



THE JAMBAR

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

CHECK IT OUT

Rogner reflects on college career PAGE 11

Schkurko looks to the future PAGE 11

THE GRAD ISSUE

Russo reflects

5.1954



Fall 2011 grad remembers her time in telecommunications

Fall graduate Emily Russo has spent four and a half years behind the telecommunications department's cameras delivering news. Photo by Chelsea Telega/The Jambar.

Chelsea Telega
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Emily Russo has spent four and a half years at Youngstown State University in front of and behind a camera.

Russo has been involved in the twice Emmy-nominated television show "Homework Express," online webcast "Light the Wick" and website and video designing for the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

She is currently working as a video journalist for the Business Journal, website design company Chicago 48 and Prodigal Media, which is creating a commercial for Sheely's.

Russo had a specific goal when she started college and has exceeded her expectations.

"I went to college to be a video

editor, and that is all I wanted to do. I did come out of YSU as a video editor, but I also came out a videographer, television director and producer, a graphic designer and a Web designer," Russo said.

Russo chose YSU because it was close to home and within her price range. The college served as much more than that to her, though.

"I really enjoyed my experience at YSU. I loved how many opportunities I got," she said. "My favorite part of YSU was being able to get involved in groups outside of class, which really helped me gain friends while gaining experience."

YSU's size proved helpful in Russo's opinion as well.

"YSU is different than other colleges because it's smaller. I feel like if I was in a bigger school I wouldn't get as many opportunities," she said in an email. "Many opportunities have come to me because it was easier to stick out with less people.

Having time to speak to professors individually was also great for this reason."

The telecommunications department became like a second home for Russo over the years and provided her with some of her fondest memories.

"My best memories involve working at 'Homework Express.' I have been there for almost five years, and I feel like the crew is my second family. It's also satisfying to start out with the lowest job, then grow to being one of the top student producers of the show," Russo said.

Friends, professors and colleagues have been Russo's greatest inspiration, and she said they always kept her going when she lost motivation. She urges other students to surround themselves with positive reinforcements.

"My advice is to get involved in

RUSSO PAGE 8

Grad pursues post-graduation law degree

Kacy Standohar
FEATURES EDITOR

Senior Ashley Olson is graduating this semester with a Bachelor of Science and Business Administration degree. The 22-year-old completed college in four years and is sad to graduate.

"I'm going to miss my friends so much," she said. "The people from all over that I won't see anymore."

She plans to attend law school after graduating from Youngstown State University in hopes of becoming a corporate attorney at a law firm. Olson said she would love to be a part-time professor too.

Olson studied business marketing management at YSU. Ideally, she hopes to attend the University of Akron to pursue a law degree.

During her time in college, Olson maintained a 3.8 GPA while working at Kilcawley Center and Island Tropics Tanning Salon. She also coached the cheerleading squad at Lowellville Junior High School.

She stayed involved on campus and recommended that other students do the same.

Olson was part of the American Advertising Federation, the Honorary Economics Club and the YSU chapter of the American Marketing Association.

"Don't be just a college student. Be a well-rounded individual," she said. "Anybody can be a student, but balancing more than one thing will set you up for success."

Olson added that her parents inspired her to work hard through college.

"Since I was a little girl, they instilled that drive in me that education is so important," Olson said.

She said she looks forward to having a degree that no one can take away from her and entering the real world in search of the next step toward her career.

Olson is most proud of traveling abroad to London and Dublin. She went on the trip through YSU to view how businesses operate in foreign countries.

"It opened up my eyes," she said. "There



OLSON

OLSON PAGE 8

Another chapter closed

Marissa McIntyre
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Youngstown State University's fall 2011 graduating class will walk through Beeghly Center on Dec. 18 for commencement.

Ron Cole, director of university communications, said commencement is one of the highlights of each semester.

"It represents a culmination of a lot of hard work and commitment by hundreds of students who have come here to seek out their educational dreams and accomplish their career goals," Cole said.

This semester, 614 students are graduating.

Jacquelyn LeViseur, interim director of alumni and events management, said a lot goes into planning the ceremony. Her office helps with program books, logistics of bringing the speakers here, setting up the gym and planning re-

hearsal.

"I'm happy to be a part of it. It's such a happy day. The graduates, friends and family are all so proud," she said.

LeViseur said that another aspect she enjoys is the unification of all the departments on campus.

"It involves a lot of communication and planning," she said.

YSU will be joined this year by alumna Linda Gooden, executive vice president of Lockheed Martin Information Systems & Global Solutions. Gooden will be speaking at the ceremony and is this semester's honorary degree recipient.

Gooden attended YSU and received



GOODEN



HAUSER

her bachelor's degree in computer technology. She's also been awarded an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree from the University of Maryland.

President Barack Obama appointed her to the National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee in 2010.

Gooden was inducted into the prestigious Career Communications Hall of Fame in 2011.

Student speaker April Hauser will be graduating with a bachelor's degree in applied science.

Her YSU career began when she attended an Early College program,

bringing 45 college credits with her after high school graduation. She has worked as a lifeguard on campus, and she volunteers at Youngstown Municipal Court as a member of the Veterans Court Team.

"I was definitely surprised and honored," said Hauser of when she heard the news that she was chosen as a speaker at commencement.

"April was chosen because of her success as a student," said Joseph Mosca, dean of the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services. "We're very happy for her and feel that she is a strong student."

Hauser said that she is proud of her time at YSU.

"My sister and I are the first in our family to graduate college, so it means a lot to me and my family," Hauser said.

She plans on pursuing a career in criminal prosecution and hopes to attend law school.

Historic house on Lincoln Avenue set for demolition

Kevin Alquist
NEWS REPORTER

The Thompson-Sacherman House on Lincoln Avenue is set for demolition nearly a year after it was saved from a similar fate.

The house has been cited by the city for property maintenance violations.

"If the university had all the money it needed, it would be nice to see the house used for something," said John Hyden, executive director of facilities at Youngstown State University.

The university has reached a point where it must either invest in the house or tear it down. To get the house up to code, YSU would have to replace the windows and siding, something Hyden said is not practical.

"It is much more fiscally responsible for the university to spend money fixing other buildings that need maintenance," he said.

Trustee Harry Meshel said the problem with older homes like the Thompson-Sacherman House is that the buyers have no plan for the homes at the time of purchase.

"The buyer bought the property before they had any idea what they wanted to do with it," he said. "The buyer has decided to tear it down and doesn't have the

heart or the willingness to do what is supposed to be done with these buildings."

Meshel said he understands that the funds are not available to bring the home up to code, but he stresses that it should have been maintained in the first place.

"The cost is just too high," Meshel said. "It's a shame."

Last year, some community members asked the university to save the Thompson-Sacherman House, as well as the Peck House and the Pilgrim Collegiate Church on Wick Avenue.

A committee was formed to find a better alternative for the two houses and church.

Because no uses have been identified, the university will move forward with the demolition of the Thompson-Sacherman House, though the future of the other two buildings has yet to be determined.

"I think it's time to demolish the house," Hyden said. "If something isn't done soon, the house is going to fall down on its own."

The Thompson-Sacherman House was built in 1882 by Rufus F. Thompson and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Peck House, located in the Wick Avenue Historic District, was built in 1887 and is one of six mansions remaining on Wick Avenue.



The Thompson-Sacherman House on Lincoln Avenue has been cited by the city for property maintenance violations and will be torn down. No date has been set for demolition. Photo by Kevin Alquist/The Jambar.

Distance, online learning on the rise

Marissa McIntyre
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

GRAPHIC BY PARIS CHRISOPOULOS/THE JAMBAR

Distance and online learning are steadily growing among students seeking a flexible educational opportunity, according to the Instructional Technology Council.

This year at Youngstown State University, 1,798 students are enrolled in online classes, a 39 percent increase from fall 2010.

At YSU, the course completion rate for distance education is 80.5 percent, and course completion for traditional classes stands at 80.1 percent.

Sal Sanders, an associate professor in health professions, teaches online and traditional classes. He said the comparable rates "reflect the fact that we've learned a lot more about how to run a distance learning course and how to provide support for students."

Annette Burden, interim distance education director, said in an email that her concerns with distance learners are the same as many distance education directors.

"Are the learners who take online courses self-motivated, organized, able to work on their own without continual intervention and willing to ask questions?" Burden asked.

According to an online education survey done by the Babson Survey Research Group, more than half of the academic leaders who participated believe that "face-to-face instruction is 'superior' or 'somewhat superior' in supporting student-to-student interaction."

However, 80 percent of academic leaders believe that online learning is better for students to work at their own pace.

Sanders said a distance learner must have strong computer skills.

He added that he remembers a student who was signed up for two online courses but had trouble logging into the online course.

"It turned out that he was typing the Web address into Google instead of the Web browser," Sanders said.

Sanders suggested that the student take a basic computer course before attempting online classes. During the phone call with this student, Sanders heard a child crying in the background.



"[The student] said, 'That is why I cannot wait. I need to get my degree,'" Sanders said.

Sanders added that online classes could be convenient for some students.

"Especially here, we have single parents and students with families," Sanders said.

Sanders mentioned students enrolled in online courses who also hold down full-time jobs and are considered professionals in their field.

Sanders said he believes that students have the ability to retain information taught via online courses. He said that, in many cases, he has more interaction with students in his online classes than in his classroom.

"In a classroom, there might be five students leading the discussions. Online, I am interacting with each of them individually," Sanders said.

Burden said one of the misconceptions that stu-

dents should consider when deciding to take an online class is that it might not be easier than a face-to-face course.

"Often, it is more rigorous than a face-to-face course," she said.

She advised that the students treat the online course like a virtual classroom.

"So make a time commitment to get into your classroom several times per week as you would in a traditional setting," Burden said.

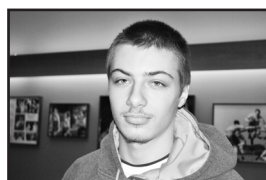
Sanders said some distance learning courses exist that require students to present a final presentation on campus. However, there is a cut off with the distance.

For example, he said he had a student from Germany who presented a project via Skype.

"In a perfect world, we would have loved to fly out to her," Sanders said.

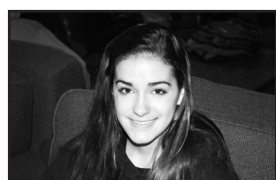
Campus Connection

Do you prefer online or traditional classes? Why?



"Traditional classes are easier to learn in because you have the teacher right there and you can ask questions and, in most cases, get immediate answers."

-Alex Lincoln, freshman



"I have an online class next semester, and I feel that they will be about the same, but online classes are more convenient because they fit better in any schedule."

-Chris Buday, sophomore

YSU trustees review finances

Revenue shortfalls to be overcome with use of reserves

Jordan D. Uhl
NEWS EDITOR

Financial uncertainty continues at Youngstown State University as first quarter revenues came up short by \$3 million.

The total will be roughly \$6 million by the end of fiscal year 2012, should spring enrollment remain consistent with the fall and summer classes factored in.

"[It] is entirely attributable to the decrease in enrolled students," said Neal McNally, budget director.

After budgeting for a 1 percent increase in enrollment for fall semester, administration was taken aback by a 3.5 percent decline.

McNally said his colleagues in student affairs ensure enrollment numbers will stabilize and YSU will "see a somewhat normal spring attrition rate."

Overall revenues for the first quarter are \$67,540,732, but 1.4 percent below projections.

McNally said he remains confident that the use of \$1.9 million in bond reserves, coupled with close monitoring and strategic cuts, will result in a balanced budget.

However, additional shortfalls

may result due to changes in federal regulations.

"The new federal Title IV regulations regarding satisfactory academic progress could result in an additional decline in enrollment levels in the spring and summer semesters," McNally wrote in a report presented to the board of trustees on Tuesday.

The Ohio Board of Regents will finalize its share of funding this month, but McNally said he doesn't expect the funding to change.

"State funding for this fiscal year is pretty much set," McNally said. "State tax receipts are coming in on or above target, so we don't expect any funding cuts from the state this year."

During his report, McNally updated the board on the voluntary staff contributions. So far, 93 percent of the union-exempt employees pledged \$267,484 in furlough days or monetary contributions.

"It's a testament to our exempt employees to recognize our budget challenges," said Scott Schulick, chairman of the finance and facilities committee.

McNally said the number is subject to change, as some employees are responding to the request later than the deadline.

Euro crisis threatens future asset growth for YSU

Jordan D. Uhl
NEWS EDITOR

The Youngstown State University Board of Trustees is responding to instability in the world market with a heightened sense of awareness concerning the university's investments.

Investment consultants from Hartland & Co. updated the board on YSU's assets, which experienced healthy gains during the third quarter of 2011.

Lenient repercussions for excessive debt across the Eurozone accelerated over the past few years. This culminated in Greece, Italy, Portugal and Ireland, when debt surpassed or matched each country's GDP.

Austerity measures were discussed in parliaments across Europe, only to be met by stiff opposition by the public.

Greece and Italy have since seen their prime ministers George Papandreu and Silvio Berlusconi, respectively, step down, only to be replaced by technocrats.

Just as markets were beginning to show signs of improvement due to the U.S. Treasury's amplified role in the Eurocrisis coupled with French President Nicolas Sarkozy and German Chancellor Angela Merkel's plan to enact stricter financial regulations in hopes of solving the current problem and proactively attacking future crises.

But Standard & Poor, a credit ratings agency, has threatened to downgrade all 17 nations on the Euro, which sent Asian stocks plummeting. U.S. stocks have remained stable, though. Ambi-

tions are high that European leaders will find a viable solution soon.

"The U.S. really needs Europe to succeed," said Michael Shebak, a senior managing director at Hartland. "[Future performance] depends on what happens in the Eurozone over the next several weeks and months. We're hoping for a good resolution in 2012."

The decision to move assets from JP Morgan Prime Money Market to the JP Morgan Treasury Money Market, which the board approved in its set of summer meetings, resulted in total university asset growth of 1.6 percent.

The transfer was to "avoid holding of any kind of a non-U.S. bank," said Sarah Parker, an institutional associate with Hartland.

"Investors flew to treasuries [over the past few quarters]," Parker said.

Of YSU's \$77,120 in non-endowment assets, 45 percent are cash investments, 43 percent are in fixed incomes and the remaining 12 percent are equities.

Long-term outlooks for the university's portfolio are keeping pace with benchmarks.

Shebak and Parker recommended that the board readjust to improve future performance. The board approved the reallocation of \$5,209 from one Vanguard fund to another, essentially a lower, less expensive share class. Hartland claims this will lead to \$3,000 in annual savings.

"We have a diverse portfolio, so we can improve without any major damage," said John Jakubek, trustee and chairman of the investment subcommittee.



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Laura M. White

Class of 2011

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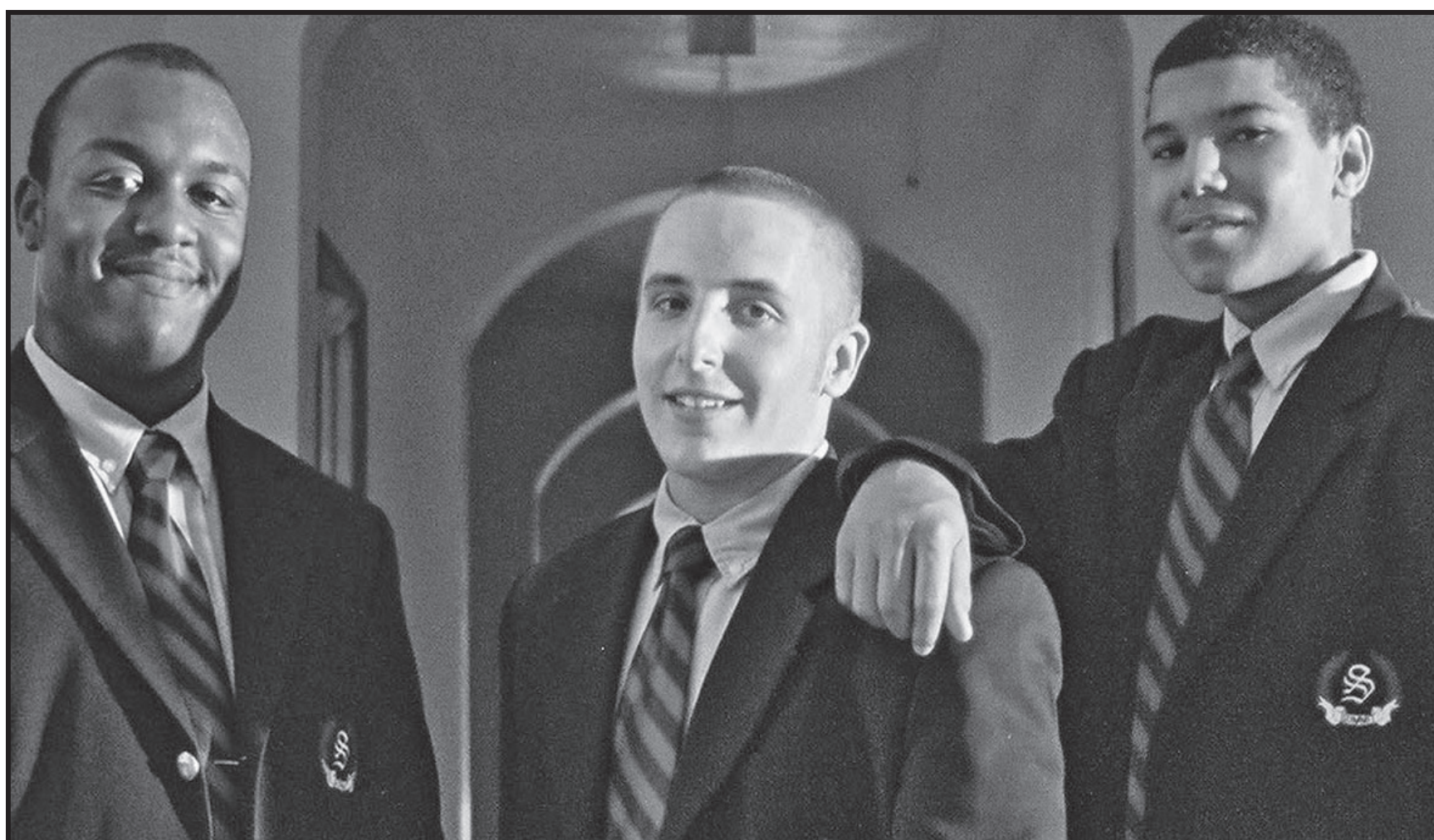
Friday, December 9, 2011
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So long Thompson-Sacherman House

The Jambar
EDITORIAL BOARD

RELATED STORY
HOUSE PAGE 2

For years, YSU has owned properties that it, unfortunately, hasn't been able to upkeep.

We say "unfortunately" because the Thompson-Sacherman House has served as a distinct landmark in our city, and even though it appears on the National Register of Historic Places, the home is another capital drag on YSU's pocketbook.

This is the second time in nearly a year the house has been scheduled for demolition — this time because of property maintenance violations.

The university should have taken advantage of it a year ago when it was temporarily saved from the wrecking ball.

John Hyden, executive director of facilities at YSU, said insufficient funds were the justification for its lack of preservation.

Harry Meshel blamed the property owner. "The buyer bought the property before they had any idea what they wanted to do with it," Meshel said. "The buyer has decided to tear it down and doesn't have the heart or willingness to do what is supposed to be done with these buildings."

Meshel may be right. Maybe the property owner should have invested plans and money into the house. Maybe the university should have invested more time, effort and money.

And again, unfortunately, neither party did so.

It's time to put an end to the depreciation of YSU's rescued and adopted properties.

With a budget deficit to fill and looming state cuts, YSU would be wise to sever this property and others, like the Wick Pollock House. After finally beginning to make renovations on it in September, YSU is now locked in an incredibly wasteful \$3 million plan.

How was rebuilding overlooked in a time of financial insecurity?

Cut your losses.

Instead of playing the blame game, YSU should move forward by working closely with the city to ensure that the building is razed and that the property enhances the university both aesthetically and economically.

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.

YOUR SIDE POLICY

The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Email submissions are welcome at editor@thejambar.com. Letters should concern campus issues, must be typed and must not exceed 400 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification and the writer's city of residence for printing. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. The editorial board reserves the right to reject commentaries that are libelous or that don't defend opinion with facts from reliable sources. The editorial board will request a rewrite from the submitting writer based on these requirements.

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.

The views and opinions expressed in letters and commentaries on the opinion page do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the faculty, staff or administration of Youngstown State University.

JAPANESE SANTA IS SO MUCH BETTER THAN AMERICAN SANTA.
#MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM PARIS' FANCY COMICS!
SEE Y'ALL NEXT YEAR!



Cartoon by Paris Chrisopoulos/The Jambar.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Affordable Care Act provides opportunities for each state to establish a new health insurance marketplace, a "one-stop shop" where individuals can compare different health insurance plans and pick the one that works best for their family. Ohio faces several important decisions in setting up this new marketplace. The marketplace should serve as a way to organize individuals and small businesses into larger groups that are able to negotiate for better deals with insurers, as large employers do now. For too long, individuals and small businesses have gotten a raw deal on health insurance because they lack similar market clout. If set up well, new health insurance

marketplaces will be able to organize individuals and small businesses into larger groups that are able to negotiate for better, more competitive health care coverage. How the health insurance marketplace will be governed is another important decision. An independent board that puts the interests of health care consumers ahead of the profit interests of insurers is better than one that is made of or easily influenced by people who profit from health insurance sales. Exchanges, or health care marketplaces, are a good idea. They will protect consumers, enhance competition in the health insurance market and allow consumers to comparison shop. The law requires that each state participate in a health insurance marketplace,

either federally or at the state level. We believe that Ohio consumers will benefit most when decisions that affect their health care are made by Ohioans.

-STEPH LARSEN
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF
ORGANIZING FOR THE CENTER
FOR RURAL AFFAIRS
LYONS, NEB.

The Center for Rural Affairs was established in 1973 as an unaffiliated nonprofit corporation under IRS code 501(c)3. The Center for Rural Affairs was formed by rural Nebraskans concerned about family farms and rural communities, and we work to strengthen small businesses, family farms and ranches, and rural communities.

They kill horses, don't they?

MCT FORUM
(MCT)

Horses haven't been slaughtered in the United States for the last five years. But Congress recently restored funding for U.S. inspectors to oversee horse slaughter, paving the way for horses to be killed and butchered in the U.S. once again. While killing horses anywhere is contemptible, the decision does provide an opportunity to re-examine this entire issue.

A ban on killing horses in the United States doesn't help horses — it prolongs their suffering. And they will continue to suffer as long as the industries that breed horses for profit — horse racing, rodeo and the carriage trade — keep exploiting these animals for our "entertainment."

When horse slaughter was banned in the United States in 2006, it didn't stop horses from being killed. Mercenary ranchers who make their living from horse flesh simply jam horses into undersize trucks and haul them for hundreds — sometimes thousands — of miles to slaughterhouses in Canada and Mexico.

Horses who manage to survive this grueling journey often arrive

at the slaughterhouse with gashed foreheads, broken bones, compound fractures, eye infections and other injuries. They meet their end with a bolt gun, an often slow and agonizing death caused by the carelessness of workers who fire poorly aimed bolt after bolt until the animal finally dies. They are then bled out and skinned, usually in full view of other terrified horses.

Anyone who cares about animals should condemn horse slaughter altogether and call for an absolute ban on both the export of live horses and slaughter in the United States. One doesn't work without the other.

Horses have been exploited for human purposes and profit since the beginning of time, and we need to take an honest look at the disconnect between society's horror over eating horses and its tacit approval of exploiting them in so many other ways. Many of the horses who end up in slaughterhouses used to pull carriages, perform in rodeos or cross the finish line but are now too worn-out to continue.

Even though horses tend to be skittish and sensitive, they are still forced to provide carriage rides on busy city streets and, at this time of

year, in shopping mall parking lots for seasonal promotions. Fighting crowds, dodging traffic and trying not to slip on icy streets while hauling oversized loads day after day takes a toll. Accidents have occurred in nearly every location where carriage rides are allowed and many horses have died. But as long as people pay to ride, horses will continue to be worked until they can't take another step.

The horse racing and rodeo industries are equally culpable for sending horses to their deaths. Horses are bred over and over until "winners" are produced. But not every horse makes money, and continual breeding has led to a critical overpopulation of horses: too many horses, not enough good homes. And just like dogs and cats, unwanted horses are often abandoned, neglected, starved and left to die without veterinary care. Thousands are sold to meat buyers and go from grassy fields to blood-soaked killing floors.

If eating horse flesh appalls you, so should the industries that provide the bodies. People can make a real difference by staying away from the racetrack, shunning carriage rides and steering clear of the rodeo.

Ringling Bros., they're elephants, not clowns

McClatchy-Tribune
News Service
(MCT)

The company behind the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus has agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$270,000 as part of a settlement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which oversees enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act. The agreement noted that more than a dozen inspections had resulted in reports of noncompliance with regulations, from improper fencing to temporarily losing control over an animal to allowing a zebra to escape. The USDA had also launched four investigations into the circus over the last two years, according to a spokesman, that might have led to findings of more serious violations before the settlement ended all inquiry.

Although the fee is the highest

ever assessed against an animal exhibitor under the welfare statute, it's peanuts for the circus. And Feld Entertainment Inc. did not admit wrongdoing but pledged to institute mandatory animal welfare training for all employees and to designate a compliance officer.

Those are conscientious moves, but Feld should do more. For a decade, animal welfare groups have filed lawsuits and federal complaints against the circus for its handling of exotic animals, particularly elephants, contending that the circus chains them for hours, subjects them to arduous road travel and uses bull hooks to make them comply with commands. The time is long past for elephants in the circus ring. For their part, Feld officials have vigorously defended their operation's concern for animal welfare. The company's website says the elephants are well housed, transported and cared for, and perform a scant hour or two on show days. In addition, Feld

proudly says it is breeding endangered Asian elephants at its conservation center in Florida.

If Feld officials care as much as they say they do about animals — particularly the planet's largest land mammals — they should retire them from performance. Short of that, they should retire from the road any elephants suffering from arthritis — the plague of captive, older elephants.

At a time when zoos are spending millions to find better ways to care for elephants — building them extensive habitats and minimizing or even forbidding unobstructed contact with keepers, thus eliminating the need for bull hooks for protection — this would be a good time for Feld to stop selling the old-school animal circus. Until that time, circus patrons who find animal acts troubling can register their displeasure by not attending. If they want to see a pachyderm, Tina, Jewel and Billy are at the Los Angeles Zoo every day.

'Those were the days'

Local couple remembers 80 years of Christmas in the city

Candace Mauzy
REPORTER

Claire Maluso, 82, remembers the hustle and bustle of downtown Youngstown during the Christmas season. In the 1960s, she worked for the Strouss Company, which was located in the former Phar-Mor Building on West Federal Street.

Claire Maluso was the plaza director from 1988 to 1998. Today, she is a member of the Cityscape board.

Claire Maluso has lived in Youngstown all her life and takes a special pride in the downtown history, especially the old days of shopping, parades and flourishing businesses.

Before the age of shopping malls, holiday shoppers flooded the streets of downtown. In those years, the downtown Christmas parade brought thousands of people between Thanksgiving and the New Year. From one end of Federal Street to the other, businesses filled most of the now vacant buildings, Claire Maluso said.

"At one time, we probably had 500 businesses between Rayen Avenue and Front Street, West Federal Street, Commerce Street, Boardman Avenue and clear up on Wood Street by Youngstown State University," Claire Maluso said.

Claire Maluso looks down at an outdated map, which details the flourishing downtown business district.

"When you came down Federal Street, there was not a place that did not have a store. You had Kirby Shoes, Strouss, McKelvey and Hartsells, to name a few. This map can show you a world of things about Youngstown," she said.

Every floor of the Strouss building had a personality. Claire Maluso climbs the stairs in her memory.

"The first floor had jewelry, the general store and a bakery. The mezzanine had a tailor shop, a camera shop and restrooms. The second floor had items for the kitchen. The third floor was women's finery and juniors dresses," she said. "At Christmas time, you would see a talking snowman on your way up to the fourth floor where Santa was sitting next to a tree to greet the kids. The fourth floor was all furniture. The fifth floor was household and more furniture, and the sixth floor was household complete and the auditing of



Claire and John Maluso stand in front of the Christmas tree downtown at the old Phar-Mor building. Photo by Candace Mauzy/The Jambar.

office, and the seventh floor held windows, interior design and advertising. The eighth floor was a bakery."

Claire Maluso walks through the streets of Youngstown from decades ago. Each shop and each face stands out in her reverie.

"Every window was so important. There were decorations everywhere. People would walk up and down the street, looking at the beautiful windows. [There] were Santas and angels from one end to the other. It was different times cause we only had one central business district and people didn't have cars then," Claire Maluso said.

John Maluso, Claire's husband, recalls buses pulled like trolleys.

"They were on a track with a power cable, and from the back end there was a big pole that went up. The wind blew and knocked the pole down, and the bus drivers would have to get out and fix them," he said.

John Maluso graduated from the former Youngstown College in 1949. Now 87 years old, John and his wife have lived in Youngstown their entire lives, celebrating Christmas as time has taken its toll on the city.

The Youngstown Board of

Trade met monthly back then. Through the holiday, money was raised to sponsor events. All the stores would contribute, the Malusos said. It was a collaborative effort.

"There would be advertising galore for radio at that time. This was the way of things because there were no malls," John Maluso said.

Claire Maluso would participate in a jingle bell program for schools that recruited students to work in retail.

"When I worked with Strouss, we always participated in the parade. As a matter of fact, our personnel director would be Mrs. Claus every year. That became history. We did jingle bell programs every year with the schools," she said.

Kids would earn money for the holidays. Maluso would teach the program at South High School and Choffin Vocational School. Strouss would hire the program graduates.

The bustling holiday spectacle lasted until 1974 when the mills closed, the Malusos

said.

Some festivities continued as Federal Street was blocked when many retail stores went under.

"It was common for business districts to close the streets and allow pedestrians to walk around and see things. But that was because all the retail began to leave," she said.

Claire Maluso will never forget standing beside 50,000

people to cheer on the Christmas parade. She remembers every high school band in the area marching through the sea of decorations and storefront displays.

"Youngstown was a great, active city in those days," Claire Maluso said. "That was the place to be in those days."



'Merry Christmas' vs. 'Happy Holidays'

Holiday tradition or controversial disaster?

Jenna Medina
FEATURES REPORTER

As Cheryl Guyer watches customers become aggravated over the topic of replacing "Merry Christmas" with "Happy Holidays," she said she believes that the elimination of "Merry Christmas" is pointless.

"Christmas is such a secular holiday today that so many people celebrate it without thinking about what they're celebrating," said Guyer, a religious studies major at Youngstown State University who has worked retail during the holiday season for several years.

Christopher Bache, a professor in the philosophy and religious studies department at YSU, said he believes it is healthy for people to acknowledge and understand religious perspectives that stem from cultural customs.

"I was raised a Catholic, taught world religions for 30 years, practiced within a Buddhist lineage and am both universalist and post-religious at heart," he said.

Bache said he would respond with, "Happy Holidays."

"When I say, 'Merry Christmas,' I broaden it in my mind to refer to all the great teachers from all the spiritual traditions who have incarnated to help hu-

mankind," Bache said.

Mark Vopat, assistant professor in the philosophy and religious studies department at YSU, said he believes that shopping outlets instruct employees to respond with "Happy Holidays" because they are taking into consideration the fact that not all customers are of the Christian faith.

"Although 'Merry Christmas' can be viewed as somewhat secular, it is still inherently a greeting with religious overtones," Vopat said.

Vopat is also aware that by saying "Happy Holidays," people are recognizing that the celebrations of others may consist of Kwanzaa or Hanukkah — and not always Christmas.

"From a store perspective, it seems to be more considerate, given you don't know the religious beliefs of every customer, to express a more general greeting [and] goodbye," Vopat said.

He said he sees nothing wrong with a social tradition between customers and strangers who encourage the holiday spirit.

"It seems to me that offense should only be taken if someone were intentionally attempting to belittle your religious belief, or if you had somehow made it obvious that you were a Christian," he said.

Bruce Waller, chairman of the philosophy and religious studies department at YSU, said "Merry Christmas" doesn't really offend him.

"It is certainly better than 'Go to hell,'" Waller said. "But 'Happy Holidays' seems more appropriate in our wonderfully diverse campus community, embracing the full range of religious and nonreligious belief."

Waller said he believes that expressing holiday spirit through "Happy Holidays" allows all people to be recognized through that more general term.

Senior Phylcia Simms said she would say, "Merry Christmas," to someone she knows personally. She would probably tell a stranger, "Happy Holidays," though.

"I thought that it was always Jewish people that were offended because they don't celebrate. Again, that's their choice, their religion, and if a Christian is saying 'Merry Christmas,' they mean it in a respective way, not a rude way, and both parties should understand that it needs to be taken into contexts," Simms said.

Political science major Levant Miller said he believes the term, "Merry Christmas," is synonymous with the holiday season and reflects a sense of religious acknowledgement, as does the holiday

itself.

"To find offense in the term is a bit of [an] over-exaggeration," he said.

Comparing the scenario, Miller used the example of sneezing and someone responding with, "God bless you," saying it would be seen as an equivalent offense to saying, "Merry Christmas."

"My personal belief is one in which 'Merry Christmas' is used to celebrate the season. If someone finds offense in that, then 'God bless them,'" Miller said.

Guyer said she doesn't understand how the phrase, "Merry Christmas," is all of a sudden offensive to certain individuals.

"Christmas is a worldwide holiday that falls on Dec. 25 every single year," Guyer said. "The term, 'Christmas,' is on calendars. It's in songs, movies, commercials, and if someone doesn't want to participate, then that's their decision, but they shouldn't make others change, too."

Guyer said the whole issue just causes more bickering about things that really don't matter.

"If anyone from any faith came up to me and gave me a holiday blessing from their particular faith, I know that I would be honored and thankful," she said.

‘Those people may never get to see the outside of that cell again’ Author addresses incarceration issues

Chelsea Telega
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
EDITOR

One decade ago, attorney and author Michelle Alexander was put in jail for participating in a sit-in in California. She joined a group of protesters who disagreed with a bill that would try juveniles as adults.

Alexander and the other participants were chanting slogans from their jail cell and “quite frankly, having a good time,” she said.

A silence fell over them, however, when they heard agonizing cries from a woman in the cell next to them.

“Those people may never get to see the outside of that cell again, never get to hold their kids again, and it really hit home,” Alexander said.

Since then, Alexander has investigated the inner workings of the mass incarceration system.

On Tuesday night, Alexander visited the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor to discuss “The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness.”

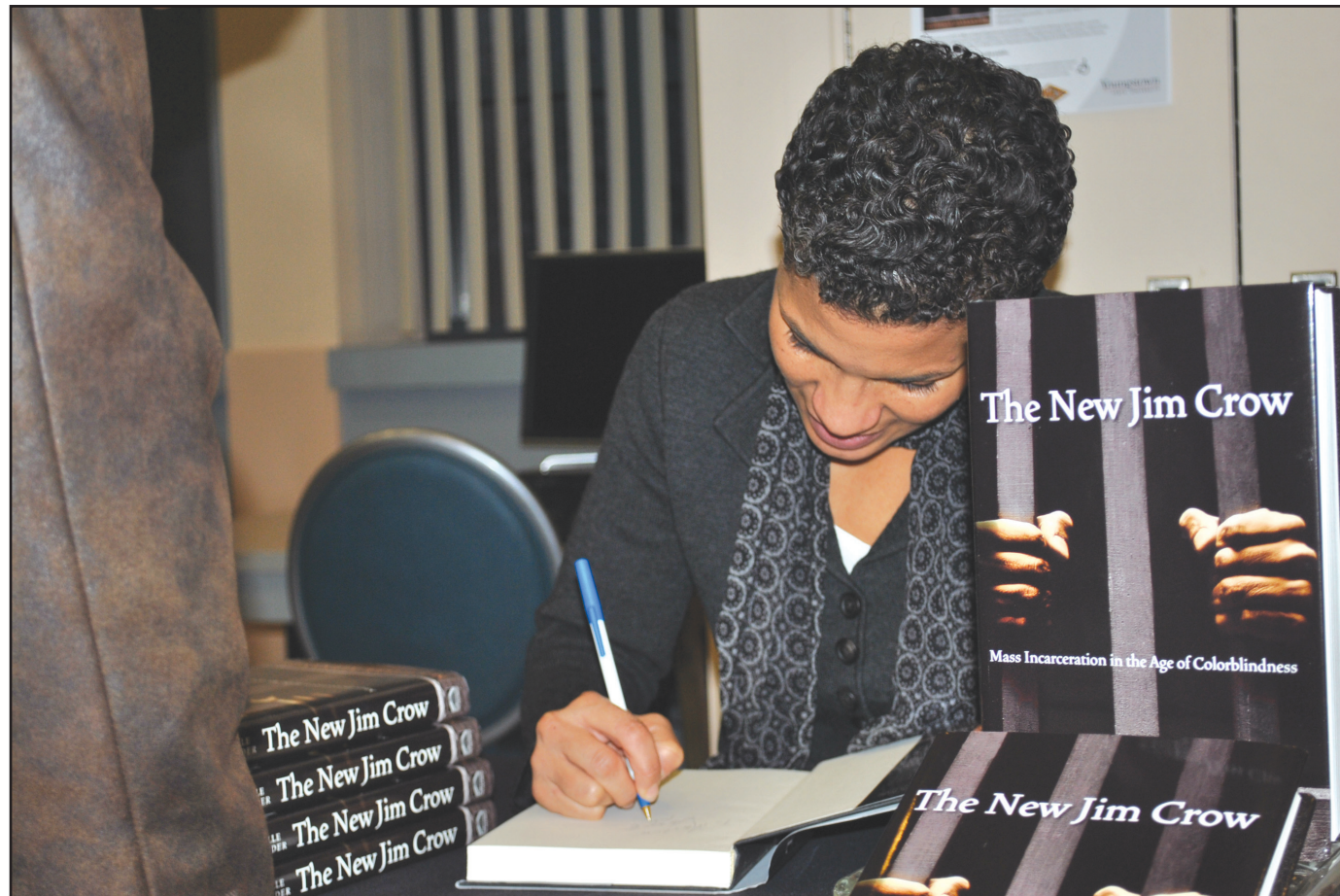
Alexander’s book contends that once someone is labeled a felon, it is acceptable for him or her to be discriminated against in the same way African-Americans were once discriminated against.

“When I wrote the book, it was my greatest hope and prayer that there would be open hearts and minds that would see this book as an awakening about the mass incarceration system like I did about a decade ago,” Alexander said.

Alexander also talks about the prison system being driven by money and the difficulties faced in changing the system.

“We can’t engage in meaningful action unless we know the history behind what we are fighting for,” Alexander said. “Hopefully, we will have an awakening that can bring an end to this caste-like system.”

Alexander said she thinks that prison systems are an issue everywhere.



Michelle Alexander signs copies of “The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness” for Youngstown residents. Photo by Chelsea Telega/The Jambar.

“It’s easy for some regions to think this doesn’t affect them because they don’t know someone who has been incarcerated or haven’t been incarcerated themselves, but it affects everyone,” Alexander said.

Sybil West, board member of the Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative, grew up in Youngstown, but these issues are more apparent to her now because of what she witnesses her 30-year-old son going through.

“The whole book hit me personally. When I was younger and would have said some of these things, people would have thought that I was crazy or paranoid. She just brought a pen to paper and said everything I wanted to,” West said.

West said she recommends that all members of law enforcement or people in positions of power read this book to see how African-Americans are being unfairly targeted.

Yulanda McCarty-Harris, director of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity at Youngstown State University, introduced Alexander as her “sister.”

“She is someone that is interested in giving a voice to those who are oppressed and don’t have a voice, so I bond with her in that way,” McCarty-Harris said.

McCarty-Harris said Alexander has made an impact as an attorney and an author.

“Just looking at her biography and seeing what she does inspires me,” she said. “For a woman to accomplish what she has, I consider it breaking the glass sea.”

Sherry Linkon, co-director of the Center for Working-Class Studies at YSU, is a member of the MVOC-CWCS book club. The club recently finished Alexander’s book, and most club members attended Alexander’s presentation.

“We’ve been gathering

and having fabulous conversations. It’s not just what this book says. In order to talk about it, you have to talk about race in America,” Linkon said.

Linkon added that the book is rather troubling, but Alexander portrays the issues in a powerful, persuasive manner.

“Youngstown is the perfect place to talk about this. We have a very large population in poverty. There is a very large number of families who have someone in prison, and that is what she is here to talk about,” Linkon said.

McCarty-Harris and Alexander agreed that criminals are not given the chance to reinvent themselves.

“We don’t say that we condone crime, but we want a system that helps them. Where are their support systems? Not even for when they get out, but should they even be in?” McCarty-Harris asked.

Alexander said that a great deal of imprisonment issues

have to do with the perception of felons.

“The explosion of incarceration has less to do with crime and more to do with the way that we respond to people who are criminals,” Alexander said.

McCarty-Harris agreed.

“I know it says [employers] don’t discriminate on job applications, but when someone says that they’re a felon, how much of a chance do we really give them?” McCarty-Harris asked. “I commend organizations that give people a second chance. That’s what it’s about.”

McCarty-Harris said she thinks help is the most important thing to give to people in this kind of situation.

“When someone says, ‘I’m being oppressed,’ it’s not our job to say, ‘Are you sure?’ We must help them through it,” McCarty-Harris said. “The fact is that some of them are definitely trying to turn their lives around.”

Yo* Calendar

Thursday

“Twas the Night Before Finals”

Thursday, 3-7 p.m.
Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center
Event includes an ugly sweater contest, crafts, games, a cookie decorating station and prizes. Admission is free with a valid YSU ID.

Steve Vuich hosts Open Mic Night

Thursday, 8 p.m.
Vintage Estates Wine & Beer

YCS Comedy

Thursday, 9 p.m.
La Bella Cena Restaurant

Winter Whiteout Blacklight Party

Thursday, 9 p.m.
Lemon Grove Cafe

Friday

Skate and Dance Party

Friday, 6 p.m.
Champion Rollarena
\$3-\$7

“Scrooge, the Musical”

Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Youngstown Playhouse
\$10-\$15

“How the Drag Queen Stole Christmas”

Friday, 8 p.m.
Oakland Center for the Arts
\$15

YCS Comedy Night with Open Mic

Friday, 9 p.m.
Belleria Pizzeria, Cornersburg

Saturday

Seasons Greetings

Saturday, 8 p.m.
DeYor Performing Arts Center
Tickets available online

Cosmic Bowling

Saturday, 9 p.m.
Mahoning Valley Lanes and Strikers Lounge
Three games and shoes for \$8

Karaoke

Saturday, 9 p.m.
Los Gallos Mexican Restaurant
21+

Skate and Dance Party

Saturday, 6 p.m.
Champion Rollarena
\$3-\$7.

“Scrooge, the Musical”

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
Youngstown Playhouse
\$10-\$15

Sunday

“Scrooge, the Musical”

Sunday, 2:30 p.m.
The Youngstown Playhouse
\$10-\$15

USA Dance Annual Snowflake Ball

Sunday, 4-9 p.m.
Avon Oaks Ballroom
\$25-\$40

NEWS BRIEFS

WCBA hosts student/practitioner day

The Williamson College of Business Administration will host the 15th annual Accounting and Finance Student/Practitioner Day on Friday from 7:40 a.m. to 3 p.m. Panels will discuss employment opportunities, communication and networking skills, and other vital topics in the business and accounting fields. Human resource representatives will also attend.

Jabali celebrates African culture

Jabali, an African cultural celebration, will take place in Kilcawley Center's Chestnut Room on Friday at 6:30 p.m. The event includes dinner and entertainment provided by the Harambee Youth Group and the African Students Union. Benita Y. Pearson, the first black female federal judge in Ohio, will be the keynote speaker. Dinner is \$10 for students. For more information, contact the Africana Studies Program at 330-941-3097.

POLICE BRIEFS

Student passes out in bathroom

Early Saturday morning, YSU Police were called to Cafaro House in response to an unconscious female student. The student had come back from a party and said she needed to go to the bathroom. However, she never came out, and her friends found her unconscious on the floor. The student appeared to have hit her head and chipped her teeth, and a small amount of blood and saliva were on the bathroom floor near her head. The student was transported to St. Elizabeth Health Center for treatment.

Tussle in Lyden leads to broken window

On Sunday, YSU Police were called to Lyden House in regards to a broken window. After reviewing camera footage of the hallway, YSU Police determined that a fight had occurred that led to the broken window. University police officers believe that a female student had been in an altercation with an unknown individual. There is footage of a male escorting the female student down the hallway, away from the window.

Man napping leads to his arrest

On Monday, YSU Police received a call reporting a suspicious black vehicle parked outside of a house on Adams Street. By the time university police officers arrived, the car was leaving. Later, YSU Police noticed the vehicle in the area again, followed it and pulled over the driver. The driver claimed to have been resting during his paper route. The driver was arrested for driving with a suspended driver's license.

Missing headlight leads to citation and court date

On Dec. 2, YSU Police noticed a white 2001 Chevy Impala on Fifth Avenue with one headlight working. The officer pulled over the car at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Arlington Street. The driver did not have a driver's license or vehicle registration. YSU Police asked permission to search the vehicle, and the driver agreed. The officers discovered about \$5,700 on the driver's side of the car and under the seat. They also found blunt packaging and empty plastic bags with suspected marijuana residue. Police then detained the driver for their safety. YSU Police had the car towed and put the money and other items into the evidence room. The driver was issued a traffic citation for the headlights, given a court date and then released.

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OLSON PAGE 1

are so many places I want to see that I had no desire to see before I went."

She traveled overseas with one of her closest friends, Kevin Day. Day is also a graduating senior who shares the same major as Olson.

They met their freshman year and have been friends ever since.

"He was in my STEM class and just came up to me and said, How was your weekend?" like he's known me for years," Olson said. "Then we had every class together that day. It was like he was following me."

Olson said that since then, they scheduled every class together.

Day said Olson is a dedicated student and finishes her work in a timely fashion.

"She is always willing to help group members," Day said. "We help each other. We balance each other's strengths and weaknesses."

Instructor Michael Pontikos said Olson was a very hard worker in his advertising classes.

"She is very detail-oriented ... the kind of person who gets things done," Pontikos said.

Michael McGiffin, Kilcawley Center evening operations manager, said Olson is a promising leader.

"She cares a great deal about the people she works with," he said. "She always goes to vast lengths to serve a student."

John Young, associate director of Kilcawley Center, said she is definitely a people person.

"Wherever she chooses to go, she will be successful because of her people skills," Young said.

Olson is searching for internships after graduation and leaves this piece of advice for freshmen.

"Without an education, it makes it hard to put your individual imprint on the world," she said.

RUSSO PAGE 1

anything that would interest you. Just going to class doesn't teach you as much as a hands-on experience can. YSU has a lot of things to offer students, take the opportunities," she said.

Although Russo didn't have a "favorite professor," she attributes a number of her successes to the effort they put forth to get her to this point.

Telecommunications professor Fred Owens has worked with Russo in the department for years and has seen her grow in many ways.

"To see a young person grow and mature and to prepare for a life both personally and professionally is most gratifying, especially when the person is doing as well as she is and has such high standards as Emily does," Owens said.

Owens makes it a personal goal to help students eradicate their confining comfort zones. He said Russo did just that.

"Emily, during the period that she has been here, has become not only willing to take on new assignments and new projects, but she was eager to do that," Owens said. "And, when a student is willing to move out of their comfort zone, they can achieve anything."

Owens has no doubts about what Russo can make of her future and said that she will define her own life.

"She'll set her goals. She has the capability, she has the intellectual horsepower, the people skills and the team-

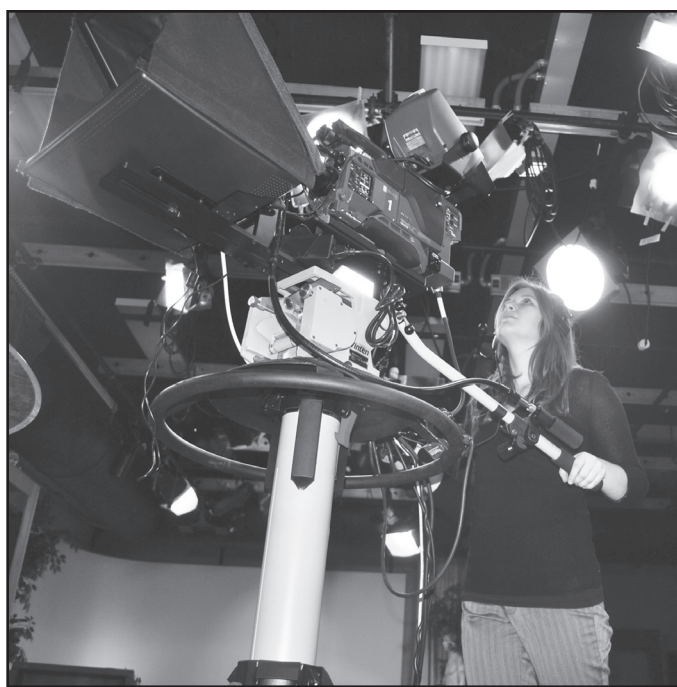


PHOTO BY CHELSEA TELEGA/THE JAMBAR

leading abilities," Owens said. "She's just a rocket."

Assistant professor Amy Crawford has also seen Russo leave her comfort zone and move on to bigger things.

"She's really developed as a leader. She always came in with enthusiasm, and she went past her comfort zone taking on a leadership position," Crawford said. "She flourished."

Crawford always noticed a great deal of enthusiasm in Russo and said that she knows if she keeps that attitude, she will go far.

"I think she'll accomplish whatever she wants to accomplish," Crawford said. "She has that rare mix of creativity, humility, dedication and intelligence."

Crawford said she is proud to call Russo a product of the telecommunications department.

"She's one of those students I feel bad taking credit for because she's so driven and focused and she's such a self-starter," Crawford said. "But I hope we've helped to inspire her, and she has definitely given back to the program."

Owens does not foresee Russo's name being forgotten any time soon at YSU.

"I look forward to one day seeing our studio named the Emily Russo Television Studio," Owens said.

After college, Russo plans on continuing her work at the Business Journal, Chicago 48 and Prodigal Media.

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SENIOR GOODBYES

Insert witty headline here

Chelsea Miller
ASSISTANT ONLINE EDITOR

Graduation is bittersweet. I've thought about this moment for a while now, counting down the days until I could go out and make my mark on the world. But now, as I sit in The Jambar office, I can't help but think about all the people and memories I'll be leaving behind.

I remember my first interview at The Jambar. I was a wreck, nervous and unsure of myself. But for whatever reason, they gave me a chance and gave me a job as a sports reporter. For that, I have Mary Beth to thank. Thanks for giving me a shot and starting my career as a journalist. I hope I made you proud.

Never in my life have I found a job that I've enjoyed more and that I've fit in with. You guys have become more than my friends, but a kind of dysfunctional family. I love you all.

To those who have come before me, I know you will read this.

Adam, even though you're all the way in Florida, you still find ways to harass me at least once a month. I'll never forget the time you made me cry ... jerk! But seriously, I feel like I owe you a thank you for probably getting me this job in the first place and putting up with my stupid questions. I've known you longer than anyone at The Jambar, and I miss seeing your face on campus. Have fun in not-crappy weather. I'm definitely jealous.

Dan, you are by far one of the most interesting people I've met on staff. From your rants about life to making Facebook profiles for your cats, The Jambar just isn't the same without you. I hope you've officially squashed your Farmville addiction. Let's catch up one day at Imbibe and drink some martinis.

Lamar, my mentor. I know I've been stubborn and difficult to work with, but I've probably learned the most from you. My constant badgering was only because I looked up to you. Thanks for putting up with me and helping me when no one else would, even if it would eventually lead to a fight. Stay in touch. I'd hate to lose you as a friend, and I'd miss your creepiness and random off-the-wall comments.

Giesy, I met you before you began working at The Jambar, and I knew you'd be a big deal. That video we made in Lew's class kicked butt. I'll never forget the weird YouTube videos we used to watch in the office: "Shut Up, Woman. Get on my Horse"? You're very random but also a very talented reporter. Good luck with everything you do and keep in touch.

And for everyone else ...

Josh, when are you going to graduate? Seriously. ... No, I'm glad you haven't because The Jambar wouldn't be the same without you. Whoever takes over the position of editor-in-chief will have big shoes to fill. I'll always remember our trip to Orlando: you playing with the Shamu toy and starting a near-riot in



PHOTO BY JOSH SITPANOVICH/THE JAMBAR

the hot tub. We definitely were the life of the party. When you eventually leave The Jambar, I wish you all the luck in everything you do.

Doug, let's have a Chelsea-Doug rematch. I know I can beat you this time. No, that's a terrible idea, and I credit you alone with my distaste for strong liquor now. Even though you're like 50 years old, I've enjoyed hanging out with you. I'm very glad you joined The Jambar. We need more people like you with a passion for hard news and persistence for finding the truth. I

know you'll go far.

Emmalee, you like the AP Stylebook so much that you decided to come back after you graduated to deal with our poor grammar some more. I know you'll have a field day editing this letter. I'll miss all of our random late nights at Perkins, you talking me into karaoke and watching weird YouTube videos with talking animals. You're a sweet girl and a talented writer. Please keep in touch after I graduate, and keep being an awesome copy editor.

Catullo (aka meatballs), even though I've given you a

hard time about "Jack up the Rev" (Let's face it, the "fame" has gone to your head a little.), I actually look forward to seeing what you come up with next. You've sparked people's interests who usually don't care about sports, and I hope you continue your crazy antics. I'll miss your bad music on tape when I leave.

Amanda, I haven't gotten to see you much this year, or anybody for that matter, but I'll never forget our trip to Kentucky ... dancing with gay men and Chris getting mad. I hope I see you around in the future. You're a fun girl to hang out with, and you'll make a great copy editor someday, or whatever it is you'd like to do. I wish the best of luck to you.

Marissa, wow, I never could have handled SCJ this year without you. You've been an enormous help, and I want to thank you for everything you've done. I'll miss your bubbly personality and hearing you and Sam argue about whether Fall Out Boy or whoever is actually a good band. I hope to see you around.

Nick, the other assistant online editor, I'll always remember our long car ride to go ghost hunting and then standing in the cold for three hours to see nothing. Even though it was kind of a bust, I still had fun. Also, your creepy comments during our SCJ induction dinner. I wish the best of luck to you. Hopefully we both get that job and can continue working together.

Jeff, I don't know what I'll

CHELSEA PAGE 10



PHOTO BY JOSH SITPANOVICH/THE JAMBAR

Bittersweet goodbyes

Nick Young
ASSISTANT ONLINE EDITOR

It seems like just yesterday I interviewed for The Jambar. The next thing I knew, I was a design editor and thrown into a newsroom. I didn't know what to expect. I got friendships and experience that will last me a lifetime.

Josh, you're a hard but fair editor-in-chief, and the direction that you've taken this paper has been amazing. The past two ACP/CMA conferences were some of the most fun times of my life. The paper will have big shoes to fill once you're no longer in the head seat.

My dear friend Sam, I will miss our inside design jokes and disrupting staff meetings with you via our text message banter that usually led to laughing out loud. I can't thank you enough for showing me Iwrestledabearonce's dub-step album and keeping me sane on some of those design nights.

Jordan, I'll never forget our runs to Waffle House after football, getting there just in time for all-you-can-eat while the clips and pictures were uploading back at the office. And that night we tried to work while listening to Keith's little Chihuahua running all around the office. Also, between you and Sam, it's hard to find any-

one with better taste in music.

Keep on jacking up the rev, Catullo. Your show may be on the less serious side, but it is seriously a good college sports show.

Emmalee, I'll miss talking to someone who actually has an appreciation for old school rock 'n' roll. You're the best copy editor I've ever seen, and I don't know what The Jambar would do without you.

Marissa McIntyre, just remember that you're an awesome person, and I'll never forget you. The eight hours we spent together on our police ride-along were definitely up there in my favorite time spent working here. I love the fact that you like to hunt, and your stories about frog legs during the ride-along were hilarious. I think you could do anything you set your mind to.

To the other graduate, Chelsea Miller, we had some fun times working on stories together. I don't think I'll ever forget our ghost-hunting experience. I hope you find success after YSU because you definitely deserve it.

To the other Chelsea, keep baking those cakes and just being you. We didn't see each other a whole lot over this last semester, but you were always fun to be around when I did see you.

Kacy, our animal cruelty

NICK PAGE 10

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NICK PAGE 9

video was a great experience. I will always tell people how I got to rescue a dog while on assignment. You have a great smile and a great personality. Keep it up.

Mamounis, you're one of the most styling dudes I've ever come across, and some of the things you wear but still pull off blows my mind. I'll miss your banter from the design desk and your thoughts on the difference between hip-hop and rap.

Chris, you were a great boss to have during a semester when I was hammered with stuff to do outside of the paper. We were able to joke when things went bad, and I think that's one of the most important things you can do in the situation. Overall, I think the Web came out good this semester, though.

To anyone I haven't men-

tioned by name, you still played an important part of the experience and an important role at the paper. It takes all the staff we have to create a good paper and keep improving upon it.

The last two and a half years here at The Jambar have been the best experience of my college career. I only hope that I can find a newsroom somewhere that has half the charisma, talent and bond that I experienced in the basement of Fedor Hall. To keep this goodbye from getting any more cliché, I'd like to leave everyone with some advice from my favorite, albeit deceased, journalist Hunter S. Thompson: "Buy the ticket, take the ride."

That pretty much says all there is to say about the careers we hopefully all have ahead of us in this field we've chosen.

CHELSEA PAGE 9

do without you to critique my outfits every day. I'll always remember helping you shop online, listening to you complain about women and making the most off-the-wall comments ever. Good luck with everything you do. Maybe I'll see you around ... at the nightclub with a bottle of wine, most likely.

Jordan, I know we've had our differences in the past (For instance, I like good food, and you like gnawing on carrots and leaves.), but I wish you luck with The Jambar and with SCJ. I hope you do everything as president that you hope to do.

Chris, you've definitely come a long way from creep-

ily hitting on me and failing. Just kidding, but I had to throw that in. I'm glad we became friends because I've probably grown closer to you than anyone else this year. I'll miss being holed up in the bunker and complaining about school and other people. You've been a good boss, and I am glad you got the online editor position over me (even though I am better at life). The Jambar is better because of it, and I'm sorry I've given you such a hard time. I'll leave you with one last piece of advice: "Meh!!!!" And please get a car.

Sam, even though you generally listen to terrible music, I like a few of your songs. I'll miss hearing you and Marissa argue over music. Well, listening to you argue with everybody in general. You've done a great job with The Jambar, and I wish you luck in everything you do.

Jared, "my employee," even though you've given me a hard time at times, I've enjoyed working with you. Good luck to you with The Jambar, your fraternity, school and everything else. Hope I see you around.

"The other" Chelsea, when I leave, you'll be "the only" Chelsea, and I hope you do our name proud. You're a talented writer and a talented baker. (Those cake pops you made were pretty amazing.) I wish the best of luck to you in everything you do.

To Pat, Jenna and Kacy, I know I haven't been able to spend as much time with you guys, but I know we would have gotten along well. I wish I had been able to spend more time at The Jambar this year. Good luck to all of you guys with the newspaper and everything else you do.

And to the people that have probably made the biggest impact in my life, my parents. Thank you for constantly supporting me and helping me. Mom, I wouldn't be half the writer I am now if you didn't push a book into my hand before I could read. I love both of you.

To everyone else, spend as much time as you can at Youngstown State University and learn as much as you can. It's a hard world out there for us journalists. Always follow your dreams, no matter how improbable they may seem.

I won't say goodbye, but see you later.

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Rogner reflects on college career

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

Since senior Katie Rogner joined the Youngstown State University women's golf team in 2007, she has competed in every tournament and round.

"It went by so fast," Rogner said. "I feel it went pretty well. I feel like I've got everything in Youngstown. There's not a thing I would change."

Rogner added that making new friends was one of the best experiences.

"It was a lot more than just classes," Rogner said. "It was about making friendships and enjoying what you do."

Roseann Schwartz, head women's golf coach, said she saw how Rogner interacted with others.

"She did well with them," Schwartz said. "She was a team leader, but she had friends that were on other teams as well. She enjoys people. That's the type of person she is."

Rogner will graduate with an engineering degree, but she will try to further her career in golf first. If that doesn't pan out, she will attempt to work for General Electric, where she recently interned.

"I'm in the process of making that decision," Rogner said. "I'm searching right now and networking for jobs. Without my parents, there would be no engineering."

Rogner said she hopes to qualify for the Ladies Professional Golf Association Futures Tour.

As a freshman, Rogner was named team MVP and Horizon League Newcomer of the Year. She also took medalist honors at the Loyola Caputo Invitational and the Horizon League Championships.

As a sophomore, Rogner took medalist honors at the YSU Invitational,

where she shot a 73. She finished fifth at the Horizon League Championships and was a member of the all-tournament team.

Schwartz coached Rogner throughout her four-year career, and Rogner said Schwartz helped her evolve into the golfer she is today.

"If it wasn't for Coach Schwartz, I wouldn't golf," Rogner said.

Schwartz said Rogner is one of the best golfers she's ever coached.

"She was probably in the top three," Schwartz said. "It was a pleasure because she was fun and a hard worker."

Schwartz said Rogner has an "inner excitement about golf."

"Even if there was bad weather, she'd go out and play on her own and had the ambition to get better," Schwartz said.

As a junior, Rogner was named The Vindicator's YSU Female Athlete of the Year and finished fourth at the Horizon League Championships. She was also named first-team all-Horizon League and an all-tournament team selection.

In her senior season, Rogner was a first-team all-Horizon League pick and finished 16th in the championship tournament. She earned medalist honors twice.

Rogner also won the YSU Invitational and the Red Flash Invitational, hosted by Saint Francis University.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPORTS INFORMATION

SPORTS BRIEFS

Women's basketball takes on Ohio University

On Friday, the YSU women's basketball team will travel to Ohio University. The game begins at 7 p.m. and will be broadcast on 570 WKBN.

Men's basketball travels to Buffalo

The YSU men's basketball team will travel to the University at Buffalo on Saturday. The game starts at 7 p.m. Time Warner Cable SportsNet will broadcast the game.

Phantoms hockey hosts Chicago Steel

The Covelli Centre will host the Youngstown Phantoms versus the Chicago Steel on Saturday at 7:15 p.m.



Schkurko looks to the future

Nick Mancini
SPORTS REPORTER

Youngstown State University senior long snapper Nate Schkurko snapped in 31 career games for the football team but sat out the last five games from a shoulder injury suffered against Southern Illinois University in October.

Schkurko said it was tough to ride the sidelines as the Penguins racked up half their total wins in those last five games.

"It was hard when we started playing well at the end of the season, and I just had to sit on the sidelines and watch," Schkurko said.

In his junior year, Schkurko snapped every punt and field goal attempt. He was named the Hill, Barth and King special teams player of the game against the University of Northern Iowa. He also earned his third letter.

As a freshman and sophomore, he was named the HBK special teams player of the game three times. As a red-shirt freshman, he was named to the Gateway Honor Roll.

During his football career, he also played for two head coaches. He said the transition between former head coach Jon Heacock and current coach Eric Wolford was a tough one, but it worked out.

"They were two completely opposite coaches," Schkurko said. "It was just a matter of getting used to change. I definitely enjoyed



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPORTS INFORMATION

Schkurko

my time playing football, though. I made some really good friendships."

Schkurko said he had a great experience at YSU.

"I enjoyed my time here. I really learned a lot," he said. "At times, it was hectic trying to balance both academics and athletics, but if you have a determination to do it, you will be able to."

A civil and construction engineering technology major, Schkurko has plans for his post-college life.

"I plan on heading back

home in the Cleveland area and getting an apartment up there," Schkurko said. "I have a couple of offers out there, so I am not planning on staying in the Youngstown area."

Schkurko said he wouldn't do anything differently.

"I am pretty satisfied with the way everything went down," Schkurko said. "I kind of feel that everything happens for a reason, so if I would have done anything differently, I might have not had some of the friendships I have now."

Peyton Manning ready to throw more, would still like to play this season

The News-Sentinel
(MCT)

INDIANAPOLIS — Colts quarterback Peyton Manning hasn't yet ruled out practicing or playing this season, but says he will defer to doctors on whether that happens.

Manning was cleared for more work after his latest examination on the healing in his surgically repaired neck.

"This doesn't guarantee anything but allows you to step into the next phase," Manning said. "The worst news I could have heard was it's not where we wanted it to be. I've got clearance for the next phase and I'll follow that as well as I can."

Manning met with the media for about 12 minutes during open locker room availability on Friday at the Colts' practice complex.

"I still do believe that practice is a great avenue to answer questions and see where you are," Manning said. "Then we can make that determination for the next phase."

He will be throwing more, no matter where.

"Throwing will be part of this next progression," he said. "It's somewhat critical to my job."

Manning's doctor, Dr. Robert Watkins, said in a statement Thursday that the "fusion performed in September has

achieved firm fixation" and he would be "allowed to increase the intensity and breadth of his workouts as tolerated."

Manning said there is no timetable on when he might resume practicing, although he has ruled nothing out.

"There's not a schedule; there never has been," Manning said. "We made it clear from the get-go that there's no timetable. With the unpredictability of this thing, you have checkpoints. This is kind of a checkpoint. I don't know when the next one is."

Manning was asked whether he will finish his career with the Colts, but declined to directly answer the question.

"I understand the timing of that question," Manning said. "(But) yesterday was an important day for us. We're still trying to digest that and see what we can do next. As far as questions about long-term career, the 2012 draft, I think those are inappropriate given we had a coach fired this week and players are playing for their jobs. This is a serious time for our team. All we want to do is win."

Manning said he has not discussed the draft recently with Colts vice chairman Bill Polian and that he is not involved in personnel decisions.

Phantoms prepare for final home game of 2011

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

Coming off a tough three-game (1-2) weekend, the Youngstown Phantoms remain in third place in the Eastern Conference of the United States Hockey League.

"I think we've set a foundation to get to where we want to go," said Anthony Noreen, head coach and general manager. "I think we're very far away from it. The most important thing is to make sure we have a consistent identity every night."

The Phantoms look to improve their 13-6-1 record against the Chicago Steel (7-13-1), a divisional opponent, on Saturday.

Noreen said the game is huge because the Phantoms do not return home until Jan. 5.

"We've had two very tough games against them," Noreen said. "We talked to the guys today [Tuesday] before practice and said, 'There's nothing to save it for. We got one game this weekend that's at home, and it's against a divisional opponent and a rival, and maybe a team that got the better of us last time we played them,' so it's a very important game."

The Phantoms defeated the Steel 3-0 on Oct. 7 and 4-1 on Nov. 18.

"We've seen them a couple of times this year already," said forward Ryan Belonger. "We know it's going to be a good game. They seem to stick around with us no matter what. We just got to play our game, work hard and stick to our game plan."

While the Phantoms have one game this week, they played three last weekend. They fell to the Sioux Falls Stampede (8-8-1), 2-1 in a shootout, on Dec. 1 and the Muskegon Lumberjacks (8-10-0), 5-0, on Friday.

The Phantoms, however, were able to salvage the weekend with a 4-2 win over Muskegon on Saturday.

"Obviously, we're not happy with the overall result," Noreen said. "We expect to win, and I think that's part of turning this program around is expect-



Dylin Margonari attempts to clear the puck against Sioux Falls on Dec. 1. The Phantoms lost 2-1 in a shootout and also went 1-1 against Muskegon on Friday and Saturday as they stand 13-6-1 on the season. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

ing to win. We want more points coming out of there."

Noreen added that the overall performance was pretty good throughout.

"To Muskegon's credit, they were opportunistic, and Saturday night I thought, from an effort standpoint, considering the guys we had out in the lineup, it was the best effort we've had in a game all season," he said.

The Phantoms took Sunday and Monday off to rest, but were back in practice on Tuesday.

"Today [Tuesday] we went out and did a lot of skill work, and something that we constantly work on is playing at a higher pace," Noreen said. "For the last maybe 20 minutes of practice, we just worked on playing at a higher pace

and continuing to try to push the speed at which we play the game, and a little bit of conditioning as well."

Belonger said the Phantoms are taking it one day at a time.

"We're just kind of going day to day, sticking to our game plan, working hard in practice," Belonger said. "For the most part, in every game, all 20 players need to show up and be ready to go."

Belonger ranks third on the team with eight goals, is tied for third with six assists and is tied for second with 14 points (goals and assists combined).

Noreen said he would like to see more production out of Belonger to get him going again.

"I think I just got to relax a little bit more," Belonger said. "I'm looked at to

score goals and make some plays, and that's a big part of my game. Just got to step it up and see what I can do."

Forward Stephen Collins made his first goal of the season on Dec. 1.

"It just takes pressure off of me," Collins said. "I feel it's good to get it over with."

While Noreen wants to see guys step up, he said they have to play and score together to be successful.

"I think we're a team that has to be scoring by committee," Noreen said. "It's gonna have to be every guy chipping in. We think it's going to have to be from all four of our lineups, and, at some point, we're going to have to get some from our defensive linemen as well."



Freshmen Kelsea Fickiesen (left) and Heidi Schlegel (right) prepare to enter the game against Bowling Green State University on Tuesday. Fickiesen broke her nose this year while Schlegel broke hers more than a year ago, so they both wear protective masks while playing. Photo by Nick Mancini/The Jambar.

Nick Mancini
SPORTS REPORTER

Heidi Schlegel and Kelsea Fickiesen have a lot of things in common. Both freshmen play basketball for Youngstown State University — but something else sticks out.

Schlegel and Fickiesen wear protective facemasks when they play, thanks to broken noses.

"Brandi Brown hit me in the face with an elbow," Schlegel said, referring to the junior forward. "I was guarding her on the perimeter, and she ripped through going to drive. It's just protective now. At first, it bothered me a lot, but now it is kind of like whatever."

Schlegel broke her nose in October 2010. Because of a broken foot, she played just seven games last season and was redshirted.

Fickiesen broke her nose nearly a year later while boxing out Tavares Jackson, assistant women's basketball coach.

"On October 31, I got my nose broken in the gym," Fickiesen said. "He jumped over top of me for the rebound, and I jumped too. He was backwards ... and he jumped up and his head cracked my nose."

Fickiesen said she still has to wear the protective facemask because of doctor's orders. However, she'll continue to wear it afterward for protection.

When she plays, it's easy to notice the mask. Fickiesen said a few aspects stick out to her.

"I would say breathing and peripheral vision," she said. "Like whenever you go into rebound, it's just hard to see. Like I just have something over the top of my head where I can't see where the ball is."

Schlegel said she definitely notices a difference when she plays.

"I feel like seeing ball and man, when you are on defense, you can't just look. You have to move your head," she said.

Head women's basketball coach Bob Boldon said the masks are well made, but they are still difficult to play with.

"It's cumbersome," Boldon said. "It is difficult to play with something on your face, having played all your life with nothing on your face. ... I think Heidi is more comfortable with it than Kelsea."

Both masks have padding to alleviate some of the pressure. Fickiesen said the extra padding helps to ease the pain.

"With all the pressure on the other bones, it helps so much," she said. "But I can still feel it if it gets bumped."

Schlegel and Fickiesen have been important contributors for the Penguins, who are off to a 4-3 start.

Fickiesen is averaging 5.6 points and 2.9 rebounds per game. She scored 12 points in the Penguins' win over Western Michigan University on Nov. 30, a career high.

In her first year playing for the Penguins, everything has been going well, she said, adding that she's just working to help the team win.

Schlegel started six of seven games thus far, and she is averaging 11.7 points and 5.3 rebounds per game. She ranks second on the team in each category.

She has hit 50 percent of her 3-point field goal attempts. In the Penguins' previous game, she led the team with 15 points. She said this season is going much better than the last.

"We are having a lot of fun," Schlegel said. "We are working hard. Everyone is just working hard. It's going good."

Boldon said Schlegel and Fickiesen have been playing well, but he has no advice for them when it comes to playing with the mask.

"I can help with shooting and defense and rebounding and offensive ideas," Boldon said. "But with the mask, they are on their own. I know Kelsea is excited to get rid of it, and I think Heidi has kind of embraced it. Everybody has a different way of dealing with the mask."

SAAC helps student-athletes reach out to the community

Caitlin Cook
REPORTER

Once a month, the Youngstown State University Student-Athlete Advisory Committee meets in Stambaugh Stadium to help provide a voice to student-athletes while giving back to the community.

The SAAC was developed through a NCAA mandate, which is active on all Division I campuses and has been at YSU since 1999.

Breanne Romeo, SAAC adviser, said the organization is an intricate part of the athletic department.

Romeo, a member of track and field during her undergraduate career, was eager to stay involved in the organization. She graduated in May and is now pursuing a Master of Business Administration while working as a graduate assistant for YSU Housing & Residence Life.

"I thought I would only be able to focus my time in housing, and they actually encouraged me to go forth where my interest lie, and obviously athletics, especially here at YSU, is a huge passion of mine," Romeo said.

Susan Carfolo, who was the SAAC adviser for approximately five years before Romeo, agreed that SAAC is important and provides an opportunity that student-athletes may not have otherwise.

"Oftentimes the athletes, because their time is so limited, don't have the opportunity to get involved in campus and in other organizations because it's just not feasible for them to have too many commitments, and SAAC allowed us to bridge between student activities and other organizations," Carfolo said.

This year, SAAC has performed three community activities in addition to several on-campus, athlete-related functions.

At the beginning of the semester, athletes participated in the annual Penguin Fest where freshman athletes performed in skits, and student-athletes were encouraged to better know one another through activities. During November and the beginning weeks of December, SAAC members are ringing for

the Salvation Army.

"Generally, the purpose of SAAC is to have an outlet for student-athletes to communicate to the administration, build strong student-athlete leadership in getting involved in the community and building camaraderie amongst all of our athletic teams," she said.

Macey Nortey, a senior basketball player, has been involved in SAAC for four years. After her coach initially informed her about SAAC, she wanted to be involved as much as possible and now serves as the vice president.

"You get to reach out to the community more through SAAC, so it's not just with your sport," she said.

SAAC members are appointed by coaches and teammates and attend monthly meetings while being mindful of the concerns of their teammates. However, at YSU, the focus has been more on community issues this year.

"There have been really no major issues, and I think that's why the focus remains with building community of the athlete. I think if there aren't any issues, they want to focus the positives at the student-athletes and really build that community," Romeo said. "What we are trying to do this year is enforce and build a forum for the purpose of it, which is to express concerns."

Brianna Bartlett, freshman volleyball player, said she is somewhat aware of what SAAC is and what the organization does. However, Bartlett said she is confident that if she had any concerns or questions, she could take those to her team's SAAC representative.

Romeo said issues could vary from a lack of soap in the training room to hours of operation for the Watson and Tressel Training Site.

Kelsey Kempton, senior soccer player, serves as president this year. She said she believes that SAAC fosters an open environment with athletic administration.

"Elaine comes here and talks to us about issues with the NCAA or anything," she said, referring to Elaine Jacobs, associate athletic director. "We can all say how we're feeling about anything that we feel is wrong."