

## Students Help to Provide Ugandan Villages with Clean Water

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Youngstown State University students Tyler Fond, Tyler Miller-Gordon and Daniel Belinky are promoting the second year of the local chapter of the Ugandan Water Project with a 5-kilometer race on April 25.

Though the group is a chapter of the Ugandan Water Project, it is not currently an YSU student organization.

"The Ugandan Water Project is a nonprofit based out of New York and a few of my friends and I talked to one of their representatives last year at the Canfield Fair. We started kind of like a chapter at YSU. We are currently in the process of becoming a student organization," Fond, one of the leaders of the chapter, said.

The focus of the Ugandan Water Project is to help villages in the East African country of Uganda, provide safe, accessible drinking water.

Last year, the group held a 5K Race to raise money for a water tank to give to the villagers, and Fond said the group raised enough money to cover the cost of a tank along with a water purification system.

"Every year we have been having a 5K ... The goal of it is to raise enough money to sponsor a water tank in Uganda for a village that currently doesn't have clean water," Fond said.



Members of the Ugandan Water Project campaign stand with Ugandan nationals in front of one of the installed water tanks. PHOTO COURTESY OF TYLER FOND.

"A tank is \$3,500 and we raised \$4,300. We were able to build a tank and we spent the rest on water purifiers. So this year, our goal is \$7,000 and we want to be able to build two tanks."

Belinky, another executive member of the local chapter, said members of the nonprofit

in New York install the tanks, but invites members of the various chapters to come witness their installation.

"As for the tanks themselves, a third-party manufacturer builds the components of the tank and members of the nonprofit in New York travel to Uganda to not only install it,

but also teach members of the community how to maintain and repair it," he said. "However, the organization welcomes any members of its chapters to come see their tank installed, so long as the members purchase their own plane ticket."

On Feb. 22 through the 24, these students will have a table

in Kilcawley Center so that students and anyone interested can sign up for the race.

"We will be selling jewelry made by local Ugandan artisans and we will have all the information about the race. You

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## Crash Day Numbers on the Rise

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Youngstown State University hosted a Crash Day event on Monday, Feb. 16. It was YSU's most attended spring Crash Day to date, despite freezing temperatures and ice buildup on campus. Previously, the most successful Crash Day in the event's history was back in November.

Crash Day is an opportunity for prospective students to tour the campus and interact with school employees, including President Tressel. The university has hosted the event sever-

al times a year since 2012, and they've increased in popularity over time.

February Crash Days tend to draw fewer attendants than the November version, as many prospective students have made a decision regarding their college futures by that point.

Christine Hubert, associate director of undergraduate admissions, collaborates with various members of the administration to help organize YSU's Crash Day. Hubert said the event provides a great informational opportunity for prospective students.

"An open house program such as Crash Day is an opportunity for [students] to get

to do a lot of interaction with a lot of different people all in one day. ... It's just a nice opportunity for them to see everything that YSU has to offer them as an incoming student to the university," Hubert said.

Crash Day gives people the chance to speak with administration, student organizations, faculty from various colleges and current students.

Susan Davis, director of undergraduate admissions, also helps to organize Crash Day. She said she believes that speaking with current students is an important experience for prospective students.

"[Current students] are the ones who are going to be able to tell them what to expect if they come to YSU," Davis said. "They can give them tips and share some things that they've learned over the years being here at YSU. Talking with current students at the program is definitely a vital part of the program."

Davis also said she believes that Crash Day is important for helping students find their fit at a university.

"I think students have to be able to come to the campus and experience it, specifically while classes are in session and everything is going on, and get a feel for what it's really like," Davis said. "I'm not a big advocate of students applying to universities and enrolling at them without at least being on campus and interacting with the faculty. The biggest part of it is that a student can examine whether they are a good fit with the university."

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## 'Some Books Are Lies Frae End to End' YSU Professor Looks Into the Legacy of Robert Burns

ASHLEY M SMITH  
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Corey Andrews, associate professor of English at Youngstown State University, will see the release of his new book in March.

"The Genius of Scotland: The Cultural Production of Robert Burns, 1785-1834" is the product of a long fascination with Scotland and famed Scottish poet and lyricist Robert Burns.

"I have been writing about Robert Burns and Scottish poetry for almost twenty years. My first book, 'Literary Nationalism and Eighteenth-Century Scottish Club Poetry,' explored Burns' importance in popular and literary culture during his life. 'The Genius of Scotland' continues this form of critical inquiry by evaluating Burns' continuing significance after his death, looking specifically at its key sources in Scottish culture," Andrews said.

The text sets out not only to explore the influence of Burns on the literary world, but also to examine historical details of Burns' life and discuss their veracity.

"During my research process, I discovered that there was a wealth of misinformation that obscured Burns' life story and literary reputation. I correct errors that still bedevil his legacy in Scotland and abroad by explaining their



ROBERT BURNS  
PHOTO COURTESY OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

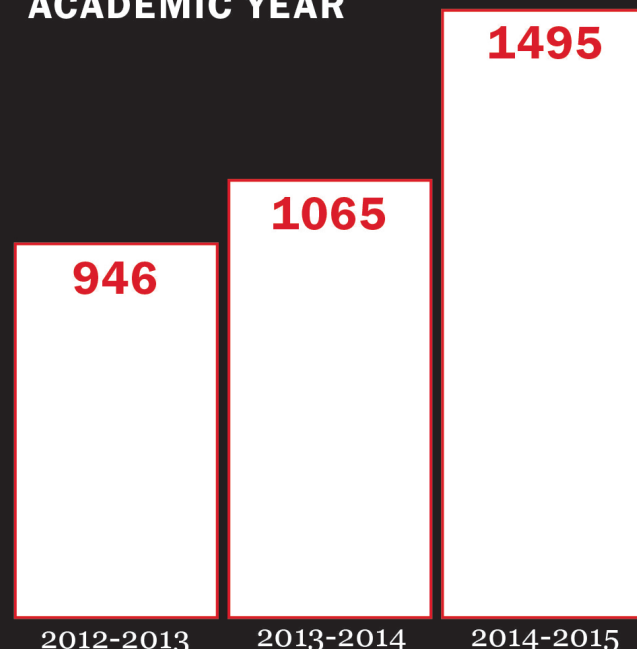
origins. Burns was a heterodox public figure whose biography was often censored by religious critics in the 19th century," Andrews said. "In some respects this process continues unabated, with the focus more now on his relationship to radical politics than his rather messy personal life."

Andrews also looked into the nature of artistic genius, and how that applies to Burns.

"I discuss how the conception of literary 'genius' derived from philosophy and literary criticism in eighteenth-century Scotland, and I link its emergence as a way of explaining highly-talented writers to issues of nationalism as well. My book examines how Burns' reputation as a literary 'genius' affected the ways that he was understood and interpreted

ROBERT BURNS  
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### TOTAL STUDENT ATTENDANCE for CRASH DAYS in an ACADEMIC YEAR



GRAPHIC BY STACY RUBINIC/THE JAMBAR.



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# History Hot Off the Presses

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teach history," she said. "I also found it an excellent chance to rethink the larger overall narrative of American history. It was a great way to refresh and update myself on the evolving interpretations of history."

The new book will be used by Bridgepoint, an online higher education provider, in their upcoming coursework. While the organization initially provided Barnes with a book to work from, Barnes made significant changes to the materials both in content and presentation.

"I started with an existing edition that Bridgepoint was using for its online classes at Ashford University, and basically deconstructed it to create a whole new text. For example, they were using a text with a five chapter format — my book includes fifteen chapters divided more conventionally to encompass such events as World War I, the Great Depression and so forth," she said.

Contextualizing history and providing an understandable and coherent narrative were primary motivators for Barnes, who hopes her text will help students better connect to United States history.

"Since it's a textbook, my first hope is that students will find it readable," Barnes said. "I also hope that those reading it will find something relevant to their own lives in the narrative of American history. Too many times I hear students complain that history is boring or not relevant. My hope is that this text will change their minds."

Diane Barnes, professor of history and the editor of "Ohio History," had her fifth book, "The American Story: Perspectives and Encounters from 1877," published in February.

Barnes' book is a United States history textbook, and is not her first foray into the field of academic publishing. She has assisted with four scholarly articles and authored four books prior to her most recent publication.

Barnes' most recent book is geared toward a student audience, particularly those participating in nontraditional higher education programs.

"It is a digital textbook that will be used by distance learning courses in U.S. history. The book is focused on all aspects of U.S. history from Reconstruction to the present, but has special emphasis on social history and the experiences of average American citizens," Barnes said.

While Barnes was requested by the publisher to write the book, she cited a variety of reasons for producing the text.

"I decided to do so for several reasons. First, I am just now beginning to transfer some of my 'brick and mortar' history courses into online classes and wanted to rethink the way I conceptualize and

**THE AMERICAN STORY**  
*Perspectives and Encounters from 1877*  
L. Diane Barnes    Mark Bowles

PHOTO COURTESY OF DIANE BARNES.



## Youngstown Salt Truck Assaulted by Pothole

A salt truck needed some assistance today after being stuck in a Youngstown pothole on the West Side of Youngstown on Burbank Avenue Monday.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THERESA KNAPIK.

Visitors walk past a passage of red lanterns during the annual temple fair at Badachu Park in Beijing on Thursday, Feb. 19, 2015. The temple fair kicked off on Thursday, the first day of the Chinese Lunar New Year.



(LI JUNDONG/XINHUA/ZUMA PRESS/TNS)

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### YSU Hosts Miniature Bridge Building Competition

Eighteen high schools will be represented at the eighth annual Miniature Bridge Building Competition on Friday Feb. 27 in Kilcawley Center. Students will be awarded for efficiency, strength, aesthetic, teamwork and most improved. For more information, visit [www.mvmbbc.org](http://www.mvmbbc.org).

### Words Have Power

The YSU English Department is hosting their "Words Have Power" event on Thursday at 4 p.m. The event will be in DeBartolo Hall 132 and feature readings from English faculty and students. Afterwards, an after-party will be held for attendees at Inner Circle.

### Dana Young Artist Winners Presented at Concert

The three winners of the Dana Young Artist Competition will be featured in a concert on March 2. The concert is presented by the Dana Symphony Orchestra and will be held at the Stambaugh Auditorium, starting at 7:30 p.m. Seventeen music students auditioned for the honor and three winners were chosen: Joshua Wertz, YSU graduate student; Benjamin Dague, recent YSU graduate; and Wilson Poffenberger, YSU graduate student.

by later audiences, starting in the early nineteenth century," Andrews said.

He pointed out that Burns is still a relevant figure in Scotland today.

"The Scottish voted no for political independence last year, and Burns was a key part of much political coverage of this event. It's fascinating to me that a poet from the working class in 18th century continues to exert such powerful influence in the present," Andrews said.

Andrews spent several years working on the book and took a sabbatical to conduct research outside of the area.

"This book took about five years to write from start to finish. It grew out of research that I conducted in the W. Ormiston Roy Burns Collection at the University of South Carolina Library during two funded fellowships," he said. "Having the opportunity to work in the best archive of Burns-related materials in North America

during a sabbatical was critical to my success completing and publishing the book."

Andrews said he believes readers who aren't familiar with Burns or Scotland can still appreciate the book, as it also explores the nature of reputation and celebrity status among literary figures.

"I hope readers gain a better understanding of how the process of constructing literary reputation works. It very rarely has an author's consent, and it can have little to do with the actual history of the author under scrutiny ... in the United States, comparable figures include Mark Twain and Walt Whitman, both of whom have popular cultural reputations sometimes at odds with their biographies," he said. "Throughout my book I wanted my readers to gain a clear understanding of how this process works, and why it matters in our present-day understanding of literary figures."

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## Be a Penguin, Lead a Penguin, Be a Peer Mentor!

### What is a Center for Student Progress Peer Mentor?

A Peer Mentor (or PM) is a Youngstown State University student who has been hired and trained by the Center for Student Progress to serve as a mentor and guide during a student's first year at YSU.

#### Peer Mentor duties:

- Serve as campus guide during all YSU orientation programs.
- Meet one-on-one with students throughout their first year to serve as knowledgeable guide, campus connection and academic support.

#### Who can Apply?

You are eligible to apply if you have completed at least 12 credits, have a 2.5 GPA, are a full-time student and are available to work all mandatory dates.

For application and more details: <http://bit.ly/YSUAppPM>

Application Deadline: Friday, March 20.

Complete application includes 2 letters of reference

#### Questions? Contact :

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get a T-shirt and we will have a food sponsor. Last year, the sponsor was Chipotle. We are currently still talking to them. It's \$25 if you sign up online and \$30 if you sign up the day of the race," Fond said.

The 5K Race will be held on April 25. The average time to run the race is around 30 minutes. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. and the race will start at 10 a.m. It will be held in Austintown Parks. Fond said that there is also a 2-mile walk for those who do not wish to run. It ends around 11:00 a.m. or 11:30 a.m.

Fond said that the villagers benefit from having these tanks because it saves them time and provides them with clean water.

"In these villages, people have to walk about two hours each way to get fresh water, so this tank provides them with water for about 20 years," Fond said. "Normally in Uganda, it would be the children's job to go get all of the water and it would free up a lot more time for them to go to school, and that's just the added benefit of the village in Uganda having clean water readily available so that they can wash themselves and drink."

There are about 20 students in the group. Fond, Miller-Gordon and Belinky are the three executive students who run the group.

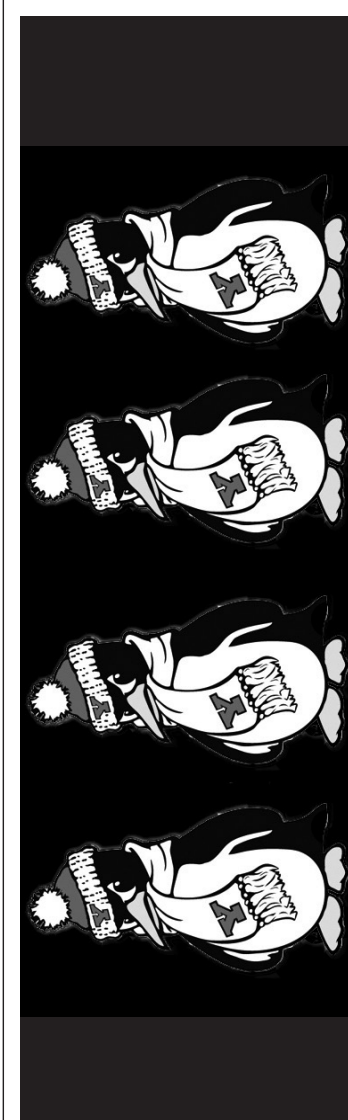
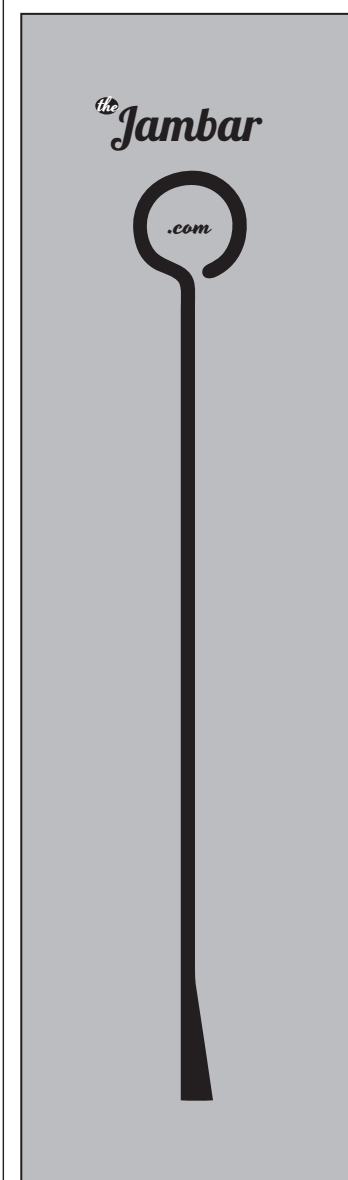
Belinky said that the group formed from an important need to benefit the people in Uganda.

"I think we gravitated towards this cause because the need is so great and there is real potential to make a difference for the communities and people of Uganda," Belinky said.

In addition to its informational value, Hubert said she believes that students find the experience entertaining.

"When students get to campus and see everything that YSU has to offer, in terms of opportunities — academically and socially — in the campus setting, they really enjoy their time here," Hubert said.

YSU hopes to expand on its success as it looks forward to its next Crash Day in June.



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## YSU Can't Stay 'Out of This Furnace'



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY THEATER.

Cast members of University Theater's show, opening Thursday, Feb. 26 include Zara Markman, playing Julie Dobrejcek, Mark Warchol, playing John "Dobie" Dobrejcek, and Patrick Hobby, playing Djuro Kracha.

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Youngstown State University's Department of Theater and Dance continues their main stage season with the presentation of "Out of This Furnace" Feb. 26 in Bliss Hall's Ford Theater.

Adapted from a Thomas Bell's book of the same name, "Out of This Furnace" is set in Braddock, Pennsylvania, a town east of Pittsburgh. The story follows three separate generations of a Slovak family as they struggle through immigration from Austria-Hungary in the industrial era and attempt to build a life under the monolithic American steel mills and discrimination.

Scott Irelan, chair of the department of theater and dance, is the producer of the main stage University Theater, where he manages everything from the creation of the costumes to the balance of the budget for the sets.

"I think it's a great piece. The struggles of the family in the play are similar to the struggles of folks who used to work in the steel industry, and still do here in the Mahoning Valley," Irelan said. "There is an interesting collision of past and present ... if it wasn't

something that was relevant to us, we wouldn't be working on it. It is a piece that we really value and we're excited to present it the Mahoning Valley community."

This year, Nancy Andersen Wolfgang, instructor of YSU's musical theater and the director for "Out of This Furnace," knew the show was going to be a different beast than previous shows she's worked on.

Unlike other shows, "Out of this Furnace" features a larger cast than most. In addition, the story also takes place across 30 years in many locations and includes many scene changes — making this play stand out from the rest in terms of difficulty.

Wolfgang said she likes the play for its ability to show the evolution of a culture and an individual family.

"I like how it shows that each generation does better than the one before," Wolfgang said. "Yes, it is focused from the steel industry, but also the story of this family and it gives the parents of each generation hope that their children will do better than they did — you know we watch that unfold on stage."

If students and faculty have questions about tickets, they can call the box office at 330-941-3105. Ticket prices are free for students with a valid YSU ID.

## 'Breathe in Peace' New Yoga Studio Bends Over Backwards for Clients

**GABRIELLE FELLOWS**  
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"I spent a lot of time wondering how to serve the community, and I decided to finally do it through yoga, which is my passion and the passion of many others."

Shannon Shugart is the zealous owner of PurYoga, a yoga studio in Boardman that opened its doors this past weekend.

"This company formed through my dream of wanting to benefit the community mentally and physically," Shugart explained. "I've noticed that yoga is getting more popular over the years. It's a newer concept to this area, and a lot of people of all ages that are becoming more aware of the benefits of yoga and wanting to dive into the practice. Yoga's been growing for quite some time now, and I only see it growing more as time goes on."

Shugart started practicing yoga around 20 years ago, claiming she became very involved with the activity for the last 17 years and became a certified yoga instructor in 2011. She explained that her passion was formed by a simple question from a friend.

"My friend, Congressman Tim Ryan, a few years ago asked if I had ever tried yoga," she said. "That simple question made me curious and lead to me practicing at home, getting my license and lead to the opening of this studio. It was something that I fell in love with over time."

PurYoga offers classes that vary in style and difficulty, designed so that individuals of all levels can get a workout that best fits their ability. Zumba, aerial yoga, prenatal yoga and power yoga — often referred to as hot yoga — are just a few of the classes offered at the new studio.

Lauren Verzilli, a yoga instructor at PurYoga, said that aside from the physical benefits that come from yoga, there are also many mental and spiritual benefits.

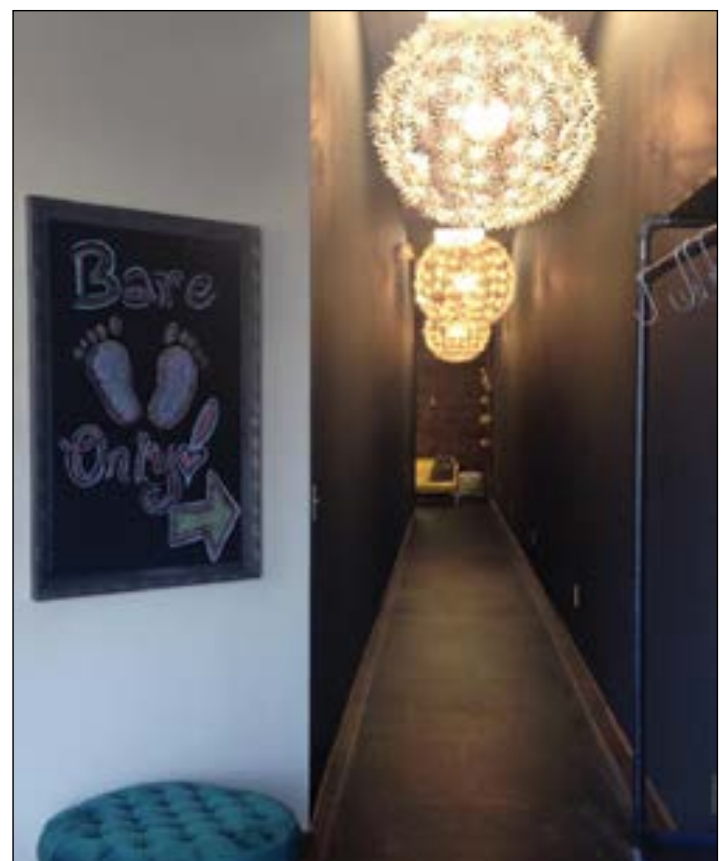
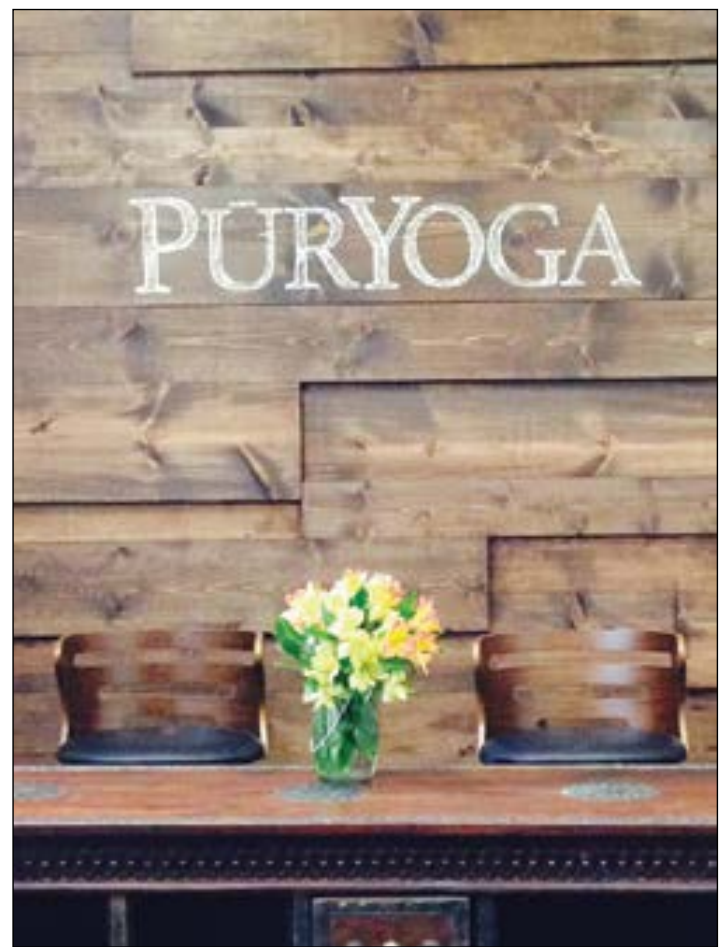
"Aside from the physical practice, yoga gives you the tools and the opportunity to quiet the mind. As long as you have the courage to be present and truly listen to your heart, you will start living in a way that will guide you to places that seemed impossible before," Verzilli said. "Yoga is a constant practice; there is no finish line."

PurYoga's website, puryo-

ga.net, has more information on signing up for classes, their prices and times. The studio offers a student and veterans discount — 40 percent off of any yoga package. Students in college and high school can also get unlimited yoga classes, minus aerial yoga, for \$40 a month.

In the end, Shugart said that yoga is something that she loves and wants to share with the community, whether it's people who have been practicing yoga for years or for those who are planning on trying it for the first time.

"If this is your first time, come in with an open mind. The hardest part is just walking in the door. Start in a basic class and work your way up," she said. "There's really a class for everybody. Yoga isn't one of those things that you find — it finds you."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PURYOGA.

## Ninth Annual YSU Wind and Percussion Invitational Set to Take Stage

**SCOTT WILLIAMS**  
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A special musical collaboration of northeast Ohio music programs will gather to perform at Youngstown's Stambaugh Auditorium on Friday, Feb. 27. The event, presented by the Dana School of Music, is the "Ninth Annual YSU Wind and Percussion Invitational."

The Poland Seminary High School Wind Ensemble, directed by Nicholas Olesko, and the Wadsworth High School Symphonic Band, directed by Steven Hadgis, will take turns performing Friday night with YSU's Percussion Ensemble, directed by Glenn Schaft, and YSU's Wind Ensemble, directed by Steven Gage.

"This is the ninth year that we have hosted this event," Gage said. "It is an idea that I stole when I was a high school band director in upstate New York."

Gage added that the event is an all-day affair. "We bring two high school bands — historically it's been a local school and a school from a little further away — and spend a day working on music. They ar-

rive in the early afternoon here at Bliss Hall, and they participate in master classes with the Dana faculty. All of the instruments meet with their specific professor for one hour," he said. "When they finish their master classes, they get back on the bus, and they go to Stambaugh Auditorium where they have about one hour on that glorious stage to rehearse in preparation of the night concert."

The concert that starts off the day begins at 7 p.m. This year's program will begin with the YSU Percussion Ensemble performing an exotic arrangement on the hand drums. Following that, each high school group will perform their contest set, which includes a march and two concert pieces.

After a short intermission, YSU's Wind Ensemble will take center stage — featuring horn soloist Stacie Mickens, assistant professor at YSU. To conclude the concert, senior band members from both high schools will join the YSU Wind Ensemble for the concert finale of "The Stars and Stripes Forever," our national march, by John Philip Sousa.

"It's a really nice collaborative event for our music education students, which we have a lot," Gage said. "I think it is a good aural bath for them to see and hear

two terrific high school ensembles perform. I think it is great for those kids to get a chance to work and interact with our students and with faculty."

Caitlin McCoy, a principle flutist with YSU's Wind Ensemble, said as a high school student she played at the event.

"It was honestly the reason why I auditioned here at YSU," McCoy said. "We are really blessed to have an amazing faculty."

While this event is to help develop the abilities of the high school groups attending, Gage couldn't help but brag some about YSU's ensemble.

"The Wind Ensemble just came back from a tour. We played two high schools in Cleveland area and were a featured performer at the 2015 Ohio Music Educators Association state conference," he said. "For the nine times that I've been here, they've been a featured performer, so they're pretty smokin'."

The cost to attend this event is \$5 for adults, \$4 for students and senior citizens and free admission with a valid YSU ID. General admission tickets may be purchased at the Stambaugh Auditorium Box Office in person, by phone at 330-259-0555 or online at www.StambaughAuditorium.com.

## EDITORIAL

Third Time's  
the Harm

Reports indicate that Youngstown State University's Head Football Coach Bo Pelini is considering the hire of his brother Carl Pelini as the university's next defensive line coach.

It's no secret — Carl Pelini carries with him a bad reputation.

After just two seasons, Carl Pelini resigned from his position as the head football coach at Florida Atlantic University in 2013. Though the reason for Carl Pelini's departure from FAU was never confirmed, allegations have been made against the former coach, accusing him of illicit drug use.

Whether or not these allegations are true, one thing remains certain — they have negatively impacted Carl Pelini's professional reputation. Since leaving FAU, Carl Pelini has struggled to find work coaching football even at the high school level.

Given his reputation, it's not unfair to say that YSU would be taking a chance by hiring Carl Pelini. And taking one chance on one football coach is not in itself a problem. Everyone deserves a second chance, after all.

But taking chance after chance after chance by hiring one controversial coach after another is a problem. And that's precisely what YSU has done.

Since fall semester, the university has hired both Bo Pelini and Ron Brown. The former was caught on tape using some of the fouler words in the English language while giving a speech in a football locker room, and the latter has been known to preach his radical Christian views on homosexuality to his football players.

Many have argued that Bo Pelini and Ron Brown are simply football coaches; that coaches are supposed to be gruff, that they need not filter their language.

This argument not only holds coaches to a markedly low standard, but also fails to acknowledge that coaches are representatives of the institutions for which they work. YSU coaches travel the country wearing Penguin apparel; they are put in front of microphones and cameras; they are role models for the area's youth; and they are the face of YSU athletics.

Lately, though, it seems that the university has made a decision to place winning over its public reputation. Yes, Bo Pelini and his staff of assistant coaches are capable of winning football games.

It is impossible to tell what controversies, or lack thereof, will sprout from these coaches — maybe they will be the very model of a modern football coach. But, with each new controversial hire, the chance of additional controversy grows greater. Though the community has been amiable to these recent hires — especially if season ticket sales are any indication — will they be so forgiving if the potential future strife affects the perception of their community?

We therefore ask the following question: is the prospect of winning worth the public relations risk that the university has taken?

We don't think so.



## 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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TV Review: Academy  
Awards Telecast is All  
Too Predictable

MARY MCNAMARA

Los Angeles Times  
(TNS)

LOS ANGELES — How unfortunate that, in presenting the award for Best Director, Ben Affleck chose to quote Frank Capra's observation that "the cardinal sin is dullness."

None of the directors nominated, he added, could be accused of committing that sin. But, alas, the same could not be said for Sunday night's telecast.

With a few notable exceptions, award-season fatigue took on a new and enervating dimension, exacerbated by a strangely defensive attitude toward many things, including, but not limited to the whiteness of the nominees, the preponderance of franchise films and the public's ability to watch films on their smart phones.

Even the preternaturally prepped and prolific Neil Patrick Harris seemed affected, reduced at times to a small figure on a big stage making "good job" remarks to performers and attempting to carry a long-running joke about a box. At one point he stripped down to his underwear, a la Michael Keaton in "Birdman," and it was just as embarrassing as you might assume it would be.

In fact, much of the 87th Oscars happened just as you might assume it would, and that was certainly part of the problem. Virtually all of those predicted to win, won, from the night's first award — to J.K. Simmons for his supporting performance in "Whiplash" to "Birdman" for best picture. It was so predictable that the night's biggest upset was "Big Hero 6" beating out "How to Train Your Dragon 2." The collective gasp heard round the world.

This may explain why so many of the speeches sounded familiar — if you follow awards-season coverage, and it's increasingly difficult to avoid — you may have actually heard them before. "Birdman" director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, who also won for best director, had literally run out of things to say when he accepted the evening's last award.

Notable exception #1: Patricia Arquette, who has won several awards for her role in "Boyhood," ended her read-from-piece-of-paper speech for Best Supporting Actress with an unexpected and impassioned call for pay equity.

Predictable winners were only part of the problem. Harris, who is has now hosted every major award show save the Grammy, seemed as big a shoo-in for host as Julianne Moore for Best Actress (which, of course, she won.) Introducing the show as a chance to celebrate "Hollywood's best and whitest, um, brightest," he flashed his trademark sass to address the many complaints about the very Caucasian nature of this year's nominees.

Pointed and righteous, if only the producers had been content to leave it at that. As if trying to make up for the fact that "Selma" was overlooked in many categories, the camera sought out and lingered on non-white members of the audience whenever "Selma" or Martin Luther King was mentioned.

It happened at a rate that was at first laughable and then irritating — memo to the Academy: black people are not the only ones who liked "Selma," also they like other films too. On the other hand, the Academy's defensiveness over being mostly white and male may well have been the reason for the higher than normal proportion of black women presenters, though the fact that the telecast was on ABC probably didn't hurt either.

Harris then segued, not surprisingly to a song. Themed to celebrate the marvels of "moving pictures," and including a duet with Anna Kendrick, it was quickly interrupted by Jack Black, ranting, musically, about the forces plaguing the industry: sequels, prequels, comic books and "jean screens" (smart phones.)

Funny enough, if only the writers had been content to leave it there. Instead, the plague of franchise films, the digital age and "Fifty Shades of Grey" haunted the telecast, with Harris pointing out not once, but twice that many of the nominated films actually made money. In fact "American Sniper" is, according to Harris, the Oprah of this year's films.

"Because you're rich," he explained when Winfrey seemed not to understand why she was being dragged into it. While not as bad as David Letterman's Uma/Oprah flame-out, the joke did bring it to mind, and the first rule of hosting the Oscars is: Never bring to mind Letterman's Uma/Oprah flameout.

Also, I'm fairly certain Neil Patrick Harris is part of the 1 percent as well.

And it went downhill from there. Oh there were a few good moments — "Ida" director Pawel Pawlikowski, winning for best foreign film, finished his acceptance speech despite the orchestra play off. And the performance of "Everything is Awesome" involved many people getting Oscars made of Legos, which really were awesome.

But as the telecast headed into its second hour it was marked mostly by the familiar sight of repeat winners and the unfamiliar sight of Neil Patrick Harris punting joke after joke. A crack about a winner's dress moments after she had spoken of her son's suicide was particularly tin-eared as was a joke about Edward Snowden not being present "for some treason."

Then two and a half hours in, things got briefly better. Idina Menzel and John Travolta amiably addressed Travolta's mangling of her name last year before presenting the award for best song to John Legend and Common for "Glory." As at the Golden Globes, they gave wonderfully soulful speeches, which, though familiar, were still quite moving.

They were followed by Terrence Howard doing King Lear as he introduced three film clips and Lady Gaga singing a medley from "A Sound of Music," which though deeply weird at least could not be described as dull. Then Harris took the reins once again and the predictable wins resumed.

Notable exception # 2: Graham Moore, winning for best adapted screenplay ("The Imitation Game"), spoke of his isolation as a gay teen and encouraged others to "Stay weird. Stay different."

Which is exactly what this Oscars needed: A little more weird, a little more different and a lot less defensiveness.

We really do love the movies. That's why were watching the Oscars. So relax, already.

THE JAMBAR  
COM

# Penguins Prepare for Top-Ranked Green Bay



Senior forward Heidi Schlegel scored over 30 points in back-to-back games against Valparaiso and Milwaukee last week. The last Penguin to score 30 points in back-to-back games was Brandi Brown during the 2012-2013 season.

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The Youngstown State University women's basketball team is on a four-game winning streak, and are preparing for their toughest game of the season.

The Penguins are coming off a 79-73 win against the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee on Feb. 19 and an 87-69 victory against Valparaiso University on Feb. 21.

Senior forward Heidi Schlegel was named the Horizon League Player of the Week. Schlegel averaged 38 points, 9.5 rebounds and three assists last week.

"I just went out and played how I always do," Schlegel said. "Mentally, I was just going to go in and play as hard as I can. My teammates got me the ball and my mindset now has just been I only have a few games left and I'm not going to second-guess my shots and I'm still going to find my teammates if I'm not open."

YSU will host the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay on Feb. 28. Green Bay is the top team in the Horizon League and has already clinched the top seed in the Horizon League tournament.

In the last meeting with the Phoenix, the Penguins lost 66-43. The Penguins were inconsistent on offense, shooting 22.9 percent from the field.

"You have to be very meticulous on what you do offensively, you have to set great screens, you have to take care of the basketball," head coach John Barnes said. "I think they forced 13 turnovers in the first half against us. If you don't take care of the ball and be aggressive offensively, it's going to be a long

night. I don't think we did either one at their place. I think we were very hesitant, which in turn forced us to turn the ball over more than we normally would. Taking care of the basketball, executing and being aggressive will be big keys for us."

Schlegel said the team learned from the loss to the Phoenix in early January. She echoed Barnes' belief that the team needs to be more aggressive and prepared for Green Bay.

"They're a tough team, they've always been good. It's always been Green Bay's the best team in the league," Schlegel said. "Up there, we faltered. We didn't play up to our standard. I think we got intimidated and I think now we just have to come with confidence and we have to play our game and not worry about what they're going to do. We have to be prepared for what they're going to do, but we have to be focused on what we're going to do and change what we did up there and execute on Saturday."

Green Bay is ranked first in the conference in scoring defense — allowing 55.5 points per game. In the Phoenix's previous game against the University of Illinois at Chicago, Green Bay held the Flames to 32 points.

"Green Bay will play their game," Barnes said. "They don't care who they're playing or how good a certain opponent is or how good a certain player on the opposing team is — they're going to do what they do and they do it pretty well. They have always been pretty good at plugging up the post area and being able to still get out to the shooters because they are still athletic, they're long. They're not going to change a whole lot. They'll definitely make sure everybody knows where Heidi is and has a hand in there, but they're going to do what they do."

The Penguins will tip off against the Phoenix Saturday at 4:30 p.m. at the Beeghly Center.

## Kayla Haslett: *Living the Softball Life*

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For Kayla Haslett, softball isn't just a game; it's a part of life.

Haslett, a senior pitcher for the Youngstown State University softball team, has been playing the game since she was young.

"I've been playing softball a long time, ever since kindergarten, which would be 16 years of straight softball," Haslett said.

Although Haslett has been playing most of her life, she wasn't always a lover of the game.

"My whole family was into sports, and at first I hated softball," she said. "Then, after a little bit when I started to play, it just became a way of life."

A native of Baden, Pennsylvania, Haslett was recognized at the Queen of Diamonds Softball Showcase.

"I knew YSU was only an hour away, and after talking to former coach Tiffany Patterson, I knew I wanted to go there," Haslett said.

One of Haslett's favorite things about YSU is that it reminds her of her hometown.

"It's crazy how much Youngstown reminds me of my hometown," she said. "It makes it great because everyone is treated like family. My teammates also make YSU more enjoyable."

The YSU softball team has already kicked off its season on the road in Buies, North Carolina and is currently 2-2.

"We have a young team this year and a lot to work on. But my expectations are good for our team. We're all capable at playing our bests," Haslett said. "Although we are young, one thing we do is play with an older mindset."

Haslett has become more goal-oriented since starting her collegiate career at YSU.

"You come in freshman year and don't know what is coming and you are kind of blindsided by everything," she said. "By the time you get to senior year, you know the ropes and are used to it all. Setting goals is something that

I've learned to do too, I never used to do that."

As Haslett has learned all the ropes to softball, she said that the most important thing is to work hard and have a great work ethic.

After playing the game for 16 years, it could get boring and old, but Haslett wouldn't live her life without it.

"I couldn't imagine living my life without softball. My sister, who also

plays softball, is going to Akron next year and isn't playing softball," Haslett said. "It made me think about if I didn't continue to play, and I couldn't imagine it."

At the end of this season, Haslett will end her softball career.

"I'm done and I'm ready to move on. Softball has been great, but I want to focus on something else, like grad school," she said.

With her teammates making softball

enjoyable, head coach Brian Campbell has also brought Haslett good guidance.

"[Brian Campbell] is a good coach. He is also a good human being as well. He offers guidance and help when we need it," Haslett said.

While softball will soon come to an end for Haslett, it will always be some of her greatest memories.

"Life will be weird without it, but I know I'm ready to move on," Haslett said.



Senior pitcher Kayla Haslett has appeared in three games for the Penguins, starting two. Haslett has an ERA of 2.33 and struck out 10 batters in 15 innings pitched this season.