

News•Briefs

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

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Featured in this week's YSU News Briefs:

- Student nominated as Rhodes Scholar
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- Jabali set for Dec. 3 in Kilcawley Center
- Theater performs musical based on 'The Little Mermaid'
- Archaeologist talks on 'The Invisible Sex'
- Raga Boyz performs Nov. 21 on campus
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Calendar

Tuesday, Nov. 9, 8 p.m. The Dana School of Music presents a free recital by guest guitarist Jerome Ducharme in Bliss Recital Hall.

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 10 a.m. The names of YSU students and employees who died while on active military duty will be read at a ceremony at Veterans Plaza on the YSU campus. The event will also featured a 21-gun salute and the playing of taps. For more information, contact the YSU Office of Veterans Affairs at 330-941-2503 or 330-941-2523.

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 12:15 p.m. Dana School of Music's Saxophone Studio performs a free Music at Noon concert in the Butler Institute of American Art.

Thursday, Nov. 11. YSU is closed for Veterans Day.

Friday, Nov. 12, 4 p.m. YSU swimming and diving team takes on Bowling Green in the Beeghly Center Natatorium.

Friday, Nov. 12, 7:05 p.m. YSU men's basketball opens the 2010 season against Samford in Beeghly Center.



The YSU men's basketball team, led by senior Vytas Sulskis, above, opens the 2010 season at 7:05 p.m. Friday in Beeghly Center against Samford. Four of the Penguins' five games in November will be played at home, including Buffalo on Nov. 16, Toledo on Nov. 24 and St. Francis (Pa.) on Nov. 27. Sulskis is the Penguins' top returning scorer, ranking second on the team last year with a career-high 11.3 points per game. The home schedule features a Feb. 3 match-up with Butler, who advanced to the NCAA Final Four last year before narrowly losing to Duke in the national finals.



CINDER exhibit at YSU's McDonough Museum of Art through Friday, Nov. 12

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 12, 13 and 14. University Theater performs the musical *Once on this Island* in Ford Theater in Bliss Hall on the campus of YSU. Friday and Saturday performances are at **7:30 p.m.**, with a Sunday matinee at **3 p.m.** The production continues Nov. 18, 19, 20 and 21. See News Brief below.

Through Friday, Nov. 12. CINDER, an exhibition by Pittsburgh artist Susanne Slavick, ends its run at the McDonough Museum of Art on the YSU campus.

Saturday, Nov. 13, 1 p.m. YSU football team concludes the 2010 season at Stambaugh Stadium against Indiana State.

Monday, Nov. 15, 8 a.m. YSU alumna Rhonda Chicone, chief technology officer and vice president of Product

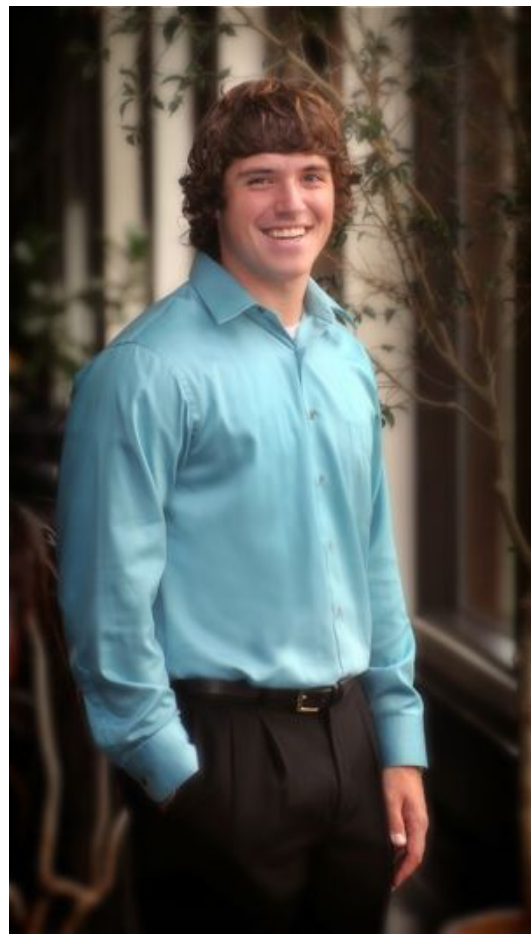
Development for Notify Technology Corp., is the featured speaker at the Mahoning Area Consortium Tech Prep's Annual Stakeholders' Forum in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center on the campus of YSU.

YSU student nominated for Rhodes Scholarship

Erik Johnson of Boardman, a senior biology pre-medicine major at Youngstown State University with a minor in chemistry, has been nominated for the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship. If selected, Johnson would become YSU's first Rhodes representative.

A 2007 graduate of Boardman High School, Johnson is a four-year member of the YSU football team, earning two varsity letters and receiving the Missouri Valley Football Conference's Commissioner's Academic Excellence Award. Johnson, who is planning to pursue a career in dentistry, is also a Leslie H. Cochran University Scholar, YSU's elite-level academic award. Johnson has compiled an extensive community service record that includes coaching youth basketball, umpiring youth baseball games, reading to local second graders, volunteering at the Boys and Girls Club of America, and raising homelessness awareness through the annual Scholar and Honors "Shantytown" event.

The Rhodes Scholarships, established in 1902 and named after the late Cecil Rhodes, are the oldest international educational fellowships. They give exceptionally intelligent, forward-thinking students from around the globe the opportunity to study at the University of Oxford



Erik Johnson

in England for up to three years. Each year, 32 U.S. representatives from nearly all fields of study are among the 80 total Scholars world-wide.

Students are judged according to four main criteria: scholastic accomplishment; energy and desire to fully realize talents, as shown in a passion for sports; virtue and fellowship; and leadership instincts. The distinctive standards were outlined by Rhodes himself to ensure that academics, physicality in leading and personal character be equally considered in an applicant.

After soliciting letters of support from faculty and other university staff, Johnson submitted his application to a YSU committee for review. Ron Shaklee, geography professor and head of YSU's Scholars and Honors Program, evaluated the application and determined Johnson's credentials to be competitive and sufficient for regional competition. With YSU President Cynthia E. Anderson's official endorsement, Johnson's application has since been forwarded to the Rhodes Scholar Committee for consideration.

The next phase of competition involves an initial round of evaluations; a select number of applicants will continue on to an interviewing round. It is believed that no YSU applicant has ever reached the interviewing stage of competition. Elected 2010 Rhodes Scholars will be announced Nov. 20.

YSU's Fulbright Scholar returns to campus



Shunta Matsumoto, left, a professor at Meijo University, watches as YSU Professor Paul Sracic lectures at the Nagoya American Center in Nagoya, Japan. It was one of Sracic's public lectures during his nine months as a Fulbright Scholar in Japan.

about the American coasts and Hawaii, but not much is known about life in the center of the U.S.," said Sracic, who started each of his classes in Japan with a presentation on Youngstown, its politics, history and economy. "I wanted to bring that to them."

Sracic – YSU's first Fulbright Scholar since 2000 and the 10th in the university's history – returned to the campus this semester, bringing back a wealth of knowledge on Japanese culture and politics to pass on to his students here at YSU. He said he wants to motivate students to learn more about Japan as an important and growing part of the world.

Educating college students about American politics was one of the main goals of Paul Sracic's recent nine-month term as a Fulbright Scholar in Japan.

But it wasn't the only one.

Sracic, professor and chair of political science at Youngstown State University, wanted his Japanese students to learn about the city of

Youngstown, as well.

"A lot of people there know

“I hope I can interest students in pursuing opportunities to study abroad as a way of learning about other cultures,” said Sracic, a resident of Boardman who also directs the Rigelhaupt Pre-Law Center at YSU.

The prestigious Fulbright Program is the United States’ flagship international educational exchange program, sponsored by the Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as

demonstrated leadership potential in their fields. Past participants in the Fulbright Japan-United States program includes five Nobel Prize Laureates, two Pulitzer Prize winners, five members of U.S. presidential cabinets and a dozen Supreme Court Justices.



YSU Professor and Fulbright Scholar Paul Sracic with students in Japan.

Sracic, a member of the YSU faculty since 1992,

traveled and lived in Japan with his wife, Susan, and two daughters. He taught classes on the American presidency, American politics and Constitutional interpretations at the University of Tokyo and Sophia University in Tokyo. In addition, he gave a series of public lectures on the American president and mid-term elections at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, the American Consulate in Nagoya and the Tokyo American Center. He also met with Japanese parliament members, witnessed two changes in the prime minister and observed a general election.

“As a political scientist, I enjoyed being in Japan during a time of tremendous political change and having the opportunity to speak with so many current and former government officials about these changes,” he said.

But Sracic didn’t forget his students in Youngstown. “I wanted to somehow include YSU students in my experience,” he said. “I noticed they were curious and enthusiastic about the idea of one of ‘their’ professors teaching in a foreign country.”

So Sracic initiated the idea of an interactive video exchange between a class of YSU students and a class of Japanese students. With the help of the Tokyo American Center and YSU, Sracic co-moderated a question-and-answer session between students at YSU and in Tokyo that generated discussions on subjects ranging from political involvement to dating habits. It was the first time such an exchange occurred in the Japan-U.S. Program. Sracic is planning another U.S./Japan video exchange soon, hosting it this time from YSU.

Stracic earned a bachelor's degree in political science and economics from Albright College and a Ph.D. in political science from Rutgers University. His most recent book is *San Antonio v. Rodriguez and the Pursuit of Equal Education: The Debate over Discrimination and School Funding* (2006). He has contributed articles to academic journals and books, his op-ed columns have appeared in *The Washington Post* and *USA Today*, and he has been interviewed by a variety of national media outlets, including CNN, National Public Radio, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *Le Monde* and *The Yomiuri Shimbun* (Japanese daily).

Jabali set for Dec. 3 in Kilcawley Center

The 11th annual "Jabali" African Cultural Celebration will be 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3, in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center on the campus of Youngstown State University.

The event, sponsored by the YSU Africana Studies Program and co-sponsored by the Youngstown Chapter of the United Nations, will feature entertainment from the Harambee Youth Group and the African Students Union. Wendy Webb, retiring superintendent of the Youngstown City Schools, will give a keynote address on the topic "The Unsung Heroes of the Youngstown Public Schools."

Dinner is \$25 per person, \$10 for students or \$175 for a table of eight. For more information, call 330-941-3097.



University Theater opens "Once on this Island" this weekend in Ford Theater in Bliss Hall. Cast members, from the left, are Nikita Jones of Youngstown, Kaleigh Locketti of Austintown, Joey Alvey of Cleveland, Brittney Symone Grant of Campbell, Cory Davis of Munhall, Pa., and London Sanders of Sharon, Pa.

Theater performs musical based on 'The Little Mermaid'

University Theater's production of the musical *Once on this Island* runs for the next two weekends in Ford Theater in Bliss Hall on the campus of Youngstown State University.

Performances will be Nov. 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20 and 21. Thursday through Saturday performances begin at 7:30 p.m., while the Sunday matinee performances are at 3 p.m.

Once on this Island, based on the book and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens with music by Stephen Flaherty, is a Caribbean adaptation of the popular fairy tale "The Little Mermaid," which garnered eight Tony nominations for its Broadway run, including Best Musical, Book and Score. The show tells the story of Ti Moune, a peasant girl who rescues and falls in love with Daniel, a wealthy boy from the other side of her island. When Daniel is returned to his people, the fantastical gods who rule the island guide Ti Moune on a quest to test the strength of her love against the powerful forces of prejudice, hatred and death.

Frank Castronovo, chair of the YSU Department of Theater and Dance, is the director.

Tickets may be purchased by calling the University Theater Box Office at 330-941-3105 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Although YSU is closed on Thursday, Nov. 11 in observance of Veteran's Day, the Box Office will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets are free for YSU students, \$10 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens, YSU faculty and staff and high school and college students from other universities, Penguin Club members and YSU alumni. Parking is available in the Wick Avenue parking deck for all shows for a nominal fee.

Also scheduled is a "Second Weekend Dinner" starting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18 at the MVR restaurant on Walnut Street. Tickets are \$15 for the dinner for season ticket holders and \$20 for a dinner/theater ticket package for non-season ticket holders. Advance reservations and payment are mandatory by calling the University Theater Box Office at 330-941-3105. No walk ins will be permitted.



James Adovasio

Archaeologist lectures on 'The Invisible Sex'

Noted archaeologist James Adovasio, dean of the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pa., will speak as part of the YSU Anthropology Colloquium 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center.

Adovasio, who also is director of the Mercyhurst Archaeological Institute, will talk about "The Invisible Sex."

Adovasio earned a Ph.D. from the University of Utah in 1970 and a D.Sc. from Washington and Jefferson University in 1983. Before arriving at

Mercyhurst in 1990, he was chair of the anthropology department at the University of Pittsburgh.

One of Adovasio's best-known works is the Meadowcroft Rockshelter site in Pennsylvania and his involvement in the debate on the colonization of the American continents. The Meadowcroft work, which began in June 1973, has funding by the National Science Foundation and the National Geographic Society, among others.

Another of Adovasio's main interests is the role of women, children and elderly people in prehistory and their relative absence from discussions of archaeological materials and theory. He has worked to reverse the gender bias in archaeology and to demonstrate that the stereotypical way that ice-age life is typically portrayed (groups of men running around with spears, killing big animals) are incorrect.

Raga Boyz performs Nov. 21 on campus

Raga Boyz, an internationally renowned group from Pakistan and India, will perform in concert 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center on the campus of Youngstown State University.

The concert, which is part of the YSU Performing Arts Series, is free and open to the public. Parking is available in the Wick Avenue M-1 deck for \$5.

Raga Boyz consists of the four sons of renowned Patiala Gharana singer Ustad Hamid Ali Khan – Inam Ali Khan, Nayab Ali Khan, Ahmad Hassan Ali Khan and Wali Hamid Ali Khan.

The Patiala Gharana genre, in Hindustani music, is a system of social organization linking musicians or dancers by lineage and/or apprenticeship and by adherence to a particular musical style. Raga is a Sanskrit term that refers to one of the melodic modes used in Indian classical music composed of five or more musical notes upon which a melody is made.

Raga Boyz has to its credit many popular songs, including Pakistan's *T-20 World Cup Cricket — 2010* song. The band blends classical, semi-classical, hip-hop and rock and uses up tempo lyrics and verses.



The concert is sponsored by the YSU Performing Arts Series, the Pakistani Community of Greater Youngstown, with support from the YSU Office of the Provost, Center for Islamic Studies, Center for International Studies and Programs and Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity.

For more information, call 330-941-7448.

Seminar on grant writing set for Nov. 16

The Youngstown State University Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs is offering a workshop for YSU faculty and staff on grant proposal development.

"The Transition – from Pre-Award Proposal to Post-Award Funding" is recommended for either novices or experienced PIs and project directors. The seminar will be Tuesday, Nov. 16 in Room 2068 of Kilcawley Center. Two sessions will be offered, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Seating is limited. To sign up, call 330-941-2377 or email Cheryl Coy at ckcoy@ysu.edu.