



Moot Court victories for YSU



Two teams from YSU's Moot Court (above) won first and second place at the Nov. 22-23 Midwest Regional Tournament, where 12 universities competed at the tournament. Three teams from YSU will now move on to compete in the January national competition. **Photo courtesy of Catie Carney.**

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The Youngstown State University moot court teams received first and second place in the Midwest Regional Tournament on Nov. 22-23 at the College of Wooster.

The winners of the two teams were YSU students. Catie Carney and Jacob Schriener-Briggs won first place while Sean Varsho and Mike Goldtwait came in second.

Moot court is a competition that simulates US Supreme Court proceedings. Teams, consisting of two students who act as lawyers, debate predetermined constitutional issues before a panel of judges.

Carney competed on Team 102 with teammate

Schriener-Briggs. The team has been preparing for the competition since May, when their case problem was first published.

"We got to practice at the Seventh District Court of Appeals through the semester and present our arguments in front of practicing attorneys and judges," Carney said.

Paul Sracic, professor and chair of the political science department, advised the team this year and Ronald Slipski, a local attorney, is their coach.

Lindsey Harrison, a YSU moot court competitor and student, said the team owes their success to Slipski.

"He is the heartbeat of our moot court team, and none of us would have been able to accomplish what we did if it wasn't for him," Harrison said.

Twelve universities participated in this year's

competition at Wooster. Out of all of the teams, two YSU teams ranked first and second. Two other teams also made it to Round 16.

Three YSU students were ranked in the top orators category, including: Jacob Schriener-Briggs in fourth place, Lindsey Harrison in fifth place and Phil Sarnowski in tenth place.

"The real victory was making it into the final round and seeing another YSU team as our opponents. Since May, our goal has been to make it far into the regional tournament, and having two YSU teams compete in the final round was absolutely surreal," Carney said.

Three teams from YSU will now go on to compete in the national competition, taking place in January. The competition will be held at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law in Tempe, Arizona.

McDonough showcases seniors' art

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From Nov 22 through Dec. 14, the John J. McDonough Museum of Art is presenting the bi-annual Youngstown State University Graduating Bachelor of Fine Arts Show, featuring 19 graduating art students' pieces.

The show will include styles spanning graphic and interactive design, painting, photography, and 3D studies.

Ryan Johnson, a YSU double major in 3D studies and art education, said he has a piece in the show that he has been working on since last spring.

"The piece I have in the show is a 15-foot tall steel chandelier called 'drop of life,'" Johnson said. "The overall form of the piece is a giant drop of water made from three clear resin-cast female figures, forged steel round stock and 36 candles in glass votive holders. It's suspended from three large steel rings and hangs above a ground component shaped like a splash. The splash is a contour linear construct made from steel and it holds a spiral mosaic within it made from over 60 custom-cut mirrors."

Zachariah McCartney, a graphic design student, said he contributed a multiple piece exhibit to the show.

"There were 10 pieces in my exhibit. The one I'm most proud

of is the logo I did for Team Vulcun. Team Vulcun is a League of Legends professional gaming team," McCartney said. "When I approached the project, I took into consideration what the team was looking for in a logo. Vulcan — team spells it as Vulcun — is two things. It is the name of the Roman god of fire, as well as a high tech fighter jet. In selecting a mascot to represent the team, I combined the fighter jet with the god of fire and arrived at the bird of fire, a phoenix."

Brian Gigliotti, a YSU art student who specializes in sculptures, created a piece with several animal sculptures displayed on pedestals, with the entire piece encircled by a Chinese dragon lantern. Gigliotti said that he created his piece after spending time teaching young students in China.

"I guess it all started because I went to China," Gigliotti said. "Obviously, it inspired a lot of my work. I wanted to portray the Chinese experience. I just took each of the zodiac and used either a natural element or an element representing some part of the Chinese culture. I wanted to do each [sculpture] differently."

Leslie Brothers, director of the McDonough Museum of Art, said that the show is a graduation requirement for studio students as well as graphic design and interactive students. The show allows them to get a level of exposure most other



Brian Gigliotti's exhibit (above) features sculptures based off of the Chinese zodiac. Gigliotti employed different sculpting methods to create each animal sculpture in the display. **Photo by Liam Bouquet/The Jambar.**

universities don't offer.

"There is a senior seminar and a senior project, and the product is this exhibition at the McDonough," Brothers said. "It is an exceptional opportunity to exhibit their work in this substantial institution. Our students have the good fortune of being able to have their final exhibi-

tion at the McDonough Museum of Art. ... It is unusual to have a real museum to show their final work in. That is important to us; that means a lot to us."

Johnson said the publicity he has received from the display and the Nov. 22 reception has helped to open several new doors for him.

"I did, however, have an art dealer offer to sell the piece for me in Florida," Johnson said. "I spoke with multiple people that wanted to talk in the future about commissions and work. Without having the art on display at a place like the McDonough, I most likely wouldn't have made as many of these connections."

Hoops for Hope

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On Dec. 14, the Hope Foundation of the Mahoning Valley will hold its second annual Hope Classic: High School Basketball Showcase at the Struthers Fieldhouse.

Seven area schools — West Branch, Boardman, Struthers, LaBrae, Cardinal Mooney, Warren G. Harding and Niles — will participate in this year's basketball showcase.

Denver East High School's girl's basketball team will also play in the tournament, traveling all the way from Colorado to compete.

Tony Spano, founder and executive director of the Hope Foundation of the Mahoning Valley, said the event contributes to a good cause.

"It raises money for chronically ill kids in the valley. All the money stays here," he said. "The biggest thing that comes from it is, you are raising money for kids and all the money we make from that event goes back to the foundation."

Spano said he expects the basketball showcase to attract over 3,000 spectators and raise between \$8,000 and \$10,000.

"We have a great following when it comes to this event, we have a lot of community backing because it is something totally different," Spano said.

Dwight Berry, head coach of the Denver East High School's girl's basketball team, said he looks forward to traveling from Colorado to Youngstown with his team.

"Youngstown, Ohio is my hometown," Berry said. "I had a lot of good things happen to me in order to be in



Ryan Strollo of Ursuline takes the ball up the court against Peyton Aldridge of LaBrae in the Hope Foundation of the Mahoning Valley's 2012 Hope Classic: High School Basketball Showcase. Photo Courtesy of Tony Spano.

this position and this is my way of saying thank you, and also allowing my family to see what I do."

For Berry, the Hope Classic is about more than the playing basketball.

"I think this may be the first time that I am not too concerned about winning or losing. I'm just happy about the cause, and I am happy to be coming home," Berry said. "I just feel like it's a great opportunity to give back. If I can do my part and get a lot of people to come out and see us, it will help raise a lot of money."

Spano said that since its foundation in 2007, the Hope Foundation of the Mahoning Valley has experienced growth due to community support.

"If it wasn't for the support of the community, the board of trustees, the volunteers and the partners, this foundation would not be where it is today. It's not because of me; it's because of the community. I'm just one part of an integrative system of support for chronically and terminally ill kids," Spano said.

Amazon's planned drone delivery must clear state hurdles

By Maggie Clark
Stateline.org
(MCT)

Not so fast, Jeff Bezos. Before Amazon.com Inc. can deploy its fleet of delivery drones, the company will have to wait for the results of drone tests at six state-run sites, which the Federal Aviation Administration will select later this month.

At least 24 states are competing to host these sites, which are expected to bring jobs and investment from a rapidly growing industry. Congress has directed the FAA to safely integrate unmanned aerial vehicles, or unarmed drones, into the national airspace by 2015. Until then, the FAA has said it will grant flight privileges to operators of unmanned aerial vehicles, or UAVs, on a case-by-case basis.

Bezos, the CEO of the Seattle-based e-commerce giant, said in an interview broadcast Sunday on CBS's "60 Minutes" news program that Amazon hopes to use drones to make same-day deliveries within five years of FAA approval. "It will work, and it will happen, and it's gonna be a lot of fun," Bezos said.

Amazon's plan is yet another example of how drones could transform everyday life. Manufacturers tout the machines' ability to carry water to a wildfire, monitor storm systems, locate missing persons or even deliver pizza.

Governors are well aware of the technology's job potential for engineers, programmers and pilots. Already, Oklahoma's Republican Gov. Mary Fallin has a cabinet-level secretary dedicated to attracting drone companies to the state. New Mexico, which has a long history of testing military aircraft, has already secured a site. In promotional materials, Utah boasts that it is "one of the few states with unified executive and legislative support for UAV testing."

The Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International, the trade association for drone manufacturers, estimates that integrating drones into the national airspace will generate at least 70,000 engineering, manufacturing and piloting jobs within the first three years of FAA approval.

The states that win the test sites also will be charged with developing privacy policies for drones, to protect the public from surveil-

lance by drones performing all sorts of tasks, including delivering packages. During this past legislative session, eight states put limits on how law enforcement officers can use drones, and set guidelines for how long data collected from a drone can be stored in a database.

Still, those concerns haven't stopped the majority of states from moving ahead to attract drone businesses. Even in Virginia, where tea partiers and civil libertarians worked together to pass a two-year moratorium on drone use by anyone other than the military, the economic temptation of aerospace jobs and an FAA test site persuaded the legislature and the governor to all but gut the moratorium in a special session.

"Not only would future job prospects dim, but current businesses and those they employ would be at risk," warned Peter Bale, chairman of the AUVSI, in a letter to Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell, a Republican. "More than 50 companies that manufacture UAVs have a footprint in Virginia. A moratorium would create an unfriendly environment for these companies, which as a result might look to take their business, as well as jobs, elsewhere."

In response, McDonnell added exemptions to the moratorium for researchers and companies to test drones, so long as they are not armed or used for surveillance. Virginia and New Jersey are teaming up to apply for a joint drone test site, competing against 22 other states vying for one of the spots.

Republican Gov. Paul LePage of Maine also refused to sign a bill limiting drone use. "This bill will harm any opportunity Maine has to create new jobs in the aerospace industry," LePage wrote after vetoing a bill limiting law enforcement use of drones. "It is the wrong message to send if we want these jobs." Instead, LePage directed the state Department of Public Safety to create guidelines for law enforcement use of drones.

A model drone policy from the Aerospace States Association, the Council of State Governments and the National Conference of State Legislatures urges states to require a warrant for drone surveillance of an individual; prohibit the re-use of video or photos collected by a drone for other investigations; and ban weapons from domestic drones.

Student debt up in 2012, report finds

Adrienne Lu
Stateline.org
(MCT)

WASHINGTON — Seven in 10 students who graduated with bachelor's degrees in 2012 had student loan debt, with an average debt of \$29,400, according to a report from The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS).

Both figures increased since 2008, the last year comparable numbers were available, when 68 percent of graduates had an average debt of \$23,450.

Student debt varied tremendously by state, according to the report. Students in South Dakota were the most likely to graduate with debt, with 78 percent of graduates owing money, while students in Nevada were the least likely to graduate with debt, with 41 percent of graduates owing money.

Average debt per student also differed across state lines. Many high-debt states were in the Northeast and Midwest. Delaware's students had the highest average debt in the country, at \$33,649, while students in

New Mexico had the lowest average debt, at \$17,994.

"Despite discouraging headlines, a college degree remains the best route to finding a job in this tight market," said Lauren Asher, president of TICAS, a non-profit organization that aims to make college more available and affordable. "But students and families need to know that debt levels can vary widely from college to college."

The federal government collects data to calculate national student debt figures every four years, including 2012.

The TICAS report relies on colleges voluntarily sharing data. More than half of all public and private non-profit four-year colleges shared data for the report. The state figures exclude for-profit colleges because almost none volunteered their figures.

The U.S. Department of Education also launched a financial aid website Wednesday aimed at helping guidance counselors and others who help students navigate applying for colleges and financial aid. The Financial Aid Toolkit includes a searchable database with access to financial aid resources.

The website follows President Barack Obama's call to improve college access and affordability. In recent weeks, Department of Education officials have been traveling around the country to gather input about how to develop a college rating system that by 2015 will rate colleges on measures such as average tuition and average student debt.

A recent report by the College Board found that students are now paying more for college even though tuition and fee increases at public four-year colleges have slowed because federal financial aid has slowed.

STATES WITH HIGHEST AVERAGE DEBT FOR CLASS OF 2012

- Delaware \$33,649
- New Hampshire \$32,698
- Pennsylvania \$31,675
- Minnesota \$31,497
- Rhode Island \$31,156
- Iowa \$29,456
- Maine \$29,352
- New Jersey \$29,287
- Ohio \$29,037
- Michigan \$28,840

Source: The Institute for College Access & Success

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NEWS BRIEFS

WCBA hosts MBA Info Session on Dec. 10

Youngstown State University's Williamson College of Business Administration will host a Master of Business Administration Information Session at 5:45 p.m. on Dec. 10. The session will take place in Room 3418 on the third floor of Williamson Hall. The MBA program is accredited by AACSB International and can be fulfilled on campus or completely online. Contact Monique Bradford at ext. 3069 for an application.

Rose Bonilla selected as Fall Commencement student speaker

On Dec. 15, Rose Bonilla, a communications and journalism major, will speak at Youngstown State University's Fall Commencement. Bonilla also has a double minor in telecommunications and psychology and studied abroad in Istanbul, Turkey for a semester in 2011. She has also interned at 21 WFMJ News and The Talent Group in Cleveland. Bonilla has received the Dr. Kathleen Kougall Scholarship in Communication Studies, the Cleveland Association of Broadcasters Scholarship, and the 2008-2009 Resch Student Leadership Award amongst other honors. After graduation, she plans to be a flight attendant with American Airlines before pursuing a career in broadcast news. Fall Commencement will be held at 2 p.m. in Beeghly Center.

Tau Beta Pi 2014-2015 officers selected, new members inducted

On Monday, Tau Beta Pi, an engineering honor society, inducted 12 new members and elected new officers for the 2014-2015 academic year. Three students will be inducted at a later date. Tau Beta Pi invites the top engineering students to interview for membership. New officers elected are Ashley Martof as president, Benjamin Tadla as vice president, Jacob Orwell as recording secretary, Michael Slavens as corresponding secretary and Jeremy Hammond as treasurer.



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Colleges test new tactics for remedial math

John Keilman
Chicago Tribune
(MCT)

CHICAGO — Unlike a lot of people her age, 20-year-old Kelsey Pearsall-Brandon of Lake in the Hills, Ill., has a clear career goal. She wants to be a police officer. But something is standing in her way:

-24 equals 5x plus 1 < 6

That was a problem put to her recently in a remedial algebra class at Elgin Community College. The class cost more than \$400, and she must pass it to earn a degree that could boost her job prospects.

Does she think she'll use algebra as a cop? "Not really," she said. "I gotta catch the criminal. ... I'm not going to be finding X."

That sounds like the timeworn complaint of many a struggling undergrad. But with more than half of American college students enrolled in remedial classes, which consume more than \$3 billion in yearly tuition and government support yet rarely lead to graduation, experts are starting to take it seriously.

Math, the subject that most often holds students back, is coming under heaviest scrutiny. Some researchers and teachers are calling for a fundamental redesign of the subject in community college, saying algebra-heavy requirements are often irrelevant to students' career plans, while the statistics and quantitative reasoning they do need goes untaught.

This disconnect, they say, leaves many students trapped, forced to spend money on classes that don't count toward degrees and greatly increasing the odds that they will drop out.

"(Remedial) mathematics is the graveyard," said Anthony Bryk of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. "This is where aspirations go to die. If you can't get through this, you can't go on to career opportunities."

That has led some Illinois community colleges to experiment with a new model that takes a real-world approach, giving students a chance to speed through remedial math by tackling practical problems instead of theoretical ones.

It's known as "math literacy," and it's designed to help students build the skills they'll need to succeed in nontechnical careers, while speeding past the skills they'll likely never use.

"We're not saying, 'Let's reduce standards.' We're saying, 'Let's change the way we teach (them).'" said Kathy Almy, a professor at Rockford's Rock Valley College who has written a math literacy textbook.

Illinois students must take only three years of high school math, and many skip the subject their senior year. That rust shows up when they take college placement tests and are sent to the remedial level.

The lowest scorers start with basic arithmetic and must work through intermediate algebra, a sequence that can require three or more classes. None counts toward graduation.

Experts say the expense and frustration often leads students to abandon school: Complete College America, a nonprofit that advocates for changes in the remediation system, says that only 14 percent of Illinois community college students who take remedial classes graduate in three years.

Chicago-area colleges have responded by coming up with new ways to help students navigate algebra, ranging from pre-placement refresher courses to in-class tutoring and computerized "modules" that home in on weak areas.

But the math itself is usually the same as it has always been.

"I took all this in high school," said Rebeka Sendroiu, an aspiring ultrasound technician from Lincolnwood who was working on algebra word problems at Oakton Community College. "I don't think I should be taking it again, but it's a requirement."

That's what the math literacy movement aims to address. The idea, based on research by the Carnegie Foundation and the American Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges, took shape about four years ago, with Almy and her colleague Heather Foes taking the lead in Illinois.

Traditional math classes begin with theory and proceed to problems, but Almy and Foes designed a one-semester course that works in reverse: Teachers give students real-world questions — figuring out how an Internet video goes viral, for example, or evaluating a scientific claim about global warming — and then show them how to use math to find the answers.

Almy said students who struggle with math respond to practicality. Consider a problem her class took up: You go to a restaurant's 25-cent wing night with a \$20 bill. After buying a \$5 pitcher of beer, how many wings can you get?

The class had no trouble with that answer — 60 — but the problem grew steadily more difficult as Almy added factors like side dishes, tax and tip, eventually spawning an equation with parentheses, brackets and decimals.

"Would algebra make it easier?" Almy asked. "If it does, try it."

Verenice Sandoval, 18, a business major who aspires to open her own photography studio, said she appreciated the class's method.

"What's different about this course is that it applies more to real life, so we're doing a lot more with something we'll actually use compared to algebra class in high school, where we're just working with formulas," she said. "In some situations it's really helpful because it seems more understandable."

Almy said the course allows students to complete their remedial math requirement in one semester, rather than two or three. Its overall passing rate of roughly 65 percent is about the same as other remedial math classes at the college, though there are no good data yet to indicate whether students who take it are more likely to get their degrees.

The City Colleges of Chicago, where 88 percent of students test into remedial math, are trying out math literacy classes at two campuses, but most area community colleges have yet to use the approach.

Some professors doubt it will be a cure-all, noting that many students come in with profound weaknesses in basic arithmetic and even reading. And the class won't be enough for those with majors in science or technology.

Oakton math teacher Nancy Ressler said that students reduce their options by skipping the traditional math pathway.

"Taking time to achieve the solution, thinking and rethinking — those are fine traits," she said via email. "A refined mind is respected. It doesn't lose value as will the most expensive (gadget)."

But math literacy appears bound to catch on — "Eventually we'll have most if not all colleges doing this," said Brian Durham of the Illinois Community College Board — and Almy said she hoped the proliferation will inject a note of realism.

Traditional math education, she said, "treats all students like they want to become doctors. Well, not everyone's going to be a doctor."

Georgia regents consider tobacco ban for all university system schools

Janel Davis
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
(MCT)

ATLANTA — Smokers' days may be numbered on many of Georgia's college campuses, as the state Board of Regents considers a total tobacco ban for all 31 institutions in the university system.

The ban is being pushed by Regent Thomas Hopkins, an orthopedic surgeon from Griffin who wants it to apply to students, staff and visitors.

The proposal, which he would like the regents to discuss early next year, follows a national trend of similar bans — promoted as health initiatives — implemented at schools, parks, around hospitals and in restaurants. Last September, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services launched a national tobacco-free college campus initiative to promote bans like Hopkins is proposing. The initiative counts more than 1,100 colleges and universities in its smoke-free fold.

"Most of these kids start smoking at school because they think it looks cool and they're away from home and their parents," Hopkins said. "But, it's not healthy and I would hope we would do something about that." The

board is likely to have some opposition from students. Student smokers see the ban as an intrusion on their rights.

"We're paying to go to school and we should be allowed to do this. We're not in high school anymore," said Foster Bass, a botany student at Georgia Perimeter College.

Bass and his friends were standing outside on a recent day, across from the cafeteria in an area where smoking is allowed on the college's Clarkston campus. Many in the group had been smoking about a fourth of their lives.

"This is not right and this ban would be ridiculous," said Matthew, 19, a computer engineering student at GPC who didn't want to give his last name. "It would be just one more way of banning our freedom. I think they put too much emphasis on not smoking. This isn't illegal. We're not selling drugs." Smoking in all enclosed state-owned or -leased facilities — including dorms and classrooms — is already banned in Georgia. The proposal before the regents would apply to outdoor spaces on campuses, said Valerie Hepburn, a former college president who is leading the overhaul of the University System of Georgia's health benefits plan.

Discussions about tobacco-free campuses have been ongoing since the university

system launched its public health research and teaching programs in 2003, but this is the first time the regents will consider a systemwide ban.

Details of how to implement the ban have to be worked out, Hepburn said. A policy would have to be drafted, a compliance date would have to be set and the system would have to work with the schools and local health departments to provide students and staff with help to stop smoking and using tobacco.

The university system does not have data on how many of its students smoke or use tobacco products. About 70 percent of college students nationwide reported that they had never smoked in the past three years of surveys conducted by the American College Health Association. In the most recent survey completed this spring, almost 14 percent of students reported smoking cigarettes within the previous 30 days.

Hopkins already has support for his proposal from incoming Regents Chairman Philip Wilheit.

Wilheit, president of a packaging products company headquartered in Gainesville, implemented a tobacco ban at his office three years ago. It was a smart financial decision, he said.

"I think it is the wave of the future," he said. "I think

as regents we have a responsibility to our students to do what's best for them and their health." Various schools within the university system already have some sort of smoking or tobacco ban. Some schools outlaw all tobacco products, and others allow students to smoke in designated areas that are specified distances from common areas.

Wilheit is unsure how the ban would be implemented at outdoor athletic facilities. Some facilities already have tobacco policies in place. All areas of the University of Georgia's Sanford Stadium are tobacco-free, and smoking also is prohibited in Georgia Tech's Bobby Dodd Stadium.

But one thing Wilheit isn't for: designated smoking areas.

"I think that is like being a little bit pregnant," he said.

And what about those students, like Bass, who say they're adults and ought to be able to do what they want? "They can do what they want, but they can't do it on our campuses," Hopkins said.

Outside the university system, higher education institutions vary on their tobacco policies. Emory implemented a full tobacco ban last year, while Clark Atlanta University allows smoking in some designated outdoor areas.

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The Dana School of Music: 145 years and going strong

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In 1869, 23-year-old William Henry Dana had a dream to open a music conservatory. Dana opened his musical institute above a hardware store in downtown Warren. This year, the school celebrates its 145th anniversary as the Dana School of Music at Youngstown State University.

Throughout its history, the Dana School of Music has shaped conductors, producers, professional recording artists and featured soloists that travel around the globe to perform. It is one of the oldest music schools in the country, and its orchestras, concert bands and choirs continue to receive recognition for their achievements.

John Wilcox, director of the Dana Symphony and Chamber orchestras, said that it has been an honor to teach at the Dana School of Music for the past 35 years.

"We like to create a nurturing environment for our students. We want them to actually take what we teach them into the real world," Wilcox said. "Our faculty has been known for our commitment to our students. No matter if it is one-on-one or in a classroom...all of them [the students] are fantastic."

When he first opened his school, Dana turned it into a miniature college campus, filled with musical organizations, fraternities and sororities, church services and holiday celebrations.

In 1941, Dana's Musical Institute became a part of Youngstown College. After the institute became a part of Youngstown College, the



Aaron Graneto, a sophomore percussion performance recording major, fills a Bliss Hall practice room with a bright melody from his xylophone. Photo by Graig Graziosi/The Jambar.

faculty and students of the music department insisted to change the name. Dana's Musical Institute became the Dana School of Music. In 1977, the Dana School of Music moved into the new

Bliss Hall, where it currently is housed.

Steven Weeden, a senior fashion merchandising major, said that although he is not a music major, he has played in the symphony and

chamber orchestras throughout his college career.

"I played the violin in high school, and I wanted to keep up with it after I graduated," Weeden said. "It was such a great opportunity to

play some of the best pieces known world wide such as last year's Beethoven [Ninth Symphony]."

Weeden said that the professors and instructors he has had over the years have dedicated their time to helping students flourish into the great musicians they hope to one day become.

Joe Testa, a sophomore biology major, said that he played in the Dana Symphony as a freshman cellist.

"The music was really challenging, and I felt lucky to be a part of it because there was always a guest conductor from different countries," Testa said. "It was a really awesome experience getting to play with the Dana Chorale, too."

One of the mission statements of the Dana School of Music is to "create diverse education experience that develops ethical, intellectually curious students who are invested in their communities."

Wilcox said that he could see the Dana School of Music continuing for another 145 years.

"We need to keep teaching what needs to be taught and also keep the traditions going that we have had at the school," Wilcox said. "We recreate and interpret music that has been around for over 300 years. We compete with schools like Kent State, Bowling Green and Akron, and, so far, we have done an amazing job with recruiting fantastic musicians and also a fine faculty."

Quality,
holiday,
family
fun

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The holiday season has arrived, and University Theater has put together a beautiful display of love for the holidays with the first Holiday Cabaret.

The evening will be a showcase of all of the hard work, skill and creativity the students of the YSU Theater Department — as the sole creators of the show — have.

Michele Lepore-Hagan, director of performing arts, has been helping the students put the show together and said she is excited to see the turnout from the community this weekend.

"This is an unusual event that we are doing. We have

never done a show like this before," Lepore-Hagan said.

Kelly Sullivan, the president of Alpha Psi Omega, is responsible for putting the show together and overseeing the students' selected performances.

Sullivan said she wanted this show to have families leaving the theater with a warm and fuzzy feeling, much like the feelings she experiences around her family during the holiday season. She also wanted to make sure that students were completely involved with the creation of the show.

"One of the main things we were looking forward to



Looking over his "naughty and nice" list, Matthew Malloy portrays one of the elves who will perform in University Theater's Holiday Cabaret Friday in Spotlight Theater. Photo courtesy of Anna Ruscitti.

is that we let students sign up for the pieces they wanted to do, and then we did a process of elimination from there," Sullivan said.

The show is not geared toward a certain religion

or holiday, and will not be geared toward a certain audience; it was made for all age groups and cultures to enjoy.

"Most of the pieces are all holiday themed. We have some classics like 'White

Christmas' and 'Count Your Blessings Instead of Sheep,'" Sullivan said.

The interesting part about this show is that it does not only involve singing and dancing, but students also act out skits and other types of performances.

"We have a reading of 'Twas the Night before Christmas,' and two short 15-minute plays. One is called 'The Elf Rebellion,' which is a cute little show about Santa's elves going on strike," Sullivan said.

Professors Nancy Andersen Wolfgang and Matthew Mazuroski are overseeing the show. Wolfgang has helped students in the musical aspect of the show, while Mazuroski has helped with the scenes.

"There was some minor tweaking, but the students prepared everything for themselves," Sullivan said.

The Holiday Cabaret will be performed at 5:30 pm and again at 7:30 pm in the Spotlight Theater in Bliss Hall on Friday. Tickets for the general public will be \$8 and \$5 for children, students and senior citizens.

"Our main goal of the show is to have some quality, holiday family fun, and my hope is that everyone walks away with the experience ready for Christmas, warm with holiday spirit. That's all I want," Sullivan said.

EDITORIAL

GOOD LUCK, HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND GOODBYE

We stand now on the precipice. The end is upon us, and freedom is just beyond our fingertips. We have two days of classes remaining and beyond that, five days of examinations, presentations and stress. But after these seven days — nine if you include the upcoming weekend that will undoubtedly blur into the chaos that is finals week — is the holiday break.

Can you taste it? The freedom? It's there —

right there. But still, it is so far away.

Once we're there, though, it will be sweet. A month off. A month to do whatever you please with your time. You can sit and watch TV all day or read books or hang out with friends or all of the above or maybe none of those things.

Not all of us are that lucky, though. Some have jobs to work, families to take care of or other commitments, and we salute them for it.

In those 30 days is what some have called "the most wonderful time of the year." The time for spending time with loved ones — or perhaps dealing with loved ones would be more appropriate — and reflecting on the year that was. Of course, we can't forget the gifts, but that's not what the holiday season is really about, now is it?

As this semester draws to an end, it's amazing to think that 16 weeks ago, it was just beginning. We barely had an idea of what we were doing then, and as we publish our last issue of the semester, we're realizing how much we've learned this semester.

Hopefully, you have learned something, too — at least in one of your classes. We hope that the knowledge you've gained serves you well next week — or this week if you have a professor who wants to cut you break for finals week.

Now, we say goodbye to all of you. For the next three weeks, we'll be on vacation unless there's some breaking news to cover, in which case you'll have to head on over to our website. We'll be back a week before school starts to work on getting a newspaper for you to read when you get back.

So with all of that being said, we'd like to wish all of you good luck, tell you "happy holidays" and say "goodbye" — for the next month, at least.

The college-for-all model isn't working

Tamar Jacoby
Los Angeles Times
(MCT)

Instead of going through Congress and making the initiative bipartisan, President Obama acted alone in mid-November, promising \$100 million in grants to specialized high schools — such as New York City's Pathways in Technology Early College High School — that prepare students for technical careers. The president's on the right track, but why make it partisan? Schools like P-TECH are an idea whose time has come — one that can be adopted by both parties and by business as well as government.

Vocational education fell from favor decades ago because it was seen as an inferior track for less able students. More Americans attend college today than ever before: this year, 42 percent of young people 18 to 24 years old. Even among high school stu-

dents in the bottom quarter of their class, 90 percent expect to go to college. And there's no question that, for many Americans, college is a ticket to the middle class.

But there's also mounting evidence that the college-for-all model isn't working. Nearly half of those who start a four-year degree don't finish on time; more than two-thirds of those who start community college fail to get a two-year degree on schedule. Even students who graduate emerge saddled with debt and often without the skills they need to make a decent living.

Meanwhile, companies in a range of sectors — manufacturing, construction, healthcare and other STEM fields — report severe skilled labor shortages. With more than 11.3 million Americans out of work, there are 3.7 million unfilled job openings — due largely to the growing mismatch between workers' skills and employers' needs.

The good news: questions about college-for-all have cre-

ated space for a burgeoning education reform movement that's rethinking and reshaping the options open to young people preparing for jobs in the middle of the skills ladder — jobs that require more than high school but less than a college degree. Call it "voc ed 2.0" or — today's term — "career and technical education": CTE.

Some CTE advocates are still focused on college; they see technical training primarily as a pathway to college. Others are skeptical that the trade-offs can be finessed this easily. They argue for sharper distinctions and harder thinking about priorities. But both camps agree: New, improved technical education is a key piece of the puzzle, and it's time for the nation to invest in it — big time.

The movement has spawned a wealth of experiments: CTE high schools, "early college" high schools, new investment in community colleges, industry-driven craft training, career mentoring, internships,

apprenticeships and more.

Some offerings are better than others, and it can be a challenge for young people to choose, picking their way through what one researcher calls a "Wild West of programs." Reformers agree that there's a desperate need for better metrics and more reliable standards. But ultimately, for students, there's only one standard that counts and one way for the new vocational education to compete with college: Is the program a reliable route to a highly skilled, well-paying job?

This is where business comes in. Employers facing shortages can do well by doing good, partnering with educators to set standards and design curriculum. After all, they know better than educators what skills are needed in the workplace. At a time of record deficits and revenue-neutral state and federal budgeting, employers are a natural source of funding for vocational training. And only employer involvement can guarantee that bottom line for students — that CTE actually leads to a job.

The challenge is that few U.S. employers see the next-generation workforce as their responsibility.

Some employers are stepping up. P-TECH is a partnership between IBM and the New York City public schools. Several brand-name restaurant

chains — Darden, Brinker and Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen — sponsor training in culinary arts and restaurant management through the National Restaurant Association's ProStart program. Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Siemens, Kaiser Permanente and PricewaterhouseCoopers, among others, partner with stellar CTE programs in cities across America.

But these forward-thinking companies are the exception that proves the rule. Business needs to do more if CTE is to reach its full potential. And just writing a check or inviting students to the workplace for an occasional visit isn't enough.

The key ingredient of the most effective CTE programs is on-the-job training combined with classroom learning. Sometimes called apprenticeship, sometimes dual training or craft training, the combination can be expensive and difficult to structure and maintain. But nothing works as well, and it's a proven long-term win-win — for trainees and for the employers who invest in them.

Voc ed is dead. Long live the new voc ed. The question for the future: Will today's ferment take hold? Will Democrats and Republicans come together behind it, and will it produce a lasting transformation of American education? It all depends how seriously employers engage.

Traditionalists upset about the new Harry Potter postage stamps need to take a few deep breaths

Los Angeles Times
(MCT)

Proficiat Postaliosa! If Harry Potter commemorative stamps can cast a solvency spell on the U.S. Postal Service, that's some magic we can get behind. Tradition-bound philatelists should back off from their complaints.

The stamps, depicting scenes from the movies based on J.K. Rowling's books, went on sale in late November despite vehement opposition from some serious stamp collectors, who objected that they were both un-American and crassly commercial. Michael Baadke, the editor of Linn's Stamp News, summarized the collectors' arguments when he wrote that Harry Potter postage was "dismissing significant established U.S. stamp traditions without explanation."

"These U.S. stamps picture living actors from other countries, something that is unprecedented," according to Baadke. "The films the stamps honor have little to do with American culture."

The classicists say that the post office is placing quick profits above tradition, which has typically, though not always, called for stamps to feature the nation's government and cultural leaders, or events in U.S. history such as the first flight or statehood anniversaries.

Indeed, the Potter stamps combined all the ingredients guaranteed to upset traditionalists — commercial, photographic rather than artistic, and foreign to boot. Postal Service officials didn't even consult the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee — a panel formed more than 50 years ago to recommend stamp subjects that have culturally enduring value — probably in the full knowledge that they were writing a new installment of mail history that might best be titled "Harry Potter and the Philatelic Furor."

But the truth is that when it comes to American stamps, the definition of American culture has expanded dramatically in recent years to include muscle cars and Disney and "Simpsons" characters. In

2007, the intergalactic characters of "Star Wars" were emblazoned on a set of stamps.

Certainly, the new Harry Potter stamps are no more commercial than the Pixar movie commemoratives and no less American than the Beatles stamp of 1999 or the endangered species series of 1992, which included a panda, a giraffe and a Bengal tiger. And even in the dignified days of stiffly posed stamp portraits that looked as though they came straight from U.S. currency, Italian poet Dante Alighieri, who wrote "The Divine Comedy" during the Middle Ages, was honored with a stamp in 1965. In retrospect, traditionalists might see that as the first sign that the U.S. Postal Service was heading toward hell.

The goal of the Postal Service is clear: It hopes to conjure up some cash, to disapparate some of its red ink. In this era of its financial independence from government, that's a necessity, and there are worse ways to accomplish it than with a popular boy wizard, even one who isn't American.

JAMBAR POLICY

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

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

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THE LISTE GOES ON



Senior punter Nick Liste punts against South Dakota State University on Nov. 23. Liste has averaged 41.6 yards per punt in his four seasons at Youngstown State University. **Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.**

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Nathan Gibbs realized he might get himself into some trouble.

When asked to discuss what the Penguins' senior punter Nick Liste is like off the field, the long snapper chuckled before putting Liste on blast.

"He's probably gonna get mad at me, but he's a bit of a nerd," Gibbs said. "He plays a lot of videogames."

Gibbs then went on to tell a story of junior kicker Joey Cejudo walking into Liste's dorm room. Upon seeing the 22-year old playing a videogame, Cejudo had said, "Hey Sun Lord, I need your help."

"It was just a goofy thing because Nick's such a videogame nerd," Gibbs added. "All in all, he's a good guy to hang out with; he'll tell you how it is. But he's just a bit of a nerd, and that's why we love him."

While Liste's teammates enjoyed his off-field antics, they liked his on-field actions as well.

"He's very important — he really is," senior quarterback Kurt Hess said mid-season. "When you have a good punter like Liste, you're really fortunate to have somebody who can change the game."

A game-changer indeed. Over four seasons at Youngstown State University, Liste worked his way to the top of three Penguins' all-time record lists and was named to the 2013 Missouri Valley Football Conference first-team.

Fittingly enough, the story of this "nerd" — who became one of YSU's greatest special teams performers —

can be told through a few important numbers.

14

At this point in his life, Liste figured he would be a college athlete — just in a different sport.

"I grew up a soccer player," he said. "As a kid, I didn't really like football."

He started playing soccer at the age of 4 and continued to do so for the next 14 years until he graduated from Niles McKinley High School in 2009.

"Growing up, I thought I was going to play some college soccer," Liste said. "Out of nowhere, all my friends started getting a little bigger and they were like, 'Go out for football.' I was like, 'No, I'm a soccer player.'"

On the soccer field, Liste was best known for his ability to kick the checkered ball great lengths. He couldn't help but wonder if he could do the same to the pigskin.

While Liste was an eighth grader, the Niles High football team tried to persuade his older brother Dave, a junior, to be the Dragons kicker.

"He couldn't do it because he had knee surgery," Liste said. "So I went and messed around kicking some footballs. I found out I was pretty good, so I stuck with it."

By his freshman year, Liste earned the spot as Niles' varsity kicker.

"I was like, 'Oh boy, freshman starting varsity,'" he said. "I was nervous, but at the same time, I was ready."

Apparently he was, as the 5-foot-10, 180-pounder averaged nearly 40 yards per punt throughout his high school career. Although he was recruited by larger schools such as the University of South Carolina and the University of Pittsburgh, Liste chose to remain close

to home at YSU.

"Being a local guy, I knew that the community here is strong," Liste said. "That played a big part in it. I like everything about this place, really."

41.6

There's praise, and then there's the praise Penguins' head coach Eric Wolford gave Liste after YSU's 24-14 victory against Western Illinois University on Oct. 19.

On a cold and windy afternoon, Liste shined as he notched five punts for 217 yards. Furthermore, he placed two punts on the WIU 1-yard line, another inside the 20 and recorded a long kick of 55 yards.

"Nick Liste was huge once again," Wolford said in his postgame press conference. "Made some big-time kicks. He's possibly the team MVP in my book."

Judging by Liste's final statistics, it's hard to argue with Wolford's assessment.

In his four-year Penguins career, he averaged 41.6 yards per punt, breaking the previous YSU record of 40.9 set by Nick Xides in 1985.

Liste also shattered the yards-per-punt record for a season, as he finished the 2013 campaign averaging 44.2 yards per kick. Xides' 1985 mark was 41.8.

"As a quarterback, you never average 40-something yards [per play]," Hess said. "As a running back, you never average 40-something. So because he can change field and pin them inside the 20, he really is a key element to what we do as a team."

Others took notice as well. Liste was named the Missouri Valley Football Conference special teams Player

of the Week twice in 2013. He also earned the award once in 2012 and another time in 2011.

Those four, career MVFC awards tie a YSU record.

"Nick's worked really hard," Jamie Bryant, first-year Penguins special teams coordinator, said. "He's a guy that can change field position at one swing of the leg."

50-100

Attention to detail.

It may help Liste in video game exploits, but it's also something he incorporates into punting and kickoffs. After every practice when the punt team is finished, he does an additional 50-100 drops by himself.

"My drops are very technique oriented; I compare it to golf," Liste said. "If one thing goes wrong, the whole thing will end up bad. So I really try to be perfect in what I do."

No wonder Bryant labeled the physical education major a perfectionist.

"He's upset when he doesn't punt the ball exactly where it's supposed to be punted and exactly how it's supposed to be punted," Bryant said.

As Gibbs stated, "He focuses on the little things."

Admittedly, Liste also has a focus on punting professionally. Various NFL scouts inquired and watched throughout the season.

"He's a very talented person and he has a strong leg," Bryant said. "If he continues to work hard and do the things he's doing, he's going to have a chance at the next level."

Not bad for a videogame nerd.

Blindsided

Women's team falls in closing seconds

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The Youngstown State University women's basketball team erased a slow second-half start and had Wednesday's game in its hands.

Then, the Penguins ended the contest against Miami University just like they started. YSU led by six points with 2:09 remaining in the game after senior Karen Flagg's free throw.

YSU would not score again, and the RedHawks won 70-67, ending on a 9-0 scoring run.

"I thought we panicked a little bit," coach John Barnes said. "We weren't real sure with the ball. They looked more calm out there."

YSU (1-5) committed 15 turnovers versus Miami's (2-5) 16. However, the Penguins tallied three in the final two minutes.

"Down the stretch, we've got to be tougher," senior Liz

Hornberger said. "You have the lead for a reason. You have to keep playing that way. You can't all of a sudden lose your composure."

Another factor was free throws — the Penguins made 47.6 percent of them (10 of 21). The RedHawks shot 66.7 percent from the charity stripe. Both teams attempted 21 free throws. Miami made four more in the three-point victory.

"They made a free throw down the stretch," Barnes said. "You make free throws, and you win."

The Penguins held a five-point lead (35-30) at halftime. Freshman Kelsea Newman led with 12 points at the time. She finished with 13 after averaging 1.2 points per game before Wednesday night.

The RedHawks took the lead at the 16:31 mark in the second half, 42-36. Miami sprang to a 12-1 scoring run to open the half.

YSU regained the lead with a 6-0 scoring run midway in the second half. The Penguins

led by as many as eight points and kept the lead until 14 seconds remained on the clock.

"This is the first close game we've had all season," Hornberger said. "We haven't had a close game yet, and it showed. We lost our composure."

Hornberger finished with a game-high 16 points (11 in the second half). Junior Heidi Schlegel scored 12 points and collected a team-high of six rebounds. For Miami, senior Hannah Robertson finished with 15 points and eight rebounds, both team highs.

"It's just hard. We worked so hard to get a nice lead," Barnes said. "We had some great sets to get some wide-open shots to put the game away."

Next for YSU is another home game against the University of Cincinnati on Sunday beginning at 2:05 p.m.

"I know the final score doesn't say it, but we're a lot better team than them," Hornberger said. "We beat ourselves yet again."



Freshman forward Kelsea Newman attempts a three-point shot against Miami University Wednesday night at Beeghly Center. Newman finished with 13 points in the Penguins 70-67 loss. **Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.**