



The Holidays



Women's Basketball

Starfish Software a Success for YSU

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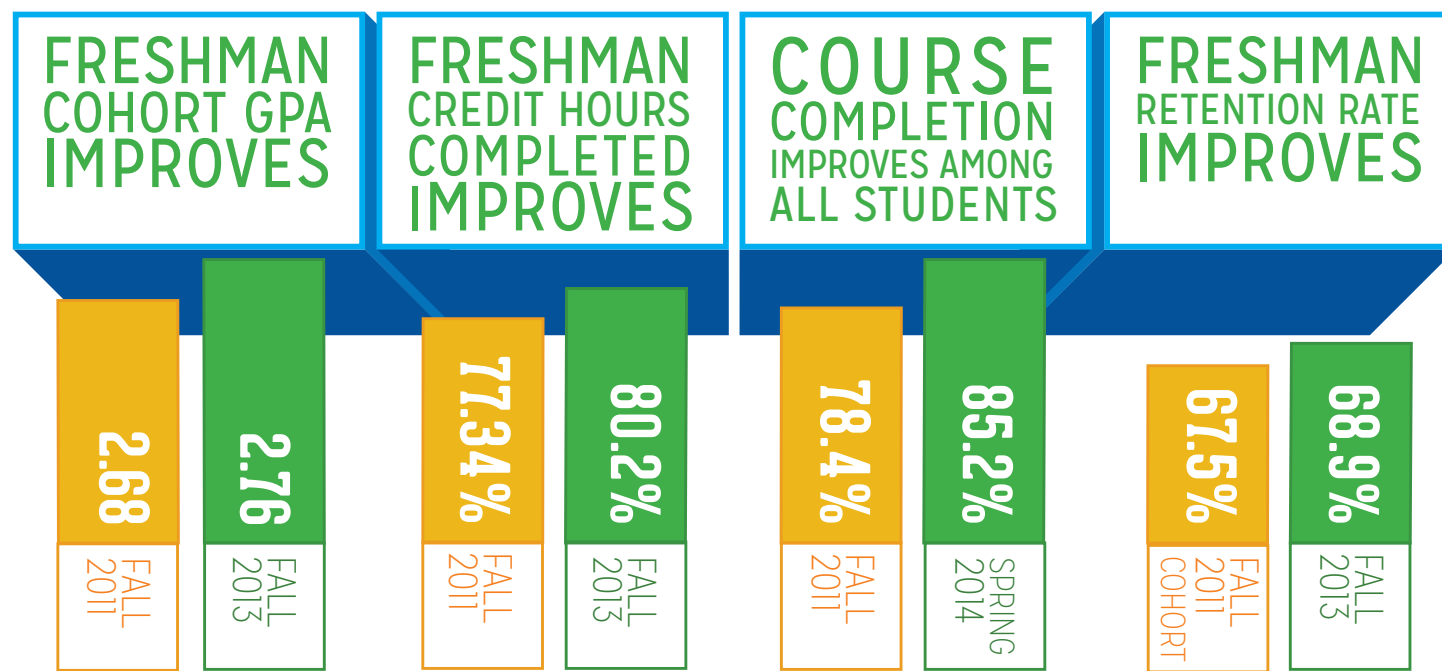
Starfish Retention Solutions — an early warning system to help improve student success — began its trial run in fall 2011 for freshman 1000 level courses. In spring 2013, full use was implemented in all undergraduate courses. What are the results one year later?

Starfish is multifaceted software used by higher education institutions across the country. It tracks students' participation in classes and provides professors and administration with macro data on student success and retention.

Youngstown State University had three initial goals for its use of the system in 2011: to improve course completion, increase faculty participation in the system's usage and increase fall-to-fall first-year student retention rates.

Recently updated in November 2014, the Starfish system summarized the results for YSU within these past few years of usage for these three initial goals.

The results showed how YSU undergraduate students completed 85.2 percent of the courses they attempted during



GRAPHIC BY STACY RUBINIC/THE JAMBAR.

spring 2014, while the course completion rate in fall 2011 was 78.4 percent — a 6.8 percent increase in course completion over the years.

An increase in faculty participation in the Starfish system has also occurred; the results showed that faculty participation was at its highest during spring 2012 at 42 percent, which reached the initial goal of attaining 40 percent faculty participation from 5 percent when the system was implemented. Mid-semester participation in this fall 2014 semester is currently 39 per-

cent. Jonelle Beatrice, executive director of the Student Life Office, explained the importance of faculty participation in the early warning process of Starfish.

"We used to have an all-paper system before the software was implemented — 2 percent of our faculty used it," Beatrice said. "We need to up the ante here. Our president and provost promote it; I think we need the deans to now enforce it onto their colleges."

The results also showed an increase in fall-to-fall first-

year student retention rates, from 67.5 percent in fall 2011 to 68.9 percent in fall 2013 — a 1.4 percent increase.

Beatrice explained how even the smallest of percentage increases means that YSU is getting its money's worth for the software.

"The retention rates are what have helped to pay for the system," Beatrice said.

Jack Fahey, vice president for Student Affairs, explained how YSU pays for a licensing fee of about \$30,000 a year for Starfish.

"These programs are what

we should be doing for our students," Fahey said. "We are obligated to make them successful and to get them the degree they want in a timely manner."

Fahey added that a 1 percent retention rate improvement could generate close to \$495,195 in revenue for YSU.

Both Fahey and Beatrice agreed that Starfish is worth the expense, even if enrollment rates are down.

STARFISH PAGE 4

TEDx SPEAKER SERIES:

Mike Sevilla on Social Media and Medicine

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From cricket cuisine to card tricks, TEDx Youngstown aims to deliver on its theme, Breaking Boundaries, and this January, Mike Sevilla, a family doctor in Salem, will illustrate the boundaries he breaks through the use of social media.

Sevilla was born and raised in Youngstown where he attended Cardinal Mooney High School and later studied biology and chemistry as part of the Northeast Ohio medical program at Youngstown State University.

Following his time at YSU, he studied at Northeast Ohio Medical University and began his practice in medicine after graduating.

Currently, Sevilla is a family physician at the Family Practice Center of Salem where he has been working for 10 years.

Sevilla said that he will be speaking about social media in medicine during his talk, and how it can be used to enhance other's knowledge of the medical world.

"I've been in social media for six or seven years now, and I think it's important, especially for doctors — or anybody in medicine — to know about social media and how patients are using it," he said. "Patients are always looking stuff up on the Internet, they are talking to me about it and they bring stuff in to me asking 'Hey Dr. Sevilla, is this something that is correct, or I should know about?' Social media is very important."

Sevilla participates on sites like YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn. He runs his own podcast on YouTube as well as a show on Blog Talk Radio — the Mike Sevilla Radio Show — where he talks about his practice, social media and life events.

"There are a lot of doctors who don't think



SEVILLA

that Facebook and Twitter and social media is very important, but what I talk to doctors about is that patients are really pushing doctors and nurses to know about the Internet and why it's important," Sevilla said.

In 2006, Sevilla started as an anonymous writer at the Doctor Anonymous Blog and, once readership grew, decided to rebrand his site as DrMikeSevilla.com in 2013. He said the majority of his audience is on Facebook and Twitter now.

SPEAKER PAGE 4

Will This Transfer?

Student Life Experience May Earn Them Credits

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While not a new concept, credits awarded for the education students have received outside of a college setting is set to expand during the 2015-2016 Youngstown State University school year.

Prior learning assessment, as it has been dubbed, centers on awarding credits to students — primarily nontraditional students transferring in from previous careers — for the education and experience they have gained during their pre-college lives.

Following a 2013 Ohio state initiative, "PLA With a Purpose," universities across Ohio have been tasked with incorporating strategies for PLA expansion and consistency among academic departments, with YSU being no exception. Tammy King, associate dean of the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services and member of the committee overseeing PLA implementation at YSU, believes that learning should be rewarded regardless of the circumstances surrounding the education.

"You know, learning can occur through volunteer work, opening your own business, training you have on the job, learning that results from life experiences ... what this ini-

tiative is aiming to do is to promote consistency among the colleges and departments within YSU for awarding credit for these alternative learning situations," King said.

The issue of consistency has been a hurdle for those in support of PLA credits, with critics of the program citing the subjectivity of awarding credit based on an idea as enormous and complex as education through life experience.

Hoping to combat this fear of subjectivity and inconsistency, the PLA committee at YSU has focused on three potential working groups from which student learning can be assessed. The groups would require specific review requirements according to the type of learning accomplished by the group.

The three target groups — consisting of students opting to show their education through completing an exam, students showing their education through a portfolio of work and students receiving credit for their military training — would be examined by faculty members in the field relevant to the credits the students hope to obtain. Each department would be responsible for assessing students' prior learning.

TRANSFERRING PAGE 2



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POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE:

Preparing for Graduation

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With the end of the semester quickly approaching, commencement — scheduled for Dec. 14 — is not far away, and students will soon be leaving the university behind in droves.

Jennifer Johnson, director of Career Services, said students should spend ample time preparing for graduation and not put it off until the last minute.

“The earlier students prepare for graduation, the better,” Johnson said. “I suggest in their sophomore or junior year because they will have less stress due to completing the process in steps, rather than all at once right before they graduate.”

Julie Felix, academic adviser and coordinator for College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, helps students within CLASS who are preparing to graduate, and is one of the advisers who looks through graduation evaluations.

“Students should request for a graduation evaluation one year [or two semesters] before the semester they plan to graduate,” Felix said. “They should then apply for graduation at the beginning of the semester they plan to graduate.”

This system applies to all six colleges on campus — with the exception of the Beeghly College of Education, which requires their students to begin the process a year and a half before graduation, rather than one year before. It also depends on the education route they are seeking.

After a student requests for a graduation evaluation, they will receive a confirmation email once grades are posted and after advisers evaluate their senior sheets. Once this process is complete, a student can meet with the chair of their department, and then will be

able to apply for graduation.

“Students request a graduation evaluation in advance in order for them to have time to make any needed adjustments to their schedules, and to also make sure they are OK for graduation,” Felix said.

Though life after graduation may seem daunting, students do not have to go through it alone. Career Services in Jones Hall offers a variety of services that strive to assist students in preparing for their futures.

Career Services offers four main services: career planning, resume and cover letter assistance, interview preparation and job search assistance.

“Students should take advantage of all opportunities to network with employers, which is why services like LinkedIn and career fairs are so valuable,” Johnson said.

Kayleigh Perline, a fifth-year psychology and communications major, is preparing to graduate next semester. She said her graduation experience here at YSU has not exactly been easy, but very rewarding.

“Over the summer, before I started my final year, I studied for the GRE, which is expensive, and I visited graduate schools,” she said. “This semester I am working on my senior thesis and conducting my own research project. I’m also starting the application process for my graduate programs.”

After applying for graduate schools, Perline said she will then begin an interviewing process with different graduate programs, and then finally will choose which one best suits her of the ones she gets accepted into.

“My advice for students is to start preparing for graduation as soon as possible, because time flies by really quickly,” she said. “I wish I would have gotten involved in research projects earlier than I did. I would definitely recommend looking into programs early, so you get a sense of what they’re looking for.”

TRANSFER
PAGE 1

PROPOSED METHODS

for assessment of awarding credit based on prior learning



MILITARY SERVICE



STANDARDIZED PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT TESTS



PORTFOLIO REVIEWS

GRAPHIC BY CORIN MILLER/THE JAMBAR.

“Most universities do give some form of prior learning assessment,” King said. “The goal here is to standardize it so it’s fair across the disciplines.”

The push for PLA in the Ohio higher education system is, in part, a response to the decline in Ohioans who hold a college degree. In 2013, Ohio was ranked 33rd in the nation for number of citizens with college degrees. The “PLA With a Purpose” initiative, according to the Ohio Board of Regents, is intended to boost Ohio’s competitiveness globally through helping more students attain degrees.

There is no attempt to hide the fact that the PLA initiatives will be aimed more towards nontraditional students, as they are most likely to have relevant education through life experiences. King believes the changing demographics of the nation factor into YSU’s interest in attracting adult students.

“We’re [in Ohio] falling behind on people with college degrees, and as less people are having babies, that means less traditional students on the horizon, so we really need to reach out to our adult learners and get them back into university life,” King said.

Alongside career-minded adults looking to further their education, those individuals leaving military service with intentions to use their GI Bill to earn a college degree are a sought after demographic by universities across the state. In offering more consideration for military training to transfer into credit hours, the PLA committee hopes to see a rise in enrollment of military members.

Rick Williams, coordinator of the Office of Veterans Affairs and a member of the PLA committee, is an ardent supporter of greater credit awards for those with significant time serving in the military.

“I have very strong feelings about PLA credit for military members,” Williams said. “Right now, as it stands, if a military member comes to YSU, they could have 10 years worth of experience and schooling through the military and they might get 2 classes for it, such as a phys ed class and a healthy lifestyles class, which is a travesty for military members.”

Misrepresentation of a service person’s skills and education are not the only risks present if YSU were to continue on its current course of military training assessment. Veterans who don’t feel a university will appropriately acknowledge the value of their training will likely opt to pursue their education elsewhere.

“I am pushing for more credit. We take pride in our military friendly designation, but we need to take this opportunity to really prove it or we’re going to be left behind by other universities in the area. Veteran students shop around — they aren’t stupid,” Williams said. “They’ll look at Akron and Kent State and Cleveland State and look for which school offers the most credit for their military training and that’s where they’ll go. It’s very important that YSU take a hard look at the credit we award military members and that we draw up a policy that awards fair and equitable credit for their military training.”

While no changes to the current PLA practices have yet been implemented, King is confident that the new initiatives will be in effect at YSU by fall 2015.

“The state doesn’t goof around, they want things done. We really need to have our plan up and running by the start of the fall 2015 semester at the latest. So, by spring, we’ve got to debate the initiative and make sure we’re all on the right page,” King said. “We’ve got a lot of work, but we’re going to find a way to make it work. We’ve got brilliant faculty and we’re going to figure out how to make this work.”

Muslim Student Association Returns to YSU

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The Muslim Student Association is in the process of rejoining the ranks of student organizations here at Youngstown State University. The group will hold its first meeting as a re-formed group on Nov. 19 at 5 p.m. in Cushman Hall’s Room 3158.

Taci Turel, associate professor of fashion and interior merchandising, serves as the organization’s adviser.

“MSA has been an active organization at YSU for years. But, in the past year, the majority of the executive committee members graduated and the organization became inactive,” Turel said. “Lately, there has been a demand to re-form it.”

The upcoming meeting is expected to serve as a springboard for the newly re-formed organization, gauging student interest and determining what activities the group might want to tackle.

Some sources said the organization could benefit students who have made YSU their home away from home.

“I have never been part of MSA; however, I do feel that after its formation, students will benefit from it. It will give Muslim students

a platform where they can meet with students of similar faith. Those who live on campus far from their homes can organize holy events and still feel connected with their faiths,” Ayesha Qazi, a graduate student majoring in economics said.

The Muslim Student Association isn’t solely for students of the Muslim faith, though; it can be a resource to any student.

“The main purpose of the organization is to provide an opportunity for students who share the Muslim faith to get to know each other and to interact with each other, as well as to give an opportunity to the campus community to interact with the Muslim students,” Turel said.

The organization hopes to serve as a way of building community awareness and educating those who wish to learn about the various Muslim cultures.

“There are many Muslim students on campus, and they all come from very different cultural and ethnic backgrounds. That’s where it becomes interesting,” Turel said. “This is a very international group of students, who are usually labeled as one single culture, which cannot be any further from the truth.”

The first meeting will begin the process of educating members about the different Muslim cultures.

“The organization as a whole aims at providing Muslim students on campus the opportunity to meet each other, to educate members of the campus community about what the religion teaches, to bridge gaps of understanding, build bridges of communication and try to eliminate misconceptions,” Omar Alhadi, a part-time graduate student and a full-time professional human resource generalist said.

Turel concluded that the reformation of Muslim Student Association intends to address prejudicial opinions regarding the Muslim community.

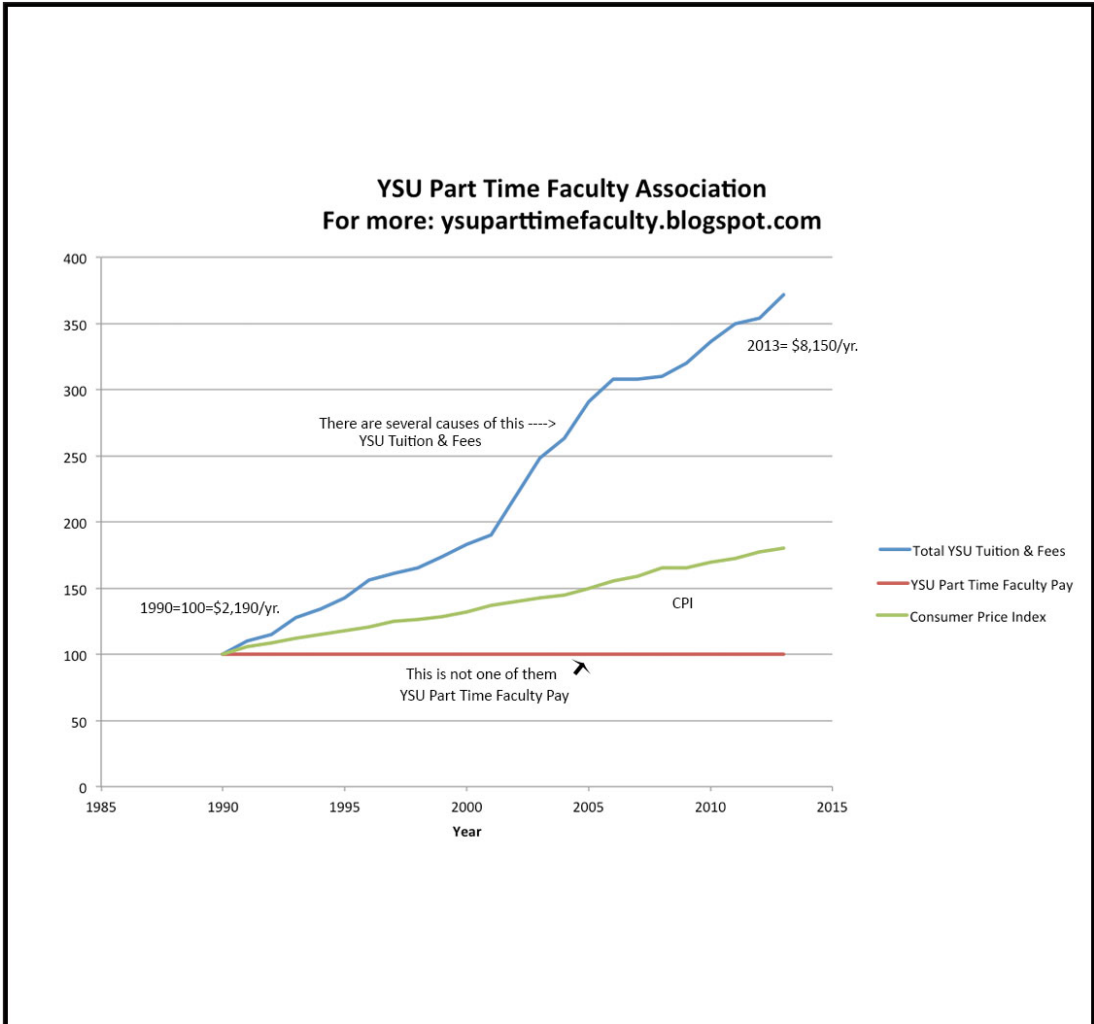
“Having to deal with the prejudice and incorrect representation can be very frustrating for the students,” Turel said. “As the adviser of the organization, I do hope that the new MSA will be a big international student organization, where students can enrich their experience on campus by learning from each others unique cultural differences, celebrating their commonalities and sharing that with the rest of the campus community.”



PHOTO BY GRAIG GRAZIOSI/THE JAMBAR.

Saturday, members of the Association of Classified Employees union at Youngstown State University demonstrated in front of Stambaugh Stadium and Melnick Hall. A small group of YSU faculty endured one of the winter’s first chilly days alongside ACE members to express solidarity among the university employees.

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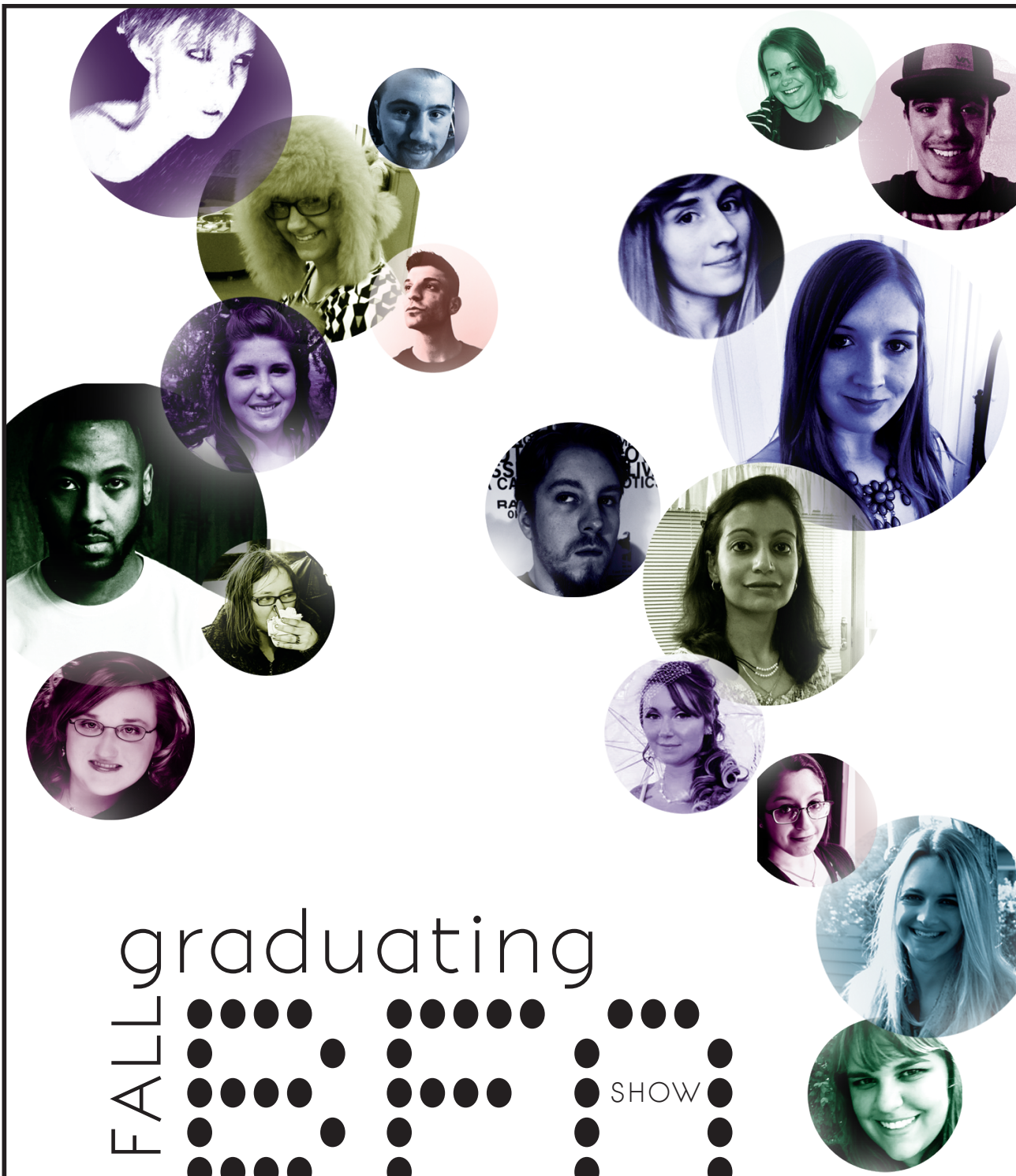
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NEWS BRIEFS

YSU Receives Grant for Clinical Drug Study

Erdal Sarac, MD, medical director at the Centers for Dialysis Care in Canfield, Ohio and Jane Wetzel, associate professor of physical therapy at YSU are the recipients of a \$70,000 research grant to conduct a clinical drug study evaluating the impact a drug treatment may have on patients with chronic kidney disease. It is the first grant of its kind for YSU and the first time that YSU will be principally involved in a clinical drug study. Suzanne Giuffre, associate professor of physical therapy, and Rachael Pohle-Krauza, associate professor of human ecology, are also involved in the study.

Concert Band, Wind Ensemble Final Semester Performances Nov. 24

The final fall semester concert by the YSU Concert Band and Wind Ensemble, entitled "Musical Variations," conducted by Brandt Payne and Stephen L. Gage, will be on Monday, Nov. 24, at 7:30 p.m. in Stambaugh Auditorium, 1000 Fifth Avenue, Youngstown. The groups include more than 100 woodwind, brass, piano, harp, string bass and percussion students. Concert tickets are \$5 each; \$4 for students and senior citizens, and free for anyone with a valid YSU ID, and can be ordered by phone at 330-259-0555, in person at the Stambaugh Auditorium Box Office, or online at www.stambaughauditorium.com.

Gerontology, Nursing Offer Free Memory Screenings

YSU's departments of gerontology and nursing offer free, confidential memory screenings Nov. 18 and 20 as part of National Memory Screening Day, an annual initiative of the Alzheimer's Foundation of America. The face-to-face screenings consist of a series of questions and tasks, and take five to 10 minutes to administer. Screenings will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. at St. Joe's at the Eastwood Mall, 5555 Youngstown Warren Rd, Niles, OH 44446. For more information about the event, contact Krystal L. Culler, adjunct faculty member in YSU's Department of Sociology and Anthropology, at 330-507-7657.

SPEAKER PAGE 1

"I do communicate with a lot of doctors, a lot of nurses and other people in the healthcare field. I also have a YouTube page," he said. "I've made some videos, I've had some television interviews with channel 27 and I also have a podcast I do where I interview doctors and other people doing social media in medicine."

Sevilla discusses medical topics in his videos like flu shots and breast cancer education, and his purpose is to make the audience aware of these subjects.

"When I talk to doctors, one of the things that I like to bring out is things that are wrong on the Internet, or myths that are out there. Probably about 10 years ago, there was a research study that was out that said that vaccines cause autism, which is incorrect. There is still a lot of information out there on the Internet about that, and patients bring that to me all the time," he said. "It gives me an opportunity to open that dialogue with patients in saying 'Hey, this is what's correct on the Internet, this is what's incorrect.' I think it's a real opportunity for me to talk to patients that sometimes things on the Internet are incorrect."

In the span of seven to 15 minutes, Sevilla said his goal is to try and get people to know why he's passionate about social media and medicine, and to encourage them to find their own passion.

"I really enjoy talking about medicine and social media, and I'm what I'm going to do at the end of my talk is just try to motivate people to get out there on the internet, or in social media, and talk about what they are passionate about. A lot of people are passionate about certain issues or topics, and media is a great way to communicate whatever message you want," he said. "There are a lot of people who are not great at medicine, but they are great writers, great podcasters, or they do great stuff on Twitter and Facebook, and it makes me interested in what they're doing. What I hope to do is inspire the audience to share their story out on social media."

He added that TED talks have always motivated him in the past.

"I've been watching TED talks for a long time. I'm very inspired with them, not only in medicine, but in other fields, and it's always been my dream to do a TEDx talk, and when I saw that it was going to be here in Youngstown, I was very excited about it and still intimidated at the same time," Sevilla said. "TEDx and TED are high quality types of talks. I'm really looking forward to January to deliver my talk."

Sevilla has done a multitude of speeches all over the United States, but admits that he is nervous for this event.

"I've never prepared for a talk like this in the past. It is a challenge for me. I'm very nervous going into this, but I do have a lot of friends that have been helping me," he said. "I'm very nervous, but I'm very excited as well."

STARFISH PAGE 1

Emma Kovacs, junior human resources major, has been enrolled in courses where professors have used Starfish. She has received two kudos and one flag in her experience with the system.

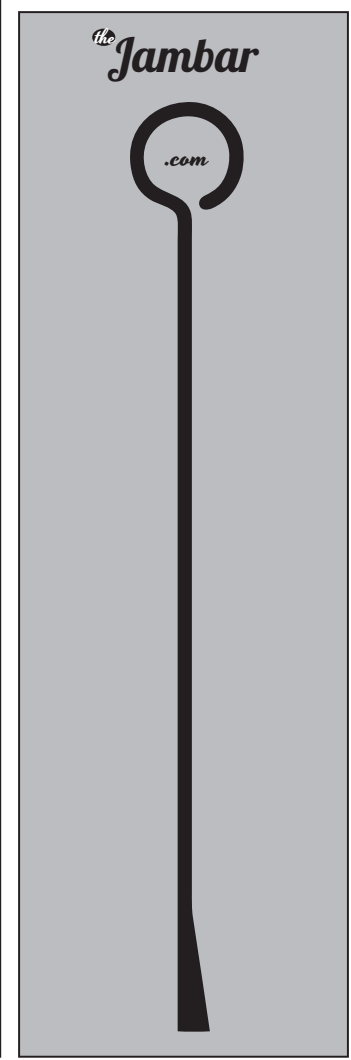
"I received a flag for a test score, and having the professor point that out to me showed me how they actually pay attention to individual students. Professors grade so many other tests and papers, it was nice to realize that my professor was making the effort to reach out to me," Kovacs said. "Starfish is kind of like a progress report, but instead of parents receiving the notice, the student is accountable now, and it depends on the type of student whether or not they improve their performance from the notification."

An increase in student retention rates, though, cannot solely be attributed to the university's implementation of Starfish Software. Other initiatives, like more stringent acceptance requirements, may have also contributed to these improved numbers.



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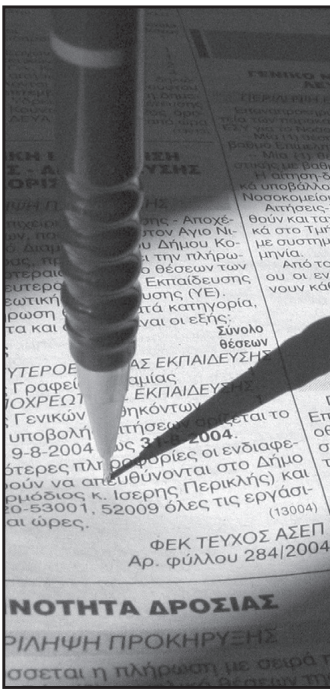


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To the Moon!

SPENCER CURCILLO
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The governments of the world have managed to fund and launch numerous successful missions to the moon. No such feat has ever been successfully completed by a private entity, a fact that Google hopes to change with their Lunar XPRIZE.

Youngstown State University's planetarium is showing the program "Back to the Moon for Good" several times throughout the month of November.

The program discusses the world's overall neglect of moon exploration in recent years. It strives to highlight the importance of such missions.

Also chronicled in the program are the efforts of several teams around the globe as they attempt to get an unmanned rover to the moon, where it will drive around and transmit video, images and data back to Earth. If these teams manage to accomplish their goal by Dec. 31, 2015, they will win the prize of \$20 million.

Google hopes that by incentivizing private enterprises to engage with space travel, newer, more cost effective methods of transport will be discovered, which will in turn make space exploration more economically viable.

Curt Spivey, planetarium engineer, supports the model Google is using to incentivize moon exploration, likening it to similar prizes that were offered in the early days of aviation.

"This model has proven itself, especially at the beginning of aviation," Spivey said. "This is how a lot of commercial aviation places got off the ground. I think it will definitely be more economical in the long run."

Spivey also believes there are a number of benefits to be gained through moon exploration.

"The moon has lots of resources," Spivey said. "There's water there. It's one sixth the gravity, so you don't have to build as big of a rocket to shoot off to the next thing. There are things like gold and platinum on the moon that you can exploit. You can do heavy industry on the moon and not pollute the earth anymore. There's a number of things you can do by actually going to the moon and putting a presence there."

Back in the days of the space race between the United States and the Soviet Union, space missions were far more common. In recent times though, gov-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK HARKIN/Flickr. CC BY 2.0. "MOON 6TH SEPTEMBER CLYDEBANK"

ernments have all but eradicated funding for such programs.

Spivey believes that the space race had a significant impact on many individuals, sparking an undying interest in space exploration.

"A lot of the people that grew up on the space race are our age, and a lot of the people at Google are of this same generation," he said. "They never really lost that interest, and they are really trying to get it back again, to let this generation feel what we felt back then."

Google has only felt the need to step in due to the recent neglect governments have shown towards funding space exploration.

Spivey believes that the reductions in funding to groups such as NASA are often political moves.

"If you look at how much of the national budget NASA gets compared to the overall budget, it's a tiny, little, miniscule bit," Spivey said. "However, it's a high profile thing so the government looks at that and says, 'oh, well here's something we can cut,' and it makes a big impact because people see they're cutting millions of dollars from NASA."

Sharon Shanks, planetarium lecturer, is also dismayed at the lack of government interest. She believes it's because of a culture that is too obsessed with up-front profit, rather than knowledge or investing in a future for those to come. Space exploration unfortunately is still largely an uncertain venture.

"Today's business models and accounting and profit all demand to know ahead of time, 'how is this going to benefit us?' and you just can't tell them ahead of time what benefits we're going to get," Shanks said.

The planetarium program is provided to the university free of cost, as Google hopes to foster further interest in the topic.

Shanks said she is glad to have the program and feels that it fits with her view of what the planetarium should hope to accomplish.

"Human nature demands that we explore," Shanks said. "Here at the planetarium, we try to keep that spark [for exploration] alive."

The program, which is free and open to the public, will be shown at 8 p.m. on Nov. 14, 15, 21, 22 and 29.

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Winter 2015 Fashion Trends

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With the days growing shorter and the snow piling up, winter is here seemingly quicker than Ohio could have expected. This means a whole new realm of fashion, filled with boots and sweaters, has opened its doors and keeping up to date on all the latest winter fashion trends can be a formidable task.

Heather Marcello, store manager at Express Southern Park, detailed the trends for this upcoming season.

"One trend that should meet every closet is capes and ponchos. They should be paired with a tight pair of leather or patterned leggings," Marcello said. "This can also go for oversized and comfortable, cozy sweaters."

The style is suited for customization, mixing and matching to customize an outfit for either a night on the town or a lazy night in.

Playing with different proportions, layering heavy knits with short skirts or slim pants is also a way to look great, from casual to dressy. Having a top with more detail will even out the plain bottoms and give off a sophisticated air.

Though these styles can be mixed and interchanged, mixing too many different patterns together is just as unfavorable as using the same pattern together with the whole outfit.

Fur — real and faux — is likely to be a popular look this season as well. Fur can be worn to complete any outfit, whether it is a fur hat or fur boots.

Tweed is also a popular fabric for this upcoming snowy weather, but tweed is best when worn minimally. If worn appropriately, tweed is meant to produce a modern, chic look. This material is also offered in many colors and can be used to spice up any outfit.

Purple is the in color for the season. Wearing pieces of purple is flattering on all wearers and is able to be mixed with virtually any color.

Even though it may seem that being in college can put a tight lock on the wallet, keeping up on the popular fashions while on a budget is not an impossible task.

While on a tight budget, it is crucial to spend money on fashion that will last. Don't waste money on fleeting trends because they will hit the sale rack faster than expected, taking its temporary popularity with it.

Marcello advised that spending money on sudden, popular trends may seem like a good idea now, but will leave a wallet empty in the long run. That's why it's best to buy clothing items that can be interchanged or mixed and matched as to get the most use out of them, and with these winter trends, that should not be hard to do.

Of course, most important is feeling great about the look chosen. As Coco Chanel, the famed fashion designer and founder of the Chanel brand, once said, "I don't do fashion. I am fashion."

PENGUIN WEATHER



PHOTO BY DUSTIN LIVESAY/THE JAMBAR.

(Top Left) Senior Leo Daprile participates in a snowball fight with some of his friends outside of Kilcawley Center during a snowstorm on Monday afternoon. (Top Right) A snowman was built in the field between Moser and Cushwa halls during a snow storm that hit YSU on Monday afternoon. (Bottom) Becki Jeren brushes snow away from her face while participating in a snowball fight during a snowstorm on campus on Monday afternoon.

The Holidays Are Upon Us



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Winter is coming, and that means holiday-themed events and exhibits will be making their way to campus.

The Arms Family Museum and Mahoning Valley Historical Society are currently preparing for "Memories of Christmas Past," an elaborate exhibition of Christmas-themed items.

Seven different rooms will display the periods of Christmas.

Leann Rich, manager of Education & External Relations at MVHS, explained why the exhibit started.

"We wanted to show more of the Historical Society's collection of Christmas items," Rich said. "We've reached out to the community of collectors and they lent their pieces to us."

This marks the seventh year the Arms Family Museum has organized "Memories of Christmas Past." In 2012, the exhibition received the Ambassador of the Year Award from The Golden Glow, a Christmas collector's organization.

"You see it decorated as a house rather than a museum setting," Rich said.

The "Memories of Christmas Past" exhibit opens its doors to the public Nov. 22 and will run to Jan. 4. The exhibit will be open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday, and Thursdays until 8 p.m.

"Carols and Cocoa," a holiday music extravaganza, will be hosted by the Dana School of Music on Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. at Stambaugh Auditorium.

As the event's title suggests, free cocoa and cookies will be provided.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LEANNE LEE.

The Christmas setup at the Arms Family Museum.

Michael Crist, director of the Dana School of Music, explained the humble beginnings of "Carols and Cocoa."

"Carols and Cocoa" began as a modest sing-along in the Bliss Hall lobby and has progressed to an outstanding musical even consisting of the informal Carols and Cocoa segment, and more formal Holiday Concert," Crist said. "Stambaugh Auditorium is a beautiful venue for these performances."

"Carols and Cocoa" has been held for over 30 years and will feature an array of performers from instrument exclusive ensembles, choruses, the Dana Symphonic Choir, Stambaugh Chorus and Dana Symphony Orchestra with guest soloists.

"We are humbled that the community supports the Dana School of Music in such a public way," Crist said.

Tickets for the event can be purchased at the Stambaugh Auditorium Box Office, on the phone at 330-259-0555 or at www.stambaughauditorium.com.

Penguin Playhouse and Alpha Psi Omega will perform "A Steampunk Christ-

mas Carol," on Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. and on Dec. 6 at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

"A Steampunk Christmas Carol" is an adaptation of the original Charles Dickens novel, holding on to the Victorian era setting, but adding the extreme dependence of steam-powered technology that is steampunk.

"The words are largely Dickens'," Scott Irelan, director of the play and chair of the theater and dance department, said. "The designs by students, staff and faculty, though, are all steampunk both in inspiration and in execution."

Alpha Psi Omega will also be hosting holiday activities to participate in in the lobby before the show.

"The adaptation has been a collaboration between myself as the director, and students both in script analysis class last spring and those on the creative team now," Irelan said. "The mash up will be fun."

Tickets can be purchased at the University Theater Box Office.

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EDITORIAL

THE GLORY OF DEFEAT

Browns lose top spot

After just one week in first place, the Cleveland Browns lost to the Houston Texans, falling to third place and compromising their playoff hopes.

Sunday was a disaster for the Browns. The offense struggled; the defense couldn't get off the field; and, if not for Texan penalties, the Browns wouldn't have even scored.

But Browns fans, this failure isn't all bad. Remember, your reputation is shaped by the way others view you. And, to the rest of the NFL community, a Browns fan is looked upon as a loveable underdog — a representation of relentless faith and hope in a struggling team.

So maybe right now, there isn't a Superbowl win in your immediate future, but this just means you have one more year as an underdog. If sports movies over the past twenty years have taught us anything, people are rabidly supportive of the underdog.

Think about it. No one likes the winners when you aren't one, and we all know that the New England Patriots or the Pittsburgh Steelers, who have four and six Super Bowl rings respectively, have more than their fair share of hate coming their way.

By developing a reputation as one of the NFL's biggest underdogs for the past twenty years, the Browns have given no team or fans a reason to hate them; this has probably garnered further fans from around the country. In fact, an article published by Fox Sports listed the Browns as the fourth most likeable NFL team.

So, Browns fans, keep filling up 92 percent of that stadium every Sunday. Bundle up and brave the cold Cleveland air. Proudly display those Browns hats and jackets.

But, don't forget, during your hungering for victory, that your unshakeable commitment and dedication to a troubled institution is in many ways more beautiful than the average fan's commitment to a consistently strong team. The love you show your team has been tempered by a very different flame — doubt.

While the Browns are one of the most likeable teams, their fans are also on the receiving end of a plentiful heaping of jokes about this aforementioned unshaken dedication. But there is something extremely earnest, honest and almost familial about a Browns' fan love; there are few fair-weather fans in the Browns' stadium.

As an office composed mostly of Browns' fans, we understand this all is a somewhat cold comfort. But when the Browns do win a Super Bowl — because they eventually will — the years of struggle and hardship will make the win all the sweeter, and it could very well go down in history as the greatest underdog victory in professional football. The years of loss are essentially building up to make this legend all the greater when it eventually comes to fruition. Remember, you have to understand what it means to lose to fully appreciate a victory.

So, yes it is excruciatingly painful to watch your favorite team for your entire life lose its spot at the top so quickly, and yes, there is no joy in defeat. But life is full of little and great defeats, and as humans, it is our job to desperately search for a silver lining.

For now, though, embrace the identity of loveable underdog.

A STEP FORWARD ON COUNTERING GLOBAL WARMING

Los Angeles Times (MCT)

Global-warming talks in Paris next year have a better chance of reaching a productive conclusion now that the two biggest economies in the world — which also happen to be the two biggest climate polluters — have promised to curb greenhouse gases dramatically by 2030. But the questions other nations will be asking as they analyze the forward-looking agreement reached by President Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping are exactly how they intend to achieve these ambitious goals and, indeed, whether they will be able to carry out their promises.

The latter question applies especially to Obama, who already faces opposition to the deal from Republican lawmakers, who will soon control both houses of Congress. Though the president has been accelerating the nation's battle against climate

change, particularly targeting emissions from coal plants, there are limits to what he can achieve through executive action without cooperation from Congress. What's more, there are no guarantees that future presidents will adhere to his nonbinding commitments.

It is in ways easier for China, which is now by far the biggest emitter of greenhouse gases, to meet its goals. The country is already under pressure from its own citizens to clean up its terrible air pollution problems. And it has been building solar energy capacity at a fast pace, so meeting its goal of 20 percent renewable power by 2030 should be achievable. It would also have to cap greenhouse gas emissions by that year.

Xi also has more flexibility than Obama; China is not a democratic power, which means that Xi doesn't contend with term limits or open elections. That may not make for good government, but it does make his job easier.

On this side of the Pacific Ocean, incoming Senate Majority Leader Mitch McCon-

nell — who represents the coal-producing state of Kentucky — already is complaining that China doesn't have to do anything for 16 years under the deal, while the U.S. is making more immediate commitments. That's neither fair nor accurate. It will take tremendous planning for China, which has been increasing its reliance on coal along with its commitment to solar, to start applying the brakes to that momentum.

Conservative Republicans seem to see the battle against climate change as a costly and unnecessary war on cheap and plentiful energy. (Then, of course, there's Republican Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, who has called the very idea of man-made climate change a hoax, and who is about to take the chairmanship of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.) In truth, there is a dollar cost either way, and studies estimate that the price of ignoring climate change — in the form of flood, drought, crop loss and so forth — is far higher than that of doing something about it.

One Less Excuse to Ignore Climate Change

The Sacramento Bee (MCT)

Opponents of strong and necessary action on climate change like to say that it doesn't matter what we do because China is spewing greenhouse gases like there's no tomorrow.

They'll have to flail around for another excuse now that the United States and China have reached a landmark agreement that will pressure other major carbon-emitting countries to join the effort as well.

After too many years of too little action since the Kyoto accords in 1997, the timing of the historic pact announced Wednesday is critical to break the stalemate.

The U.S. and China are by far the world's largest carbon polluters, accounting for more than one-third of the global total. They have been at odds on the issue, and their inaction gave cover to India and other developing nations to stay on the sidelines. This

deal will boost momentum going into a meeting next month in Peru, the last major negotiating session before a conference in December 2015 in Paris to enact a new international agreement to reduce carbon emissions.

The entire world must take bold steps starting now — when there's still a chance to slow global warming before it becomes too difficult and expensive. Otherwise, we should prepare for more frequent extreme weather, faster sea level rise and humanitarian disaster.

The new targets are ambitious. Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed that his country would, for the first time, set a date when its carbon emissions would peak, after which it would reduce its use of coal and other fossil fuels. That date is around 2030 but could be sooner as China seeks to increase its use of cleaner energy sources.

In return, the White House said the U.S. would cut its net greenhouse gas emissions 26 percent to 28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025. While not as fast a reduction as some environmental groups want,

the new goal would double the current pace. If President Barack Obama is able to follow through on this commitment, that would be a worthy legacy.

Unfortunately, you can bet obstructionists and skeptics will try to stand in the way, even though the evidence isn't on their side. For instance, Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell quickly claimed that the plan will be a job killer. In fact, clean energy is one of the fastest-growing sectors of the economy, in California and elsewhere. And in the longer term, global warming is a threat to economic growth, by making food, water and energy all more expensive.

There will have to be some sacrifice by consumers, businesses and industry. But as California is showing with its climate change law and cap-and-trade system, it can be done without wrecking the economy.

"Bold, necessary action from the U.S. & China on climate change," Gov. Jerry Brown tweeted Wednesday. "California will continue to lead the way."

JAMBAR POLICY

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THE JAMBAR .COM

Penguins Look for First 2-0 Start in Three Years

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The Youngstown State University women's basketball team decisively won their game against Niagara University 83-61. The Penguins' 83 points were the most scored by the women's team during a season opener in the past 14 years.

The Penguins started two freshmen guards: Indiya Benjamin and Nikki Arbanas. The two freshmen took control of the game early and shouldered some of the offense for senior forward Heidi Schlegel. Head coach John Barnes credits a lot of his backcourts success to Schlegel.

"I think a big part of it was Heidi though," he said. "They were putting a lot of pressure on her — double teaming — and she found the open player, and made really good passes right to them."

Benjamin finished with 11 points and six assists before leaving the game in the second half with a left leg injury. Benjamin didn't commit a turnover throughout the game and

looked poised during her time on the court.

"It's always exciting to have freshmen playing and playing quite a bit," Barnes said. "It's a little bit nerve-racking also. Niagara came in with a pretty experience group. Starting two or three seniors and the fourth and fifth seniors playing quite a bit. It was unnerving going in with quite a young group."

Arbanas finished her first game with 25 points, a YSU freshman record. She finished 5-5 from behind the 3-point line and three round and three assists.

"It's very exciting for her," Barnes said. "You couldn't ask for much more for a debut for a freshman. I thought she handled herself very well. A lot of times there's nerves for newcomers, but she did a great job not only in making her shots, but they put on a lot of pressure and she did a good job against the pressure also."

YSU will travel to Kent State University on Nov. 18 to play the Golden Flashes. Kent State lost its opener to North Dakota State University 74-68. Barnes said the Golden Flashes are a much-improved

team and had an opportunity to beat the Bison.

"They're a lot bigger than Niagara was. They like to pound the ball inside," he said. "They have a good perimeter core that can really attack the basket. They are a good all-around team. They were up on North Dakota State most of the game. A couple of breaks went North Dakota States game down the stretch and they weren't able to hang on, but they showed much improvement from two years ago to last year, and they looked much improved last year."

A win on Saturday would not only give the Penguins their first 2-0 start in three years but would snap YSU's five-game losing streak to the Golden Flashes. It would be the first victory at Kent since the 1996 season.

"They're a different team than what we played against Niagara so it will be a whole different matchup because they have a lot of tall people," Arbanas said. "I think we have to go into it with the same mindset as we did last game and hopefully we will come out with a win."



PHOTO BY DUSTINE LIVESAY/THE JAMBAR.

Freshman guard Nikki Arbanas (4) attempts a 3-point shot during the Penguins game against Niagara on 11/15. Arbanas scored 25 points, a YSU record for a freshman during a season opener. She was named the Horizon League Freshman of the Week.



PHOTO BY DUSTIN LIVESAY/THE JAMBAR.

The Youngstown State University volleyball team played its final regular season game against Cleveland State University on Nov. 14. After suffering a 3-1 loss to Cleveland State, the Penguins received the fourth seed in the Horizon League Tournament. The Penguins will face the Vikings again in the first round of the conference tournament Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Schlegel Named to Preseason All-Conference Team

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Earlier this fall, a team of media members, women's basketball coaches in the Horizon League and sports information directors made predictions as to the year-end finishes of the teams in the conference. The preseason all-conference honors were handed out as well.

Youngstown State University's women's basketball team was selected to finish in fourth place in the conference, tied with the University of Illinois-Chicago Flames. Senior forward Heidi Schlegel was named to the Preseason Horizon League All-Conference First Team.

Schlegel averaged 20 points per game last season, over 31.6 minutes per game, bringing her career points per game average to 13.2. While Schlegel is flattered by the honor, she admitted receiving All-Horizon League

honors is not something she is concerned with.

"Right now, I'm focused on my team and my teammates," Schlegel said.

After last season ended, head coach John Barnes sat down with Schlegel to talk about her leadership role.

"I think my role has been to just be the leader and make sure everyone's doing the right things, working hard and getting in the gym extra," Schlegel said.

Barnes is proud of Schlegel's selection to the All-Horizon League team and positively commented on the leadership role she has played.

"It's a great honor to have her as a senior leader on our team with so many young players; it's great for them to learn from a player like her," Barnes said.

Barnes said that Schlegel's greatest intangible is her work ethic.

"She works extremely hard no matter what she's trying to improve upon," he said. "She's willing to spend the time and effort to get better at it."

Schlegel scored 18 points along with 14 rebounds in YSU's 83-61 win versus Niagara University in last Saturday's regular season opener at the Beeghly Center. Schlegel, whose best shot is her 3-pointer, thinks it is too soon to accurately predict where the basketball team will finish in the league standings.

"I think that we were picked to tie for fourth place because we have a lot of freshmen, and I don't think anybody really knows how our team is going to come together," she said. "I think that we can definitely have a shot at being number one or two in the league."

Schlegel also assured that the team's seven freshmen are working hard and could make contributions during this basketball season.

"I think that all of the girls have worked really hard, and they all deserve some playing time," she said.

Schlegel and the Penguins will be back in action Nov. 18 at Kent State University. Tip-off is at 5:30 p.m.