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Down But Not Out: 15-Day Enrollment Signals Potential Rebound

JUSTIN WIER

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Youngstown State University's 15-day enrollment numbers have declined for the fifth straight year, but they appear to be on a path to improvement.

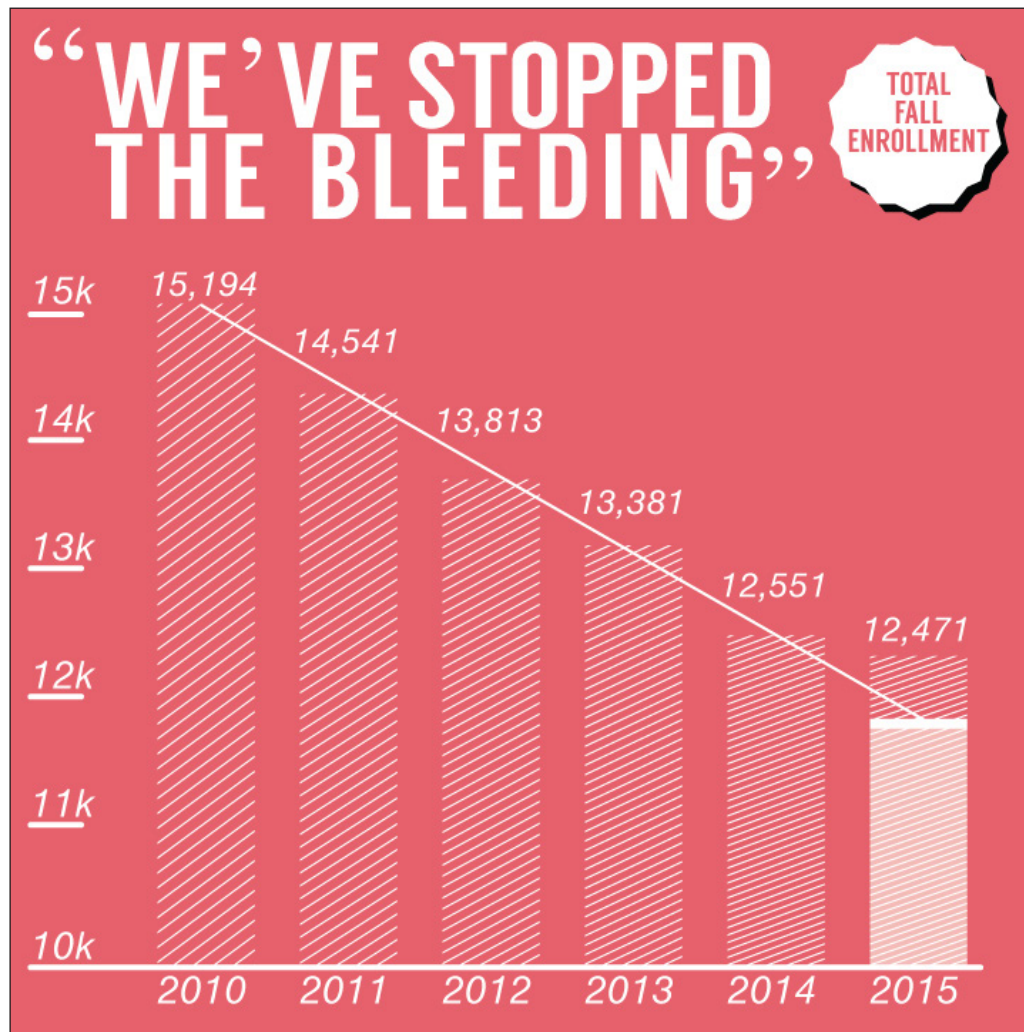
Gary Swegan, associate vice president of enrollment planning and management, said the numbers bode well for the future.

"Even though we're still down, the reality is that I am delighted because we have really stemmed the tide, or stopped the bleeding. We've stabilized the enrollment," Swegan said.

Current enrollment stands at 12,471 students, 85 fewer than the 12,556 that were enrolled last year. This represents a 0.7 percent decrease. Over the last four years, the decline in enrollment has averaged 4.7 percent, peaking at 6.2 percent last year.

Because of the four-year decline in enrollment, when registration opened last spring, 1,069 fewer students were eligible to reregister than the year before.

"If everything else had stayed the same, if we had brought in the same size freshman class, if we'd retained students at the same rate, we would have been down as an institution about 8.5 percent," Swegan said. "We didn't close all of the gap, but we closed all but 85 students."



GRAPHIC BY RJ MIKOLAJ/THE JAMBAR

Fall enrollment numbers were on a trend to keep decreasing at four percent, but leveled out this year.

On the enrollment side of things, the university brought in over 600 more students

than they did last year. The freshman class is 247 students larger than it was last year.

There are six more transfer students, 45 more incoming graduate students and just

over 300 new college credit plus students.

There was also a significant increase in the freshman-to-sophomore retention rate. Last year the rate was 67 percent, this year it rose to 73.2 percent.

"In all my years of higher education, I've never been at a place where the freshman-to-sophomore retention improved in one year by six percentage points. I mean, that's just off the charts," Swegan said.

Swegan said YSU's freshman-to-sophomore retention rate has been between 65 and 68 percent over the last five years, and it had never varied more than a percentage point and a half. In his previous job, at Bowling Green State University, it never moved by more than three percentage points, and even that was unusual.

He attributed part of the increase in retention to last year's freshman class being the strongest academically at that time.

"That class last year was our first class since we have gone to selective admission," Swegan said. "That retention rate going up six percent is at least partially explained by the fact that we had better students coming in the front door."

This year's freshman class outperformed last year's, with average ACT scores improving from 21.05 to 21.15 and average GPAs improving from 3.12

ENROLLMENT
PAGE 3

iPals: Creating Bonds Between Students From Around the World

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Moving to a new country to study abroad can be intimidating, but a new student organization is helping international students adjust to American culture while studying at Youngstown State University.

The organization is called iPals and was created by Samantha Anderson, a student trustee. Domestic students volunteer to serve as mentors to international students and must spend at least 20 hours a semester helping them study, touring the area, spending time with them and making them feel welcomed in their new environment.

The iPals mentors must visit with their partner at least twice a month for an hour. Mentors are also required to take their iPals partner to at least four events, such as concerts in downtown Youngstown or football games. The events can be on or off campus.

"It's a brand new program," Anderson said. "I saw international students were not truly integrating with the [domestic] students, and I wanted to bridge that gap. They are coming out of their comfort zone to study at YSU. If they don't feel like they are a part of our community, if they don't feel like a

penguin, then we are not doing our job."

She formulated the basic plans for the program over the summer. She was inspired by a friend from South Korea who told her about a "buddy program" at her university where native Korean students were partnered with international students. After another student mentioned it at an SGA meeting, she decided to implement the program this fall.

She wrote a proposal to Ann Gardner, the assistant director of the Center for International Studies and Programs, and began working on recruiting volunteers and making the program a reality.

"We want the international students to have a chance to adjust and assimilate here," Gardner said. "We have a large population of students who want to engage with people from other cultures, so this enriches everybody's experience."

There is no formal training, but Hanna Martin, an exercise science major, described the lengthy application process.

"You have to fill out an extensive survey and talk about why you would be good, and they chose people based off that," Martin said. "I actually have three adopted sisters

KSU Students Bring New Eyes to Downtown Development



PHOTO BY SCOTT WILLIAMS/THE JAMBAR

The Phelps Street corridor is one of the targeted development areas for which KSU students will be designing theoretical buildings.

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Seventy-five seniors from Kent State University's College of Architecture and Environmental Design gathered in Bliss Hall's Spotlight Theater last Friday to discuss plans for Youngstown's future with locals involved in urban planning and revitalization efforts downtown.

The students are architecture majors who are creating plans for theoretical buildings in Youngstown as part of KSU's senior design studio. They are concentrating on development that will rejuvenate parts of downtown with a focus on sustainable design and using the buildings to better connect the existing infrastructure.

Hunter Morrison, executive director of the Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium, told the students their designs could have significant impact on the city.

"This is not an academic exercise," Morrison said. "You are writing the future of this city."

Joseph Ferut, a KSU professor and one of the coordinators of the senior design

KSU STUDENTS
PAGE 3



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Getting a Third Windmill

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Youngstown State University installed two wind turbines behind Melnick Hall after receiving a grant from the United States Department of Energy. Now the installation of a third windmill is in the works.

The new windmill will be placed behind Melnick Hall alongside the others. All three windmills have adjustable blades, but the new one will also have a shroud to measure its effects.

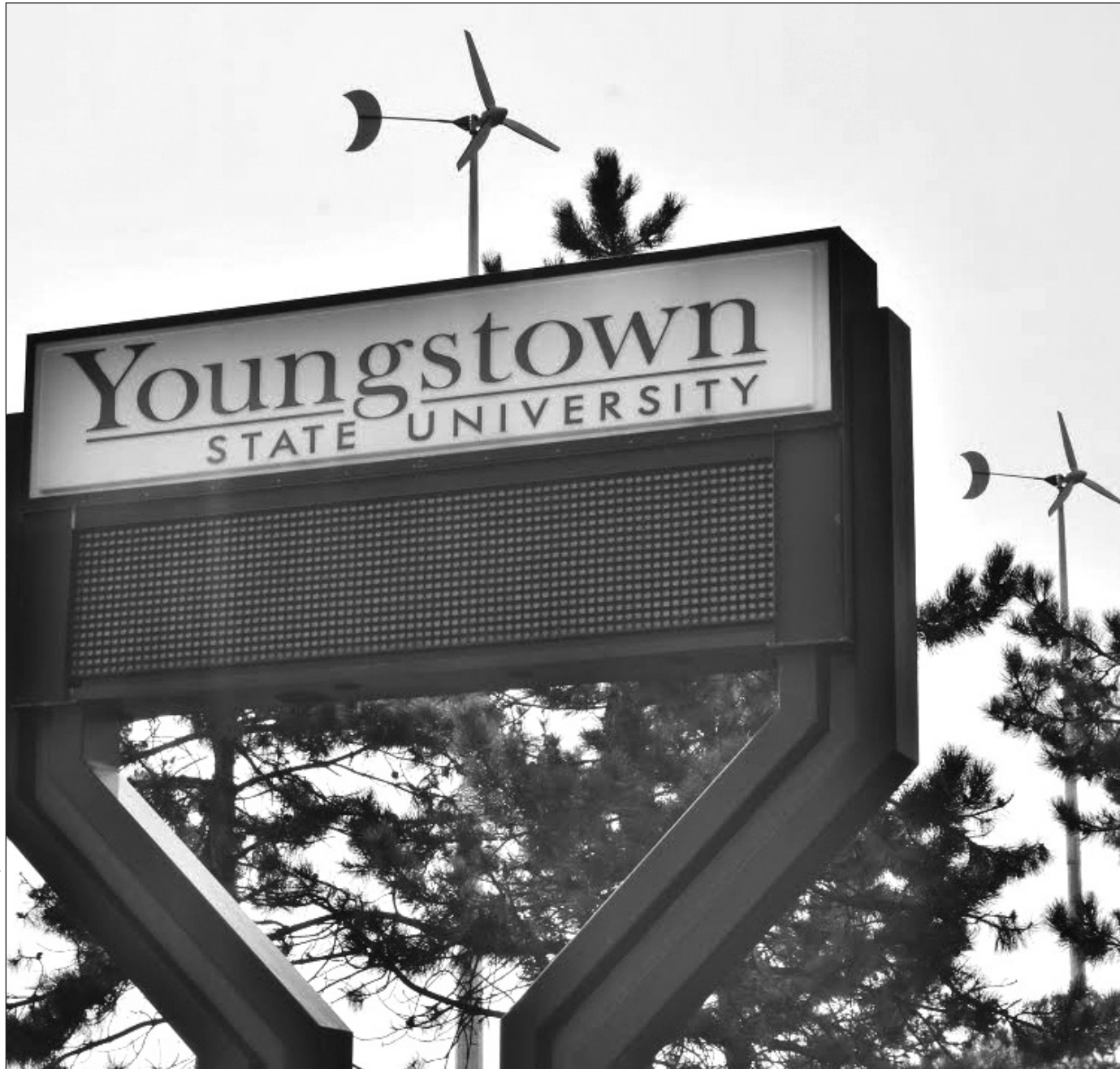
Hazel Marie, chair of the mechanical engineering department, is overseeing the research.

"We have done wind tunnel testing with a very scaled down model," Marie said. "The turbine blades were about a foot wide. So in the controlled environment, with steady airflow, the tests have been very positive. But in the real world, with wind turbulence, we just don't know. To find out is the goal of the third windmill with the shroud."

The goal of the windmill project is to see whether wind energy is effective and feasible in low-wind areas, like Youngstown. The adjustable blades may be able to maximize wind acceleration at certain angles and make having windmills more cost effective in these areas.

Tim Daugherty is a student helping Marie with the research. He said the collection of data has been halted due to one of the original twin turbines not acting properly.

"We need to diagnose the issue," Daugherty said.



"Once that issue has been corrected, the weather-recording instrumentation can be installed on top of Melnick and data can be collected."

Daugherty said he is excited to be working with Marie on the project.

"Dr. Marie is an energetic and effective as a chairperson. Not only does she run

our department, she also teaches, recruits, and does research on her own. I'm flattered that she asked for my help with this project, and I'll do my best to not let her down," Daugherty said.

Marie said the windmill project is one of the last projects on a larger grant given by the Department of Energy. The third windmill

is funded by its own Department of Energy grant.

The initial grant had three areas of focus: studying wind, solar and energy efficiency.

Mike Hripko, associate vice president for Research, said the larger grant also helped fund an energy incubator in Warren.

"The project included

funds for the renovation of the building in Warren, Ohio that now houses the Tech Belt Energy Innovation Center," Hripko said. "The funding allowed for preparation of a usable facility through renovation and deployment of a basic scientific and technological infrastructure."

Minimum Required Credit Hours for Graduation Reduced

LAUREN FOOTE

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Minimum credit hour requirements for Youngstown State University undergraduates dropped from 124 credit hours to 120 this semester.

Student representatives in the Academic Senate initiated the change.

Jacob Schriener-Briggs, executive vice president of YSU's Student Government Association, said he and Michael Slavens developed the change as co-chairs of the Senate's Academic Standards Committee.

"We endeavored to pass policies through the Academic Senate that would help students graduate in four years," Schriener-Briggs said.

The Academic Standards committee looked at peer institutions and found that many had already made the switch to 120 hours. The University of Akron currently requires undergraduates to earn 120 credits, and Kent State University requires 121 credit hours.

The committee made a recommendation to the full senate, which passed the legislation.

Briggs said one of their goals was to reduce costs to students.

"Now programs on campus have the ability to reduce the number of hours they require, enabling students to avoid paying for extra and even unnecessary classes," Schriener-Briggs said. "If a program drops its hours from 124 to 120, which saves the impacted student \$1,080 (\$270 per hour) according to the university itself."

Schriener-Briggs said it might also reduce the amount of time students spend in college.

"Anecdotal evidence has suggested that some students have been required to enroll for additional terms purely because they were one class short of YSU's hour requirement — this change would prevent that from happening," Schriener-Briggs said.

Martin Abraham, YSU provost, said these changes are connected to the administration's focus on having students graduate in four years.

"By decreasing the number of total hours required, we are able to reduce student costs and provide

greater opportunities for them to graduate in four years," Abraham said.

Jeanne Herman, University Registrar, said the change also adheres to a state initiative requiring universities to reduce costs to students.

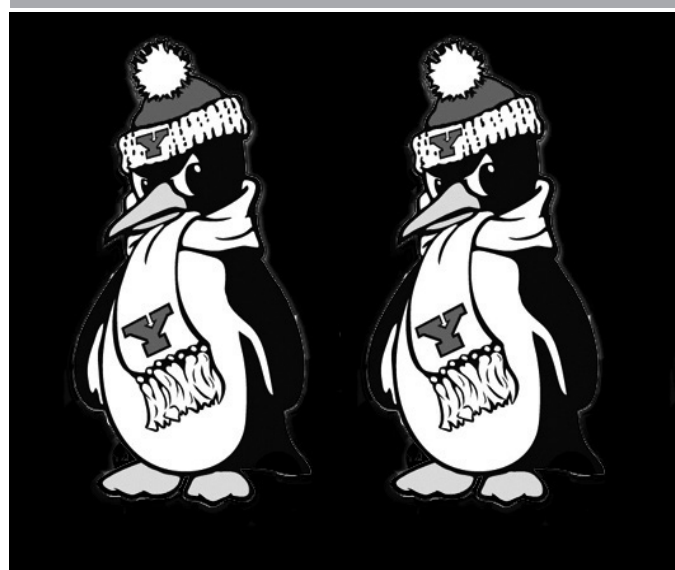
"We, as an institution, felt reducing the hours from 124 to 120 was the right thing to do, and it was keeping with the requirements set by the Ohio Board of Regents," Herman said.

The administration has worked with the senate executive committee to implement the senate's motion in a timely manner, consistent with the limitations and appropriate academic timelines.

Abraham said that certain programs would still require students to log over 120 hours in order to meet all requirements.

"Fulfilling all degree requirements is a key element," Abraham said. "That means all general education requirements, all major requirements, any minor requirements and other programmatic requirements (such as a field experience), or anything else that is otherwise required."

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NEWS BRIEFS

The News Outlet Receives Part of Election Grant

Youngstown State University's The News Outlet has received part of a \$35,000 grant from the Knight foundation alongside the Akron Beacon Journal, the Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at the University of Akron and the Jefferson Center. The grant will be used to study and cover elections, and to create Up for Debate Ohio! — an initiative to improve the partnership between voters and the media for a more informative election process.

WCBA Meet the Employers Day

Youngstown State University's Williamson College of Business Administration will host their semi-annual Meet the Employers Day on Sept. 23. This free event will take place from 1-4 p.m. in the atrium of Williamson Hall. The main focus of the event is for students to network with employers and discuss potential internships, co-ops and full-time positions. For more information call 330-941-3660.

to 3-14.

"It was the best class that we've ever brought in," Swegan said. "So we would certainly expect that our retention rate would continue to remain high, or higher than it has historically been."

When the university was budgeting for this fiscal year, they had projected a one percent increase in enrollment, but Swegan said they realized that this was optimistic.

"We knew internally that we would be able to absorb as much as a one percent decline," Swegan said. "As long as we were somewhere within that range that we would feel that we were in pretty decent shape."

Swegan said things are coming together in a positive way.

"I feel very confident that we've now built an infrastructure that is sustainable," Swegan said. "I fully believe we will have just as much success this coming year, maybe a even a little bit more."

While noting the difficulty of forecasting, Swegan said while numbers should increase, we might not return to a university with 15,000 students.

"When we were at 15,000, this was also a different place. It was an open admission institution," Swegan said.

He said the state funding formula also changed over the last five years, and we have to focus on bringing in students who can be successful.

"Starting next fall, we'll start to see the enrollment going in the right direction, and we might settle in somewhere between where we are right now and where the high enrollment was back in 2010, but as we settle in ... those students would have a much greater chance for success," Swegan said.

studio, said this was one of the most important sentiments to come out of the meeting.

KSU STUDENTS FRONT

"I think most students in the academic environment never hear that [their ideas have consequences]. They just think it's a book and you get it done, so the notion that this exercise has the ability to impact things outside the academic environment is one of the best things we could ever hope for," Ferut said.

Dominic C. Marchionda, city-university planning coordinator for Youngstown State University's Center for Urban and Regional Studies, hosted the event. He said he will work hard alongside local stakeholders to implement the best designs the students come up with.

"Ideas without action can't create confidence, so we're going to be focused on implementation and taking these ideas beyond just this studio," Marchionda said.

Ferut said they selected Youngstown because the Mahoning River and YSU offer unique design opportunities.

The students' designs will target the former Wean United site along the riverfront, and the sections of Phelps and Hazel Streets that connect YSU to downtown.

Marchionda said that focus will help improve the odds of successful implementation.

"We're not gonna say, 'We're going to take this 30 acre site over in the east side or the west side or the north side, and we want to make it an incubator, or we want to make it an arts district,'" Marchionda said. "We're intentionally focusing on an area where those assets are already prevalent, and we're going to build on them and better connect them so this really can be an innovation district."

These areas are also the focus of design contracts the city's Board of Control recently approved with MKSK, a landscape architecture firm from Columbus. They will deliver the city plans for an amphitheater and riverfront park on the former Wean United site by Jan. 15.

Marchionda and CURS will work alongside MKSK as they plan development along Phelps and Hazel Streets, with the intent of creating stronger linkages between downtown and YSU — taking advantage of the new state law that allows cities to establish open container "entertainment" districts. The date for the submission of those plans has not been determined.

Marchionda said the Kent State students will be involved in that process.

"They're going to be working parallel, and they're going to work with the firm contracted to offer their ideas and their insight," Marchionda said.

During the meeting, there was discussion of the esplanade Kent State completed in 2013 that connects the university to the downtown business district as a potential model for designs. Morrison encouraged students to take ideas from cities like Cleveland and Pittsburgh and adapt them for Youngstown.

There was talk of creating wider sidewalks, better lighting and more commercial and retail space — including the oft-requested grocery store — along Phelps and Hazel Streets to make walking downtown from YSU more appealing. The possibility of bike lanes was also discussed.

Marchionda noted that students at The Ohio State University frequently walk to the bars and restaurants along High Street — despite it being much further from OSU's dorms than downtown is from housing at YSU — because the connections are better designed and developed.

Kent students asked questions about the lack of green space — or just somewhere for people to gather or relax outside — in Youngstown's central business district. They also drew attention to the inaccessibility of the riverfront.

The other participants in the discussion included Sharon Letson, executive director at Youngstown CityScape, Mike Hripko, YSU's associate vice president for research, Sara Wenger, community development program manager for the Eastgate Regional Council of Governments and Nick Chretien, president of YSUScape.

Paul Hazelet, a student who participated in the meeting, said the discussion was enlightening.

"I learned more about the actual needs of the city, more than any online research could do. It was important that there were a lot of different perspectives," Hazelet said. "It just gave us an idea, like an insider scoop of what we can do to try to help the city with our ideas."

Marchionda said the people who walk these spaces everyday often find themselves settling for what exists. He said he's excited to see what students from outside the area are able to generate.

"Having 150 new eyes on a place that they're not particularly familiar with, I think, is going to provide a lot of creativity," Marchionda said.

The students will return to YSU to present their designs later in the semester.

IPALS FRONT



PHOTO BY JUSTIN WIER/THE JAMBAR.

Hannah Beroy, an international student from the Philippines, and her iPal mentor, Catena Core, attended the Eighth Annual Youngstown Community International Student Welcome Dinner last Friday.

from Ukraine, so I'm rather good at understanding different accents and what people are trying to convey if they don't know the right words, so both Sam and I thought I would be a good fit for the program."

Martin said she really connected with her iPal partner, a freshman from Hungary, because they were both on the women's swim team.

"America is a rather large country, but there are so many different cultures, so many different standards out there," Martin said. "Learning about a different culture gives you a different perspective on a lot of things that you never thought about, and it is always fun to make new friends. You never know. It's a small world. You could end up visiting them one day."

Jarrold Ellenberger, a mechanical engineering major, also enjoys his involvement with the iPal program. He has classes with his iPal partner, so they study together and plan on playing soccer in the future. He said it's a great learning experience.

"My eyes have opened to the way they view our culture.

I didn't think about that perspective until I started getting more involved with them," Ellenberger said. "I think it's a really good program that gets the domestic students and the international students involved."

Initially, there were close to 30 volunteers. Now, there are almost 100 people who would like to volunteer, but there can only be 70 pairs. This is because Anderson is in charge of matching and introducing the pairs herself, and that the pairings must be the same gender.

The 30 female students who were not paired up will not be able to volunteer this year because the rest of the iPal partners are male, but Anderson is hoping to utilize them by inviting them to volunteering events.

One volunteer opportunity this summer was welcoming the new students at the airport.

"Right when the student gets off the plane, there were students from our university waiting for them and holding a sign saying welcome. They see they are welcomed with open arms, and then they have someone to talk to on the ride back to university," Ander-

son said. "We had several e-mails from the international students saying they were so happy to have that connection with other students."

Students who need volunteer hours can benefit from this program and accumulate as many hours as they need.

"It's really nice because for the Honors College you have to get 60 volunteer hours, and it's basically hanging out with friends. It's still volunteering because we are teaching them about American culture, and that's volunteering in a way," Ellenberger said. "At the same time, we are just experiencing our own culture even more."

One thing Anderson said she has observed in this project is that the domestic students learn just as much as the international ones do. Students are interested in learning the languages of their iPal partners as well as learning about their customs.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for everyone," Anderson said. "They get to learn about different aspects of the world, different cultures and everyone feels included."





PHOTO BY GABRIELLE FELLOWS/THE JAMBAR.

BILLY LUDT

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What happens when world-class musicians share the same venue as fashion designers and models? Fashion Meets Music Festival comes to life.

The second Fashion Meets Music Festival took place Sept. 5 and 6 in the Arena District in Columbus, Ohio. It shut down a portion of Nationwide Boulevard and reached into McFerson Commons Park and sat among the Arena District's many businesses and restaurants.

FMMF aims to put Columbus on the map as a leader in music, fashion, dining, art and education.

Northern Whale, Youngstown's own indie rock act, played Saturday after-

noon at the FMMF. Northern Whale was on the same bill as acts like Ludacris, Young the Giant, O.A.R., St. Vincent, Awolnation and Taking Back Sunday.

Performing members of Northern Whale are vocalist Jake Capezzuto, drummer Brandon Fisher, guitarist Scott Davis and bassist and ukulele player Jake Stephens. They balance their time between playing music and attending Youngstown State University.

"We had a really good time," Capezzuto said. "It was a lot of fun. I enjoy looking like a complete idiot on stage."

As patrons entered the festival, Capezzuto and his bandmates stood by entryways and handed out cards to do some last-minute promotion for their set.

In light of the festival's emphasis on fashion, Northern Whale made sure to take the stage dressed up, despite the weekend's 90-degree temperatures.

"I gave up trying to look cool a couple years ago," Capezzuto said. "If you're trying to look cool you're not going to have fun ... I mean we tried to dress cool. I got white pants on, I figured Labor Day's Monday, so this is my last chance to wear white pants."

Three stages were set up for FMMF, each sponsored by separate companies — Jagermeister, Stella Artois and iHeartRadio — and a fashion tent with a runway.

This year, FMMF's organizers placed an emphasis on consumer experience, bringing in dozens of vendors and food trucks for patrons to pe-

ruse. Melissa Dickson is the director of communications for FMMF.

"Our goal for FMMF 2015 is to bring music and fashion to life on a national stage, producing a community-based programming and destination-based entertainment platform in Columbus," Dickson said.

Music could be heard at all times from every corner of FMMF. Events ran until 11 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, but official FMMF after parties were thrown each night in the Park Street complex.

Saturday, Ludacris flew in to Columbus to perform on the iHeartRadio stage at FMMF during his 10th annual, weekend-long charity celebration, LudaDay Weekend. Ludacris performed an hour set and promptly left, flying

back to Atlanta to continue hosting LudaDay Weekend festivities.

St. Vincent, the Grammy's best Alternative Artist of 2014, headlined the second day of FMMF, playing the final show of the Digital Witness Tour. The tour spanned two years and the band played around the world.

Though FMMF boasted a world-renowned lineup, the festival gave stage time to many up-and-coming and lesser-known acts, including Captain Kidd, a five-piece indie pop group made up of all Ohio State University students.

Next year's FMMF will take place once again on Labor Day weekend. For more information on the festival, visit www.fmmf.us.

PHOTOS BY BILLY LUDT/THE JAMBAR.



EDITORIAL

Hand-Held Radars Issue Anxiety in Youngstown

News has surfaced that the Youngstown Police Department's use of hand-held radar guns has caused the police to issue more tickets in a span of 25 days than the entire city has given out in the past year.

The YPD began using the hand-held radar guns in July. Motorists caught speeding during the radar gun enforcement period were issued warnings by mail informing them that they were speeding in a monitored area. The warnings ended on Aug. 15.

Then the tickets started.

Those caught speeding after Aug. 15 were informed by police and the media that they could expect fines of up to \$150 dollars to begin piling up in their mailboxes beginning Sept. 9.

The tidal wave of monetary punishments spoke to Youngstown's commuters, who shared the story across social networks with comments such as, "well, I'm broke," or, "oh shit."

Given the size of the fines, drivers have a reason to be concerned. Speeders going 13 mph over the speed limit will receive a \$100 ticket per documented violation. Going over 14 to 19 mph gets a \$120 ticket and 20 mph over or more gets a \$150 fine.

Empty wallets tend to go hand-in-hand with commu-

nity rage. Do these hand-held radars do anything but generate money for the community?

And where is all the money going?

When Mayor McNally was asked if the citations were a way to milk money from Youngstown residents, he said, "I don't have a thought on that. There's a fine, but we look at it as a safety issue."

But does blindsiding drivers with hundreds of tickets make anyone safer, or does it just make them angry and broke?

Studies show that people benefit most from immediate corrections to their behavior. If a cop pulls you over on the highway, talks to you and then gives you a ticket, you're more likely to drive slower in the future.

You're also more likely to slow down when you see a police car positioned on the highway. It's an immediate response to a stimulus. You see the car and hit the breaks, making a mental note that you need to slow down in that area.

Correcting behaviors weeks after they happen isn't doing anything to permanently fix driving behaviors. Giving someone a ticket without providing any human interaction inspires rage, not change.

GINO DIGUILIO

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Since I was four years old, I have been submerged in the educational system. Yes, I started preschool a year early because I lacked social skills, but let's not talk about that. Sixteen years later and nothing has changed there! In all of those years of schooling, I've learned a lot. Unfortunately, the majority of the information learned has not been necessarily useful in the real world. So, allow me to rephrase my earlier comment.

In all of those years of schooling, I learned a lot of "stuff." To be completely honest, everything I have learned about life, or at least the important and useful concepts, I have learned from watching "Parks and Recreation," such as there is nothing in life that can't be made better by the power of breakfast foods.

Yes, the show wasn't the most popular series on the television at the time it aired. Yes, it did get off to a rocky start. Yes, it definitely wasn't the type of show people were expecting to see coming from a large network. However, ratings aren't everything. I would like to give thanks

to the Pawnee Parks and Recreation Department for teaching me life lessons in a hilarious and loving way, regardless if they meant to or not.

After re-watching the series from beginning to end for the sixth time — don't you dare judge me — I have constructed a list of my top five most treasured lessons taken away from the series.

My list begins with a banger: breakfast, the most important meal of the day. In fact, why restrict yourself to only having breakfast once a day? Breakfast is fine for whatever time of the day. Break the standards!

Second, I learned to "treat yo' self." This was definitely the easiest life lesson to take in and accept. It is necessary to living a balanced life. Taking one day a year and treating yourself to whatever you want recharges the body and relaxes you. We all could use a day of pampering so that we don't do something we regret to a co-worker or peer in the days coming! Do it. Stop asking questions. Stop. I said stop. Treat yo' self.

Next, I learned that leading your own life is the only way to live. Everyone has things they enjoy doing and vice versa. That doesn't mean it's for everyone.

Some people like things like exercising, or eating healthy or weird stuff like that. Ann Perkins says it perfectly in the show, "I know it keeps you healthy, but God, at what cost?" I agree. I get you. I feel you.

Toward the middle of the series I realized that I shouldn't be overthinking things. Now I'm not saying that the show taught me to be careless, but it did teach me to stop, think and be done with it. In fact, one of my favorite quotes of the series is soon going to be my new life motto. "I seriously cannot emphasize how little we thought about this." Simple. Elegant. Deep.

And lastly, the biggest lesson I learned about life whilst embarking on yet another journey into the Pawnee, Indiana Parks and Recreation Department is that we have to remember what is important in our lives. Everyone has priorities and you need to prioritize them quickly. For Leslie Knope, it is, "Friends, waffles and work; or waffles, friends and work. But work has to come third."

And with that, I would like to encourage everyone to use these short snippets of lessons in your own lives. I promise, they've helped me more than you can imagine.

Study Finds No Link Between Viewing Porn, Sexual Problems

By Monte Morin

Los Angeles Times

(TNS)

Can surfing the Internet for porn make you a better lover?

Viewing sexual stimuli online will never make society's list of highly effective habits, but new research suggests that porn may be getting a (slightly) worse rap than it deserves.

Specifically, researchers at UCLA and Montreal's Concordia University contend that an oft-repeated claim among activists and clinicians that a man's habitual porn viewing can lead to erectile dysfunction and other problems in the bedroom is simply lore and not fact.

Although previous research has found that greater time spent viewing sexual stimuli may be linked to depression and other negative mental health outcomes, a new study found that it was "unlikely to negatively impact sexual functioning."

In a paper published Monday in the journal *Sexual Medicine*, researchers found that more hours spent viewing pornographic stimuli was "unrelated to erectile functioning with a partner, and was related to stronger desire for sex with a partner."

"Many clinicians claim that watching erotica makes men unable to respond

sexually to 'normal' sexual situations," said coauthor Nicole Prause, a UCLA sexual psychophysicologist and neuroscientist. "That was not the case in our sample."

Prause conducted the research with James Pfau, a professor of neuroscience and psychology at Concordia University. Together, they enlisted the help of 280 straight male volunteers — mostly white men in their 20s.

The participants were surveyed on how often they viewed sex films (answers ranged from zero to 25 hours a week); what their relationship status was (127 had regular sexual partners); and whether they experienced erection problems.

When the study authors reviewed this information, they saw no link between increased porn viewing and erectile dysfunction.

"While many people think easy access to porn leads to problems in the bedroom, our study suggests the opposite," Pfau said in a statement. "The erectile dysfunction is most likely caused by the same issues that have been known for some time, such as performance anxiety, poor cardiovascular health or side-effects from substance abuse."

That wasn't the end of the research, however.

The participants were also invited into the lab and shown a series of 20-sec-

ond- to three-minute-long films depicting a man and woman having "consensual vaginal" intercourse.

The films were less "deviant" than what study participants could access online and did not feature such activities as bondage or anal sex.

Afterward, the viewers were asked to rate their level of sexual arousal while watching the flicks. (The men were seated in a room by themselves and were told they would not be observed by researchers.)

"We found that the men who had watched more sex films at home were more aroused when they watched sex films in the lab," Prause said.

"They are responding more strongly to very vanilla erotica than the guys for whom the films are more novel. While this association doesn't establish a cause, it proves viewing erotica at home is not desensitizing and perhaps even sensitized the men to respond more strongly," she said.

The researchers noted a number of limitations to their study, including the fact that study participants self-reported their experiences with erectile issues and were not examined for genital response.

"It would be useful in the future to assess erection maintenance directly," the authors wrote.

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THE JAMBAR
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YSU Learns From Week One Loss to Pitt



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOE CATULLO.

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The Youngstown State University football team lost its season opener to the University of Pittsburgh 45-37, but it's not time to call it quits on the season just yet. YSU head coach Bo Pelini wanted to reiterate that the sky isn't falling.

"It's not a time to panic because we lost a football game. Like I said, it's going to be the team that's standing at the end that keeps getting better throughout the year," Pelini said in his postgame press conference on Saturday.

The loss should come as no surprise. Historically, the Penguins haven't fared well in games between Football Bowl Subdivision schools. With the

loss on Saturday, the Penguins are 1-10 against Bowl Championship Series schools [automatic bowl qualifying schools] and 20-28-1 against FBS programs [formerly Division I-A].

YSU will try to rebound on Sept. 12 when it hosts Robert Morris University at the home opener at Stambaugh Stadium, but the football team has a few problems they have to fix heading into week two.

Starting running back Martin Ruiz suffered a leg bruise in the loss to Pitt and was unable to play the final three quarters of the game. Pelini is hopeful the star ball carrier will be able to play against Robert Morris.

"Martin's OK. He has a thigh bruise. I'd say he's probably questionable," Pelini said. "You don't know how long those take sometimes. Everyone's a little bit different. He's a tough kid and we'll just have to see what happens there.

I thought, in his place, Jody [Webb] played very well. We have other options at the running back position. Demond [Hymes] got in there and did a nice job. We'll have to see how the week place out."

The offensive line had trouble handling the Pitt pass rush last week. The Penguins' offensive line allowed six sacks in addition to a quarterback hurry that knocked YSU quarterback Hunter Wells out for the final drive of the game.

Brock Eisenhuth, YSU's starting right guard, said the offensive line needs to learn from their experience at Pitt and the team should focus on last week's game because it could affect the team's play against Robert Morris.

"I felt like we didn't play to our full potential — we had a lot of missed assignments up front," Eisenhuth said. "That game has passed; we have to

move on to Robert Morris. You got to play the next play, no matter how many times you mess up. You're always going to have missed assignments or bad plays in a game. You can't let one play bring you down. You got to move on to the next play."

Despite the constant pressure, Wells finished the day completing 19-38 passes for 274 yards including a 77-yard touchdown pass to receiver Andre Stubbs. Wide receiver Andrew Williams said the pass rush might have gotten to Wells mentally, but "it's nothing to worry about."

Pelini said the team made fundamental mistakes against the Panthers, and Pitt was able to capitalize on the opportunities. Pelini went on to say the team needed to "execute at a higher level," and thinks adjustments need to be made in all areas of the team to ensure

they don't happen again.

"On a positive note, I think all the things that happened are really correctable, but they're not going to correct themselves," Pelini said. "We're going to have to work hard to get it done and be more focused, more disciplined and keep getting better — that's the key. We have to take advantage of today, tomorrow and this week to be a better football team this Saturday than we were last Saturday."

After losing a one-possession game to Pitt — a game the Penguins thought they could have won — YSU has become more focused on their upcoming game against the Colonials.

"We left plays out there on the field and I feel like it's going to motivate us this week," Williams said. "We're going to come into this game with intensity — we shouldn't lose anymore."

"We Want to Create the Tradition"

JEFF BROWN
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During the 1990s, Youngstown State University athletics was in the national spotlight. Interest in the football, men's basketball and women's basketball programs were at an all-time high, but fans saw pedestrian seasons in the turn of the century.

Outside the native Youngstown fans that still remember the golden years of YSU athletics, the attendance of Penguin fans has dropped, and the presence of the student body isn't what it used to be.

In an effort to raise student attendance at athletic events, the Penguin Club — in coop-

eration with YSU athletics — is putting together a student fan club.

For a small fee, students will receive a YSU Under Armour dry fit T-shirt, access to pregame tailgates, eligibility for raffles and other items yet to be determined. The first club-sponsored tailgate will take place Sept. 12 in the M7 parking lot, before YSU football's first home game against Robert Morris University.

One goal of the fan club is to not only generate student attendance, but to also keep students at the games throughout their entirety. During past football games, attendance would be high for the first half of the games, but would dissipate by the second half when

crowd noises could be a deciding factor.

Sean Meditz, a YSU Student Fan Club committee member, discussed this goal.

"We have no problem getting students there, but it's after the second half when it's cold or we're losing or something where they don't want to stay," Meditz said. "We're focusing on half time games where we select students out and they participate and they might win something."

The club wants to make its presence felt at all YSU sporting events, not just football games. The YSU men's and women's basketball games have also had attendance problems over the past few seasons.

Bryce Miner, another YSU

Student Fan Club committee member and a student trustee, said that the fan club should bring involvement to all YSU athletic teams.

"Any kind of involvement our students have, whether it be for football, basketball, volleyball or any sport that we have — it's going to be great. We're actually planning one big sports event for every team that we have here," Miner said.

Miner hopes that the fan club will be able to create a tradition at YSU that will hold up for years to come.

"We're at a unique time here at YSU. We have a lot of momentum going on right now with President [Jim] Tressel, and Bo Pelini coming in as our football coach," Miner said.

"We want to create the tradition. And I think that's something that we're here to do. Create something that's going to be here a long time."

Committee member Carly Burgdorf thinks the fan club is something that will attract students who want to be a part of a game day tradition.

"I think a lot of people have been waiting for something like this, and we want to finally bring it to students. [We'll] have that official fan club or student section to look forward to being a part of," Burgdorf said.

Information on joining the YSU Student Fan Club can be found on twitter @ysufanclub, on Facebook at YSU Student Fan Club and on Instagram at

MISSOURI VALLEY FOOTBALL ACTION WEEK TWO

Western Illinois vs. Illinois

(21) Indiana State at Purdue

Eastern Washington vs. (14) Northern Iowa

Chadron State vs. Missouri State

Weber State vs. (2) North Dakota State

Southern Illinois vs. S.E. Missouri State

Morgan State vs. (4) Illinois State

South Dakota vs. U.C. Davis

MISSOURI VALLEY FOOTBALL ACTION WEEK ONE RESULTS

Montana def. (1) North Dakota State 38-35

Eastern Illinois def. Western Illinois 33-5

Iowa def. (2) Illinois State 31-14

South Dakota State def. Kansas 41-38

(21) Indiana State def. Butler 52-17

Indiana def. Southern Illinois 48-47

Memphis def. Missouri State 63-7

Kansas State def. (16) South Dakota 34-0

Iowa State def. (10) Northern Iowa 31-7

GRAPHICS BY RU MIKOLAJ/THE JAMBAR.

Sports Briefs

September 10

Alexander Shines at Heinz Field

Youngstown State University free safety LeRoy Alexander received two honors after the Penguins' 45-37 loss to the University of Pittsburgh on Saturday. Alexander was named the Missouri Valley Football Conference Defensive Player of the Week and Newcomer of the Week. Alexander led the team with nine tackles and two interceptions, including an interception returned for a touchdown.

YSU Men's Golf takes First at Colgate Invitational

The Youngstown State University men's golf team opened its season with a win during the Colgate Invitational at Seven Oaks Golf Club in Hamilton, New York on Sept. 6. The Penguins finished with a three-round total of 147, four strokes ahead of second place Cornell University. YSU finished in fifth place in round one, but finished first in rounds two and three.

Volleyball Wins Back-to-Back Road Games

After starting the season 2-4, the Youngstown State University volleyball team has reached .500 with back-to-back wins against Colgate University and Canisius College. The Penguins lost the first game of a doubleheader to Duquesne University on Sept. 5 in five sets 3-2, but won the second game against Colgate 3-1 in four sets. The Penguins followed the win with another 3-1 victory against Canisius on Sept. 7.