

# The Jambar

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

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## Classes start as contract negotiations sputter

Josh Stipanovich  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

When contract negotiations between the Youngstown State University chapter of the Ohio Education Association and the school's administration began in early spring, much progress was made without issue.

Then monetary issues came to the table, and things got ugly.

Rejected proposals, personal attacks, alleged mistreatment, fact-finding and media blackouts paint an unsightly picture of the past seven months.

The faculty union submitted its first proposal in late spring.

"Our first proposal, we really believed was a good one for the university," YSU-OEA President Julia Gergits said. "We're in tough economic times. We wanted to help solve that problem."

"What [the administration] gave us back was a catastrophe," she added.

Gergits said that under the administration's proposal, fac-

**NEGOTIATION PAGE 2**



Courtney Waskin and her 4-year-old daughter Mila kneel before cameras and fellow protestors at a silent protest in Tod Hall on Aug. 22. Photo by Josh Stipanovich/The Jambar.

## Financial aid freeze thaws

Patrick Donovan  
NEWS REPORTER

A half hour after banks opened on the morning of Aug. 19, the day Youngstown State University students expected financial aid to be disbursed, students received an email instead of their refunds.

The Aug. 19 message via the YSU Portal informed students of a delay in the distribution of financial aid and scholarship funds.

The financial aid freeze was enacted after the university received a faculty strike notice, which left the start date of the fall semester in question.

One week later, funds were released. But in that week, a roller coaster ride of emotions and uncertainty held students' fiscal well-being captive as

faculty and administrators clashed over a contract negotiations stalemate.

Although similar disbursement delays were not put into place during the strike in 2005, university officials said that several differences exist between the two situations.

"This time around, we had to notify the U.S. Department of Education that we were not certain we were going to be able to start class on the 29th of August as we had planned," said Ron Cole, director of university communications. "That is when they advised us, if [we were] uncertain, that we should withhold and delay the disbursement of the funds."

Sherry Linkon, a spokeswoman for the teachers' union, posed a different reason for the administration's refusal to ac-

**AID PAGE 2**

## Students support faculty, continued negotiations

Jordan D. Uhl  
NEWS EDITOR

The last week of summer was a tumultuous time for the Youngstown State University community, as the start of the semester was uncertain. This led to a rise in activism among members of the student body.

On Monday, around 50 YSU students and area supporters gathered in Tod Hall to silently express their opposition to the recent financial aid freeze, which ended last week after the teachers' union announced it would not be striking.

No chants were heard, and no shouts or threats were made. Only signs, non-offen-

sive in nature, were held while the group peacefully sat in the lobby.

The freeze, which was advised by the U.S. Department of Education, was stated after the teachers' union announced a strike notice on Aug. 19. Most students in attendance were affected by the freeze. To some, resolution is of grave importance.

"It's not only me as a student, but my job," said Dan Buckler, a graduate assistant. "My living depends on it."

From Tod Hall, the group peacefully walked to Williamson Hall and lined Rayen Avenue where faculty and administrators met to renegotiate.

Students gathered outside Tod Hall again on Thursday;

however, this time they were much louder.

"Unfreeze us now!" was chanted in unison, and personal accounts of how different students and faculty members were affected were read aloud, some through a megaphone.

A proclamation of a strike, only to be retracted, was the closest the faculty came to a strike.

"The students desired to share with the administration, faculty, staff and the rest of the world how the students were dealing with a financial aid freeze," Gary Davenport, a senior, said. "I feel like we accomplished that."

Senior Molly Toth was instrumental in planning the protests.

**PROTEST PAGE 2**

## Fall, spring financial aid under fire

### Hundreds of students expected to lose financial aid

Doug Livingston  
MANAGING EDITOR

A change in federal financial aid policy will trigger the loss of financial aid for hundreds of Youngstown State University students in the fall and spring semesters. The expected loss of financial support could negatively impact student enrollment — but to what extent is yet unknown, officials said.

The Title IV financial aid programs, which administer financial aid and stipulate eligibility requirements for federal student loans and grants, implemented new terminol-

ogy on July 1 for students who receive financial aid and are not meeting the necessary requirements.

The new policy applies a "financial aid probation" status to those students.

"It has a serious connotation, obviously," said Elaine Ruse, director of the YSU Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships. "We're going to be required to assign a student failing to make Satisfactory Academic Progress that designation if we agree to approve an appeal."

Calculated after fall semester, Satisfactory Academic Progress measures a student's progress toward his or her ed-

ucational goals. It also determines eligibility for continued financial aid.

Freshmen must maintain a 1.75 GPA to remain eligible for financial aid, while sophomores, juniors and seniors are required to hold a 2.0 GPA. Graduate students are required to have a 3.0 GPA. All students must complete a certain percentage of their attempted hours based on class rank.

Students can appeal a citation and enlist in an academic plan with either the Center for Student Progress (if cited for low GPA) or the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (if cited for completion failure.)

In prior years, YSU had the ability to automatically approve first-time appeals. Students received a "strong" warning letter but were not required to appeal in person or enlist an academic plan with the CSP. Financial aid continued when the first-time offender was approved, even if the student failed to meet educational goals.

"We could make a decision on a student's appeal that was based on the student's needs and the needs of the university," said Jack Fahey, vice president for student affairs. "Now we're in a situation where the federal government says, 'Once you're on federal

aid probation, here are your guidelines. You better get this completion or get this GPA or you're done.'"

In the 2010-2011 academic year, 4,756 students who received financial aid were cited for failing to meet educational requirements while receiving financial aid; 2,084 of those citations came from first-time offenders, of which many were freshmen. These students entered a first-time appeal process automatically, and their appeal was automatically accepted.

"We did the evaluation. We figured out where they went

**TITLE IV PAGE 5**





Students protest outside Tod Hall on Aug. 22 and Thursday. The Aug. 22 protest was silent as students asked for restoration of their financial aid. Thursday's protest was in support of the teachers' union. Photos by Josh Stipanovich and Chris Cotelese/The Jambar.

## NEGOTIATION PAGE 2

ulty base pay would be frozen during the entire duration of the contract, with a 40 percent reduction in summer. Additionally, faculty members would have to pay for parking and sabbaticals would be reduced.

Due to the cooperative nature of negotiations in 2008, the union attempted to follow suit this year.

"This was the lowest contract in a few generations. We've never put anything on the table like this, ever. Nor have we ever signed on anything like this," Gergits said.

Gergits added that the proposal offered was "half or a quarter of every other contract" dating back to 1972.

"We genuinely gave [the administration] a contract offer that was, we thought, it matched their real needs," Gergits said.

After several proposals from both sides were presented and rejected, the teacher's union requested an independent fact finder be brought in to help the two sides reach a compromise in July.

"What the fact finder recommended is different," Gergits said. "The fact finder tries to look at both sides and to take the data and process it through and determines what he thinks is a reasonable solution."

The fact finder hearing lasted three days, as opposed to a traditional one day of fact-finding. It led to an agreement in favor of the faculty union, Gergits said.

According to the fact finder's proposal, faculty would receive a 0 percent pay increase the first year, a 1 percent pay increase the second year and a 2 percent increase the

third year.

The fact finder was in favor of the administration in terms of health care, which meant a 15 percent copayment.

Gergits said the language for health care was "open ended" and essentially doubled and tripled.

"It added bigger deductibles, bigger copays, bigger everything all across the board," Gergits said.

Despite the approved summer proposal, Gergits wasn't sold.

"I told the faculty to reject it," Gergits said. "My recommendation was 'don't take this' when we had our meeting because I really worried about this open-ended 15 percent copay premium."

However, the faculty accepted the proposal by a small margin. The vote was 51 to 49 percent.

"The faculty were willing to say, 'I trust that the university will not beat us to death. I will accept that I'm going to lose money ... but I want to go back to work,'" Gergits said.

The board of trustees rejected this proposal, however, which led to the strike notice filed on Aug. 19.

Amid disagreements, students were left wondering when the fall semester was going to begin. YSU President Cynthia Anderson acknowledged this in a letter to the students on Aug. 22.

In the letter, Anderson remained optimistic that the administration would be able to agree to a contract before the Aug. 29 deadline. Anderson also kept students updated with the negotiations.

"We remain hopeful that a new contract will be settled in a time frame so as not to impact the start of fall semester classes on Aug.

29," she wrote. "Rest assured we are doing all we can to guarantee that there is no disruption whatsoever to the academic calendar."

The strike notice led to a freeze in federal financial aid, and the boiling water began to whistle louder.

The freeze led to several student protests and media uproar.

On Aug. 19, Vice President for administration and finance Gene Grilli and Vice President for student affairs Jack Fahey emailed students, informing them of the freeze.

Grilli and Fahey said in the email that because the start of fall semester was uncertain, the U.S. Department of Education advised YSU to withhold financial aid.

Director of university communications Ron Cole added in an email to members of the media that the only hope for a fall semester start of Aug. 29 rested on the shoulders of the faculty.

"If the faculty ratifies the proposal, the fall semester will start as scheduled on Aug. 29 and financial aid funds can be disbursed as soon as possible," Cole wrote in the email.

Last week, the administration presented its final best offer to the faculty.

"We do relish needing to ask for these types of concessions, but it is necessary in light of the enormous budgetary challenges that we face," the administration said in a news release on Wednesday. "The university's non-union administrators have already accepted a pay freeze for this year and will be required to make increased contributions under the same health in-

surance plan that is included in the faculty proposal."

Administrators point out that "take home compensation" would be cut by \$1,000 a year. However, union officials and members suggest the proposal would decrease their take home salary by \$5,000 or more.

After several hours of deliberations on Thursday, Sherry Linkon, YSU-OEA spokeswoman, told media that the union had rejected the offer and that a strike would begin Friday morning at 8 a.m.

"We call upon the administration and board of trustees to work with us to reach an amicable agreement," said Stan Guzell, YSU-OEA chief negotiator, said in a news release following the strike announcement.

Another news conference was scheduled for Friday morning around 6 a.m.

Just three hours later, the teachers' union said in a news release that the strike would be lifted and that school would resume as planned on Monday, putting an end to the financial aid freeze.

"YSU-OEA President Julia Gergits pointed out that this action also benefits students, ensuring that they will not only be able to begin the semester on time but also receive the financial aid funds that the administration has frozen," Linkon wrote in a statement Thursday night.

Following the announcement, students received another email acknowledging the union's decision to call off the strike.

"The university is pleasantly surprised by this turn of events and the union's decision to withdraw its

intention to strike so we can all get back to the business of doing what we do best — serving students." The My YSU Personal Announcement stated.

On Friday, the board of trustees held a press conference in Tod Hall explaining why they rejected those proposals and that, despite the union's decision to lift the strike, the board would remain firm on the last offer.

"I want to acknowledge the faculty to this institution," said board Chair Sudershan Garg. "We are pleased with the that the union has agreed to call off the strike. This board is heavily committed and supportive of this proposal that is before the union."

Garg reiterated that it was presented as the "last and final best offer."

Former board of trustees Chair Scott Schulick broke down the board's proposal's to members of the media to clear up any accusations made by the teachers' union.

"Under this contract, no one's base salary will be reduced," Schulick said.

Members of the board added that they are willing to renegotiate with the teachers' union. However, when those meetings will take place is still uncertain.

Linkon said it would be sometime this week. Members of the teachers' union will be meeting on Wednesday, and both sides will be meeting jointly on Friday.

EDITOR'S NOTE: YSU President Cynthia Anderson and Director of university communications Ron Cole refused to comment on specifics of the contract proposals until a new contract is signed.

## AID PAGE 1

cept and release federal funds.

"The administration says they were directed by the [U.S.] Department of Education to hold financial aid," Linkon said Wednesday. "They didn't do it in 2005, and they have done it this time. That makes it seem — again I don't know the [U.S. Department of Education's] regulations — they are trying to use students as pawns in this process."

The university's decision to delay the funds came under the advisement of Angela Smith of the U.S. Department of Education, who recommended that YSU not disburse any funds in advance of the fall payment period.

"The regulation is very clear that Title IV funds may not be disbursed prior to the 10th day before the first day of classes for the payment period," Smith said in an email sent Aug. 9 to Elaine Ruse, director of the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships at YSU.

While it appears that YSU strictly followed Title IV regu-

lations, it remains unclear why students were not informed sooner about the possibility of a disbursement delay.

YSU senior and academic senator Gary Davenport voiced his frustration with the timing of the announcement.

"I'm angry that my desire to pursue my education full time makes me vulnerable and that my university wouldn't at least involve me in the discussion leading to the financial aid freeze," Davenport said.

Other YSU students shared their concerns about the financial aid freeze via Facebook, using the networking site throughout the week to share information and concerns regarding the delay.

The news of the freeze left incoming freshman Malleri Viglio, along with many other students, extremely worried about preparing for upcoming classes.

"I don't know how I will attend my classes on the 29th. Even if they do start on time, I am not prepared at all. I understand the [U.S.] Department of Education is worried about an impending strike, but students are suffering. I don't think

they understand what this does to us," Viglio said.

The disbursement left students panicked and confused as faculty and administrators reached out with words of encouragement.

Students expressed dissatisfaction with the university and took the freeze as a negative mark on its commitment to students, despite the U.S. Department of Education's recommendation to withhold financial aid.

Senior English major Jason Orlando, who expects to graduate in December, expressed his uncertainty about his future at YSU.

"I will proudly accept the degree I have struggled to earn, but the memory of my experience at YSU will have been irrevocably damaged," Orlando said. "I had been planning to apply to YSU's graduate program and continuing my education at this institution. In the past week, however, I have begun to rethink that possibility and have been exploring other options."

YSU Student Government Association Executive Vice President Justin McIntyre ex-

pressed his opinions regarding the delay and focused on the importance of remaining positive.

"I would encourage people to keep perspective and remember prior to this the university, both administration and faculty, has been very good to its students," McIntyre said.

Meanwhile, students were advised to contact Vice President for university affairs Jack Fahey, and Cole said that is exactly what students did.

"We've been receiving literally hundreds of calls. My understanding is Jack [Fahey] has been able to help several students with things such as working with landlords [and] working with even the utility companies as well," Cole said.

During the week of the freeze, many YSU students got involved and voiced their opinions by organizing sit-ins and writing letters.

"My hopes are that we'll be listened to and our feedback will help shape future dialogue between the administration and students in difficult situations like this," Davenport said.

## PROTEST PAGE 1

"Most of the organizing was done through Facebook," Toth, a senior, said. "[We] tried to disseminate accurate information and encourage healthy discussion."

No organized protests or gatherings are planned for the first week of the semester, and as the two sides have yet to reach a new contract, Davenport said he is keeping tabs on what the teachers' union and administration have scheduled.

"I'll be making available public meetings by the board of trustees and press conferences by the administration and board to the students that I communicate with," Davenport said.

He said he hopes this will raise awareness and open the door for more student interaction.

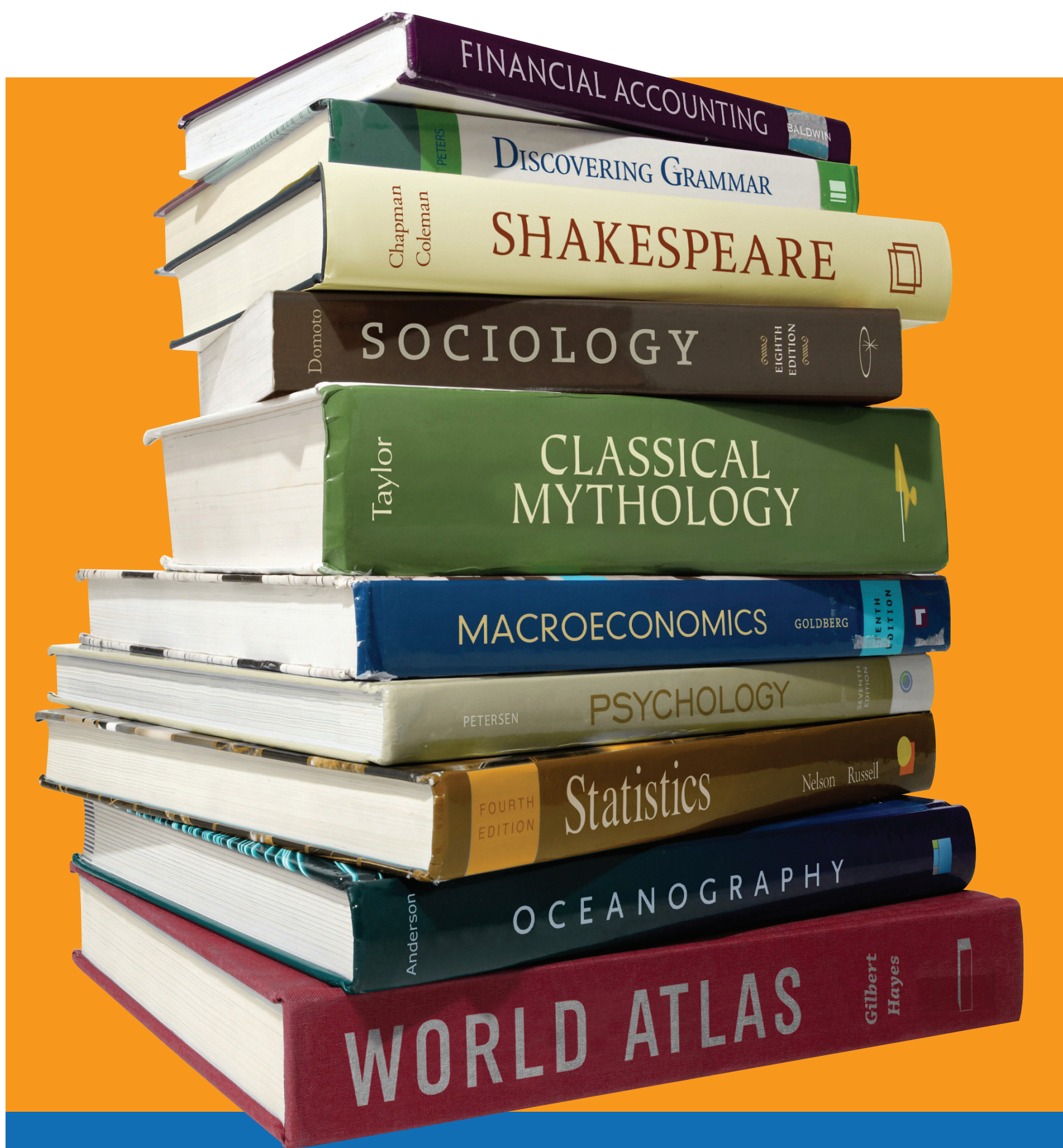
"Student involvement is important, period, and student involvement in the dialogue going on now is important as well," he said.



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# SGA leaders ready for new year

Nikki Ericksen  
REPORTER

Student Government Association President Elyse Gessler and Executive Vice President Justin McIntyre used this summer to devise their provisional plans.

Gessler and McIntyre won the spring election by a wide margin. With SGA's first meeting on Monday, Gessler said she wants students to know she is here for them.

"Working with students has been the most rewarding thing I have ever done. I don't think I would be happy in life if I could no longer work with students," Gessler said.

After winning the election, the first item on Gessler and McIntyre's agenda was to market SGA to the student body. They've begun to do so through partnerships.

For instance, SGA is collaborating with Sodexo to improve food choices on campus.

One project that Gessler and McIntyre are continuing this year is the First-Year Experience, which is a program that most colleges host. It's used to help transition high school seniors into college freshmen. The program is also intended to make college life as familiar and friendly as possible.

SOAR — or Student Orientation, Advisement and Registration — and the resource fair are other items on the agenda that Gessler and McIntyre said they hope to continue.

Gessler said pamphlets would also be created.

"One [pamphlet] would be a general SGA informational pamphlet ... we also want to do some things with financial path where students can come to us and we appropriate money for certain events," Gessler said after being elected.

The financial aid pamphlet was unveiled at the Student Leadership Summit on Friday.

This year, SGA will also be discussing the university's general education requirements and how the change will affect students.

"[YSU] still [has] one of the highest general education requirements in the state. Sometimes the students need to take into consideration that the experience from the classes may outweigh the negatives of taking more general education courses," McIntyre said.

Other items on SGA's agenda are a smoker's pavilion and the renovation of Bliss Hall's second-floor lounge.

This fall, SGA will work with the department of campus recreation and student programming to organize an event in the Chestnut Room. It will be based around a Las Vegas theme and include performers from Los Angeles and New York City. This year's Homecoming festivities will also receive assistance from SGA, although the theme is still under wraps.

After their term ends, Gessler and McIntyre said they would like to see the First-Year Experience continue. They would also like to see the introduction of a universal swipe card on campus.



Graphic by Paris Christopholis/The Jambar

## Meeting the SGA president and vice president

**Name:** Elyse Gessler  
**Class Rank:** junior

**Major:** communications  
**Position in SGA:** president

**Why did you choose to serve in this position?**

When I became a freshman representative my first semester at YSU, I saw what an impact the SGA president could potentially make on campus. I have always loved working as a team with my peers in other organizations and decided then to make the presidency my goal during my time at Youngstown State University. There is nothing more gratifying than working for and with your peers to make your university and its community a better place for future Penguins.

**What are some of your qualifications/what valuable experience do you bring to SGA?**

As I am now approaching my third year at YSU, I have served as a representative for my freshman class during the 2009-2010 school year, chair of the student life committee in 2010, vice president of student life in 2010-2011 and representative for the College of Fine and Performing Arts. I believe that my time spent on SGA, learning the different tasks and jobs of representatives and executive members, has greatly prepared me for my current position. Involvement in other student organizations such as Greek Life has taught me that the best way to serve my office is to be an active member of the campus community. Listening to student concerns, programming student events and working with the faculty and administration has given me the experience I believe I need to serve as the president of the Student Government Association.

**What is one of your main goals/projects or focuses for this semester?**

My biggest goal this year could also be labeled as my biggest challenge: encouraging students to become more involved in their colleges and university. YSU is a unique university because of its sizable commuter population. Despite our 15,000 and growing enrollment of students, a very small portion is active on campus. I want to challenge students this year to join organizations, create their own, sample unique course options, attend the academic senate, reach out and talk to their college representatives. But my own personal challenge is finding a way to help students achieve that goal.

**Name:** Justin McIntyre  
**Class Rank:** senior

**Majors:** political science and history  
**Position in SGA:** vice president

**Why did you choose to serve in this position?**

After initially becoming involved in Student Government Association as a [College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences] representative, I discovered that I really enjoyed being part of something larger than myself. Since then, I've served SGA in several different manners and ultimately decided to run for a position that would allow me to lead the Student Government Association — essentially the voice of students.

**What are some of your qualifications/what valuable experience do you bring to SGA?**

My experience in the position of vice president for financial affairs is definitely valuable in that I worked closely with many student organizations across campus, better informing students of what the Student Government Association can offer to organizations. [I also] learned the intricacies of managing the SGA budget and ultimately learned more about my own leadership style and method. Moreover, my past term as president for the Model United Nations organization on campus has given me more confidence in my ability to be a role model for individuals intimidated by trying something new, such as foreign affairs debate.

**What is one of your main goals/projects or focuses for this semester?**

I will be leading the academic affairs committee this coming year and plan to continue the past administration's efforts at establishing a freshman orientation class, such as the First-Year Experience, or the Freshman 101 course. I want the Student Government Association to be the collaborative push that unites the various efforts across campus that believe in this goal.

**What is the biggest challenge you think you will face at SGA this semester?**

Personally, convincing auspices across campus that the freshman orientation course is a worthy goal, despite current financial instability. For the Student Government Association as a whole, it will be connecting to the students in a time where civic engagement seems to be in steady decline. Fortunately, the sheer number of applicants for vacant positions seems to indicate that our administration is already bridging that metaphorical gap.

**What was your previous position at SGA and why did you choose to do something different this semester?**

Vice president for financial affairs. I loved this position, but I wish to offer my experience to both the president of the Student Government Association, as well as the academic affairs committee.

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got an opinion?





# Parking makeover to alleviate early semester traffic

Marissa McIntyre  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

This academic year, Youngstown State University will have 2,317 more students with parking passes than available parking spaces. However, Danny O'Connell, director of support services, said this year's parking situation would be better than in the past.

Despite the shortage, the 6,737 available spaces are higher than last year's 6,444, creating a 293-spot increase.

The M-2 deck on Lincoln Avenue has undergone renovations, which began last April, and will feature more parking. The two-year renovation project cost the university \$4.5 million.

It is the second-largest parking structure on campus with 1,278 spots as of September 2010.

The addition of a faculty and guest parking lot next to Beeghly Hall created 35 parking spaces in the M-2 deck that were previously reserved for YSU faculty and staff.

"What's important about the deck work this year is that all the changes are structural," O'Connell said. "We did not put in what you would call cosmetic changes."

He added that next year was the cosmetic phase.

"What we wanted to do was make sure that the deck was 100 percent sound, 100 percent waterproof and all the drains and everything were

working fine, and that's what we accomplished in the first phase," O'Connell said.

The M-2 deck was built in 1971. Last year it was reported that chunks of debris were falling from the deck.

"That comes from water getting in there and freezing," O'Connell said. "What we did was completely waterproof the roof."

O'Connell said waterproofing the roof while the lower levels of the deck are 85 percent waterproof should remove the possibility of any falling debris.

Buses will no longer be used to shuttle students to and from the Covelli Centre, as the deck is scheduled to open on time.

The addition of a faculty

and staff parking lot created additional parking spaces in the M-24 parking lot, with entrances on Grant and Arlington streets. Formally M-24 and F-2, the removal of faculty and staff parking from the lot opened up 70 to 75 parking spaces.

"Where we're going to have a big benefit is with snow plowing," O'Connell said. "When this wall was here it was very difficult for grounds to move the snow."

Repairs to the M-24 parking lot will take place over the next long weekend, weather permitting. Repairs will include filling in the cracks, taking care of the hole in one of the parking spots located next to the Arlington Street entrance, and sealing and restrip-

ing the entire lot.

O'Connell said the Williamson College of Business Administration has many students that take classes in the evening due to their day jobs. To cater to their needs, he added that YSU Parking Services partnered with the Diocese of Youngstown for additional parking adjacent to Williamson, allowing students to park after 5 p.m.

"We're in partnership with them. We're going to do some stuff to maintain the lot, [and] in exchange the church is going to let us use the lot," O'Connell said.

Parking services was prohibited from building a parking lot closer to Williamson since it was built as a "green" building.

Last year, high enrollment and low parking forced students to park in a grass field behind Smith Hall, across the street from the M-7 lot. That grass field has become a newly paved parking lot, which holds more than 100 parking spots. Between this project and the new faculty and staff parking lot project, the cost was \$1.2 million.

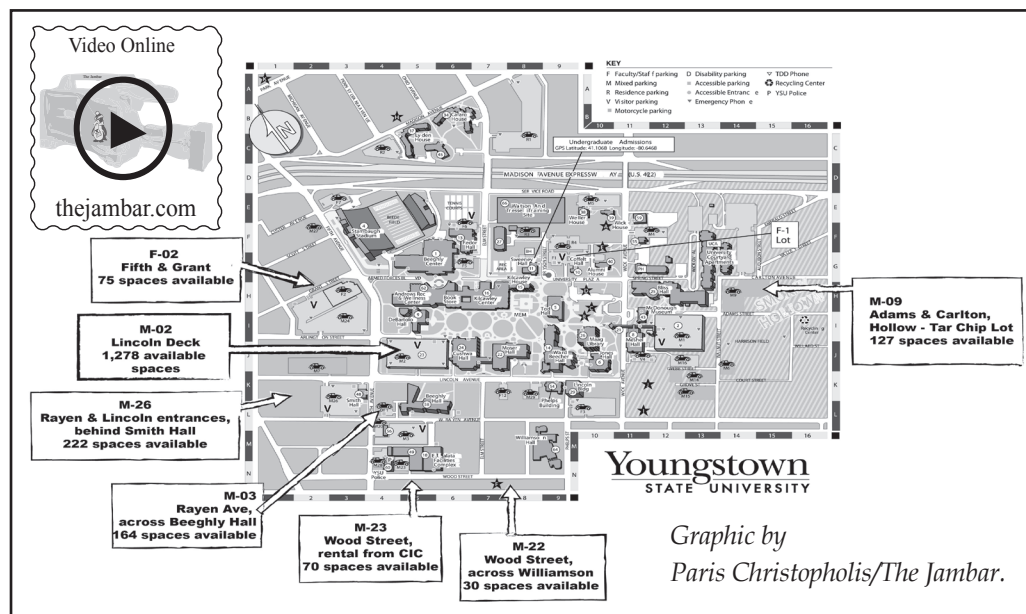
The project was financed entirely by parking services' reserve funds. Even so, the price for a fall commuter student parking permit increased from \$78 to \$100.

O'Connell said that this price is still cheaper compared to schools such as Kent State University, which charges \$110 plus a \$45 transportation fee, or the University of Akron, which charges \$150 for a fall semester.

O'Connell said the easiest way to guarantee a parking spot in the first few weeks of the semester is to arrive on campus at least a half hour early. He said that YSU's parking lots are relatively close to class locations no matter where students park.

"We need to change our plan every year and we'll do that based on our numbers and based on enrollment," O'Connell said.

Future parking plans include a parking lot located where the tennis courts are if they are relocated and possible additional parking around the University Courtyard Apartments.



Graphic by  
Paris Christopholis/The Jambar.

# Summit helps students become better leaders

Chad Travers  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT  
REPORTER

Youngstown State University's student leaders gathered in Kilcawley Center's Chestnut Room for the 15th annual Student Leadership Summit on Friday.

Greg Gulas, assistant director of student programming, welcomed more than 170 pre-registered leaders from 165 student organizations and encouraged them to take advantage of the content and workshop opportunities offered throughout the day.

After allowing the students to discuss the dates of upcoming philanthropic events, Gulas introduced head football coach Eric Wolford, who ad-

ressed the students on the importance of leadership.

"Being a leader is not a part-time job," Wolford said. "You have to start with the basics. You start by being on time. That's where it begins."

Wolford went on to explain his concept of "Y-Time," which he uses to ensure that his players are always on time.

"I start everything five minutes early," Wolford said. "If you're not there on time, you're going to run."

After the address, the student leaders divided into sections to attend workshops and training seminars intended to help them become better leaders.

The ropes challenge



Attendees of the leadership summit participate in a team-building exercise. Photo by Chad Travers/The Jambar.

course, a team-building exercise where individuals must work together to accomplish the group's goal, at Andrews Student Recreation and Well-

ness Center was a popular seminar choice.

Other seminars included a session on how to promote and protect student organiza-

tions on Facebook and a program aimed at training the new class of incoming leaders.

"This event has grown every year for the past 14 years," Gulas said. "These interactive sessions have been well-received, and it's great to see the organizations make friends and connections with each other, and we're always open to new ideas from the students."

Senior James Milby of the Inter-fraternity council, which oversees five Greek chapters and one colony, said he enjoys seeing the leaders gather and interact each year.

"Learning is never finished," Milby said. "This is a great opportunity for everyone to learn the skills they need."

# Irene strikes New York City area; local flooding reported

McClatchy Newspapers  
(MCT)

WASHINGTON Already a killer storm, Hurricane Irene sloshed into the New York metropolitan area Sunday, adhering to a course that pushed mountains of seawater and vast volumes of rain into the city, many of its suburbs and much of the surrounding region.

"The flooding will be epic and there will be water in places you never dreamed," said forecaster Eric Blake of the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

Even before Irene reached one of the nation's most heavily populated regions, at least eight deaths were attributed to the storm, a summer weekend terror that clung to, ravaged and swamped the East Coast from North Carolina all the way to New England.

Outages cut power to more than 2 million customers, complicating efforts to prepare for or recover from the storm. Trees crashed to the ground and roofs flew away and sea water invaded buildings once thought safely distant from the coast.

Meteorologists said Irene's core made a second landfall near Little Egg Inlet, N.J., north of Atlantic City, at 5:35 a.m. EDT Sunday, as a minimal Category 1 hurricane with 75 mph sustained wind.

Irene's course carried the center right along New Jersey's coast, completely through or perilously close to the New York boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens, and then into Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and points north. Tornado warnings flashed through the region.

Manhattan's usually busy streets

were eerily empty, few people in sight, the entire city pounded by gray sheets of rain and bursts of wind that swirled around tall buildings and sought paths of escape. Rising water blocked several roads and intersections.

Hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers evacuated homes near the shore. At least one hospital closed, moving patients to locations farther from sources of flooding. The city's vast subway and bus system halted operations for the duration.

"The time for evacuation is over," New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg told residents late Saturday. "Everyone should now go inside and stay inside."

In Lower Manhattan, surrounded by the East River, the Hudson River and a wide bay, particular concern focused on Wall Street and the rest of the financial district. By 9 a.m. Sunday, both rivers had overtopped its banks, storm sewers began backing up and two feet of water accumulated into the area.

Along the metropolitan area's Atlantic coast, Irene's storm surge pushed water into local streets. Portions of Coney Island flooded and a two-story lifeguard shack in Long Beach left its moorings and slammed into the boardwalk.

As Irene's center approached, New York's LaGuardia Airport reported sustained wind of 41 mph and gusts of 64 mph. A gust of 58 mph rocked John F. Kennedy International Airport. Those airports and others throughout the region were closed and airlines cancelled 9,000 flights.

Though experts worried about the impact even a minimal hurricane's wind could have on the region's skyscrapers and other tall buildings, the deepest concern focused on flooding, both along the coast and deep inland.

Irene's course, counter-clockwise circulation and wide girth combined to push immense quantities of sea water onto the low-lying shores of New Jersey, the New York metropolitan area, including Long Island, and much of the rest of the region.

Water levels rose rapidly, with nearly four-foot storm surges reported Sunday morning at Sandy Hook, N.J., Cape May, N.J., and the famed New York Harbor.

Atop of that came the rain up to 15 inches of it another source of anxiety, especially inland.

"These rains, combined with heavy rain over the past few weeks, could cause widespread flooding, life-threatening flash floods and significant uprooting of trees due to rain-softened grounds," said hurricane forecaster Michael Brennan.

As if he and his colleagues didn't have enough to worry about, Tropical Storm Jose developed Sunday morning in the Atlantic, about 115 miles south of Bermuda. It posed a modest threat to Bermuda, but did not endanger the U.S. coast.

Irene's first landfall came Saturday along North Carolina's Outer Banks, the storm crawling northeastward up the coast, its bands of wind and rain sweeping Virginia, Washington, D.C., Maryland, Delaware, eastern Pennsylvania, all of New Jersey and then all of New England.

In Virginia, three people were killed by falling trees. In Maryland, another person was killed by a falling tree. At least two people died in North Carolina. High waves killed two people in Florida.

The full extent of the damage was not clear, with officials of some areas saying the impact seemed to be less

than expected, though others were still assessing their local situations.

In North Carolina, authorities mounted scores of operations to rescue people trapped by floods. The storm led to 100 "swift-water" rescues in Craven County and 26 people were rescued Saturday in Pamlico County, including two pregnant women and a pair of infants. Water rose so high there that the National Guard couldn't get through in pickup trucks, leaving some residents without aid until Sunday morning.

Heavy winds collapsed a mall roof in Wayne County and peeled away the roof of the county's emergency 911 center. In Beaufort County, crews pulled a man from waist-high water after the walls of his mobile home collapsed.

"We've taken a hard hit," said Assistant Wayne County Manager Jack Veit.

Between New Bern and Washington, N.C., the smell of freshly split wood was prominent along U.S. 17. More than 100 50-to-60-foot trees had fallen many taking power lines with them.

Kevin McKnight of New Bern was headed to Greenville when he tried to drive around a downed tree and through a muddy ditch with his Lexus SUV.

"I thought I could make it with my four-wheel drive," he said.

He couldn't. The Lexus was partially in water and partially in mud, awaiting a tow truck.

In Washington, N.C., which sits along the Pamlico River, the clock on the old courthouse on Market Street remained stuck at 7:21 a.m.

It was at that moment that the power failed on Saturday.



## A boulder-sized tradition: YSU's Rock

**Chelsea Telega**  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT  
EDITOR

In 1967, a boulder-sized rock was dug up among other debris during an excavation project on campus. It remained near Kilcawley Center, becoming part of the landscape.

During that time, Jambar Editor-in-Chief Ben Hayek addressed the students of Youngstown State University in an editorial encouraging them to make use of this seemingly insignificant rock. Because of his satirical emphasis on the fact that the students were "cheating" The Rock out of a purpose, students surrounded The Rock with paint in hand the next day.

Now, in 2011, that rock signifies one of the longest standing traditions at YSU.

The Rock serves as a form of recruitment and promotion for campus organizations, an outlet of expression for students, a sign of school spirit and much more.

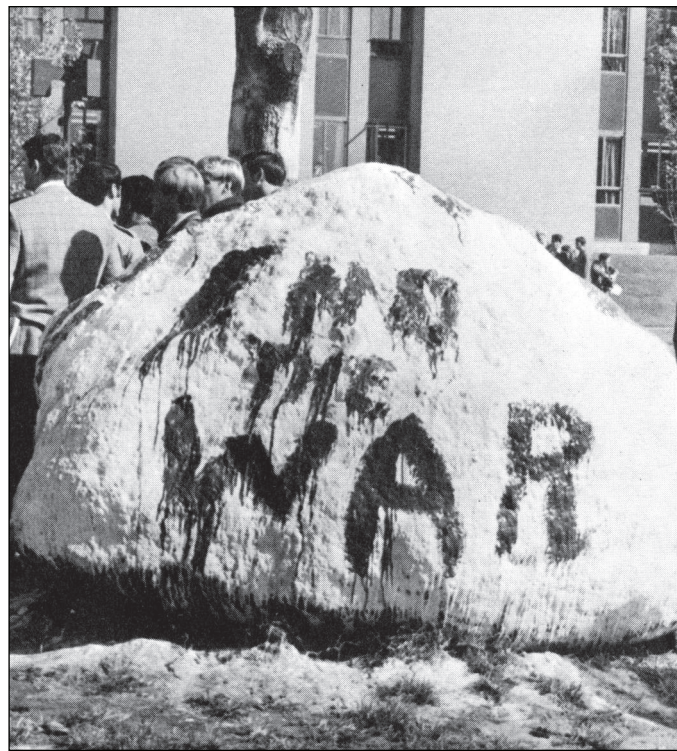
Katie Gettman, a member of Zeta Tau Alpha at YSU, and her sorority sisters have used The Rock to spread breast cancer awareness during October for the annual Pink Out Day.

"The Rock is passed by a lot of the student body and it makes them question what is going on in the student community. I know that I always look to see what is painted when I walk by," Gettman said.

Gettman also added that she feels The Rock has helped bring sorority members together.

"It is a great way to build enthusiasm and get the girls excited for what is about to come," she said.

Campus employees also



File photo of The Rock being painted in protest of the Vietnam War.

use The Rock so students can take advantage of their services. Karen Graves, an assistant director for the Center for Student Progress, and the peer mentors came together on Friday to spray paint the rock for the start of school.

"I think The Rock is a focal point on campus. It's one of those fun YSU traditions. I love it," Graves said.

The incoming peer mentors annually gather to paint The Rock before the start of fall semester as part of their training. It not only promotes the CSP but also emphasizes the importance of working together.

Sophomore Keri Craft is a newcomer to the peer mentor position and has always wanted to paint The Rock. She said that painting The Rock was a great way to end her training.

"I think it was a really great way to bring our team together.

er. It showed us how to work together. We all put our names on it separately but it all came together as one," Craft said. "It also really lets people know what's happening on campus and events going on that week."

Tradition is the driving force that keeps students interested in expressing themselves on The Rock.

"Students like tradition, and to be able to see their artwork or creativity displayed in front of the student body makes them feel proud," Gettman said.

In the 44 years that students have been painting their messages on The Rock, a thick layer of paint has accumulated on it. In fact, the inches of paint collected on The Rock's surface have made it appear much larger than it actually is.

## Yo\* Calendar Brought to you by [the Yo\* Magazine], a special twice-a-year publication of The Jambar

"Toy Story 3"  
Monday, 8 p.m.  
Covelli Centre



Simply Ed  
Karaoke  
Monday, 10 p.m.

Irish Bob's  
Pub

18+

Theory of a  
Deadman  
Tuesday, 6 p.m.  
Club Gossip

\$33, 18+



Cruise Night  
Tuesday, 6 to 9  
p.m.

Chick-Fil-A of  
Boardman

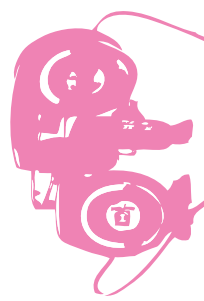


Williamsport  
Crosscutter

Wednesday, 7  
p.m.

Eastwood Field

\$1-\$9



## Going all in for Welcome Week

**Kacy Standohar**  
FEATURES EDITOR

Students voice excitement for Welcome Week, new school year

Students are returning to campus to begin the fall semester and, as usual, Youngstown State University Campus Recreation and Student Programming is sponsoring a casino themed Welcome Week schedule.

The week of Aug. 26-Sept. 3 is packed with events for new and returning students, including a GeekFest, foam and dance party, campus resource fair, Kilcawley Center block party and much more. Students have a chance to win prizes, meet new friends and have fun.

There are also many events this week that will help acclimate new students to the campus and help them feel more comfortable. During the weekend, students living in the dorms were assisted with moving in and getting acquainted with campus living.

Welcome Week is one time when the university is heavily populated. Junior Samantha Marscio said she enjoys Welcome Week.

"I always thought Welcome Week was fun. There is always something to do or something going on. I just like how the first week you see so many people everywhere," Marscio said.

The week is also a new experience for incoming freshmen. Freshman Kevin Bryant will be living in the dorms and said that he is anticipating the foam and dance party.

"I am excited to live on my own and meet new people. I want to learn how it feels to have the freedom to make my own choices," Bryant said.

Another freshman, April Emanuel, shared what she is looking forward to this year.

"I am actually very excited to be a freshman in college this year. I feel like it's a new be-



ginning in life and as if I am ready to make the best of it," Emanuel said.

She is looking forward to using the gym and being on campus to meet new people.

"New friends are a must," she said.

However, she's not too familiar with Welcome Week.

"My peer mentor is actually trying to explain it to me. I am not sure if I will attend yet. I guess I will just wait and see how it is," Emanuel said.

Some freshmen have mixed feelings about beginning college.

"I'm nervous and excited at the same time — maybe a little scared that it's going to be too much," said Leanna Davila, a freshman nursing student. "I heard nursing is hard and takes a lot of commitment. I'm not looking forward to actually having to try in order to get good grades, but I am looking forward to the experience."

She does not plan on partaking in the Welcome Week events because she doesn't know that much about them.

Tia Buonavolonta, another incoming freshman, said she is excited to start a new chapter in her life. Although she won't be participating in Welcome Week activities, she said she is looking forward to getting involved on campus and doing what it takes to get good grades.

For more information on this year's Welcome Week events, visit <http://www.yсу.edu/welcomeweek>.

## Festival rocks downtown, raises cancer awareness

**Kacy Standohar and  
Chelsea Telega**

Local bands, bars and organizations came together Sunday to fight cancer with music and festivities, raising money and awareness for the cause.

Sunday marked the first Ballyhoo Music Festival in downtown Youngstown. Four local bars, including the Lemon Grove Cafe, the Draught House, Downtown 36 and Barley's Pub, featured local bands throughout the day.

Wristbands were \$10 for all-day access to any of the four bars, but Youngstown State University students got to enjoy the music festival for half price. Bands included the Gary Markasky Project; Sincerely, Kate; the Tullsen Brothers and Red Rising Sun.

The Tullsen Brothers, made up of YSU students and alumni, said the festival was mutually beneficial for the band and for cancer awareness.

"There are lots of bands here that we would never be playing with normally. We will get some exposure, so that will be good," said band member Justin Hite.

Another member of the Tullsen Brothers, Nathanael Welch, has been directly af-



Katianne Timko's Band Sincerely, Kate at the Lemon Grove Cafe. Photo by Chelsea Telega/The Jambar.

ected by cancer.

"My dad is now going through chemotherapy. He pretty much has it beat, but cancer does run in my family," Welch said.

Other organizations throughout the Valley put forth effort to make this event possible. Miller Lite sponsored the festival and had girls pass out free T-shirts, koozies and other apparel.

JoAnne Tombo, a YSU senior, worked with Superior Beverage as a local Miller Lite girl.

"We took pictures with the bands and did all the advertising and marketing to push

people to come," Tombo said.

Tombo said the hard work paid off, and she has high hopes for the future of the event.

"It's for such a good cause. There are a lot of good cover bands here. I hope everything goes well with this event, and it continues for years to come," Tombo said.

Scott Austalosh, Ballyhoo Music Festival director and founder, had hopes to do a music festival in the Valley for a long time. In collaboration with Christina's Garden, a non-profit cancer organization, Ballyhoo was created.

"I wanted people to know there are alternate ways to deal with cancer," Austalosh said.

All proceeds from the event will benefit Christina's Garden, which was created in honor of Christina Savage who lost her 10-year battle with cancer in 2009. The organization nationally assists cancer patients and their families.

Austalosh said music is a way to bring these people together.

"It's like a festival of hope," he said.



The Tullsen Brothers waiting to play at the Lemon Grove Cafe. Photo by Chelsea Telega/The Jambar.



OUR SIDE

## Marginalizing education

The Jambar  
EDITORIAL BOARD

RELATED STORY, NEGOTIATIONS

YSU faculty and administrators have made a mockery of our education.

They've ratcheted our tuition and parking fees to fill the \$7 million deficit left from decreased state contributions, balancing the university's budget on our backs.

Of the \$158.8 million revenue the university is estimated to receive this year, students will contribute nearly \$108 million.

Faculty enjoyed three luxuriant pay raises over the life of their last contract, while administrators padded their wallets with salaries in the hundreds of thousands. They'll tell us the raises were necessary to offset the costs of living.

And now President Cynthia Anderson is asking for our continued patience, writing to students all about how "the administration and faculty remain committed to your success here at YSU."

We're also startled by rhetoric from the faculty that undermines our education.

"Once the strike is settled, take a close look at what you're required to do. Do that and do it well. But do only what you are required," John Russo and Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez wrote.

It's time for our administration and faculty to wake up. Everyone must make concessions, not just students.

The faculty should be paying for health care and parking. Instead, the university pays nearly \$28 million in fringe benefits and shells out more than a half million for their parking.

The administration should be dedicated to our education, not to shortchanging employees and students every chance they get.

It'll cost \$158.8 million to fund the university this year. Administrative and faculty salaries and benefits will account for nearly 70 percent of it.

While the union has temporarily called off the strike to allow the flow of financial aid for students, the possibility of a strike is ever-present until an agreement is reached. We vehemently oppose any future strike, as it would be unfair to students who have suffered.

SHENAN *Hand-drawn services*



"I CAN'T BELIEVE STEVE JOBS IS RESIGNING. WHO'S GOING TO CONVINCE ME TO BUY STUFF I CLEARLY CAN'T AFFORD NOW?"

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### CRISIS COMMITTEE REPORT

After the faculty voted to accept the draconian concessions in the Fact Finder's Report that reduce individual total compensation between \$7,000 and \$10,000 annually, the Board of Trustees unanimously voted to reject that Report. That rejection is a betrayal of the good trust and faith of the faculty and an unprecedented attack on our well-being and that of our children and families.

**I. Descent into Hell**

In hindsight, we are not surprised. Repeatedly, President Anderson lied to the Chief Negotiator for the faculty, Dr. Stan Guzell and members of his team. As Dr. Guzell stated in our meeting, President Anderson made clear to him that her administration would not ever ask for concessions. She says one thing, does another one. Always has. We should not be fooled by her smile diplomacy.

Now Dr. Garg, chairman of the Board of Trustees, in a written statement said: "While the fact finder acknowledges the difficult budgetary circumstances facing the university, his recommendations outlined in the report do not allow us to sufficiently address those challenges."

Dr. Garg must have read a different report. The one released by Mr. Howard Silver refers to the "stable financial circumstance of Youngstown State University" (p. 9, emphasis ours).

The fact finder's language regarding summer session compensation is especially telling on this point. He says:

The hearing record presents clear and convincing evidence showing that summer school instruction at Youngstown State University produces revenues to the benefit of the University in excess of what is required to be expended in compensating the summer faculty and providing the facilities used in the provision of summer instruction.... The fact finder, however, does not find sufficient grounds to recommend a reduction in compensation of that size for summer instruction engaged in by seventy percent of the faculty and paid the same way for more than thirty years (p. 13, emphasis ours).

Finally, the fact finder's characterization of the faculty is more accurate than President Anderson's: "The full-time faculty members who make up the faculty bargaining unit at Youngstown State University earn their salaries and deserve more" (p. 11).

Dr. Garg should support his statement by citing those passages in which the fact finder "acknowledges the difficult budgetary cir-

cumstances facing the university ...[that] do not allow the Board to sufficiently address those challenges." We have not been able to identify them. While the negotiating team's analysis of YSU's budget provides clear evidence that the University is not, in fact, facing any such challenges, they have also offered numerous strategies to rein in costs. But nothing we have offered seems to be sufficient.

**II. In the Center of Hell**

While the faculty agreed to very large concessions that put us at risk, President Anderson's contract contains a COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) of at least \$25,000 per annum. She can thus claim to us and the press that she will not receive any salary raise while at the same time hiding significant increased compensation.

Salary increases for administrators are quite routine at YSU. While VP for Student Affairs, President Anderson's salary increased in her last three years from \$131,536 to 175,393. As President, her starting salary was higher than her predecessor's by \$75,000, for a total of \$400,000. It will increase this year, through her COLA alone, another \$25,000. Will she get a bonus for driving us to a strike?

Provost Khawaja, while collecting his pension from STRS, has seen his salary over the past three years increase from \$159,135 to \$184,279. In all, over the past three years salaries of top administrators have increased from \$8,175,811 to \$10,129,976. His income has thus increased by 7.92% in the first year, 6.17% in the second, and 6.14% in the third. He must be very "high quality" indeed to deserve such treatment, though he clearly does not see us as having similar merit.

In the meantime, the faculty has significantly increased total grant funding for scientific and scholarly investigations, significantly increased research productivity and scholarly publications, and significantly increased teaching and service. Evidence of increased faculty productivity is the total amount of external research funding received, from \$2,000,000 in FY 1999 to nearly \$12,000,000 in FY 2009.

But if we follow the path President Anderson, Provost Khawaja, and the Board of Trustees are carving out for this institution, the goal of the Strategic Planning Committee of developing YSU into an Urban Research University will become mere memory. While they say one thing, they do another. They will turn this institution into a vocational-technical school.

This attack upon the faculty, the

constant disrespect shown to it by the administration's Chief Negotiator, Dean Shearle Furnish, and his team (Brian DePoy, Tammy King, Tom Bodnovich, Kevin Reynolds) is ripped from the pages of The Vindicator. Remember how they described us as "low standing"? No surprise. The Vindicator-Anderson nexus has a long family history, and we are only beginning to understand that partnership.

**III. A Quiet Litany for Salvation**

In the coming days we will be receiving letters of support from AAUP chapters throughout the state. Many of our colleagues know that what we are experiencing is the beginning of a total reorientation of higher education in Ohio directed by Governor Kasich's office.

As we enter the final stages, consider the following:

Be prepared for President Anderson's syrupy and disingenuous crocodile tears. Her actions speak volumes.

Put as much money aside as you can. Given the attitude of President Anderson, Provost Khawaja, and the Board of Trustees towards the faculty, this could be a long and nasty strike.

Take your building and office keys.

Remove from University property all your class and research material - books, syllabi, lecture notes.

Remove from University computers all your manuscripts, lab reports, data, and other professional items. Store them on your own computer.

Subscribe to an email system other than YSU's and keep your academic and other professional contacts in that system. President Anderson's administration can and will likely deny us access to the YSU system.

Update your Curriculum Vitae. Makeup any salary and benefit reductions by canceling all payroll deductions directed to YSU, e.g., Annual Fund.

Once the strike is settled, take a close look at what you're required to do. Do that and do it well. But do only what you are required.

Finally as other faculty members have suggested, if you subscribe to The Vindicator, cancel your subscription. To join an ongoing critique of their skewed reporting of negotiations and our motivations, join the Vindicator Watch on Facebook.

John B. Russo and Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez

## The big picture

Avoiding a  
strikeout

Jared Buker  
COLUMNIST



My dad always told me to focus on the big picture. He wanted me to view a semester like half of a year. If some time in my future I made \$100,000 in one year, then one absent semester technically cost me \$50,000.

I'm a realist, so I know this is a stretch, but that concept can help us all realize how lucky we are the strike hasn't stuck.

It truly was a daunting summer for the students of YSU. Bad news seemed to transition into worse news ever so casually, leaving more than 15,000 eager students reeling with doubt.

Parking passes became more expensive even when so many were unsure if the M-2 parking deck would be complete by the start of the school year. And what a conundrum it was for students to pay tuition, now 3.5 percent higher, for a semester that almost didn't happen.

Not the ideal way to begin.

But we now all have the unique opportunity to show the administration and faculty what we're made of. What better way to thank those who helped resolve the strike than to return to YSU with a new sense of work ethic and appreciation for our college? I know I will.

Like many others, I was dreading the plunge back into the college grind, but I realized how complacent I had become about school when it seemed that the semester was no longer a guarantee.

Rather than negatively speculating on a strike most of us won't truly understand until we have careers and families of our own, we should let it open our eyes to just how valuable our time is at YSU.

It's over, and the faculty had legitimate concerns, concerns that many students I spoke to blindly criticized without full knowledge of the issues. I'm of the opinion that you should know what you're upset about before you open your mouth.

I am a senior journalism student with aspirations to attend law school after graduation. I became a part of The Jambar because I loved having my finger on the campus pulse and staying informed. Becoming president of the Alpha Phi Delta fraternity gave me the chance to take that information and apply it proactively.

I have loved every minute of my college career. I was never one of those tweaked out seniors desperately trying to get the hell out of Dodge. It bugs me to hear people say they can't wait to graduate. I try not to wish my life away. Believe me, if my folks were willing, I would Van Wilder my way to a nine-year college career. But whether I graduate in the spring or not, how close YSU came to a strike made me realize just how lucky I am, and we all are, just to have that opportunity.

## Who do you think is responsible for the stalled contract negotiations?

Administration.	60 %	(114)
Faculty.	15 %	(28)
Both.	22 %	(42)
Not sure.	4 %	(7)

This information is taken from the online poll at thejambar.com Visit thejambar.com for future polls.



**NEWS BRIEFS**

**YSU commemorates 9/11 anniversary**

In honor of the 10th anniversary of 9/11, YSU will host and sponsor several events. On Sept. 6 at noon, a Salute to America at the 9/11 Memorial and Flag Pole will be held on the campus core. This event will also be held at the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor on Wood Street at 2 p.m. On Sept. 7, workshops will be held in Kilcawley Center, rooms 2067 and 2069, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. From 7 to 9 p.m., a service and worship will take place at the Union Baptist Church on Lincoln Avenue. An open mic night — Liberty and Lyrics — will be held in Kilcawley Center's Ohio Room on Sept. 8 from 7 to 9 p.m. Sept. 9 will feature a commemoration dinner in Kilcawley Center's Chestnut Room at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20; call 330-941-2136 for more information. A candlelight vigil will be held on Sept. 11 from 9 to 10 p.m. on the campus core. The week's events will conclude with a commemoration of liberty, justice and freedom from noon to 2 p.m. on Monday in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center. This event will honor current and former police, public safety workers and firefighters. The names of those who died in the Sept. 11 attacks will be read.

**Women's soccer hosts Friday game**

Beginning at 3 p.m. on Friday, the YSU women's soccer team will host Ursuline College at Stambaugh Stadium.

**POLICE BRIEFS**

**Man requests 'proper help' for suicidal feelings**

On Thursday, a YSU police officer reported to Beechly Hall after a 22-year-old man stated that he was feeling suicidal over problems with his girlfriend at home. The student requested treatment, and an ambulance arrived at the scene to transport him to St. Elizabeth Hospital.

**Campus resident issued court date for alcohol consumption, possession**

On Thursday, YSU Police reported to the University Courtyard Apartments after an employee doing rounds noticed that several individuals were consuming alcohol in the building, which is prohibited.

The employee said she approached one of the men holding a beer bottle, took the bottle from him and told him that she was going to call the police. She added that the individuals left the area while carrying the cases of beer, beer bottles and wine bottles.

However, the employee thought that someone remained in the apartment. When university police officers arrived at the residence, they had to use force to gain entry. Inside the apartment, they noticed several bottles of beer and wine on the kitchen counter, some still containing alcohol.

An underage man who admitted that he had been drinking was also in the apartment, and YSU Police handcuffed him. University police officers transported him to the YSU Police Department and issued him a court date for underage consumption and possession.

**TITLE IV PAGE 1**

wrong," Ruse said. "And we sent them what we called a warning letter saying, 'Hey, you're not meeting standards of progress, here's the problem that you're having, here's the policy. We're automatically approving you to receive aid the next year. But basically, wake up.'"

There are already 5,126 citations for the 2011-2012 academic year: 3,748 cited for completion rate, 458 cited for GPA requirements, 303 cited for both completion and GPA, and 617 cited for maximum time. Maximum time citations are given to students who have attempted 150 percent of the hours needed to graduate.

When officials applied the new, more stringent regulation to last year's 2,084 first-time offenders, they found that more than 600 would have been denied, losing financial aid altogether.

Determining which students failed to meet Satisfactory Academic Progress guidelines and whether to cut financial aid was made on a case-by-case basis before the regulation change.

Now, the push of a button determines who is out of compliance, and all financial aid is revoked pending immediate action, said James Stanger, an associate director in the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships.

Students who appealed last year had the entire year to regain compliance. The new semester-based academic plan, which requires students to meet education goals by the end of the semester, may increase the possibility of students being denied.

Officials are concerned that perpetual offenders will not break the bad habits that have landed them in academic trouble. But they are hopeful that a more hands-on approach will assist the 5,000 students who are out of compliance.

Ruse said the policy change has possible benefits and consequences for students.

"It's really all for the students, to push them into getting their degree faster," she said. "It's all to keep them on track and fiscally responsible."

Funding for federal grants seems to be decreasing, Ruse said, citing federal budget cuts and program rollbacks.

Ruse and her colleagues at the CSP have created individualized plans. From the financial aid office, students will sign contracts emphasizing completion issues, while the CSP will enlist an academic plan.

"All schools have something like a Center for Student Progress," Fahey said. "But what's unique here is the relationship between [the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships] and [the Center for Student Progress]."

"We already had the process and the procedures and the staffing in place to work with students," Ruse said.

Though the process is already in place, Ruse and Fahey are anxious to see results. Of the 5,126 students failing to meet educational requirements, the success for those who sign a contract or corrective action plan will not be available until after fall grades are posted. At that time, a program will determine which students have regained eligibility and which will lose financial aid.

**More to lose?**

"We have more to lose because of our open enrollment," Ruse said.

Schools with higher admissions policies will not be impacted as much as schools like YSU that practice open enrollment, officials predict.

Because incoming students are not required to have a certain GPA or high school diploma to attend YSU, the university probably has more students in financial and academic trouble, Fahey said.

A higher number of students in trouble equates to a higher number of students losing financial aid assistance, an issue that officials say will cause more students to drop out or seek other means of educational funding like private loans.

Nearly one-third of stu-

dents who were cited last year did not file an appeal. Still, 170 others were denied and 203 graduated, having no reason to appeal for continued financial aid.

**Growing federal deficits and shrinking state contributions impact financial aid**

As the U.S. government backpedals on Title IV programs, like the Pell grant and Stafford loans, YSU is bracing for looming federal budget cuts that will hinder financial aid.

Last year, the year-round Pell grant was cut from a three-semester payout to allow for only two semesters of aid.

As tuition has increased roughly 35 percent over the

past 10 years, state and local grants for YSU students have flatlined. The majority of aid comes from federal grants, which have grown from fewer than \$2,500 per student in 2000 to \$4,444 per student in 2010.

As government programs are deflated to alleviate federal deficits, YSU must rely on institutional grants, which have shown little growth in the past five years.

However, student loans have escalated with increased enrollment. YSU student loans have ballooned from \$21.2 million to \$94.2 million in the past 10 years.

Officials warn of an education bubble, in which an overwhelming amount of loans

could create insurmountable debt for college students and an equally challenging debt collection for lenders like the federal government.

The financial aid probation policy change is another attempt to reign in high education expenses and limit the abuse of federal funds.

Students who receive federal loans but continually do not meet requirements will be easily singled out and dealt with, YSU officials said.

"There's abusers to the federal aid process that will be cut off," Stanger said. "The small percent of students that receive aid but do not attend class are the students who I don't have much sympathy for."

**Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Guidelines**

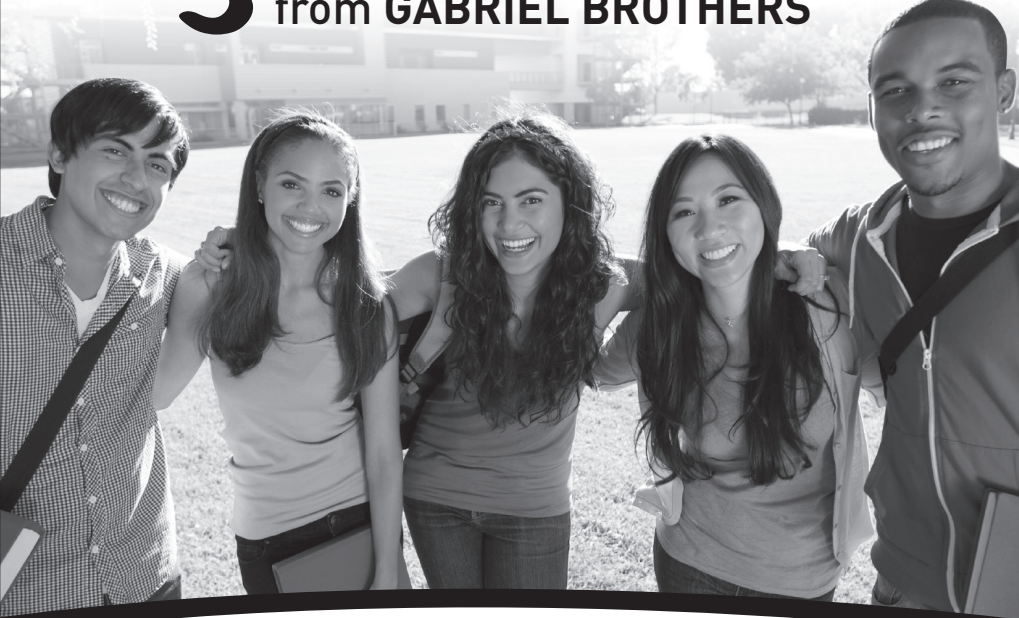
	<b>GPA</b>	<b>Percentage of scheduled hours that must be completed</b>
<b>Freshman</b>	1.75	55%
<b>Sophomore</b>	2.0	60%
<b>Junior</b>	2.0	65%
<b>Senior</b>	2.0	70%
<b>Graduate</b>	3.0	50%

**2011-2012 Satisfactory Academic Progress Citation**

	<b>GPA</b>	<b>Completion Percentage</b>	<b>GPA/ Completion Percentage</b>	<b>Max Time</b>
<b>Freshman</b>	0	2936	0	0
<b>Sophomore</b>	233	338	181	18
<b>Junior</b>	141	212	84	76
<b>Senior</b>	64	247	33	523
<b>Graduate</b>	20	15	5	0
<b>Totals</b>	458	3748	303	617

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# East Coast death toll rises, flood risk grows as Irene leaves New York City

McClatchy Newspapers  
(MCT)

NEW YORK Already a killer storm, Irene sloshed through the New York metropolitan area Sunday, briefly flooding parts of the city and severing power to a million people but not provoking the doomsday urban disaster that had been feared.

Diminished to a tropical storm and racing to its own demise in New England and Canada, Irene killed at least 14 people in six states. More than 4.5 million customers lost power along the East Coast and well inland. Initial property damage estimates ranged up to \$7 billion.

And it was not over yet.

Irene dumped immense amounts of rain on a region already saturated by summer downpours. Many communities in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, upstate New York, Connecticut, Vermont and elsewhere endured life-threatening flash floods and toppling trees.

Authorities warned of more to come, and they begged residents not to become complacent. It takes some time for rain runoff to accumulate, they said, tree roots were weakening in the over-moist soil, and the danger will not end for days.

"Stay inside," Gov. Chris Christie told New Jersey residents. "The real issue that we're going to have to deal with now is flooding. We're going to experience major flooding. Some rivers haven't crested yet, and it's still raining."

Christie noted at least 300 road closures and obstructions across his state, though he said the New Jersey Turnpike and bridges were clear and that tree-clearing equipment was on its way.

In New York City, ocean surf invaded some beachside communities, and both the East River and the Hudson River overtopped their banks, but the resulting floods were not major and most receded quickly. At the same time, numerous waterborne rescues were necessary in Staten Island, Westchester County and other parts of the area.

"It was pretty scary at four in the

morning when I was woken up by the wind, but other than that, things don't seem so bad," said Nora Flaherty of Brooklyn. "I'm glad people took this seriously. Better safe than sorry."

By midday, with the rain coming to an end, she and many other New Yorkers ventured outside to inspect their surroundings and walk their dogs.

In the Clinton Hill area near Brooklyn Heights, little damage was evident, though the basement of some brownstone townhouses flooded. Residents reported two to three inches of water in their apartments, saying there would have been more if they hadn't created sandbag dams at the entrances.

Young children in raincoats and boots stomped through puddles, laughing as they were blown about in the wind, and life began returning to normal in other ways. The New York Stock Exchange planned to open for business as usual Monday and, consequently, the Men's Wearhouse store near Wall Street re-opened for business Sunday.

"The city and the state did a phenomenal job of getting everyone ready and were very forceful in terms of recommending evacuations, especially from the low-lying areas — I'm very happy about that," said Scott Schoneman, a New York resident who works in the financial industry. "And the storm itself, it didn't seem to be as bad as they were predicting."

Along Irene's path, the death toll was expected to increase, but authorities said it could have been much worse. The evacuation of at least 2.3 million coastal residents — and other precautions — "dramatically reduced risk to life," Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said after briefing President Barack Obama.

Craig Fugate, administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, downplayed suggestions that the government had overreacted. Weather forecasts, by their very nature, rarely prove 100 percent accurate and the prudent path is to prepare for the worst, he and other experts said.

Whenever lives are lost, Fugate said, it cannot be said that the nation "dodged a bullet." He noted that, though only 25 percent of evacuations

prove necessary, it's that 25 percent that saves lives.

He also urged people to donate to the charities that help shoulder the burden of feeding and housing evacuees during storms, including the Red Cross and the Salvation Army. "They were prepared from North Carolina to Maine for what might happen," Fugate said.

Joseph Bruno, New York City's emergency management commissioner, agreed that the preparations were necessary, proper and effective.

"The people in our city listened to our mayor," Bruno told CNN. "He said evacuate, and they did. To me, this is a very important part of this — people complied with the mayor. They're very knowledgeable now ... they know Mother Nature can be very cruel."

In Philadelphia, residents awakened to a quiet calm after a night of high wind and driving rain. Mayor Michael Nutter lifted a state of emergency, the city's first in 25 years. The region's transit system resumed limited service.

Nearly 600,000 customers in the Philadelphia region, including parts of southern New Jersey, lost power. Utility officials said it could take up to two weeks to restore service to all areas.

"This is one of the worst storm events that has hit Philadelphia in the last 50 years," Nutter said.

Throughout the region, post-storm power outages remained one of the most significant challenges.

At one point Sunday, about 194,000 customers of the Washington D.C.-area utility were without power, down from 220,000 power-challenged customers earlier during the storm. More than 300 power lines were down in the District of Columbia and in Montgomery County and Prince George's County in adjacent Maryland.

Outages were worse in North Carolina and Virginia. Dominion Power was working to return service to 1.2 million customers. The outages were the company's second-largest, shadowed only by those inflicted by Hurricane Isabel.

North of North Carolina, Irene lost some of its intensity as it prowled the

coast, steadily accelerating its forward speed. Lower winds and faster passage tend to diminish the magnitude of coastal flooding.

Meteorologists said Irene's core made a second landfall near Little Egg Inlet, N.J., north of Atlantic City, at 5:35 a.m. EDT Sunday, as a minimal Category 1 hurricane with 75 mph sustained wind. It weakened slightly into a high-end tropical storm as the center reached Coney Island, in the New York borough of Brooklyn, at 9 a.m., with 65 mph wind.

Irene's course carried the center right along New Jersey's coast, through New York City and then into Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and points north. At times, tornado warnings flashed through the region.

As the storm arrived, Manhattan's usually busy streets were eerily empty, few people in sight, the entire city pounded by gray sheets of rain and bursts of wind that swirled around tall buildings and sought paths of escape. Rising water blocked several roads and intersections.

Hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers had evacuated homes near the shore. At least one hospital closed, moving patients to locations farther from sources of flooding. The city's vast subway and bus system halted operations for the duration of the storm.

Water levels rose rapidly, with nearly four-foot storm surges reported Sunday morning at Sandy Hook, N.J.; Cape May, N.J.; and the famed New York Harbor.

Atop of that came the rain, up to 15 inches of it, a major source of anxiety, especially inland.

"These rains, combined with heavy rain over the past few weeks, could cause widespread flooding, life-threatening flash floods and significant uprooting of trees due to rain-softened grounds," said hurricane forecaster Michael Brennan.

As if he and his colleagues didn't have enough to worry about, Tropical Storm Jose developed Sunday morning in the Atlantic, south of Bermuda. It bypassed Bermuda and did not endanger the U.S. coast.

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After Saturday's practice, (left to right) Jamaine Cook, Kurt Hess, Anthony Thomas and John Sasson were named as the four 2011-2012 captains of the YSU football team. The players all said they were honored by their teammates' selections. Photo by Joe Catullo Jr./The Jambar.

## Newly named captains ready to lead by example

Joe Catullo Jr.  
SPORTS EDITOR

On Wednesday, the Youngstown State University football team voted on its four captains for the upcoming 2011 season.

"What's unique is we've had about eight or nine guys that got a lot of votes, so it's impressive that there were that many guys with votes," said head coach Eric Wolford. "We feel good about the four we've got."

The four men chosen were sophomore quarterback Kurt Hess, junior tailback Jamaine Cook, senior linebacker John Sasson and senior defensive tackle Andrew Johnson. All four said they are tremendously honored and do not feel any added pressure.

"I'm really excited about it and I'm sure the other guys are," Hess said. "We're excited to take on more responsibility. We need to make sure we do what champions do every day."

Last season, Hess threw for 2,117 yards and 12 touchdowns. He also ran the football for 141 yards and three

touchdowns. In Hess' second season, he said he feels more at ease working with the team than last year.

"It's definitely something I'm more comfortable with now," Hess said. "I'm comfortable with the guys and the guys who came in. We have really bonded as a team."

Wolford said that comparing Hess now to last season is "night and day."

"Last year, [Hess] was still feeling his way around," Wolford said. "He has a lot of confidence in what we're doing. Coach [Shane] Montgomery has done a great job with him. We've raised the expectation level for him and he's embraced it."

Cook is starting off this year after leading the rushing core in 2010 when he surpassed the 1,000-yard clip with 1,276 yards, scored 12 touchdowns (11 rushing) and fumbled only one time. Like Hess, Cook also said he feels more comfortable.

"We're now in learning what we have to do and learning what the offense has to do," Cook said. "I'm more comfortable."

Wolford said he likes the improvements and motivation Cook brings to practice.

"Cook has handled himself well," Wolford said. "He's a hard worker. He knows it's important to take care of the football and be a team player."

Sasson led the Penguins' defense last year with 89 tackles and forced and recovered a fumble. Sasson said being captain is an honor, but there is no change.

"I tried to lead before I was even named captain," Sasson said. "I just got to do my job and lead some of these younger guys."

Sasson also stated that being captain is his biggest accomplishment thus far.

"I had a goal set to be a captain," Sasson said. "[I'm] probably more proud of this than any achievement I've had before."

Johnson recorded 24 total tackles in 2010 with two of them for a loss and one sack. To be successful, Johnson said it's all about the fundamentals.

"Play good fundamental football, play low and play hard," Johnson said. "I want to lead. I want to lead by example, and I want to do my best."

Johnson added that he never thought being a captain would be a possibility.

"I'm just thankful and feel blessed. I'm really appreciative of my team in believing in me," Johnson said.

Although only four players were chosen, Hess said almost everybody had a chance to be voted as a captain.

"Everybody on this team can be a leader at some point," Hess said. "Us four are going to lead this team the best that we can. Everybody needs to stay on track and that's our job."

Cook said he feels confident in the captains and himself leading the team every day.

"I feel like we're going to do a great job of leading these guys," Cook said. "Not only vocally, but just leading by example on the field. We just know that we have to keep up the tradition."

## Wolford expects big things to come in 2011

Nick Mancini  
SPORTS REPORTER

With one of the top recruiting classes in the Football Championship Division and numerous starters returning, head coach Eric Wolford thinks that Youngstown State University's football team is capable of big things.

Coming off a 3-8 season, the Penguins suffered heartbreaking, last-second losses.

Wolford said he is fully aware that those losses are the difference in what could have been a completely different season.

"We know we have to finish better," Wolford said. "We had a lack of depth last season and weren't as physically strong as we needed to be. If we finish those games better, we make the playoffs."

Although those losses hurt, Wolford added that he knows those experiences will undoubtedly help in the long run.

"No doubt being in that position before will definitely help the player in the same scenario," he said.

During spring practice, the Penguins worked on various scenarios. The two-minute drill was heavily emphasized.

Wolford said certain situations such as those strengthen the Penguins' ability to come up with the big stop they missed last season.

The Penguins lacked the depth on the defensive line to compete at a high level. Wolford said he sees it differently this season.

"We have about 8 to 10 guys we can rotate in on the line," Wolford said. "That depth is something we look forward to utilizing this season."

On the offensive side of the ball, the Penguins return a number of players that were of the top offenses in the conference. One of those players, junior running back Jamaine Cook, looks to build on his tremendous sophomore campaign.

Named one of the top ten running backs in the FCS by the Sports Net-

work, Cook accumulated 1,276 yards on 241 carries and scored 11 touchdowns. For the season, he averaged 116 yards per game and 5.3 per carry.

Wolford said he fully expects that success to continue.

"Jamaine had an excellent season last year," Wolford said. "It also helps when one of your best players is also one of the hardest workers."

The offensive line has a year of experience that should help this season. Junior offensive linemen Lamar Mady and Mark Pratt are expected to step up.

Speaking in front of fans and alumni at Youngstown's Shrine Club on Tuesday, Wolford said he expects this team to live up to the standard set by teams of the past.

"From day one when we opened camp, we talked about a standard," he said. "The standard is to win championships. Not a day goes by we don't think about it."

Wolford said the group of guys the staff brought in would help the team compete at a high level all season and win games.

"I don't have a magic wand. I don't have a crystal ball, but I know this," Wolford said. "We are going to play Youngstown State football, and we're going to finish this year. That's the difference."

The Penguins open the season against perennial Big Ten contender Michigan State University. Wolford is looking forward to the challenge.

"Michigan State is a team that some picked to win the Big Ten, but I want our guys to go in there expecting to win," Wolford said. "We worked hard all offseason and I don't want them to be excited just because we scored a touchdown. I want to go in there and win."

Video Online

thejambar.com

## Young volleyball team begins season confident, poised

Joe Catullo Jr.  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Youngstown State University volleyball team is preparing for this season with a majority of underclassmen.

The team consists of five freshmen, seven sophomores, two juniors and two seniors, with head coach Krista Burrows at the helm.

Assistant coach Ben Rodeffer said he thinks the inexperience may haunt them down the road.

"I think we're going to go through some growing pains," Rodeffer said. "We'll probably drop some games because of the inexperience. I think it's going to bite us every now and then, but we're really looking for this group to build together. It won't bite us too bad."

The team opened over the weekend in Syracuse, N.Y., and lost all three games, starting off the season with a 22-game losing streak. The girls lost to Siena College, Syracuse University and Sacred Heart University in that order.

The Penguins lost 3-2 to Siena and Syracuse, but were shut out by Sacred Heart to conclude the Big Orange Tournament. In the tournament, sophomore Missy Hundelt scored 56.5 points to lead the team and compiled 32 digs.

Despite the inexperience, Rodeffer said he likes the progress he has seen thus far in practice.

"[We are] much improved from last year," Rodeffer said. "[We are] really excited about the group we got, and I think we'll be much more competitive every night and [have] a much better chance to win. I think we'll move up win wise and conference standing wise. They're working really hard."

Outside hitter Hundelt has been named captain and finished 2010 with 227 points and 196 digs.

"Missy is probably number one," Rodeffer said. "She's our best returner, improved in her physical shape than last year [and] is able to handle more of the workload."

Going into her second season, Hundelt said there has been a big difference moving from freshman to sophomore year.

"I have a lot more responsibilities," Hundelt said. "I feel you grow as a person freshman year. Sophomore year,

they expect a lot more out of you."

Rodeffer said Hundelt will be leading the outside hitters, including sophomore Jackie Carlisle and freshman Alexis Egler. He added that the outside is the strongest position on the team, but the middle can become stronger.

"Our middles are very athletic and we got some big kids in the middle," Rodeffer said. "They're catching up to the speed. I'd say by the middle of the season they'll catch up, but for right now the outside is the strongest."

Senior Brittany Grove, one of only two seniors, said team chemistry is high. Grove also said she believes there are no major weak spots and that the team is strong all around.

"I think that we have a lot of hard workers and we do have a lot of younger girls, but we also have a lot of girls, so that's creating a lot of competition within the team," Grove said. "We're forcing each other so that we can go out and play over somebody else."



Missy Hundelt spikes the ball against an opponent in 2010. Photo courtesy of Sports Information.