

With HONORS

A Magazine of the Youngstown State University Honors College

Preserving Our Past,
Investing in Our Future

25
Years
in
YSU Honors



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This issue's cover photo features Jason Zapka, assistant professor of Engineering Technology at YSU, and My Le, a freshman business major from Vietnam, at Fok Hall, the new home for the Honors College on campus. An alumnus of the first class of University Scholars and a current member of the 25th Honors College class, Jason and My represent a history of 25 years of honors at YSU as the college celebrates its silver anniversary.

With Honors is a yearly publication of the Youngstown State University Honors College for alumni, students, faculty and staff, parents, and friends.

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Mission Statement



The mission of the YSU Honors College is to provide academically talented students with a community of excellence to develop their full intellectual and cultural potential. Through a combination of extraordinary learning experiences in small classes and experiential seminars; living-learning communities; unique and flexible resources for commuter students; leadership and innovative engagement activities; service-learning and volunteer initiatives; interdisciplinary projects; research opportunities; and local, regional, and global perspectives, we fulfill this mission. As a direct outgrowth of, and articulated in, the YSU Mission Statement, the Honors College “places students at its center”—the center of an energized and inclusive community of students, faculty, staff, and alumni who share in the pursuit of life-long excellence in learning and civic engagement.

FROM SILVER TO GOLD



YSU Honors Director Amy Cossentino

"Preserving our Past and Investing in Our Future" is the theme to celebrate the silver anniversary and advance into the next 25 years of Honors at Youngstown State University.

"Every honors program or college is known for something, and the YSU Honors experience has at its core not only an academic component, but strong leadership and volunteer elements as well," said YSU President Jim Tressel. "Our mission is to offer a comprehensive student development model that 'places students at our center' and connects them to the campus and community to access available resources, cultivate opportunities, and find the freedom to create and lead. Whether we have a cohort of 160 as we did in the earlier years of the University Scholars and Honors programs, or 1,000 as we have today in the Honors College, each and every student and alum is important, their success our motivation."

For the past 25 years, Honors students have accomplished wonders on and off of campus. They have engaged in and led hundreds of campus student organizations. They have served the Mahoning Valley with a primary focus to raise awareness of local hunger and homelessness. "From the beginning days of Shantytown in 1997, this common thread served as the impetus to bind classes of Honors students together," said Amy Cossentino, director of the Honors College. "They slept in boxes

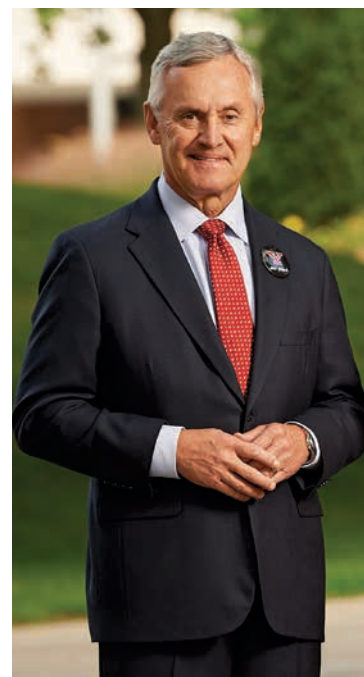
and served food at the Rescue Mission. Now in 2017, as their efforts continue through the Poverty Awareness of Youngstown (PAYO) organization, they are holding food drives, organizing activities for National Homelessness and Hunger Awareness Week each November, and hosting a spring carnival for inner-city children to secure books, food, and hygiene products." Honors students have been making lasting contributions to the community through new initiatives as well: Penguin Pen Pals, the "Guinathon" dance marathon fundraiser, and Mats for Mahoning, to name a few. In fact, the Honors College was awarded the Leadership Award in 2017 from the United Way for their service. Students have also demonstrated excellence over the years by winning scholarships on the national and international stage, ranking in the top spots of academic competitions advised by outstanding faculty, and securing fully-funded research experiences for undergraduates and internships. They continue to reach new heights year after year, surpassing expectations as they work together to support the learning and growth of their peers.

As for the next 25 years, Honors will continue to invest in its future. Some of these initiatives will include:

- The creation of endowed scholarships to support the cost of college for Honors students who lack scholarship support;*
- Identifying a benefactor to name the Honors College, which will support the pillars of the program and our students; and*
- Continuing to build new partnerships throughout the Mahoning Valley that lead to real-world skill development for our students while also supporting the needs of our community.*

Investment also extends to enhancing the new administrative building, Fok Hall, to serve as an academic incubator where students, faculty, staff, community members, and alumni can dream, collaborate, and connect.

"Honors students are students of all of the colleges at YSU whose successes are not solely attributed to Honors, but are shared by all YSU members and the surrounding community," said Tressel. "Only through our collaborative efforts will we continue to 'preserve our past and invest in our future.' We embrace the next set of goals and challenges, and we welcome you to join us on our journey to 50 years of Honors at YSU!"



YSU President Jim Tressel

MEET THE *HONORS COLLEGE STAFF*



Dr. Amy Cossentino
Director

I've been in higher education for over 27 years — 22 of which have been spent serving Youngstown State University Scholars and Honors students. Through mentoring students and alumni to reach their goals, cultivating partnerships and new initiatives, connecting and supporting student and faculty engagement with projects, volunteering alongside students to benefit a need within the Mahoning Valley, and initiating or embracing changes that lead to the advancement of the honors experience, I have enjoyed my deepest professional fulfillment.



Andrea (Armeni) Tharp
Coordinator

As an alumna of the program, I couldn't be more excited to be a coordinator here in the YSU Honors College. I earned my bachelor's and master's degrees at Youngstown State University and started as an assistant editor in the YSU Office of Marketing and Communications before making the move across the street to Fok Hall. Now, I coordinate various recruitment and retention efforts, as well as communications initiatives, in the college and enjoy working with our 1000+ student population!



Eileen Esposito
Administrative Assistant

I graduated in 1999 from YSU with a BSAS in criminal justice and a minor in psychology. I began working in the Honors College in March 2001. Working with and helping students is definitely what I enjoy the most about my job.



Josh Bodnar
Coordinator

I am a native of the Mahoning Valley, and was very excited to join the professional staff of the Honors College in January of 2018. As an alum of the University Scholars & Honors Programs, I know firsthand what a profound effect this program can have on the lives of our students, and I'm very proud to be a part of continuing to build upon the 25-year tradition of excellence and service that we enjoy in the Honors College. I earned my bachelor's from the Beeghly College of Education at YSU in 2008 and completed a master's degree in higher education and student affairs at Ohio University in 2010. Before returning to YSU, I held various positions in student affairs and information technology at Ohio University. In my new role at YSU, I will coordinate a variety of programs, events and services designed to assist honors students with maximizing their YSU experience.



Sharyn Fees
Assistant to the Director

I have been connected to YSU most of my adult life. I enrolled as a student in the fall of 1978 and began working here full time in 1979. I earned my associate degree in secretarial studies in 1982 and achieved the designation of Certified Administrative Professional in 1985. I returned to school several years later and earned my Bachelor of Arts degree in English in 1995. During my 29-year tenure at YSU, I worked in the departments of business education and technology, secondary education, and art. I also taught desktop publishing courses on a limited-service basis for the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems. I have had the pleasure of working with the Summer Honors Institute program since 1999 and have picked up additional responsibilities in the Honors College over the past several years.



Victoria Ferry
Graduate Assistant

I graduated from the YSU Honors College in May 2016 with a BSAS in exercise science on the pre-physical therapy track, and I'm currently living out my dream of being a student in the YSU Doctorate of Physical Therapy program. I was blessed during my undergrad years because not only was I allowed to be a member of Honors, but I was also a member of the women's tennis team. By being a part of both groups, I was able to surround myself with hardworking, passionate people, and I know I would not be the person I am today without these opportunities. You are who you surround yourself with, and I believe Penguins are some of the best kinds of people to do so with.



Natalie (Kelly) Miller
Graduate Assistant

I am originally from Seattle, Washington, and came to YSU my freshman year of college. Everyone asks me why I chose YSU over other universities, especially those closer to home. My answer: YSU was the right fit for me. The Honors College gave me a family and support system, and it challenged me academically in a way that helped me thrive and not stress and prepared me for post-graduate work. I graduated in May 2016 with a BSAS in exercise science, pre-physical therapy track, and minors in biology and psychology. I am now in my second year of the Doctorate of Physical Therapy program at YSU. I am excited to see what this special year in Honors and our students have in store for us.



Alex Welsh
Graduate Assistant

I began my journey at YSU as a transfer student. Originally the move was to be temporary, but I quickly fell in love with the university and made it my home. Joining the Honors College maximized my YSU experience and led me to opportunities that

I otherwise would not have known. As a current student in the Doctorate of Physical Therapy program, I am continuing my involvement in Honors by serving as a graduate assistant. I love working here and am very thankful for the opportunity to do so as I pursue my graduate degree.



Lexi Rager
Recruitment and Orientation Student Manager

I came to YSU as part of the Honors College's 23rd class as a University Scholar in pursuit of my degree in integrated mathematics education along with a minor in developmental psychology. My involvement in the Honors College — specifically the Honors Bigs and Littles mentorship program, Summer Honors Institute, and YSU Honors Trustees — has helped lead me to the position of Student Trustee on the YSU Board of Trustees. Additionally, I help out with the recruitment of prospective students, which is by far my favorite part of my job. I love convincing people that the YSU and Honors College communities are great networks to be involved in and having the opportunity to follow through on those promises once they are here as fellow Penguins!



Hannah Crites
Student Assistant

I am currently a junior at YSU double majoring in psychology and exercise science with a goal of continuing my education toward my doctorate in physical therapy. I was not a part of the Honors College until my second semester of freshman year, and I remember being very nervous at first because I wasn't sure what to expect. Many things went through my head trying to make my decision, until I met Amy. She showed me how simple things would be if I just got out there, made friends, and networked. I've had the opportunity to do just that along, with becoming a student assistant within the college. Overall, the Honors College was a big step for me, and I'm glad I made this decision and explored what we have to offer here.



Jacob Harrah
Student Assistant

I am a junior mathematics and economics double major. This is my second year as a student assistant in the Honors College. I speak at a lot of our different recruitment events and run our annual golf outing in the spring. You can find me in Fok Hall pretty much every day!



Sarah Elisabeth Odidika
Student Assistant

I am a sophomore at YSU majoring in biochemistry. I am also in the new BaccMed medical program at YSU and hope to pursue a career in medicine. I was born and raised in Fort Worth, Texas, (aka Cowtown). I am a member of PAYO, our Poverty Awareness in Youngstown group within the college, and have met some of my best friends through the organization. I am very excited to be a part of the Honors College and hope to continue helping YSU and Youngstown through my service.



Joseph Scott
Student Assistant

I'm a senior accounting major graduating in May 2018, but my true passion is writing. I also love the Honors College and all it has done for me during my four years here at YSU. When I was asked to help the Honors 25th anniversary magazine, I jumped at the chance to not only work on something I love, but to also try and repay the college for all it has done for me.



Jasmine Smyles
Student Assistant/Navarro Executive Fellow

I graduated from Prosser Career Academy in Chicago, Illinois, and am majoring in kinesiology and sports science with minors in biology and wellness. I work in the Honors College through a program called Navarro Executive Fellows. Here, I've started an organization with the help of a former graduate assistant called MALAINA, which stands for Middle-Eastern, African American, Latino, Asian, International, Native American, and Alaskan populations so that students with different ethnic backgrounds within the Honors College can unite and feel empowered. I also work with our PAYO organization.



Nick Tancabel
Student Assistant

I am a junior mathematics major double minoring in finance and economics. I work as a student assistant in Fok Hall where I am the founder the Honors College Golf Outing. I'm also treasurer of Student Investment Fund and STEM Leadership Society and a member of the Honors Trustees. Upon graduation in May 2019, I plan on pursuing my Master of Arts degree in financial economics and earning my Chartered Financial Analyst designation. I can confidently say that my involvement in each of the five pillars of the Honors College has enriched my experience as a YSU Penguin.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTS JOIN THE TEAM



From left, Honors College graduate assistants and alums Victoria Ferry, Alex Welsh, and Natalie Miller.

For the past two years, the Honors College has had the privilege of adding three graduate assistants to the team — all of whom are former Honors students themselves.

From left, **Victoria Ferry**, **Natalie (Kelly) Miller**, and **Alex Welsh** all enjoyed their experience in Honors during their undergraduate careers

so much that they jumped at the chance to give back to the program when the GA positions opened.

The GAs work with current Honors students during the academic year to help with orientation, advising, events planning and much more. The three also work closely with prospective students, conducting tours of campus and the residence halls and answering questions about the college life transition.



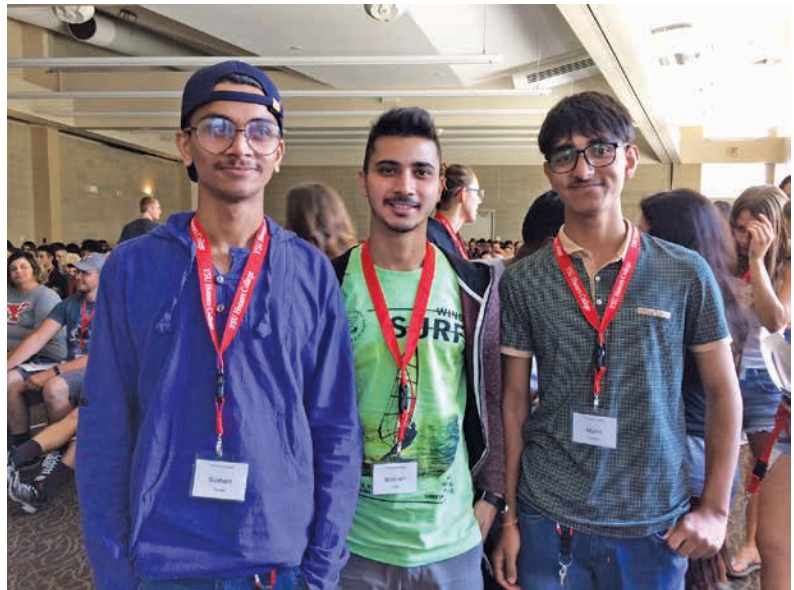
GOING GLOBAL

HONORS WELCOMES RECORD INTERNATIONAL POPULATION

As one of the five pillars of the Honors College at Youngstown State University, global citizenship extends well beyond encouraging students to travel the world and immerse themselves in other cultures. It also serves as a beacon, inviting international students to pursue their education at YSU and to enhance their education by becoming an Honors member.

Over the past few years, YSU has seen a major increase in its international population with students hailing from all around the world: Nepal, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, Georgia, India, South Korea, Nigeria, and more. Among the many attractive features the university offers, the Honors College has also played a role in recruiting students from outside of the U.S.

“Students who reported that they were set to go to very large research institutions have decided on YSU instead because of the nexus of affordability and quality that YSU provides,” said Nathan Myers, associate provost of International and



Three new international students at the Beginning in Honors orientation session last August.

Global Initiatives at YSU. “The Honors College experience allows YSU to compete overseas for some of the very best students on an equal footing with much larger institutions.”

Of the 455 international students currently registered at YSU, 30 are Honors members. This is the largest international contingent the program has seen in its history.

As the international population continues to increase at YSU, Honors seeks to welcome these students into its community through various new initiatives and activities. One volunteer program that is well established within the college, Penguin Pen Pals, is now providing its international volunteers with an outlet to share their stories and cultures with the Youngstown area elementary schools involved in the program. Bikash Thapa of Nepal, a freshman University Scholar in the College of STEM, is spearheading the initiative and hopes that it will help get more international students involved in the YSU community.

“There’s lots of things to explore and get involved with in the community, but many students don’t know how to get started,” said Thapa. “I want to encourage them to participate in the Honors College. It has been wonderful, fantastic! Everyone is helpful and caring. I feel like the Honors College is my second home.”

The Honors Trustees, along with student Brent Kidwell, also reached out to international students this fall to host a meal on campus for their first Thanksgiving, while other Honors students invited their international suitemates to their own homes for the holiday.

“Experiences like these make an impact on everyone involved,” said Amy Cossentino, Honors College director. “Students who have never traveled beyond the surrounding counties can chat with students from around the world and expand their horizons. We want to continue making these global learning experiences available to all of our students.”



Bikash Thapa, freshman international student from Nepal, carves his first jack-o-lantern at Fok Hall for a Weekend Waddle event hosted by the Honors Trustees.

Story by Joseph Scott

NEW ACADEMIC JOURNAL FEATURES HONORS STUDENTS' EXEMPLARY WORK



In spring of 2017, the YSU Honors College published its inaugural issue of the university's first undergraduate honors academic journal, *The Emperor*. The publication is a peer- and faculty-reviewed, open-access journal that features the sterling work of honors and honors-eligible undergraduates from a range of disciplines on campus.

"By giving students a public forum for sharing their intellectual pursuits, the journal promotes student engagement in research and creative scholarship, while also fostering a community of scholars," said faculty advisor Dr. Diana Awad Scrocco of the YSU English department, who is also a University Scholar alumna.

Awad Scrocco, along with a team of student editors and the oversight of Honors College director Dr. Amy Cossentino, celebrated the release of the first 98-page volume of *The Emperor* last April, but the idea for this new initiative came two years earlier.

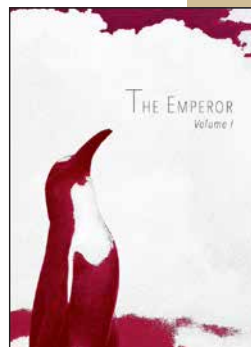
In late 2014, a group of YSU Honors students returned to Youngstown inspired after presenting at the annual National Collegiate Honors Council conference in Colorado. The idea for *The Emperor* was born after they attended a panel about another university's undergraduate honors journal at the conference. Megan Evans, Honors sophomore and English and sociology double major at the time, spearheaded the effort to initiate the new academic journal at YSU. Throughout the next academic year, she and a diligent team of Honors students collaborated with Awad Scrocco to develop the journal's mission, scope, guidelines, criteria, and submission categories. The team also worked with Cossentino to recruit reviewers to serve on the student and faculty review boards. By 2016, *The Emperor* received 49 manuscript submissions from students across campus.

Through a rigorous process of review and revision, the editorial board had its final selection of authors and pieces by the start of 2017 and, with the design and layout help of Andrea Tharp, Honors College coordinator, a printed publication that spring.

From left, Megan Evans, The Emperor honors academic journal founder and 2017 editor-in-chief; Dr. Diana L. Awad Scrocco, assistant professor of English and faculty advisor; Dr. Amy Cossentino, Honors College director; Andrea Tharp, Honors College coordinator and layout editor; and Brigitte Petras, 2018 co-editor-in-chief at the first release party last April.

"For Honors students who plan to attend graduate school, engaging in the blind review process provides them with essential insight into the valuable experience of publishing in a scholarly journal," said Cossentino, who also noted the value of the professional experience that the editorial student team receives at the same time.

With continued support from students and faculty, the Honors College aims to establish *The Emperor* as a permanent venue for students to publish their exemplary work and to contribute to YSU's long-standing tradition of academic excellence.



The first volume of *The Emperor* can be found online at www.ysu.edu/honors/emperor. Honors-eligible YSU students are invited to submit their academic and creative manuscripts for review for the next volume and can find submission guidelines on the publication's website.

partners

PARTNERING WITH THE VALLEY

HONORS CONTINUES TO BUILD COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

If you're at all familiar with the Honors College at Youngstown State University, you're also familiar with the fact that it comes with a strong tradition of community service.

"All honors programs tend to have a personality to them, something they're known for," said Honors Director Amy Cossentino. "For us, that's volunteerism."

Over the years, service projects like Shantytown, 30-hour famine, Global Day of Service, and campus blood drives have taken root and become annual volunteer opportunities for members. With these initiatives comes a strong network of local organizations who benefit from the events and the students who take part in running them. Nonprofits like the American Red Cross, the Rich Center for Autism, the Rescue Mission of the Mahoning Valley, Beatitude and Dorothy Day houses, and more have provided several of these

direct service opportunities for Honors students, while also allowing them to gain professional skills and to network as they volunteer.

But as the Honors College has now almost quintupled in size over the last three years, from a steady 200 to nearly 1,000 members, so must its partners. In fact, Honors students completed more than 33,500 total hours of community service during the 2016-17 academic year alone, totaling over \$770,000 worth of economic impact as valued by Independent Sector. Since students are encouraged to commit a substantial amount of these hours to the Youngstown area they live in, more projects and partners have been added to the college's repertoire to support increased service goals. Below are just a few examples of these growing partnerships.

United Way

One burgeoning partner over the last two years for Honors has been United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley. Honors students can now choose from six different service programs through United Way to earn volunteer hours and give back to the community, including:

- Success After 6, an early childhood education initiative to help children who need extra academic or social support.
- Project MORE, which pairs a mentor with a struggling reader for a 30-minute reading session each week.
- Young women's mentorship programs.
- Report card mentoring.
- Women United, a group that volunteers in the community year round.
- Holiday season projects, including food and gift drives for local children.

"We have grown this partnership with United Way so that our students now have several opportunities to contribute to their initiatives," said Cossentino. "United Way staff members have been coming to campus a few times each semester to talk to our students about opportunities, answer questions, and provide guidance and training, so it's also been a professional development opportunity for our students."

The YSU Honors College was recognized at the UWYMV 2016 Annual Meeting with the Volunteer Excellence Award for student help with the Success After 6 program. One of these students, Hashim Ahmed, who served last year as a Success After 6 tutor for kindergarten through third grade students



Recent Honors College alumna Marissa Gray accepting the Volunteer Excellence Award on behalf of the Honors College at the 2016 United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley Annual Meeting.

at the Youngstown Community School, recognizes the double benefit to the program.

"It's a really satisfying experience," Ahmed said. "Not only has it helped me, but it's a great help to the community."

OH WOW! Children's Center

Another local organization that has grown in their affiliation with the Honors College is the OH WOW! Children's Center for Science and Technology, located in downtown Youngstown. In the last year alone, the center has partnered with several Intro to Honors

student groups for volunteer projects, been a participating organization for Global Day of Service in fall semester, provided internships for Honors students, and recruited Honors students for job openings.

"Interning at OH WOW! has been a great experience so far," said Douglas Rutana, Honors chemical engineering junior at YSU and current OH WOW! intern. "I've had the chance to collaborate with the center's board of directors to evaluate



Honors students checking out exhibits and helping with preparation for Silly Science Sunday at OH WOW! Children's Center during Global Day of Service.

the exhibits among other projects, and it's exposed me to a lot of new opportunities."

Moreover, OH WOW! provides service-learning positions for Honors students, as well as professional training that coincides with these volunteer projects. From special events planning and data management to exhibit maintenance and technology development, the volunteer roles offered to students are meaningful experience builders that give them a taste of the type of work in their fields and provide them with excellent resume content as they prepare for life after graduation.

Local Elementary Schools through Penguin Pen Pals

Since 2012, Honors students have been serving as role models to local elementary school children through the Penguin Pen Pals program.

Started by a freshman Honors student in conjunction with Youngstown surgeon Dr. Rashid Abdu of the Joanie Abdu Comprehensive Breast Center and supported through a gift from BP, the service program pairs an Honors student with an elementary school student who correspond with each other twice a month over an academic year through a shared journal. The goal is two-fold: The project allows the children to improve their literacy skills and learn about the values of hard work and perseverance in education from their pen pals, while it also enables Honors students to serve as leaders to inspire and teach the children.

Harding Elementary School in Youngstown was the pilot school for the first year of the program, and around

60 Honors pen pals were recruited. Today, more than 500 Honors students are writing to children from four area schools, including Harding, Youngstown Community School, Prospect Elementary, and Girard Elementary.

"It's exciting to see schools wanting to be a part of this program, and that just shows how much of an impact it has made on these students' lives," said Hannah Crites, junior Honors exercise science major and this year's Penguin Pen Pals student coordinator. "I'm happy to be helping with a program that has grown so much over the years and is not only improving the skills of the students, but changing their attitudes toward learning in the process."

Where will Pen Pals grow from here? Two additional schools have already asked to be included in next year's program, and talk of a college shadowing component for middle school students is in the works. The success of the program is a testament to the Honors students who have worked to initiate, implement, and organize the program with a dedicated heart in serving these area children.



Honors students writing to their elementary school pen pals in their journals at Fok Hall and waiting to meet one of the schools at last year's end-of-the-year celebration and meet up.



alumni SPOTLIGHT

This issue's Alumni Spotlight features five of our outstanding YSU Scholars and Honors alums with recent accomplishments worth noting.

INTERNSHIP IN UGANDA INSPIRES ALUM'S WATER CAMPAIGN

A recent graduate school internship in Uganda gave Youngstown State University and Honors College alumna Sarah Perrine first-hand experience in the misery and discomfort that comes with a lack of clean water. The Medina, Ohio, native launched a campaign to provide a dependable water source for the people of Masaka, Uganda, the small rural village while serving an internship there last spring.

"I've experienced a life constrained by having limited access to water, and consequently felt the health effects," she said. "There is such a great need, and I really wanted to change things for the people here."

A 2014 graduate with dual degrees in Professional Writing and Editing and Environmental Studies, Perrine left for Finland immediately after graduation to attend the University of Jyväskylä in Finland to pursue a master's degree in Sustainable Management of Inland Aquatic Resources.

She accepted a volunteer internship in Uganda last spring through the MILECHILD Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides education, water, sanitation and hygiene training for more than 75 children and their families in Masaka County.

The school and the residents there generally rely on rainwater storage tanks to fill their water needs, Perrine explained. That water source has become scarce due to climate change: the wet seasons have become shorter, dry seasons more severe.

Perrine began raising funds to drill a borehole – a deep, narrow shaft bored into the ground to reach a water supply – and to install a pump and a 5,000-liter storage tank. Her fundraising efforts have secured more than \$2,200 to date, reaching the \$1,000 mark over the summer to signal the start of the boring process.

She also worked with the teachers and director of the MILECHILD School, educating them on the proper care of the borehole pump to ensure that it will provide a water source for the community for many years. She continued instructing the residents on proper ways to purify and store their water.

Uganda is among the least developed nations in the world – the United Nations ranks it 163 out of 184 countries. "Overall lack of access and inadequate quantities of safe water are major hindrances to the country's human development," she said. "With a new borehole to supply large quantities of ground water, the MILECHILD community will no longer be representative of these poor statistics. They'll be able to enjoy their human right to water!"

First appeared on the YSU News Center website, www.ysu.edu/news.

Left, Alumna Sarah Perrine in Masaka, Uganda, the small rural village where she served an internship in spring 2017.

ASHLEY ORR: THE ROAD TO THE RHODES



Nearly two years have passed since I moved to Oxford, United Kingdom, to begin my study at the University of Oxford as the first Rhodes Scholar selected from Youngstown State University. While my goals, understanding of the world, and life has forever changed, my experience as a Rhodes Scholar is in many ways a similar core experience to that of my experience within YSU's Honors College. In both experiences leadership, service, scholarship,

and most importantly the people have shaped my intellectual and personal development.

Surrounded by some of the most brilliant and capable leaders I have ever had the honor to share space with, I have

continued and refined my practice of leadership. In 2017, the Rhodes Trust celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the opening up of the Rhodes Scholarships to women. As a co-convener of the Rhodes Women group, I helped plan and execute the four-day conference with attendees such as Lieutenant General Michelle Johnson and Judge Karen Stevenson. In addition to acting as a master of ceremonies, I moderated a panel on "Standing Up for the World in Business, Economics, and Finance."

At first, within Rhodes House, I found myself yearning for more local community service, as my time volunteering in Youngstown, at Harding Elementary with the Pen Pal program for instance, helped me connect and contribute to the city I call home. However, I soon learned that service when abroad may take many different forms. While the Rhodes Scholar Impact Group works to facilitate volunteerism within the city, for instance with the local homelessness lunch program, the Oxfordshire domestic abuse charity, and the Oxford Foodbank where I have volunteered, service may be given in the form of pro bono economic and strategy consulting and grant review.

(continued on page 10)

ASHLEY ORR: THE ROAD TO THE RHODES

(continued from page 9)

As a consulting officer for Rhodes Scholars from Southern Africa Forum, I help facilitate six teams of Scholar consultants working with young nongovernmental organizations in sub-Saharan Africa who may be unable to otherwise afford consulting or staff but who can vastly expand their impact by operating more efficiently. Personally, I have consulted with two youth organizations in Kenya during term long projects.

Academically, Oxford has been challenging and rewarding. Last summer term, I designed and taught my first course, Development Economics, which encouraged students to leverage economics to understand and fight poverty both in the context of the developed and developing world, consume academic literature, and be better statisticians. I found teaching incredibly rewarding. My research examines labor supply decisions following unconditional cash transfers, my methods now include machine learning, and I hope to, in the long term, contribute to the policy discourse concerning the future of work amid technological change. I look forward to completing my MPhil this summer and returning to the USA for my PhD, potentially at Carnegie Mellon University, which

will give me better access to the American job market and amazing research opportunities.

In Oxford, the over 300 Rhodes Scholars from around the world and across the years live in the city and convene in Rhodes House for alumni talks (like fireside chats), conferences, retreats, workshops, balls (a Phormal, perhaps), and teas. Scholar initiative is encouraged and supported like Amy's support of our ideas for Cafaro House. Through annual retreats, my 2016 cohort of Scholars has spent entire days confronting the meanings of justice, the practice of leadership, and the importance of self care. While I am grateful for the support of the scholarship during my time in Oxford, I am very aware that upon winning a Rhodes Scholarship, the true award was not the funding but the opportunity to connect with the vast global alumni network, all of whom share a common goal to "Fight the World's Fight." I am dually privileged in being both a YSU University Scholar and a Rhodes Scholar not for just my time at university, but for life, and I remain committed to wielding that privilege with responsibly to improve the economic lives of others.

ALUM ESTABLISHES SCHOLARSHIP TO HONOR GEOGRAPHY PROFESSOR

Youngstown State University Scholar alumnus Jeremy Mercer is giving back to the university in a special way. The 1997 political science, history, and geography grad recently established an endowment scholarship that will benefit geography students for years to come at YSU.

"Dr. Patricia Humbertson was my mentor in the geography department, and she was someone who really cared about the students and took the time to invest in them," said Mercer. "I kept in touch with her after I graduated and then found out she passed away from cancer. I wanted to do something to honor her memory, so my wife and I started this scholarship in her honor for the department."

The Dr. Patricia Humbertson Memorial Scholarship in Geography is a \$1,000 award. Student recipients must be geography majors with a minimum 3.0 grade-point average, and they must be entering their junior or senior year at YSU.

Humbertson, who passed away in 2013, served in the U.S. Navy before earning her PhD in geography from the University of Pittsburgh in 1973. She was a professor of geography at YSU from 1978 to 1999, serving as chair for seven years. She was known by many of her students to be a passionate educator.

"It's a way to kind of give back to her for all she's done and to keep her memory alive because she was such a big part of my life," Mercer said.

Mercer is a current partner at Blank Rome LLP in Pennsylvania. He received his JD from

Ohio State University and has been listed in the Pittsburgh Business Times' "Who's Who in Energy" from 2014-16. He recently came back to visit campus this fall and reflected on the 25th anniversary of the Honors program, remembering some of his favorite aspects of meeting people through community service, especially in his experiences volunteering to show children and their families around local hospitals in advance of their surgeries to educate them and reduce their anxieties.



He and his wife, Vanessa, live in Mars, Pa., with their two children who, as Mercer points out, "will definitely have YSU on their lists of schools to visit when it comes time to make their college decisions."

Jeremy Mercer watches the Penguins at Stambaugh Stadium during his recent visit back to campus.

If you would like to recommend an alum of the program or nominate yourself to be featured in a future issue, please email the magazine editor at honors@ysu.edu.

FROM GOLDWATER SCHOLAR TO YALE FELLOW



Andrew Morgan

Last spring, Tau Beta Pi, the world's largest engineering honor society, awarded Youngstown State University alumnus Andrew Morgan of Fowler, Ohio, a graduate fellowship to study at Yale University.

Morgan, who graduated from YSU and the Honors College in May 2017 with dual degrees in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, is currently pursuing a PhD in robotics at Yale. One of 25 engineering students nationwide chosen for the prestigious Tau Beta Pi fellowships, he is receiving a \$10,000 cash stipend for his advanced study.

Tau Beta Pi Fellowships are awarded on the competitive criteria of high scholarship, campus leadership and service, and the promise of future contributions to the engineering profession. All fellows are members of Tau Beta Pi, and they are free to complete their graduate work at the institution of their choice.

Morgan completed an undergraduate research experience at Auburn University the summer before his senior year where he discovered his interest in closed-loop robotic systems with computer vision feedback. His long-term goal is to work in academia as a researcher and robotics professor.

During his junior year at YSU, Morgan was named a Goldwater Scholar with fellow Honors student Jenna Wise,

marking a first in the university's history for two students to receive the prestigious award in the same year. In all, only 11 Ohio residents were chosen.

"Since 1997, we've had seven students, all members of YSU Honors, named Goldwater Scholars, along with four honorable mentions," said Amy Cossentino, Honors College director. "It really speaks to what outstanding potential our students continue to have in the STEM fields."

Established in 1986, the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program is named in honor of the former U.S. senator who served for 56 years as a soldier and statesman, including 30 years in the U.S. Senate. The purpose of the program is to provide a continuing source of highly qualified scientists, mathematicians and engineers by awarding scholarships to college students who intend to pursue careers in these fields.

In addition, Morgan participated in more than a dozen student-led organizations during his time at YSU, including the Honors Trustees, Student Government Association, and Academic Senate. He has published three academic papers and filed a provisional patent.

"I think my success at YSU stemmed from my level of involvement," said Morgan. "My volunteerism in the Honors College played an especially large part in my applications and my mindset for future success."

Excerpts taken from the YSU News Center website, www.yсу.edu/news.

WISE RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS NSF FELLOWSHIP TO SEEK PHD



Jenna Wise

Jenna Wise, who graduated from Youngstown State University and the Honors College last spring, was awarded a prestigious Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation that is financing her PhD studies at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh starting this academic year.

As an NSF Graduate Research Fellow, Wise, who double majored in math and computer science at YSU, is receiving a \$34,000 annual stipend and \$12,000 for tuition for up to five years, along with the opportunity for international research collaborations and federal internships. Her goal is to teach and do research on the university level.

Under the highly competitive NSF program, 2,000 recipients are chosen each year from a field of more than 13,000 applicants nationwide. Funds support students enrolled in graduate study that will lead to research-based graduate or doctoral degrees in science or engineering.

Before her journey at Carnegie Mellon began this fall, Wise served a paid summer internship at the IBM Research Center in New York, her fourth internship in four years. Previously, she interned two summers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and one at Clemson University in South Carolina.

Wise received several other awards and recognitions throughout her undergraduate career, including the prestigious Barry Goldwater Scholarship in 2016. She is the past president of Pi Mu Epsilon, an honorary mathematics student organization on campus, and of the Women's Association for Computing Machinery student organization. In addition, she was published last spring in the inaugural volume of *The Emperor*, the new Honors academic journal at YSU, with her article, "On Predicting Developer Expertise from Eye Gazes for Bug Fix Tasks."

Wise credits the honors curriculum with giving her "the ability to go beyond the required coursework and learn more about careers and research possibilities in my field," and found the honors contract process in particular to be one of the most positive features of the program.

First appeared on the YSU News Center website, www.yсу.edu/news.

GOLDWATER RECIPIENTS

1997	2005	2007	2008	2010	2016
Vincent Lucarelli	Lori MacDonald	Matthew Ward	Tyler Drombosky	Hillary Howard	Jenna Wise Andrew Morgan

STUDENTS PLACE FIRST AT NATIONAL HONORS CONFERENCE

14 Honors students and director represent YSU at National Collegiate Honors Council conference

Two seniors from Youngstown State University's Honors College placed first for their research presentations at the 51st Annual Conference of the National Collegiate Honors Council, held Oct. 12 through 16, 2016, in Seattle, Washington.

Mariah DeFuria and **Elizabeth Rogenski**, both University Scholars, presented in student poster sessions.

DeFuria, an Austintown native and then chemistry major, placed first in the Environmental Science, Conservation and Green Technology category. Her presentation, "Perfluorinated Metal Organic Frameworks for Use in Water Remediation via Pi-Pi Stacking Interactions," detailed her research on a process that treats polluted groundwater for human consumption using perfluorinated metal-organic frameworks.

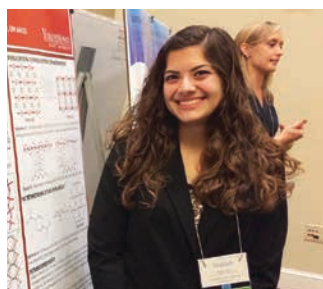
"I couldn't be more proud of Mariah and her accomplishments. Her work on water remediation has inspired many offshoot projects that we will be exploring for years to come," said Douglas Genna, assistant professor, Chemistry, who worked with DeFuria.

Rogenski of Poland, then mechanical engineering and physics/astronomy double major, placed first for Outstanding Student Poster in Business, Engineering and Computer Science for her presentation, "3D Scanning of Metal Parts Produced by Selective Laser Melting." Her research focused on the use of 3D scans to analyze additive-manufactured parts for post-process machining.

"Libby is a wonderful student to work with," said Brett Conner, associate professor and director, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, "and she works to balance her academics with athletics—a great representation of what it means to be an Honors student."

In all, 14 students from the Honors College were selected to present at the annual conference along with Director Amy Cossentino, who gave a faculty presentation on strategies in developing a thriving honors community. The YSU group was among nearly 2,000 students and faculty from more than 500 institutions to attend.

"Our students have been accepted to present at the NCHC conference for almost a decade now, through a highly competitive selection process," said Cossentino, who will travel again with a group of students to this year's conference in Atlanta, Georgia. "It's a great opportunity for them to go through the proposal process, perfect their presentation skills and share ideas with other honors students from across the country and, in recent years, around the world."



Mariah DeFuria presenting at NCHC.

Along with DeFuria and Rogenski, the following students presented research at the 2016 conference:

Samantha Anderson of Poland, senior finance and business economics double major: "The Financial Implications of Healthcare Mandates on Small Businesses in Ohio."

Rayann Atway of Boardman, junior biology/pre-med major: "Antibody Production Directed Against Type 5 and Type 8 Staphylococcus aureus."

Leah Bayer of Brookfield, sophomore mathematics and biology double major, and Robert Voland of North Jackson, Ohio, sophomore chemistry/pre-pharmacy and math double major, co-presented "Rebuilding a Better City."

Megan Evans of Boardman, senior English, linguistics and sociology triple major: "The Debilitating Effects of Socioeconomic Status Among Elementary School Students."

Greta Frost of North Jackson, Ohio, senior political science major: "An Assessment of the U.S. Agency for International Development's Assistance to Morocco and its Effect on the Moroccan Education System."

Madeline Grimes of Vienna, Ohio, junior Business ICP major: "Validation of Symphony Orchestras in the Twenty-First Century: A Tri-City Evaluation Through Financial, Socioeconomic, and Marketing Technique Analysis."

Natalie Halavick of Vienna, Ohio, junior mathematics major: "Analyzing Historic Crime and Neighborhood Stabilization in Youngstown, Ohio."

Katina Landgraff of Washington, Pa., senior human resource management major: "Applying Human Resource Management Concepts and Practices to Increase Productivity, Efficiency, and Overall Impact of Student Organizations on College Campuses."

Andrew Morgan of Vienna, Ohio, senior electrical engineering and computer science double major: "3D Printing in a First-Year Engineering Design Project."

Tyler Pabst of Austintown, senior chemistry major: "Transition Metal-Mediated CO₂ Activation for the Synthesis of Industrial Carbon Feedstocks."

Lexi Rager of Bristolville, Ohio, sophomore math education major: "Fall Immersion: An In-Depth View of an Honors College for Prospective Students."

YSU Honors students who presented at the 2016 NCHC conference. Top row, from left: Greta Frost, Lexi Rager, Robert Voland, Andrew Morgan, Tyler Pabst, Natalie Halavick. Bottom row, from left: Leah Bayer, Elizabeth Rogenski, Samantha Anderson, Rayann Atway, Megan Evans, Madeline Grimes, Mariah DeFuria, Katina Landgraff.





Fok Hall

PRESERVING OUR PAST, INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

A CELEBRATION OF THE LAST 25 YEARS OF SCHOLARS AND HONORS AT YSU AND A LOOK AT WHAT'S STILL TO COME

Since 1993, Youngstown State University has seen 25 classes of Leslie H. Cochran University Scholars and Honors College members on its campus, in Cafaro House, in the Courtyard Apartments, and now at the entrance of the university in Fok Hall. From a first class of only 40 to a family of well over 2,000 current students and alums today, the program has grown and thrived for a quarter of a century with the same firm sense of purpose from the start — to recognize, foster, and celebrate student success.

Standing on the front porch of Fok Hall, the new campus headquarters for the Youngstown State University Honors College, Jason Zapka remembers a time when the program was a name with no home.

“We were scattered here and there at first in Lyden House, there really was no home base for those first few years when we were trying to figure out how to assemble our community,” said Zapka, a member of the first class of University Scholars.

That debut year was the first in 15 at an attempt to bring together the high-achieving students at YSU. The Honors Program officially began in 1977 but existed as only a small community on campus until the early 1990s. In 1992, YSU President Leslie H. Cochran announced the establishment of the University Scholars Program to compliment the honors community and spur increased involvement in the tradition of excellence at YSU. The YSU Foundation, a private endowment dedicated to funding scholarships for students, agreed to provide the financial backing.



Representing the first and 25th Scholars and Honors classes, Jason Zapka, left, and Myle stand on the front porch of Fok Hall, the new campus headquarters for the Youngstown State University.

25 Years

(continued on page 13)

The idea was simple: Award 40 full-tuition, room-and-board scholarships annually to top high school students in the region and beyond. The first Scholar class started in 1993 under Director Nathan Ritchey, and within two years a new residence hall, Cafaro House, opened exclusively for Scholars and Honors students. After four years, YSU could boast that it was the only public university in Ohio to offer more full-ride academic scholarships than athletics scholarships.

In 1999, University Scholars was recognized as a "Program of Character" by the John Templeton Foundation. In 2010, YSU was named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement. The award specifically recognized Shantytown, an annual homelessness awareness project started in 1998 by the Scholars.

In December 2014, the YSU Board of Trustees approved the establishment of an Honors College, which combined and expanded the Scholars and Honors programs. In the following year, on-campus housing for honors students increased to include a building within the University Courtyard Apartments, and a new honors headquarters was established in Fok Hall in the summer of 2016.

Today the Honors College supports a community of intellectual excellence through the college's five pillars: Research and Scholarship, Leadership and Engagement, Volunteerism and Service-Learning, Global Citizenship, and Interdisciplinary Perspectives. Exceptional students from diverse backgrounds are challenged with advanced learning experiences to find opportunities to grow as scholars and citizens.



Students outside of Cafaro House.

"We want people to get into the grad school of their dreams, into the jobs of their dreams, so that's why we're here," said Ron Shaklee, second director of Honors. And the

honors program provides the students with the necessary skill sets they are going to need to do whatever they want.

"I'm so proud of where the program is today," he continued, "and am glad I had any small part in contributing to that growth. It is one of those things I will proudly remember forever."

The program has come a long way since that first class. From a sprinkling of students camped in Lyden House to a dedicated honors dormitory in Cafaro House. From a program to a college. From 160 students to over 1,000.

But through all of the changes

and transitions, one thing has remained the same: The heart and soul of the program.

"Even though changes have taken place over the years, the sense of family is the thread binding all throughout the decades," said Amy Cossentino, Honors College director. "Much remains the same, but what has changed serves only to enhance the experience for all students."

Building upon the foundation established in the first couple decades and the momentum from the change in scholarship structure that resulted in a larger Honors student population, the Honors College is positioned to be a driving force of heightened and sustained academic excellence at YSU. Top priorities for the Honors College moving forward to keep YSU competitive with attracting outstanding students can be enhanced through identifying a benefactor to name the college; establishing partnerships to offer real-world experiences to students; increasing the number of endowed scholarships; and collaborating with faculty and

HONORS COLLEGE STANDOUTS

- 7 Goldwater Scholars
- 4 Goldwater Scholar Honorable Mentions
- 5 Phi Kappa Phi Fellows
- 2 Fulbright Scholars
- 1 Rhodes Scholar
- 1 Truman Scholar Finalist
- 1 Marshall Scholar Finalist
- 16 presidents and 15 vice presidents of YSU Student Government Association since 2000
- 12 student trustee positions held on the YSU Board of Trustees
- 227 leadership positions in student organizations in 2016
- 26 presidents, 38 vice presidents in student organizations in 2016
- Five Homecoming Kings/Queens



Past Scholar tailgate event.

staff to develop courses and activities adding value to the undergraduate experience.

"Being an Honors College member has been the most valuable opportunity to me so far," said My Le, member of the 25th Honors class and an international student at YSU. "The students around me and the staff do their best to make me feel like I have a home away from home, and I've had so many chances to get involved, learn new skills, develop my abilities, meet interesting people, and have lots of fun."

When great minds with endless energy collaborate, the possibilities of what can be are endless.

When great minds with endless energy collaborate, the possibilities of what can be are endless.



Scholar Wars.

Our **25th** Class

333

FRESHMAN HONORS STUDENTS

UP FROM 273 LAST YEAR

13 STATES

20 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

REMEMBERING OUR ROOTS

What would a good celebration of 25 years of Honors be without memories from those who made the program what it is today? Students have always been a significant foundation of the program, so as we look back on the years, here are some of their memories.

Honors has always been a close-knit community, and the growing numbers have done nothing to change that. For someone who both graduated from the program and came back to teach Intro to Honors, Mollie (McGovern) Hartup can attest, "From day one on campus, I felt like I belonged to an amazing extended family, and that feeling continues today." That sense of family continues long after graduation, too. Heather (Baltic) Acker, '07 graduate, recalls how her Big/Little relationship grew from one handwritten letter. "It was the start of a forever friendship. This year, I got to watch her walk down the aisle and marry the love of her life."

Cafaro House played a big role in building this sense of family, too. "I have many fond memories of Cafaro House," says Joseph Folk. "For one, I remember being a guest speaker at the ribbon cutting ceremony when Cafaro House was opened." However, as Michael Bossart puts it, perhaps the best memories should be "left undocumented to protect the identities of those involved," which is a testament to the comradery experienced by residents of Cafaro House.

Let us not forget the traditions of Honors, most of which were born from such lightheartedness. PHormal, Scholar Wars, the PHil. The list could go on, and undoubtedly more will be added to it in the future. Words may never be able to do justice to the heartfelt memories created through Honors, but the one thing they each have in common is they will never end.

Joseph Scott



Past Scholar class.

HELPING THE HOMELESS

A longstanding event of the Scholars program was Shantytown. When this event was first born, students dedicated their time volunteering during the day and experiencing the trials and tribulations of spending the night without the comforts of home. Students fashioned makeshift shelters from cardboard boxes and spent nights combating wind, cold, and sometimes rain. Students who participated in this event were left astounded by the fact that while they had warm homes to return to the next day there were people in the Youngstown area who did not possess such luxuries.

"I loved participating in and leading the Shantytown homelessness awareness project," said Brett Hudspeth, a member of the twelfth class of University Scholars. Given the plight of so many in Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley as a whole, it's such an important cause, and seeing the whole group of Scholars and Honors students so fired up and engaged was very rewarding—and has helped spur on further contributions to the cause as I've gone on in life."

With the growth of Honors throughout the years, events like Shantytown have evolved as well. From that growth came National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week. Through its student organization Poverty Awareness of Youngstown, Ohio, Honors hosts multiple events during the week, which generally falls on the second week of November. "The purpose of NHHAW is to bring awareness to the hunger and homelessness in Youngstown and offer students the opportunity to have a direct impact on bringing change to the community," said Sarah Elisabeth Odidika, one of four co-chairs of NHHAW. This culminates in the 30 Hour Famine, in which students fast for 30

hours before joining the Youngstown community for a meal at the Soup Kitchen.

Megan Evans, alumna of the 21st University Scholars class and a founder of PAYO, helped facilitate

the evolution. "With the expansion of the Honors College, it was important to provide as many opportunities as possible for student involvement. NHHAW, as a week-long event, provides those opportunities and also helps enhance our student body's understanding of hunger and homelessness in the area."

Volunteering is not limited to only that week. Honors has increased its partnerships within the Youngstown area, allowing for more volunteer opportunities during Global Day of Service. This past year saw 518 volunteers at the event. Around MLK weekend in January, Honors also hosts a retreat for students consisting of volunteering events like card making for veterans, weaving waterproof sleeping mats for the homeless and a poverty simulation. The simulation lasts two hours where students spend their time "living" in poverty, from making difficult financial decisions with limited funds to dealing with any of the countless situations arising during the situation. As someone who helped coordinate the simulation, Alex Welsh says, "While the experience is fun, the point of the simulation is not lost. You get an understanding of real issues that people face daily."



Shantytown.

Joseph Scott

HOME SWEET CAMPUS

For many Scholars and Honors alums, YSU has been a place to call home even after graduation. The following alumni are now working on campus in variety of departments and positions:

- **Diana Awad Scrocco**, USX, assistant professor, English.
- **Josh Bodnar**, USXII, coordinator, student development and retention, Honors College.
- **Emilie (Lape) Eberth**, USX, STEM outreach coordinator, College of STEM.
- **Mollie (McGovern) Hartup**, USVI, assistant director, University Events.
- **Jason Heyman**, USXIV, consultant, Ohio Small Business Development Center at YSU.
- **Sarah (Wakefield) Jenyk**, USX, instructor, Economics.
- **Christopher Lettera**, USXIV, part-time faculty/CPT reader, English.
- **Angela (Barwick) Messenger**, USV, coordinator, Writing Center.
- **Luke Politsky**, USXVII, housing coordinator, Cafaro House.
- **Andrea (Armeni) Tharp**, USXIV, student recruitment and engagement coordinator, Honors College.
- **John Vogel**, USX, assistant director of communications, Athletics.
- **Thomas Wakefield**, USVI, interim chair, professor, Mathematics and Statistics.
- **Jason Zapka**, USI, assistant professor, Engineering Technology.

Leadership

KEEPING THE TRADITION OF STUDENT LEADERSHIP ALIVE



Lexi Rager



Allan Metz



Rayann Atway

It should be of no surprise to hear that some of the top student leaders on campus are Honors students, but it is still a testament to the strength of the program's predecessors who worked to build this presence that Honors students today are continuing to uphold the long-standing leadership tradition.

In fact, more than 225 leadership positions were held by Honors members in student organizations during the 2016-17 academic year, including 26 president and 38 vice-president roles. Recognizing the importance of these experiences for students, the college outlines a recommended pathway for engagement over the four years of a student's academic career.

"We want our students to find the opportunities that allow them to grow from active members on campus to leaders who are ready for their next step after YSU," said Andrea Tharp, Honors College coordinator. "From joining a student organization, to holding a leadership position or taking the lead on a service project, to finding professional networking opportunities, they have a blueprint for navigating their engagement on campus."

Three Honors students are helping to steer the university's direction this year by serving in some of the chief student leadership roles on campus. Senior Allan Metz and junior Lexi Rager are the current student members of the Youngstown State University Board of Trustees, while senior Rayann Atway serves as president of YSU's Student Government Association.

Metz and Rager are among 12 Honors students who have held positions as student trustees on the board. Gov. John Kasich appointed Metz as a student member of the board in 2016 and Rager in 2017, both for two-year terms. Metz, who is studying biology on the pre-med track, plans to attend medical school and become a physician. As a University Scholar, he has also been involved as an Honors College trustee, president of the YSU American Medical Student Association, member of the YSU Biology Club, member of the STEM Leadership Society, treasurer of Alpha Epsilon Delta Honor Society for Pre-Health Professionals and volunteer hospital aid at St. Elizabeth Hospital. Metz was selected twice for the Research Experience for Undergraduates at the University of Michigan.

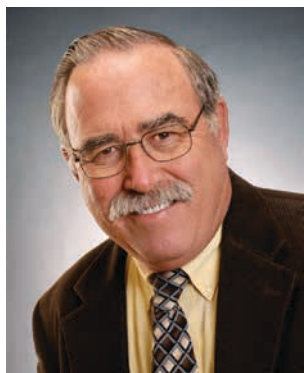
Rager, an integrated mathematics education major with a minor in developmental psychology, is a student assistant in the Honors College and helps to coordinate its Summer Honors Institute, Big and Little mentorship program, Fall Immersion weekend that brings high school seniors to campus to shadow Honors students, and other recruitment activities. She is also president of the Honors College Trustees. Rager has worked on research with YSU faculty members Padraic Taylor, associate professor of Mathematics and Statistics, and Ron Shaklee, chair and professor of Geography, and she recently traveled to California State University in Fresno to work on research in mathematics with Alicia Prieto Langarica, associate professor of Mathematics and Statistics. Rager is a University Scholar and a Choose Ohio First Scholar.

Joining these two student leaders is Atway, who was elected SGA president for the 2017-18 academic year with Ernie Barkett, also an Honors student, as vice president. They join 15 other presidents and 15 vice-presidents of the organization from Honors since 2000. A biology, pre-med major and University Scholar, Atway has been involved in YSU's American Medical Student Organization and Alpha Epsilon Delta. She has also been a volunteer at Akron Children's Hospital, Northside Medical Center, and the Honors College Penguin Pen Pals program. She has interned twice at the National Institutes of Health and worked as a medical scribe at St. Elizabeth Hospital. Upon graduation this spring, Atway plans to attend medical school.

HONORABLE MENTION

YSU FACULTY WHO ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN HONORS STUDENTS' LIVES

Showcasing



Dr. Ronald Shaklee

Behind every great student is an exceptional faculty member, someone who takes the time to coax the full potential from a student by truly investing in them, and Youngstown State is home to many such mentors.

Over the years, faculty have devoted part of their time especially to Honors students by instructing honors designated courses and seminars, assisting with honors contracts, or advising on capstone projects. Not only have these faculty members stood out to the students they have helped, but their contribution to the program has been felt over several years and has made a lasting impact on the shape of the college today.

We highlight one of these stellar faculty members in each issue, and this year's feature is someone who has been at the heart of Honors for many years.

Dr. Ronald Shaklee, professor and chair of the YSU Department of Geography, was previously the director of the Scholars and Honors programs for 15 years.

When he first began as director in the spring of 2001, one of his first initiatives was overseeing the growth of honors seminars offered to students. Over the years, these seminars, or experiential learning opportunities, have become a staple academic offering of the college. From personal finance topics to the examination of Harry Potter novels, Honors seminars give students practical, hands-on experiences outside of the classroom.

Shaklee has been a popular instructor for many of these seminars. He has taken students on camping and spelunking adventures in Pennsylvania, and to Ohio vineyards to learn about the geography of wine production, instructing students also on the social intricacies of wining and dining. But perhaps the most memorable course for both him and students has been his tropical ecology seminars. For years he has taken students on a week-long December study trip to the Bahamas to share his knowledge and love of the islands and to experience the geography and culture first hand.

For all of his time spent teaching, some of his proudest moments come from seeing students he's come to know achieve their dreams. He fondly recalls the events leading up to Thanksgiving Day weekend a couple years ago when he received a call from Ashley Orr, Scholar alumna and first YSU Rhodes Scholar, and the incredible feeling upon hearing the words, "Dr. Shaklee, I'm a Rhodes Scholar."

"Seeing all these bright, young men and women getting into the graduate school they want or receiving national honors — those are the things we work for," he said.

Story by Joseph Scott

Shaklee with a group of Honors students in the Bahamas for a tropical ecology seminar.



To see a video of a recent Bahamas trip with Dr. Shaklee for the Tropical Ecology seminar, go to www.ysu.edu/honors, click on the "Curriculum" tab on the right, and then click the video link on the bottom of the page.

BUILDING FROM A FOUNDATION

With all of the perks that membership into the Honors College at Youngstown State University brings, perhaps the most substantial has been the scholarship awards. And that's because scholarships offered to Scholars and Honors students over the years have not only meant an easing of the financial burden of pursuing a college education, but, moreover, a distinction advocating high academic pursuance and achievement.

The backbone that has allowed the program to recognize 25 years worth of accomplished students in this way has been the YSU Foundation.

The origins of the YSU Foundation date back to the fall of 1966 when Howard Jones, who served as the first president of Youngstown College and Youngstown University for 35 years, had just set into motion the transformation of the private Youngstown University to the public Youngstown State University. Seeking to protect the University's private endowment, Jones established a separate, independent organization, the Youngstown Educational Foundation. In 1983, the name was changed to the Youngstown State University Foundation, with full autonomy from the university maintained.

An independent, private, non-profit corporation that manages resources to support scholarships and student initiatives at the university, the YSU Foundation has backed scholarship awards offered to qualifying Honors members since 1993. Beginning that year under the leadership of YSU's fifth president, Leslie H. Cochran, a full-tuition, room-and-board scholarship was created and awarded annually to 40 of the best and brightest high school graduates throughout the nation. Once fully implemented the program grew to assist in the scholarship aid of 160 students. After only four years and thanks to the program, YSU was the only public university in Ohio that could claim offering more full-ride academic scholarships than athletics scholarships. After his eight years of presidency, Cochran ended his YSU career seeing more than 300 students through the Scholars program.

"Leslie Cochran had a vision. It fell to Reid Schmutz, President of the Youngstown

State University Foundation, to turn that vision into reality," said Shaklee. "Through his leadership, the foundation engaged in an aggressive and ambitious fundraising campaign that generated the necessary endowments to underwrite scholarships that served as the basic core of the university scholars program. These endowments ensured the continuing success of the scholars program and helped guarantee that bright, motivated students would choose Youngstown State University as their preferred higher education destination."

The winter of 2014 marked a transition in not only the program, but also in the way scholarship funding would be distributed to student members. Upon the return to Youngstown of Jim Tressel, tenth president of YSU, the scope of the program was expanded under his vision, leading to the establishment of the YSU Honors College by the YSU Board of Trustees on Dec. 16, 2014. Under the new college, a drastically increased number of high-achieving students — today, more than 600 — would be able to receive merit-based scholarship aid to pursue an enhanced educational opportunity through Honors. While the full-ride Leslie H. Cochran University Scholarships still exist and continue to be awarded to students in each new class, they have been reduced in number and are now complimented by smaller Honors tuition and housing scholarships given to a larger population of qualifying students. The expansion of offerings under the Foundation and its current president, Paul McFadden, has led to a vibrant community of over 1,000 current Honors College members to date.

"Our hope is to grow endowed scholarships that will support students in all areas of learning," said Cossentino. "As we continue to celebrate our 25th anniversary of Honors at YSU, we welcome our alumni, parents, fellow Penguins, and community partners to join us in developing and nurturing initiatives that preserve our past and invest in our future."

YSU SCHOLARS AND HONORS



NEW COLLEGE FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

Memorial Scholarship

Honors College Director Amy Cossentino recently started a scholarship for Honors students in memory of her parents. The John & Nancy Cossentino Honors College Scholarship will support students who did not meet the minimum entrance scholarship requirements but were able to enter provisionally as Honors members and through desire, dedication, and discipline met all expectations over the course of their first year in the college.

Honors Study Abroad Scholarship

Dr. Ron Shaklee, past director of the YSU Scholars and Honors programs, is setting up a scholarship to support faculty-led study abroad opportunities for Honors College students of any major in good standing.

"25 for 25" Campaign

To celebrate its silver anniversary, the Honors College has launched a new opportunity for alums to help in preserving the past and investing in the future of the program with a "25 for 25" campaign. The campaign asks for commitments of at least \$25 per year for the next four years. Any donation will make a difference in the quality of experience that the college can provide its students.

Alumni and Friends Golf Outing

YSU Scholars and Honors alumni and friends are invited to play in the annual Honors Golf Outing each May. The first outing, which took place in May 2017, was organized by two Honors students who are continuing to coordinate the event this year. All proceeds of the outing support YSU Honors student initiatives, research, and service efforts.

More information on all of these efforts, along with donation instructions, can be found at www.ysu.edu/honorsalumni.



HOLDING STRONG: THE STORIES BEHIND THE PILLARS OF HONORS

In its mission to provide academically talented students with a community of intellectual and cultural excellence, the YSU Honors College incorporates five pillars of success into its approach in engaging students. The pillars encompass all aspects of a student's experience in Honors and include:

- RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP
- LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT
- VOLUNTEERISM AND SERVICE-LEARNING
- GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP
- INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES

Whether presenting at national conferences, traveling the world, serving their community or leading their peers, Honors students are exemplifying the values of each and every pillar. Here's a look at just a few stories of current students and recent grads who are making headlines in the five areas.

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

SUMMER MATH RESEARCH

Research to predict class and professor recommendations

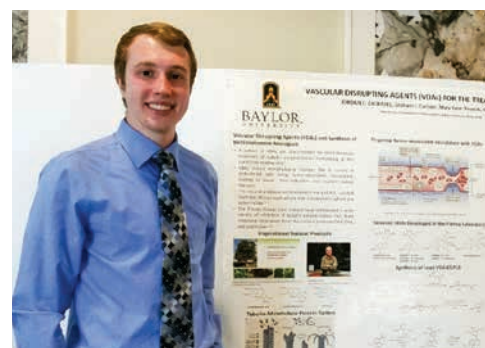
*California State University; Fresno, Calif.
Summer 2017*

By making connections with honors faculty, I received an offer to do research in applied mathematics with YSU's Dr. Alicia Prieto Langarica and fellow honors student Marina Pavlichich this past summer at California State University.

Our research focused on the algorithms that Netflix and Amazon use to give their users recommendations on shows and items they might prefer based on previous selections and purchases. We applied these same algorithms to the world of higher education and created a program that can recommend classes and professors to students based on those they have already taken and liked. We are hoping to make this program available for use university-wide soon!

Through this research, I have been able to travel to Chicago, Atlanta, San Diego, and Nebraska to share our work and will be continuing to present it next year!

—Lexi Rager, junior math education major



Jordan Zackasee

BAYLOR REU

**Cancer research
at Baylor**

*Baylor University; Waco, Texas
Summer 2017*

This past summer, I was given the opportunity to conduct research in organic chemistry at Baylor University, where I worked to create a new molecule that can carry medicine to areas infected with cancer without causing damage to any surrounding areas with healthy tissue.

During my 10 weeks conducting research, I realized how much I enjoyed my work in chemistry, and it solidified my decision to continue my studies in graduate school after graduation next year.

—Jordan Zackasee, junior chemistry major

SUMMER RESEARCH AT MICHIGAN

Two summer research experiences in Michigan

University of Michigan; Ann Arbor, Mich.
Summer 2017

This summer, I was fortunate to take on a research opportunity at the University of Michigan. It was my second summer research experience there as an undergrad, and both programs were key in helping me follow my career path.

The 2017 program led me to work with the Henke Lab in the Conrad Jobst Vascular Research Laboratories on a project concerning deep vein thrombosis, or when a blood clot forms in a patient's veins, typically in a vein of the leg. I was tasked with designing a protocol to quantify the ability of a vessel affected by a clot to contract and relax, and then comparing that to a vessel that was not affected by a clot. The goal was to elucidate more about the biologic changes a vessel undergoes when affected by a deep vein thrombus and what this could mean for treatment of clinical cases.

During my previous summer research experience, I had the opportunity to complete a 10-week program through the University of Michigan's Cardiovascular Center. The program centered on disparities in healthcare that included various workshops, volunteerism in the community and clinical research with the 19 other members of my cohort.

My research at that time with Dr. Elham Mahmoudi focused on post-mastectomy breast reconstruction usage, an elective surgical procedure that rebuilds the breast mound after a patient has undergone mastectomy in response to breast cancer. While this procedure has many studied benefits, there is still a very low utilization rate for the procedure and many documented healthcare disparities. Our study evaluated the effectiveness of New York Public Health Law 2803-0 at increasing the overall rate of post-mastectomy breast reconstruction in New York when compared to California, a suitable control state, as well as the change in disparity of usage between racial groups using Difference in Differences (DID) regression analysis.

Both experiences at the University of Michigan allowed me to gain an appreciation of how research is conducted and how it can impact real people, which is important to me as a future physician. I believe that YSU provided me with the necessary education and lab training to achieve these positions and succeed in them, and I couldn't be more grateful for that opportunity.

—Allan Metz, senior biology major

NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

Biomedical research at the National Cancer Institute

National Institutes of Health; Bethesda, Md.
Summer 2017

This summer, I had the chance to return to the National Institutes of Health for a second research opportunity.

I had already had the opportunity to work at the National Cancer Institute in the Healthcare Delivery Research Program the summer after my sophomore year. My focus during this first experience was to advance research on the factors that influence the delivery of cancer care. I worked on a literature review analyzing over- and under-screening of breast, cervical, and colorectal cancers in minority older adults. I also took the lead on creating a website for researchers, clinicians, and anyone who has an interest in the "healthcare teams" research to connect and share ideas. The purpose of "healthcare teams" research is to show how working in teams can improve cancer care coordination and to make working in teams more efficient. This has since been launched on the Research to Reality website run by the NCI.

My most recent research experience at the NCI allowed me to work in the Laboratory of Genitourinary Cancer Pathogenesis. This experience was quite different than my first summer, as I was working in a wet laboratory, a lab where materials like chemicals and drugs are handled in liquid solutions or volatile phases. This time, my research focused on examining the genetic changes that are associated with prostate cancer drug resistance, development, and progression. I learned a variety of new laboratory techniques that allowed me to study the genetic effects of MYC on prostate cancer cell lines. MYC is a gene that has been linked to disease aggressiveness, thus it is a target in many labs. Overall, I was studying genes that MYC played a direct role on in order to see exactly how prostate cancer is progressing in tumors.

The NIH is such an incredible place because people come from all over the world in order to simulate innovative research. Throughout my two years at the NCI, I learned so much about many different types of cancers, allowing me to foster my interest in biomedical research.

—Rayann Atway, senior biology major

MATH TO HELP LOCAL BUSINESSES

Assisting local businesses through NSF math grant

Youngstown State University
Spring 2017

Several Honors students participated in a special math course entitled "Preparing for Careers in Math" as part of the Preparation for Industrial Careers in Mathematics program of the Mathematical Association of America and the Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics, sponsored by the National Science Foundation. This PIC Math grant has been awarded to YSU for the past three years.

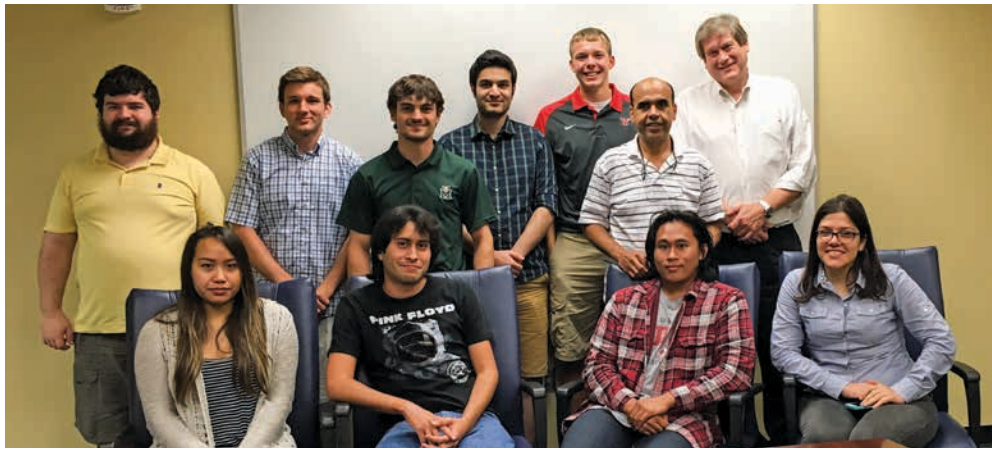
Two groups worked on projects for Mercy Health and the Western Reserve Transit Authority in Youngstown. The Mercy Health group, including Honors students Natalie Halavick, Leah McConnell, and Sara O'Kane, analyzed healthcare utilization data to recommend placement of new healthcare facilities.

"This group was one of eight chosen to orally present their project among nearly 75 others and did an impressive job sharing their results with the other PIC Math students and faculty in Chicago," said Thomas Wakefield, group advisor and professor in the YSU mathematics and statistics department, as well as University Scholar alum.

The WRTA group, including Honors student Joe Wilaj, performed a cost allocation analysis on the agency's fixed-route and demand-response services.

Honors students were also awarded the PIC Math grant in the spring of 2016. The students were paired with the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation and YSU's Center for Student Progress to assist in mathematical modeling and statistical testing. Working with YNDC, students Joe Ciarniello and Wes Pringle created a statistical model to predict the probability of individual

(continued on page 22)



Andrew Morgan, back, fourth from left, and his REU team at Auburn University.

RESEARCH UAVS

REU on Smart UAVs

Auburn University; Auburn, Ala.
Summer 2016

The summer before I graduated was surely one to remember. Through my Research Experience for Undergraduates at Auburn University, I had the opportunity to explore the world of Smart Unmanned Aerial Vehicles through a National Science Foundation funded program.

The REU accepted eight students from around the country—from California to Puerto Rico. Of our small but mighty group, we had the opportunity to pick our own projects and teams for this research, which was originally focused toward future Department of Defense implementations on unmanned aircraft. My projects included work on computer vision “see and avoid” algorithms for collision avoidance and a UAV recovery system. Other groups researched practices involving distributed systems and future prediction of collisions using Artificial Intelligence.

The program also offered informative sessions on scholarships, fellowships and future research and publishing opportunities. Through the small-group setting of eight, it was possible to network among my peers and faculty at Auburn, and the opportunity to take part in a graduate-like, collaborative experience like this as an undergrad was invaluable.

—Andrew Morgan, '17 grad, computer science and electrical engineering

Morgan is now pursuing his PhD in robotics through a full assistantship at Yale University.

Math to Help Local Businesses *(continued from page 21)*

houses in Youngstown going vacant over the next 20 years. They used data such as number of water shut-offs and tax delinquency to make the prediction.

Trenton Cersoli, Natalie Halavick, Christopher McComas, and Zack While also completed a project for YNDC. They assessed the effectiveness of YNDC’s neighborhood stabilization efforts and created a model to predict the movement of crime through Youngstown in the coming decades. As part of the grant, this team submitted a video and report to the MAA and presented a



From left: Honors students Trenton Cersoli, Natalie Halavick, Zack While, Joshua Fromel, and Christopher McComas present their math research in Chicago in 2016.

poster highlighting their results at the SIAM Annual Meeting in Boston, Mass., July 2016, as one of 40 team presentations.

Ashley Orr and Elizabeth Urig worked on a team charged with performing a cost-benefit analysis of some of the programs offered by YSU’s Center for Student Progress.

—Thomas Wakefield,
professor,
mathematics and statistics



LINCOLN LAB

Summer experience at MIT

MIT Lincoln Laboratory; Boston and Lexington, Mass.
Summer 2016

During the summer of my senior year, I spent my days interning with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Lincoln Laboratory. The lab is a federally funded research and development center overseen by MIT and the Department of Defense. It assists the U.S. government with scientific research and analysis, systems development, and systems acquisition to provide novel, cost-effective solutions to complex government problems. These efforts are aligned within key mission areas: space control, air, missile, and maritime defense technology, communication systems, cyber security and information sciences, ISR systems and technology, advanced technology, tactical systems, homeland protection, air traffic control, and engineering.

As an intern you work with a project team in a division within one of these missions for eight weeks. I personally worked on researching various data-integrity-related solutions that support data trust for a big data platform. I implemented two different solutions in our current big data platform for my summer project. Even as an intern, I was treated as a regular employee as far as my contributions to the project were concerned and felt that it was a valuable experience-building opportunity in this way.

—Jenna Wise, '17 grad,
mathematics and computer science

CONFERENCE AWARD

Best undergraduate research at national conference

Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology Conference; Greenwood Village, Colo. Fall 2016



Megan Evans

Last year, Megan Evans received top honors at a national sociology conference for her research presentation on home ownership and impoverished populations.

Her presentation, "An Assessment of the Effects of

Home Ownership on the Lives of Low Income Individuals," received the Best Undergraduate Research Award at the annual Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology Conference, held October 2016 in Greenwood Village, Colo.

It was the second year in a row that Evans, a University Scholar in the Honors College and senior YSU sociology, linguistics and English triple major at the time, won the award at the national conference.

Evans conducted her research over the summer with Scholar alum Ashley Orr, Rhodes Scholarship recipient who is now pursuing graduate study at the University of Oxford, by evaluating a Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation program that aims to restore foreclosed or vacant properties for low-income families to purchase at affordable prices.

"We wanted to see how owning a home affects the aspirations and expectations of these individuals," Evans explained. "The literature we looked at shows that home ownership is transformative—it can influence a person's self-esteem, motivation and sense of control. So we wanted to see how this played out with the YNDC program."

While the study did not yield significant data due to the infancy of the program, it did help YNDC secure additional funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and presents solid implications for future research.

"This study really aligns with my future goals of conducting more research on urban poverty and inequality," said Evans.

—First appeared on the YSU News Center website.

Evans is currently a PhD prospect at Pennsylvania State University, where she earned a graduate assistantship within the sociology department and a Graduate Scholar Award.



Elizabeth Urig

NASA INTERNSHIP

Summer space engineer

NASA Langley Research Center; Hampton, Va. Summer 2016



Over the summer of my senior year as an Honors College member, I completed an internship at NASA Langley Research Center. As a dual mechanical engineering and applied mathematics major I spent 10 weeks in Hampton, Virginia, working as a research assistant in the Advanced Materials and Processing Branch. I spent most of my time working on Electron Beam Welding parameter development. This development worked toward the implementation of autogenous EBW in a space environment for the robotic assembly of truss structures for large solar arrays.

I determined parameters for an optimized electron beam weld under various material and welding conditions. Utilizing a low-power electron beam gun housed within the portable Electron Beam Free-Form Fabrication system, I conducted metallurgical analyses on welds of three different alloys: Al 2219, Ti 6-4, and ML 377. After optimizing the electron beam, a high quality bead-on-plate weld was achieved for Al 2219 and Ti 6-4. A fully continuous and good depth of penetration fillet weld was generated on ML 377.

The experimental welding results were not the only deliverable of the summer. An additional task had me delve into the historical aspect of in-space EBW. To better develop parameters for experimental tests, I compiled a report for publication detailing the six most influential electron beam guns designed and considered for in-space applications.

My time at Youngstown State, and particularly within the Honors College, prepared me well for the internship. The research opportunities for undergraduates translated well into a formal research facility, and the opportunities and skills developed though the Honors College provided a strong platform.

—Elizabeth Urig, '17 grad, mechanical engineering and applied mathematics



Mariah DeFuria, first row on the right, with her co-interns at The Lubrizol Corporation headquarters on the Wickliffe campus.

Lubrizol

Chemicals and connections: An engaging internship experience with Lubrizol

*The Lubrizol Corporation; Wickliffe, Ohio
Summer 2016*

“Lubrizol? I’ve never heard of them,” is a response I often receive when telling friends and family about my past internship in Wickliffe, Ohio. The Lubrizol Corporation, a Berkshire Hathaway company, exists as a global leader in the specialty chemical industry. Despite consumers never seeing their black and royal blue logo on engine oils, household cleaners, or athletic clothing, the company holds a central role in thousands of products used daily.

As an intern in the chemical synthesis department, I was immediately welcomed and, after the proper training, trusted with independent laboratory work. The industrial laboratory amazed me with comparatively large-scale equipment and chemical reactions, the ease with which results and progress were communicated, and the access to both advanced instrumentation and some of the brightest minds in the field.

I had the privilege of mentorship from a handful of superiors and coworkers, especially that of two PhD research chemists in the Viscosity Modifiers group and Dr. Chris Ciolli, a YSU Leslie H. Cochran University Scholar alumnus himself! I was astounded by their interest in my future and their willingness to assist and advise.

Additionally, there were networking events not only with other interns and co-op students, but also through individual meetings with Human Resources for interviewing tips as well as a luncheon with Lubrizol top leadership.

Ultimately, my favorite aspect of my internship experience with The Lubrizol Corporation was the relationships I built with mentors and fellow interns, learning that work is immeasurably more fun when your coworkers can also become your friends.

—*Mariah DeFuria, '17 grad, chemistry*

MOTORCYCLE ENGINEERING CO-OP

Co-op experiences in motorcycle engineering

*Harley-Davidson Motor Company; Milwaukee, Wis.
2016 and 2017*

Since January 2016 I have taken part in a co-op for Harley-Davidson Motor Company at the Willie G. Davidson Product Development Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. My role as a mechanical engineering co-op has taken me down multiple paths in product development.

During my first stint with the company January through August 2016, I was on power train design (engine and transmission) for a new Harley bike design, the Milwaukee-Eight engine released that August. Being in product development engineering, I spent a large portion of my time working within engineering design software and making sure all the kinks in the manufacturing process were worked out on the assembly line. Being able to see my contributions come to life in a finished product was such an awe-inspiring moment and a highlight of my first experience in Milwaukee.

This last summer, I was able to return to the PDC as a power train test engineer. Instead of designing components for the motorcycles as I had previously done, I instead designed and conducted tests on prototype engines to ensure their safety and reliability. One of the best parts was being able to ride the bikes on a dynamometer (a device for measuring power) as part of an engine test. I was able to “break in” these new engines and was the first person to ever ride the new, unreleased bikes.

One thing that I took with me to my experience in Milwaukee was something that the Honors College has instilled in me — to be involved. I became a robotics mentor for a FIRST Robotics team to help high school students in the engineering design process and pass along my love of STEM to them through robot design. I also conducted STEM outreach programs for high school girls and attended design competitions with the students.

Overall, this has been one of the most enjoyable, educational, humbling and memorable experiences I’ve had and has led me to find my passion in life.

—*Kayla Theisler, junior mechanical engineering major*



Kayla Theisler



SUMMER EXPERIENCE AKRON CHILDREN'S

Protecting future generations

Akron Children's Hospital; Boardman, Ohio
Summer 2016

My 10 weeks as a part of the Summer Pediatric Scholars Program with Akron Children's Hospital was absolutely incredible. Not only did I have the opportunity to work on a research project that would benefit the hospital and its patients, but I also gained valuable clinical experience.

As a part of this program, I was actually paired with the neonatologist who cared for my twin brothers when they were admitted into the Neonatal Intensive Care Units 14 years ago. Our project focused on the importance of appropriate antibiotic use throughout the NICU.

—Alexa Schmidt, '17 grad, biology

amazon INTERNSHIP

Engineering Amazon

Amazon Headquarters; Seattle, Wash.
Summer 2016

During Thanksgiving break 2015, I was in the middle of my third internship as an undergrad, and I decided to apply to 44 different new opportunities for the summer. One of these positions was at the self-proclaimed "Earth's Most Customer Centric Company," Amazon. A few months and interviews later I was offered a position there as a software development engineer intern.

From the road trip there and back, passing through 16 states to the challenging project I was given, there was not a dull day that summer. At Amazon, I interned on the selection classification team located in the back-end of Amazon's eCommerce platform. We were responsible for creating a platform capable of classifying Amazon items for a variety of reasons such as import/export codes and hazardous materials. My project was to create a tool for the classification platform that explains how a classification might have failed.

Amazon is a large company and is both the world's largest retailer and cloud-computing provider. Being a large company, there were numerous events to learn and have fun at, and outside of, my project. Weekly, I attended a conference, tech talk, or networking event where I learned something new and interesting. Amazon's Seattle headquarters is a sprawling campus covering most of downtown. Nearby weekend trips to Vancouver and the Olympic National Forest with some of the best sections of Pacific coast were just short drives away.

I've learned and grown more during my time at Amazon than any other comparable time during my undergraduate career. It'd be difficult to think of a better way to spend a summer; I'm very grateful Amazon provided me with such an exceptional experience.

—Tyler Hovanec, '17 grad,
electrical computer digital
engineering and computer science

Tyler has since been offered a position at Amazon; however, he decided to accept another opportunity straight out of college — at Google Inc. headquarters in Mountain View, Calif.

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

Presenting summer research at Pfizer headquarters

Pfizer research headquarters; Groton, Conn.
Fall 2016

With the support of the American Chemical Society's Division of Organic Chemistry, I spent the summer of 2016 investigating carbon dioxide activation under the advisement of Dr. Doug Genna of YSU's chemistry department. The experience would lead me to present my research that fall at the research headquarters of Pfizer, one of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies.

The ACS Organic Division awards a limited number of Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships annually. I was fortunate to receive one of nine fellowships awarded nationwide as the first YSU student recipient.

The findings from our research I presented at Pfizer focused on carbon dioxide. An abundant and non-toxic carbon source, carbon dioxide appears to be an ideal material for organic synthesis. Unfortunately, the molecule's thermodynamic stability has limited its use in chemical reactions. While some examples of carbon dioxide activation — approaches that make CO₂ more reactive for use in reactions — exist, they are few in number and limited in scope. As such, any new methodology that utilizes carbon dioxide as a carbon source in the production of useful chemicals is highly desirable. Inspired by some known examples of CO₂ activation, our initial approach involved transition metal catalysts. Later, an unexpected result influenced us to shift our focus to metal-free conditions.

—Tyler Pabst, '17 grad, chemistry



Sarah Pigza, third from the left, and Brigitte Petras, third from the right, on the YSU drum line.

DRUM LINE

Inspiring women though drumming techniques and paradiddle beats

Youngstown State University
Marching season 2016

There is nothing quite similar to the feelings experienced when performing in the drum line for the Youngstown State University Marching Pride; time seems to stop as you take the last few measured breaths before stepping onto the field.

As members of the drum line, we know what it means to work hard...and to play hard. Even though the line performs as a collective unit, we can't help feeling like a part of something bigger for women in the field at the same time. We represent the minority of women who participate in percussion ensemble. By performing in the YSU drum line, we inspire others and ourselves to becoming better individuals and better musicians.

—Sarah Pigza, '17 grad, music education; and
Brigitte Petras, senior geology and art history double major



Sarah Demetruk rappelling down the 18-story Metropolitan Building in Youngstown.

OVER THE EDGE

Raising money for impoverished women and children

Youngstown, Ohio
Fall 2016

Last fall, I signed up for “Over the Edge,” an event that asked individuals to rappel down the 18-story Metropolitan Building in Youngstown to raise money for the Beatitude House. I did it because of my passion to serve the impoverished in the area. Beatitude House is one of the organizations in the area that works to serve disadvantaged women and children in the Mahoning Valley who are bound in the cycle of poverty and homelessness.

The YSU Honors Trustees became one of my big sponsors, donating \$500, and Farmers National Bank became another key sponsor, placing me in the top 10 fundraisers and affording me the honor of rappelling in the big event.

The night of the rappel was both terrifying and exciting. The first step off the top of the Metropolitan was the hardest. After that, it was just a giant swing down making for a fun and easy experience. But the best part was reaching the bottom and knowing it symbolized my goal being reached of helping local women and children.

In the end I ended up raising \$1,065 from friends, family, businesses and organizations. It was incredible to be able to raise so much for the Beatitude House and be able to make an impact in their mission. The entire event was a giant leap of faith, and I’m so glad I took it.

—Sarah Demetruk,
senior communication studies major

GUINATHON

Bad dancing saves lives!

Youngstown State University
February 2017

The tightest, most loving, and sometimes even desperate hugs can be found in patient rooms at our local Children’s Miracle Network Hospital: Akron Children’s Hospital Mahoning Valley. Clutching kids as they struggle to breathe on their own, comforting them when they do not know what their diagnosis means, or cheering them on as they ring the bell celebrating their last cancer treatment are all daily occurrences at ACHMV. But positive signs of hope are everywhere — in kid-friendly murals lining the walls, optimistic nurses, and Doggie Brigade service dogs visiting the kids to help get them healthy and give them the childhood they deserve — a program funded in part by Guinathon at Youngstown State University.

Guinathon is a student organization at YSU that is part of a yearlong movement to raise funds and awareness for the kids treated at ACHMV, and I have served as its executive director since inception. Everything Guinathon does throughout the year leads up to an annual event: YSU’s Dance Marathon, where YSU students, faculty, and staff join hospital personnel to celebrate the lives of the precious Miracle Families.

At Guinathon’s first event in February 2017, \$18,247.63 was raised “For the Kids” right here in the Mahoning Valley. The average first year Dance Marathon program in the Northeast Region of the United States raises \$9,000; Guinathon more than doubled that and raised even more this year!

YSU’s Dance Marathon was one of the top 15 fundraising first-year programs in the nation and received the Constellation Award at Student Activity’s Annual Student Awards Banquet last year in recognition of Guinathon’s accomplishments as an outstanding university-wide event. Always wanting to be part of something bigger than themselves, Guinathon’s members join together to stand, fight, and dance (because even bad dancing saves lives) for the kids.

—Jenna Roesch, junior communication studies major

The second annual YSU Dance Marathon was held Feb. 10, 2018, in Kilcawley Center on the YSU campus. They raised \$45,073.94!



Jenna Roesch, second from left, with the 2016-17 Guinathon executive team, which also included Honors students Dylan Anders, third from left; Isabel Stoeber, fifth from left; Mariah Carbone, sixth from left; and Adrianna Nicholson, tenth from left.

HONORS AMBASSADORS

*Youngstown State University
2015-17*

Over the past three years, Honors students have been volunteering their time to serve as ambassadors of the college through a new program.

These Honors Ambassadors coordinate individual trips back to their high schools during fall semester to talk to different classes and students about what life is like on the other side — the big transition from high school to college. They offer tips on everything from preparing for freshman year to taking standardized tests and applying to colleges, and they answer questions about what it's like living with a stranger in a dorm, how to beat the dreaded Freshman 15, and how studying takes on a whole new meaning in college. Along with their advice, Ambassadors share their own experiences at YSU and within the Honors College to give students a taste of what the college has to offer.

This outreach group also volunteers their time during spring semester, sending hand-written letters to prospective students, talking to local businesses about sponsorship opportunities for the Honors Golf Outing, and reading to elementary school children on Read Across America Day.

Not only do our students enjoy representing the Honors College in different events like these all year, but others in the surrounding community benefit from hearing their first-hand accounts and are able to get a glimpse into some of the amazing things going on in the college (thanks to all of its members, past and present!).

*—Andrea Tharp,
Honors College Coordinator*

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

RESEARCH IN AUSTRIA

Chemistry research in Austria

*Graz University of Technology; Graz, Austria
Summer 2016*

Cassandra Shaffer participated in the Syracuse University International Research Experience for Undergraduates at the Technical University of Graz, Austria in the summer of 2016. The REU is funded by the National Science Foundation, and Shaffer was one of only eight students selected nationally to travel to Austria. There she conducted research focusing on the synthesis of monomers for ring-opening metathesis reactions.

Earlier that year, Shaffer obtained certification from the ACS Inorganic Division of the Department of Chemistry. She also received the Dr. Eugene Scudder Organic Chemistry Scholarship and the CRC Freshman Chemistry Achievement Award. She has presented at YSU's QUEST research forum, and she was part of the Meritorious Team that presented at the International Math Contest in Modeling MCM-COMAP.

Shaffer is a 2017 graduate of YSU with a bachelor's degree in chemistry.

—First appeared on the YSU News Center website.



Cassandra Shaffer

RESEARCH PRESENTATION IN SPAIN

Presenting cardiovascular research in Spain

*Society of Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance; Barcelona, Spain
February 2018*



I have been fortunate enough to have the opportunity to present research that I have done over the summer at the Society of Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance in Barcelona, Spain, this upcoming February. The SCMR is an international non-profit medical society based in Mt. Royal, New Jersey. This amazing opportunity would not have been attainable without the key factor of networking in the medical field and being exposed to the doctors and other medical professionals around the area.

My journey to this end started when I contacted a cardiologist at Sharon Regional Hospital in Pennsylvania, as I was interested in shadowing and gaining a clinical perspective of the field. He was more than happy to allow me to shadow and delighted to hear that I had a strong interest in the field of medicine. He and I immediately clicked, and he became a mentor who would lead me to make other connections in the field, one being his partner, Dr. Ron Mikolich.

Dr. Mikolich offered me an interview for a research position with him and other pre-medical and medical students at the Sharon Diagnostic and Imaging Center. Over this summer, I worked with him in updating a cardiac imaging database that we would reference for our research projects at the end of the summer. As a team we entered over 1,300 patients into the database, allowing for a solid foundation for concrete evidence in our projects and covering everything from patient gender and smoking status to more in-depth medical diagnoses of pericardial effusions, coronary artery disease, aortic aneurysms, and more.

I prepared two research abstracts by the end of summer: one covering the Prevalence of Aneurysm of the Ascending Aorta in Hypertensive Patients and the other displaying the Detection Rate of Aneurysm of the Ascending Aorta in Hypertensive Patients Utilizing Cardiac MRI (CMR) and 2-D Echocardiogram (2-D). I submitted both to national and international conferences, and the first was ultimately accepted for poster presentation at the SCMR Barcelona conference.

I was, and still am, extremely excited and humbled to have this amazing opportunity to share my work at an international meeting. Teachers, professors, and others have always stressed to me the importance of networking, and my story is a prime example of how this holds true in the professional and academic world today.

—Jordan Long, junior biology major



Jenna DeLaurentis visiting Syracuse, Italy, during her summer 2016 study abroad trip.

ITALY TRIP

Viaggiare in Italia! Traveling in Italy

Cefalù, Italy
Summer 2016

Whether I was sailing the Mediterranean Sea, cliff jumping into the ocean, or hiking up a mountain overlooking my temporary European home, I couldn't help but feel grateful to have had the opportunity to study abroad through YSU's Italian program.

In Italy, I completed my Italian minor while taking Italian classes in a beautiful little village in Sicily with 10 other YSU Italian students. There was never a dull moment, whether I was spending a weekend at the beach or making friends with local Sicilians. At the end of the program, not only did I have a new home and friends, but an experience I will remember for the rest of my life.

Spending a month in Europe with YSU was one of the best decisions I made during college! One of the pillars of the Honors College is Global Citizenship, and I cannot stress enough the importance of this pillar. In today's global economy and workforce, it is a huge advantage to be able to communicate in more than one language and have an understanding of different cultures. There is no better time to achieve this than during college, where YSU has so many opportunities and scholarships available.

Overall, my summer was incredibly amazing, and I am so glad that YSU gives students these kinds of opportunities! No matter what adventure I take next, my Sicilian home will always have a special place in my heart.

—Jenna DeLaurentis, senior telecommunications and political science double major

BRITISH ISLES

Cats, cliffs, and queenies: A quaint experience on the Isle of Man

British Isles
Summer 2016

In summer 2016, a plane propelled me nearly 3,500 miles to the British Isles.

I arrived with three professors and eight other students at a small, overlooked island in the middle of the Irish Sea — the Isle of Man. Before embarking on our geological research and glorified sight-seeing, a dear local Manxman encouraged us all to say *moghrey mie*, or *good morning*, to the fairies while crossing their bridge. These ideas of legend and wonder were my first impressions on this cozy island. The rolling hills, 99 miles of coast, and dangerously weathered cliff sides were our guide.

Along with the natural landscape, we spent hours exploring castles with historians and an archaeologist. At one point we were atop a hill overlooking the coast and land. This hill hosted the Mull Circle; a late Neolithic burial ground made from the local sandstone. History, mystery, and geology have been combined in such a stunning location.

On another adventure with a London geologist, we were venturing up a small mountain to an ancient red sandstone quarry when the rain pelted down. As true and stubborn geologists, we ignored the downpour to learn more about the quarry. Although some of us were cold and soaked, after eating some world-renowned queenies and toasties warmed our bellies.

As part of the Isle of Man Beach Buddies cleanup crew, we scoured the beach finding international rubbish. To my disappointment, we saw no tail-less Manx cats during the trip. Instead we saw farm cats, chickens, and tons of daring sheep, who at times navigated the precarious cliff sides like mountain goats. The chickens contributed to the background noise while one professor and I were interviewed by the Manx Radio. The reporter inquired, "Are we missing a trick as far as what we've got here? Do we overlook it [the geology] because we're so used to it?"

Sometimes a small group on a small island can cause a big impact on each other, the environment, and the Manx.

—Brigitte Petras, senior geology and art history double major



Brigitte Petras



Joseph Scott (front row, second from left) with the YSU cohort and internship companies at the closing ceremony of the Ohio Export Internship Program at the Statehouse in Columbus, Ohio.

EXPORT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Exploring new aspects of business through Ohio Export Internship Program

Sakamura USA; Marion, Ohio
Summer 2017

In the spring of 2017, I was accepted into the Ohio Export Internship Program offered through the Williamson College of Business at YSU. YSU is one of only two universities in Ohio, along with the Ohio State University, qualified to host the classroom portion of the program.

The YSU cohort was taught by Mousa Kassis in the realms of international business and exporting/importing. Once the semester ended, I was hired as an intern at Sakamura U.S.A. Inc. in Marion, Ohio. Sakamura is an international company headquartered in Kyoto, Japan, and the United States division is a service company that provides maintenance and repairs for the hot and cold forging machines sold by the Japan division. This is a company and position that was going to take me outside of my accounting major, but I was excited about the opportunity to try something new and learn additional skills that could benefit me in the long run within the business world.

While I was there, I was tasked with creating an entire Export Management Compliance Program for the company, which detailed the rules and regulations of exporting out of, and importing into, the U.S. My experience in the classroom, supplemented by the network of contacts I gained through meeting professional speakers who came to speak during each class, allowed me to share my knowledge with my coworkers with the goal of them becoming more informed about export/import compliance.

Not only was the work engaging, but my coworkers there were exceptional! They welcomed me into their work family and made me feel at home during the three months I was contracted to work. They invited me to join them on work lunches around the city, help out with their MarionMade campaign to promote local businesses, and even invited me to meet their families at the company picnic held at the Columbus Zoo.

It was my experience in the Honors College that allowed me the confidence and freedom to try a program outside of my major, and to go on and obtain my Certified Global Business Professional certification.

—Joseph Scott, senior accounting major

Disney COLLEGE PROGRAM

A magical internship and learning experience

Walt Disney World; Orlando, Fla.
Summer 2016

The Disney College Program was so much more than I ever expected. Working at DINOSAUR, a ride in Disney's Animal Kingdom, I not only gained incredible guest relations skills but was also immersed in so many different cultures and walks of life. Guests became storytellers, and colleagues became life-long friends. I also met some of the top entertainment folks in the business, learning in-depth how their breathtaking shows and experiences came to life.

Although I only spent six months there, I was able to pick up so many different skill sets — even those outside of my major — and it is certainly a place I will return to and once again call my home.

—Megan Jones, senior theater studies major



Megan Jones, fifth from left, front row, and her co-workers at Walt Disney World's Animal Kingdom.

MOOT COURT

Continued Moot Court success

Regional Moot Court Tournament; Saginaw, Mich.
December 2016

Recent Honors graduate Jacob Schriener-Briggs placed first out of 38 teams in the Great Lakes Regional Moot Court Tournament at Saginaw Valley State University in Michigan last December, along with YSU partner Andrik Massaro.

A Moot Court competition is a simulated legal argument before hypothetical appellate courts, in which students must not only understand and apply principles of the American legal system, but also argue their case effectively, therefore applying interdisciplinary skills in the contest.

Nearly 750 of the nation's best pre-law students compete in regional competitions for 160 slots in the national tournament. The year before, the YSU team of Schriener-Briggs and Massaro advanced to the "Elite 8" at nationals.

Schriener-Briggs graduated from YSU in 2017 with a degree in philosophy and political science.



—First appeared on the YSU News Center website. Jacob Schriener-Briggs, left, with Moot Court partner, Andrik Massaro.



SOPHOMORES ORGANIZE FIRST HONORS COLLEGE GOLF OUTING



YSU President Jim Tressel, center, with Scholar alum Justin Vrabel, left, and team at the first annual Honors Golf Outing.

Youngstown State University Honors College members Jacob Harrah and Nicholas Tancabel navigated a new course for the college's fundraising efforts last spring. The two sophomores planned, coordinated and successfully ran the first Honors College Golf Outing in May at Riverview Golf Course in Newton Falls, Ohio.

"We wanted to host a big event like this to bring students, parents, alumni and friends together for a fun day," said Harrah, who was also a red-shirt freshman on the YSU men's golf team at the time. "And we're hoping this can be a new annual fundraiser to support student research opportunities and service projects."

Along with securing the golf course, the two mathematics majors put together a student committee to head up marketing and volunteer efforts, reached out to businesses

across the Mahoning Valley to promote the outing, locked in Cockeye BBQ in Warren to headline the day's menu, and even found a few big-name sponsors.

"We were lucky to get a lot of community members who were extremely generous in donating items for our basket drawing and hole sign sponsorships," said Tancabel. "We were especially excited to announce our Greenwood Chevrolet hole-in-one contest sponsor."

The contest offered a prize of a two-year lease on a Chevy Cruze, donated by Greenwood of Austintown, to anyone who sank a hole-in-one on the 18th hole. It was among several other contests, games, and fun activities of the event.

In all, the students managed to fill the outing to its team capacity and raise a profit of more than \$6,700 to be used toward Honors student research and engagement activities.

"We're so proud of what these two have accomplished," said Honors College Director Amy Cossentino, "and excited to see what great student initiatives will come out of it. We couldn't be more grateful to all of the alumni and community support for our first outing."

The 2nd Annual Honors Golf Outing is set for May 26, 2018. Visit www.ysu.edu/honorsgolf2018 for information and team registration!



Honors student and event co-organizer Jacob Harrah drives the golf cart to check on teams on the day of the outing with Honors student volunteers, from left, Benjamin Dalrymple, Jordan Roush, and Hunter Miller.



Nicholas Tancabel, Honors student and golf outing co-organizer.

FIRST CHARITY 5K RAISES \$2,800 FOR MAHONING VALLEY ORGANIZATIONS



"Y Are You Running" 5K top female finisher, Hannah Sprowl, third from left, presents her portion of the winnings in a check for \$1,400 to Akron Children's Hospital in Boardman. She is accompanied by Jordan Roush, race co-organizer; Victoria Ferry, race co-organizer; and friend Haley Davis, who crossed the finish line just .20 seconds after Sprowl.

The Youngstown State University Honors College held its first "Y Are You Running?" 5K run/walk this October on the YSU campus.

The professionally timed race, sponsored by HBK CPAs and Consultants, garnered more than 200 participants in the Mahoning Valley for a worthy cause: 100 percent of the proceeds could be won by the top male and female finishers, who would choose which two local charities would receive the donation.

"The purpose of this race was for participants to find their "Y" – the reason they're running – whether that be for a particular cause or organization, or in regards to their own fitness journeys," said Victoria Ferry, Honors College alumna and graduate assistant who organized the 5K event.

The Oct. 9 event, which included a special appearance by YSU President Jim Tressel as chaser, raised \$2,800 total. Top female finisher, Hannah Sprowl, and top male finisher, Ryan Roush, were each awarded \$1,400 to donate to the Valley organization of their choosing.

Sprowl, who ran a time of 23:36, donated her portion of the proceeds to Akron Children's Hospital in Boardman, a facility that's

part of the largest pediatric healthcare system in northeast Ohio, offering primary, critical and specialized care to children, as well as several advocacy and education programs. A current dental hygiene student at YSU, Sprowl plans to work with pediatrics and has "a huge place in (her) heart for children in need." She added, "I am so happy to be a part of the donation so children all around the world can enjoy a new toy and get the help they are in need off!"

YSU graduate student Roush, with a time of 15:02, chose to donate his \$1,400 to the Midlothian Free Health Clinic in Youngstown. The clinic, staffed by volunteer doctors and nurses, provides health care services to serve the needs of the uninsured in the community.

"As part of my curriculum in YSU's Doctor of Physical Therapy program, I have had the opportunity to serve the local community alongside my faculty and peers," said Roush. "I'm so pleased to have been able to contribute to the clinic's mission through my passion for running."

After a successful first year, Ferry sees the possibility to continue the 5K event in the future, especially as a way to help the surrounding community and promote an opportunity for people to address their own fitness goals. "We were very lucky to have so many members of the community show their support for this event and the Youngstown area," she said.



Ryan Roush, fifth from left, donates the \$1,400 he earned as 5K top male finisher to the Midlothian Free Health Clinic. He is accompanied by race co-organizers and clinic staff.

Watch our video from the day of the event! Go to www.ysu.edu/events/Y5K and click on the "2017 Event Recap Video" button.

HONORS COLLEGE WINS GRANT TO HELP LOCAL HOMELESS AND HUNGRY

Youngstown State University was one of 40 colleges and universities across the country to receive an Iowa Campus Compact grant as part of the MLK Day of Service Community Partnership Project in the fall of 2016.

The Honors College applied for the grant, which provides funding for MLK Day service projects geared toward alleviating hunger and supporting veterans, and received \$2,661. It used the funds to expand educational and service efforts to the homeless and hungry of the Youngstown area, including a student service retreat over MLK weekend in January 2017.

“Our students made scarves and blankets for the homeless, organized a campus-wide canned food drive, worked directly with local agencies and learned from guest speakers and educational activities at the retreat, including participating in a poverty simulation led by YSU Metro Credit Education Outreach,” said Amy Cossentino, director of the Honors College. “Hunger and homelessness awareness is a societal concern that our students have been passionate about for almost two decades, and this grant helped us take our service efforts to a new level.”

The Honors College launched a campus-wide campaign in November 2016 with National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week to collect canned goods to be donated to the YSU Student Food Pantry on campus and the Rescue Mission of the Mahoning Valley as one component to the MLK Day of Service project. In all, more than 2,600 pounds of canned food were collected from YSU students, faculty, and staff to be donated.

In addition, nearly 250 Honors students spent their three-day MLK weekend passing out food and clothing to Youngstown homeless, participating in peace marches in Youngstown in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and taking part in service and team-building activities at the second annual overnight Honors retreat.

In total, Honors students served 3,100 hours of volunteerism for the event, leading to an economic impact on the Youngstown community valued at more than \$70,000, as determined by the Independent Sector, a national membership organization for nonprofits, foundations, and corporations.

The MLK Day of Service Community Partnership Project is funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service and supported by four other State Campus Compact partners: Campus Compact of the Mountain West, New York Campus Compact, North Carolina Campus Compact, and Wisconsin Campus Compact.



Raising awareness for hunger and homelessness, Honors students take part in a Youngstown peace march on Martin Luther King Jr. weekend.



Honors students making sandwiches to pass out to hungry Youngstown families on MLK weekend.



Honors students Caroline Smith, left, and Megan Evans with a few of the canned good donations collected across campus. Evans served as the student coordinator on the grant last year.



Honors students making scarves, blankets, and waterproof sleeping mats to donate to local homeless individuals at the 2017 Honors Retreat in the YSU Stadium Club.

ORGANIZING HONORS

A LOOK AT STUDENT-STARTED, STUDENT-LED ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE HONORS COLLEGE

Student leadership is a key component to the Honors College, so it is only natural to discover new student organizations popping up every year within the program. The following are active student organizations founded and led by Honors students.

HONORS COLLEGE TRUSTEES

Before there was an official Honors College, there was the Trustees organization. While the Trustees consists of all Honors members who hold the college in their care, a group of elected class representatives coordinate the social events that take place. The group includes not only an executive board, but also the following committees:

- **Fireside Chats/Tours of...** – From coordinating lectures and workshops to hosting food parties, this committee presents new opportunities for Honors students to learn, whether it's about how to make studying abroad cost effective, how to start your own coffee shop or jams and jellies business (hosted by Honors students Levi and Emily Smith and Dan Bancroft), and anything in between. Alums are always welcome to come back to campus to host a Fireside Chat! If interested, email HonorsStudents@ysu.edu.
- **Formal** – The spring formal is hosted by this committee, which secures the location (currently Stambaugh Auditorium to accommodate the growth of membership), caterer, decorations, and entertainment.
- **Fundraising** – This group secures the funds necessary to sponsor all Trustee events throughout the year, including several American Red Cross campus blood drives, apparel sales, the "Y" driveway painting initiative, and Cedar Point fundraising trips.
- **Scholar Wars/Social Gatherings** – This committee organizes many social events throughout the year, such as PJ Palooza, Shamrock Shindig, Easter Extravaganza, and *Scholar Wars*, a long-standing tradition that pits Honors classes against one another in a series of mental and physical competitions each fall.
- **University Engagement** – The University Engagement group focuses on connecting Honors students with university-wide initiatives, such as Relay for Life, Guinathon, Crash Days, and more.
- **Weekend Waddles** – Helping Honors students, especially commuters, socialize outside of an academic setting and in the surrounding community is the primary goal of this committee. Excursions range from the Columbiana Corn Maze and mini golf to the Ice Zone and Extreme Air Trampoline Park.



Reconnecting over summer break at a Weekend Waddle picnic event.

MALAINA

The group seeks to unify and empower students of diverse backgrounds within the Honors College. Formed in January 2017 by Honors student Jasmine Smyles and graduate assistant Chelsea Thompson, this organization's name stands for the populations it

represents: Middle-Eastern, African-American, Latino/a, Asian, International, and Native American.

POVERTY AWARENESS IN YOUNGSTOWN

Poverty Awareness in Youngstown (PAYO) was formed in January 2015 to promote a safe environment for children in Youngstown and to help raise awareness of poverty in the area. PAYO hosts volunteer events for National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week each November and a carnival in the spring for local inner-city elementary school children. During the carnival, the group distributes books and dental hygiene products that they collect — in 2017, more than 5,000 books and 2,000 dental hygiene products were donated.

ROTARACT

YSU Rotaract, an affiliate of Rotary International, was founded years ago but did not get off the ground until the fall of 2016 thanks to four Honors students and current officers Joseph Scott, Vincent Gray, Allan Metz, Ryan Slavic and Austin Ward.

Community involvement and professional development are two of Rotaract's guiding principles. The group aims to provide a pathway for students to give back to the surrounding community. Meetings also showcase various community leaders who speak about leadership and networking. In the past year, Rotaract has helped with Rotary's Operation Warm to purchase coats and distribute them to underprivileged children and organized a 5K race to raise funds and awareness of Rotary's goal of eradicating polio.

WOMEN IN HONORS ORGANIZATION

In 2016, Victoria Ferry, an Honors College graduate assistant and alumna, reestablished the Women in Honors Organization (WHO), which focuses on advocating for the empowerment of women. The group consists of women who enjoy bettering themselves by helping to better the environment around them. Over the past year, WHO volunteered with women's shelters and held events about women's safety, domestic violence, and body-positive thinking.

Class Notes

1996–2000

Dennis Abbuhl of Westlake, OH, '96, BSBA in Accounting. MBA, Kent State University. Chief financial officer of Bravo Wellness, LLC. Married 22 years to wife, Rebekah. They have five sons.

Kimberly (Jordan) Burch of Murrysville, PA, '97, BS in Mathematics. MA and PhD in Mathematics, University of Pittsburgh. Associate professor of mathematics of Indiana University of PA. Married in 2001 to husband, Hal. They have three children.

Bill Dando of Uniontown, OH, '97, BE in Chemical Engineering. Engineering specialist advisor for FedEx Services. Married 20 years to wife, Becky. They have two children.

Rebecca (Martin) Dando of Uniontown, OH, '97, BE in Chemical Engineering. Project lead at The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. Married 20 years to husband, Bill. They have two children.

Shannon (Enright) Hercules of New Franklin, OH, '97, BS in Computer Science. IT manager of global applications at Ernst & Young. Married 20 years and has five children.

Jennie (Perry) Jankovsky of Talbott, TN, '97, BS, DVM, University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. Self-employed veterinary pathologist.



Jeremy Mercer of Mars, PA, '97, BA in Political Science, History, and Geography. JD, Ohio State University. Partner at Blank Rome, LLP.

Married to wife, Vanessa. They have two children.



Nakia Rimmer of Wyncote, PA, '97, BA in Mathematics. MA in Mathematics, University of Pennsylvania; MS in Applied Mathematics, University of Delaware.

Associate director of undergraduate mathematics and senior lecturer at University of Pennsylvania. Has two children.

Joshua Whited of Seattle, WA, '97, BA in Political Science and Psychology. JD, University of Washington. Partner at Eglick & Whited, PLLC.



Valerie (Kral) Dill of Poland, OH, '98, BE in Industrial and Systems Engineering. MBA, Youngstown State University.

Currently on sabbatical. Married 16 years to husband, Dustin. They have three daughters.



Joseph Folk of Troy, MI, '98, BE in Mechanical Engineering. MSE in Multidisciplinary Engineering, Purdue University.

Assistant chief engineer of General Motors. Married 18 years to wife, Jessica. They have two daughters.

Hollie (Reed) Kelleher of Pearland, TX, '98, BE in Chemical Engineering. PhD in Chemical Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology. Reservoir engineer advisor at Occidental Petroleum.

Jim Lapinski of LaGrange, OH, '98, BS in Biology, BS in Secondary Education Comprehensive Science. MD, Ohio State University. Pathologist at Cleveland Clinic. Married to wife, Hannah.

Vincent Lucarelli of Ellicott City, MD, '98, BS in Mathematics. PhD in Mathematics, University of Chicago. Mathematician for U.S. Department of Defense. Married 14 years to wife, Catherine. They have two children.

Eric Schneider of Fairbanks, AK, '98, BA in Music. DO, University of New England. Physician at Tanana Valley Clinic. Married to wife, Therese. They have three children. All enjoy living, working, and playing in Alaska.

Jason Scott of Suwanee, GA, '98, BSBA in Finance. MS in Finance, Georgia State University. Manager of derivative accounting and reporting at Novellis, Inc.

Natalie (Dickson) Blackburn of Columbus, OH, '99, BE in Chemical Engineering. Current senior engineer/analyst at Science Applications International Corporation.

Michael Bossart of Wadsworth, OH, '99, BS in Mathematics. Principal consultant of MiBoss Inc. Married to wife, Marlene. They have two children.

Keith Landis of Nova, OH, '99, BS in Mathematics. MEd in Education Administration, Ashland University. Math teacher at New London Local Schools.

Michael Martin of Salt Lake City, UT, '99, BS in Computer Science and Mathematics. Senior software engineer for 1-800 Contacts.

Adam Messner of North Canton, OH, '99, BS in Secondary Education. MS in Accounting, University of Akron. Tax senior of CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP. Married to wife, Mary Beth. They have two children.

Joe Smith of New York, NY, '99, BSBA in Advertising and Public Relations. Vice president account director of BBDO.

Sarah (Farkas) Topper of Allison Park, PA, '99, BS in Chemistry. MS in Chemistry, University of Pittsburgh. Proposal development manager, corporate science and technology, at PPG.

Carrie (Micciche) Ball of Canton, OH, '00, BSBA. MBA, Kent State University. Manager of talent management at US Acute Care Solutions. Married to husband, Jerry. They have two sons.

Heather Berardi of Streetsboro, OH, '00, BFA in Studio Art. Senior art director at Louis + Partners Design.

Kevin Hickman of New York, NY, '00, BA in Political Science. JD, Brooklyn Law School. Senior associate at Stonberg, Moran, LLP. Married to wife, Laura. They have triplet boys.

Josh Horning of Leo-Cedarville, IN, '00, BE in Mechanical Engineering. Engineering manager, structural and rail division, at Steel Dynamics, Inc. Married 15 years to wife, Amy. They have three children.

Darren Hudach of Uniontown, OH, '00, BS in Computer Science. MBA, University of Findlay. Chief operating officer of Cleveland HeartLab. Married to wife, Michelle. They have two children.



Benjamin Keck of Shaker Heights, OH, '00, BS in Mathematics. MBA, Cleveland State University. Director of global information

systems at Preformed Line Products.

Marianne Lloyd of Maplewood, NJ, '00, BS in Psychology. MS and PhD in Cognitive Psychology, State University of New York at Binghamton. Associate professor at Seton Hall University.

Mary Beth (Bugno) Messner of North Canton, OH, '00, BA in English. MA in Educational Foundations. Learning and performance improvement specialist of Signet Jewelers.

Brandon Schneider of VT, '00, BA in Russian and History. MA in Russian History, Georgetown University. Seminarian studying with the Order of Preachers (Dominican Friars). Religious name, Br. Nicholas Schneider, OP.

Ryan Smith of Stow, OH, '00, BSBA in Finance. MBA, University of Akron. Director of talent development at Progressive Insurance.

2001–2005

Dennis Bernier of Leesburg, VA, '01, BS in Biology. DO, Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine; MPH, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Emergency medicine physician of Commonwealth Emergency Physicians.

Mandy (Shaw) Bornhorst of Minster, OH, '01, BS in Education. MEd, Cleveland State University. Kindergarten teacher at Minster Local Schools. Married 15 years to husband, Troy. They have two children.

Joseph Ceremuga of Livermore, CA, '01, BE in Mechanical Engineering. ME in Mechanical Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology. Product marketing manager at CarlZeiss X-ray Microscopy. Married with two children and a dog.

Colleen Flynn of Mooresville, NC, '01, BS in Physical Therapy. DPT, Chatham University. District director of rehabilitation at Sava Senior Care. Married to husband, Jason. They have three children.

Joe Gregory of Virginia Beach, VA, '01, BSBA in Marketing Management. General manager at Norfolk Tides.

Tod Lavanty of Roseville, MN, '01, BA in Telecommunications. Promotions writer/producer/editor for FOX Sports.

Anthony Lazzeri of Columbus, OH, '01, BM, MM, New England Conservatory; Artist Diploma, University of Cincinnati; pursuing MBA, Ohio State University. Product development for Nationwide Insurance. Recently married.

Amanda (English) McAllister of Charlotte, NC, '01, BM in Education. Elementary music teacher at Union County Public Schools.

Angela (Barwick) Messenger of Canfield, OH, '01, BA in Professional Writing & Editing, BS in Combined Sciences. MA in English, Youngstown State University. Writing Center coordinator at Youngstown State University. Married 15 years to husband, John. They have two children.

Luke Pascute of Prospect, KY, '01, BE in Electrical Engineering. MS in Electrical Engineering, Youngstown State University. Product manager of ventilation at GE Appliances.



Robert Pavalko of Boardman, OH, '01, BM in Education. MS in Educational Administration, Youngstown State University.

Teacher at Boardman Local School District. He has a daughter with his partner, David.

Cathleen (Ceremuga) Richesson of Streetsboro, OH, '01, BS in Biology, BA in Professional Writing and Editing. MA in English, Youngstown State University. Married 14 years to husband, Brian. They have two daughters.

Jessica (Keck) Ryan of Laramie, WY, '01, AAS in Medical Laboratory Technology, BA in Sociology. MS in Natural Science Education, MS in Environment and Natural Resources, MS in Community Mental Health, University of Wyoming. Owner of Our Real Work. Married 19 years to a YSU alum. They have one child.

Lindsey Simon-Jones of Smithton, PA, '01, BA in English. MA and PhD in English, Pennsylvania State University. Associate professor of English at Penn State University Fayette, The Eberly Campus.



Bradley Smith of Lewis Center, OH, '01, BS in Mathematics. MEd in Mathematics Education, Ohio State University. Teacher at

Highland Local Schools. Married to wife, Lauren. They have two boys.

Brandy Borden of Allenwood, NJ, '02, BFA in Fine Arts. Current vice president of office administration, marketing, and sales at I.F. Associates, Inc.

Deena DeVico of Warren, OH, '02, BA in Political Science. JD, Akron Law School. Assistant prosecutor at Trumbull County Prosecutor. Married to husband, Matt. They have three boys.



Alyssa Ann Finamore of Falls Church, VA, '02, BE in Chemical Engineering. JD, George Mason Antonin Scalia School of Law.

Administrative patent judge at U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Susan Gans of North Benton, OH, '02, BA in Social Work. MS in Social Work, Youngstown State University. Hospice social work grief recovery specialist at Ohio Living. Married with two grown children.



Mollie (McGovern) Hartup of Youngstown, OH, '02, BA in Telecommunication Studies and Geography.

MBA, Youngstown State University. Assistant director of University Events at Youngstown State University. Married to husband, Bret. They have two sons.



Lacey (Cunningham) Kogelnik of Macedonia, OH, '02, BA in Professional Writing and Editing. MA in

English, Youngstown State University. Director of Center for Innovation & Growth at Baldwin Wallace University. Married to husband, Mark.

Alicia (Stevens) Patel of Hudson, OH, '02, BS in Early Childhood Education. Master's in Teaching, Marygrove College. Teacher at St. Mary Preschool.

Anne (Juterbock) Rericha of Wadsworth, OH, '02, BA in Political Science, BS in Business Management. JD, Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. Attorney at FirstEnergy. Married four years to husband, Norm. They have a daughter.

Andrea Snyder of Boardman, OH, '02, BA in Psychology, BSAS in Criminal Justice. PhD in Counseling Psychology, Fordham University. Psychologist at The Counseling Center of Columbiana County. Married 11 years to husband, Tom. They have triplet daughters.

Matthew Vansuch of Warren, OH, '02, BA in Political Science. JD, University of Akron. Partner at Brouse McDowell Co., LPA. Married 12 years to wife, Deena. They have three boys. Current voice of the Howland Tiger Marching Band and YSU Marching Pride.

Keith Vogt of Pittsburgh, PA, '02, BE in Electrical Engineering. MS and PhD, in Biomedical Engineering. MD, Ohio State University. Assistant professor/anesthesiologist at the University of Pittsburgh/University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Married with three children.

Thomas Wakefield of Youngstown, OH, '02, BA in Economics, BS in Mathematics. MA and PhD in Mathematics, Kent State University. Associate professor of mathematics and statistics at Youngstown State University. Married 15 years to wife, Andrea. They have triplet daughters.

Jessie (Grazier) Anderson of Johnstown, OH, '03, BSN, MSN, University of Missouri - St. Louis. Nurse practitioner at Eastwind

Women's Health, Inc. Married since 2005 to husband, Matt. They have two children.

Alyssa Caralla of Dulles, VA, '03, BA in Anthropology and Sociology. Foreign service officer at the U.S. Department of State.

Cynthia (Totten) Davenport of Slippery Rock, PA, '03, BS in Early Childhood Education. MS in Educational Psychology and MEd in School Psychology, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. School psychologist at Boardman Local School District. Married since 2004 to husband, Michael.

Crystal (Sider) Diab of Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, '03, BSBA in Accounting. CPA, registered in Ohio and Canada. Self-employed consultant for Epicure. Married with three children.



Heidi (Scott) Giusto of Apex, NC, '03, BA in History and Political Science. MA in History, Youngstown State University; PhD

in History, Duke University. Owner/writer/editor/career consultant of Career Path Writing Solutions. Married 12 years to husband, Chris. They have two daughters.

Abby (Lowe) Gordon of Medina, OH, '03, BSBA in Accounting. MBA, Cleveland State University. Senior accounting manager at PNC Financial Services and the Brass Roots.

Matthew Gugliotti of New Middleton, OH, '03, BS in Education. MD, Wright State University. Family physician.



Beth (Hochstetler) Hart of Orrville, OH, '03, BS in Integrated Sciences Education. MS in

Geology-Earth Science and in Chemistry, University of Akron. Science teacher at Norwayne High School. Married to husband, Don. They have two children.

Amanda (Richey) Hockman of Ashland, OH, '03, BS in Secondary Education. MEd in Classroom Instruction, Ashland University. High school language arts teacher at Ashland City Schools.



Sarah (Holowach) Kollat of State College, PA, '03, BA in Psychology. MS and PhD in Developmental Psychology, Pennsylvania

State University. Senior instructor of Department of Human Development & Family Studies, Penn State University. Married since 2004 to husband, Joshua. They have three children.

Sarah (Grove) Muccio of Clinton, NY, '03, BS in Mathematics. MS and PhD in Applied Mathematics, North Carolina State University. Mathematician at Air Force Research Laboratory.

Lisa (Tarcy) Murray of Erie, PA, '03, BS in Biology. MS in Biology, Youngstown State University; PharmD, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. Pharmacist at St. Vincent Hospital. Married to husband, Kevin. They have two children.

Christopher Palmer of Beaverton, OR, '03, BM in Education. OD, Pacific University. Optometrist and business owner.

Jeff Parks of Denver, CO, '03, BA in Political Science. MBA, University of Washington; Global Business Graduate Certificate, University of Auckland; Leadership and Management Graduate Certificate, University of Colorado. IT project manager at University of Colorado.

Brian Racz of Boardman, OH, '03, BS in Education, BA in History. MSED in Administration. Social studies teacher and department chair at Boardman High School. Married with two children.



Melissa (Hughes) Reinert of Pittsburgh, PA, '03, BA in Chemistry and English. MSED in Counseling – Higher Education, Youngstown State University. Married to husband, Jason. They have two children.

Ryan Siskind of Minneapolis, MN, '03, BS in Mathematics. MS and PhD in Applied Mathematics, North Carolina State University. Data scientist at Target.



Charlene Arendas of Boardman, OH, '04, BS in Biology. DVM, Ohio State University. Associate veterinarian at Town and Country Veterinary Hospital. Maintains a herd of 45 llamas and 15 alpacas and serves as the vice president of the Ohio River Valley Llama Association.

Kathryn (Worden) Baringer of Glen Burnie, MD, '04, BA in History. MA in History, Youngstown State University; Certificate in Curation and Management of Digital Assets, University of Maryland. Director of appraisal and description at Maryland State Archives. Married 13 years to husband, who also graduated from YSU.

Kathleen (Clifford) Caputo of Mineral Ridge, OH, '04, BS in Biology. MPT, Youngstown State University. Physical therapist at MVI Homecare. Married to husband, Sam. They have two children.



Debbie (Koenn) Culler of Stryker, OH, '04, BA in Psychology. MBA with specialization in Human Resources, Walden University.

Business and human resources professor at Rasmussen College. Married 12 years to husband, John. They have four children.

Sarah (Krivenki) Curtis of South Euclid, OH, '04, BA in Psychology. MA and AuD in Audiology, University of Tennessee Audiologist at University Hospitals. Married seven years to husband, Daniel. They have two children.



Bill Lucarell of Hubbard, OH, '04, BS in Computer Science. MBA, Youngstown State University. Senior software QA analyst of The

Equity Engineering Group. Married in 2011 to wife, Joelle.

Daniel Wakefield of Youngstown, OH, '04, BA in History, BS in Education. MEd in Curriculum and Instruction, University of Nevada; MA in History, John Carroll University. Executive director of Ursuline Sisters HIV/AIDS Ministry.

Jarrold Davis of Bluffton, SC, '05, BS in Computer Information Systems. MS in Computing and Information Systems, Youngstown State University. Software developer at Barrett Values Centre.

Holly (Stuteville) Davis of Wadsworth, OH, '05, BS in Early Childhood Education. CEO of own online skincare business through Rodan + Fields. Married over 11 years to college sweetheart. They have two daughters.

Michael DeToro of Cortland, OH, '05, BS in Education for Secondary Integrated Mathematics. MSED in Educational Leadership, University of Cincinnati. Principal at Lakeview High School. Married to wife, Cara. They have two children.

Cara (O'Patchen) DeToro of Cortland, OH, '05, BSEd, Secondary Integrated Language Arts. MSED in Educational Leadership, University of Cincinnati. Career development coordinator at Trumbull Career and Technical Center. Married to husband, Mike. They have two children.



Matthew Gustovich of Ravenna, OH, '05, BE, MBA, Youngstown State University. Process engineer at Summa Health.

Married in 2013 to wife, Gia. They have one son and are expecting.

Jennifer (Davidson) Hosmer of West Chester, OH, '05, BE in Mechanical Engineering. MS in Mechanical Engineering, Ohio State University. Senior engineer at Procter and Gamble. Married 10 years with two children.



Brett Hudspeth of Louisville, KY, '05, BA in Economics, BS in Computer Science. MA in Economics, Youngstown State University; JD,

University of Illinois College of Law. IT director, business technology leader – clinical care services at Humana, Inc. Married to wife, Devon. They have a dog, Norman, and have a baby boy.

Angela (Mavrikis) Ireland of Canfield, OH, '05, BA in Communication Studies. MBA, Kent State University. Advertising and publications coordinator, Office of Marketing and Communications, Youngstown State University.



Kari (Utterback) Luoma of Chardon, OH '05, BS in Mechanical Engineering. Product and compliance engineer at Kent

Displays, Inc. Kari has one son.

Karen Wennberg of Santa Fe, NM, '05, BFA in Studio Art. MA in Art Therapy/Counseling, Southwestern College. Mental health therapist at Presbyterian Medical Services. Married to fellow Scholar, Bill.

Alisa Balestra of Pittsburgh, PA, '06, BA. MA, Youngstown State University; PhD, Miami University. Senior research associate at HPW Associate.

Lindsay (Hitesman) Cox of Austintown, OH, '06, BA in Psychology. MEd in Intervention Services, Youngstown State University; MEd in Higher Education Administration and Student Personnel, Kent State University. Currently pursuing EdS in School Psychology at YSU. Married with two children.

Daniel Evans of Kent, OH, '06, BE in Civil Engineering. Engineer III at Dominion Energy. Married to wife, Angela.

Amanda (Mielke) Gerstnecker of Freedom, PA, '06, BSBA in Advertising and Public Relations. JD, University of Pittsburgh School of Law. Corporate attorney at Cohen & Grigsby, P.C.

David Gohlke of Washington, DC, '06, BS in Mathematics and Physics. PhD in Physics, Ohio State University. Environmental life-cycle analyst at Argonne National Laboratory. Married to wife, Ivana. They have two children.

Joshua Hiznay of Poland, OH, '06, BA in Political Science. Attorney at Joshua R. Hiznay, LLC.

Angela Kwaliek Evans of Kent, OH, '06, BA, JD, University of Toledo. Senior program officer at Burton D. Morgan Foundation.

Nick Mailis of Boardman, OH, '06, BE in Electrical Engineering. MEM, Case Western Reserve University. Assistant chief electrical engineer at Taylor-Winfield Technologies.

Robert McGovern of Pittsburgh, PA, '06, BA, MA, Youngstown State University. Forecasting analyst at FirstEnergy Solutions.

Patrick Pisciueneri of Pittsburgh, PA, '06, BE, MS and PhD in Mechanical Engineering, University of Pittsburgh. Lead data scientist at Target. Married to wife, Noelle.

Jason Reinert of Pittsburgh, PA, '06, BE in Electrical and Computer Engineering MEM, Case Western Reserve University. Senior systems engineer of Verizon. Married to wife, Melissa. They have two children.

Teresa (Huzyak) Sisson of Akron, OH, '06, BA in Sociology. MA in Sociology, University of Akron. Stay-at-home mom. Still best friends with her Big Scholar.

2006–2010



Diana Awad Scrocco of Poland, OH, '06, BA in English and Psychology. MA and PhD in English, Kent State University.

Current assistant professor of English at Youngstown State University. Married to husband, John. They have two sons.

Justin Truitt of Cedarville, OH, '06, BSBA in Accounting. MBA and JD, University of Akron. Contracting officer, U.S. Air Force. Married with two children.

John Vogel of Boardman, OH, '06, BA in Journalism. MA in Sports Management, Kent State University. Assistant director of athletics communications at Youngstown State University. Married to wife, Ashley. They have a son.



Josh Wilson of Berlin, Germany, '06, BE in Electrical Engineering. MEM, Case Western Reserve University. Manager at

Deloitte Consulting GmbH. Married to wife, Sarah.



Heather (Baltic) Aker of Columbus, OH, '07, BSAS. MPH, Ohio State University. Program director of the Behavioral Measurement

Shared Resource, OSU Comprehensive Cancer Center. Married four years to husband, Shawn. They have a shih tzu, Lizzie.

Heather (Novak) Burkart of Mentor, OH, '07, BSBA in Human Resources Management. HRIS business analyst at University Hospitals.

Anna (Baltputnis) Gray of Rossville, IN, '07, BSBA in Accounting. Domestic engineer at Gray Ranch. Married three years.

Chris Harris of North Huntington, PA, '07, BS in Electrical Engineering. MS in Electrical Engineering, Youngstown State University. Electrical engineer at Naval Nuclear Laboratory.

J.T. Hird of Daniels, WV, '07, BS in Mathematics. MS and PhD in Mathematics, North Carolina State University. Assistant professor at West Virginia University Institute of Technology. Married.

J.R. Jackson of Albany, NY, '07, BS in Electrical Engineering. PhD in Biomedical Engineering, University of Cincinnati. Process scientist at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals.

Lisa (Sipes) Jerele of Columbus, OH, '07, BM in Flute Performance. MSED in Student Affairs Leadership and Practice, Youngstown State University. Lead academic advisor, coordinator of recruitment and enrollment at Ohio State University School of Communication.



Stephanie (Day) Kozak of Kansas City, MT, '07, BA in Geography and Political Science. MA and PhD in Geography, University of

Kansas. Senior research analyst at Service Management Group.

Chad Miller of New Haven, CT, '07, BA in Psychology and Philosophy. MS in Chemistry, Youngstown State University; MS and MPhil in Pharmacology, Yale University. PhD candidate of Yale University. Married four years to wife, Christy.

Albert Morar of Boardman, OH, '07, BA in Political Science. MA in Economics, Youngstown State University. Operations supervisor of The Social Security Administration. Married to college sweetheart. They have two girls.

Jessica Neal of Long Beach, CA, '07, BSBA in Political Science. JD, University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law. Associate attorney at Laughlin Falbo Levy and Morse, LLP.

Sherri Orr of West Sacramento, CA, '07, BSBA in Finance. CSR at City of Sacramento. Married.

Jeremy Payne of Corning, NY, '07, BE in Mechanical Engineering. MS and PhD in Mechanical Engineering, Lehigh University. Forming process engineer at Corning, Inc.



Jaclyn (Elias) Senich of McDonald, OH, '07, BSEd in Middle Childhood Education. MA in English, Youngstown

State University. Grade 8 social studies teacher at Austintown Local School District. Married two years to husband. They have a daughter.

Michelle (Ionese) Templeton of Berlin Center, OH, '07, BS in Applied Science. DPT, Slippery Rock University. Physical therapist.

Sarah (Vansuch) Wilson of Berlin, Germany, '07, BA in Political Science. MCP, University of Cincinnati. Freelancer, most recently to City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development. Married to husband, Josh.

Nicole Caravella of Pittsburgh, PA, '08, BSBA in Advertising and Public Relations. Senior account executive at Gatesman.

Victoria DiGennaro-Velayo of Akron, OH, '08, BA in Psychology. DO, Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine. Family medicine physician at Pioneer Physicians Network. Married with a son and a daughter.

Andrew Mattson of Poland, OH, '08, BE in Electrical Engineering. DDS, Ohio State University. Owner of dental practice. Married six years to wife. They have two children.

Halley Moore of Milwaukee, WI, '08, BE in Chemical Engineering. PGD in Brewing and Distilling, Heriot-Watt University. Senior staff brewer at MillerCoors.

Jeffrey Morckel of Grand Blanc, MI, '08, BM in Music Education. MA, Ohio State University. Teacher at Bridgeport-Spaulling Community Schools.

Victoria (Chaney) Morckel of Grand Blanc, MI, '08, BS in Education. MCRP and PhD, Ohio State University. Associate professor at the University of Michigan – Flint.

Carrie (Davis) Palmer of Clinton, PA, '08, BS in Integrated Math Education. MEd in Curriculum and Instruction and Math Specialization, Kent State University. High school math teacher at South Fayette High School. Married to husband, Michael.

Saher Shafi of Youngstown, OH, '08, BS in Biology. Biology graduate student at Youngstown State University.

Nicole (Adamson) Stargell of Charlotte, NC, '08, BA in Psychology. MSED in Clinical Mental Health and School Counseling, Youngstown State University; PhD in Counseling and Counselor Education, UNC Greensboro. Assistant professor at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Married to husband, Keith.

Kristin (Gilida) Steeley of Glen Gardner, NJ, '08, BE in Chemical Engineering. ME in Pharmaceutical Engineering, PhD in Chemical Engineering, Rutgers University. Senior chemist at L'Oreal.

Ashley Yager of Canfield, Ohio, '08, BS in Biology. MD, University of Toledo; Anesthesia Residency, Rush University Medical Center; Cardiothoracic Fellowship, Ohio State University. Cardiothoracic anesthesia attending at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

Emery Boyle-Scott of Streetsboro, OH, '09, BA in Journalism and Political Science. MA in Urban Special Education, Cardinal Stritch University. BRIGHT Cohort 2 Fellow of BRIGHT New Leaders for Ohio Schools. Married.



Kathleen (Kennedy) Conway of Sewickley, PA, '09, BSBA in Economics. MA in Economics, Youngstown State

University; EdS in Higher Education Administration, Kent State University. Associate director of the economics program at Carnegie Mellon University. Married to husband, Kyle.

Jason Corman of Atlanta, GA, '09, BE in Mechanical Engineering. MS and PhD, Georgia Institute of Technology. Research engineer at Georgia Institute of Technology.

Katie (Pylpiak) Detwiler of Menlo Park, CA, '09, BA in Psychology. Master of Occupational Therapy, Cleveland State University. Occupational therapist at Speechy Learning Center. Married to a fellow Scholar. They have a baby girl.



Tyler Drombosky of Washington, DC, '09, BS in Mathematics. PhD in Applied Mathematics and Scientific

Computation, University of Maryland at College Park. Principal engineer at Fugue, Inc.

Krista Foster of Pittsburgh, PA, '09, BS in Mathematics, BA in Economics. MS in Statistics, Pennsylvania State University. PhD student in business analytics and operations at the University of Pittsburgh.

Kelsi Garwood of Leetonia, OH, '09, BSBA in Accounting, BSAS in Hospitality Management. Senior accountant at Coleman Professional Services.

Richard Kukura of Austintown, OH, '09, BS in Biology. PharmD, Northeast Ohio Medical University. Pharmacy manager at Walmart Pharmacy. Married to wife, Allison. They have two girls.

Christy Leonard-Miller of New Haven CT, '09, BA in Professional Writing and Editing, Religious Studies. MS in Library and Information Science, Drexel University. Cataloging and metadata specialist at Donohue Group, Inc. Met husband, Chad, through the Honors Program.



Emily Lucas DeMaiolo of Youngstown, OH, '09, BS in Biology. DVM, Michigan State University. Veterinarian at Banfield. Married to husband, Daniel.

Gregory Mook of Youngstown, OH, '09, BA in Professional Writing and Editing. Paramedic Certification, Youngstown State University; MA in Global Studies, Liberty University.

Joree (Jacobs) Novotny of Dublin, OH, '09, BA in Professional Writing and Editing. Director of communications and grants management at Ohio Association of Foodbanks. Married to husband, Ryan.

Bethany Powell of Columbus, OH, '09, BS in Information Technology. MBA, Ohio State University. Systems analyst at Alliance Data.

David Spatholt of Norwood, OH, '09, BA in Political Science and Philosophy. Program manager at Hamilton County, Ohio, Planning and Development. Married with one child.

Ashley (Barron) Vogel of Boardman, OH, '09, BS in Education. MA in English, Youngstown State University. Reading specialist at Heartland Christian School. Married seven years to husband, John. They have one son.

Robert Zahner of Pittsburgh, PA, '09, BSBA in Accounting. Valuation manager at HBK Valuation Group.

Anthony Berdis of Massilon, OH, '10, BS in Biology. DO, Ohio University. Resident physician, orthopedic surgery at Affinity Medical Center. Married one year to wife, Katie.

Carol Ann (Pitcairn) Castaneda of Ypsilanti, MI, '10, BS in Chemistry, BA in Spanish. PhD in Chemical Biology, University of Michigan. Lecturer at UM. Married.



Daniel DeMaiolo of Youngstown, OH, '10, BSBA in Advertising and Public Relations. MA in Digital Media Arts and Technology, Michigan State University. Lead designer at RADD3. Married to wife, Emily.



Derek DeMaiolo of Youngstown, OH, '10, BSAS, Individualized Curriculum Program. MA in Digital Media Arts and Technology, Michigan State University. Game designer at RADD3.

Michael Detwiler of Cleveland, OH, '10, BE in Chemical Engineering. PhD in Chemical Engineering, Purdue University. Research engineer at BASF.

Jason Heyman of Girard, OH, '10, BSBA in Accounting and Finance. MBA, Youngstown State University. Business consultant at YSU Ohio Small Business Development Center.

Carla Hill of Pittsburgh, PA, '10, BSBA. Division administrator at UPMC. Married to husband, Chad. Wedding officiated by fellow scholar alum, Jeff Sirko.

Justin Jones of Moundsville, WV, '10, BM in Music Education. Strings teacher at Marshall County Schools.

Bethany (Vlaiku) McCain of Painesville, OH, '10, BE in Chemical Engineering. Development engineer at The Lubrizol Corporation. Married to husband whom she met through the program. They have a baby boy.

Deidra Nuss of Ketchikan, AK, '10, BM in Music Education. High school band director at Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District.

Krista (Cunningham) Ramirez of Chardon, OH, '10, BS in Chemistry. PhD in Chemistry, Ohio State University. Full-time lecturer at Case Western Reserve University.

Alexander Shaffer of Saint Louis, MO, '10, BE in Chemical Engineering. Senior process engineer at Ambitech Engineering Corporation.

Andrea (Armeni) Tharp of Howland, OH, '10, BA in Professional Writing and Editing. MA in English, Youngstown State University. Student recruitment and engagement coordinator of the YSU Honors College. Married to husband, David. They have one son.

Moriah Wright of Chardon, OH, '10, BS in Mathematics and Secondary Math Education. MS in Mathematics. Math instructor at iSTEM Geauga Early College High School.

2011-2015



Danielle Bozek of Toledo, OH, '11, BS in Biology Pre-Med. MS in Medical Physiology, Case Western Reserve University. MD candidate at University of Toledo College of Medicine.

Ben Detwiler of Menlo Park, CA, '11, BE in Electrical Engineering, BSBA in Accounting. MS in Electrical Engineering, Stanford University. Senior software engineer at Apple Inc. Married to wife, Katie. They have one daughter.

David Dugan of Austintown, OH, '11, BSBA in Accounting. MBA, Youngstown State University. Senior accountant at Packer Thomas. Married two years to wife, Kristina. They have a son.

Sarah (Brothers) Guza of Boardman, OH, '11, BE in Chemical Engineering. Product engineering supervisor of high power connection systems at Delphi Automotive.

Bailey Hinkle of Orlando, FL, '11, BS in Food and Nutrition. MA in Instructional Design and Technology, University of Central Florida. Clinical project manager/registered dietitian at Florida Hospital System.

Kaley Kastner of Youngstown, OH, '11, BSN. Currently pursuing MSN, Family Nurse Practitioner track, Youngstown State University. Registered nurse at Mercy Health.

Trisha (Cameron) Kusiowski of Youngstown, OH, '11, BS in Education. Grade 6 math teacher at Weathersfield Local Schools. Married five years to husband, Jim. They have one daughter.

Nicholas Meditz of Canfield, OH, '11, BSBA in Finance. MBA in Hospitality Management, Cornell University SC Johnson College of Business. Senior financial analyst at Vail Resorts.

Gina Oakes of Fort Lauderdale, FL, '11, BSBA in Business Administration. MBA, Rollins College. Realtor at The Keyes Company. Engaged to be married.

Lynn (Williams) Shilot of East Liverpool, OH, '11, BSN. Educator at East Liverpool City Hospital. Married to husband, Jesse. They have one child.

Michael Adamson of Cleveland, OH, '12, BE in Chemical Engineering. Process engineer at Americhem. Married to wife, Alyssa.

Brittany (Chalfant) Brown of North Huntingdon, PA, '12, BE in Chemical Engineering. Advanced chemical engineer at Noval Nuclear Laboratory (BMPC). Married to husband, Nick.



Kaitlyn Fabian of Boardman, OH, '12, BA in Dance Management. Certificate in Entrepreneurship. Dance educator

in the visual and performing arts program at Chaney High School; assistant artistic director and dance instructor at Ruth's Dance & Fitness Co., LLC.

Brandi (Hess) Fletcher of Cleveland, OH, '12, AAS - Paramedic. BS Geography. Administrator, website, graphics at Harvest Ridge Church. Aiming for an overseas missions assignment.

Brian Garcar of Poland, OH, '12, BSED in Integrated Mathematics and Physics. MEd in Educational Leadership, Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Principal K-12, Edinboro University. High school mathematics teacher at Struthers City School District.

Audria (Grubbs) Harvey of Aliquippa, PA, '12, BSE in Electrical Engineering. System design engineer at Westinghouse Electric Co.

Jenna (Smaldino) Heddeston of Alliance, OH, '12, BSN. MSN - Nurse Anesthesia, University of Akron. Certified registered nurse anesthetist at Akron Children's Hospital. Married three years.

Lauren McComas of Marion, OH, '12, BS in Education. Special education specialist at Marion City Schools.

Erin (Griehs) O'Hara of Canfield, OH, '12, BSBA in Accounting. Senior accountant at Packer Thomas Certified Public Accountants and Business Consultants. Married to husband, DJ.

Elizabeth (Crisp) Tedrick of Cuyahoga Falls, OH, '12, BS in Education. MEd in Intervention Services, EdS in School Psychology, Youngstown State University. School psychologist at Lake Local School District. Married to husband, Matthew.

Travis Watson of Struthers, OH, '12, BA in Political Science. JD, University of Akron. Graduate assistant at Kent State University. Married to wife, Mary.



Chelsey Zoldan of Canfield, OH, '12, BA in Psychology. MEd in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Youngstown State University;

pursuing PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision, University of Akron. Medication assisted treatment counselor at Meridian HealthCare.

Emily Alcorn of Arlington, VA, '13, BM in Vocal Music Education. MM in Vocal Performance and Literature, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Executive and development assistant at the Cathedral Choral Society, Washington, DC; professional vocalist for recitals, operas, choruses.



Brittany (Yeager) Bair of Cortland, OH, '13, BSW. Office manager at Yeager's Poured Silver, LLC. Married four years to husband, Shawn.

They have a daughter.

Alec Beech of Salem, OH, '13, BA in History. JD, University of Akron School of Law. Assistant prosecuting attorney for Columbiana County.

Lillian (Justice) Fossaceca of Youngstown, OH, '13, BS in Education. Licensed in 7-12 Social Studies and K-12 Special Education; pursuing MEd in Special Education. Middle school intervention specialist at South Range Local Schools.

Abigail (Margraff) Goldberg of Marengo, OH, '13, BA in Spanish. MA in Speech Language Pathology, Kent State University. Speech language pathologist at Cardington Local Schools and Debra B. Romas & Associates, Inc. Married three years to husband, Justin.

Nico Mancuso of Youngstown, OH, '13, BS in Integrated Mathematics. High school math teacher at Austintown Local Schools. Volunteer-coaches YSU football under Head Coach Bo Pelini.

Ryan Meditz of Greenville, NC, '13, BSBA in International Marketing, BA in Spanish. Branch manager at ABC Supply Co. Inc.

Luke Politsky of Poland, OH, '13, BSBA. MBA, Youngstown State University. Cafaro House coordinator at YSU.

Stephen Rakocy of Worthington, OH, '13, BE in Mechanical Engineering. Manufacturing engineer at Allied Mineral Products. Recently married to wife, Jennifer.

Kathleen Smith of Cleveland Heights, OH, '13, BE in Chemical Engineering. MBA, Cleveland State University; ME, Case Western Reserve University. Project manager at GE Lighting.

Mitchell Thornton of New York, NY, '13, BA in English. MA in English, Youngstown State University. Assistant men's and women's cross country/track and field coach at Iona College.

Evan Weaks of Fort Wayne, IN, '13, BSBA in Accounting. JD, Indiana University Maurer School of Law. Associate attorney at Barrett McNagny LLP.

Morgan Wynn of Pittsburgh, PA, '13, BM in Education. MM, Advanced Music Studies Certificate, Carnegie Mellon University. Online banking representative at PNC Financial Services; trombone player for The Brass Roots.

Allison Armeni of Youngstown, OH, '14, BSN. Pursuing MSN-Family Nurse Practitioner, Chamberlain University. Registered nurse at the Surgical Hospital at Southwoods.

Carlie (Bosel) Beech of Salem, OH, '14, BS in Integrated Language Arts. High school English teacher at West Branch Local Schools.

Andrew Boyle of Boardman, OH, '14, BSBA in Accounting and International Business. Staff accountant at Cohen & Company.

Robert Cameron of Niles, OH, '14, BSAS in Exercise Science. DPT, Youngstown State University. Physical therapist at Blue Sky Therapy.

Catherine Carney of Cincinnati, OH, '14, BA in Political Science and Mathematics. JD, University of Cincinnati. Assistant attorney general at the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

Matt English of Columbus, OH, '14, BE in Mechanical Engineering. Engineer at TS Trim Industries Inc.

Courtney Ewing of West Palm Beach, FL, '14, BS in Biology. Pursuing DVM, Michigan State University. Graduate student at MSU.

Thomas Fowler of Bryan, TX, '14, BS, BE in Mechanical Engineering. Graduate researcher at Texas A&M University.

Estee George of Akron, OH, '14, BE in Chemical Engineering, BS in Applied Mathematics. Graduate research assistant in the Bone Biomechanics and Mechanobiology Lab at the University of Akron.

Nicole (Pavlichich) Gessler of Canfield, OH, '14, BS in Exercise Science. DPT, Youngstown State University. Physical therapist at Blue Sky Therapy. Married to husband, Patrick.

AJ Grayson of Cortland, OH, '14, BE in Mechanical Engineering. Edison Engineering Development Program at General Electric Transportation.

Kaitlin Hankins of Chauncey, OH, '14, BS in Spanish Education. Assistant director of events (undergraduate admissions) at Ohio University.

Kevin Johnson of Boardman, OH, '14, BS in Biology. Currently attending the Ohio State College of Dentistry.

Teresa McKinney of Mineral Ridge, OH, '14, BE in Mechanical Engineering. Product engineer at Delphi Packard.

Kara Miller of Westerville, OH, '14, BS in Biology. MBA in Healthcare Administration, Mount Vernon Nazarene University. Revenue cycle analyst and improvement administrator at Trillium Resources.



Michelle O'Connor of Canfield, OH, '14, BS in Biology, BA in Psychology. MEd in Child Psychology, pursuing PsyD

in School Psychology, Duquesne University. Predoctoral psychology intern at OhioGuidestone.

Sarah Ritchey of Durham, NC, '14, BS in Mathematics and Computer Science. Pursuing PhD, Duke University.



Melissa Wasser of McDonald, OH, '14, BA in Philosophy and Political Science. MA in Public Policy, JD, Ohio State University. Legal

fellow at American Constitution Society for Law and Policy.

Mark Calautti of Canfield, OH, '15, BE in Electrical Engineering, Biomedical Option. Controls engineer at General Motors.

Brad Dubos of Chicago, IL, '15, BS in English Education. MA in English Literature, Northwestern University. PhD student at Northwestern University.

Dalton Fowler of Youngstown, OH, '15, BSBA in Marketing Management. Public relations associate at Warren-Trumbull County Public Library.

Brooke Fusco of Canfield, OH, '15, BA in Psychology. MA in Clinical Psychology, Ball State University. Doctoral student/Graduate assistant/teaching assistant at Kent State University.

Frank George of Boardman, OH, '15, BA in Integrated Language Arts. Working toward JD. Summer law clerk at Krugliak, Wilkins, Griffiths, and Dougherty.

Connor Hetzel of Youngstown, OH, '15, BS in Physics. Seminarian of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Youngstown.

Michelle Kordupel of Raleigh, NC, '15, BS in Biology. Currently pursuing DVM, North Carolina State College of Veterinary Medicine.

Hanna Martin of Floyds Knobs, IN, '15, BS in Exercise Science. Research technologist at University of Louisville.

Ashley Martof of Mineral Ridge, OH, '15, BE in Industrial Systems Engineering. ME in Industrial and Systems Engineering, Youngstown State University. Industry liaison at Youngstown Business Incubator. Engaged to fellow YSU alumnus, Matt.

Scott Miller of Austintown, OH, '15, BM in Music Education, Applied Trumpet. Director of bands and choir at Lisbon Exempted Village Schools. Recently married to wife, Natalie.

Hilary Minton of Warren, Ohio, '15, BSN. Registered nurse at Mercy Health.

Philip Monrean of Girard, OH, '15, BM. MA in Interdisciplinary Communications, Youngstown State University. Associate at Morgan Stanley.

Jennifer Moore of Boardman, OH, '15, BS in Chemistry. MS in Chemistry, Youngstown State University; Grades 7-12 Integrated Science Ohio Alternative Resident Educator License, Ohio Department of Education. High school science teacher at Boardman High School.

Sophia Santisi of Virginia Beach, VA, '15, BS in Biology. Education program coordinator at Operation Smile.

Elizabeth Shiller of Youngstown, OH, '15, BA in Journalism. Entertainment writer at Fanfest.com.

Michael Slavens of Boardman, OH, '15, BE in Electrical Engineering. Application engineer 2 – cybersecurity at ABB.

Ashley Smith of Austintown, OH, '15, BS in Education. High school STEM English teacher at Austintown Local Schools.

Chris Spielman of Fairfield, PA, '15, BA in Political Science. MBA, Youngstown State University. Adjunct instructor at Eastern Gateway Community College.

Jason White of McDonald, OH, '15, BE in Chemical Engineering. Cable product engineer at Delphi Automotive.

Kristi Yazvac of Willoughby, OH, '15, BS in Applied Mathematics. MA in Economics. Quantitative analyst at Progressive Casualty Insurance Company.

2016–Present

Jayne Catlos of Poland, OH, '16, BA in Geography and Spanish. GIS technician at Mahoning County GIS.

Katherine (Pitcairn) Cole of Berlin Center, OH, '16, BS in Environmental Studies. Wet chemistry analyst at Microbac Laboratories. Married to YSU sweetheart six months after graduation.

Jordan Edgell of Turtlepoint, PA, '16, BSAS in Forensic Science. Graduate assistant at George Washington University.

Victoria Ferry of Cortland, OH, '16, BS in Exercise Science. Pursuing DPT, Youngstown State University. Graduate assistant at the YSU Honors College.

Claudia Gage of Poland, OH, '16, BA in Theater Studies. Senior resident artist at Shakesperience Productions, Inc.

Natalie (Kelly) Miller of Austintown, OH, '16, BSAS in Exercise Science. Pursuing DPT, Youngstown State University. Graduate assistant for the YSU Honors College. Recently married to husband, Scott.

Gina Mancini of Lakewood, OH, '16, BA in Interpersonal and Organizational Communications and in Psychology. Director of social services at Autumn Aegis Retirement Community.

Zara Markman of New York, NY, '16, BFA in Musical Theater. Yoga instructor at Surfside Fitness. Proud mother of an obese rescue cat.

Paul Oder of Los Angeles, CA, '16, BSAS in Forensic Science. Forensic anthropology graduate student at California State University, Los Angeles.

Ashley Orr of Columbiana, OH, '16, BS in Mathematics, BA in Economics. Graduate student pursuing MPhil in Economics at the University of Oxford, supported by the Rhodes Scholarship. Married to husband, Daniel.

Amber Palmer of Tallahassee, FL, '16, BA in Professional and Technical Writing and in Theater Studies. Graduate assistant at Western Michigan University.

Lauren Penman of Poland, OH, '16, BSN. Registered nurse at Summa Health Systems.

Bryan Schiraldi of Lowellville, OH, '16, BSBA in Accounting. Associate accountant at Packer Thomas.

James Tancabel of Boardman, OH, '16, BE in Mechanical Engineering, BS in Mathematics. Graduate research assistant at University of Maryland, College Park – Center for Environmental Energy Engineering.

Alex Welsh of Youngstown, OH, '16, BS in Biological Sciences, BSAS in Exercise Science. Pursuing DPT, Youngstown State University. Graduate assistant at the YSU Honors College.

Kayla Zitello of Boardman, OH, '16, BE in Chemical Engineering. Graduate student/research assistant at Carnegie Mellon University.

Michael Barkett of Okemos, MI, '17, BM in Music (Trumpet) Performance. Pursuing MM, Michigan State University.

Kyle Bryan of Columbiana, OH, '17, BE in Civil Engineering. Project engineer at A.P. O'Horo Company.

Brock DeAngelo of Newton Falls, OH, '17, BS in Biology. Medical student at Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Miranda DeFuria of Canfield, OH, '17, BE in Mechanical Engineering. Technical support engineer at Rockwell Automation.

Megan Evans of State College, PA, '17, BA in Sociology, English, and Linguistics. Graduate student at Pennsylvania State University.

Greta Frost of North Jackson, OH, '17, BA in Economics and Political Science. Legislative fellow at Ohio Legislative Service Commission.

Katrina Gerbrand of Lillington, NC, '17, BSAS in Exercise Science. Student at Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Marissa Gray of Beachwood, OH, '17, BA in English Literature. Pursuing MSED in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Youngstown State University.

Alyssa Grimm of Austintown, OH, '17, BSN. Registered nurse at Mercy Health.

Tyler Hovanec of Mountain View, CA, '17, BE in Electrical Computer Digital Engineering, BS in Computer Science. Software engineer at Google Inc.

Celeste Marshall of Washington, DC, '17, BA in Economics and International Relations. MA in Economics, Youngstown State University. Economic advisor at American Petroleum Institute.

Andy Morgan of Vienna, OH, '17, BE in Electrical Engineering, BS in Computer Science. Graduate student at Yale University.

Tyler Pabst of Princeton, NJ, '17, BS in Chemistry. Graduate student at Princeton University, Department of Chemistry.

Jacob Schriener-Briggs of Youngstown, OH, '17, BA in Philosophy and Political Science. Will be attending law school in Fall 2018. Intern, Clerk of Courts Office at Mahoning County Court of Common Pleas.

Andrew Whipkey of Ravenna, OH, '17, BS in Biology. Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Biomedical Research. M1 student at Northeast Ohio Medical University.

 **Elisabeth Winston** of Cuyahoga Falls, OH, '17, BA in Psychology. Emergency department medical scribe at ScribAmerica and University Hospitals.

Editor's Note: If anyone's information was incorrect or inadvertently not included in this publication, please accept my sincerest apology. I will make sure that it is properly included in the next edition.



Honors College Creed

As an honors student, I dedicate myself to:

Doing my best academically;

Engaging myself and my talents in volunteerism;

Expanding my perspectives in interdisciplinary studies;

Promoting fluency through global citizenship; and

Fostering my leadership skills for the betterment of myself,

my community, and Youngstown State University.

In humility, I make this pledge.



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