

News • Briefs

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

May 9, 2011

Contact: Ron Cole,
director of University
Communications,
330-941-3285

Featured in this week's YSU News Briefs:

- Judge Economus honored at commencement
- YSU Beta Alpha Psi team places first
- Students award \$13,500 to four nonprofits
- Tickets now available for Grandin lecture
- YSU APAS donates school supplies
- New Blackboard features introduced
- Women's Coaching Clinic set for May 19



The latest addition to the YSU Student Success Story website are, from the left, Evan Weaks, Matthew Pollock and Karen Cooper, who placed first in the Best Practices competition at the Beta Alpha Psi Midwest Regional Meeting in Indianapolis. Read more in this week's YSU News Briefs.

Calendar

May 9 through 13, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free tickets to a lecture by Temple Grandin are now available at the information desk in Kilcawley Center and at the Rich Center in Fedor Hall. Tickets are also available at Franklin Pharmacy, 1732 Youngstown Road, Warren; Salon at Creekside, Canfield; and Inner Circle Pizza, Poland. See News Brief below for more information.

Monday, May 9, through Friday, June 17, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. "60 Years of Award-Winning Animal Imagery and More," a photo exhibit by YSU alumnus Michael LaCivita, opens in YSU's Bliss Gallery. The exhibit is free and open to the public and features black-and-white photography by LaCivita, who earned a bachelor's degree in business from Youngstown College in 1951. For more information, contact the YSU Department of Art at 330-941-3627.

Tuesday, May 10. Teams of high school students participate in the annual Penguin Regatta boat competition and race at the swimming pool in Beeghly Center.

Tuesday, May 10 and Tuesday, May 17, 4 p.m. The YSU Board of Trustees meets to conduct candidate interviews for the Vice President for Student Affairs position. The interviews will be in the President's Conference Room on the second floor of Tod Hall.

Wednesday, May 11, 3 p.m. YSU students award \$13,500 to four nonprofit organizations as part of the Pay It Forward initiative. The event is in the atrium of the Williamson College of Business Administration on the YSU campus. See News Brief below for more details.

Friday, May 13, 8 p.m. The Ward Beecher Planetarium at YSU presents “The Nature of Science.” On **Saturday, May 14**, the planetarium presents “Big” at **1 and 2:30 p.m.** and “Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity” at **8 p.m.**

Saturday, May 14, 1 to 5 p.m. The YSU Armed Forces Student Association hosts a Car Show Fundraiser in the M-26 parking lot at Lincoln and Fifth avenues on campus. The event will feature awards, t-shirt sales, raffles and an appearance by YSU’s own Pete and Penny. For more information or to sign up to show your car, email afsa@student.ysu.edu, call 330-941-2523, or “like” the AFSA Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Armed-Forces-Student-Association/181630651859157>. To view a flyer for the car show, click cfweb.cc.ysu.edu/ta/download.cfm.

Sunday, May 15, noon and 3 p.m. YSU baseball team plays a doubleheader against Wright State at Eastwood Field in Niles.

Judge Economus receives honorary degree at commencement on May 21

U.S. District Judge Peter C. Economus, a graduate of Youngstown State University, will receive an honorary degree and speak at YSU’s spring 2011 commencement on Saturday, May 21.

Undergraduate graduation starts at 10 a.m., with the ceremony for graduate students at 2:30 p.m. Both events are in Beeghly Center.

Economus was appointed U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio in 1995. Prior to being named to the federal bench, Economus served on the Court of Common Pleas of Mahoning County from 1982 to 1995. He assumed senior status on July 3, 2009, and is currently a visiting District Judge in the Southern District of Ohio.



U.S. District Judge Peter C. Economus

A native of Youngstown, Economus received a bachelor's degree from YSU in 1967 and a *juris doctor* from the University of Akron School of Law in 1970. After law school, he became a staff attorney with the Mahoning County Legal Assistance Association, assisting indigent clients. In 1972, he joined the family law firm of Economus, Economus, and Economus, which specialized in civil and criminal litigation.

While serving on the Common Pleas Court, Economus was selected by the Supreme Court of Ohio to serve as a mentor for new judges and was appointed by the Ohio Attorney General to serve on the Ohio State Victims’ Advisory Board. He is also a recipient of the University of Akron Law Alumni Association Outstanding Alumni Award, the Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association’s Golden Gavel Award, the Youngstown Hearing and Speech Center’s Great Communicator Award for community service, and the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Economus and his wife, Marie, whom he met while they were students at YSU, have three daughters and three granddaughters.

YSU Beta Alpha Psi team places first

Three Youngstown State University accounting students placed first in the Best Practices competition at the Beta Alpha Psi Midwest Regional Meeting in Indianapolis this spring.

They are the latest additions to the YSU Student Success Stories website at <http://web.yzu.edu/studentssuccessstories>. The site features more than 40 YSU students and their academic accomplishments



Evan Weaks of Liberty Center, Matthew Pollock of Lowellville and Karen Cooper of Canfield presented “A Path to the Financial Information Profession” as their Best Practices topic.

This is the third time in four years that YSU BAP students have placed first in the competition.

“Placing first or second for four years in a row in the largest region in the country shows that our students can not only compete with students from any other school, but excel in relation to them,” said Ray Shaffer, a chapter faculty adviser who accompanied five total YSU students at the meeting, along with Wayne Counts, another adviser.

More than 315 students from 38 different colleges were represented at the regional meeting; 12 colleges presented in the Best Practices division, with nine competing in the Helping Others Understand the Financial Information Profession category. Other schools in the YSU students’ Best Practices category included Kent State, Ohio State and the University of Minnesota.

Beta Alpha Psi is an honorary organization for students majoring in accounting, finance and information systems. BAP provides opportunities for self-development, service and association among members and practicing professionals and encourages a sense of ethical, social and public responsibility.

Cooper, Weaks and Pollock now qualify to compete at the national Beta Alpha Psi meeting in Denver this August.

Students award \$13,500 to four nonprofits

Youngstown State University students have awarded \$13,500 to four area nonprofit organizations as part of the Pay It Forward: Strengthening Communities through Student-Led Philanthropy Initiative.

YSU’s Center for Nonprofit Leadership, housed in the Williamson College of Business Administration, received grant funding from the Ohio Campus Compact to participate in the Pay It Forward program. The program helps students learn how to be engaged citizens and to understand the important role philanthropy plays in the health of local communities.

Students in three courses (Basic Public Relations, Nonprofit Leadership, and Nonprofit Community Service) each had \$4,500 to award to regional nonprofit organizations for a combined total of \$13,500. The awards will be presented at 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 11, in the atrium of the Williamson College of Business Administration on the YSU campus.

The regional nonprofit organizations receiving awards are:

- Burdman Group, Inc. for the Sojourner House Domestic Violence Program (\$4,500).
- Meals on Wheels Program of Columbiana, Ohio (\$2,250).
- Potential Development Program of Youngstown, Ohio, for Occupational Therapy Equipment (\$2,250).
- Trumbull Community Action Partnership for the Youth Enrichment Services Program (\$4,500).

In total, the students reviewed 52 proposals requesting more than \$283,000.

The purpose of the Pay It Forward Initiative is to develop a new generation of philanthropists through a course-based service-learning environment that engages college students in hands-on philanthropy, grant-making, and service while providing community nonprofits with much needed assistance in the current deflated economic environment.

Pay it Forward is an academic student philanthropy project sponsored by the Ohio Campus Compact, in collaboration with the Kentucky Campus Compact and the Michigan Campus Compact. Funding for this initiative is made possible through a Learn and Serve America Higher Education grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service. The Corporation for National and Community Service improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering.

This project engages YSU business majors and nonprofit leadership students in professional development opportunities with the nonprofit community and fulfills the mission of the Williamson College of Business Administration, which is to prepare undergraduate and graduate students for productive and fulfilling careers as leaders in business, government, nonprofit organizations, and society. The Center for Nonprofit Leadership offers a certificate and a minor in Nonprofit Management and Leadership, which can be combined with any major on campus.

For more information on the Pay it Forward grant funding or YSU's Center for Nonprofit Leadership, contact Laura McCaskey at 330-941-1870 or LJMcCaskey@ysu.edu.

Tickets now available for lecture by Temple Grandin

Tickets to a free lecture by Temple Grandin, a renowned animal scientist and one of the world's most accomplished people with autism, are available this week on the campus of Youngstown State University.

The lecture, sponsored by YSU's Rich Center for Autism, is 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 17 in Stambaugh Auditorium in Youngstown.

Tickets are required to attend and will be available 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., May 9 through 13, at the information desk in Kilcawley Center and at the Rich Center in Fedor Hall. Tickets are also available at Franklin Pharmacy, 1732 Youngstown Road, Warren; Salon at Creekside, Canfield; and Inner Circle Pizza, Poland.



Temple Grandin

“Temple Grandin and her life is an inspiration for everyone with autism and those that live with, work with and care for people with autism,” said Georgia Backus, director of the Rich Center. “This is a unique opportunity to hear her story and understand the struggles of individuals with autism and how to overcome them.”

Grandin, diagnosed with autism in 1950 at the age of three, has been featured on national news shows ranging from National Public Radio and 20/20 to Larry King Live and The Today Show, as well as national publications such as *People* magazine, *Forbes*, *U.S. News and World Report* and the *New York Times*. *Time* magazine included Grandin in its 2010 *Time* 100, the magazine's annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world.

Also last year, Grandin's life was documented in an HBO film that won seven Emmy awards, including Best Made-for-Television Movie, Best Director and Best Leading Actress. The film also recently won a Golden Globe Award for Best Actress.

Grandin is a professor of animal science at Colorado State University. She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Franklin Pierce College, a master's degree in animal science from Arizona State University and a doctoral degree in animal science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

For more information, visit www.yсу.edu/richcenter or call Tricia Perry, Rich Center events coordinator, at 330-727-9717.

YSU APAS donates supplies to Harding Elementary

The Youngstown State University Association of Professional and Administrative Staff donated school supplies collected during its spring membership meeting to Harding Elementary School in Youngstown.

Students in teacher Nancy Williamson's kindergarten class at Harding receive the school supplies when they are "caught" doing something good, both academically and in citizenship.

APAS plans to continue to support the program by asking for donations from APAS members during the year at bi-annual membership meetings. To make a donation, contact Sharon Schroeder at sjschroeder@ysu.edu.



APAS' Sharon Schroeder and Brenda Crouse recently presented school supplies to teacher Nancy Williamson's kindergarten class at Harding Elementary School in Youngstown.

New Blackboard features introduced on campus

A new feature in the Blackboard Learning Management System at Youngstown State University allows students and professors to more easily detect potential plagiarism.

The SafeAssign Plagiarism Detection tool is among three new functions now available through Blackboard, the new online course management software implemented by YSU last fall to help faculty enhance the educational and communications process of their classes.

SafeAssign compares papers that are submitted against other papers available on the Internet and in YSU's document repository, said Lloyd Painter, YSU manager of technology customer support and training. The software generates an "Originality Report" that indicates the percentage of the document that was possibly plagiarized and areas where it detected plagiarism, he said. Students can also use the software before they submit assignments to instructors.

"It's a very popular tool in higher education," Painter said. Other universities using the software include Baldwin Wallace, George Mason, Florida State, Virginia Commonwealth, Stony Brook, Southern Florida, Central Michigan and San Diego State.

Another new feature is Blackboard Mobile, which provides students and faculty access to Blackboard courses and content – including assignments, announcements and discussion boards – from their smart phones, including the Android, BlackBerry, iPhone and iPad.

"This will enable a whole new level of interactivity," Painter said.

The third feature is integration of TurningPoint Technologies with Blackboard. TurningPoint's response system that allows instructors to "poll" students during lectures and presentations is now available in all standard multi-media classrooms across campus. The new feature allows instructors to correlate responses from the devices to specific students, enhancing the capabilities of the technology, Painter said.

For more information on the new features, call the YSU Instructional Technology Center at 330-941-3244 or by email itc@ysu.edu.

Women's Coaching Clinic set for May 19

The Youngstown State University football program will hold its second Women's Coaching Clinic on Thursday, May 19 at Stambaugh Stadium.

The cost to attend the clinic is \$25 and all proceeds will be donated to YSU's Rich Center for Autism. The clinic will run from 5:30 to 9 p.m. on the YSU campus.

The three-hour clinic is a great opportunity for female football fans to learn the basic concepts of every position. The members of the YSU coaching staff will provide insight into what fans will see on game day and learn about pregame preparation and game planning. The coaches will involve the participants into all drills for even more hands-on training.

For more information, contact Director of Football Operations Dan Kopp at dmkopp@ysu.edu or call the football office at 330-941-3478.