



#CLASSACTS

A NEWSLETTER OF THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES



Dr. Kristine Blair, Dean of Class (second from left)

I'M DELIGHTED TO SHARE our second issue of #CLASSacts, the annual newsletter of YSU's College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS). As I approach my second year as Dean of CLASS, I am continually struck by the talent and work ethic of our faculty, students and staff as they collectively make #YandProud not just a motto in our College and at YSU, but a way of fostering the University cornerstones of urban research, regional engagement and student success.

Academic years seem to breeze by, and thus I'm grateful for the opportunity this welcome message represents to celebrate various accomplishments and milestones among our CLASS community. This includes welcoming a new Associate Dean to the College Office, Dr. Martha Pallante, who served as Chair of the History Department for nearly two decades, as well as two new tenure-track faculty, Dr. Jacob Labendz, Assistant Professor of History and the Clayman Professor of Judaic and Holocaust Studies, and Nicole Pettitt, Assistant Professor of English. This

Dean's Message

edition of #CLASSacts also allows us to honor our past, present and future. Preserving our rich history includes the recent legacy gift of the David and Helga Ives; David Ives, as many readers may know, was a former faculty member whose legacy gift with spouse Helga has supported a range of scholarships, events (including the 40th anniversary in 2018 of the English Festival), and now a rotating Distinguished Visiting Humanities Professor in the College, the first in Italian Studies.

In addition to the exceptional new faculty we have hired over the last several years, we have also welcomed and said farewell to dedicated staff, including the retirements of former administrative assistants Mary Dillingham in Philosophy and Religious Studies and Grimilda Ocasio in History. I am delighted to welcome Linda Glover (you can read more about her in this issue), the new secretary to both Foreign Languages and Literatures and Philosophy and Religious Studies and Rosa Vega as the new Administrative Assistant in History. We've also said some farewells; to David Porter, Professor of Politics and International Relations, who retired in August, and to longtime advisor Julie Felix, who took a new position on campus as Assistant Director of Records. Given the need for additional staffing in the Advising Office, we also welcome Carrie Stepanovich as the new Advisor in CLASS. Stay tuned for features about our newest staff in next year's newsletter.

I mention all these changes as more than just updates; CLASS is about the

people who have shaped its history and are shaping its future, including the role our outstanding students and alumni play in the community. This is made possible by programs like our Geography department, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2017-2018, as well as through the impact of programs like English, American Studies, and Women's and Gender Studies on successful alumni like Sara Lowry, whom we're delighted to feature in this issue as well.

Yet for every story we tell in the pages of #CLASSacts, there's a story that isn't told or deferred to a future issue. Indeed, in a college of nine units, seven interdisciplinary programs, the Youngstown Historical Center for Industry and Labor, close to 90 full-time faculty, and over 1,700 students and several thousand CLASS alumni since the reconfiguration of the College in 2007-2008, there's a lot to talk about.

A round of thanks to both Liz Lehman, our fabulous editor, who will be continuing as a master's student and teaching assistant in American Studies and to Dr. Jay Gordon, Director of Professor and Technical Writing in English, for his design expertise. We hope you'll keep in touch through this newsletter and share your own story, as you're what continues to make the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences a class act!

Kristine Blair

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CLASS Departments and Programs

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| Africana Studies | Geography |
| American Studies | History |
| Center for Islamic Studies | Historical Center for Industry and Labor |
| Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies | Philosophy & Religious Studies |
| Center for Working Class Studies | Politics & International Relations |
| Economics | Psychology |
| English | Sociology, Anthropology & Gerontology |
| Foreign Languages & Literatures | Women's & Gender Studies |
| General Studies | |

CLASS Welcomes Labendz as New Director for Center of Judaic and Holocaust Studies



IN FALL SEMESTER OF 2017, the university welcomed Dr. Jacob Labendz as Clayman assistant professor of Judaic and Holocaust studies and as the new director for the Center of Judaic and Holocaust Studies.

Besides coordinating Jewish studies, Labendz is responsible for directing the college's Jewish studies minor. As director of the center, he plans trips and also organizes lectures by special guests. In fall of 2017, the center brought two guest speakers to campus.

"Dr. Shaul Kelner from Vanderbilt University spoke about American Jewish activism from the 1960s through the 1980s, particularly with regard to the Soviet Jewry movement ... He focused on the role of the movement shaping the Jewish community in America," Labendz said.

Another speaker, Rivka Neriya-Ben Shahar, visited the university in November 2017. A professor from Israel, Shahar is working on a comparative ethnography project looking at Hasidic women and she spoke about their rela-

tionship with technology, particularly the internet.

Spring semester of 2018, Labendz organized a panel discussion on being black and Jewish in America. Guests spoke about their personal experiences and their views on the current political climate in the U.S.

Early in the fall semester, for the Jewish holiday Sukkot, Labendz and the Jewish student organization worked together to build a Sukkah, which he describes as a booth outdoors meant to help celebrate the holiday.

"We're trying to help enliven the Jewish student organization and some students from there were helpful in putting that up and then coming to a celebration," Labendz said.

He also participated in a panel discussion in the fall with two of his colleagues, Dolores Sisco and Tiffany Anderson.

"We participated in the first Brews and Views, which is a sort of Youngstown model of a Cleveland NPR program and we spoke about white supremacy in

America today," Labendz said.

Labendz's educational background is diverse and extensive. He completed his undergraduate studies at Brandeis University, double majoring in linguistics and philosophy. He went on to pursue his master's degree and his PhD

"I found what I like very much is how deeply connected the city is to the school and the school is to the city. People take it very seriously; people are very proud of it."

at Washington University in St. Louis, which he completed in 2014.

Next, he spent a year in Berlin on a Volkswagen fellowship at the Center for Anti-Semitism Research at the Technical University of Berlin. The following year, he had a postdoctoral position at Charles University in Prague, teaching for study abroad programs with New York University and CET Academic Programs.

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Pettitt Joins CLASS Faculty



NICOLE PETTITT STARTED WORKING with the English department as an assistant professor in the fall of 2017. She is also now the director of the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages program, or TESOL.

Pettitt is originally from Minnesota and she earned her bachelor's and her master's degree at the University of Minnesota.

"My undergrad degree was actually a double major in French and Spanish. And then after that, I taught Spanish and English as a second language and then I got my master's degree in second language education," Pettitt said.

After completing those degrees, she spent five years in Atlanta attending Georgia State University. She earned her PhD there in applied linguistics, along with a graduate certificate in qualitative research in education.

In summer of 2018, Pettitt plans to travel to Costa Rica where she will spend two weeks as a visiting scholar. She says she was invited almost two years ago, so

it has been a long time in the planning.

"I gave a workshop in Atlanta ... and one of the women attending is a faculty member in Costa Rica and so it was her idea to bring me to her university and share the information with her colleagues," Pettitt said.

During her visit, she will be working on professional development with faculty and graduate students related to qualitative research in second language classrooms. She said she hopes the trip could eventually lead a possible study abroad opportunity for YSU students.

"We have so many folks learning to teach English as a second language, I'd like to see about a possible study abroad trip that would involve teaching English in another country – potentially in Costa Rica where I'm going. I'll look into that while I'm there," Pettitt said.

In addition to her Costa Rica trip, Pettitt plans to do some in-depth work on her writing during the summer. She wants to spend time looking at her findings in her dissertation in order to spin

off two publications for peer review.

Her dissertation topic centered on the educational experiences of refugee women in the United States – specifically, refugee women who were denied access to schooling in their home countries. For many of these women, when they came to the U.S., it was the first time they had experienced a formal school setting, or learned how to hold a pencil, read, and write.

"I was curious about how classroom practices constructed newcomers as belonging or not belonging in the U.S. This is a particularly crucial question at this point in our nation's history. I used a theory called Social Positioning Theory to ask, how does everything happening in the classroom – from the texts we're using, the way we use language, the activities we ask students to do – position them as legitimate members of U.S. communities, or not. Also, equally importantly, how do newcomers position themselves as members of their communities?" Pettitt said.

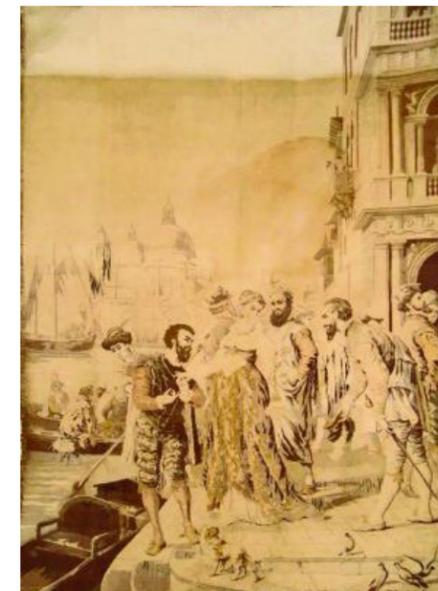
When Pettitt isn't busy teaching or writing, she said she enjoys spending time in nature.

"I live not far from Wick Park and so even though it's right in the middle of the city, I go walking in the park, even in the snow. I put on my boots and I trudge through the snow during the snowstorm," she said. "Mill Creek Park is beautiful for that, too."

Pettitt said she is enjoying YSU and that is it a good fit for her.

"I love it. My students are so enthusiastic. A lot of them are future teachers of English as a second language, getting reading to work with bilingual and multilingual kids. They're really excited about that," she said. "My colleagues have been wonderful to work with – very supportive during my transition to YSU and first year here."

DeBartolo Hall Tapestry Serves as Beautiful Reminder of Ives' Legacy



IN FALL OF 2017, the student lounge area near the main entrance to DeBartolo Hall became more gorgeous. A tapestry, donated by the David and Helga Ives estate, was displayed for all who enter the building to enjoy.

The century-old tapestry was formally dedicated in an invitation-only event in January. Former English department faculty member David Ives and his wife Helga leave behind a wonderful legacy of support and philanthropy towards Youngstown State University, and the tapestry now serves as a tangible tribute.

Dean of CLASS Kristine Blair said, to her, the tapestry serves as a daily reminder of the legacy of the Ives.

"When I walk in every day, I see that tapestry and I always think about it and think what a great thing it was, and it's really pretty and it matches the decor of the lobby really nicely," Blair said.

David Ives met Helga de Agostini during World War II. David Ives was a lieutenant colonel with the Army Air Forces, serving as an intelligence officer.

Helga Ives was born on the Italian Istrian Peninsula and met David Ives during his deployment. The two were married in Italy and then moved to the United States. David Ives eventually retired from the Air Force Reserves in 1969.

The couple took up residence in Youngstown and David Ives joined the YSU faculty, when the school was still called Youngstown College. He taught as associate professor of Classical Studies for 31 years before retiring in 1984.

John Sarkissian said he met David Ives at a couple faculty parties and receptions before David Ives passed away in 1991.

"He was housed in the Department of English but he really had a wide range of intellectual interests and he taught, in addition to English literature courses, Latin and Greek. He would teach courses on things like Greek tragedy and English translation, things of that nature," Sarkissian said.

Sarkissian said, after David Ives' passing, Helga Ives wanted to set up a scholarship in his memory. Sarkissian said this gave him a chance to get to know Helga Ives.

Sarkissian said Helga Ives had a great sense of humor. He said she kept on top of what was going on with YSU and never shrank from voicing her opinions about it. He said she had a tremendous interest and commitment to the university.

"She never stopped keeping up with what was going on with YSU and it was a much deeper connection than simply what she read in the paper. She would always have questions; she would always have opinions," Sarkissian said.

Helga Ives passed away in 2015. In June of the following year, the Ives' estate donated \$1 million to YSU. The

funds were used to expand two existing scholarships, to create a new one, and to establish the David and Helga Ives Distinguished Visiting Humanities Scholar in CLASS, which brings in a visiting professor for a one year appointment.

"We're in the process of completing that search for this year and the person

*"The Ives' legacy at Youngstown State University lives on through this beautiful artwork that now graces our campus."
- Kristine Blair*

who will be coming in next year appropriately will be in Italian and Italian and American studies," Sarkissian said. "In future years, this will be rotated among the humanities departments so the next time, it may be English or history or philosophy and religious studies. So about once a decade, each of these departments will get a visiting professor for the year."

The gift from the Ives estate also provided funding to the endowment for the English Festival as well as brought more than 1,400 record albums of classical music to YSU's Maag Library. The estate also contributed military memorabilia to

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Kauffman Helps Students Navigate First Year Experience

IN FALL SEMESTER OF 2017, Youngstown State University began offering First Year Experience courses to students across the university. Part-time English faculty member Noelle Kauffman was chosen to teach the sections offered to students enrolled in CLASS.

Kauffman has been teaching at the university for ten years prior to being asked to teach First Year Experience. She is also an alumna of CLASS. Kauffman studied political science as an undergraduate and earned a master's degree in history. She also earned a certificate in historic preservation.

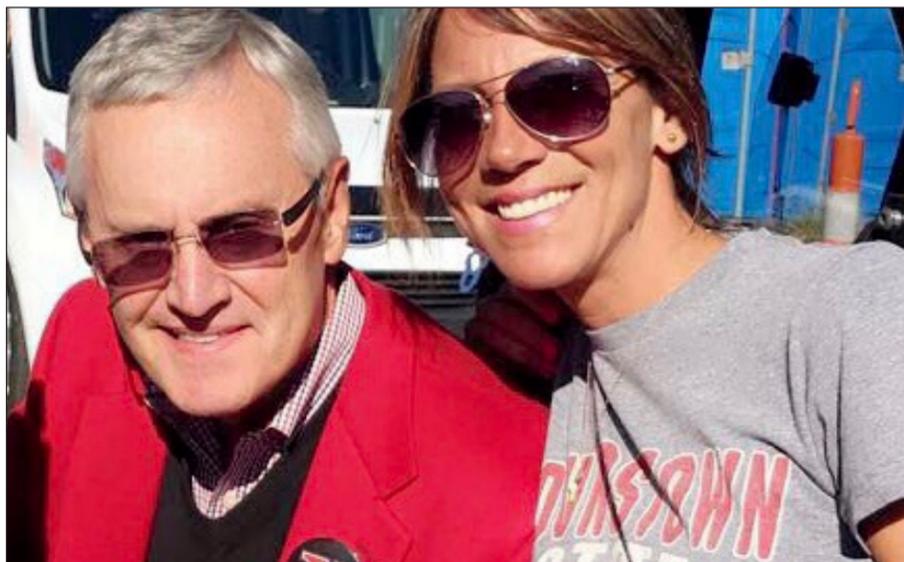
Kauffman said the class is intended to help get new students and transfer students involved in activities around campus.

"The ultimate goal is to make students' entire academic experience a successful one, and not only in grades but in friendships and activities, groups, clubs, performances, you name it. It's just letting them know, hey, this is all yours as a student here at the university," Kauffman said.

All First Year Experience courses have some common components across campus, and then each college chooses a specific topic upon which to focus. The Unintended Consequences of Innovation is the university-wide theme, and CLASS focuses particularly on social media. Kauffman said the class is a big deal in terms of helping students.

"It essentially engages them in what the university has to offer, how to be the best student they can be, how to know what resources are available for them, how to be more conscious with their finances and certainly how to be more conscious with social media," Kauffman said.

The goals of the course include help-



ing students to participate in a culture of community, to learn skills to promote academic and professional growth and to analyze, solve and communicate findings to intellectual questions.

"It's just letting them know, hey, this is all yours as a student here at the university."

Additionally, with CLASS's focus on social media, the college's specific course objectives aim to teach students how to use critical thinking while online. Students will learn how to evaluate the trustworthiness of sources, identify misleading graphs and statistics, verify facts about controversial claims, distinguish between facts and opinions and identify

various forms of cognitive bias.

Kauffman said the course has several different components. One state-mandated section gives students information about how to manage their finances wisely. Students also have the opportunity to attend interactive presentations, participate in campus engagement activities and take surveys.

"They are also required to do a research proposal, and then they do a class poster presentation, which we did an exhibit of last semester," Kauffman said.

She said feedback has been positive and students are enjoying First Year Experience.

"For them to get out there and experience things that they otherwise would not do, they are actually very appreciative of being able to do that, even if it's for an assignment," Kauffman said. "There's so much out here and so much that the university has to offer them, why not know it, why not know what is there? Take advantage of it while you're here. And then take your friends next time."

Pallante Steps into Associate Dean Position with CLASS



Martha Pallante became CLASS's new associate dean in May of 2017. She was in her 18th year in the history department, serving as chair, when she came across the university posting of the job opening and decided to apply.

"I have for some time been looking for something different to do and thought that the job sounded really interesting and so I made the application," Pallante said.

She said associate dean is a jack-of-all-trades kind of position and that, in her position, she has a variety of duties. She said she does the bulk of the budget work for the college.

"The dean and I will sit and talk about goals for the year and what we have to spend and the general plan," she said.

She supervises individual curriculum programs for undergraduates and she is the also director of the Bachelor of General Studies program. She said what she enjoys about the general studies degree is helping students who might not

be interested in conventional degrees, for whatever reason.

"I think the general studies degree is a wonderful alternative, particularly for folks who have gotten distracted by something, maybe even while they are a student here," Pallante said. "Or, more likely, had a child or husband or parent who got sick and had to drop out or ran into financial problems and had to work full time. Once you're out, it's really hard to come back in and to find a place where you fit."

She said the general studies degree gives students an option to take what they did when they were 18 and come back and fit it into where they are now.

Pallante has a split appointment so she teaches two courses a semester for the Department of History and then serves 20 hours a week as the associate dean. Pallante's area of expertise is early American history, although that's not what she started off studying in college.

"I was actually a student here, an undergraduate here in the 70s, and I actually started life as a physical education major. I discovered that the only thing I really liked about it was teaching dance or gymnastics. I didn't really care much about soccer or field hockey or throwing shot put," she said.

She was a varsity athlete and a competitive gymnast. Pallante describes herself as somewhat of an adrenaline junkie and she said she came to realize that she was able to get that same rush from problem solving and thinking as she could from competing in sports.

"Where I was finding that was my history classes. So, I became a history major," Pallante said.

She also minored in education, and became a licensed social studies teacher

in anthropology. When it came time to apply to graduate school, Pallante ended up choosing William and Mary Virginia. She did a master's internship in historical archaeology.

"So I spent a good portion of my time at William and Mary out on dig sites. I was fascinated by it. I still really like it. I decided, however, that ... while I thoroughly enjoyed it at 24, I couldn't see myself at 54 shoveling dirt out of a pit. The thing I really liked about it was the problem solving and putting together the story and I could get that as a historian," Pallante said.

After graduating with her master's degree, Pallante took a year and a half off, then applied to earn her PhD at the University of Pennsylvania. She studied early American history with a focus on Atlantic World, which she said focuses on a big-picture view of global history.

After earning her doctorate, Pallante taught for a year at Penn State Barron. Then she taught for seven or eight years at Hiram College before she returned to Youngstown State University in 1991 as an assistant professor.

She said things looked much different at the university at that time.

"When I was hired there were 16 other people in the department; I was the only woman. There hadn't been a woman on staff for 10 years," Pallante said. She went on to become the only female chair of the history department so far.

Pallante said if she is looking for some excitement these days, she enjoys traveling. She said she's done a lot of European traveling in the past 20 years and her favorite place to visit is southern Italy. She said she enjoys the relaxed pace of life there tremendously.

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CLASS Alumna Lowry Works with U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown



CLASS ALUMNA SARAH LOWRY took her experiences from Youngstown State University and turned them into a position as a Northeast Ohio regional representative for United States Senator Sherrod Brown.

Lowry worked for Brown from July 2012 until Feb. 2017. In 2009, she completed her undergraduate studies at YSU in English and linguistics and then she went on to get a master's degree in American Studies with a concentration in professional and technical writing.

She said her background in writing has been particularly useful in her career path.

"As more organizations need more and more resources to serve more and more people and resources are becoming more and more scarce, being a good grant writer and communicator is very important," Lowry said.

During the course of the American Studies program, Lowry took a class called Humanities in the Community, which had her do job shadowing in an area nonprofit organization. Lowry chose the Youngstown YWCA.

"I was interested in women and gender studies so naturally the YWCA was a good place to go to see how the academic interests in gender studies turns into real life applications in helping

improve the lives of women and families in Youngstown," Lowry said. "That was kind of the 'a ha' moment, like maybe this is what I want to do."

Lowry had another "a ha" moment while studying abroad in Taiwan, when she discovered that their national health-care system was much more affordable and more accessible than in the United States. At the same time, the U.S. was engaged in debates about passing the Affordable Healthcare Act.

"There's all this conversation about cost and money and how do we want to, as a society, collectively invest and support each other in a way that is cost effective and doesn't harm us, but at the same time recognizing that human life has value more so than dollar amounts," Lowry said.

She said someone she met during that time told her the senator's office was looking for someone from the Youngstown area to represent him.

"I saw that Senator Brown was one of the people who has made a very successful lifelong career out of ... standing up and speaking out when very few

other voices were," Lowry said. "So I was drawn to him and was very humbled when this opportunity came around."

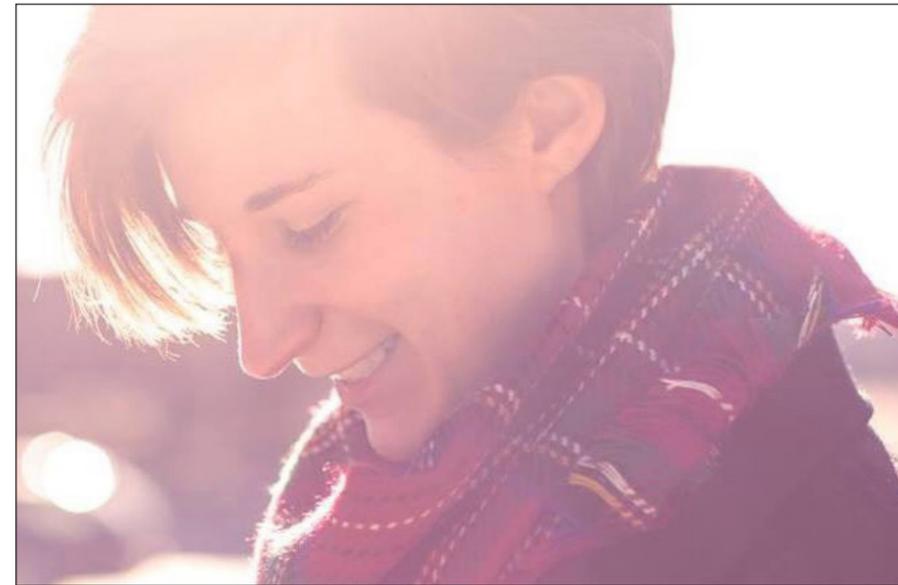
She said both her education and the connections she made with people during her studies at YSU played an important role in her getting the job.

"You need to make sure you're paying attention to both, because in the course of whatever career you're in, whether it's professional and technical writing, journalism, a STEM career, business; the networking connections that you make matter because those are the people that are in the profession that you want to be in. If nothing else [they] can refer you to talk to other people who might be able to help get you where you've got to go, and that's exactly what happened," Lowry said.

Lowry said her extracurricular activities were also instrumental in leading to her eventual role working for Brown.

"A friend of mine and I started a student organization called the Ohio Lady Advocates ... It was partially an education and awareness type thing about issues that would affect students

"YSU has some of the best faculty in the country in their given fields and part of what I think makes them the best is not just their ability to research and publish, but the time and attention that they're willing to give to their students outside of the classroom."



because of their gender identity or their sexual orientation and then what can you do about it," Lowry said.

The group hosted some events on campus to raise awareness of some of the issues women were facing.

"That was when the Affordable Care Act was being litigated for the birth control mandate and saying that employers should cover birth control as healthcare for women," Lowry said. "We had an event on campus called From Bras to Birth Control. We had a bunch of community organizations [like] Planned Parenthood; also the student health center was there and other healthcare providers that worked with survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault."

Another extracurricular activity that helped prepare her for her position with Brown was serving as a student academic senator for CLASS. Lowry was on the general education committee.

She said her time on the committee taught her how to understand and balance different perspectives on a given issue to find a solution and how to compromise, which proved useful to her working for Brown.

"It's important to be able to see the bigger picture and be deliberative and thoughtful about all perspectives before making a decision," Lowry said. "So it

was another one of those [things I didn't think] would result in anything other than an interesting learning experience but it taught me very valuable skills and lessons."

Lowry represented Brown for a seven county area in Northeast Ohio and her duties included attending events, presenting letters and certificates on his behalf and working with community leaders on issues, projects and finding resources.

One initiative Lowry was involved in was the Summer Manufacturing Institute in Youngstown, which is a partnership with Oh Wow! The Roger and Gloria Jones Children's Center for Science and Technology, the YWCA and the Mahoning Valley Manufacturers Coalition. The Youngstown YWCA was a founding partner of the Summer Manufacturing Institute.

The initiative is a weeklong summer program for middle school students where the students experience hands-on learning opportunities with manufacturing.

"They go and they visit local manufacturers and they use what they learn to build and make something of their own. At the end of the camp, Senator Brown has a video and certificates to congratulate the students for taking a week of

their summer," Lowry said. "At the end of the day, they walk of the summer manufacturing camps knowing a little more about what other kinds of career opportunities are out there."

She said she often sees people with degrees in the humanities doing important work in their communities.

"I [saw], in the course of this job, English majors and journalists and professional writers who are now heading up chambers of commerce and are working in economic development, doing these multimillion dollar deals to help bring jobs to different communities," she said.

Lowry said during her time at YSU, her professors made themselves readily available, sitting and talking and working through issues with projects or connecting her to other resources to provide support.

"YSU has some of the best faculty in the country in their given fields and part of what I think makes them the best is not just their ability to research and publish, but the time and attention that they're willing to give to their students outside of the classroom," Lowry said.

Lowry said the supportive YSU faculty helped set her up to succeed.

"It was very much because of that time and attention and willingness to invest in the students that I was able to do anything that I did on campus, and then even now, professionally, I really credit the faculty here and in particular, a few of my academic mentors at the time. They took the time," she said. "I very firmly believe I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing if my faculty mentors didn't take the time to hear me out, brainstorm. I wouldn't be doing what I am doing."

In February 2018, Lowry moved on to a new role as director of the Healthy Community Partnership, an initiative of the Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley.

Being Linda Glover



LINDA GLOVER WORKS AS the secretary in two departments in CLASS, in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies and also the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. However, Glover's history with Youngstown State University goes back much farther.

Glover, who grew up in Campbell, said that once she graduated from high school, she had started to attend YSU. After being hired on a decent job, she decided to put college on hold. After so many years of working, she decided to return to YSU and finish pursuing a degree in criminal justice. She said her two children inspired her to take that step.

"I am a single parent and I came back to school to be that positive role model for my children ... Because let's face it, in the world today, they need all the positive role models they can get," Glover said.

After completing her associate's degree, she went on to earn her bachelor's degree in criminal justice with a minor in sociology. Next, she earned a master's degree in criminal justice with a sociology minor, also.

Glover said she initially had been interested in working in a prison setting. But after doing an internship, she reconsidered.

While working in the prison and having a discussion with other workers about lockdown, Linda felt that she needed to ask the following question.

"I said, 'So if there's a prison riot, how am I going to get out of here?' I was very serious," Glover said. "And then one of the guys explained that nobody gets out. And I said, 'So if something happens, does that mean I'm stuck in here?' He said yes, which makes sense, because if they let me out, they would stand a chance of letting everybody out. So I began to rethink being in a prison setting."

As she was working on her associate's degree, she was hired to work on campus in the Department of Human Resources, which she said she enjoyed.

"It was really nice in human resources, it was like a big happy family," Glover said.

After she completed her education, Glover continued to work at YSU, finding a non-student position.

More recently, Glover was working in both the Department of Theater and Dance and also in the Dana School of Music until she was transferred to

CLASS during the summer of 2017. She said she enjoys hearing from the students and the faculty she worked with in her former roles.

"I let them know I miss them but I am in a good place," she said.

Glover admits she was initially a bit uncertain about transferring to CLASS, but she was welcomed warmly and now she loves it.

"When I was about to come over here, Dr. Blair even had a meet-and-greet breakfast for the faculty and everybody to meet me. A lot of people showed up, and I thought that was awesome, because she didn't have to do that ... After I came over here, I realized it was a blessing. And it was intended for me to be here," Glover said.

"When you're able to work with good people, it makes your job so much easier."

She now splits her time evenly between the Departments of Foreign Languages and Philosophy and Religious Studies. She said DeBartolo Hall is a nice place to work and said she enjoys working with staff, faculty, and the students in CLASS.

"When you're able to work with good people, it makes your job so much easier," Glover said.

But she said working with the students is her favorite part of the job.

"I get a joy out of helping people," Glover said. "I don't mind going that extra mile because I'm here for the students. I feel that if there were no students, they wouldn't need us ... And if I can help someone that makes me happy."

(Labendz continued from page 3)

Labendz's next stop prepared him for coming to YSU.

"After that I was at Penn State for a year as a postdoctoral teaching fellow, developing the courses that I'm actually going to be teaching here which was in a way great to have a place to test them out, learn to shape them and start with I think pretty well formed courses when I got to YSU," Labendz said.

He moved to Youngstown in June 2017.

"I found what I like very much is how deeply connected the city is to the school and the school is to the city, people take it very seriously, people are very proud of it ... When I mention that I teach at Youngstown, people in their 30s, 40s, 50s tell me about their time in Youngstown," Labendz said. "Young people look forward to careers in the area and I find that extremely important."

Labendz said he does his work with the local Jewish community in mind.

"My chair was funded by a Jewish family and my programs are run thanks to their contributions, that's the Claymans for whom my position is named, but also other Jewish organizations and individuals contributed money so there could be Judaic and Holocaust studies at YSU and it's really a pleasure to create programs also with them in mind," he said.

Labendz looks forward to building his career in

Youngstown as well as building an academic community. He is excited by the opportunity to develop the Jewish studies minor and he looks forward to making it even more interesting to students.

"I want to attract more students to the Judaic and Holocaust studies minor ... The minor is usually an initiation, you're able to study on your own, you have an orientation in a field, and I want to make sure that the minor gives that to students," Labendz said.

He is interested in bringing Hebrew language classes back to the university in the future, and with that, offering various study abroad options for students to Central Europe.

"If we can combine that with Hebrew language and good study abroad opportunities which will count towards the minor, I think it could be really attractive," Labendz said.

Labendz said he is open to working on collaborations and urges people to reach out to him as he settles into his new role at YSU.

"My door is open and I'm looking to develop new programs that meet the needs of the community," he said. "I'm here to learn. I have a lot of ideas but this first year or two is going to be spent mostly learning."

(DeBartolo Tapestry continued from page 5)

the YSU Veterans Resource Center, along with memorabilia about YSU and the Ives to University Archives, and, of course, the tapestry.

Blair said the tapestry had been in the Ives home for a very long time.

"After Helga's passing, the trustees were gifting family artifacts, and they didn't initially know what to do with the tapestry. They asked me and they asked a couple other faculty members of CLASS ... would this be something that CLASS would want? Of course I said yes because I thought it would be gorgeous and it did turn out to be really wonderful," Blair said.

CLASS acquired the tapestry around the fall of 2016 and then took it to a conservation company in Cleveland to clean, reframe and mount it under protective glass. Almost a year later, the tapestry was ready and was hung in its current place in DeBartolo Hall.

Blair said installing the lobby was a team effort and everyone pitched in.

"We had so much help getting that done, from faculty in

our college, from the university architect to facilities; everybody was such a help in getting that tapestry mounted," Blair said.

The artist who created the tapestry is unknown, but the portrayal of a Venetian cityscape is believed to be influenced by the artwork of Lorenzo Delleani, born in 1840 in Pollone in northern Italy. He died in 1908.

Blair said it's not often that a physical reminder of a family's contributions towards the university exists in such a visible way.

"I think the beautiful thing about the tapestry is that you get a daily reminder of their legacy. The tapestry represents that, and the plaque that's right next to it represents that as well," Blair said. "The Ives' legacy at Youngstown State University lives on through this beautiful artwork that now graces our campus."

(Pallante continued from page 7)

"The sort of quiet gentility of the people, they're communities with a real sense of both their past and their present," she said. "Their notions about what's important in life or how you live your life or the quality of your life is really different."

A Special Thanks to David Porter



**CLASS wishes Dr. David Porter a happy retirement.
We thank him for his 30 years of service in the
Department of Politics and International Relations.**

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY



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