

## YSU and Eastern Gateway: New Presidency, New Ideas

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Jimmie Bruce, vice president of academics at Northwest Vista College in Texas, will be the new president of Eastern Gateway Community College in Youngstown beginning July 13.



Jimmie Bruce

PHOTO COURTESY OF JIMMIE BRUCE

Bruce said he would like to familiarize himself with the area of Youngstown as well as the faculty, staff and students at EGCC so that he might unearth common goals within the community.

"My first priority is to get to know the faculty, staff and students at Eastern Gateway as well as the many community partners. Mutual goals will develop from those many conversations," Bruce said. "As you may know, Eastern Gateway was recently named the tenth fastest growing college by Community College Week. One of my goals would be to continue this growth and strengthen our role in the Ohio Valley and serve more students."

Bruce said he would forge a strong relationship between Eastern Gateway and Youngstown State University.

"I envision a strong and collaborative partnership between our institutions. Youngstown's Valley Center location is uniquely positioned to create opportunities for students at Eastern Gateway to transition to Youngstown State. My vision would be the transition would be seamless with strong articulation agreements in place to ensure a smooth transition," Bruce said.

He said that in order to

forge this relationship, he would have to collaborate with the administration at YSU.

"One of my first priorities would be to meet with representatives of Youngstown State and find out more about the partnership in place and what agreements already exist. I would like to work together to meet the needs of the Youngstown community and work with Youngstown to increase opportunities for more students to attend college," Bruce said. "I believe the partnership between Youngstown State University and Eastern Gateway Community College to be one of the most important priorities as I begin my presidency. The Ohio Board of Regents stated that Ohio needs to produce and retain more college graduates — this will take both institutions working together to identify strategies to meet this challenge."

Bruce, originally from Kentucky, has had 18 years of experience working in higher education. He has a doctorate in Educational Leadership from the A&M University of Texas, and for three and a half years, Bruce was the dean of student success at Northwest Vista College, where he worked closely with students.

"I helped to implement group advising to reduce wait time in our advising center,

increased dual enrollment in our high schools and was involved with a collaborative grant with University of Incarnate Word to improve our first year experience orientation course," Bruce said.

Bruce has worked with the University of Texas at San Antonio and the University of the Incarnate Word — among others in Texas — to expand articulation agreements, provide remedial education for these campuses and develop grant opportunities.

"We have continued to remain a best practice college for active and collaborative learning and student engagement, achieve national recognition for developmental English and math with our advocacy mode for tutoring. Also, we have increased distance-learning success by over 25 percent," he said.

Bruce added that he would like to develop more collaborative grants between YSU and Eastern Gateway to promote science, technology, engineering and math.

Bruce said that he is looking forward to the opportunity of his new position as president of EGCC.

"I am humbled and very excited," he said. "I believe it is an exciting time for Eastern Gateway Community College and the communities we serve."

## YSU Named One of the Most Promising Places to Work in Student Affairs

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A national magazine has recognized Youngstown State University's Division of Student Affairs as one of its "15+ Most Promising Places to Work in Student Affairs" for the second year in a row.

The Center for Higher Education Enterprise, an Ohio State University research organization, partnered with Diverse: Issues in Higher Education magazine to compile a nationwide ranking of student affairs divisions.

Jack Fahey, vice president for student affairs, said he believes the key to the YSU division's success can be directly credited to its human element.

"It's the staff. They're really, really good people. They're very nurturing and intentional about developing people in student affairs. The award is given based on diversity, family friendliness, about helping people to advance themselves, and we do well in all three," Fahey said.

The term "student affairs" often encompasses a variety of campus services and departments.

"On most campuses, student affairs is three different pods of people. One includes enrollment, financial aid, management folks and admissions. Another is services and auxiliary like food services, the rec center, housing and things like that. The other is more student life kinds of things like the Center for Student Progress, tutoring, disability services, career services, counseling, student employment ... it's wide ranging," Fahey said.

For many students, the majority of their day-to-day lives on campus are directly tied into student affairs' areas of operation. As a student leader, Lisa Ronquillo, vice president of YSUnity, is frequently interacting with student affairs workers.

"When you work extensively with and within the [student affairs] team, they acknowledge you by your name, always say hello and remember what you are up to — they will genuinely keep up with you and ask how you are doing as well," Ronquillo said. "Through them, I have learned the meaning of hard work, leadership, empathy and heart-felt gratitude. Without their guidance, I wouldn't be half the leader that I am today."

Sylvia Imler, interim director of diversity and multicultural affairs, echoed Ronquillo's sentiments, believing the student affairs divisions' success can be found in their enthusiasm for their work.

STUDENT AFFAIRS  
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## HONORS COLLEGE HONORS STUDENTS, NAMES DEAN FINALISTS

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Youngstown State University's Honors College held its first recognition ceremony on Friday, April 10, following an announcement naming the three finalists to be the college's first dean.

The professors being considered are Stephen Gage, director of bands for YSU's Dana School of Music; Adam Earnhardt, chair of the department of communications; and Tom Wakefield, assistant professor in the department of mathematics and statistics.

Betty Jo Licata, dean of the Williamson College of Business Administration, who was recognized during the event as being vital to the formation of the honors college, led the search committee.

"[We] determined that these three candidates have the mix of knowledge, skills and experiences that match the position description," Licata said.

At the ceremony, students received awards and their certificates, pins and medallions.

Amy Cossentino, assistant director of the university scholars and honors program, said the college needed to do more to honor its members.

"[In the past], seniors came into my office, turned in their senior projects and I handed them a medallion. And it didn't feel right," Cossentino said.

Jim Tressel, president of YSU, spoke about the importance of the Honors College.

"This is a special day. YSU can become all we dream of, in part because of what you've done," Tressel said.

He said the students present at the ceremony have provided a foundation upon which the university can increase its excellence.

Martin Abraham, interim provost at YSU, said the ceremony helps recognize the importance of honors activity.

"[This event is] symbolic of the way we're looking to enhance the honors and scholars programs," Abraham said.

Abraham outlined five pillars of the program moving forward: engagement, interdisciplinary perspectives, leadership, research and scholarship and global citizenship.

He said a quality university education has an interdisciplinary focus and said collaboration between fields is "where creativity happens."

He also said there needs to be greater participation in scholarship nationally and internationally, and that studying abroad needs to be easier and more frequent.

Brett Conner, associate professor of industrial and systems engineering and the event's keynote speaker, spoke about the synergy between the core values he learned in the Air Force — integrity, service before self and excellence in all we do — and the pillars of the Honors College as identified by Abraham. He cited the Tuskegee Airmen as being exemplary of these values.

Student leadership awards were presented to Alex Welsh and Greta Frost. Student service awards were presented to Alana Lesnansky and Kayla Zitello. Laura West, Megan Evans, Ashley Orr, Jennifer Moore, Lauren Eisenreich and Shawn Doyle all received student academic awards.

Faculty awards were presented to Thomas Wakefield for honors course, Ndinzi Masagara for honors contract, Lucas Hardy for Senior Capstone and Ronald Shaklee for honors seminar.

Joshua Hinzny received an honors alumni award.



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# ENDURE FOR THE CURE SET FOR 4TH YEAR

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The fourth annual Endure for the Cure, an event featuring a two-mile obstacle course that raises money for charitable organizations, kicks off on April 25.

Previous events raised money for the Rich Center for Autism and various organizations benefitting cancer research.

Anna Pompeo, a wellness graduate assistant at the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center, said they are adding a new organization to the list this year.

"This benefits the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, which remembers those who have fallen in their line of duty," Pompeo said.

Steve Donahue, a fitness graduate assistant at the Rec Center, said the first Endure for the Cure was inspired by a professor who was fighting cancer.

"[Me and another student] were in

our internship here at the Rec Center. One of our professors, he had a medical issue and we wanted to recognize him, and raise money and donate all of that to cancer research. Shannon Kushnereit was the other intern, and she actually took charge," Donahue said. "It was all a way of raising money to donate to cancer research for a professor that we had at the time. The professor is still here."

Since the inception of the event, they have selected a different organization to support each year. They contact the organization beforehand to make sure they are accepting of the initiative.

They are hoping to improve on last year's numbers.

"A lot of the funds come from registries, our participants, so our main goal is to get at least 100 participants this year. Last year we had around 70 racers, so it's a little bit of an increase over last year, but it's definitely manageable," Donahue said.

They also accept donations.

Planning for the event began early in

the school year.

"We knew from the past three years — this being our fourth year doing the race — when the event would be coming, so we started having bimonthly meetings back in the fall semester," Pompeo said. "Our committee is made up of Rec staff, with Ryan McNicholas, the coordinator of fitness and wellness programs, as our supervisor. We make all of the obstacles, build the props and design the course. Steve Donahue, fitness graduate assistant, specifically designed the course."

Donahue said the event has evolved over the years.

"It stays relatively the same, this year we are actually expanding it to incorporate a little bit more of campus, so it's going to be a bit longer race. We're actually deciding to build larger obstacles this year, so it should be a lot more fun, and we're starting construction of those," he said. "We're actually planning on building two four foot walls that people will have to jump over, and

a balance beam as well as a wall that's in the works that should be about eight feet tall. It's almost like a ladder that they have to climb over, that's in the works now."

Things were lower key in the past.

"In previous years, we've just had smaller things, and I didn't feel like that is really what we were going for. I didn't feel like that met the title of an obstacle race. It was more like body weight squats and different small things like that," Donahue said.

There will be awards for top finishers, and there are various methods of registering.

"Registration can be the day of, but you can register early by stopping in at the Rec to drop off your entry fee and form," Pompeo said. "There are trophies and medals for the top finishers overall and in each age group."

Those who wish to donate can make a check out to the Student Recreation Advisory Committee and mail it to the Rec Center.

## Net Neutrality Rules Formally Published; First Legal Challenge Filed

**JIM PUZZANGHERA**  
Los Angeles Times  
(TNS)

WASHINGTON — Tough new net neutrality regulations were published in the Federal Register on Monday, triggering an effective date of June 12 and the first formal legal challenge to the controversial online traffic rules.

US Telecom, a trade group whose members include AT&T Inc. and Verizon Communications Inc., filed a lawsuit Monday in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to stop the rules.

The Federal Communications Commission approved the regulations by a 3-2 vote on Feb. 26.

They change the legal classification of wired and wireless broadband, treat-

ing it as a more highly regulated telecommunications service in an attempt to ensure that providers don't discriminate against any legal content flowing through their networks to consumers.

The 400-page order was made public two weeks after the vote as the FCC posted it on the agency's website.

The order's publication in the Federal Register, which generally takes a few weeks after new regulations are adopted, started a 60-day clock on its effective date — unless a court blocks them.

But FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler, who pushed for the regulations, has been optimistic they would withstand a legal challenge.

"As Chairman Wheeler has said, we are confident the FCC's new open Internet rules will be upheld by the courts, ensuring enforceable protections for consumers and innovators online," agency spokeswoman Kim Hart said Monday.

Supporters of the rules, which pro-

hibit Internet service providers from blocking, slowing or selling priority delivery of content to consumers, cheered the approaching effective date.

"The publication of the rules brings us one step closer to having the enforceable net neutrality protections that millions of Americans have called for," said Matt Wood, policy director for Free Press, a digital rights group. "And yet phone and cable companies are still scheming to overturn these freedoms."

The publication meant the order formally could be challenged in court — and it didn't take long.

US Telecom filed suit, arguing the rules are "arbitrary and capricious" and violate federal law.

The group's members support the goals of the regulations, to ensure the free flow of legal online content, US Telecom President Walter McCormick said. The suit was filed because the more stringent government oversight that comes with broadband's new regu-

latory classification will hinder investment in expanded networks and increase costs for users, he said.

"Reclassifying broadband Internet access as a public utility reverses decades of established legal precedent at the FCC and upheld by the Supreme Court," McCormick said. "History has shown that common carrier regulation slows innovation, chills investment, and leads to increased costs on consumers."

US Telecom filed a petition with the court last month as a placeholder for a lawsuit, seeking to preserve the right to sue. The group was concerned that the posting of the rules on the FCC website on March 12 might have triggered a 10-day period to challenge them.

More suits are expected. A similar petition was filed last month in the U.S. Court of Appeals in New Orleans by Alamo Broadband Inc., a small Internet service provider based in Elmendorf, Texas.

## CHINA RELEASES 5 FEMINISTS IT HELD FOR PLANNING PROTESTS AGAINST HARASSMENT

**STUART LEAVENWORTH**  
McClatchy Foreign Staff  
(TNS)

BELJING — China's leaders have apparently bowed to international pressure by agreeing Monday to release five feminist activists who'd been held for a month for planning protests against sexual harassment.

The release of the women, who were detained shortly before International Women's Day last month, followed denunciations from numerous U.S. and other international critics, including Secretary of State John Kerry and his predecessor, Hillary Clinton, who on Sunday announced her candidacy for president.

The five women could still face prosecution, but for now some supporters of the femi-

nist activists think international pressure made a difference.

"The international attention did not hurt, it helped," Liang Xiaojun, a lawyer for one of the women, Wu Rongrong, told McClatchy. "Cases in China have their own sequence of development. The attention from the international society has helped in this case."

Leta Hong Fincher, the Hong Kong-based author of "Leftover Women," a book

about the pressures Chinese women face to marry early and let men handle business affairs, also credited international pressure for the release.

"For once and for all, let's retire the notion that we need to let China 'save face' when it comes to human rights abuses," she said on Twitter.

According to Liang, Wei Tingting, 26, Wang Man, 32, and Zheng Churan, 25, were reportedly released on bail Monday. Early Tuesday morning Beijing time, the other two — Li Tingting, 25, and Wu, 30, — were released, according to William Nee, a China researcher for Amnesty International.

"The decision to release all five women is an encouraging breakthrough. The authorities must now follow through and drop all charges and restrictions against the women," said Nee.

The five women are mem-

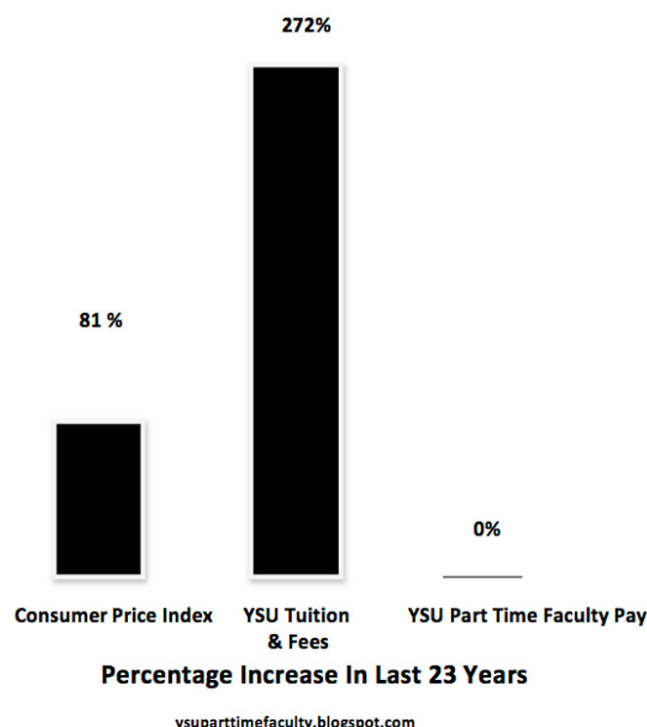
bers of China's Women's Rights Action Group. They reportedly had planned protests on International Women's Day, March 8, including distributing stickers with slogans saying "stop sexual harassment, let us stay safe."

Supporters in Hong Kong had protested the detentions, as did some more quietly on the Chinese mainland. Overall, the detentions sent a chill through the Chinese feminist community, with many women unsure how far they could go in protesting gropings and other everyday harassment in public, or even planning to plan protests.

Kerry had issued a statement in support of the women on Friday.

"Each and every one of us has the right to speak out against sexual harassment and the many other injustices that millions of women and girls suffer around the world," he said.

### YSU Part Time Faculty Association



A dinosaur femur is dug up in on Wednesday, April 8, 2015 in Mansfield, Texas. Tim Brys and his 5-year-old son Wylie Brys found the bones near a construction site. (Khampha Bouaphanh/Fort Worth Star-Telegram/TNS)

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Links Youngstown Will Hold 10th Annual Health Program**

Links, Incorporated Youngstown (OH) Chapter will hold its 10th annual health fair, "300 Sisters in Red," cosponsored by Mercy Health, Anthem, Youngstown State University and the American Heart Association. The event will be held at YSU Kilcawley Center on Saturday, April 18 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. This program includes fasting, blood screenings, fitness training, massages and breakout sessions with speakers. A light and healthy lunch will be served and door prizes given out after. Participants are encouraged to wear RED to support women's heart health.

**Jenny Magazine Holds Release Party for Eighth Issue**

Jenny Magazine, an online literary magazine produced by the YSU Student Literary Arts Association, will be hosting a release celebration in honor of Issue 8 and support of their great contributors featured in the issue. Refreshments will be available as well as music, raffle baskets, readings from Issue 8 authors and an open mic. The reception will be held on Thursday, April 16 from 6-8 p.m. at the Tyler Mahoning Valley History Center at 325 West Federal Street.

**YSU Dance Ensemble to Hold Spring Concert This Week**

The Youngstown State University Dance Ensemble will hold its 24th annual spring concert Thursday, Friday and Saturday — April 16, 17 and 18 — in Bliss Hall's Ford Theater. The Dance Ensemble will feature dance genres such as contemporary jazz, tap, ballet and modern. Tickets are available at the door or at [www.ysu.tix.com](http://www.ysu.tix.com). Tickets are \$3 for YSU students; \$5 for non-YSU students, senior citizens, Penguin Club members, groups of eight or more and YSU faculty and staff; and \$10 for general admission. Season tickets will be honored, and parking is available for a nominal fee at the M1 Wick Avenue Deck. Performances will begin at 7:30 p.m.

"When I have been in any meetings with any of [the student affairs workers] there is an energy and an excitement from them that to me is contagious. [They are] a sincere group of people and hard workers ... they work together. There's no doubt that that's why they've won that award," Imler said.

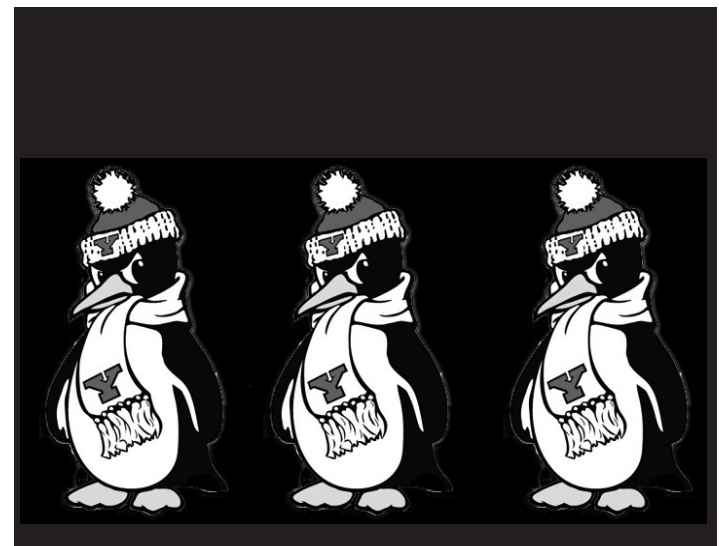
Imler said she believes the division's positivity is a rare trait in higher education administration, where the realities of budget cuts and dwindling state support can often foster negativity.

"I get excited when I'm around them because there's a freshness about them and they're stimulating, they're excited ... it's good when you see people who love what they're doing; Negativity about your job will bring you down, but [student affairs workers] are very inspiring," Imler said.

For Fahey, a positive student experience must begin with positive work experiences for those who serve the students.

"We have really talented people at student affairs and the kind of service orientation that they have for students they also have for their more junior staff members," Fahey said.

Next year, the division of student affairs will be divided into three separate departments following the departure of three of the division's four directors, including Fahey. While the measure is being taken in part to help cut costs, Fahey said he believes the departments will continue to offer the same quality of service.



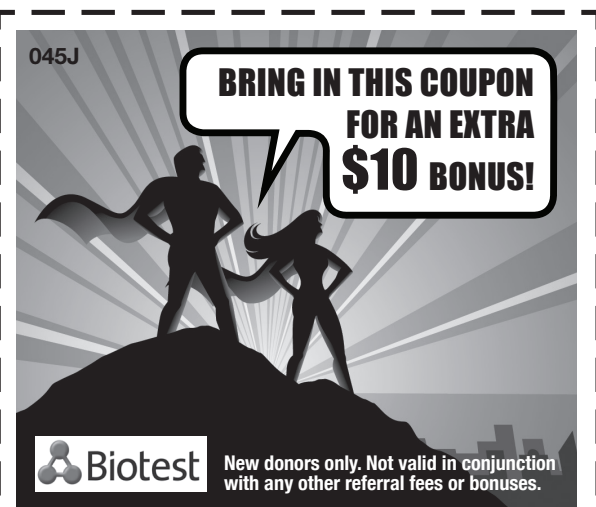
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# Concrete Canoe Paddles to Second Place Win

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Members of the American Society of Civil Engineers organization at Youngstown State University competed at the Ohio Valley Student Conference — hosted by Cincinnati State University and the University of Cincinnati — in Lawrenceburg, Indiana on March 26-28, placing second in the concrete canoe competition.

Miranda DeFuria, a sophomore studying mechanical engineering at YSU, is the concrete canoe team captain and vice president of YSU's chapter of ASCE.

"The competition was judged on four parts: the design papers, oral presentation, final product and race competitions," DeFuria said.

YSU's concrete canoe was awarded second place overall, also placing second in final product, third place in design papers, third place in men's and women's sprints, men's endurance and co-ed sprint races.

"The canoe has to be made within the academic year, so we will usually start around September," DeFuria said. "We work on the mix design, our hull design and do analysis with those first. We did mix designs probably until December and then we placed the concrete shortly after."

Other canoe teams included the University of Akron, University of Cincinnati, University of Louisville,

Ohio State University, Ohio University, University of Pittsburgh and Western Kentucky University.

"I was a little nervous going into the competition, considering this was my first year as captain," DeFuria said. "We also had new paddlers who had never practiced in a concrete canoe because of the winter weather and frozen lakes in this area. I was also very excited for regionals because I had attended OVSC last year just for the experience and I really enjoyed it. I was ready to see our canoe actually in the water."

The canoe was painted green, bearing the faces from the stars of the film "Ghostbusters." The canoe came in at 20 feet long and 30 inches at its widest point. The canoe was 3/8 of an inch thick and was 13 inches high at its tallest point.

The YSU team is advised by Anwarul Islam — chair of the department of civil, environmental and chemical engineering — and is helped by two former team captains, Adam DePizzo and Nathan Knapp.

"It was such a rewarding experience to see the canoe at competition because of the amount of time



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIRANDA DEFURIA.

and work we put into this project," DeFuria said. "We placed second overall at regionals, meaning we did not qualify for the national competition in June."

Aside from competing in concrete canoe, the YSU team also participated in a miniature steel bridge competition, but was disqualified after the bridge failed to hold the minimum of 2,500 pounds. The group's bridge collapsed at around 2,300 pounds.

"It was strange to think that we were done for the year because we worked so many months on it," DeFuria said. "I am very proud of my team and am so thankful for everyone that made the canoe a success. I love this project and cannot wait to see what the team will do next year."

## First Ladies Man Talks of Women in the White House



**GABRIELLE FELLOWS**  
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people things about the first ladies that they wouldn't think to ask about."

Between Eleanor Roosevelt's participation in the push for equality and Michelle Obama's campaign to get schoolchildren living a more active lifestyle, women have always held a prominent position in the Oval Office; in America's earlier years, it was more discreet.

Now a former first lady can run for president of the United States and be a prominent figurehead instead of living in the shadow of her husband.

Jay Gordon, associate professor at YSU and friend of Och, said these women achieve incredible things and deserve more recognition.

"I think it's important to learn about the first ladies, to better understand not only their own lives, but also to understand the presidents to whom they were married and the nature of the times in which they lived," Gordon said. "I hope people will see that, despite our political differences, the people who occupy the White House are human beings much like ourselves in so many ways. Their lives are tied up with politics, to be sure, but they also have rich lives outside politics. And I hope people simply find the lives of these first ladies fascinating and make an effort to learn more about them and any aspect of history that they find interesting."

Whether the women of the White House were behind, beside or in front of their husbands, they all have an important role in American culture.

Och said he would use his presentation to bring the significance of these women to the forefront.

"These women were girls and young women and are now wives, mothers, grandmothers, widows — there's so much to these women outside of the White House and outside of their husband's presidential careers," Och said. "I'm bringing these ladies to light."

When former first lady Hillary Clinton announced her entrance in the 2016 presidential race, political sites and television stations discussed the place of women in the White House.

Andy Och, documentarian and expert on the past and present first ladies, had the answer: "Women have always been important in the White House."

Och spoke to students on Monday at Youngstown State University regarding the first ladies, their lives and their, sometimes hidden, importance.

He explained how these women have changed history in an attempt to spark interest in these behind-the-scenes role models.

"After my documentary work with the C-SPAN series 'First Ladies: Influence & Image,' I've retained an amazing amount of knowledge from my travels studying historic location and lives of the first ladies from Martha Washington to Michelle Obama," Och said. "What I try to do in this program is try to have an interactive program that tells

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EDITORIAL

# IMBIBE WHILE YOU STRIDE: A NEW BILL MAY ALLOW OPEN CONTAINER DRINKING OUTSIDE BARS

The crack of a cue ball against a freshly set rack manages to pierce through the obnoxious chorus of “Let It Go” that is, for reasons that escape both man and God, on the jukebox at the Draught House.

Your urge to assault the person manning the jukebox has recently been subdued by the urge to have a hotdog with a truckload of nonsense piled on top. Suzie’s Dogs and Drafts beckons you to leave the divey warmth and comfort the Draught House provides.

But there’s a problem.

You still have half a beer left, and you’ve already put away two. You’re not drinking the liquid garbage squeezings that is Bud Light. You’re drinking Founder’s Breakfast Stout, an 8.3 percent alcohol by volume meal in a bottle. Sure, you could slam that last half and head for Suzie’s, but you’re the responsible type and know that wouldn’t end well.

If a bipartisan bill recently passed by the Ohio House of Representatives makes its way through the Senate, hypothetically you will have the option to carry that beer out of the bar, onto the streets and onto your next adventure.

The bill would allow cities with populations of over 35,000 to create “outdoor refreshment areas” in districts meeting certain requirements — at least four liquor license holders must be in operation within the

half-mile exempt zone — in which drinking outside would be permitted.

According to reports from The Vindicator, Columbus Dispatch and the Cincinnati Enquirer, much of the pressure for the bill’s success is coming from those hoping to create an “entertainment district” in preparation for the 2015 Major League Baseball All-Star Game in Cincinnati.

The bill would allow other bar-heavy areas, like the Flats in Cleveland, to create similar entertainment districts.

Youngstown would actually qualify for two districts if the bill passed. If the city decided to pursue creating such an area, it would be absurd to think the district would exist anywhere other than Federal Street.

Proponents of the bill argue that its passage would allow business owners in the entertainment districts greater freedom to collaborate on events. Their logic is that if patrons could freely stroll from bar to bar during an outdoor concert or fair, it would likely encourage more interaction with the event and more business across the board for bars, rather than patrons either staying hunkered in at one business or ignoring the bars altogether.

While passage of the bill means Youngstown could create such a district, the obvious remaining consideration is should Youngstown do so?

Open container works on

Bourbon Street in New Orleans. There are rows of bars and every night is like an outdoor event, with bands and street acts taking to the sidewalks to perform while street vendors sell food and souvenirs to tourists. Bourbon Street is a destination, a must-see for those visiting New Orleans. People want to experience the nightlife in its entirety, so binding them to one venue doesn’t make much sense.

But does that same logic apply to Youngstown, where we have only three months of steamy nights to utilize for such revelry?

Smokers would benefit from the districts year round, as they could take their beers out while they huddle in the cold.

Underage drinkers also could easily benefit from the law. Unless the districts were a strict 21-and-over zone, stopping people from ordering a to-go drink and taking it outside to their underage friends could be difficult. The police could go around carding individuals they suspect to be underage, but that would result in an Orwellian “papers please” vibe that likely wouldn’t help promote the district as a fun place to hang out.

Then there’s the litter. Whether the bill would allow people to carry bottles in the open or force bars to serve their drafts in plastic cups, there will be a slew of new street trash to deal with for the city. If you doubt this, hang around

Federal Street until closing time on any given weekend in summer and look at the street’s condition. Somehow bottles and cups still manage to make it outside.

Then there’s the considerations that must be taken for those that live downtown. Will those who are paying hefty rents for apartments in the Federal Building, the Erie Terminal and the soon to open Wick Tower really want people milling around and drinking until 2 a.m. every night outside their windows?

Despite all this, an entertainment district on Federal Street could work.

Its success would require collaboration between businesses and the city. If Phelps Street is closed to vehicle traffic — a plan Mayor John McNally has proposed — the open container exemption would essentially turn the street into a giant outdoor patio. This would help keep bar patrons safe and would provide a convenient bottleneck where individuals could be carded and given bracelets before gaining access to the bars. But what about the bars that aren’t on Phelps?

If bouncers and bartenders follow suit with carding and distributing bracelets to those eligible to drink, it would significantly help aid police in identifying underage drinkers.

The city could issue permits for those wishing to operate food stands and for street musicians and artists

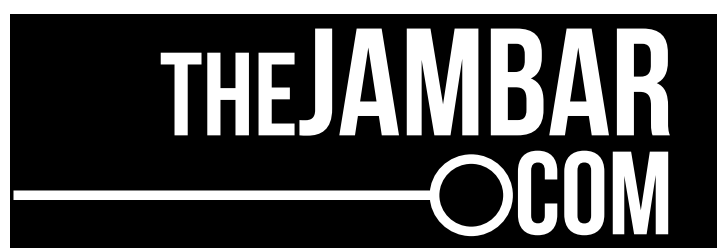
who want to benefit from the foot traffic. This would also provide an incentive for noncarousers to visit downtown in the evening.

Litter and noise would still be an issue. But those are problems in any major city, and most have figured out ways to deal with both. While Youngstown is a far cry from a major city, the potential economic gain for downtown businesses is worth city officials putting their heads together to come up with a solution.

It could work. If the city and the businesses work together, an open container entertainment district could help make Youngstown a destination, even if it’s only fully utilized for a few months out of the year.

Creating the district would be a risk for the city. It could result in a decline in those willing to live downtown. It could result in a backlash by local businesses that don’t want drunks hanging around their front doors until the early hours of the morning. It could revive the seedy feel Federal Street had for so many years.

Risk isn’t inherently bad. Those business owners who took a risk to open a bar, restaurant, coffee shop or apartment complex downtown took a risk on the city. If the bill passes, the city should consider taking a risk on them.



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# LETTER — TO THE — EDITOR

The deaths of Michael Brown, Eric Garner and Tamir Rice have once again raised the question of police brutality in America. The video that surfaced heavily two days ago of Walter Scott, the latest victim of police brutality, showed an unarmed African American male running away from the North Charleston, South Carolina police officer Michael Slager.

Slager fired eight shots into the back of the unarmed Walter Scott, from nearly 30 feet away, unquestionable police brutality. What makes the footage more sickening is the fact that Slager would have gotten away with planting his taser next to Walter Scott’s feet — given the fact that the North Charleston Police Department were backing their officer. If Feidin Santana had never shot the cell phone footage catching the event, the corrupt, twisted, coward Slager would be deemed a hero, and Walter Scott would be labeled a thug.

The fragile threads of

structural racism have been tearing this last year. Activists, political leaders and political pundits have all been a part of the conversation about police brutality and what it means to still be a minority in America. Some of these pundits provide factual information, while others skew solid facts to meet the needs of their biased base, throwing fuel to an already flaming fire — the crucial cornerstone of the body camera debate has been molded by the unfortunate death of Walter Scott.

Studies show that when people are acting under surveillance, they act differently, more socially acceptable, as anyone would figure. The question has to be asked, would Walter Scott still be alive if Michael Slager had been wearing a body camera? This also raises another question, how common of a practice is it for police departments in areas with a history of racial tension to act just as Michael Slager did? How long have department cover-ups been going

on with no evidence to support it?

The Huffington Post noted that 200 police shootings have been exonerated in South Carolina in the past five years. More statistics follow and show that “109 African Americans were shot at, 34 died. While 67 white suspects were shot at and 41 died, 5 other shootings were Asian, Native American or Latino.” It’s important to illuminate the statistical shadow, 66 percent of the population is White, while only 27 percent is African American. African Americans are absolutely being targeted at a higher rate than whites, furthering the discussion of racial tensions and the need for body cameras.

Although nothing is a total cure all, body cameras will eliminate split second, subconscious prejudices from making a life changing, or life ending choice.

**Andrew Thomas LaVogue**  
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# PENGUINS LOSE SERIES BUT DON'T LOSE GROUND

DAN HINER

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The Youngstown State University softball team played a series this weekend that could have a significant impact on its season.

YSU hosted Cleveland State University in a three-game series. The Vikings came in with the best pitching staff and the best offense in the Horizon League.

The Penguins played a doubleheader to start the series on April 11. The Vikings won the first game 10-7, but the Penguins won the second game 8-5.

YSU began the first game trailing 1-0 in the top of the first inning. Left fielder Sarah Dowd reached on an error and first baseman Miranda Castiglione walked. The Penguins took a 2-1 lead after Dowd scored on an RBI single by right fielder Cali Mikovich and Castiglione scored on a wild pitch.

The Penguins extended their lead to 5-1 in the bottom of the second inning. YSU drove in three runs on four hits — including a two-run homerun by Dowd that drove in catcher Maria Lacatena.

Cleveland State scored six unanswered runs in the third, fourth and fifth innings to take a 7-5 lead in the bottom of the fifth inning. YSU tied the game 7-7 after Lacatena hit a two-run single with two outs. In the top of the seventh inning, the Vikings took the lead for good after right fielder Mackenzie Joecken hit a three-run homerun.

The offense continued early in the second game of the double header. Freshman Alexandra Gibson said the team's performance against the top pitching staff in the Horizon League gave the lineup confidence heading into the second game.

"We kept our energy up knowing we could come out and hit them. After our talk in the first game we said, 'You know what, we could hit her. Let's go,'"

Gibson said

The Vikings jumped out to an early 3-0 lead in the top of the second inning. The Penguins responded by scoring six runs in the bottom of the second — including a two-run homer by Dowd.

In the top of the third inning, Cleveland State cut the YSU lead to 6-4 after a solo homerun by shortstop Cynthia Woodard. [Alexandra] Gibson hit her first career homerun in the bottom of the inning.

"I was rounding the bag, and I was amazed that I hit that," Gibson said. "I haven't been hitting the ball out that far at all. I've been hitting the ball, putting it in play and getting base runners around. It was a great moment and a great feeling."

Brian Campbell, the head coach, said the team had strong opposition in both games.

"I think when you look at both games, they came in leading the conference in homeruns. In the first game they were able to hit some balls with base runners on," Campbell said. "In the second game — correct me if I'm wrong — I think a lot of their homeruns were solo shots in the second game. Going down through the process, that's one of the things you want. They're a good hitting team. We were able to out hit them going down in both games. Unfortunately, in the first one, we had a couple hits we would have taken with runners in scoring position — we would have traded out a hit for that."

The Penguins lost the rubber match 2-1 on April 12. Cleveland State took an early 1-0 lead in the final game of the series after a solo homerun by Woodard in the first inning — her third homerun of the series.

The Penguins came back to tie the game in the bottom of the third after Lacatena hit a RBI double that drove in shortstop Katie Smallcomb. The Vikings took 2-1 lead in the bottom of the sixth after a solo homerun by pitcher Susan Knight.

Freshman pitcher Ashley Koziol started the second and third games of the series. Koziol pitched 12.1 innings in the series — allowing seven runs on



PHOTO COURTESY OF YSU SPORTS INFORMATION.

Freshman pitcher Ashley Koziol pitched a complete game in the second game of the Youngstown State University softball team's doubleheader. Koziol's record stands at 5-5 after picking up a win the second game of the doubleheader and a loss in the third game of the series.

12 hits.

"Ashley came in and was able to keep them off-balance," Campbell said. "She threw a lot of ground balls and was able to entice them into popups and they were a little bit more up in the

air then straight out. The young lady came in and did a tremendous job."

The Penguins will host the University of Akron on April 14 at the YSU Softball Complex. First pitch is scheduled for 3 p.m.

## Wright State Offense Too Much for Penguins

JEFF BROWN

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The Youngstown State University baseball team dropped two of three games in a series at Wright State University over the weekend. YSU drops to 9-20 on the year and just 4-11 in the Horizon League.

The Penguins had an optimistic start to weekend, winning the first game of

the series 6-5 on Friday evening.

Jared Wight had a solid evening on the mound for the Penguins allowing only one run on six hits through the first five innings. Wight improved to 3-2 on the year, and recorded his first win in Horizon League play this year.

YSU's offense backed Wight up in the fourth, scoring four runs on five hits and gave YSU a 4-1 lead. A two-run double by Alex Larivee in the eighth propelled the Penguins to a 6-5 lead, which proved to be just enough to hold off the surging

Raiders to give YSU the victory.

Over the next two days the Penguins would not be as fortunate. The Penguins were blown out in game two of the series 13-1, and completely shutout in game three losing 9-0.

In game two, a Josh Fitch single in the first inning gave the Penguins an early 1-0 lead, but it was all Wright State from there. The Raiders scored six runs in the bottom half of the first inning to take a 6-1 lead, and would add seven more runs over the final four innings.

Pitcher Joe King was credited with the loss for the Penguins in his first Horizon League start of the season. King allowed six runs in 1.1 innings and drops to 1-1 on the year.

DJ Carr came in relief of King and pitched two scoreless innings, but allowed three runs in the fifth and sixth inning.

Eleven of Wright State's 14 hits came from their top four in the lineup.

In game three on Sunday, YSU pitcher Jeremy Quinlan tried to will the Penguins to victory, but did not have the support to do so. Quinlan allowed only one unearned run on two hits through the first five innings.

It all came crashing down in the sixth, however. Quinlan allowed six earned runs on five hits including one homerun. The loss brings Quinlan to just 2-6 on the year.

Wright State pitcher Trevor Swaney dominated the Penguins all afternoon, allowing only three hits in six innings of work with five strikeouts.

Up next for the Penguins is a single game against Ohio University at Eastwood Field on Tuesday.

The Bobcats are 19-14 on the year and are led by first baseman Jake Madsen who is currently riding a six game hit streak. Madsen is batting .347 on the year, and also has 11 doubles.

First pitch is scheduled for 5:30 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RON STEVENS.

Youngstown State University pitcher Jared Wight (27) picked up the win in the baseball team's 6-5 win over Wright State University on April 10. Wight's record improved to 3-2 this season. The win against Wright State was YSU's only win of the series.