

Another Professor Wins Patent

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Youngstown State University can boast a second patent winning faculty member.

Ganesh Kudav, professor of mechanical engineering, was awarded a federal patent for designing a new support device for solar panels. Yogendra Panta, a former professor of mechanical engineering at YSU, was also included in the patent.

Kudav's invention acts as a wind deflector to better protect solar panels on flat roofs. Typically, solar panels are weighed down by heavy supports called ballasts, which can be expensive and potentially prove too heavy for roofs with lower weight capacities.

The research for the deflectors began in 2009 after Kudav was approached by a local business asking for ways to better protect flat roof-mounted solar panels.

"Northern States Metals — based in Austintown — approached us to find ways to reduce the aerodynamic forces on roof-mounted solar panels that could potentially cause the panels to dislodge and get blown off from the flat roof in very windy conditions ... This led us to conceptualize the design of wind deflectors that would deflect the winds away from the solar panels," Kudav said. "The wind deflectors we invented with their uniquely contoured surface — when placed strategically around the arrays of solar panels — have been shown to significantly reduce the aerodynamic forces."

Essentially, rather than using heavy ballasts to weigh down the panels, Kudav's design redirects high winds away from the panels.

Kudav was joined by Panta as well as a small team of student assistants during the development of the deflectors.

"We hired two student assistants from August 2009 to May 2010 — undergraduate student Mark Harvey and graduate student Michael Yatsco — to assist us in running computer simulation programs and setting up wind tunnel experiments," Kudav said.

Gregg Sturuss, interim dean of the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, emphasized the importance of student participation in the research process.

"At least in the patents we have so far, there's a lot of student involvement ... the students get to do the testing and the background work for the ideas the faculty have," Sturuss said.



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This is the second patent in less than a year for YSU, with Tom Oder, professor of physics, winning a patent in 2014 for an invention that improves the performance of semiconductors.

For Interim Provost Martin Abraham, YSU achieving patents is a tangible sign of things to come.

"[YSU's patent winning projects] just demonstrates the success we continue to have in our research and proves why it's important for us to focus in that area. We're pleased to see it develop," Abraham said. "Most of the research activity we're seeing awards for now began five or six years ago, so the research we've continued to do since then is going to continue to generate more patent activity and more opportunities over the next several years. This is not going to be our last patent."

Kudav's may be fulfilling Abraham's predictions as his current research continues to focus on improving solar panel technology, this time focusing on energy conversion efficien-

cy issues due to high temperatures. In other words, ensuring that when the panels get very hot — which they will — their ability to produce energy isn't drastically cut due to the temperatures.

"I am exploring ways to increase the energy conversion efficiency of solar panels by cooling the panels so their surface temperature does not exceed 130 degrees. Hot, sunny days can raise the surface temperature to 165 degrees, reducing the efficiency of the panels ... by as much as 50 percent," Kudav said. "Preliminary research I conducted with the assistance of a graduate student ... led to the conclusion that active cooling of solar panels is the most effective means to control the surface temperature." Kudav said.

The patent for the deflectors was awarded earlier this spring and served as the culmination of a seven year research and development process for Kudav and his team.

YSU Remembers Students and Alumni Killed in Active Military Service

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A small crowd gathered at Youngstown State University's Veterans' Memorial Plaza on Wednesday to recognize students and alumni killed during active duty in the armed forces.

The event — known as The Reading of the Names — invites a small group of currently serving and veteran service members to read the names of YSU alumni and students who died during active duty military service.

The servicemembers remembered at the event were representatives of most modern wars ranging from World War II to modern day conflicts.

Most of the names read were students who died dur-

ing World War II, a conflict during which Harry Meshel, member of the YSU Board of Trustees, served. For Meshel, remembering the sacrifices of the past is a crucial part of appreciating the present.

"It's significant to do this and significant to recall these [sacrifices] ... people need to remember that their mothers, fathers, neighbors and so on traveled thousands of miles to go fight for the freedoms we have today ... it's absolutely important to remind people of these things. Everyone is so self-involved anymore, it's important to have reminders of what it means to give up everything for something bigger than ourselves," Meshel said.



Along with the individuals reading the names of the fallen servicemembers, the Honor Guard from the 910th Airlift Wing Youngstown Air Reserve Station were on hand for the presentation of the flag. Tri-State Marine Detachment 494 — a group of veterans who perform various ceremonial duties around the region — were present for a 21 gun salute and the playing of Taps.

Bruce Kirkland, the commandant of the Tri-State Marine Detachment 494 and a veteran of the Marines, explained why his group focuses so much on celebrations of remembrance for veterans.

"I'm getting a few years under my belt — I'm 77 years old — and we want to bring new, younger members into the group and teach them to do these kinds of events. The current veterans need to lead the way in remembering those we've lost in all branches of the service," Kirkland said.



PHOTOS BY GRAIG GRAZIOSI/THE JAMBAR.

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Students Help YPD Revitalize Dead Beats

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A group of Youngstown State University students are involved in helping the Youngstown Police Department develop new beats for their officers to patrol.

Thomas Wakefield, a professor in the department of mathematics and statistics, obtained a grant from the Mathematical Association of America to fund the research.

The purpose of the grant is to connect faculty with local businesses or government agencies and together provide students an opportunity to work on real-world math problems. This provides students with a hands-on experience doing work similar to that of mathematicians outside of academia.

He contacted the Youngstown Police Department to see if they could conduct mathematical research in a way that would benefit the department.

"[There] was this problem of the unequal workload among police beats in the city of Youngstown which has been growing over the past decade or so. And they thought it would be a suitable problem for our students to tackle, and I thought so too," Wakefield said.

Kevin Mercer, a captain in the Youngstown Police Department, said the current beats were established about 15 years ago.

"Crime patterns and trends, and call volume and census tract data with population change significantly in that amount of time," Mercer said. "So it's just retracking that and redistributing the workload to make sure that all 13 beats are equally sharing the work across the city ... [and] to see if we can realign them to get a quicker response time just by the geographical location of the beats and boundaries."

The students obtained a year's worth of data on police calls from the Youngstown Police Department and analyzed that data to see how extensive the problem was. They reviewed previous research that had been done and used that as a guide as they developed their own model.

"It's a really neat model," Wakefield said. "It's a cellular growth type model where they plant a seed where they want a beat to grow, and they let the beat grow until the workload reaches the capacity that it needs to reach."

The students presented the results of their research to the department during finals week.

Ashley Orr, Student Government Association president and a participant involved in the process, said this was a unique aspect of the process that students don't always experience.

"As much as the contribution to the field and academia is incredibly

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NEWS BRIEFS

YSU Offers Free Business Seminar to Veterans

On Wednesday June 24, a free seminar for veterans who are considering starting, developing or growing a small business will run from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It will be in Room 3423 in the Williamson College of Business Administration and lunch will be provided. The seminar is open to veterans, active military and their spouses. To register, visit www.ysu.edu/sbdc-itac.

Lit Youngstown Offers Summer Creative Writing Workshops

Lit Youngstown, a non-profit Literary Arts Center, has creative writing workshops available for adults and teenagers during the summer. Courses include Playwriting for Beginners Workshop and Writing The Short Story for adults and Poetry Workshop and See Me for teens. Classes run once per week for six weeks and cost \$25 for six sessions. For more information and to register, visit <https://lityoungstown.wordpress.com/classes-and-events>.

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Journalism Program Moving to Bliss

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important with academic research, it's also incredibly important that what we're doing actually has policy implications," Orr said. "And that's what the opportunity to meet with the police officers allowed us to have."

In addition to the presentation, they met with representatives during the course of the semester as well, which allowed them to get a feel for the officers' experiences.

"There's even that anecdotal side," Orr said. "The data is telling us one thing in an empirical sense. [For instance], the data is telling us there's this unequal workload in beat 109. So from the anecdotal side, is the word in the YPD that beat 109 is terrible? Because if it is, then we're confirming our suspicions. And at the same time we're not letting the theory be the only guide to our research, but also what [the officers] are seeing in the field."

She said it also gave the students an opportunity to practice explaining highly technical research to an audience that doesn't do math everyday in a way that still makes sense.

"I think that's an important skill-set that Dr. Wakefield really honed in on this semester," Orr said.

Mercer said the department has taken the beats as proposed by the students and fine-tuned the boundaries. They intend to reanalyze the data to make sure it didn't affect the call volume. Ultimately, he is happy with the work the students have done.

"We should definitely be pushing forward to integrate them," Mercer said. "I think it's definitely something we can do. It probably won't happen this year, just because we have some more analytical work to do."

He said the union also requires a process in which all officers bid on their beats annually.

"If we take six months, study it, retrain the guys in the fall on the new beats, redo our computer system — because our computer pulls up the location it gives the beat to the dispatcher so they know which car to send — by the time we do all that we should hopefully be ready by January 1 if we're going to implement them," Mercer said.

The Anderson Program in Journalism at Youngstown State University will be relocating from its current home in the Department of English to the Department of Communications as of Jan. 1, 2016.

This will move the program from the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences to the College of Creative Arts and Communications.

Martin Abraham, interim provost at YSU, said the decision came after intensive conversations within both programs and colleges.

"We spent a lot of time over the course of the spring semester getting input — trying to understand the advantages and disadvantages, the opportunities it would bring — and reached a consensus that this was the right thing to do on behalf of the journalism program," Abraham said.

Adam Earnhardt, chair of the communications department, proposed the change to Abraham.

Earnhardt said they were seeing replication in terms of courses and resources required by students in the journalism program and the communications department.

"We thought that if students are asking for the same things and needing the same or similar skill-sets, that combining these courses or offering access to courses under one roof would help to alleviate some of that replication," Earnhardt said.

He also thought it would improve outcomes for students in both fields.

"The telecommunications studies students on our side were missing some skills that we thought

journalism could provide. And we also thought that maybe there were some skills that [journalism] students weren't getting that they should be leaving with that we could offer on the telecommunication studies side," Earnhardt said.

Abraham said that while both deans and chairs approved the move, the faculty in the English department was less unanimous in their approval of the move than communications faculty and many in the English department viewed the program's departure as a loss.

"It's really not a loss. They'll still have just as much opportunity to interact and partner and participate with those faculty as they [currently do]," Abraham said.

Julia Gergits, chair of the English department, expressed the same sentiment.

"I believe we'll continue working with our colleagues even after the move to communications. We already work well with our communications colleagues on other projects," Gergits said.

She said major decisions are seldom made without dissent.

"It's not easy to let a program that has always been attached to your department leave," Gergits said. "[But] this kind of evolution is normal and healthy."

She also noted that communications and English had been in the same department until the 1960s and computer science and math were one department as recently as the 1990s.

The current move arises, as those did, from technological changes. Gergits said that most universities house mass media and journalism in the same department.

"The English department does some media work, especially in professional writing, but communications teaches broadcasting, for

instance, and they've moved into social media management," Gergits said.

Abraham said these aspects of the communications department make it a good fit for the journalism program.

"I'm seeing greater opportunities for interactions in the communications area, and the opportunity to address modern communications tools and their implications for journalism as a profession," Abraham said.

Earnhardt thinks communications and journalism students will leave with a better portfolio having taken advantage of opportunities of which they were previously unaware.

Cary Wecht, associate dean in the College of Creative Arts and Communications, will be chairing the team handling the program's transition.

"We want students to feel comfortable and we want to reduce any stress they might feel in the transition," Wecht said. "We want to make sure it's seamless and that there's no harm to students. Furthermore, that they feel that this is the right thing and that this is the right home for them."

She said students seem to be on board with the move.

"I don't anticipate a lot of push-back because it seems so logical. When you've got folks that are doing video and radio news, and then you've got folks on the opposite side of campus doing again print, but also video and audio recording, it sure seems like they ought to be in the same program," Wecht said. "I think there'll be a lot of opportunity for students in both areas to not just work together but to share equipment, share ideas, share resources, so I think it's going to be really good."

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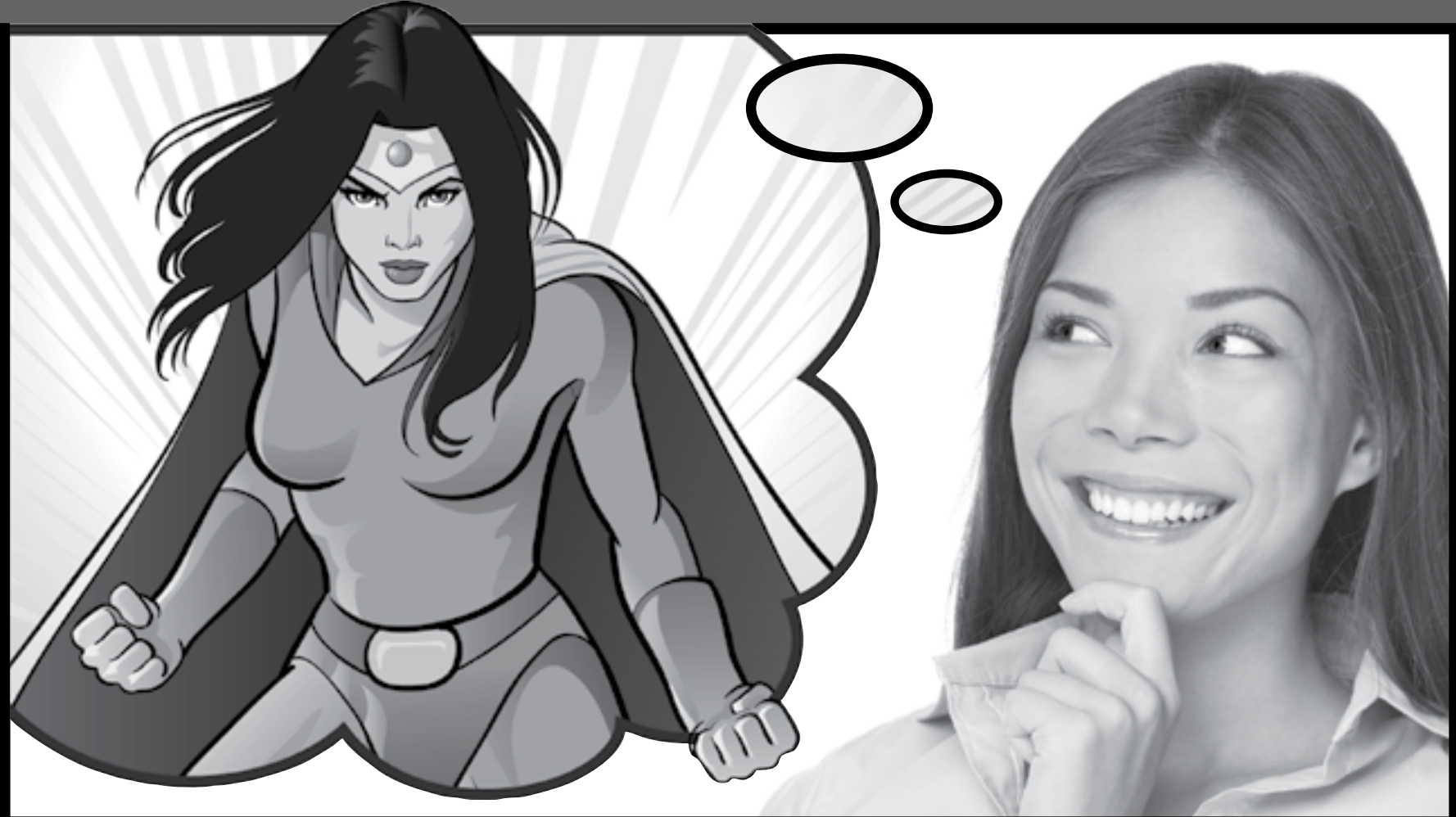
Among those gathered to watch the event was President Jim Tressel, who expressed disappointment at only one aspect of the occasion.

"I really wish we could have done this during the school year when more students are on campus. I think it's crucial we remind ourselves we wouldn't have the good fortune we all have now if it weren't for the sacrifice of so many. Unfor-

tunately, you can only fit so much into a school year," Tressel said. "It's important we remember and it's of the utmost important that we serve the 400 veterans we have currently enrolled here as best we can."

YSU finished the construction of a Veterans' Resource Center on campus and is one of the only universities in the country to have such a resource

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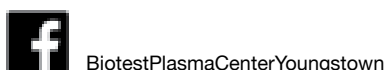
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EDITORIAL

Pelini's Pay Cut Matters

We at The Jambar haven't made life any easier for Penguins' head coach Bo Pelini.

We've called for him to attend Safe Zone training — which he still should — we've questioned Youngstown State University's wisdom in hiring him, we question the wisdom in hiring his brother and we were critical of the hiring of his colleague Ron Brown, who has since left for more comfortable climates at Liberty University.

As journalists, we want to be objective as much as possible, and in the rare occasion when we get to voice our opinions — such as an editorial, like this — we go all out.

That is why we have to come out against naysaying Pelini's decision to take a pay cut.

To bring everyone up to speed, Pelini has decided to take a \$65,000 pay cut to his four-year contract with YSU, citing President Jim Tressel's decision to take a pay cut of his own as the inspiration for the decision.

Some have looked at this and said "\$65,000 for someone making \$213,894 as a base salary with another \$128,009 a month coming from his buyout at Nebraska is a drop in the bucket?"

Sure, \$65,000 isn't going to hurt Pelini. He can still live like a king in Youngstown.

But \$65,000 is \$65,000.

That's a significant amount of money.

When former Penguins head coach Eric Wolford's contract was bought out by YSU last winter, people were — justifiably — upset at the \$100,000 it would cost the school during a time when the faculty didn't even have settled contracts.

Currently the Association of Classified Employees — the union comprised of YSU's secretaries, groundskeepers and other employees — is in a contract battle of their own and facing layoffs. And we have another university employee who is willing to take a pay cut of significant size for no discernable reason other than helping the university.

People are still criticizing his decision.

We doubt Pelini is doing it to garner sympathy. He doesn't seem to care that much about what people think about him. As the head football coach, it's unlikely he'll win over the faculty, regardless of his gestures. He doesn't need to win over the public because the public loves football and thus loves him. So maybe he is just doing it to help out the university that took a chance on him.

That being said, we also doubt that \$65,000 is going to go directly to alleviating the current struggle in which the ACE union members are currently embroiled. We hope it does, but we're not holding our breath.

But that's not Pelini's fault. That's on the Board of Trustees. If they want to funnel it back into athletics so the football program can buy another Jacuzzi, that's on them, not Pelini. The fact that our culture seems to value athletic spectacle over academic advancements is unfortunate, but again, not Pelini's fault. He makes the money he makes because the thing he's good at

is in high demand.

He can't change our culture, and he can't force the Board of Trustees' hands in how they use the money he's not taking. It's really absurd to hold him responsible for either. What he did do is something positive with what power he does have; he decided to give back to YSU something it desperately needs — money.

We know we'll probably upset some of our biggest fans by taking this position, and that's OK because they'll forgive us later this year when we hold the decision-makers' feet to the fire on other issues.

Barring Pelini getting some secret kickback for his decision to take a pay cut — maybe he's getting the administration to change the name of the Watson and Tressel Training Site to Jim and Bo's Football Factory, who knows — we think what he did was a good thing and we challenge the powers that be to use that extra money to serve the employees that work behind the scenes to make this school a great place for the students who pay to be here.

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Youngstown's Human War

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"I hate my own work. I never think it is good enough. I hate all of my old books and never understand why anyone would e-mail me to tell me they like my book," Noah Cicero wrote, an author and former resident of Vienna, Ohio.

Cicero's critically acclaimed book, "The Human War," spins a tale of Mark Swift, a young man living in Youngstown, Ohio who struggles with the hardships of being an overworked, underpaid and anxiety ridden youth in the midst of America's declaration of war against Iraq.

"The Human War" was published in September of 2003 and was made into an independent movie by director Pirooz Kalayeh in 2013 — filmed entirely in Youngstown.

The Little Youngstown Cinema will screen the film May 23 at 9 p.m. in the downstairs portion of the Erie Terminal building. While The Little Youngstown Cinema mainly features art-house and Criterion Collection films, the group felt it was important to showcase the Youngstown film community by giving it an outlet for its product.

"I felt this movie deserved a Youngstown screening ... I think it's positive that [Cicero] wrote a book and it became a movie. I think his success is a great example that you can accomplish anything no matter where you come from or what your background is," Aspasia Lyras, co-runner of The Little Youngstown Cinema, said "... I think it's wonderful that this film pertains to a darker side of the city. I feel that that is more real and relatable ... I always thought a proper showing here makes perfect sense."

Cicero said that the book was inspired by his personal confusion over the

rapid change the US was taking — from the end of the Vietnam War, the shootings at Columbine, the falling of the Twin Towers on Sept. 11, 2001 and the decision to go to war in 2003. He explains that although his feelings are accurately portrayed in both the book and the movie, he still feels strange about revisiting his view of the past.

"It was very scary and weird. 'The Human War' is very much about my life in 2003 and the movie wasn't finished till 2013, so it was 10 years after," Cicero said. "It was like re-watching my life all over again ... When I wrote 'The Human War,' I was 22-years-old living in my parents house in Vienna, Ohio. I don't think I had a job or anything. It has been 12 years since then and a lot has happened."

Kalayeh said that after reading Cicero's novella, he had persistent recurring dreams about "The Human War" as a film, claiming he could see stills of the movie as if it had already been made. He contacted Cicero shortly after requesting to purchase the rights to film. The two met in the Youngstown Denny's and production for the movie began.

Shooting the film in the area that was written about in the story was important to Kalayeh.

"I wouldn't have done the film if we didn't shoot in Youngstown ... The landscape is just different. I loved the beauty of the downtown streets and all the mansions up and down Main Street and the Yankee Kitchen and Royal Oaks ... I remember driving around taking pictures with Noah. In my head, I could already see the main character ... driving around just like we were. Suddenly, you realize there's nowhere else you could make this film," Kalayeh said. "Then Noah raises the stakes even higher: 'You gotta make this film,' he tells me. 'No one else but you can do it.' Then, just like that, I agree. Youngstown is a special place. Like Noah, it's personal and real. That's why I wanted to shoot there. I trusted that."

Tickets for The Little Youngstown Cinema's screening of "The Human War" can be purchased for \$8 at littleyoungstown.com or for \$10 at the door or at Joe Maxx Coffee Company.

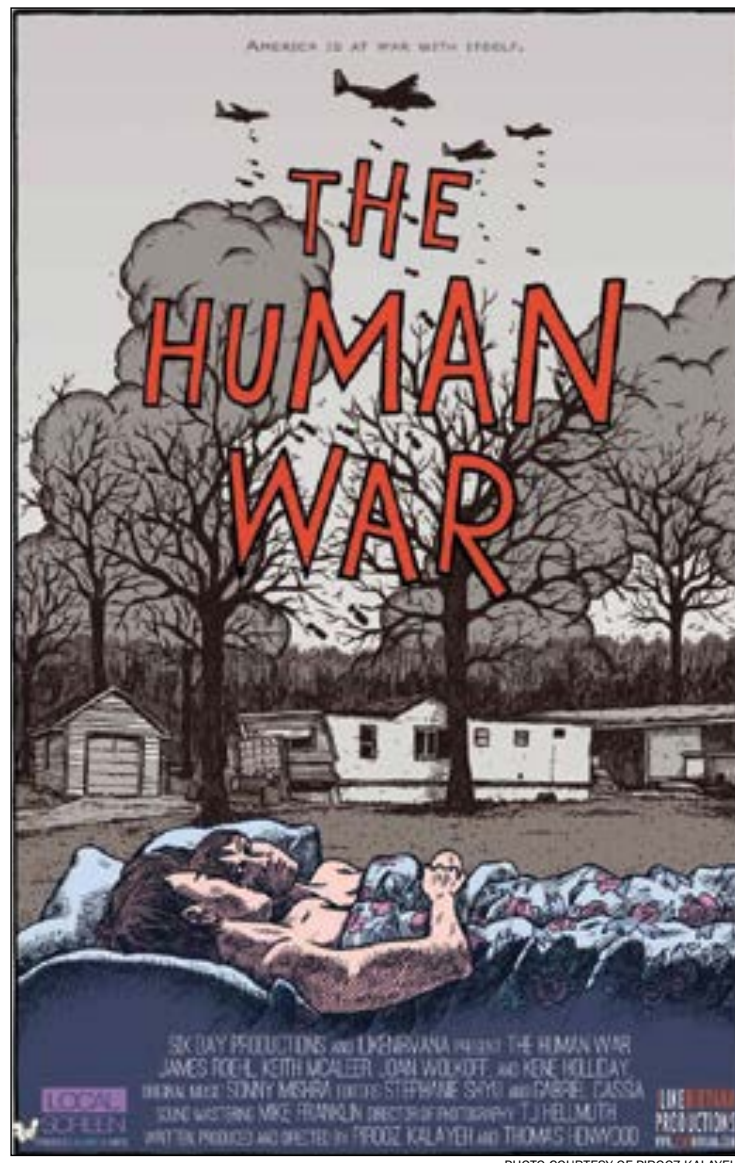


PHOTO COURTESY OF PIROOZ KALAYEH.

Party on the Plaza — Youngstown is not a Ghost Town

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On May 15, Warehouse 50 was packed with people, both inside of the bar and crowding the outside patio, for the first Party on the Plaza of summer.

Warehouse 50 fenced off a large amount of sidewalk outside of their building that connected to the indoor bar. Patrons could freely travel between the outside patio and the indoor space, where a variety of food and drink specials were offered throughout the night.

Youngstown's House Band played live music from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Music was then played through the stage speakers and a dance floor opened up outside for the remainder of the night.

Sammy Frye, a bartender at Warehouse 50 and student at Youngstown State University, said that she wasn't surprised that Party on the Plaza was such a success.

"... We had a huge crowd around 8. The outside bar and plaza were packed around 10 — and by packed, I mean you couldn't move. I was behind the outside

bar and people were having trouble getting to us because there was so many people," Frye said. "We're working on having two entrances, so the line isn't wrapped around the parking lot again."

Usually around 10 p.m. I see everyone out, and by everyone I mean I probably saw everyone I knew this past Friday! It was insane!"

Frye also said that each Party on the Plaza will be as different as the new Warehouse 50 building that is hosting them.

"You can expect a lot of changes coming to Warehouse 50 and Party on the Plaza. We have different bands playing, and we have up-and-coming artists from around the area also getting some stage time," Frye said. "We have brand new management and staff, new specials during the week with food since we have a brand new menu and brand new patio outside."

Party on the Plaza was a success because it created a space where friends could gather and catch up, according to Julie Sokol, a



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAMMY FRYE.

Party on the Plaza Dates!

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June 19 & 26

July 3, 10, 17 & 24

August 14, 21 & 28

September 4, 11 & 18

former

"It gives everyone a chance to move the 'catching up' from tweeting at each other to something that's face to face."

Warehouse 50 plans on hosting more Party on the Plaza events throughout the summer. The next Party on the Plaza will be May 22 and will feature live music by 80's Proof, Tongue N' Groove and appearances by special guest reality TV star Stephanie Ford from Sons of Guns.

For more information and updates of upcoming Party on the Plaza events, food and drink specials and contests, follow Warehouse 50 on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Youngstown resident who attended the event.

"I think Party on the Plaza really defies the notion that Youngstown is a ghost town. I love it because it's a chance for me to catch up with people that I haven't seen since we all went our separate ways," Sokol said.

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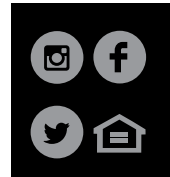
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