, has been twice nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

Sarah Dowd, Psychology, 2016, and master's of Counseling, 2018, one of the best softball players in YSU history, is the new senior woman administrator for the Michigan Tech Huskies. Dowd will also continue her role as the director of Student-Athlete Wellness and Clinical Counselor at Michigan Tech in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. At YSU, Dowd was a decorated softball student-athlete, including an Academic All-American, a three-time All-Horizon League selection, Horizon League Freshman of the Year, three-time Horizon League All-Academic and a four-time NFCA All-America Scholar-Athlete.

Nicholas Hargate of Canfield, Long Term Care Administration, 2016, has joined the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation as director of Levy Gardens Assisted Living. Hargate began his career in long-term care in the kitchen of a nursing home and also worked as a long-term care administrative specialist. His last position was community relations manager for Canfield Place.



Gianna Cifalde

Gianna Cifalde, Business Administration/Marketing with a specialization in Marketing Management, 2019, is the social media coordinator at 898 Marketing in Canfield, Ohio. Cifalde is currently pursuing a master's degree in digital marketing and leadership at YSU.

Brandon Mellott, Business Administration, 2019, has been named a brokerage agent at Aim Transportation Solutions in Girard.

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'20S



Michael Merdich

Michael Merdich, 2020, Information Technology, has moved from an extended internship to a full-time position as a web designer at 898 Marketing. Among the 898 clients he works are Edison Lighting, contagion CLEAN, Valley Office Solutions and Thompson Heating & Cooling.

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Archive

Class Notes - Extras

COVERING THE BIG STORIES



From Ted Cruz, Tiger Woods and Britney Spears, to the Capitol Hill insurrection, mass shootings and COVID-19, **Justin Carissimo** has had a very busy six months.

Carissimo, who earned a bachelor's degree in English in 2013 and is a former staffer of *The Jambar* student newspaper, is an assistant managing editor at CBS News in New York, where he assigns, edits and reports national news stories.

At CBS, he mostly works on the website and liaise with the CBS Evening News and the streaming channel, CBSN. He has led coverage on several major events like the coronavirus pandemic, Texas weather crisis and Black Lives Matter movement. We asked what have been some of his favorite stories:

- [Leaving Rikers Island and coming home to a pandemic \(https://www.cbsnews.com/news/rikers-island-coronavirus-pandemic-new-york-city-covid-19/\)](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/rikers-island-coronavirus-pandemic-new-york-city-covid-19/)
- ["It's like we're not even human": Texas inmates face frigid temperatures during weather crisis \(https://www.cbsnews.com/news/texas-power-outage-jails-prisons-winter-storm/\)](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/texas-power-outage-jails-prisons-winter-storm/)
- [What it's like to earn a degree in prison \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXi3SFHRg_M\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXi3SFHRg_M)
- ["Why is it still open?" Inmates at Parchman's Unit 29 describe life inside notorious cellblock \(https://www.cbsnews.com/news/parchman-state-](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/parchman-state-)

[penitentiary-mississippi-unit-29-inmates-cellblock-interviews-2020-02-24/\)](#)

DEAN OF THE ISLAND

Add the title “dean” to the resume of **Shawnrece Campbell**, master’s in English, 1994, who has been named the new dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Campbell previously held several leadership positions at Stetson University in Florida, including director of Africana Studies, founding director of the bachelor’s degree completion program in Organizational Leadership, and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.



Campbell also holds a Ph.D. in English from Kent State University, an MBA from Stetson and a bachelor’s degree from John Carroll University.

She will now be making the move from Florida, across the Gulf of Mexico and to Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, aka the Island University, the only university in the nation located on its own island.

ALUMNI RECITALS

Lounge music to jazz, Brahms to R&B were among the genres covered in the McDonough Museum of Arts’ Cliffe College Alumni Recital Series, featuring alums from around the world performing a string of pre-recorded mini concerts that provided pandemic quarantined music fans hours of enjoyment.

Watch the performances on the YouTube channels of the McDonough or the Cliffe College of Creative Arts.



(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9N-BtXSk3uI>)

Caitlin Hedge and Dave Lynn

Among the performers:

- **Pianist Sean Baran** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vluhM2z6MM>), bachelor's of Music, 2011, master's of Music, 2014.
- **Jazz/musical-theatre singer Rosie Bresson** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJHL47CVGec>), bachelor of Fine Arts in 2020.
- **Caitlin Hedge**, violin (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9N-BtXSk3uI>), master's of Music, 2017, and **Dave Lynn**, guitar, bachelor's of Music, 2004.
- **Jeffrey Cruz** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBuVyakzNUg>), master's of Music degree, 2020.
- **Tria Corazón** (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_hAAR1lppY4), a trio of YSU graduates that promotes new music and little-known works: **Anna Reitsma**, master's in Flute Performance, 2018; **Elliot Kwolek**, master's in Clarinet Performance, 2020; and **Emma Donkin**, bachelor's in Music Composition, 2018.

McDonough Museum of Art on YouTube

(https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_l6Dpp2mvZxZ46cAmEDT2Q).

[Cliffe College of Creative Arts on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQKgvdAaY_fIDEURf_p0OGA)
(https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQKgvdAaY_fIDEURf_p0OGA)



BEAUTY FROM ASHES

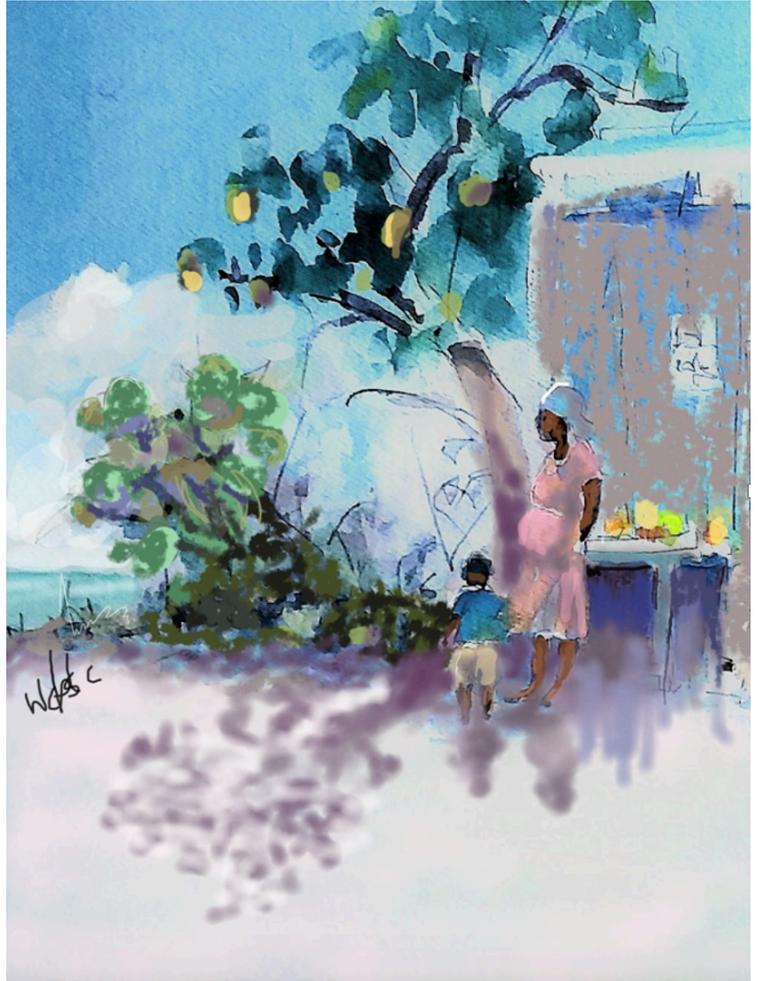
William Webster of Marshall, Va., bachelor of Business Administration/Advertising, 1969, and his paintings were featured in an article in *Middleburg Life* magazine in Virginia.

The article, headlined “Finding Beauty from Ashes in William Webster’s Art,” chronicles Webster’s life from Youngstown’s steel mills and selling Arrow Shirts to designing log homes in the Blue Ridge Mountains and finally as an illustrator and painter.

“Most people are unable to see the beauty in something like a steel mill or the dilapidated buildings and lonely storefronts of a small town, but that’s not the case for William Webster,” the article begins.

The mills where Webster worked while in college became the subject of many of his early paintings. “The mills themselves are often grimy, dark places with dirt floors and materials piled on top of each other with little regard,” he says in the article. “But the process of steel making is something so intense — the light, the heat, and flashes of every color in the rainbow against the dark background of a steel mill is a thing of beauty indeed. If not a bit scary, it’s certainly a dangerous job and one that requires a completely lucid mind — probably why I can recall the images so vividly.”

Many of Webster’s original pieces of art are on exhibit at Marshall Curated, an antique and home décor shop. Learn more on his [Facebook page](https://m.facebook.com/william.webster.35574/) (<https://m.facebook.com/william.webster.35574/>). Read the story [here](https://www.middleburglife.com/finding-beauty-from-ashes-in-william-websters-art/) (<https://www.middleburglife.com/finding-beauty-from-ashes-in-william-websters-art/>).



A watercolor of a steel mill in Youngstown and a mixed media piece title "Beach Gift Shop."



BATMAN AND HIS STRANGE ROMANCES

During those quarantined months of the pandemic, as you sat around contemplating the future of the planet, you may have wondered: What are the strangest romances in Batman comics?

Well, maybe not. But if you HAD wondered about that, **Andrew Claybourne**, General Studies, 2019, has the answer in a new article in Rexweyler, an online general news site.

A bio at the end of the article says Claybourne is a writer, gamer, lover of media, proud member of the LGBTQ+ community, and an “overall pretty okay guy” based in Youngstown, Ohio. Among his previous gigs: “a fry cook, a busser, a server/bartender, a terrible telemarketer, a chef for a while, a librarian, a server again” who “has been generally killing it since ‘08.” He now works as a contributor for ScreenRant Comics while getting his master’s in Creative Writing from Full Sail University.

(In case you’re wondering, the strangest romance in Batman comics (<https://rexweyler.com/10-strangest-romances-in-batman-comics/>), according to Claybourne, is Harley Quinn and The Joker – “dysfunctional at times and terrifyingly abusive at others.” So there you go.)

HELPING YOUTH FIND THEIR WAY



Theresa Dellick, Business Administration, judge of the Mahoning County Juvenile Court since 2001, received the 2021 Athena Award from the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber and *The Vindicator*. The award is given to business and professional women who have demonstrated excellence in their chosen career, provided leadership in the community and mentored or contributed to the growth of other professional women.

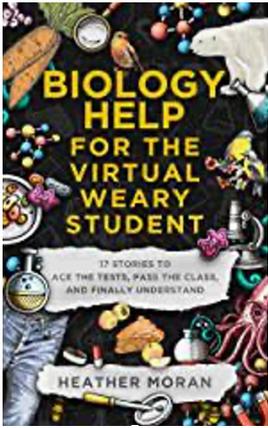
Under Dellick's leadership, the Juvenile Court has gained a statewide and national reputation as a leader in juvenile justice, earning recognition from the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Education and the Obama White House, among others.

In 2008, Dellick established the Mahoning County High School, designed for at-risk, trauma-affected students, to keep them in school and out of court. In 2019, she assembled a community-based task force to create a boarding school paired with the high school for at-risk youth to assist them in obtaining and completing their education.

Under Dellick, the court has also been involved in early intervention and diversion programs and recidivism reduction. She is past president of the Junior League of the Mahoning Valley and is a member of the Mahoning County Extension Ambassador Council, Akron Children's Hospital Community Health Assessment Committee and the Financial Council of the Catholic Diocese of Youngstown.

[Read More \(https://www.mahoningcountyoh.gov/805/About-the-Judge\)](https://www.mahoningcountyoh.gov/805/About-the-Judge).

PANDEMIC, BIOLOGY, VIRTUAL LEARNING



In a 24-year career as a teacher, **Heather Moran**, Biology, 1993, coached state championship teams in environmental studies and oceanography, grew the school science club from 20 to 200 members, and led student trips to the Bahamas and Iceland.

So you didn't think she'd let a pandemic slow her down, did you?

Moran, a science teacher at Boardman High School, is the author of *Biology Help for the Virtual Weary Student*, a new book that was just right for virtual, pandemic times.

The book, Moran says, serves as a bridge between the average biology textbook and classroom lectures.

"During the pandemic, I was trying to help a friend whose son was struggling with an online bio class," Moran, who last year was named Teacher of the Year by the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, said in an article in *The Vindicator*.

"My friend said, 'We have the textbook, a workbook and the answer key...what we need is someone to break down the why?' After writing several of my normal lectures out for this boy, I realized these same short stories could help other students who might be struggling."

Moran has been teaching science at Boardman for 19 years and has served as advisor and coach to the BHS Envirothon Club for a decade. During the summer of 2019, she escorted a group of 17 Boardman High Students on a trip to Iceland. Their adventures included navigating a glacier and diving between diverging tectonic plates.

[Read the article \(https://www.vindy.com/life/lifestyles/2021/01/boardman-biology-teacher-writes-textbook-for-virtually-weary/\).](https://www.vindy.com/life/lifestyles/2021/01/boardman-biology-teacher-writes-textbook-for-virtually-weary/)



During the summer of 2019, Moran led students to Iceland, navigating a glacier and diving between diverging tectonic plates.

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Our STUDENTS



**YSU
STUDENT
SUCCESS**



Among the YSU students who have excelled above and beyond are Benedict Kuunaa-eguo Kongyir of Ghana, Lilian Naa Obiokor Tetteh of Ghana and Oluwatuminiu (Tumi) Adeeko of Nigeria, selected to compete for the international [Hult Prize](https://www.hultprize.org/), known as the Nobel Peace Prize for college students; Samantha Sloan, winner of the International Gilman Scholarship to study in Finland; and Emily Henline, selected to receive the prestigious Fulbright scholarship to study in South Korea.

"Nothing short of remarkable"

In the media, it's known as a slow news week – a stretch of days where there's not much going on and you have to go out and scratch up a story.

When it comes to student success here at YSU, a slow news week is...nonexistent.

Take, for instance, this one particular week earlier this spring:



YSU Concrete Canoe team members, from left, are Jersey Gorby, Brooke Valley, Emma Minamyer and Taylor Greathouse (Jillian Penman missing from photo).

- YSU's concrete canoe team – yes, that's right, they build and float a canoe made out of concrete! – wins the Ohio Valley Student Conference competition and qualifies for the national championship.
- Not to be outdone, the Penguin Steel Bridge team designs, builds and tests a mini steel bridge that also captures the top prize at the regional competition.
- Across campus, graduates of the School Psychology program post a perfect 100 percent first-time pass rate on the national Praxis II Exam - for the seventh straight year!
- And, in a mathematical modeling competition involving 25,000 teams from around the world, a group of YSU students earn Meritorious status, placing among the top 8 percent on Earth.

A slow news week, that ain't!

Those are among the dozens upon dozens of recent stories reflecting the continued hard work, talent, successes and smarts of YSU students across all disciplines on campus.

"The academic achievements of our students, particularly when they go head-to-head against students from other universities, is nothing short of remarkable," said Brien Smith, YSU provost. "The accomplishments are even more noteworthy given the challenges of the pandemic over the past several months."

You can read more about many of those accomplishments on the [YSU News Center](https://ysu.edu/news) (<https://ysu.edu/news>) or the [YSU Merit Page](https://ysu.meritpages.com/) (<https://ysu.meritpages.com/>). But, to make it easier, here's some additional highlights:

- Student Emily Henline is named a Fulbright Scholar, one of the most widely recognized and prestigious scholarships in the world. [Read More.](https://ysu.edu/news/ysu-students-earn-top-national-global-honors) (<https://ysu.edu/news/ysu-students-earn-top-national-global-honors>)
- The YSU Student Investment Fund, one of the largest student-managed funds in the nation, places second in the Global Asset Management Education Forum. The fund has outperformed the S&P 500 Index in eight out of the last nine years. [Read More.](https://ysu.edu/news/ysu-student-investment-fund-exceeds-2m-among-largest-nation) (<https://ysu.edu/news/ysu-student-investment-fund-exceeds-2m-among-largest-nation>)
- Three international students vie for the Hult Prize - known as the Nobel Peace Prize for college students - for their proposal to help malnutrition and food insecurity in rural Africa. [Read More.](https://ysu.edu/news/students-advance-international-competition-nobel-peace-prize-college-students) (<https://ysu.edu/news/students-advance-international-competition-nobel-peace-prize-college-students>)
- YSU's student newspaper, *The Jambar*, earns 10 national awards from the Society of Collegiate Journalists and also 10 statewide awards, including the top prize for coverage of COVID-19. [Read More.](https://ysu.edu/news/ysu-student-journalists-rake-more-awards) (<https://ysu.edu/news/ysu-student-journalists-rake-more-awards>)
- Samantha Sloan, an Art Education and Political Science double-major, wins the international Gilman Scholarship to study in Finland, the 27th YSU student to earn the prestigious award in the last nine years. [Read More.](https://ysu.edu/news/ysu-student-earns-international-scholarship-study-finland) (<https://ysu.edu/news/ysu-student-earns-international-scholarship-study-finland>)
- Not only does the Penguin bowling team make it to the NCAA Final Four tournament in only the program's fifth year, all eight members of the



squad are named to the Southland Bowling League's 2021 Academic Honor Roll. [Read More. \(https://www.ysusports.com/sports/wbowl/2020-21/releases/academic-all-sbl-0604\)](https://www.ysusports.com/sports/wbowl/2020-21/releases/academic-all-sbl-0604)



Penguin bowlers and Academic Honor Roll recipients Sarah Florence, Kirsten Moore, Emma Wrenn, Emma Dockery, Megan Grams, Madyson Marx, Alexis Sullivan and Emma Wasielewski.

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Our **CAMPUS**

"A SYMBOL OF HOPE AND THE FUTURE"



The Greenwood Chevrolet Foundation donated a new YSU-branded Chevy Bolt electric vehicle to the university at a news conference in the driveway of the Pollock House on Wick Avenue. "This car is a symbol of hope and the future of the Valley," Jennifer Oddo, executive director of Strategic Workforce Education and Innovation at YSU, told reporters. Greg Greenwood, president of Greenwood Chevrolet, and his wife, Alice, presented the keys to YSU President Jim Tressel. The Greenwood Foundation also kicked in a \$100,000 gift to the new YSU Excellence Training Center. "This is just a great message that there's really a new day in the Valley," Tressel said, noting the region's growing reputation as a hub of electric vehicle technology.

ARTS FESTIVAL MOVES DOWNTOWN

The YSU Summer Festival of the Arts is moving a few blocks south from the YSU campus to the new Wean Foundation Park in downtown Youngstown. The free festival, started in 1999, annually attracts more than 80 artists and 15,000 visitors. This year's event is July 17 and 18.



“We hope this move will help further grow the festival and will also help further introduce the community to this beautiful new downtown recreational area,” YSU President Jim Tressel said at a news conference announcing the switch. Youngstown Mayor Jamael “Tito” Brown agreed. “We look forward to thousands of artists, performers and festival-goers from throughout the region coming to downtown Youngstown,” he added.

The new Raymond John Wean Foundation Park, a community complex with over 20 acres of recreational green space and walking paths, is located along the Mahoning River at the Market Street bridge in downtown Youngstown.

PREZ, PROVOST CONTRACTS EXTENDED

YSU’s top executive team is staying put. The YSU Board of Trustees in March approved contract extensions for President Jim Tressel and Provost Brien Smith. “We are happy to have the leaders of our executive team securely in place to continue their great work,” Board Chair Anita Hackstedde said.



Jim Tressel

Tressel was named YSU’s ninth president in 2014, agreeing to a three-year contract and then one-year extensions through June 2021. The latest extension says that, starting July 1, 2021, Tressel’s contract as president will continue until terminated by either party with 180 days prior written notice.



Brien Smith

Smith was named YSU provost and vice president for Academic Affairs in 2019, becoming the university’s second-highest ranking officer and overseeing all academic operations. He came to YSU in 2019 from Indiana State University, where he was dean of Business. His contract at YSU was extended to 2025.

PREPARING FOR "NEAR NORMAL"



Nearly 5,000 YSU students, faculty, staff and their families received COVID-19 vaccinations at a clinic in Beeghly Center led by students in the Centofanti School of Nursing. The clinic is among several steps YSU is taking to prepare for a return to "near normal" operations for Fall Semester 2021. More information on the [YSU COVID-19 webpage \(https://ysu.edu/coronavirus-information\)](https://ysu.edu/coronavirus-information).

DOCTOR, DOCTOR-TO-BE NAMED TRUSTEES

A student studying to be a doctor and a graduate who is already a doctor have been appointed to serve together on the YSU Board of Trustees.

Gov. Mike DeWine announced the reappointment of Anita Hackstedde of Columbiana, Ohio, president and chief executive officer of Salem Regional Medical Center, to the board, and also named Elsa Khan, a Biology major in the BaccMed program at YSU to a two-year term as a student trustee.

Khan is a student assistant in the Honors College and a member of several YSU student organizations, including Student Government, Muslim Student Association, STEM Leadership Society and Freshguins Leadership Program.

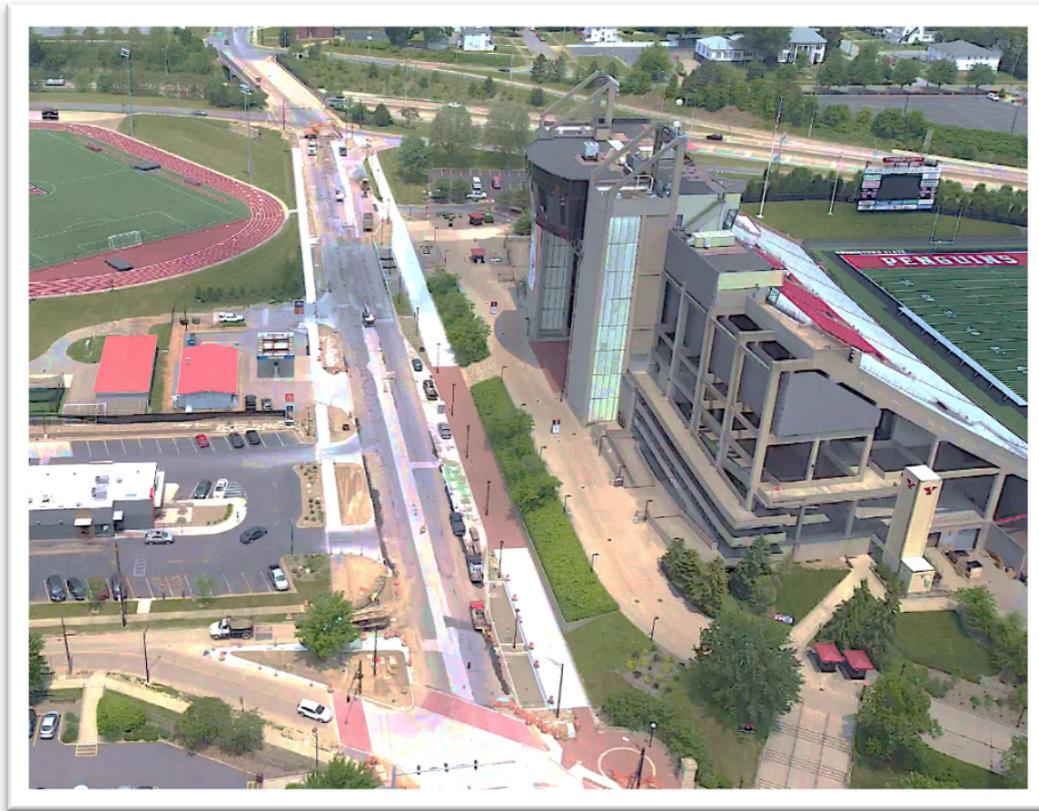
Hackstedde was originally appointed to the board to fill the unexpired term of James B. Greene of Canfield, who died in 2016. Her new term will expire April 2030.

Hackstedde earned a bachelor's degree in Biology, with a minor in Chemistry, from YSU in 1990 and a medical degree from Ohio State University College of Medicine in 1994. She was director of Student Health at YSU from 1998 to 2006 and was named president/CEO of Salem Regional Medical Center in December 2013.



Elsa Khan and Anita Hackstedde

FIFTH AVENUE CONSTRUCTION NEARS COMPLETION



The overhaul of Fifth Avenue through campus, including a new roadway, lane configuration, sidewalks and lighting, is expected to be completed by the end of July. This drone photo shows construction from the intersection of Fifth Avenue with Armed Forces Boulevard north to the Madison Avenue Expressway. Landscaping is expected to follow in the Fall, with plans for an autonomous vehicle along the roadway sometime in the near future.

DANA - "JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED"

YSU's Dana School of Music teamed up with the Mercy Health Foundation earlier this year to bring music to patients at St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital and help soothe these stressful pandemic times.

"Music is very powerful in addressing the well-being of the whole person," said Paul Homick, president of Mercy Health Foundation. "It calms the mind and lifts the spirit, so the body can heal. That is especially important right now, when many of our patients can't be with their families."

The project was called “Just What the Doctor Ordered” and included four prerecorded video performances by Dana students broadcast to patient rooms at St. Elizabeth Youngstown.

“Sharing our music with the patients and staff at Mercy Health is one small way we can give back to the community of health professionals who have done so much for the Valley this year,” said Randall Goldberg, Dana director.

YSU, RODEF SHOLOM PARTNER

And speaking of partnerships, YSU’s History program is partnering with Congregation Rodef Sholom to create an archive for the oldest Jewish congregation in Youngstown.



“As we dream about and plan for the future of Rodef Sholom and the Jewish community in the Mahoning and Shenango valleys, the archive project will provide a better understanding and appreciation of our past and strengthen the foundation upon which we strive to grow and prosper,” said Bethany Goldberg, a trustee and music historian at the 154-year-old temple on Elm Street just north of the YSU campus.

CONGREGATION
RODEF SHOLOM

The partnership grew from meetings between Sarah Wilschek, executive director of Rodef Sholom, and Kayla Metzger, the AmeriCorps Ohio History Service Corps member hosted by the YSU History program.

Graduate students in YSU’s History practicum will assist in the first steps of a multi-stage process to develop the archive at the synagogue.

A WORKFORCE FOR A HIGH-TECH FUTURE

Ohio Lt. Governor Jon Husted joined YSU President Jim Tressel and other state and local officials on a frigid February afternoon to highlight the Mahoning Valley’s numerous multi-million-dollar initiatives to develop a skilled workforce to meet the growing needs of the region’s emerging high-tech markets, including electric vehicle, battery and additive manufacturing.



From the left, Ohio Lt. Gov. Jon Husted; Jennifer Oddo, executive director of the YSU Center for Workforce Education and Innovation; Lydia Mihalik, director of the Ohio Development Services Agency; and YSU President Jim Tressel.

The news conference, which also included Lydia Mihalik, director of the Ohio Development Services Agency, was held inside the new Excellence Training Center on the YSU campus and came three weeks after Husted announced a \$12 million community investment in the Mahoning Valley as part of General Motors' repayment of tax credit incentives. The investment includes \$5 million to YSU for workforce development and for the creation of the YSU Energy Storage Innovation and

Training Center.

"A skilled workforce is the cornerstone of Ohio's economic development strategy," Mihalik said. "This new training center will make Youngstown State a leader in workforce development and prepare students in the Mahoning Valley for high-tech jobs of the future."

"Throughout our 113-year history, YSU has focused on creating opportunities for the people of the Mahoning Valley region," Tressel said. "As we move into the third decade of the 21st century, we will keep that focus by playing a leading role in providing the training, research, innovation and workforce development to transform the economic future of our area."

Among the workforce development initiatives at YSU:

- The Excellence Training Center, a 54,000-square-foot facility that will provide high-tech space for machining, metrology, CT scanning, advanced

mold making, additive manufacturing and automation/robotics. Ribbon-cutting in July.

- YSU IT Workforce Accelerator, in partnership with IBM, designed to align workforce with industry in-demand skills.
- YSU Energy Storage and Innovation Training Center, part of a \$1 million partnership with Oak Ridge National Laboratory to advance workforce development for the battery manufacturing industry.
- Virtual Career Fair, a 24/7/365 digital experience designed to showcase the Mahoning Valley region as a great place to live, work and do business.
- YSU Center for Workforce Education and Innovation, oversees all of the university's workforce initiatives.



YSU graduate Sydney Peterson, who worked two years in the medical ICU at St. Elizabeth Hospital, is among 20 students enrolled in the new Doctorate in Nursing Practice.

FIFTH DOCTORATE INTRODUCED

If you're a nurse interested in making nearly \$200,000 a year – and who wouldn't? – then you might want to take a look at YSU's new Doctorate in Nursing Practice program.

The 36-month degree, in collaboration with the St. Elizabeth Health Center School of Nurse Anesthetists, prepares students to become Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists. And, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, CRNAs make an average annual salary of \$181,040.

The DNP in YSU's Centofanti School of Nursing's is the fifth doctoral-level program at YSU, joining Educational Administration and Physical Therapy, and PhD programs in Health Sciences and Materials Science/Engineering.

BUSINESS DEAN TO RETIRE

In its century-plus history, many memorable folks have graced the campus of Youngstown College, Youngstown University and today Youngstown State University. There are those, however, who come and leave a mark. Betty Jo Licata would be one of those.

Licata came to YSU in 1995 as dean of the Williamson College of Business Administration and has been on a winning streak ever since – international accreditation, a new state-of-the-art building, a nationally-recognized Small Business Development Center and a slew of innovative academic centers, initiatives and successes across the college and university.

Licata retires at the end of the calendar year. In a statement, she used words like “privilege” and “grateful,” but she finished with the word “students” – “It is working with our students that brings the greatest joy, and I will truly miss watching them grow and succeed.”



Betty Jo Licata

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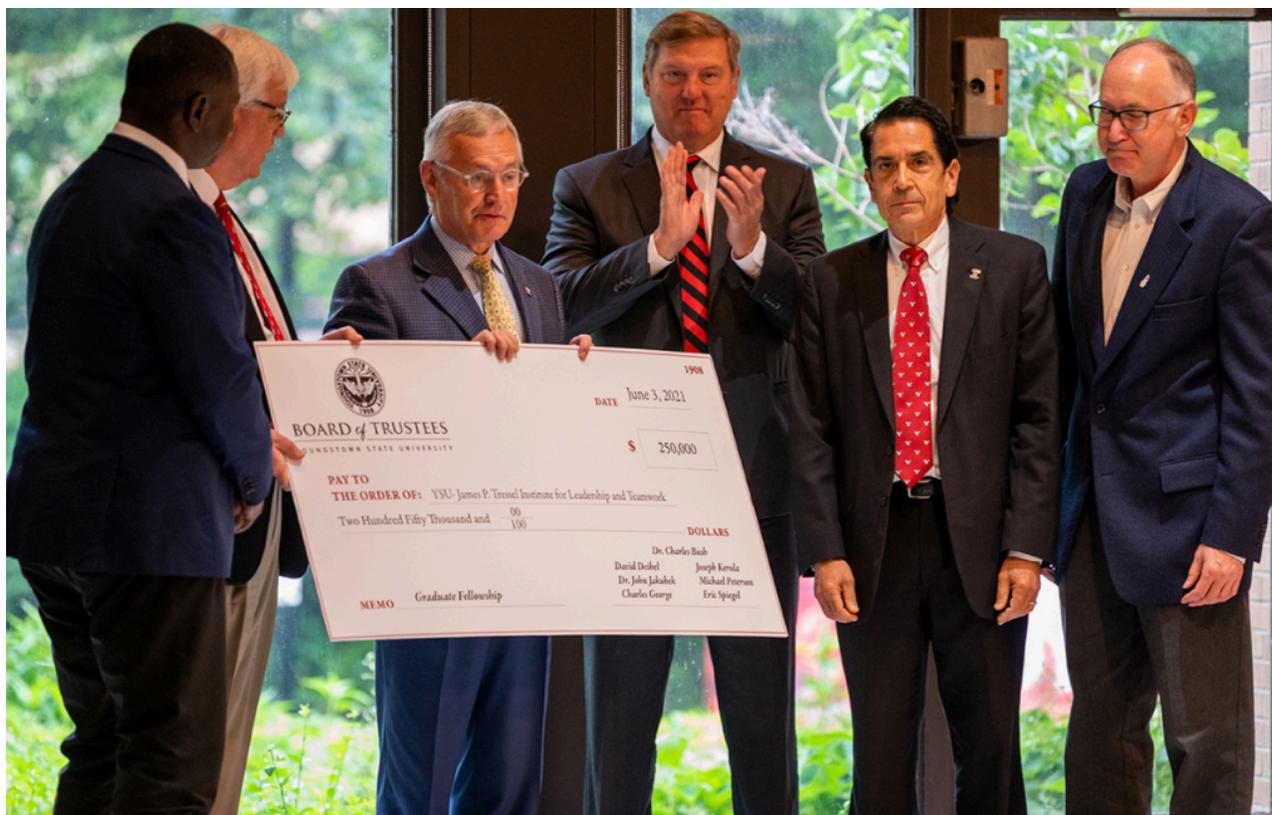
Archive

TELL US YOUR STORY ([HTTPS://WWW.YSU.EDU/CONTENT/OFFICE-MARKETING-AND-COMMUNICATIONS/MAGAZINE/TELL-US-YOUR-STORY](https://www.ysu.edu/content/office-marketing-and-communications/magazine/tell-us-your-story))

Our DONORS

"From the locker room to board room"

Tressel's leadership legacy



YSU Trustees Michael Peterson, Joe Kerola, Eric Spiegel, Chuck George and John Jakubek present a check to President Jim Tressel for the new Tressel Leadership Fellowship

The governing boards for both YSU and the YSU Foundation pulled out their wallets earlier this year to support the legacy of President Jim Tressel.

In January, 10 trustees of the YSU Foundation, the university's fund-raising arm, donated \$1.6 million to establish the President James P. Tressel Endowed Chair in Leadership, honoring Tressel's 35 years of leadership at YSU and across the region. The initiative also led to an additional fund-raising effort to establish the Tressel Institute for Leadership and Teamwork at YSU.



YSUF Trustee Jocelyne Kollay Linsalata presents President Jim Tressel a certificate designating the endowed position.

“President Tressel's influence has transformed the institution by raising its stature, reputation and significance to exceptional levels,” said Jocelyne Kollay Linsalata, former Foundation board chair.

In June, a group of current and former members of the YSU Board of Trustees then stepped up to contribute a combined \$250,000 to create an endowed graduate fellowship in the new Tressel Institute.

“President Tressel is renowned across the state of Ohio and the nation for his skills in leading successful teams, from the locker room to the board room,” said Chuck George, vice chair of the YSU Board of Trustees. “This fellowship will allow those skills and those successes to

be ingrained in generations to come.”

The gifts are part of YSU's \$125 million “We See Tomorrow” capital campaign, the largest fundraising effort in the university's history.

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Alumni Events



About 60 alumni and friends helped beautify downtown Youngstown through Youngstown Cityscape's annual Streetscape event on June 5. The YSU contingent planted flowers and mulched along West Federal Street. YSU alumni have been volunteering for Streetscape since 2005.

UPCOMING...

Catch up with fellow Penguins this summer through in-person and virtual alumni events! Visit the [Alumni Engagement Facebook page](#) (<https://m.facebook.com/ysualumni/events>) for more information or email habelgin@ysu.edu (<mailto:habelgin@ysu.edu>).

- Tuesday, June 29, 7p.m. – YSU Alumni and Friends Virtual Book Club discusses *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah.
- Tuesday, July 20, 3 to 8 p.m. - Akron/Canton Alumni Chapter Open House at Leo's Italian Social, 2251 Front St., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Stop by to say hello to fellow alumni, grab a bite to eat or just donate canned goods and new socks for the chapter's service project for the Canton YWCA.

- Tuesday, July 27, 7 p.m. – YSU Alumni and Friends Virtual Book Club discusses *How Beautiful We Were* by Imbolo Mbue.
- Saturday, July 31, noon to 8 p.m. – Stop by the LGBTQ+ Alumni Chapter's table at the Pride in the Valley Festival, 161 High St. NW, Warren, Ohio.
- Sunday, Aug. 8, 3 p.m. - Columbus Alumni Chapter Outing at Columbus Clippers game.
- Friday, Aug. 13, 5:30 p.m. – Bring your family and friends to YSU Alumni Night with the Mahoning Valley Scrappers at Eastwood Field. Alumni picnic before the game and fireworks after.
- Sunday, Aug. 15, 12:45 p.m. – Indianapolis Alumni Chapter Outing at Indianapolis Indians game.
- Saturday, Sept. 18, 8:15 a.m. – Help with food distribution for seniors and families during the United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley's Satur-Day of Caring.

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Archive

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