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YSU students compete for national title



Penguin Power gathers to practice for Saturday's competition presentation. Pictured left to right: Ethan Parks, Mike Currao, Kalen Wallace, Jarrett Scacchetti, David Wright. Photo by Rachel Lundberg/The Jambar.

Rachel Lundberg
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Six engineering students will compete for the national title in the Green Energy Challenge in Las Vegas on Saturday.

The students, members of the student National Electrical Contractors Association chapter at Youngstown State University, placed in the top four with their written proposal in April. Each of the four teams that advanced will give a 15-minute presentation on Saturday, followed by a 10-minute Q-and-A session.

ELECTRI International and NECA kicked off the first Green Energy Challenge in 2009.

This will be YSU's third year participating in the competition, which takes place at the annual NECA conference. In 2011, the team placed second in San Diego, and in 2010, third in Boston.

"Students, they kind of have a competitive nature, and they enjoy this kind of thing," said Ted Bosela, adviser of NECA and a professor of electrical engineering.

Kalen Wallace, Jarrett Scacchetti, Mike Currao, Jason Nutt, Ethan Parks and David Wright were the main

contributors, and they will present the proposal.

Scacchetti, a senior electrical engineering major, has high hopes that the team, which has named itself Penguin Power, will win first place this year.

"I feel very confident this year that we will be able to achieve the success that we want," Scacchetti said.

The competition required a 50-page proposal for energy conservation in a campus building.

The students chose to assess the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor. Scacchetti said it is the only older building on cam-

pus that hasn't had a recent lighting upgrade, making it a prime target for reassessment.

"What's most enjoyable about it is you're taking the theory you learn in the classroom," Wright said. "This is a practical application of that theory."

Their proposal recommends upgrades to the building's lighting and mechanical systems, as well as other upgrades throughout the building, including mounting two wind turbines on the roof.

The cost to implement the primary proposal is estimated at

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YSU prepares for new gerontology program

Rachel Lundberg
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Youngstown State University is on the verge of offering the third Ohio master's degree in gerontology, the study of aging and its relationship to society.

Bowling Green State University and Miami University offer programs as well.

Since the implementation of the bachelor's degree in gerontology in 2009, a team of faculty members, headed by Daniel Van Dussen, an associate professor of sociology and anthropology, has been laying the groundwork for the next level.

Students who get a master's degree in gerontology fill leadership and research positions in the field.

The AARP website estimates that since 2011, 8,000 baby boomers have turned 65 every day, a trend that will continue until 2029.

"It's called job security; it's great," Van Dussen said of the aging baby boomers. "They're a lot different from their parents' generation, so their demands will be much greater and much different."

The program will be under YSU's institutional accreditation, but Van Dussen is working on a committee to apply individual program accreditation on the national level as well.

No such accreditation exists anywhere, and he hopes that when the outline and requirements for accreditation are finalized, YSU will be among the first university programs recognized.

Seven core faculty members helped develop the program, and Van Dussen said the program requires hiring one new professor to fill a tenure-track position.

Van Dussen said several current and past students have expressed interest in the upcoming program.

Cassandra Valentini, a long-term care ombudsman for Area Agency on Aging 11 Inc., decided not to pursue a graduate degree in the fall after graduating in May with a dual major in gerontology and social work. Now, she is looking into the option with a program so close to home.

"Being at YSU is something that makes it really appealing to me especially," Valentini said.

The master's degree in gerontology will be a two-year degree for full-time students and a three-year degree for part-time students. Two graduate assistantship positions will be offered in the program's beginning years, but Van Dussen said he hopes more will be added in the future.

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Kurtis Magnollo, master arborist, instructs a course on tree pruning and maintenance in the Idora neighborhood. Photo by Kevin Alquist/The Jambar.

Idora neighborhood celebrates turnaround

Kevin Alquist
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Two years ago, the Idora neighborhood on Youngstown's South Side was overrun with gangs and abandoned houses. The neighborhood's future was grim.

On Saturday, residents gathered for a pig roast on McFarland Avenue for Idorafest to celebrate the neighborhood's revitalization. In two years, the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation has demolished 91 houses in the three-by-15-block neighborhood.

"The gangs and drug houses were rubbing off on the neighborhood," said Steve Avery, a volunteer from the Tabernacle Evangelical Presbyterian Church. "As we've cleaned it up, it's had the same effect. The people that care are showing it."

Youngstown State University alumnus Jack Daugherty, who worked to clean up the neighborhood as an intern last summer, said he was thrilled to see the success of the second annual block party.

"There was a lot of blighted property and abandoned houses," Daugherty said. "That's all changed now. There's a whole new outlook on things in this neighborhood."

Jim London, president of the Idora Neighbor-

hood Association, said he's glad people care about the neighborhood again.

"It took a lot of determination and patience to get this neighborhood where it is at today," London said. "Any neighborhood can go and do what we've done here."

On Mineral Springs Avenue, on the other side of the Idora neighborhood, a group of roughly a dozen people gathered to learn about tree and shrub upkeep and garden care.

The YNDC hopes to establish community gardens on the empty lots where vacant houses once stood.

"We'd like to make the vacant land useful instead of letting it sit and rot," said Nick Celio, a coordinator for YNDC.

YSU graduate Lori Shelby is hoping to turn her internship with YNDC into a career.

Shelby worked a part-time job at St. Elizabeth Health Center, but knew it wasn't right for her. Her interest in urban agriculture and concern for hunger in the community brought her to YNDC.

"I'm ready to get my feet wet and my hands dirty in the community," Shelby said. "I've seen poverty and hunger on my own street, and I'd like to see us turn this around."

YNDC is planning three more workshops before the end of October. For more information call 330-480-0423.

Students celebrate steel anniversaries in labor museum



Doreen Moore, Jessica Dawson and Jonathan Kinkead, YSU grad students in Practicum in Applied History, present the "Forged in Battle" exhibit at the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor. Photo by Kevin Alquist/The Jambar.

Kevin Alquist
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

For class credit, Youngstown State University students reconstructed the 20th century steel strikes in Youngstown with two exhibits at the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor.

These exhibits were created as part of a two-part class titled Museum Curation and Interpretation, which taught students the basics of how a museum is presented and walked them through the development of

their presentations.

Graduate student Jessica Dawson spent the last academic year researching and creating an exhibit that represents steelworkers' struggles in the 20th century.

"In the first class, we learned about our primary role as museum professionals, which is to present artifacts and information, to interpret, educate and provoke thought in the museumgoer's mind," Dawson said.

In the second part of the class, students were divided into two groups, and each group put together the exhibit

its that turned into "Forged in Battle" and "Warren 100," which researched the Warren steel mill's variety of ups, downs and ownership shifts over its century of existence.

These two exhibits, created by current and former YSU graduate students in the spring, were displayed as part of last week's commemoration of two major historical events: the 35th anniversary of Black Monday and the 75th anniversary of the Little Steel Strike.

"A lot of research goes into what you read on the banners," Dawson said. "There is so much information to pick from

to accurately tell the story to the viewers without making them feel overwhelmed with information."

The exhibits were featured along with the introduction of "Labor and New Deal Art" at the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor on Thursday.

The two-day event featured speeches from authors, historians and scholars to go along with the two exhibits, which have been on display since May.

"It's great to inform people about something that was so important to the region and its

history," said Clayton Ruminiski, an applied history student who worked on the project.

Donna DeBlasio, a professor of history at YSU who helped the students put their work on display, said she was happy to see people turn out to see the museum.

"A lot of people don't even know the museum is down here," DeBlasio said. "It means a lot to [the students] for people to see their work on display."

The exhibits will be on display in the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor until Nov. 15.

Palardy attempts to revamp minor

Kacy Standohar
NEWS EDITOR

Diana Palardy, interim director of women's studies, said bringing students into the women's studies minor has been challenging.

Under the new general education requirements, the coursework is 18 credit hours in classes such as Introduction to Women's Studies, Human Sexuality, Feminist Philosophy and Women in Literature.

Palardy said the women's studies minor is complementary to many other majors such as English, social work and history.

"What is really neat is there are such a wide variety of courses," Palardy said. "You think about all the different subjects that are out there, and you can see the angle of it from a woman's perspective."

Palardy, whose term as interim director began this fall, and affiliated faculty members are trying to inform students about the benefits of minoring in women's studies.

Palardy said a few structural errors such as faculty retirement have prevented some people from registering for classes in the minor.

She said after faculty retired, it took some time to find instructors to teach particular classes, and registration suffered.

"But I wouldn't say it is a lack of interest," Palardy said. "I am trying to get it going back on track and get people excited. They don't know enough about the program yet, or some people don't know it exists."

YSU does not track how many students enroll in each of the minors, and Julia Gergits, English department chair, said without those numbers, it is difficult to gauge a program's effectiveness.

"All of the programs need to demonstrate their usefulness, but right now, it's a technical error with no evidence," Gergits said.

Student interest in women's studies wasn't always as tepid. The discipline once warranted a Women's Center in Kilcawley Center where the Student Government Association office is today.

"It was a counseling center that dealt with specific women's issues, such as child-raising, women coping on campus, mother management and career opportunities," Gergits said. "However, the women's studies department and the Women's Center were separate things."

Gergits said Palardy and the affiliated faculty members are trying to expand the program to a minor in gender studies.

However, any changes that are made need to pass through the curriculum and programs committees.

"I have been working so hard to get this minor off the ground, and every time I talk to people, they say, 'This sounds great,' or, 'This sounds like something I would be interested in,'" Palardy said. "But they just don't know enough about it. I at least want to start getting a lot of energy going and a lot of interest drummed up."

Palardy said she wants to find out what other courses would be appealing to students. She said one student inquired as to why there isn't a men's studies minor.

"I wanted to say to him that everything around you is men's studies. This is the only place. All of those other areas you think of, for example, political science, the default is always men," she said. "Obviously, you can study women in political science, but it's in a different area."

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approximately \$100,000, but with a yearly savings in energy costs of around \$50,000.

"A big part of being green isn't really alternative energy; it's using more efficient systems," Scacchetti said.

The Mahoning Valley NECA chapter, along with the YSU Student Government Association and the national NECA organization, contributed funding to send the nine students who are attending the conference to

Las Vegas.

Wright said the chapter spent a few hundred man-hours between 12 to 14 people working on this year's project. During the YSU NECA chapter's first year competing, four students participated in the competition.

"We had a real small student chapter, and it just kind of snowballed from there," Wright said.

The YSU NECA chapter has been mostly consumed

with the Green Energy Challenge since its inception, but members have also attended a code seminar and hosted an energy-saving ideas competition.

Members of Penguin Power, along with competing and attending conference seminars, hope to do some sightseeing while in Sin City.

"Vegas is Vegas," Scacchetti said. "What better way to celebrate a potential victory than being in such a big area?"

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NEWS BRIEFS

Dancer visits campus

Renee E. D' Aoust will read excerpts from her new book, "Body of a Dancer," in the McDonough Museum of Art at 7 p.m. Thursday. The book includes personal accounts of D'Aoust's experiences as a student of Martha Graham Dance, as well as the trials and tribulations that come with being a dancer in New York City. The reading is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Phil Brady, a professor of English, at psbrady@gmail.com or 330-941-1952.

YSU athletics unveils new fan program

The athletics department recently launched a social media fan engagement program that lets YSU supporters show their spirit. Through this new program, fans can receive points for participating in social media activities such as "liking" Facebook posts, tweeting hashtags and watching a YouTube video. The program tracks overall point leaders, athletics lenders and individual team leaders, and fans can sign up for special promotions, coupons or become the Fan of the Week on team Facebook pages. There will also be grand prizes, giveaways and special fan experiences. Sign up for the program at <http://www.penguinpoints.com>.



POLICE BRIEFS

Suspended driver gets caught

A patrol officer followed a white Chevrolet whose driver is a "suspended operator" and stopped him on the Oak Street bridge. The driver knew his license was suspended, but he didn't have any other form of transportation to YSU for class. The car was also uninsured; it was impounded and placed on court hold. The driver was issued a citation for driving under financial responsibility act suspension.

Threats of physical abuse come knocking

A Lyden House resident reported that she was afraid to leave her dorm because two males were knocking on her door, threatening her with physical abuse. One of the students told her that he was going to get his sisters to beat her up. Both the victim and a witness wrote statements that the threats were given.

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Valentini said she looks forward to the program as a step to reach her eventual goal of teaching courses in geriatric social work.

"This is going to be the future, and [people] need to start thinking about it," Valentini said.

Faculty members tailored the program to draw students from both inside and outside YSU's traditional targeted recruitment area.

Since the proposal's completion, it has passed through all the necessary channels and now has only to pass the Ohio Board of Regents.

YSU will post applications for the program for fall of 2013 as soon as possible.

Van Dussen said the master's program at YSU will have a different focus than programs at Miami or Bowling Green. Programs that are too similar to other schools in the state, especially those nearby, are often rejected in earlier stages. YSU will focus on study and research in health and aging.

"We do play very nicely with those other universities," Van Dussen said.

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Beauty & THE BEATS

Freshman Roberta Cykon poses in her pageant wear. She isn't involved in pageantry, but uses it as a fun way to symbolize inner beauty in her Integrity Beauty Women of Excellence group. Photo Courtesy of Roberta Cykon.

Academic adviser Justin Edwards practices his guitar in his office at Youngstown State University. He sings and plays piano in his band, Neon Avenue. Photo by Ashley Morris/The Jambar.

Turning pain into purpose

Marissa McIntyre
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

In 2005, Roberta Cykon looked into her dying grandmother's eyes for one last time. At just 32 years old, she began thinking about her own last moments on earth and whether anyone would be there with her.

She had been visiting her grandmother at Washington Square Healthcare Center in Warren since she was admitted in March 2004. Cykon said that while she was visiting her grandmother, she would notice that several other residents didn't get many visitors.

A request gave her a way to connect with these residents.

"Before my grandmother died, she asked me to keep coming back, and I've been visiting ever since," Cykon said.

She began visiting residents within a week of her grandmother dying from a long battle with brain and lung cancer.

Cykon began building relationships with the residents and their families. One of the women she visited was Helen Lucille Albert.

"I never expected this visit to change my life forever," Cykon said.

She said Albert instilled values that she had never gotten as a young woman. Cykon said Albert helped her realize she could take the pain and anger of her past and turn it into purpose. She also taught her the importance of helping others — even if it's something as little as picking up someone's dropped pen.

They both shared a passion for changing the world through the love of God.

But it wasn't long before Cykon would lose another loved one. Albert died in September 2009.

Albert did, however, live long enough to see Cykon establish the Integrity Beauty Women of Excellence program in her honor.

The idea behind the program is for women to share their stories with hopes of inspiring others and helping women see their own inner beauty shine. As a fun way to symbolize inner beauty, they wear pageant-style crowns and sashes.

Cykon said she relates to young women who may be going through tough times. She spent her teens in children services, and also went through a phase of promiscuity and self-mutilation. Cykon said she felt like she had no purpose.

The group has allowed her to share her story locally and connect with younger women in need of a mentor.

Tiara Magazine, a beauty pageant

magazine, received and published a story Cykon wrote about her interactions with Albert. In September, the magazine named Cykon the 2012 Inspiring Woman of the Year.

"This was a total honor and was not expected at all," Cykon said.

Since enrolling at Youngstown State University in the fall of 2011, she has been trying to start a campus group with similar intentions but still needs to find an adviser.

Cykon said wearing the pageant attire wouldn't be mandatory, and men would be welcome as well.

"I want to give people an opportunity to talk about their stories and help others see that you are worthwhile and valuable where you are right now. When I was younger, I never realized that. So, I want to turn pain into purpose," Cykon said.

Being a nontraditional student who will celebrate her 40th birthday in March, Cykon has created friendships with several traditional students and calls them her kids.

Heather Tabor, a freshman special education and art education major, said she met Cykon in one of their first classes together.

Another student was bullying Cykon when Tabor started sticking up for her and began sitting with her. Tabor said she would like to see this group start on campus.

"Everyone is beautiful in their own way. Especially ones who get picked on," Tabor said.

She said meeting Cykon has been a blessing because it's nice having someone to look up to on campus.

"I love her; she's my mommy," Tabor said.

Becca Ball is another YSU student who would like to see Cykon's campus group take off.

Ball met Cykon when Cykon sat in the wrong classroom and asked her for a pen.

"We started just talking about our majors, and we got to be really close," Ball said. "She is definitely a mother figure. She calls me her baby."

Ball said they try to meet at least once a week for lunch and would like to see the campus group become a reality.

"We all have something that we can learn from someone else's story," Ball said.

And Cykon hopes to share that story with as many people as she can.

"I just try to treat others how I would like to be treated. When I was younger, I didn't have a mentor," Cykon said. "I just want everyone to have a place where they can speak openly and without judgment."

Adviser lives rock and roll fantasy

Ashley Morris
REPORTER

Justin Edwards, an academic adviser at Youngstown State University, has a paramount passion for music, which he has used to express his life since he was a child.

Edwards is the lead singer and pianist of Neon Avenue, a progressive indie rock group stationed in Youngstown. Although he is taking a break from the band to work on his songwriting, he said the group began in order to relieve the stress of today's fast-paced society.

"We live in such a technological world," Edwards said. "There really isn't a lot of time to relax."

However, the purpose for Neon Avenue ran a lot deeper than just relaxation. For Edwards, it was more about personal discovery and emotional release.

"I think Neon Avenue is the last step to getting to where I am now," Edwards said. "I've always been interested in discovering more and more."

Neon Avenue played around the Youngstown, Poland and Boardman areas and has also done charity events

like Relay for Life.

"Music was one of the easiest ways I knew how to give back growing up," Edwards said.

The son of two former music professors at YSU, Edwards was exposed to many kinds of music. From a young age, he was taught the Suzuki method, which teaches children how to rapidly memorize music.

"I would say this is why I was able to get through high school so quickly and where my interest in music began," Edwards said.

Edwards graduated from high school at age 16. At 21, he is already an academic adviser in the YSU College of Fine and Performing Arts.

Edwards has taken inspiration from all types of musical artists such as Fall Out Boy, Jimi Hendrix and Fun. Primarily, he has taken inspiration from the artist Jason Mraz.

He said his passion for music motivates him to help other children unearth their own love of music with the Rotaract Club, a rotary club Edwards recently created to combine a love for music with community service.

"I think it's very important to inspire kids at a young age," Edwards said.

YO CALENDAR

TUESDAY	THURSDAY
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Yoga Tuesday, 6 p.m. Fellows Riverside Gardens \$10	Swing Night Thursday, 10 p.m. Cedars Lounge
YSU Soccer vs. Cedarville University Tuesday, 7 p.m. Beede Field	FRIDAY
Ultimate Karaoke Tuesday, 9 p.m. Utopia	Carl Severino Friday, 4 p.m. Bill's Place
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Two Buck Blowout Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. Skate Zone	Ovation Friday, 9 p.m. The Fireplace
Tai Chi Step One Wednesday, noon Fellows Riverside Gardens \$10	SATURDAY
Electric Elegance Karaoke Wednesday, 9:30 p.m. The Reef	Ride for Hunger Saturday, 11 a.m. Watson and Tressel Training Site
	YSU Volleyball vs. Loyola University Chicago Saturday, 4 p.m. Beeghly Center

We love the ladies

RELATED STORY
MINOR, PAGE 2

This election is about the future. The economy's future. Entitlement programs' futures.

But it's also about the future of the enduring struggle for true equality for women. Even with the strides women have made since winning the vote, women's studies programs like the one at YSU are even more important today.

Sure, women have the promise of every opportunity a man has, but they still lag behind in average salary. We've yet to see a woman president. Only four women have ever sat on the Supreme Court.

Despite the Constitutionally guaranteed rights provided for women, some conservative politicians want to interfere with the most intimate decision a woman could make: the right to choose what to do with her body.

Todd Aiken, a candidate for the U.S. Senate, recently argued against abortion on the grounds that rape rarely results in pregnancy.

"If it's a legitimate rape, the female body has ways to try to shut that whole thing down," he said.

As of July, Virginia state law requires any woman seeking an abortion to get an ultrasound.

And then there was that whole Sandra Fluke deal. The Republican Party bullied President Barack Obama into exempting religiously affiliated employers from covering contraceptive costs.

These offenses to autonomy reach bureaucratic hands into the personal lives of every American — man or woman — and negate conservative notions of personal responsibility.

Don't politicians have better things to legislate?

Congress has wasted countless hours deliberating over abortion, contraception and other women's issues, but they're more than three years late on passing a federal budget.

Taking six classes for a minor in women's studies won't solve the problem, but hopefully we'll create a more enlightened student body.

JAMBAR POLICY

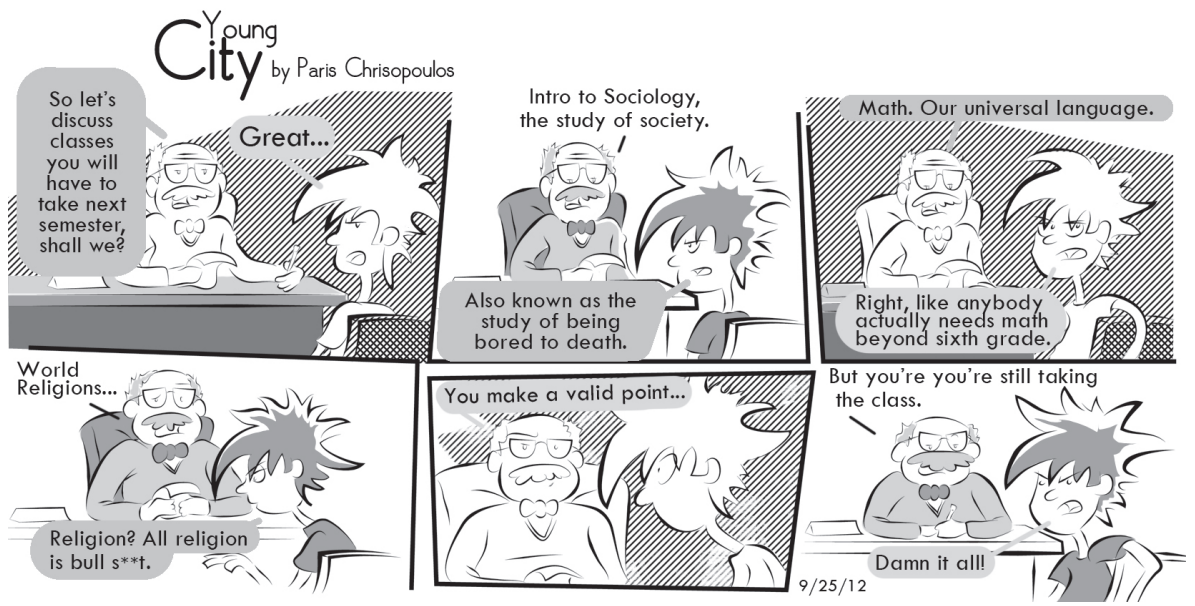
Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Collegiate Press honors. The Jambar is published twice weekly during the fall and spring semesters and weekly during the first summer session. Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. The first copy of The Jambar is 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 senior copy 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. Submissions are welcome at thejambar@gmail.com or by following the "Submit a Letter" link on 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, along with the writer's city of residence for printing. The Jambar does not withhold the names of guest commentators. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. Letters will not be rejected based on the views expressed in them. The editorial board reserves the right to reject commentaries and letters if they are not relevant to our readers, seek free publicity, fail to defend opinion with facts from reliable sources or if the editorial staff decides that the subject has been sufficiently aired. The editorial board will request a rewrite from the submitting writer based on these requirements. The Jambar will not print letters that are libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. 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 YSU.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The growth in graduate enrollment peaked nationally in the fall of 2010 due to "The Great Recession" of 2009. This fall enrollment has declined when compared to the fall of 2011 because of the increasing but slow improvement in the job markets, which started in the summer of 2010. The consensus is that many bachelor's degree holders who graduated in 2011/2012 were lucky to emerge from their studies into an economic environment that was less chilly in terms of employment. However, even with the Fed's recent effort to inject more money into the economy in order to boost spending, output and hiring through QE3 (Quantitative Easing, round 3) policy, many economists still believe that the economy is unlikely any time soon to grow enough jobs to catch up with the growing population and the sheer volume of bachelor's degree holders.

Students graduating during this academic year should therefore expect to remain unemployed much longer. If you want to benefit from the promise of upward career mobility, you should seriously consider pursuing a master's degree and all the more so because "more employers are now shifting their sights to graduate-level applicants" ("A Bachelor's Degree May Not Be Enough"). And why not consider a master's degree in economics here at YSU? The fact that all of our graduates in the past

five years are today gainfully employed or pursuing a doctorate attests to the quality of our program.

Our M.A. program offers two elective tracks for specialization: M.A. in economics and M.A. in financial economics. Both tracks emphasize applied economics. The benefits of earning a master's degree in economics or financial economics are vast and worth considering. You will learn a wide array of both subject-specific and transferable skills, including:

•**Problem-solving skills:** Students learn to use economic reasoning to extract relevant information, draw meaningful conclusions and make logical recommendations while noting their implications (societal and political) for the wider society.

•**Analytical skills:** Students learn to analyze various research methods, become adept in handling complex economic data by applying econometric (statistical and mathematical) analysis methods, and learn to use statistical evidence to evaluate government policy and to assess the performance of the domestic economy as well as the economies of the world at large.

•**Computing skills:** Students use of specialized software programs to analyze economic data. Our faculty members are quite proficient in the use SAS, STATA, SPSS and EVEWS. These are the top-tier software programs that are widely used in industries and governments globally.

•**Communication skills:** Every student is required to do a research project and present the findings in a seminar attended by faculty members, fellow graduate students and other invited guests, including the student's family members. Students are also encouraged to present their paper at national economic conferences with financial support from the department and YSU.

These skills are highly sought after by many employers who now only consider master's degree holders for entry-level jobs. Since they are transferable, individuals currently employed in finance, real estate, marketing or as economic data analysts in the public and private sectors who seek upward career mobility can also achieve their dream by pursuing the M.A. degree in economics or financial economics on a part-time basis. Our schedule of classes is quite flexible to accommodate part-time students. Our program boasts a diverse body of graduate students from many universities — domestic and overseas. Financial assistance is awarded mostly on the basis of merit and need. We welcome inquiries from economics and non-economics majors including business, mathematics and engineering.

*Ebenge Usip
Professor and Director
of Graduate Program in
Economics at YSU*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I would like to address a few of the points made in two editorials published in your newspaper last week. In regards to the first, the title of which I would rather not repeat, I would like to agree with the writers' opinion that the human right to "disseminate information" is sacred.

In a journalistic endeavor, however, the distinction should always be made between true information and false information. Although your statements were made in an opinion article, there is a difference between an informed opinion and a statement made without any foundation.

Firstly, Muhammad is not a "false god" for Muslims — neither is he a god for that matter. He is considered a beloved human being and a messenger of the same God as Abraham, Moses and Jesus.

Your paper tried to correct itself in its second editorial entitled "Rewrite." Although you make the distinction between God (Allah) and Muhammad, you claim that all religious figures have been "invented and discarded in human history." I won't say too much on the subject, but there is a vibrant and diverse faith community of Christians, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews, Baha'is, Muslims and others in this community that would disagree with you.

The events that led to the death of Chris Stevens, the U.S. ambassador to Libya, were a tragedy and not representative of all Muslims. Violence, no matter how angry you are, is not right in any religion. By killing an innocent man, the mob in Libya did more to offend the prophet Muhammad's legacy than any silly film could.

At a time when a family is grieving and suspicion falls on

Muslim-Americans half a world away from the events in Libya, why do you find it appropriate to mock faith?

I, as a Muslim, do not necessarily think it is a big deal when an ignorant person calls Muhammad a false god. The most offensive thing about the editorial was its inaccuracy. You have offended me less than you have offended your journalistic "god" of truth.

*Jessica Valsi
President, Muslim Student
Association
Vice President, Interfaith
Youthcore of YSU*

*Cary Dabney
President, Interfaith Youthcore
of YSU
Vice President, Sigma Chi Fraternity,
Eta Chi Chapter*

Protests about more than film

The Philadelphia Inquirer (MCT)

Demonstrations to protest a film made in America that portrays the prophet Muhammad as a womanizing child abuser had spread to at least 20 countries by Monday.

But in the United States, both major-party presidential candidates retreated from the subject rather than risk saying anything that might cost them votes. It's good they did. The issue is too important to be distorted by sound bites in a political campaign.

The number of protests has grown daily in the week since John Christopher Stevens, the U.S. ambassador to Libya, and three other embassy workers, were killed in an attack on the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi. The attack was apparently sparked by an anti-Muslim video posted on YouTube.

Experts debated whether jihadists used the video to whip up the anti-American frenzy in Libya that left Stevens dead. Ensnuing protests in Afghanistan, Indonesia, Sudan, Tu-

nisia, Lebanon, and other countries were more clearly about the video. "I thought it was my duty as a Muslim to condemn those who made this film," a protester in Kabul said.

The protests are a reminder to Americans that people in other countries have a hard time grasping that freedom of speech here allows individuals to make statements that do not reflect the government's position. To the protesters, a video from the United States must have been approved by the U.S. government.

Getting them to see the situation differently requires a lengthy educational process that began years ago and will likely take years to bear fruit, if ever, given the anti-U.S. diet they are fed daily by Islamists who thrive when the masses they preach to are ignorant of the truth.

The video protests in Muslim nations suggest that much of the goodwill President Obama tried to sow with his 2009 Cairo speech has been uprooted. "Just as Muslims do not fit a crude stereotype, America is not the crude stereotype of a self-interested empire," Obama said three years ago.

That's the same speech that is derisively referred to by Obama's conservative foes now as having been made on his "apology tour." Their politically calculated rhetoric makes it even harder to convince Muslims that a video that vilifies their religion's most important deity doesn't represent this country's official view.

Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney made a political calculation, too, when he prematurely criticized Obama's Mideast policies as having led to the murder of Stevens. Romney's statement came at a time when the country craved unity, not division — at least for a moment.

As Republican challenger Ronald Reagan said when President Carter was trying to handle the Iran hostage crisis during their 1980 election campaign, "This is a difficult day for all Americans ... when words should be few and confined essentially to our prayers."

A political campaign is unlikely to provide a solution to the anti-American sentiment in Muslim countries. There's no magic formula to make people who distrust this nation suddenly change their minds.



Road warriors YSU excited to return home

Steve Wilaj
SPORTS EDITOR

Since its season began on Aug. 24, the Youngstown State University volleyball team has been forced to cope with long bus rides, hotel rooms and unfamiliar gymnasiums.

Over the past five weekends, the Penguins have played 15 of their first 16 matches on the road.

So when YSU, 10-6, hosts the University of Illinois at Chicago on Friday and Loyola University Chicago on Saturday at Beeghly Center, the team will enjoy a little home cooking.

"Oh my gosh, we're so happy," sophomore middle blocker Shannon Watson said. "Just being on the road for so long and all the long road trips, it's awesome to come back."

First-year head volleyball coach Mark Hardaway agrees with Watson's excitement.

"Five weekends on the road is very tough on the student-athletes physically, mentally and with classes," Hardaway said. "It'll be good to get back to a home crowd."

While the weekend matches against the Flames (8-8) and the Ramblers (9-6) will open home Horizon League play for the Penguins, they began their road HL schedule this past weekend.

Against the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, YSU

lost 3-1. They also fell in five sets, 3-2, against the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

"We struggled with Milwaukee, but against Green Bay we definitely played with them," said Alexis Egler, a sophomore outside hitter. "We just had a hard time pushing through at the end."

Though the Penguins don't want to disregard their 10-4 non-conference record, Hardaway said conference play is a new beginning.

"Once you start conference play, the records reset," he said. "You can throw all the stats out the window, because this is really the part of the season that we work for."

Hardaway added that the current 0-2 conference record makes the upcoming weekend extremely important for YSU. But while their HL record is negative, Egler said the Penguins' confidence level is not.

"We're pretty confident," she said. "We just know we have to work hard again and just keep pushing through. We know we have the talent this year."

Another difference from last season for YSU is the amount of success the team has already had. With 10 victories, the Penguins surpassed the win total of the past two seasons combined.

"I think he changed the overall attitude in the gym and the energy," Watson said of Hardaway's influence. "He knows how to teach us, compared to last year."

Still, the Penguins are not content with the improved record.

"It's just about continuing doing what we've been



Alexis Egler (2), sets the ball as Casey D'Ambrose (11) and Jackie Carlisle (23) look on. The Penguins return home Friday and Saturday against Horizon League opponents UIC and LUC. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

doing and staying with the game plan," Hardaway said. "The team's done a good job of buying in long term, and I think we gotta keep pushing that because we know that will be successful."

Friday's match begins at 7 p.m., while Saturday's match will start at 4 p.m.

"We're going against teams that we know that we can beat," Watson said. "These are games that we know we need to win to get into the [Horizon League] tournament. I think we're going to be fueling off the past two losses from last week."

Penguins continue to chip away

Cory Bartek
SPORTS REPORTER

Through its first two matches, the Youngstown State University men's golf team has already hit a high and a low.

After winning the Colgate Invitational for their first tournament victory since 1999, the Penguins finished ninth out of 10 teams in the John Piper Intercollegiate, hosted by Bowling Green State University.

With the split results, a common word among the squad is "consistency."

"We need to play consistently day in and day out and shoot some scores that can help the team," junior Mark Olbrych said.

On Sept. 8-9, YSU placed first out of nine teams at the Colgate Invitational, which took place in Hamilton, N.Y. The Penguins shot a two-round score of 598 to earn a 10-stroke victory.

It was the first tournament championship for the team since March of 1999 when they won the Eastern Kentucky Spring Invitational. Redshirt freshman Bill Gaffney was a medalist of the tournament, winning by seven strokes and shooting a two-round score of 143 (71-72).

The Penguins also had two other members finish in the top five of the tournament. Junior Trevor Jones finished with a score of 150, tying him for second place, while sophomore Bryan Yeo finished with a score of 151, tying him for fifth place.

Tony Joy, who is enter-

ing his 29th season as head coach, was pleased with how the team played.

"It was really nice to win," Joy said. "We played so well on a great golf course."

The tournament was the first time YSU played in the Colgate Invitational.

"I chose a tournament where the competition level would be equal," Joy said.

Joy boasted a young lineup in the season-opener: three freshman, a sophomore and two juniors.

One of the freshmen, Gaffney, shot exceptionally well.

"He's from the Buffalo area, and he's a long hitter with a lot of talent," Joy said. "He sat last year but came back this year and has been playing really great."

Joy said the promise his young group showed is encouraging.

"Players who can go out and play great individually really help the team play better and compete," he said. "We've beaten a lot of great teams, but to go out and win the tourney is very encouraging."

However, at the John Piper Intercollegiate, YSU took a step in the other direction.

The Penguins struggled, finishing ninth out of 10 teams and shooting a three-round score of 929.

Olbrych said team members will try to fix their mistakes by pushing one another at practice.

"Going against strong competition in practice only makes us more prepared for the tournaments," he said. "We all hit the ball pretty good, but we needed to hole some putts early on to get our confidence going."

And while Olbrych knows



Junior Mark Olbrych follows through his swing during a recent tournament. Olbrych and the men's golf team won its first tournament championship since 1999. Photo courtesy of YSU Sports Information.

that focusing on the current year is the main priority, he also realizes the team is youthful.

"It's really nice to know you have pretty much two full years left to play with these same guys," Olbrych said.

As for Joy, he has been in the golf business for all of his adult life and has coached at YSU for nearly three decades.

"I really enjoy it," he said. "It keeps me young and is very rewarding."

Joy said he plans to continue to coach as long as he can keep relating to the kids and would love to reach his goal before he retires.

I want to win the Horizon League Championships, get an automatic bid to the regionals and get a team to the NCAA tournament," he said.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Volleyball opens league play at Milwaukee

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee defeated the YSU volleyball team — 23-25, 25-17, 25-15, 25-21 — on Friday at the Kotsche Center; the game was the Horizon League opener for both schools. Four Milwaukee players finished with at least 11 kills, and the team hit .305. Missy Hundelt led the Penguins with 14 kills, and Shannon Watson had 10. Alexis Egler finished with 14 digs, while Jenna Cavanaugh had four kills in the final set and five blocks for the match. YSU will play at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay on Saturday at 5 p.m.

Men's basketball to appear seven times on ESPN

The Horizon League and ESPN recently announced that YSU will appear on the men's basketball television package. The Penguins will open the 16-game ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU slate when they play the University of Georgia on Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. YSU will appear five times on ESPN3.com: at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay on Jan. 17, versus Cleveland State University on Jan. 26, versus Valparaiso University on Jan. 30, versus Green Bay on Feb. 17 and at Wright State University on March 2. The University of Detroit Mercy matchup on Feb. 1 will appear on ESPNU/ESPN3.com as a wildcard game. The HL Network has selected the Jan. 26 and the March 2 games as HLN Games of the Week. In addition, HL teams will be featured on the ESPN network's BracketBusters weekend, Feb. 22-24. The network will also cover the HL tournament second round (March 8), semifinals (March 9) and championship game (March 12).

FOOTBALL RANKINGS

- 1 North Dakota State*
- 2 Montana State
- 3 Youngstown State
- 4 Old Dominion
- 5 Wofford
- 6 James Madison
- 7 Eastern Washington
- 8 Delaware
- 9 Georgia Southern
- 10 Sam Houston State
- 11 Lehigh
- 12 Illinois State*
- 13 Towson
- 14 Central Arkansas
- 15 The Citadel
- 16 Appalachian State
- 17 Northern Iowa
- 18 Stony Brook
- 19 Eastern Kentucky
- 20 Montana
- 21 McNeese State
- 22 New Hampshire
- 23 Cal Poly
- 24 Harvard
- 25 Samford

*Upcoming YSU opponents