

The Jambar

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

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U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown of Ohio speaks with YSU junior Emily Bosela during a visit to campus on Monday. Brown held a press conference in support of freezing federal student loan interest rates. He said the average student loan debt in Ohio is about \$27,000 per student. Congress temporarily lowered the rates to 3.4 percent in 2007. Unless lawmakers extend the savings, rates will revert to 6.8 percent on July 1. Photo by Chris Cotelesse/The Jambar.

Student-athletes boast grad rate higher than student body's

Kacy Standohar
NEWS EDITOR

Youngstown State University graduates student-athletes at the lowest rate among Division I schools in Ohio, but their numbers are still better than those of the rest of the student body.

By 2010, only 35 percent of first-time students — out of all those who enrolled in 2004 — graduated.

Student-athletes with scholarships graduated at 56 percent.

The athletic department provides student-athletes with one-on-one contact through two separate athletic academic advisers. These advisers meet with student-athletes to ensure that they're balancing athletic practices and events with studying.

Junior volleyball player Chelsea Guerrieri said that as a freshman, she attended study tables for six hours a week.

"It almost forces you to study," she said. "I mean, of course, we want to all have fun, but study tables force you to do your work."

Elaine Jacobs, associate

athletic director, said coaches provide a third defense after students meet with athletic and regular advisers.

"You also have the coaches who serve as the hammer in motivating student athletes to study and succeed," she said. "We are trying to utilize every opportunity we can to get them to graduation."

If any student-athletes don't attend the required study tables, the whole team is usually punished, Guerrieri said.

"We may have to run or do other extra exercise," she said. "You're not only screwing yourself over by not getting your work done, but you're also screwing over your teammates. The team has to suffer and take that extra time out of practice."

Guerrieri said coaches often bring in motivational speakers to stress the importance of balancing athletics with academics.

"Our coaches and advisers help with scheduling and really try to make sure we're on the right track," she said. "They plan accordingly, so that practices don't conflict with classes."

Exercise science grad explains role of personal trainer

Alexis Burger
REPORTER

Before John Houser graduated from Youngstown State University in May with a bachelor's degree in exercise science, he had to learn the complex intricacies of personal training — a program requirement.

"I really enjoyed this experience because it deals with not only exercise, but the nutritional aspect of health, which is vital," Houser said.

During the fall semester, YSU's exercise science program boasted more than 430 students. Around 200 of them intend to pursue physical therapy degrees after completing their undergraduate

coursework.

Personal trainers can create personalized exercise and diet plans to help others achieve their health and fitness goals. They often work individually with clients in the gym, provide detailed instructions on different exercises and recommend appropriate workout routines.

As part of his coursework, Houser had to find participants willing to let him create fitness assessments — or personalized prescriptions for health and fitness, based upon their goals and capabilities — for them. The first step involved testing, he said.

"I had to measure things like their [Body Mass Index]; their body composition, which tells the percentage of fat they have; and their

waist-to-hip ratio, which determines the amount of fat they have in the middle part of their bodies," Houser said. "Having a lot of fat there puts them at risk for cardiovascular diseases."

Houser also gauged participants' cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength and endurance, and flexibility.

The final packet included all of the participant's measurements and the category that the individual fell into. A detailed exercise regimen, based upon the participant's goals, was also included; the exercise prescriptions consisted of various exercises in aerobic training, resistance training and flexibility.

"So many people aren't lifting the right way," Houser said.

Selected from national search, Howell named as education dean

Shee Wai Wong
REPORTER

Charles L. Howell will begin his new role as dean of the Beeghly College of Education at Youngstown State University on July 1.

The post was vacant for two years after Philip Ginnetti left in 2010. Mary Lou DiPillo has served as interim dean in the meantime.

"YSU has great resources for innovative programs," Howell said. "We are hoping to grow the college and strengthen the programs."

He said Ohio has a progressive educational system, which allows YSU to be well organized and offer effective courses.

Howell added that he is looking forward to moving to the Youngstown area.

Since July 2007, Howell had served as an associate professor and chairman of the Northern Illinois University

Department of Leadership, Educational Psychology and Foundations.

Howell earned his bachelor's degree in secondary education (with an emphasis on social studies) at Georgia State University in 1973, his Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop in 1985 and his doctorate in cultural foundations of education (with focuses in the philosophy and history of education) from Syracuse University in

2000.

Between 2002 and 2007, he held several positions

within the College of Education and Human Services at Minnesota State University Moorhead. In addition, Howell was assistant director of the teacher education program at Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y., as well as a writing instructor and curriculum consultant at Syracuse.

He has also taught at both the elementary and secondary levels at K-12 public and private schools in Maine and Georgia.



Howell

Theta Chi lends 'an assisting hand'

Kacy Standohar
NEWS EDITOR

Though the Theta Chi fraternity no longer exists on Youngstown State University's campus, fraternity brothers of the Epsilon Delta Chapter have made a donation to the university that will contribute to the Kilcawley Center renovation.

After committing a \$100,000 gift to the Kilcawley Center project, Theta Chi will be the first fraternity at YSU to have a computer laboratory named after it.

Project initiator Paul Perantimides, who graduated from YSU in 1966, worked closely with fellow Theta Chi brothers Angelo Ford and Paul Zaffaroni, both 1969 YSU graduates, to guide the project to success.

"We knew we had to raise \$100,000," Zaffaroni said. "So, we decided to have members donate \$1,000 or more each. Any donor who donated that much would get their name on the plaque."

Zaffaroni said a number of gifts were larger than \$1,000, and only a few members declined to donate. A total of 75 fraternity brothers contributed, while 13 additional gifts were donated in the names of deceased brothers.

"I'd say our batting average was about 900 percent, and in baseball, you'd get immediately inducted into the Hall of Fame, so we did pretty well," Zaffaroni said.

The fraternity brothers began raising money in November, and they achieved their goal in April.

Zaffaroni added that the project helped establish a strong base of future givers, created awareness and renewed old acquaintances.

"About five months is all it took to achieve our goal," he said. "It was really a win-win

for everybody. It created a new affiliation between members."

Zaffaroni said the amount is already signed, sealed and committed, but that the fraternity members have a five-year span to provide the full amount.

"When we made the calls and passed it down along to chapter leaders, people were quick to recognize a good cause," he said. "It was a way to leave a legacy behind so that they will remember us."

The Theta Chi fraternity is one of the oldest men's college fraternities in North America. The Epsilon Delta Chapter was established on May 12, 1956, at what was then known as Youngstown University.

Theta Chi had a Greek motto that translates to "an assisting hand," and members of the YSU Board of Trustees said the brothers have done just that.

Trustees formally accepted the gift at their meeting on Wednesday. Unveiling of the donor plaques will take place July 21.

YSU President Cynthia Anderson said she was thrilled with how well the fraternity brothers support one other.

"They are scattered all over and still made this contribution on behalf of Youngstown State and their members," Anderson said. "They wanted to make sure that the legacy of Theta Chi lived on, and they really epitomize what fraternal life is all about."

Catherine Cala, interim chief development officer, said the project flourished from a very diverse group.

"What has been so great about this is that even though the brothers are from various classes and various majors, it was really a testimonial to the value and respect they had for the fraternity membership," Cala said.

NEWS BRIEFS

Trade assistance center names director

Mousa Kassis, an adjunct faculty member in YSU's economics department for 16 years, will become the new international trade adviser for the International Trade Assistance Center at YSU. Kassis is also director of exports for Global Equipment and Connections in Youngstown. The center, which is part of President Barack Obama's National Export Initiative, provides free export counseling services to small- and medium-sized businesses in Mahoning, Trumbull and Ashtabula counties. Kassis earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in economics from YSU; he previously served as the owner and general manager of United Wholesale Distributors in Girard, as well as the associate vice president of Morgan Stanley in Beachwood.

International reunion planned for late June

The second annual YSU Alumni National Networking Day will be held across the globe on June 28. Alumni will meet in 14 locations across the U.S. and one in Sydney, Australia. Participating U.S. locations are Akron/Canton; Charlotte, N.C.; Chicago; Cleveland; Columbus; Dallas/Fort Worth; Las Vegas; New York; Orlando, Fla.; the Research Triangle of North Carolina; the San Francisco Bay area; South Florida; Tampa Bay; and Youngstown. Each location will feature a video message from YSU President Cynthia E. Anderson. For more information, contact Mollie Hartup, assistant director of alumni relations and coordinator of the networking event, at 330-941-3086 or mahartup@ysu.edu.

POLICE BRIEFS

False alarms

YSU Police responded to eight activated smoke detectors in two days last week — five of the alarms were food related. At 7:30 p.m. on June 5, a police officer arrived at the University Courtyard Apartments, where a student had set off her smoke detector by burning food in her stove. The Youngstown Fire Department reset the alarm after determining there was no danger. Steam from a boiling pot of pasta set off an alarm in the Flats at Wick a few hours later. Two more instances of burnt food in the Flats at Wick received visits from the police and firefighters that night. The next afternoon, construction crews triggered two alarms in DeBartolo Hall and the Lincoln Building. Later that evening in the Flats at Wick, a student's burnt chicken in her apartment and steam from another student's shower activated alarms.

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Martial arts meet street food truck

Jackie Burrell (MCT)

The saga of the hot dogs began late one night.

University of California-Berkeley junior Michael Koh and his friends had followed up their study session with a few beers and a quick jaunt to Berkeley's venerable Top Dog for some buns on the run. In fact, it was such a quick jaunt they rushed right past the condiments, completely forgetting that a frankfurter sans ketchup or mustard is a sadly naked dog. And being college students, they didn't have what you might call a well-stocked fridge.

"We're all Asian," Koh says, "so all we had was a bottle of teriyaki."

Turns out, a teriyaki-topped hot dog tastes pretty decent. The fusion experiments that followed — katsu sauce, shredded nori, wasabi! — tasted even better. And when Koh added some sly names to his creations, he had a hit on his hands.

These days, every Cal kid can get their hands on a Shaolin Monk hot dog, a Wushu frank or a Ninjitsu, topped with flash-grilled cabbage, shredded nori and, in an homage to the condiment that started it all, teriyaki sauce.

Other college students make ends meet by playing barista or washing dishes in the dining hall, but Koh, an environmental econ major, has gone entrepreneurial instead. His street food truck — the bright blue Dojo Dog food cart — opened shop just a few yards from Sproul Plaza in January.

As for those hot dog monikers, they are a nod to the martial arts combat techniques Koh admires, even if he can't actually do them.

"They never worked out for me," he says. "But we wrap

(the hot dog) with the diet of a Shaolin Monk."

That would be the low-carb, seaweed-wrapped option. The other hot dogs come on hoagie-style rolls.

Koh may be the first undergrad to run his own food truck at Cal, but street food fever is taking over not only cities, but also college campuses from coast to coast. Schools in Southern California, Texas, Oregon and Washington have launched their own versions of Off the Grid street food fests, bringing fleets of food trucks on campus. A trio of students at Bowdoin College in Maine launched a food truck in February. And law students in Pennsylvania have begun holding workshops for anyone interested in starting a food truck business of their own.

There's no doubt that street food trucks are hot, says Matt Cohen, founder of Off the Grid, which hosts food truck gatherings in Berkeley, San Mateo and San Francisco. But most people who run trucks these days are line cooks or chefs who decided to go solo, or caterers looking to branch out. In other words, professionals.

"(But) the original nouveau food trucks were run by foodies," Cohen says. "They think, 'I'm going to start a restaurant!'"

Koh was one of those. He had dreamed of opening a restaurant someday, he says, "But because of the capital investment, I had to basically start off a little bit humble. I looked into street food."

Of course, it doesn't take a CPA to figure out that a food truck is significantly less expensive to launch than a bricks-and-mortar eatery. And if you take the secondhand food cart option, as Koh did, the costs drop even further, which makes it a viable option for an entrepreneurial foodie, especially one as intrepid as

Koh. Koh was just 16 when he decided he wanted to "explore the world." And the fact that he didn't speak any English didn't stop him from packing up and moving from his parents' home in Taiwan to San Mateo, where he set up house-keeping in an apartment his father keeps here and enrolled in high school. Nothing, he says, gets in the way of a dream.

But even Cohen is impressed that an undergrad took the plunge and that Koh managed to score one of Berkeley's, much-coveted, four-year contracts — Koh's runs through December 2015 — and that he put the whole deal together, bureaucratic red tape and all, while studying for final exams.

"That was a nightmare," Koh concedes.

Koh had filed for the permit last summer but hadn't bought the cart, finessed the menu or begun the protracted business of getting city, county and health department approval until he got the formal OK from the university. Which meant he had five weeks to do everything — while cramming for exams.

It probably helped, he says, that he didn't know what he was getting into, until he was up to his neck in it.

So, would he do it again?

"That's debatable," he says. "I'm enjoying it a lot, but I'd enjoy being a normal student, partying, going to Top Dog. There's definitely trade-offs, but it's made my life a lot more colorful."

Meanwhile, his parents have no clue that their globe-trotting son owns his own business now. They just think he's been really busy.

"My dream is they're going to come visit me for my graduation," he says. "I'll take them to the cart, and after they finish, I'll say, 'By the way, this is mine.'"



Student worker Ethan Cetina rigs a front loader operated by groundskeeper Gary DiPasquale outside of Fedor Hall on Wednesday. The crew removed old edging from around the shrubs and intends to install a new border. Gary DiPasquale said the crew was doing some general cleanup in an effort to "spruce up" the grounds prior to YSU's Summer Festival of the Arts, which will be held July 7 and 8. "We're trying to make it look more attractive to the eyes," said Dominic DiPasquale, another student worker who isn't pictured. Photo by Chris Cotelesse/The Jambar.

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Academic albatross

RELATED STORY
GRAD RATES, PAGE 1

The Jambar
EDITORIAL BOARD

Two-thirds of this editorial board still has a year left on an already prolonged education, but we're not exceptions. We seem to be the rule.

A similar majority of Youngstown State University's students fail to graduate within six years.

Our student-athletes' graduation rates are the lowest among Ohio's public universities, and they're still dramatically better than YSU's rates overall.

Of all students who enrolled in 2004, 42 percent have left the Ohio system completely.

So, what's the hold up?

The fear of increased student loan rates and rising tuition should encourage a punctual graduation, but it doesn't always.

In his campaign for president of the Student Government Association, Cory Okular proposed a first-year experience program that would pave a path to graduation for incoming students.

The university has talked about it for years.

Eligible students would report to an adviser and take advantage of tutoring services and study halls.

Some will say we're oversimplifying a complex program, but YSU already has most of the tools that make the jocks look smart.

The Center for Student Progress provides peer mentors for the asking. The Writing Center is open most days of the week.

If students want more, they should demonstrate a commitment. Let them sign up for these services in hordes.

Make the peer tutors and mentors around campus beg the university for a larger investment.

Student success will translate to higher retention and course completion rates, which determine state funding, and money equals leverage.

But incentives can't fix everything.

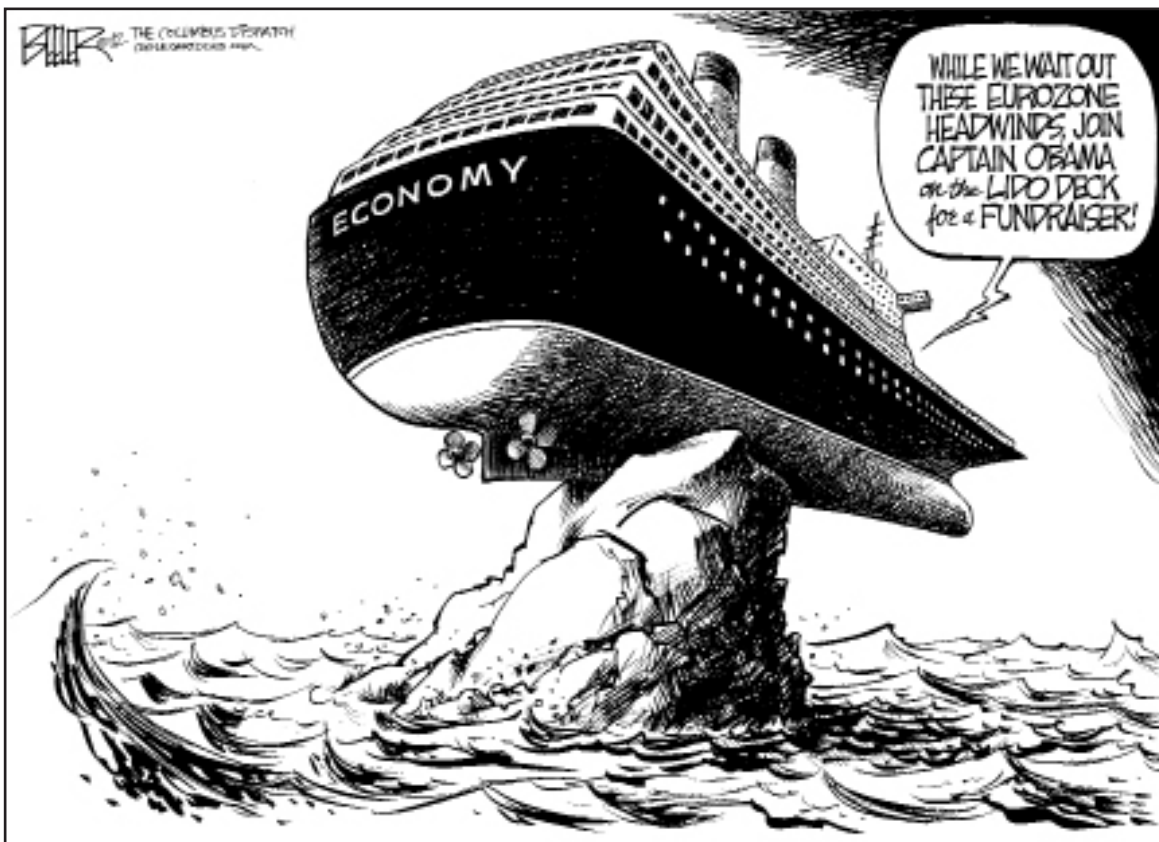
Many enroll at YSU without the skills necessary to benefit from higher education, and they waste thousands of dollars in the process.

Eastern Gateway Community College's consistent growth suggests that students want to take entry-level and general education courses with less risk and costs.

Now that YSU isn't the only game in town, the university should hasten a transition to academic standards for enrollment.

EGCC can build a foundation for students and then expedite them through the university's halls. Retention and course completion rates will increase even further.

Before demanding more opportunities, let's show we deserve them.



The views of this artist do not necessarily agree with those of The Jambar.

Congress' war on leaks

L.A. Times
(MCT)

An angry Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., is calling for a special prosecutor to investigate leaks he says are designed to portray President Obama as a strong leader on national security issues. Without going that far, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., the chairwoman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, says that recent leaks "endanger American lives and undermine America's national security."

She is proposing, among other things, that Congress provide "additional authorities and resources ... to identify and prosecute those who violate various federal laws and non-disclosure agreements by revealing highly classified information." Although she did not advocate prosecuting journalists, the senator probably spoke for many of her colleagues when she told CNN that part of the problem was that "we have an enormously smart

constituency of journalists ... who piece things together."

So far most of the outcry has been directed at the administration, not the media, but in similar controversies in the past, critics have not been so discerning. So we would urge Congress — and the administration — not to criminalize the reporting of information that may have come into the possession of the media because a government official was indiscreet.

It's understandable that McCain, Feinstein, Sen. John F. Kerry, D-Mass., and other members of Congress are disturbed by a New York Times story in which unnamed officials described how Obama directed cyber-attacks on Iran's nuclear program. That the United States and Israel had been targeting computers in Iran was widely suspected, but confirmation of the operation creates a diplomatic problem for the United States. (It seems less plausible that this and other recent disclosures — for example, that Obama was personally

involved in ordering U.S. drone attacks — threaten American lives.)

But it's also clear why the New York Times, having obtained information about the administration's actions, chose to publish it: to foster debate about what one of the paper's editors called "two significant, history-making programs ... the rise of cyber-warfare and the rise of drones."

There has evolved in this country an effective if sometimes untidy division of labor: Government may strive to keep information secret, but once the media have information about matters of public concern, they may share that information with readers without fear of prosecution. It may sound like special pleading for a newspaper to urge that the campaign against leaks stop at the reporter's door. But society as a whole benefits from public-spirited journalism that, in some cases, depends on the willingness of a government official to scale a wall of secrecy.

U.S. nuns have plenty of big brothers and sisters

Linda P. Campbell
(MCT)

It doesn't take a radical feminist insubordinate to recognize the chutzpah involved in a bunch of power-hungry old guys who live in a dysfunctional but opulent secret enclave in Rome stomping on thousands of American women who truly live the life of the Gospel.

Given the Vatican's myopic view of moral leadership — and the Roman Catholic Church hierarchy's sometimes conspicuous failure to exercise it — I find it astounding that officials whose own house is in disarray should be telling U.S. nuns that they're deviating from the holiness rules.

Apparently many other American Catholics feel the same way, marching, holding vigils, circulating petitions and launching Facebook pages to show the enforcers, from Pope Benedict XVI on down, that they won't let their sisters be bullied.

This all started after the Vatican issued a report in April giving a loud smack on the knuckles to the umbrella group that represents more than two-thirds of U.S. nuns. The Leadership Conference of Women Religious was scolded for having speakers at their gatherings whose unorthodox views on spirituality go far off track from church teachings; for focusing on social justice instead of stepping loudly into public debate about abortion and homosexuality; and essentially for not being sufficiently subservient to the U.S. bishops and their stands on volatile political issues.

An American archbishop was designated to oversee "reform" of the nuns' organization. Representatives of the organization are

supposed to travel to Rome soon to convey their objections in person.

The Leadership Conference last week called the Vatican's accusations "the result of a flawed process that lacked transparency" and said the report has "caused scandal and pain throughout the church community."

Here's what riles some of us ordinary Catholics, not to mention those of other beliefs: We hear of wayward priests and bishops, who are supposed to be celibate, having affairs and fathering children, sully the daily labors of many fine and earnest religious men and women. Yet, the message the Vatican really wants to emphasize is that devoting yourself to good works isn't enough if you aren't leading the charge against insurance subsidies for contraception or gay unions.

Sure, human sexuality raises many difficult moral dilemmas, but morality extends far beyond that. And the call to live a virtuous life involves myriad other ways in which we serve one another and allow our society to treat the least among us. The Leadership Conference is interested in issues such as shifting Pentagon spending to education and jobs programs; reforming immigration laws; improving health around the globe and preventing domestic violence and human trafficking.

When I think back to the nuns I knew in grade school, I can't imagine Sisters Francis Clare, Fidelis, Jane Marie, Julietta, Cordula or Mary Catherine, all Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, butting heads with the church hierarchy over conforming to doctrine. Of course, that was in the days when you could tell nuns by their habits, well before such "radical feminist" notions

as equality between women and men moved to the mainstream.

Like so many others before them and after, those nuns taught, served as role models and no doubt were strong-minded women in their own ways.

A couple of decades after those Catholic-school years, when my husband and I were befriended by Sister Theresa, who led the program at our Maryland church for adults becoming Catholics, we so admired her dedicated, thoughtful and realistic approach to living her faith that we asked her to be our daughter's godmother.

This distressing conflict between Rome and the nuns can only diminish the voice the church might bring to political discussion in this country. I don't always agree with the U.S. bishops — for instance, suing the Obama administration over insurance coverage for birth control seems misguided — but they can add important perspective to public debates over the death penalty, war and, yes, abortion.

If the church can't tolerate reasoned, rational internal debate, how can its leaders expect to be listened to in the public square?

On Monday, the Vatican warned Catholics away from a book by a nun who taught Christian ethics at Yale Divinity School because the text, published in 2006, doesn't sufficiently condemn masturbation, gay marriage and divorce.

Meanwhile, stranger-than-fiction swirls around the Vatican, with the pope's butler being suspected of leaking internal documents that suggest power struggles and Machiavellian schemes designed to control the eventual selection of Benedict's successor.

Is it any wonder that so many are standing with the sisters?

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.

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Penguin Club's scholarship golf outing celebrates 25 years

Alexis Burger
REPORTER

The Youngstown State University Penguin Club hosted the 25th annual scholarship golf outing on Wednesday at the Oak Tree Country Club in West Middlesex, Pa.

The event was created in memory of late men's basketball coach Bill Dailey.

Dailey was named as the program's head coach in 1987, but he passed away before his official takeover.

In the following year, the Penguin Club created the outing to help raise money for athletic scholarships.

Rick Love, associate director of athletics, said this year's outing was successful.

"Our main purpose is to raise as much money as we can for our student-athletes," Love said.

Participants consisted primarily of YSU alumni, local businesses and YSU fans. Approximately 136 golfers attended the event.

Participants were served lunch, various refreshments on the course and a dinner at the end of the 18 holes. Following the event, winners of both the scramble and vari-



Participants in the 25th annual Penguin Club scholarship golf outing help raise money for YSU student-athletes. Photo by Alexis Burger/The Jambar.

ous contests, including door prizes and raffles, were announced.

YSU's 18 head coaches helped with the event, and both the men's and women's golf teams were in attendance.

The golf outing was set up

as a scramble with four players on each team. A shotgun start commenced the event at noon, and it lasted around five and a half hours.

"The weather was just a postcard day," Love said. "We were completely sold out in

terms of participants, and we had a great response from companies who wanted to sponsor the tee signs."

In addition to organizing the scholarship golf outing, Love helps out with the Penguin Club's other two major

fundraisers: the Penguin Club Jamboree, which often features raffles and auctions, and the scholarship dinner, which includes the announcement of scholarship recipients and the annual Penguin of the Year.

Resources support incoming students' transition to YSU

Rose Bonilla
REPORTER

The Reading and Study Skills Center, located in Maag Library, and the Center for Student Progress, located in Kilcawley Center, provide students with academic assistance and help them during the shift from a high school to a university setting.

The R&SS Center offers courses that can help freshmen improve their basic college success skills, particularly those skills that are essential to college studying. Placement into these classes is based upon students' reading placement test scores.

"We probably service 1,500 students just doing that throughout a year," said Karen Becker, the R&SS Center's coordinator. "About a third of the freshman class usually tests into one of our classes."

Workshops, held throughout the year and on a variety of topics, are also available. In addition, informational handouts can be picked up from the R&SS Center, while students seeking additional help can be matched up with trained peer tutors for individual sessions. These peer tutors are often majoring in the subject that the student requests assistance with.

"We're more interested in getting you to figure out how to study and do

well in the class, rather than just going over concepts," Becker said.

Also available on campus is the Center for Student Progress, which provides individual intervention services, adult learner services, multicultural student services, student tutorial services and disability services, among others.

The center's first-year student services program, which focuses on university orientation and peer mentoring, can be helpful for freshmen.

Students often meet peer mentors, who also work as orientation leaders, during their SOAR — or Student Orientation, Advisement and Registration

— sessions.

"Sometimes there are things that students don't even know that they need to know to be successful in college, and that's really the focus of a peer mentor," said Karen Graves, assistant director of first-year student services. "We want them, first of all, just to know somebody on campus."

Jonelle Beatrice, CSP director, said peer-to-peer mentoring and sharing is often more effective than professional staff-to-peer mentoring or taking a class.

"It's that one-on-one connection with somebody their own age that really makes a difference," Beatrice said.

Theater studies preps students for future professions



Theater students prepare for a performance in spring 2011. YSU's theater and dance department boasts a nationally accredited theater studies program. Jambar file photo.

Shee Wai Wong
REPORTER

To Jacob McIntyre, the theater studies program is like a family.

McIntyre, a junior at Youngstown State University, said students within the program often receive a lot of individualized attention from their instructors.

"It is fortunate to have theater studies at YSU," he said.

Although McIntyre primarily studies design and technology, he said he had a new experience after taking a puppetry class last semester. His theater studies education, he said, has taught him versatility.

"Although I found acting challenging for me, I enjoy the acting classes I take," McIntyre said, referencing the range of theater studies experiences that he's been exposed to, thanks to the program.

"Acting isn't only performing in front of people, but also learning how to be a character and put your mind in another body."

Students enrolled in the program are required to learn skills for both front stage and back stage operations. They often work as actors; set, costume and prop designers; makeup artists and directors, among other roles involved in production.

"It's a general exposure to the total art of theater," said

Frank Castronovo, chairman of the department of theater and dance at YSU. "You have to learn everything."

Kaleigh Locketti, a senior who is pursuing theater studies, plans to graduate in the summer. Her dream is to be a comedian in Chicago — and she said YSU's program has prepared her well for this future career.

Castronovo said YSU is one of only a few hundred collegiate-level institutions across the country to offer a

nationally accredited theater studies program. YSU's program, he said, teaches students to market their skills to fit many fields.

"Theater studies opens doors for all kinds of professions," Castronovo said. "You have to learn how to build, sew, put on makeup, sell yourself on stage, show your personalities, speak in public, think creatively and work collaboratively."