



4
Dream Big



Tonoli Talk 5

PICKING THE NEXT GREAT OHIOAN



JACK WARNER



CLARENCE DARROW



NATHANIEL JONES



MARY ANN CAMPANA

GRAIG GRAZIOSI
flmcm@gmail.com

What makes a great Ohioan? Since 2003, Ohioans of historical significance have received the Great Ohioan Award, an accolade presented annually by the Capitol Square Foundation. So far, only one award winner has come from the Mahoning Valley.

The Capitol Square Foundation, established to promote public awareness and engagement at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus, created the award to commemorate historically significant Ohioans who participated in events that would leave a lasting legacy on the state, country or world. In its principal year, Ohio pioneers of aviation were commemorated, with awards given to the Wright Brothers and astronauts John Glenn and Neil Armstrong.

The criteria for nomination of a figure requires that the individual have lived in Ohio

for at least five years, and that the event for which they're being commemorated took place at least 25 years prior to their nomination. Notable inductees include president William Howard Taft, Civil War general and president Ulysses S. Grant, western legend Annie Oakley, celebrated baseball pitcher Denton "Cy" Young, Olympic runner Jesse Owens and inventor Thomas Edison.

Harriet Taylor Upton, a prominent figure in securing Ohio women's right to vote, is the only local inductee. Upton was born in Ravenna and lived in Warren for most of her life. She eventually would become the treasurer of the National Woman's Suffrage Association and was the first woman to serve as the vice chairman of the executive committee of the Republican National Committee.

The nomination period for the Great Ohioan Award is open during the entire month of November, and in the interest of seeing more representation of Mahoning Valley, Youngstown

State University history faculty weighed in on local historical figures they believed would warrant the award.

When posed with the question of what significant Ohioan should receive the distinction, Diane Barnes, professor of history and co-director for the Center for Working Class Studies, was quick to throw a name into the ring.

"Clarence Darrow," Barnes said.

Clarence Darrow

Darrow was an American Civil Liberties Union lawyer who opposed William Jennings Bryan during the Scopes "Monkey" Trial, a trial that tested a Tennessee ban on teaching evolution in classrooms.

Nicole Marino, the AmeriCorps Ohio History Service liaison to YSU, believes Darrow's cunning made him a formidable foe for Bryan, the well-regarded orator, but also makes him a viable candidate for the Great Ohioan award.

"He knew he wouldn't win,

and he didn't want to. He wanted the case to get appealed to a higher court where it stood a better chance at a ruling against the ban," Marino said. "He knew that Bryan was a famous and well-regarded orator, and knew if he had the chance to make a closing speech, it would hurt his chances with the jury and would be spread by the media nationwide, so, knowing state law, Darrow just said 'nope' to giving a closing speech. State law said if one lawyer didn't give a closing speech, neither could. This stopped Bryan for his big speech ... it just goes to show the high level of thinking that went into Darrow's strategies. He was a big picture guy."

Donna DeBlasio, YSU professor of history, offered her own opinions on deserving Ohioans of note.

Bishop James Malone

"Bishop [James] Malone was instrumental, along with Rabbi [Sidney] Berkowitz, in

the movement to buy a local steel mill to save jobs during the mill closures," DeBlasio said. "He was a huge proponent for the working class."

Malone, a native of Youngstown, became a bishop at only 40 years old, and was a prominent figure in labor movements during his time with the diocese.

The Warner Brothers

With a legacy that needs no introduction, the brothers themselves, Harry, Albert, Sam and Jack, spent much of their youth in Youngstown. The DeYor Performing Arts Center was once known as the Warner Theatre, a theater operating in the then-successful Warner brother's chain.

The Warner brothers would eventually go on to found Warner Brother's Studios, a staple in the entertainment industry to this day.

**OHIOAN
PAGE 2**

YSU Reaches Out to Underprivileged Students Through iExcel

JEFF BROWN
jrbrown02@student.ysu.edu

Youngstown State University held its first ever iExcel day on Nov. 5. The day was designed to bring underprivileged, first generation and underrepresented high school students to YSU and show them that they can in fact attend YSU.

Near the beginning of the event, Jim Tressel, the president of YSU, addressed the students about the advantages of a university education and the university itself.

"We are excited you are here; please ask any questions you can think of. There is no silly question. ... Because this is a huge step for you," Tressel said. "I'm going to graduate in four years, or less, and I am going to leave here with as little or no debt as I can. I am going to go out and tackle the world because I am going to be prepared through my academics; I am going to be prepared through all the activities I've been a part of; I am going to have a network of people."

The event brought in high school students from all around the Youngstown area to meet with members of the YSU community and show them that YSU may be the right place for them.

"We wanted to put students that were underrepresented in colleges, first generation that are going to college and low income to experience a day here at Youngstown State by meeting YSU staff, current YSU students, alumni, faculty members," Maggie McClendon, assistant director of admissions, said.

McClendon thinks the iExcel event gets a different type of student involved — students that would not normally attend other YSU recruiting events such as YSU's annual Crash Day.

"It's similar to Crash Day, but not quite in the fact that we actually had gotten individuals involved that typically wouldn't be involved in the crash day," McClendon said. "By meeting with us today they can see that they have opportunities to not only get involved on our campus as a student, but they will also learn how to do a mentoring program that gives them scholarship money."

Tressel emphasized the importance of interacting with the YSU community outside of the classroom through clubs, student groups, campus jobs and the variety of other opportunities available to students.

**iEXCEL
PAGE 2**

TEDx SPEAKER SERIES

*Kristopher North:
Gender Equality*



PHOTO COURTESY OF KRISTOPHER NORTH.

Kristopher North's students of YOUUnify, a LGBTQ youth theater in Youngstown. Back row: Chiara, Jayden, Miranda, Joe, Braxton. Front row: Spencer, Keever, Kitty.

ALYSSA PAWLUK
alpawluk@student.ysu.edu

Kristopher North, a young Youngstown resident with a passion for theater, will be taking the TEDx stage this January to inform audiences of a growing issue in the Mahoning Valley — gender equality among youth in the LGBTQIA community.

"There's a lot of gender queerness popping up a lot more fluently now. There is a

lot more youth that don't identify at their end of the gender spectrum. Although I don't think that is something that people in this area are really aware of," North said. "Our goal is to fix that."

North, 25, was originally from Eastfield, Ohio, and lived in Akron for three years while attending Akron University. He studied business management and minored in theater, and currently works as an employee of the NYO Property Group in Youngstown.

In the evenings, he runs YOUUnify — a LGBTQ+ youth empowerment theater troupe in downtown Youngstown — which focuses on empowering LGBTQIA individuals and youth through the arts.

YOUUnify is part of a growing organization called the Pride Youth Theatre Alliance, with 23 chapters across North America, as well as a few groups in the United Kingdom.

**SPEAKER SERIES
PAGE 3**



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PHONE
330-941-1990



EMAIL
jamborad@gmail.com

A Green Dream – One Can at a Time

ASHLEY SMITH
amsmith14@student.ysu.edu

Youngstown State University is currently ranked sixth out of 27 schools participating in the 2014 PepsiCo College Recycling Challenge.

This challenge utilizes what Pepsi has deemed as the “Dream Machine” to help campuses go green by recycling plastic bottles and cans. YSU’s Dream Machine is located right next to the Candy Counter on the first floor of the Kilcawley Center and was installed on Sept. 25.

Vaughn Myers, operations manager at YSU, explained how the Dream Machine works.

“You can recycle either plastic bottles or cans, and you can walk up to the machine, pick what you are going to recycle and you put it in the machine,” he said. “For the incentives program, it will print out a receipt and you go to pepsicorecycling.com where you can register and create an account, once you create an account, you use the code on the receipt to get points.”

The list of incentives varies from local entertainment, sporting events, dining and even travel discounts.

The amount of bottles and cans that can be recycled by one person is unlimited.

“We’ve had some people bring whole bags and put whole bags in at a time. I mean you can’t put the whole bag in at a time — you have to put each item in individually — but they

have brought whole bags before,” Myers said.

Pepsi installed this machine; it serves as a way of benefiting the individual, the university, Pepsi itself and the charities that Pepsi is affiliated with.

Matt Novotny, the executive director of Student Services, said YSU brought the machine to campus to highlight their continued push to grow recycling on campus.

“Pepsi supplies the machine at no charge and is connected to their program for sustainability and recycling and U.S. Veterans with Disabilities charity. We brought it to campus to highlight our recycling program and offer incentives [reward points] to encourage and promote awareness of recycling packaging,” he said. “The deposited recyclables are handled by the YSU team like the other existing recycling containers around campus.”

Beyond pure altruism, the university benefits from the program if it moves into the top three slots of the competition. Each of the top three finishers receive a cash prize — ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000.

The main focus of this partnership with Pepsi, and the utilization of the Dream Machine, is to help create a more environmentally friendly campus through a classic reward system.

“It’s obviously just a good thing to go green,” Myers said. “I know there’s been a big push — maybe nationwide, maybe worldwide — to go green, and we’re just trying to do our part.”

YSU to Host ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest

SPENCER CURCILLO
smcurcillo@student.ysu.edu

Computer programs and algorithms can be designed to allow people to solve today in minutes or hours what may have taken days or weeks to figure out in times past, while simultaneously eliminating human error. The future, as they say, is now.

On Nov. 7-8, 165 students from 21 different universities will be doing just that in the Association for Computing Machinery International Collegiate Programming Contest.

In the contest, teams consisting of three students each will have five hours of isolation in which they have to solve a series of hypothetical problem scenarios by designing computer programs.

Rarely do teams ever solve every problem in the allotted time, but they are evaluated against each other in terms of number of correct solutions and the time it took to achieve them.

Jenna Wise is a Youngstown State University student who will be competing in the competition this year. She discussed the pressure of the competition.

“Things like this competition really put you on the spot, to do something great and difficult in a short amount of time,” Wise said. “The atmosphere is really geared toward putting you under pressure, and if you can be successful under pressure, I think any company or grad school is really looking for that.”

Robert Gilliland serves as one of the co-site advisers for YSU. Gilliland said he believes the competition teaches students valuable lessons in teamwork and cooperation.

“When you get out in the real world, often times you won’t be working alone,” Gilliland said. “You’ll be working in a team with someone else. So this in a way gives you a small parallel to real life.”

Bonita Sharif serves as YSU’s other co-site adviser. She is also the coach of YSU’s three student teams who are competing. She was

thrilled to have so many students volunteer as competitors this year.

“These people were motivated to actually be part of the team,” Sharif said. “There was no convincing required. They were really excited to be part of the competition.”

During the competition, student teams do not have access to their coach, so Sharif has done her best to prepare them ahead of the competition.

“As a coach, I make sure our teams know what to expect during the actual programming contest,” she said. “We do some examples of problems. [The students] work together also at their own pace, depending on how much time they have to do these problems, just to get familiar with the process.”

The YSU teams in the competition consist of Brian Powell, Joseph Kochemba and Kyle Seaver in Team 1; Jenna Wise, Connor Hetzel and Teryn Jones in Team 2; and Richard Elrod, Cody Rigney and Brian Eft in Team 3.

On Friday teams will register, witness a demonstration, participate in a practice contest and have a question-and-answer session.

The contest itself takes place in Meshel Hall from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. An awards banquet follows at 4 p.m.

IBM, who often has representatives present, sponsors the contest. It is not uncommon for students scoring near the top of the competition to receive job offers from them.

YSU is one of four total sites in the region. The other sites include The University of Cincinnati, Grand Valley State University in Michigan and the University of Windsor in Ontario, Canada.

Robert Kramer serves as regional director. He is responsible for overseeing all four sites. Kramer said he believes strongly in the abilities of the students in the competition and believes they have a lot of potential in their professional careers.

“These kids are really sharp,” Kramer said. “They’re very good at thinking quickly and thinking outside of the box. That’s exactly what IBM looks for.”

iEXCEL
PAGE 1



PHOTO BY FRANK GEORGE/THE JAMBAR.

President Jim Tressel welcomes multicultural high school students to YSU’s campus. iExcel introduced prospective students to what YSU has to offer.

“You have to be good at your academic major, gain all the knowledge you can possibly gain, but then you have to do other things. Get involved in activities that help you grow in your ability to communicate, grow in your ability to work together with other people,” he said. “Go to do things and experience things and go maybe outside of your comfort zone.”

Bill Border, the coordinator of Academic Achievers at YSU, said the event helped to show high school students that there are resources on campus they may be unaware of that can help them to achieve their academic goals.

“Most of them don’t realize that when they run into different problems, they’re trying to navigate the system that there are people out there to help them,” Border said. “I think there was

a lot of good information that was given today. A lot of good resources from different departments.”

Faculty and staff across the various departments detailed the resources on campus that are conducive to success such as the Math Assistance Center, the Writing Center and the Center for Student Progress.

McClendon thinks that the iExcel program will cause a rise in enrollment from these types of high school students, who would typically not consider YSU.

“Pretty much what we we’re trying to do was kind of bring down the barrier and show them that people such as themselves are already here and we’re here to help them — people that are relevant and significant to their success,” she said.

OHIOAN
PAGE 1

Nathaniel Jones

Nathaniel Jones was the first black judge in Mahoning County, served as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, fought for legislation to end nationwide school segregation and is an alumnus of YSU.

“You know that big courthouse on the corner of Commerce and Market?” DeBlasio said. “That courthouse is named after Jones, so that will give you some idea of the impact he’s had.”

Mary Ann Campana

Mary Ann Campana was a native Italian who came with her family to Youngstown during the 1920’s and a record-setting aviator.

“She set a world record for an endurance flight. She stayed in the air longer than any other pilot, male or female, at that time,” DeBlasio said.

Campana managed to stay airborne for 12 hours and 27 minutes flying around the Youngstown area, only landing due to intense lightning storms forcing her down. An Ohio Historical Marker was placed at the Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport in her honor.

There are many more local individuals deserving note and regard for their contributions to the world, through invention, service or feat. Those interested in seeing a local individual of note elevated at the Ohio Statehouse can offer nominations at the Capitol Square Foundation’s website.

PORTRAIT OF A NON-TRADITIONAL LADY

JENNA LATCHERAN
jlatcheran@student.ysu.edu

Though Youngstown State University holds quite a number of exceptions, the average 20-something college student is still wavering between the life of a teenager and the life of an adult; the safety net, for many, is still in place. College is the last bastion of freedom with limited responsibility.

For non-traditional students, often easily misjudged and both accidentally and purposefully ostracized, their college experience is often quite a different story. What of a non-traditional student who is a single mother and receiving government assistance?

Meet Kara Zone.

Zone is a non-traditional YSU student and a single mother, who chooses not to have a partner at the present time. Zone is also on government assistance.

She said she is judged for choosing to go to school, remaining single and requesting government assistance and she has been called “white trash” and “man-hater.”

Zone told a story to highlight her point. After watching the movie “Frozen” with her daughter, she made the comment that she loved how the princess saves herself instead of having a man or prince save her.

Her dad overheard and asked her why she was a man-hater. These words shocked her.

“This was not the first time someone had used the term ‘man-hater’ with me. People

feel very free in saying things to people who seem to be living their lives in a different way, but each time these things — man-hater, white trash — have been said to me, it was always in the wake of me doing something productive for my life,” Zone said. “I was going to school, so I went on government assistance in order to put forth my full energy into learning so I could come out on the other side strong enough to have the career I wanted.”

She added that her choice



ZONE

to remain single has encouraged quite a bit of unwarranted guesswork out of friends as to her sexuality.

“I had married friends, who were having marital issues at the time, ask about me to other friends — ‘Why isn’t she searching for a relationship? Do you believe that she is sexually confused or just a lesbian?’ — when I was trying to sort out my life,” she said. “Honestly, I still don’t understand how any of those paralleling conversations — man-hater, white trash/going to school, homosexuality/not-dating — can connect, but it confuses people to see people acting in a way they are unaccustomed to.”

Though the words still

bite, Zone said she has a system to deal with the speakers.

“The day I stopped letting other people get to me? They still do, sometimes, sadly, there are no quick answers with that ... I mean, I am human, but I know how to let it go and not allow it to stick. It just may take longer than other times. Those other times I just stare at someone who decides to put their judgment upon me — because I never know what to say to these people,” Zone said. “I don’t take the judgment personally anymore, either way. I have found that people generally only say something negative because they are scared, they see something in someone else that is so familiar to them, but yet so uncomfortable they don’t know how to deal with it. Or they are very unhappy with their life, so they have to point out what they deem a flaw or oddity in another person to justify their lifestyle choices. I have found that judgment is never really an attack on a person so much as it is a personal attack of one’s own character.”

Zone also gave advice to people who fall into social stigmas that are not deemed as “normal” and are therefore not easily accepted.

“If someone is questioning you — they may just be trying to understand. If, however, they are trying to make you feel bad about your choice, speak up for yourself, speak up for your choice and speak up for what you believe,” she said. “If we learn to accept people’s differences we would all be able to find balance together.”

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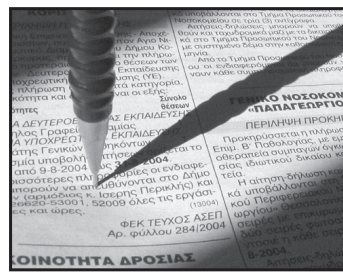
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NEWS BRIEFS

Student Group for Creative Writing Forms

The YSU Writing Center, SLAA and Penguin Review are hosting a Creative Writing Workshop for creative writers to give and receive feedback on their writing. The group will meet Fridays at 3 p.m. in the Writing Center. It is open to any YSU student in any major. Interested students should email composeysu@gmail.com.

YSU Ranks in Top Quarter on Washington Monthly List

YSU was rated in the top 25 percent of similar national colleges and universities in Washington Monthly's 2013 College Guide and Rankings. The rankings are based on the social mobility of their students, research and community service. YSU was ranked 159th among 671 master's degree-level colleges and universities included in the report. Last year, YSU ranked 208.

Business Leaders Graduate From YSU's Emerging Leaders Program

The WCBA and the Small Business Development Center at YSU announced the graduation of the 2014 Emerging Leaders Wednesday in Williamson Hall at YSU. The seven-month executive leader curriculum includes about 100 hours of classroom time and provides the opportunity for small business owners to work with experienced mentors, attend workshops, and develop connections with their peers, city leaders and financial communities. Sixty business owners from the local community have benefitted from the program since it began in the area in 2011.

Transgender Day of Remembrance March

YoTrans*, McDonough Museum of Art and Martini Brothers Burger Bar are sponsoring the 16th Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance March on Thursday, Nov. 13. Participants are to meet at the McDonough at 6:45 p.m. and the march starts at 7 p.m., with a candle lighting ceremony at 7:30 p.m. in Federal Plaza.

"It is the only group in Ohio that's like this. My talk is mostly going to be educating the audience about what YOUnify is and what we are doing, why we do it," North said. "Our focus is to educate audiences on the struggles and challenges that face the queer youths in this area, especially in the Mahoning Valley."

During his TEDx talk, a group of students from YOUnify — Stephen Cline, Alexandra DiGirolamo and Breanna Kever — will perform on stage a skit about the struggles they face from those who are not accepting of their sexual orientation.

"We're working on devising a script right now based on their personal experiences. So my talk is going to be 60 percent of me talking and 40 percent them performing. I'm pretty excited about it," North said.

North hopes to draw attention to the problem of rising homelessness among LGBTQIA youth.

"Honestly, the LGBTQIA community in this area is not very loud yet. It doesn't really have a big presence as much as it could, or should," North said. "It's important to make sure everybody in this area is aware of what's happening."

YOUnify has been in the Mahoning Valley for three years. The first session started in January at the Oakland Center for the Arts in 2011, and the students of the group have since performed in areas in Youngstown like the First Unitarian Universalist Church, as well as Kent State University-Trumbull.

"Audiences have been welcoming and interactive. They've been really receptive and we have talkbacks after every show, where the audience can ask any question that they want, and the youth are the ones that answer them," North said. "The kids are on top of it; they have answers ready to go."

YOUnify is also working on obtaining independent funding, getting their own 501c3 status to become a non-profit and have just recently attained an additional grant of \$1000 from the Mukti Fund — their primary funder and funder of LGBTQIA organizations across the nation.

"We basically just started by having workshops with random youth that wanted to come and see what we were talking about. I wasn't in charge at the time. I was just a facilitator helping out, but the program surprisingly just fixated," North said. "People were excited about it. It wasn't just students that had to be there for their grades; it was actually students that were curious about the program."

North said that he wants the audience to acknowledge the message of tolerance that his students will portray through the act.

"Become aware of us. Know that we are here. Know that there is a very strong LGBTQ presence in the community, especially in the youth. That's not going to change, and I want audiences to be aware of the struggles and the challenges that they do face in the school systems, on a day-to-day basis, even at their homes. I want them to get out of the talk exactly what they want to get out of the talk," he said. "I want them to take away the sense of un-

derstanding, even if they are not welcoming or open to the idea of gay marriage or transgender rights, or they are homophobic. I want them to be aware. That's all there is to it."

He added that his talk would benefit youth in the area who are looking for an accepting organization, but might not know of YOUnify's existence.

"Fortunately, I know all of my students come from very loving and nurturing families, but I know that's not the case for a lot of students in the area. There's a lot of LGBTQ youth that aren't aware of YOUnify, who could really use it. So I also would like them to become aware of us through this," North said.

North said that Lori Shandor, TEDx event curator, contacted him to act as the event's closing speaker, a job that has left him nervous.

"I don't like public speaking. I like to act; I like theater, and I like all of that. I'm not big on writing speeches. It took me a couple of days to decide and I was like 'Ok, I'm in,'" North said. "My youth are writing a portion of it because the point of YOUnify is everything is their voice. It's their experiences, the way they see it ... the way they want to express it."



PHOTO COURTESY OF KRISTOPHER NORTH

KRISTOPHER NORTH

I'm only writing about 40-50 percent of what you're going to see in January. They should be more nervous than I am, but they're not. They are ready to go."

YOUnify is the only LGBTQ+ youth empowerment theater troupe in Ohio, but there are similar organizations all over the United States — such as Dreams of Hope in Pittsburgh, About Face Theatre in Chicago, Rainbow Pride Youth Alliance in San Bernardino, California and True Colors: Out Youth Theatre in New York.

North said that he would like to see more of these groups in Ohio.

"I think they do the best that they can to start everybody in that area, and we try to reach out to as many people in this area as we can. If another opportunity comes up to open a second organization in Ohio, then we are going to take it," North said. "We're growing a lot faster than we thought we would. So it's time for us to branch out on our own and keep going."

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‘When I Dream, I Dream Big’ A talk with Kiyan Taghaboni

GABRIELLE FELLOWS
gabbymfellows@gmail.com

Kiyan Taghaboni, a vocal major at Youngstown State University, never once breaks eye contact while he’s sitting down in the Chestnut Room in Kilcawley Center, talking passionately about his future ambitions.

From performing in a theater show at YSU to performing at 54 Below, the old Studio 54 in New York City with the likes of Robin Desus (“In the Heights”), recent Tony Award winner Lena Hall (“Hedwig and the Angry Inch”) and E. Clayton Cornelius (“Beautiful: The Carole King Musical”), the young vocalist said he feels accomplished — but not accomplished enough.

“I have goals: extremely short-term goals, short-term goals, medium-term goals, long-term and extended-term goals,” Taghaboni said. “I’m dreaming big — what’s the point if you don’t? I’m going to say that I’m young enough to know the risks, but naive enough to take them anyway.”

Being a vocalist also goes way beyond just singing and taking risks, Taghaboni claimed.

“I want to be a professional singer ... but there is so much that goes into that that many don’t consider. Take Beyoncé, for example. How many peo-



PHOTO COURTESY OF JD URBAN.

Kiyan Taghaboni

ple does Beyoncé cover? Hundreds and hundreds of people are working around the clock to make that work,” he said. “Stylists, photographers, musicians, producers, instrumentalists, driving the bus — who’s carrying all that shit? Someone. The point is you need to make meaningful connections

and organize being a part of this scene. It’s not just about you.”

Alex Marr, a local pianist and long-time friend, said that Taghaboni has a sense of awareness about the music culture that not many performers have.

“He has a really good sense of professionalism and uses great business sense,” Marr said. “He can carry himself in a variety of situations that many other artists can’t, even people who are non-artists.”

Besides performing and dealing with the business of the profession, Taghaboni also spends his time teaching vocal lessons at Kontinuous Jams in Boardman and at the Liberty Lesson Center in Churchill Square.

“Teaching is something I wasn’t sure I’d enjoy as much as I do,” Taghaboni said. “Seeing a kid come to me that has no sense of pitch or what a note even is ... and then a few months later they sound genuinely good? It’s extremely rewarding to know that I did that.”

No matter what happens in the future, Taghaboni said there will undoubtedly be some sort of creative musical element involved.

“It’s a really scary road I’ve chosen to go flying down — music. It’s not a joke,” he said. “You sink or you swim, and most likely you will sink. But music is intertwined in me. It’s not a separate thing that I do. I just kind of am a piece of the music.”

Making Your Art Go Further Than the Classroom

ALEXIS RUFENER
arufener@student.yzu.edu

Youngstown State University’s McDonough Museum of Art was home to the “Art Means Business” lecture series on Wednesday.

This final part of the AMB series featured a panel of artists and musicians. Those artists include James Pernotto, Chris Yambar and symphony performer Christina Gant. The moderator of this artist panel was Bill Mullane.

Cary Wecht, associate dean of YSU’s College of Creative Arts & Communication, spoke about the purpose of the lecture series.

“The ‘Arts Mean Business’ series is a collaboration between the College of Creative Arts & Communication and Power of the Arts,” Wecht said. “Together, we have — and will continue — to bring free and vital programming to arts and communication professionals.”

Mullane opened up the lecture with introductions of each artist and speaker. He explained how Yambar, Pernotto and Gant gave students advice on how to network with other artists, musicians and other creative professionals.

Pernotto, director of Next Best Art gallery, followed with a video on how he got his start in visual art through paper sculptures and different forms of pop art.

For the artists and musicians in the panel, what they do isn’t just a hobby, but a business and lifestyle. Each of them strives to better themselves and also get their creations out to the community in order to spread awareness about what to expect in the real world after college comes to a close.

Many said that networking through various businesses and other artists is the best way to get students’ stories out and have their voice be heard.

“[Art’s] a luxury item,” Yambar said. “Until you’re really in the moment, you have no idea really what’s sitting out there waiting for you.”

Yambar spoke about his job as a visual artist and his time as a writer for Bongo comics with entailed

writing Simpson comic strips along with drawing for other cartoons, such as Popeye and Spongebob Squarepants.

Yambar said he would like to think of himself as an on-call person and “the best boss he’s ever had.” His advice to those who aren’t sure where to start when they graduate was encouraging, yet realistic.

“Don’t worry about money. Money will follow you when you get better at what you do,” Yambar said. “Never stop feeding your brain and never quit your day job until you can’t stand it anymore.”

Gant spoke about her experience training and studying the violin and the number of hours she would practice to get ready for only a five minute audition.

“Networking is olden, but golden,” Gant said.

At the end of the lecture, all of the speakers opened up to the audience for questions. During that time they spoke about how working in Youngstown has helped them.

“Youngstown works for me because I work for Youngstown,” Yambar said. “I am Youngstown.”



PHOTO BY ALEXIS RUFENER/THE JAMBAR.

Chris Yambar, one of three speakers, spoke at the “Art Means Business” lecture Wednesday evening.

EDITORIAL

Ohio, Let's Blaze It and Praise It

On Tuesday, Oregon became the third state to vote in favor of fully legalizing marijuana — another step forward for the ever-growing marijuana legalization movement.

Now it's time to legalize it here.

Come on, did you really think a college newspaper would pass up on an opportunity to rehash — heh rehash — the age-old marijuana debate?

Though we at The Jambar are certainly tired of going out of our way to find shady 1930s-style speakeasy bars just to obtain a simple hash brownie — side note to the FBI, who we are certain has been watching us for years just waiting to strike, we are joking — our desire to legalize marijuana extends beyond a craving for easily obtainable pot.

Legalization is simply the morally sound thing to do.

A Gallup Poll taken in 2013 asked American adults to indicate whether or not they had ever used marijuana, and the results of this poll showed that 38 percent of Americans have at least tried marijuana — that's a big number.

The importance of this statistic is twofold: it shows 1) that laws banning marijuana have largely failed and 2) that people often consume unregulated chemical substances.

Laws haven't stopped people from smoking marijuana, but have forced people to obtain marijuana illegally from unregulated sellers — sellers who only care about their profits and the bulk of their pocketbooks.

Their product has been known to contain unwanted substances from feces to insects to mold. Sometimes, a vender's product is not marijuana at all; it's "synthetic marijuana," which can sometimes have life-threatening side effects and can have a severe and negative impact on the brain.

By legalizing marijuana, we can effec-

tively subject marijuana venders to federal regulations. Those looking to smoke would no longer have to go through criminals to purchase their cannabis. They'd no longer frequent unsafe homes and streets belonging to dangerous drug dealers. Instead, they would buy a high-quality, taxed product complete with clearly visible warning labels from a professional and licensed seller.

And we have all heard of the ridiculous penalties that have fallen upon the unfortunate heads of those who have been caught green handed. Though many get a slap on the wrist for possession, the federal law does specify that possession of any amount is punishable by up to a year in jail and a fine up to \$1,000 on the first offense. Sale of marijuana — between 50-100 kilos — is punishable by up to 20 years in prison and up to a \$1,000,000 fine.

Though most do not feel the full force of the law, there is simply too much chaos in this equation. The punishment is often dealt out arbitrarily; worse yet, it sometimes isn't arbitrary, but based on race. Black Americans are punished an inordinate amount, and with more severity, for possession than white Americans, even though the usage statistics are close.

Though we as a nation claim that our laws are based on our morality, often dubbed natural law, how could anyone deem this to be moral or just?

So let's stop pretending that existing bans on marijuana have stopped people from using it, and let's start thinking about protecting those who are using it — from either shady dealers or the legal system itself. Hats off to those in Oregon who decided to make a morally sound decision and voted for legalized marijuana on Tuesday. Ohio, let's follow suit.

Oh, Did You Know That...

AMANDA TONOLI
ajtonoli@student.ysu.edu

It's that one kid in your middle-of-the-day class who can't seem to find it in him to shut his mouth when the teacher is giving a lecture. He is the reason you can't take accurate notes; the reason you can't get out of class early when the teacher said there was a short lesson today; your blood boils every time they take a breath in, anticipating the pointless word vomit that is about to be spewed.

Yes, I'm talking about it — the know-it-all. He or she isn't actually interested in engaging the teachers or asking pertinent questions; nor are they particularly that concerned about learning, it seems.

You've encountered countless ones throughout your years of schooling, sitting in the back of the room, heavily sighing and thinking of ways to get them to shut the hell up.

In "You Say You Know It All" on PsychologyToday.com, written January 2003, Kaja Perina describes know-it-alls as people that put others down by implication.

"We've all met these people: They've seen everything before but get it all wrong nonetheless. So why do people overstate their knowledge? It's not necessarily a calculated effort to impress others," Perina said. "Some people may just think that everything they encounter is familiar to them, even if it's entirely fabricated."

The things that know-it-alls word vomit all over aren't even necessarily true. Often,

people just talk to hear themselves speak.

In "Difficult People: How to Deal with the Know-It-All," an Official Guide to General Self Help on <http://www.self-growth.com>, Mark Tyrrell notes that because people of this type talk for no purpose, they can quite often hurt others' self-esteem — as they can be thoughtless with the copious amount of words they discharge. And they feel like they are doing everyone a favor by gracing them with pointless talk.

In hurting your self esteem, they are probably replacing what they are lacking in that department. If it gives them a sense of importance, how important is hating them, really?

"Know-it-alls thrive on a sense of self-importance," Tyrrell said. "So to get them to listen — which tends not to come natural — you can use their need for status as sugar coating to get them to swallow something new — your take on things."

Also, in dealing with know-it-alls, Tyrrell encourages us to remember that it's not that they think they are better than the rest of us; it is simply their way of communicating with others — as poor as it is.

I, personally, will choose to follow the age-old advice of Thumper from Bambi: if I don't have anything nice to say, I probably shouldn't say anything at all. I can't find it in me to encourage the obnoxiousness permeating from that class; perhaps, though, I will be able to root it in my brain that he is not a terrible person, but lacking in self-esteem and the use of muzzle.

Higher Education's HIGHER RETURNS

Public colleges and universities were never meant to be a form of charity.

The growth of public higher education during the 19th and 20th centuries was a strategic calculation about the public interest. Whether for training civic, religious and economic leaders 150 years ago, fostering military and agricultural innovations a century ago or building up

the generation that would win the Cold War 50 years ago, states have invested in higher education in order to achieve practical goals. Practical goals for Ohio today are globally competitive, efficient and healthy citizens.

In economic terms, spending on our public colleges and universities has paid handsome dividends, and it is the best way to assure Ohio's

future as well. Other states have reduced their support of higher education more than Ohio has over the past 10 years, but last year our state still ranked 40th in the nation in per student state support. That is not good news for the state going forward.

Ohio's budget is limited and responsible governance entails making difficult calls about serving many needs. Some forms of spending are easier to justify than others because they reduce future expenses or increase future revenues. Education is one form of investment that has consistently done both.

Investments in higher education reduce long-term costs to the state. College graduates are much less likely to commit crimes — an important consideration when Ohio now spends about 75 percent as much on prisons as it does on higher education.

Much more significantly, experts agree that sending more Ohioans to college would reduce health-care costs — the single largest category of state spending. On average, college graduates have much lower Medicaid costs related to obesity, smoking, heart disease and alcoholism.

Investing in higher education also increases revenues to the state. College graduates boost tax revenues by landing better-paying jobs — and attracting the employers who will hire them. According to this year's U.S. Department of Labor data, college graduates are earning an average of 98 percent more per hour than high school graduates.

Businesses grow where the families have income that stretches beyond the bare

necessities. Furthermore, a highly-educated labor pool is, in the long term, more likely to bring high-skill jobs to the state than tax incentives are, if only because competition between states to cut taxes on businesses will make it increasingly difficult to improve the terms that Ohio can offer.

Better health and better lifetime earnings are, of course, good for college graduates themselves, and it is entirely reasonable that they take on some of the costs of their higher education. But the proportion of the burden born by students has been increasing steadily at all 13 of the state's four-year public universities for the past 20 years. Current tuition costs, even with substantial loans, are barely within reach or impossible to meet for many Ohio students or their families.

Neither individuals nor their communities can benefit from higher education if it is not economically accessible to them. For Ohio to meet the challenges of a 21st century economy, we have to find ways for many more Ohioans to enroll and succeed in college. And because more than three-quarters of Ohio's graduates stay in the state after finishing college, it would be worth considering reducing out-of-state tuition costs so as to better position our universities to recruit the best and brightest students from around the country.

A higher education system that works is not cheap. Developing new modes of instruction that can reach students who have difficulty reaching four-year campuses while still responding effectively to student needs

is expensive and time-consuming. Welcoming students from a wider variety of backgrounds, including those whose family members have not attended college, requires expanding the academic and community support services that institutions provide.

Budgets stretched thin over the past 20 years mean that many Ohio public colleges and universities face high bills to keep their buildings safe and functional as well as to retrofit them for 21st century technology. For long-term prosperity, Ohio needs a higher education mix that includes cutting-edge research institutions to create knowledge and provide graduate training as well as schools focused more heavily on excellent undergraduate teaching.

The governments in 39 other states understand this simple investment strategy better than Ohio's has. One of the best investments individuals can make is in themselves. One of the best investments Ohio can make is in its citizens. Higher education is the single best place to do both.

Beth Quitslund is the Faculty Senate Chair at Ohio University and a member of the Ohio Faculty Council (which represents the faculty at all 13 of Ohio's public universities). Dan E. Krane chairs the Ohio Faculty Council and is a Fellow of the American Council on Education. Chet Cooper is the chair of Youngstown State University Academic Senate and vice chair of Ohio Faculty Council. Ken Learman is the secretary for the Ohio Faculty Council and a professor of physical therapy at YSU.

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, the copy editor and the news editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles. They draw on the opinions of the entire writing staff 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 500 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.

A Familiar Situation

JEFF BROWN

jrbrown02@student.yzu.edu

A year ago, the Youngstown State University football team came into the final three games of the season undefeated in conference play and appeared to have an outstanding chance at making the playoffs for the first time since 2006. Unfortunately for the Penguins, the team hit a slump and lost its final three games and failed to make the postseason.

This year's team finds itself in a similar situation. With three games remaining, the 10th-ranked Penguins are 7-2

and 4-1 in Missouri Valley Conference play and, just like a season ago, are in control of their own destiny.

"I think last year we may have been looking into the future a little bit too much," tight end Nate Adams said. "We really just got to focus on being one game at a time. Not looking at any rankings, any playoff predictions, any of that stuff. We just got to take care of this weekend."

It is once again a tough road for the Penguins as all three of their remaining opponents are ranked in the top 25 of the Sports Network Poll, including a matchup in the final game of the season against

top-ranked North Dakota State University.

This weekend YSU travels to Normal, Illinois to take on the 12th-ranked Illinois State University Red Birds. ISU (7-1 and 4-1) is coming off their first loss of the season, a 42-24 loss against the University of Northern Iowa. A win would put YSU in sole possession of second place in the conference and could set up a potential matchup for first place against NDSU in two weeks.

ISU is led by a strong running game, highlighted by running back Marshaun Coprich. He has at least 100 yards rushing in every game this season

and had 27 carries for 166 yards and three touchdowns in last weekend's loss to UNI.

YSU defeated ISU 59-21 last season at home, but have not won in Normal since 2006. However, the Penguins have been great on the road as of late — winning six of their last seven road games against conference opponents dating back to last season.

"It's not easy to go on the road and have the opposing crowd screaming on third downs, getting loud and stuff like that," senior wide receiver Jelani Berassa said. "Our fo-

cus is just on each play. Every play we just try to tune those things out."

Coach Eric Wolford said he likes the road trips because he likes being able to be around his players all day on Thursday and Friday, as opposed to only being around them for a couple hours when the team plays at home.

"When we're at home we just have them for about three and a half to four hours on a Friday as opposed to having them all day," Wolford said.

Kickoff against ISU is set for Saturday at 2 p.m.



Jelani Berassa (above) outruns multiple Butler defenders on Sept. 13. Berassa (right) catches one of his three touchdowns during the game.



PHOTOS BY DUSTIN LIVESAY/THE JAMBAR.

From High Point to Youngstown

Val Jeffery's journey to YSU



PHOTOS BY DUSTIN LIVESAY/THE JAMBAR.

Val Jeffery (12) sets the ball for an offensive possession. Jeffery is fourth in the Horizon League in assists with 10.6 per game.

DUSTIN LIVESAY

Djlivesay01@student.yzu.edu

When junior Jessie Gerig received the news that a new setter would be joining the Youngstown State University Volleyball team she instantly went into competition mode — what she didn't realize is that she wouldn't only be gaining a competitor, but a best friend as well.

"Without even knowing her, just hearing she is a setter, competing with her is all I thought. Then once she got here, it changed and we are really good friends. We can talk about anything," Gerig said. "I wasn't really planning on being best friends with her, but when she got here, we immediately connected and we are like the same person."

According to Coach Mark Hardaway, acquiring Val Jeffery was just being in the right place at the right time. When Hardaway was contacted about a transfer, he wasn't interested.

"We felt Jessie Gerig could run our offense and Heather Splinter was coming in and we felt she could be back-up ... like I said, we weren't really looking for a setter," Hardaway said.

Once Hardaway heard Jeffery was the athlete in question, he changed his opinion.

"I saw Val play in club and she was really good," he said. "I really thought she was capable of playing in the MAC or SEC, I just thought she was really good."

Jeffery originally committed to High Point University in North Carolina, but transferred after one season. When Jeffery arrived for practice everybody was welcoming — as if she had been there at YSU all along.

"When I came into the locker room the first day everyone was really nice; they were really cool," Jeffery said. "They took me in like another sister which was awesome."

Hardaway feels that Jeffery is willing to learn which makes her easy to coach.

"I think that she is very serious about winning. She is just a really good person, she is a Christian kid and I know that academic part of her life is very important," Hardaway said. "She is everything you want in a Division I student athlete."

According to Hardaway, Jeffery has improved the work ethic of the other players on his team as well.

"Most important for us this year is that the setting position is the most competitive position on the team — it would be like having two quarterbacks that were both really good," Hardaway said. "Pre-season was a huge battle between Val and Jessie."

Jeffery was given the starting position. Hardaway said Jeffery and Gerig didn't allow their competitive nature to affect their friendship.

"As much as I know Val wanted to start, I don't think she wanted to have to beat out someone she was really close to," Hardaway said. "For Jessie she was happy for Val as a friend, but obviously disappointed because she is a very competitive athlete."

Jeffery and Gerig have built a connection that continues off the court. While the girls are best friends on the team, their faith and religious belief helped further their friendship. For Gerig, the memory she cherishes the most with Jeffery happened in the water instead of on the hardwood.

"My most favorite moment with Val is when we both got baptized at Crossroads Church together," Gerig said. "You only get baptized once and I will be able to share that moment with her for the rest of my life."

Jeffery looks forward to continuing her college career at YSU. "I honestly don't know what I would do without volleyball," Jeffery said. "I just love playing the sport. I love winning and hate losing."