

Summer Semester Will Commence Without Commencement

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Beginning this year, Youngstown State University students who are set to graduate in the summer will have to choose whether to participate in the spring commencement ceremony or return to walk in the fall.

The Academic Senate approved a proposal put forward by the Academic Events Committee eliminating summer commencement earlier this month.

Tacibaht Turel, a professor at YSU and the chair of the Academic Events Committee, said the provost's office suggested they look into reorganizing commencement ceremonies.

"The major issue was that in the spring semester, we currently have two commencements — one for graduate students and one for undergraduate students," Turel said. "The problem with that was the graduate's commencement in the spring was not as big as the undergraduate commencement, and they didn't have the full band for the event. And so, for the graduate students, they didn't really feel it was as special for them as it was for the undergraduate students."

The committee decided that instead of having separate commencements for graduate



PHOTO BY GABRIELLE FELLOWS/THE JAMBAR.

and undergraduate students, there should be two large ceremonies, each comprised of three colleges — one taking place in the morning and the other in the afternoon. With two larger ceremonies, students set to graduate in the summer will be able to be accommodated during spring commencement.

"There will be more room for [students'] parents and

family and friends to be at the commencement because especially when we have had a big commencement speaker like previously we had to sell tickets, and it was very crowded. We weren't able to allow everybody in. So we thought that this way they would be able to invite more people. They would have more room," Turel said.

The committee also wanted to leave students' options open

in case spring wasn't optimal.

"If they are graduating in the summer, and they don't want to walk in the spring, we also gave them the option to walk in the fall if they want to. So that is a decision the students would make on their own. We wanted to give them two options just in case they feel like they may not be able to come back to campus if they get a job somewhere else," Turel said.

Susanne Miller, a senior academic adviser for the Biontonte College of Health and Human Services, initially had concerns about logistics, but said they have been taken care of. But her and other advisers have still had to deal with disgruntled students.

"I've had several students in

COMMENCEMENT
PAGE 4

Skeggs Lecture Series Features Valerie Plame: Former CIA Operations Officer

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On Wednesday, Feb. 25, Youngstown State University's Skeggs Lecture Series will feature former Central Intelligence Agency Operations Officer Valerie Plame.

The event is open to the public and will begin at 7 p.m. in Stambaugh Auditorium, followed by a book signing by Plame at 8 p.m.

Plame is a public advocate on issues of national security, nuclear proliferation and politics. She wrote a memoir that was published in 2007 about how her CIA identity was revealed to several journalists by senior White House



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE D'ANDREA.
VALERIE PLAME

officials and state department officials entitled "Fair Game: My Life as a Spy, My Betrayal by the White House."

"Fair Game" has since been crafted into a movie starring Sean Penn and Naomi Watts.

Since then, Plame has been traveling to universities and schools across the country to not only discuss her experience in the CIA after going through the "political firestorm," but to also inform audiences about issues of national security and politics.

Plame said that she is going to discuss her memoir during her talk at Stambaugh.

"So I think I will talk about that story and why it matters. I always like when there is time for Q & A, and then we can talk about things like nuclear proliferation or women in intelligence or the NSA Snowden revelations. Those are the things that I follow and find pretty interesting," Plame said.

Plame explained her "outing" from the CIA after her identity was exposed to several national journalists.

"I can no longer be affiliated with the CIA. I can no longer be covert, and I can't do the job, which I was highly trained to do. In my case, there really was a political agenda behind it. Senior officials from the Bush Administration were very angry with my husband for having written a piece in which he believed that a lot of the intelligence had been manipulated to lead us into war with Iraq," Plame said. "This is my speculation, but I believe those that were responsible saw this as payback to my husband, former Ambassador Joe Wilson, for having questioned why the Bush administration took this country into war with Iraq."

Since 2003, Plame's story has been circulating online and she has been in the middle of a political firestorm. Plame said these articles that claim White House Officials did not leak her name to Robert Novak and the press are untrue.

"That's completely erroneous. A senior White House official gave him [Novak] my name. In fact, it wasn't just Novak; there were half a

YSU FACULTY UNION RATIFIES TENTATIVE AGREEMENT

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The Youngstown State University faculty union, YSU-OEA, voted by secret ballot to ratify the proposed three-year contract at a meeting held Feb. 17.

The contract passed by 17 votes, with 207 faculty members casting ballots.

The contract includes no increase in salary for the first year — academic year 2014-2015 — a 1 percent increase in the second year and a 2 percent increase in the third year, as well as increases to bonuses in the second and third year.

This contract offers greater increases in pay than the last tentative contract that the union voted down in November, but union leadership emphasized that the contract was still concessionary.

"Although anyone reviewing the TA might be romanced by the inclusion of bonuses and raises that faculty will receive in years two and three of the contract, it should be pointed out that these increases were TOTALLY subsidized by givebacks from the faculty," a Feb. 2 union press release stated.

According to the press release, a decrease in compensation given to summer instructors, a reduction in stipends in distances education and other sacrifices paid for the base salary increase. The abolishment of Extended Teaching Service — which the union said has remained in the contract for 40 years — subsidized the bonuses.

According to 2011-2014 faculty contract, ETS was offered to faculty members who completed 10 years of full-time service at the university and were eligible for retirement. They were offered up to 42 hours at the university spread out over five years — with a maximum of 11 hours per semester and 13 hours per year.

"ETS shall be paid an amount equal to the number of [teaching hours] taught times a percentage of their 9-month salary at the time of their retirement (or a percentage of \$100,000, whichever is less)," the 2011-2014 contract reads.

Under the new contract, faculty retiring this year or next will be offered a \$40,000 buyout instead; there is no buyout option in the third year of the contract.

Other alterations include changes in health care benefits and the elimination of dean's reassigned time — an allotment of time offered to professors for other ventures, such as research.

LECTURE
PAGE 4

UNION
PAGE 4



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A STORMY WEEKEND AT HARVARD FOR YSU'S MODEL UN

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Twenty students from Youngstown State University represented the college at the Harvard National Model United Nations conference — which featured over 3,000 delegates with representatives from 70 countries — in Boston, Massachusetts from Feb. 12-15.

The Harvard conference was founded 10 years after the forming of the United Nations. This year was its 61st session, making it the oldest Model UN conference.

Model UN is an international academic competition that simulates the United Nations by placing students, known as delegates in the competition, in various committees and councils where they represent the interests of an assigned country in dis-

cussions and debates concerning everything from human rights to environmental policies.

Greta Frost, a sophomore political science major double minoring in Arabic studies and economics, spoke on YSU's role in the conference.

"We were assigned Kenya and Hungary to represent in the conference. Solo as well as co-delegates from YSU participated in many committees representative of those that make up the United Nations," she said.

David Porter, the faculty adviser for YSU's Model UN team, said the team held their own in the conference — where they participated and competed with students from the likes of the University of Beijing, the National University of Venezuela, the University of Berkley and the University of Cambridge.

"They surprised people.

Think about it this way: of all the schools there, there was only one other school our size that was even mentioned in the awards," Porter said.

Porter said one team member, Abby Kovacs, who participated in the Human Rights Council at the conference, received the Recognition Award.

"That puts her somewhere between the 7 to 10 best delegates out of 66," he said. "Abby was representing the nation of Kenya, and the reason she got her award was because of how accurately she represented the country's foreign policy."

Porter said that though Model UN conferences vary, the criteria for awards remain the same.

"How accurately you represent your country, how active you are in caucusing and public speaking, how active you are in terms of writing a resolution and position papers

and, quite frankly, the quality of your participation," Porter said.

Frost spoke on her personal experience at this massive conference.

"This was my second year participating at this conference, and I absolutely loved it. It's amazing to learn so much about such important topics, as well as the cultures of the international students with whom I worked," she said. "I was in the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee as Kenya, and we discussed the topic of journalistic freedoms and protections. Tyler Miller-Gordon, my co-delegate, and myself worked with other African Union states present at the conference to develop a resolution for this issue."

Jordan Wolfe, a junior political science major with an economics minor, said the keynote speaker for the event was Richard Haass, the president of

the U.S. nonprofit Council on Foreign Relations. Wolfe said he spoke on the flaws of the UN, but also what the organization could offer the world.

The event concluded during a blizzard that grounded some of the YSU team and many other delegates in New England. Despite the weather, Porter concluded that the event was a success.

"One, it was the worst blizzard I have ever seen, and I have lived in Michigan for quite some time. Second, the students really did very well. You have to remember, some of the finest universities in the world participate in the Harvard National Model UN. The YSU students did more than hold their own," he said. "It is like a YSU basketball team playing the Chicago Bulls. ... They may have lost, but they held their heads up high, and the Bulls were impressed."

Connecticut Schools Pin Down and Restrain 'Staggering' Number of Kids

A new state report found one public school student was restrained more than 700 times in one year.

**Annie Waldman
ProPublica**

Connecticut public schools are far too quick to restrain or isolate unruly children against their will, leaving hundreds with injuries and many others with unmet educational needs, a state report released last week found.

The report cited "significant concern" that schools are overusing restraints and so-called seclusion, particularly on kids with emotional or intellectual disabilities. Over the past three years, Connecticut has recorded more than 90,000 instances of restraint and seclusion in public schools and more than 1,300 injuries — at least two dozen of them serious.

The report found one child was restrained more than 700 times over the course of a year.

«The numbers are staggering,» Mickey Kramer, the Associate Child Advocate for Connecticut and one of the authors of the report, told ProPublica. "We realize that this is a pervasive, widespread problem."

The report, which explored the cases of 70 students, described a

9-year-old student with autism who was placed in seclusion after refusing to say "hello" to a visitor and a 4-year-old boy with a developmental delay who was restrained after throwing puzzle pieces on the floor and across the room. The younger boy's school plan said he could be shackled to an orthopedic chair that is not supposed to be used for restraints.

And one fourth grader with autism was repeatedly secluded behind closed doors despite making repeated suicidal gestures while there, including wrapping items such as a sock, shoelace and coat around his neck and stating "I want to die." In 2004, a 13-year-old Georgia boy died after hanging himself while in seclusion.

Excessive use of restraint and seclusion goes far beyond Connecticut schools. An investigation last year by ProPublica and NPR based on government data showed the practices were used at least 267,000 times nationwide in just one school year.

The actual number of incidents is almost certainly much higher. Several of the nation's largest school districts do not

report the actual number of restraints to authorities despite the count being mandated by law.

Children with physical, emotional, or intellectual disabilities comprise nearly three-quarters of the total number of reported restraints. Hundreds of children are injured each year during restraints and at least 20 have died as a result.

In 2012, Connecticut legislators required schools to record and detail each instance of restraint and seclusion.

But last week's report, by Connecticut's Office of the Child Advocate, found that many schools are not following the law, and are often providing insufficient reasons for the intervention and otherwise failing to adequately document them.

"The lack of specific documentation is a critical finding," said the report.

The report also said Connecticut's Department of Education does not have enough resources to monitor schools' compliance.

Restraints aside, the watchdog agency also took issue with the spaces used for seclusion, which often include storage and utility closets as well other "cell-

like" spaces.

In response to the report, the department agreed that more needs to be done. "We are grateful for the Child Advocate's attention to this issue," said Kelly Donnelly, spokeswoman for Connecticut's State Department of Education. "We share the Child Advocate's concerns and would like to see the numbers reduced, as well."

There is consensus among experts that pinning children down or isolating them in small rooms involuntarily are ineffective ways to manage the behavior of students, particularly those with special needs. These types of interventions can often be traumatic for children, intensifying behavioral challenges in the long run.

"Most of these children have no idea what is expected of them," said Barb Trader, the executive director of TASH, a disability advocacy organization. "They are restrained or secluded and they are clueless to what is happening."

Alternatives to restraints exist. The report says that programs around the country have reduced restraints and seclusions as well as problem behavior using other strategies

to calm students.

In 2012, Connecticut founded an interagency taskforce committed to reducing restraint and seclusion in schools. Connecticut state law prohibits restraints, unless used in "response to an emergency." However, the report found that the interpretation of what constitutes an "emergency" varies from school to school.

Seclusions are also allowed in Connecticut in emergencies or as part of a child's behavioral plan. In contrast to some states, Connecticut permits secluding children in locked rooms, and children can be secluded until they have "composed" themselves, which can sometimes last more than an hour.

The report outlined 14 recommendations for reducing the number of restraints and seclusions across the state. It called for increased staff training on how to prevent the need for restraints and recommended monthly school-wide reviews of restraint data to assess progress. The report also called for limiting the use of mechanical restraints and prohibiting the prone or facedown restraint technique.

Penguins Assist Area Students

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Youngstown State University's Beeghly College of Education received a \$450,000 grant to work with Youngstown City Schools' at-risk youth, helping fund the creation of Penguin Assistants for Student Success — a program that places YSU students in Youngstown City Schools to tutor primary grade students.

PASS has established a close relationship between YSU and Youngstown Schools, and the purpose of this relationship is two-fold. It should

not only help at-risk students in second grade pass their third grade reading exam, but also give YSU education students hands-on teaching experience.

Here's how the program is supposed to work: a YSU tutor is paired with a second grade student, working closely with this student until he or she takes the third grade literacy exam. Once the student has received their third grade reading guarantee, the YSU student will be assigned to another second grade student.

If the tutor's third grader passes the reading exam, the YSU tutor will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. In the event that the student does not pass, the YSU tutor still

receives a \$250 scholarship.

YSU President Jim Tressel, who played a major role in the creation of PASS, made positive comment on the program's mission.

"We need this program, because hopefully if we aid these students with reading, comprehension and critical thinking in this level of standardized testing, then it will hopefully help them in the rest of their academic career and help more at risk students reach their full potential," Tressel said.

The program is in full swing, with 235 tutors already grouped with their elementary school student in the Youngstown school district.

The program intends to eventually place 380 tutors in the area schools.

Danielle Pazillo, an education student, has enjoyed her time working with the PASS program.

"This has been one of the best things I have ever done, working with my student and knowing that I am making a difference reassures my decision to become an education major," she said.

Classmate Joe Mahoney echoed Pazillo's sentiment, sharing his own experience with the program.

"I walked in and my student was eager to meet me, and as I walked down the hallway with her she grabbed my hand and

I knew then that this was truly the career that I wanted to spend my life doing," he said.

Tressel worked with the Second and Seven Foundation to develop and implement the PASS program. Founded in 1999 by former Ohio State University football players Luke Fickell, Ryan Miller and Mike Vrabel, the Second and Seven Foundation is a nonprofit organization created to combat illiteracy. Their foundation has donated a cart full of books to PASS.

To participate in PASS, one need not be an education major; any interested student can access an application for the program on the BCOE's website.

SELMA BROUGHT TO LIFE

Sojourn to the Past Takes Students to Civil Rights Locales

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The movie "Selma" drew audiences from across the nation, but the real life location will soon be drawing students from local high schools for a trip through the civil rights movement.

Students from Youngstown Early College and Chaney High School will join with the California-based organization Sojourn to the Past for a weeklong tour of the civil rights movement's most notable locations, including Atlanta, Georgia; Montgomery, Alabama; Birmingham, Alabama; Meridian, Michigan; Hattiesburg, Michigan; and Selma, Alabama.

The trip is meant as an opportunity for students to add a layer of context to their understanding of the civil rights movement. Penny Wells, retired Youngstown City Schools teacher and a member of Sojourn to the Past's board of directors, said she believes the trip inspires participants to become more engaged in their local governments and societies upon their return.

"They meet leaders of the civil rights movement, for example Congressman John Lewis flies to Atlanta every year to meet them, he was one of the leaders on the Bloody Sunday march, he had his skull fractured that day ... they meet leaders of the movement, lessons of the movement and they come up with an action plan to implement when they come home, the first of which is voter registration," Wells said.

High schools from the Mahoning Valley, especially Youngstown, are generally the only schools outside of California to send students with the Sojourn program. Wells'

inspiration for the Mahoning Valley chapter of Sojourn to the Past came following a meeting with Jeff Steinberg, the group's founder, at a teacher's conference.

The students who attend the trip receive a credit in history and are motivated to get involved in civic campaigns in their hometowns. According to Mark Ellis, Youngstown Early College academic coordinator, the students who take the trip are notably changed by the experience.

"It has a huge effect ... when the students come back, they're changed. ... It's a lot of work on the students; they're writing papers and doing research before each of the stops. ... Penny [Wells] is working with the students for up to a year before the trip," Ellis said.

Following their Sojourn to the Past experience, students worked together to have the first week of October designated as "Non-Violence Week" in the state of Ohio.

"They also started Non-Violence Week; they petitioned the YSU trustees, the school boards, the [Youngstown] city council, the county commissioners, asking them to make the first week in October Non-Violence Week. They all did," Wells said. "In October 2013, they asked Joe Schiavoni to introduce a Non-Violence Week law into the general assembly and they were with Governor Kasich in 2013 when he signed that bill into law so Non-Violence Week is a law across the state of Ohio. They started the nonviolence parade, which is sponsored by Sojourn to the Past, YSU, the city of Youngstown and a number of other organizations. This October will be the 5th annual Non-Violence Parade."

Shannon Sharp, now a student at Youngstown

State University, participated in the trip in 2012 and said the experience helped shape her current view on civics.

"The trip definitely gave me a different perspective on life. It taught me not to be a silent witness when I see someone being bullied verbally or in any other way," Sharp said. "This [Sojourn to the Past] is a once in a lifetime opportunity. I personally applied to go on the trip in 2011, but ended up not going, so in 2012 when I was asked to go I didn't hesitate in saying yes. The trip teaches you many things that aren't in our history books and if it wasn't for this trip I would have never learned about all the people who were a part of the movement or those who died during it."

The popularity of the recently released film "Selma," based on the historical Civil Rights march from Selma, Alabama to Birmingham, Alabama, may help popularize Sojourn to the Past's trips, and Wells hopes any who are interested in the film will not only familiarize themselves with the historical event depicted in the films, but also participate in a small scale reenactment of the Bloody Sunday march on March 1.

"In downtown Youngstown we're having a Selma commemorative march in honor of the 50th anniversary of Selma," Wells said. "We're going to have a small program about the Selma campaign, about what actually happened, then we're going to leave there and march two by two, quietly, just like they did on Bloody Sunday, across what people call the Peanut Bridge that crosses the Mahoning River. So anyone that wants to participate, from YSU or anywhere, should come join."

For more information on Sojourn to the Past or the Selma Memorial March, visit the organization's website at mvsojourn.to.thepast.com.

Fires at Train Derailment Still Burn as Investigators Look for Answers

CURTIS TATE

McClatchy Washington Bureau
(TNS)

MONTGOMERY, W.Va. — Small fires continued to burn for a third day at the site of the latest crude oil train derailment, more than 100 people remain locked out of their homes and investigators trying to determine the cause endured work in subzero temperatures.

Only one resident was treated for minor injuries after 29 cars of a 109-car CSX train derailed Monday. Nineteen of those cars carrying crude oil from North Dakota's Bakken shale region caught fire, with several exploding into massive fireballs.

A unified command post for the derailment was established Wednesday in this town of about 1,600, about 30 miles southeast of Charleston, the state capital. The post combines several federal agencies and their state counterparts involved in the accident cleanup and investigation.

"The top priorities for response personnel remain the safety of the community and responders, and mitigating the impact to the environment," said Coast Guard Capt. Lee Boone, the federal on-scene coordinator.

As 1 to 3 inches of additional snow fell on top of several of the derailed tank cars, workers began re-railing and moving some of the ones still loaded with oil. Officials from the Federal Railroad Administration got a closer look at the derailment site Wednesday morning and were able to review video footage from cameras on the train's locomotives.

But 48 hours after the de-

railment, conditions were not safe enough for CSX to begin transferring the oil from the damaged tank cars to trucks.

"That is the first priority," said Rob Doolittle, a CSX spokesman.

The evacuated residents remain in nearby hotels, and Doolittle said they will be able to return to their homes "as soon as it's safe."

Water service was restored Wednesday morning to some area residents who had been without it since Monday. Though no oil has been detected in the nearby Kanawha River, which supplies drinking water for the area, intake pumps were turned off as a precaution. Residents were still advised to boil their water.

About 500 feet of oil containment boom was deployed in the river as a precaution, according to officials. The derailment site is just downstream from the New River Gorge, a national park and popular recreation area.

Even as the scent of burning oil permeated the frigid air Wednesday, residents who evacuated Monday night were trying to get their lives back in order, stocking up on groceries and shoveling their snow-covered driveways.

Brandon Truman, 32, who lives in Boomer, across the river from the wreck site and had worked in the North Dakota oilfields, where the cargo originated, said he and others felt the explosions, then the heat from the fire.

"It shook the whole (river) bottom," he said.

Environmental groups, meanwhile, sounded the alarm about the threat to public safety and the environment from fiery oil train derailments. Only a day before the West Virginia incident, another oil

train derailed and caught fire in northern Ontario.

Last April, a train carrying crude oil also from North Dakota's Bakken shale region derailed in Lynchburg, Va., spilling 30,000 gallons. Some of the oil burned, but some also

spilled into the James River, a water supply for many nearby towns.

Pat Calvert, a river conservationist whose office overlooks the site of April's derailment, called for increased inspections of the rail lines

used to move oil.

"This is an alarming reminder that our rivers and communities continue to be at risk every day without stronger safety requirements for Bakken crude oil transport," he said.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Walk-On Football Try-Outs

There will be a walk-on Football Try-Out Day on March 6 at 9:30 a.m. in the WATTS. There will be a meeting the day before — March 5 — at 2:30 p.m. in the Team Meeting Room in Stambaugh Stadium. For more information, please go to the Football Office in Stambaugh Stadium and pick up an information flyer.

Outstanding STEM Alumni, Students Honored

The College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics will honor outstanding students and alumni at the seventh annual YSU STEM College Awards Dinner on Feb. 19. Seven awards will be presented: Outstanding Young Alumna, awarded to Stephanie McCann; Outstanding Young Alumnus, awarded to Wesley Vins; Outstanding Education Partner, awarded to Tom Slaven; Outstanding Alumnus, awarded to Roy Pratt; Outstanding Business Partner, awarded to Steve Duca; STEM Intern Employer of the Year, awarded to America Makes; and STEM Intern of the Year, awarded to Ashley Martof.

my office that were upset, and every adviser that I've talked to has addressed that, has had several students that were upset," Miller said.

Miller said she understands the rationale behind the decision, but didn't understand the need to put things into effect this summer as opposed to waiting a year.

"I wish that they would've made this decision for next year. I guess I just don't understand why it had to happen now," she said. "Maybe we could've waited a year, so that the student would've had a little more control over what they would've wanted to do."

Turel said the decision to enact the changes this year was made by the provost's office and wasn't considered by the committee.

Lucas Politsky, a graduate student at YSU who serves on the Academic Events Committee, said the committee heard student concerns.

"I know there are some students who are a bit upset. They said they want to graduate as a class. They want to graduate with their friends. And I was explaining to them you still have that option. You all have to decide to graduate in

spring, or you come back and graduate in fall. And I think most students who are graduating in the summer, they'll just walk at commencement in spring," Politsky said.

He also said it allows students graduating in the summer to have a more memorable commencement experience.

"One example that I looked at said, 'I'm in this cohort, students in my class are graduating for the most part in spring, and maybe one or two people are going to graduate in the summer.' Well, they want to walk with their friends ... and it's going to be a nicer time because everybody's going to be there together, and it's a bigger celebration. There are more people, and you have a better chance of getting a good commencement speaker," Politsky said.

If it doesn't work out, the decision can always be reversed in the future.

"This decision can stand, theoretically, until it could be changed again. So, say in a couple years it doesn't work anymore," Politsky said. "It can always be changed back because it can be ruled on by the Academic Senate."

UNION
PAGE 1

would follow suit and also ratify the agreement.

"We're pleased that the faculty ratified the contract on their end. In regards to specific parts of this agreement, the Board is not being updated until tomorrow," Carol Weimer, chairperson of the Board, said. "Tomorrow, there will probably be a great deal of discussion, and I can't anticipate whether there will be any final action taken tomorrow or whether it will come the following week, after there has been an opportunity for Board of Trustee members to get all of the information that they need to make a decision regarding this tentative agreement."

Trustee Harry Meshel agreed, adding that he wants to know how the agreement will permanently impact the university's finances before voicing an opinion on the issue.

"I don't want to be critical of anything yet. I want to read it and find out the details," Meshel said. "My concern is permanent financial impact on the university budget. What have we done permanently?"

LECTURE
PAGE 1

dozen other journalists that would pass my name. He [Novak] is dead now, and it was completely designed to send a warning signal to others that had begun to talk about the interference of the Office

of the Vice President into the intelligence world and how we got into war with Iraq in the first place," Plame said.

Plame received a bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania State University, and master's degree from the College of Europe in Belgium and from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Plame has written two spy thrillers: "Blowback," published in 2013 with co-author Sarah Lovett and its sequel "Burned."

Upon having her name exposed, Plame said that life not only changed for her but her family as well.

"At the time, our children were very small, just toddlers and I was very concerned about their physical nature because there was a lot of people out there that are either unbalanced or would love to say that they took care of a CIA agent. It was a very difficult time. It felt like falling down Alice's rabbit hole where black is white and white is black. It was a huge media firestorm for a couple of years and I ended up resigning from the CIA in 2007 after the vice president's Chief of Staff was convicted of leaking my name," Plame said.

Plame discussed some of her duties as a former CIA Operations Officer. One of her main prerogatives was to

prevent nuclear proliferation operations — or the spread of nuclear weapons, fissionable material, and weapons-applicable nuclear technology and information to nations not recognized as Nuclear Weapon States.

"My job was to spot, assess, develop and recruit foreign assets to provide critical intelligence to U.S. policy makers. I was running operations; I was completely focused on operations pertaining to nuclear proliferation, essentially making sure bad guys don't get a nuclear weapon," Plame said.

Plame expressed her positivity for the upcoming lecture.

"I'm excited. I really enjoyed speaking to university students because of course this happened when students were still very young, but we are still dealing with the aftermath of the Iraq War today — what we see with ISIS, what we see with the entire Middle East is bubbling, and it's important to understand how we got where we are. I also encourage students to consider a career in public service, whatever that might be. I'm looking forward to it," Plame said. "What I hope is the take away from my experience, what my husband and I both hope, is that people understand how important it is to hold your government to account."

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Questions? Contact :

Karen Graves, Asst. Director
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For more information, contact the Africana Studies Program at Youngstown State University: (330)-941-3097

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4
 6:30 P.M. • THE MCDONOUGH MUSEUM OF ART
RECEPTION AND LECTURE FOR VISITING ARTISTS

Kelly Eugene Phelps, associate professor and chair of Art, Xavier University, and Kyle Edward Phelps, associate professor of Art, University of Dayton, Ohio, present a joint lecture on their work, followed by a panel discussion. Their work encompasses the creation of traditional ceramic, sculpture, along with media art. Their research interest includes socio-political representation through the use of visual narratives and the human figure as image and ideal; other topics include race, class, and material meaning and process.



Both earned their BFAs from Ball State University in 1996 and their MFA degrees in in Ceramics from the University of Kentucky.

Co-sponsored by the College of Creative Arts and Communication

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6
 6:30 P.M. • GALLERY, KILCAWLEY CENTER
BLACK WOMEN AND THEIR HAIR
 A LECTURE ON BLACK WOMEN, HAIR CARE, AND BALDNESS BY MONICA BEASLEY-MARTIN



Black women value and love their hair and spend considerable time and resources to maintain a variety of styles that accentuate the natural beauty of African hair, fine and bold weaves, as well as dreadlocks. Then there's another style - the bald style, which can come about as a result of either too much chemical treatment, cancer, or a rare condition known as alopecia, which results in the loss of hair because the body is allergic to it. Monica Beasley-Martin was diagnosed with alopecia in her twenties. The resulting baldness led her to write *Bald is Beautiful*. Her lecture, along with Carmelia Williams, will cover care of hair for black women and her book. Monica is an ordained minister and a drama teacher who lives in Youngstown. A book signing will follow the lecture.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12
 5:30-6:30 P.M. • THE MCDONOUGH MUSEUM OF ART
LECTURE BY KEYNOTE SPEAKER, DAWOUD BEY



Dawoud Bey is a renowned American photographer, whose work has earned him great recognition and appreciation from professionals, reputable institutions and the general public. His large-scale color portraits focus on adolescents and marginalized subjects, with earliest photographs depicting the style of everyday life in Harlem. His recent Birmingham Project evokes the tragic events of September 15, 1963, where four black girls and two boys were killed in Birmingham, Alabama, in acts of racist violence. Bey began his career in 1975 with a series of photographs, "Harlem, USA," that were exhibited at the Studio Museum, Harlem, in 1979. His art has been exhibited in the Addison Gallery of American Art, The Art Institute of Chicago, the Brooklyn Museum, the Detroit Institute of Arts, and the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University.

Bey studied at the School of Visual Arts in New York from 1977-78, graduated with a BFA in Photography from Empire State College in 1990, and received his MFA from Yale University in 1993. He is a professor of Art and Distinguished College Artist at Columbia College, Chicago.

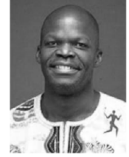
Co-sponsored by the McDonough Museum of Art

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14
 12:00 NOON • THE CHESTNUT ROOM, KILCAWLEY CENTER
THE AFRICAN MARKETPLACE



The African Marketplace brings together vendors and members of the community to celebrate African life in all its intensity. Come to enjoy sampling and purchasing diverse creations and products of African American artists and entrepreneurs. The African Marketplace attracts vendors from Ohio and beyond and enhances social connections of immense cultural value. Musical entertainment will be provided by the talented youthful Harambee dancers, and the Youth Choir of New Bethel Baptist Church in Youngstown.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17
 7:00 P.M. • OHIO ROOM, KILCAWLEY CENTER
LECTURE BY DR. OKAKAPIO DOKOTUM



Dr. OkakaOpio Dokotum, associate professor of Literature and Film at Kyambogo University, Kampala, Uganda, presents "Debunking the Myth of Africa, the Dark Continent." Dr. Dokotum is a poet, playwright and filmmaker. His scholarly research is on literature, film adaptation theory and the re-imagining of African literary scholarship through film adaptation studies. His publications include *Butterfly Dance, A Poetry Collection, and Atim Goes to the Village*. He is currently a Fullbright African Research Scholar at Northern Illinois University.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23
 7:00 P.M. • THE OHIO ROOM, KILCAWLEY CENTER
THE MISSING LINK BY THE BONDAGE BUSTERS



Docudrama by the Bondage Busters, a youth group in Youngstown dedicated to the education and empowerment of African American youth. The group will showcase their activities that includes creative media drama on stage. Bondage Busters is led by Pastor Charles Hudson, a native of Youngstown who founded the group in 1989 in Crenshaw, California. Pastor Hudson teaches and supervises more than 100 kids at Luther's Lutheran Church in Youngstown. He targets gangs and other groups within city limits that draw children into a life of criminal behavior. Pastor Hudson and his assistants conduct counseling sessions, G.E.D. classes, athletic activities, and spiritual education. Pastor Hudson has received commendations for his outstanding work from Patrick Ungaro, former mayor of Youngstown, Randall Wellington, former police chief of Youngstown, and Ben McGee, former superintendent of the Youngstown City Schools.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25
 6:30 P.M. • JONES ROOM, KILCAWLEY CENTER,
PANEL DISCUSSION: "WHAT IS WRONG WITH OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM?"



What do the following people have in common and what do they continue to say about our criminal justice system: Emmitt Till, Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and Tamir Rice and John Crawford III? Has over-criminalization and the jury system failed to deliver justice to victims of law enforcement? Panelists include members of YSU's Department of Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement and community leaders who will address the issues of law enforcement and race, and suggest ways of improvement. Members of the audience will be able share their experiences.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

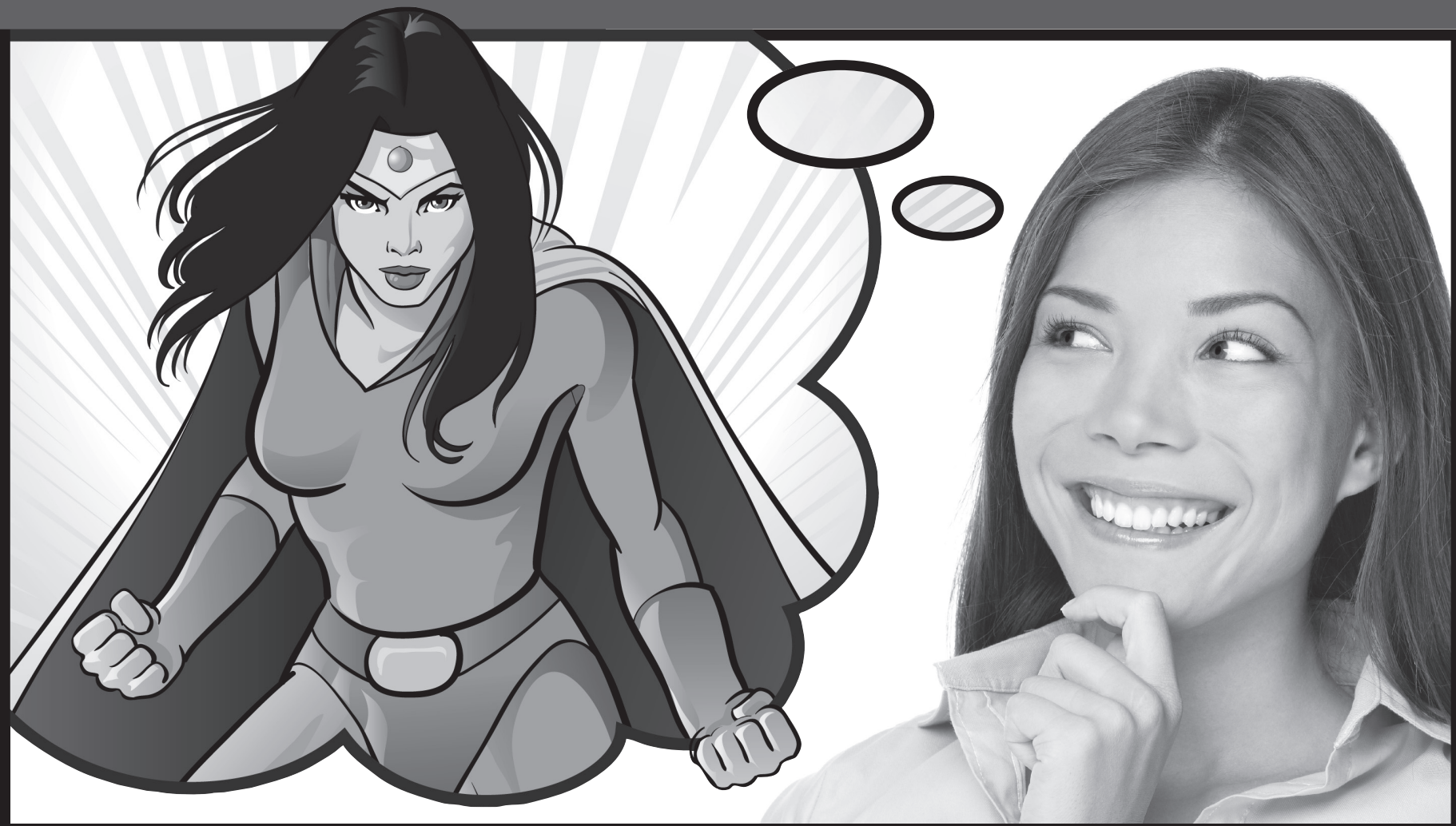


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Mad About the Arts Celebrates 20 Years *with Style*

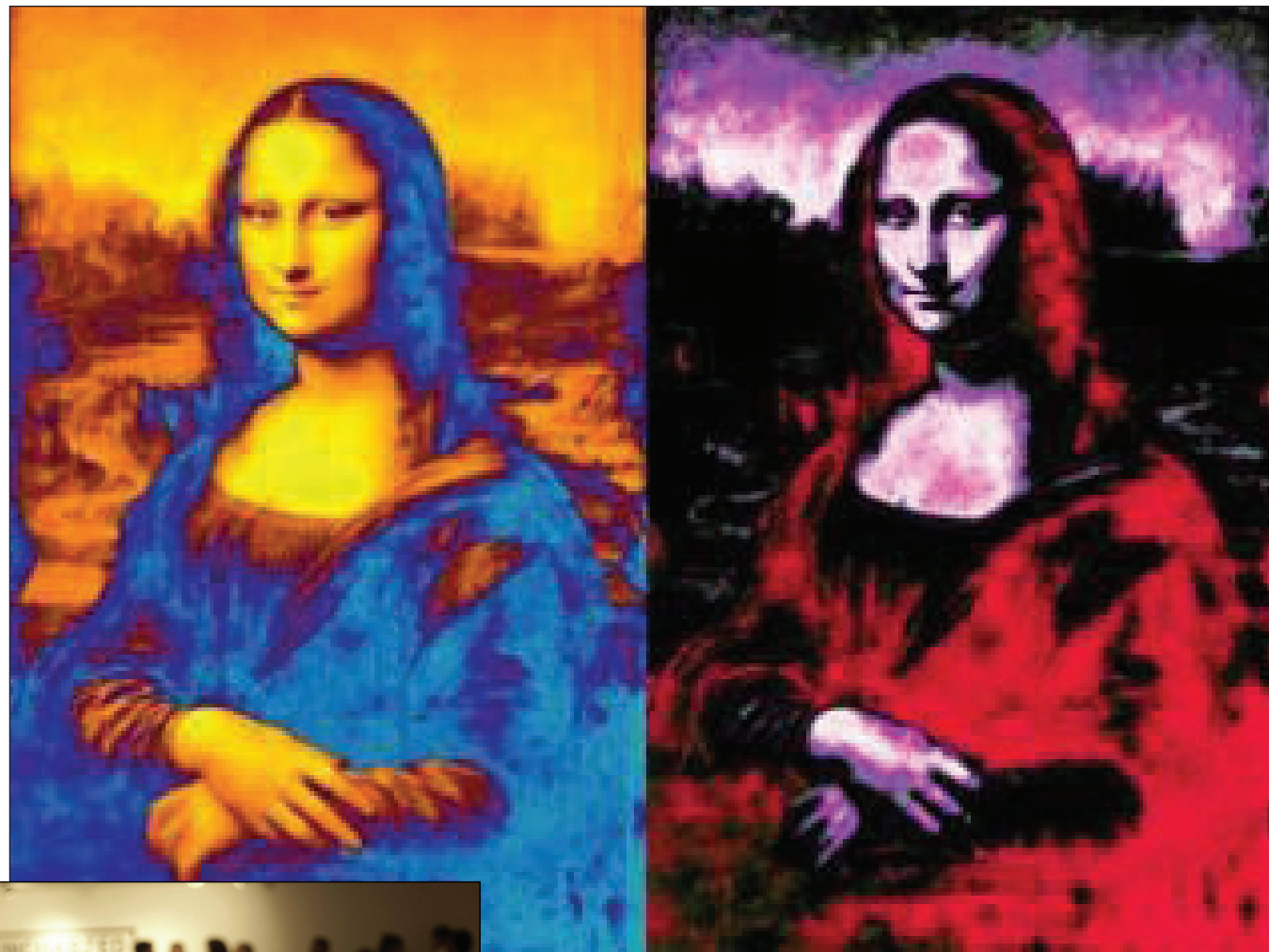
GABRIELLE FELLOWS
gfellows@student.ysu.edu

Members of the art and music communities gathered in the McDonough Museum of Art, sharing in music, food and company in the third week of February in 1995. Flash forward to 2015, and Mad About the Arts is commemorating its 20th year of fun and service with a party unlike any seen prior.

For this year's Mad About the Arts, the event will be held in Stambaugh Auditorium instead of in the McDonough Museum, where it had been held every year since its conception.

Classical music station WYSU 88.5 FM and the McDonough Museum have been partnering for many years to host this celebratory fundraising event for local art and music. Tricia Perry, the fundraising officer at WYSU, said that she believes this year's Mad About the Arts will be as much fun as it is beneficial for the parties that the fundraiser benefits.

"It's unusual for fundraising events to go on this long, usually after three to five years, it's expected to change — this is Mad About the Arts' 20th year. What we're doing, people are interested in," Perry said. "We have different music and different art each time. This year we're doing jazz ensembles and a dance band for the end of the night. Usually, since the party is at the McDonough, there is art up that attendees can view, but since this year its being held at Stambaugh, there will be videos displaying WYSU and the McDonough over the years. ... We wanted this year to



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MCDONOUGH MUSEUM OF ART.



feel like a gala, something special to celebrate 20 years of this."

Tickets for the event are \$80 and include food, beverages and entertainment. Youngstown State University faculty, students, staff, graduates of fine and performing arts and members of the McDonough Museum and/or WYSU can purchase tickets for \$60. The proceeds from the ticket sales benefit the McDonough Museum and WYSU.

Leslie Brothers, director at the McDonough Museum of Art, said that there is an undeniable appeal with Mad About the Arts — one that not only provides entertainment for the community, but also benefits Youngstown, its residents and its students.

"The event is never quite the same twice. ... This has appeal. Mad About the Arts is a benefit for the McDonough Museum and WYSU. Both institutions are part of YSU and benefit the community directly through their programs and outreach. Both the McDonough Museum of Art, YSU's Center for Contemporary Art and WYSU 88.5 FM are dependent on outside support to fund their pro-

grams," Brothers said. "Last summer, for example, the McDonough Museum and WYSU used funds raised through MAD 2014 to bring StoryCorps to Youngstown and record 30 conversations with 60 community leaders to be archived in the Library of Congress. Voices of the Valley would never have happened without the success of our benefit, Mad About the Arts."

Mad About the Arts 2015 is taking place Feb. 20 from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets will still be available for purchase online and at the Stambaugh ticket counter, check only, through the night of the event. More information can be found at both the McDonough Museum and WYSU's websites.

Musicians Delved into Classic South Indian Music with International Percussionist



PHOTO COURTESY OF KARTHIK DWARAKANATH/FLICR "MRIDANGAM" CC BY 2.0.

BRIGITTE PETRAS
bmpetras@student.ysu.edu

Last Thursday and Friday, an unfamiliar drumming could be heard resonating from Bliss Hall's band room on the second floor.

Rajna Swaminathan, an international percussionist, performed and spoke with percussion majors and

any other musicians interested in her foreign instrument and rhythm. As Swaminathan's event title suggests — "South Indian Rhythm in the Global Contemporary Context" — she informed the public and the percussion studio about unfamiliar rhythm theories with a double-sided Indian drum called a mridangam.

Swaminathan explained the difference between classic North Indian and South Indian music.

"Hindustani [North Indian Music] was influenced by the Mongol invasion," she said. "[South Indian music] isn't necessarily meditative, although it can be. It's very dense and complicated, but it's also uplifting and very elevating. There are many different levels to appreciate this kind of music."

She continued by describing that the Beatles were influenced by the Northern Hindustani music, while Southern Indian music receives much less exposure to the Western world.

Swaminathan suggested keeping an open mind about classic Indian music.

"Let the melodies and sounds take over and elevate you," she said.

Swaminathan began learning piano, Indian dance and the mridangam drum through her parents' connections at age eight. By the age of 14, she had the opportunity to perform internationally in India. These international and traditional Indian exposures lead to her lifetime career in music.

"There was a time when I wanted a normal job. I wanted to do physics, but I didn't want to be in the same situation my dad was in. He has to balance his job with his own [musical] practice time," Swaminathan said.

Swaminathan collaborates with jazz musicians such as Steve Coleman and Vijay Iyer. She explained that jazz has a similar fast pace and element of improvisation to South Indian music.

"It's all about being beyond labels," she said.

Glenn Schaft, the director of percussion studies and associate professor at YSU, met Swaminathan in Austin, Texas at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention three years ago.

Although he has seen and heard classical Indian music before, Schaft concluded that Swaminathan explained the complicated system to the West exceptionally well.

Swaminathan spent four extra hours with in two days with the percussion studio exclusively, explaining the Indian rhythm theories.

"I wanted to expose [the students] to this fascinating different approach that will make them want to investigate. It's one of the top two rhythmic systems in the world, and this system is applicable to what [percussionists] do," Schaft said.

Aaron Graneto, a junior within the percussion studio, expressed his opinion on the South Indian rhythmic system and music.

"She displayed so much musicality with the raw instrument that I was inspired to delve deeper into South Indian music from that point forward," Graneto said. "I came to understand the powerful simplicity of this rhythmic system and the ease with which a musician can vocalize an idea without having to explain out every single note."

TV Review: 'American Masters' Documentary Aply Captures Playwright, Poet August Wilson

SHARON EBERSON
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
(TNS)

Should the August Wilson Center in Pittsburgh reopen and wish to honor its namesake, it would do well to screen the "American Masters" documentary "August Wilson: The Ground on Which I Stand" on a continuous loop.

Then everyone who walked through the doors could get some idea of the Pittsburgh-born playwright's monumental contributions to theater and why his name deserves to be on a building dedicated to African-American culture.

The documentary by Sam Pollard airs Friday on PBS and is timed to the 70th anniversary of Wilson's birth, the 10th anniversary of his death and Black History Month.

"The Ground on Which I Stand" offers testimonials, scholarly analysis, scenes from his award-winning Pittsburgh Cycle of plays and videos of Wilson peeling back his craft in his own words. It begins with his birth in the Hill District and goes full circle to the 2005 funeral parade in which his coffin was chauffeured — led by Wynton Marsalis trumpeting "When the Saints Come Marching In" — through the streets of his youth.

There are photos of those early days and remembrances from relatives and Pittsburghers such as Post-Gazette theater critic Chris Rawson, who weigh in on the city's influence that kept him always looking back. It was after leaving Pittsburgh that Wilson wrote his master works, setting nine of his 10 plays in the Hill neighborhood.

Wilson started as a poet, and the lifelong music lover infused his writing with a lyricism that inspired "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom," in which the characters each represent an instrument.

"In the blues, I found an encapsulation of the black people's American cultural ideas and their journey in America," Wilson said.

The filmmakers offer insights from Viola Davis, James Earl Jones, Phylicia Rashad, Laurence Fishburne and more who have worked with the man dubbed by The New York Times as "Theater's Poet of Black America." There's not a single detractor to his talent, including Charles Dutton, who nevertheless takes Wilson to task for breaking with Lloyd Richards, the director who gave the young Wilson his start at the O'Neill National Playwrights Conference. Richards has nothing but good things to say here, and Sandra Shannon, a Wilson scholar, likens the split to a son deciding to go his own way.

We learn more about the playwright's process from his widow, Constanza Romero, who was surprised to discover that he wrote on napkins and menus, whatever was at hand when an idea came to mind. However, we don't discover much about his life outside the theater, nothing about two earlier marriages and his time in Seattle, for instance.

We do know he guarded his privacy. Playwright Suzan-Lori Parks explains, through tears, that she was going to interview Wilson and was warned by a colleague not to tire him out — that was how she discovered the playwright was dying of liver cancer.

Wilson wrote about every decade of the 20th century and was rewarded with two Pulitzer Prizes — for "Fences" and "The Piano Lesson" — and a Broadway theater that bears his name. It's a very full creative life to squeeze into 90 minutes, and this co-production of the "American Masters" series and WQED offers additional resources via PBS LearningMedia for high school educators to explore the themes prevalent in this American master's work: "community, identity, diversity, activism, self-reliance and resilience."

JAMBAR POLICY

Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Collegiate Press honors. The Jambar is published twice weekly during the fall and spring semesters and weekly during the first summer session. Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. The first copy of The Jambar is free. Additional copies of The Jambar are \$1 each.

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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.

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EDITORIAL

AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISTS ARE A NATIONAL SECURITY THREAT

Well that's pretty inflammatory.

Not all people who believe in the idea of American exceptionalism are national security threats. Those who actually believe that — due to America's place in history and the circumstances surrounding it — America is unique among nations aren't at the heart of this editorial's gripe.

This editorial's gripe is aimed at the neo-conservative nutjobs who pose for photos with Bibles and rifles and say things like "Well if evolution is true why are there still monkeys" and wish rape and murder on columnists who criticized "American Sniper." Or the type of people that try to ban mistakes in America's past from making it into textbooks. We're looking at you, neocon Sooners.

For those who haven't been keeping up, recently the Oklahoma House Common Education Committee voted 11-4 to sponsor a bill that, if voted into law, would effectively ban Advanced Placement History courses in Oklahoma high schools. The 10-page bill offers an outline for a more appropriate version of a U.S. history course, which calls for, among many other changes, the inclusion of "Founding documents of the United States that contributed to the foundation or maintenance of the representative form of limited government, the free-market economic system and American exceptionalism."

The complaint that the bill — authored by Republican Rep. Dan Fischer — takes with Oklahoma's recently updated AP History curriculum is that the updated framework only deals with "what is bad about America."

Fischer's bill — HB1380 — would include the basics one would expect to see in any history course: founding documents, the overview of pivotal historical events, et cetera. Sprinkled throughout the bill, however, are changes that clearly represent an attempt to steer high school students to the neocon right — three speeches by president Ronald Reagan, one by president George Walker Bush and nothing from a Democratic president after 1969.

There is nothing wrong with conserva-

tives, a sentiment some may be shocked to see in a college newspaper. Having a balance of reasonable conservatives and reasonable liberals sharpening each other and holding each other accountable keeps either party from running the country into a toilet.

However, the type of people who want to whitewash America's mistakes to ensure a nationalistic view of America as the Biblical City on a Hill and God's New Chosen Ones is passed down to students forevermore need to be recognized as tumors on American society.

They're like hyper-paranoid parents who bathe their kids in hand sanitizer and narrowly avoid aneurysms anytime their kid scrapes an arm.

Anyone who has ever learned anything knows that failure is a much more effective teacher than success. Yet the folks in Oklahoma seem to think that by shielding the "poor children" from the harsh reality that, yeah, sometimes America sucks and Americans have done some terrible things — and replacing that reality with one of a nation of superheroes — that they will produce a better nation.

It's not true. Sure, maybe Confederate flag sales will skyrocket and Rush Limbaugh and Sean Hannity will finally make it onto Mount Rushmore, but it won't make a better nation. Coddling rarely ever does.

That's exactly what HB1380 does for its students. It coddles and insulates and doesn't let the students study the nation's scars to learn how to better avoid a wound in the future. It fosters a spoiled superiority rather than encouraging bridge building in the future leaders of America.

It's not hard to convince someone to love their country. Human evolution takes care of the job pretty handily; we are naturally inclined to favor the people and place where we were born. That may produce a zealous group of nationalistic barbarians, but it doesn't produce an intelligent nation of problem solvers and patriots. Only by fully understanding how we've gone wrong in the past can students learn what to do right in the future.

Movie Review: 'DUFF' Finds Fun in the Ugly Side of High School Labeling

ROGER MOORE
Tribune News Service
(TNS)

Mae Whitman sasses, sashays and sparkles in "The DUFF," a snappy, sweet-spirited teen comedy about a smart girl who tries to fight high school labeling with wit and words. And the occasional punch.

It's a paint-by-numbers romantic comedy. But Whitman, best known for TV's "State of Grace" and "Parenthood," clicks with her co-stars and handles the screenplay's zingers and the droll voice-over narration her character spouts in this feature from director Ari "West Bank Story" Sandel. Sandel keeps everybody talking so fast they talk over everybody else, and as we know, in comedy, quicker is always funnier.

Bianca (Whitman) is the plain Jane honor student and school newspaper columnist whose shrewd observations about the hierarchy at Mallow High School don't include self-observation. She's pals with two of the hottest girls

in school (Bianca A. Santos, Skyler Samuels), but only her amusingly tactless hunk-jock neighbor, Wesley (Robbie Amell), will tell her the truth.

She dresses dumpy and asexually, carries more weight than some and therefore, she's the "DUFF" — Designated Ugly and Fat Friend" to her two hot friends. She is "invisible" to her peers, merely the approachable "gateway" to the sexy and the gorgeous.

Being a clever girl, she resolves to swap coaching chemistry to Wesley in exchange for his makeover coaching. Can he turn her from "the approachable one to the datable one" in five or eight easy steps?

You know the answer. Bella Thorne is typecast as the bombshell mean girl, and it's a credit to this script that her character is the only cardboard one in "DUFF." Wesley is cocky, distracted but not stupid, and he gives as good as he gets with the insulting smart girl he's teaching to fit in. How's she doing at the whole approach a boy and flirt with him thing?

"You're horrible. I hope

you like cats."

Amell is unusually good at the film's rushed one-liners.

Social media shunning and a nasty/funny viral video points a spotlight on bullying, which freaks out the bullying-expert principal (Romany Malco).

"Have you not SEEN 'Dateline,' 'Catfish,' 'Pretty Little Liars'?"

Ken Jeong brings a sympathetic sarcasm to his journalism teacher character, and Allison Janney, as Bianca's dumped single-mom turned motivational speaker, tears through slogans like Tony Robbins on speed.

"Believe. Retrieve. Achieve. Just don't conceive!"

It's a little vulgar, like real teens, and a little tipsy (ditto). And only in Hollywood would a glam puss like Whitman, ears bedazzled with piercings, uninhibited and fun, be anyone's idea of a frumpy DUFF. But the sexuality is toned down and the messages so girl-friendly that formulaic or not, this "DUFF" is a winner and Whitman, in what will probably be her last teen role, proves that she's still a starlet worth watching.

Women's Golf Breaks Record at Delta Gamma Challenge

JEFF BROWN
jrbrown02@student.ysu.edu

The Youngstown State University women's golf team is coming off a record-breaking performance in Texas where the ladies set a school record for the lowest team round and lowest 36-hole in the Delta Gamma Challenge. Despite breaking the records, the team as a whole only finished in 11 out of 14 teams.

Senior Aislynn Merling led the way for the Penguins, shooting a 140 on the weekend and tying for first place with two other golfers. Merling shot a 69 on the second day of tournament, which was her first collegiate round under par.

"Honestly I didn't even know what I was shooting while I was playing," Merling said. "I've been waiting for it to click. I've been trying to be patient with it, but I feel like it's been a long time coming, but it couldn't have come at a better time heading into the spring."

Head coach Nate Miklos said that Merling is definitely one of the top golfers in the Horizon League Conference.

"She had an outstanding performance. She definitely has the game to go out there and compete against some incredible competition, and it was great to see her really put it together," Miklos said.

The Penguins were able to bounce back from a disappointing performance the weekend before in the Lady Bulldog Individual Championship where none of the Penguins were able to break 80 on either day of the two-day tournament. Emily Dixon was the Penguins top golfer finishing 30th with a two round score of 167 (82, 85).

"The golf course was set up extremely difficult, plus it was the first time outside for the spring," Miklos said. "We took some things we learned from Georgia — had a chance to work on some things since then and just went out and played a



Aislynn Merling shot 140 during the Delta Gamma Challenge. Merling tied for first place in the tournament. She shot a 71 during the first day and 69 on the second day of the tournament.

really solid event for us."

The Penguins will look to improve over their final four tournaments of the season in hopes of reaching their goal of a Horizon League Championship.

"Really for us it's all about working towards being the team we're capable of being. For us we really spend a lot of

time focusing on the process and we kind of let the results take care of themselves," Miklos said. "Obviously our goal at the end of the year is to be holding that trophy at the conference tournament and advance on to the NCAA regionals."

While the entire team is focused on reaching the goal

of a conference championship, Merling has a few additional goals of her own.

"My goals would be to lower my scoring average," she said. "I want to become the conference MVP going into the tournament and I would love to win the conference tournament both individually and as a team."

Merling is also hoping to set a standard of excellence on the women's golf team for years to come.

"I want to leave here knowing that myself and Allison [Mitzel], our other senior, left it in a good place and the other girls are motivated to go back out and win," Merling said.

Softball is 2-2 After Campbell Tournament

DAN HINER
dghiner@student.ysu.edu

The Youngstown State University softball team began its season competing in the Campbell Tournament in Buies Creek, North Carolina. The Penguins split the four game series.

"I think coming out of the tournament, it was a learning process with the 13 underclassmen that we have," head coach Brian Campbell said. "A lot of freshman got an opportunity to play. Ashley, our freshman pitcher, got the win in the first game. Played really good defense, four errors for the weekend out of 28 innings, that's

pretty good. Coming out of it with the experience, getting these younger kids experience I think it was very beneficial for them."

The Penguins won the first game of the tournament against the University of Maryland Eastern Shore 10-7. The offense started the season on a high note — recording eight hits and seven walks. Third baseman Miranda Castiglione went 2-3, driving in three RBI's.

YSU lost the second game of the season to St. John's University 4-2. The Penguins' offense struggled, stringing together only four hits throughout the game. Starting pitcher Kayla Haslett threw a complete game, allowing four runs, seven hits and struck out five batters.

"Kayla did a tremendous job. St.

John's, a big east school, we lost to them 4-2," Campbell said. "She kept them in check the whole time there. We left some base runners on base in that St. John's game, and that's one thing that we've been working really hard since that tournament — is moving runners and producing quality at bats.

During the third game of the tournament the Penguins won a 5-1 game against East Tennessee State University. In Haslett's second start of the season, she pitched another complete game, allowing one run on nine hits and two walks. Right fielder Cali Mikovich got the Penguins out to an early lead with a two-run homerun to centerfield. Mikovich finished 1-3 with two RBI's and one walk.

"Kayla did a great job against East-

ern Tennessee," Campbell said. "She pitched a really good game there and she also came into the first game and shut them down for the two innings. Overall, I think she did a tremendous job."

In the Penguins' final game of the tournament, YSU lost to Towson University 9-2. YSU had trouble driving in runs against the Tigers. The Penguins recorded four hits and seven walks but left nine runners on base. Starting pitcher Caitlyn Minney was only able to throw 1.2 innings — giving up seven hits and seven runs — before leaving the game in the second inning. Ashley Koziol came in to relieve Minney and threw 5.1 innings, allowing seven hits and two runs.

"I think that Towson is a really tough opponent, they always are," Castiglione said. "We came out fighting. They had a lot of hits on the board. Next time we will have to score more runs — that will be a key in all are games this season."

The team played well despite playing so many freshman and young players. Most of them played in the fourth game of the season, and Campbell views it as a good learning opportunity.

"We were .377 on base percentage," Campbell said. "Coming down to it, they scored two and we answered right away. I think when we get into it, it being the fourth game of the weekend; we did play some of the younger kids. It's a learning experience for them. When they come in being young, you have to teach them to be consistent going through the weekend. Overall, for us being 2-2 and seeing a lot of bright spots — pitching and hitting — there were a lot of freshmen who were up there in batting average. Coming away from the first weekend it helps us come back and make some adjustments before we go back out again."



The Youngstown State University softball team opened the season at the Campbell Tournament over the weekend. The team finished the tournament with a 2-2 record. The Penguins have started a season with a 2-2 record three out of the past four seasons.