

Macte Virtute

BE INCREASED IN MERIT

After a career spanning 40 years here at YSU, how do Ellen and I possibly begin to sufficiently thank the literally thousands of people we have had the honor to work with on behalf of Youngstown State University?

Ellen's connection to YSU is lifelong - a native of the Mahoning Valley, a graduate of YSU, with her father serving on the YSU Board of Trustees and both of her parents dedicating so much of their time and treasure to make the university what it is today. I made my way here in 1986 and was thrilled to watch a football program and a university blossom into national prominence; and then after a few years with the Buckeyes in Columbus, I was so privileged and blessed to return to campus in 2014 as president.



Jim and Ellen Tressel

It's been a busy nearly nine years, and together we've accomplished much. Graduation rates are up significantly. Supporters have donated record amounts of money. The university scored high marks on its national accreditation report. The number of international students, honors students and student-athletes continues to grow. We are offering more online courses, more student scholarships and more student

housing options than ever before. We have partnered with business and industry, created a comprehensive workforce development initiative and won a record-setting number grants. Our students excel in national and international settings. Thousands of our alumni and other supporters volunteer countless hours to numerous causes in our Pete's Pride initiatives. The list goes on and on.

While Ellen and I appreciate the thanks and pats-on-the-backs that we've received for our work, we, in turn, want all of you to know that none of this – none – gets done without the hard, hard work of so many people throughout the campus, the region, the state and beyond. It doesn't get done without university trustees who are heartfelt and committed to YSU's continued success; without alumni and donors who see YSU and our students as central to the region's future; without public officials who appreciate the important role that YSU plays in the Mahoning Valley's resurgence; without faculty who dedicate themselves to the success of their students both in and out of the classroom; without administrators and staff whose difficult work often goes unnoticed and underappreciated; and, it doesn't get done without students, whose enthusiasm, energy and youthful drive enlivens campus and inspires us all.

So, as Ellen and I move into our next chapter (and certainly that chapter will continue to include YSU!), we say simply – thank you.

We are always....Y and Proud.

Go Penguins,

Jim and Ellen Tressel

In Every Issue

[CLASS NOTES \(/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/CLASS-
NOTES\)](https://ysu.edu/magazine/winter-2023/class-notes)

OUR ALUMNI (/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/OUR-ALUMNI)

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))

PAST ISSUES ([HTTPS://ISSUU.COM
/YOUNGSTOWNSTATE/DOCS](https://issuu.com/youngstownstate/docs))



FEATURE

Q & A with Interim President Dr. Helen K. Lafferty

In October 2022, the Youngstown State University Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Helen K. Lafferty as interim president of YSU upon the departure of President Jim Tressel. Lafferty, long-time professor and administrator at Villanova University in Pennsylvania, will assume the interim role on Feb. 1, 2023, and will serve in that role while the Board undertakes a national search for YSU's 10th president.



Lafferty, looking forward to her time on campus, took some time to share with *YSU Magazine* a little bit about her background, her goals as interim president and what YSU means to her.

"I am thrilled and excited to be serving Youngstown State University as the Interim President," says Lafferty. "I am coming home and it is simply a great place to be — I am back where it all started. The Ursuline Sisters and YSU set the stage for me. Hopefully, I have made them proud, using the gifts they gave me to make others' lives better."

Share with us a bit about your background, and specifically about your journey into higher education?

I was born and raised in Youngstown, Ohio, the oldest of three daughters. After graduating from Ursuline High School, I enrolled at YSU where I received my Bachelor of Science degree and then my Master of

Science degree. After I married (my husband is also a graduate of YSU) we moved to Pittsburgh, where I was appointed principal of a high school and began working on my Ph.D. at the University of Pittsburgh. Shortly thereafter, we moved to Philadelphia, and I began working at Villanova University. I have held a number of positions there: associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University Vice President for 16 years, graduate faculty member in the Department of Education and Counseling, teaching graduate students in the higher education track. Recently, I was appointed Global/National member of the YSU Board of Trustees, a position I held for two years until I was appointed interim president.

What is your leadership style?

My leadership style/s are determined by the issues/concerns needing decisions. Primarily, I follow a transformational style of leadership combining it with a social justice model of leadership. I believe that effective and inclusive leadership has the power to advance humanity in productive ways that make us all better. As Eleanor Roosevelt reminds us: "Good leaders inspire people to have confidence in their leaders. Great leaders inspire people to have confidence in themselves."

What does the role of interim president mean for you, and can you share your top priorities? What do you hope to accomplish as interim president?

Being interim president at YSU means I have a limited time with the community. While my stay will not be a lengthy one, I am confident that our working together will be both productive and purposeful, centered on advancing the YSU mission and the Strategic Plan. As stated in the mission: "YSU is an institution of opportunity: YSU inspires individuals, enhances futures, and enriches lives." My interim presidency will focus on these objectives, especially for our students.

We are a student-centered University built on academic excellence, using the gifts we have been given to enrich our culture and region.

Spring semester is a really exciting time on campus, what are you looking forward to most in the coming months?

I am really looking forward to immersing myself in the various activities of campus during my time here. Universities are exciting places to work, since the future of our world is right here with us each day. They are in our classrooms, on our athletic fields, in our student life and service offices. They do extraordinary things, and I intend to enjoy and rejoice in all of it during my presidency.

YSU obviously means a lot to you. Thinking about the transition to a new president, what do you hope for the future of YSU?

My hope is that YSU continues to be that strong beacon of opportunity it has become. YSU is blessed with excellent faculty, dedicated staff and terrific students. Learning is our focal point and purpose. We can expect great things when we stay focused on learning and serving in meaningful ways.

What does this transition mean for the Plan for Strategic Actions to Take Charge of Our Future?

Our Strategic Plan is an organic and living document. Hopefully, it will change with the changing needs of students and faculty and be under constant growth and revision. I believe the best decisions are always the ones that can be reassessed. YSU is blessed with a Strategic Plan that is future-oriented, always reflecting the needs of the University community.

How long do you anticipate serving in the interim position? Are you interested in the permanent position, will you be a candidate as the university looks for a new president?

I will be the interim president until the search process

has concluded and the permanent president has been named. I will not be a candidate for the position.

If you had to describe YSU in three words, what would they be?

If asked to describe YSU in three words, I would say it is a place "transforming minds and hearts!"

In Every Issue

[MACTE VIRTUTE \(/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/MACTE-VIRTUTE\)](/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/MACTE-VIRTUTE)

[CLASS NOTES \(/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/CLASS-NOTES\)](/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/CLASS-NOTES)

[OUR ALUMNI \(/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/OUR-ALUMNI\)](/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/OUR-ALUMNI)

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)

[PAST ISSUES \(HTTPS://ISSUU.COM /YOUNGSTOWNSTATE/DOCS\)](https://issuu.com/youngstownstate/docs)



CLASS | NOTES

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

'50s

U.S. Army Cpl. **William Blascak**, 1958, Biology, was among 13 veterans honored at Austintown's 16th annual Patriots Day celebration. A Girard native, Blascak was drafted into the Army in 1952 and was trained to be an Airborne Military Policeman, serving with the 503th Regimental Combat Team. He returned to the Mahoning Valley and used the GI Bill to earn a degree from YSU, where he later taught Biology for 25 years.

[Top](#)

'70s



Joe Meranto

Joe Meranto, 1972, Education, and 1975, master of Education, was appointed a member of the Youngstown Board of Education. Meranto's career in education spans 50 years, including superintendent of the Youngstown City Schools from 2017 to 2022. He previously was the executive director of Choffin Career and Technical Center for 14 years, and he also worked as a high school and K-8 principal and teacher.

Terry A. Moore, 1977, Political Science, has been named chair of the board of directors at Farmers National Banc Corp. Moore joined the board in April 2014 and also serves on the compensation, and corporate governance and nominating committees. At YSU, he was an All-American athlete and co-captain of the basketball team and later earned a law degree from the University of Cincinnati. From 2001 to 2018, he was managing director of the Canton-based law firm of Krugliak, Wilkins, Griffiths & Dougherty Co., L.P.A.

Richard Broda, 1977, Applied Science and Technology, has retired as a lieutenant colonel in the Department of Defense, where he served for nearly four decades. He was a rifleman/paratrooper, logistician and acquisition officer following his Army ROTC commissioning. During his YSU years, he participated in Greek intramural sports programs for softball, flag football, swimming and basketball, as well as ROTC riflery. He was a member of the ROTC Honor Society Scabbard and Blade, and the Phi Kappa Tau president. He continued service within DoD following his military retirement as a senior acquisition manager and obtained his civilian license as a Certified Professional Contracts Manager as well as several other DoD contracting certifications. He led organizations that managed contracts for construction, food, supplies, services, medical research and development, and aviation weapon systems with a portfolio valuation over \$2.7 billion.

[Top](#)

'80s

Chuck George, 1981, Accounting, is the inaugural recipient of the Business Journal's Brain Gain Excellence in Entrepreneurship Award, recognizing individuals who have leveraged local resources to kick-start fresh ideas into promising businesses. George, a member of the YSU Board of Trustees, is chief executive of Hapco Inc., Strangepresse and Triptech, chief

financial officer of Big Metal Additive and co-founder of Greenboard IT. He worked for 17 years at Packer, Thomas & Co. in Youngstown, serving as company president and senior shareholder. **WATCH** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOL24Jnbwlg>)



Chuck George

Brook Walton, 1986, Criminal Justice, recently retired after 32 years with the U.S. Secret Service. He retired with the rank of captain, serving and protecting each president, vice president, their families, and foreign dignitaries, since 1987.

Brian E. Edwards, 1987, Chemical Engineering, has been named to the Board of Directors of Cheniere Energy Inc. Edwards is a senior vice president of Caterpillar Inc. with responsibility for the Caterpillar Remanufacturing Division. He joined Caterpillar in 2010 as vice president of Sales and Marketing at Caterpillar's wholly owned subsidiary, Progress Rail. He previously spent more than 20 years in manufacturing, engineering and supply chain roles at General Electric Co. and General Motors Co. He also holds a master's degree in Manufacturing Management from Kettering University.



Brian Edwards



Ned Bassil

Ned M. Bassil, 1987, Electrical Engineering, 1991, master's of Electrical Engineering, has been named chief executive officer of Indevco North America, a paper, paperboard and plastic packaging manufacturer. Bassil was previously with Beckway Group, where he served as an operating partner liaising with a wide range of industrial and consumer product goods clients. Before Beckway, Bassil worked in the building material distribution industry as senior vice president of product

management at PrimeSource and as chief supply chain officer at BlueLinx. He also holds a master of Business Administration in Finance from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Jeff Good, 1987, Speech Communications, was recently named to the Mahoning County Career and Technical Center governing board in Canfield. Good is chief education technology officer at PBS Western Reserve. The center provides career courses and education to middle school, high school and adult learners. He was appointed by the Educational Service Center of Eastern Ohio, on whose governing board he has served since 2017.



Jeff Good

Patricia Mishic O'Brien, 1989, Business Administration, has been appointed to the board of 5E Advanced Materials Inc., a boron and lithium company with U.S. government critical infrastructure designation for its 5E Boron Americas Complex. Mishic O'Brien was most recently the chief commercial officer at CoorsTek Inc, a global manufacturer of engineered ceramics for industries including green energy, semiconductors, aerospace, defense, medical devices and electric vehicles. She also previously was chief marketing officer and executive vice president for A. Schulman Inc. and a global director of Marketing Excellence for Dow Inc.

[Top](#)

'90s

The Rev. **John-Michael Lavelle**, 1990, Elementary Education, has been named director of Stewardship and Development in the Catholic Diocese of Youngstown. He also will remain vicar for missionary discipleship and pastor of St. Michael Parish in Canfield. Lavelle was appointed vicar for missionary discipleship



*Rev. John-
Michael Lavelle*

in 2021, and serves on the Diocesan Administrative Board, Diocesan Presbyteral Council, the Diocese of Youngstown Foundation and the Catholic Charities Regional Agency Board. Lavelle was ordained in 2000 and has served as pastor at Immaculate Conception Parish, Ravenna, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Niles, and as associate pastor at Saint Mary Parish, Massillon, and Saint Christine Parish, Youngstown. He also holds master's degrees in both Divinity and Religious Education from Saint Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, and a doctorate in Ministry from Saint Mary Seminary, Cleveland.

U.S. Army Sgt. **Mickey Nuzzo**, 1990, Applied Science and Technology, was among 13 veterans honored at Austintown's 16th annual Patriots Day celebration. Nuzzo was working at Youngstown Sheet and Tube when he was called up in 1969. He became a combat medic in Vietnam with the 14th Corps Artillery, providing fire support in the north at places like Khe Sahn, Dong Ha and Con Thien. Among other awards, he earned two Bronze Star medals. He went on get a degree from YSU and continued a career in medicine as a physician's surgical assistant.

Richard Kaglic, 1991, Economics, and 1992, master's of Economics, was the speaker at the Annual Economic Outlook Luncheon presented by Mutual Federal in partnership with the Sidney-Shelby County Chamber of Commerce and the Sidney-Shelby County YMCA. Kaglic is vice president and senior regional officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, Cincinnati Branch. He joined the Federal Reserve System in 1994 as a senior business economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, and subsequently was a senior regional economist at the Charlotte Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. Prior to his service in the Federal Reserve System, Kaglic was a senior



Richard Kaglic

economist at Eaton Corporation and the chief economist at the Washington Employment Security Department.



John Spivey

John Spivey, 1993, Sociology, is the new facilities coordinator for the Raymond John Wean Foundation. Spivey maintains the functionality, safety, maintenance and health and vitality of the foundation offices. In addition to being a small business owner for over 20 years, Spivey was employed as specialist/job developer at Coleman Behavior Health.

Atty. **Susan E. Petersen**, 1993, Telecommunication, has been elected to the Board of Governors of the International Society of Barristers. In addition, Petersen is a board member for the Cleveland Academy of Trial Attorneys, past president of the Ohio Women's Bar Association and a long-time member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum. She has been selected an Ohio "Super Lawyer" for the last dozen years and also as a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates. She also served 10 years on the board of the Ohio Association for Justice.



*Susan E.
Petersen*

William Toby Gibson, 1998, Elementary Education, 2004, master's of administration and Superintendent Licensure, was recently inducted into the 2022 Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame at Brookfield High School. Gibson initially worked in Farrell, Pa., and Warren City schools before going to Brookfield schools in 2000. He spent 10 years as a middle school teacher in math, science, social studies, world studies and American history. In 2011, he was named Brookfield Elementary School principal and, in 2016 became Brookfield Middle School principal. He was named Brookfield's superintendent in 2019.

A new exhibit in the Mesaros Gallery of the Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown features works by **Maple Turner III**, 1999, bachelor of Fine Arts. The exhibit, titled "The Journey,"



includes 65 pieces dating to 1969, during Turner's time at East High School in Youngstown. After earning his degree from YSU, Turner moved to New York to pursue a career as an artist,

selling paintings to numerous galleries and private collectors and earning an associate's degree in Fine Arts from the Parsons School of Design and a master's of Fine Arts from City College. Watch. (<https://www.wkbn.com/news/local-news/elite-artists-exhibit-opens-at-the-butler-art-institute/>)

Top

'00s

Mary Beth Messner, 2000, English, is the author of "[A Safe Place to Explore: The Value of Honors in Higher Education](https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nchcjournal/731/)" in the *Journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council*. The article appeared in the Journal's special edition on "The Value of Honors to its Graduates." Messner was part of the YSU University Scholars and Honors Program from 1996 to 2000 and is currently director of Elearning at Walsh University.



Lumi Bakos

Lumi Bakos, 2001, International Business, and 2002, master's in Economics, is the new associate vice president for Research Operations at the University of South Carolina. Bakos started her administrative career in USC's Sponsored Awards Management Office in 2006 as a sponsored program administrator and later senior sponsored program administrator in 2010.

Bakos then took a position in the Arnold School of Public Health

as senior development grant specialist and subsequently as director of the Arnold School of Public Health Office of Research. With the help of her staff, Bakos oversaw the college's all-time high of \$47.3 million in research awards in fiscal year 2022. In July 2021, Bakos joined the Office of the Vice President for Research as senior advisor, and in July 2022 took her current position. Bakos is married to Jason D. Bakos, 1999, Computer Science.

Michelle Panuccio, 2002, Professional Writing and Editing, is the author of "[Valuing Diversity \(https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nchcjournal/738/\)](https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nchcjournal/738/)" in the *Journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council*. The article appeared in the Journal's special edition on "The Value of Honors to its Graduates." Panuccio is director of Enterprise Portfolio Management with Centivo.

Mollie Hartup, 2002, Telecommunication Studies and Geography, and 2004, master's of Business Administration, and current student **Julie Centofanti**, published an essay titled "[Serving through Transcribing: Preserving History while Building Community \(https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1363&context=nchchip\)](https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1363&context=nchchip)" in the peer-reviewed honors journal, *Honors in Practice*. Hartup, former editor of the *YSU Magazine*, is director of the Sokolov Honors College at YSU. Centofanti is a student in the college.



<https://spectrumnews1.com/oh/columbus/news/2022/10/08/elementary-educator-is-2023-ohio-teacher-of-the>

year#:~:text=Melissa%20Kmetz%20is%20a%20third,Ohio%20Teacher%20

Kmetz, 2003, Education – Early Childhood P-3, and 2007, master’s as a Reading Specialist, is Ohio’s 2023 Teacher of the Year. Kmetz is a third grade language arts teacher and grade level chairperson at Lakeview Elementary School in Cortland. “There are so many wonderful things going on in education and the communities don’t always get to see that,” Kmetz told Spectrum News about the honor. “So hopefully I can just kind of shine a light on that.” Kmetz began her career teaching kindergarten and first grade in Salem, Ohio, where she secured a Martha Holden Jennings Grant to Educators to open a literacy lending library. In 2006, she moved to Lakeview schools, where she taught third grade for the past 17 years. She has completed professional development at Harvard Graduate School of Education and, in 2010, developed a “Change the World Project” in her school district. She was nominated for the Ohio Teacher of the Year award by a parent of one of her former students.

WATCH: Spectrum News1 ([https://spectrumnews1.com/oh/columbus/news/2022/10/08/elementary-educator-is-2023-ohio-teacher-of-the-](https://spectrumnews1.com/oh/columbus/news/2022/10/08/elementary-educator-is-2023-ohio-teacher-of-the-year#:~:text=Melissa%20Kmetz%20is%20a%20third,Ohio%20Teacher%20)

year#:~:text=Melissa%20Kmetz%20is%20a%20third,Ohio%20Teacher%20 / **WKBN** (<https://www.wkbn.com/news/ohio/local-teacher-named-teacher-of-the-year-in-columbus/>)



Jody Perrin

Jody Perrin, 2004, Graphic Design, director of marketing and communications at SUNY Jamestown Community College, received the State University of New York Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Professional Service. Perrin started to work at JCC in 2008 as a graphic designer and was promoted to her current position in 2014. She previously worked for Pegasus Printing Group in marketing and graphic design, and Humility of Mary Health Partners in public relations and graphic design.

Joe Havasi, 2004, master of Business Administration, was named vice president, natural resources at Compass Minerals. Havasi will oversee real estate transactions and land-use

planning and to secure necessary surface rights, mineral rights and water rights for the company's global portfolio of mineral extraction and manufacturing locations. Havasi serves on the Great Salt Lake Advisory Council, the Salinity Advisory Council and the Utah Department of Environmental Quality Water Quality Board. He also holds a bachelor's degree in Geology from Denison University.

Karnina Szymanski, 2004, Accounting, has been named chief customer officer at Bold Penguin, a leading digital quote and bind insurance platform. Szymanski joined Bold Penguin in 2019 as vice president of Strategic Partnerships and then later served as president of Insurance, where she developed and executed the strategic vision for insurance carriers and wholesale operations while increasing their utilization of Bold Penguin's products and services. In the newly created role, she will oversee relationships with Bold Penguin's customer base and drive efforts to measure and enhance a seamless and consistent customer experience. Before joining Bold Penguin, Szymanski held various leadership roles at Progressive and Farmers Insurance.

Robert Alexander Beachy, 2007, Education (Integrated English Language Arts 6-12), was recently named principal of Sopori Elementary School in Amado, Az., part of the Sahuarita Unified School District #30. Beachy has worked for the Sahuarita schools just outside Tuscon since 2008. In 2014, he earned a master's degree with distinction from Northern Arizona University, and was also named Teacher of the Year at Sahuarita High School. In 2015, he was named assistant principal at Sahuarita Middle School. In 2020, he was nominated as secretary/treasurer of the Arizona School Administrators Association for the middle level division. He was named principal of the elementary school in 2022.



Robert Beachy

Chirag Shah, 2007, Combined Sciences, a doctor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at the Cleveland Clinic,

recently made a presentation titled "[7-gene DCIS: \[2022\] Comparing Clinicopathologic Features](https://ONCOLOGYTUBE.COM/ARTICLE/41390/7-GENE-DCIS-2022-COMPARING-CLINICOPATHOLOGIC-FEATURES?CHANNELNAME=ASTRO#GSC.TAB=0)" (<https://ONCOLOGYTUBE.COM/ARTICLE/41390/7-GENE-DCIS-2022-COMPARING-CLINICOPATHOLOGIC-FEATURES?CHANNELNAME=ASTRO#GSC.TAB=0>) on

OncologyTube. Shah is co-director of the Comprehensive Breast Program and serves as director of Clinical Research and director of Breast Radiation Oncology at the Clinic. He earned a medical degree from Northeast Ohio Medical University. OncologyTube is the world's first and only video-sharing site for cancer professionals.



Chirag Shah



Robert Bole

Robert Bole, 2008, Business Administration, recently graduated with a master's of Business Administration from the Stern School of Business at New York University. He also has joined Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation's "Innovation and Fintech Team", where he will lead digital products for the America's Division.

[Top](#)

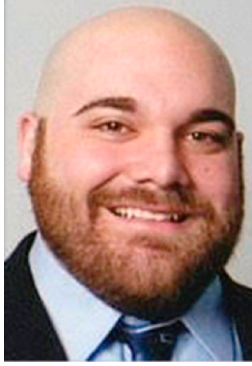
'10s

Adrienne Fritz, 2013, Education, is the new principal at Rock Creek Elementary School. Fritz previously worked in the Youngstown City Schools as a classroom teacher and literacy coach. She also earned a master's in



Education from the American College of Education.

Adrienne Fritz

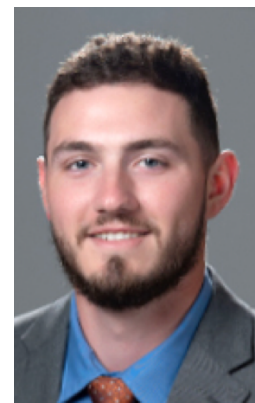


Bryan Schiraldi

Bryan Schiraldi, 2016, Accounting, and 2018, master of Business Administration, is the new treasurer of the Youngstown City Schools. Schiraldi has spent more than six years in finance, previously serving as the Lowellville School District treasurer. Before that, he was a credit analyst with Farmers National Bank of Canfield and worked as a staff accountant for The Zidian Group. Additionally, Schiraldi was an associate accountant at Packer Thomas.

Traci Zager, 2017, master of Business Administration, was a guest on the [Dr. Andy Roark podcast \(https://drandyroark.com/purple-leash-project/\)](https://drandyroark.com/purple-leash-project/). Zager, who earned a doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Ohio State University and is now a veterinary communications manager with Nestle Purina Pet Care, talked about the role pets can play in domestic violence and keeping people in dangerous places. Zager currently teaches courses online to veterinary technician students at the California University of Pennsylvania and also served on the Animal Abuse Reporting Taskforce for the Ohio VMA, which helped to create educational materials on abuse reporting for Ohio veterinarians.

Bryant J. Croach, 2018, Accounting, has been promoted to the position of supervisor at Schroedel, Scullin & Bestic, a public accounting firm. Croach, a member of the Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants, provides accounting, auditing and tax compliance services, as well as employee benefit plan auditing to clients.



Bryant Croach

Alanna Bebech, 2018, School Psychology, has received the 2022 Early Career Award in School Psychology from the Ohio School Psychologists Association. The award recognizes accomplishments of early



Alanna Bebech

career school psychologists in Ohio. Bebech works as a school psychologist in the Trumbull County Educational Service Center and has also served as president of Northeast Ohio Regional Association in School Psychology. She also is a part-time faculty member in the YSU School Psychology Program.

Top

'20s

Liberty Local Schools first-grade teacher **Darnelle Clark**, 2020, master's in Curriculum and Instruction, was awarded the 2022 Westminster College Alumni Citation Award. Clark graduated from Westminster in 2009 with a bachelor's



degree in Psychology. During the pandemic, Clark had severe complications of COVID-19. Still, she became widely known for her Youtube channel, Clark's Cozy Corner (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw5D1kqqT4-nUH368bI6Yug>), as an entertaining way to encourage students to read.

Krysta Wedge, 2022, Criminal Justice, was sworn into the Niles Police Department as a patrol officer. Wedge has previous experience with Brookfield Township Police.

Top

In Every Issue

[MACTE VIRTUTE \(/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/MACTE-VIRTUTE\)](#)

[OUR ALUMNI \(/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/OUR-ALUMNI\)](#)

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))

PAST ISSUES ([HTTPS://ISSUU.COM
/YOUNGSTOWNSTATE/DOCS](https://issuu.com/youngstownstate/docs))



OUR | ALUMNI

ALUMNI RECOGNITION

BITONTE COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Seven alumni were honored at the YSU Bitonte College of Health and Human Services Alumni Recognition Dinner: Pictured from the left, Col. Gerald "Jerry" Nunziato Jr. '00, Joe Voytek '13, '15, Amanda Caldwell '06, Ken Bielecki '99, Jeffrey Koontz '04, '07, '10, Lena Esmail '09 and Jack Butler '09.



The college also presented College Appreciation Awards to Cheryl Bosley, Sara Michaliszyn '00, Nancy Landgraff, Madeleine Haggerty '61 (posthumously) and Nancy Wagner and the faculty and staff of the Centofanti School of Nursing. In addition, Sue Miller '79, '99, '06 received the Dean's Appreciation Award.

[READ MORE \(https://ysu.edu/news/ysu-bitonte-college-honors-alumni-oct-7\)](https://ysu.edu/news/ysu-bitonte-college-honors-alumni-oct-7)

WILLIAMSON COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

The Warren P. Williamson College of Business Administration honored four graduates at its 2022 Outstanding Alumni Awards

reception: Pictured from the left, Sue Stricklin '84, senior vice president of Marketing at Simon Roofing; Henry Gomez '03, senior politics reporter at NBC News; Eric Pittman '21, program division director at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration; and Corey Patrick '16, director of the Entrepreneurial Services Program at the Youngstown Business Incubator.



[READ MORE \(https://ysu.edu/news/williamson-college-honor-outstanding-alumni\)](https://ysu.edu/news/williamson-college-honor-outstanding-alumni)

ALUMNI LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

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 offers five \$1,000 Legacy Scholarships to children of YSU alumni. (Learn about the 2022 scholarship recipients [here. \(https://ysu.edu/news/legacy-scholarships-awarded-five-ysu-students\)](https://ysu.edu/news/legacy-scholarships-awarded-five-ysu-students)) The application may be completed online (<https://ysu.edu/2023-legacy-scholarship-application>) and must be submitted no later than March 1, 2023. Email [alumni@ysu.edu \(mailto:alumni@ysu.edu\)](mailto:alumni@ysu.edu) for more information.

ALUMNI AUTHOR BOOK TALK

Colleen Clayton, a 2011 graduate, will lead a discussion about

her novel *What Happens Next*



(<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/12819342-what-happens-next>) at 6 p.m. **Thursday, March 30** in Maag Library on the YSU campus. Alumni, students and community members are encouraged to read the book and attend this free event. Reservations required. [Sign up here \(https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=F4pyOAeXSU-MmyecGkA4wa11Ja_ZNqNGoI1ZbB09Zg5UQTJKMTNCN1hJSzIZU0hQOVNKVE;web=1&wdLOR=cA34B22E4-6D40-466A-95CD-73A13B56CC64\)](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=F4pyOAeXSU-MmyecGkA4wa11Ja_ZNqNGoI1ZbB09Zg5UQTJKMTNCN1hJSzIZU0hQOVNKVE;web=1&wdLOR=cA34B22E4-6D40-466A-95CD-73A13B56CC64).

Colleen earned a master's of Fine Arts degree from the NEOMFA at YSU and works as an admin for Kenyon College in the Office of Spiritual and Religious Life. *What Happens Next* earned a Kirkus star and was an Ohioana Book Award Finalist. In addition to writing young adult fiction, Clayton enjoys long-distance backpacking, solo travel and volunteering as an English teacher twice yearly at Baan Luuk Rak Children's Home in Khon Kaen, Thailand. *What Happens Next* is available at the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County and wherever books are sold.



ALUMNI DOUBLEHEADER BASKETBALL DINNER

More than 100 alumni and friends gathered when the men's and women's basketball teams played Cleveland State on Dec. 29. The newly-renovated West Deck in Beeghly Center was the perfect spot to connect and enjoy a Belleria dinner between games.

PETE'S PRIDE

Thank you to all of our Pete's Pride volunteers for their help in 2022!

Volunteers were present at events on campus (<https://ysu.edu/file/412016>)

and in the community, such as the United Way of

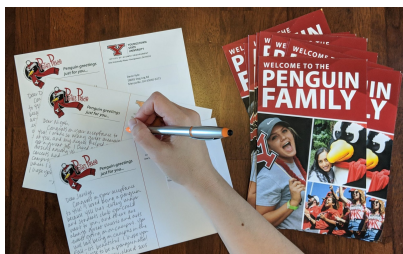
Youngstown and

Mahoning County's Satur-Day of Caring (<https://ysu.edu/file/412021>) and Youngstown Cityscape's annual Streetscape event (<https://ysu.edu/file/412026>).

Pete's Pride was represented not only in the Mahoning Valley, but among the alumni chapters. The CSRA-Columbia Alumni Chapter volunteered together at the Camp Sertoma Golf Tournament and the Aiken Steeplechase (<https://ysu.edu/file/412011>) this fall.

Volunteers also helped write hundreds of personalized



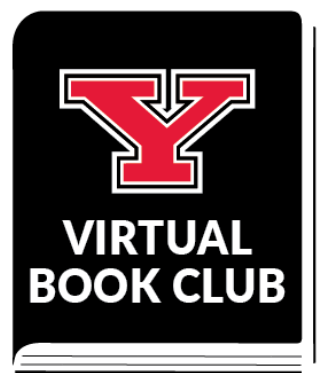


postcards to prospective YSU students. With their help, 93 new Penguins are now enrolled in classes at YSU! Postcard writers are still needed for this year's campaign. For more information and to sign up to be

a Postcard writer, visit alumni.ysu.edu/volunteer (<http://alumni.ysu.edu/volunteer>).

YSU ALUMNI & FRIENDS VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB

In partnership with the Public Library of Youngstown & Mahoning County and Maag Library, the YSU Alumni and Friends Virtual Book Club is embarking on three years of reading together! Participants meet virtually for one hour on the last Tuesday evening of the month. All genres are explored in librarian-led discussions – from current best-selling novels to the classics you may have been introduced to in high school. Book club members vote on the selections.



YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI & FRIENDS

The 2023 spring schedule includes:

Tuesday, Feb. 28, 7 p.m. – *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte.

Tuesday, March 28, 7 p.m. – *Mexican Gothic* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia.

Tuesday, April 25, 7 p.m. – *Rock, Paper, Scissors* by Alice Feeney

Follow the group on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ysuvirtualbookclub) (<https://www.facebook.com/ysuvirtualbookclub>) and contact Mary Fitch '21, Alumni Engagement Graduate Assistant Intern, at mffitch@student.ysu.edu (<mailto:mffitch@student.ysu.edu>) to be added to the email list for meeting notifications.

HE'S ON THE CASE

Yury I. Kruty, a 2002 Business Administration graduate now special agent in charge for IRS-Criminal Investigation at the Philadelphia Field Office, spoke on campus this past Fall. As Special Agent in Charge, Kruty is responsible for planning, directing and evaluating activities of all IRS-Criminal Investigation in Pennsylvania and Delaware. **[Read more.](https://ysu.edu/news/irs-special-agent-speaks-students-oct-6)** (<https://ysu.edu/news/irs-special-agent-speaks-students-oct-6>)

STAY IN TOUCH!

Let us know if you've moved, changed email addresses, or started a new job by updating your contact information [here](https://ysu.edu/alumni-events/ysu-alumni-update-form). (<https://ysu.edu/alumni-events/ysu-alumni-update-form>) Follow @ysualumni on Facebook and Instagram.

In Every Issue

[MACTE VIRTUTE \(/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/MACTE-VIRTUTE\)](/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/MACTE-VIRTUTE)

[CLASS NOTES \(/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/CLASS-NOTES\)](/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/CLASS-NOTES)

Archive

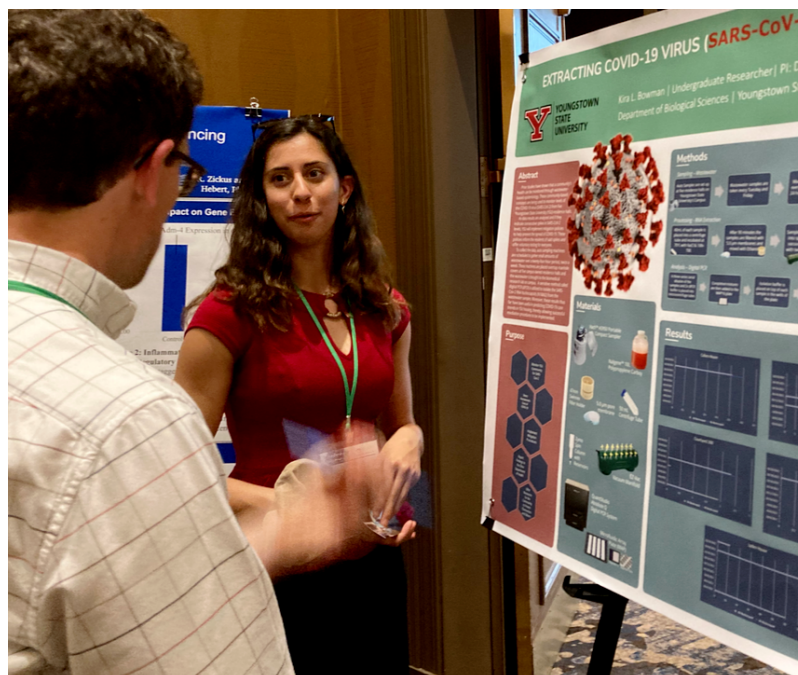
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OUR | STUDENTS

YSU students continue to excel across the state, nation and world, helping in the fight against COVID-19, advancing women in the military and digging up the history of the region. Here's a few of their stories:



COVID-19 RESEARCH BRINGS STUDENT NATIONAL HONORS

Senior Biochemistry major Kira Bowman's received national recognition for her research on extracting COVID-19 from human excrement. The project, titled "Extracting COVID-19 Virus (SARS-CoV-2) from Excrement," placed second in the Environmental Sciences category at the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in Dallas. Bowman's research was selected from among 178 academic posters presented at the

conference, which attracts students, faculty and administrators from around the world.

[Read more. \(https://ysu.edu/news/student-recognized-campus-covid-19-research\)](https://ysu.edu/news/student-recognized-campus-covid-19-research)



STUDENTS EARN EXCLUSIVE FOCUS FORWARD FELLOWSHIPS

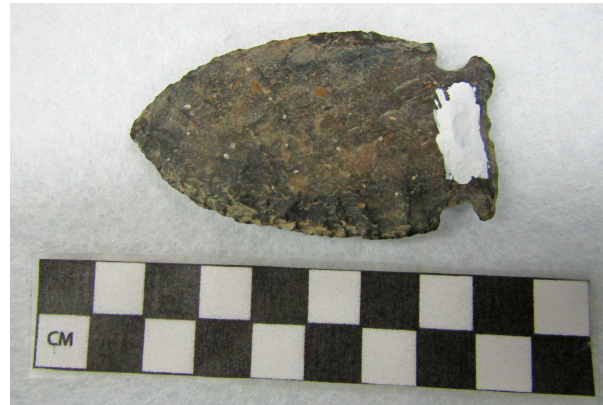
Two YSU graduate students were among only 18 women nationwide selected to participate in the 2022 Focus Forward Fellowship, a mentoring program that helps military-connected women hone academic and career skills. Lovii Hicks, a Navy veteran, (pictured right) and Latieya Richard, a member of the Army National Guard, attended the fellowship at Purdue University, which houses the Military Family Research Institute. Richard holds a bachelor's degree from YSU in Information Technology and is enrolled in the master's in Computer Information Systems program at YSU. She is also currently a technology trainer at YSU. Hicks holds an associate of Arts degree from Lakeland Community College and a bachelor's degree in Social Work from YSU. She is enrolled in the master's in Social Work program at YSU.

[Read more. \(https://ysu.edu/news/students-selected-national-military-fellowship\)](https://ysu.edu/news/students-selected-national-military-fellowship)



ANTHROPOLOGY STUDENTS DOCUMENT HISTORY OF REGION

A group of YSU Anthropology students reached a milestone in a curation project with the Mahoning Valley Historical Society. Students in the YSU Anthropology Colloquium have volunteered 1,000 hours in an initiative to identify and catalog thousands of arrowheads and other Native American artifacts at the Society. The project is a rare opportunity for students to work in an actual curatorial environment gaining actual museum experience with an authentic artifact collection, said Tom Delvaux, instructor of Anthropology.



This arrowhead is among the more than 3,000 artifacts catalogued by YSU students in a project with the Mahoning Valley Historical Society.

[Read more. \(https://ysu.edu/news/anthropology-project-50-students-15000-artifacts-1000-hours\)](https://ysu.edu/news/anthropology-project-50-students-15000-artifacts-1000-hours)

YSU STUDENTS SPEND THE FALL IN



EUROPE, JAPAN

YSU junior Carly Calderone studied at the Brussels School of Governance in Belgium in the Fall as the first recipient of the Ron Shaklee Honors Study Abroad Scholarship. Calderone was among six YSU students studying

abroad during Fall semester under various scholarships. The \$1,600 Shaklee scholarship was established by Ron Shaklee, professor and chair of Geography, and is given annually to a student in the YSU Honors College. Calderone is also the recipient of the Glen C. El-Hayek Scholarship, named after a 1996 Boardman High School graduate who died in Shanghai in 2011 while working for Microsoft. Other recipients of the \$800 El-Hayek award are Bo Gyeong Son (France) and Samantha Sloan (Finland). YSU student Celina Mattessich will study in Japan in Spring 2023 under the El-Hayek award. Three students studied abroad in the Fall via the \$4,000 Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship: Sloan (Finland), Alex Smyczynski (Japan) and Rocco Shasho (Italy).

[Read more. \(https://ysu.edu/news/scholarship-and-move\)](https://ysu.edu/news/scholarship-and-move)

PENGUINS SWEEP NINE CONFERENCE TITLES

The 2022 calendar-year performance by Youngstown State Athletics teams may go down as one the most successful in

school
history. YSU
won nine
conference



championships – Women’s Lacrosse, Men’s Indoor Track and Field, Women’s Indoor Track and Field, Women’s Tennis, Men’s Tennis, Men’s Outdoor Track and Field, Women’s Outdoor Track and Field, Women’s Basketball and Men’s Cross Country - while having Athletes of the Year for Football, Volleyball, Men’s Tennis, Women’s Cross Country, Women’s Outdoor Track and Field and Men’s Indoor Track and Field. Additionally, Women’s Bowling, Men’s Tennis, Women’s Tennis and Men’s Outdoor Track and Field all advanced to the NCAA Championships. More at www.ysusports.com (<https://ysusports.com/>).

In Every Issue

[MACTE VIRTUTE \(/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/MACTE-VIRTUTE\)](/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/MACTE-VIRTUTE)

[CLASS NOTES \(/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/CLASS-NOTES\)](/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/CLASS-NOTES)

[OUR ALUMNI \(/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/OUR-ALUMNI\)](/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/OUR-ALUMNI)

Archive

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OUR | CAMPUS

It's been another banner few months for YSU, with record-setting research and grant activity, recognition from the FBI, celebrating the stars and a new partnership with one of the largest tech companies in the world. Read about these and more recent campus highlights in Our Campus:

“OHIO KNOWS HOW TO BUILD A WORKFORCE”

Officials from
YSU and Hon
Hai
Technology
Group



(“Foxconn”) (TWSE:2317) gathered on campus this Fall to announce intentions to establish a partnership to design and launch a national electric vehicle workforce training and innovation center. The center will focus on helping the emerging electric vehicle industry build and scale a sustainable workforce around advanced manufacturing, energy storage and other integrated technology solutions, such as artificial intelligence, 5G and cybersecurity. “Over the course of history, Ohio has shown that it knows how to build a workforce,” YSU President Jim Tressel said. “YSU and our partners across the state and nation are committed to ensuring that we have the skilled, talented workers needed for the electric vehicle industry to succeed. This training and innovation center will be central to those efforts for our nation.”

[Read more. \(https://ysu.edu/news/ysu-foxconn-partner-\)](https://ysu.edu/news/ysu-foxconn-partner-)

[national-ev-training-and-innovation-center\)](#)



FACULTY/STAFF RECORD GRANT ACTIVITY “REMARKABLE”

YSU faculty and staff earned nearly \$16 million in research and service grants, the most ever in a single year. “This record-setting level of grant activity across campus is remarkable,” said Brien N. Smith, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. “This means that over the last two fiscal years, our talented and hard-working faculty, staff and others throughout the university have garnered more than \$30 million in grants – a laudable achievement.” Faculty and staff won 93 grants totaling \$15.8 million in fiscal year 2022. That’s up from \$14.4 million last fiscal year, the previous high mark for YSU.

[Read more. \(https://ysu.edu/news/ysu-earns-record-16-million-grants\)](https://ysu.edu/news/ysu-earns-record-16-million-grants)



HUNDREDS WALK THE STAGE AT FALL COMMENCEMENT

Hundreds of students received diplomas at YSU's Fall Commencement in December in Beeghly Hall. David Lee Morgan Jr., an award-winning sportswriter, author and high school English teacher, gave the keynote address, while student speaker was Kendall Bartels, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in Forensic Science with a concentration and minor in Chemistry.

[Watch.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pBt_1HCdcQ) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pBt_1HCdcQ)



FBI

RECOGNIZES YSU FOR HELP IN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

The YSU Department of Physics, Astronomy, Geology and

Environmental Science received the FBI Director's Community Leadership Award in a ceremony at the FBI field office in Boardman. The award recognizes YSU for assisting the FBI Evidence Response Team in several recent criminal investigations. "This is an important award for us," said Jeff Dick, professor of Geology. "The academic mission of our program is focused on providing students with exciting real-world applications of Geology. Our work with the FBI is directly reflective of that mission."

[Read more. \(https://ysu.edu/news/fbi-recognizes-ysu-help-criminal-investigations\)](https://ysu.edu/news/fbi-recognizes-ysu-help-criminal-investigations)

MAKING COLLEGE AFFORDABLE, ONE BOOK AT A TIME

YSU students saved more than \$750,000 on textbooks last year due to a variety of initiatives at the university. "Making higher education more affordable is a major emphasis across all of Ohio and especially here at YSU," said Neal McNally, vice president for Finance and Operations. "Textbooks are a major expense, and sometimes a surprise expense for many students, so anything we can do to lessen that burden is important." The textbook savings initiatives are among many listed in YSU's annual Affordability and Efficiency Report filed last week with the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

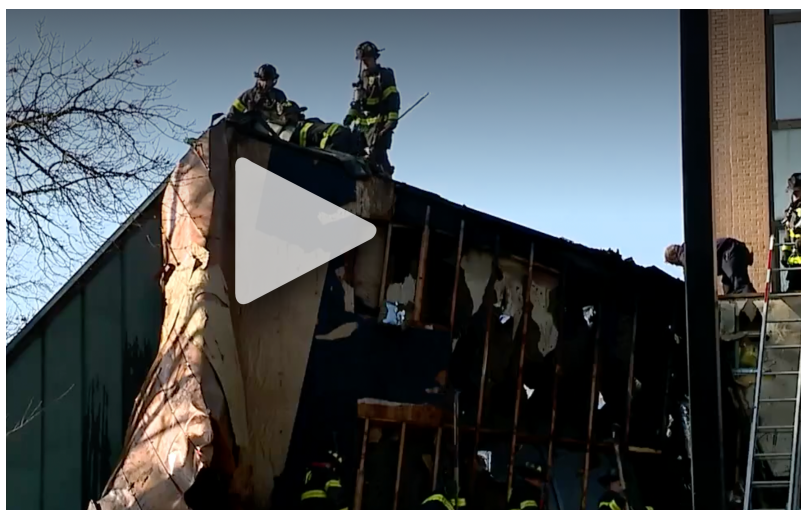
[Read more. \(https://ysu.edu/news/textbook-initiatives-save-ysu-students-771000\)](https://ysu.edu/news/textbook-initiatives-save-ysu-students-771000)



YSU LEADERSHIP IN WORKFORCE TRAINING EXPANDS TO 5G

The Appalachian Regional Commission awarded \$1.15 million to YSU to implement broadband and 5G readiness training across eastern Ohio. The award to YSU's Division of Workforce Education and Innovation will allow 165 people in Mahoning, Trumbull, Columbiana, Ashtabula, Jefferson and Belmont counties to earn 375 credentials for careers in broadband and 5G, said Jennifer Oddo, executive director of the division. "The deployment of 5G is expected to create approximately 32,000 jobs in network infrastructure over the next several years," Oddo said. "This funding allows YSU to continue its leadership in ensuring that we develop the trained workforce to respond to those demands."

[Read more. \(https://ysu.edu/news/ysu-granted-115-million-expand-broadband5g-training\)](https://ysu.edu/news/ysu-granted-115-million-expand-broadband5g-training)



[\(HTTPS://WWW.WKBN.COM/VIDEO/PLANETARIUM-AT-YSU-OUT-OF-SERVICE-AFTER-FIRE-CAUSES-DAMAGE/8291874/\)](https://www.wkbn.com/video/planetarium-at-ysu-out-of-service-after-fire-causes-damage/8291874/)
FIRE DAMAGES WARD BEECHER PLANETARIUM

On Monday, Jan. 9, the first day of Spring Semester, YSU's Ward

Beecher Planetarium suffered a fire (<https://www.wkbn.com/video/planetarium-at-ysu-out-of-service-after-fire-causes-damage/8291874/>) that Youngstown Fire Department estimated caused about \$400,000 in damage. YFD said the fire began when a roofing company tried to fix a small leak on the flat portion of the building's roof. The building was evacuated. Two firefighters sustained minor injuries. The planetarium is closed pending repairs. The planetarium was in the midst of celebrating its 55th season, featuring more than a dozen new and tried-and-true shows for space enthusiasts of all ages. The planetarium in Ward Beecher Hall on campus opened in 1967 and serves as an astronomy and science education resource center for the Mahoning Valley and surrounding communities. The facility, operated by the YSU Department of Physics, Astronomy, Geology and Environmental Sciences, supports astronomy teaching on campus as well as public planetarium shows.

[Read more \(https://www.facebook.com/wbplanetarium\)](https://www.facebook.com/wbplanetarium)



OPENING MEANS NEW AUDIENCES, NEW PARTNERSHIPS

The Rose Melnick Medical Museum celebrated its official reopening in September in its new home in Cushwa Hall on campus. "It was Dr. Melnick's dream to cultivate an interest in

medicine and promote medical history,” said Cassie Nespor, museum curator. “With the new location in the center of campus, we are looking forward to using the museum’s collection to reach new audiences and form new partnerships.”

[Read more. \(https://ysu.edu/news/melnick-medical-museum-reopens-campus\)](https://ysu.edu/news/melnick-medical-museum-reopens-campus)

In Every Issue

[MACTE VIRTUTE \(/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/MACTE-VIRTUTE\)](/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/MACTE-VIRTUTE)

[CLASS NOTES \(/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/CLASS-NOTES\)](/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/CLASS-NOTES)

[OUR ALUMNI \(/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/OUR-ALUMNI\)](/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/OUR-ALUMNI)

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)

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OUR | DONORS

YSU would not be what it is today without the generosity of thousands of donors. Here we celebrate a handful of remarkable alumni and community supporters whose recent financial contributions are helping students across campus.



NEW TEAM CENTER BOOSTS

ENGINEERING SQUADS

"Mom and dad would be so proud to see this center come to fruition," Ellen Tressel said at the dedication of the new Frank and Norma Watson Team Center on campus. "This university was a major focus and love of their lives. We are honored and touched with today's dedication." The facility on Rayen Avenue is designed to better prepare YSU engineering teams for regional, national and international competitions. The center is named after Mrs. Tressel's late parents, supporters of the university for more than 70 years, including a \$1 million gift in 2016. The couple received the YSU Friends of the University Award in 2007. Ellen is the spouse of YSU President Jim Tressel.

[READ MORE \(https://ysu.edu/news/ysu-opens-watson-team-center-campus\)](https://ysu.edu/news/ysu-opens-watson-team-center-campus) In the news: [WKBN \(https://www.wkbn.com/news/local-news/youngstown-state-university-unveils-watson-team-center/\)](https://www.wkbn.com/news/local-news/youngstown-state-university-unveils-watson-team-center/) / [WFMJ \(https://www.wfmj.com/story/47907296/ysu-celebrates-opening-of-new-watson-team-center-on-campus\)](https://www.wfmj.com/story/47907296/ysu-celebrates-opening-of-new-watson-team-center-on-campus)



POPULAR FOUNTAIN AREA NAMED FOR BECKER

The fountain area at the core of the YSU campus, where students and the community have gathered for decades to

study, lunch and socialize, has been named for Daniel H. Becker, chief executive of Becker Funeral Homes, and his family. The naming is in recognition of Becker's \$1 million gift to establish the Daniel H. Becker Family Scholarship. "All of us at YSU thank Dan and his family for their ongoing support of the university and the entire Mahoning Valley community," President Jim Tressel said. "His legacy will live on in perpetuity at this very special place on campus."

[READ MORE \(https://ysu.edu/news/ysu-dedicates-daniel-h-becker-family-fountain-commons\)](https://ysu.edu/news/ysu-dedicates-daniel-h-becker-family-fountain-commons)



**WEIR
GIFT TO
BOOST**

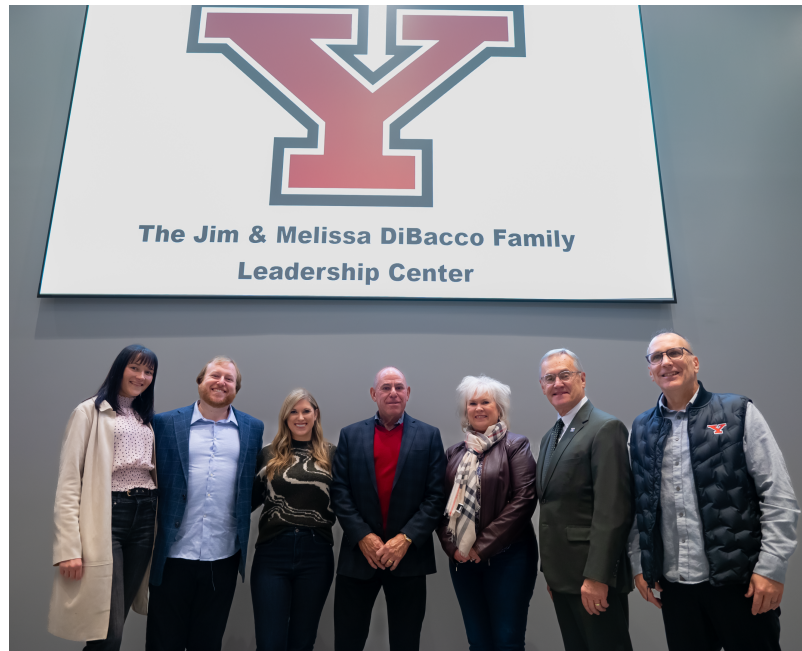
TECHNOLOGY AT WILLIAMSON

YSU alumni Suellen and Michael Weir donated \$1 million to provide new technology to the YSU Williamson College of Business Administration. The atrium of Williamson Hall has, in turn, been named in their honor. "As with most disciplines, advances in technology have greatly influenced how the world does work," said Kelly Wilkinson, WCBA dean. "This gift will help further enhance our technology and better prepare our students for career success by using technology in innovative

ways to improve learning.”

[READ MORE \(https://ysu.edu/news/weirs-make-second-1m-gift-alma-mater\)](https://ysu.edu/news/weirs-make-second-1m-gift-alma-mater)

YSU



DEDICATES DIBACCO FAMILY LEADERSHIP CENTER ON CAMPUS

A multi-purpose meeting and classroom in Stambaugh Stadium has been named the Jim and Melissa DiBacco Family Leadership Center. The room, featuring theater-style seating for more than 100, two large video screens and state-of-the-art sound and lighting systems, will be utilized by all YSU Athletic teams and be available to the entire campus, said Ron Strollo, executive director of Intercollegiate Athletics. The room is at the center of the recently renovated area in Stambaugh Stadium that includes the Ticket Office, Baseball and Women’s Lacrosse offices, the new Athletics Digital Media Studio and administrative offices. Jim DiBacco retired in 2014 as executive director and part owner of Astro Shapes. Melissa DiBacco worked at Brentwood Originals for 10 years.

[READ MORE \(https://ysu.edu/news/ysu-dedicates-dibacco-family-leadership-center-campus\)](https://ysu.edu/news/ysu-dedicates-dibacco-family-leadership-center-campus)

In Every Issue

[MACTE VIRTUTE \(/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/MACTE-VIRTUTE\)](/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/MACTE-VIRTUTE)

[CLASS NOTES \(/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/CLASS-NOTES\)](/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/CLASS-NOTES)

[OUR ALUMNI \(/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/OUR-ALUMNI\)](/MAGAZINE/WINTER-2023/OUR-ALUMNI)

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)

[PAST ISSUES \(HTTPS://ISSUU.COM /YOUNGSTOWNSTATE/DOCS\)](https://issuu.com/youngstownstate/docs)



Excellence at Work

An e-newsletter for faculty and staff scholarly achievements

Nov. 29, 2022

From the Queen Mary to CNN, The Respiratory Care Journal to the ArsDocta International Music Festival, Youngstown State University faculty and staff presented, published and performed on the air, the land and sea around the world. Their recent scholarly activities are summarized in this edition of Excellence @ Work.

FEATURED

YSU's own "Queen of the Sea"

Caroline Oltmanns, professor of Piano in the Dana School of Music, performed on two cruises on the Queen Mary earlier this year. Oltmanns played during a trip crossing the Atlantic Ocean in May, and then a separate cruise in July along the east coast. Oltmanns also recently published "Women at the Piano" in the **Journal of International Alliance of Women in Music**. Among other things, the article probes gender bias in concert programming.



Decision 2022



[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

election night in November. Sracic is professor of Politics and International Relations and a two-time Fulbright Scholar in Japan. Here's a summary:

NHK World-Japan - Election night analysis (watch)

NHK World's Global Agenda - US Midterm Elections: Voters' Decision and Global Impact

CNN - "The results of Ryan vs. Vance may spell the end of Ohio's legacy"
Ohio primary proves the power of Trump endorsement

Ideastream - What the Mahoning Valley might tell us about this year's US Senate race in Ohio

Christian Science Monitor - Can a Democrat win over rural Ohio?

WFMJ-TV - Professor says anger is driving force in election

WKBN-TV - Senate race results show changing political landscape in NE Ohio

PUBLICATIONS

RESPIRATORY CARE

Several faculty recently published research in *Respiratory Care Journal* and presented the research at the American Association for Respiratory Care Congress in New Orleans:

- "Patient Adherence to Positive Airway Pressure Devices Used in the Treatment of Obstructive Sleep Apnea: Contributing Factors at Sleep Centers" was co-authored by **Amanda Roby**, associate professor and director of Clinical Education; **Kelly L. Colwell**, assistant professor, Health Professions; **Teresa Volsko**, former director of the Respiratory Care Program; **Ken Learman**, professor and director of the Health Science Program; and **Dave Griswold**, associate professor, Physical Therapy.
- **Sal Sanders**, assistant provost and dean of the College of Graduate Studies; **Kelly L. Colwell**, assistant



Kivie Cahn-Lipman, associate professor of Cello in the Dana School of Music, has released his third solo album, "*Sumna*". The album was made possible in part by a YSU Research Professorship in 2021-22. Cahn-Lipman is the founding cellist of the International Contemporary Ensemble, founder and director of baroque band ACRONYM and HIP Scottish ensemble Makaris, and co-founder and co-director of viol consorts LeStrange and Science Ficta.

professor, Health Professions; and **Katie A Snyder**, instructor, Respiratory Care, co-authored "Arterial Blood Gas Sampling: Does Palpation Technique Make a Difference?" Sanders said the team is working with Mercy Health to get approval to continue the study in the clinical setting.

Hayden Julius, faculty, Mathematics and Statistics, recently had his article "[Fixed Product Preserving Mappings on Banach Algebras](#)" published in the ***Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications***.

Vamsi Borra, Frank X. Li and **Pedro Cortes**, faculty in the YSU Rayen School of Engineering, were among co-authors of the article "[Effect of laser irradiation on the tribological properties of RF-sputtered nickel oxide \(NiO\) thin films](#)" published in ***Vacuum***. Other co-authors were Srikanth Itapu and Mohit Hemanth Kumar of Alliance University in Bengaluru, India.



John W. DeSantis, assistant professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, is co-author of "Assessing Premature Cracks in Urban Concrete Pavements" in ***Transportation Research Record: The Journal of the Transportation Research Board***. DeSantis also recently became a member of the standing committee of AKP20 – Rigid Pavement Design and Rehabilitation, part of the Transportation Research Board. DeSantis was named communication coordinator for the committee. TRB is part of the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine.

Kyosung Choo, associate professor of Mechanical Engineering, published "[Thermal-Stress Characteristics of a Large Area Additive Manufacturing](#)" in ***Heat Transfer Engineering Journal*** with **Brian Friedrich**, a YSU Ph.D. student.

HONORS

Molly Roche, associate professor, Centofanti School of Nursing, was inducted into the Ohio Nurses Association Cornelius Congress, the highest honor a nurse can receive within ONA. Roche, coordinator of YSU's RN-BSN program, also recently received the ONA Excellence in Nursing Education Award. Roche, who received the YSU Distinguished Professor Award in Teaching in 2015, frequently leads major public health initiatives including the YSU COVID-19 vaccine clinic in Spring 2021.

Shawn Reynolds, Dana School of Music, is serving a two-year term as elected editor of the Ohio Music Education Association ***TRIAD***, the professional journal by and for music educators from Ohio and beyond. Reynolds is also serving a two-year term as a voting member of the OMEA Board of Trustees.

Jake Protivnak, professor of Counseling and director of the Counseling Program, received the Susan J. Sears Counselor of the Year Award from the Ohio Counseling Association at the 2022 All Ohio Counselors Conference in Columbus. Protivnak also

presented at the 2022 American Counseling Association Virtual Conference on the topic, "Preparing Clinical Mental Health Supervisees for Work in a School Mental Health Setting." Also, Protivnak and **Tiffany Spisak**, clinical mental health counseling intern, co-led online community book discussion groups during National Mental Illness Awareness Week.

PRESENTATIONS



The following Psychological Sciences and Counseling faculty and students presented at the 2022 All Ohio Counselors Conference in Columbus:

- **Jake Protivnak, Victoria Kress, Tiffany Spisak, and Frances Clause**, "Supporting Struggling Supervisees: Strength-Based Support and Remediation."
- **Victoria Kress, Alexa Reider and Emma Forner**, "Nonsuicidal Self-Injury: Ethics and Legal Considerations for Counselors."
- **Jake Protivnak and Kristina Dooley**, "Mental Health Advocacy: Community Partnerships and Creative Interventions."

Counseling Program faculty **Kristin Bruns**, associate professor; **Kubra Civan**, instructor; and **Vicki Kress**, professor, each presented research at the 2022 North Central Association for Counselor Education and Supervision Conference in Omaha, Neb. Bruns' presentation was titled "Counseling termination: Tools for ethically sound and relationally meaningful closure." Civan presented

Misook Yun, professor, Dana School of Music, led an online masterclass for students from Brazil and Argentina at the ArsDocta International Music Festival; performed recitals and masterclasses at the University of Dayton and University of Tampa; was a reviewer for the ***Korean Lyric Diction for Singers*** book proposal for Oxford University Press; and was an unofficial reviewer for Korean translations of ***Estill Voice Training Level One and Two***.



Daniel J. Keown, associate professor of Vocal Music Education, made two presentations at the National Association for Music Education National Conference in Maryland - "Discovering the Lost Ark of Possibilities: Bringing Visibility to the Invisible Art Form of Film Music in Your Music Classroom" and "Influence of Workshop Training on Preservice Music Educators' Self-Reported Abilities and Level of Support for Using DAW Technology to Teach Music." Keown most recently published research in the ***Psychology of Music***, ***Psychomusicology: Music, Mind, and Brain***, ***Journal of Music Teacher Education***, ***Music Educators Journal***, ***Frontiers of Medicine***, and ***Missouri Journal of Research in Music Education***.

on "Multiple relationship of counselor educators in rural areas," while Kress' presentation was titled "The importance of advocacy for advancing professional counseling identity."

Michael Butler, associate professor and director of Bands, was the guest conductor of the U.S. Army Field band at Stambaugh Auditorium.

Matthew Mazuroski, associate professor, was the director and scenic designer for The Hopewell Theatre's production of "Steel Magnolias." Hopewell Theatre on Mahoning Avenue in Youngstown was founded in 1890 by Jean Kelty, who converted a church into a small, intimate theater, the home of The Victorian Players.

HOPWELL
THEATRE

IN THE NEWS

Roe v. Wade, Queen Elizabeth, sloths and cats were among the topics that YSU faculty recently talked about in news stories across the nation and world.

WKBN TV - YSU women's studies professor says fight is back on

Amanda Fehlbaum, associate professor, Sociology.

Star Tribune, Minnesota
"Need a cat that'll run your household? The Siamese will fill the bill"

Heather Lorimer, associate professor of Genetics

WFMJ - YSU recognized for helping FBI

Pig body farm study helps FBI

Jeff Dick, professor, and **Tom Jordan**, instructor, Geology.

Business Journal - Teaching with a Sense of Humor

Dana Davis, chair, Social Work



WKBN - "How poverty relates to violence"

Rick Rogers, associate professor, Criminal Justice

Ohio Capital Journal - "Paying the disabled like everyone else would reduce poverty"

A.J. Sumell, professor, Economics

CameraOnCampus - "Jewish studies Zionist network issues statement about UVM antisemitism allegations"

Adam Fuller, associate professor, Politics and International Relations



Real Science

"The Insane Biology of Sloths"

Michael Butcher, professor of Biology



WKBN - "Local professors reflect on what Queen Elizabeth's death could mean for the monarchy"

Brian Bonhomme, professor, and **David Simonelli**, professor, History.



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