



Individuals for consideration as YSU commencement speakers

Presented to
Dr. Jennifer Pintar
September 25, 2024

Bryan and Gary Brantley

Bryan

- Litigation Partner and Leader of Transportation Industry Team at McGuireWoods for the past 10 years. Has been with McGuireWoods for 19 years
- 45 years old
- Youngstown State University: 2001 Political Science Major
- Duquesne University: 2004 Law Degree
- Director for the National Aviary
- Board member for Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
- Board member for Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
- Board member for Duquesne School of Law Advisory Board
- Grew up on the south side of Youngstown

Gary

- Chief Information Officer for the National Football League since October 2022
- before the NFL, Gary was the CIO for Beazer Homes (home construction company), the Commissioner & CIO for the City of Atlanta, the CIO for DeKlab County Schools, and the Vice President of IT for the state of Ohio.
- 46 years old
- Youngstown State University: 2002 Computer and Information Sciences Major
- University of Phoenix: 2013: Business Management Masters
- Board member at the Atlanta Community Food Bank
- Executive Advisory Board Member at Atlanta Technology Professionals
- Executive Board Member at Technology Association of Georgia
- Grew up on the south side of Youngstown

Robert Reeder III

- Partner at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, a New York City law firm.
- Has experience in working on initial public offerings, including for the Goldman and Sachs Group.
- Has Bar Admissions in both New York and Ohio
- 64 Years Old
- Made gifts to YSUF to establish the Grace Ruth Memorial Professorship in English and the Robert W. Reeder I Memorial Endowed Professorship in History
- Distinguished Philanthropist with major gifts to a number of different organizations
- Youngstown State University: 1981 Criminal Justice Major

Laurie Brlas

- An accomplished financial and operating executive who has served in key leadership roles within a variety of sectors, including mining and natural resources, manufacturing, utilities, medical products, retail, and financial auditing and consulting.
- Prior to her retirement in 2016 to focus on her Board work, Ms. Brlas served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Newmont Mining Corporation. During her tenure, she was responsible for the Company's global finance, business planning, value assurance, tax, treasury, internal audit, supply chain, information technology, investor relations and logistics functions.
- Boards of Directors of Albemarle, Autoliv, Constellation, and Graphic Packaging
- Awards: Fortune 500 Top 50 Female CFOs, Ohio Financial Executive of the Year, and Women Inc.'s Most Influential Directors.
- Youngstown State University: 1992 Accounting Major (non-traditional student)
- 66 Years Old

Gary Daichendt

- Founder and Chairman of the commercial real estate firm, Theory R. Properties
- Best known for his work at Cisco Systems. He served as Executive Vice President of Worldwide Operations (Cisco's second highest ranking executive) during its record and highest period of growth.
- Youngstown State University: 1973 Mathematics Major
- Ohio State University: Mathematics Master's
- 72 Years Old
- Lives in Laguna Beach, CA

Dr. Lyn Yakubov

- Ophthalmologist in Youngstown, OH specializing in Cataract, Lens Implant, and Laser Surgery.
- Started a STEM Scholarship in 2016 for graduates of Struthers and Liberty High School.
- Youngstown State University: 1983 Combined Science Major
- 62 Years Old

Steve Gurgovits

- Former Chair of First National Bank Corporation and First National Bank of Pennsylvania.
- Started a scholarship in 2015 for Economics majors.
- Current YSU Foundation Trustee
- Youngstown State University: 1972 Economics Major
- 81 Years Old

Bill Bresnahan

- Chairman and CEO of McDonald Steel Corporation
- Trustee to the Hynes -Finnegan Foundation, numerous gifts to YSU
- Former YSU Trustee
- Former YSU Foundation Trustee
- Was in the US Marine Corps Reserve (1971-1977)
- Youngstown State University: 1976 Marketing Major
- University of Pittsburgh: 1986 Master's
- 74 Years Old

Dr. Lou Centofanti

- Chairman of the Board and CEO of Perma-Fix Environmental Services, Inc., a hazardous waste management firm specializing in the treatment and recycling of hazardous waste.
- Started a STEM Scholarship in 2019.
- Youngstown State University: 1965 Chemistry Major
- University of Michigan: 1967/1968 Chemistry Major's and Doctorate
- University of Utah: 1969 Post Doctoral Fellow
- 81 Years Old

Dr. Tom Johns

- Started and ran his own Program and Project Manager Training service before retiring in 2008.
- Started a scholarship for YSU STEM students in April of 2024.
- Youngstown State University: 1967 Mechanical Engineering Major
- Ohio State University: Master's and Doctorate degree
- 81 Years Old

Rich Retort

- CEO of Steel Equipment Specialists, a leading supplier of equipment and services for the metals, metals forming and all related industries
- Youngstown State University: 1993/1996 Economics and Mechanical Engineering Major
- 54 Years Old