

The Jambar

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

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Officials examine \$4.5 million loss in revenue

Jordan D. Uhl
NEWS EDITOR

A 4.3 percent decrease in fall enrollment has resulted in a \$4.5 million loss in revenue at Youngstown State University, something officials didn't see coming.

With 654 fewer students in classrooms this fall than last, head count enrollment sits at 14,540. Last year, fall head count enrollment was the

highest since 1983 at 15,194 students.

Full-time equivalent enrollment was 12,093, and administrators incorrectly assumed it would rise this fall.

"Since YSU budgeted for a 1 percent increase in FTE enrollment this year, the drop in enrollment means a loss of an estimated \$4.5 million in what was budgeted for the university's general fund," a press release stated.

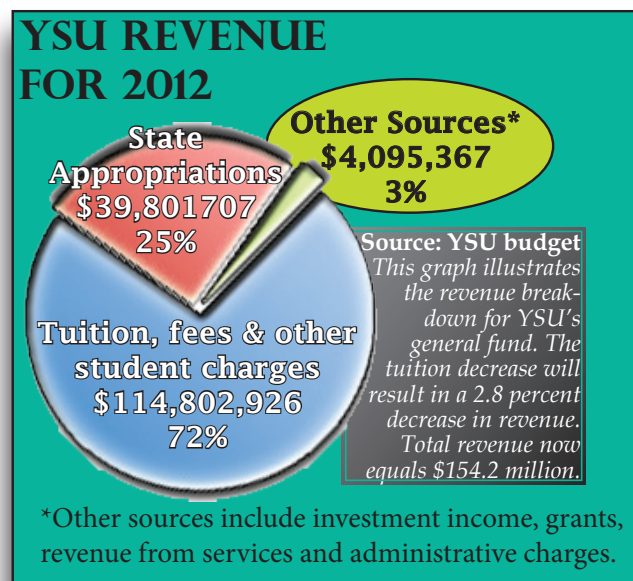
The fiscal year 2012 oper-

ating budget was already projecting a \$1.7 million deficit.

"This does increase the deficit," said Ron Cole, director of university communications. He added that while the deficit is expected to increase, it's too early to say by how much.

"It is important that we all understand the severity of the situation and the significant budgetary actions that will be needed to address it," Eugene

ENROLLMENT PAGE 4



GRAPHIC BY DOUG LIVINGSTON/THE JAMBAR



(ABOVE) Instructor Ana Wetzl teaches a writing class at the YSU Metro College while her students follow the lecture online using Blackboard. Students and faculty are using online forums to view assignments and lecture power points. (LEFT) Sophomore and business management major Tim Young accesses Blackboard 9 through the MyYSU portal during Wetzl's class on Monday at the YSU Metro College in Boardman. Photos by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

YSU gets technical online

Dustin Livesay
REPORTER

Students in Ana Wetzl's writing class at the Youngstown State University Metro College gaze into computer monitors. Her students, like many across YSU's main campus, are using the Internet to stay connected to coursework.

"More teachers should use Blackboard," said senior Levi Dixie, a religious studies major.

Dixie has used other Web-based programs like Blackboard. He's never been more satisfied.

YSU has implemented much-needed technology improvements in classrooms by introducing new learning management systems to assist teachers and students.

Learning management systems are nothing new to

YSU. WebCT was used for many years. However, in the past few years, Media & Academic Computing upgraded to Blackboard.

"WebCT was a lot easier to work with than Blackboard, but the new Blackboard 9 has a lot more options than WebCT and is much easier to use," Dixie said.

Blackboard allows students to remotely access syllabi and coursework. Professors and teachers upload curriculum, and students log on using their MyYSU portal ID and password.

Lloyd Painter, manager of technology customer support and training at Media & Academic Computing, said about 40 percent of all classes at YSU use Blackboard.

It makes it easier for teachers to use PowerPoint presentations and for students to get assignments, he said.

"[Blackboard] allows stu-

dents to go on and look at their assignments on the screen, or they can print out a paper copy to have with them in case they don't have Internet at home," Painter said.

Students have the ability to link Blackboard to their smartphones and other devices to have on-the-go access to teachers' notes and upcoming assignments.

Painter said new features and functions would be available for Blackboard. New enhancements are projected over winter break.

The math department started using Pearson's MyLabsPlus in the summer. Prior to that, the department used CourseCompass.

MyMathLab is a series of online courses that accompany Pearson's math textbooks. Pearson, which publishes textbooks and other student aids, stated that MyMathLab has helped more than 9 mil-

lion students at 1,900 colleges and universities nationwide. According to a Pearson survey, 80 percent of more than 3,800 students said the program helped them get a higher grade.

Annette Burden, the interim distance education director, said YSU switched because students' Banner accounts translated easily.

Students are also given access to the program 21 days prior to class start. This is important because on occasions when there might be a delay in financial aid, some students wouldn't have funds to purchase the textbook and program.

"We have experienced a significant increase in the passing rate since we first started using CourseCompass [and MyMathLab], and we are seeing the same results with

TECHNOLOGY PAGE 4

Budgetary distractions will not affect 2020 plan

Marissa McIntyre
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Youngstown State University officials said the labor and budgetary issues will not affect future implementation of the university's 2020 strategic plan.

"Much of [the 2020 plan] has to do with planning, not budget," said Scott Schulick, former board of trustees chairman. "That's not going to stop us from moving forward."

In July, the administration and board of trustees participated in a retreat to discuss the university's 2020 strategic plan in hopes of figuring out how the plan will be put into effect amid contract negotiations and a drop in enrollment.

The plan consists of four cornerstones and is governed by a 52-member steering committee, which convened in summer 2010 with little progress.

The four parts of the plan being implemented as priority include improving students' academic success, attaining a more defined urban research university profile, managing university resources effectively and optimizing collaborative partnerships and community engagement to help improve the quality of life in the region.

The focus will be on improving students' academic success, course completion rates and freshman orientation programs.

Jack Fahey, vice president for student affairs, said most students graduate on time. However, this is still something that the university would like to improve.

In order to fulfill this, the committee is devising plans for every major and program to help keep students on track. This also involves making sure those students stay in class rather than withdrawing or failing out, Fahey said.

He said this starts at the beginning, making sure students

BUDGET PAGE 4

YSU professors construct new kind of children's book

Chad Travers
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
REPORTER

Youngstown State University teachers Lee and Johanna Slivinske decided to help children and their families work through trauma by writing a book.

"Storytelling and Other Activities for Children in Therapy" addresses issues ranging from divorce and death to shyness and bullying. It consists of fictional stories that gradually take the reader through four levels of inquiry as they progress toward self-examination.

A chapter for military families helps children understand why a parent is away, as well as terrorism and its effect on childhood. A section of particular importance in this economic climate focuses on job loss and poverty. The book even includes an online component that allows parents to personalize the stories with details from their own child's life.

"There are a lot of positive things in the book as well," said Lee Slivinske, a social work professor. "It's not all about negative events. Bad things may happen, but there are a lot of good things going on in families. There's a whole chapter on fun, happiness and strengths."

Johanna Slivinske, a part-time social work instructor, said she felt this kind of book was a necessary addition to childhood development.

"We saw so many children that were hurting, both in our personal and professional lives, and we felt that there was a need for this type of book," she said.

There have been multiple instances that have influenced the instructors to create this type of book.

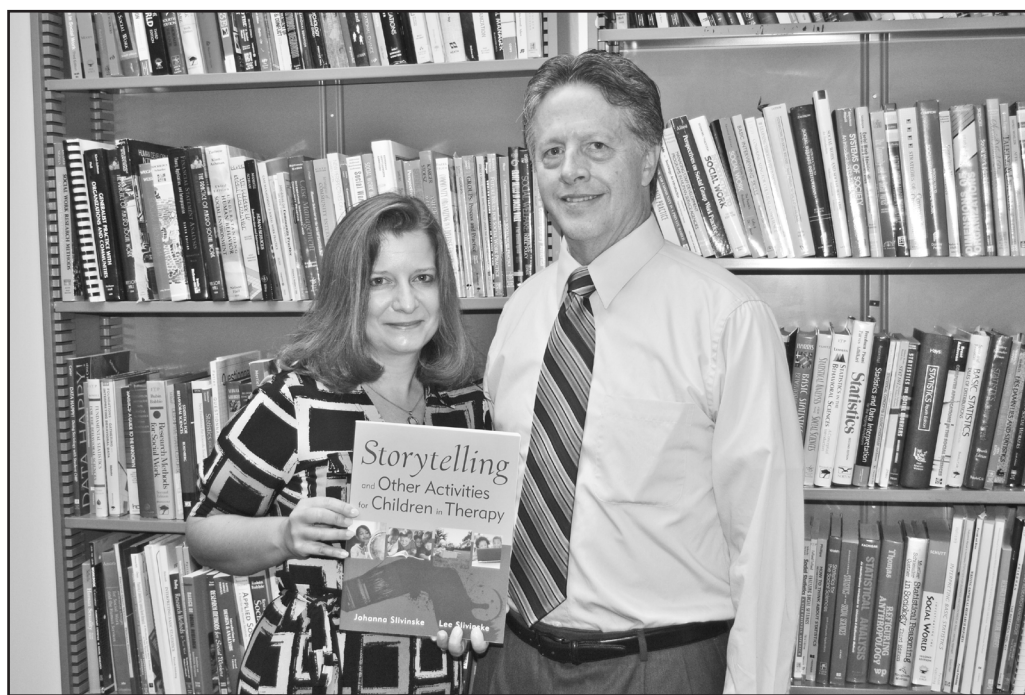
"I was personally motivated by seeing friends and community members suffering with cancer who were trying to raise children and realizing the impact that diseases like that can have on families. I wanted to try and help these families overcome the issues and trauma that they were experiencing," Johanna Slivinske said.

Lee Slivinske said he agrees and feels that children need the opportunity to cope with unexpected incidents.

"Events like these affect every member of the family, from the pets to the adults to the grandparents and even members of the community," he said. "These events, the loss of a parent, abuse, even a natural disaster, can serve as turning points in a person's life."

Johanna Slivinske said part of what her and her husband try to do in the book is enable children to heal from those experiences, to grow and to promote resilience so they can go on to become successful and productive adults.

Both recall situations in their childhoods that have deeply affected them. A book like this was not available to them as children, however, and they believe it would



Youngstown State University instructors Johanna and Lee Slivinske show off their new book: "Storytelling and Other Activities for Children in Therapy." Photo by Chad Travers/The Jambar.

have helped.

When Lee Slivinske was a child, his mother became seriously ill. He and his siblings did what young children often do: They assumed it was their fault.

"We were always told that there were things we had to do: chores, jobs, responsibilities," he said. "We had just gotten a lecture about it a few weeks before she got sick, so we thought it was our fault. It would have been nice to have someone explain to us that it wasn't our fault, but we never verbalized it, we just internalized it."

Johanna Slivinske said that when children of certain ages experience a traumatic event such as a divorce or

death they are more likely to blame themselves due to their egocentric nature at that stage of their development. If left unresolved, these issues can often follow people into adulthood.

As a child, she watched her mother suffer a stroke. There is a story in the book that recalls a mother's ambulance ride and hospital stay from the perspective of a child.

"Although the stories are all fiction, there is a kernel of truth in that particular one," she said.

While the book is designed for children, adults with lingering questions can benefit from it as well. The couple believes that their work could

be used as a supplementary textbook in social work courses and will be an excellent resource for counselors and child psychologists.

The instructors' 12-year-old daughter even contributed to the book.

"I was spending a lot of time writing at home and one day our daughter just came up to me and said, 'Here, Mom. I wrote this for your book,'" Johanna Slivinske said. "It was a great story about a girl who watches her friend get hit by a car and sees her confined to a wheelchair. We decided that was exactly the kind of thing we wanted for the book. It was great to be able to include a story from a child's perspective."

A call for accountability of elected officials — and their constituents

Darla Conti
REPORTER

State Rep. Robert F. Hagan of Youngstown is set to introduce legislation that will require alcohol and drug testing for statewide elected officials.

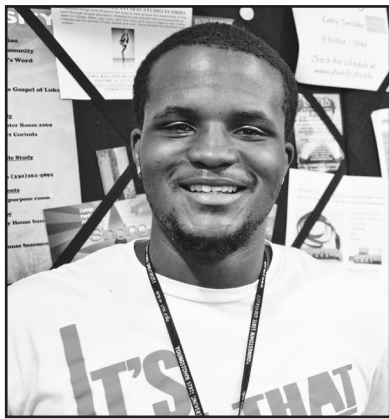
The legislation is a reaction to state Rep. Tim Grendell's proposed legislation, which would require recipients of federal aid to be drug tested.

"Quit picking on the poor," Hagan said. "The Republicans have already gone against the middle class with [Senate Bill 5], and now they're going against our working poor."

Hagan's proposed legislation would require state legislators, elected officials and JobsOhio board members to be drug tested, with the public official footing the bill. The consequences of substance abuse would include removal from public office and other actions such as drug treatment and rehabilitation.

Similarly, Grendell's legislation would require those receiving welfare, Medicaid, housing, food and energy assistance to be drug tested. The legislation would require welfare recipients to pay for the testing. Anyone who fails a urine test will be prohibited from operating a motor vehicle and will lose assistance for 30 days. State-approved rehabilitation will be required to continue to receive public assistance.

Do you think that students should be drug tested for financial aid?



"Yes, because if people fail it, then there will be more money for people that don't do drugs. That would benefit me." - Kesner Auguste



"Yes, they should be because they're spending their money on drugs when they should be spending on school." - Katie Heney



"No, they shouldn't do that. A kid doing drugs doesn't make them a bad person to not receive financial aid." - Patrick Matey

Ryan Beil, Youngstown State University junior and vice chairman of the College Republicans, said he feels Grendell's legislation is great because it establishes transparency in the welfare system.

"Currently many people in the private sector, as well as public sector, must conform to drug tests in order to get a job," Beil said. "So why shouldn't people on government assistance have to do the same?"

YSU students have different viewpoints when it comes to drug testing for financial aid.

"They shouldn't do that," Pat-

rick Matey said. "A kid doing drugs doesn't make them a bad person to not receive financial aid."

Junior Ryan Ferebee said just because students do drugs doesn't mean they can't do well in school.

"I think it will have more people conscious of what they're doing and help them stay focused," Samantha Gyles said.

Jager Hill said as an African-American, he sees a lot of other African-Americans doing drugs and drug testing would help set a good example for them.

"I feel it would set the young

adult's mind into reality to make smarter decisions for their future," Hill said.

More than two dozen other states have enacted legislation similar to Grendell's, including Florida, where the American Civil Liberties Union is bringing a lawsuit against the new law that requires recipients of welfare to be drug tested. The ACLU claims the law is unconstitutional. Gov. Rick Scott signed the new law in May.

Grendell was unavailable for comment due to his recent appointment of juvenile court judge in Geauga County.

STEM, Delphi research project to soon be under way

Kevin Alquist
NEWS REPORTER

Progress has slowed on the joint research project between Youngstown State University's College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and Delphi, the Warren-based automotive systems company.

The aluminum battery-cable project is being tested with the intention to replace or work in unison with copper-cabled batteries used in cars today. Since aluminum is lighter than copper, the vehicle's cost and gas mileage will decrease.

After receiving the Ohio Third Frontier grant of \$1 million in the spring through the Ohio Department of Development, the YSU research team, consisting of faculty and graduate students, congregated to begin work on the project.

A change of governor administrations, however, led to a mandatory review of the Ohio Third Frontier and ODOD procedures, and consequently put a halt on the progress of YSU's portion of the research.

The change requires that Delphi also go through state review because of the grant money received.

Michael Hripko, director of STEM research, said that wait-

ing is part of any process that involves two separate teams coming together on a project, but added that the project is not starting as quickly as he had originally hoped.

"There is nothing going on that we did not anticipate in waiting for the state to make the necessary reviews," Hripko said. "There is always time between the announcement and the start of research development."

The division of the grant money between YSU and Delphi is another point that must be negotiated before research on the project begins. Agreements are being made to start development as soon as possible.

"In most situations YSU receives the grant money and the university is responsible for the distribution," said Virgil Solomon, a lead researcher and YSU professor. "This time the situation is backwards and Delphi received the money."

Solomon recently met with engineers from Delphi to outline the scope of work for the YSU research team. Meetings have increased in recent weeks to discuss legal ways for Delphi to transfer money to the university.

"We have not started the YSU portion of the research," Hripko said. "For now, we have done all we can do."

He said he anticipates the project will gain significant

momentum over the next few months, and development should begin during the spring semester.

Solomon said he will meet this week with the graduate students involved to discuss plans to begin research. The time frame of the project has not affected the students, who will go through with the research as planned.

"I want things to come together so we can move forward with our research," Solomon said. "This is a great opportunity for all who are involved and we are very excited for things to get underway."

Representatives from Delphi were unavailable for comment.

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NEWS BRIEFS

YSU prof investigates privacy in social media

Patrick Bateman, assistant professor of management, recently studied how the public nature of social networking sites affects what users will disclose. In "To Disclose or Not: Publicness in Social Networking Sites," which was published in Information Technology & People, Bateman and two colleagues concluded that the more public the site, the less willing users are to disclose personal information. This study debunks the widely believed theory that people will participate more fully online when a site is more public because it provides an open stage for communication.

SMARTS, CreativeBridge Coalition launch new program

SMARTS, or Students Motivated by the Arts, and CreativeBridge Coalition have collaborated to create the SMARTS Rhythmic Arts Project. SMARTS Trap, which is a percussion-based intervention program, teaches life skills to special needs students from kindergarten to 12th grade. The pilot project will take place at as many as five partner locations that cater to youth with cognitive and developmental disabilities.

POLICE BRIEFS

Two enter Cafaro with lingering marijuana scent

On Monday, a man and a woman entered Cafaro House with the strong scent of marijuana emanating from them. The woman, a Cafaro resident, said she forgot to sign out her male guest when the two left. However, the man, who was unsteady on his feet and whose eyes were red and glassy, had "maxed out" his visits. Upon questioning by YSU Police, the man said he had been at a party where people were smoking marijuana. An officer searched the man and found drug paraphernalia and a small bag of suspected marijuana. YSU Police issued the man a court date for possession of drugs and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Student vomits, 'time travels' during football game

During the YSU-Valparaiso University game on Saturday, a YSU police officer found an unconscious man in the grass field between the east stands and the tennis courts. The officer noticed vomit on the man's clothing and the strong smell of alcohol. After waking up the man, the officer asked for identification — which the man produced after five minutes of rummaging through his wallet. Upon questioning, the man also said that the current year was 2014. He was transported to St. Elizabeth Health Center for an examination.

Student found in Bliss Hall without permission

A YSU police officer noticed lights on in the Bliss Hall band room on Saturday. After further investigation, the officer found a male student on his laptop and cellphone in a percussion room next to the band practice room. When asked by the officer how he entered the locked building, the student said, "You just pull on the door." The officer escorted the student out of the building and told him not to return after hours until he was placed on an admittance list.

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TECHNOLOGY PAGE 1

[MyLabsPlus] since they are essentially the same product," Burden said.

Burden said online pretests allow students to prepare for exams, subsequently boosting grades and increasing comprehension of course material. These Web-based programs also cause educators to be "held more accountable in the learning process," she said.

Sophomore Jeremy Kollar said he found MyMathLab, particularly practice tests and problems, to be helpful.

"They can walk you through the problems you are having a hard time with, step by step, until you understand them," Kollar said.

ENROLLMENT PAGE 1

Grilli, vice president for finance and administration, said in the press release.

An unexpected budgetary change will now demand action, YSU President Cynthia Anderson said.

"We are now facing serious financial circumstances that will require difficult decisions and sacrifices, even beyond what we have been discussing to this point," she said in the press release.

Cole said no specific areas, departments or measures have been identified as resolution criterion. He also denied that this would affect the student body in any way.

Anderson, too, remained optimistic.

"I want to assure students that their success will remain

the focal point of all we do, and that we will continue to maintain and enhance our quality academic and student services on campus," she said in the press release.

The reason for the decrease remains unknown.

"We're reviewing the data and demographics," said Jack Fahey, vice president for student affairs.

Many factors come into play when examining enrollment increases and decreases, such as where students are from and whether they are just entering college or returning after a brief respite.

In a press release sent Aug. 29, Fahey said the administration indicated "that labor issues over the summer that put into question the start of fall

semester classes was a large factor" in the decrease, which at that time was estimated at 2.5 percent.

However, he was reluctant to make the same accusation after numbers were solidified.

"Whether it was created by unrest or not, we need to review the data before I can say something like that," Fahey said. "What [we] said in the last press release was this was the first time enrollment dropped in 10 years, with 2005 being the only other time when there was also labor unrest."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Several phone calls were made to Eugene Grilli, vice president for finance and administration, and Neal McNally, budget director, without responses.

BUDGET PAGE 1

have taken placement tests and have the proper skills to be successful within the class.

"If there is a problem, we can pull you out of that class in time so that students don't waste a semester," Fahey said.

Fahey added that implementing a proper freshman entrance program would also be a focus, since YSU is one of the only universities in the U.S. that does not have one.

Attaining a more defined urban research university profile for YSU would involve becoming a more selective university and developing programs with more "hands-on" research for students.

The committee would also like to see more graduate pro-

grams and research grants.

Optimizing collaborative partnerships and community engagement to help improve the quality of life in our region, Fahey said, is an area that will take action by stretching YSU's current state.

Fahey said the university is doing well in this area but can still do a lot better.

"We have a lot of pride in our partnerships with community groups," he said.

Enrollment is down this fall, which has made it difficult to manage university resources efficiently, Fahey said. He added that the committee recognizes this and is putting it at the forefront.

"We knew we were doing this at a time when resources were precious," Fahey said.

Schulick said if the budget gets in the way "we will rethink implementing parts of the plan."

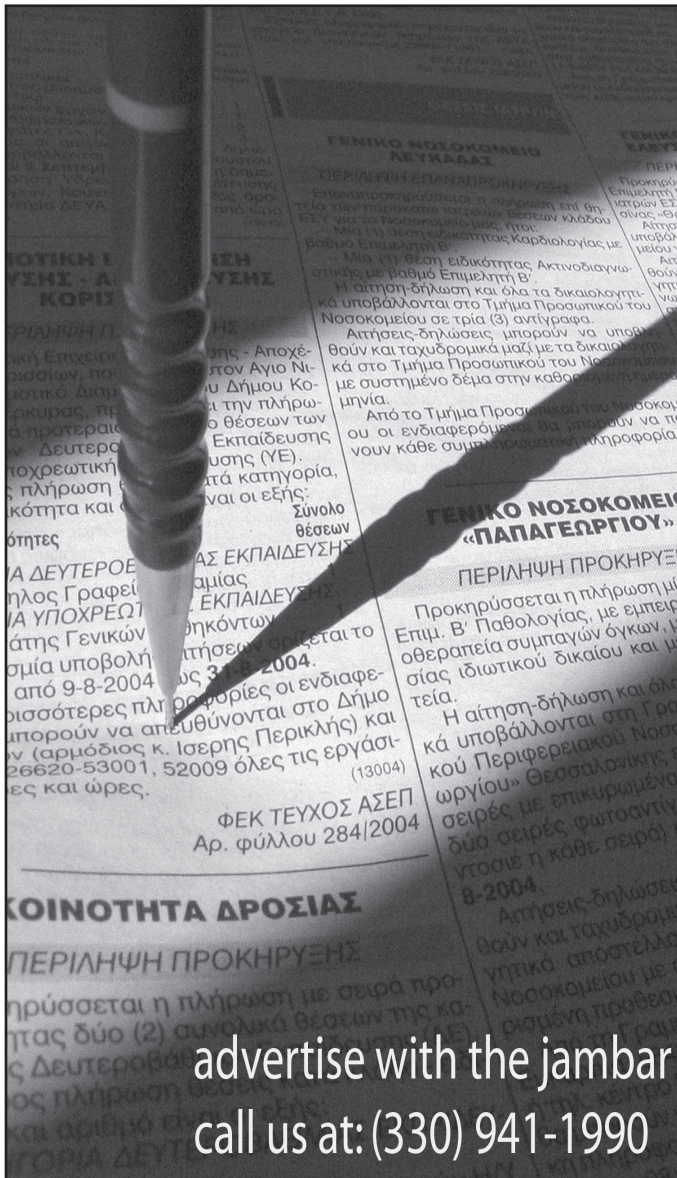
Improving academic progress is going to be a focus in this category as well, since retaining students within the university will bring in revenue.

"Some of the things are revenue enhancing," Fahey said.

The board of trustees is working on a format for meetings about the strategic plan to make progress and move forward.

CORRECTION

In Tuesday's edition of The Jambar, we incorrectly reported the time of the Hispanic Heritage Month closing ceremony, held Oct. 15 at the McDonough Museum of Art. The ceremony will begin at noon and last until 3 p.m. We regret the error.



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OUR SIDE

The deficit distraction

The Jambar
EDITORIAL BOARD

RELATED STORY
ENROLLMENT PAGE 1

After 654 students left the university, the administration quickly resumed the negotiations singsong.

"The drop in enrollment means a loss of an estimated \$4.5 million in what was budgeted for the university's general fund," wrote Ron Cole, director of university communications, in a press release sent just one day after the 14-day enrollment statistics rolled in.

The university has never made a case for lost revenue. Yet administrators suddenly publicize their poor judgment in projecting this year's student population, further stockpiling their negotiation ammunition.

"We are now facing serious financial circumstances that will require difficult decisions and sacrifices, even beyond what we have been discussing to this point," Anderson decries in her letter.

We are told the loss in revenue will not affect us. Let's hope this prediction is more accurate than the last.

Now, we're not mathematicians. But something doesn't add up.

The university lost \$4.5 million in revenue from the fleeting students. That's less than three percent of the \$158.7 million estimated.

Three percent.

If we have no contingency plan for a 3 percent ripple, then how are we to position ourselves for future cuts from the federal and state governments?

The cuts are on the way, make no doubt about it.

Federal programs are being cut. State contribution deficits are shoved on the backs of the students. And, somehow, the university expected enrollment to increase.

Maybe when we plan for revenue next year, we'll assume that the cash flow is diminishing and run a tighter ship.

**OUR SIDE POLICY**

The editorial board that writes Our Side editorials consists of the editor-in-chief, managing editor and news editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles and draw on the opinions of the entire writing staff. The Jambar's business manager and non-writing staff do not contribute to editorials, and the adviser does not have final approval.

YOUR SIDE POLICY

The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Email submissions are welcome at editor@thejambar.com. Letters should concern campus issues, must be typed and must not exceed 400 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification and the writer's city of residence for printing. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. The editorial board reserves the right to reject commentaries that are libelous or that don't defend opinion with facts from reliable sources. The editorial board will request a rewrite from the submitting writer based on these requirements.

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The views and opinions expressed in letters and commentaries on the opinion page do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the faculty, staff or administration of Youngstown State University.



The views of this artist do not necessarily agree with those of The Jambar.

LETTER TO THE STUDENTS

Most of you have probably already read or heard about our latest enrollment numbers and the impact they will have on our budget, but I wanted to send this note to make sure everyone is informed of the situation.

Our enrollment has been steadily increasing over the past decade. Last year, we hit a 20-year high. We projected that trend to continue this year. In fact, however, our headcount enrollment, which is the actual number of individual students enrolled, is down 4.3 percent, or 653 students, this fall semester. Of even greater importance, our full-time

equivalent enrollment — a measure that is used in budgeting at both the university and state levels — is down 3.5 percent. Jack Fahey, vice president for student affairs, is parsing the numbers to determine the reasons for the decrease. The bottom line is that the drop in enrollment means a loss of an estimated \$4.5 million in what was budgeted for the university's general fund for this fiscal year. That is on top of a projected \$1.7 million deficit already in the general fund budget.

We have said for some time now that the budgetary challenges facing YSU are great. This unexpected drop in enrollment and the resulting loss in revenue make the situation worse. We are now facing serious financial circumstances that will require difficult decisions and sacrifices, even beyond

what we have been discussing to this point. It is important that we all understand the severity of the situation and the significant budgetary actions that will be needed to address it.

That said, I also want to assure students that their success will remain the focal point of all we do, and that we will continue to maintain and enhance our quality academic and student services on campus. As I have said many, many times over the past several weeks, these are difficult, uncertain and stressful times for us all. This institution has persevered for more than a century. We will get through this. I thank you for your continued dedication to and work on behalf of our students.

Cynthia E. Anderson
YSU PRESIDENT

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

As a student who is on the outside looking in, I have watched with great interest the negotiations between our faculty and ACE unions and YSU administration. Negotiations have been tenuous, at least, and I am sure all three sides have valid points to their respective arguments. That being said, the name-calling and finger pointing that has taken place away from the negotiating table leaves me puzzled. I think everyone realized that these negotiations would be tough, but bringing Dr. Anderson's salary into play without noting her generous giving back to YSU in the form of scholarships is wrong.

As a proud member of our Greek system, I take great pride in noting the support Dr. Anderson has lent over the years, help-

ing with mailing, recruitment brochures and our annual Greek Sing programs as we strive to get better. She is there for all students and all registered organizations, both honorary and social. She has a pronounced track record of caring for students, and for that we cannot thank her enough. Some university presidents never leave their ivory towers in order to connect with their respective students. I am proud to say that Dr. Anderson is one that leaves the ivory tower in order to connect with her students.

One of the most memorable moments of Dr. Anderson's presidency happened on the first day back to YSU. While walking from the parking deck, I saw Dr. Anderson in full force welcoming students back to school by shaking their hands or giving them a hug,

asking them how their day was going with a smile on her face.

We students felt these would be tough negotiations because of the hard financial times. With exempt workers already facing a zero salary increase, things can only get tougher. Many wonderful things are happening on behalf of the students under Dr. Anderson's watch. Her salary should have no bearing on negotiations. I am just wondering if, in the 15 short months that Dr. Anderson has been in office, she hasn't been the most generous and visible president of all when it comes to giving back to her alma mater and her employer.

DJ O'Hara
PHI KAPPA TAU PRESIDENT
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Why PETA is ready to go all the way for animals

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals MCT

In preparation for the new .xxx Internet domain that will launch later this year, businesses are rushing to preregister their websites to prevent cybersquatters from creating X-rated rip-offs of their brands. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals is also signing up, but we're not blocking our name. Instead, we're launching a graphic, "not safe for work" (NSFW) website that will open people's eyes to what truly dirty things are being done — not in someone's fantasy, but in reality — to animals exploited in the meat, fur and circus trades.

A PETA triple-X site? It's a provocative idea — and that's the point.

We at PETA have gained a reputation for bold actions because we are willing to go where few organizations dare, as long as we can make people aware of issues affecting animals.

Sometimes that has meant lying nearly nude inside Styrofoam containers labeled as "meat" or wearing little more than bodypaint

to protest the cruelty of the fishing industry. And it has meant arranging photography sessions with compassionate adult-film industry greats, including Sasha Grey, Ron Jeremy and Jenna Jameson, who have appeared in our ads promoting spaying and neutering companion animals — reminding the public that "Too Much Sex Can Be a Bad Thing" — and urging viewers to "Pleather Yourself" (instead of wearing real animal skins).

Still, some people were shocked to learn of our plans to register the PETA.xxx website. But they shouldn't be. While people bothered by online erotica resort to heated discussions, a great many others enjoy taking a peek at what's getting everyone so hot and bothered in the first place, judging from the massive popularity of X-rated sites. And it's as important for PETA to reach people who visit triple-X sites as it is for us to interact with sports buffs or music fans so that we can show everyone why stopping the truly obscene abuse of animals is worth bothering about.

Yes, PETA.xxx will feature uncensored graphic material. This is no mere tease. Those who like to watch may find anything from exotic skin flicks to shocking hidden-

camera video footage that reveals what really goes on behind closed doors. "Naughty" is too mild a word to describe it. Visitors to the site can expect more than just cheesecake or beefcake (while picking up facts about why beef and cheese are bad not only for your heart and waistline but also for your love life).

We firmly believe that no one will feel cheated but that anyone visiting PETA.xxx for cheap thrills will come away better for it.

While it would be nice to just hold a news conference in our office attire and have animal-related issues widely covered, in a world of nonstop multiplatform media, it is often our racier actions that get people to pay attention to the plight of animals. And getting the word out can mean the difference between life and death.

So we hope that people who gravitate toward NSFW sites will give PETA.xxx a peep, while those who might find it objectionable are invited, as always, to visit our main website, PETA.org. Whether titillated, offended or somewhere in between, we have a responsibility to do whatever we can to create a kinder world for animals.

Preventing animal cruelty in any way possible

Kacy Standohar
FEATURES EDITOR

As a humane officer, Ken Herlinger comes in contact with all kinds of animals daily. He walks up to the animal, pets it, says hello and checks to make sure it looks healthy. Helping animals find refuge from an unfortunate situation brings Herlinger joy.

"Once you do this job, it can become depressing and burn you out ... but once it's in your blood, there's nothing like it," Herlinger said. "I wish I could just deal with the animals and not the people."

Herlinger is the humane officer at the Animal Welfare League of Trumbull County in Warren. Herlinger patrols Trumbull County and responds to calls and complaints of alleged animal abuse.

"I investigate accusations of cruelty to animals, and if it warrants arrest people can file criminal charges. About 80 percent of my job is trying to educate the public and probably 20 percent is the law enforcement end," Herlinger said.

Herlinger encounters many different calls throughout the day. He checked on a cat with a problem in its right eye. He also received a few calls from disgruntled neighbors or family members about abandoned or neglected dogs. One specific call regarded a pit bull that may have been left in a garage with no ventilation.

He often gets calls about pit bulls and added that pit bulls are the only dogs in Ohio that are classified vicious and dangerous by breed.

When he gets these calls he

makes sure that the animals have food, water and suitable living conditions. He also checks that they appear to be a healthy weight.

Herlinger recalled his worst experience working as a humane officer. He had to remove 163 dogs, around 40 cats, a couple of horses and numerous chickens and ducks in February.

"There were barrels of animal bones on the property. There were dead rats in some of the cages," he said.

In this case, however, the owner's intentions were not to neglect the animals.

"The lady started off as a rescue with good intentions. But she got in over her head and didn't realize it," Herlinger said.

"It's always horrifying at first look, and the smell is never real good either. That house was probably the worst that I've ever been in," Herlinger said. "It took them about a day and a half to get all the animals out. The last [animal] was just adopted out several months ago. So, everything worked out for the best."

Herlinger said abuse and neglect laws have just recently changed in the state of Ohio.

As it stands for companion animals such as dogs and cats, if owners fail to provide their pets with food and water, they will be charged with a second-degree misdemeanor on the first offense, which is punishable by a \$750 fine and 90 days in jail. On second offense it becomes a fourth-degree felony.

All of the animals in the shelter can be adopted. Adoption is the shelter's main priority and the animals are only euthanized as a last resort.



Ken Herlinger makes an impromptu pit bull rescue at Park Plaza Apartments on Southern Boulevard in Warren. Photo by Kacy Standohar/The Jambar.

While it is Herlinger's duty to protect and save harmed animals, Youngstown State University student Michelle Gbur chooses to indirectly save animals by living a vegan lifestyle.

Gbur the president of the YSU Environmental and Animal Rights Coalition. Her organization works to tie in animal rights with environmental issues.

"We focus on a vegan diet and try to educate people on campus because they don't actually know what goes on," she said.

In April, Gbur decided to live a vegan lifestyle limiting her to soap, shampoo, face wash and makeup that doesn't contain animal products and were not tested on animals. She also doesn't wear any clothes that have any real leather or suede.

"A lot of people think animals are killed painlessly and

humanely, but it's just not true. Even if it was, their life up till slaughter is absolutely horrible," she said.

Gbur said she believes that it is easy for humans to live a life without needing animals to survive.

"The whole purpose for a lot of vegans is to live life without interfering with the lives of animals," Gbur said.

She explained that the YSU faculty is "really uneducated" in regards to the vegan lifestyle and food options on campus.

"I ordered a vegan meat-

ball sub from Pennyguins [in Kilcawley Center's Food Court] and the lady put cheese all over it," Gbur said. "That's not vegan."

Gbur also said that students often call her and complain of the lack of vegan food options on campus.

"It should be considered as a dietary restriction," she said.

The group has volunteered at Happy Trails Animal Sanctuary in Ravenna and is planning a dog walk at a local dog pound.

Hispanic Heritage Month Events:

Health at Home Discussion
Wednesday, 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Community educator Carol Vitelli will present the book "Health at Home," which features a step-by-step approach for more than 200 health problems. The presentation will be held at OCCHA (3660 Shirley Road).

Notable Latinos
Thursday to Oct. 15

Maag Library will feature a month-long display of items from its collection by Latino authors, poets, musicians and painters. The exhibit will be on the main floor.

Sky Watchers of Ancient Mexico and Special Presentation of the Maya
Saturday, 2 p.m.

Warren Young, retired YSU professor of astronomy, will present a live star identification that focuses on Mayan constellations.

LUNA Scholarship Fundraiser
Sunday, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Latinas United Networking Association will host its scholarship fundraiser and Estrella de LUNA Award luncheon at the First Presbyterian Church's Helen Chapel. Tickets are \$20 per person.

Hispanic Heritage Student Art Exhibition Celebration
Sept. 20, 6-7:30 p.m.

This event will feature the artwork of students from local school districts and showcase the top three winners of the competition. The exhibit will be on display until Sept. 30 at the Newport Branch Library.

ECHHO College Fair
Sept. 29, 9-11 a.m.

This is a college access program geared toward Hispanic/Latino high school students and their parents. The college fair will be held at OCCHA (3660 Shirley Road).

Revisiting Greatness: How Archaeology is Helping the Modern Maya Become Stewards of Their Past
Sept. 29, 5:15 p.m.

This event features a presentation by Matt O'Mansky, YSU assistant professor of sociology and anthropology, on the recent work between archaeologists and the modern Maya to make the Maya custodians of their past through sustainable development and tourism. The presentation will take place in the McDonough Museum of Art's auditorium.

Latin Wine Tasting
Oct. 1, 6-9 p.m.

Five Points Wine and Bar will host a wine tasting featuring Latin wines and hors d'oeuvres. The price of the event is \$20.

Movie Night
Oct. 4, 6 p.m.

The movie "Stand and Deliver" will be shown at the Main Library on Wick Avenue.

'It's our turn to serve'

YSU student starts organization to aid armed forces

Jenna Medina
FEATURES REPORTER

Zack Lord noticed the lack of support for those serving in the armed forces while his brother was stationed in Afghanistan serving in the U.S. Navy. This inspired the birth of Project: Serving Soldiers in November 2008.

"We are happy to say that we have raised thousands of dollars and help support countless men and women serving our country," said Lord, a junior and communications major at Youngstown State University.

Project: Serving Soldiers is a portrayal of people's admiration. They send goods overseas, hoping to remind soldiers of their sense of home and acknowledgment of being respected.

Lord started his project by first constructing many charities and fundraisers, including cornhole tournaments, cookie bake-offs and a chili cook-off. The biggest event was a band night in April 2009 at Stambaugh Auditorium featuring Kelly Pavlik as the guest speaker.

After collecting a large amount of donations, Project: Serving Soldiers started by sending handheld games and batteries to the troops.

"We've sent as little as a cookie to as big as a plasma screen TV with 40 DVDs," Lord said.

They hosted their last major event through Christmas, where they collected a few thousand cookies.

Letters of gratitude from many military soldiers have been sent to Lord in regards to his project, thanking those involved for their outstanding hearts.

"I even received a patch of one of the troops that was deployed in Afghanistan," Lord said.

On Sept. 11, Lord said a man serving in the U.S. Army contacted his project explain-

ing how all of his troops were feeling down in the dumps.

Lord said all they wanted was a little remembrance of home sweet home.

A few months prior, Lord and the soldier had discussed how the troops love receiving magazines. This immediately triggered a magazine drive for Project: Serving Soldiers' next event. With help from most of Lord's family and friends, they anticipate a great turnout from students, faculty and the Youngstown community willing to contribute.

"We decided a magazine drive would be a good idea on top of the obvious things most people send, such as deodorant, toothpaste, candy and snacks," Lord said.

Lord hopes that YSU will help collect magazines and help send them over "to our men and women fighting for our freedom."

Emily Hickman, a junior majoring in secondary math education, devotes her time to helping Lord and other organizations provide for the troops. Excited for the magazine drive to begin, Hickman said she believes that it is a great idea because it is something Project: Serving Soldiers has never thought of before.

"You don't really realize what a big impact just a magazine can make, but we are wanting to help them out in anyway we can," Hickman said.

Project: Serving Soldiers has no other upcoming events planned after the magazine drive, which will begin on Sunday and continue over the following three weeks.

Still in the process of determining a collecting spot, Lord encourages all students interested to please contribute and contact him for any questions concerning this project at pserveingsoldiers@yahoo.com.

Anyone interested can also visit the Facebook page listed as "Project: Serving Soldiers" for further information.

"We are always attempting to help when ever we can," Lord said. "It's our turn to serve."

Photo courtesy of Zack Lord.

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Illinois law school investigates admissions statistics

Chicago Tribune
(MCT)

CHICAGO The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has put its law school admissions dean on leave and begun an investigation into whether the school inflated test scores and grades when describing this fall's incoming class.

The possible inaccuracies come two years after an admissions scandal over the university's acceptance of subpar, politically connected students over more qualified applicants. Some of the most egregious examples were in the College of Law.

The latest concern is that median law school entrance-test scores and grade-point averages of the new class "may have been inaccurately reported" on the school's website and in promotional materials. The data have been removed, and the assistant dean of admissions, Paul Pless, has been

put on administrative leave.

"Any time you have issues raised or doubts about the integrity of any aspect of the institution, it is disappointing and regretful," said Thomas Hardy, university spokesman. "The key thing here is that there is recognition that we need to work very thoroughly and very quickly and get to the bottom of the matter."

Pless, a U. of I. law school graduate and dean for the past eight years, could not be reached for comment.

Hardy said university officials have not confirmed whether the information was inflated intentionally.

"It is one of the many questions that we have that we are trying to get answered," he said.

Hardy said the U. of I. ethics office received "credible information" about the inaccuracies on Aug. 26. The university hired Theodore Chung of the law firm Jones Day to assist in the review.

Chung, a Northwestern University Law School graduate, previously was counsel for the state commission that investigated the U. of I.'s admissions irregularities.

In a 2009 investigation of the U. of I.'s admissions practices, the Chicago Tribune found that Pless challenged his bosses' desires to admit underqualified but politically connected students because it would have a "negative impact ... on the profile of the incoming class."

A report by the state's Admissions Review Commission criticized the law school for leaving all decision-making authority to the admissions dean instead of including faculty in applicant reviews, as it had done in the past.

Pless testified before the commission that the change allowed him to better shape the academic profile of the incoming class "and, accordingly the college's ranking," according to the report.


Hardy said that arrangement

has not changed. "That is one of the things we are going to be looking at," he said.

He said applicants' grades and test scores are reported to the university through an outside organization. After choosing the class of students, the admissions office computes their average grades and test scores and publicizes the figures on its website and in publications. The data now under review had not yet been shared with the American Bar Association or publications that rank schools.

Hardy declined to provide the grades and test scores that had been reported and said the university will provide accurate information when it is verified.

The most recent U.S. News and World Report rankings listed the U. of I. College of Law at No. 23. It reported that the 25th-to-75th percentile for the 2010 incoming class had GPAs of 3.3 to 3.9 and LSAT scores of 163 to 168.



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Redbird



Following a 77-13 win over Valparaiso University on Saturday, the Penguins will be looking for their second win of the season against Illinois State University at Stambaugh Stadium on Saturday. Photos by Nick Young/The Jambar.

Penguins look to erase previous season's last-second loss

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

Heading into the third week of the season, the Penguins are prepared for what sophomore quarterback Kurt Hess is predicting to be one of the biggest games of the year.

The Penguins (1-1) host Illinois State University (1-1) on Saturday, almost one year removed from a heart-breaker.

On Nov. 6, the Penguins traveled to ISU and lost in the final seconds of the game, 41-39. Junior Tyrone Walker caught a 40-yard touchdown pass with seven seconds remaining.

Youngstown State University started the game slow, and Hess said he does not want to play catch up again.

"Hopefully we'll get off to a quick start to help us win the game," Hess said.

Head coach Eric Wolford said last year's game was in the history books by the following day. He does not want to relive it.

"We haven't talked about it really," Wolford said. "If you keep living in the

past, I don't think you can move forward. You [have to] be able to let go of your past. The past will have nothing to do with this Saturday."

The Penguins will have home-field advantage Saturday, and Wolford said he plans to seize this opportunity.

"Traveling in this conference is not easy," Wolford said. "I think we have the best home-field advantage over anybody. I expect us to be out in full force. We need to go out and give [the fans] something to cheer about."

ISU head coach Brock Spack said Stambaugh Stadium is a "tough place to play."

"Youngstown has a great environment and tradition," he said.

The Penguins are coming off a 77-13 win over Valparaiso University. Senior Josh Lee said it feels good to have a win but also that it is conference time.

"We feel as if we're the dominant team in the conference, [and] we try to do our best," Lee said. "This conference is a tough conference, and we are going to compete. We never take any opponent lightly."

Senior defensive end Obinna Ekwereumba said he was saddened after last year's contest, but that it is

YSU's turn to dish it out at home.

"Right now we just got to take it one game at a time," Ekwereumba said. "We're not worried about losing to anybody yet."

One Redbird the Penguins are keeping an eye on is junior quarterback Matt Brown. Thus far, he is 35-52 for 529 yards and five touchdowns. Wolford said he is a good passer, but the Penguins have one as strong in Hess, especially in the pocket. He is 29-48 for 330 yards and three touchdowns.

Wolford added that he feels his team is well prepared for kickoff.

"We had a great practice [Monday]," Wolford said. "That's compliments to our kids. They know what's going on. We're expected to play every game the same, and that's one of the fundamentals to a championship team. That's all there is to it. Whoever you play, you're expected to come out and play at a high level."

Ekwereumba said the team played hard against Valpo throughout.

"We just got to play every team like Michigan State [University]," Ekwereumba said. "[We have to] come out and just play football. We came out fired up and focused. We tried not to lose con-

centration during the game. Everybody was focused."

Lee said if the special teams can continue returning well, they would have success.

"In special teams, we have a lot of hidden yards," Lee said. "If we do good, we'll most likely win the game. We've improved in the special teams lately."

Hess said YSU would have to play like last year to win.

"[We] didn't have to change too much," Hess said. "They're going to play tough. We can do all different things and different packages."

On the Redbird side, Spack said the Penguins have improved immensely and that his team will have to watch out in every aspect of the game.

"They upgraded the talent level," Spack said. "Cook is one of the best running backs in the league. They are well coached up front, [and] they have a good running attack at different angles. Even the quarterback can run."

Spack added that momentum is important. If the Redbirds are up, they must keep it. If they are down, they must take it away.

Slocum, Boldon tout confidence entering camp

Nick Mancini
SPORTS REPORTER

The Youngstown State University basketball teams have been working hard this offseason to push toward the upcoming season.

Head men's coach Jerry Slocum said he is excited by work his team has been doing. For instance, some players participated in the Pittsburgh Basketball Club Pro-Am tournament.

"It was a great experience for our guys to play against players from Duquesne [University], [University of Pittsburgh] and West Virginia [University]," he said.

Sophomore Kendrick Perry, junior Damian Eargle and freshman Shawn Amiker Jr. were on Team PBC, which won the summer league.

Over the summer, a Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article praised the YSU program, which Slocum said energized the guys.

"It spoke very highly of Kendrick Perry," Slocum said. "It spoke very well for the program, and it was also great [that] our guys were willing to make the commitment to make the drive to Pittsburgh and compete."

Slocum brings five freshmen to the program: Amiker, DJ Cole, Cale Zuiker, Danny Reese and Fletcher Larson. Slocum said the freshmen were frequently on campus during the summer and are adapting well.

The loss of Vytas Sulskis will force the Penguins to look for leadership elsewhere. Slocum said he believes the team will be in good hands, however.

"[Senior forward] DuShawn Brooks played some of Vytas' spots last season, and we are very excited about his progress," Slocum said. "He has probably had the best summer of anyone. [Senior guard] Ashen Ward will also



Junior forward Brandi Brown runs with the ball during a game last season. Photo courtesy of Sports Information.

provide a great deal of leadership for us."

Slocum said this year's team is one of the best he has coached since coming here and feels the team will be able to compete in the Horizon League.

On the women's side, head coach Bob Boldon is equally excited for his squad.

"The summer has been going well," Boldon said. "The lifting has gotten off to a good start, and the team has a real good energy around them."

Boldon said that although the team is moving rapidly, incoming freshmen Melanie Poorman, Kelsea Fickiesen and Ashley Lawson have been working hard.

"The three freshmen have been here since taking summer classes and been working out," Boldon said. "It might be a little

tough to start off since we have been moving fast, but they have been up for the challenge."

One player Boldon is extremely excited about is junior forward Brandi Brown.

"Brandi is someone we have high expectations for, and Brandi has the same about herself," Boldon said. "She played in a summer league over the break and helped her team win the title. She has another year under her belt, and I think she will take over a bigger leadership role this season."

Boldon said that as the off-season progresses, he is able to learn more about his team.

"We have a lot of positions that need to be filled, and, until we really start practicing, it's a bit unknown," Boldon said. "The lineup could be constantly changing month to month."

Volleyball wins more than a game

Nick Mancini
SPORTS REPORTER

The Youngstown State University volleyball team avoided a one-year losing streak on Saturday.

"A big positive from the tournament was we finally got a [win]," said head coach Krista Burrows. "That was a pretty successful team we beat. It is always good to get a win."

The Penguins (1-10) snapped a 28-game, 364-day losing streak by defeating Fairleigh Dickinson University in straight sets at the Maddie Bingham Memorial Tournament, held at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

The Penguins opened the tournament Friday against host UMBC (8-4) and fell in four sets. Sophomore Missy Hundelt led the Penguins with 15 kills and added 14 digs. Freshman Hannah Schmidt paced the Retrievers with 15 kills.

YSU continued the tournament Saturday with a doubleheader. In the first match, YSU triumphed over FDU (7-3). Hundelt totaled 10 kills and three aces, while sophomore Casey D'Ambrose tallied 30 assists and 12 digs. Junior Meaghan Wheeler led FDU with 13 kills. The Penguins' victory halted FDU's five-game winning streak.

YSU, riding this momentum, closed out the tournament against Norfolk State University. The Penguins won the first two sets, but NSU (1-5) salvaged the final three to capture the match.

Hundelt continued her strong tournament play, leading

the team with 19 kills. Sophomore Jackie Carlisle and freshman Alexis Egler both had 13 kills for the Penguins. Junior Charlotte Armstead and freshman Adriana Ramos led NSU with 20 kills each.

Although the Penguins finally broke their losing streak, Burrows said there are still things the team can improve on.

"It is still very frustrating for us," Burrows said. "We are so close so many times but still so far. We need someone who is willing to step up at the end of games and help us close them out."

Burrows said she hopes to see improvements in serving and defense for the upcoming games. She said the team has not been digging as much on defense recently.

Heading home after the tournament, the Penguins will return to the road to open Horizon League play. On Friday, they will travel to Wright State University.

"[Wright State University is] kind of in the same boat as we are, recently just picking up their first win as well," Burrows said. "Physically, we match up very well to them as a whole."

The Penguins will then travel to Butler University's Hinkle Fieldhouse on Saturday.

Butler, last season's conference champions, plans to start three freshmen. Burrows said playing Butler would be a tough road game.

"Going to Hinkle is always a tough place to play for us," Burrows said. "They are defending conference champs and have a girl in the middle in [senior] Maureen Bamiro that will pose some problems for us."



Player, coach, mentor

Wide receivers coach Andre Coleman talks with his receivers during practice at Stambaugh Stadium this week. Coleman and Wolford, former teammates at Kansas State University, have reconnected on the playing field as YSU coaching staff. Photos by Joe Catullo Jr./The Jambar.

'Scrappy, fast' Coleman leads by example

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

When Andre Coleman learned the game of football, he had a lot of reasons to stay on his feet. The fields he played on in Charlotte, N.C., and western Pennsylvania were less than ideal. He knew that if he was tackled, jagged rocks and shards of broken glass could cut him.

Now he teaches these skills to Youngstown State University wide receivers as an assistant coach.

"I had to learn to make moves and keep my balance, and I think those things kind of honed my skills, and I enjoyed it," Coleman said. "It was something to keep me busy, and I played football every fall since I was 7 years old. After a while, you start to get pretty good at it."

Coleman's childhood hero was not an athlete, however. It was his mother, Delores, who raised him, along with his brother and sister.

His father, who never married Delores, entered the military when Coleman was just 11 years old.

Shortly after moving to western Pennsylvania, Delores married Coleman's stepfather, who adopted him. He lived there for three years before moving to Germany.

"She raised me well, taught me from right and wrong. If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't have turned out to be the man that I am," he said.

Delores always stressed staying active and playing outside. She never forced him but when she said, "Go outside and play," Coleman never hesitated.

"Football was just something that I did. Back in the days, we didn't have computers and iPods and video games," Coleman said.

Coleman spent two years overseas and continued to play football. He earned All-Europe honors before moving back to Pennsylvania when he was 16.

He graduated from Hickory High School in Hermitage, Pa., where he excelled as a running back. He broke records in his junior and senior years, rushing for 3,700 yards and scoring 64 touchdowns.

Upon graduation, Coleman bought into Kansas State University's idea of turning the program around. It was the only school that promised him a chance to play the position he grew up loving: running back.

"A lot of schools recruited me as a defensive back, and I didn't want to play defensive back, or they recruited me as a wide receiver, and I didn't want to play wide re-

ceiver," Coleman said. "I got out there at first practice in full pads, and I had to block a 250-pound linebacker, and I moved to receiver the next day. I've been a receiver ever since."

Coleman played 43 career games at KSU and compiled 3,443 all-purpose yards. He caught 95 passes for 1,556 yards and 12 touchdowns. He also accumulated 1,458 return yards.

One of Coleman's teammates was YSU head coach Eric Wolford, who played offensive lineman. Wolford and Coleman helped change the face of KSU football, Wolford said.

"When we were there, Kansas State was the worst program in college football," Wolford said. "We ended up being 9-2-1 in our senior year, turned the program around and won the first bowl game in school history. At Kansas State, [Andre Coleman] was one of the top receivers we had."

The 1993 Copper Bowl was the second bowl game in KSU history. The Wildcats squared off with the University of Wyoming, and KSU won 52-17. Coleman finished with eight receptions for 144 yards and one touchdown on a 61-yard pass to go along with a 68-yard punt return for a score.

Coleman left early to enter the 1994 NFL Draft and was chosen by the San Diego Chargers with the 70th overall pick in the third round.

"What I always liked is he's a competitor," Wolford said. "He competed every day, and he's a hard worker. He was a relentless guy. He wasn't the biggest guy; he was scrappy. When you run 4.3, you're pretty fast. That's legit time, too."

Mainly used as a kick returner, Coleman returned 49 kickoffs for 1,293 yards and was named to the NFL All-Rookie squad as a returner. Coleman helped the Chargers reach Super Bowl XXIX after defeating the Steelers in the American Football Conference championship game in Pittsburgh.

Then came the biggest game of the year, a night Coleman said was one of his proudest moments.

"There [are] many guys who play in the NFL for many, many years and don't get an opportunity to experience a Super Bowl and to have some of the success that I had in the game individually," Coleman said. "When you look at it years later, it's obviously a great accomplishment, but I'd much rather have the win."

The Chargers lost to the San Francisco 49ers 49-26. Numerous records were bro-

ken that night, including eight by Coleman. One record was a 98-yard kickoff return in the third quarter, as he became the third player in Super Bowl history to return a kickoff for a touchdown.

During and after the game, Coleman played against and was greeted by three hall-of-famers.

"It's a great experience to say you were on the field with Jerry Rice, Steve Young, Deion Sanders and guys like that," Coleman said. "To have some of those guys come up to you after the game and say what a great job you did stands out."

Being the team player he was, Coleman said he did not, at first, realize the records he broke because he was disappointed about the loss.

"When the dust settles and the offseason comes, you kind of reflect on the season, then you start thinking about those types of things," Coleman said. "When you see friends and family and the Super Bowl programs, then you say,

"I was a small guy, and I kind of just snuck to the back. I elevated and think I just timed the jump better than everybody else. As those guys were coming down, I was kind of peaking out," he said.

In 1997, Coleman became a free agent for the first time and said it is a process no player ever wants to go through. He signed a contract with the Seattle Seahawks.

"That was the business side of the league that I kind of was not familiar with," Coleman said. "The politic side of the NFL starts to take place. It wasn't a great experience. For any player it wouldn't be a great experience, but I wouldn't take anything back."

After being placed on waivers, Coleman went to the Steelers. He said there is nothing like playing for the black and gold.

"Pittsburgh was an unbelievable place to play ... there are no fans like Pittsburgh fans. The Rooney family runs a first-class organization. It was just a great experience to be a part of," Coleman said.

He played in Pittsburgh for two seasons before retiring in 1998 due to a torn hamstring. He tried to return but was unable to.

Coincidentally the only stadium he never played in belonged to the team he grew up idolizing: the Dallas Cowboys.

Afterward he moved to Atlanta and became involved in real estate. He also spent time with New Era Sports Consultants, providing representation to professional football players. Coleman also ran nightclubs, owned a skating rink and promoted concerts. The entertainment business

slowed down, then Wolford called.

Wolford was coaching at the University of South Carolina at the time when he told Coleman he had a possible opening. Coleman said Wolford never told him where.

"What he told me was it's within eight hours of Atlanta," he said. "I tried to draw a circle around and tried to figure out where it could be. I was trying to put it together. As you get closer, you start looking at these sites. Then I heard Youngstown, and I said, 'That could make sense.'"

Coleman is in his second season with the Penguins and said Wolford is the reason why.

"He's a good friend of mine, and I've known him for over 20 years," Coleman said. "When he told me there was an opportunity, I didn't think there was anything better. [There was not a] better place to start or a better person to start with than him."

Wolford said he brought his former teammate to help coach because of prior experience.

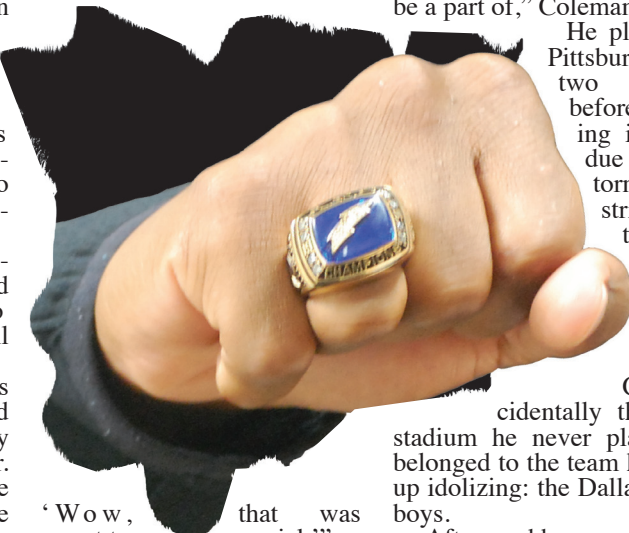
"His knowledge of the game absolutely flourishes. He got that toughness that we like," Wolford said.

Senior receiver Andre Barboza spent the last two years learning and listening to Coleman. He's watched film from Coleman's playing days and was impressed.

"He's successful at doing it. [It feels] good as a player to know you have a coach like that," Barboza said. "I definitely try to see what he did and try to put it in my game."

Freshman Kintrell Disher said Coleman is the car and he's been driving the team.

"Coach Andre has been really intense trying to get everybody on the right page," Disher said. "He's been putting a lot of work with us on and off the field, giving us the key details to try to improve on. A lot of little things I improved on. [The] future holds a big picture."



"Wow, that was pretty special."

Though Coleman excelled as a returner, he did not catch a touchdown in his first two seasons until one Monday night in San Diego.

Two seconds before half-time on Monday Night Football in front of a national audience, Chargers quarterback Stan Humphries tossed a 46-yard Hail Mary pass to the end zone.

He found Coleman standing behind several Detroit Lions defenders in the back right corner of the end zone.

"My job was to get to the back and maybe catch a deflection," Coleman said. "They put the big guys in. I remember Herman Moore being in the game for Detroit just for that play."

Not only was it Coleman's first career receiving touchdown, it was also Monday Night Football's 1,000th career reception, Coleman said.



Andre Coleman displays his AFC Championship ring that he received while playing with the San Diego Chargers. Photo by Joe Catullo Jr./The Jambar.