



Keynote Speaker Discusses “Women in STEM”

PHOTO BY JORDAN UNGER / THE JAMBAR

BY NATHAN HRITZ

Minerva Cordero, the associate dean of Academic Affairs at the University of Texas at Arlington, was the keynote speaker for the STEM career day on March 3 at Kilcawley Center.

Cordero spoke about the importance of pursuing careers in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics field. She said there needs to be a national push for STEM jobs, the way there was during the space race in the mid-1900s.

One problem is retaining students in

college in STEM programs — Cordero said less than 40 percent of students who enter STEM programs graduate with that degree.

“I want to look at this today as a tool for helping us address one serious problem that is facing our nation, and that is the declining number of students pursuing degrees in STEM,” she said.

Cordero, who is also a mathematics professor, claimed that math is the reason why many students steer away from STEM. Students in the U.S. rank lower in math than students from other countries, she said.

“When we look at the results of the National Assessment of Educational Progress, it shows that less than one-third of

8th graders show proficiency in math and science,” she said.

Cordero emphasized that over 70 percent of all jobs require mathematics, and math graduates earn more money than most professions.

“If our country is going to retain its position in the world in terms of technology and science, we need the people who are going to continue doing these things,” she said.

A national initiative has been made to recruit and train roughly 100,000 STEM teachers over the next decade, Cordero said, and there is a high demand for professionals in the field.

“Economic projections point to a need for nearly one million jobs in STEM,” she

said.

After addressing the lack of people pursuing STEM degrees, Cordero turned the conversation to the low numbers of women and minorities in the STEM field.

Cordero said 25 percent of jobs in STEM go to women, but if more women and minorities go after STEM degrees, then the country can reach the goal of 1 million STEM jobs,

Monica Busser, a math student at Youngstown State University, said she was inspired to become a math student after attending a previous Women in STEM event at YSU. She said many women don’t see themselves in STEM fields but having role models in STEM can be encouraging.



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YSU Places Second in National Ethics Bowl Again

BY JORDAN UNGER

The Youngstown State University Ethics Bowl team placed second at the national level for the second consecutive year at the Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl in Dallas on Feb. 26.

The Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl is a competition in which teams examine cases on current controversial issues and take a stance on those issues. Jacob Schriener-Briggs, a senior on the team, said the Society of Practical and Professional Ethics sends a packet of cases to contestants prior to the tournament.

“You don’t know what that question is, but you know based on the facts there are implied moral questions,” Schriener-Briggs said. “You study the cases, you talk about the potential angles you can take and then you go into the tournament.”

The opposing team critiques the first group’s argument before switching roles with a new case. A panel of judges asks questions regarding the cases and determines the winner of each round.

The team members were Schriener-Briggs, Tyler Miller-Gordon, Lindsay Heldreth and Rachael Jenkins. The team remained undefeated through preliminary rounds, only losing to a team from the United States Military Academy at West Point in the finals.

The team competed last year in Virginia, where a team from Whitworth University placed first. This year, YSU beat Whitworth in the quarterfinal of this year’s competition. Schriener-Briggs said this was a victory within itself for the team.

“We went into that round knowing that there was potential that our tournament would end right there and we were able to pull it off,” Schriener-Briggs said.

YSU harnessed what they learned from last year’s experience to improve their performance this year, Schriener-Briggs said.

“I think we had a better understanding of what it takes to win a round, especially a close round,” Schriener-Briggs said. “We just had a better understanding of what we needed to do and what we needed to focus on and how we needed to frame our argument.”

To prepare for nationals, Miller-Gor-

don said the team held mock rounds with professors and teams from the regional competition to help master the packet of cases. He said involvement in Ethics Bowl encourages civil discussion amongst young people.

“That’s something that’s a hot topic right now in our politics and in our everyday lives as we’re interacting, especially on a college campus,” Miller-Gordon said. “The ability to discuss really controversial moral issues and really try to come to solutions that are best for everyone ... is a skill that I gained through this.”

Alan Tomhave, the YSU chair of Philosophy and Religious Studies, is the coach for the YSU Ethics Bowl team. Schriener-Briggs said Tomhave has done a great job preparing them for competitions.

“He’s very good at ensuring that faculty from across the university participate in the program to give us [a] variety of perspectives to help shape our arguments and create multi-dimensional approaches to the things we’re discussing,” Schriener-Briggs said.

The Ethics Bowl teaches students skills that everyone needs to have in their lives, Schriener-Briggs said.

“Regardless of what you want to do after you graduate, being able to break down arguments, think about things critically and being able to communicate with others in a persuasive and effective way is a universal benefit,” Schriener-Briggs said.

Heldreth agreed, particularly in regards to critical thinking.

“You’re always approaching [the cases] from a multi-dimensional perspective and even once you formulate a position, you are pressed to challenge that position and try to tear it apart,” Heldreth said. “That way, it can be stronger when you go up against very good teams and go up against the judging panel.”

The Ethics Bowl program came to YSU two years ago. Not only does the team’s success bring recognition to the university, it also acknowledges the Religious Studies and Philosophy department on campus, Miller-Gordon said.

“[The department] is undervalued. I think it brings a great positive image,” Miller-Gordon said. “It really puts YSU on the map in the philosophical and ethical realm.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF TYLER MILLER-GORDON

City Club Discusses Public Education in Youngstown



PHOTO BY SAMANTHA PHILLIPS / THE JAMBAR

BY SAMANTHA PHILLIPS

The City Club of the Mahoning Valley held a panel discussion titled “The Future of Public Education in Ohio’s Cities” on March 6 at the Stambaugh Auditorium.

The panelists were Joe Schiavoni, minority leader of the Ohio State Senate; Christine Fowler-Mack, chief of New and Innovative Schools and Programs in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and Krish Mohip, the CEO of Youngstown City School District.

Tim Francisco, a Youngstown State University assistant professor in the English department, moderated the event. He asked

the panelists if they thought there was a move towards privatization in education after the confirmation of Betsy Devos as secretary of education.

Schiavoni said nobody should be surprised that Devos was confirmed as secretary of education because President Donald Trump talked about pushing for school privatization in the presidential debates.

A bill that was introduced last week would require states to adopt vouchers to maintain their eligibility for federal funds, which could damage public schools, he said.

Under this bill, parents could take excess tuition and bank it for future education expenses, like college.

“How unfair is that to someone

who isn’t eligible for a voucher because their parents are one dollar over the threshold?” he said.

The discussion turned to the top concerns that the panelists have as far as education.

Mohip said there is too much testing, and the excess testing prevents students from learning because they are too worried about studying for the frequent tests.

Schiavoni shared that sentiment, saying mandates that require more testing are increasing. He said kids are too stressed about how they will perform on tests, and teachers are worried that poor test grades will reflect badly on them.

Testing should be like the IOWA tests, Schiavoni said. He

gave the example of himself taking the test as a kid and finding out he needed to work on understanding science better, and said testing should be designed in a way that shows students what their strong and weak points are.

Another concern, Schiavoni said, is that sports and extracurricular are cut when levies don’t pass in communities, which students “desperately need”.

Francisco brought up House Bill 70, an Ohio legislation signed by Ohio Governor John Kasich that created the Youngstown Plan, which has been criticized for allowing a CEO to run Youngstown City Schools.

As the CEO of Youngstown City Schools, Mohip said House Bill 70 is beneficial in a district that was struggling. He said he

has a great relationship with the YCS board members, and he welcomes collaboration with the community to help improve the school district.

“I’m excited about the work we are doing,” he said.

Schiavoni warned that allowing House Bill 70 to pass could lead to other districts passing similar legislature, and those CEO’s might not be like Mohip.

“There is an opening for a CEO to do whatever he or she wants in the next district,” he said. “We need to put safeguards in place or else you will eventually see someone who will take over immediately to turn all the schools into charter schools and call it a day.”

The Price to Pay as a Whistleblower

BY JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR
MORGAN PETRONELLI,
ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY
RACHEL GOBEP

Terrorists, waterboarding, lies, the CIA and a whistleblower — all of these things intersect at a man named John Kiriakou.

As a former CIA operative, Kiriakou travelled to over 65 countries and met countless kings, presidents and prime ministers in his 15-year career.

During this time, he said that he noticed a drastic change in the agency.

Pre 9/11 and post Church Committee, he stated that the agency served the greater good by prioritizing human rights under the Clinton administration, even going as far as to combing through recruited sources and letting go of anyone with a single human rights problem in their background. This is otherwise known as a cull.

“Everything just went out the window on September 11,” said Kiriakou. “The CIA went overboard in its reaction to the attack and I feel like they lost their way and made no excuses for it either. The CIA got to the point where it was readily and willfully violating the law.”

Thus began a time of high alert security and the war on terror-

ism. As the war progressed, terrorists began to be captured and taken in for questioning by U.S. federal agencies like the FBI and CIA.

Kiriakou noticed something wasn't right — unethical methods were being used to extract information about the terrorist organization Al-Qaeda.

One specific method included waterboarding, which is the act of placing a cloth over a person's face and pouring water over it which imitates the sensation of drowning.

“The idea shouldn't be ‘Does it work?’ the idea should be ‘Is it ethical, it is moral and is it legal?’” Kiriakou said. “And the answer is no. We know definitely from the senate torture report, the CIA inspector general's report and from associated reports by the American Psychological Association and the American Psychiatric Association that torture does not work, period.”

Kiriakou went on to say that the FBI says the only way to gather intelligence “that's going to save American lives and disrupt future attacks” is to establish a rapport with the prisoner. This method has been proven to work countless times throughout history including during WW2, the Korean War, Vietnam War and the war in Iraq and Afghanistan post 9/11.

The problem, he said, is that

the CIA possesses no interrogation training. The FBI is primarily in charge of interrogation and if the CIA can't extract information from the prisoner, then they are turned over to the FBI to “work their magic.”

The mistake that occurred is that the CIA didn't leave the interrogation to the FBI post 9/11. Instead, they took it upon themselves to question prisoners which resulted in unethical methods being utilized to extract information and resulted in a cover-up.

When Kiriakou learned that waterboarding was being used on prisoners, he was instantly uneasy knowing that it was occurring and the American people had no clue about it.

“This is the best country in the world, but we have to be an example for other countries,” said Kiriakou. “A secret torture program is not making an example for other countries — it's just plain wrong.”

In 2007, Brian Ross, an investigative reporter for ABC News, contacted Kiriakou and claimed he had a source who said that he had tortured Abu Zubaydah, who was an alleged aide to Osama Bin Laden. Kiriakou did not perform waterboarding on Abu Zubaydah, but rather he was told by other CIA officers that the prisoner was being tortured using the method.

Kiriakou claims he was going to dismiss the accusations and decline the interview to defend himself when, that week, former President George W. Bush went on national television and stated “we do not torture” and then said if torturing occurred, that it was from a rogue agent.

In order to avoid the torture accusations being pinned on him, Kiriakou agreed to an interview with Ross. During the interview he disclosed that Abu Zubaydah had been water boarded, but was only aware of one instance of it. It was later reported in 2009 that Zubaydah was tortured over 83 times despite giving little to no extra information than after his first encounter with waterboarding.

In 2012 Kiriakou was charged with giving classified information to the media and disclosing the name of an undercover CIA officer. He was sentenced to 30 months in prison in 2013 and was later released in 2015. During that time, he received over 7,000 letters and responded to every one of them.

“The CIA decided to make an example out of me ... I was prosecuted as a warning to other would-be whistleblowers that if you're going to say something positive then you can leak all you want,” he said. “But if you're going to criticize, then you're going to give up everything.”

Despite spending jail time for blowing the whistle on unethical torture utilized by the CIA, Kiriakou has made it his mission to encourage others to become whistleblowers, especially the younger generations. He claims that it is up to young people who are beginning to work in federal agencies to call out violations of ethics.

Since being released from prison, the former CIA officer has started a group called the Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity, regularly visits schools and universities speaking about ethics and being a whistleblower and has written three books about his time in the CIA and his life afterwards.

Kiriakou said that in the end, people need to remember one thing when it comes to ethics.

“Protect yourself by knowing the law and if you find yourself in a position where you feel compelled to report on waste, fraud, abuse, illegality or threats to the public health or public safety, do it, but with legal advice.”

He has authored “The Reluctant Spy: My Secret Life in the CIA's War on Terror” and is expected to release his second book “Doing Time Like a Spy: How the CIA Taught Me to Survive and Thrive in Prison” on May 3.

NEWS BRIEFS

Out of Service Elevators

The M-30 elevators are out of service. An e-mail was sent to the YSU community from YSU Information on Monday stating that work is being done to repair the situation. If you have questions, call Parking Services at 330-941-3546.

YSU's Got Talent

The American Marketing Association will be sponsoring the annual YSU's Got Talent show on March 22 at the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley from 5 to 7 p.m. There will be prizes for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and viewer's choice winners. The event costs 5 dollars for students and 8 for the public. Questions may be directed to William Heath at wcheath@student.ysu.edu.

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Prescription Safety

BY JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR
DAVID FORD

Colleges across the country, including Youngstown State University, have created policies that prevent medication from being transferred to those without medical clearance.

In 2010, the University of Maryland conducted a study that found nearly 35.8 percent of all people give a medication to someone else at some point in their lifetime.

According to campus police and residence life, YSU has been successful in preventing the illegal use of prescription medication on and around campus.

Bryan Remias, an administrative lieutenant for the Youngstown State Police Department, said that prescription drugs are allowed as long as the person taking them is given prescription. If someone is found taking them on campus without a prescription to do so, that person faces strict legal issues.

"If someone is taking prescription drugs and they are not written for them, it could be ... a violation of the law," Remias said. "The person could face a misdemeanor up to a felony offense."

According to YSU police, the rules surrounding residence halls and prescription drug use have been able to create an environment free of any problems and issues.

Molly O'Malley, the Kilcawley, Wick and Weller House coordinator, stated that there are no major issues with prescription drugs in the residence halls, but that the penalties remain strict.

"If a person is found in possession of someone else's prescrip-

tion medication, our staff would call the YSU Police Department and they would most likely confiscate it," O'Malley said. "An official report would be filed with Student Conduct and possibly an official report with the county."

In 2014, YSU implemented the Prescription DropOff Box, which allows employees and students of the university to safely and securely dispose of any outdated medications, syringes and needles. The box is designed to reduce prescription drugs on campus and throughout the community. The DropOff Box is located at 266 W. Wood St.

Ryan McNicholas, the coordinator for fitness and wellness at Youngstown State University, said that the program has been successful for the university.

"The box is designed to significantly reduce the prescription drugs at YSU or in the community that are either no longer needed or outdated," McNicholas said. "These same drugs unfortunately have become the target of theft or misuse, oftentimes by people who have access to the residence halls."

Through this program, YSU has made it possible for the safe and environmentally friendly destruction of controlled substances that might normally get flushed down toilets, tossed into the trash, or even just thrown by the side of the road.

The program for the university has been successful in preventing prescription drugs from becoming a major issue.

Several YSU students stated they use the Prescription DropOff Box to properly dispose of outdated medication. The safe disposal of the contents in these receptacles takes place once a month.

A New Opportunity for Entrepreneurs

BY JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ

A new entrepreneur program called N.E.W.S. Block will be up and running in the city by the end of summer.

The city of Youngstown, the Community Initiative to Reduce Violence Program, Youngstown City Council, Youngstown Neighbor Development Corporation and Youngstown's The Colony are collaborating to create the program.

The program is designed to give an opportunity to local residents to start a new business. Entrepreneurs can submit a proposal and, if selected, will be assisted throughout the process of opening their business.

Jonathan Bentley, director of the Youngstown Human Relations Commission and one of the program's organizers, said he and other program organizers will assist people who are selected.

"We'll sign you up for business classes and make sure you're not just going in cold turkey," Bentley said. "We'll give you the training, the access to finances, give you the connections you need to get your business up and running."

The businesses will be housed on the south side of Youngstown, on the corners of Warren Road and Hillman Street. Two large shipping containers will be placed on each corner, so there will be eight containers total. Each one will house a new business temporarily.

"These things are the size of houses, apartments; you can live in these things," Bentley said.

First Ward Councilman Julius Oliver said the goal is to make the community a self-sustaining area where Youngstown residents don't have to leave the area to purchase goods.

"The way this project was actually birthed was a bunch of people came together saying 'What can we do with all the vacant land?'" Oliver said. "There is also an issue when it comes to crime with our young people in the city not having anything to do, not having any resources and not being able to obtain jobs."

Eventually, the entrepreneurs must move into their own storefront when their business expands. The program will allot a certain amount of time to remain in the temporary container.

That way, new business owners can join the pro-



PHOTO BY JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ

gram and have a shot at growing their business.

There are certain qualifications for the program. You must be a Youngstown citizen, have low to moderate income and must be 18 or older. A criminal background will not prevent you from being selected.

Oliver said the program will be available to returning citizens, those who may have been incarcerated or in the CCA program.

"After people get in trouble they need something to maintain their life so they don't go back to crime or back to street activity. We can graduate them from a program straight into entrepreneurship," Oliver said.

The program will start out on the south side of Youngstown but the plan will be to eventually open a location on each side of town.

Tuesday, March 21

Paul J. & Marguerite K.
Thomas Colloquium

presents



Veronika Scott

*Founder & CEO
of the
Empowerment Plan*

“Empowerment Through Employment”

4:00 p.m. WCBA Auditorium
in Williamson Hall

7:30 p.m. Stambaugh Auditorium

Free tickets are available at the Office of the Dean in the Williamson College of Business Administration and at Stambaugh Auditorium. For more information, call 330-941-3064.

Veronika Scott, founder and CEO of The Empowerment Plan, has built an organization that began around a single idea: to design a coat specifically for the homeless. The coat is self-heated, waterproof, and transforms into a sleeping bag at night. That idea has now transformed into a system of empowerment in which homeless women are paid to learn how to produce coats for people living on the streets, giving them an opportunity to earn money, find a place to live, and gain back their independence for themselves and their families.

Scott shares anecdotes from her time at a homeless shelter in Detroit where she conducted the research for her coat prototype. She also shares how her idea for creating a coat for the homeless led her to hiring the homeless.

Veronika Scott:

- Youngest recipient of the John F. Kennedy New Frontier Award from the JFK Library Foundation and Harvard University
- IDEA Gold Award from the Industrial Design Society of America
- One of CNN’s Ten Visionary Women in the World
- Winner of the 2014 DVF People’s Voice Award
- 2015 Forbes 30 Under 30 Social Entrepreneur

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PHOTO BY ALYSSA PFLUG / THE JAMBAR

BY AMANDA LEHNERD

Youngstown State University's Writing Center is here to help students across campus and others in the community with different types of writing. There are many workshops offered for people to partake in that can help them with their current writing projects. Amanda Miller of the Writing Center was able to answer some questions about current workshops going on in the center.

Q1: What is the creative writing workshop?

A: The writing workshop is open to all members of Youngstown State University and all members of the community. It's a free program that we offer on Fridays at 2 p.m. in the Writing Center. What we're doing is talking and looking at fiction, poetry, plays, screenplays or anything that's creative writing related. We talk about craft and theory and workshop pieces that people bring in.

Q2: How can people get involved with the workshop?

A: Anyone can email composeysu@gmail.com, and there is also a Facebook group called YSU Creative Writing Workshop, or anyone can just show up at 2 p.m. on Fridays in the Writing Center. Anyone can pop in any time at the Writing Center and someone can give information about the workshop.

Q3: Are there any steps or preparation methods someone should take before attending a writing workshop?

A: No, anyone can just show up. I sometimes send out weekly articles that I want them to read. I put that in the Facebook group and attach it in an email. It's just an optional reading and we do talk about it, but I usually have printed out material here that, if somebody didn't get a chance to read it, they can just follow along while we talk about it.

Q4: How does the creative writing workshop improve the people's and students' writing?

A: We try to fill a gap for people who may not be in a creative writing workshop, poetry workshop or fiction workshop so that they can still work on those things. They can come here and talk about fiction and get support for their writing and maybe to learn new things that aren't covered in all the fiction workshops that they may have had at YSU. It's also just exposure to different people who are seniors or graduate students or somebody who is older in the community who has been out of school for a long time, but they still want to show their short stories.

Q5: What is the thesis group for graduate students?

The thesis group is just essentially a support group. It's a quiet study hall type of group. We're all working on the same things. We're all graduate students, so we have ... different skill sets than ... a freshman working on ... [a] composition paper. What they do is meet in the lower

level of the library (that's room 159) and sometimes in the Writing Center too because we need to use the computers. Essentially it's a support group, and we all meet and we silently just research, work on our thesis or our portfolios and ask questions just in general. We don't offer specialized help — that is for Writing Center appointments, but it's more just like we're all in this together. Let's do it.

Q6: What other services are offered by the Writing Center other than private appointments?

A: There's always something going on, and I encourage people just to stop in and see what different things are going on across campus. Different submissions that people can enter in, like if the honors program is accepting submissions, we'll have information here about it. It's kind of like we're just expanding to all areas of writing. It's not just typically like, "Hey you're having a hard time in composition, make an appointment where we'll just look at your grammar," ... there's so much more that we have going on down here than people probably realize.

Q7: Is there anything else you think students should know about the writing center that they probably don't?

A: Yeah, just to keep an eye out for a call for submissions for these groups that are going on. If anybody has anything they would like to start, like, "Hey I want to get a weekly thing going for this," they can certainly stop down and talk to us. We're always looking to improve outreach and include even more things into our lineup.

Downtown Youngstown Presents: Shamrock on the Block 2017

BY GABE GARCIA

As St. Patrick's Day approaches, downtown Youngstown makes its preparations to celebrate the national holiday.

Originally, St. Patrick's Day was meant to be a feast for the patron saint of Ireland in the fifth century, but it has since evolved into parades, parties, shamrocks, drinks and anything to do with the color green.

Sharing in the festivities is The Federal as it partners with the V2 Wine Bar to hold Shamrock on the Block 2017. The Downtown Youngstown Partnership, Great Lakes Brewing Company and Youngstown CityScape will sponsor the event.

"This is our fourth time having an outside heated tent event," said Sophia Martini, manager of The Federal. "This is however, our first time partnering with V2 Wine Bar to organize it."

The Federal itself will open at 8 a.m. for Pints and Pancakes and green beer while eating contests will be held outside as well as live entertainment.

"One of the things we'll be doing is having a 50/50 raffle," said Martini. "All of the proceeds we make will benefit the Downtown Youngstown Partnership as well as Youngstown CityScape. We'll also have food vendors, a fully stocked bar, Irish bagpipers and Irish food all day."

The Downtown Youngstown Partnership is an association of businesses who work together to address concerns and improve the overall environment, as well as a component of Youngstown CityScape.

Ellie Platt, representative of Nationwide Insurance

Group and DYP Committee Chair, states The Federal will be offering a 10 percent discount on food purchases for attendees who present a Youngstown CityScape card.

"This is a great example of downtown businesses working together," said Platt. "We will have our volunteers help the Federal and V2 in any way they can whether it's selling tickets, serving food or anywhere else they may need us. It's a great event for the Downtown Youngstown Partnership, and I hope it continues."

Shamrock on the Block will have bands playing such as The Labra Brothers, The Patty 'O' Band and Whiskey Pilot, all leading up to the performance of Hoss and the Juggernauts.

Also partaking in the celebration of St. Patrick's Day will be O'Donold's located on Federal Street.

"We will be having live music inside all day starting at 8 a.m.," said Christian Rinehart, owner of O'Donold's Irish Pub and Grill. "We'll be featuring the band County Mayo as well as Dolan Family Band, and we'll be open at 5:30 a.m. for Irish breakfast."

For breakfast, O'Donold's will be serving corned beef, hash and green eggs with toast. For the rest of the day, Irish food will be served such as shepherd's pies, corned beef, cabbage Irish egg rolls, rubeen sandwiches, giant pretzels, burgers, wings and chicken tenders.

Christopher's Downtown will have live music playing from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. and will have Irish food specials all day, as well as drink specials.

"We'll have specials on things such as Guinness extra stout," said Ashley Koehler, a waitress at Christopher's. "We'll also be having \$4 Jameson shots and Conway's Irish Ale for \$3, and serving rubeen Sandwiches and corned beef."



PHOTO BY ALYSSA PFLUG/ THE JAMBAR

Another establishment, Suzie's Dogs and Drafts, will have Josh Powell playing from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. and will be open normal hours, closing at 4 a.m.

The Downtown Draft House will be having specials on draft beer and shots, such as Guinness, Irish Car Bombs and Irish whiskey, more specifically Telemundo.

Clarinet to Saxophone: Sam Gregory

BY AMANDA LEHNERD

Sam Gregory, a Youngstown State University music education student, has found music gives him a satisfying feeling that many other activities in life cannot provide.

Starting at a young age, Gregory showed an interest in music by running around his house and day care singing and dancing. The first musical instrument he took an interest in was the clarinet.

After experimenting with the clarinet for a few years, Gregory decided to start playing the saxophone in the seventh grade.

"I viewed saxophone as the 'coolest' of the woodwind instruments," said Greg-

ory. "It has a striking appearance that caught my eye before I knew what sounds it could even produce."

Along with being a student at YSU, Gregory also participates in a band called Husky Suspect. The band started with a group of guys from YSU.

"We got together last semester and started jamming, and we were offered a gig for a last minute opening at Suzie's on Halloween," said Gregory. The band didn't have a name yet, so I got the name from an online band name generator before the gig."

The band mostly classic jazz standards and a few pop tunes with Gregory as the singer, along with six original pieces.

Gregory has always felt that music is an emotional outlet for him.

"Music is something that has always made me feel good," said Gregory. "I'm

able to hear melodies and convey how I feel when I play. So far, I've found that music satisfies me more than any other activity in life."

Many people may not know, but Gregory came into this world as a surprise and has been surprising others with his musical abilities since.

"I was born unexpectedly at my parent's house," said Gregory. "My mom was unaware she could even have children until I popped out."

Along with playing the saxophone, Gregory has decided to spend more time improving his vocals.

"I've spent more time recently listening to vocalists and improving my singing voice," said Gregory. "I've made plenty of progress and have taken a liking to contemporary R&B, soul and jazz artists."

Gregory finds that the best way to im-

prove musically is to internalize the music you listen to, or that you aspire to play.

"Once the sound you wish to create is in your ear, all you have to do is practice consistently until your technique catches up to your ear," he said.

Gregory feels that music can play an important role in anyone's life. If someone is willing to take the time to learn about music they will be able to master it at some level.

"Almost anybody can learn music; very few people are completely tone deaf and void of rhythmic sense," said Gregory. "Anyone can get better at singing or learn to play an instrument with just a little bit of practice every day. Music is something that I believe can provide fulfillment on a greater scale than simply watching television or playing video games."

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THE JAMBAR
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The Jambar Column

Dragons and Michael Jackson

BY JILLIAN SMITH

In the cold mist of an ungodly morning hour, I sprinted for the bus heading to Chongming Island. I dared not think about what would happen if I didn't catch it. Today was the grand opening of Chongming Island Folk and Cultural Center, and for some insane reason, my friends and I had agreed to headline the festivities' entertainment.

As I sat on the bus, eating my Jianbing (something like a cross between a burrito and an omelet), I rehearsed the steps over in my head. We were dancing a rendition of Michael Jackson's "Beat It". Apparently, he remains a hugely popular icon here. I was feeling particularly nervous, as I was slated to have a solo featuring a very Michael-like kick in the air that arched down to a full split, and I wasn't sure how flexible I was going to be in the cold of the morning. Assuring myself, I reasoned that Chongming is a small island, typically used as a nature preserve, and therefore the crowds would not be that great.

Such wishful reasoning was dashed, however, the moment we stepped off of the bus. Throngs of young and old, men and women, musicians and monks were all congregating around the outer gates of the center. Parents were fussing over their children's bright, ornate costumes. Young army boys high-stepped back and forth in formation. Older women giggled at us and asked to take selfies.

I gulped at seeing such a mass of humanity. My nerves were furthered by the realization that I had no idea what we had gotten ourselves into.

My friends and I, around thirty in all, were shuffled into a large temple, where a giant dragon, pieced together from the wood of ancient wealthy families' beds, stood imposingly. There, bald-headed monks with bright yellow

robes handed us sticks of incense. We were told to put it in a large container near the dragon's snout. I came to find out later that the dragon was the symbol for the emperor of China, and all Chinese people, as it is believed that they are descended from a dragon. Therefore, showing respect to the dragon symbolizes a wish of goodwill on China and its people.

After this, we were blessed by the monks and escorted into a massive courtyard. Here, a man sat with what looked like a giant cannon over a fire. Immediately, I jumped and covered my ears; the "cannon" had fired deafeningly. All laughing, the locals brought us over to what was on its inside, popcorn. The legend is that popcorn is a gift from the dragon. The god of heaven had tried to bring a famine to the world as punishment, but the dragon stopped the famine by giving people this new food.

After our popcorn feast, we were taken to the main square. Here, hundreds of people had gathered. Seated above us on a dais was the mayor of Shanghai and a host of what looked like red arm banded party officials. Porcelain looking girls with red dresses and stringed instruments played as we walked by. The crowd parted and we were suddenly in the dead center.

A hush came over the crowd and I knew that our time had come. My friends and I scooted into a formation. A quick breath and the first long, low blast of "Beat It" sounded.

The first two minutes of the song came off without a hitch. I counted down the eight count to my solo. I would like to think I channeled Michael at that moment. I did my kick split and the crowd loved it.

Afterward, for about twenty minutes, group after group came up to my friends and me to take selfies. It was one of the more surreal moments of my life. I never thought that YSU would give me the opportunity to fit dragons and Michael Jackson on the same day, but it has, and I could not be more thankful.

Editorial

Intersectionality: What Is It and Why Should I Care?

You may have heard the term "intersectionality" thrown around a lot, especially after the Women's March on Washington. March is Women's History Month, so now is a better time than ever to learn about intersectionality and why it needs to be recognized.

Upon its creation, Women's History Month was designated to honor and teach about women such as Susan B. Anthony, who fought for women's right to vote, or Marie Curie, a female scientist who won the Nobel Prize and discovered two elements.

In this day and age we understand that, yes, women have achieved great things, but we tend to focus on white women when we talk about women's history or feminism.

Intersectionality understands that feminism can't be a one-size-fit-all approach because not every woman faces the same issues.

It's about being inclusive and understanding of the fact that even though progress has been made to establish women's rights, there are still major barriers for women of color and for those who belong to the LGBTQ community.

For example, a white woman may face some disadvantages because of her gender, but a black lesbian woman faces more discrimination because of her race and sexual ori-

entation.

A Latina woman has problems that Latino men or white women wouldn't understand. A woman who is a lesbian has experiences that can't be understood by gay men or straight women.

Some things, such as sexual violence, can affect anyone, but according to the Centers for Disease Control and Protection, 20 percent of women are raped at least once in their lifetime and 66 percent of bisexual women have reported being raped. The Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network states that three percent of men will be raped in their lifetime.

You can join groups at Youngstown State University and your community to educate yourself on intersectionality issues, or just to have camaraderie with people who want to work towards helping all kinds of people. Groups like YSUnity, for example, are a great place to start.

In addition to these groups, you can also join groups on social media to find like-minded people and share your ideas and experiences. If you want to get involved, check out the Younger Women's Task Force of Youngstown's Facebook page, in which they state: "Feminism is worthless without intersectionality and inclusion."

The Press Box Perspective: Brad Nessler Not a Part of the Madness in '17

BY ANDREW ZUHOSKY

Okay, your bracket is set, your picks for the Final Four in Phoenix have been made and your schedule for the next four days has (hopefully) been cleared. You're ready to watch college basketball all weekend.

You're probably also ready to hear some of the best play-by-play calls you've heard all year from some dynamite announcers.

One of the announcers you won't be hearing call games, not only this weekend, but throughout the entirety of the tournament seen on CBS, TNT, TBS and TruTV is veteran play-by-play man Brad Nessler. He just returned to CBS Sports this season after over 20 years as a commentator for ESPN and ABC.

Nessler has called games for CBS's college basketball package this season and will succeed Verne Lundquist as the play-by-play announcer for the network's Southeastern Conference football package this fall.

In 1991, Nessler worked the NCAA Division I-AA (now Football Championship Subdivision) National Championship Game for CBS Sports, a game won 25-17 by Youngstown State University to capture the first of four FCS titles for current YSU president Jim Tressel.

Additionally, he was the lead play-by-

play announcer for ABC during its inaugural season as the NBA's current broadcast television partner in 2002-2003, being paired with Bill Walton before the two were later joined by Tom Tolbert.

In recent years, Nessler and Dick Vitale worked the Men's Final Four and National Championship, serving as the English language commentary team for international television.

Many of us who grew up in the 2000s and had access to a video game console know Brad Nessler as the voice of the "EA Sports NCAA Football" and "EA Sports NCAA March Madness" (later retitled "EA Sports NCAA Basketball") video game series.

I can remember playing an NCAA Football video game for the first time and hearing Nessler's voice call out "Touchdown, Ohio State!" I thought to myself, "The way he delivered that line, it almost sounds like it was taken from an actual telecast."

Nessler has a knack for making every sporting event he calls exciting.

If I had to select four play-by-play commentators for my Mt. Rushmore of announcers, it'd have to be Gus Johnson of FOX Sports, Cleveland Indians radio play-by-play commentator Tom Hamilton, former UFC announcer Mike Goldberg and Brad Nessler.

Personally, when I first read online that Nessler was not going to be part an

announcer for March Madness, I was very surprised.

Don't get me wrong, the commentators that CBS Sports and Turner have for the tournament this year (led by Jim Nantz, Bill Raftery and Grant Hill) are great, but Nessler would give CBS/Turner that much more star power.

Richard Deitsch, a reporter for si.com, was frequently asked why Nessler was left off CBS/Turner's starting lineup for the tourney this year. In his March 5 sports media column, Deitsch mentioned that he was given an answer to that question.

He said that he was told by someone at CBS, "We have a great bench of play by play announcers."

CBS certainly does have fantastic broadcasters working the tournament. Nantz has been working the Final Four as play-by-play announcer every year since 1991 after Brent Musburger was fired by CBS the year before.

Keep in mind that CBS/Turner's play-by-play roster for the NCAA Tournament can change from year to year. They could make alterations for next year as time progresses.

So while Brad Nessler isn't part of the tournament in 2017, it might be just for 2017.

Enjoy the remaining 63 tournament games. If you need a buddy to watch the games with you, my door's open. Bring the wings.

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Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Collegiate Press honors. The Jambar is published 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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By: L. A. Bonté

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YSU Pro Day: NFL Scouts Come to Campus

PHOTO BY MARC WEEMS/ THE JAMBAR

Both Derek Rivers (left) and Avery Moss (right) work on a pass catching drill with former Pittsburgh Steelers legend Kevin Greene.

BY MARC WEEMS

With the National Football League Draft just over a month away, Youngstown State University had its pro day to showcase talent. Former Penguins Avery Moss, Derek Rivers, Leroy Alexander, and Jody Webb headlined the class.

This year's pro day had almost twice as many scouts as last year. Last year, there was 10 NFL teams. This time around, nearly 20 teams showed up to see everyone perform. Teams like the New England Patriots, Cleveland Browns and Pittsburgh Steelers showed.

"I'm trying to get to bigger and better things but this is a start," Webb said. "I was ready. It was a long time coming."

Webb said that leading up to this, he trained in Florida to get in shape for this pro day.

At the beginning, everyone that partic-

ipated did the vertical leap and the bench press after they all weighed in and got their height measured. Offensive lineman Dylan Colucci put up the most reps at 23.

"This was definitely made easier having a lot of other teammates with us," Alexander said. "I wasn't so nervous but more anxious to see what I can do. Just try to put on a show in front of scouts and put myself out there."

Along with the four guys mentioned, Colucci, Brock Eisenhuth, David Rivers III, Martin Ruiz and Jameel Smith among others participated as well.

"Seeing four other pro days and now having mine is very humbling," Alexander said. "One more step and dreams become reality. I just have to keep working each and every day."

Lost in the shuffle of different drills is how clean everyone looked. Unofficially, Webb ran a 4.43 40-yard dash.

"It was a blessing," Rivers said. "It was tiring but no one was messing around. It was nice to be out there with my brother,

Avery [Moss]."

Rivers said that because he was a part of the NFL combine that the pro day was less nerve-racking than it could have been.

"I remembered last year that there was only one guy," Rivers said. "I was just wondering how position drills were going to be. I thought I did well. Me and Avery have private workouts and meetings with teams. Everyone has told us just to not stop working."

All eyes were on Rivers and Moss when Steelers legend Kevin Greene put them together for a drill to see how well they catch. Former Steelers linebacker Joey Porter was also in attendance.

"This was definitely a great experience," Moss said. "It was humbling. I knew I had to work on stuff before. Even though there is two of us in the gauntlet, you definitely want to be more conditioned. The combine helped set me at ease but we are still competing for a job every day."

Moss said that no matter what the competition, they still have to compete with

guys nationally.

"The only thing different from this to the combine is the gauntlet," Moss said. "There you have 12 guys in front of you but here once you do something you have to do it again."

YSU's Pro Day was the last chance that players could prove themselves publicly. That doesn't mean the competition will stop.

"I had a lot of baggage during my junior year," Moss said. "Coming here from Nebraska, I didn't take everything as serious as I should've. Before my senior year, I got even stronger. Derek [Rivers] helped me with that both mentally and physically. We started working out and it didn't matter when or where."

Moss also said that he still has something to prove and doesn't want to disappoint anyone. Having Rivers alongside him helped propel him to where he is.

The NFL Draft goes from April 27 through April 29.

PRO DAY



What A Start: Andrew Kendrick Starts the Season Hot

BY MARC WEEMS

With Youngstown State University baseball under new management, first baseman Andrew Kendrick flourished. In that same timeframe, YSU beat the No. 17 ranked Georgia Tech on February 26. Kendrick helped YSU with three hits including a three-run home run.

“Our coaches kind of got us ready the entire month before,” Kendrick said. “We were getting at-bats off our own pitchers. It helped that we got live at-bats before we played any games. For me, it was just a matter of guys getting on base in front of me.”

Kendrick’s hitting has helped YSU secure two wins this season with many close losses.

“He [Kendrick] had a really good fall for us,” YSU head coach Dan Bertolini said. “We have had a change in philosophy in what we want to do. We are trying to get the ball in the air and lift the ball a little bit more. He had some really great at-bats. He’s the first guy in here and the last guy out.”

Bertolini also said that Kendrick worked really hard on his craft to get to the point he is at.

So far this season, YSU has struggled to just two wins through 13 games.

“We had an idea of his start. We didn’t think it would be that hot,” Bertolini said. “He’s been doing a great job for us all season. I think it was important for people to have improvement.

Lorenzo Arcuri had a good week last week. It’s nice to take pressure off other guys when someone is swinging a hot bat.”

Last season, Kendrick hit just four home runs in 50 games played. He also had just 20 runs batted in [RBI] with 34 walks. This season, he already has 16 RBI’s with five walks through 12 games.

“The new coaching staff has been awesome,” Kendrick said. “They changed our offensive mindset. The way we approach the plate has totally changed and our numbers have really showed that. The coaches always talk about staying even keel. In baseball, you will have ups and downs.”

Kendrick also said the team still keeps

that aggressive mindset with anything it does.

“If someone is playing well, then somebody else will stay aggressive and put a ball in the gaps,” Kendrick said. “No matter what, we are staying aggressive and hitting the ball well. We’ve scored a lot of runs.”

YSU averages 5.1 runs per game but gives up 10.6 runs each game. Kendrick said no matter those numbers that the team needs to stay as aggressive as ever.

“You try not to tell him anything,” Bertolini said about Kendrick’s hot start. “We just kept reinforcing to have good at-bats. I told him he was having good at-bats. He wasn’t swinging at bad pitches. He had good takes but you try to stay away and let him do his thing.”

Bertolini also said sometimes leaving someone alone when they are hitting that well is the best thing for a person.

“Getting that first win under our belt was nice,” Kendrick said about beating Georgia Tech.

“That was coach’s first Division I win. In general, it was a big win over a big, nationally-ranked school. It proved that



PHOTO COURTESY OF YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

Andrew Kendrick (21) waits for a pitch in a game against the University of Illinois-Chicago.

we are a pretty good team. That was a big confidence boost for the team.”

That win against Georgia Tech was in fact coach Bertolini’s first ever Division I win.

“The whole first week I was trying to hit a ball hard and try to get a win,” Kendrick said. “Luckily, some balls went over the fence and guys were on base. That made me look good. I just want to help the team win. If I do my part, the team benefits from that.”

Southern Tee Off: YSU Men’s Golf Gets Season Going

BY RICK HENNEMAN

With spring being right around the corner, the Youngstown State University men’s golf team will be looking to make some noise. YSU placed seventh out of eight teams in the Preseason Golf Poll just ahead of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

“I think we are going to be a much better team in the spring than we were in the fall,” YSU head coach Tony Joy said. “When you lose three seniors, you have guys now that weren’t competing on a consistent basis. In the all, we sort of overcame that issue.”

Joy said that he has been really positive about what he has seen coming into spring.

YSU played in its first tournament of the year in Athens, GA. The Southern Intercollegiate hosted 15 teams from around the country. YSU placed thirteenth out of the 15 teams. Steven Sveda led the way with a team-low 152 in two rounds.

“I’m going to use what I learned last year to try to be better this year,” Sveda said. “In the winter, the most important thing is conditioning. We try to change things up

with our hit training.”

Sveda placed sixth at the Horizon League Championship last year. He said that he wants to be better than he was last year but wants his results to be team results.

Sveda’s teammate, Thomas Lydic, placed second in the Southern Intercollegiate just five strokes behind.

“I’ve looked to improve everything,” Lydic said. “I haven’t focused on anything more than another. Probably my short game more than anything if there was something. I’ve looked more off the field with being a leader and helping the team.”

Lydic said that his goal every time he gets in the tee box is to get a round under 75. He also said that it is hard not to look ahead but they are ready for everything.

The Penguins will compete in four more tournaments before the Horizon League Championships from Apr. 23-25.

“I saw a lot of positives from the guys during that tournament,” Joy said about the Southern Intercollegiate. “It’s a big difference not having our three seniors from last year. It takes a while to get guys going. When you only count five guys, one score can make a big difference.”

Joy also said that he is starting to see both seniors,

Lydic and Sveda, are taking the positions that they should be.

“I had a slow start,” Lydic said. “You always want to win but it is nice to get out there against good competition. We can build off that going forward to Virginia.”

YSU’s next tournament is the Kingsmill Intercollegiate in Williamsburg, VA.

“Indoors you can work on stuff but it’s limited,” Joy said. “Certain guys don’t have natural swings and need some outside time. Dom Carano is one of those guys that needs time to get himself together. He’ll be in the lineup at William & Mary.”

Joy also said that an issue during the season is students hitting the academic wall since no one is used to golfing and studying.

“We don’t compete as much between us two,” Sveda said. “I feel like the younger guys have improved a lot. Especially our juniors who have been doing really well. We try to make sure they don’t beat us but at the same time, we are a team. That’s what matters.”

YSU’s next tournament which is hosted by William & Mary College will test the Penguins and that is exactly what Joy wants for his team.