

THE JAMBAR

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PREPARING FOR THE PRESIDENCY

STORY: JUSTIN WIER & SAMANTHA PHILLIPS | THEJAMBAR@GMAIL.COM
PHOTO COURTESY OF: TYLER MILLER-GORDON

Tyler Miller-Gordon and Gabriella Gessler are running unopposed to become president and executive vice president of Youngstown State University's Student Government Association for the 2016-17 academic year.

Miller-Gordon is SGA's secretary of technology, and Gessler is the current executive vice president.

"An overarching goal we have is to make the experience at YSU the best it can possibly be for each student on campus," Miller-Gordon said. "It sounds cheesy, but we're trying to make it the perfect experience for students."

Their platform focuses on increasing communication between SGA and the student body, maximizing academic success, encouraging diversity, improving economic and environmental sustainability and building on initiatives started by current SGA President Ashley Orr.

Miller-Gordon and Gessler intend to improve communication both within SGA and between SGA and the student body. Miller-Gordon said this makes it easier for representatives to connect with their constituents.

"We want to be more involved when it comes to having a meeting of the reps event at the beginning of each semester, so students at each college can ... know who their representatives are," Miller-Gordon said.

Miller-Gordon said they want to tie this into Welcome Week, so first-year freshmen and students who are unfamiliar with SGA are exposed

to the organization and the initiatives they implement to improve their YSU experience. He said this can help students get acquainted with SGA, so they know who to talk to when they have a problem.

"Often what's going to shape a student's perspective of student government is their first interaction with them, ... so we're really harnessing that energy," Miller-Gordon said. "We want to take that and run with it."

On the diversity front, Gessler has already worked alongside Orr to help bring the Underrepresented Minority Retention Plan to the forefront. They met with YSU President Jim Tressel, Provost Martin Abraham, Sylvia Imler, executive director of Multicultural Affairs, and Michael Reagle, associate vice president of Student Success, over spring break to discuss the plan.

"We wanted to see what specifically SGA can take part of, and how we can even encourage the administration to help develop some programming," Gessler said.

She cited the Summer Bridge Program for multicultural students offered by the Center for Student Progress and said they would like to incorporate job opportunities to help students pay for school and developing a mentorship program with alumni.

They also want to provide scholarship opportunities and develop a leadership summit.

"We've paired with Crystal Hawthorne. She's the adviser for the Minority Education Associa-

tion," Gessler said. "We're hoping to start taking a lot of steps to get everything finalized for the launch in fall."

Miller-Gordon said the Student Academic Success Initiative put forth by former SGA President Michael Slavens and Executive Vice President Jacob Schriener-Briggs asks programs to develop four-year plans that will help with overall retention.

"Often it's that lack of knowing what to do that detracts students the most," he said. "Especially those that are at a disadvantage for being a minority."

Last semester, they gave an international student an ex-officio position on the body, meaning they can partake in discussions but can't vote. Gessler said they developed the position because of the cultural and language barriers international students have, but they worry appointing underrepresented minorities would limit their ability to run and represent SGA.

"We would much rather be proactive in our approach to doing this and not appoint them to the body, but develop programs that would encourage their representation," Gessler said.

Miller-Gordon said awarding the seat admits and solidifies the stigma surrounding SGA.

"Doing that does limit their opportunity to get involved, but it also restricts the rest of the body to be less diverse," Miller-Gordon said.

KEEPING SGA GREAT
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Chem Major Obtains Research Fellowship

STORY: LAUREN FOOTE | LAURENLEONAL@GMAIL.COM
PHOTO COURTESY OF: TYLER PABST

Tyler Pabst, junior chemistry major at Youngstown State University, received a summer research fellowship from the American Chemical Society's Division of Organic Chemistry.

Pabst will conduct his research at YSU with his research adviser Doug Genna, assistant professor of organic chemistry. In September, he will present his findings at the research headquarters of Pfizer, the pharmaceutical company that sponsors the fellowship.

Genna said Pabst's award allows the department to share the work that they do with a fresh audience.

"Tyler's fellowship is great for Tyler, great for our lab and great for YSU," Genna said. "National awards like this one shine a positive light on our program."

Pabst said Genna has been the most influential person on his development as a chemist.

"I've learned more and experienced more growth through my research experience than I ever could in a classroom," Pabst said.

He also acknowledged professors Peter Norris and John Jackson for introducing him to organic chemistry.

Pabst's research focuses on carbon dioxide. He wants to develop a way to use carbon dioxide to synthesize organic molecules — since it is so abundant and inexpensive.

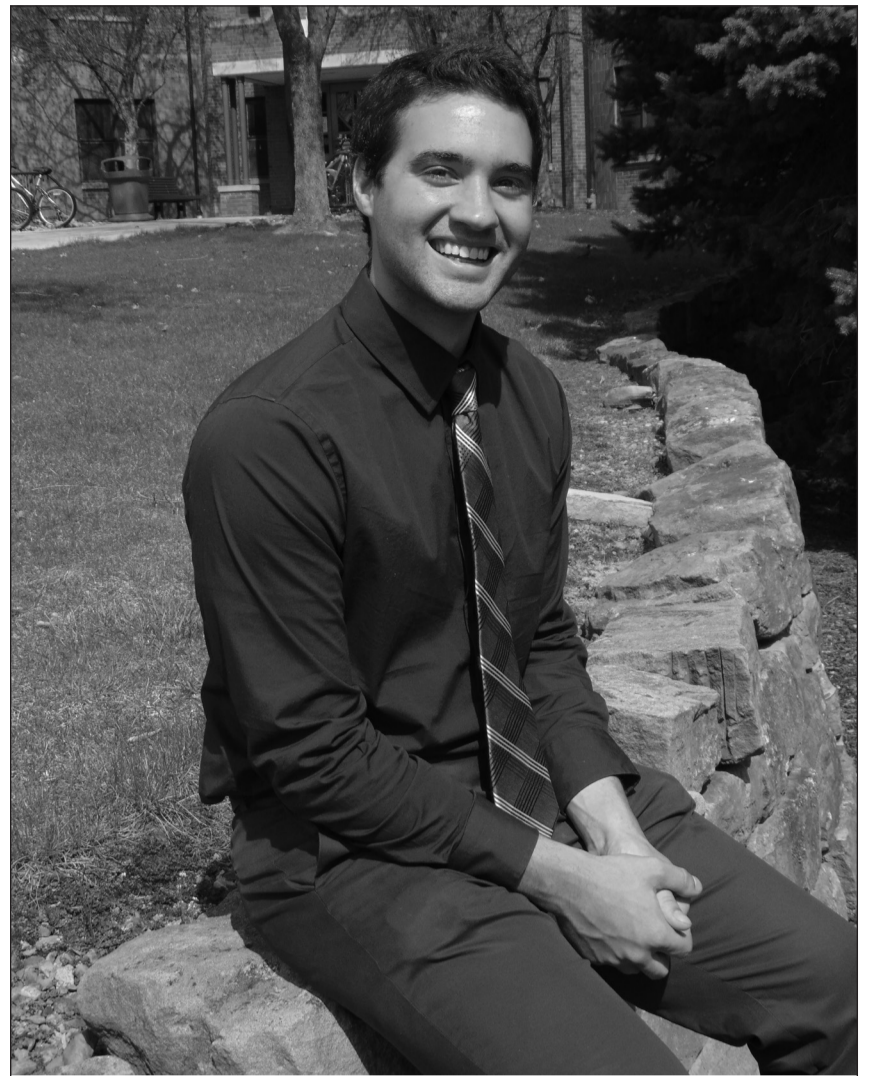
"It's imperative that we figure out ways to use it up," Pabst said. "Since there's too much of it in the atmosphere, and it has negative environmental effects."

However, carbon dioxide is stable and getting it to react with other substances is difficult. Pabst is currently trying to develop an organometallic complex with which the carbon dioxide can bond.

"If we can pull this off, that complex will then be applied to a ... widely-used hard plastic polymer," Pabst said. "The result would be a cheaper, more environmentally friendly synthesis of a very useful material."

Genna said the project has the potential to shift the paradigm if successful. "If, as a community, we are going to take CO₂ remediation seriously, then not only do we need to develop novel uses for CO₂, but we also need to develop an entirely different approach," Genna said.

Genna has worked with Pabst since January 2015. He said he is an exceptional student.



"[He] has successfully married his incredible talents in the classroom with the type of creativity in the lab that you can't teach," Genna said.

Genna sent Pabst a link to apply for the fellowship only a couple of weeks before applications were due, so they had to rush to put the paperwork together.

"We really had no idea what our chances were," Pabst said. "But we went for it, and it paid off."

Pabst said he wasn't even sure he wanted to pursue organic chemistry until he arrived at YSU. He said he initially intended to attend NEOMED, but the University Scholars program influenced his decision.

"It would save me a lot of money, and I wasn't completely sure that I wanted to go into medicine," Pabst said. "So I applied for the Scholars

program, and here I am. So far it's the best decision I've ever made."

In addition to being an active member of the Honors College and doing research with Genna, Pabst also works as a tutor in the Center for Student Progress and competes in an intramural Ultimate Frisbee league. After graduation Pabst hopes to enter a Ph.D. program and study organic or organometallic chemistry.

Genna said Tyler's potential for the future is limitless because he is intellectually creative and fearless. He said this fellowship is just the beginning.

"I think in the short term here at YSU he will accomplish some very meaningful research that we will be able to publish," Genna said. "Once he leaves here, I can't wait to read and hear about the contributions he will be making to our field."



PHOTO: GRAIG GRAZIOSI

The Clothesline Project hanging in Kilcawley Center is an art project meant to draw attention to sexual abuse and domestic violence. Participants are asked to decorate t-shirts for the clothesline with images and phrases representative of their emotions concerning sexual abuse and domestic violence. The number of T-shirts and variety of colors is meant to represent the extent of sexual abuse and domestic violence. April is sexual assault awareness month.

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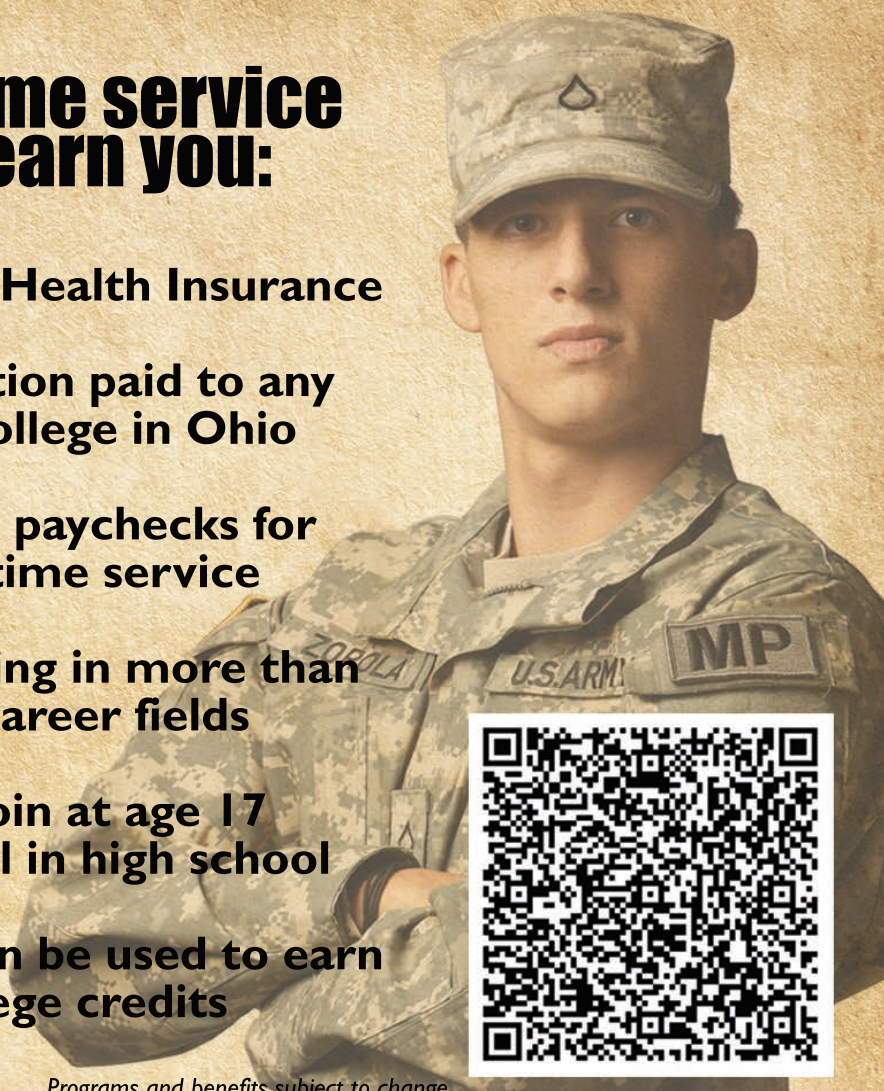
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QUEST Showcases Student Research

STORY: JORDAN UNGER

Youngstown State University students present research to faculty and community members on April 5 at the annual QUEST forum from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Kilcawley Center.

QUEST replicates a professional conference on campus. Students present projects, research and skills from all academic disciplines to judges and attendees. Judges then select the highest-ranking presenter from each college.

The event is broken into four 90-minute sessions, two in the morning and two in the afternoon. Students will give 15-minute oral presentations, including a Q&A session. 90-minute poster presentations will also take place.

Michael Hripko, associate vice president for research, coordinated this year's event and said QUEST presentations are a way for students to apply classroom learning to a real-life setting.

"They can be very in-depth," Hripko said.

Certain faculty will serve as judges as well as community members who have past experience with the event. The highest-ranking presenter from each

college will participate at an event called "Best of QUEST" at 5 p.m. on April 7 in Williamson Hall. The contenders will give their presentations a second time for the chance to receive a \$1,000 undergraduate scholarship or a \$500 graduate scholarship.

This is the 27th year of QUEST, and Hripko's first year running the event. Hripko said QUEST takes a significant amount of planning, and YSU faculty play a large role in making it happen. Hripko said faculty are involved with reserving rooms, preparing programs and choosing judges and speakers for the event.

"It is a success because of great students and faculty," Hripko said.

Many students from the Honors College also took the initiative to get involved in organizing the event this year.

Amy Cossentino, director of the Honors College, said the students are running the event's Twitter page and serving as moderators during the presentations. Cossentino said the partnership between QUEST and the Honors College is natural.

"Going forward, we will be more involved,"

Cossentino said. "Academics and research is one of the pillars of the new Honors College, so there's a perfect alignment with QUEST."

Fifteen student moderators will introduce all of the participants in the session, ask initial questions and time the presentations. Megan Evans, an honors student who participated in QUEST the past two years, said this will make jobs simpler for the judges.

"In the past, the judges have always had the extra role," Evans said, "So it's nice that the judges can focus more on judging and not worrying about the other things."

Evans said the participating honors students made four YouTube videos to provide QUEST participants with tips on how to improve their presentations. Evans said the videos discuss group submissions, dress code and presentation introductions.

Hripko said promoting research and achievement is the primary objective of QUEST, and he has high expectations for the presentations.

"We will see a great number of outstanding presentations and high quality work," Hripko said.

UC Will Admit 15 Percent More California Students This Year

STORY: TERESA WATAMABE / LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES — The University of California announced Monday a significant boost in California students, particularly Latinos and African-Americans, offered admission for fall 2016.

The announcement comes as the UC system has been under political fire for what critics say is a policy of admitting too many applicants from other states and countries.

Admissions offers to California high school seniors increased by 8,488 to 66,123 — nearly a 15 percent increase over last year. Among them, offers to Latinos increased to 22,704 from 16,608 last year, while those to African-Americans grew to 3,083 from 2,337 during the same time period.

UC also increased offers to non-resident students, to 32,799, representing a 7.7 percent hike. The three most popular campuses — UCLA, UC Berkeley and UC San Diego — have capped their enrollment of out-of-state students.

The announcement came just days after a state audit slammed the 10-campus system for hurting California students, particularly under-represented minorities, by admitting too many applicants from other states and countries. The audit urged a cap on nonresidents, along with tougher eligibility standards for them.

UC President Janet Napolitano decried those findings as unfair. She said UC tripled the number of non-residents in the last eight years so their extra tuition costs — \$728 million during that time — could help

compensate for massive budget cuts in the system. UC lost nearly \$1 billion, or about a third of its budget, after the 2008 recession and has still not fully recovered, although the state has begun increasing support.

But thanks to a deal with Gov. Jerry Brown and the Legislature for more state dollars, UC agreed to admit 5,000 more California students this year, and another 5,000 — for a total of 10,000 — over the next three years.

Today's admissions figures, in the unlikely event that all the students accepted their offers, would put the state 3,488 admissions over its goal.

"We've intensified our efforts to boost enrollment of Californians at the University and all indications are that these efforts are working," Napolitano said in a statement Monday. "Our commitment to California and California students has never wavered, even through the worst financial downturn since the Great Depression. Now, with additional state funding, we are able to bring in even more California students."

Overall, 62.7 percent of California freshmen applicants were admitted, a jump of almost 7 percent from 2015. UC received a record number of applications — more than 200,000 — for fall 2016.

California freshmen who will be the first in their families to attend college rose to 42.8 percent of admitted students, and students from low-income families increased to 37.4 percent of the total number of admissions.

Admissions data for transfer students and for individual UC campuses has not yet been released.



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KEEPING SGA GREAT FRONT

They said the money will be used to fund student organizations and university programs.

"[We're] reaching out to those student organizations and campus leaders," Miller-Gordon said. "We want to get as many students involved as possible, so those funds can reach the biggest amount of students."

"We reduced it from 3.5 percent of our budget to 2 percent of our total budget," Miller-Gordon said, "[We're] reaching out to those student organizations and campus leaders in conjunction with the idea of President Tressel's '5000 Penguins Strong.' We want to get as many students involved as possible, so those funds can reach the biggest amount of students."

They said they want to continue successful Orr initiatives like the Mental Health Advocacy Training, and they intend to continue pursuing an on-campus food pantry. Gessler said she also intends to continue to work with Maag library to allow students to access textbooks for general education classes.

They also hope to increase involvement in SGA.

While they are running unopposed, Miller-Gordon said graduating seniors — who are ineligible to run — compose a significant portion of the body this year.

Gessler said outreach plays a major part in recruiting new representatives. Orr developed a committee to be active in talking to student organizations and asking them to apply and act in the petitioning process. She's confident those efforts will pay off in the future.

Miller-Gordon agreed and said they want to help students get past the stigma that surrounds the organization and participate.

"We are hoping to kind of bridge the gap to show the seamless transition from being a lay student to being involved in SGA," Miller-Gordon said.

Gessler added they are student advocates who are here to work on initiatives on behalf of the students.

"We aren't intimidating like our name," Gessler said. "It's very simple. We are just here to listen and act out for student's needs."

"We are still people," Miller-Gordon said. "Nobody is perfect. We are all just students trying to get degrees and get into the workforce ... We are students who represent students."

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NEWS BRIEFS

Mock Outbreak of The Plague Helps Prepare Campus for Disaster

Youngstown State University nursing students will participate in a mock disaster drill on April 8 from 8 a.m. to noon in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center. The purpose of the drill is to prepare students in the event that there is a medical emergency in the area. The Mahoning County Health Department is partnering the program to establish YSU as a closed unit for public health assistance in the event of a disaster.

YSU Summer Bridge Wins \$20,000 Grant from Wean Foundation

The Summer Bridge Program receives \$20,000 grant from the Raymond John Wean Foundation. The Bridge Program is part of the Center of Student Progress. The program is a one-week residential program for first-time traditional multicultural freshmen starting at Youngstown State University in the fall. The program starts on July 24 and ends on the 29. The program is free to participate.

Movie picks

Chicago Tribune

Minneapolis Star Tribune

Philadelphia Inquirer

PG 13 **Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice**

★★★

★

★

R **10 Cloverfield Lane**

★★★

★★★

★★★

R **Deadpool**

★★★

★

★

PG **Zootopia**

★★★

★★★

★★★

PG 13 **The Divergent Series: Allegiant**

★★★

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R **Whiskey Tango Foxtrot**

★★★

★★★

★★★

PG 13 **Race**

★★★

★★★

★★★

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One Weekend to Make a Game

STORY: BILLY LUDT | [WRLUDT@STUDENT.YSU.EDU](mailto:wrludt@student.ysu.edu) | PHOTO: BILLY LUDT

Tables, sleeping bags, air mattresses, desktops, laptops and gamepads inhabited the many rooms of the McDonough Museum of Art this past weekend, and it was not an art installation.

Approximately 40 game developers of varying experience were locked in the McDonough Museum from April 1 to 3 for the first Youngstown Game Jam.

Game jams are video game development events that generally span one to three days. Participants form small teams to develop a game within the given time, working with a predetermined theme, submitting their work for the judgment of their peers and possible prizes.

Kendra Corpier of Eimear Studios and the Youngstown Game Developers has been preparing the Youngstown Game Jam since Jan-

uary. "They went above and beyond what I expected," she said.

The Youngstown Game Jam began at 7 p.m. on Friday evening with a keynote speech from Mike Geig, a trainer for Unity Technologies. Unity Technologies, a Youngstown Game Jam sponsor, is responsible for creating Unity, a popular game development engine.

Corpier told participants that the theme of the game jam was "locked in." They had the next two days and nights to create a game that tied into said theme.

Developers showed their games on Sunday at 3 p.m. Games shown ranged from a ball placed in a bin that is tasked with avoiding approaching barriers, an endless running, side scrolling game where the protagonist breaks through walls, a

first-person platformer that takes place in a volcano, to a text-based werewolf role-playing game.

Corpier said that many game jam events take place in larger cities than Youngstown.

Nick Uroseva, visual artist and the Youngstown State University Humans vs. Zombies organizer, worked with friend and game developer Tom Goldthwait to create their game jam entry, "Quantum Splice."

"Quantum Splice" is a two-dimensional, side-scrolling platforming game that uses a teleporting mechanic to assist the main character in traversing obstacles. The game follows an alien life form that is trapped aboard a space station.

Uroseva and Goldthwait had worked previously on tabletop games together but never teamed

up to make a video game.

Uroseva focused on the visual aspects of the game: background, character design and environment. Goldthwait created a build of the game, testing the mechanics with a featureless block that represented the character model.

"It allows us to have a nice division of labor," Uroseva said.

As the character and environment designs were finalized, Goldthwait dropped them into the game. Uroseva said that the background of "Quantum Splice," a distant planet surrounded by stars, represented freedom, falling into the weekend's theme of "locked in."

Corpier said the game jam will likely become a yearly event. Games created at the Youngstown Game Jam will have playable versions uploaded to www.eim-games.com.

Rayland Baxter Rocks B&O Station

JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR: WILL KEFFLER

Alternative-country singer/songwriter Rayland Baxter performed Thursday at the B&O Station, as part of Youngstown State University student organization Penguin Productions' concert series.

Baxter grew up in Nashville, Tennessee and was heavily influenced by his multi-instrumentalist father, Bucky Baxter. Bucky Baxter played with music greats Bob Dylan, Ryan Adams and Steve Earle. Baxter picked up his first guitar at a very young age, but it wasn't until much later in life that he learned to play it.

"The first time I picked up a guitar, I was maybe two," Baxter said. "But I didn't learn how to play it until I was 20. I had nothing to do with music when I was young. My father was in the music business, but I was far detached. During Christmas break of my sophomore year in college, my dad gave me an acoustic guitar, and it eventually evolved into this."

Baxter spent a year teaching himself to play and eventually went on a

trip to Israel that turned into a six-month stay. Many aspects of Israel influenced and affected Baxter as a musician, but the biggest thing he said he took out of it was his lyricism.

"That was when I started listening to lyrics in songs," Baxter said. "Then I started diving into writing songs of my own."

After returning to his home in Nashville, Baxter said this was when his city had its greatest influence on his music. He said he watched the city transform in front of his eyes and watched the bands and musicians that came out of there. Eventually, Baxter would form his band and tour around equipped with the veteran advice of his father.

Baxter said his father would give him bits of advice here and there, but he was never overbearing in trying to guide him.

"He gives great advice and comes from the coolest background I could imagine," Baxter said. "He's not a songwriter, but he's worked



PHOTO: WILL KEFFLER

with them. So he's not leaning over my shoulder, criticizing my lyrics. He knows how [songwriters] have carried themselves on and off the stage, and he has guided me in the right direction."

Baxter recalls having one conversation in particular with his father about love and relinquishing control in life. He said he has learned to roll with the punches and adjust to anything life throws his way.

"My father told me, 'All you've got to do is love. Know what love is and try not to control everything,'" Baxter said. "Ninety-nine percent of the things that come across your path in life are completely out of your control. You've just got to love yourself and love the people you want to love. Let go of everything else."

When it comes to writing his music, Baxter is filled with influences from J.J. Kale to Green Day, but said that he doesn't have a particular process for writing songs. He said everything comes in bits and pieces, and then he puts it all to-

gether.

"There's no process to my writing. There's no form of the inspiration," Baxter said. "Sometimes it's a piano; sometimes it's a bird in a tree."

Baxter and his band will travel back to his hometown on April 7, where he will perform songs off of his last two releases.

Baxter released his second album, "Imaginary Man" in August 2015 and recently published his "SOHO EP" this year. He enjoys unveiling new collections and adding to the timeline that he has created as an artist who hopes to release many more works.

"There'll be a third album and a fourth and a fifth and a sixth, and hopefully 20 more after," Baxter said. "My goal as a performer, singer and songwriter is to put my stamp on the world like my heroes before me."

Toronto pop trio Nikki's Wives opened for Baxter Thursday evening.

EDITORIAL: RESPONSES TO BLACK AT YSU

The Jambar received a mountain of feedback on our theme issue, "Black at YSU." Jambar staff members have poured over the comments, emails, yaks and tweets to gain some perspective on our readers' thoughts.

As the issue was meant to contribute to the ever-evolving conversation on race in America, we're happy readers are engaging with the content. Even those who disagree with our decision to run the stories.

Most of the feedback we received was positive. Many students wrote in saying they were happy we wrote about issues they face everyday.

One email highlighted the reader's struggle to maintain their identity as a black individual, while living and going to school at a predominantly white institution.

"I've noticed a lot of black people, including myself, try to maintain their identity living in the white space. Being black in life is a challenge, but you have to learn to adapt," the email said.

Another email identified with feeling left out and excluded in the classroom, stating that the writer experienced situations similar to those Sidney Watkins, who was quoted in the story, faced at Youngstown State University.

"Sidney talked about how he felt very unwelcome being at YSU, and a lack of confidence from a meeting he had with a professor in his major department of engineering. I can agree with Watkins response, because some of my friends (who are African-Americans) and I have personally went through a similar issue," the email said. "At the be-

ginning of our start of YSU, we have received many hints that professors or other students not really seeing academic potential in any of us."

Some emails and comments we received argued that in college, success depends on the student, dismissing the environment.

"If you want something bad enough, like to graduate, you'll make it happen. Just study like everyone else. I don't hear the black athletes complaining, and half the football team majors in general studies," one email said. "Get involved on campus within your major, such as engineering society clubs. There's no excuse."

Another wrote, "How about quit bitching and study instead of crying about how unfair it is, and if you didn't get a good education, because you went to Youngstown city

schools then blame your parents not the white people. Oh, and did I mention maybe study a little more."

A few people even commented on the article on our website and said the students quoted in the article were racist.

The main point of this editorial and the entire "Black at YSU" issue was to take note of the national conversation surrounding race in America and bring to light issues that black students were facing at the university. We hoped to start a discussion and spark some conversation between professors, students, faculty and friends.

Opinions are opinions, but with some consideration, we hope the conversations the articles sparked will bring real problems to light and yield real answers.

DEFENDING FREE SPEECH ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

CHICAGO TRIBUNE (TNS)

The following editorial appeared in the Chicago Tribune on Saturday, April 2:

Free expression is not faring well on American college campuses these days. In some places, the problem is students taking grave offense at opinions that merit only minor umbrage or none at all. In others, it's official speech codes that chill discussion. In still others, it's administrators so intent on preventing sexual harassment that they avoid open discussion of gender-related matters.

There is a lot to be said for making people aware of the ways in which their words and deeds can do harm. No one wants to go back to the days when casual expressions of racial prejudice were common, or when women were mocked for taking places that should have gone to men, or when some professors made passes at students.

But it's important not to go so far in protecting undergraduates that they lose the spontaneous and open interactions they need to understand the world and the society in

which they live. An education that spares students from unwanted challenges to their thinking is not much of an education.

Luckily, there's pushback against this trend. University of California regents issued a report deploring anti-Semitism but rejected demands to include all forms of anti-Zionism in the condemnation. When students at Emory University protested messages in support of Donald Trump chalked on campus sidewalks as an attempt to intimidate minority groups, the school president heard them out but took no action.

A female undergraduate at Harvard wrote an article that assailed the prevailing atmosphere there, recalling a class in which one student said "she would be unable to sit across from a student who declared that he was strongly against abortion" and a discussion in which she was rebuked for citing a Bible verse because it violated a "safe space."

Last month, the American Association of University Professors released a report arguing that the fed-

eral law known as Title IX, which bans discrimination on the basis of sex, has been stretched to punish language and ideas that should be allowed.

It cited examples such as Patty Adler, a professor at the University of Colorado at Boulder who had long taught a popular sociology course called "Deviance in U.S. Society." She was threatened by her dean with forced retirement after some students complained about role-playing exercises. The threat was rescinded but a disillusioned Adler chose to retire. Louisiana State University associate professor Teresa Buchanan was fired, over the objections of a faculty committee, because some students complained about her use of profanity.

Students deserve to be shielded from sexual harassment by other students or faculty members, and sexual harassment can include the creation of a climate so hostile (to women, gays and so on) that they feel threatened. But the AAUP panelists contend that the federal government defines the term so broadly, and makes it so hard to defend

against such charges, that innocent people are wrongly tarred and education suffers.

"Overly broad definitions of hostile environment harassment work at cross-purposes with the academic freedom and free speech rights necessary to promote learning in an educational setting," they said. "Learning can be best advanced by more free speech that encourages discussion of controversial issues rather than by using punitive administrative and legal fiat to prevent such discussions from happening at all."

The University of Chicago has taken the lead in defending free speech on campus. Last year, a special committee issued a statement noting the importance of civility but upholding "the principle that debate or deliberation may not be suppressed because the ideas put forth are thought by some or even by most members of the University community to be offensive, unwise, immoral, or wrong-headed."

We hope the administrators, faculty and students of other universities are listening.

THE JAMBAR COLUMN

IT'S OK TO GRIEVE

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I've reached a time of the year where I'm actively trying to avoid thinking of or lingering on some things. Most of the 2015 year was a pretty rough time for my family — there was a lot of stress, illness and loss that stretched across multiple households.

Last fall, my grandma passed away after fighting sickness and memory loss. The weeks before and after were trying, but once I made it through them, I thought I was good. I had done my grieving and would be able to continue on in my life all right. Of course, it's not that simple, as I found out.

This past week marked one year since my grandma's sister passed, after a rapid decline in her health. The reminder sent me into the cycle of trying to monitor my thoughts and keep them on absolutely anything else, so I wouldn't have to reflect on the fact that we lost two great family members in just a few months.

My family on my grandma's side is really close. Most of us live relatively near to each other, and I've grown up with always having my grandma and four of her seven siblings

around, seeing them yearly at Thanksgiving, reunions and other family get-togethers. Last year was a tough time for all of us.

But it's not just the reminder of a sad anniversary that sends me back into moments of grief — the most random of things can take me there too. An exact week after my grandma was gone, I had a sudden and clear thought that "Oh, it's been a week since she died" out of nowhere, and I almost ran out of my class to get some tears out. I'll be on my commute to school, and my wandering train of thought will somehow go from the song on my radio to an image of my grandma in the barn with the baby goats.

My sister moved into my grandma's house at the beginning of the year, and it's weird sometimes to refer to it as "Megan's house" opposed to "Nene's house." But then, still calling it "Nene's house" feels weird too. Some days it's weird to be down there, sitting in the living room, stealing my sister's Internet speeds and not see my grandma come around the corner. Or for her not to holler out "Hello?," when I walk through

the back door.

Grief is weird to me, and I don't know if it'll ever stop being weird. I know there's no right way to grieve. That it differs from person to person, and that, I think, adds to the weirdness. Personally, when I'm in a tough spot, I write it out — I did an awful lot of writing while my grandma was sick. But most times I'm just simply fighting the tears and the sadness, tamping it down with pure stubbornness. I know there's no one right way, but some days when I have a clear head, I think this probably isn't the healthiest method of dealing with it.

Sometimes, I just want someone to tell me that it's all right. What I feel, and how I react to it, is normal and natural and perfectly fine. I want to know that I have the option to burst into tears randomly and not have to worry about what that looks like. That it's OK to feel this way.

So for anyone else who is fighting with their grief, I just want you to know that it's all right. It's normal and natural and perfectly fine. It's OK to feel this way.



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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YOUR SIDE POLICY

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Youngstown State University second baseman Billy Salem fields a groundball and throws it to first base.

STORY: DAN HINER | DHINERJR@GMAIL.COM | PHOTO: DAN HINER

YSU SPLITS SERIES WITH UIC

It was a tale of two games over the weekend for the Youngstown State University baseball team.

The Penguins won the first game of a two-game series against the University of Illinois at Chicago 9-1, but fell apart in a 15-1 loss in the second game.

YSU had its best all-around game of the season on Friday. The Penguins scored a season-high nine runs on 15 hits against the Flames in the series opener.

The Penguins jumped out to an early 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning. With runners on first and second, YSU second baseman Billy Salem attempted a sacrifice bunt, but UIC pitcher Ian Lewandowski threw the ball away. YSU's Alex Larivee scored an unearned run from second and Lorenzo Arcuri made it all the way around from first base.

YSU kept the pressure on in the third inning. Penguins' outfielder Kyle Benyo drove in Salem with an RBI single to left field to push the YSU lead to 3-0.

Penguins' starting pitcher Joe King shut down the Flames' offense. King allowed one run on six hits during his six innings pitched. The Penguins used Freshman Joel Hake and Jesse Slinger out of the bullpen. Hake and Slinger pitched three scoreless innings, allowing two hits and one walk.

"In game 1, I thought Joe King and Joel Hake were in total control of their offense," YSU head coach Steve Gillispie said. "They never really threatened to score outside of a misplay we had in the outfield. Offensively, our lineup did a very good job of putting quality at-bats back, to back, to back. Probably the best job we had done all year, and we were able

to pressure them pretty much every inning."

The Penguins kept scoring in the second half of the game and came away with the win on Saturday afternoon.

Things didn't go well for the Penguins in the second game of the day. The Flames jumped out to an early 6-0 lead in the top of the third inning.

YSU responded with its only run of the game in the bottom of the third after YSU second baseman Billy Salem hit an RBI single up the middle to drive in Trey Bridis.

Penguins' starting pitcher Jeremy Quinlan labored throughout the outing. Quinlan allowed 11 hits and one walk in three innings pitched. Quinlan allowed three earned runs.

YSU went to the bullpen in the fourth inning, but it was the same story for the relievers. The bullpen allowed nine runs, eight earned, in the final five innings. They gave up 11 hits and three walks in the second game.

"We faced the preseason Horizon League Pitcher of the year, who was also the Horizon League Pitcher of the year last season, and he was on top of his game," Gillispie said. "Jeremy Quinlan wasn't as sharp as he had been the week before, and they were able to get to him unlike anyone else had all year. So the combination of who we were facing and the deficit we saw early on really changed the momentum of the day."

Salem was the difference maker for the Penguins in the series. He combined to go 3-8 with two runs scored and two RBIs.

Horizon League Conference Standings Baseball

	School	Conference		Overall	
		W	L	W	L
1	Milwaukee	4	1	11	12
2	Wright State	7	4	18	9
3	Oakland	4	5	12	11
4	Valparaiso	5	6	9	15
5	UIC	3	6	10	16
6	Youngstown State	1	7	6	17
7	Northern Kentucky	1	8	10	18

Larivee and YSU first baseman Andrew Kendrick contributed in the first game, but they struggled in the second game. Larivee went 4-10, 4-5 in the first game, and scored three runs and drove in one RBI. Kendrick went 4-6 with one run scored and one RBI. Kendrick finished the first game 3-5 and was limited to one at-bat in the second game.

The odd weather over the weekend played an unexpected role. The first game of the series was suspended in the bottom of the sixth inning after a thunderstorm on Friday night. The final game was cancelled due to snowfall and temperatures on Sunday afternoon.

The Penguins will host the University of Toledo on Wednesday. This will be the only meeting between the Rockets and the Penguins. First pitch is scheduled for 5:30 at Eastwood Field.

COMING FULL CIRCLE FORMER YSU SAFETY TRANSITIONS INTO FULL-TIME COACH

STORY: DAN HINER | DHINERJR@GMAIL.COM

PHOTO: DAN HINER



During his time as the starting safety on the Youngstown State University football team, Donald D'Alesio excelled on the field as a "coach on the field."

D'Alesio was a graduate assistant on the football team since his playing career ended following the 2014 season.

Now he's taken on a new role, the new YSU defensive line coach. D'Alesio received the promotion before the start of spring practice.

"I came here with the intention to work hard and do what was needed. I thought I was going to work with the defensive backs last year. When I got here, and coach Carl Pelini approached me to work with him on the defensive line — just to learn something new," D'Alesio said. "I was all for it. I'm open to kinda anything,

and I'm always trying to learn. It was a step, that I thought would help me as a coach."

D'Alesio said Pelini helped develop his understanding of the defensive line. Even though D'Alesio is in charge of the D-line, Pelini still helps D'Alesio when needed.

"He's a guy I still go to. He still helps me out with any questions I have or anything I wonder about," D'Alesio said. "He's great with me and answers any questions that I have. He's great to work with."

Since D'Alesio recently graduated, he still coaches players that were on the roster when he was a starter. Even though he was a defensive back, he said he had a number of friends on the team that played at different positions.

He said that it's easier to coach the players that he played with because "I got a great group of guys on the defensive line," and the team is aware that he's a coach that deserves their respect.

"Some of the guys, I was really close with when I played. Now I've grown into the role. It's good that I'm able to relate to those guys at that level," D'Alesio said. "I just kinda went through the things they're going through."

"So when they're having a rough day, or they really don't feel like going to practice — I've been there before. I'm able to kinda see it with their demeanor. I can tell them 'Hey, pick it up today' or whatever it may be. I think it helps me being able to relate to those guys. Some of them I've played with.

It's not weird, but it's just funny that I kinda came full circle."

D'Alesio is a graduate of Cardinal Mooney High School, which plays at Stambaugh Stadium. He's established a history at YSU and is looking to improve the team and help develop the defensive line.

"This place is special to me, and I came here for a reason. Obviously, the four years I played here were great," D'Alesio said. "We accomplished some things we wanted to do, other things we weren't able to accomplish. I think coach Bo [Pelini] has done a great job with this program, and I think we're moving in the right direction. It's very special to me that I'm able to start my career here with this coaching staff."