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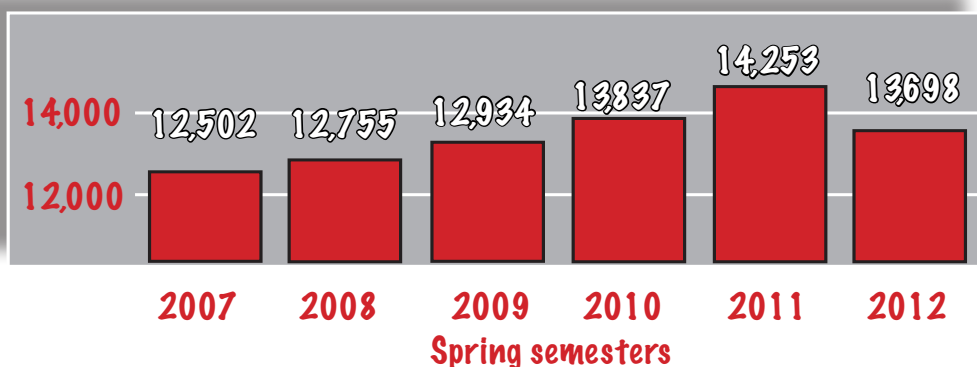
VOL. 94, ISSUE 33

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Spring enrollment slump

Jordan D. Uhl
NEWS EDITOR

Student Enrollment



Proactive measures softened the impact of spring semester's enrollment decline, a 5.7 percent decrease from fall.

Youngstown State University's 14-day enrollment sits at 13,698, an 843-student drop from last semester. Little effect will be felt, as YSU officials have anticipated the drop since the board of trustees' retreat in November.

"Spring enrollment is directly tied to fall enrollment. So, since our fall enrollment went down, we fully expected this decrease in enrollment in the spring semester," Ron Cole, director of university communications, said in an email.

During the fall, budget director Neal McNally grappled

with a \$7 million operating budget deficit due to a roughly 4.5 percent decrease in enrollment.

McNally and Gene Grilli, vice president for finance and administration, devised a plan to close the gap by using nearly \$2 million in reserve funds

over the next two years.

Prolonged position vacancies, many of which came by way of the early retirement incentive program, are also expected to assuage the budget deficit from lowered enrollment.

"Every request to fill those

[vacant] positions [is] being closely scrutinized by the president's executive Cabinet and the president herself," Cole said.

McNally said the vacancies would likely remain through-

ENROLLMENT PAGE 4

Professors root for return of Women's Center

Marissa McIntyre
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR



TESSIER

A 11 that remains of the Women's Center are boxes of old books and pamphlets locked away in a small basement room in DeBartolo Hall. They've collected dust for nearly a decade.

L.J. Tessier, a professor of philosophy and religious studies and the former director of women's studies, said

she remembers when both women's studies and the Women's Center were thriving, around the time the programs started in 1988. Since then, the Women's Center has been closed three times.

"The single most heart-breaking experience to me in my 23 years on campus was when they closed the Women's Center," Tessier said.

Tessier said the Women's Center had moved around. Originally a part of the welcome center, it moved to Kilcawley Center, then to the third floor of DeBartolo Hall and eventually out of existence.

Even though there isn't a

Women's Center at this time, students can still minor in women's studies.

Galadriel Gerardo, director of women's studies, said students can also choose to pursue a women's studies major through an individual curriculum program, or ICP. She has two students who "major" in women's studies.

When Gerardo took over the women's studies program in 2009, she inherited the materials left over from the Women's Center.

Tessier said the Women's Center's peak was in the late 1980s, when it had a library and functioned as a safe place for students.

"We were a presence for women on campus," Tessier said.

Gerardo said that one of the most significant ways a Women's Center could be used today is to provide area women with resources for sexual and contraceptive education.

"A Women's Center is not only something that would be valuable to have on campus, but is integral to have access on campus to things such as sex education," Gerardo said. "One of the things that always surprises me [is that] my young tradi-

WOMEN'S PAGE 4

Meeting the mark OBOR proposes benchmark degrees

Kevin Alquist
NEWS REPORTER

The Ohio Board of Regents is proposing a plan to create a set of benchmarks for students working toward a four-year degree at a state university.

Chancellor Jim Petro said he hopes the plan will retain more students and help them graduate, according to the Associated Press.

Petro is proposing that a student would receive a career-readiness certificate after a year of study and an associate degree after two years, even if the student is primarily focused on obtaining a bachelor's degree or above.

"Sometimes, for a variety of reasons, students don't complete all four years of study," said Kim Norris, an OBOR spokeswoman. "This plan will hopefully keep students motivated and help them continue."

Norris said for every 1 percent increase in the number of Ohioans with a bachelor's degree, the state will see economic activity equal to \$2.5 billion per year and every year after.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, around 24 percent of Ohio's adults hold at least a bachelor's degree, ranking Ohio 38th in the nation in terms of educational attainment.

For students not immediately seeking a bachelor's degree, a career-readiness certificate could allow students to leave school and look for a job.

Norris said the certificate would require 30 hours of study.

"[The board of regents] still encourages all students to complete their degree," Nor-

BENCHMARK PAGE 7



Participants in the fall 2010 Game of Hope huddle together after the game. Jambar file photo.

'Hope' returns to Beeghly Center

Dustin Livesay
NEWS REPORTER

The eighth annual Game of Hope will return to Beeghly Center on Saturday in hopes of adding to the \$60,000 the game has raised since 2005 for chronically ill children.

The Hope Foundation of the Mahoning Valley and its founder Tony Spano organize each event.

Local celebrities, politicians and media personalities are scheduled to face off in a basketball game.

Spano envisioned the event when he graduated college. He said he felt a calling to help underprivileged area children.

"My favorite part of this event is seeing everyone come out in support of a great cause," Spano said. "I love seeing everyone involved having a great time."

Jim Davis, an Austintown trustee, and Laura Meeks, Eastern Gateway Community College president, were selected to coach one team. WYTV news anchor Stan Boney and Youngstown State University President Cynthia Anderson will coach the other team.

This will be Boney's first year participating in the Game of Hope, and he has high expectations.

"I have never coached basketball before," Boney said. "I am looking at this as a charity game, but I know when the game is tied with eight minutes to go, things are going to get competitive."

Boney said he played basketball in high school, but other than pickup games with his friends, he knows the game of basketball fairly well.

"I'm certainly not coaching dance or baton twirling, something that I know nothing about," Boney said. "I understand basketball."

Boney will have some experience on his team with state Sen. Joe Schiavoni returning to the game. Schiavoni said he was too short to play on the high school basketball team, but did play for his seventh and eighth grade team. He still plays with his friends and added that he is excited about playing in front of people.

"You're used to playing around, but when you get on the big court it's a little different," Schiavoni said. "I just hope I don't throw the ball through the back board or anything."

Schiavoni said he feels that he is prepared for the game even though he wasn't able to be at the team's practice earlier in the week because of work.

"I haven't done any 'Rocky' workouts, but I am in shape. I'm ready to go," Schiavoni said.

HOPE PAGE 2

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ONLINE



Wolford narrates the life of Lincoln

FEATURES 6



Penguins look for late-season push

SPORTS 8



Game of Hope rocks Beeghly Center on Saturday

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Ready, set, recycle

YSU looks for strong showing in RecycleMania 2012

Cory Bartek
REPORTER

The annual RecycleMania tournament is back, and Youngstown State University is hoping for another strong showing.

RecycleMania is a competition that takes place over an eight-week period during which colleges and universities compete to increase recycling and raise awareness of its importance.

The tournament allows recycling programs from colleges and universities to promote activities that focus on reducing waste within the campus.

RecycleMania started in 2001 and consisted of only two teams (Miami University and Ohio University). The program now incorporates 538 schools across the nation. This year, 27 Ohio schools are participating.

Participating schools are split into two divisions: the competition division and the benchmark division.

The competition division requires each campus team to participate, while the benchmark division allows only certain areas of the campus to participate.

Awards can only be given to schools that are in the competition division, but schools in the benchmark division can still track their progress.

Schools are awarded based on their performance in five primary categories and four targeted material competitions. The categories include Grand Champion, Stephen K. Gaski Per Capita Classic, Waste Minimization and Gorilla Prize.

The four targeted materials are paper, corrugated cardboard, bottles and cans, and food service organics. New to the tournament this year is the elec-

tronics category.

Mark Fiest, a student intern with the recycling program at YSU, said that even though YSU has never won the event, it has done well and prides itself on bringing in more recyclables on a year-to-year basis than Yale University, which has a budget of \$1 million.

"We strive to be better than the programs from Ohio State, Ohio University, as well as the rest of the schools in Ohio, and we consistently reach that goal," Fiest said.

Fiest said he gives much of the credit to Dan Kuzma, manager of YSU's recycling program.

"[Kuzma] does a great job of finding and applying for grants, the most recent one being a new earth tub," Fiest said.

The tub will be used to increase composting effort, giving YSU an edge in that category over the University of

Akron, Kent State University and the University of Toledo, he said.

No special bins will be put out for the competition, but Fiest said students are participating by recycling on campus every day.

"With 20 to 40 bins in every building on campus, and a number of bins on sidewalks and on the campus core, it is very easy to pass the trash can and walk just a few more feet to do something good for the environment," Fiest said.

He added that the recycling program has attempted to make recycling as easy as possible for students.

"We try to put a recycle bin next to every garbage can, and during the tailgate season, we put twice as many recycle bins as garbage cans in the lots for the beer and soda cans," Fiest said.

The competition is set to kick off on Sunday and run through Mar 31.

HOPE PAGE 2

Pregame events will consist of performances by national recording artist Sarah Turner and Michael Harrison from United Baptist Church in Youngstown.

Spano said the event had nearly 1,000 spectators in attendance last year, with all of the proceeds being given to the Hope Foundation of the Mahoning Valley.

A dance team will perform during halftime, coupled with activities such as a half-court shot and various celebrity appearances.

Spano said the event grew so fast in its first eight years that it needed "its own entity."

"The game grew so fast," Spano said. "My board of volunteers and the community's support are the main reasons for its rapid success."

WKBN's Chad Krispinsky and Bob Hannon, CEO of the United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley, will also broadcast the game with a play by play.

The game will tip off at 4:30 p.m. in Beeghly Center, and tickets are \$6 at the door.



U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan, D-17, coaches his team during a timeout during the Game of Hope, held October 2010 in Beeghly Center. This year, coaches Jim Davis, Austintown trustee, and Stan Boney, WYTV evening news anchor, square off on Saturday for the eighth annual fundraiser put on by the Hope Foundation of the Mahoning Valley. Jambar file photo.

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'Heart disease takes the lives of far too many people'

Nicole Novotny
REPORTER

Many Youngstown State University students have experienced the pain of a parent or grandparent with a heart disease, including junior Sarah Gordon.

"He's never had any health problems his entire life. That's why it was such a shock," Gordon said of her grandfather's heart failure.

Heart disease results from the buildup of plaque in the arteries, which narrows the vessels and hinders blood flow. This may lead to a heart attack or stroke.

Plaque buildup is one of the main causes of heart disease — but there are others, including heart failure, irregular heartbeat and heart valve problems.

Gordon's grandfather has plaque buildup that ultimately stopped his heart. It has become difficult for him to live his life like he used to because of medication and a pacemaker.

According to the American Heart Association, someone in the U.S. suffers a heart attack every 34 seconds.

"With more than 2 million heart attacks and strokes a year, and 800,000 deaths, just about all of us have been touched by someone who has had heart disease, heart attack or a stroke," U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius said on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website.

In 1963, Congress designated February as American Heart Month to stress healthy living and caution Americans about the risks of cardiovascular diseases.

YSU has been working to warn students of the risks of heart disease as well.

Judy Pavalko from YSU's Student Health Services said the Student Health Clinic has pamphlets on blood pressure and healthy hearts. The clinic also has physicians that students can talk to for more information.

Heart disease varies by race, but age is the most common factor.

Researchers at the Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine, located in Chicago, found that those who reach the age of 50 and are healthy, active individuals will have less than a 2 percent chance of heart disease.

According to U.S. News Health, dietary changes can help lower blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

Along with improving nutrition, exercise also lowers the chances of having heart disease. If a person is overweight, the heart must work harder. Exercise will help a person lose weight, but it will also give the heart the exercise that it needs to stay healthy.

Smoking and drinking are two leading factors of heart failure and stroke. By limiting or completely cutting out these two things, the risk decreases dramatically.

It is important to visit the doctor regularly to keep track of health issues and prescribed medications.

Most YSU students, though, visit the doctor for other reasons.

"I don't really talk about heart disease with my doctor," Gordon said. "It was a scary time, and it's strange because it didn't happen to [my grandfather] because of bad eating or not exercising."

Subsequently, Gordon said she's striving "to be more conscious health-wise."

"I go to exercise classes and try and eat right," she said.

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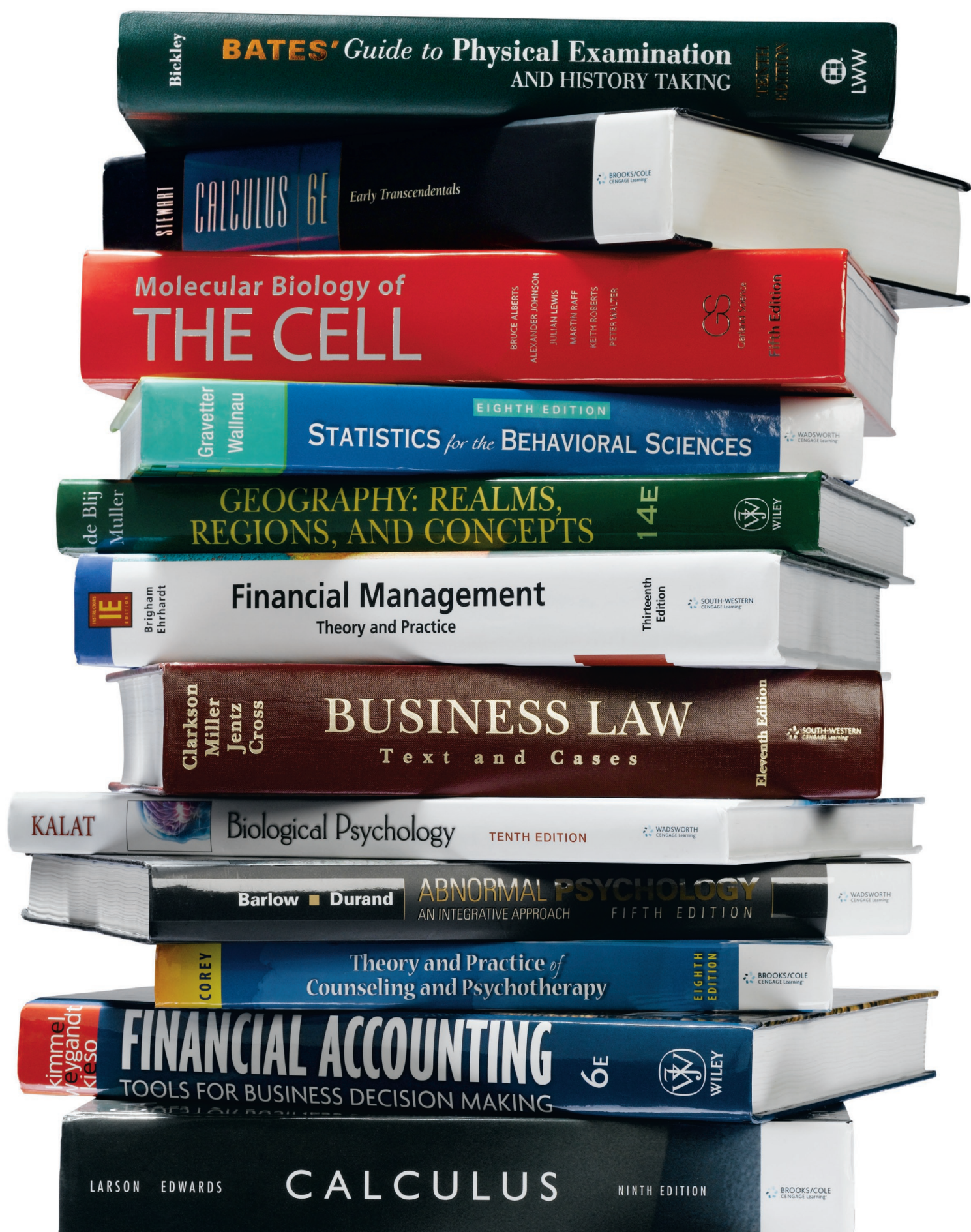
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NEWS BRIEFS

Orchestra presents pre-Super Bowl concert

The Dana Chamber Orchestra will perform a winter concert at 4 p.m. Sunday. The concert, which will be held in the Ford Family Recital Hall, includes the world premiere of Bob Rollin's three songs on the poems of Emily Dickinson. Internationally acclaimed solo soprano soloist Dorota Sobieska will join the orchestra for the performance. Tickets are available at the DeYor Box Office (330-744-0264).

African-American History Month celebrations begin Saturday

YSU's African-American History Month festivities kick off on Saturday with the African Marketplace in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center. Vendors will offer art, clothing, books, jewelry and ancient artifacts from Africa. The celebration continues Thursday at 5 p.m. with a reception, then a panel discussion at 6 p.m., of "The Art of Louis Burroughs" in the McDonough Museum of Art. Other events include an African fitness dance class (Feb. 11, 11 a.m., St. Andrews A.M.E. Church), a lecture by New York Times best-selling author Heidi Durrow (Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m., Jones Room of Kilcawley Center) and a dance troupe performance (Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m., Chestnut Room).

POLICE BRIEFS

Noise complaint in Cafaro turns into underage consumption arrest

Late Saturday night, a Cafaro House resident assistant notified YSU Police of alcohol in the dorm. The RA had responded to a noise complaint and found a party with alcohol. In the room were three men and one woman, who appeared to be drunk. According to the report, the 18-year-old female student's eyes were red, and she was slurring her speech and was having trouble walking in a straight line. When asked how much she had to drink, the woman replied, "Two sips." She refused to answer any of the university police officer's other questions. Police handcuffed the woman and transported her to the police station. She became increasingly belligerent, and her speech became even more slurred. Police cited the woman for underage consumption and told her to appear in court on Monday morning. She told police that she was sorry — but that the time was not convenient because she had class. An ambulance attempted to transport her to St. Elizabeth Health Center, but police had to be called to restrain her.

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WOMEN'S PAGE 1

tional college-aged students have kids. There are really a lack of resources available to young women in this area that [do] not even give them information of contraceptive options."

Gerardo added that YSU is the only university she's ever worked at that didn't have stations with free condoms for students.

"That's bizarre to me, but I know that is something that the Women's Center did provide," Gerardo said.

Along with information on contraceptives, Gerardo is also concerned about the lack of places on campus where mothers can nurse their children.

These services are just some of the many that a Women's Center could provide.

Tessier said that one of the arguments made against the Women's Center was that it discriminated against men on campus.

Gerardo, however, has male students who take her courses — and even return for more women's studies courses.

She said a background in women's studies could be useful for jobs in politics, health care, government research, history, teaching and any profession that involves public speaking.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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ENROLLMENT PAGE 1

out the fiscal year, which ends June 30.

Cuts had been made in the original FY 2012 budget to prepare for a projected shortfall of \$1.7 million.

"We made significant budget cuts in preparing the original FY 12 budget — somewhere in the range of \$4 million," McNally said.

Despite their efforts, a greater shortfall resulted in the wake of enrollment attrition.

"We did make cuts, but we did not make additional cuts," McNally said. "We will not cut our budgets any more this year unless there's a catastrophic event."

Historically, spring enrollment numbers are lower than fall.

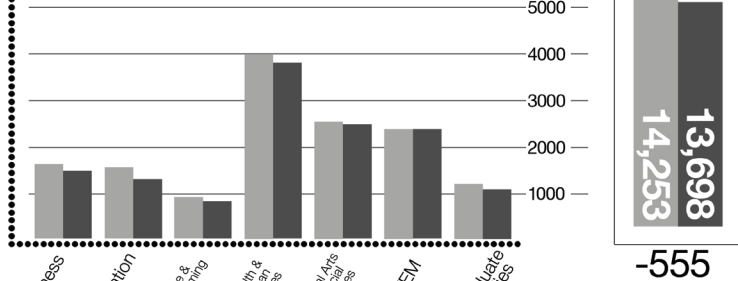
"We always have [had spring decreases]. It's just the nature of higher ed.," McNally said.

In spring 2011, enrollment was 14,253, which is 3.89 percent higher, or 555 more students, than in 2012.

"This is only the second time since 2000 that spring semester enrollment has gone down at YSU," Cole said.

Across campus, losses were

SPRING ENROLLMENT SUMMARY



experienced in all colleges but Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, which saw a 0.28 percent gain.

Martin Abraham, dean of STEM, attributes his college's minimal growth to the economy and a realization of the technical skills needed in today's society.

"It's job opportunities more so than anything we're doing here in the college," Abraham said. "I think the reality is that we're fortunate that our students, in some respects, have persisted better."

The Beeghly College of Education lost 212 students, a change of 13.5 percent. The

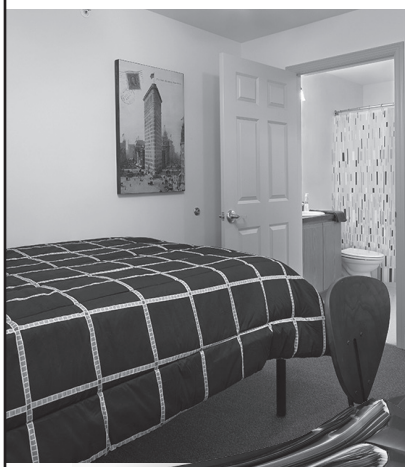
Williamson College of Business Administration witnessed a drop of 5.6 percent, while the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services witnessed a 4 percent decline.

McNally is already looking ahead, foreshadowing a 1 percent enrollment increase projection in the FY 2013 budget, which would produce \$1 million in additional revenue.

"We're assuming somewhat flat enrollment, [perhaps] modest enrollment growth," McNally said. "Some of that will be attributed to online distance [education] course offerings, which we hope to expand in the somewhat near future."

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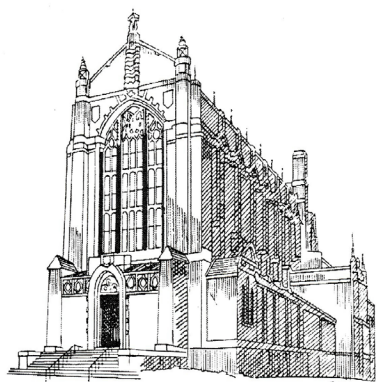
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The dropout plan

The Jambar
EDITORIAL BOARD

BENCHMARKS
PAGE 1

A participation award for attending college won't substitute for a bachelor's degree. But that's how the Ohio Board of Regents sees its coveted program that will frivolously pass out one-year readiness certificates and associate degrees in lieu of a four-year degree.

Giving students a chance to take a partial degree and jump into the workforce early will only result in lower paying jobs for Ohio, but that's what Gov. John Kasich, Jim Petro and the board of regents have been pushing for since day one.

JobsOhio and Teach for America, to name a couple of ill-advised programs, are a precursor to the board of regents new plan. These two programs provide lower paying jobs for undereducated employees from out of the state.

Petro, chancellor of the board of regents, touts that the new program will incentivize students to stay on course and finish their four-year degrees by, get this, offering them an option to enter the workforce early?

Youngstown State University's Cherie Ruth, a sophomore and dental hygiene major, poignantly sums it up.

"It gives them more leniency to not go for all four years," Ruth told The Jambar.

We agree.

Students will drop out. They already do, and this plan only enables them to continue their apathetic ways. YSU retained only 61.9 percent of first-time undergraduates from 2010 to 2011.

According to YSU institutional research, only 13.3 percent of full-time students who first enrolled in 2004 graduated in four years. In six years, 36.8 percent of those students graduated. The rest are jotting down their failed college career as an educational experience on job applications.

The employers know they went to college. They also know they never finished. So how will a certificate for trying make a difference? It won't.



JAMBAR POLICY

Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Collegiate Press honors. The Jambar is published twice weekly during the fall and spring semesters and weekly during the first summer session. Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. The first copy of The Jambar is free. Additional copies of The Jambar are \$1 each.

OUR SIDE POLICY

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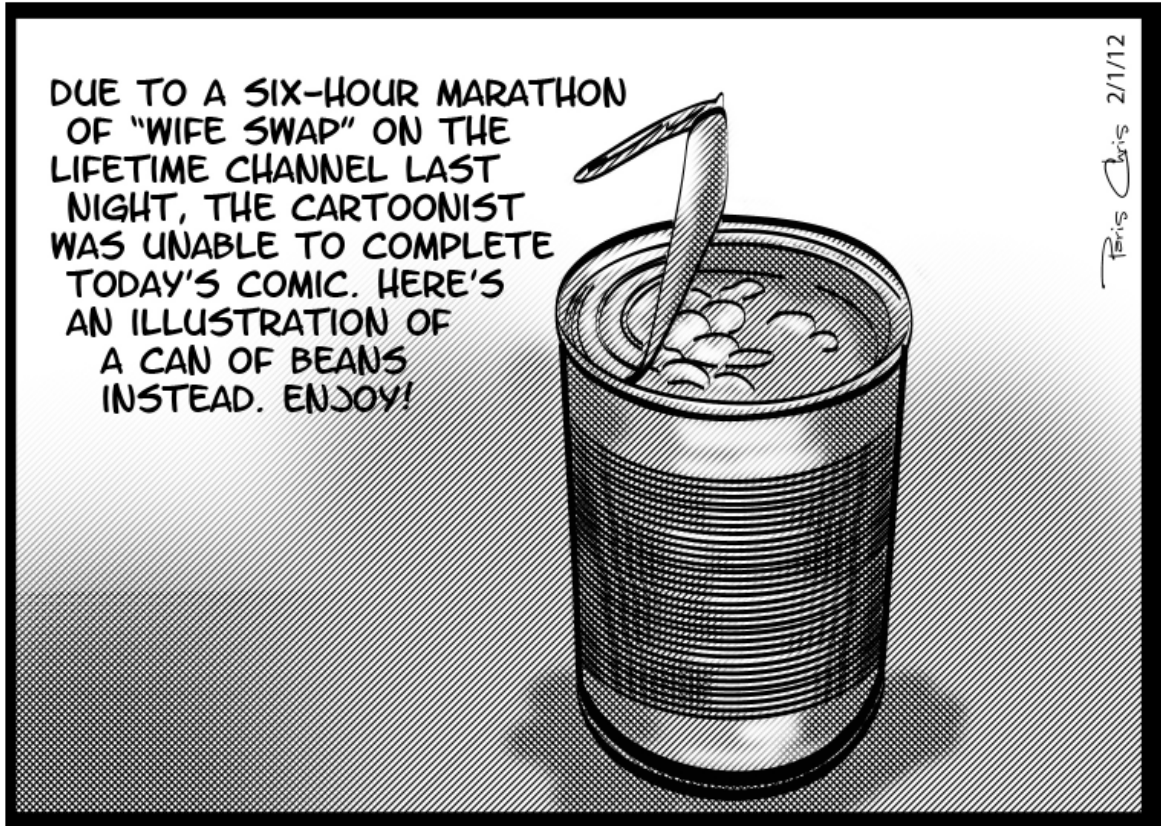
YOUR SIDE POLICY

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THE Jambar *Cartoon*



Cartoon by Paris Chrisopoulos/The Jambar.

Are college students learning?

Los Angeles Times
(MCT)

In his State of the Union address, President Obama proposed several measures to lower college tuition. University leaders responded cautiously, warning that cost-cutting reforms might also cut into instructional quality.

But here's the big open secret in American higher education: Most institutions have no meaningful way to measure the quality of their instruction. And the president didn't ask us to develop one, either.

Instead, he suggested that the federal government tie student aid to colleges' success in reducing tuition and in helping students move forward. In a follow-up speech at the University of Michigan on Friday, he called for a "college scorecard" that would rank institutions according to cost, graduation rates and future earnings.

"If you can't stop tuition from going up, your funding from taxpayers will go down," Obama warned. "We should push colleges to do better; we should hold them accountable if they don't."

Fair enough. But look again at Obama's criteria for "better": holding down costs, graduating students and helping them get jobs. There's no mention of whether the students are actually learning anything.

At most institutions, including my own, we have no idea if they are. Sure, professors assign grades in their courses, and students are asked to evaluate the classes they take and the professors who teach them. But neither measure gives us any real answer to the \$200,000 question: What knowledge or skills are students acquiring in exchange for the skyrocketing tuition they pay?

And we now have some alarming national data to suggest the answer: not nearly enough. My New York University colleague Richard Arum and the University of Virginia's Josipa Roksa recently

tracked several thousand undergraduates as they moved through two dozen U.S. universities. They found that almost half of them didn't significantly improve their reasoning or writing skills during the first two years of college. And after four years, subsequent research showed, more than one-third of students still showed no significant gains in these areas.

Arum and Roksa based their conclusions on results from the College Learning Assessment, or CLA, an essay test that tries to measure the things universities say they want students to learn: critical thinking, complex reasoning and written expression. One sample question provides several documents about an airplane that crashed, then asks students to advise an executive about whether his company should purchase that type of plane. Another test item presents crime data from a city and asks students to counsel its mayor about how to respond to criticisms of his policing policies.

The CLA was administered to more than 2,300 students at 24 institutions, ranging from big state universities and selective liberal arts schools to historically black and Latino institutions. Forty-five percent of the students showed no significant gains on the CLA between their freshman and sophomore years, and 36 percent didn't improve significantly between their freshman and senior years.

And why should they? College students spend about 12 hours a week studying, on average, and one-third of them report studying less than five hours per week. More than half the students in Arum and Roksa's sample said they had not taken a single class in the semester before they were surveyed that required a total of 20 pages of writing.

So I have a modest proposal for Obama: In addition to asking universities to lower tuition, ask them also to figure out what their students are learning. Some schools are already doing that. At

Carleton College in Minnesota, for example, students are required to submit a set of papers that they wrote during their first two years at the school. Carleton then assesses each student according to a set of faculty-developed standards, and also provides assistance to the students who do not meet them.

And in 2010, more than 70 college and university presidents signed an agreement to expand their efforts to assess student learning. They also pledged to use these assessments "when making decisions about educational improvement," which is exactly as it should be.

Too often, though, student learning is the last thing on our minds. We speak instead of inputs and outputs: what college costs, how many people make it through and what happens to them afterward. Should we be surprised, then, when many students don't take learning seriously either?

As the parent of a daughter at an expensive liberal arts college, I'm obviously concerned about the escalating cost of higher education. College tuition and fees rose more than 400 percent between 1982 and 2007. That was due to a host of factors, including declining support from state legislatures, increased professor salaries, eye-popping new facilities and heavy administrative bloat. We need to do everything we can to make college more affordable, so long as students' education doesn't suffer.

And there's the rub. Which reforms will actually hurt student learning, and which won't? Nobody really knows. The biggest scandal in higher education is not the rising sticker price; it's the failure of our institutions to figure out what our sticks, educationally speaking. Millions of American students and their families are mortgaging their futures to pay for a college education. We owe them an honest account of what they're getting in return: not just what it costs, or where it will take them, but what it means.

Food stamp food police?

McClatchy-Tribune
News Service
(MCT)

To many liberals, the thing that distinguishes them from conservatives is that those on the right lack empathy. It's not a particularly fair criticism of an ideology more informed by a love of individualism and distrust of collective solutions to social problems than a failure to understand the plight of the unfortunate, but in the case of Florida state Sen. Ronda Storms, it seems to apply.

Storms is pushing a bill that would prohibit recipients of food stamps from using them to buy soda, candy or snacks that she considers unhealthy. When a fellow Republican lawmaker at a Senate hearing on the bill Wednesday pointed out that this would prevent poor parents from buying their children a birthday cake or cupcake, Storms uttered the closest modern equivalent to Marie Antoinette's infamous remark about cake that we've ever heard: "They

can have cake," she replied. "You can buy flour, eggs and sugar, and that makes a cake. I make my kids their own cakes."

If this seems reasonable to you, there is a very good chance that you're not a single mom on welfare. Frequently, such parents lack the resources, ability or time to practice home baking.

If Florida were the only place considering such restrictions, we might dismiss it as a Sunshine State anomaly, but legislation seeking to restrict the kind of fare that can be purchased with food stamps has been introduced in about half a dozen other states, including California (though last year's bill here stalled). There are two key motivations behind this drive: a well-meaning effort to fight obesity among the poor, and a mean-spirited attempt to make them eat their spinach because Uncle Sam doesn't want to spring for candy bars. Either way, it's a misguided approach.

The list in Storms' bill is so long — foods containing trans fats, sweetened beverages, "sweets" from Jello to doughnuts, and "salty

snacks" — that it seems to include most items not found in the produce or meat aisles. The notion that poor people have any more time to cook from scratch than other Americans who rely on prepared supermarket "junk" food is clearly absurd, and infantilizing them by restricting their choices in this way is demeaning.

Meanwhile, even narrower attempts at limiting the grocery list, such as New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's 2010 proposal to forbid food stamp purchases of sugary soft drinks, fail the smell test. Some fruit juices that would have been allowed under Bloomberg's plan are as nutritionally empty as colas, and advice from health experts about what Americans should be eating is subject to frequent shifts.

The best way to prevent people from making bad food choices is to give them proper nutritional information. But for the government to reach into their supermarket carts is downright — dare we say it? — socialistic

'The struggle continues'

Students and faculty reflect on black heritage, history

Kacy Standohar
FEATURES EDITOR

For Victor Wan-Tatah, director of Africana studies at Youngstown State University, black history means more than a month of commemorating.

Wan-Tatah grew up in Cameroon, Africa, and he experienced racial discrimination while studying at Harvard University.

"It was a name-calling incident, and I didn't understand why it happened. A few white young men on campus were writing with chalk and made derogatory comments," he said.

Wan-Tatah said the young men did not know him at all, and he did not respond.

"There was no opportunity or reason for me to respond to it. I was aware of the placements of discrimination," he said.

Discrimination that still exists, he added.

The incident had another effect on the YSU professor.

It strengthened his pride and fueled his tenacity.

"We deal with it as an isolated unit. We must deal with people saying what they want. They have the right, but they should be challenged and not

just let go," Wan-Tatah said.

Wan-Tatah added that he values the experience and wants the campus community to value black history.

But black students at YSU hold differing sentiments.

Sophomore Darius Taylor said he thinks that Black History Month is underappreciated. Taylor said he wishes that black history was taught to students at a younger age.

"The classes we have here at YSU should have been offered in high schools as well," he said. "We should be learning and appreciating this sooner."

Freshman Montrel Woods shares this sentiment. He said February is a month to celebrate his culture and heritage.

But sophomore Jensine Nabors and her friends said they don't feel the need to commemorate black history.

"I stopped celebrating in high school," she said. "It's just another month to me."

Freshman Kenneth Clemons said he celebrates black history all year.

Still, professors and staff recommend that all students appreciate the struggles and accomplishments of African-Americans.

"It requires a self-understanding and a conscious effort

... an effort for history that has not always been brought out in schools," Wan-Tatah said.

Wan-Tatah said major contributions often remain unrecognized, and memories of African culture should be reminders of segregation and judgment.

"These issues continue to exist, but strides made by this university have made a big difference," he said. "Diversity is now more easily recognizable."

Yulanda McCarty-Harris, director of the YSU Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, said Black History Month is a time of reflection, celebration and achievement, yet she, too, believes problems linger.

"The struggle continues with African-Americans and other groups that have suffered inequality," she said. "Poverty, education and economic empowerment issues still transcend race."

McCarty-Harris takes pride in Black History Month. She said she loves to take part and assists with campus events during February.

"We assume everything is OK because we have a black president, but we still live it day in and day out," she said. "It's a time for awakening for those to realize there is a lot more to be done."

Campus Connection

What does Black History Month mean to you?



"It helps me recognize how far we've come. We've come a long way due to Martin Luther King and our other ancestors. We have our own month to celebrate being African-American."

— Ramona Moton, Pete's Place employee



"It's the illumination of certain events that promoted the progression towards change. It's not just for blacks; it's for our way of thinking. We revisit a lot of arguments that were made in the past, like Martin Luther King's 'We Have a Dream.' It's a plea for change."

— Mericus D. Huffman, sophomore



Head football coach Eric Wolford will narrate "Lincoln's Portrait" as a part of the Youngstown Symphony Orchestra's performance on Saturday. Photo by Joe Catullo Jr./The Jambar.

Out of his comfort zone

Wolford narrates the life of Lincoln

Chelsea Telega
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Head football coach Eric Wolford's voice carries throughout the Ice Castle on game day. But on Saturday he'll be joining the symphony as a guest narrator.

The Youngstown Symphony Orchestra will host "Lincoln's Portrait," a compilation of addresses given by Abraham Lincoln.

Led by conductor Randall Craig Fleischer, the Youngstown Symphony Orchestra will perform Aaron Copland's patriotic 1942 "Fanfare for the Common Man." Wolford will recite segments from the Gettysburg Address and other historic dialogues.

Youngstown Symphony Society President Patricia Syak said Wolford was the right man for the job.

"We thought it was a great collaboration between the university and the symphony, and because the coach is an outstanding member of the community," Syak said.

Wolford agreed.

"I am all about the community. I have never told anyone 'no' since I've been here for two years," he said. "I have never declined an invitation to help out or do something unless I had a prior engagement. I thought it would be fun."

This is Wolford's first time narrating for the symphony.

"I am very nervous about it. I am actually probably more nervous about that than coaching a football game because it's out of my comfort zone," Wolford said. "I'm a believer in 'you have to get out of your comfort zone.'"

Community involvement at Wolford's level is what Syak is looking for in the future.

"I think that we would love to find other

individuals at the university to work with us, and other people from the community," she said. "We try to incorporate the people in the area with the things the symphony does."

Wolford said he hopes his involvement with the symphony will teach his football players and colleagues a valuable lesson.

"I think it's good for them and even my coaching staff. They like to poke fun at me about doing it, but it's good for me, and it's good for them," Wolford said. "My wife's excited; my kids are excited; a lot of people in the community are excited. They want to see if I can do it."

Trevor Parks, sports information director, said he is having a "date night" with his wife and another couple for Wolford's performance.

"I'm going as a fan to watch him, support him and see what kind of trouble he can get himself into," Parks said.

Parks said he is excited to see what the show will be like, and thinks the collaboration between the symphony and athletics is a nice change of pace.

"I think it's pretty cool. A lot of times we don't get to do stuff like this," he said. "I know he is excited, and I know the symphony is excited. I support him 100 percent."

Wolford said everyone in the community has an obligation to make it a better place, and this kind of involvement is the first step.

"I think that's part of being a college student; I think that's part of being at this university. We all have an opportunity to do that whether it's community involvement or helping kids," he said. "There are a lot of kids today that need us. If they don't get themselves straightened out between now and when they graduate high school, they won't be going to college."

Wolford will practice with the orchestra on Saturday afternoon and perform at 8 p.m.

International business students travel to London, Dublin

Alina Rios
REPORTER

Seventeen Youngstown State University students rang in the new year in London as part of the London Dublin Study Tour.

The \$2,950 tour was offered to students as a three-credit marketing elective for international business.

The journey began after a 10-hour flight out of New Jersey. After touching down in London, students traveled six hours via bus and ferryboat to Dublin.

"Everyone pretty much wanted to get off of the ferry 10 minutes into the ride," senior Justin Butt said. "We were all pretty miserable and seasick."

For 10 days, the students visited several large corporations such as BP, which is headquartered in London, and met with executives who shared their accounts of handling international matters and marketing strategies.

"We try to get women speakers for the presentations because a lot of our students haven't seen women in professional business roles," said Peter Reday, an associate professor of marketing at YSU. "One speaker spoke about the strategy she was going to use in court to take over a company. You wouldn't get that in business school."

The presentations were geared toward learning about senior-level business. However, they also offered an opportunity to see how industry professionals act and dress.

"Students don't really know how to act in the business world," Reday said. "When you get out of here, you're going to know everything about accounting, finance and marketing — but you don't know how to act the part. That's what we try to present to them

on the trip."

In their free time while abroad, students were asked to do a comparative study. Accounting majors observed the different currencies and the currency exchange rate. The trip was designed for the students' majors and added international experience to their resumes.

Students also visited the U.S. Embassy in Dublin, the Guinness brewery and other tourist sites.

"One of my favorite things that we did was going to Windsor Castle where the queen lived," junior Kayla Micco said. "Seeing the guards you only get to see in movies, and seeing that they actually exist, was really cool."

Students found free time in the afternoon or at night to explore.

Butt recalled jumping into the Irish Sea with three other students.

"They said that not a lot of people had done it before," Butt said. "It's a spot where the locals jump off because it's 40 feet deep all around. This was the first year there was a girl from our group who did it."

On New Year's Eve, the students ate dinner along the Thames River. They watched fireworks and brought party poppers to celebrate.

"This year, they moved the location of the fireworks to the other side of the bridge, so we only saw the shadow of the fireworks," Micco said. "They don't do a big countdown like we do, so we were all shooting our party poppers at different times. No one knew when it was really New Year's, but it was so much fun."

The London Dublin Study Tour has been offered for 10 years, and it usually occurs over winter break. A trip to China is offered during the summer. Approximately 250 students have traveled overseas for the international business course.

BENCHMARK PAGE 1

ris said. "If after one year, a student wanted to get to work, they could get a co-op or an internship right away and get their foot in the door."

Jack Fahey, vice president for student affairs and ombudsperson at Youngstown State University, said he sees both pros and cons in the plan.

"I like the idea of awarding an associate's degree on the way to a bachelor's," Fahey said. "Some people perceive the associate's degree negatively, inferring that the student didn't intend to get a bachelor's from the beginning."

Fahey said he doesn't think the benchmark degrees will encourage students to stop before completing their bachelor's degree.

Moriah Diglaw, a freshman graphic design major at YSU,

said the plan wouldn't affect her goal of finishing her degree on schedule.

"No matter what field of study a student is in, it all depends on how determined they are to finish what they started going to college for," Diglaw said.

Cherie Ruth, a sophomore dental hygiene student at YSU, said she's concerned that less motivated students might give up without achieving their full potential.

"It depends on the student's situation," Ruth said. "Students can face a variety of issues, from financial to pregnancy or family problems."

Ruth said it would be likely that, under the plan, many students won't continue after completing a year or two of school — even if earning a bachelor's degree is their ultimate goal.

The board is also focusing on three-year degrees, which are designed to ease the financial burden on students while providing them with a quality education. Norris said budget provisions call for an increase in three-year programs at state universities.

"A three-year degree would provide some unique challenges and are not for everyone," Norris said. "But for students who want to move faster and get into the workforce, it will provide the option."

Fahey said academic affairs is working on a list of programs at YSU that could be completed in three years.

"Most [three-year degrees] will require intensive summer terms and likely rely on credits received during high school," he said.

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Current Issue: April 17, 2007

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:
Josh Stipanovich 330-941-1991

MANAGING EDITOR:
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NEWS EDITOR:
Jordan D. Uhl 330-941-1989

SENIOR COPY EDITOR:
Emmalee C. Torisk 330-941-3758

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR:
Chelsea Telega 330-941-1913

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Kacy Standohar 330-941-1913

SPORTS EDITOR:
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Paris Chrisopoulos 330-941-1807

SALES MANAGER:
Jeff Mamounis 330-941-1990

RECEPTIONIST:
Alyssa Italiano 330-941-3095

BUSINESS MANAGER:
Mary Dota 330-941-3094

ADVISER:
Mary Beth Earnhardt 330-941-3095

CONTACT THE JAMBAR

E-MAIL editor@thejambar.com
FAX 330-941-2322

Send letters to:
thejambar@gmail.com

got an opinion?

2012 YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

Proverb of the Month: "Rising early makes the road short." Wolof proverb, Senegal

Saturday, February 4
Noon-6:00 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center
THE AFRICAN MARKETPLACE
The Marketplace is one of the popular attractions of African American History Month at YSU. In the tradition of an African weekly market, vendors from the community and neighborhoods near and far beyond Ohio bring goods, artistic creations, clothing, books, jewelry and ancient artifacts from Africa and the African Diaspora. The festive and social atmosphere is enlivened by the music and dance performances of the versatile and dynamic Harambee Youth Group.

Thursday, February 9
5:00 p.m. Reception, Bliss Hall Art Gallery
6:00 p.m., Panel Discussion, The McDonough Museum of Art
RECEPTION AND PANEL DISCUSSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTISTIC DISPLAY
THE ART OF LOUIS BURROUGHS
Louis Burroughs' art is motivated by current events and what he calls "the nation's obsession with religion, sports and global domination." Influenced by the paintings of Jean Michael Basquiat and Robert Colescott as well as the forms and shapes of African masks and sculptures, his art is rooted in the African American experience, dating from the sixteenth century to the present. The narrative represents the struggle of African Americans against oppression, servitude, subjugation and enslavement of any type.

Saturday, February 11
11:00 a.m. St. Andrews A.M.E. Church, 521 Earle Avenue, Youngstown
AFRICAN FITNESS DANCE CLASS
Dance for a Cure is the initiative of Educe Group Inc., under the leadership of Eboni Bogan. Its goal is to raise awareness in the fight against breast cancer. Donations are \$10 for adults and \$5 for youth.

Monday, February 13
7:30 p.m. Jones Room, Kilcawley Center
KEYNOTE LECTURE BY HEIDI DURO: THE BIRACIAL MIXED EXPERIENCE
Heidi W. Duro is a New York Times best-selling author of *The Girl Who Fell from the Sky*, a coming of age story of a young, biracial girl growing up in the 1980s in Portland, Oregon. Based loosely upon elements of Duro's own life, the story has captivated readers across the nation, landing on the Indie Bestseller List and receiving an NAACP Image Award nomination. In 2008, *The Girl Who Fell from the Sky* received the Bellwether Prize for literature of social change. Ms. Duro is a graduate of Stanford University, Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism, and the Yale Law School. A book signing and reception will follow the lecture.

Saturday, February 18
7:30 p.m. The Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center
ENTERTAINMENT BY GROUP FROM NEW JERSEY
THE FACES OF BLACK HISTORY
The Prospect Theatrics of Newark, New Jersey is a drama group that has been performing all over the nation, bringing to life on stage the major contribution of African Americans to America from slavery to the first African American President of the United States. This live musical show salutes many well known celebrities, personalities and history makers in an entertaining and educational format for all ages. In an eclectic musical mix, this year's production includes a tribute to Michael Jackson and a salute to the Tuskegee Airmen.

Tuesday, February 21
7:30 p.m. The Gallery Room, Kilcawley Center
LECTURE BY SHAWN WILLIAMS: "BLOGGING WHILE BLACK"
With the rise in visibility and popularity of a black presidential candidate in Barack Obama in 2008, African Americans learned quickly to communicate their concerns through blogging. Bloggers who were not used to seeing African American bloggers often misunderstood black bloggers' message, while others downplayed the significance or urgency of their concerns, while others perceived them as generally antagonistic. "Blogging While Black" conveys the experiences of the speaker and other online bloggers and provides tips for journalists who want to make inroads in their use of the social media. Shawn Williams is an outstanding journalist who has contributed to major newspapers around the country and participated in numerous bloggers' roundtable discussions. Williams is a graduate of Texas A&M University and a recipient of a President's Achievement Award for 1992-1996.

Sunday, February 26
6:00 p.m. The Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center
AN EVENING OF GOSPEL JAZZ
The precious gems of jazz and gospel, both of which are profoundly rooted in the rich heritage of the African American cultural experience, have been around for a long time. Join us as we explore these rich traditions through some of our most gifted and talented YSU students—and a special guest to be revealed that evening. This event is free and open to the public.

For more information contact the Africana Studies Program at 330-941-3097

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YSU football signs 23 recruits

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

Youngstown State University head football coach Eric Wolford announced to media on Wednesday the signing of 23 recruits.

Thirteen of the 23 signees play defense, and five play on the defensive line. Wolford said the main thing about signing defensive players is seeing what they could potentially bring to special teams.

"We felt like a couple of our special teams [players] probably

need to play better, and we need more defensive players available to play on those teams," he said.

While naming the players, Wolford said defensive lineman Austin Trgovcich reminds Wolford of himself when he was an offensive lineman at Kansas State University.

Trgovcich played five games last year with a partial tear in his labrum during Cardinal Mooney High School's run to the Division III State Championship.

"He's a lot better player than I was, a lot better athlete, but 'Trg' is a model football player," Wolford said. "He's a hard worker,

loves to lift some weights."

While recruiting, Wolford said he wanted to get a few big men on the offensive and defensive lines.

Hess will remain the starting quarterback, but Wolford recruited Nick Wargo from Walsh Jesuit High School in Stow to shadow Hess.

Wargo went 89-137 passing last year with 1,331 yards and 13 touchdowns in the regular season. He worked with YSU quarterbacks coach Shane Montgomery last summer.

Wide receiver Christian Bryan who was recruited last year by Wolford was selected

as the program's Newcomer of the Year, an honorable mention All-MVFC pick and member of the conference's All-Newcomer team as a freshman.

Wolford said he believes he found another player similar to Bryan in receiver Michael Wheary.

Wolford said he is a believer in second chances and would give one to receiver Byron Pringle out of Robinson High School in Tampa, Fla.

Pringle missed the entire 2010 season when he and teammate Jovan Woods committed a crime in south Tampa.

The two were 16 years old at

that time and were arrested on felony charges, including robbery, aggravated battery with a weapon, aggravated battery with a deadly weapon, burglary of an unoccupied conveyance and grand theft.

"I think Byron's a classic example of a guy that was in the wrong place at the wrong time," Wolford said. "We have an opportunity to give a kid a chance because a lot of us don't really know the real situation."

Pringle did play last season, and he was a second-team class 5A Florida all-state selection and first-team All-Hillsborough County selection.

Overcoming injury

Thompson sticks out as key to Penguins' future

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

Last season, Melissa Thompson tore her ACL in her left knee and scored just 18 points in 19 games. On Thursday, she started her first game for the Penguins and scored 14.

She started again on Saturday and scored eight points in a loss to Wright State University.

Bob Boldon, head women's basketball coach, said in Monday's press conference that Thompson has been working hard to put her injury in the past.

"We've been talking about getting her more minutes," Boldon said. "It's great to see a kid who's fought back from injury. It's been a whole year recovering from the injury. It obviously made us look better as a team."

Thompson said getting back into shape was the biggest challenge.

"After my injury, I definitely wasn't in the shape that I needed to be able to compete," Thompson said during the press conference.

Moving forward, Thompson will be a key ingredient of the Penguins' late-season push in the Horizon League, Boldon said.

"If I was as fast as Melissa, my life would have been a lot better in high school and college because I would have

scored a lot more points," Boldon said, chuckling. "I think Melissa took the preparations very seriously, understanding what teams are doing."

A win on Thursday could push the Penguins into a fourth-place tie in the HL.

Freshman Kelsea Fickiesen was also placed in the starting lineup last week, putting senior guard Macey Nortey on the bench — even though Nortey played a combined 16 minutes in the two games.

"This is the best weekend Macey's had since I've been here," Boldon said. "I know maybe she didn't score a lot or play, but I think Macey's done a nice job of learning our team and understanding her limitations."

Nortey scored 12 points in the two games, including a game-tying layup with less than three seconds against WSU.

Although Boldon switched his lineup and rotation, the main ingredient of the Penguins' success is the 3-point shot.

The Penguins rank fourth in 3-pointers in the HL, shooting 32.2 percent from behind the arc. They attempted 47 3-point shots against WSU, the second-most in school history.

"Wright State does the best out of anyone in our conference of taking points away around the rim," Boldon said. "Typically, that doesn't bother us a whole lot."

The Penguins went 12-47 (25.5 percent) from behind the 3-point line on Saturday.

"After watching the tape, I thought two or three of them probably were a little deeper than they needed to be, but I thought, for the most part, we got our good shooters with good shots," Boldon said.

The Penguins went 1-1 last week, and Boldon said he was pleased with the effort.

"Obviously, we'd like to change the outcome of Saturday, but our effort this weekend was very good, and I was proud of the way we competed in both games," he said.

The Penguins remain at home to face Valparaiso University on Thursday and Butler University on Saturday. Boldon said he would look out for slow-paced defense.

"It's a very slow pace, and sometimes that can frustrate us defensively," Boldon said. "That will be our challenge to try to quicken the pace a little bit."

Thompson said energy is a main factor.

"I think we came out slow the last time we faced them," Thompson said. "As long as we come out with energy, I think we'll be fine."

The Penguins lost to Butler, 73-64, on Jan. 5 and defeated Valpo, 55-48, on Jan. 7. Butler ranks sixth in the HL (8-12, 4-5), while Valpo sits in last place (5-15, 1-8).



Senior Kenya Middlebrooks attempts a layup against the University of Detroit Mercy's Sharetta Brown during last week's game. Middlebrooks scored a career-high 30 points in a victory against Detroit. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

Women and the NFL

Females begin to take over traditionally male-oriented sport

Steve Wilaj
REPORTER

Samantha Martinelli watches football regularly. She competes in a "pick 'em" knockout contest for each week of the NFL's regular season.

And when the New England Patriots and New York Giants take the field Sunday evening, Martinelli will be tuned in.

Martinelli, a sophomore at Youngstown State University, is one of 6,002 women who have slowly made their mark on the NFL. According to the Nielsen Company, females accounted for 33.6 percent of the NFL audience in the 2010 season.

"I enjoy the entertainment of an NFL game," Martinelli said. "I think football has really grown on me. Now I can watch even when my favorite team [the Steelers] isn't playing."

Thomas Oates, an assistant professor of communication at Northern Illinois University, said he believes fandom is increasing in the NFL and that women play a role.

"The NFL is growing in popularity in general, but the number of women following the league is reported at much larger numbers than in the past," he said. "By some estimates, women make up nearly half of the league's fans."

The Nielsen Company reported a total NFL audience of 14,430 for the 2006 season, with 4,697 being women. Compare those numbers to a 2010 NFL audience of 17,867 — with women accounting for 6,002 — and NFL popularity is on the rise.

Oates specializes in the study of sports culture and media. Acknowledging the recent spike in female fandom, Oates said he does not think increased interest is sudden.

"It's hard to know if this change is as impulsive and dramatic as is reported, because most of the available numbers come from parties with an interest in reporting growth in the women's market," he said. "The league and its commercial partners have only recently begun paying close attention to women as possible consumers, so while

many women may have been interested for a long time, the marketers are only just discovering it."

One way the NFL is making up for past ignorance is by offering merchandise in a women's clothing line. Tracey Blecinski, the NFL's vice president of consumer products, said women's NFL apparel sales have doubled since 2004.

"The variety of NFL clothing available to women has increased," Oates said. "It's not too surprising that the numbers of women buying NFL merchandise has grown."

Andrew Billings, professor of telecommunication and film at the University of Alabama, said that women — like men — have come to view football as more than just a sport to follow. The level of sport has moved to the level of a cultural phenomenon.

"Must-see TV is largely gone in the age of media fragmentation, leaving the NFL as one of the few events that people discuss the next day," said Billings, an expert in sports media, identity studies and entertainment studies. "Women wish to be part of these larger conversations and are finding that they enjoy the NFL product."

Through the media, the NFL product provides tremendous access to their games and teams, which is also beneficial in garnering women's interest, he said.

"A plethora of ancillary NFL media options allow women to learn more 'behind-the-scenes' backstories that Olympic research already tells us women crave more than men," Billings said.

Come Super Bowl Sunday, expect the popularity statistics to continue their rise.

Billings said last year's Super Bowl became the most viewed U.S. telecast of all time, even when featuring two teams (Green Bay Packers and Pittsburgh Steelers) that do not represent top-20 U.S. media markets.

"I'm anticipating that this year's Super Bowl will garner the highest rating yet, given the overall interest in these teams," he said.

And expect women to be watching. "Women will, in turn, likely be viewing at unprecedented levels," Billings said.

Men's tennis preps for spring season

Nick Mancini
SPORTS REPORTER

Hopes are high as the Youngstown State University men's tennis team returns to the court for its spring season.

Head coach Mark Klysner said the team worked hard over break and looks to build off the fall season.

"We had a good fall season," Klysner said. "I think we should be able to have another good season in the spring."

The Penguins will look to their senior Tariq Ismail to lead them through the season. Tariq Ismail went 3-4 in singles play. He teamed with freshman Dawoud Kabli in doubles and finished 5-3.

Klysner said he hopes Tariq Ismail leaves YSU on a solid note after the spring season concludes.

"He is our senior leader, no doubt about it," Klysner said. "I know the other guys are anxious to give him the best senior year possible."

Klysner is also looking for improvement from Kabli. In his first season of collegiate tennis, Kabli went 4-4 in singles play and had a

doubles record of 6-4, teaming with Tariq Ismail and sophomore Victor Theorin.

"I knew of his ability coming into the fall, so I knew what I was getting," Klysner said. "He played very well in his first season. He is very coachable; he just soaks up information like a sponge."

Klysner is also looking for contributions from a trio of sophomores.

Max Schmerin, Zeeshan Ismail and Rodrigo Campos all return, looking to build their fall seasons.

In singles, they combined to go 18-11 for the Penguins. Zeeshan Ismail went 9-2 in singles, ending the season on a seven-game winning streak.

"I really think those guys can all have great seasons for us," Klysner said. "They all have another year under their belt and have some experience competing in the Horizon League."

The Penguins open the season on Saturday, traveling to New York to take on St. Bonaventure University. The team will have its first home matchup on Feb. 10 when it hosts Chicago State University.