

The Jambar

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

VOL. 94, ISSUE 48

Tuesday, April 3, 2012

Supreme Court hearings stall student health insurance plan



Wendy Thomas, a registered nurse in the Student Health Clinic, provides a glimpse into one of the three examination rooms in the clinic. Thomas, who was hired by the university in March, immediately began informing herself about YSU's health care options for students. Photo by Jordan D. Uhl/The Jambar.

Jordan D. Uhl
NEWS EDITOR

Youngstown State University students without health insurance will have to wait until June to hear the fate of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and possibly just as long to hear about a new health insurance plan offered by the university, which was expected Sunday.

Fliers provided by United Health Care, YSU's student health insurance provider, stated that April Fools' Day would bring details of the new plan.

It didn't. Gail Reed, a representative with UHC's student resources, said the delay was caused by the U.S. Supreme Court's oral arguments on the PPACA. She said they needed extra time

to ensure that the plan would meet federal guidelines.

"They should be ready to go, but they're not," said Matt Novotny, executive director of student services at Kilcawley Center. "They probably shouldn't have put that date out."

After contacting UHC, Novotny still was left in the dark. No specific date was provided by UHC as to when he could expect the plan's specifics to arrive.

The current plan wasn't available until June, Novotny said. Another delay isn't a major hindrance, as many students don't enroll until mid-summer, he added.

Preliminary details were provided on the flier, which indicated a low deductible and

INSURANCE PAGE 4

Campus Connection

Would you consider buying the student health insurance plan?



"It depends on how much it costs. If it was \$5 or \$1 per month, maybe. I am very poor. My dad doesn't have health insurance."

- Chelsea Collins
freshman



"No. I am covered under the Poland Board of Education because I work at the school as a janitor sometimes."

- Dan Kulifay,
sophomore

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Cheerleading tryouts



ONLINE

Powder Puff football raises money for autism



ONLINE

'Jack Up The Rev'

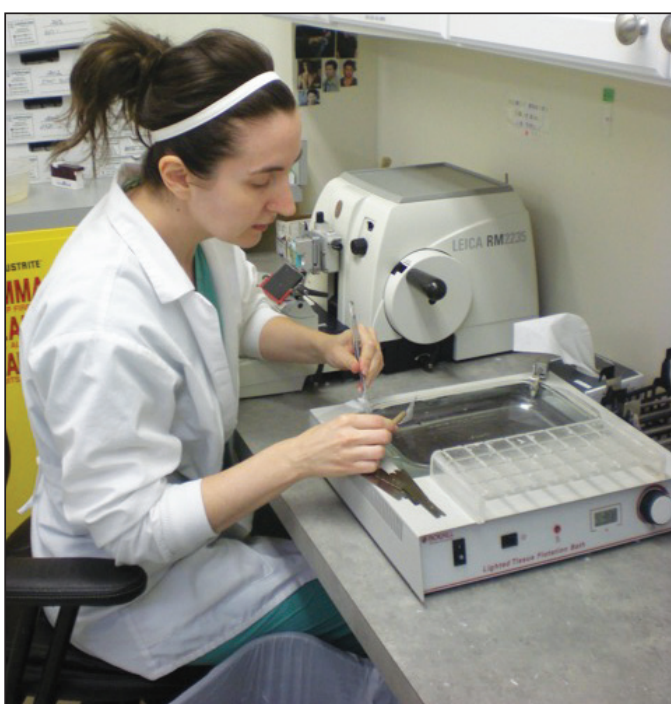


ONLINE

MORE STORIES ONLINE

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YSU hosts 23rd annual QUEST forum



Graduate student Marlene Mears does research for her submission for QUEST: A Forum for Student Scholarship. She's cutting a ribbon of tissue, preparing it to be tested with different fixatives. Photo courtesy of Marlene Mears.

Marissa McIntyre
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Jeffrey Coldren's office is overtaken with event programs, name badges and a to-do list. Since submissions for QUEST: A Forum for Student Scholarship closed on March 23, his life has revolved around organizing the event.

Although the event was booked a year in advance, Coldren said. "If they're doing a project that advances the state of knowledge, then it counts as scholarship. This is really a broad diversity of projects and a lot of intellectual diversity."

The event takes place in Kilcawley Center on Tuesday, and every college at YSU will be represented.

"We try to emphasize that student scholarship and faculty interaction is different in every college," Coldren said. "If they're doing a project that advances the state of knowledge, then it counts as scholarship. This is really a broad diversity of projects and a lot of intellectual diversity."

Sal Sanders, an associate professor of health professions, is on the QUEST committee and is one of the judges for the final awards.

Deans award one group from each college, while all participants compete for a single un-

dergraduate and graduate award.

"There are more students that are doing the researching," Sanders said. "The quality of the presentations is remarkable."

Sanders also served as a faculty sponsor for three of the student presentations.

Graduate student Marlene Mears is presenting her research on how different cell tissues react to different forms of fixatives, which keep human tissue samples intact during research.

SafeFix II and 10 percent neutral buffered formalin are fixatives she compared for her study.

She said the 10 percent NBF is what is commonly used today, but it has side effects, such as watery, burning eyes, sore throat and dry sinuses.

The alternative, SafeFix II, does not have as many side effects.

She obtained different tissue samples from the human spleen, brain, liver and uterus.

"One reason overall was the safety of the health care workers because we are exposed to this around 20 hours a day, and it's affecting our health," Mears said. "At the same time, you don't want to mess up the morphology of the patient tissue. We want to be sufficient but not

QUEST PAGE 4

Administration to review eTutoring service

Kevin Alquist
NEWS REPORTER

Since the fall, 21 universities in Ohio have taken part in eTutoring, an online program that involves real-time tutoring sessions in a variety of subjects ranging from mathematics to writing.

Last week, the Ohio Board of Regents granted all public and private universities in Ohio expanded access to the program free of charge, but Youngstown State University

is not yet involved.

This wasn't the first time YSU elected not to enlist in the program's services.

"eTutoring was offered to all of Ohio's universities in the fall, but few of them took part," said Kim Norris, OBOR spokeswoman.

By making the program free to universities, Norris said she hopes to see participation from all 107 universities in Ohio.

Teresa Riley, associate provost, said YSU is evaluating the program under the new

agreement and needs to hire a distance education director before making a final decision.

Robin Sakonyi, assistant director of supplemental instruction and student tutorial services, said she hopes to see the program offered in the fall.

Sakonyi will be participating in a webinar on the program on April 10 and discussing the future of eTutoring at YSU with the administration in the coming weeks.

"I think it's a great idea, and we should get started on it," said Jack Fahey, vice presi-

dent for student affairs.

Sakonyi said the plan has changed since it was first introduced in the fall, which is why she believes the program is more feasible now.

Initially, the program cost \$5,000, and the university was required to hire a minimum of five tutors.

According to the press release, eStudent Services will underwrite the annual fee for all interested public and private institutions.

"Now it appears that the tutoring will be provided by cur-

rent staff," Sakonyi said. "The Center for Student Progress already provides tutoring in all subjects."

That means the university would be saving \$5,000.

Jonelle Beatrice, director of the CSP, said that even though the upfront cost to the university has been eliminated, a cost for YSU still exists.

"The university pays for student employment, so if our tutors are being used, there will be a cost," Beatrice said.

TUTORING PAGE 7

Kony 2012 lacks campus support

Christopher Kochera
REPORTER

Youngstown State University students showed mixed reactions to "Kony 2012," the 30-minute Internet documentary that exposes atrocities committed in central and eastern Africa by the Lord's Resistance Army and its leader, Joseph Kony.

Freshman Max Gocala watched half of the documentary after a friend posted a link to the video on his Facebook wall. However, he lost interest and did not finish watching it.

"The filmmakers had good intentions," he said. "I felt something for it, but sitting in front of my computer isn't going to change the world. It's going to take more than just me."

Gocala said the video creates a false hope for viewers.

"People are under the impression that watching a video on YouTube is going to change the world," he said.

Freshman Michael Bellas called the video shocking. He started to watch it, but never finished.

"I feel the producers were trying to do more to elevate themselves to celebrity status and avoided topics that should have been included and inserted some information that made them look good," he said.

Bellas said viewers who want to help should begin by helping those around them.

"It takes away from looking at some of the issues in America — not saying our troubles are as bad," he said. "We've been trying to help



Francis Ochaya, who served 12 years with the rebels, including several as a personal escort to Kony and his harem of child brides before escaping to Gulu in March, said he often heard Kony discussing the war-crimes case with his No. 2 man, Vincent Otti, September 30, 2006. "Both Otti and Kony said they won't come out if the case is still there," Ochaya said. "They don't fear any punishment from the people. They only fear the court." (Vanessa Vick/MCT)

out over there for a while. Are we really making a difference?"

Senior Eric Chianese called the video sensationalist and said he thinks the video is overhyped.

"I only watched, like, 30 seconds of it," Chianese said. "It's not that I want to be ignorant. Stuff like that is hard

for me to watch."

The film calls for supporters of the "Stop Kony" campaign to hang posters on April 20 to raise awareness of the atrocities committed by Kony and the LRA.

Carrie Anderson, coordinator of programs and marketing for campus recreation and student programming, has

not heard of any YSU student involvement with the Kony 2012 campaign.

"There may be a group out there that is, but they have not scheduled an event for that reason yet," Anderson said.

Travis Battiest, the Student Government Association's vice president for university affairs, said SGA

has not heard about any events either.

Battiest said students are permitted to hang Kony awareness posters, provided that they are approved by SGA.

"As long as it's non-offensive material and hung where appropriate, we can't stop them," he said.

Youngstown winter analyzed as warm, and, yes, snowy

Craig Ziobert
CONTRIBUTOR

If you don't like the weather, wait five minutes — it will change.

Ask anyone living in northeast Ohio, and he will tell you how true this statement is.

From March 20 to 22, Youngstown saw record high temperatures. On Tuesday, however, the area was under a freeze warning.

Youngstown State University senior Alyssa Leith noticed something different this winter, but in a good way.

"The roads weren't crappy," Leith said. "It feels weird that we didn't really have winter, but I'm not complaining."

Bill Buckler, an assistant professor of geography at YSU, said it was the sixth warmest winter since the first recorded temperatures in 1897.

In the final Cleveland National Weather Service report, the average high temperature for the Youngstown area was 40.7 F, with an average low of 26.6 F.

This put the average temperature for the last three months 5.6 F above the normal 33.7 F. The normal averages are a 35 F high and a 21.3 F low, respectively.

"When we compare to normal, we're comparing to the period from 1981 to 2010," Buckler said.

While a lot of students enjoy snow for recreation, driving to school is a different story.

Freshman Anna Cioppa

commutes daily to YSU from New Castle, Pa.

"Because I live 20 miles away, it was nice not to have to struggle driving in it," Cioppa said.

The Youngstown and Warren areas were above normal snowfall this year. Between December and February, the Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport received 49.9 inches of snow, which was 5.5 inches above the average.

Sophomore Chelsey Hammond said she had to carpool last winter because of all the snow, so she wasn't upset with this year's mild temperatures.

"I didn't even have to wake up earlier to clean off my car every day. It was nice," Hammond said.

Buckler explained that the warm winter weather was caused by a La Nina pattern in the Pacific Ocean, which forced the jet stream to dip in the western U.S. and in Europe for the majority of the winter.

This caused the rest of the country to be under a ridge, allowing warmer southerly winds to advance northward.

Europe saw one of the coldest and snowiest winters in recent history. In fact, northern Italy reported its highest snow totals since the 1980s.

Senior Nate Demetra said he wasn't worried about the winter. He's more concerned with the upcoming summer.

"The biggest thing I'm worried about is an insect plethora in the summer," Demetra said.

Job expo brings opportunities for students

Josh Medore
REPORTER

Kilcawley Center's Chestnut Room will host 63 companies looking to hire Youngstown State University students and graduates on Wednesday.

The Spring 2012 Job Expo will feature national companies like FedEx and Wal-Mart, as well as local and regional companies like Humility of Mary Health Partners and Drake Manufacturing Services.

"It's a job looking for a job," said Marijean Benedik, co-coordinator of the job expo and director of career and counseling services at YSU.

"What we try to do is pull together as many employers as we can and give the students an opportunity to do that face-to-face interaction," Benedik said.

The job expo, Benedik said, attracted between 400 and 600 students during the

fall semester.

"There may be 30 different employers that you give your resume to," Benedik said. "Or there may be one or two, but that's one or two employers that you were able to do face-to-face contact with, make that first impression and then give them your resume."

Benedik said she recommends that students dress professionally and be prepared to talk to people.

Students who have received jobs as a result of the expo sometimes call, Benedik said.

"They'll contact us or, you know, a specific coordinator or myself and say, 'Hey, I got the job. I got an interview,'" Benedik said.

Susan George, the expo's co-coordinator and an administrative assistant for career and counseling services, said the expo provides more than just job opportunities.

"Even if students don't get a job out of it, it's a great networking opportunity," George

said.

George added that if a student isn't quite ready to graduate, then the expo allows him to "connect with [employers]" and contact those businesses in the future.

The expo's size depends entirely on the participating companies' needs.

"Before the economy crashed, we were up to 95 [companies], with a waiting list of 10," Benedik said. "And now we're slowly building up, but it's based entirely on the needs of the employers."

While YSU is not the only university to hold job expos, Benedik said "the time and the effort" put into the event is what sets YSU apart from others.

"We work very hard to get good, solid employers here for our students that have real opportunities for them," Benedik said. "I want them to have available openings so our students can get those jobs."



Defending the hoodie: Garment no reason to stereotype, students say

The Record
MCT

HACKENSACK, N.J. Sean O'Reilly was 16 when his mother gave him the talk that most black parents give their teenage sons.

"Don't put your hands in your pocket a lot. People will think you have a gun," O'Reilly, now 17 and a senior at Teaneck High School in northern New Jersey, remembered his mother telling him. "Don't walk around with stuff in your pockets. People will think you stole something."

The subject of hooded sweat shirts — or hoodies — didn't come up, he said. But the death of an unarmed Florida teen, Trayvon Martin, who was wearing a hoodie when he was shot by a neighborhood-watch volunteer last month, has elevated the hoodie to a rallying symbol and made it a target of criticism.

Supporters of Martin have taken to staging "hoodie marches," calling for the arrest of the neighborhood-watch volunteer, George Zimmerman. The television personality Geraldo Rivera triggered a firestorm last week when he said Martin's hoodie was as much responsible for his death as Zimmerman, 28. Rivera's subsequent apology, posted Monday on Twitter, has not quelled the controversy.

Hoodie-wearers — a group that transcends race and age — interviewed in Teaneck and Paterson, N.J., this week said they wear the garments because they are warm, comfortable

and lighter than bulky winter jackets. They also are relatively cheap — \$20 at Target, for example, or \$59.50 at Aeropostale.

"It's cold as hell," said Kary Rivera, 15, an Eastside High School student who wore a light gray hoodie as she walked with friends on Seeley Street in Paterson.

Hoodies are like uniforms to her peers, she said. "If you go into my closet, all you would see are hoodies — in every color."

Isaac Rappoport, 17, a Teaneck High School student who wears hoodies "almost every day," said Rivera's comments amounted to profiling.

"Somebody's style is completely unrelated to their character," Rappoport said. "It's a very common piece of clothing for young people, and to just stereotype every single young person who wears a hoodie is basically stereotyping every single young person as a hoodlum, and it's just not true."

Destiny Hernandez, 15, a student at Eastside High School, said a hoodie says one thing about its wearer.

"It says that they are cold," she said.

Gloria J. Browne-Marshall, who teaches courses in constitutional law, and race and the law at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City, said the entire discussion of what Martin was wearing is irrational and shameful and that the discussion was a way to avoid confronting the country's chronic problem with race relations.

"This young man is gone, and I think it's horrible, absolutely horrible, to blame a hoodie — a hoodie put on his head because it's raining — as the reason why someone could be excused for killing him," she said. "Have we lost our minds? It's irrational to me. It's completely irrational."

Zimmerman, through his lawyer, has said Martin attacked him and that he shot the teenager in self-defense.

Addressing Martin's death on "Fox and Friends," Rivera described Zimmerman as "overzealous" and said he should be prosecuted.

He added: "You have to recognize that this whole stylizing yourself as a gangsta, you're going to be a gangsta-wannabe, well people are going to perceive you as a menace."

Many hoodie wearers criticized Rivera for stereotyping them, but some acknowledged that a stigma exists.

Keion Jones, 18, who graduated from Eastside last year, said pedestrians grow apprehensive when they are approached by someone wearing a hooded sweatshirt.

"You don't know what to expect," Jones said. "You think you're going to be robbed. It's not a racial thing. Anybody could wear a hoodie, but as long as it's dark outside and you are wearing a hoodie, anybody would think that you are a suspect. It's not fair, but that's just what happens."

Jimmy Javier, 22, of Paterson, N.J., said he should not be branded a suspect based on his clothing.

"I don't think there is a reason for me to get shot at all because of what I am wearing," said Javier, who was wearing a black hooded sweat shirt with an Adidas logo on the chest. "I wear a hoodie all the time, so am I putting myself in the same position that that kid was in?"



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NEWS BRIEFS

YSU welcomes award-winning poet for reading

Poet Tim Seibles, an instructor at Old Dominion University and the author of seven books of poetry, will give a poetry reading at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Jones Room of Kilcawley Center. Presented by the YSU Poetry Center and Etruscan Press, the reading is free and open to the public. Seibles is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts grant for poetry and the Open Voice Award from the National Writer's Voice Project.

Creative artist to speak on campus, perform downtown

At 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Lisa A. Miles, a YSU graduate who is now a Pittsburgh-based professional creative artist, will speak to the YSU Student Literary Arts Association in Kilcawley Center's Bresnahan Rooms 1 and 2. She will also perform at 7:30 p.m. at Cedars Lounge, located at 23 N. Hazel St. in downtown Youngstown. Her appearance is sponsored by the Gratia Murphy Fund, the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and the English department.

Dana Jazz Ensemble 1 to perform

The Dana School of Music will present Jazz Ensemble 1, directed by Kent Engelhardt, at 8 p.m. Monday. The performance will be held in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center. It is free and open to the public. Three student works produced in David Morgan's Jazz Arranging class — an arrangement of Benny Golson's "Stablemates" by Max Doyle, and original compositions "Deconstructing Thoughts" by Kevin Snyder and "Shifting Spaces" by Mark Higgins — will premiere at the event. The performance will also feature music by Thad Jones, Maria Schneider, Michael Mossman, Bob Brookmeyer, Pat Metheny and Bob Florence.

POLICE BRIEFS

Suspicious, aggravated male escorted from Kilcawley Center

On Wednesday, YSU Police reported to Kilcawley Center after a report of a suspicious man. He had attempted to use the computers in the library, but was told by Maag Library employees to leave, due to problematic behavior in the past. He then made his way over to Kilcawley Center, where he has previously attempted to use computers at the information desk without permission to do so. When YSU Police asked the man if they could help him, he immediately became agitated, which, according to the police report, was easily noticeable due to his defensive posture, raised voice and shaking hands. YSU Police asked him to leave the premises, and he became more agitated as officers escorted him out of the building. Officers issued the man a written trespass warning, which he refused to sign; however, the man said he understood it. He was then released at the scene.

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QUEST PAGE 1

hinder the patients."

Mears has been working on this project since the summer as a part of her master's degree program. She also works as a histotechnologist at a dermatologist's office, where she studies body tissue.

Sanders said he is looking forward to seeing Mears' presentation, as well as presentations from other colleges.

Meanwhile, Coldren is looking forward to keynote speaker George Newkome, vice president of research and dean of the graduate school at the University of Akron.

"You really can't do research like this without teamwork. This was a good opportunity to get a different perspective," Coldren said.

Coldren said he is excited for the presentations to begin so he can sit back and enjoy.

"When QUEST begins, my work is done," Coldren said.

QUEST presentations begin Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. and end at 5 p.m.



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INSURANCE PAGE 1

the removal of a maximum on the prescription drug benefit, which was previously \$700.

Wendy Thomas and Judy Pavalko, registered nurses at the YSU Student Health Clinic, both advocated for the eradication of the cap on prescription drug benefits.

Pavalko said this would help decrease the cost of medical supplies for students suffering from conditions requiring frequent prescription renewals, such as diabetes.

The policy maximum benefit is slated to increase from \$100,000 to \$2.5 mil-

lion per policy year.

Novotny said YSU worked with other state universities within the Inter-University Council of Ohio to increase buying power with UHC. Those universities were also left without plan details.

Roughly 65 students are enrolled in the current plan, which may seem like a wasted effort with such sparse participation, but Novotny said the plan costs the university nothing to offer.

He said he hopes more students will enroll in the coming years.

Freshmen Taylor Maiese

and Stephanie Beck were unaware that YSU even offered health insurance plans through UHC. While they're both covered under their parents' plans, they agreed it's a good idea.

Marco DiTommaso, also a freshman, knew of the plan, but wasn't familiar with any specifics. He, too, is insured under his parents, but said it was a great option for students who couldn't get health insurance on their own merit.

Interested students can register until Sept. 15, but the yearlong plan won't take effect until Aug. 17.

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Hope for #Kony2012

The Jambar
EDITORIAL BOARD

KONY
PAGE 2

Nearly a month after the viral video urging American troops to capture Joseph Kony, it's clear that many people in the YSU community don't really care.

Instead they raise questions of the video's authenticity and message while embracing that, yes, the Lord's Resistance Army leader is a bad man.

Let's briefly dissect the meaning behind the video.

Joseph Kony is a bad person, check.

Sign our pledge to find Kony, check.

Buy our action kit for \$30, check.

And, finally, if you really think that you can assist in bringing Kony down, make monthly donations to Invisible Children, the organization behind the viral video that has 86,637,328 views on YouTube.

More people should be aware of what Kony has done. He should answer for his crimes.

It's evident that the atrocities Kony has been a part of for nearly 30 years are sad, sickening and upsetting.

Invisible Children was founded after it stumbled upon the unfortunate situation many Ugandan families are faced with every day — child abductions, rapes and slavery.

So what better way to promote your organization than to shoot, edit, produce and market a video that would make every American support your cause?

That's what Invisible Children did, and it worked.

But the video will not "change the course of humanity." Killing one man will not eradicate poverty and injustice.

Kony may be the most wanted man by the International Criminal Court, but civility will not follow the ousting of one man.

The video's creator, Jason Russell, has our attention. Now what will he and Invisible Children do if and when Kony is captured?

If Kony 2012 pledges to make a difference, then the organization must focus on the issues and not the incidents.

It must sustain the hope that could rebuild Uganda.

THE Jambar cartoon



Cartoon by Paris Chrisopoulos/The Jambar.



Jared Buker
COLUMNIST

The race for SGA president

The race for president and vice president is upon us, with the two-day Student Government Association election on April 10 and 11.

This year's race pegs junior Cory Okular and sophomore Justen Vrabel against sophomore Robert Park and senior Patrick Bascom for president and vice president, respectively.

Both teams visited a meeting with my fraternity, Alpha Phi Delta, on Sunday to deliver a brief overview of what they hoped to do with their positions.

I grew interested and decided to get Youngstown State University students excited about the race.

To some, the role of SGA is negligible; it represents an entity that plays a small role in the actual policy making of YSU and exists mostly to allocate funds to student groups.

"In my experience over the last two years, I haven't seen a whole lot out of student government," said sophomore Leo Daprile. "Honestly, I'm not even sure what they do or who is in it."

I had previously viewed SGA as more of a resume builder for bright students interested in a career in law or politics.

SGA adviser Chet Cooper Jr. said this negative view of SGA comes from the fact that student activism comes only in "small pockets" within the student body.

"I think there's a general apathy as to whether SGA operates or not," he said. "I think that's been reflected in the votes; around 500 [votes] is pretty sad."

But after reading the platforms offered by both teams, I think we all need to realize the importance of SGA, based on how ambitious and impactful a fully executed plan can be.

The most ambitious initiative comes from Okular and Vrabel, who have made it a goal to raise the bulk tuition rate from 12-16 credit hours to 13-18 credit hours.

With the rate at 12-16 credit hours, a student could consistently schedule classes within that range and still require 11 semesters to

graduate. Going over that range costs more.

The team feels that raising this rate will encourage more students to push themselves and graduate in four years without spending extra money.

In the spirit of graduating on time, Okular and Vrabel both believe the most important leg of their platform is the introduction of a first-year experience program.

As a first-year lecture class, Okular said he believes the class could help new YSU students build a bond with their campus, learn who their advisers are and improve retention rates.

"Ninety-six percent of universities in Ohio have an FYE program," said Okular, who is part of a student success committee working on a formula for such a program. "YSU is in the 4 percent that does not."

Other pieces of their platform include a healthful reform to student meal plans, a heightened encouragement for students to study abroad and an honors college that encourages more gifted students.

I commend Okular and Vrabel for the thorough ambition expressed through their platform. Though lofty, I believe their positions and goals are innovative, insightful and laced with potential.

"What is SGA?" is a question I have heard far too often while campaigning thus far," Vrabel said. "YSU's student government needs to become more visible and accessible to the general population."

Park and Bascom are SGA newcomers, but as brothers of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, they know how to work with each other and the university as a group.

"It is our belief that student organizations at Youngstown State University are the heart of our campus," Park said. "Being part of the Greek system, we feel that we would best represent a student organization that comprises a significant portion of the student body."

That being said, their platform leaves much to be desired.

For instance, there is dialogue

about retention rates, but the lack of an actual plan is disguised by some eloquent, yet repetitive, prose about improving YSU.

Their main initiatives seem to be in the category of improving communication; they discuss building a stronger foundation through the use of Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

In addition, they promote the use of listservs to be able to communicate directly with the student body via email without being bothersome.

"We hope to use media to inform and receive feedback from students," Bascom said. "We hope to represent the students to the best of our ability with an open-door policy in the office."

There needs to be more discussion of policy changes that would be made easier with the use of social media, not just discussion on social media itself.

As outsiders, we might view the team's lack of experience as detrimental to their campaign.

Based on SGA experience, Okular and Vrabel have a tremendous advantage: Okular is the current vice president for financial affairs, and Vrabel is the chief of staff.

But Cooper said he believes experience should not play as big of a role as it probably will.

"It doesn't take much to learn the ropes of SGA," he said. "A working knowledge of how the university works is more important."

Park agrees.

"We believe that experience is not the only qualification for a great candidate," he said. "We believe that the quality of a candidate's ideas and the willingness to go forward with those ideas is what best qualifies a great candidate."

I have known Okular and Bascom for the majority of my college career and must clarify that this is not personal and should not be taken with spite or anger by anyone.

So don't be apathetic about an election that will affect your future at YSU. Be informed and vote Okular and Vrabel for the job of SGA president and vice president.

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Sparring, again, over race

McClatchy-Tribune News Service
(MCT)

Was President Obama playing a political race card when he observed that, if he had a son, the boy would look like Trayvon Martin? That's what Newt Gingrich and Rick Santorum are claiming.

"What the president said, in a sense, is disgraceful," Gingrich told Fox News. "Is the president suggesting that if it had been a white who had been shot, that would be OK, because it didn't look like him? Trying to turn it into a racial issue is fundamentally wrong." Santorum said Obama was using "these types of horrible and tragic individual cases to try to drive a wedge in America." Over the weekend, David Plouffe, a White House adviser, called the two Republican candidates' comments "reprehensible."

That they were — especially Gingrich's implication that Obama would be indifferent to the killing of a white youngster. And yet Obama's comments were more than just a statement of the obvious or an attempt to empathize with Martin's grieving parents. It doesn't take a lot of deconstruction to recognize that his oblique reference to skin

color referred to a possibility on lots of minds — that the Florida teenager might still be alive if he hadn't been black.

Was that appropriate? Or, in even alluding to the possibility of race as a factor, was the president prejudging George Zimmerman, the neighborhood watch volunteer who claims that Martin, not he, was the aggressor? According to a report Monday in the Orlando Sentinel, police sources say Martin punched Zimmerman and slammed his head into the ground, an account reportedly supported by witnesses.

Those offended by Obama's remarks appear driven not by genuine offense but by a desire to spar with the president. He did not indict Zimmerman but instead was careful to say that he welcomed state, federal and local investigations "to figure out exactly how this tragedy happened."

It's possible to reserve judgment on those investigations, and to grant Zimmerman the presumption of innocence, and at the same time remind the nation that the lives of young black men too often have been undervalued in this society, and not just by the criminal justice system. That, we think, is what Obama was trying to do with his observation that Trayvon Martin could have been the son of the president of the United States.

The story behind the mascots

Alina Rios
REPORTER

Pete and Penny Penguin have exhibited their exuberance to students, faculty and staff at games and events for generations.

For freshman Caitlin Rhoads, Youngstown State University's mascots hold a special place in her family's heart. Pete and Penny have been in her life since she was in seventh grade.

Her older sister, Rachel Rhoads, was the first to start the mascot tradition in her family. Caitlin Rhoads is the youngest of three sisters, and each of them has worn YSU's Penguin.

"My sisters did it, so I was really excited when I got to do it. I've always loved the mascots, and it's tradition in our family," Caitlin Rhoads said.

The tradition started when Michelle Markota, YSU's cheerleading coach, approached Rachel Rhoads.

"Mrs. Markota asked Rachel and two of her friends to do it. I think Rachel mentioned it to Stacy, [Caitlin's middle sister], and that's how she got started," said Beth Rhoads, their mother.

Caitlin Rhoads has benefited from the gig; she was the first of her sisters to receive a \$1,000 scholarship for taking on mascot duties.

"I think they had to raise [the scholarship] to entice people to do it because it's a lot of work," Beth Rhoads said.

When Caitlin Rhoads' sisters worked as YSU's mascot, they received a \$250 stipend and, in some cases, weren't paid at all, Caitlin Rhoads said.

Many responsibilities come with being a mascot at YSU. Appearances at football and basketball games are mandatory. Event appearances, rang-

ing from Scrappers baseball games to various children's events around the Mahoning Valley, are also never out of the question.

One of the most challenging aspects of being a mascot is the suit's limitations.

Visibility is limited due to the mesh covering over the eyes. The mascot head also limits the peripheral vision of those who wear it.

Caitlin Rhoads said the feet are a challenging feature because of their size, and they tend to get uncomfortable.

"The parade downtown was my least favorite event. I wasn't prepared that we had to walk the whole time," Caitlin Rhoads said.

Lynn Haug, retail operations manager of Kilcawley Center, was appalled when she learned that the mascots had to walk the entire duration of the parade.

"I was in charge of the parade for years, and I would have the mascots in a beautiful, white convertible where they got to sit on the back and wave," Haug said.

Haug now utilizes the mascots for the annual "Take Your Child to Work Day" in Kilcawley Center. Pete and Penny pose for photos and participate in a storybook session with the children who come to the event.

Another hazard of being a mascot is the onslaught of children they face at events. Children of all ages and sizes have been known to kick, punch and climb on them. However, the occasional loving child will approach the mascots and make it worth the hassle, Caitlin Rhoads said.

"My favorite event that we've done so far was a cancer walk, and there were all of these little kids that were really excited to see us. They were really adorable; I love when little



Freshman Caitlin Rhoads takes a break in the women's locker room during a game. Rhoads is one of three sisters to wear the Penguin mascot suit. Photo courtesy of Rachel Rhoads.

kids come up to us," Caitlin Rhoads said.

Many advantages come with being a mascot at any university, but, at YSU, unique ones exist.

Mascots get free range to roam around at events without "handlers" or people who assist them. The mascots are allowed to go on and off the field during a football game at their discretion and interact with patrons in the loge suites in the stadium.

"I think watching them at football games was my favorite event that they attended. Stacy still talks about all of the events and how much fun she had," Beth Rhoads said.

However, this is Caitlin Rhoads' last semester as a mascot. She said a full year was enough for her as the lovable mascot. Time commitments and too many negative experiences were enough for her to step out of Pete's shoes.

"It wasn't what I expected. A lot of the older kids are really immature, and they push us. We try to ignore them, but it's hard when they're prodding you. Plus, there are two basketball games a week, and that's really tough to try and go to all of them," Caitlin Rhoads said.

"I'm very proud of them. I think it's great that they got to be a part of YSU in this way; it's a way to make connections," Beth Rhoads said.

Newcomers try out their spirit

Chelsea Telega
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Unlike every other Youngstown State University cheerleader, Katie Pompeii had never cheered a day in her life. Pompeii made the squad in 2011, after shedding sweat and tears.

"I started out as a base, and I hated it. It was frustrating and upsetting because I wasn't doing good," Pompeii said. "Then they moved me to back spot, and I found out that's where I excelled."

Other eager men and women showed up to Beeghly Center on Friday and Saturday for YSU's cheerleading tryouts, with the hopes of being given the same opportunity as Pompeii.

Twenty-five prospects tried out for the team, and 15 made varsity. Two people were given an alternate position and will be promoted to varsity before the first football game.

Pompeii spent her high school career playing volleyball and intended to go to either Westminster College or Thiel College to play, but said she found herself "falling out of love" with the sport.

"I just wanted to be involved with school a little bit more, and I knew how to tumble, but I never thought that I would be able to keep up with the girls," Pompeii said. "I don't think people give cheerleaders enough credit."

Pompeii said that being a part of the squad keeps her focused with school because involvement in extracurricular activities requires decent grades.

While Pompeii said she feels like she experienced the hardest part of tryouts last year, she was still apprehensive about being judged this year. As a veteran, though, Pompeii found comfort in instructing newcomers.

"There were some that seemed a little more advanced than others," Pompeii said. "I was attracted to the people who needed a little more help because I knew what it was like to be in their shoes."

Like Pompeii, YSU sopho-

more Marissa White tried out for her first time this year. She said she got her inspiration from her roommate, Melinda Bolton, who is a veteran cheerleader.

White did gymnastics for eight years and cheered in high school, but never intended to cheer at the college level. She said that even though she hasn't experienced the team to its fullest extent yet, she looks forward to being involved.

The veteran cheerleaders, she said, made her feel welcome throughout the tryout process.

"They were really helpful, and they really wanted me to make it. I felt like there was no competition, and we were all really helping each other out," White said.

Mallore Miller has cheered with YSU's squad for three years and has cheered for eight years altogether.

Miller said the newcomers were eager to learn and adapted well to the style of cheerleading used at the collegiate level.

"I know how intimidating it can be to go out for something that you really want," Miller said. "Like Katie last year, she had never cheered before a day in her life, and it's really admirable."

Tryouts are two days and include tumbling, jumping, three cheers, a fight song dance and stunts. The judging starts as soon as the prospective cheerleaders walk through the door.

Each year, goals are set to keep standards high for the squad. For example, each returning cheerleader was required to do a "tuck," or a standing flip, this year. The ultimate goal, Miller said, is to increase talent each year.

The results are announced at the end of the second day of tryouts.

Pompeii said the team's greatness is achieved by each person's individual aspirations.

"I feel like everyone has a lot to offer the team. Everyone comes in each year with a personal goal for themselves," Pompeii said. "So there is self-improvement everywhere. I know, as a team overall, we set standards for last year, and I think we've exceeded them."

Perceptions of leadership prove cultural

Chad Travers
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTER

Chinese philosophy has a proverb that reads, "You cannot understand the heart by reading the face."

However, a great deal of research suggests that human beings do exactly that, sometimes with a great degree of accuracy.

Helen Han and Peter Chen, professors in Youngstown State University's Williamson College of Business Administration, conducted a cross-cultural study that investigated how college students interpreted facial features of prominent Chinese CEOs.

"Lots of research shows that our physical appearance can tell a lot about us. Our study is based on the idea that we can look at a picture and tell what kind of person you are," said Han, who pursued her doctorate at the University of Illinois alongside Peter Harms — a professor of business at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the primary author of the study.

The study asked more than 100 American students at one Midwestern universities to view profiles of Chinese business leaders and rank them based on their perception of several key traits, including perceived intelligence, dominance, supportiveness, risk-taking and creativity.

Harms worked collectively with the two professors to study data.

Harms said pictures were taken from corporate websites or shareholder reports, but he and his colleagues were careful to eliminate backgrounds and context to ensure that the setting of the photos would not contaminate the findings.

The study links subjective data, like how facial features are judged, with objective data, such as how the company headed by that particular CEO performs.

This was further complicated by the fact that certain facial characteristics are viewed differently across cultural lines.

"In America, people tend to think that, if you appear to be dominant, you would be a better leader. But, in Asian culture, we tend to think that, if you appear warm and easy to approach, that would make you a better leader," Han said.

Han said it would be easy to assume that Americans would perceive Chinese business leaders who appear authoritarian and demanding to be the most successful.

The truth is actually more complicated. Han said research in China shows that the most successful corporate leaders are those who are willing to take the biggest risks.

"The interesting part is that American students don't necessarily know this. If you're not familiar with the cultural norm in China, you may be more likely to select the leaders who appear more

dominant as the most successful," Han said.

The results of the study show that, while westerners may be able to effectively pinpoint personalities based on facial features, they are less effective at picking the successful leaders because of the cultural differences between Eastern and Western business models.

"We share facial expressions globally. The expressions are perceived in the same way across cultures. The difference is in what facial qualities equate with success in different cultures," Han said.

According to the study, while it is possible to use perceptions of personality from photographs to predict the effectiveness of leaders, individuals using a rubric based on Western cultural norms are poor judges of the potential success in Eastern cultures.

"If you want to form partnerships with Chinese companies, even if you want to just buy stocks in Chinese corporations, it's important to be familiar with the cultural norms of the country before you can make decisions based on personality," Han said.

Han said she hopes the study will help foster business relationships between Eastern and Western companies by outlining the differences in how different cultures perceive potential success.

Harms said that although the data shows a strong correlation between perceived facial features and personality traits, it will take a lot of convincing before the procedure becomes widely accepted.

"Some people may say these findings are too ambiguous to mean much, but once someone uses it to make money, it will gain a lot more traction," Harms said.

Han has presented her findings to the local business community and human resources professionals, and it has been well received.

Han had a few cautionary words about relying solely on facial features to judge anything. She explained that this technique should only be used in addition to other metrics.

"If you want to form relationships with Chinese companies, you can't just look at pictures. You have to examine annual reports and look at lots of other data, but these photos can supplement the other data," Han said.

Han said future studies could be conducted that further explore the cultural roles by performing the study in reverse and showing pictures of Western business leaders to Eastern individuals and asking them similar questions about facial expressions and perceived leadership qualities.

"We would have loved to have two data sets, one of Americans rating Chinese CEOs and one of Chinese rating American CEOs, but we just didn't have the time or resources to do that. That could be a great future study," Han said.

TUTORING PAGE 1

"If we have the opportunity, we will certainly find the funds to pilot some courses."

Though Sakonyi said students prefer face-to-face tutoring, she recognizes the availability and convenience of online tutoring.

"[YSU] is a commuter campus, so if students are at home and have a question, they may hesitate to come in [to the CSP]," Sakonyi said.

Sophomore Robert Clark

said he would prefer electronic tutoring because of the convenience.

"It's nice to have the freedom to do it on your own time," Clark said.

Norris said online tutors have to be as qualified as any other tutor.

New eTutors must successfully complete online training.

Oscar Ramos, director of the Academic Success Center at Kent State University, said

eTutoring has worked well for students there.

"It's a really nice feature to provide for students that live in a technological age," Ramos said.

Some students said they prefer the traditional hands-on approach.

"Typically, I'd say I prefer it to be face to face," graduate student Breanne Romeo said. "But I'd be willing to try [eTutoring]."

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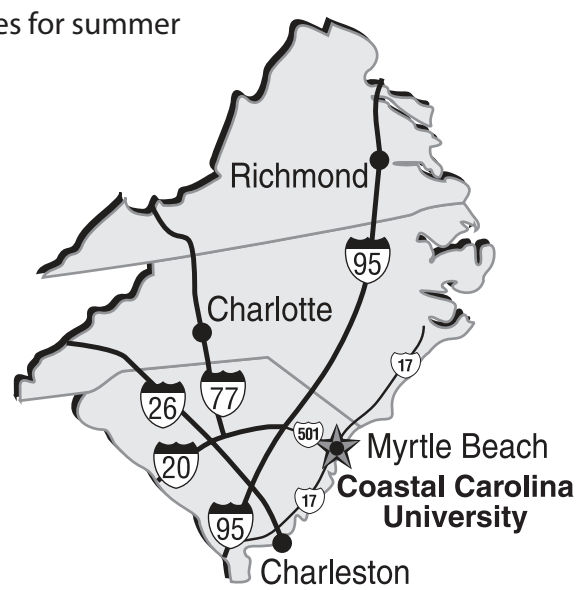
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YSU basketball, Covelli Centre explore collaboration



Steve Wilaj
REPORTER

Since its opening in 2005, the Covelli Centre has hosted concerts, arena football, professional hockey and boxing, among other events.

Youngstown State University basketball may soon be added to that list.

YSU athletics officials and Covelli Centre executives recently discussed the possibility of bringing YSU basketball to the multipurpose arena during the 2012-2013 season.

"We have had preliminary talks of having the basketball teams down here," said Eric Ryan, executive director of the Covelli Centre. "We're always looking for events, and with Youngstown State, we're both interested in doing this."

Ron Strollo, executive director of athletics at YSU, said the opportunity to play YSU basketball in another local venue is "unique."

"It gives the opportunity to get YSU basketball in front of some different people and

show off our product," Strollo said.

However, the Penguins have struggled to draw fans to home basketball games. While Beeghly Center can seat 6,300, the men's team averaged 2,485 fans per game this season, and the women's team averaged 1,110.

Still, Rick Love, associate director of athletics, said he thinks a Covelli Centre game would bring in crowds.

"It would let people experience our product that might not have come [to Beeghly Center]," Love said. "We'd have to pick the right opponent, set a good date and do a good job of marketing."

Love said reaching out to season ticket holders, YSU students and all tri-county high school basketball teams would be the marketing team's top priority.

"I think we could get 5,000 or 6,000 people [at the Covelli Centre]," Love said.

With 5,900 seats for basketball games, Ryan said the Covelli Centre offers several amenities, including 26 luxury

suites, 520 club seats and a JumboTron.

"By having YSU play here, we can showcase the arena to people that have not had an opportunity to see it yet," Ryan said.

Love said ticket prices would remain the same — but he also mentioned an opportunity for reduced prices.

"We could give a business the opportunity to sponsor the event, which would give us the chance to make the tickets cost a little less," Love said.

Ryan would like the event to take place on a weekend. Ideally, he would like to host Division II and Division III basketball games that would lead up to the YSU game, which would serve as the main attraction.

However, even with interest from both parties, certain challenges must be dealt with before the deal can be finalized.

Finances and scheduling are Strollo's top concerns.

"Financially, it has to work for both sides," Strollo said. "We'd have to factor in what we think the revenue would be

at the Beeghly Center, and the Covelli Centre would have to factor in their costs, based on their attendance expectations."

With talks still in the preliminary stage, the parties have yet to discuss finances or revenue distributions. As for the scheduling matter, Strollo said it might be difficult to match open dates for both sides.

"At that point of the year, the Covelli Centre starts to get booked up with various events," he said. "Plus, we're limited to the number of home games we have in a non-conference schedule, so it's tough."

Strollo said he is "unsure, but hopeful" about the outcome of the possible collaboration.

"We probably won't know until well into the summer — when the basketball schedule is getting finalized — whether we can make something work," Strollo said.

In the meantime, expect negotiations to continue.

"Any time we can create a special event, it's a good idea," Ryan said. "It would be beneficial to both parties."

Sports Briefs

Men's tennis beats Vikings, loses to Buckeyes

On Saturday, the men's tennis team beat Cleveland State University in doubles and split in singles to improve to 2-0 in the Horizon League. In doubles play, Silviu Mistreanu and Zee-shan Ismail beat Matt Kuefler and Jorg Van Der Vloet, 9-8, to take the deciding point. On Sunday, the men's tennis team dropped a 6-0 decision against No. 2 Ohio State University. Tariq Ismail dropped a 6-2, 6-0 decision to Chase Buchanan, ranked 12th, while Silviu Mistreanu lost 6-1, 6-2 to Peter Kobelt, ranked 54th. The loss dropped the men's tennis team to 6-7 on the season.

Track and field teams compete in season's first outdoor event

YSU's track and field teams saw their first outdoor action of the season on Friday and Saturday at the adidas Raleigh Relays. Alison Roth placed sixth in discus with a toss of 46.39 meters. Kaitlyn Griffith finished seventh in shot put with a toss of 13.91 meters. Tarelle Irwin advanced to the finals of the 100-meter dash and placed eighth with a time of 10.91 seconds. YSU had four of the top-10 finishers in the hammer throw. Bobby Grace finished sixth with a throw of 55.16 meters.

Penguin Spotlight



Jordan Ingalls

Year: Senior
Height: 5'7"
Hometown: Bolivar, N.Y.
High School: Bolivar
Position: OF

Senior right fielder Jordan Ingalls hit a walk-off solo home run in game one of a doubleheader on Saturday against Cleveland State University, en route to a 3-2 victory. In the three-game series, Ingalls went 4-for-11 at the plate with one homer, three RBIs, two runs and a double. On the season, Ingalls ranks eighth in the Horizon League with a .366 batting average, tied fifth with 23 RBIs and sixth with 34 hits.

'Jack Up The Rev'



Sports Editor Joe Catullo Jr. recaps the baseball team's three-game series against Butler University and the softball team's sweep against Cleveland State University.

Thomas leads softball to second place

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

Senior Penguin center fielder Haley Thomas, originally from Florida, has seen a lot of firsts since her freshman season in 2009, including snow. She was so excited that she called her father.

"Dad, it's snowing out here," she had said to him on the phone. "I can't believe it!"

"Well, are you playing?" he'd responded. "Yeah, we're playing!" she'd said.

The Penguins fell, 4-3, to George Mason University. Thomas went 1-4 at the plate.

Since her snow encounter, Thomas has started on each of her 172 games in center field.

"She's held that spot down for four years, and she's done an amazing job at it," senior Kristen Philen said.

Thomas has also batted first in the lineup for nearly all games played.

"As a leadoff hitter, it's nice that she can lay down a bunt. She can hit it for power, and she also has a great eye that gets on base," Campbell said. "It's nice to have Haley up there when the bottom half of the lineup gets on base, and you have that option for a young lady that can swing the bat."

Thomas said batting leadoff is comfortable, and she likes being there.

"I would feel weird if I was somewhere else [in the lineup]," Thomas said. "I've had it, and I wouldn't want anything else."

Playing every game helped her achieve a school record this year.

Trailing 5-4 in the bottom of the seventh inning on Tuesday at the University of Akron, Thomas rocked a two-run homer that put Youngstown State University ahead by one run.

Greeted by a mob of Penguins, Thomas not only gave her team the lead, and eventually the win, but also broke the school record for most career runs scored with 127.

Thomas' record-setting run might have never happened if she'd listened to head softball coach Brian Campbell, who was giving her the bunt sign.

"There are some things you can forgive," Campbell said.

At first, Thomas said she hadn't realized she'd set a record.

"Once I scored, first I realized that we were winning now, and then I realized that



Senior Haley Thomas throws the ball to the infield after making a catch in center field during Sunday's game against Cleveland State University. Thomas has started every game in center field since 2009. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

"I'd just broken that record," Thomas said. "I think putting our team up felt more important, especially because we kind of butt heads with one another, and I don't like Akron."

The Penguins won, 7-6. Thomas batted .327 in her freshman season, led the team with a .370 batting average in 2010 and hit .313 last season. This season, she is hitting a team-best .446, which is also second best in the Horizon League.

She also leads the team with 24 runs and five home runs, tying fourth in the HL in both. She has 37 hits, making her third in the HL, 10 doubles, 62 total bases, a .515 on-base percentage and a .747 slugging percentage.

Thomas won the HL Softball Player of the Week award on March 19. She hit .500 in five games, all victories.

Thomas said she knew since her senior year of high school that YSU was a perfect fit.

"I really just clicked with YSU," Thomas said. "I felt like I could go here and just enjoy it. With the other schools I visited, I didn't really feel that. Something just wasn't right."

Thomas has helped the Penguins to a 19-

6-1 start this season, and she said it's mainly due to her team's effort.

"I feel like every win we have is a complete team effort, and I don't think we really had that before," Thomas said. "We were never really on the same page. I feel this year we're all doing our role."

Campbell said Thomas and senior right fielder Jordan Ingalls have been the team's proven leaders. Campbell's first season at YSU was Thomas' freshman season.

"It's been great to have those young ladies lead the younger kids," he said. "I think they're teaching more than just the outfielders. They're teaching these young ladies how to compete. When you have those two in the outfield, it makes it a lot easier on you."

When a game begins, Philen said Thomas is one of the most serious and determined players on the field.

"She's very fun, but she also takes care of business," Philen said. "She knows how to have a good time, but she also knows how to get the job done."

Before her collegiate career ends, Thomas said she wants an HL championship.

"I don't want anything else right now," she said.