

With HONORS

A Magazine of the Youngstown State University Honors College



FULBRIGHT
Firsts



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Honors student Francesca Byrnes poses with her chalk creation outside Cafaro House. Students made the most of the challenges presented during the last year and continued to find the light.

This issue’s cover photo features Fulbright trailblazers Deidre Kilpatrick and Yesarily Sanchez Rivera. Kilpatrick is the first African-American student at YSU to become a semi-finalist, and Sanchez Rivera is the first Hispanic/Latinx student at YSU to achieve the same award. Read more of their story on page 9.

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.

DEAN'S LETTER

RELATIONSHIPS KEY TO UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES

The Honors College at Youngstown State University found promise in new opportunities and solutions to challenges this last year that allowed us to build upon our support of academic excellence, student success and community engagement. Some of the highlights from this year include:

- Welcoming the largest incoming class during a pandemic provided a challenge that was met with the addition of undergraduate honors teaching assistants (TAs). The TAs provided a much needed peer outlet throughout the entire first year.

- Community connections took on a different look. Even with limited opportunities for much of the year for direct contact, multiple new initiatives were realized. From transcribing more than 6,000 documents from the Library of Congress and Smithsonian to the creation of a tutoring program for local schools, Honors Helping Future Scholars, honors students continued to lead community engagement activities throughout the Valley and beyond.

- Academically motivated honors students continue to write their own success stories. Seniors launched their own businesses, were accepted into their top choice graduate programs, and secured employment in their chosen careers.

- We welcomed two new staff members – Mollie (McGovern) Hartup and Jomont Johnny Ware, who are focused on enhanced efforts to address student enrichment, retention and diversity initiatives.

- Alumni engaged with the Honors College at unprecedented levels by lending their time and talent in numerous ways. Alumni offered their expertise with content development for our first-year honors experience courses; participated in Networking Nights to share valuable insights about careers and lessons learned; and voluntarily offered their knowledge to help the college achieve efficiencies.

- Honors Trustees established the first endowed scholarship in honor of Joshua J. Bodnar, US12, who voluntarily maintains our Honors College apps.

Relationships are central to the performance and persistence of honors students. With the good will of our staff, faculty, and alumni,

our student experience is enhanced and the realization of family within the honors brand is achieved. We are humbled by the willingness of others in their support of our YSU current and future students. The stories you will read in this magazine are all grounded in the supportive culture that encourages student discovery and risk taking. The learning opportunities available to the honors community are supported and encouraged by invested people who our students come to know as their second family.

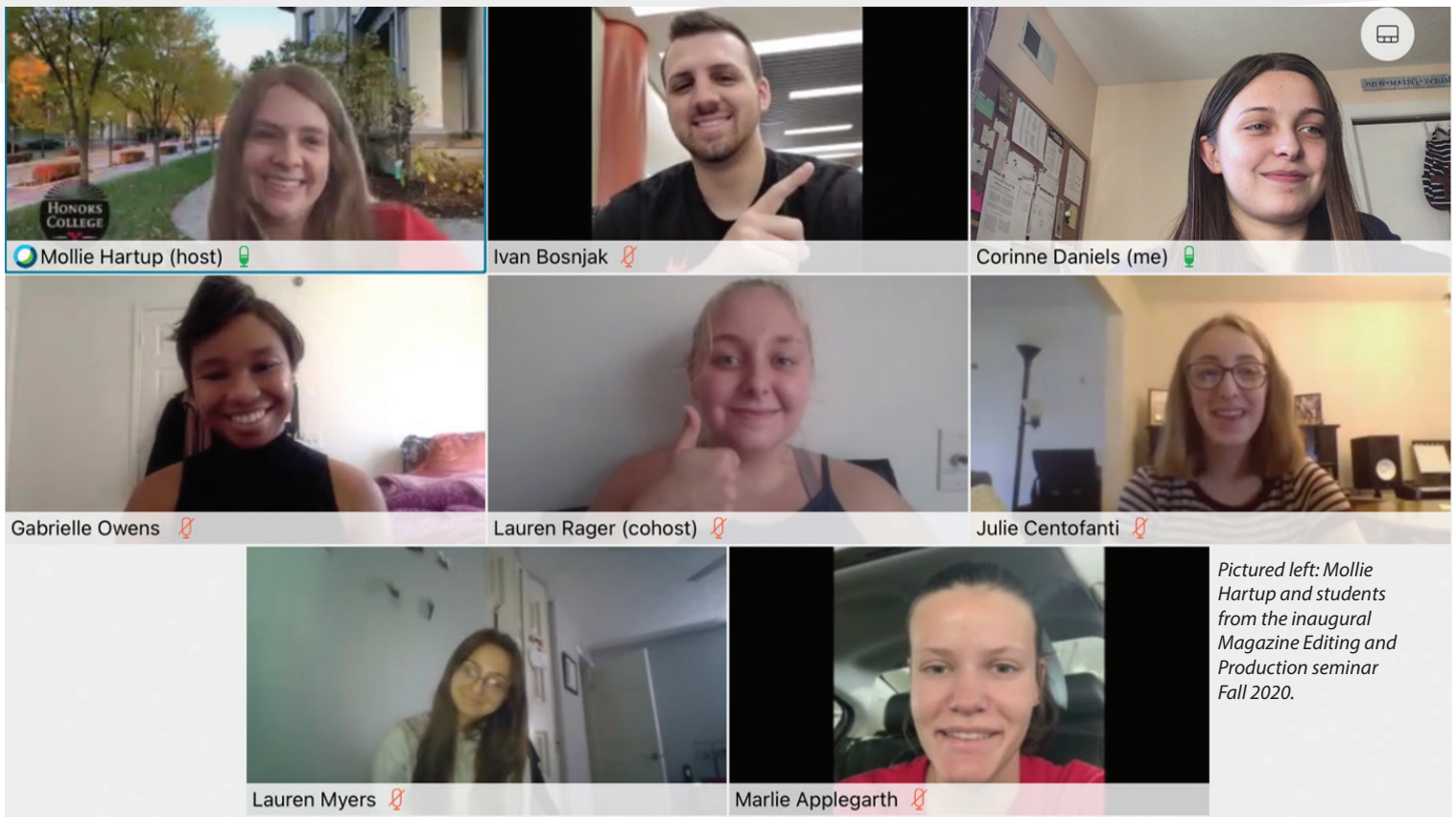
With honors,



Amy Cossentino Dean



The Honors College Advisory Board, staff, and students connect via Webex in February 2021.



Making a Magazine

FROM SEMINAR TO STUDENT MEDIA TEAM

By Julie Centofanti and Corinne Daniels, HC28s

A new seminar through the YSU Honors College is giving students a chance to learn about producing magazines while creating content for actual Honors College publications.

The Magazine Editing and Production seminar provides an overview of magazine development, including concepts such as brainstorming, interviewing, writing and editing stories. The course also introduces students to video production and industry considerations, such as analyzing benefits of print and digital publications.

“The seminar allowed me to pick up some unique skills I otherwise would not have learned anywhere in my studies for my major,” sophomore Criminal Justice major Lauren Myers said.

Seven students from different classes, majors, and levels of experience formed the first cohort in Fall 2020. The seminar was developed by Mollie Hartup, US6 and honors staff member, whose professional background includes experience in print and broadcast news, as well as magazine editing.

The core assignments for the Fall semester class included a publication proposal, which allowed students to conceptualize a new publication, a news release, and two magazine stories. Based on student feedback, the Spring seminar has incorporated more of a focus on magazine layout using Adobe InDesign. The seminar also led to the creation of a student media team responsible for the design of this publication.

“My hope is that each student will walk away with enhanced storytelling skills that will benefit them regardless of their intended career,” said Hartup.



Scan or click here for a behind-the-scenes look at the Magazine Editing and Production seminar.

MEET THE STUDENTS BEHIND THIS MAGAZINE



- 1. Hien (Sunny) Do, HC25 | Major: Business Administration, Financial Mgmt. Track & Avery Jones, HC27 | Major: Chemical Engineering
- 2. Kirsten Moore, HC28 | Major: English
- 3. Scott Gregory, HC28 | Major: Theatre Studies, Film Video Track
- 4. Lauren Rager, HC26 | Major: Anthropology

INSIDE THE IGLOO



Pictured above: Honors College "Igloo" for the Intro to Honors Seminar. The outdoor tent served as a classroom for the start of the Fall semester and the last few weeks of the Spring semester. Honors alumni contributed curricular content, which students engaged with and discussed during class. Page 6 showcases the 25 alumni contributors.

Scan or click here for a video of our Intro to Honors freshman experience.



Penguins adapt to class in igloos

By Lauren Rager, HC26

When the pandemic forced students to shift largely to online classes, the Youngstown State University Honors College adapted to ensure students could continue to learn together in the best environment possible. For freshmen in the Introduction to Honors seminar, that meant finding a creative way to offer a safe, in-person academic experience – outside, under a tent, which some may call an igloo.

For many, Intro to Honors is an oasis for students to build relationships with other honors students in their graduating class while also learning how to be a successful student in honors and at YSU. For most first-year students Intro to Honors was their only in-person class this year, so it became even more important to provide them with an opportunity for community-building within the course.

Intro to Honors is usually held in Fok Hall, but the classroom space was not large enough to hold the normal class size of around 20 students while adhering to COVID-19 social distancing measures. In order to comply with these measures, two large tents were set up at the start of the school year – one outside Fok Hall and another outside the honors residence hall Cafaro House. This “igloo” contained approximately 20 chairs spaced 6 feet apart.

Students were instructed to follow the university’s pandemic protocols, which included using hand sanitizer upon arrival and cleaning their chairs before and after class. Masks were also always required. Many students who experienced class in the igloo felt very safe.

Freshman Anthropology major Ella Hazy said, “I thought that the tent worked well. We were able to follow social distancing guidelines. Plus it was outside which eased my COVID-19 tensions.”

The goal of the tent was to provide optional in-person instruction for the class to those students who still desired an opportunity to learn face-to-face.

Though penguins are hardy, the igloos were not built to withstand the winter weather. The tents served their purpose for the first few weeks of the fall semester and the last few weeks of Spring 2021 for students taking the second part of the honors first-year seminar experience, Campus Community Partnerships.

Even though the tents were temporary, students overall enjoyed the experience.

“I still prefer having class indoors, but I’d take the tent over online instruction any day,” said freshman Physics major Johnny George.

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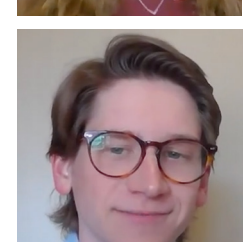
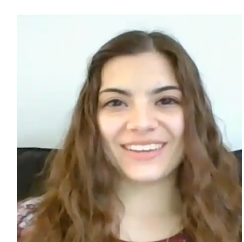
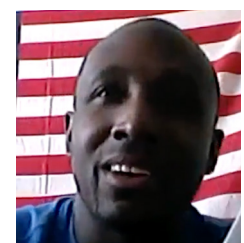
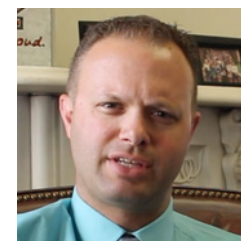
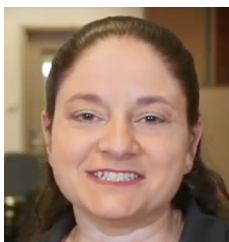
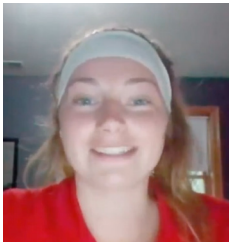
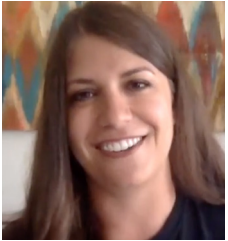


THANK YOU, ALUMNI

Continued from page 5.

Honors alumni shared their expertise on a wide variety of topics in support of the Intro to Honors curriculum. The 25 contributors provided video content on areas such as self-care, financial literacy, personal branding, critical thinking, leadership and so much more. The Honors College deeply appreciates the continued investment of honors alumni.

Pictured top to bottom, from left: Abdou Ayoub - Andrea Tharp - Greg Panuccio - Jaymin Patel - Ashley Orr - Amanda Gerstnecker - Angela Ireland - Hannah Crites - Josh Hiznay - Angela Messenger - Jacob Schriener-Briggs - Heidi Giusto - Lexi Rager - Sarah Kollat - Michael Pape - Jenna DeLaurentis - Jasmine Smyles - Sarah Jenyk - Melissa Mack - Presley Bowser - Mollie Hartup - John Thorne - Torrian Pace - Mariah Welsh - Jacob Tomory.



Scan or click here for a video showcasing the many ways honors alumni give back.

“BAHAMA RON” RETIRES TO NEW ROLE IN HONORS

By Ivan Bosnjak, HC27, and Lauren Rager, HC26

After more than three decades of teaching and taking students to the Bahamas, YSU professor Ron Shaklee is retiring from full-time teaching. A true servant heart, Shaklee is retiring after this Spring so he can continue to contribute to the Honors College in the Fall 2021.

In addition to professor of Geography, Shaklee recently took on the role of Director of National and International Scholarships, something he plans to continue in retirement. Shaklee has successfully mentored dozens of students towards receiving prestigious awards, such as the Rhodes Scholarship, the Goldwater Scholarship, and various Phi Kappa Phi fellowships.

Shaklee’s impact on the honors student experience has a long history. He previously served as Honors Director from 2000 – 2015. He also has endowed several scholarships through the YSU Foundation for the benefit of honors students.

Continued on next page.



Scan or click here to watch *Penguins in Paradise*, a video created by alumna Jenna DeLaurentis, US22, which captures the San Salvador experience.



The most recent group of students to travel with Shaklee loved doing the “Y” every chance they had. Here the honors group shows they are Y AND PROUD at Cut Cay, San Salvador.



A group of honors students first made the trek to San Salvador in 1999. Included among the travelers were, from left, Matt Stiffler US6, Sara (Zilles) Stiffler US6, Alicia (Stevens) Patel US6, and Michelle (Hettinga) Bails US5.

Continued from previous page.

Before departure, students learn about the economy of the island, the culture and history of those who live there, the ecology of the ocean, and the island’s geography. While visiting San Salvador, Shaklee guides students through once-in-a-lifetime opportunities like snorkeling with sea turtles, spelunking in underwater caves, and during the most recent 2019 trip, swimming with dolphins. Students can apply what they learned in the classroom to the real place and features of San Salvador.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the cancellation of the 2020 trip, Shaklee plans to continue taking students to San Salvador while teaching part-time in retirement. Shaklee will also continue to teach a Current Issues honors seminar, which allows students to respectfully debate issues that are most relevant to them.

Honors alumna and Graduate Assistant Hannah Crites speaks highly of her appreciation for the professor. She describes Shaklee as adding “technicolor” to her education by providing experiences embodying all five pillars of the Honors College – research and scholarship, leadership and engagement, volunteerism and service-learning, global citizenship, and interdisciplinary perspectives. Crites added that she admires the compassion Shaklee shows on a daily basis.

“He is a kind soul who is full of knowledge about anything and everything, and he is always ready to take an idea and run with it. He will support a student in every step of their journey,” Crites said.

Celebrating STUDENT SUCCESS



TWO HONORS STUDENTS CELEBRATE FULBRIGHT FIRSTS

In what is being hailed as the most competitive application cycle in the history of the Fulbright U.S. Student Program with 11,728 applications, two members of the YSU Honors College are making history.

Deidre Kilpatrick is believed to be the first African-American student at YSU to be selected as a Fulbright semifinalist. Kilpatrick has also been named an alternate finalist. Yesarily Sanchez Rivera is believed to be the first Hispanic/Latinx student at YSU to be selected as semifinalist.

"It is so exciting when one of our students is selected as a semi-finalist, especially when they are trailblazers like Deidre and Yesarily," said Ann Gardner, YSU's Fulbright Program Advisor.

Gardner cited recommendation letters as a key factor in setting these two students apart from the tight competition.

"The references were thoughtful, beautifully written, and gave a clear picture

of the students' exceptional qualities and suitability for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, said Gardner. "I enjoy reading these references because they reveal how attentive our faculty and staff are, how they take the time to really get to know and mentor our students, and how much they care about their future success."

Kilpatrick's hopes to travel to Malaysia as an English Teaching Assistant were dashed due to the suspension of the program for 2021-22. Meanwhile, she will pursue a master's degree in Counseling at YSU. Sanchez Rivera is pursuing her master's degree in Human Resource Management at Ohio State University.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, which offers research, study and teaching opportunities in more than 140 countries to recent graduates and graduate students.

BALLOW STRIKES GOLD WITH NATIONAL AWARD



Conducting research while balancing the demands of college life is no easy task, but for honors student Alexandra Ballow, a Mathematics and Physics double major at YSU, this way of life has led her to find academic success.

Ballow was amongst one of 396 college students nationwide to receive the Goldwater Scholarship from a field of 1,343 mathematics, science and engineering students from 461 colleges and universities. Ballow, who was selected for the \$7,500 one-year award, is the eighth YSU student to receive the Goldwater Scholarship since 1997. Four students have also received honorable mentions. All 12 have also been members of the YSU Honors College.

Ballow has dedicated many hours to her studies and completed research at the Berkeley National Labs for the past two summers. She has also conducted researched alongside Alicia Prieto Langarica, professor of Mathematics, and Physics faculty members Donald Priour and Michael Crescimanno.

As an honors student, Ballow was an active volunteer and enjoyed working with her community. "The volunteer and engagement requirements forced me to prioritize being a good person along with being a good scientist," said Ballow. "Looking back, I am so grateful that I've volunteered and helped the community while I'm here. I am a much more well-rounded person than I would've been without the Honors College."

Ballow plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Mathematics at Montana State University. Her career goals include teaching at the university level and conducting research in how Abstract Algebra relates to Quantum Mechanics.

DANCE MARATHON RAISES FUNDS FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Honors students have been a major driving force behind Guinathon, YSU's dance marathon which raises funds and awareness for Akron Children's Hospital. Though the 2021 event looked different due to the pandemic, the event managed to raise more than \$55,000. Honors students on the 2020-21 leadership team included:



Samantha Neral, Executive Director
Taylor Phillips, Internal Director
Jenna Guthrie, Morale Manager

Kira Bowman, Finance Manager
Anna Pleso, Dancer Relations Manager
Jaycie Watt, Mini Marathon Manager



VO'S FITNESS PLAN FIGHTS CHILDHOOD OBESITY

As childhood obesity becomes a more life-threatening phenomenon, medical professionals race to put a halt to the growing trend. For freshman Emily Vo, childhood obesity became a target.

Vo is a STEM Biological Sciences major who, within the past year, became an active leader within the Health Professions Affinity Community (HPAC). The goal of this organization is to encourage students to develop a group and create a project aimed at health disparities within their community. Vo's group, which included her brother and her friends, identified their community's struggle with childhood obesity and developed a traveling fitness plan for local schools. This initiative quickly impacted five elementary schools in both Youngstown and Boardman.

"It was fulfilling to see the children enjoying our program and being able to make a positive influence on the pressing issue of childhood obesity," Vo said. Vo gave a poster and oral presentation discussing her work with HPAC to NEOMED and Baldwin Wallace alongside her group members. Both the poster and oral presentations won first place in the health division for HPAC.

In the future, Vo will pursue her medical journey at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) with the goal of becoming a practicing physician. She hopes to provide quality care to her future patients.



Zachary Barber (far right) and team of medical professionals



BARBER ANSWERS CALL TO ACTION

While COVID-19 was seen as a major setback for communities across the nation, honors student Zachary Barber viewed the pandemic as a call to action.

Barber worked alongside nurses and physicians throughout the pandemic as a medical scribe in the Trumbull Regional Medical Center emergency room. In the past year, he elected to quarantine away from his family so that he could keep his family safe while serving his community.

Since 2017, Barber has volunteered his time to St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Youngstown and, during the pandemic, helped to distribute masks and PPE to staff. As a freshman in 2017, Barber started

his college career as a Biology Pre-Med major at YSU. In the same year, Barber became involved in an organization called Poverty Awareness in Youngstown, Ohio (PAYO) to further support his community in their fight against hunger and poverty. Barber was nominated president of the PAYO organization his senior year and immediately sprung into action. Barber organized a food drive to support local families effected by the sudden changes.

Barber plans to attend medical school and hopes to one day become a physician so he can give back to the community he grew up in.

STUDENTS CREATE SCHOLARSHIP IN NAME OF ALUMNUS JOSH BODNAR

By Kirsten Moore, HC28

During his schooling at YSU, Josh Bodnar was an intern with the YSU Foundation. Now, with help from this foundation, YSU Honors College students have created the Joshua J. Bodnar Scholarship that will be awarded annually to one sophomore honors student.

"With the rising cost in tuition, this is a way we can support our fellow students by helping to reduce the cost of education," said Zachary Howard, president of the Honors Trustees. "The development of a philanthropic mindset at a young age can prove valuable to society as students move into their careers."

This scholarship was created to honor Bodnar's work and generosity. While he was a staff member for the Honors College, Bodnar digitized the contract honors



Pictured from left, Lauren Rager, trustees' treasurer, Josh Bodnar, Zach Howard, trustees' president, and David Gessler, trustees' secretary.

process and created the honors dashboard where students log their volunteer hours and engagement. Bodnar is now a staff member at The Ohio State University, but he still volunteers his time and remotely maintains the dashboard for YSU.

"I am truly humbled and honored by the students, faculty and staff who created this endowed scholarship in my name. Thank you to the Youngstown State University Foundation for continuing to help students like me reach their potential at YSU," Bodnar said.

This scholarship comes from the work done by honors students to raise money for future classes.

PECCON FINDS, SHARES JOY THROUGH ART



Peccon's Student Art Association submission for Spring 2021.

Alaina Peccon, a freshman Creative Arts and Art Education double major, kicked off the new year by displaying her artwork in the Student Art Association Art Contest. While her artwork was only displayed in late January and early February, her work left a lasting impression on the YSU community. The piece depicted how different mediums and color can emphasize emotion, in this case joy.

Peccon reflected back on her artistic endeavors and found that the root of her passions was grounded in her high school experiences at Blackhawk High School. She began drawing portraits of her favorite celebrities and even found the process to be therapeutic and fun. As Peccon started to recognize her artistic passion, she participated in local art contests. Her success came naturally as she quickly won a local art contest, which fueled her motivation to pursue creative arts in her future. "I eventually found that I could not see myself doing anything that did not involve art," Peccon said.

Peccon hopes to continue her recent work with current Art student Holly Yarab, by painting penguins on alumni driveways. She also plans to contribute to the continuation of the Andrews Avenue mural and create her own pieces to submit to the Bliss Kids Collective.



ANNABELLE HIMES FINDS THE POSITIVE

In June 2018, Annabelle Himes, now a freshman Business Administration major, embarked on her new journey as the founder of Heroes and Tiaras. Himes' organization serves children in the local area and is dedicated to bringing superheroes, princesses, princes, mermaids, and other characters to life at birthday parties and other events.

Himes was chosen as a 2020-21 Phi Kappa Phi Finding the Positive speaker for transforming her business and giving back to the community as the pandemic hit the valley. She adapted and began to hold yard visits and video chats with characters. Proceeds from these events went partly to the Rescue Mission of Mahoning Valley, Angels for Animals, and her cousin, Kristin Fox, a local teacher who suffered serious complications from an illness.

Himes attended the YSU WCBA Entrepreneurship Center Business Plan Competition and was awarded an honorable mention for her business in Spring 2021.

In the future, Himes plans to expand her business and is currently searching for a new location. Not only would she like to find a space to harbor her costumes and equipment but also offer a space for her customers to rent for parties and other events.



INTERNATIONAL PEN PALS RETURNS AFTER PANDEMIC PAUSE

My Le, Business Administration major and Marketing minor, began the community project called International Pen Pals at YSU in August of 2019. The iPenPal project was designed to connect YSU students with students in Vietnam who are learning the English language. The mission of this program is to assist students in improving their writing, communication skills and confidence when using English.

The inspiration for this program came from the existing Honors College Pen Pal program on campus as well as through Le's own experiences. Le felt that although she had grown up learning the English language, she found it difficult to engage in fluent conversation. To assist Vietnamese students with this obstacle, iPenPals was born.

To become a part of the program, YSU students must submit an application to be paired with a student in Vietnam. Once selected, team members matched pairs of students from YSU and Vietnam.

Participants were then given a Google document link which was shared with their partner so that they may begin writing on their scheduled dates. Every two weeks, students would write to one another and discuss cultures, hobbies, and other interests. In December 2019, the YSU students wrote handwritten Christmas cards to their partners which were hand delivered to Vietnam by Le herself.

While events of early 2020 caused the program to halt, iPenPals was relaunched in September 2020. By the end of the year, Le and her team had secured three partners including the Little Angel Language Center, Rach Ong Charity Class, and the YSU Honors College. iPenPals has three primary team members in Vietnam, 16 team members in the US, 180 pairs of students, and has accumulated 2,000 volunteer hours in total.

The goal of iPenPals is expansion on all fronts, including plans to market the program more broadly in Vietnam.

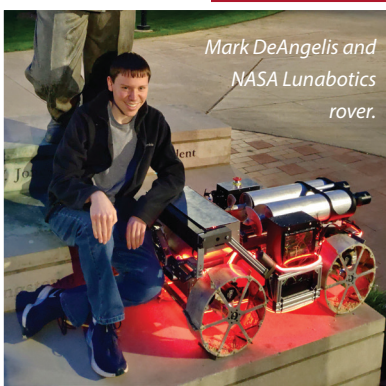
STUDENTS LAND ROBOTICS OPPORTUNITIES WITH LUNABOTS



The YSU Robotics Club, advised by Dr. Alexander H. Pesch, is a student organization on campus that allows students who have an interest in robotics to build robots, participate in national competitions, and host social events. Within the past few years, the YSU Robotics Club has focused on several projects including an Automatic Positioning Telescope, Battlebot, and most notably, NASA Lunabotics. Senior honors student Mark DeAngelis and junior honors student Clay Miller were active participants in the NASA Lunabotics project during their membership.



Clay Miller, an Integrated Math Education major, has been an active member of the YSU community. Aside from being an honors student, Miller is a member of Greek Campus Life, the Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity, Interfraternity Council, Residential Housing Association and Presidential Residence Hall Leaders. Thanks to his role in the NASA Lunabotics project, Miller completed an independent study related to Lunabots and supported the program in establishing connections with local schools. Miller prepared activities for students of all ages, grades K-12, and promoted STEM and Robotics programs in the local area. Miller plans to one day start his teaching career in the Mahoning Valley or near his hometown in Wayne County. While he dreams of being a teacher, Miller also plans to attend graduate school to pursue a master's degree in either Education or Mathematics. Ultimately, Miller would like to become an administrator or college professor before running for a political office to assist his community and local schools in making change happen. For now, Miller is traveling Vermont with the AmeriCorps program.

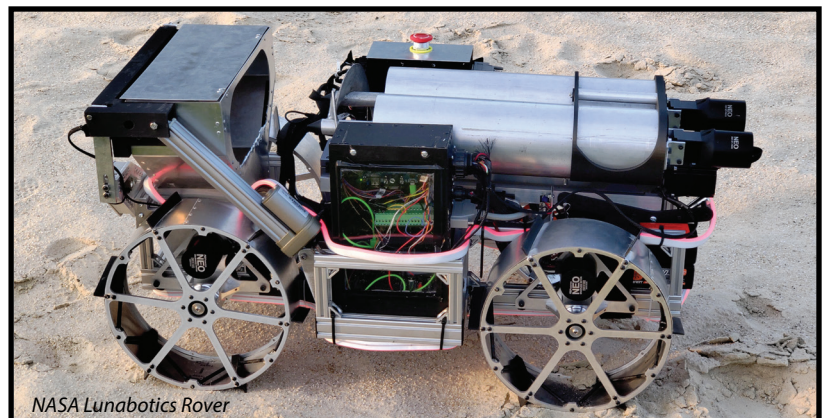


Throughout his college career, Mark DeAngelis, Mechanical Engineering major, participated in many extracurricular events in addition to achieving academic success. During his senior year, DeAngelis participated in the NASA Lunabotics Competition and spent most of his free time designing and building a rover to traverse a simulated lunar surface. In this competition, the teams are asked to develop a rover that can travel across the simulated surface, collect gravel from below the surface, and place the gravel in a bin to earn points. In addition to the basic requirements for the competition, DeAngelis designed a potential suspension system for the rover through the Ohio Space Grant Consortium (OSGC). DeAngelis was elected President of the YSU Robotics Club alongside fellow honors student Elie Louisa who was elected as vice president for the 2020-21 academic year.

After graduation, DeAngelis plans to attend graduate school at Carnegie Mellon to pursue his passion for robotics. He plans to conduct research in Biology-related robotics under the advisement of Dr. Philip LeDuc and Dr. Warren Ruder.



Scan or click here for a video of the NASA Lunabotics rover in action.



Virtual Volunteering STORYTIME

STUDENTS AND ALUMNI RALLY AROUND LITERACY PROGRAM



Honors alumna, Dr. Chisa Echendu, and twin daughters Chloe, left, and Camille, right, record some of their favorite stories from their home.

To aid in childhood literacy efforts in the community, honors students and alumni created Storytime, a program where they record themselves reading children's books weekly on the YSU Honors College YouTube channel. The endeavor is aimed at educating and entertaining preschool and elementary-aged children.

Honors College students have enjoyed selecting their books and, in some cases, sharing their own childhood favorites. Junior Anthropology major Lauren Rager has read *How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight?* for the program.

"It was so much fun remembering how much I loved this book as a kid and getting to share it with children in our community," Rager said.

Freshman Middle Childhood Education major Jenna Menough also created a Storytime board game to add an interactive component to the program, as part of her independent study course. Those completing the game earned a special certificate and book. The game can still be downloaded and printed from the description of any of the videos on YouTube.



Scan or click here to view the full playlist of past Storytime episodes.

SERVING THROUGH TRANSCRIBING

In less than seven months, honors students hosted multiple transcribe-a-thons, which grew into a transcribing club that meets three times weekly and has transcribed more than 6000 historical documents for more than 800 hours.

Transcribing is the process of preserving history reading raw, unedited documents, newspapers, experiments, and personal letters from historical, scientific, and political figures that can be utilized by future researchers. Transcribing gives students the opportunity to discover compelling historical figures while earning volunteer hours and building lasting friendships. During meetings, time is dedicated to building community among students in a virtual environment.

by

TRANSCRIBING CLUB Year in Review

6,000+
PAGES



800
plus Hours

50+
MEETINGS

*As of March 2021

WHY I STARTED TRANSCRIBING...

by Julie Centofanti, HC28



Julie Centofanti and her father, Pete.

I started transcribing with the Smithsonian Transcription Center during the summer of 2020. I wanted to participate in the Honors College and earn volunteer hours, along with keeping my father safe. My father, Pete Centofanti, has a non-hereditary auto-immune disease that only attacks his kidneys. Since the start of the pandemic, my family has been extremely cautious. My father has never missed a parent-teacher conference, any school functions, piano recitals, or softball games. He even coached softball for several years after his transplant. With his newfound health, my father is always ready to help anyone.

Theodore Roosevelt's inspiring words motivate me to make the most of my time in quarantine: "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." Transcribing has been a way to learn new things while serving, and it has also allowed me to make new friends. The discussions that we have during the transcribing meetings are very beneficial. The members are starting to talk to one another, and it is great to see everyone interacting. I am truly enjoying this experience. It brings me joy a few nights every week! I am thankful for each and every student that has transcribed and reviewed pages. Our club could have never succeeded without them. They are outstanding students and have so much to offer during meetings.

VIRTUAL

HONORS HELPING FUTURE SCHOLARS

Since January, students in the YSU Honors College have spent nearly 50 hours tutoring students from area middle and high schools through the Honors Helping Future Scholars (HHFS) program. Students in the community requested tutoring in a variety of areas, such as English, Social Studies, and Math.

Led by a team of freshmen - Biology and Pre-Med major Bronson DeAngelo, Music Education major Joseph Lasher, Biology and Pre-Med major Taylor Sebastiano, and Middle Childhood Education major Anthony Testa, HHFS is entirely student-run with support from the Honors College. A total of 11 honors students currently volunteer as tutors.

The student leadership team coordinates the schedule for tutoring sessions and moderates the sessions, which are held four evenings a week on Webex. Students describe it as a mutually beneficial opportunity to serve the community while developing as individuals.

"The Honors Helping Future Scholars Program has allowed me to find a way in these unknown times to help those who need it most. It has granted me skills I will be able to use in the future as a leader, organizer and volunteer," DeAngelo said.

There are currently 44 students from Valley Christian and New Castle Schools enrolled in the pilot program. HHFS is open to students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

"I am so grateful to the Honors College for giving me the opportunity to reach out and make a genuine difference in the lives of not only my peers but also the scholars of tomorrow. Education is such an important investment in one's future, so being able to have a first-hand impact on the education of those who need assistance is so motivating," Sebastiano said.



Taylor Sebastiano



Bronson DeAngelo

VOLUNTEERING

Coming Home to Honors

The Honors College officially welcomes two new faces to its staff – Mollie (McGovern) Hartup and Johnny Ware.

After teaching in honors for several years, Hartup is now also working full-time with the college as associate director. A US6 alumna, Hartup holds undergraduate degrees in Telecommunication Studies and Geography as well as an MBA. She has past experience in higher education and the television news industry.

“While I have enjoyed every aspect of my career from working in news to other areas within higher education, there is no better feeling than being able to share what I have learned from those experiences with students,” said Hartup. “I am deeply grateful for this opportunity to come home to honors.”

Ware, former dean of students at Valley Christian High School, joined as coordinator, student enrichment and diversity programs in January 2021. Ware holds a bachelor’s degree in Behavioral Science from Columbia College in South Carolina. He also has extensive experience working with children with special needs and coaching football, basketball and track.

“I like to think the best choice I ever made was coming to work at Youngstown State University as part of its Honors College. From the moment I started working here, I could feel the family atmosphere and see how each individual that works in honors has the desire and passion to help lead young people to be great leaders,” said Ware.



Staff Accomplishments

Eileen Esposito, administrative assistant

- Honorable Mention – 2020 Award for Administrative Excellence presented by the National Collegiate Honors Council
- YSU Distinguished Service Award

Mollie Hartup, associate director

- YSU Distinguished Service Award

Lexi Rager, assistant director

- Master’s degree in Professional Communication (conferred Summer 2020)
- Recipient, National Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship

Publications

Amy Cossentino, dean, and Mollie Hartup, associate director, co-authored two publications in academic journals. Hartup also published two solo articles.

Hartup, M., & Cossentino, A. (2019). Maximizing Communication Methods to Promote Student Development and Success. *the Western ABC Bulletin*, 1.2.

Hartup, M., & Cossentino, A. (2019). Reimagining the Airport as Classroom—Immediacy, Place, and Presence. *Journal of Learning Spaces*, 8(1).

Hartup, M. (2020). Life Interrupted: Finding the Good, Despite the Challenges, in the Pandemic As a professional. *the Western ABC Bulletin*, 2.1.

Hartup, M. (2020). Teaching as a Whole. *Journal of the National Collegiate Honor Society*, 21.2.



Pictured left: Johnny Ware and Mollie Hartup.

LIVING THE HONORS BRAND

OPPORTUNITY | COMMUNITY | FAMILY



HONORS COLLEGE

When we asked students and alumni how they would describe the honors experience the same three words came up over and over again.

Opportunity. Community. Family.

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