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Cossentino Delivering Last Lecture



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY COSSENTINO.

**JUSTIN WIER
DOM FONCE**

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Amy Cossentino, director of the university honors program, was selected by Youngstown State University students to deliver the Student Government Association's Last Lec-

ture.

Other finalists were Michael Jerryson, assistant professor of religious studies, Ou Hu, associate professor of economics, and Peter Norris, professor of organic chemistry.

The Last Lecture is organized by SGA's Academic Affairs committee.

Jacob Schriner-Briggs, ex-

ecutive vice president of SGA, said candidates are nominated by SGA members.

"We have an open window of time for any SGA member to nominate a professor to lecture, and it's that member's responsibility to contact the professor," Shriner-Briggs said. "Some years we have 30 nominations, and it's not ab-

normal for professors to be too busy to talk."

Cossentino said the central theme of her lecture will be overcoming obstacles by embracing challenges, and she will also touch on intellectual and emotional growth. She said she has a past with Last Lecture.

"Interestingly, in the fall of

2007, I was teaching the Intro to Honors Seminar and came across the YouTube video of the Last Lecture of Randy Pausch. I was moved by his lecture and believed it could benefit the students in my course," Cossentino said.

LAST LECTURE
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Ashley Martof: STEM Exemplar

LAURA MCDONOUGH

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Ashley Martof, a graduate research assistant at Youngstown State University, has been named one of 58 Believe in Ohio STEM Exemplars by the Ohio Academy of Science.

Exemplars are intended to serve as role models for high school students, encouraging them to pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics careers and become entrepreneurs and innovators. Honorees were chosen from graduates of Ohio high schools, colleges and universities that now work in the STEM field.

Guha Magnoharan, assistant professor in the department of industrial and systems engineering, recommended Martof for the honor.

"She is an outstanding and a bright student with tremendous accomplishments early in her career," Magnoharan said. "She has strong aspirations to inspire younger students to consider STEM as a career option. She has been active with local schools and specifically, she makes efforts to organize

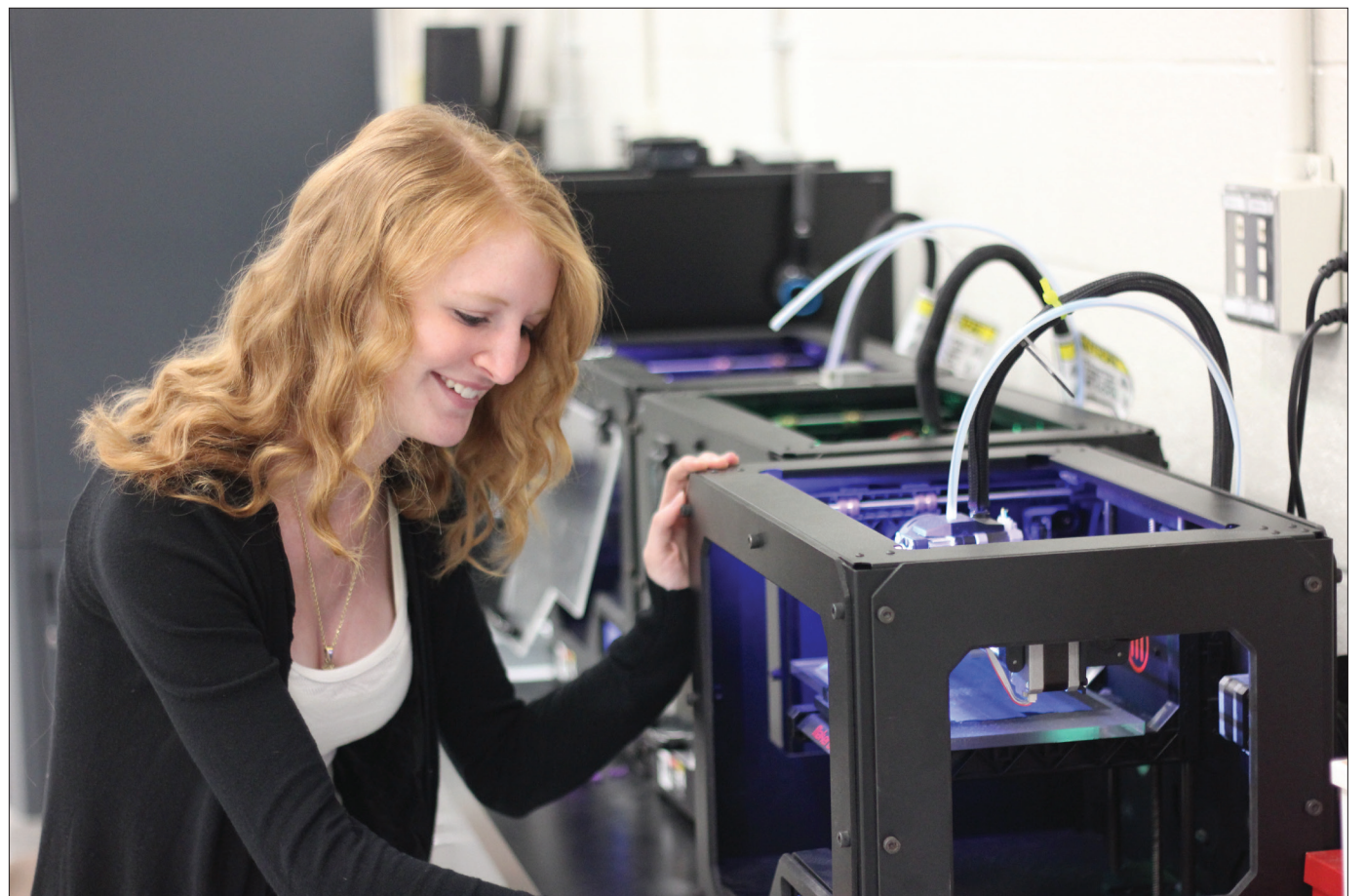


PHOTO BY JUSTIN WIER / THE JAMBAR.

Ashley Martof works at YSU with cutting edge additive manufacturing technology.

science camps for girls to talk about STEM."

Martof has a bachelor's degree in industrial and systems engineering from YSU. She's continuing to pursue a mas-

ter's degree of the same discipline, with a focus on additive manufacturing.

She decided to work in additive manufacturing while serving as the workforce and

education outreach intern at America Makes.

"I fell in love with additive manufacturing through this internship, which I held for two years," Martof said. "That's

where I learned about all the different additive manufacturing machines that they had."

STEM EXEMPLAR
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Master's Program in Counseling Receives Honor

LAURA MCDONOUGH

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Youngstown State University's master's program in counseling received the national Outstanding Counselor Education Program Award in 2003 and is receiving the award again.

The Association for Counselor Education and Supervision recognizes counselor education programs that exemplify the importance of excellence through standards and innovation.

The ACES Awards will present the award to YSU in Philadelphia on Oct. 10.

Matthew Paylo, director of YSU's counseling program, said the award is one of the most prestigious, and he is proud of the students and faculty who made winning the award possible.

"It's a huge honor for our

program. I think that it highlights the work of previous faculty and current faculty, the diligence of our students, who then become alumni, and then the work that they've done since graduating," Paylo said. "That's been able to capture and highlight a number of innovative qualities about our program."

Jake Protivnak, chair of the department of counseling, special education and school psychology, said the program is successful because of the combination of success, talent, passion and hard work of devoted students and faculty.

"When you look at the totality of the accomplishments of YSU's counseling program faculty, students and alumni, as a master's program, we are, in my opinion, head and shoulders above other counseling programs," Protivnak said.

Charles Howell, dean of the Beeghly College of Education, is proud the department has won the award as it means a lot to the community.

"I think it highlights for the

College of Education how important a role we play in the community and just how outstanding our faculty is and our students," Howell said. "It also reflects on how the university fulfills its mission to meet the need of families and individuals in this region."

The award required recommendations from faculty, staff and alumni.

Paylo said it wasn't hard to find past students who were happy with their education.

"We have a number of our students who have been within this community who have been fairly successful. As well as we've had a number of other students who have gone on for Ph.D.s and have become counselor educators themselves," Paylo said. "As well as we've had a number of individuals who are adjunct faculty talk about the program from another vantage point."

With nearly 130 students, counseling is the largest master's program at YSU. There are tracks in clinical mental health counseling, addiction

counseling, school counseling and student affairs/college counseling.

"We're training individuals to be able to go out and work with other individuals in a host of settings, whether that be at the university setting, whether that be at agencies, or in outpatient or in hospital settings or in schools," Paylo said.

Howell said the program is incredibly important to the community's well being.

"There is a huge demand for filling entry level counseling slots," Howell said. "Often the people in the agencies hire [the students] as soon as they graduate, so it's a very successful program."

The counseling program produces students who are able to receive job offers before completing their degree.

"That really has been in all of our tracks," Paylo said. "I think some of the more recent ones have been in the mental health track where some local agencies have hired individuals, almost at the beginning of their internship. Thus showing

not only the quality of the student in our program, but also the need in the community."

Protivnak said sites compete for interns from YSU.

"They want YSU students, they want our students," Protivnak said.

Although there is a recognized need across the country, there is also a need in the area.

"I think it's happening across the country, but even primarily here there is a need for mental health professionals, counselors and individuals who are trained in addiction treatment," Paylo said.

That need is represented by different problems people have always had and lessened stigma related to seeking help.

"We're noticing on college campuses that there's less mental health stigma than there has been historically with regards to seeking services and treatment," Paylo said. "With that being said, with less stigma there tends to be more need, and to meet that need you need more professionals."

YSU Designed Eye Tracking Software Demonstrated in Italy

SAMANTHA PHILLIPS

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Youngstown State University student Jenna Wise and professor Bonita Sharif traveled to Italy in September to demonstrate a paper on iTrace — a software tool developed in the software engineering and empirical studies lab in the department of computer science and information systems.

iTrace tracks and collects eye movements of developers while they're reading code. This helps researchers and developers figure out what process someone took to fix a bug in the system.

"You can imagine a scenario where, solely based on your eye movements, you would want to recommend someone something when they're stuck," Sharif said. "Our eye movements change a lot when we have a highly cognitive load. We can recommend things for them. That's what we're looking into, how we can recommend things on the fly."

Sharif and her students have been working on iTrace for about two years. Three of the students who worked on it have graduated. Wise was recruited about six months ago to continue development and add new features.

"It took a while, but now we have it in a functional pro-

totype form and people can actually use it," Sharif said. "It is open source, so [people] can download it and use it."

Wise helped improve this device over the last six months. She added a display that helps researchers calibrate their eyes with the program and set up an organization system for the collected data. She said she is passionate about this project.

"We can see the specific method they're looking at and for how long, and where are they jumping to with their eyes," Wise said. "So we can really track their patterns and where they're looking, and from there we can really determine what they were thinking at that specific time. You can really do detailed data analysis to determine that, with the data we're outputting."

Sharif said the tool sits underneath the monitor and shines infrared lights on a developer's eyes. The reflection tells the eye tracker where the researcher is looking on the screen and can even pinpoint the XY coordinate. iTrace then collects data on where the eye gaze is, maps it to the source code element and stores the information to a specific folder.

"The cool thing about it is that it's not limited to one screen. They can be scrolling stuff around, they can be opening many different files, and all this time it's collecting data," Sharif said. "[You don't need to use your hands for it], and it's

not on them at all. It collects all this data without any intrusive equipment."

One of the papers they presented in Italy was about a research study that was conducted at the ABB Corporate Research Center in North Carolina. Sharif and Braden Walters, another student, brought the equipment to the company and had 10 professional developers come in and use it. They had them look through lines of codes to find and eliminate the bugs in them while recording their eye movements.

"We would see how the software engineering developers would fix the bug, and compare it to how it was actually fixed," Sharif said. "You might fix something in file A, but that's just a fix, we don't know how you got to it. The eye tracking tells us you looked at B, C and D and then you fixed A."

Wise said that is something developers do on a daily basis, and that iTrace showed them how it can make finding a solution easier.

Together with a team of researchers and developers in Switzerland, Sharif and Wise wrote a paper on the study and submitted it to the Foundations of Software Engineering conference.

"We got accepted, which is pretty amazing. We had really good reviews," Sharif said. "We also submitted a tool paper on iTrace, and that's what Jenna was involved in, she actually

helped to make some additions to iTrace to make this in publishable form and submitted that. So we had two papers."

Wise has been to many conferences in the U.S., but had never traveled abroad. That made the trip special for her.

"I was super excited we got accepted and was very excited to travel abroad for once in my life. Dr. Sharif told me that about only 20 percent of papers that are submitted got accepted, so it was a big deal to be accepted," Wise said.

The National Science Foundation provided funds for Wise to travel overseas and present the paper. They took a smaller version of the tool because customs wouldn't let them take the bigger one. High-profile researchers in the software engineering community watched the presentations given by Sharif and Wise.

"People who we referenced were in the room. I was nervous and excited at the same time. We had really good feedback and everyone really had good criticisms on how we could improve this tool," Sharif said. "We made more collaborations; we were working on other things with people, so that's always a good thing."

Wise said Sharif introduced her to the professors she knew, from all across the world. Some of them invited her to do graduate student research at their schools. She said she would have never made the connec-

tions she made if she hadn't attended the conference.

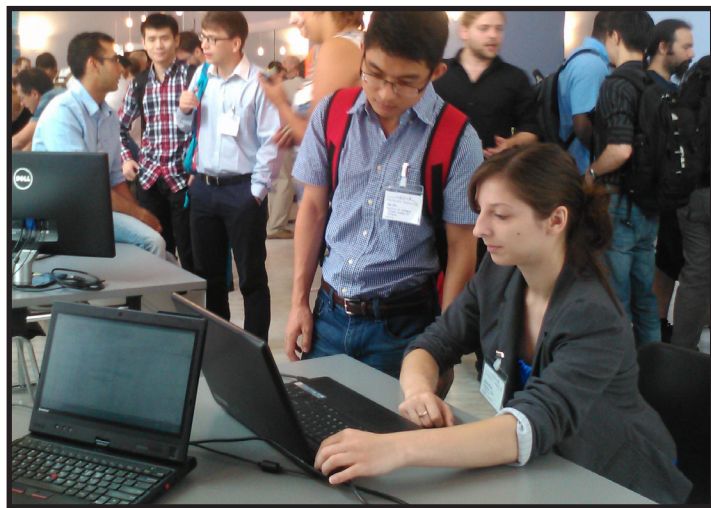
"Jenna did a good job presenting the system there, and everybody was interested in what we were doing and they gave us some nice suggestions to actually improve the program as well," Sharif said. "So, we are planning a future grant submission on it; hopefully we can get more money and support more students, to improve this even faster."

Wise said they plan on adding a new feature that will allow iTrace to not only map a developer's gaze to elements or codes, but also to bug reports and stack overflow documents, which usually contains the solution to a technical problem.

"We are working on getting more money for iTrace to do more studies. We are working with a team in Canada. So, the new feature, once we implement it, they are going to use it in a study and we are going to help them along with that study. And that will be a paper or a couple papers submitted," she said.

Sharif sees a lot of potential in her students and wants to get more of them involved in the project.

"We have some pretty amazing students," she said. "They just need the motivation and the incentive to build something, and they can do it."



Jenna Wise demonstrates the iTrace program in Italy. COURTESY OF BONITA SHARIF

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Guest Lecture • Youngstown Game Developers Group
Tuesday, October 13, 2015, 5:30-6:30pm, McDonough Auditorium
Kendra Corpier of Eimear Studios, Bill Jones, and Andrew Pavlick are
game designers and developers as well as co-organizers of the
Youngstown Game Developers Group.

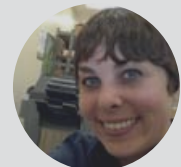
"A Day in the Life of an Indie Game Developer"

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Co-organized by Kendra Corpier, Bill Jones, and Andrew Pavlick.
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Kendra Corpier

Kendra is a professional graphic designer by day and professional indie game developer by night. She is the founder of Eimear Studios where she creates, designs, produces and publishes her games from concept to finish.



Bill Jones

Bill is a professional software engineer whose passion for game development has led to many great experiences. He is a co-organizer of the Youngstown Game Developer Meetup and has contributed to several games that have reached various levels of notoriety.



Andrew Pavlick

His professional work encompasses everything from real-time graphics to 3D printing, including (but not limited to): custom 3D characters for SpeechPathology, environments and prop modeling for Fresenius, and recording motion capture and custom character rigging for training and medical simulations.



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NEWS BRIEFS

YSU Wind Ensemble to Return to Carnegie Hall

The Youngstown State University Wind Ensemble from The Dana School of Music will perform at Carnegie Hall in New York on Friday, Nov. 27 at 8 p.m. This will be the second time this ensemble has been invited to perform there; the last time was 10 years ago. Tickets range in price from \$20 to \$110, and YSU family and friends are offered a 25 percent discount through Manhattan Concert Productions. For more information, visit www.carnegiehall.org.

"Morality and the Emotional Brain" Lecture Coming to YSU

Shaun B. Nicholas, president-elect of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology and professor at the University of Arizona, is presenting his lecture "Morality and the Emotional Brain" at 12:30 p.m. on Oct. 15. The presentation will be in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center at Youngstown State University and is free and open to the public as part of the Shipka Speakers Series. For more information, call 330-941-3448.

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LAST LECTURE FRONT

This lecture by Randy Pausch is the original Last Lecture. Given at Carnegie Mellon University, Pausch's lecture was delivered shortly after he was told his pancreatic cancer diagnosis was terminal.

"I asked my class to write their own eulogies and reflect upon their childhood dreams. I also wrote my own eulogy," Cossentino said. "The assignment became an indirect exercise of goal setting and personal inspection."

Ashley Orr, president of SGA, said she is excited to hear what Cossentino has to say because she's touched so many lives on campus.

"She not only has had her honors students in class and her other students in seminars, but also in facilitating the honors program she's had the opportunity to have her hand in a lot of students' lives," Orr said.

She said this occurs through direct contact with students, but also when she trains students in the Honors College who are all over campus.

"I think many students know about different volun-

STEM EXEMPLAR FRONT

Martof said she is passionate about teaching students about additive manufacturing.

"I love the kids and I love learning. I am glad that I get to follow my passion for engineering while at the same time getting to teach future generations about STEM," Martof said. "It combines my two great loves."

She said additive manufacturing is particularly fun to teach because the technology is still in its early stages.

"Everyone is starting at the same level now when it comes to additive manufacturing," Martof said. "That's why I love to teach about it. We are all learning the same thing. It's the same concept to everyone."

The Lewis School for Gifted Learning Potential approached Martof to lead a weeklong STEM summer camp for younger students, for which she developed her own curriculum.

"The curriculum was just not there when I started searching for it in 2014. However, now that I am working on my master's, I see more and more curriculum coming up from other sources," Martof said. "It's amazing how fast additive manufacturing conversations and research are developing."

Brett Conner, Martof's adviser in the department of industrial and systems engineering, said she is well suited to the role.

"She can communicate. She boils things down to a K-12 level," Conner said. "And she

can also communicate on a technical level with people in engineering industries."

Martof is currently working on a grant funded by the Air Force.

"We are working with the Youngstown Regional Airport and their airbase, to see how additive manufacturing can be incorporated into the airbase and the Air Force," Martof said.

She is looking at cost models to see if additive manufacturing is more cost effective than traditional manufacturing for certain applications.

Conner said her research will have a direct impact on government industry applications.

She is also working on a project for the Youngstown Economic Action Group developing a 3D map of Youngstown.

"We are trying to get partners with different companies and organizations around the Valley," Martof said. "We are going to 3D print the models of the buildings with colors, and we are going to have the Lewis [School for Gifted Learning Potential] kids involved with taking pictures."

She got involved because she is working with kids at the Lewis School as part of an after school 3D printing club.

She said the opportunities for studying additive manufacturing at YSU are unmatched.

"I wouldn't want to work with any other university ... What we are doing here in that field is phenomenal," Martof said. "I am amazed at what is happening right here in Youngstown with additive manufacturing."

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Despite Staffing Issues, Student Security Continues to Provide Transport Services



PHOTOS BY GRAIG GRAZIOSI/THE JAMBAR.

JAKE MYERS

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Youngstown State University's student security was short at least five employees at the beginning of the semester.

Student Security Service Aides [SSSA], sponsored and trained by the YSU Police Department, escort students and faculty from one campus location to another during campus hours.

Full staff for fall 2015 is 16 aides, according to Justin McMenamin, student security supervisor.

Five aides were hired but were not able to start until the third or fourth week of the semester.

"At the beginning of the semester we were still in transition from the people that graduated in the spring because summer doesn't require a lot of hours," McMenamin said. "Lt. Randall Williams, who is our boss, is the one that was hiring people and we had to wait to get them approved from payroll and complete the background checks."

The Jambar reached out to Lt. Randall Williams on several occasions and was unable

to obtain an interview.

The number of escorts has increased with the addition of tram in 2013.

"When we first started out, the tram was strictly used for those who were pretty much wheelchair bound or limited mobility," McMenamin said. "The numbers have gone up."

According to McMenamin, in 2012 there were approximately 35 escorts every Monday, Wednesday and Friday and 20 escorts every Tuesday and Thursday. That totals 145 escorts a week. There was no tram in 2012.

2013 saw an increase to approximately 55 escorts every Monday, Wednesday and Friday and 42 escorts every Tuesday and Thursday. Total escorts jumped to 249 per week with the addition of the tram.

During that time (2012-2013), there was an increase in staff from 21 to 31, with aides working 20 hours a week maximum.

Not only was there a substantial increase in escorts, the tram requires two aides per transport for safety reasons, one to drive and one to watch the occupant.

2012 staff hours totaled 420 hours a week, while 2013 staff hours totaled 620 hours

a week.

The number of escorts per week stayed the same for 2014 [249], while the staff was reduced to 400 hours total. The student security staff consisted of 16 aides, but hours were increased to a maximum of 25.

This fall, the approximate number of escorts is 176 and there are 11 staff members working a maximum of 25 hours, or 275 staff hours.

"We suffered greatly from essentially being understaffed for a while," McMenamin said. "The first few weeks of school people are still getting situated and we had a lot of returning escorts from the spring into the fall; we have a lot of routine people that we escort from day to day ... So, there were negative consequences through the chaos, through the workload and everything, only having 10 to 11 people."

When asked if Disability Services has had any negative feedback this semester, Gina McGranahan, MEd assistant director of Disability Services and Title II/Section 504 coordinator for students, said, "No, I don't hear negative."

According to McGranahan, you always have somebody who complains, and usually the complaint is that they [se-

curity] are late, but usually they are late because they have unscheduled people, so they become overburdened.

The "tram," as it is referred to, is an extended golf cart with a wheelchair ramp and tie-downs. Storm flaps can be attached for inclement weather.

"The tram was donated by Hine Memorial Fund for students and visitors of YSU that are medically disabled," McMenamin said. "However, from time to time, many of the students and athletes on campus that are temporarily injured, such as sprained ankles, knee surgeries, etc., request our services."

This is a free service offered by Student Security Services. They have several wheel chairs that they utilize to transport escorts if they require them.

"Prior to the tram service, before I started here back in 2012, they had something similar; it was a golf cart but it wasn't really a tram, and when I started working here in 2012, there was nothing at all," McMenamin said.

Disabled students were physically pushed from class to class: up the hills, down the hills or through any weather.

"I think that it is very important for our students that

use it, especially in the winter, because it is hard to keep everything clear when you are clearing one end of campus and it is still snowing at the other end, and then vice versa," McGranahan said. "But it is also for safety; I think safety wise, a student riding on the tram is a lot safer than in a wheelchair or walking."

While other universities offer disabled students transportation in accessible minivans or vans similar to YSU's shuttle, YSU is one of a few utilizing a tram.

Stanford University is another. According to their website, "Golf cart-type vehicles at Stanford may only be used for the following purposes: business uses authorized by the University, and transport for persons with temporary or permanent disabilities."

"It is really something that I know is particular to YSU, because when we go places and other campuses hear that we have it they always ask questions," McGranahan said.

Student security is now up to 15 staff members.

"We do the best that we can on trying to provide the best service possible," McMenamin said.



'Spelling Bee' Kicks Off Theater Season



PHOTO COURTESY OF YSU THEATER AND DANCE DEPARTMENT.

"The 25th Annual Putnam Spelling Bee" opens the Youngstown State University Theater's season this Friday. The production is centered on six students as they compete for a chance to go to the national spelling bee championships.

BILLY LUDT

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The dread of standing in front of a crowd and spelling out a multisyllabic word is shed in a new, comedic light in "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." Bliss Hall's Ford Theater at Youngstown State University will open its 2015-16 season with this musical production.

"Putnam County Spelling Bee" is a musical comedy that features a book by author Rachel Sheinkin and a musical score by composer William Finn. The production won the

Tony and Drama Desk Awards for Best Book.

The show itself centers around six participants in said spelling bee. According to the press release, "Putnam County Spelling Bee" is "fast-paced wildly funny."

The release went on to say the play is "a riotous ride complete with audience participation, "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" is a delightful den of comedic genius."

Theater staff and actors have been working on the production for about six weeks.

Angelique Tanner, a musical theater major, is playing Logainne Schwartzandgrube-

nierre, an 8-year-old student in the running to make it to the spelling bee championships.

Schwartzandgrubenierre is, as Tanner put it, preppy, political and just wants to make her parents proud by winning the spelling bee.

"I am feeling anxious, nervous but most importantly excited," Tanner said. "We have all worked so hard to make these characters come to life and adding audience members is the final piece to our puzzle. I couldn't be happier with the work we have done, and I can't wait to show it to everyone who comes out to see it."

Tanner said that audience

members can expect to laugh in their seats and even shed a tear or two.

Live music for the production comes from the pit orchestra, comprised of senior piano major Christin McKenzie and junior percussion major Nathan Negro.

Matthew Mazuroski, assistant professor of theater, is directing "Putnam County Spelling Bee."

"It has been a real blast to work with this design team, cast and crew as we have created these wonderfully memorable characters," Mazuroski said in a press release. "And even though all of the cast are college

students, it has been a joy to see them transform into these 10 and 11-year old children."

Megan Jones, a YSU theater major, is stage managing "Putnam County Spelling Bee."

"I will be queuing lights and sound," Jones said. "And if anything goes wrong in the show, I will be one to fix it."

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" runs from Oct. 9 to 11 and Oct. 16 to 18. Friday and Saturday, performances start at 7:30 p.m. and matinee shows on Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are available at www.ysu.tix.com.

Haunts, Family Fun and Beer Crawls

JAKE MYERS

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Halloween aficionados of all ages can find something to do this season without straying too far from Youngstown State University.

Zombies, hayrides, haunted houses and apple orchards are all to be expected, but what about a light show to songs like "Godzilla" by Blue Oyster Cult or tossing apples to bison and other exotic animals?

Curt Spivey, YSU's planetarium engineer, and self-professed "light DJ" runs the LED music Nightlights (Halloween) show on YSU's campus at the Ward Beecher Planetarium.

"It is a full dome production, which means we use our lead projector in the middle of the room that covers the entire dome with the images of the show," Spivey said. "Our LED lighting system is fully programmable, and I run the lights live to augment the songs and the music."

Spivey wouldn't give away

all of the songs but he did mention that "Ghostbusters" by Ray Parker Jr. and "Dracula" by Rob Zombie were among the titles, as well as the aforementioned "Godzilla" by Blue Oyster Cult, which was added this year.

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and the shows run every Friday and Saturday, Oct. 16-31.

The Ward Beecher Planetarium is also home to The Halloween Show, which is an astronomy oriented show that will run at 2 p.m. on Saturdays, Oct. 17-31.

"The Halloween Show is designed for younger visitors like elementary age and is basically a non-scary show that will talk more about the moon, and is a little more astronomy based, and talks about how you use the North Star to find stuff and is really designed for our youngest visitors," Spivey said.

Guests are encouraged to wear costumes to any of the shows, but especially on Halloween.

All shows at the planetarium are free and open to the public, however they do accept donations.

"It does cost us money to put shows like this together, and if you like what you see and have a spare buck or two, we greatly appreciate it," Spivey said.

Michael McGiffin, the city of Youngstown's director of events and special projects, explained that during the day they are having a Halloween fair for families and kids with hayrides and face painting. The events start at 11 a.m. at the B&O Station Banquet Hall.

"At night they give everybody face paint makeup," he said. "There are makeup artists, and they make everybody look like a zombie, and it is basically a bar crawl."

The Zombie Crawl benefits the Rich Center for Autism.

"It is really neat and the attendance is huge," McGiffin said. "Like, hundreds and hundreds of people and probably realistically close to a thousand people. It is a really totally cool event."

First up is The Original Haunted Hayride located at Storeyland Christmas Tree Farm, 5148 State Rt. 7 in Burghill, Ohio. Sponsored by

the Hartford Optimist Club, all proceeds benefit local youth organizations and community projects.

Dates are Oct. 3, 10, 17, 23 and 24. The non-haunted hayride is \$3 per person from 5:30-7 p.m., and the haunted hayride is \$7 per person from 7:30-10 p.m.

In the opposite direction, at the Canfield Scaregrounds, is Blood Moon Farm 9 Dimensions of Terror. This Haunted attraction boasts that it takes two full hours to complete all nine dimensions.

More information is available at their website: www.bloodmoonfarm.com.

Dates are every Friday, Saturday and Sunday in October. The entire terror event is \$20 per adult and \$10 per child. The hayride is \$10 per adult and \$6 per child.

Fear Forest on Todd Avenue in Lordstown has an Insane-atarium Haunted House.

Fear Forest touts three other attractions: Psycho Path Haunted Trail, Haunted Hayride, with the largest drive through vortex tunnel, and the

Forbidden Cornfield Maze.

Open 7 p.m. to midnight every Friday and Saturday in October, and 7-10 p.m. on Sundays.

There are many pricing options — \$25 for all four attractions including the Hellevator Lobby attraction; \$5 for Forbidden Cornfield alone; \$20 for Haunted House, Psycho Path, Hellevator Lobby and Haunted Hayride; \$14 for Haunted House and Hayride; \$8 Hayride only per adult and \$6 per child.

Wagon Trails, located 10 miles north of Youngstown on State Route 193, is home to the areas only safari adventure.

Patrons can take a safari and feed more than 350 animals then hop on a hayride and toss apples to animals including zebras, bison, water buffalo and ostriches.

Saturday and Sunday 10-4 p.m., Oct. 3-25. \$15.95 for adults, \$12.95 for children ages 2-12, and children under 2 years old get in for free.

EDITORIAL

Razing Taxes

The city administration came to city council last week with a proposal that is kind of a no-brainer.

In order to fund the razing of abandoned homes, they want to raise the monthly sanitation fee residents pay from \$14.75 to \$24.75 over a six month period. To offset that, they would reduce water rates by 30 percent — the water fund currently has a \$13.8 million surplus.

The average customer's water bill runs about \$30 per month. That's a \$10 increase and a \$9 reduction for the average customer. It would generate \$2.64 million annually, enough money to demolish 250 properties in a given year — they currently demolish about

150 homes per year.

Yet council is not sold on the idea.

Nate Pinkard and Annie Gillam suggested the city borrow the money, despite the fact that state law does not allow cities to borrow to demolish structures.

Janet Tarpley was quoted as saying her constituents ask her why they should have to pay for someone else's property. They want to know why the banks and property owners aren't taking responsibility.

Let's ignore the fact that the net cost to the average constituent is going to be about \$1 a month.

The benefits to reducing the number of abandoned homes falling into disrepair across the city should be

pretty evident.

Studies have shown that abandoned homes frequently provide havens for prostitutes and drug dealers. They encourage vandalism and dumping — take a trip to the northeast corner of the city and you'll find all the evidence you need. Crime rates on blocks with abandoned buildings are roughly twice as high as those on similar blocks without abandoned buildings.

The cost of increased crime is undoubtedly bore by the residents. If that was the only benefit of reducing the number of abandoned homes in the city, it would still probably be worth it.

But the prevalence of blight also greatly reduces

commercial investment. The city is attracting commercial investment downtown, but until the neighborhoods are cleaner and safer, they are going to continue to suffer reduced investment.

This also has a real cost to citizens. It's how you end up with neighborhoods lacking access to basic amenities, like a grocery store. The potholes and burnt out streetlights are a product of the reduced tax base.

This is something the city has been working toward since the Youngstown 2010 plan laid out its vision for taking the city from grey to green.

Between 2007 and 2013, over 3,000 houses came down. They were funded

primarily by state and federal grants, but those revenue streams are drying up. The mayor estimates there are about 4,000 more abandoned properties that need to be taken care of.

The administration worked together and came up with a clever solution to address this problem on the scale it needs to be addressed. Current efforts are not sufficient. This would have a significant impact on the city in the short term and cost residents next to nothing.

The mayor has thrown council a softball. Let's see if they can manage to realize it's in their constituents' interest to knock it out of the park.

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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A Toast to Fall

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Ah fall: one of the most magical, special, beautiful and rejuvenating seasons there is. Now you might be thinking, "Gino, are you crazy? It's just an in between season that likes to confuse us with unpredictable weather patterns, dying trees and pumpkin everything," and to that, I would say, "EXACTLY." How could you not love it?

When fall finally knocks on our door, I feel a sense of new beginnings. It's my favorite season. Well, besides oregano! Please laugh at that, it was a grade A pun and you know it. I see opportunities to be a better person, express myself in different ways and realize just how beautiful fall makes the world appear. And to those of you that call it autumn, I'm going to need you to tone it down a notch ... We all can't be as quirky as you.

I love fall so much that I will wake up early, open up the windows to get that crisp cool breeze, make some pumpkin tea, coocon myself in some knitted blankets and just watch the world go by. It is just

so relaxing and everybody needs to do something like this every once in a while. It will rejuvenate you and relax you to the point of *falling* asleep. See what I did there? Another pun. That is until I realize I have way too much stuff to do that day and snap back into reality.

But I love fall so much that I would even go as far as calling myself, as the kids would say, "basic." And what's wrong with that? Nothing.

Why is it wrong that I love everything pumpkin flavored, scented, shaped and all fall fashion? If that's wrong, then I don't want to be right. Sweaters for example: treat your body to a wonderfully warm and cozy piece of clothing. It's fashionable and practical. You are probably stressed with school and freezing, so why not be comfortable and fashion forward all at once. Have you ever smelled a pumpkin spice candle? Why would you not want your entire house to smell like a festive fall holiday? I just don't get it.

Now don't you dare say, "Oh Gino, but fall will be so expensive if I am going to have to buy pumpkin flavored drinks, a new sweater and pumpkin spice candles because it will make me appreciate the season

more." You know what else I appreciate? A wallet filled with cash-money ... Go get a \$4 candle from the grocery store. Your nose won't know the difference. Promise. Go borrow a friend's sweater. I don't care and neither should you! Fall isn't supposed to be about the things you do or the things you buy, but about the experience you give yourself and the opportunities to calm your mind, reset your body and have the best fall season ever. Yes, the way I do that is by completely drowning myself in festive items such as pumpkin flavored foods and fall fashion, but that is not the end all be all.

Take time out of your day to just appreciate what the world is doing around you. It is changing and that is the perfect excuse for you to change your habits. Treat yourself, take a moment to relax and look around you. See how beautiful and fun this season could be.

And if that means getting your daily pumpkin spice latte from Starbucks, then so be it. No judgment. Do what makes you happy, comfortable and festive. Just remember, fall is a time when death is golden and beautiful. So be as basic as you want and enjoy the season to the fullest.

THE JAMBAR
COM

“We Would Like to Get a Full Stadium”

Pelini and Team Challenge Fans to Attend Top 10 Matchup



PHOTO BY DAN HINER/THE JAMBAR.

Attendance of Youngstown State University home football games has increased slightly during the first half of the season, but YSU head coach Bo Pelini and members of the team are calling for a larger crowd for the prime-time game against #4 Illinois State University. The game will be available on ESPN 3 and WatchESPN.

DAN HINER
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Anticipation is growing for Saturday’s football game between #7 Youngstown State University [#9 in the STATS Poll] and #4 Illinois State University, and YSU head coach Bo Pelini is calling on all fans to attend the game.

“It’s been a little disappointing until now, but we’ll see how it goes. Let’s just hope we get people to come out this Saturday,” Pelini said.

Cornerback David Rivers echoed Pelini’s statement and added the importance of fan support during home games.

“We would like to get a full stadium,” Rivers said. “We want to pack it because of the big game. We feed off the energy from the crowd. Whether people believe it or not — hav-

ing the home field advantage — it does something to the offense and defense.”

Saturday’s game will be the first of many difficult teams the Penguins will encounter during their Missouri Valley Conference Football schedule.

Illinois State [3-1, 1-0 MVFC] is coming off a 21-13 win against #10 University of Northern Iowa. The Redbirds’ defense recorded a season-high six sacks in the game and held Northern Iowa, who averaged 400 per game, to 250 yards of offense.

“I know as far as their front, their linemen and their linebackers in the box, they line up in a lot of different fronts and move around a lot. They got a couple really good players,” tight end Shane Kuhn said.

YSU [3-1, 1-0 MVFC] will have to contend with one of the top running backs in the nation, and there’s a question of who will play quarterback

for Illinois State.

Illinois State running back Marshaun Coprich is ranked 11th in the nation and first in the conference, with 509 rushing yards. Coprich is averaging 127.2 yards per game and seven touchdowns this season.

“Good football player, really good player,” Pelini said. “I mean he’s probably up there. We’ll be hard-pressed to find a better back that we’re going to see all year. He’s a good football player. He could run inside, outside and could catch the ball — he could do a lot of different things. He’s an explosive player.”

The Redbirds’ quarterback Tre Roberson has accounted for 588 yards of total offense, 512 passing and 76 rushing, and six touchdowns. Roberson is questionable heading into the game. He was injured during Illinois State’s game against Northern Iowa, but backup quarterback Jake

Kolbe threw for 234 yards and two touchdowns in relief.

“We get ready to defend their offense, and obviously our players have to be aware at who’s at quarterback, what their strengths are,” Pelini said. “Obviously, Roberson’s more of a duel-threat guy. The other gentleman is more of a pocket passer, but he could still run the football. He’s athletic enough to hurt you with his legs. We’ll have our game plan, and there is some awareness that has to come into play like any other game as to who they put in the backfield and who’s taking the ball under center.”

YSU’s offense looks to be coming together after a slow start during the first two weeks of the season. The Penguins have outscored their opponents 79-6 during the team’s wins over St. Francis University and the University of South Dakota, but YSU running back Martin Ruiz said the offense

could still improve.

“Last week, we did all right. We still have a lot of stuff we have to work on and we still put up a lot of numbers on offense,” Ruiz said. “Defense played real good. On the offensive side of the ball, we got some stuff we need to take care of.”

Even though it is only the fifth game of the season, Saturday’s game could impact YSU’s playoff chances and their success heading into the second half of the season.

“It would really mean a lot,” Rivers said. “It would really build our confidence going into the rest of the season. It would really help us a lot. We would really like to get a win. We’ve been putting in a lot of time and a lot of hard work going into this game. It would mean a lot to the program too. It would be another step in the right direction.”

Five Games Left for Penguins to Make a Move

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With five games left in the season, the Youngstown State University women’s soccer team has had a rocky season to this point. The team is 5-8 on the year, but has struggled since hitting conference play going 0-4.

The slow start in conference play is something that head coach Will Lemke was not expecting after last season’s success. The team was 7-9-2 a year ago, but boasted a 6-0-2 home record. This season the Penguins are just 3-5 at home.

“I think that we just kind of thought it was going to be easy, when it’s going to be way harder now. The conference got better, and teams are looking out for us,” Lemke said. “We didn’t have the focus and intensity needed to have in general, but especially once conference started.”

As a team consisting of 10 freshmen and eight sophomores, some growing pains were expected for the YSU women’s soccer program. Though this season may not have gone expected to this

point, the youth on the team points to a bright future for the Penguins.

“As other classes slimmed out, a lot of our younger classes are so big,” sophomore defenseman Sophie McFarland said. “Once we are able to build the program up some more, the youth will definitely help to rebuild the program.”

Due to size of the freshmen and sophomore classes and injuries to Katie Hohmann and Katie Montgomery this season, the underclassmen have been forced to step up and take a larger role. McFarland believes getting freshmen early playing time is a huge advantage that has already shown signs of paying off.

“I think it’s really important to get those minutes as a freshman and even as a sophomore. It gives you a big advantage,” McFarland said. “Marissa Martin played every game last year as a freshman and she’s one of our captains this year, so that obviously gave her a top hand.”

Coach Lemke thinks that playing freshmen early is important for their development, but his number one focus is on winning now, not the future.

“I’m worried about now.

Some of our freshmen have stepped up and done a good job,” Lemke said. “Yes, we do have people who are pressed into action and learning the game at this level, but that’s part of the gig on this level. You either step up and play or you don’t play. But I think this experience does help us going forward, but right now everyone’s expected to perform regardless of their age.”

With five games remaining this year, the Penguins will have a chance to rise from the cellar of the Horizon League standings. Two of the Penguins’ remaining games come against the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and University of Illinois at Chicago. Both are tied with the Penguins at the bottom of the Horizon League.

“We’ve got to make a move. I want to see our team really making a move and finishing strong with intensity and executing what we [want] on both sides of the ball for 90 minutes,” Lemke said. “We’ve got to play our system with focus and intensity for 90 minutes — that’s the key. If we can do that we’ll be okay.”

MISSOURI VALLEY FOOTBALL ACTION WEEK SIX

(10) Northern Iowa vs. (3) North Dakota State

(10) Indiana State vs. (8) South Dakota State

South Dakota vs. Western Illinois

Missouri State vs. Southern Illinois

MISSOURI VALLEY FOOTBALL CONFERENCE STANDINGS

	CONFERENCE	OVERALL
1. Illinois State	1-0	3-1
2. Indiana State	1-0	3-1
3. North Dakota State	1-0	3-1
4. Youngstown State	1-0	3-1
5. Western Illinois	1-0	2-2
6. South Dakota State	0-1	3-1
7. Northern Iowa	0-1	2-2
8. South Dakota	0-1	2-2
9. Missouri State	0-1	1-3
10. Southern Illinois	0-1	1-3

GRAPHICS BY GJ MIKOLAJ/THE JAMBAR.