



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

SABBATICALS/FILS

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

Sabbatical:



Die Old? Ontogenetic Determinants of Locomotor Performance in Eastern 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

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

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

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 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.

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.



Snjezana Balaz, assistant professor of Astronomy, Geology and Environmental Science, recently co-authored “**Deep Level Defect Spectroscopies of Complex**

- Microwave Imaging Antenna for Medical Applications.”
- **Kristin Bruns**, Psychological 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

Oxide Surfaces and Interfaces" in the *Journal of Vacuum Science & Technology*.

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

Languages, "Moving Existing Research to Publication – Finding the Time."

- **Seok Gi Lee**, Engineering, "Predicting patients administered or prescribed opioids in emergency departments: a combinatorial 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,

attended the conference.

Information and Engineering Technology, “Developing a Fast Error Assessment Framework for Approximate Query Processing on Big Data.”

APPOINTED



Kate Ferguson,
director of
Athletic Bands at

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.

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**.

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