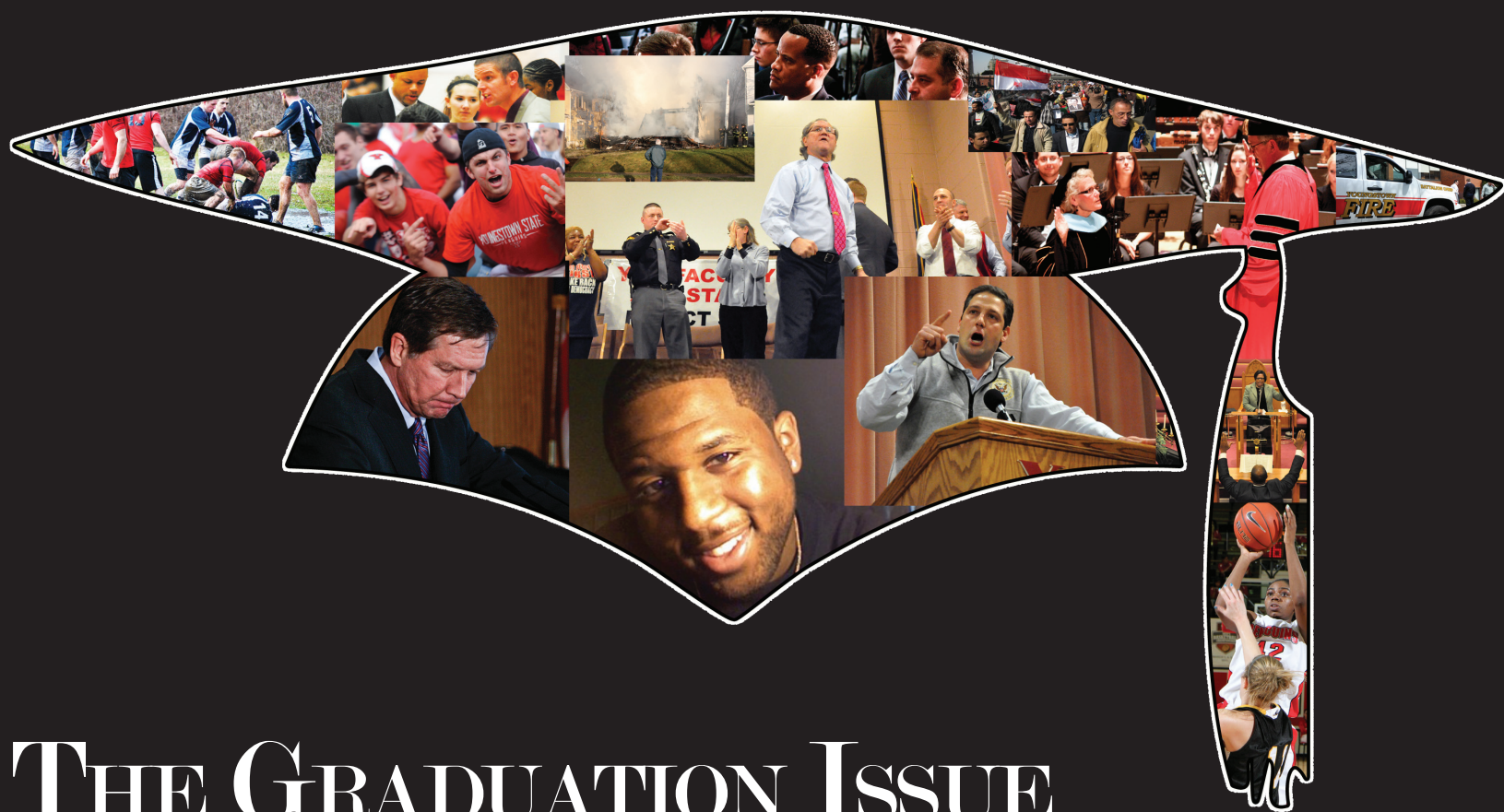


# The Jambar

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

## LOOKING BACK



### THE GRADUATION ISSUE

## ANDERSON'S ADDRESS

*It's hard to believe it has been nearly a year since I walked into my new office on the second floor of Tod Hall to serve my first day as president of Youngstown State University. What an incredible honor it is to serve my alma mater in such a visible and important manner.*

*Over these past several months, I have learned that there is no other job on campus quite like that of president. I have also learned, however, that the best part of this job is the same as when I was vice president or a member of the faculty – students.*

*So today, I congratulate you – the students – who have shown such determination and dedication in pursuing your academic goals and in serving your university and community. You are at the center of what we are all about here at*

*YSU. We are committed to ensuring your success, in the classroom and in life.*

*I also congratulate the wonderful faculty, staff and administrators at this university for their work on behalf of the students, the institution and the Mahoning and Shenango valleys. Through you, our students continue to achieve, and our community continues to advance in these uncertain and challenging times.*

*Congratulations. Thanks for making YSU a wonderful place to learn, live and work. Have a great summer.*



YSU President Cynthia E. Anderson

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Youngstown 2010  
plan VIDEO ONLINE

Take a walk through  
M-2 renovations  
VIDEO ONLINE

Campus  
commemorates  
Jamail Johnson PAGE 2



## A sincere remembrance for a genuine soul Tree planted on campus to remember Jamail Johnson

Jenna Medina  
REPORTER

Friends and loved ones gathered on campus Tuesday to remember Jamail Johnson, who lost his life in an off-campus shooting on Feb. 6.

With a tree planting in his honor, many congregated in and around a white tent placed outside of Kilcawley Center.

During this time of acknowledgment, positive and touching words of appreciation were expressed toward Johnson and all he has done as a student, fraternity brother, friend and mentor.

Jacquelyn Johnson, university development officer, opened the ceremony with a brief summary explaining its purpose.

Other guest speakers included YSU President Cynthia Anderson; William Blake, director of the Office of Student Diversity Programs; Har-

ry L. Johnson on behalf of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity; Gary Davenport, vice president for the Student Government's university affairs committee; Dan Smith representing Woodrow Wilson Middle School; and Carl Chuey, professor of evolution and ecology, who explained the scientific meaning behind the bur oak tree.

Anderson described the tree in a more descriptive value. "This tree representing life, representing strength, representing newness of beauty and spirit," she

Anderson added that she believes the tree will symbolize hope for the future of YSU and the community.

"It will serve as a constant reminder of Jamail's life. We will remember the positive impact which this wonderful young man had on our YSU campus," Anderson said.

Family members expressed their thoughts.

"Peace and love; that's what my son represented. That's what I represent. That's what this community represents. That's what it's all

about, peace and love and us being together," said Shirlene Hill, mother of Jamail Johnson.

Students from Wilson Middle School wrote and sent letters of gratitude about Johnson to his family. A Wilson Middle School student at the ceremony said Johnson was a great leader and not a follower.

Amid tears during his speech, the boy said Johnson treated him as if he was his little brother.

"He stayed on my back," said the middle school student. "I have respect for Mr. Jamail's family and friends."

After Johnson's death, Shirlene Hill; Johnson's stepfather, Sidney Hill; and Johnson's brothers, Bruce Alexander and Sidney Hill Jr., created "Project Jamail" at Wilson Middle School.

This program is a donation of Johnson's collection of more than 100 athletic shoes, which will be passed on to worthy students. Each month, 10 shoes are showcased in the middle school, and at the end of each month five students are chosen to pick a pair for themselves.

If girls are selected, they are handed a \$50 gift certificate instead of a pair of shoes.

Tuesday's event was small but important, setting an ex-

ample of different individuals working together in a time of tribute.

"All of the individuals who were present today are people who do good work in their communities, and honoring Jamail's life charges us to continue that good work," Davenport said.

Johnson's death has brought the YSU campus and Youngstown community closer, continuing the path of his positive spirit by realizing what truly matters in life, Davenport said.

"We need to keep people talking and doing good works. This is one part of Jamail's

legacy," Davenport added.

Anderson said YSU will celebrate yet another one of Johnson's accomplishments on May 21 as he will be posthumously granted the bachelor's degree he would have received during commencement.

"We will him, we love him, we owe him," Anderson said. "We've seen his heart. He showed it to all of us, this university and this entire community. Like this tree, Jamail was strong. He was strong as an individual, and he was strong for all of us. This strong beautiful tree will serve us for eternity, as did Jamail."



(Above and left) Friends and family gathered Tuesday, despite the rain, to remember off-campus shooting victim Jamail Johnson. A tree was also dedicated in his memory. Photos by Jenna Medina/The Jambar.

## Students, faculty break plates to relieve stress

Chelsea Telega  
REPORTER

On Wednesday, several Youngstown State University students and faculty members lined up near a tent in front of DeBartolo Hall to break plates.

Anthropology professor Matt O'Mansky organized the event that allowed passersby to break ceramic plates full of their frustrations. Each participant wrote on the plates with permanent marker and proceeded to throw them to the ground.

The idea originated from archaeologist John White. In his findings, White took special interest in the broken bits of plates that he would find.

White conducted experiments to test how therapeutic breaking plates would be for people who were experiencing stress. He found that it could help them deal with their pasts.

During his studies, White would search for old dinner plates that were for sale. O'Mansky said White looked at yard sales, flea markets and discount stores for old plates that could be used for his experiment.

White passed away two years ago. However, he accumulated thousands of plates, which O'Mansky decided to put to use in his honor.

Not only did the event contribute to the scholarship, it also gave anyone feeling tension a chance to break it.

"We thought that with it being finals week, it would be



Freshman nursing major Tito Bufford took time to vent his frustrations by smashing some plates on Wednesday. Photo by Caitlin Fitch/The Jambar.

a great way to get out frustration," O'Mansky said.

Tegan Anclade, an anthropology major and Anthropology Colloquium participant, also took part in organizing the event. She agreed that it was beneficial.

"It's a nice way to raise money for the scholarship and to get stress out during finals week. It's also a good way for people to hear about the colloquium," Anclade said.

People willing to purchase plates could write about anything in their lives that cause stress.

"The first woman we had wrote 'bills, gas prices and my neighborhood,'" O'Mansky said.

With the overabundance of plates White collected, organizational leaders said there should be more left over to continue the event next year.

"I don't plan on collecting plates, but if we have some left over, which I'm sure we will,

we will keep breaking plates and keep raising a lot of money," O'Mansky said.

"It's something different, not like bake sales and other things we've done. I think it'll be successful once people catch on. I think a lot of people would pay to smash plates," Anclade said.

Tito Bufford, a freshman nursing major, thought the idea was a great way to relieve stress.

"That was awesome," Bufford said. "You don't get to smash stuff often."

David Bresko, a senior majoring in linguistics, enjoyed it as well.

"It was fun. I think with preparations for finals week, this is a very good time to do it," Bresko said.

During the fundraiser, three plates could be purchased and broken for \$1. All proceeds went toward the John White Scholarship.

## Off-campus shooting trial postponed

Joe Giesy  
NEWS EDITOR

The state filed a motion on April 26 to join the cases of five men charged in events surrounding the February shooting of Youngstown State University student Jamail Johnson and 11 others to allow the court to try the men together rather than separately.

Becky Doherty, an assistant county prosecutor, said the men would be tried at the same time in the same courtroom. The motion allows the case numbers to be combined.

Doherty said the investigation was ongoing, resulting in three separate indictments.

"Legally, they should be tried together," Doherty said. She added that the only reason they were not charged together is because they went before the grand jury at different times.

Columbus Jones Jr., 22, of Cambridge Avenue, and Brandon Carter, 22, of East Ravenwood Avenue, were charged by the Mahoning County grand jury shortly after the Feb. 6 shooting.

Demetrius Wright, 20, of West Avondale Avenue, and Jamelle Jackson, 18, of West Boston Avenue, were charged together several days after.

Mark Jones, 18, of Cambridge Avenue, was charged about two weeks after the shooting.

The court issued a continuance for the trial, which was set for May 2 in the Mahoning County Court of Common Pleas, to allow the defendants time to respond to the state's motion. The defendants will have two weeks to respond to the motion, then the state will have time to respond.

Attorney James Melone, who represents Wright, said they would be writing a response opposing joint indictments.

"It's our position that [Wright] would not receive a fair trial," Melone said.

He said he would like for his client, who faces a felony charge of carrying a concealed weapon, to be tried separately from the others.

The Jones brothers both face charges for the murder of Johnson. Columbus Jones Jr. was arrested the day of the murder, and Mark Jones turned himself in two weeks later after he learned the police were looking for him.

Carter and Jackson face separate felony charges of obstructing justice.

A hearing date for this latest motion will be set for this month, and a trial will be set at the resolution of this motion.

Representatives for the Jones brothers, Carter and Jackson could not be reached for comment.



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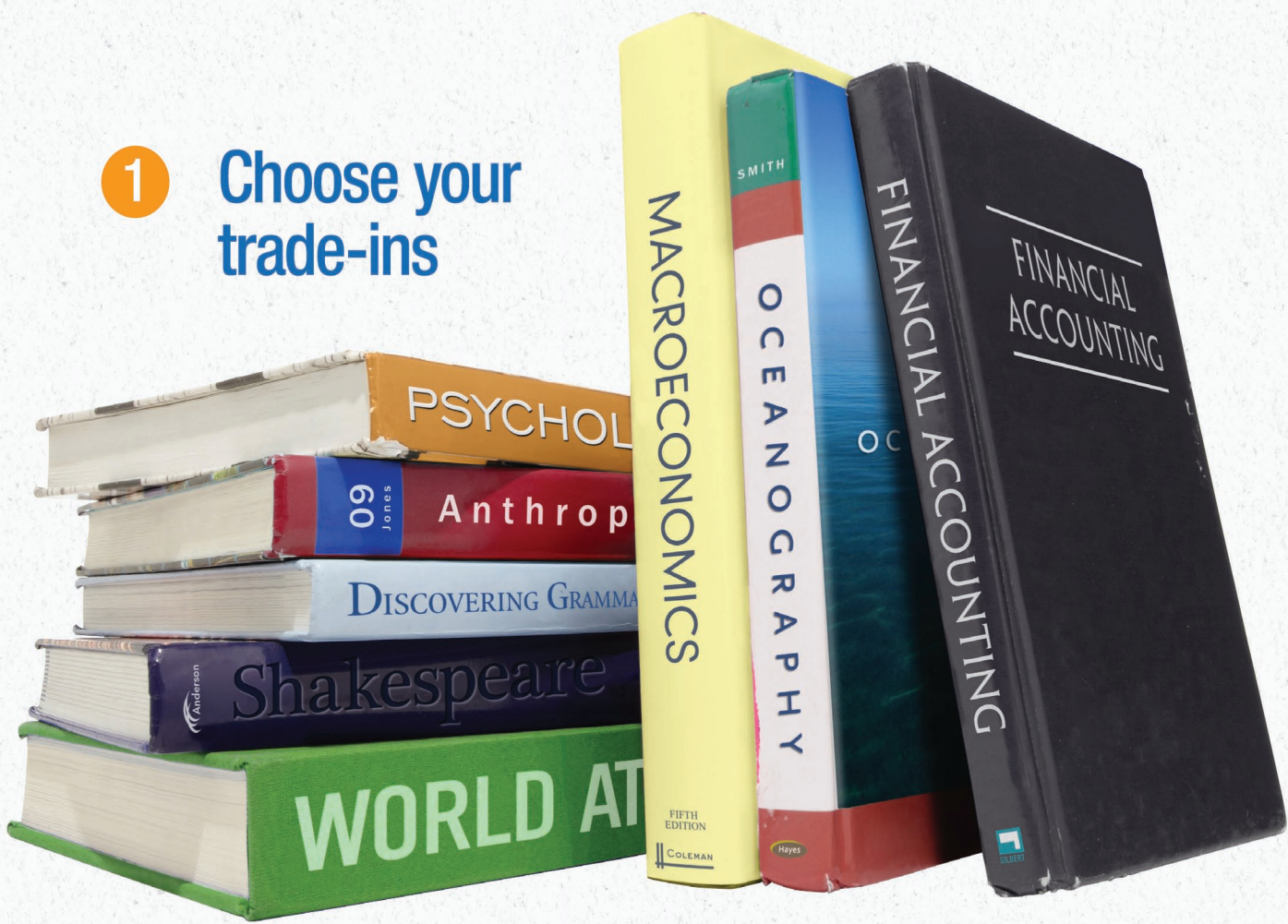
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LAMAR PAGE 13

Emmalee Torisk: You have always been an enigma to me. I never knew that someone as pure, sweet and intelligent as you even existed. These last couple of years with you have been great. You are the greatest word nerd I have ever met and I will be looking forward to our continued "life talks" as the years go on. Thank you for putting up with me, my horribly written stories and for always listening with a smile even when I didn't think anyone cared.

Doug Livingston: You too are another enigma. I will never completely understand what drives you to work so hard. Nonetheless, I couldn't find a better successor than you. I have learned so much just by listening to your ideas, critiques and rants. You are the definition of what a journal-

ist should be and I know that someday, if you ever graduate (joke), I will be seeing your byline on some of the greatest journalistic works.

MB: There were a good two years where I didn't know if you actually liked me or not. But even still, I knew I could always count on you. That's when I realized that it was really my own paranoia that was painting that distorted picture. I can't possibly thank you for everything but I'll try with this; thank you.

Teresa, Marissa, Amanda, Jordan, Joe Catullo Jr., Christ Cotelesse, Jenna, Chelsea Telega, Kacy Standohar, Jonathon Fauvie Nick Young, Patrick Donovan, Jeff Mamounis, Caitlin, Keith Langford, Dan Pompili: You guys rock! Seriously, I'm running out of room here but I wanted

each and every one of you guys to know that working with all of you has been great. I wish you all the best in the future. If you request a personal critique, give me a call, I'm always around.

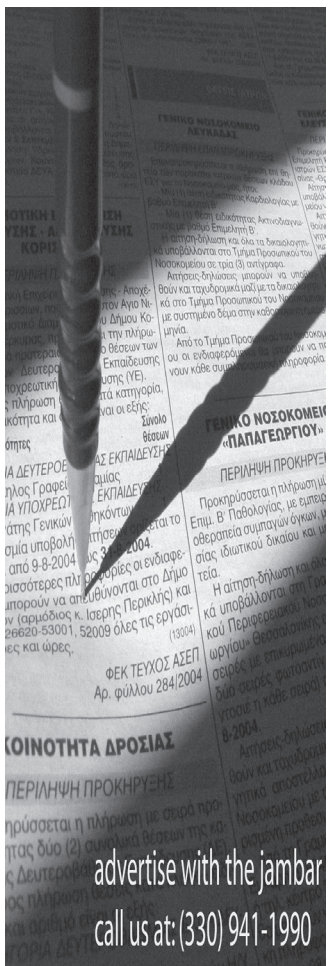
Now as I get ready to conclude writing this letter, I realize that my job has left me with no free time, my personal life is nonexistent and I have no concrete direction for my future. Still, I wouldn't have it any other way.

I have learned not to worry about planning things out and just to go with it and to have a more positive attitude (go figure).

I don't know where I'll be, but I do know that wherever I end up, it will never be as quite the same as working at The Jambar.

-30-

The family of Vivian D. Martin expresses our heartfelt appreciation for the contributions made to the YWRA Vivian D. Martin Memorial Scholarship. Your generosity and support will provide deserving students a chance to fulfill the educational excellence that our mother strived for and achieved.

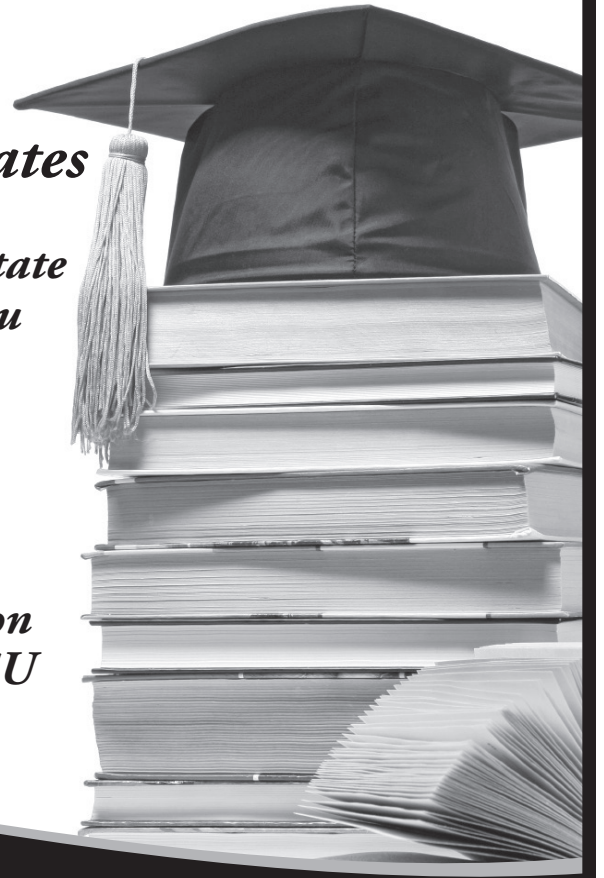


To Our Spring 2011 Graduates

On behalf of the entire Youngstown State University family, we congratulate you on your graduation.

Our very best to you in all of your future endeavors.

Dr. Cynthia E. Anderson  
President, YSU



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OUR SIDE

## Looking forward

The Jambar  
EDITORIAL BOARD

RELATED STORY

Looking back, page 1

The YSU community went through its share of ups and downs this semester, and we have seen some truly amazing things.

There were some things we'd like to see again.

A major terrorist caught, a well-contested SGA election, campus expansions, parking renovations and, surprisingly, a snow day.

Then there were some things we hope no one ever has to experience again.

Namely, the shooting that claimed one of our classmates — one of our own.

Through it all though, we came together to show the world and the nation that we are stronger than any tragedy. When we stick together, no one can pull us apart.

We urge you to remember this and don't forget YSU when you leave for summer break. We ask our graduates to remember where they came from and return in the future because they will always be a part of this community. No matter where they call home, they will always have one here.

There are going to be many events to celebrate in the future and many hardships that will tear us apart if we let them. Remain united and help your classmates when personal struggles weigh on them.

Reach out to someone you may never have talked to before because you never know who won't make it back to class next semester.

ABOUT THE JAMBAR

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 summer sessions. Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. Additional copies of The Jambar are \$1 each.

OUR SIDE POLICY

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

YOUR SIDE POLICY

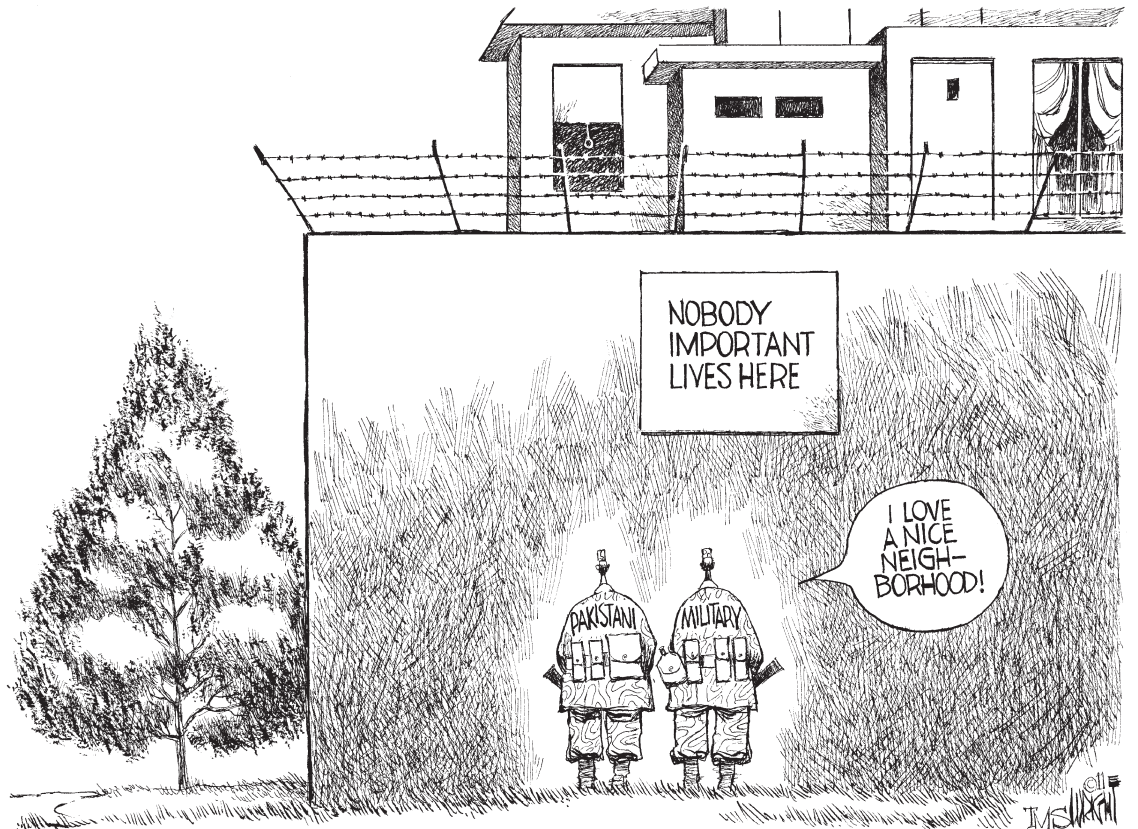
The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Email submissions are welcome at editor@thejambar.com. Letters should concern campus issues, must be typed and must not exceed 400 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification and the writer's city of residence for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

Letters will not be rejected based on the view expressed in them. Letters may be rejected if they are not relevant to Jambar readers, seek free publicity or if the editorial staff decides the subject has been sufficiently aired. The Jambar will not print letters that are libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. The Jambar does not withhold the names of writers of letters or guest commentaries.

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



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

YSU SPEAK

YSU Speak is a collaborative project by students in the 2011 Editorial and Opinion Writing class. This section serves as a medium to share students' views, and we invite you to do the same. Entries are written by individuals and are reviewed by the Jambar Editorial Board.

## Adding fairness to welfare

Patrick Donovan

Two weeks ago, as I began my shift at work, a fellow employee arrived to the office stumbling and clearly intoxicated. Clocking in, he was immediately confronted by management. Upon denying being inebriated, he was then asked to submit to an alcohol test.

To make a long story short, the employee ended up being terminated after tests showed traces of alcohol and illegal drugs in his system.

For most of us, the consequences of this man's actions seem natural. How could anyone operate a forklift while drunk?

Most reasonable people do not expect to show up to work under the influence of drugs or alcohol and keep their job for very long.

So why is it that individuals who receive government welfare checks in place of paychecks are not expected to adhere the same normal expectations?

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, 1 in 5 unemployed adults in 2008 abused drugs. Only 1 in 12 adults abused drugs while employed full time.

This country and its hardworking taxpayers cannot and should not have to keep working and paying for a poverty problem that is plagued by drug use.

Think about the money at stake. In 2007, 43,316 Mahoning County residents received food stamps. The taxpayers' bill: \$35 million. Also, more than 12,000 residents received cash assistance. That's \$11.7 million.

Common pleas judges who oversee the county's criminal cases say 85 percent of committed crimes are drug related. Still, there is no legislation that demands those receiving assistance be drug tested.

States including Kentucky, Indiana, Nebraska, Missouri and Oregon have all introduced legislation requiring drug testing for individuals receiving public assistance. And Ohio should undoubtedly follow their example.

In the fight against poverty, crime and drug use, which often go hand in hand, Ohio and other states across the nation should examine legislation to make drug tests mandatory for all people receiving taxpayer dollars in the form of assistance.



## Letter to the Editor

On a recent visit to city hall, I made a discovery that seemed out of place. I've been a Youngstown resident for 25 years and have never noticed the very large granite monument of the Ten Commandments located inside the Phelps Street entrance.

Having a religious symbol in a public building where citizens of all religions and those of none do their business makes a mockery of the idea of separation of church and state. The idea that this country is and was started as a Christian nation is a lie that will not die. The fact that most Americans are Christian misses the point.

The U.S. Constitution calls for protection of the minority from the majority and has no mention of a god. No one gets an upper hand in the public sphere because of his religious beliefs. Some will argue that the commandments have various versions and are part of other mainstream religions.

This doesn't wash either because as mankind finds out more about the human brain, we know that the way we treat one another and govern ourselves comes from human values that would evolve with or without religion. Something deeper in humans connects us to one another through shared values.

Religion tries to do this but divides us into groups with competing gods and worldviews. Either we are a democracy or a theocracy. Most people fear the idea of thought more than even death. Things like the Ten Commandments are a way of doing the thinking for them. Thought is dangerous only to those in power, and organized religion is and always has been a power structure. We need only read our history books about the Dark Ages to learn that lesson.

And why is it that the Christian faith is the one that's always displayed? I believe if you display one, you must display them all.

The reason you will never see any other symbol displayed is that the Christian faith is the bully religion in this country. By displaying the Ten Commandments at city hall, what message are we sending to our children about the true essence of democracy? Every time someone of another faith or no faith walks by this display, he is bound to feel inferior.

I can imagine an atheist, agnostic or humanist parent trying to explain the city hall display to his child. That would be an interesting conversation. I know plenty of parents in this category who are thoughtful parents and citizens, and they really deserve better.

When I go to a public building, I don't go there for religious instruction, just as I don't go to the barbershop to purchase a set of tires for my car.

James Rogers Jr.  
Youngstown



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## YSU SPEAK

## Time for domestic drilling

Bill Rusu

Gas prices. Two words that will make anyone cringe. Each day gas prices continue to rise, and each day motorists are pigeonholed in to paying those soaring prices.

I got my driver's license in the winter of 2006. Driving a Ford Focus, it usually cost around \$12 to fill my tank. That was only five years ago. In those same five years, the ever-rising oil prices have driven the cost of filling my little Focus' gas tank to around \$40. A 30 percent increase.

And here's the worst thing about gas: We HAVE to use it. Sure, motorists could make smarter trips, or carpool, or find other ways to get around, but at most those measures will only make a marginal difference when filling up. The bottom line is that driving is a necessity for most people. Especially in an area like Youngstown. Nobody is going to ride their bike or walk when temperatures are below freezing for a large portion of the year. And busing? Public transportation is simply not supportive enough in this area to use as a viable source of everyday transportation.

That being said, isn't it reasonable to think, with so many Americans struggling to make ends meet, that the government should do everything in its power to help lessen burdens on its citizens?

That's exactly what the Obama administration should be considering now. According to the U.S. Department of the Interior, there is as much as 115 billion barrels of oil in American coastal waters. Another 16 billion barrels could be drilled in the Alaskan wildlife reserve. The U.S. uses about 6.6 billion barrels of oil a year, so it's safe to say that if we tried to rely only on American oil, the supply wouldn't last very long. But using a combination of American oil and imported oil wouldn't be so bad, especially if it would drive oil costs down.

Unfortunately Obama's stance is that if we drill our own oil, Americans won't be forced to start using alternative fuel sources, which is a valid argument. However, is it really the average American's fault that we're still dependent on oil? Of course it isn't. A real alternative to our gas-guzzling cars has yet to be revealed. I would love nothing more than to drive a car that relies solely on a renewable fuel source, but until that car exists — and isn't insanely expensive — I'm stuck driving my "bad-for-the-environment-and-my-wallet" vehicle.

So here's what I'm begging the Obama administration to do: Please open up offshore drilling in American waters. Americans need a break at the pump, and we have the resources close to home that can make that happen.

## Time is money

Adrienne Bish

Every weekday, I wake up extra early to allow myself enough time to find a parking space on campus. Being a commuter means one thing: You get to spend at least five to 15 minutes a day looking for a spot.

At least on the campus of Youngstown State University.

After the time it takes to find a parking space, a commuter then must walk at least five more minutes to class because all the parking options are located on the outer limits of campus.

Each semester, a YSU commuter pays \$78 to be "assured" a parking spot on campus. This \$78 allows a commuter to park in two parking decks (one now due to the recent closing of M-2) and five flat lots.

However, assurance is hardly ever the case. Especially now since we lost 12,000 spaces.

The University of Akron offers commuter parking permits for \$150 per semester. Although that might seem like an astronomical amount compared to YSU's fees, it includes a lot more options.

The \$150 commuter fee allows commuters to choose from four main decks and 67 other lots around campus. There are 10,415 parking spaces allotted for commuters on campus.

Kent State University allows its commuters to choose a parking pass that is right for them. For \$90, commuter students can pick from six different lots near different campus buildings. For \$105, a commuter can park at all six lots. \$140 allows a commuter to park at the student center for free or at any of the other six lots. All of the commuter parking passes include 2,500 "core" spots located close to campus.

Larry Emling, director of parking services at KSU, doesn't believe that parking is a problem on campus.

"We always have space for our students," Emling said.

So what should YSU do? I say either increase the parking fee and provide more, more convenient parking spaces to commuter students, or lower the current parking fee.

After all, time is money.

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## A real do-nothing job

Adrienne Bish

The president of SGA gets paid an astronomical amount of money to do, well, nothing really. The Student Government Association at Youngstown State University exists as a representation of students and student organizations in "matters affecting student life and affairs."

Among some minor duties, the president of the SGA:

- Serves as the official student representative on appropriate university committees, or appoints an individual to serve in his/her absence.
- Approves or vetoes any legislation moved by the Legislative Assembly.
- Submits recommendations for executive committee members to the Legislative Assembly for its approval when article VIII of this constitution requires such approval.

So what does that really mean? Well, no one really knows, but the president's pay for this academic year is \$14,799.

The 2010-2011 school year pay period is from Aug. 16, 2010, to May 15, 2011, which is only nine months or 39 weeks. For those of you not too savvy at math, that's \$379 a week.

This might not seem like a lot of money to the average person. But to the average college student working a minimum wage job at \$7.25 an hour, that's an ample amount. A college student making minimum wage would have to work 52.3 hours a week to make what the SGA president makes in probably one-third of that time.

So what exactly does the SGA do? Well, this year it took a stand against the lack of coffee sleeves on campus because they really care about the well being of YSU students — and their hands. But that's only one thing that the SGA did this year. The organization also did "volunteer" work and cleaned up Wick Park on Feb. 26.

But does providing more coffee sleeves for campus and organizing a park cleanup really warrant a \$14,799 paycheck?

The answer is no.

So what should the university do about it? YSU can start by awarding the proper amount of money for the jobs that the students do. Just because you're the "president" of something does not mean that you should be awarded a lot of money for very little work. Or it could also provide more tasks that justify such a large paycheck.

However, just because someone should do something doesn't mean that they're going to. Therefore, the SGA president will continue to make \$14,799 for doing very little and most everyone else will continue to get paid the standard minimum wage. Maybe the SGA's next agenda can be changing student pay rates.

## Ohio Chamber of Commerce: dividing businesses, harming Ohio.

Kayla Hanuschak

The state, while trying to do what it thinks is best for the citizens of Ohio, is actually causing more hysteria. The people affected by Senate Bill 5 consist of those who either risk their lives for our protection or teach our children, the future of our country. The general public is not qualified to do either of these. Hence, they deserve everything they get (and, in most cases, they deserve more than what they are getting).

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce has decided to support SB 5, resulting in multiple businesses removing themselves from it. The Chamber is supposed to be a safe haven for businesses. On their website, they claim to be an advocate for businesses, fighting for fair regulations and improving Ohio's job climate. By supporting this, it shows just the opposite because some of the people they claim to be protecting are in unions and will be negatively affected.

The budget cuts may help the schools save money, but it seems as if they are trying to end public schools throughout the state because layoffs and cuts are causing some schools to shut down. The government is so worried about improving test scores and blaming the teachers when scores aren't as high as they would like, but when schools are closed that makes them look worse than if they were open. There is no guarantee that SB 5 will create jobs. Without jobs, what will life be for the middle class?

It is our right to have opinions. Though some people feel that SB 5 is wrong, others feel this bill can help Ohio. That is why they stay members of the Chamber. I admit that the bill would control some of the excessive pay that some workers get for just showing up to work on time, but, again, they risk their lives to save us. I can see why some people would get upset and feel like they are getting ripped out of what they deserve also, but we have to consider each specific job. Showing up on time for McDonald's is not the same as showing up on time to the fire station, which can be a life or death situation sometimes.

When I went to the website to try to find out who was still a member of the prestigious group, "Internet Explorer could not display the webpage." Coincidence? I think not. What a wonderful way to try to avoid the heat that is being thrown at them right now.

The businesses withdrawing from the Ohio Chamber of Commerce are doing what they feel is right, not only for their company, but for Ohio. The long-term repercussions for each business, and each individual employee being affected right now, are unknown to us now. If the government decides to pass this law not knowing how it will affect the businesses, would they be able to reverse it or would we be stuck? Better safe than sorry or take that leap of faith that our oh-so-trusty government decides for us? The businesses that withdrew would probably reply with, "Let's leave well enough alone."

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## From homeless to homeowner



YSU student Roy Johnson stands in what will be the living room of his new home. Johnson was homeless until the purchase of his Glenwood Avenue home. He will be staying at Homeless Solutions, a Youngstown homeless shelter, until renovations to the home are complete. Photos by Nick Young/The Jambar.

## Former drug, alcohol addict finds second chance at YSU

Chelsea Miller  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT  
EDITOR

Roy Johnson stood on the corner of Glenwood and West Ravenwood avenues gazing at his new purchase — a home with paint-chipped siding and broken windows.

As he walked inside, he carefully stepped around the garbage-lined floors and the collapsed ceiling of what was once a living room. Still, to Johnson, the home was better than his previous living arrangements: the local homeless shelter.

At 46 years old, Johnson has been living at Homeless Solutions in Youngstown since 2008. Homeless Solutions is a permanent supportive residency program for the homeless with mental health counseling and drug and alcohol services. The program houses 68 residents, including Johnson.

Johnson graduated from Warren Western Reserve High School in 1984 and later moved to Pittsburgh where he worked as a sheet metal worker.

But since high school, drugs and alcohol always had a place in Johnson's life. He used them to cope with hardships. Before he knew it, his life was on a downward spiral he couldn't stop.

"My mother and father divorced in grade school, and that devastated me," he said. "And that was when I began to abuse drugs and alcohol."

Johnson said his parents were like "strangers under one roof." Drugs soon became his family, something he lacked and yearned for. He used everything, and he used constantly.

"I did everything but heroin," he said. "My big thing was I loved to do acid. I loved to smoke pot out of newspaper, like Cheech and Chong, and water bong. I was really, really crazy."

Johnson described himself as an "intense" individual. This intensity came through his drug use, but it also came

*"I did everything but heroin," he said. "My big thing was I loved to do acid. I loved to smoke pot out of newspaper, like Cheech and Chong, and water bong. I was really, really crazy."*

-Roy Johnson

through his desire to put his life on a new path.

In his search for self-improvement, Johnson discovered a program at Meridian Health Services, Inc., that provided housing. He went in with only the clothes on his back, became a resident and enrolled in its counseling services.

Johnson said Homeless Solutions helped him deal with his problems without turning to drugs and brought him to the realization that his lifestyle had to change.

"I realized I've just got to start making plans. I've got to start making goals," he said.

His first goal was to land a job that would help him regain custody and support his 8-year-old daughter from a former marriage.

"I used to walk down Old Furnace Road ... and I was walking down through there one day and I'm looking at these homes and I'm thinking, 'Here I am homeless, jobless, my family's disowned me, I have nothing,'" he said. "I started to dream. I need a home, and I need to be a father and provide for my daughter, and that began to be on my mind all the time."

These thoughts pushed Johnson to look for work, but with no transportation, the search was difficult. He began taking the bus and received a

job offer for a welding position, something he had former experience with. The company gave Johnson two weeks to find a mode of transportation.

"That Sunday I went into church. Without anyone knowing what had happened the day before, one of the members came up to me and offered me his Yamaha 750 motorcycle to go look for work," he said. "I've never rode a motorcycle before in my life, but I told him of the job offer that was given to me and he said, 'Take the bike.'"

Eventually, Johnson saved enough money to pay for the bike and a Jeep Grand Cherokee. He was determined to get an education, so he applied and began classes at Youngstown State University as a social work major.

"My life began to become more exciting to me. Every morning I woke up, even though I was so exhausted, I was excited about being a student at YSU," he said. "Because I was a student at YSU, I had a future in front of me, and YSU was a tool that was

going to help me achieve the goals that I had for me and my daughter."

Johnson said he hopes his story motivates others. Despite many hardships, including a car theft that left him without books, he finished the semester with a 3.25 GPA and offered advice to those in his situation.

"Just be all that you can be," he said. "Fall in love with something and then do it with everything you have in you."

Johnson followed his mantra.

During his time in school, Johnson was involved in numerous organizations such as the Emerging Leaders program, the Student Government Association and the Student Conduct Committee. He also served as a peer tutor and ambassador to the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services.

Johnson was also active in community service and was awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award, a prestigious award given by President Barack Obama for

dedication to volunteer work. "Life is so short. I don't wanna live it anymore for myself," Johnson said. "I want to start giving back to Youngstown what it gave back to me: a second chance."

Greg Gulas, assistant director of student programming at YSU, said he remembers the day Johnson came into his office. After listening to Johnson's story, Gulas was inspired.

"You couldn't help pulling for someone who's behind the eight ball," Gulas said. "He has a genuine interest in other people's lives and making things better than how he has had it."

Gulas said Johnson has changed YSU for the better.

"He wants to make a difference," he said. "In his short time at YSU, I think he has."

Kim Wess, housing program manager for Homeless Solutions where Johnson resides, said Johnson's case is

**HOMELESS PG. 7**



Susan Schell, administrative assistant at Lien Forward Ohio, fills out the remaining paperwork needed for Johnson's home ownership. Johnson purchased the home through Lien Forward Ohio, a partnership between the city of Youngstown and Mahoning County to put vacant, abandoned and tax-delinquent properties on the market.



## Man's best friend, epileptic's saving grace



YSU student Tom Pugh has been affected by seizures since the age of 13. Pugh now uses his dog, Jazzy, to help detect when his seizures will occur. Photo by Kevin Alquist/The Jambar.

# Student battles adversity

Kevin Alquist  
REPORTER

Tom Pugh is a 26-year-old from the city's West Side who, at any moment, faces the risk of having a seizure.

Pugh, who will be graduating in May from Youngstown State University with a degree in secondary education and creative writing, had his first seizure the day after his 13th Christmas.

For years, doctors couldn't figure out what caused the seizures, which led to a long trial and error process involving various medications and methods to lessen the frequency of Pugh's episodes.

"I don't dwell on the condition because if you dwell on something like that it will drive you crazy," Pugh said.

At one point, Pugh was having an average of four to six seizures per month when Jazzy, a trained seizure-sensing dog, came into his life. For five years Jazzy has been at Pugh's side to warn him when he is going to have a seizure.

"There is nothing in particular that triggers a seizure for me," Pugh said. "A lot of people [that regularly have seizures] are triggered by things that affect their senses like lights, sounds or scents. The problem with [my condition] is that I don't know what cause mine."

With Jazzy at his side, Pugh can be more independent and have the confidence to go out and do things without the fear of a sudden seizure. But even that assurance was not enough to stop the seizures from coming.

Three years ago, Pugh had surgery to implant a vagus nerve stimulator into his

neck. Since the surgery, his seizure rate dropped to an average of one or two a month.

"It's now been almost a year since I've had a seizure, but it happened last year during finals week, so knock on wood, I don't want to jinx myself," Pugh said jokingly.

Although it has been nearly a year since his last seizure, Pugh still relies heavily on Jazzy to stay by his side everywhere he goes, including around campus and in the classroom, where he said people seem to embrace his

genetic, but at school or out in public she is all business.

"She knows the difference between how she should act at home and how she should act when she is working," Pugh said.

Pugh spends his spare time writing, watching movies and listening to music. He often goes to see live concerts and musical performances, which is one hobby that Jazzy can't join in on with him out of fear of damaging her hearing at a loud

*"I don't dwell on the condition because if you dwell on something like that it will drive you crazy."*

*-Tom Pugh*

canine companion.

"On campus, I get a lot of people who say, 'Oh my, it's a dog,' but in the classroom people understand it," Pugh said. "I can't say enough about how great the teachers have been in understanding the situation."

Jazzy does not always get such a warm reception from people, especially in places of business, Pugh said.

"A lot of times people just want to make sure I'm not just a person bringing their dog in with them just for fun," Pugh said. "I normally just have to explain to them why Jazzy is with me."

At home Jazzy is like any other dog, playful and ener-

getic. Some of his favorite bands are the Foo Fighters, Them Crooked Vultures, Cake and Gorillaz. One of his favorite musicians is Dave Grohl, ex-drummer of Nirvana and current guitarist and front man of the Foo Fighters.

To Pugh, Jazzy is more than just a dog that warns him when he may have a seizure. She is as much a friend and companion to Pugh as his human friends are to him, and she truly is this man's best friend.

Pugh plans to teach high school English classes and eventually go back to school to get a master's degree in creative writing.



Garbage sits in the garage next to Johnson's home. The voluminous pile was cleaned out of the house by Johnson after he purchased the home.

### HOMELESS PG. 6

unusual.

"I think Roy is an exceptional case. He came in and was homeless and kind of hit the ground running," she said. "He had a lot of goals and was able to meet those goals. And to be able to transition out of our program into a house and home ownership is actually very exceptional."

Wess remembered first meeting Johnson. She described him as "quiet but determined." Wess said she believes Johnson's visitation with his daughter was a driving factor in his success.

"Roy never let anything get him off his path," she said, smiling. "That determination was just awesome."

Wess considered whether relapse is possible for Johnson.

"I don't think anyone can predict the future, but I think if Roy continues in the mindset that he is in right now and he

continues to remember where he was and remember all the struggles that it took to get to where he is today, I think that he'll be fine," she said.

Johnson refuses to entertain these thoughts, though.

"If I relapse, it will start a chain reaction that I will not be able to get back everything I worked so hard for," he said.

Today, Johnson most looks forward to Sunday visitation days with his daughter. The two often go skating at Youngstown Skate, and Johnson said he hopes to perform in a father-daughter skate with her in the future. The hope that his daughter will be proud of him one day is why he stays on the right path, Johnson said with tears in his eyes.

"It's not what mistake you make in life, or how many mistakes you make in life that matters," he said. "It's how you respond to it. Don't allow your failures to turn you into a failure."

One day he will tell her that.

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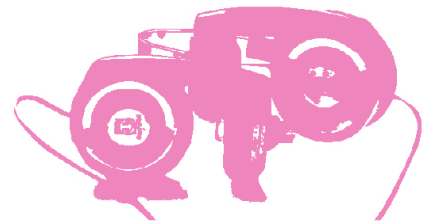
Yankee Lake  
Truck Night

Friday, 7 p.m.

Yankee Lake  
\$5-\$10

\*

Tim McGraw  
Friday, 7 p.m.  
The Covelli  
Centre



Andrew, congrats on graduating from college



Thanks for being a great mentor to me. I appreciate all the things we have done together. Hope you receive a great job because you have worked hard and you deserve it! Thank you again. Robbie Durr

CONGRATULATIONS!  
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**NEWS BRIEFS**

*Armed Forces Student Association hosts car show*

The YSU Armed Forces Student Association will host a car show fundraiser on May 14 from 1 to 5 p.m. in the M-26 parking lot. Along with the appearance of mascots Pete and Penny, the event will include raffles, awards and T-shirt sales.

*Education prof receives state award*

Lauren Cummins, associate professor of teacher education, and 10 other faculty members in the state will be receiving the 2011 Ohio Faculty Innovator Award from the Ohio Board of Regents. These professors found a way to reduce the cost of classroom materials for their students while maintaining the content of the classes.

**POLICE BRIEFS**

*Student reports car break-in*

YSU Police received a call Monday regarding a vehicle break-in in the M-7 parking lot. The owner of the car had been on campus for eight hours before returning to the parking lot to find her driver's side window broken. Taken from the vehicle was a folding knife, a jump drive and \$30 in loose change.

*Officer saves elderly man*

On Monday, an elderly man walking outside of Moser Hall waved down a YSU Police officer. The man said he thought he was having a heart attack. He grabbed his chest and complained of trouble breathing. The officer helped the man into his car and drove him to St. Elizabeth Health Center.

*Student in Jones Hall after hours*

A YSU Police officer reported to Jones Hall on Monday in reference to an unauthorized person in the building. When an officer arrived, the man explained that he was doing a project for school where he had to photograph his cousin, a cleaning service worker, on the job. It was verified that the man was a student, and he was informed that he was not allowed on the premises after hours without permission. The student cleared the building without incident.

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# Congratulations

Social Work grad  
Nancy  
McMurdy

Way to go  
on your 4.0!



Jennifer M. Rodway

Memories come flooding back to us  
as we look back over the years.

You have such spirit and a character all your own.

You are a doer, and an achiever of what you believe in.

We are so proud of your dreams and the

conviction you have to make those dreams come true.

Your world is bright, new, and bursting with possibilities.

You are loved!

Mom and Dad

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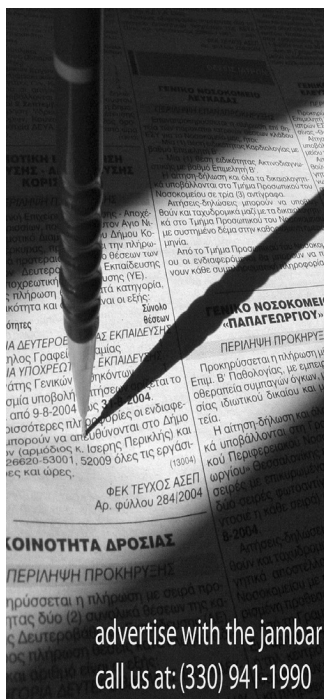
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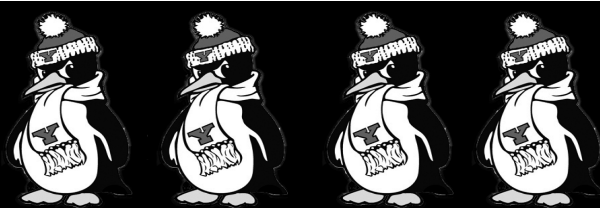
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## Congratulations Linda Turnage

Mom,

I am so proud of you and your  
achievement. I love you so much and  
"thank you" for being my role model!

Love... your  
daughter,  
Ashley Turnage



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## From the Division of Student Affairs

*Congratulations*  
to YSU's 2011  
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*We wish you success in all you do!*

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## SENIOR GOODBYES



## A little advice from someone who still needs some

Joe Giesy  
NEWS EDITOR

Three of the best pieces of advice I ever received came from my dad, my former editor-in-chief and one of my favorite TV shows.

These aren't the only little nuggets of wisdom I carry with me, but they are what I most often go back to when I am freaking out. They are simple phrases that came out of nowhere when I most needed them.

When people ask me for advice, I try to leave them with the same kind of impactful comments that they may remember for the rest of their lives and I have fallen well short of the mark. So here is my last attempt at advice for those I have worked with during my time at The Jambar.

And I hope any bored people who read this far continue to read. You may become even more bored, but there is also a chance the advice I give is vague enough to apply to your lives too.

To our fearless leader, Josh, I say don't get caught up in the

details. A little structure is nice, but everything changes. Your relentless drive to make sure everything's perfect is really a double-edged sword. It makes you the perfect guy for the job and causes more work than you need.

To my fellow graduate, Lamar, don't be afraid to show off a little. You possess a lot of creative talent that the world needs to see, so don't censor yourself. If you think it's been done before, do it again but better.

To Doug, the older version of me, sometimes the solution is simpler than you think. We both have this smothering urge to understand every gear in the clock while checking the time. Then, before you know it, the time has passed. Check the time and move on.

To my better half, Andrea, don't limit yourself. You are one of the most hardcore people I know. I always thought we made a great team because I know you could have easily done this job without me. When things get rough, remember that you are strong enough to make it through anything life throws your way.

To my successor, Jordan,

gain your ground and make a plan. Chelsea Pflugh, my first editor-in-chief, told me this over the summer and it has remained in my text message inbox since for easy viewing since.

I know you think you are ready for this, but you aren't. Not even close. Juggling The Jambar, your classes, a social life and yourself is way too much for any one man. Tack on any unexpected occurrences and say goodbye to your mind.

You are one of the people I know will rise to the challenge, though, and so I give you one of my most prized pieces of advice. Use it often. I know you'll need it.

To "the other" Chelsea, don't internalize negative comments. Don't ignore them either. You are a truly unique girl with great potential waiting to explode. I mean that in both a good and bad way. Now refer back to my advice.

To my Chelsea, when you finally learn that nice guys finish last, remember to hold on to your compassion once the rat race ends. You are one of the greatest people I've ever met, mostly because you are just like



me. And you make good coffee too. That's got to count for something.

To my neighbor, Sam, sometimes getting out of dodge isn't the only solution. I want out of this area just as bad as you and for a lot of the same reasons, but now that I have my chance,

I'm finding my time here didn't have to be as bad as I made it out to be. You have a lot to offer those around you, if they can't see that, surround yourself with the people who can.

To Nick, the man with the

JOE PAGE 13

## Everything is everything

Lamar Salter  
MANAGING EDITOR

I hate you all.

Not really, but that's what I'll probably be remembered for. That and well, the yelling, threats and uncomfortable closeness. That reminds me, I would like to take this time to let everyone know I was being sarcastic.

Yes, that's right. If I ever yelled at you, ruined your self-esteem, demeaned your character or threatened you and/or your family, I probably wasn't being serious.

What I was serious about was the roles I played: the angry journalist, student comedian, obsessive designer and cynical bastard.

Before I started at The Jambar, I had a job that left me with no free time, which meant my personal life was nonexistent and I had no concrete direction for my future.

I was in prime condition to be a reporter.

I'll never forget my first

story, from the interview to the final edit. I was extremely excited and till this day, I cannot accurately describe in words the momentous feeling of accomplishment I had when I saw my first byline.

These days, my role has become a lot more behind the scenes, but that only served to heighten the feeling of accomplishment I felt for the staff that I sarcastically ridiculed every production night.

Don't take it personally. As many of my colleagues realized, my cynical attitude was indeed a defense mechanism I used to move up in the ranks.

When I started in 2006, I was a lot quieter and a lot less angry. Unfortunately (or fortunately) I have not had the easiest undergraduate career. The journalism program here at YSU is intense, not just in an academic standard, but a personal one. You don't necessarily get as much as you give. I learned that lesson many times as I started to fall out of favor of my teachers because of, what appeared to be, my lack of focus.

That's when I started to learn my roles.

For whatever reason, my voice, in my opinion, was not loud enough to be heard. I have always been someone who, given the opportunity, would help anyone with anything, almost to the point of obsession. I never cared much about credit until I realized that in an industry plagued by tightening budgets and growing buyouts, your byline mattered.

So I got angry. Instead of the carefree comedian, I became the cynical bastard. I argued against my students, friends, family and even mentors. I decided not to bite my tongue for anyone. I just didn't care anymore.

Looking back, I can't decide if that decision was for the best, but I certainly have gained a reputation around the department, whether good or bad.

But, enough about me, let's get to the only part people care about.

Richard Louis Boccia: Although you aren't around anymore, you had an early influ-

ence on me as a member of The Jambar. I won't forget working with you on the first video I ever produced and it was your stern position and intense dedication to good design and writing as managing editor that inspired me to someday fill your shoes.

J. Breen Mitchell and Sarah Sole: I clumped you two together only because you both had the same influence on me. While I know my obnoxious behavior (UP TOP!!) might have been a bit surprising to people, you guys accepted me with open arms. Thank you for



helping me grow and I hope we can continue to talk from time to time.

Brian Cetina: You were one

LAMAR PAGE 13

Jonathon Fauvie  
AD SALES

This letter was never supposed to be because I do not believe in these sort of "good-bye" letters: I unfortunately succumbed to the peer pressure. My time here is extremely difficult to put into words.

I transferred to YSU as a sophomore and was given a job as the advertising manager at The Jambar. I knew nothing about newspaper advertising but apparently nobody else had applied for the position so I got the job. The first person I met was Teresa Soos. Teresa and I knew each other from prior jobs when she was one of the employees I managed ... although she still denies this ever was. She warned me of the craziness that ensued on production nights but I didn't believe her until Brian Cetina asked me to help him bar-

ricade the entrance door with the couch we have in the office. Over the years, I grew accustomed to the ridiculousness of the conversations we had.

Although I did not fit in here, as I was the only business major in the group, it never felt for one minute that I wasn't part of the "family." I think it was because of them my transition to YSU was as smooth as it had been. These people are some of the best people I have ever come to meet. I could write about every staff member but figured it would be best to keep it short.

Sam, you and I have known each other for a while before I ever started at The Jambar. You have been a person I could talk to about anything and you were always there if



I ever needed a thing. For that, I am truly grateful. I know that we will still be close after my time here so for now it is not a goodbye but simply a see you soon!

Josh, I didn't think that you or I would ever get along let alone become friends. You

have been a great person to not only work for ... but work with. You have a great career ahead of you and I wish you the best of luck.

Lamar, you are the most brash and crude person I have ever met. Yet you are a great friend. Whether it be changing a tire in the middle of the night or having an in depth conversation at the bar, your crudeness seems to always

be what a person needs. It has been great getting to know you.

Emmalee, "I'd do anything for love ... but I won't do that!!!" Enough said.

Jordan, although we have only known each other for

about a semester, it has been one hell of a good time. You are one of the greatest friend a guy could have and I cannot say thank you enough for all of the good times and great advice. You are going to make a great news editor and one hell of a journalist.

Andrea, you will always be the only blonde I ever love ... except for Carrie Underwood. It has been great working with you and the late-night conversations we had at BW3. If things with your husband don't work out ... you got my number.

To the rest of The Jambar staff: Thank you guys for just being you. I couldn't ask for better co-workers.

So now, I say so long as I sit here at my desk for one of the last times, looking around at everyone who became my family. It's a surreal kind of moment but in the end ... it has been one hell of a good time.



## DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS

### DANIEL SUCHORA, WATSON MERIT AWARD

Daniel Suchora, professor in and chairman of the department of mechanical and industrial engineering at Youngstown State University, recently received the Watson Merit Award, which is annually granted to an outstanding department chairperson for administrative performance.

"The list of past recipients of the Watson Merit Award is extremely impressive," Suchora said. "To be included in this group is humbling, and it makes me feel good that others think I belong in this group."

Suchora said the award is more of a reflection of the engineering department rather than him.

"This award is really to my department faculty and support staff that does an excellent job," Suchora said.

In the mechanical engineer-

ing program, Suchora teaches stress analysis, dynamics, kinematics and machine design.

He began teaching at YSU in 1975 as an assistant professor and achieved the rank of professor in 1986. Since 1995, Suchora has been the freshman engineering coordinator and coordinator of the engineering computing complex. For five years, Suchora was assistant to the dean of engineering, a position he left in 2000.

Most recently, he was named as chairman of the department in 2006.

Suchora received his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from YSU in 1968 and his master's degree in mechanical engineering two years afterward.

In 1973, he took his studies to Case Western Reserve

University to get his doctorate in mechanical engineering. He also began his teaching career at the Newark campus of Ohio State University. Suchora has been a registered professional engineer in Ohio since 1975.

Suchora and his wife, Patty, have three children. All of his children graduated from YSU. His sons, Kevin and Matthew, graduated with degrees in business, while his daughter, Sherri, graduated with a degree in pre-medicine.

He can often be seen at YSU football and basketball games. Suchora has been a season ticket holder for both sports since 1985. Away from YSU, Suchora is an outdoorsman who enjoys hunting and fishing.

By: Kevin Alquist



### JOHN FELDMEIER, EXCELLENCE IN SCHOLARSHIP

John Feldmeier, an assistant professor in the department of physics and astronomy at Youngstown State University, recently received the Distinguished Professor Award for excellence in scholarship.

"I was honored and pleased to be chosen as one of the [recipients of the] Distinguished Professor Award this year," Feldmeier said. "It really means a lot to me and inspires me to continue my research and work as a teacher into the future."

Feldmeier has taught astronomy and physics at Youngstown State University since the spring semester of 2006. His classes include Descriptive Astronomy, a general education course taken by an average of 600 students per semester, and Observational Astronomy I and II, which are upper-division courses geared toward science majors.

In his more advanced astronomy classes, students focus on radio and X-ray astronomy along with photometry and optical spectroscopy. Feldmeier has conducted numerous

research projects with students at YSU, Penn State University and Case Western Reserve University since 1999.

After completing graduate school at Penn State, Feldmeier held jobs as an astronomy research scientist at the National Optical Astronomy Observatory in Tucson, Ariz., and as a research associate at CWRU in Cleveland.

John is not the only Feldmeier to have stepped foot on YSU's campus. His wife is a recent graduate of YSU, and his stepson attended classes before joining the U.S. Army.

In his spare time, Feldmeier enjoys reading and cooking, but his true passion is rescuing animals in need, specifically stray cats and dogs.

"When I had more time on my hands, [my wife and I] used to foster dogs in our home," he said.

Feldmeier recently participated in a telescope observation in Chile.

By: Kevin Alquist



### MARK VOPAT, EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Mark Vopat, an assistant professor in the department of philosophy and religious studies at Youngstown State University, recently received the Distinguished Professor Award for excellence in teaching.

He started his career at YSU as a part-time professor in 2002 while complet-

ing his dissertation and was hired as a tenure-track professor in 2007.

"I felt honored to be

nominated," Vopat said. "I honestly did not think I was going to actually win this award, but winning it suggests that I need to continue doing what I have been doing."

Vopat said he does not feel that winning the award will change the way he teaches his classes or conducts his research. He specializes in the areas of children's rights and regularly teaches classes in ethics, applied ethics, social and political philosophy, and logic.

Outside of YSU, Vopat has taught and conducted research at the University of Akron and Ursuline College in Pepper Pike, Ohio. He has also held a variety of jobs that involve everything from political organization to physical labor.

In the years before he was a professor, he held jobs as a

carpenter, a house painter, a roofer and an assistant building manager. Behind a desk, he worked as a campaign staffer, a program coordinator for Tri-County Community College and a docket clerk. Perhaps the most interesting job he ever held was a martial arts instructor.

Vopat lives in the Akron area with his wife, Susan. They have a 10-year-old daughter, Magdalen, and a 5-year-old son, Emerson. He describes himself as a "political junkie and a gadget freak" who especially enjoys using Apple computers and handheld devices.

His enthusiasm for technology shows in the classroom because he tries to incorporate it into his teaching when he thinks it can aid in the learning experience.

By: Kevin Alquist

### SUZANNE LESON, EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

Suzanne Leson, assistant professor in the department of human ecology and director of the Coordinated Program in Dietetics, recently received the Distinguished Professor Award for excellence in service. She is in her 13th year at YSU.

Her primary teaching responsibilities are in the area of food systems management, supervised practice rotations for the associate and bachelor's degree programs in dietetics, and aging and long-term care. She has worked in her field for more than 25 years in acute care, long-term care, foodservice management and private practice.

"Frankly, I was quite surprised," Leson said of being nominated.

Leson received her Bachelor of Science in Food and Nutrition from the College of Saint Teresa in Winona, Minn.; her Master of Sci-

ence in Food and Nutrition from Northern Illinois University; and her doctorate in human ecology, hospitality management and dietetics from Kansas State University.

She is a long-standing member of the University Assessment Council, Small Learning Communities, the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services Assessment Committee, and a number of other organizations.

She is also a programs and site reviewer in the American Dietetic Association Commission on Accreditation of Dietetic Education, a member of the association's House of Delegates representing Ohio and is on the board of directors for the Ohio Dietetic Association and the Mahoning Valley Dietetic Association.

Leson has a daughter and a son — both graduates of YSU — and a grandson.

"I enjoy music, fine wine, cross-country skiing, tennis, and I hope to get back into sailing some day," she said.

By: John Cutlip



### DON MARTIN, EXCELLENCE IN SCHOLARSHIP

Don Martin is coordinator of the School Counseling Program at Youngstown State University. This program teaches students at their internship sites, most of which are located in the Youngstown City School system.

He recently received the Distinguished Professor Award for excellence in scholarship.

"I am very excited to receive the award recognizing my scholarship," Martin said. "It is always nice to be recognized, and the award keeps me motivated to continue my work. The counseling program has some of the best faculty in the country, and they keep me going in the right direction."

Martin said he feels that he still has a lot to contribute to the counseling and mental health community and hopes to keep making a difference.

Martin began his YSU career in 1999 as a chairman after leaving Los Angeles, where he was associate dean of the School of Human Services and in charge of about 15,000 students.

After four years at YSU, the department of counseling and special education received the Robert Frank Award for being an outstanding counselor-training program. As a result, the program now has graduate students from all over the country.

"The school counseling program has a 100 percent pass rate on the state exam, and I am very proud of all of our students," Martin said.

In the past, Martin main-

tained a small private practice as a counselor and psychologist. He was trained in neu-

ropsychology and much of his work has been done with children and adolescents who have difficulties learning.

He is working on publishing his second children's book in a mental health series. The book will be about childhood obesity. Martin also just completed a book he wrote with his wife and oldest daughter about raising a daughter to be successful in school and athletics. He said he hopes to see this book published in the next year.

Martin is a family man and takes a lot of pride in the family he has raised. His wife teaches graduate courses online and is a licensed psychologist. He has two daughters who have doctorates in psychology, and his son is a law school graduate. He taught all of his kids to play basketball when they were growing up, and they all became scholarship athletes.

His free time is spent playing guitar, learning to play the piano and playing tennis. He is an avid traveler and most recently spent time doing work in South Africa.

By: Kevin Alquist



### MARIA DELOST, EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING



Maria Delost teaches a variety of clinical laboratory courses in the department of health professions within Youngstown State University's Bitonte College of Health and Human Services. She was recently awarded the Distinguished Professor Award for excellence in teaching.

"I am very honored and excited about being nominated for the award," Delost said. "It is very gratifying to learn that my dedication to teaching and to our students is valued, and I will continue to dedicate myself to the [clinical laboratory] program."

Delost said winning the award motivated her to continue adapting the curriculum and educational methods. She added that it is imperative that the program is continually assessed and improved so graduates are prepared for the difficult and demanding entry-level positions that they seek out upon graduation.

For 29 years, Delost has worked in the medical field. She started as a chemistry lab assistant while she was a student at YSU and began working as a part-time faculty member after graduation.

She went on to get her master's degree in biology from the University of Akron and her doctorate in health related sciences from Virginia Commonwealth University.

She teaches classes such as Clinical Hematology, which deals with diseases and blood disorders, and Diagnostic Microbiology, which deals with the diagnosis of different types of infections and microorganisms.

Along with teaching classes, Delost is director of clinical laboratory programs. As program director, she is responsible for program accreditation, assessment, scheduling and advising. She also establishes and maintains clinical affiliations for internships at clinics and hospitals in the Mahoning Valley and regional areas such as Cleveland and Pittsburgh.

Delost is married to her husband of 25 years who also graduated from YSU. They have two sons, Greg and Mike. Greg will be graduating from high school this spring and plans to attend medical school at Lake Erie College, while Mike is a sophomore studying chemistry at Gannon University.

Delost can be seen in more than just the classroom at YSU. She is a YSU football season ticket holder and enjoys exercising at the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center an average of three times per week.

"I think [YSU students and faculty] are so fortunate to have such a wonderful facility available to us," Delost said.

At home, she enjoys working in her garden, where she grows tomatoes and peppers that she, her mother and her husband later can.

By: Kevin Alquist

### CYNTHIA VIGLIOTTI, EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Cynthia Vigliotti, an assistant professor of English who teaches linguistics and composition courses, recently received a Distinguished Professor Award for excellence in teaching.

She received her bachelor's and master's degrees in Eng-

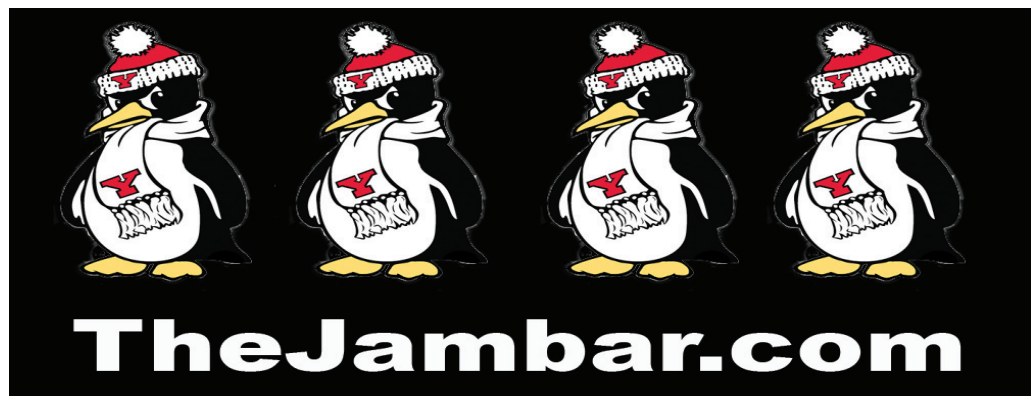
lish from YSU in 1998 and 2001 and is working on her doctorate at Kent State University.

nominated and selected for such a distinction by my colleagues, some of whom were my own teachers, is truly the highest honor I've ever received," Vigliotti said. "That it recognizes my dedication to my students makes it sublime."

In her free time, which she admits is rare, Vigliotti reads books, watches movies and works in her garden. She enjoys spending time with her niece, 3, and nephew, 12.

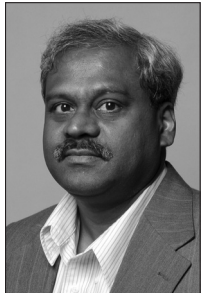
"You wouldn't believe the linguistic examples I've gleaned from their conversations," she said.

By: John Cutlip





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**RACHAEL J. POHLE-KRAUZA, EXCELLENCE IN SCHOLARSHIP**

Rachael Pohle-Krauza, assistant professor of nutrition in the Youngstown State University Department of Human Ecology, was recently awarded the Distinguished Professor Award for excellence in teaching.

Her duties consist of teaching classes at YSU and participating in clinical research activities within the Summa Health System at Akron City Hospital.

Although the research is conducted off campus, Pohle-Krauza collaborates with other YSU faculty members and student research assistants.

She has worked at YSU since 2007 after moving from Buffalo, N.Y.

From 1996 to 2000, Pohle-Krauza attended D'Youville College where she received her bachelor's and master's degrees. She received her doctorate in exercise science, with an emphasis in nutrition, from the University at Buffalo in 2007. She is also a registered dietitian.

During her time at the University at Buffalo, she was a clinical instructor of nutrition as well as a research assistant at the health and nutrition research library.

"Prior to entering my doctoral program, I was a clinical dietitian at Geneva General Hospital and then at Monroe Community Hospital," Pohle-Krauza said.

Pohle-Krauza said she was pleased and honored to



find out she was selected for the Distinguished Professor Award.

"I felt very honored and appreciative of my departmental chairperson, Dr. Janice Elias, who nominated me," Pohle-Krauza said.

Pohle-Krauza is presently on maternity leave, focusing on taking care of her newborn baby. She will return to YSU in the fall.

"I am busy with the newborn and maintaining my clinical research agenda," Pohle-Krauza said.

Pohle-Krauza lives in Kent with her family and will be teaching an online writing class this summer for the Consortium of Eastern Ohio Masters of Public Health program.

By: Jenna Medina

**JANICE G. ELIAS, EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE**

Janice Elias received a Distinguished Professor Award for her excellence in service. She serves as chairwoman of the department of human ecology and coordinator of the Family and Consumer Studies program.

Elias has taught 20 different courses over the past 30 years.

She has become fond of many classes while teaching at Youngstown State University.

"My favorite classes to teach are the orientation course for our department and the senior capstone research class for family and consumer studies because I can see so much growth in the students," she said.

Elias also teaches a course called Work and Family Resource Management. She also supervises family and consumer studies internships.

Elias began her career in education, as she taught middle school home economics in Athens, Ohio. Elias also taught food and nutrition, child development and consumer economics at Girard High School.



She worked with adults by teaching an adult education program for daycare home providers at Choffin Career and Technical Center.

Elias majored in home economics education at Ohio University. She completed both her bachelor's and master's degrees there as well. Elias attended Ohio State University where she earned a doctorate in human ecology.

Elias said she was appreciative of receiving her award.

"I was honored to be nominated and selected by colleagues," she said.

During her free time, Elias enjoys spoiling her dachshund with her husband, Robert, as well as reading mystery and historical novels.

Elias also likes to dabble with genealogy when she has the time.

"We live next to the Poland forest, and I really enjoy walking in the woods, and I am active in Friends of the Poland Forest," Elias said.

Elias said she enjoys teaching at YSU.

"There is nowhere else I would rather be," she said.

By: Jenna Medina

**JOE PAGE 11**

the eye, keep your aim steady and play to your strengths.

To my dearest little Em-malee, a volcano that only erupts once is going to place higher in the science fair than the volcano that was supposed to spew real lava but never got entered. In simpler terms, the world isn't perfect so don't freak out when your work isn't either.

To the fiery fierce Amanda, speak up. I enjoy what you have to say when you actually say it.

To Chris, the most chivalrous a--h--- I know, keep your forward momentum going forward. Sounds oversimplified and easier than it is. It's easy to get comfortable and mess things up with a stupid mistake. I'm not saying you will, I'm just saying don't.

To the drum leader Patrick, keep on keeping on. I feel like that's the most appropriate thing I can say to you right now.

To my fangirl Marissa, I bestow advice my father once gave me: "You can't live off cigarettes and rock 'n' roll."

This might not make sense

right now, especially because you don't smoke, but hold on to it. I promise that one day when life gets too much, you are going to think of this and laugh your headband off.

To the thorn in my side, Caitlin, just do it. You are one of the biggest self-advocates I know. You even rival me at times. And that's good except when you don't feel like doing anything. When that time comes, just get what you need to done and move on.

To my main man, Jared, stay out of trouble. I know that sounds like an extra vague statement, but I feel like that should be my last words to you every time we part.

To the other Joe, think outside the box. You are one of the truest sports fans I've ever come across and now you are in a position to control your own team and your own page however you want. Make your stories reflect your love for the game.

To Jonathon the thriller, I'm not sure what advice I can give to someone who is more successful before he is 20 than I

probably ever will be. Keep your nose clean and be a little cocky.

To my "hustla," Jeff, keep working hard and you are going to get everything you've put into this world returned 10 fold.

To my flower child, Jenna, never lose your love for the world no matter how much it tries to suck you dry.

To my protege, Kacy, stop asking questions and make a choice. Inactivity will freeze you up, and that is a far worse outcome than any wrong choice could ever produce.

I also want to thank every teacher who has taught me anything. Not just the journalism faculty. I've been on this earth 23 years, spent 19 of them in school and five of them in college. This is a summation of only a sliver of everything I learned and I have the feeling I'm nowhere near learning yet.

To everyone who made it this far, I want to leave you with four words I think about before I start any big project and can't end this chapter of my life with out saying. Finally, to quote "ER," "You set the tone."

**LAMAR PAGE 11**

of the most laid back and funniest people I have ever met. I know by now, you are probably on the road to bigger and better things and I couldn't be happier for you. Good luck with everything.

Sam Marhulik: Which inside joke should I use? "JUSTICE," or "It's so cold in the D?" Maybe I'll shoot a throwback at you and take you to the train tracks so we can listen to some augmented chords. You were the first guy I ever met that I would eventually work with and your one of my closest friends despite our obvious differences. Keep in touch man. I don't want our friendship to end when the piano runs out of chords to play.

Adam Rogers and Chelsea Pflugh: I have so many memories and so many things I could say that I don't know where to begin. I'll never forget our late nights at the office laughing, reflecting and even arguing. Adam, your creative abilities

inspired me to do so much more, even when I was afraid to fail. Chelsea, your endearing perseverance and strong work ethic still amazes me to this day. I'll never forget holding back all my emotions when you both, at different times, left for greener pastures. I'm so proud of you guys and I will always consider both of you as some of my closest friends, even though I will never admit it to you.

Josh: Oh boy, I don't know how to start this one either. When I sat next to you in Speech class, I would never have imagined that we would end up becoming best friends.

Although I won't ever admit it, I have always envied your focus, determination and warm personality. You really are a leader and I know that you will succeed in whatever you do. No. I in sports news! Keep at it and always keep in touch. We're a good team and I need you to keep me in my

"focustube." Take care.

Joe Giesy: Seriously man, where did you come from? A year ago, you were some weird looking guy that kept bringing ice cream to the office, even though you didn't work there. Now, I can't seem to picture working here without you. All I can say is thank you for being Joe Giesy and please continue to be Joe Giesy. See you at the unemployment line.

Chelsea Miller: I have always seen you as a sister to me, well after I unsuccessfully hit on you. Still, even though I've probably been the toughest on you, I've always admired your talent, humor and caring nature. You have always been down to earth and blunt, even when it wasn't appropriate, and I have always respected your dedication. You will never know how proud I was when you took the features category in SCJ. I will always be proud of you.

LAMAR PAGE 14

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LAMAR PAGE 13

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Emmalee Torisk: You have always been an enigma to me. I never knew that someone as pure, sweet and intelligent as you even existed. These last couple of years with you have been great. You are the greatest word nerd I have ever met and I will be looking forward to our continued "life talks" as the years go on. Thank you for putting up with me, my horribly written stories and for always listening with a smile even when I didn't think anyone cared.

Doug Livingston: You too are another enigma. I will never completely understand what drives you to work so hard. Nonetheless, I couldn't find a better successor than you. I have learned so much just by listening to your ideas, critiques and rants. You are the definition of what a journal-

ist should be and I know that someday, if you ever graduate (joke), I will be seeing your byline on some of the greatest journalistic works.

MB: There were a good two years where I didn't know if you actually liked me or not. But even still, I knew I could always count on you. That's when I realized that it was really my own paranoia that was painting that distorted picture. I can't possibly thank you for everything but I'll try with this; thank you.

Teresa, Marissa, Amanda, Jordan, Joe Catullo Jr., Christ Cotelesse, Jenna, Chelsea Telega, Kacy Standohar, Jonathon Fauvie Nick Young, Patrick Donovan, Jeff Mamounis, Caitlin, Keith Langford, Dan Pompili: You guys rock! Seriously, I'm running out of room here but I wanted

each and every one of you guys to know that working with all of you has been great. I wish you all the best in the future. If you request a personal critique, give me a call, I'm always around.

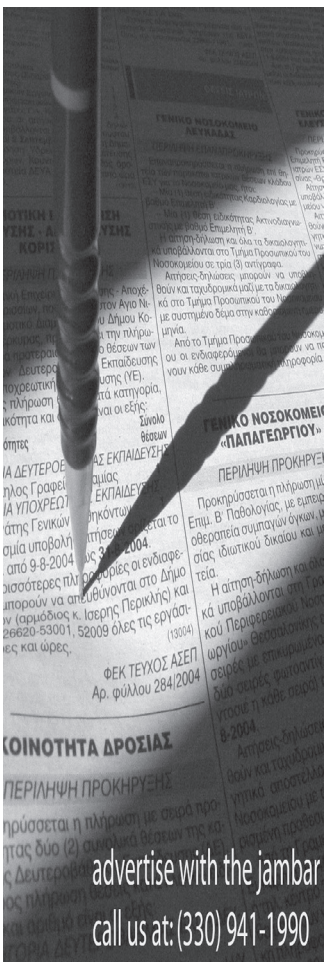
Now as I get ready to conclude writing this letter, I realize that my job has left me with no free time, my personal life is nonexistent and I have no concrete direction for my future. Still, I wouldn't have it any other way.

I have learned not to worry about planning things out and just to go with it and to have a more positive attitude (go figure).

I don't know where I'll be, but I do know that wherever I end up, it will never be as quite the same as working at The Jambar.

-30-

The family of Vivian D. Martin expresses our heartfelt appreciation for the contributions made to the YWRA Vivian D. Martin Memorial Scholarship. Your generosity and support will provide deserving students a chance to fulfill the educational excellence that our mother strived for and achieved.

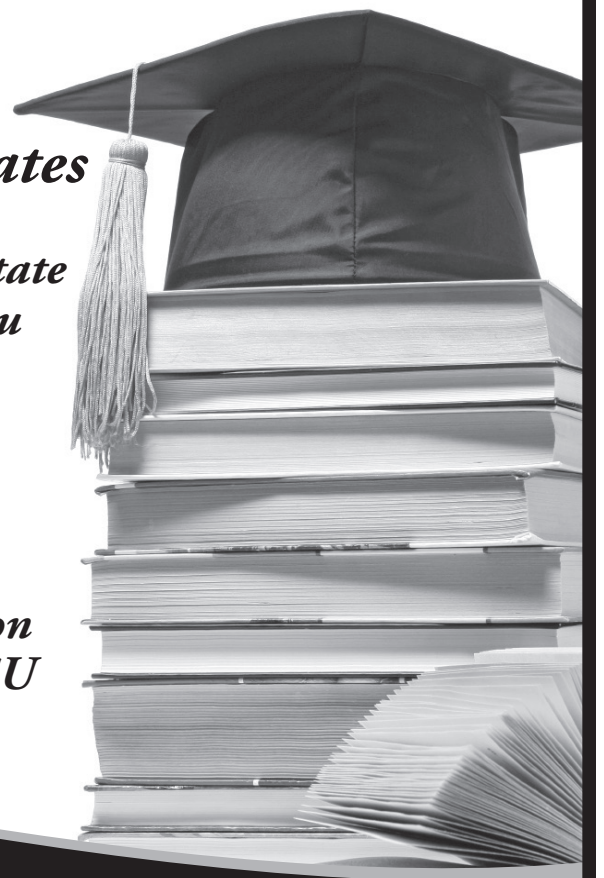


To Our Spring 2011 Graduates

On behalf of the entire Youngstown State University family, we congratulate you on your graduation.

Our very best to you in all of your future endeavors.

Dr. Cynthia E. Anderson  
President, YSU



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# Senior athletes bid farewell



Senior offensive lineman Bobby Coates spent his time anchoring the line for the Penguins. Photo courtesy of Sports Information.

## Hang up the Coates

Joe Catullo Jr.  
SPORTS REPORTER

Youngstown State University offensive guard Bobby Coates is graduating on May 21 after enjoying his time with the Penguins.

"It was a great experience," Coates said. "We didn't have the records we wanted, but I learned as much from football as in the classroom."

Coates started at YSU in 2006. He is a criminal justice major who is also trying to get into coaching. As for playing the game, he said he will probably "hang it up."

The Canton native was red-shirted his first season. Since 2007, Coates played all of the 40 games he suited up for. As a senior, Coates was named to the second-team All-Missouri Valley Football Conference. He also

earned YSU's Jim Zdelar Offensive Lineman of the Year.

"Football and the people," Coates said, describing what he will miss the most. "The people are great and all the coaches. It's a great atmosphere."

Head coach Eric Wolford was more than pleased in what Coates had to offer.

"He's a good kid," Wolford said. "He works hard. He was voted as our MVP on the offensive line. He really overachieved. He was a big part of our [offensive] accomplishments."

Coates had the honor of playing for Wolford for only one season but said he, along with the rest of the coaching staff, helped improve his game.

"He is different from the coaching style," Coates said. "He's a great coach to play for."



Vytas Sulskis, a senior guard, hasn't missed a game since his freshman year as a Penguin. Photo courtesy of Sports Information.

## New path for Sulskis

Joe Catullo Jr.  
SPORTS REPORTER

Youngstown State University's Vytas Sulskis plans to graduate at the beginning of the summer semester.

The Lithuanian native joins an elite company on the YSU list. He is tied with the most career and consecutive games played in Penguin history with 120. He was never red-shirted and never missed a game since his freshman year. He also ranks 16th in career points (1,311) and second in three-point field goals (169).

Sulskis became the 32nd Penguin to reach the 1,000-point plateau. He accomplished this feat Oct. 27 against St. Francis University. He scored 22 points that night in a 91-63 Penguin victory.

Sulskis' major is management information systems, and he plans to return to Europe to further his bas-

ketball career.

"I signed a professional agent," Sulskis said. "I'm pretty excited."

As for attending YSU, Sulskis said he had fun.

"It's been a great four years [at] high-level basketball [competition]. I had a lot of fun," Sulskis said.

Jamie Hall, assistant sports information director, has been with Sulskis since his sophomore season three years ago. Hall said he saw Sulskis play during his freshman season and noticed potential early on.

"He increased his role every year and became more of a leader," Hall said. "[He] exemplified what you want your senior to be. He is one of the hardest workers. You can see that progression."

Hall added that Sulskis would do anything he asked him to, whether it was going to do an interview or something else.

"[He was] always gracious about it. That helped me," Hall said.

## Chance of a lifetime: Penguins play emotional two games

A.J. Ondrey  
REPORTER

On April 28, 25 baseball players, four coaches and one athletic trainer stepped on to a charter bus headed to Milwaukee with the hopes of taking advantage of a unique opportunity.

Their destination: Miller Park. Their mission: win two games in one day against the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Miller Park is home to the Milwaukee Brewers, a Major League Baseball team.

Youngstown State University head baseball coach Rick Pasquale summed up the ride from YSU to Miller Park as "exciting" and "important."

Junior first baseman Jeremy Banks said he was ecstatic as the bus got closer to the stadium.

"I was so excited. A couple of the guys on the team had already played there their fresh-

man year and were telling us how awesome it was going to be. As we got off the highway and got close to the actual stadium, everyone got really quiet. Pulling into the garage underneath the stadium, we all realized we were at Miller Park," Banks said.

Once the Penguins arrived in Milwaukee, the team was treated to dinner, but it wasn't until the bus ride the following day when nerves began to rattle, Pasquale said.

"The next day on the bus ride to Miller Park, the guys were excited. The fact that it was Miller Park on top of playing two important conference games was exciting for me," Pasquale said.

After stepping foot onto the field, players and coaches alike were captivated by the open roof, dugouts and the way the sun struck the freshly cut grass through the windows.

"Being in the dugout is neat. There are a couple of phones to the bullpens that we

don't have. The scoreboard was huge and the foul territory seemed to never end, but in reality it was very similar to Eastwood Field," Pasquale said.

As game time approached, nerves began to rattle even more, and it was visible.

"I knew the guys would be very excited, so I told them to take it all in during their down time. But when it came down to it I wanted them to be ready to play and they were," Pasquale said.

Junior infielder David Leon played at Miller Park two years ago as a freshman but still couldn't hold in his excitement. He said he imagined himself as a professional ballplayer, something most college baseball players dream of having the chance to do.

"Once we got to the stadium, it was just pure excitement. Being in a MLB stadium felt great. I almost imagined myself as my favorite MLB player. It was an experience

that I will never forget," Leon said.

Being on such a big stage could cause an uncontrollable adrenaline rush. This may have been the case for sophomore Robert Switka, starting pitcher for the Penguins in game one.

"I was nervous on the way to the stadium knowing that I'd be pitching on such a big stage. When I got on that mound I was nervous and excited. I tried to make myself feel like I was at home and to settle down," Switka said.

After giving up an early two-run homerun in the first inning, Switka retired 19 straight batters.

"I tried to aim the home-run pitch, but I came back and put a good mix of pitches in and felt good. Pitching on that mound was like a dream come true. Sitting down those 19 straight batters and getting that win is something that I'll never forget," Switka said.

It's also something

Pasquale said he was most proud of.

"The one thing that stuck out for me from the trip had to be the way [Robert] Switka sat down 19 straight batters, and seeing that final out to get the win in Miller Park," Pasquale said.

Penguin players across the lineup shared the same sentiments.

"The atmosphere was unbelievable. I got chills during the national anthem. The first time that I stepped in the box was just a surreal experience," Banks said.

"My lasting memory would be a play that I made in the hole that I'd never be able to make anywhere else," Leon said.

The Penguins lost game two 8-0, but it didn't matter.

"I'll never forget the way I felt as we pulled up to Miller Park and I said to myself, 'We're actually going to play there,'" Banks said.



# 'Oh my God. They are all dead'

## Koker relives Marshall tragedy

Joe Catullo Jr.  
SPORTS REPORTER

Former Marshall University assistant football coach Carl Koker spoke to members of the Youngstown State University community about his experience with the tragic 1970 plane crash, which killed most of Marshall's football team.

On Nov. 13, 1970, 75 lives were lost in "The Crash." The plane crashed in Wayne County, W.Va., and Koker said the weather on that day was reminiscent of Tuesday's forecast: cold and rainy.

Koker was not on the plane because he and assistant Mickey Jackson were scouting Ohio University, Marshall's final opponent that season, at Penn State University.

Koker found out about the crash via radio while on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. He and Jackson were trying to find out college football scores when news about the crash came over the airwaves. They heard there was a crash in Huntington but did not realize it was the team. They pulled over at the nearest rest stop and called home.

When Koker got a hold of his wife, she repeatedly said, "Oh my God. They are all dead. They are all dead."

"It's a landing field on a mountain with higher mountains surrounding it," Koker said. "It was overcast with poor visibility. The pilot had never landed there before. There were rumors the plane was going to pass Huntington and land in Cincinnati. That's

what most people thought."

Arthur Byrd, a YSU art and theater instructor, was an audience member in the Ohio Room during Koker's speech. He did not know about the tragedy until the football rivalry began. In his own words, he described what Koker's speech meant to the university.

"It affects [YSU] because Marshall has always been a rival to us. Marshall is the same as we are. [Koker] coming here solidifies that we are one. You didn't hear anybody boo him or Marshall. It shows how people have respect for Marshall," Byrd said.

The rivalry between Marshall and YSU began in 1991 in the Football Championship Subdivision Championship Bowl. This was the first of three meetings in the title game. YSU won the first meeting, 25-17. Marshall won the next year, 31-28, and YSU won in 1993, 17-5.

"I thought they might be interested in what the 'rival' does," Koker said on speaking at YSU.

Warner Bros. Pictures produced a movie about the 1971 tragedy titled "We Are Marshall."

The plot was based on the year after the crash. The opening shows the plane crash and how the town reacted. The movie depicts the aftermath of the crash and how Marshall tried hard to rebuild the football program.

It was a struggle because the old NCAA rule stated that freshman players were not allowed to play in their first season. Eventually, the NCAA



Carl Koker, former assistant football coach at Marshall University, spoke about the infamous 1971 plane crash in YSU's Ohio Room on Tuesday. The tragedy, which later inspired the film "We Are Marshall," killed most of the school's football team. Photo by Joe Catullo Jr./The Jambar.

gave Marshall the OK to let the team continue.

Koker said the studio visited him at home to get his view on the tragedy. Koker was on set and talked to stars and others that were a part of the movie. The film's two main actors are Matthew McConaughey and Matthew Fox.

McConaughey played Jack Lengyel, the head football coach at Marshall in 1971. Fox portrayed Red Dawson, an assistant coach who was not on the plane. Dawson helped coach with Lengyel for one season before retiring.

Koker said he never heard

of Fox until he met him. After he watched an episode of ABC's "Lost," he said, "Wow. This guy is the leading actor." He described Fox as a gentleman but had other words to describe McConaughey.

"If you were a teacher and Matt was a student, he would be the one with a slingshot in his back pocket," Koker said.

Michael Moretti played Koker in the movie, and Koker said they got the wrong guy to play him. "I'm more handsome than he is," he said.

Koker plans to make a stop at the Hubbard Public Library in July.

### SPORTS BRIEFS

## YSU football receives academic honors

On Tuesday, three former YSU student-athletes received the Missouri Valley Football Conference President's Council Academic Excellence Award. The recipients from YSU were Kyle Banna, Stephen Blose and Erik Johnson. All three were members of the 2010 Penguin team. Award recipients must have at least a cumulative 3.5 GPA and participation in athletics for at least two years. The student-athlete must also be within 18 hours of graduating.

Another award, the Commissioner's Academic Excellence Award, which requires a 3.2 GPA in the previous two semesters, went to Blose, Bobby Coates, Tyler Figueroa, Chris Gammone, Johnson, Marc Kanetsky, D.J. Moss, Dom Rich and Nate Schkurko.

To make the MVFC's Honor Roll, student-athletes needed to have a 3.0 GPA in the fall semester, have been a member of a sports team and be enrolled for at least 12 hours. This year, 52 Penguins received this honor.

### YSU SPEAK

YSU Speak is a collaborative project by students in the 2011 Editorial and Opinion Writing class. This section serves as a medium to share students' views, and we invite you to do the same. Entries are written by individuals and are reviewed by the Jambar Editorial Board.

## Student before athlete

Caitlin Cook

Sports alone do not define today's college athletes, despite a lingering dumb jock stigma about intelligence. Student-athletes continue to meet new standards in the classroom, which demand academic excellence before eligibility. In the past decade, the NCAA strived to promote student-athlete success. Through major ramifications, improving student-athlete graduation rates and overall GPA performance became as important as sports performance. Implementing new academic standards to compete for many prospective student-athletes meant study

or game over.

The NCAA is comprised of 1,281 institutions offering three different levels of competition for men and women. Under former chief executive Myles Brand, the NCAA underwent major academic reform. Sports scholarships were no longer based on mere athletic ability. Student-athletes could no longer slide by on physical ability alone.

Prospective NCAA student-athletes are evaluated and must be cleared by the NCAA clearinghouse before any member school may offer scholarship opportunities. The clearinghouse promotes academic focus in sports, forcing hopeful high school stu-

dent-athletes to recognize the importance of academic success. The clearinghouse uses a sliding-scale point index, measuring core GPA, with SAT or ACT score, to determine prospective student-athlete eligibility. NCAA institutions are making smarter investments. According to the latest NCAA Graduation Success Rate data, 79 percent of freshman student-athletes who entered college in 2002 earned their four-year degrees.

YSU employs three athletic-academic advisers who assist student-athletes in maintaining eligibility. Susan Carfalo, who has worked at YSU for 13 years, said the eligibility requirements were much

more relaxed, and each year it gets harder for athletes to remain eligible. NCAA Division I standards are a stark contrast to general university academic requirements. By the first year, student-athletes must pass 24 hours and have at least a 1.8 GPA. As sophomores, they must complete 40 percent of their degree. The hours, degree percentage and GPA requirements increase each year.

Here at YSU, the athletic-academic center offers student-athletes the necessary tools for success. YSU graduates 93 percent of its student-athletes. Maybe universities should look at the athletic department's playbook for academic success.

## YSU vs. Allegheny game rained out

The YSU baseball team was supposed to play a game against Allegheny College on Tuesday, but it was rained out. At this time, there has been no rescheduled date. The Penguins will be at home for a weekend three-game series against their Horizon League rival, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. First pitch is scheduled for 3 p.m. on Friday, with a doubleheader beginning at noon scheduled for Saturday.

## Time for NCAA to pay athletes

Ralph Lewis III

Hoisting up this year's BCS National Championship trophy capped off a very impressive, yet controversial, junior season for Auburn University's star quarterback Cam Newton. He was awarded the 76th Heisman Memorial Trophy. These events happened nearly three months after facing allegations that his father, Cecil Martin, had accepted improper benefits from a school eager to recruit his son.

Recently, it was announced that five Ohio State University football players would be suspended for the first five games of the 2011 season for selling championship rings, jerseys and awards, and trading their

autographs for tattoos. Star quarterback Terrelle Pryor and four other players must also repay the money they received to the school.

These two similar incidents taking place involving star athletes and money spark the thought of whether college athletes should be paid. Paying players would limit the amount of improper benefits taken by top athletes. With changes in our society today, compared to those of the past, it is time that college athletes receive some form of monetary earning for their play at Division I universities besides a scholarship.

Some believe that a student-athlete looking for extra money should look for a part-time job like many college stu-

dents do. NCAA rules allow student athletes to get a part-time job, but it is very difficult. A Division I student-athlete is required to record 12 hours of practice time per week toward sports, not including games and travel. Also, you must factor in the full course load of classes taken by the student-athlete, plus homework, and that makes it nearly impossible to have time to work.

There are those who argue that having a scholarship to get a free college education is payment enough for the student. A scholarship provides a student-athlete with classes, books, meal plan and living arrangements. The essentials are covered, but there are more things to college such as going out, buying clothes or even

having money to spend while with friends to name a few examples.

In many situations across the country, student-athletes generate great revenue for the universities they attend. For example, former University of Florida quarterback Tim Tebow cashed in an estimated \$2.5 million for the his alma mater. California State University San Marcos professor Robert Brown claims that a typical elite college player earns his or her school between \$1.3 million and \$1.36 million a year.

Though the numbers do not lie, this topic will continue to be widely debated throughout our society. Until the NCAA decides to modify the rules, the system in place will stand.

## Behind the scenes: YSU football

To continue with the use of wireless microphones during spring practices, YSUSports.com hooked up a microphone to Louie Matsakis, running backs coach and special teams and recruiting coordinator. The video can be viewed on YSUSports.com.