

The Jambar

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Board considers controversial new program

Jordan D. Uhl
NEWS EDITOR

Students from all areas of study may soon be able to take advantage of the emerging shale industry in Youngstown, as the proposal of a related minor was suggested to the board of trustees Thursday.

Martin Abraham, dean of the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, pitched the idea of a Natural Gas and Water Resources Institute to the Youngstown State University Board of Trustees.

The board forwarded the motion to be formally adopted at the meeting on Dec. 14, and an official proposal will be made for the academic senate's consideration, with a vote expected in April.

Abraham said the institution would provide both educational and research opportunities to benefit students and faculty.

Students would study drilling technology, subsurface geology and environmental changes. Abraham said faculty would be able to further their research and solve technical problems.

STEM officials have begun the preliminary design of the new minor.

Jeffrey Dick, chairman of the geological and environ-



Martin Abraham, right, presents his vision for the Natural Gas and Water Resources Institute at Thursday's board of trustees meeting. Abraham's hope is for students to be able to begin graduating with a related minor as early as spring 2013. Photo by Chris Cotelesse/The Jambar.

mental sciences department, said the minor would be finalized sometime this week.

The bulk of the minor will include enhanced current STEM programs. It will consist of 20 credit hours as opposed to the traditional 18, and students can complete the program in two semesters.

Additional courses will need to be developed, but Dick

said it wouldn't be a big factor.

Classes will focus on environmental studies, water chemistry and the geology of shale, Abraham said.

An external advisory board will be established next year. Abraham said he hopes research fields will be clear and underway by May 2013.

Representatives from companies such as V & M Star

have already contacted him about an intern feeder system from YSU.

Dick said other environmental consulting groups and drilling companies have also shown a great deal of interest in YSU students.

"[We're] getting them geared towards what appears to be a big boom for our local economy and eastern Ohio,"

Dick said.

Though Abraham's presentation was met with general acceptance from the board, members questioned the cost.

While program specifics have yet to be worked out, Abraham estimated \$20,000 would be necessary to cover two additional faculty mem-

PROGRAM PAGE 3

Crash in M-2 raises concern about conditions

Chelsea Telega
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Conflicting reports surround a fender bender that happened in the M-2 parking deck on Thursday morning.

Accounts of the weather conditions varied from an inch of ice, to light frost on the parking deck, when a car ascending the third-floor ramp came to a stop in front of Zack Lord, causing Lord to brake suddenly on the incline. The ramp's slick conditions made it impossible for Lord to drive any farther.

"The cars in front of me moved, and I was able to attempt to try to drive back up the ramp," Lord said. "I skid in place with my tires spinning and then slid back into the car behind me."

Damage to both vehicles was insignificant. Lord said that he and the other driver called parking services from the parking attendant's kiosk facing DeBartolo Hall.

Instead of discussing the accident, Lord was adamant about what he considered poor maintenance in wintry conditions.

"There was no damage sustained from the fender bender, but both students were very upset about the lack of salt put down and wanted to speak with someone from parking regarding the matter," according to a Youngstown State University Police report.

University police officer Deana Bryant arrived at the deck and filed the complaint on the deck's conditions. Bryant said that drivers in an accident

are culpable and that the university cannot be held liable for poor weather conditions.

Though all sides agreed on the events leading to the accident, the causes became Lord's focus.

Lord, creator of the Facebook page Things Overheard at YSU, posted a statement informing its followers of the situation.

In the post, Lord said that someone from parking services told him, "The parking decks are not checked in the morning to see if they need to be cleaned or salted. They will only be checked if there is a complaint filed."

He also said parking services told him that if an accident occurs due to ice, it is deemed the driver's fault and parking services will not do anything but salt the deck after the fact.

Danny O'Connell, YSU's director of support services, said employees of the grounds department salted the deck that morning around 6 a.m. and that the slippery incline was due to frost.

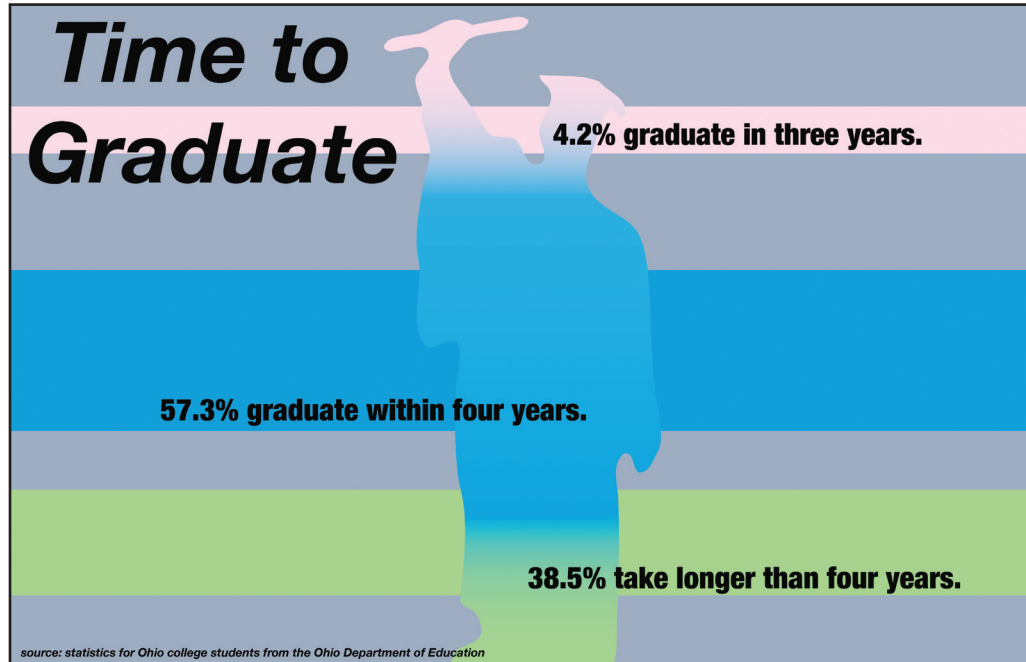
"A Facebook post said that grounds didn't do their job, but they really did," O'Connell said. "It's unfortunate because grounds does such a good job, and people didn't realize it was salted."

O'Connell said grounds is typically on campus to check the ramps and plow the streets during the winter before any students arrive. He said the areas surrounding campus are their main focus.

Lord said he hasn't noticed the effort.

"I'm looking for YSU to

M-2 PAGE 3



YSU to turn some programs into three-year degrees

Marissa McIntyre
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Colleges across campus will soon be looking to see which of their tracks can be transformed into three-year programs.

Charles Singler, interim associate provost, said the option to complete the curriculum within three years has always been available to students. However, the Ohio Legislature is now mandating that three-year degree programs be offered.

According to the Ohio Board of Regents, the goal is to transition 10 percent of Ohio university programs into three-year degree programs by 2012, with a goal of transitioning 60 percent by 2014.

The idea is that this will help students save money, allow more time for students to pursue more than one major and bring more businesses into Ohio.

"Businesses are looking to go places where there are a lot of educational opportunities," Singler said. "They simply want to employ those who can come across a problem and solve it."

Singler said these programs could be tough for some students to complete.

"It's not a program available to a lot of students," Singler said. "But to those who are focused

and don't change their minds, it can be done."

He said the university is looking into academic advising to help these students succeed.

William Buckler, coordinator of academic advising, said advising is being looked at as part of the 2020 strategic plan.

"We are looking at eliminating difficulty on advising," he said.

Buckler added that two concerns regarding advising are that not enough professional advisers are on campus and that faculty advisers are not aware of the updated curriculum.

Buckler said the development of a better advisement website is in the works.

He is also looking into updating the decade-old academic advising manual and bringing in retired faculty as part-time advisers to lessen the burden on faculty.

"A lot of students do not have the luxury of not having to work while they're in college," Buckler said.

He said students who take on a three-year degree are going to face a lot of pressure in order to pass their classes.

Shearle Furnish, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, said he is unsure about how successful the three-year degree programs are going to be.

"The call for a three-year degree program is

DEGREES PAGE 3

SGA looks to improve academic advising

Patrick Donovan
NEWS REPORTER

Members of the Youngstown State University Student Government Association agreed that academic advising on campus must be improved, and several ideas were discussed during the organization's meeting on Monday.

SGA President Elyse Gessler said the challenges involved with academic advising would be one of the focal points for SGA in the spring.

"I think it's really important for students to stay informed about their resources," Gessler said. "One of the biggest advising issues deals with incoming freshmen and second-year students who may not know where to go for advising or whether or not they even need to be advised."

Justin McIntyre, SGA vice president, stressed the important role academic advisers play in a student's academic journey through college and said SGA is trying to explore ways to make the advising process more uniform.

"I would like to see more of a standardized advising process for students," McIntyre said. "Sometimes students make ill-informed decisions



Youngstown State University Student Government Association President Elyse Gessler and Vice President Justin McIntyre prepare for Monday evening's SGA meeting in Kilcauley Center. The SGA body has begun discussing possible ways to improve academic advising. Photo by Patrick Donovan/The Jambar.

on their own that could have been easily avoided with the help of an adviser."

Susanne Miller, senior academic adviser for the Biontonte College of Health and Human Services, agreed that academic advising poses some daunting challenges and said students and advisers must work together.

"We are always trying to figure out what works best," Miller

said. "I think you would be hard-pressed to say there aren't some issues that need to be addressed, but I am more optimistic than ever that we are going to continue to make the entire process easier for everyone."

Miller said one of the biggest challenges involved with advising is the number of students who try to schedule appointments in such a short period of time.

"We have 4,000 students in Health and Human Services, and we try not to cut people short on the time we meet with them," Miller said. "You can imagine the amount of time involved in the process."

William Buckler, coordinator of academic advising, said his office has been exploring ways to relieve advisement stress on students and faculty.

"This issue is not limited to YSU's

campus," Buckler said. "These issues are a challenge at most colleges across the country, but there are some creative ways we can try to help alleviate some stress."

Buckler cited the new academic advising syllabus as one tool being used to emphasize that advising is a two-way street. The syllabus, which outlines many important facts about advising, will be distributed to all incoming freshmen.

"We are trying to make advising easier, but we also try to stress, that as a student, there are responsibilities that go along with advising," Buckler said. "I would encourage students to schedule an appointment for advisement as early as possible and come prepared to ask questions. That alone can help alleviate a lot of headaches."

Knight Foundation awards grant to News Outlet

Rachel Lundberg
REPORTER

Youngstown State University's News Outlet was recently awarded a \$62,000 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

This is the second consecutive year that the News Outlet has received a Community Information Challenge grant from the Knight Foundation.

The News Outlet, located in Smith Hall, provides students with the opportunity to work with professionals in the field of journalism and have their work published in regional publications.

"It's a totally different professional experience," said Alyssa Lenhoff, co-director of the News Outlet.

Lenhoff said the News Outlet has produced dozens of articles, including a recent look into the likelihood of the Mahoning River ever being purified and an investigative article on questionable practices at the House of Hope.

"It actually involves neighboring residents in selecting

the stories that would be important to the community," said Gordon Wean, chairman of the board of directors for the Raymond John Wean Foundation. "We very much value what they do because one of our important values is the inclusion of the resident in the news making process."

The News Outlet partners with the Akron Beacon Journal, WYSU-FM, Rubber City Radio, the Vindicator, Kent State University and the University of Akron.

"We're adding new media partners all the time," Lenhoff said.

The News Outlet has also received grants totaling more than \$40,000 from the Raymond John Wean Foundation and the Youngstown Foundation.

"We were pleased to offer initial and ongoing support for this exciting project and believe that it has already made an important difference in the type of news and information available to citizens of the Mahoning Valley," Jeff Glebocki, president of the Raymond John Wean Foundation, said in a YSU press release.

Students 'join' Marine Corps for Christmas

Chad Travers
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
REPORTER

YSUnity, Youngstown State University's gay-straight alliance, will accept donations for the U.S. Marine Corps' Toys for Tots drive through Friday.

"We wanted to do a canned food drive, but we didn't think we had enough time to set it up," said Tim Bortner, YSUnity treasurer. "So we contacted the Marine Corps and asked to participate in their toy drive."

Collection points will be set up on the first floor of Kilcauley Center on Tuesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Toys must be new and unwrapped. The drive will not accept toy guns or gambling toys. Cash donations are also welcome.

Those who donate will be entered into a raffle for a \$20 Best Buy gift card. Raffle tickets will also be sold for \$1 each. All proceeds will go toward the Mahoning County chapter of Toys for Tots.

This is the first year that YSUnity has participated in the toy drive, but other campus organizations are also pitching in.

Kilcauley Center is holding its 36th annual holiday breakfast at 8 a.m. on Dec. 14 and 15. U.S. Marine Corps

reservists from the Vienna air base will be on hand, collecting toys that will be distributed through local Salvation Army offices.

This is the fifth year that Kilcauley Center's staff offices have collaborated with the U.S. Marine Corps in the Toys for Tots drive.

Lynn Haug, retail operations manager at Kilcauley Center, is pleased to be working with the Marines again this year.

"We're very happy to participate in the Marines' toy drive. Last year, we collected over 1,000 toys and nearly \$2,500 in cash donations," Haug said. "The Marines brought a van that wasn't big enough to hold all the donations last year. They had to go back to the base and get a bigger truck. We're looking forward to another successful year this year."

Toys for Tots is an initiative of the U.S. Marine Corps that is aimed at donating toys to children whose parents cannot afford Christmas gifts. The program began as a charitable effort in Los Angeles in 1947 and has grown into a national campaign.

According to the program's website, Toys for Tots has distributed more than 400 million toys to more than 188 million needy children over its 64-year existence.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Proposal may rename journalism program

A resolution to rename the journalism program was forwarded during Thursday's board of trustees meeting. Following a \$100,000 leadership gift by Windsor T. Anderson, uncle of YSU President Cynthia Anderson, to the journalism program in the memory of his late wife. The program is to be named after Lawrence R. Anderson, Cynthia Anderson's father. The board will vote on the proposal Dec. 14.

POLICE BRIEFS

Woman reports harassment by female student

On Nov. 29, a female student told YSU Police that another female student was harassing her. A couple of weeks ago, the female student was sitting near the victim at Arby's and just staring at her. On Nov. 28, the victim saw the female student with the victim's boyfriend at YSU; when they walked past the victim, the female student made a derogatory comment. The victim added that she saw a Facebook post made by the female student that read, "I'm going to put stitches in her." The victim believes that the post was intended for her. The female student has also showed up at the victim's place of employment.

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come up with a new strategy for handling the decks," Lord said. "I just want a safer environment, and I feel like YSU is really making safety a secondary priority when it should always be the first.

"I feel like parking services should be more proactive about the situations on the decks and try to do something about the decks so things like this don't happen again."

Lord added that the parking services employee who met with them was far from helpful.

"He pulled up, put down his window and yelled out to us, 'What the hell do you want us to do about it? We're not going to do shit for either of you. Call the police or talk to grounds, and they're not going to do shit either,'" Lord said.

O'Connell could not confirm the name of the employee, or confirm what was said, but said that both men involved in the accident shared a similar story.

"That's just something we can't accept from our employees if this does end up being the case," O'Connell said. "That's unacceptable, and we are taking it very seriously."

Parking services is in the process of investigating the situation, and the men involved in the accident have scheduled a meeting to make a statement.

As the weather conditions worsen at YSU, O'Connell said he is addressing potential safety issues by enlisting a deck consultant who assessed the safety of the ramps on Monday afternoon.

O'Connell added that most accidents occur "because people stop and the next car is too close."

He encourages students who use the decks to drive cautiously.

"They should be going about 5 miles per hour," O'Connell said. "Slow driving up a hill in those weather conditions helps."

"YSU students [need] to know that anything that happens in the deck is their fault," Lord said, in response to his experience. "If they don't salt the deck and you get into an accident, it is your fault."

O'Connell agreed. "Although it's an unfortunate situation that happened, if you're in an accident, it is your responsibility," O'Connell said.

DEGREES PAGE 1

swimming upstream against the tide," Furnish said. "Students are leaning towards five or six years."

He said college is meant to be a developing time in one's life and that there is no sense in rushing through it.

Furnish said he hasn't looked too far into what programs can be transformed, but he isn't sure how adapting what is already in place will turn out.

Bryan DePoy, dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts, said the college is going to rely heavily on students bringing college credits with them from high school.

"In many cases, the length of time is helpful," DePoy said.

He said some of the fine and performing arts disciplines are hard to rush through because they require a great deal of time and practice.

Singler said students would have to keep their focus on academics and have minimal distractions.

"They're going to have to make sacrifices," Singler said.

Singler said it could be challenging to students because the program workloads would not change.

"Students will have to take 16 credit hours during fall, spring and summer semesters," Singler said.

He said he is concerned that students who want to take on a three-year degree program might fall into the trap of failing a class that is offered once a year or get caught up in distractions.

"Anything you do outside of academics is going to take away time that could be spent studying," Singler said.

He added that some three-year programs would be harder to complete than others.

Singler added that YSU plans to help students by offering more general education classes during the summer semesters. This could help students focus on major classes during the fall and spring semesters.

Singler also said that implementing three-year degrees could be made possible through working with local school districts and allowing high school students to participate in dual enrollment. He said YSU could also work with programs already in place like the Senate Bill 140 program, the Youngstown Early College program, Advanced Placement courses and credit transfers from technical schools.

"It's just important that your degree gets completed," Singler said. "Once you have your degree, that cannot be taken away from you."

He added that this program does not take importance away from any baccalaureate programs.

PROGRAM PAGE 1

bers, one for the geological and environmental sciences department and one for the department of mechanical engineering technology.

Ray Beiersdorfer, geological and environmental sciences professor, is partially supportive of the new institution, specifically the areas focusing on environmental contamination.

But the potential risks of the fracking industry have led Beiersdorfer to speak out against the drilling operation.

He hopes there are opportunities for area residents to have their water tested before the fracking commences — and again down the road to analyze the water quality.

"The big concern is if the process went [wrong], you'd have contaminants 7,000 feet under the ground," he said.

Dick sees the potential for hazard, but he says the drilling companies do too. They recognize the pressure on them from the citizens of Ohio, environmental watch groups and Ohio's environmental regulat-

Campus Connection

Do you support the fracking industry?



"I guess I'm for it. It's beneficial to the economy."
— Chris Winters, junior



"I hate it. They want to do it by my house and I'm completely against it."
— Trevor Jones, sophomore

ing bodies, which force them to be more cautious.

"They don't want to make mistakes because that's going to make things harder for them. It'll cost them a lot of money," Dick said.

The biggest issue is water resources, Dick said. The water supply will need examination and close supervision.

Beiersdorfer said con-

taminants from spills, waste pits and wastewater disposal could eventually creep into older wells and tarnish clean water supply.

The economic benefits don't outweigh the risks for Beiersdorfer.

"What good is money if our water and soils are all contaminated?" he asked.

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Making creativity 'sew' important

Kacy Standohar
FEATURES EDITOR

Jacob McIntyre said he feels comfortable doing what most men wouldn't.

When McIntyre was in sixth grade, his aunt taught him to knit. He picked it up overnight.

Now, the 19-year-old Youngstown State University sophomore has three sewing machines, is enrolled in the University Scholars program, works in the costume department in Bliss Hall and creates his own designs.

McIntyre said working as a costume stitcher provides room for growth and improvement.

"I'm getting better at it," he said. "I never thought I'd get a job like this."

He was introduced to creating jewelry, clothes and costumes when his best friend Kathrynne Fitzgerald showed him how to make jewelry and paint with fabric paint.

"A whole new world was opened to me," McIntyre said. "I'm hooked."

Since then, McIntyre has created unique T-shirts, earrings, bracelets and blankets. He designed his own matador costume for Halloween this year and called it the suit of lights. The costume forced Mc-

Intyre to take a design concept and adapt it to fit a model: himself.

"It's one thing to use a pattern and draw it out, but I used my own pattern, and then I had to try it on to fit it to my body," he said.

McIntyre said the design required extensive tailoring and hand-sewn embellishments.

He added that his co-workers — as well as associate professor Jane Shanabarger and associate staff designer W. Rick Schilling, both of the theater and dance department — inspire his designs.

"They have such great ideas, and I can learn a lot from being around the theater talking about shows," he said.

Shanabarger said McIntyre has constructed dresses for recent plays such as "A Streetcar Named Desire" and "1940s Radio Hour."

"He works well with others," she said. "He is quiet, adaptable and personable."

McIntyre added that Fitzgerald has been supportive. Fitzgerald said McIntyre is creative and has an extremely tough-minded work ethic.

"Jake spends pretty much 95 percent of his free time, of which he doesn't have much, believe me, working on projects he has already started, or designing and sketching new

ones as he goes along," Fitzgerald said. "He tries to get whatever he starts done as well and as efficiently as he can."

She added that McIntyre has a unique personality.

"He is so smart and determined, but he is also zany and out of the box with his thinking," she said. "His logic never gets in the way of his imagination."

Fitzgerald said she thinks McIntyre will end up successful and in a big city.

"Either in a studio working on his own designs or doing high-scale costume work for Broadway," she said.

Fitzgerald said she taught him a lot, but he inspires her with his courage.

"I taught him that the underlying sense of creativity and ingenuity he had all along should never be hindered, no matter where he came from or who he used to know," she said.

McIntyre's other close friend, sophomore Melissa Wasser, said he's very talented and goal-oriented.

"He has an eye for fashion that I wish I could have. He knows what is in, in the fashion world," she said. "He knows what looks good and knows how to effectively sketch and then create that idea that he has into a specific outfit or look."

Wasser said McIntyre made

a costume for her when she attended a Lady Gaga concert in Cleveland.

"He has also sewed many pieces of clothing and has made me a jacket for my sorority events as well," she said.

McIntyre said his work means more than just clothes he can wear.

"I can express myself through fashion," he said. "It's fun, but it's also dramatic. ... It's a story."

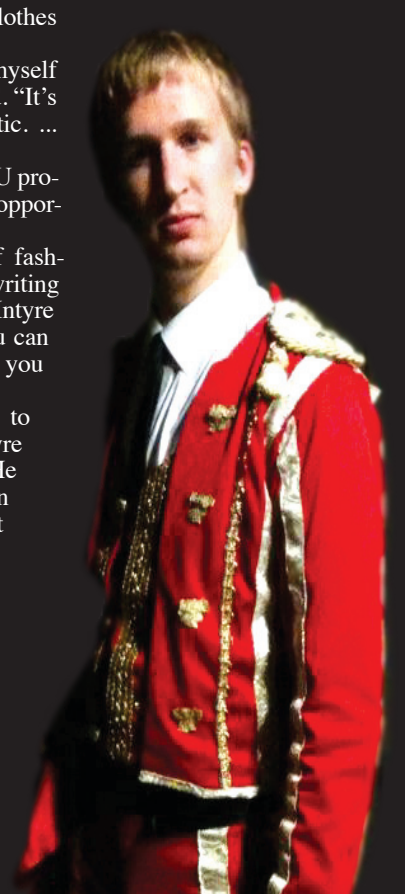
He said he is glad YSU provides him with so many opportunities and options.

"Becoming a part of fashion, theater, art and writing is not just school," McIntyre said. "It moves you. You can carry it with you after you leave."

While he would like to sell his creations, McIntyre doesn't have the time. He still manages to work on his passion when he isn't busy with his studies.

He said he has become entirely enthused with fashion design.

"I don't want to do this for the attention," McIntyre said. "It's a big part of my life. I love to create things for people that are beautiful."



Christmas comes early for Pirates fans

Jessica Johnson
REPORTER

In honor of the holiday season, the Pittsburgh Pirates will begin their annual winter caravan.

From Dec. 13 to Dec. 15, the Pirates will visit 17 communities in Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. Players and coaches will meet with fans and the media.

Andrew McCutchen, Daniel Mc-

Cutchen, Joel Hanrahan, Kevin Correia, Alex Presley, Jose Tabata, Michael McKenry, James McDonald, Brad Lincoln and Jeff Karstens are the team members who will be visiting. However, only two will travel to each city.

Tabata and Karstens will visit Youngstown's Butler Institute of American Art at noon on Dec. 14 for a luncheon.

Kathy Earnhardt, the Butler's public relations coordinator, said the museum has hosted the winter caravan for more

than 20 years.

"We get a very good turnout. Fans and parents with kids who are fans come," Earnhardt said.

Members of the team will sign autographs for fans and meet with media to discuss the upcoming baseball season.

"It's very popular. They sign autographs and give out tickets to a game. It's nice this year because it's before Christmas so people can get autographs or tickets as gifts," Earnhardt said.

The caravan usually spans from one

week to several, said Dan Hart, manager of media relations for the Pirates.

"We're calling it the two-and-a-half-day blitz. We're usually on the bus for a week, so two and a half days isn't bad," said Hart, who has been involved in with the caravan for more than a decade.

Hart credited fans for the inspiration behind the annual caravans.

"It's a good opportunity to thank the fans for supporting us all season and get everyone excited for the upcoming season," Hart said.

Downtown Youngstown celebrates holiday season

Candace Mauzy
REPORTER

Downtown Youngstown's holiday parade, festival and tree-lighting ceremony rang in the Christmas season on Saturday.

The afternoon began on West Federal Street with crafts, train rides, food and holiday vendors. Children of all ages gathered to take a picture with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

The event is coordinated every year by the City of Youngstown, WFMJ, Youngstown CityScape and Youngstown State University.

The holiday parade began at 3 p.m. with participants from all over the area. The parade had more than 60 floats — including one from YSU that won best in show.

"We won Greek Week, and now the float won," said Chris Klug of Alpha Phi Delta.

Greek Week winners Alpha Omicron Pi C and APD rode the winning float with YSU President Cynthia Anderson.

"YSU was very involved this year," Anderson said. "We had the women's basketball team. We had the cheerleaders. The Greek community of fraternities and sororities came out. The float won first place. They are getting back to having this as a tradition downtown Youngstown, and YSU will be here."

The parade lasted about an hour, as people sipped free cocoa and children scrambled for candy thrown from the floats.

"It was awesome," said Jacob Harver, owner of the Lemon Grove Cafe. "It was quintessential Youngstown in all of its glory. It was fantastic seeing the parade from my apartment up above." Harver lives in the

century-old Federal Building.

The Lemon Grove Cafe held a fundraiser — dubbed the Santa Shuffle 2011 Holiday Crawl — for the Stephen Moore Musical Memorial Foundation. Participants donated cash, music books, used instruments and music store gift cards.

The female duo Jigsaw Rodeo, consisting of Leanne Binder, 48, of Canfield and Trisha Hood, 51, of Austintown performed several songs for the benefit.

"We donated our time to this holiday event," Binder said. "We are glad to be here."

Scott Rentz, a 1995 YSU graduate, and his wife, Yvonne Rentz, came to the festival from Newton Falls to share chestnuts with the community.

"We are doing this for the holiday because a lot of people have heard the song about chestnuts roasted on an open fire but have never had it," Scott Rentz said.

Scott and Yvonne Rentz aren't interested in making a quick buck. Instead, they're sharing a tradition.

"We are not selling them, just giving samples. We got the chestnuts from Rulli Brothers. They are Italian chestnuts. All you do is cut them so they will not explode and put them in a frying pan for five [to] seven minutes," Scott Rentz said. "I have been roasting chestnuts for the past 20 years."

Youngstown resident Janero Mitchell, 29, and his sons — J'saun, 8, and J'quan, 11 — came downtown to participate.

"There's not a lot in Youngstown that I can take my sons to that are traditional. I am glad [there is] something we can do every year until they [have] grown into their own," Mitchell said. "Plus, I have to support anything positive in this city."

THE 12TH ANNUAL


JABALI

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for the Northern District of Ohio

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Friday, December 9, 2011
The Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center
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The Harambee Youth Group and the African Students Union (ASU) will entertain.

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Youngstown
STATE UNIVERSITY

Three years is unrealistic

The Jambar
EDITORIAL BOARD

RELATED STORY
DEGREES PAGE 1

The Ohio Board of Regents is asking universities to determine which programs could be completed in three years.

Most policies look good on paper, and this one is no different.

However, we know that the average YSU student earns a bachelor's degree in 6.28 years, according to institutional research.

We know that our economy is down: The national unemployment rate has doubled in the last 10 years, and Youngstown leads the nation with nearly 50 percent of residents living in poverty, according to a recent study by the Brookings Institution.

And we know that some students graduating from YSU are not finding jobs in their field.

"The call for a three-year degree program is swimming upstream against the tide," Dean Shearle Furnish said, hitting the nail on the head.

"[Students are] going to have to make sacrifices," said Charles Singler, interim associate provost.

Singler added that students enrolled in a three-year program would be forced to take 16 credit hours each semester, including summer.

The board of regents wants 60 percent of four-year degrees offered in three years by 2014. Ball State University has implemented three-year programs since 2005. NPR reported that 25 students a year opt into a three-year program. That's 25 out of 22,000.

That should put the program's interest in perspective.

At YSU, creating three-year programs should take a backseat to simply graduating students. Since 2005, enrollment has increased by more than 2,200 students. The number of degrees conferred has increased by a meager 11.

So we ask, what is the Ohio Board of Regents' motive behind this new policy it would like implemented by 2012? Is it really in the students best interest, or their own?

It's about the money made and saved by cranking out graduates. They've already cut funding by nearly \$10 million since 2010 and have made it clear that more work needs to be done.

Perhaps they're forgetting that not all college students are financially stable enough to focus solely on education and forego working menial labor jobs just to get by.

JAMBAR POLICY

Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Collegiate Press honors. The Jambar is published twice weekly during the fall and spring semesters and weekly during the first summer session. Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. The first copy of The Jambar is free. Additional copies of The Jambar are \$1 each.

OUR SIDE POLICY

The editorial board that writes Our Side editorials consists of the editor-in-chief, the managing editor and the news editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles and do not reflect the opinions of any individual staff member. The Jambar's business manager and non-writing staff do not contribute to editorials, and the adviser does not have final approval.

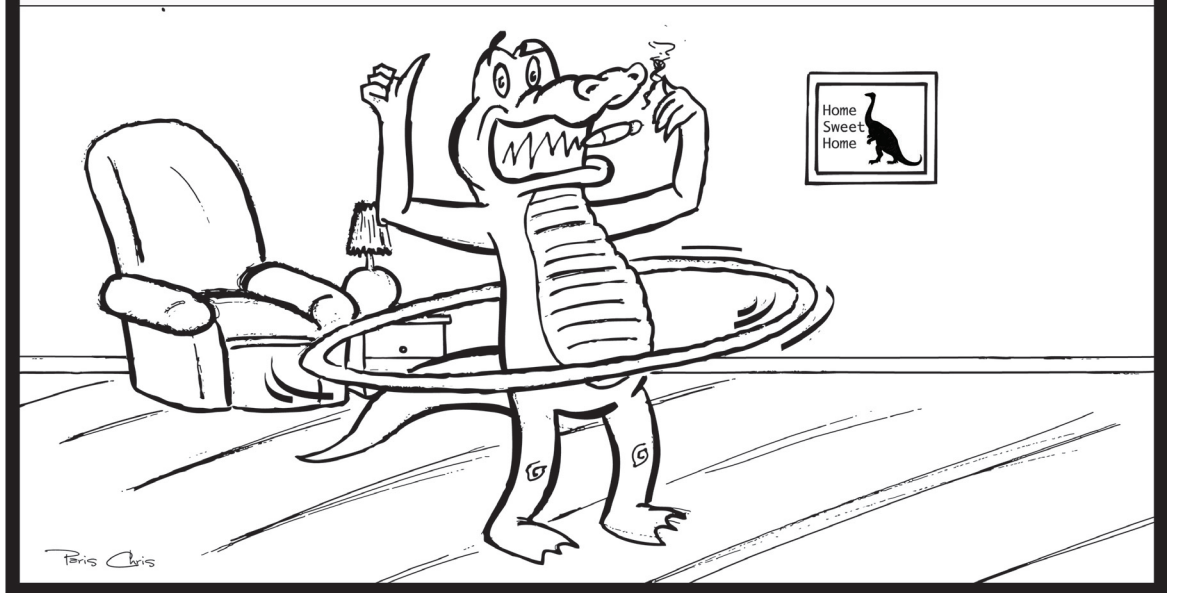
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Letters will not be rejected based on the view expressed in them. Letters may be rejected if they are not relevant to Jambar readers, seek free publicity or if the editorial staff decides the subject has been sufficiently aired. The Jambar will not print letters that are libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. The Jambar does not withhold the names of writers of letters or guest commentaries.

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I HAVE VERY EXCITING NEWS: I'M NOW ALLOWED TO SAY THE WORD "DICK" IN THE NEWSPAPER. I COULD NOT FIGURE OUT A CONTEXT FOR A CARTOON TO USE "DICK," SO I DREW AN ALLIGATOR. ENJOY!



Cartoon by Paris Chrisopoulos/The Jambar.



Jared Buker
COLUMNIST

The big picture Mom

They say a woman can tell a lot about a man by how well he treats his mom.

I really hope that's true. I've been spoiled my entire life by a mother who always made it easy to treat her like a queen.

You may have heard me talk about my mother's impeccable cooking skills, her love of movies based off Jane Austen books or her slightly compulsive need for a clean house.

But nothing I could ever say and nothing I could ever do would quantify all of the wisdom and charm possessed by my mother.

As the holidays creep up on us, I realize how selfish and complacent I have been to her.

I never spent a Christmas Eve without deviled eggs and ham, I never woke up on Easter Sunday without seeing an Easter basket next to my bed and I never had a birthday that went uncelebrated because my mom's priorities were for her family, first and always.

I never spent a day without a mom.

I believe she is simply better by design. She is more caring than anyone should be, more selfless than anyone could be and more un-

derstanding of me than anyone else would be.

When I was a kid, I vividly remember a night watching my mother bake brownies while she was sick as a dog. She could barely stand, and she was congested, groggy and irritable.

But those brownies were a promise she had made to my brother and me. For her, a promise is a promise, no matter the circumstance.

We didn't eat those brownies. She coughed all over them.

But those brownies were more than just dessert for my brother and me. They symbolized something that we never forgot: No matter what happens, Mom will always be there. Near or far, she is kind of like Wonder Woman — without the ability to fly.

I say "near or far" because even though I no longer live at home, it still seems like I do. Don't judge me, but my mother still does my laundry and still offers up dinner any night I'm willing to come home. The day I wrote this, she constructed me a mini Christmas tree for the Alpha Phi Delta house.

That is how I know how lucky I was, am and always will be to

have a mom like her. No one I've ever known has been able to and probably no one I will ever meet will be able to replicate the kind of genuine care and tireless worry my mother has for me.

I have never left the house, even as a 21-year-old, without hearing, "Be careful, Jar," come from my mother's mouth.

Author Tenneva Jordan once said, "A mother is a person who, seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie."

That kind of sacrifice is the benchmark for any mother, and my mom set the bar pretty high for what I will expect from the mother of my children.

Did I mention that my mom makes awesome pie too?

I couldn't wait for Mother's Day to pay tribute to my mother with this column, and I can't wait for her to read it. And, if I could tell you anything, I would tell you this: Never hesitate to tell your mom how much you love her. God knows that she never hesitated to love you.

You went to college for that?

MCT FORUM (MCT)

As a child perusing my parents' and grandparents' libraries in the 1950s, I came across odd books like one instructing the reader in proper pronunciation. It taught how to say the word "despicable" (stress the "des," not the "pic") and incognito (stress the "cog," not the "nito") — just the opposite of what you normally hear.

Another book told me that while there are many ways to announce that "it's time to go to bed," one never should say "let's hit the sack." Using that term revealed you as a hick because it alluded to times (and places) when beds were made of straw — and you didn't want to be associated with them.

Such tomes (and others, including Emily Post's famed book of etiquette) helped many Americans who weren't fortunate enough to attend college — the vast majority in those days — brush off the hayseed and become proper members of the middle class as they moved into their Levittown homes with their new all-electric kitchens, Presto pressure cookers, and Encyclopaedia Britannicas.

Today nearly 30 percent of American adults have college degrees. But there doesn't seem to be much difference between many of the college educated and their non-college peers.

To some extent this may be because of mass culture. Lawrence Summers, former president of Harvard, recently claimed that av-

erage Americans are smarter than they used to be. His evidence: in the 1960s the country's favorite TV show was the "Beverly Hillbillies"; in the 2000s, it was "West Wing." In his view, the silliness of the one versus the erudition of the other reveals the elevation of mass culture. We all have "moved up."

Maybe, but an equally plausible reason that college graduates don't stand out is that they are just as deeply mired in lowbrow culture as everyone else. Sports — college, professional, amateur — are today's great levelers, along with entertainment emblems such as "American Idol," "Biggest Loser," "Jersey Shore," "Bad Girls Club," Lady Gaga and the technological world of Facebook, YouTube and Twitter.

The college graduate is part and parcel of this environment, and I haven't noticed that graduates speak noticeably better than those who haven't been to college. Their language, at best, reflects more the language of their parents and childhood peers, and every person under 30 seems to use the dreadful locution "me and Jan" as the subject of a sentence.

Personally, I don't care terribly whether graduates sound educated or not; of greater concern is whether they are educated.

But why doesn't college provide the superficial veneer of respectability that it did in the past?

The answer is that it doesn't provide the substance that it did in the past. College graduates rarely quote Shakespeare or even use his plots to illustrate points. Does

anyone under age 50 ever allude to Plato's cave? As Lee Doren says in his new e-book, "Please Enroll Responsibly," students "aren't receiving the education most people expect when they think of earning a degree."

Of course, there are exceptions. And when it comes to their major fields, many students learn a lot because they are vocationally motivated and their professors are teaching what they love.

But few students get a solid grounding — or any grounding at all — in what used to be called "high culture": the fundamental intellectual ideas that underlie modern society. Core curricula at most colleges have been tossed out the window. Of the 54 accredited colleges and universities in North Carolina, for example, just two require courses in U.S. government or history.

All in all, a college education doesn't seem to make you anything special anymore.

We already have many reasons to suspect that college is fading as an essential ingredient in life — such as continuing cost increases and the uncertain value of a degree.

If Americans once used college as a stepping-stone to a more respectable life, and that doesn't work anymore, families are going to rethink spending thousands of dollars on higher education. Junior can just get a job and with the money he saves and buy a — well, perhaps a Lamborghini.

Now that would move the family up in the estimation of the neighbors, wouldn't it?

Penguins prepare for Slocum's 'biggest challenge'

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

The men's basketball team (5-2) begins a five-game, non-conference stretch with the State University of New York at Fredonia (6-1) on Tuesday.

Head men's basketball coach Jerry Slocum said in a press conference on Monday that the Blue Devils are having a great season thus far, and they're a dangerous group because of their ability to shoot the 3-point field goal.

"On top of that, you're coming off of an emotional loss, a loss that you had your last shot of the game at 7 or 8 feet that could've gone in," Slocum said.

The Blue Devils are shooting 39.9 percent from the 3-point line.

The Penguins return home after a two-game road trip to the University of Detroit Mercy on Thursday and Wright State University on Saturday. The Penguins won on Thursday, 64-61, but lost on Saturday, 63-62.

"We probably played as hard for two games of 80 minutes of basketball as we played since I've been here," Slocum said. "I mean, we went to Detroit, and we just battled. We went to Wright State, and we just gutted it out and played hard."

Senior forward DuShawn Brooks said during the weekly press conference that the WSU game was a tough loss. He noted that the Penguins need to look ahead.

"We need to focus on the next opponent instead of com-

ing out being sad about losing by one," Brooks said. "We had them right in our hands, so I mean we just come in and practice today. We look forward to playing ... and moving on from there."

Slocum agreed.

"You lose by one point. You're looking at 25 [to] 30 different things that be made differently," Slocum said. "We've got to get ready for a really, really good Division III team that has potential to give you fits."

Following the game against the Blue Devils, the Penguins will travel for three straight games with stops at the University at Buffalo, the University of Toledo and the University of Akron, before returning home to face Robert Morris University.

The Penguins' next conference game is Dec. 31 at Cleveland State University.

Slocum said there would be much to learn from this experience.

"We're going to see what kind of upperclassman leadership we have," he said. "We're going to see what kind of focus we have because this is really the gantlet of our year right now."

Slocum also previewed what the Penguins will face, beginning with the Blue Devils' best start in "15 years."

"Then you go to Buffalo who beat [the University of] Dayton by 30," Slocum said. "And then you go to Toledo that's having a good year. Then you go to Akron, and then you come home to a Robert Morris basketball team that took [the University of Pittsburgh] to the wire."



Senior DuShawn Brooks posts up against a University of California, Riverside, opponent on Nov. 18. The Penguins return to Beeghly Center before heading back out on the road. They look for their third home win of the season. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

Penguins look to retaliate against Falcons

Nick Mancini
SPORTS REPORTER

The women's basketball team looks to avenge last season's loss against Bowling Green State University on Tuesday night in the first doubleheader of the season.

The game will be at Beeghly Center.

Last season, BGSU beat the Penguins by 46 points. During his weekly press conference, head women's basketball coach Bob Boldon said the team is better equipped this season to face the Falcons.

"We have matured and gotten a little bit better," Boldon said. "In watching tape from their first game to their last game against Butler [University], you can see them progressively getting better. It's an interesting matchup."

The Penguins are coming off an 80-55 victory against fellow Mid-American Conference opponent Western Michigan University. Freshman guard Kelsea Fickiesen said the team is already past the win.

"It felt really good to win, and it kind of gave us a confidence boost," Fickiesen said at the weekly press conference. "But now that game is over, and now we have a lot harder of a schedule to look forward to."

Boldon said the team couldn't get excited after a win like that.

"I think win or lose, the

way the college basketball season is now ... is so long," Boldon said. "We play so many games that I don't think you can get too excited or too disappointed after any game. We were fortunate we had a few days to prepare for this game."

BGSU offers many challenges for the Penguins. Fickiesen said the team has to be ready.

"It is going to be fun to see where we stand," Fickiesen said. "Coach has been preaching to us that they like to play harder and smarter than other teams. Hopefully, tomorrow night, that changes, and we are the team that plays smarter and harder for 40 minutes."

Boldon said the key to winning this game is eliminating mistakes.

"The first couple weeks, there were so many defensive breakdowns, and now we are getting to a smaller number of breakdowns," Boldon said. "We are going to get challenged pretty good tomorrow to see where we are at and to see how we do against a very good mid-major team."

Offensively, the Penguins have played much better since their home loss to American University.

"Yeah, I mean we are getting better, which is good, and I am happy where we are today," Boldon said. "We are not good enough to compete in our conference yet, but I think, as of now, we are in a good spot."

Basketball's Brooks receives dual honors for performance

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

Senior forward DuShawn Brooks began last week struggling with his shot and searching for answers.

After leading the Youngstown State University men's basketball team in points on Thursday and Saturday, Brooks was named Horizon League Men's Basketball Player of the Week and Jambar Player of the Week.

In a press conference on Monday, Brooks said, with a colossal smile on his face, that it feels good to be honored.

"I don't know what else to say," Brooks said. "At the end of the day, I got to keep doing what I do."

During the same press conference, head men's basketball coach Jerry Slocum said he expects a lot out of Brooks.

"I think early in the year, I think he put some pressure on himself with high expectations, and I think we just got him to slow down a little bit and got him in the gym a little bit more," Slocum said.

The Penguins began the week at the University of Detroit Mercy and opened Horizon League conference play.

The Penguins trailed by four with barely

two minutes on the clock before Brooks sank two of his career-high six 3-point field goals to lift his team to a 64-61 upset.

"All the shots I took were basically open shots," Brooks said. "I just stay focused on what Coach has been telling me, [and it's] starting to work."

Brooks continued his hot streak on Saturday against Wright State University in the first half where he compiled 13 of his 17 points in a 63-62 loss.

Slocum said he is happy for Brooks.

"He played great offensively over last week [and] had an opportunity to win two ball games," Slocum said. "He clearly won us the Detroit game. He was a one-man show in that last four or five minutes. He just made every big shot and every big play."

Brooks ranks fifth in the Horizon League in 3-point field goal percentage (45.5) and is tied seventh in blocks per game (1.1). He is also averaging 10 points and 5.7 rebounds per game.

Brooks spent two years at Butler County Community College before transferring to YSU. He played in all 30 games last year with one start.

Brooks averaged six points, 3.8 rebounds and 17.3 minutes per game while collecting 21 3-point field goals. He also finished six games in double figures.

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