

# Macte Virtute

BE INCREASED IN MERIT

## *Alumni, students overcome pandemic hurdles*

COVID-19 and all that goes with it has certainly and rightfully been at the forefront of our focus over the last two years here at YSU and, for that matter, just about anywhere and everywhere else.



*President Jim Tressel*

While there have been disruptions on just about every level of the institution, and while the virus still presents significant challenges, YSU overall has weathered the storm well. We're back on campus, in classrooms, teaching, learning and – most importantly – helping thousands of young people become the leaders of our post-pandemic world.

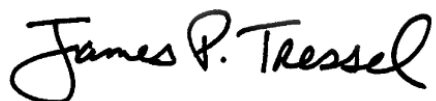
It's been inspiring seeing so many students and alumni, as well as faculty and staff, adapt and overcome in the face of ever-changing rules and mounting frustrations. They've been shoved around a bit, tugged back and forth, and there's been plenty of opportunity to give in and give up. But, while many have struggled, many others have thrived. That makes us all Y and Proud.

We hope you enjoy reading about some of those successes in

this online version of the magazine. People like the [Rev. Carrington Moore](https://ysu.edu/magazine/winter-2022/class-notes-extras), (<https://ysu.edu/magazine/winter-2022/class-notes-extras>) a 2010 graduate, recently named a leader of an initiative to keep the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. alive in the city of Boston. Or [Taylor Tomb](https://ysu.edu/magazine/winter-2022/our-students), (<https://ysu.edu/magazine/winter-2022/our-students>) an outstanding student and campus leader who became the first YSU student ever to win the national Outstanding Senior Award from Alpha Xi Delta sorority. Then there's [Rebecca Ortenzio Lee](https://ysu.edu/magazine/winter-2022/class-notes-extras) (<https://ysu.edu/magazine/winter-2022/class-notes-extras>), a 1997 graduate, a dentist and much-decorated Navy captain who retired last year and is now practicing in Virginia. Or [David Perrico](https://ysu.edu/magazine/winter-2022/class-notes-extras), (<https://ysu.edu/magazine/winter-2022/class-notes-extras>) a graduate of YSU's Dana School of Music and the leader of the new house band for the NFL's Las Vegas Raiders home games.

These are your fellow YSU Penguins, making their marks in their communities and leading the way. It's been 36 years since I came to YSU in 1986, and I remain forever amazed at the breadth of accomplishment of our graduates. Congratulations to all, keep up the good work, be well and, as always...

Go Penguins,



James P. Tressel, President

## *In Every Issue*

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# Class Notes - Extras

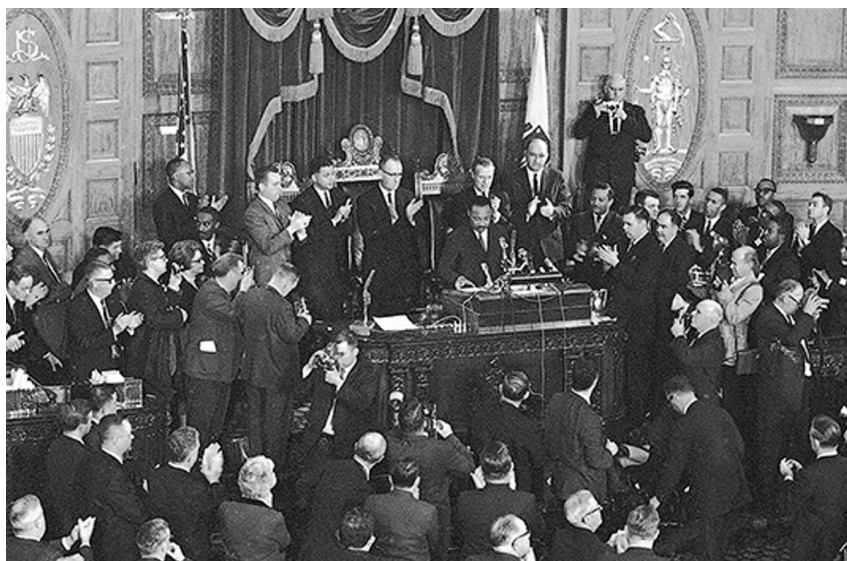
## ALUM KEEPS THE DREAM ALIVE IN BEANTOWN



**The Rev. Carrington Moore**, bachelor of Political Science and Philosophy, 2010, is working to keep the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. alive in the city of Boston.

Moore, associate pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston, was recently named director of Community Organizing for King Boston, a nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring the legacy of King and his wife, Coretta Scott King, and their time and work together in Boston. The initiative includes a memorial called “The Embrace,” expected to be unveiled in Boston Common in 2023.

Moore



*Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is applauded after a speech to the joint session of the Massachusetts Legislature in Boston April 22, 1965, the day before he led a civil rights march to Boston Common.*

previously was program director with the Massachusetts

Council of Churches, where he directed a leadership initiative funded by the Lilly Endowment to support pastors and faith communities across Massachusetts. He holds a master's of Divinity from the Boston University School of Theology.

It was at BU in the early 1950s that MLK was studying for his doctorate when he met his future wife, who was studying at the New England Conservatory of Music at the time.

## “SPREADING THE GREAT WORK NURSES DO EVERY DAY”

**Evelyn Olenick,**



associate in Nursing, 1976, and bachelor in Nursing, 1982, senior vice president and chief nursing officer at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany, Ga., is the newest member of the editorial board for *American Nurse Journal*, the official journal for the American Nurses Association.

“This is a great opportunity to continue to spread the great work nurses do every day and advancements of the profession,” she said.

Previous positions Olenick has held include vice president of Patient Care Services, chief nurse executive at Sentara CarePlex Hospital in Hampton, Va., and vice president, chief nursing officer at Forum Health, Northside Medical Center in Youngstown.

Olenick also holds a doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Old

Dominion University and a master's in Nursing from the University of Akron. She also has ANCC Nursing Executive Advanced-Board Certification and is a member of several professional nursing organizations, including a board member for the Georgia Organization of Nurse Leaders, Albany Technical College, State Workforce Development Board and Georgia Nurses Foundation.

## MECHANICAL ENGINEER GRAD NAMED PRESTIGIOUS LECTURER

**Ryan M. Paul**, bachelor in Mechanical Engineering, 2005, and master's in Mechanical Engineering, 2007, is probably used to seeing the word "prestigious" near his name. That's certainly the case with his latest honor – the American Carbon Society's prestigious Graffin Lecturer for 2021.



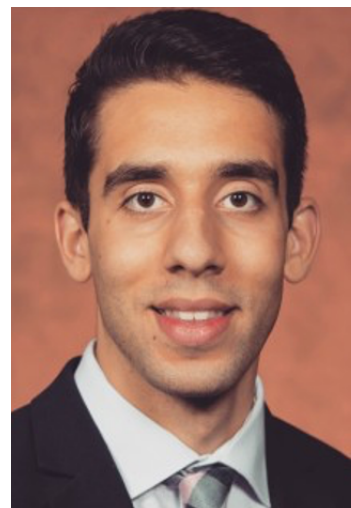
The position goes to an individual who has made distinguished contributions to carbon science and engineering. Paul, who also holds a PhD from Ohio State University, is a research and development associate in the Carbon and Composites group at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. He previously was associate director of Research and Development and materials scientist at GrafTech International Holdings in Cleveland.

He is a prolific technical writer and speaker, with 11 publications, six invited talks and 26 public presentations, as well as co-inventor on two patent applications. He serves on the advisory board for the American Carbon Society and the Ohio Academy of Science, and was an active executive committee member for the Cleveland Chapter of ASM International, and now for the Oak Ridge Chapter. He was named a STEM Exemplar by the Believe in Ohio Program.

## GRAD TAKES WINNING WAYS TO IVY LEAGUE

If you find yourself in a debate, **Moataz Abdelrasoul** is someone you want on your side.

Abdelrasoul, bachelor in Political Science, 2020, now a second-year student at Cornell University Law School, was recently deemed champion of the 2021 Cuccia Cup Moot Court Competition at Cornell. The victory is a continuation of Abdelrasoul's winning ways when he was at YSU, where he led the nationally-ranked Penguin Moot Court team to a slew of titles and was a member of the national champion YSU Ethics Bowl team.



Now pursuing a law degree at the Ivy League school in Ithaca, N.Y., Abdelrasoul is an honors fellow at the Lawyering Program at Cornell, an associate of Cornell's *Supreme Court Bulletin* and an associate of the *Cornell Law Review*.

## DECORATED NAVY DENTIST RETIRES TO ORTHODONTICS PRACTICE

**Rebecca Ortenzio Lee's** career since graduating from YSU in 1997 with a bachelor's degree in Combined Sciences is best summarized in two words: Teeth and Navy.

Captain Lee, Dental Corps, U.S. Navy, retired last year after 20 years of active service in the Navy, including work in the Iraq War that earned her several medals for meritorious service. She is now living with her family in Northern Virginia, where the "teeth" part of her career continues with Virginia Orthodontic Partners.

A native of New Middletown, Ohio, Lee was a cheerleader at YSU, executive secretary of Student Government, was



nominated for the Homecoming Court and the recipient of the YSU Pin Award, one of YSU's highest academic honors.

After leaving YSU, Lee earned a dental degree from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry and was trained in orthodontics at Indiana University School of Dentistry. Her last assignment was deputy chief of the Navy Dental Corps, where she oversaw



operations of the Corps and its 1,100 officers. She also was member of the staff at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

She is a veteran of the Iraq War and deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom aboard the USS Duluth. She is the recipient of the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (4), Navy Achievement Medal (2) and various unit awards.

## ALUM'S RAIDERS HOUSE BAND ROCKS ALLEGIANT STADIUM

When the NFL's Oakland Raiders moved to Las Vegas and was looking for a band to play at home games, it was only a matter of time that they settled on **David Perrico**. The 2002 YSU Dana School of Music graduate and Youngstown native is a veteran musician and bandleader who has lived and performed in Las Vegas for 17 years. His latest gig is the front man for the 19-piece Raiders House Band, playing before 65,000 fans at the Raiders' new state-of-the-art home, Allegiant Stadium. The band





debuted with a splash at the home opener on Monday Night Football this past fall. [Read More](https://www.reviewjournal.com/entertainment/entertainment-columns/kats/vegas-vet-david-perrico-set-as-raiders-band-leader-2417842/?fbclid=IwAR1QX0FnFAks4XEoy8Fa5-cckVd73KUnfu0oDxYPFuw0e3rAmIP0KLiNUXk) (<https://www.reviewjournal.com/entertainment/entertainment-columns/kats/vegas-vet-david-perrico-set-as-raiders-band-leader-2417842/?fbclid=IwAR1QX0FnFAks4XEoy8Fa5-cckVd73KUnfu0oDxYPFuw0e3rAmIP0KLiNUXk>).

David Perrico-“Sweet Child O Mine”Raiders 19-piece House ...



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# CLASS *Notes*

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## '60s



**June Summers**, bachelor's in Education/Art, 1962, released her fifth suspense novel, *There Was an Old Woman*. "They make an unlikely trio: a grandmother—she's sixty-six; her granddaughter—she's fourteen; and her grandson—he's ten. When up against a horrific home invasion, what chance do they have against three masked gunmen?" The setting for the novel takes place in Mahoning County, especially around Sebring. Summers other published books are *Let Freedom Ring* (2016), *Before We Fade Away* (2018), *A Conflict of Time* (2018), and *Whatever It Takes* (2020).

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## '70s

**Ronald E. Klinge**, bachelor in Chemical Engineering, was among a dozen graduates honored this year by the YSU Bitonte College of Health and Human Services. Klinge was an environmental engineer for Sawhill Tubular Division of Cyclops



Corp, then became regional head of Industrial Treatment and Disposal Operations for Browning Ferris Industries and later he founded American Waste Services Inc. He eventually purchased Avalon Lakes Golf Course, consolidating his interests into Avalon Holdings Corp., which in established the First Annual "Freedom Warrior Golf Outing" to support the local veterans, raising nearly \$1 million dollars.

Klinge also hosts the YSU ROTC Golf Outing at the Avalon Golf Course, raising tens of thousands of dollars every year for the YSU ROTC Program.

**Sean Ennis**, bachelor of Business Administration, 1973, a member of the Ohio Veteran's Hall of Fame, was the featured speaker at the Lakewood, Ohio, Veterans Day Ceremony (<https://lakewoodtimes.net/83385/lakewood-news/lakewoods-veterans-day-speaker-and-ceremony/>). Ennis enlisted in the Army in 1965 and worked with the Army Security Agency until April 1969, where he served in Vietnam, Korea and Thailand. He worked for the IRS and the Department of Veterans Affairs, retiring from government service in 2006. Before retirement, Ennis was a commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars District 7 and Post 2533 in Cleveland. He is still involved with the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 15, the Joint Veterans Honor Guard, Honor Flight Cleveland and the Airport Ambassador program at Cleveland Hopkins Airport.

**Richard Thompson**, bachelor of Engineering, 1972, recently joined the board of directors of the Farmers National Bank of Canfield. He previously was on the board of Cortland Savings and Banking Co., which merged with Farmers. Thompson started his career as an electrical engineer for the Packard Electric Co. before helping found Therm-O-Link Inc., an electrical wire and cable manufacturer. In recent years, Thompson has been an active participant in the revitalization of



Kinsman, Ohio, including Stratton Creek Woodworks and The Peter Allen Inn. He also serves on the board of directors for Hiram College, the YSU Foundation, the Northern Trumbull County Community Foundation, Kinsman Public Library, Kinsman United Methodist Church and Trumbull Family Fitness.



**Judy Bruce** of New Castle, Pa., master of Music, 1974, is one of four composers chosen nationally to write a composition to be performed by the Hartford Chamber Symphony in Connecticut. Bruce was selected after submitting her piece for woodwind quintet and piano titled, "Bits and Pieces." She will travel to Hartford in March to work with the symphony on her new composition, "Skeleton Dance."

Bruce also holds a bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Carnegie Mellon University. She has had four pieces chosen in other contests, which were performed abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina; Sydney, Australia; Brussels, Belgium; and Columbia, South America.

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## '80s

**Diane Bargiel**, bachelor of Music, 1985, recently retired as associate professor and chair of the Humanities Division at SUNY Adirondack. Bargiel continues as the principal clarinetist of the Sage City Symphony.

**Mark Colella**, bachelor in Mechanical Engineering, 1987, was



promoted to vice president of North American Operations at Xaloy, a leading manufacturer in the global plastic processing industry. Colella, with more than 25 years of manufacturing and managing experience, is responsible for overseeing the operations of its facilities in Austintown, Ohio, and Pulaski, Va. He previously was vice president of Operations and later president and chief executive of Forney Inc..

He joined Spirex in 2000, serving in leadership roles in technology and manufacturing before Xaloy purchased the company in 2009. With Xaloy, Colella has served as director of manufacturing and then director of engineering before his promotion to vice president.

**Andrea Felesky**, bachelor in Accounting, 1989, joined Lafayette Square, an impact investment platform, as managing director and head of Client Audit across the firm's portfolio companies. Felesky has more than two decades of experience in financial accounting, transactions and public offerings. She previously was senior director at RSM US within the technical accounting consulting group. She has also served as a director at KPMG, LLP. [Read More \(https://www.sharonherald.com/community/westminster-wind-ensemble-to-be-recognized/article\\_dc6d5b16-4309-11ec-a825-474558f06331.html\)](https://www.sharonherald.com/community/westminster-wind-ensemble-to-be-recognized/article_dc6d5b16-4309-11ec-a825-474558f06331.html).

**R. Tad Greig**, master of Music, 1989, is the director of the Westminster College Wind Ensemble, recognized as a showcase ensemble by the Collegiate Band Directors National Association at the Eastern Region Conference in Baltimore. Greig also serves as professor of Music and director of instrumental activities at Westminster. The ensemble, developed by Greig more than 20 years ago, has earned multiple honors, including first place in the national "American Prize" competition for top wind ensemble, and made several guest appearances, including Pennsylvania Music Educators State Conference on three occasions and the Scottish Rite Cathedral in New Castle, Pa.

**Joseph Caruso**, bachelor of Science, 1989, and master of





Business Administration, 2005, was named Outstanding Business Alumnus at the Williamson College of Business Administration's 25th Alumni Awards Banquet. Caruso is president and chief executive of COMPASS Family and Community Services, leading a staff of more than 300, managing a \$13 million annual budget and overseeing 12 locations and a vast array of social service programs.

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## '90s



**Kim Testa-Lazarus**, bachelor of Business Administration, 1990, is the new chief human resources officer in the Lee County Clerk of Court in Florida. Testa-Lazarus also holds a master in Business Administration from Malone University. She previously was senior director of human resources for

Signet Jewelers. [Read More](#)

(<https://fortmyers.floridaweekly.com/articles/new-chief-human-resources-officer-joins-lee-county-clerk-of-court>).

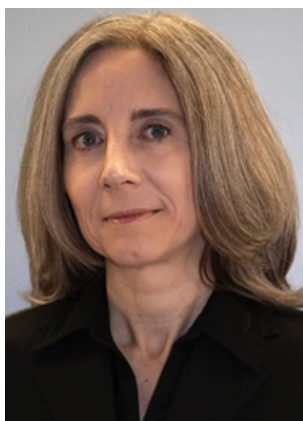
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKZgc5boY1A>) **George Miklas**, bachelor of Music, 1991, recently earned a Doctor of Arts in Music from Liberty University School of Music in Virginia. He also holds a master of Music Education-Performance (Harmonica and Tuba) from Liberty and a master of Special

Education from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania. Miklas is a freelance professional musician, teacher,



arranger/orchestrator and harmonica repair technician. He has received several awards for harmonica, including the 2020 Stan Harper Award of Special Merit from the Society for the Preservation and Advancement of the Harmonica, and the Lifetime Achievement Award in Music from the National Traditional Country Music Association. He is also a member of the National Old Time Music Hall of Fame. Watch on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/IKZgc5boY1A>).

**Janice Jasinski**, bachelor of Business Administration, was named Outstanding Business Alumna at the Williamson College of Business Administration's 25th Alumni Awards Banquet. Jasinski is a principal at Schroedel, Scullin & Bestic.



**Erin Bailey**, bachelor in Biology, 1993, master in Biology, 1996, recently earned a Bronze Award (<https://www.kent.edu/geauga/news/associate-professor-biology-wins-bronze-award>) for "Canvas in a Flash" from Kent State University's Center for Training and Learning. Bailey is an associate

professor of Biology at the Geauga Campus and Twinsburg Academic Center. Bailey holds a PhD in Cellular and Molecular Biology from KSU. After postdoctoral work at The Cleveland Clinic Foundation and the Department of Pathology at Case Western University, Bailey taught at Northeast Ohio Medical University in Rootstown and joined the KSU faculty in 2012.

[Read More \(https://www.kent.edu/geauga/news/associate-professor-biology-wins-bronze-award\)](https://www.kent.edu/geauga/news/associate-professor-biology-wins-bronze-award).

**Kaz Rafia**, bachelor of Biology, 1993, was recently named dental director of the Oregon Health Authority. Rafia, who earned a dental degree from Ohio State University, has a combined 25 years of dental experience spanning international non-profit work at Partnership for International Medical Access-Northwest, academics, private practice, and leadership at Permanente Dental Associates. He also holds a master of Business Administration from the University of Illinois. [Read More \(https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORDHS/bulletins/2e6fc68?fbclid=IwAR3PX68Wfnn-MJF\\_wQh0B68nVtITDck\\_Ew8SVBdJSP2iS5HTGvCq4MZPq8c\)](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORDHS/bulletins/2e6fc68?fbclid=IwAR3PX68Wfnn-MJF_wQh0B68nVtITDck_Ew8SVBdJSP2iS5HTGvCq4MZPq8c).



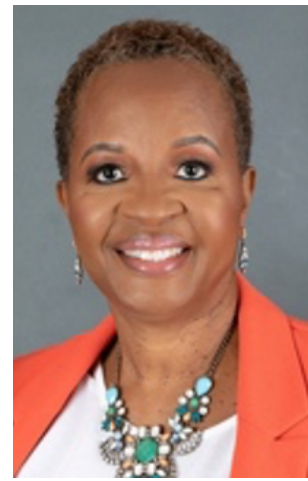
**Michael Prelee** of Hubbard, bachelor of History and Political Science, 1995, and the author of four novels, can add “award-winning” next to his name. Prelee won the [2021 Midwest Book Award \(https://mipa.org/midwest-book-awards/2021-winners/\)](https://mipa.org/midwest-book-awards/2021-winners/) in the Fiction:

Mystery/Thriller category for his latest book, *Lost Little Sister*. The award comes from the Midwest Independent Publisher’s Association and is one of the longest literary recognition programs in the nation. The book was selected for the 2021 Ohioana Book Festival. Prelee’s other novels are “Murder in the Heart of It All,” “Milky Way Repo” and “Bad Rock Beat Down.”

**Nelda Sims**, associate of Applied Science, 1996, bachelor of Elementary and Special Education, 1998, a retired high school principal in Maryland, is one of the authors of the new book, *Hidden in Sight, An Educator’s Perspective*. The book is the second installment of the [Discovering Strength Series \(https://www.discoveringstrengthseries.com/\)](https://www.discoveringstrengthseries.com/) by Life Legacy Publishing.



**Chief Master Sgt. Brett Miller**, bachelor's of Music Performance, French Horn, 1999, now principal French Horn in the U.S. Air Force Concert Band



(<https://www.music.af.mil/Bands/The-United-States-Air-Force-Band/Ensembles/Concert-Band/>), was recently selected for promotion to the rank of chief master sergeant, the highest enlisted rank in the Air Force. In addition to performing with the band, Miller is the section chief of unit travel and ceremonial action officer. Highlights of his Air Force career include participating in the state funerals for Presidents Ronald Reagan and Gerald Ford and inaugurations for Presidents George W. Bush, Barack Obama and Donald Trump. He also was the Air Force District Washington ceremonial action officer for the 2021 Inauguration of President Joseph R. Biden.

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'00s

**Kevin Carpenter**, master's in Industrial Engineering Management, 2000, was named vice president, Global Operations and Integrated Supply Chain, for the Toro Co. Carpenter previously worked for Carrier Global Corp. as vice president of Operations, Residential and Light Commercial Systems. He previously was vice president of Manufacturing Services at Rockwell Automation. He also holds a master of Business Administration from Case Western Reserve University, a bachelor of Electrical Engineering from the George Institute of Technology, a bachelor in general Engineering from Morehouse College and a master of Biblical Studies from Ashland



## University.



**Victor Cruz**, bachelor of Hospitality Management, 2002, was promoted to vice president of Business Development at Sandpiper Hospitality. Cruz joined Sandpiper in 2016 and most recently served as the vice president of Revenue Management. He previously held positions at Winegardner & Hammons Hotel Group, Shaner Hotels, Highgate Hotels, Interstate Hotels & Resorts, Sage Hospitality and The Prococcianti Group. Cruz was named Marriott's Revenue Leader of the Year for the Eastern Region in 2011 and 2012 and has helped Sandpiper Hospitality achieve best-in-class revenue results.

**Malinda Ferko**, Business Administration, 2003, recently joined the Sherman Creative team as customer success specialist. Ferko previously worked with a large real estate financial and investment group in Cleveland, followed by similar roles with two local companies.

**Christopher Tennant**, bachelor of Social Work, 2004, joined the Ohio Environmental Council as Northeast Ohio regional director. Tennant will work alongside residents, community groups and OEC partners to build an environmental movement in Northeast Ohio, focusing primarily on the Mahoning Valley. After working many years as a social worker and completing a master degree in Public Health from Walden University, Tennant began the nonprofit Thrive Mahoning Valley, whose mission is to create a more welcoming and equitable community while striving to connect new and current residents to economic, social and educational opportunities. In addition, Tennant served on the Youngstown Food Policy Committee, the Healthy Community Partnership's Parks and Green Spaces Action Team, the Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley's Development and Marketing Committee, and Friends of the Mahoning River. He formerly served on the board of Inspiring Minds and on the steering committee of the Mahoning Valley Healthy Community Partnership.

**Robert Bole**, bachelor of Business Administration, 2008, joined Pagaya Investments as vice president of Innovation where he will be tasked with discovering, exploring and creating new investment and commercial opportunities for the new Artificial Intelligence based Asset Manager.



**Raechel Vega**, bachelor of Business Administration, 2009, was named controller at Bodine Perry Certified Public Accountants and Advisors. Vega is based out of the Canfield, Ohio, office and is responsible for oversight of all firm-related financial matters. Her prior experience includes more than eight years in public accounting and three years of corporate auditing. Most recently she was senior accountant at Packer Thomas.

Cleveland saxophone player/composer /educator **Chris Coles**, Music Performance, 2009, performed his award-winning “Nine Lives Project” at Cuyahoga Community College in the Fall. Coles wrote “Nine Lives” in memory of worshippers murdered at Charleston, S.C.’s Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church by a white supremacist. He won Akron’s 2017





Knight Foundation Arts Challenge for the piece, which draws on jazz, dance, spoken word and animation. Coles also holds a master in Saxophone Performance from the University of Akron. He was also part of a Work-in-Progress Showing of inCOPnegro in Akron. The dance-theatre performance sponsored by the National Center for Choreography explores concepts of safety and police relations through storytelling and a community and parenthood lens.

**Michael McGiffin**, bachelor of Business Administration, 2009, master of Education, 2011, is the new director of the Youngstown Warren Regional Chamber Foundation. McGiffin previously was chief strategy officer at Stambaugh Auditorium and director of events and special projects for the city of Youngstown.

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## '10s



**Atty. Justin Markota** of Girard, bachelor's in Accounting, 2010, has become an equity partner in Betras, Kopp and Harshman. The firm will now operate as Betras, Kopp and Markota. Markota earned a law degree from Capital Law School in Columbus.

**Jonathon Fauvie**, bachelor of Business Administration, 2012, was named Outstanding Recent Alumnus at the Williamson College of Business Administration's 25th Alumni Banquet. Fauvie is senior community affairs specialist with Medical Mutual. He previously worked at Bon Secours Mercy Health, where managed two markets and five hospitals within the

Mercy Health ministry to leading the public relations efforts for the health system's Samaritan Group.



**Jessica Valsi**, bachelor of Political Science, 2012, was named Admissions Recruiter for Eastern Gateway Community College, Youngstown campus. Valsi was previously academic program coordinator for Ohio State University's Department of Political

Science. She also holds a master in Public Policy and Management from OSU.

**Sean Ludt** of Stoneville, N.C., bachelor in Mechanical Engineering Technology, 2012, is the lead quality manager for Chassis with Volvo trucks. He is responsible for all mechanical and chassis related commercial trucks, Volvo and Mack, in North and South America, and Australia. He previously worked as a manufacturing, process and weld engineer at Lockheed Martin and then moved into product design. He also previously worked for Ruger Firearms.



**Lamar Salter**, bachelor of Arts, 2011, and master of Arts, 2013, was named Outstanding Recent Alumnus at the Williamson College of Business Administration's 25th Annual Alumni Banquet. Salter is a producer at CNN for the digital productions team and previously worked as a senior producer at the nonprofit advocacy organization, Global Citizen, and the digital

business news site, Business Insider. He also worked as an associate producer at CBS News, NBC News, and WFMJ.

**Jessica Williams**, bachelor of Social Work, 2015, and master of Social Work, 2019, was honored by the Dr. Dominic A. and Helen M. Bitonte College of Health and Human Services. Williams is an assessment supervisor at Trumbull County Children Services. She mentors University Partnership Interns from YSU and is a member of the Trauma Informed Committee of Trumbull County and the board for COMPASS Family and Community Services.



**Jenette Morell, J.D.**, bachelor of Political Science and Government, Pre-Law, with minors in Criminal Justice and Religious Studies, 2016, is director of Government Relations at Vita Inclinata Technologies. She also earned a Juris Doctorate from University of Akron School of Law.

**John L. Malcolm IV**, bachelor of Computer Science and Information Systems, 2016, is the new chief innovation and technology officer for the Cleveland Public Library. Malcolm previously was chief technology officer of the Cleveland Institute of Music and served as the director of Information Technology for the Positive Education Program. He also has a professional



certification in digital transformation from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



**Shelly Feiwell**, bachelor of Allied Health, 2017, was among a dozen graduates honored this past Fall by the YSU Bitonte College of Health and Human Services. Feiwell, who also holds a master in Adult Learning and Development from Cleveland State University, worked as director of the Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary Program at Case Western Reserve

University School of Dental Medicine.

Musician Seaman **Michael Barkett**, bachelor of Music Performance, Trumpet, 2017, recently joined the U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa Band after graduating from the Naval School of Music. Barkett is stationed in Naples, Italy.



**Michael Navratil**, bachelor in Exercise Science, 2017, is the new director of strength and conditioning and assistant director of the Lowry Center at Kenyon College in Ohio. Navratil worked in the YSU athletics department, then took positions as strength and condition coach at the University of Wyoming, Robert Morris University (Pa.) and the University of Akron, where he earned a master's degree.

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'20s



**Carson Markley**, bachelor in Economics and Political Science , 2020, who is pursuing a graduate degree at Richmond University, participated in a summer internship with the Centre for Analysis of the Radical Right, where he worked on projects analyzing the relationship between the Alt-right and democracy. His most recent article, "[The GOP Effort To Install 'Big Lie' Election Officials Raises Alarms,](https://rantt.com/the-gop-effort-to-install-big-lie-election-officials-raises-alarms/)" (<https://rantt.com/the-gop-effort-to-install-big-lie-election-officials-raises-alarms/>) appeared in RANTT Media.

**Hank Stull**, master of Business Administration, 2020, human resources/safety specialist at Ellwood Aluminum in Hubbard, was featured in a Brain Gain Navigators video in the Business Journal. Stull also holds a bachelor in Business Administration from Pennsylvania State University. [Read More](https://businessjournaldaily.com/ellwood-aluminum-invests-in-its-workers-education/) (<https://businessjournaldaily.com/ellwood-aluminum-invests-in-its-workers-education/>).



Two YSU alumni have won promotions in Schroedel, Scullin & Bestic CPAs: **Andrew G. Klapac** (L), bachelor of Business

Administration, 2021, was named senior team accountant, and **Emilee**

**R. Smrek** (R), bachelor of Business

Administration, 2021, joined the firm as a team accountant, after two years as an intern.



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# Our STUDENTS

## STUDENT SUCCESS

### FROM MATH AND RESEARCH, TO SOFTBALL AND TRACK

Many of the students on YSU's Ethics Bowl team have probably never even seen a vinyl record – like one you put on a turnstile to play music.

Truth is, though, that the Penguins Ethics Bowl

team is a lot like a broken record – success after success after success after success after success.

This past year, for the sixth consecutive year, the YSU Ethics Bowl team won the Central State Regional Ethics Bowl, and with the victory advances to the national contest in February 2022 in Cincinnati for a seventh consecutive year.



*The Penguins Ethics Bowl team is, left to right, back row, Jordan Pintar, Dominic Adams and Lauren Myers; and front row, Eva Lamberson, Lucas Tomory, Shianna Gibbons and Dora's Gitimu.*

“Outstanding,” Provost Brien Smith said. “Absolutely amazing,” added Bruce Waller, professor and former chair of Philosophy and Religious Studies.



The winning streak is among dozens of

*Avery Schumacher hit a two-run home run in the bottom of the eighth inning to lift the Penguin softball squad over Cleveland State and secure the 2021 Horizon League softball regular season championship at the YSU softball field.*

accomplishments of YSU students over the past few months, from building canoes made out of concrete to capturing six – yes, six – Horizon League conference titles.

With the half dozen Horizon titles, including men’s and women’s outdoor track and field, women's golf and softball (regular season), YSU won the McCafferty Trophy, given to the school with the best performance across the conference's 19 championship sports. It was the first time YSU won the award in its two decades in the Horizon.

*Other notable student successes include:*

**Taylor Tomb**, a senior Primary and Special Education major, won the Outstanding Senior Award from Alpha Xi Delta, the sorority’s most prestigious award to a collegiate member. She was the first YSU student to ever receive the national award.



*Taylor Tomb*

**Cole Sexton**, a senior Chemical

Engineering major, was named Intern of the Year in the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

**Tuminu Adeeko**, a junior Mechanical Engineering major, was named Co-op of the Year. Sexton, interned in the Paint Department at Lordstown Motors Corp., while Adeeko served as a Wen H. Ko Intern with the Louis Stokes Cleveland Veterans Affairs Medical Center.



*Minh Nguyen*

**Minh Nguyen**, a senior in the Williamson College of Business Administration, was a Top 3 Finalist in the 2021 National Media Sales Pitch Competition presented by the National Association of Broadcasters.

**Five Mathematics students** presented research at the annual national MathFest, taking home four awards for excellence. The YSU team has historically been one of the most successful at the annual event, winning its first awards in 1989.

**Machine learning, Latin jazz and autism** were among the topics featured as six graduate students were honored at the annual YSU Diversity of Scholarship event. The event highlights the diverse scholarly pursuits of YSU graduate students.



*The scholarship of top graduate students, including Michael Alexander Barren, was recognized at the annual Diversity of Scholarship event in Kilcawley Center.*

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# Our **CAMPUS**



## PREPARATION, PATIENCE, PERSISTENCE AND PRAYER

YSU completed its first on-campus semester of the pandemic this past Fall, culminating with commencement in December in Beeghly Center, where more than 600 students received diplomas.

When COVID-19 hit in March 2020, YSU transitioned all on-campus classes to remote offerings. The online classes continued for the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters, with a socially-distanced and masked outdoor commencement ceremony in May 2021. The university returned to on-campus classes for Fall 2021, and commencement was held as usual in Beeghly.

“We’re so proud of this graduating class,” President Jim Tressel said at commencement. “They’ve done an extraordinary job. These past two years have been challenging. They’ve cared for one another, and they’ve looked out for one another.”

Lekeila Houser, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Social Work, was the student speaker for the ceremony.

“We were all resilient,” she told her fellow graduates. “Look at me, I’m a young black woman, who just turned 21 a month ago, who was born and raised in Youngstown, and I’m the speaker here today, at this predominantly white institution



*Aliyah Sabree and Lekeila Houser*

graduating with my bachelor’s degree in Social Work with honors.

“I want to encourage anyone like me – you can grow up with the entire world against you, and still come out stronger than ever. You can still be successful. As long as you’re hopeful, optimistic and you continue to fight for yourself, you can do anything you put your mind to.”

Aliyah Sabree, who earned a bachelor’s degree in Biology from YSU and is now a judge at the 36th District Court in Detroit, provided similar advice as she gave the commencement keynote address and received an honorary Doctor of Law degrees.

Sabree, who left YSU and to earn a law degree at Michigan State University, reflected on first setting foot on the YSU campus 19 years ago, on a basketball scholarship, knowing she someday wanted to be a judge. She accomplished that goal by following the four P’s – Preparation, Patience, Persistence and Prayer.

“Coming out of college can be stressful,” she said. “Coming out of college during a pandemic can cause anxiety. When I need to center, I always come back to the four Ps.”

## FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN HITS HISTORIC HIGH



## \$126,187,126

That was the final tally of YSU's historic "We See Tomorrow" fundraising campaign when it closed out last Fall. The initiative, which funds scholarships, enhanced instruction, increased classroom technology and much more, is the largest fundraising campaign in YSU history and believed to be the largest philanthropic effort ever in the Mahoning Valley.

The total included 32,581 gifts, 40 of at least \$1 million.

"The level of support we experienced through this campaign is nothing short of remarkable," said Paul McFadden, president of the YSU Foundation. "It is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of so many students, alumni, faculty, staff and others over the course of more than 100 years to make YSU the special place it is in our region."

## GRANT ACTIVITY HITS 12-YEAR HIGH

The last time YSU earned this much in grants, President Obama was in his first year in office, the Pittsburgh Steelers won their sixth Super Bowl and Modern Family, starring YSU's own Ed O'Neill, made its TV debut.

It's been a while.

YSU faculty and staff received 96 research and service grants totaling nearly \$11 million in fiscal year 2021, the most since 2009.

"Getting this kind of funding is not easy – it's competitive, and it takes a lot of work, imagination and determination," YSU Provost Brien Smith said. "Most importantly, the impact that these funds have on our region and our students is significant and widespread."

Among the awards was \$1 million from the National Science Foundation to Cory Brozina, assistant professor and director of First-Year Engineering in the YSU Rayen School of Engineering,

the largest grant YSU has ever received from the NSF. Also among the largest awards was \$2.2 million from the Air Force Research Lab to Pedro Cortes, associate professor of Civil, Environmental and Chemical Engineering, as part of the Air Force's Microelectronics Workforce Development Program.

[Read more  
\(https://ysu.edu/news/ysu-grant-activity-hits-12-year-high\).](https://ysu.edu/news/ysu-grant-activity-hits-12-year-high)

<b>An Upward Trend</b>	
<i>YSU research and service grants have nearly tripled since 2013:</i>	
<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>Awards</u></b>
2021	\$10.95 million
2020	\$5.9 million
2019	\$8.1 million
2018	\$8.9 million
2017	\$8.8 million
2016	\$7.4 million
2015	\$4.6 million
2014	\$7.2 million
2013	\$3.6 million

## “RESEARCH, TEACH, TRAIN AND PREPARE WORKERS OF THE FUTURE”

Dozens of federal, state and local political and education leaders attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony last summer for the new \$12 million, 54,000-square-foot Excellence Training Center at YSU.

The Center, funded via \$7 million in state capital dollars and \$5 million in federal funds, is the centerpiece of the Mahoning Valley region's continued efforts to create a workforce development ecosystem to ensure skilled workers are available to meet the region's growing advanced manufacturing needs.

“A project of this magnitude does not happen without the support and commitment of literally dozens of people across a wide spectrum of government, industry and education leaders,” YSU President Jim Tressel said. “Our collective vision to create a place where we can research, teach, train and prepare the workers of the future culminates in this wonderful facility.”

[Read more \(https://ysu.edu/news/ribbon-cut-excellence-training-center-ysu\)](https://ysu.edu/news/ribbon-cut-excellence-training-center-ysu) about the Excellence Training Center.

[Read more \(https://ysu.edu/news/kohlis-donate-5-million-ysu-campaign\)](https://ysu.edu/news/kohlis-donate-5-million-ysu-campaign) about the Kohli's donation.

Excellence Training Center Ribbon Cutting | 3 Minutes With ...



## YSU GETS PRESIDENT'S "E" AWARD FOR INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS

Nate Myers,  
associate  
provost for



*Nate Myers, left, YSU associate provost for International and Global Initiatives, and U.S. Deputy Secretary of Commerce Don Graves at a ceremony in Washington D.C. where YSU received the 2021 President's "E" Award.*

International and Global Initiatives, made his way to the nation's capital this Fall to receive the 2021 President's "E" Award for YSU's ongoing international enrollment efforts.

YSU was among only 32 U.S. companies and organizations nationwide, and only two in all of Ohio, receiving awards for 2021. YSU also was the only university in the nation to earn the recognition.

Between Fall 2016 and Summer 2021, YSU enrollment of international students increased from 316 to 455, including big increases in students from Nepal, Kuwait, Vietnam and South Korea. In 2019, the Institute of International Education reported that the rate of growth of YSU's international student population was the second fastest among public universities in the United States.

[Read more \(https://ysu.edu/news/ysu-earns-national-recognition-international-enrollment-efforts\)](https://ysu.edu/news/ysu-earns-national-recognition-international-enrollment-efforts).



## PENGUIN MURAL HIGHLIGHTS NEW CAMPUS PARK

The campus added more Penguins this past Fall – 10-foot tall ones!

Students Rachel Hritz and Verena Bo Gyeong Son completed a 60-foot by 13-foot panoramic mural on campus that features 24 majestic penguins. The colorful mural is the highlight of Deibel Park, a small, shaded spot nestled in a little-known area of campus behind the Arms Family Museum.



“We think this could be a very special space on campus,” said David Ewing, YSU associate director of Grounds. The park is funded by and named after Dave Deibel, former chair of the YSU Board of Trustees, and his wife, Holly, longtime supporters of the university.

Hritz and Gyeong Son created the mural as part of YSU Art Professor Dragana Crnjak’s course titled “Mural and Site-Specific Painting.” Under Crnjak’s direction, students have completed several large murals, including the Andrews Avenue Memory Mural. “My goal is to provide students with the hand-on experience of collaboration, problem solving, making community connections while developing the sense of responsibility, ownership and pride in the completed public art that stays after them,” Crnjak said.

[Read more \(https://ysu.edu/news/waddlin-along-students-complete-mural-future-deibel-park\)](https://ysu.edu/news/waddlin-along-students-complete-mural-future-deibel-park).

## LINCOLN BECOMES CAFARO, PHELPS BECOMES SILVESTRI

If you’re looking for the Lincoln Building or Phelps Hall on campus, good luck. Both buildings now have new names, thanks to a \$1.75 million gift from John J. and Janet Cafaro and their daughters, the Honorable Capri Silvestri Cafaro and Renee Lynne Cafaro.

The Lincoln Building is now the J.J. and Janet Cafaro Hall, and the adjacent Phelps is now the Ronald G. Silvestri Hall. Silvestri, Janet Cafaro’s brother, attended YSU and was a successful local businessman





before passing away in 2013.

“Our heartfelt thanks to J.J. and Jan for their continued strong support,” YSU President Jim Tressel said.

Cafaro is founder and president of the J.J. Cafaro Investment Trust and the retired executive vice president of the Cafaro Co., one of the leading shopping center developers in the country. Mrs. Cafaro is the president of Silcor Oilfield Services and of Parkway Holdings, which owns commercial real estate.

[Read more \(https://ysu.edu/news/two-campus-buildings-renamed-recognition-jj-and-janet-cafaro-and-family\)](https://ysu.edu/news/two-campus-buildings-renamed-recognition-jj-and-janet-cafaro-and-family).

## MUSEUM BRINGS ARCHITECTURAL SWAGGER TO WICK AVENUE

Every day for the past three decades, thousands of students, faculty, staff, visitors or just passers-by walk or drive by a campus building, little realizing it's important



place in the world of architectural design – YSU's John J. McDonough Museum of Art on Wick Avenue.

Visit the [website \(https://www.gwathmey-siegel.com/portfolio/museums/\)](https://www.gwathmey-siegel.com/portfolio/museums/) of Gwathmey Siegel & Associates, the internationally-acclaimed architectural firm, and there you'll find the McDonough listed right next to the Beverly Hilton Hotel, the New York Public Library and the Guggenheim Museum.

Built on a sharply sloped site and featuring a spiral staircase and a slew of windows and skylights for an abundance of natural light, the museum marked its 30th anniversary last year of providing a venue for students, faculty and an array of visiting arts to display their works.

The museum was made possible by the generosity of local physician and avid art collector Dr. John J. McDonough. McDonough provided seed money for the museum by selling the painting, "Gloucester Harbor" by Childe Hassam, for just over \$1 million.

Read more (<https://ysu.edu/news/mcdonough-museum-marks-30th-event-oct-16>).

Visit (<https://ysu.edu/mcdonough-museum>) the McDonough Museum online.

## WILLIAMSON COLLEGE GETS NEW DEAN

Kelly Wilkinson, associate dean of the Scott College of Business at Indiana State University, is the new dean of the Williamson College of Business Administration at YSU.



"Dr. Wilkinson brings experience and a proven track record of success in higher education administration, which will be invaluable as we continue to implement our strategic plan," said Brien Smith, YSU provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

Wilkinson replaces Betty Jo Licata, who retired in December after nearly 27 years as dean.

"The college plays such an important role in the Mahoning Valley and Ohio, preparing career ready students as well as partnering with the community with innovative initiatives," Wilkinson said. "I look forward to being a part of the

community.”

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# Our DONORS

"WE SEE TOMORROW" CAMPAIGN CONCLUDES

## Kohlis' \$5M gift matches largest in YSU history

There's busy, and then there's – BUSY!

It's fair to say that YSU



*Dr. Chander Kohli and YSU President Jim Tressel at the news conference announcing the naming of Kohli Hall.*

philanthropy was BUSY this past summer and fall.

In a 14-week period between July and October 2021, YSU announced several millions of dollars in gifts from prominent donors, including a gift matching the largest ever for YSU from Dr. Chander Kohli and Karen Kohli.

The gifts created endowed professorships, renamed buildings and infused funds into academic programs ranging from Nursing to English.

In the midst of it all, dozens of donors from throughout the region gathered on the lawn of the Pollock House on campus to celebrate the conclusion of the university's historic "We See Tomorrow" campaign that raised a record \$126 million for YSU.

"We are simply overwhelmed by the generosity of the Mahoning Valley and alumni and friends across the nation," Campaign Chair Jocelyne Kollay Linsalata said about the seven-year fundraising effort.

The campaign, by far the largest in the YSU's history and believed to be the largest philanthropic effort ever across the Mahoning Valley, attracted 32,581 gifts, including 40 gifts of at least \$1 million.



(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JMKs7CrRNQ>)

*FANTASTIC 40: President Jim Tressel, addressing donors at the concluding event of the \$126 million "We See Tomorrow" campaign, listed the names of 40 donors giving \$1 million or more. [Click to Watch.](#)*

*(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JMKs7CrRNQ>)*

"Everywhere we went, when we spoke to people, their love for YSU was always at the center of every conversation," YSU President Jim Tressel said.

The campaign, led by the YSU Foundation, started in 2014 with a goal of \$100 million. By January 2020, the goal was reached, and



then increased to \$125 million – three times the size of the university’s last fund-raising campaign nearly 15 years ago. In fiscal years 2020 and 2021 alone – even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic – the campaign raised \$32.4 million in donations.

The final tally: \$126,187,126.

The money will be used in a variety of ways to help alleviate the financial burdens of students, improve faculty scholarly pursuits, bring state-of-the-art technology to classrooms and make YSU a hub of workforce development.

The Kohlis made the largest donation in the campaign, matching the largest donation in YSU history - \$5 million. Dr. Kohli is a local neurosurgeon and former chair of the YSU Board of Trustees. In turn, the new building housing the YSU Excellence Training Center was named Kohli Hall.

“YSU represents the Mahoning Valley’s best hope for the future,” Kohli said. President Tressel added, “This historic gift and the naming ensures that the Kohlis’ legacy will live forever.”

Other recent major gift announcements:

- John J. and Janet Cafaro and their daughters, Capri Silvestri Cafaro and Renee Lynne Cafaro, donated \$1.75 million. In turn, YSU renamed the Lincoln Building on campus as the J.J. and Janet Cafaro Hall, and also the adjacent Phelps Building as the Ronald G. Silvestri Hall, Janet Cafaro’s brother, a YSU alum and successful businessman who passed away in 2013. Cafaro is founder and president of the J.J. Cafaro Investment Trust and the retired executive vice president of the Cafaro Co. Mrs. Cafaro is the president of Silcor Oilfield Services and of Parkway Holdings, which owns commercial real estate.
- Nancy Wagner, whose leadership of YSU’s Centofanti School of Nursing has resulted in increased enrollment,

expanded community outreach, additional programming and enhanced fundraising, was named the first President James P. Tressel Endowed Chair in Leadership. The position was created through a \$1.6 million gift from a group of YSU Foundation trustees in recognition of Tressel and his 35 years of leadership.

- Richard Sokolov, vice chairman and a member of the board of directors of Simon Property Group, and his wife, Susan, made a major donation to rename the Sokolov Honors College and create a new community fellows program. Mr. Sokolov joined the Edward J. DeBartolo Corp. as senior vice president, Development and General Counsel, in 1982, and later became chief executive of DeBartolo Realty Corp. and then president and chief operating officer when DeBartolo merged with Simon Property Group
- Gwendolyn Thomas Watson and Janet Thomas Shanklin, daughters of the late Mahoning Valley businessman Paul J. Thomas and Marguerite Kauffman Thomas, donated \$500,000 to create the Marguerite Kauffman Thomas Scholarship for women pursuing STEM degrees. The daughters also made a \$1.5 million contribution to YSU in 2018 to create the Paul J. Thomas Chair in Economics.
- Patrick Durrell, professor of Astronomy, was named the inaugural Dr. Warren M. Young Chair in Physics and Astronomy. The position is named after Warren Young, retired YSU Physics and Astronomy professor and department chair and long-time director of the Ward Beecher Planetarium at YSU. Young's son, George, established the academic chair through a \$1.5 million endowment.
- Laura Beadling, associate professor of English and Film Studies, was named the inaugural Grace Ruth Memorial Endowed Professor of English. Robert Reeder III, a 1981

YSU graduate and now a partner in a New York law firm, donated \$1 million to create the professorship in honor of his grandmother, Grace Ruth, and a second professorship in honor of his grandfather, Robert W. Reeder I. “Endowed professors have a lasting impact, increasing the institution’s academic excellence and providing educational and scholarly opportunities,” Tressel said.

- Amy Weaver, an associate professor in the Centofanti School of Nursing, was designated the inaugural Patricia McGovern Sweeney Professor in Nursing. The professorship was established by way of a \$500,000 gift from Douglas Sweeney and his daughters - Carolyn Sweeney Berry, Andrea Sweeney Wagner and Alexa Sweeney Blackann - in honor of his wife and their mother Patricia’s lifelong career in the Nursing profession. The professorship is the latest of a long Sweeney family tradition of philanthropic support of YSU, amounting to more than \$1 million.

WE SEE

TOMORROW

THE CAMPAIGN FOR YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

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# Our ALUMNI



## ALUMNI RECEIVE CITYSCAPE HONOR

YSU alumni have been chosen to receive the 2022 David and Pat Sweet Grass Roots Award, honoring more than two decades of helping beautify downtown

Youngstown as part of Youngstown

CityScape's annual Streetscape Day

initiative. "Our alumni engage in the

Streetscape project as representatives of Youngstown State University, demonstrating the important partnership between the university and the city," said Heather Belgin, YSU associate director of Alumni and Events. "They look forward to being part of CityScape's remarkable beautification efforts each year." Since 2005, hundreds of YSU alumni, friends and family members have volunteered countless hours to help spruce-up the downtown region, mulching and planting flowers along





West Federal Street and up Fifth Avenue near the Madison Avenue Expressway, as well as the hillside below Choffin Career Center. The annual event attracts about 50 alumni on average per year, adding to the event's 600+ volunteers. **[Read more. \(https://ysu.edu/news/cityscape-recognizes-ysu-alumni-20-years-volunteer-work\)](https://ysu.edu/news/cityscape-recognizes-ysu-alumni-20-years-volunteer-work)**

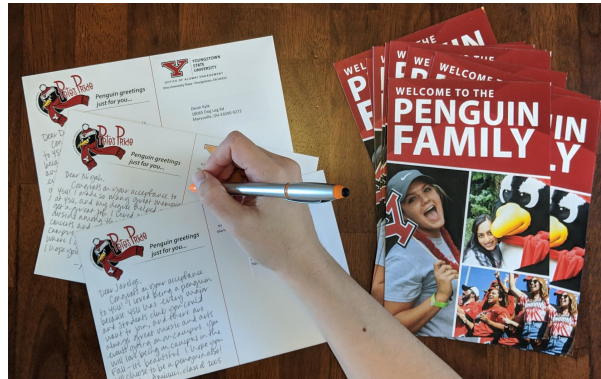
## NEW LGBTQ+ ALUMNI CHAPTER LAUNCHES STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND

The new LGBTQ+ Alumni Chapter at YSU, which has grown to more than 100 members since its founding just a little more than a year ago, has launched the LGBTQ+ Student Emergency Fund, aimed at fostering equity for YSU students that identify as LGBTQ and are experiencing financial hardships. To donate, visit this [site \(https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E154574&id=64\)](https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E154574&id=64), select "other", and then type LGBTQ Emergency Fund to ensure your donation is allocated properly, or send donations to the YSU Foundation, 655 Wick Ave., Youngstown, OH 44502, with memo "LGBTQ+ Emergency Fund". "The alumni group has been gathering support with each month we are together," said Cathy Lucas, who earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology from YSU in 2001 and is one of the leaders of the new chapter. "It's been a privilege to hear stories of YSU LGBTQ+ alumni who graduated before me, and wonderful to see the progress of younger graduates who are able to embrace legal rights that we did not have access to not long ago." **[Read more. \(https://ysu.edu/news/new-lgbtq-alumni-chapter-launches-student-emergency-fund\)](https://ysu.edu/news/new-lgbtq-alumni-chapter-launches-student-emergency-fund)**



## PETE'S PRIDE POSTCARD WRITING CAMPAIGN

Would you like to give back through personal outreach to students who are planning their futures? Sign up for the Pete's Pride postcard writing campaign. You'll have an impact on YSU's



student recruitment efforts at your convenience from the comfort of home. Contact Brittany Defibaugh, Alumni Engagement coordinator, at [bldefibaugh@ysu.edu](mailto:bldefibaugh@ysu.edu) (<mailto:bldefibaugh@ysu.edu>) or 330-941-7170. More information [here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSebML5qNHcZUDau7WAm0N2pUXEzmpuWPAS0I5GN_E-R0y37Iw/viewform) ([https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSebML5qNHcZUDau7WAm0N2pUXEzmpuWPAS0I5GN\\_E-R0y37Iw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSebML5qNHcZUDau7WAm0N2pUXEzmpuWPAS0I5GN_E-R0y37Iw/viewform)).

## ALUMNI LEGACY SCHOLARSHIPS

YSU has a rich tradition of family attendance and graduation. The legacy of a child following in the footsteps of a parent/guardian toward attaining a degree from the same alma mater is indeed a cherished tradition.

The Office of Alumni Engagement is proud to offer five \$1000 Legacy Scholarships to children of YSU alumni. The application can be downloaded [here](/sites/default/files/magazine/2022/01/legacyscholarshipapplication_ADA.pdf) ([/sites/default/files/magazine/2022/01/legacyscholarshipapplication\\_ADA.pdf](/sites/default/files/magazine/2022/01/legacyscholarshipapplication_ADA.pdf)) and must be submitted no later than **March 1, 2022**. Email [alumni@ysu.edu](mailto:alumni@ysu.edu) (<mailto:alumni@ysu.edu>) for more information.

## PENGUINS EVERYWHERE!

YSU alumni are everywhere. [Update your contact information](https://ysu.edu/alumni-events/ysu-alumni-update-form) (<https://ysu.edu/alumni-events/ysu-alumni-update-form>) to be

added to the chapter email list near you. For more information, contact Heather Belgin, associate director of Alumni and Events, at [habelgin@ysu.edu](mailto:habelgin@ysu.edu) (<mailto:habelgin@ysu.edu>) or 330-941-1591.

## Youngstown State University Alumni Chapters



NATIONWIDE CHAPTERS

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT VIDEOS

The YSU Office of Alumni Engagement is releasing a series of Alumni Spotlight videos featuring interesting graduates doing interesting things in interesting places around the world. Watch the videos and stay tuned for more on [Alumni Engagement's new website \(http://alumni.ysu.edu\)](http://alumni.ysu.edu) or on [AE's Facebook page \(https://www.facebook.com/ysualumni\)](https://www.facebook.com/ysualumni).

Here are the videos so far:

### ANGEL RIVERA, BACHELOR OF FASHION MERCHANDISING, 2003

Angel Rivera is a bridal gown designer and owner of Angel Rivera Couture. After earning his YSU degree, Rivera moved to New York and worked with the industry's top fashion houses, including the world-famous Kleinfeld. He also continued his studies in pattern making at the Parsons School of Design. "A

wedding dress is the most important garment a woman will ever wear, and one that she will always remember and treasure," he says.

### Alumni Spotlight: Angel Rivera '03



## **WILLIAM HARTMAN, BACHELOR IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, 1964.**

William Hartman, who also holds a master's degree in Industrial Administration from the University of Michigan, is now president and chief executive of Halberd Corp., whose patented extracorporeal treatment is applicable to many hard-to-cure blood-borne and neurologic diseases, including Covid-19, other viruses, PTSD, cancer, etc. Hartman previously held executive leadership positions with Premier Biomedical and Nanologix, as well as TRW Automotive. He also was manager of Quality at Ford Motor Co., Transmission and Chassis Division, overseeing eight domestic production plants and three plans in Europe and Asia. At TRW, he founded and headed a separate business group with plants in the United States, Mexico and Europe with combined annual sales of \$1.3 billion.

### Alumni Spotlight: William A. Hartman '64



### HEATHER MORAN, BACHELOR OF BIOLOGY, 1993

Heather Moran teaches Advanced Biology at Boardman High School. Moran, who has taught Biology and Environmental Science in public schools for more than 25 years, was named Environmental Teacher of the Year by the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation in 2020. She has led student groups to study science in Iceland, the Bahamas and across the United States.

### Alumni Spotlight, Heather Moran '93



### NOËLLY LONGI NSIMBA, BACHELOR DEGREE IN



## KINESIOLOGY AND EXERCISE SCIENCE, 2018

Noëly Longi Nsimba had an amazing tennis career at YSU and professionally, which led to travel all over the world. Now she's working on her first jazz album and is auditioning for "The Voice UK."

Alumni Spotlight, Noëly Longi Nsimba '18



## STEVE BARTOLIN, BACHELOR IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, 1975

Steve Bartolin is chairman of the Broadmoor Resort Hotel in Colorado Springs, Col., and president of the Broadmoor Sea Island Co. The Broadmoor is the longest-running 5-star resort in America.

## YSU Alumni Spotlight: Steve Bartolin '75



## DEXTER CAFFEY, BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION IN FINANCE, 1995

Dexter Caffey founded an alternative investment firm in 1998 at the age of 25, and for the past 20 years has been working with major publicly traded U.S. companies through his firm, Caffey Investment Group. Caffey now lives in Atlanta, is a volunteer at the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta and the non-profit organization Conexx, the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce. He also is a board member of the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust.

## Alumni Spotlight: Dexter Caffey '95



# In Every Issue

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[CLASS NOTES \(/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2022/CLASS-NOTES\)](/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2022/CLASS-NOTES)

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[CLASS NOTES - EXTRAS \(/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2022/CLASS-NOTES-EXTRAS\)](/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2022/CLASS-NOTES-EXTRAS)

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YOUNGSTOWN  
STATE UNIVERSITY

# Excellence at Work

An e-newsletter for faculty and staff scholarly achievements

Feb. 9, 2022

From social media, spatial distribution and Shakespeare to cottontail rabbits, white-tailed deer and three-toed sloths, this edition of *Excellence @ Work* celebrates the diverse scholarly activities and interests of 53 YSU faculty across campus. Enjoy!

## FEATURED

A picture might actually be even better than a thousand words.

That's the upshot of a new article by a group of YSU researchers, "[A Picture is Worth 1,000 Words: Retention of Material Through Use of Image Only Slides](#)," in *Criminal Justice Perspectives*.

The team includes, pictured from left, **Dana Davis**, chair and associate professor of Social Work; **Joe Sanson**, associate professor of Computer Science, Information and Engineering Technology; **John M. Hazy**, chair and associate professor of Criminal Justice and Consumer Sciences; **Monica Merrill**, assistant professor of Criminal Justice; and **Katie Allen** (seated), social worker at Akron Children's Hospital and a former graduate assistant of Social Work at YSU.



In the study, about 90 undergraduate students completed a pre-test right after viewing PPT slides, and a post-test two weeks later. Results suggest students retain more information viewing the image-only slides. "This is important," Davis said, "because students may be better able to retain information and apply those concepts to their future jobs with image-only learning materials."

## PRESENTATIONS

Adjunct **Jessica Basile**, Associate Professor **Jennifer Behney** and Professor **John Sarkissian** of English and World Languages presented at the national convention of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. The presentation, "Voice Off Zoom On: Challenges of Teaching ASL During a Pandemic," addressed the challenges teaching a signed language as compared to a spoken language in an online format during the pandemic.

The Dana Piano Quartet (**Kivie Cahn-Lipman**, assistant professor; **Wendy Case**, lecturer; **Michael Strauss**, part-time faculty; and **Cicilia Yudha**, associate professor) and **Alice Wang**, professor, performed two pieces for the Ohio Realtors Association Executives conference in Youngstown.

**Cicilia Yudha**, associate professor, Dana School of Music, was invited to present at the Frances Clark Center for Keyboard Pedagogy's "From the Artist Bench" Series. She discussed the founding father of Indonesian contemporary music, Slamet Abdul Sjukur.

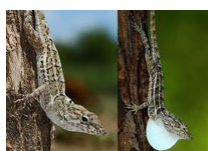


## FEATURED



**Loren Lease**, professor of Anthropology, was featured in the recent WKBN-TV story "**Multiple agencies team up in search of Youngstown's missing persons.**" Lease works closely with Youngstown police and the Mahoning County coroner to assist identifying remains. "These are families who have lost a member, friends who have lost a friend," Lease says. "If I can help, that's important."

## PUBLICATIONS



**Michael Butcher**, professor of Biological Sciences, is co-author of the following scholarly articles: "Only the Good Die Old?"

Ontogenetic Determinants of Locomotor Performance in Eastern

## SABBATICALS/FILS

The following YSU faculty members have received Sabbaticals and Faculty Improvement Leaves for the 2022-23 academic year:

### Sabbatical:

- **Thomas Madsen**, Mathematics and Statistics.



Cottontail Rabbits (*Sylvilagus floridanus*)” in *Integrative Organismal Biology*; “Myology of the pelvic limb of the brown-throated three-toed sloth (*Bradypus variegatus*)” in the *Journal of Anatomy*; “Muscle architecture properties in the pelvic limb of three-toed slothes” in *Integrative and Comparative Biology*; “Development of locomotor performance in cottontail rabbits” in *Integrative Organismal Biology*; and “A Buff *Bradypus* or an Elephantine Edentate? Physiological and Ecological Insights into Giant Ground Slother Integument” in *Integrative and Comparative Biology*.



“The Tiger and the Clover” is the title of a new album now available on **YouTube** by violinist **Wendy Case**, a lecturer in the Dana School of Music. “Created during circumstances of unusual adversity during the pandemic of 2020 and 2021, this album explores converging and contrasting perceptions through the eyes of a diverse group of composers,” **Case** says.

An [article](#) titled “Expert Insights on Federal Funding Disparities” by **William Binning**, emeritus professor

## Faculty Improvement Leaves:

- **Ganesaratnam Balendiran**, Chemical and Biological Sciences.
- **Brian Bonhomme**, Humanities and Social Sciences.
- **Kivie Cahn-Lipman**, Dana School of Music.
- **Eleanor Congdon**, Humanities and Social Sciences.
- **Ramesh Dangol**, Management and Marketing.
- **Tomi Ovaska**, Accounting and Finance.
- **Martha Pallante**, Humanities and Social Sciences.

## PROFESSORSHIPS

Additive manufacturing, suicide, Shakespeare, machine learning, burying beetles, opioids, hybrid functional medical implants and “The Seven Deadly Sins in Spanish Dystopian Fiction” are among the topics that 23 YSU faculty members will explore during Research Professorships in the 2022-23 academic year:

- **Christopher Arntsen**, Chemical and Biological Sciences, “Computational Investigation of the Charge Transfer Mechanism in Protic Ionic Liquids.”
- **Ewelina Boczkowska**, Dana School of Music, “Documenting Exile: Memory and Identity in the Music of Jerzy Fitelberg, A Monograph.”
- **Vamsi Borra**, Engineering, “Additive Manufacturing of Microwave Imaging Antenna for Medical Applications.”
- **Kristin Bruns**, Psychological

and chair, Political Science, appears in *MoneyGeek*. In the commentary, Binning talks about why some states receive more federal funding than others, the role that federal funding plays in state government finances and more.

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**Suresh Sharma,**

associate professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, is co-author of "Investigating the Impact of Climate



Change on River Ice Thickness across the Northern Belt of United States," which has been accepted for publication in the *ISH Journal of Hydraulic Engineering*. Mehmet Akif Nalbant is co-author. Sharma also co-authored "Monitoring Ungagged Coastal Marsh to Analyze the Salinity Interaction of Marsh with Lake Erie" in *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment*. Co-authors include **Pravakar Khadka**, former YSU graduate research assistant.

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**Snjezana Balaz**, assistant professor of Astronomy, Geology and Environmental Science, recently co-authored "**Deep Level Defect Spectroscopies of Complex Oxide Surfaces and Interfaces**" in the *Journal of Vacuum Science & Technology*.

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**Jonathan Caguiat**, associate professor of Biological and Chemical Sciences, and **Georgina Baya**, YSU

- Sciences and Counseling, "Suicide Competencies for Counselors in Training Scale."
- **Laura Calcagni**, Nursing, "Post-conference Debriefing Methods for Clinical Judgement Development in Nursing Students."
  - **Maria Conti Maravillas**, English and World Languages, "A Stronger Teacher Because I Tutored First: Graduate Teaching Assistants' Experiences with Online Teaching and Tutoring."
  - **Thomas Diggins**, Chemical and Biological Sciences, "Quantification of a 'cultural refugium' from white-tailed deer over-browsing in eastern forests."
  - **Sahar Ehsani**, Engineering, "A study on the collective effects of nutrient concentrations, water conditions, and geology on the spatial distribution and concentration of heavy metals in the Mahoning River."
  - **Kendra Fowler**, Management and Marketing, "Social Media Influencers Collaborations."
  - **Timothy Francisco**, English and World Languages, "Placing whiteness through Shakespeare's Othello and "I' the midst o' the body": Militarism, Posthumanism and Cyborg capitalism in Shakespeare's Coriolanus."
  - **Lucy Kerns**, Mathematics and Statistics, "Quantitative Risk Assessment with Chemical Mixtures using Benchmark Dose Modeling."
  - **Alena Kirova**, English and World Languages, "Moving Existing Research to Publication – Finding the Time."
  - **Seok Gi Lee**, Engineering, "Predicting patients administered

graduate research assistant, are co-authors of an **article** published in *Micromachines*, titled "Potential Whole-Cell Biosensors for Detection of Metal Using MerR Family Proteins from *Enterobacter* sp. YSU and *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia* OR02."

## AWARDS



**Weiqing Ge**, professor of Physical Therapy, received the Lynda B. Woodruff Award of Excellence in Diversity, Equity

& Inclusion from the Academy of Clinical Electrophysiology & Wound Management. Ge accepted the honor at the American Physical Therapy Association's Combined Sections meeting in San Antonio, Texas. In addition, Ge and **Maggie Glaros**, a student in YSU's Doctor of Physical Therapy program, presented a poster titled, "Could Shear Wave Elastography Change the Way We View Sternal Precautions?" In all, 14 third-year and 19 second-year YSU DPT students attended the conference.

## APPOINTED



**Kate Ferguson**, director of Athletic Bands at

or prescribed opioids in emergency departments: a combinational optimization approach."

- **Xiangjia Min**, Chemical and Biological Sciences, "Comparative Analyses of Alternatively Spliced Genes in Different Plant Species."
- **Nguyet Nguyen**, Mathematics and Statistics, "Machine Learning Models for Pricing Car's Insurance."
- **Caroline Oltmanns**, Music, "Theme and Variations, Passacaglias and Chaconnes."
- **Diana Palardy**, English and World Languages, "A World of Vices: The Seven Deadly Sins in Spanish Dystopian Fiction."
- **Stefania Panaitof**, Chemical and Biological Sciences, "Exploring the role of dopamine in biparental care in the burying beetles."
- **Jae Joong Ryu**, Engineering, "Manufacturing of Hybrid Functional Medical Implants: Influence of Forge Pressure on Dissimilar Laser Welded Joints."
- **Bradley Shellito**, Humanities and Social Sciences, "The Secret History of Youngstown."
- **Constantin Solomon**, Engineering, "Additive Manufacturing of DC magnetron sputtering targets: Influence of target characteristics on the thin film properties."
- **Yogesh Uppal**, Accounting and Finance, "Economic Performance and Opioid Crisis."
- **Feng Yu**, Computer Science, Information and Engineering Technology, "Developing a Fast Error Assessment Framework for Approximate Query Processing on Big Data."

YSU, is the [new director of Phantom Regiment Academy](#). The Academy features a world-class drum corps and also runs camps in several states, high school marching band competitions and a concert band festival. Ferguson came to YSU in 2021.

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***Excellence at Work***, published by the YSU Office of Marketing and Communications, recognizes and celebrates the scholarly work and honors of the faculty and staff of Youngstown State University. To submit items for inclusion, complete the **online form**.

For more information, contact Ron Cole, director of University Communications, at [racole01@ysu.edu](mailto:racole01@ysu.edu) or 330-941-3285, or Becky Rose, assistant director of University Communications, at [rarose01@ysu.edu](mailto:rarose01@ysu.edu) or 330-941-2159.



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