

The Jambar

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

VOL. 94, ISSUE 55

Tuesday, May 1, 2012

A precious Stone



YSU head football coach Eric Wolford hugs his son, Stone, on Friday evening after a long week of football recruiting. Eric Wolford said he cherishes every minute he has with Stone Wolford. Photo by Kacy Standohar/The Jambar.

Kacy Standohar
FEATURES EDITOR

Eric Wolford spends every day with his son Stone like it's their last. It very well could be. Stone Wolford suffers from cardiofa-

ciocutaneous syndrome, a genetic disorder that affects a child's neurology and development.

According to CFC International, an estimated 200 to 300 people suffer from this disorder worldwide. On average, children with CFC live between four and 14 years. Stone Wolford turns 7 in November.

"You can't take things for granted. Ev-

ery day I leave the house, I don't know, when I come home today, if Stone is going to be there," said Wolford, Youngstown State University's head football coach. "I hope, and sometimes I assume, but that's the reality of it. We're on borrowed time right now. We just have to enjoy every

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Jamail's footsteps



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This one's for
Hartzell



SPORTS 10

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art show



ONLINE

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M-2's second phase to begin

Sarah Perrine
NEWS REPORTER

The M-2 parking deck will experience its second set of renovations beginning May 14.

The aesthetic phase is the final part of the \$4.5 million renovation project.

Danny O'Connell, director of support services, said that while the deck's lighting and stairwells are the main priorities, some minor changes will also be made to create an overall cleaner look.

The top level of the deck will have concrete barriers and guardrails added to keep the deck up to date with regulations, while the bottom level of the deck will have the fencing replaced for visual appeal.

The wiring will also be re-

placed.

The second phase of renovations is slated to cost \$900,000.

Additionally, the yellow lighting in the parking deck will be replaced with white light.

Parking services has received feedback that white light makes students feel safer, as opposed to yellow light. Some additional painting may be done within the basement and other dark areas of the parking deck to help brighten the areas.

"Staying ahead of the repairs has always been our goal," O'Connell said.

In addition to the lighting and cabling, other small renovations will be completed over the summer. However, the additional renovations are



Danny O'Connell points out summer renovations to the M-2 parking deck. Photo by Sarah Perrine/The Jambar.

PARKING PAGE 4

Students await financial fate with interest rate

Jordan D. Uhl
NEWS EDITOR

Student loan debt isn't new. The balloon, which has been dwarfing credit card debt in recent months, has economists worried about its eventual burst.

Last week, politicians, media outlets and students alike were concerned about the possibility of the student loan interest rate doubling from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent on July 1.

The U.S. House of Representatives intervened by passing the Interest Rate Reduction Act with a vote of 215 to 195.

Passage of the bill's Senate equivalent and President Barack Obama's approval would result in the interest rate remaining stagnant.

While it appeared that indebted college students dodged a bullet, they weren't even in the crosshairs.

James Stanger, associate director for technology and support services in the Youngstown State University Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, said the interest rate hike isn't "quite as dramatic as some of the politicians make it seem."

Only loans taken out after July 1 would be subject to a higher interest rate, should both parties and Congress be unable to reach an agreement.

House Republicans propose that the lost revenues be compensated with deep cuts in the Prevention and Public Health Fund, which was created by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Democrats, however, believe higher taxes on profitable private corporations would be an appropriate remedy.

"That's just politicians being politicians," Stanger said. "They'll create as much press and grand standing as they can, and eventually, at the last second, they'll compromise, and we'll see the

3.4 [percent] stay intact."

Stanger, who said he is a casual observer of American politics, doesn't think it's fair for students' financial status to be subject to partisan feuds.

Students said they feel like they're trapped in the middle of an ugly dispute.

Freshman Ta'Rae Murphy said he feels cheated.

"They're raising the price on me going to school," Murphy said.

He said he's contemplating attending a trade school if interest rates do end up doubling.

Senior Jay Cramer said he estimates that he'll graduate with more than \$40,000 in debt. Despite his academic status, he'll be attending YSU one more year and be potentially subject to higher interest rates for the last loan.

"No, [it's not fair], but what are you going to do about it?" Cramer said.

Murphy, however, said he could face higher interest rates for the re-

mainder of his college career.

"I think [Congress] really needs to re-evaluate it more," Murphy said.

The interest rate isn't the only attempt to shift the higher education burden off the federal government's back, though.

In the past two months, the duration of the Pell Grant has been scaled back, and nonprofit servicers have taken over a vast majority of federal student loans.

Controversy, illegal practices and other scandals have plagued several of the servicing organizations that the U.S. Department of Education has put in charge of student loans, but Stanger said he believes these aren't representative of the whole.

"I've heard a little bit of it, but it would have been worse if the servicing would have been done by the [U.S. Department of Education]," Stanger said. He said the total volume of loans would have led to more problems if overseen by bureaucracy.

Facebook or finals?

Students struggle to focus on finals

Kevin Alquist
NEWS REPORTER

Youngstown State University senior Bill Rees found himself checking his Facebook profile in the YSU Info and PC Lab when he should have been studying for his genetics final.

Rees works three jobs on top of being a full-time student. He insists that his busy schedule requires him to have good time management skills.

But, he said he cannot escape the temptation to take 15 minutes to check his Facebook or Twitter page.

"When I study, and I'm by a computer, I find myself taking breaks," Rees said.

Rees said he doesn't see his Facebook usage as a problem because it usually doesn't get in the way of completing his schoolwork.

"Facebook, to me, isn't a bad thing as long as you get your work done," Rees said. "But when you start procrastinating with it, you can lose track of time."

Facebook claims that 483 million of its 845 million active users are active on the site every day.

According to a study done by the Pew Research Center, 80 percent of Internet users between the ages of 18 and 35 used social networking sites in 2010 — a jump from 63 percent in 2008.

With finals approaching, Brad Boughter, a criminal justice major, said he decided to delete his Facebook account.

He said he thought it would be simple — until he started receiving updates weeks after he deactivated his account.

"I thought it was going to just be completely deleted — just like that," Boughter said. "It asked me for password confirmations multiple times, and then I had to send in a request for removal without the option of recovery."

Boughter said he is glad he's not addicted to checking Facebook all of the time for updates.

To stay focused, he has been studying at Maag Library.

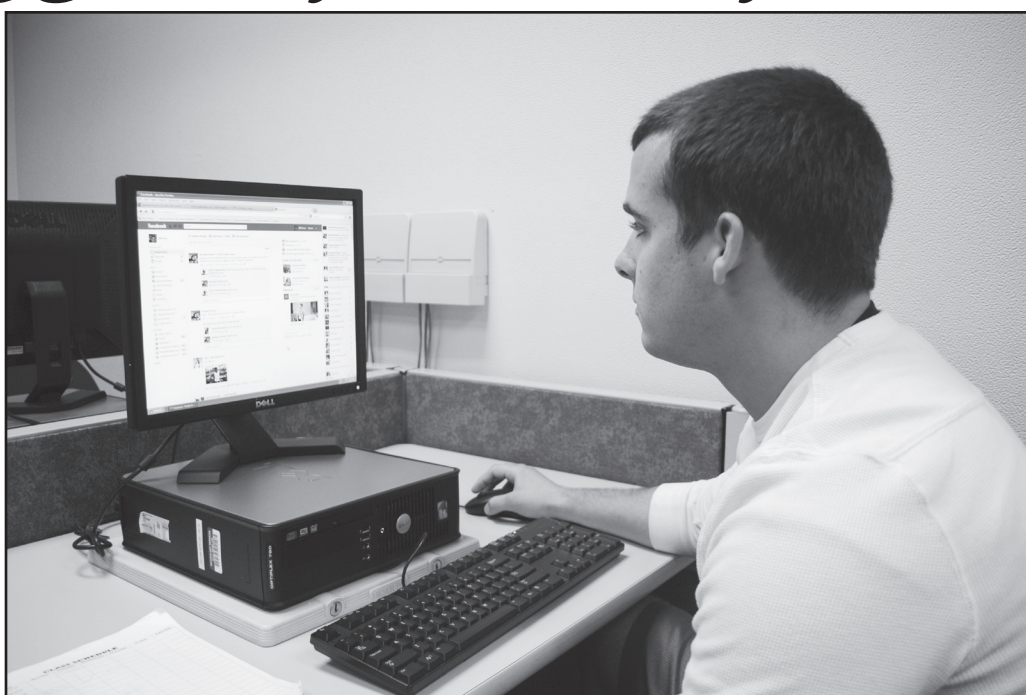
"I definitely find myself less distracted down there," Boughter said.

At some places on campus, students can escape digital procrastination.

"[The Center for Student Progress] is a place that people come to study," said Robin Sakonyi-White, assistant director of supplemental instruction and student tutorial services at CSP. "They know this is an academic setting."

"It's more focused time without distractions like Facebook," said Susan Mark-Sracic, assistant director of supplemental instruction services at CSP.

At the end of the semester, students come to CSP for



Senior Bill Rees takes a break from studying for finals in Kilcawley Center by checking his Facebook news feed. Photo by Kevin Alquist/The Jambar.

course review and additional tutoring. After working with students all semester long, tutors work with professors to identify material needed to create a course review session.

"We offer review sessions all year, but at the end of the semester, they are more cumulative," Mark-Sracic said.

Sakonyi encourages students to seek help throughout the semester, but said CSP can provide last-minute help to anyone who comes in.

"At this point in the semester, it can be challenging for a student to catch up," Sakonyi

said. "Some come at the end of the semester, and we do what we can for them."

Boughter, who decided to keep his Twitter account, admits that he is still distracted by social networking, but finds that having only one active account decreases the amount of time wasted aimlessly browsing and procrastinating.

"Twitter is just as bad, but what can you do?" Boughter said.

Amanda Shuttleworth, a senior nutrition student, said she also deleted her Facebook and that it hasn't affected her

focus.

When she quit Facebook, she already had a Twitter account.

"It hasn't really affected me when I'm trying to get work done," Shuttleworth said. "I am just as distracted by Twitter."

Shuttleworth said she finds herself less distracted by social networking sites than when she started school in 2008.

"I guess I don't care as much about what people are doing as much as I used to," Shuttleworth said.



Justen Vrabel, vice president-elect, (left) and Cory Okular, president-elect, conduct their first Student Government Association meeting as president and vice president in the Ohio Room on Monday. Photo by Marissa McIntyre/The Jambar.

The future of SGA

Marissa McIntyre
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

As the end of the semester draws near, Student Government Association President Elyse Gessler and Justin McIntyre, executive vice president, reflect on what they accomplished and what they could have done differently.

Gessler said she wishes SGA would have made more progress establishing a first-year experience program for freshmen attending Youngstown State University.

"It's not by any means finished. We're still in the process of trying to figure out what we want to do," Gessler said. "We have a lot of components of what we would like to see from a first-year experience; we just have to be serious about it and buckle down and bring it all together."

"There's been dialogue for many years about it," McIntyre said.

Gessler and McIntyre said they are confident that Cory Okular, president-elect, and Justen Vrabel, executive vice president-elect, will pick up where they left off.

"Cory and Justen are coming back from our administration. They're going to see, [Was] SGA transparent enough? Was this effective?"

Did the students like this?" Gessler said.

During their time in office, Gessler and McIntyre have appropriated \$32,383 to student groups and revitalized the "Last Lecture" series.

"We were very careful about who we picked, and the turnout was pretty successful," McIntyre said about the "Last Lecture" series. "I'm hoping that they'll continue that next year, and they'll be mindful of the professors they pick, that they're very student-oriented."

Gessler said that, by working in conjunction with Penguin Productions and Greek Life, they were able to utilize connections and expand student programming.

In their platform, Okular and Vrabel focused on looking at the goals of the YSU 2020 Strategic Plan and working with that.

Under student success, they would like to continue progress toward a first-year experience, increase bulk tuition rate, reform the meal plan and encourage more students to study abroad.

Some of what they would like to accomplish will be done during their term, while others — they admit — may take longer.

Realistically, Okular said the first-year experience

Trespassing decreases on campus

PRIVATE PROPERTY

Trespassing numbers for YSU

Year	Warnings	Citations
2008	67	10
2009	82	11
2010	74	8
2011	59	11
2012*	27	4

* Preliminary numbers through April 25, 2012. From Youngstown Police Department.

NO TRESPASSING

Cory Bartek
REPORTER

According to the Youngstown State University Police Department's crime and location database, 27 trespass warnings and four criminal trespassing citations were issued this year as of Wednesday.

These numbers are down from previous years.

In 2011, 59 warnings and 11 citations were issued. In 2010, 74 warnings and eight citations were given, while, in 2009, 82 warnings and 11 citations were issued.

A trespass warning is classified as a written ticket documenting the encounter, which is then put into the Automated Records Management System, or ARMS.

Under the Ohio Revised Code, no person shall knowingly enter or remain on the land or premises of another.

"When a person is issued a trespass citation, they are actually under arrest," said YSU Police Chief John Beshara. "This may lead to just the issuance of the ticket or could possibly lead to jail. All situations are different, requiring officers to have discretion as to what transpires."

In a recent incident, a red semi cab with Michigan plates was parked in the M-3 parking lot on campus. University police officers issued the driver and passenger trespass warnings, and the passenger was also placed under arrest for

consumption of an alcoholic beverage while inside a motor vehicle.

In another recent incident, YSU Police observed a man in the inner core of campus, soliciting funds for a church. Police found nothing to prove the legitimacy of his fundraising and, upon running his information through YSU dispatch, found that the man was issued a trespass warning in 2009. The subject was issued another trespass warning and escorted off campus.

Beshara acknowledged that people criminally trespass on campus, but added that it isn't a big problem. He stressed that not every person who is walking through campus is trespassing.

"It's a public university; it's open to the public," Beshara said. "Generally, when we get involved, we see something that doesn't appear right."

Although the department doesn't have an officer whose sole duty is to patrol the campus for trespassers, Beshara referred to doing so as a "daily job that any and all of us do."

"Our officers are actively patrolling the university and do a great job of keeping an eye out for things that don't appear normal," Beshara said.

Beshara said the police talk to everyone and that, through their career, police officers learn how to read people.

"Communication is one of the best tools a police officer can have," Beshara said.

While talking with people is important, "actions speak

louder than words," Beshara said.

"In policing, you learn to read people's movements and actions as to what type of encounter you may have," he said.

According to police reports, trespassing occurs more frequently in the inner core of campus and in parking lots.

But Beshara added that criminal trespassing could occur anywhere. If officers see something going on, or see a person in a questionable area, then they confront that person.

"We then ask the person for their name and for their reasoning of being there, and, usually, they're cooperative. If the info is credible, then both sides are on their way," Beshara said.

The police run the person's information through the Law Enforcement Automated Data System to check for prior violations.

First-time offenders' names are documented so that they "understand that a further violation will result in prosecution by Youngstown State University."

ARMS tracks the interaction that the police department has with a certain individual. Beshara estimated that 500 names have been entered into ARMS in regards to trespass incidents.

"It's similar to a BMV system with motor vehicles," Beshara said.

Multiple offenders who

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NEWS BRIEFS

Campus group to celebrate Cinco de Mayo

On Friday, the YSU Latino Student Organization will present "The Battle of Puebla Cinco de Mayo Celebration." The event — which will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Kilcawley Center's Ohio Room — will feature food, music and student performances. In addition to the YSU Latino Student Organization, organizers include the YSU Hispanic Heritage Celebration Planning Committee, the YSU Office of Student Diversity Programs and the YSU Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity. The event is free and open to the public. To RSVP or to find out more information, call 330-941-2087.

POLICE BRIEFS

Student suffers seizure in Kilcawley House

On Wednesday morning, YSU Police responded to a student who was having a seizure in Kilcawley House. Upon arrival, officers found the male student face down on the floor and in a semi-conscious state. The student's roommate told YSU Police that the student had experienced a seizure while sleeping, causing him to fall and possibly strike his head on the metal bed frame. Paramedics transported the student via ambulance to St. Elizabeth Health Center, according to the report.

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PARKING PAGE 1

not yet determined. Possibilities for these renovations include replacement of the four garage doors, two on each side of the deck. Extra painting in various parts of the deck is also an option. Where and what is painted will depend on which renovation package is chosen.

YSU hired Carl Walker Parking to help develop the best possible renovation package for the summer and to oversee the construction.

The bid process will be coming to a close by next week. O'Connell said their scheduled meeting dates have already been set with the future contractor.

"Right now, the contractors are formulating their contracts based on the criteria set by Carl Walker Parking, and YSU will receive those bids by next Wednesday," O'Connell said.

M-2 isn't the only deck having work on it this summer.

A \$400,000 package has been proposed for waterproofing issues on the roof and to repair some of the drains in the M-1 deck. These standard repairs will come out of the parking budget.

O'Connell said the work going into the M-2 deck has

Campus Connection

What would you like to see done with phase two of the M-2 deck renovations?



"I think it's falling apart. The only way they could redo it is to do it from the rebar back up. ... They're taking millions from our parking passes; I'd like to see it used."

- Connor Kelty, freshman



"It fell [apart]. It didn't work. If they do the same thing again, it won't work. They need to try something different."

- Emily Gabriele, Freshman

been planned to last for at least 15 years.

After the 15 years, the deck will be re-evaluated and possibly torn down.

Renovating now allows the university to start saving money for the construction of a new deck, which would cost

between \$9 and \$12 million — just for a down payment, O'Connell said.

"If we can get the proper amount of money in this fund over the next 15 years, we will be able to improve parking and/or keep proper parking on campus," O'Connell said.

TRESPASSING PAGE 2

have a record in ARMS are issued a written citation for criminal trespassing and can also be issued a date to appear in Youngstown Municipal Court.

If students see someone suspicious on campus, authorities advise that they contact YSU Police at 330-941-3527.

"Hopefully, they have our number saved. But, if not, there are a number of emergency phones throughout campus," Beshara said.

While patrolling is the best way to enforce trespassing, Beshara said he doesn't see a need to have a public university fenced in.

"In my opinion, the campus has to be open. People should come to the university and be a part of it," Beshara said.

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SGA: Take charge. Administration: Take note.

The Jambar
EDITORIAL BOARD

SGA
PAGE 2

In 2002, YSU released its annual sugar-coated performance report, touting a stellar 71 percent retention rate for freshmen.

Again, in 2007, the last year a performance report is available online, the university boasted a 69 percent retention rate, "the highest at open-admissions public institutions in Ohio."

But YSU failed to mention that the state as a whole retained 78 percent of freshmen in 2002 and 76 percent in 2007.

The state's retention rate is significantly higher than YSU's.

This means that students are leaving YSU only to enroll at another open enrollment university.

We're losing students, just not as fast as everyone else.

Cory Okular, Student Government Association president-elect, said he would push for a first-year experience program at YSU. He also said it may be difficult to get administration on board.

Well, the administration loves to reap the good news, but the numbers they sell are skewed. They would do a great service to the campus to consider Okular's plan.

Okular's second proposal that we feel the administration should be taking seriously is increasing the maximum credit hours from 16 to 18.

YSU has cut the average graduation time by one year since 2002.

Yet, with a median time to graduate of 4.67 years, our university lagged behind the state median of 3.8 years in 2010.

What's worse is that fewer than 11 percent of freshmen returned as sophomores last year. So, increasing credit hours makes sense.

Don't just allow students to take on more; incentivize them.

We ask for Okular to be vigilant in demanding change.

He and SGA have the power to make a difference — if they choose to do more than just argue for the same programs that have been discussed for the past decade.

Don't stumble feebly through another school year.

And, lastly, we demand that the administration listen to them.

And, if their proposals are met with adversity, then the administration had better have a damned good reason for turning down solutions to problems that could mitigate students' tuition and the university's retention.

JAMBAR POLICY

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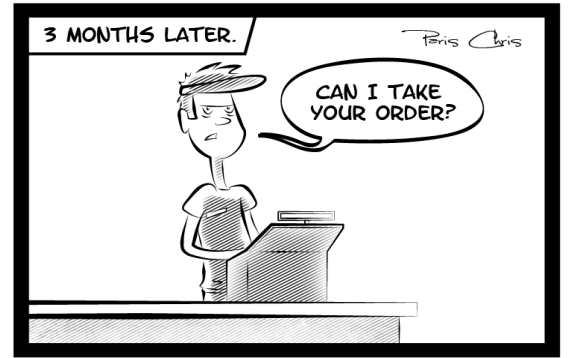
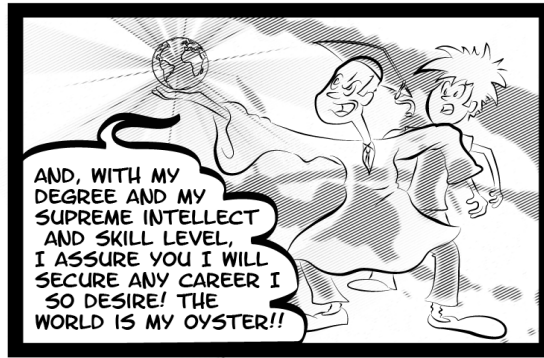
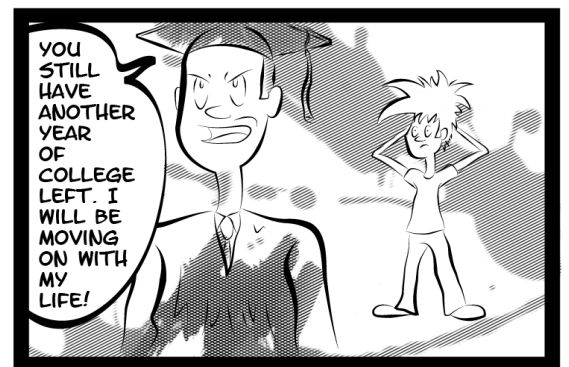
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THE Jambar cartoon



Cartoon by Paris Chrisopoulos/The Jambar.



Jared Buker
COLUMNIST

'The Big Picture' Farewell

It is from a sad and heartrending place in my life that I write this final column. As my last days of college have snuck up on me so inconspicuously, I look back on the last four years with nostalgia and gloom.

They say all good things come to an end.

Well, the things that are better than good — the great, the wonderful, the things that take your breath away, the things that you can never forget — come to more of a screeching halt, leaving you with the memories of what was, what wasn't and what could've been.

I never knew such a period of happiness, as college was, would end with such a feeling of grief for everyone I will soon be leaving.

With one more summer before I leave Youngstown, this will be the only goodbye you'll ever hear from me. From the time you read the last word until the day I leave, expect nothing but, "See you later."

I don't handle separation from the ones I care about well; an entire newspaper could not contain everything I wish to say, so to everyone who has made the last four years the best of my life, this is for you.

To the brotherhood of Alpha Phi Delta, thank you. I pledged in the spring of 2009 as a misguided kid who felt like the only Poland Seminary High School graduate

who was stuck staying at home.

I know I'll graduate as a man who has led you, worked hard for you, bled for you and learned from you. Every brother — past, present and future — showed me something different about how to live my life and conduct myself with the finest and noblest traits of man.

Oh, yeah, we had some fun in Boozetown, too.

If I could leave my fraternity with any advice, it would be to stick together in good times and bad. I spent a majority of my presidency in Alpha Phi Delta coping with those bad times, and the fact that none of you turned your backs on me is something I won't ever forget.

Take care of the house, take care of the letters and take care of yourselves. *Faciamus.*

To all of my friends, I will miss you. I cherish many of you most of all because I let many friendships from my past fall by the wayside.

They say there is nothing in life that is more prized than a true friend. I am proud to say I have made some friends that I believe are true; these will be the people I hold in my heart forever.

To the women who stole my heart, you may keep it. You know who you are.

To the staff of The Jambar, it's been fun. I didn't spend the countless production nights in the office forming the bonds many of you

have, but I truly enjoyed what I did and those with whom I did it.

I wish all of you the most happiness in life, and I know you will all be successes.

To each professor that helped me along the way, I thank you. If ever you doubt what you do, remember that you have one student who believes wholeheartedly that YSU and its teachers set him up for greatness.

To my parents, what can I say? You stuck by me, helped me financially and gave me the kick in the pants I needed to be a strong student.

My greatest comfort is knowing that, because of how hard you pushed me, I'll someday be in a position to take care of you as you did me.

So, until I'm gone, I would love nothing more than to spend my remaining time with everyone who I love and will miss. I'll probably always act like a kid, but this is the last summer I get to actually be one.

I said it best in a past column: "I like to think I could die one day on my highest hilltop, and, as I sit there, know I reserved a part of my heart for all of the people and all of the places that influenced my life, even if they are just memories."

I'll never forget you, YSU. See you later.

Debt vise tightens on students

McClatchy-Tribune
News Service
(MCT)

Even when congressional Republicans and Democrats say they agree, they find ways to disagree.

Both sides claim they want to prevent interest rates on federally subsidized Stafford student loans from automatically doubling in July. That's the good news. Interest rates soaring to 6.8 percent would affect 7.4 million Americans.

The bad news: Each political party has its own idea of how to best pay the \$6 billion it would cost to keep rates at 3.4 percent. Democrats like the idea of ending tax subsidies for oil and gas companies. Republicans prefer a raid on a health fund.

Surely the two sides can put politics aside for a moment and help young people evade an even

deeper debt trap. A compromise before a House vote scheduled for today would be a great start.

Republicans are furious with President Barack Obama for barnstorming college campuses to push for legislation freezing the interest rate. However, the president deserves credit for moving the needle.

Although House Speaker John Boehner says Republicans never intended to let the rate double, they passed a budget that accounts for exactly that.

But holding interest rates steady is a small gesture in the face of mounting student debt, which was expected to hit the \$1 trillion mark this week. Policymakers, colleges and students themselves must work to make higher education more affordable and avoid high debt levels.

In Missouri, 65 percent of 2010 college graduates had taken on debt, with the average amount

being \$22,601, according to the Project on Student Debt. In Kansas, 57 percent of college graduate had loans to pay, with an average amount of \$22,280.

Colleges and universities must do a better job holding down costs. The government should expand sanctions on schools that do a poor job preparing students for careers that will enable them to pay off the loans.

States must show a greater level of support for public higher education. Only recently did student tuition rates climb higher than state aid in many places.

Consumer education is vital. The government should do a better job making students and graduates aware of specialized loan repayment programs. And families need to seek sound advice about college financing options before taking on a loan.

Action is needed on many fronts, starting today in Congress.

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These shoes were made for walking

Chelsea Telega

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Sidney Hill, brother of murder victim Jamail Johnson, is following in his brother's footsteps — all the way to the Dominican Republic.

On Feb. 6, 2011, Johnson was shot and killed while attending an off-campus fraternity party. Now, his 16-year-old brother wants to carry on his legacy by sharing some of his most prized possessions with the less fortunate.

As members of Christian group Teen Straight Talk, Sidney Hill and five others will travel to Barahona, Dominican Republic, to minister and distribute more than 100 pounds of hats, 200 pounds of tennis shoes, 35 audio Bibles and 50 pounds of candy.

The trip, appropriately named A Walk in My Shoes, will last from Saturday to May 12.

Johnson collected more than 100 pairs of shoes and a surplus of hats during his life. The Hill family donated 10 pairs of his shoes and seven hats to the mission. Sidney Hill also donated a pair of shoes that he grew out of.

"Instead of having them at the house, why not bless somebody less fortunate than me?" Sidney Hill said.

Shirlene Hill, mother of Sidney Hill and Johnson, said Johnson would be "so proud and humbled" that his love is being spread across the world. She said Johnson shared a general love for people.

No better person exists than Sidney Hill to carry on his brother's legacy, Shirlene Hill said.

"To me, Sidney is a carbon copy of Jamail. I know Sidney is going to go over there and be just what Jamail would want him to be because him and Jamail were so close," Shirlene Hill said. "Before we even thought of A Walk in My Shoes, he was trying to walk in Jamail's shoes — ever since he was in this world."

Shirlene Hill said she hopes that Sidney Hill will come home with a renewed sense of appreciation. She said kids his age tend to take for granted what they are given, and seeing children less fortunate will remind him how lucky he is.

She said her main hope is that he



Sidney Hill, brother of Jamail Johnson, plans his mission trip to the Dominican Republic. Photo by Chelsea Telega/The Jambar.

will share his experience with others.

"I always spoke to Jamail and Sidney and my oldest son Bruce about being leaders and not followers," Shirlene Hill said. "I want him to come back and share his testimony with his friends at Liberty School, church. Anywhere he goes, I want him to be able to share with young people."

Mary Duke and her husband created Teen Straight Talk 26 years ago to educate young girls about teen pregnancy. As the need grew, Mary Duke said the organization continued to address the issue.

The group has gone on four mission trips to various places in Africa, as well as St. Lucia in the Caribbean. Mary Duke said the group's message could reach everyone.

"Because our message is truth, and it transcends all generations of the family, we are going to target it to every

sector of the family," Mary Duke said. "We're going to be ministering to little children and young adults, prostitutes, families, widows and widowers."

Doran Duke, an internal medicine resident at Mercy Hospital in Chicago, will be traveling with the group to perform basic checkups, provide educational medical slides, uncover cases of untreated diabetes and supply medicine.

Although his medical education is extensive, Doran Duke said he would be limited with supplies. He plans to get assistance from everyone involved.

"Everybody has something to give, and no matter what level you're on," Doran Duke said. "It's not an isolated thing, so I'm not doing this by myself, and I will be recruiting people."

Mary Duke said she has always wanted to incorporate young people with mission trips to expose them to

ministry, and she is excited to see what Sidney Hill will contribute.

"Sidney has got a heart to help people to share. I think it's going to be fantastic. I'm really excited about him, and he's a wonderful, smart, intelligent young man," Mary Duke said.

Shirlene Hill said she is humbled that Teen Straight Talk and Mary Duke are allowing Sidney Hill to be a part of something so big at such "a precious time in his life." She said she is honored that her son's shoes are making it to the Dominican Republic.

"Jamail had a very giving heart, and he would want this. He wasn't stingy; he was loving, kind, generous, caring," Shirlene Hill said. "So, for someone to not have, Jamail would take his shirt off his back. He would be overjoyed. It's all about giving, and it's not all about receiving."

STONE PAGE 1

day we got him."

At 2 years old, Stone Wolford's mother, Melinda Wolford, noticed that he wasn't developing like other kids his age.

The differences were noticeable: He had a hole in his ear, droopy eyelids, difficulty focusing and difficulty feeding. After his stagnant growth and weight, his language also suffered.

Melinda Wolford said he was very delayed in typical milestones. He did not start walking until he was 18 months old, and his muscle tone was low.

"Here's a little boy that belongs to a football coach, so what's the first thing the football coach thinks? 'I'm going to have a football player.' Well, that wasn't going to happen, and it's not going to happen," Melinda Wolford said.

After numerous tests and more than 40 doctor visits, the family realized they needed to adjust.

"At the time, I was so stressed. It was hard for me to enjoy him as much," Melinda Wolford said.

Yet Stone Wolford remains a happy child — always smiling.

Three years into their marriage, Melinda and Eric Wolford were forced to rethink the kind of child their son might be.

"We had to learn about what kind of things might happen, how long he might live and how we would adjust to that and support each other," Melinda Wolford said.

The experience has been stressful.

"I'm not going to say I'm not tired. I am. But it makes us live life with a purpose," she said. "I feel very fortunate because he reminds us every day of what's really important. He reminds us that those ideas we had for him were selfish ideas."

Because of their busy schedules, Melinda and Eric Wolford need assistance. Since the birth of their daughter, Marlee Wolford, their babysitter and long-time friend Carol Goodrick has helped out with the kids.

Goodrick watches the children when Melinda Wolford is teaching special education, counseling and working for the school psychology program at the Beeghly College of Education. Meanwhile, Eric Wolford is recruiting, practicing and traveling with the Penguins.

"I'm here Monday through Thursday and some Fridays. When they go away for football and other conferences, the kids like to go to my house," Goodrick



Melinda and Eric Wolford watch their son, Stone Wolford, drive his favorite car up and down the driveway Friday evening. Photo by Kacy Standohar/The Jambar.

said. "I take them to the barn with the horses, the mall and the park."

Eric Wolford said his son teaches him patience. The curveballs and hardships build character.

"That adversity that you have in your life and how you handle it is really when you start to find out who you are," he said. "God has a very unique way of humbling you sometimes ... and Stone has done that."

When Eric and Melinda Wolford spend time with their children, they said they cherish every minute.

Melinda Wolford recalled a recent morning when she and her husband were able to sleep in until 7 a.m.

"On the day we can actually sleep, Stone is in there at 5 a.m.," she said. "And I love Eric's attitude because he says, 'God knows what he's doing. He's in here this early this morning so that we can snuggle with him and enjoy that extra time.'"

Although Stone Wolford tends to enjoy affection from his mother, Eric Wolford said he likes to play around with his son.

On Friday, Eric Wolford arrived home just before 6 p.m. He picked up his son, tickled him and held him upside down by his legs.

"How's it going, Stoney?" Eric Wolford said. "How was your day, buddy?"

He laughed as he dangled Stone Wolford over the couch.

Stone Wolford smiled for a min-

ute, then quickly wanted to be put back down.

"He's such a momma's boy. I tease him quite a bit. I encourage him to be physical," Eric Wolford said. "So, that way, I can get a reaction out of him. That's just the way I show him affection."

For the Wolford family, variable change is to be expected.

"Every day is different. Some days, Stone is excited, and some days, he's not. Some days, he's throwing a fit, but that's part of it. He wakes up one way or the other," Eric Wolford said. "He's fun to be around, and I think it makes you appreciate life."

Eric Wolford said he always liked the unique name after Stone Phillips, the television correspondent from "Dateline NBC." He said he laughs when people ask whether his son is named after the wrestler Stone Cold Steve Austin.

Although naming him "Stone" was unintentional, the name bears more meaning today.

"Now, it has a completely different meaning because of just how difficult it's been," he said. "You know, a stone is hard and very strong."

While searching for comfort and reassurance, the Wolford family realized they weren't alone.

Their medical expenses increased, and their insurance company didn't want to pay for a helmet for Stone Wolford.

"His head was odd shaped. They

said it was not within a millimeter of the measurement that it needed to be in order to pay for it," Eric Wolford said. "So, we realized there is a need out there with people that have kids with disabilities."

A foundation written in 'Stone'

In 2008, the family created No Stone Unturned, a foundation dedicated to raising awareness and funds for research.

No Stone Unturned provided funds for Stone Wolford's teacher Pam Barton to attend a CFC conference in Chicago to learn more about the disorder. The foundation also donated three iPads for Stone Wolford and his classmates. The iPads are beneficial to the learning process because they help students communicate and express themselves.

"It's really nice because there's all kinds of educational games on there. We can work on speech goals and fine motor," Barton said. "It really hits every area of development. There has been just a ton of growth on his communication and his ability to tell us what he wants and needs."

Melinda Wolford said she has yet to keep her son still for an entire football game because of the sea of sounds and the people.

"He has a different interpretation of what's going on in his environment. He gets fussy after a little while," she said. "It's not comfortable for him. We let him experience that up to a point, but we have to be really careful about crossing that line with him."

Eric Wolford often brings his son to the locker room. He said he thinks other kids need to see that they're lucky.

"You think you got it bad because you got to go to 6 a.m. running in the morning because you missed study hall or missed class," he said. "It could be a lot worse. Stone will never play football. I will never walk across a field with him on Senior Day. It's not going to happen."

The Wolford family said the foundation has turned into something bigger than they expected, yet they try to remember the small things.

"He makes me such a better person," Melinda Wolford said. "And it's because of his differences that I recognize the value of every single minute. We're going to get frustrated, we're going to get mad at people and we're going to make mistakes. But ... I don't want another Stone. He just resonates love, and he doesn't know any different than that."

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Meet YSU's finest

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS

This year, 26 YSU professors have been named as Distinguished Professor Award winners. The Jambar will be profiling them in a series in the final two spring issues.

Christopher Barzak, instructor of English

Patrick Bateman, assistant professor of management

Ray Beiersdorfer, professor of geological and environmental sciences

Steven Brown, professor of English

Michael Butcher, assistant professor of biological sciences

Michael Crescimanno, associate professor of physics and astronomy

Rebecca Curnalia, assistant professor of communication

Patrick Durrell, associate professor of physics and astronomy

Rangamohan Eunni, associate professor of management

Karen Giorgetti, associate professor and chairwoman of psychology

Priscilla Gitimu, assistant professor of human ecology

Qi Jiang, professor and chairwoman of sociology and anthropology

Diane Kandray, associate professor of health professions

Brian Leskiw, associate professor of chemistry

Hazel Marie, assistant professor of mechanical engineering

Marcia Matanin, professor of human performance and exercise science

Donna McNierney, professor of educational foundations, research, technology and leadership

Jeanine Mincher, assistant professor of human ecology

Peter Norris, professor of chemistry

Yogendra Panta, assistant professor of mechanical engineering

Nathan Ritchey, professor and chairman of mathematics and statistics

Gary Salvner, professor and chairman of English

Albert Sumell, associate professor of economics

Michael Theall, professor of teacher education

Richard VanVoorhis, assistant professor of counseling and special education

Mark Womble, associate professor of biological sciences

MICHAEL THEALL, PROFESSOR OF TEACHER EDUCATION

Michael Theall came to YSU in 2002 as director of the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning at Youngstown State.

When CATALYST closed in 2006, Theall was moved to the teaching education department. There, he works to prepare education students to become college teachers, rather than traditional K-12 teachers.

"There are very few, if any, pro-

grams like that anywhere [else], so that's the sense in which I'm not typical," Theall said. "I don't have a number of years behind me as a full-time member of the college of education, because I've always been associated with teaching centers with a focus on the way our faculty ... do their teaching."



Theall said it's an honor to receive any award. However, receiving this award is a bit different.

"To get something from YSU, with the endorsement from the folks in my department and the dean, it's a nice recognition to get," he said.

MARCIA MATANIN, PROFESSOR OF HUMAN PERFORMANCE AND EXERCISE SCIENCE

Marcia Matanin has a bachelor's degree in food and nutrition from YSU, a master's degree in health education curriculum from Kent State University and a doctorate in health education and promotion from Ohio State University.

Before working as a full-time professor, Matanin worked as a clinical dietitian, primarily in renal dialysis, and taught part time.

In 2000, Matanin began teaching full time.

As a full-time professor, Matanin has written accreditation reports for the human performance and exercise science department.

She is now working on the Teacher Performance Assessment, which is a state-mandated assessment of all college instructors in Ohio. By participating in the program, Matanin is helping YSU adjust to the statewide curriculum changes that will be implemented in the future.



"It's hard work, but it's very valuable," Matanin said. "It gives us a bit of a head start."

Matanin added that she's honored to be a recipient of the Distinguished Professor Award.

"It's always exciting to be acknowledged for the things that you do," she said.

PATRICK DURRELL, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

Patrick Durrell is from British Columbia, Canada, where he attended high school and college. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Victoria, which is also in British Columbia. He received his master's degree and his doctorate from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario.

Durrell once worked as a researcher at Pennsylvania State University, but he "wanted to go to a



university where I could do both high-quality research and teach."

This desire led him to YSU, where he has been teaching since 2004.

"I always wanted to be an astronomer, ever since I was at a young age," Durrell said. "I always liked talking to people about physics and astronomy."

This, he said, gave him the idea to be a professor.

"Astronomy is something everyone is interested in, and I want to make sure I can pass on that knowledge," Durrell said. "I like using the latest techniques to teach astronomy.

I don't want my class to be exactly the same as the previous year's class."

YOGENDRA PANTA, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Yogendra Panta has a bachelor's degree from Tribhuvan University in Nepal, a master's degree from YSU and a doctorate in mechanical engineering from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

At YSU, Panta's research focuses on biomedical engineering and biofluid dynamics.

When Panta arrived at YSU, his



area of research was not developed. The program was "like a baby," he said, "[and I'm] trying to make it grow."

"I like to be very student-centered, so that, even though I do basic to advanced lab research, I like to share that with the students," Panta said.

Panta said he is honored to be a recipient of the Distinguished Professor Award.

"[Since] I came here back in 2008 ... I've been trying to set up my lab, trying to put students together for my research team. I've just busy with all those things," he said.

RAY BEIERSDORFER, PROFESSOR OF GEOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Ray Beiersdorfer earned his bachelor's degree at Queens College, and he earned his master's degree and his doctorate from the University of California, Davis. All of his degrees are in geology.

He completed pre-doctoral work at Monash University in Australia and his post-doctoral work at the University of Calgary in Canada before arriving at YSU.

"I pretty much fill the niche for the zany professor on campus,"



Beiersdorfer said.

This is Beiersdorfer's fifth Distinguished Professor Award.

Beiersdorfer said the award is to recognize his 10th year working with the Penguin Bowl, a "fast-paced quiz bowl" event for high school students that focuses on the oceans and Great Lakes.

On April 22, Beiersdorfer was the keynote speaker at the National Ocean Sciences Bowl championship in Baltimore.

Beiersdorfer is now working to establish a research program for YSU students in China. In June, Beiersdorfer will travel to Tibet and China to continue talking with scholars to help set up the program.

KAREN GIORGETTI, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND CHAIRWOMAN OF PSYCHOLOGY

Karen Giorgetti has a bachelor's degree in psychology and elementary education from Sweet Briar College. At Purdue University, she earned her master's degree in developmental studies and her doctorate in educational psychology.

"I do care about my students. I want them to succeed. I take pride in my students'



accomplishments, and I claim them as my students," Giorgetti said.

Giorgetti said her selection as a Distinguished Professor Award recipient was "very flattering."

"It's just nice to know what students think about me," she said.

Brian Cubellis, a psychology and sociology double major, said Giorgetti goes out of her way to help her students. She encouraged him to have a double major.

"I wouldn't have gotten through these last four years without her," Cubellis said.

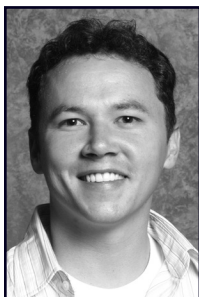
DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS

ALBERT SUMELL, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS

Albert Sumell has a bachelor's degree from Salisbury University, as well as a master's degree and doctorate from Georgia State University.

Sumell has been a professor at YSU for seven years and said, in a typical semester, he will teach Principles of Macroeconomics or Principles of Microeconomics, as well as graduate-level microeconomics.

Sumell said he spends time trying to make lectures interesting for



students.

"An enemy of this is job is complacency ... which means, just kind of deliver the same lecture that you've delivered semester after semester, year after year, day after day, and I do a lot not to fall into that trap," Sumell said.

Sumell said the Distinguished Professor Award is a "great honor."

"I'm very pleased not only to be nominated, [which] is an honor, but of course to receive it is an even greater honor," Sumell said. "Teaching is the whole reason I got into academia ... and looking to be recognized for that is just great."

also a teacher in the field of fashion design, influenced her decision to teach.

Among the several classes Gitimu teaches are Clothing and Image Development, History of Fashion and Social Psychology of Clothing and Appearance. Gitimu said she greatly enjoys doing research and teaching undergraduate research to students.



PRISCILLA GITIMU, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HUMAN ECOLOGY

Priscilla Gitimu is a long way from home. She was born and raised in Kenya, where she graduated from high school and college. She attended Bishop Gatimu Ngandu Girls High School and Moi University, where she earned her bachelor's degree.

She then moved to the U.S. in 1998 to further her education at Southern Illinois University. There, she received her master's degree and her doctorate.

Gitimu specializes in fashion design and merchandising, and she said being a college professor has "always been a childhood dream." A family friend in Kenya, who was

She came to YSU in the fall of 2006, when she was hired as a professor. The reason she received an award for excellence in teaching may have something to do with her passion for the job.

"I love my students. Just talking to them and knowing I can make a difference in their lives by encouraging them in their careers makes me happy," Gitimu said.

BRIAN LESKIW, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY

In 1994, Brian Leskiw graduated from Starpoint Central High School in Pendleton, N.Y., a small town near Buffalo. He went on to receive his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Niagara University and, in 2003, his doctorate in physical chemistry from Pennsylvania State University.

He began working at YSU in 2005.

Leskiw said his favorite part of teaching — and what made him stay in the education field — is the students.

"I very much enjoy interacting

with students. Teaching is not only about learning chemistry, but also serving as a role model to encourage others to rise to the challenge," he said.

When asked about why he received an award for excellence in teaching, he again came back to the students.



"I think I was awarded an excellence in teaching award because I see students as actual people and not just a number in my class. I make time to help students and, while it is not necessarily a goal of mine, I actually learn the names of the majority of those enrolled, which many of my former students could attest to," he said.

MARK WOMBLE, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Mark Womble is from Arlington, Texas, where he graduated from Sam Houston High School. From there, he went on to Texas Christian University, where he obtained his bachelor's degree in biology.

He also has a master's degree in zoology from the University of Kentucky and a doctorate from the University of Michigan Medical School.

Before coming to YSU, Womble spent 12 years as a research scientist, including six years at the Uni-



versity of Colorado.

"[I] decided back in sixth grade that I wanted to be a scientist," he said. "You spend most of your time trying to obtain funding."

His initial desire eventually led him to YSU, where he could actually teach.

"I always enjoyed talking to people about science and explaining what I did and everything about science," Womble said.

Womble may have inherited some of his love of biology from his father, who was a medical doctor, but he did not want to follow in his father's footsteps.

"I felt I was more interested in the mechanisms of diseases and the human body, rather than clinical treatment," he said.

MICHAEL BUTCHER, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Michael Butcher graduated from Menchville High School in Newport News, Va. He attended Christopher Newport University for his bachelor's degree and Wake Forest University for his master's degree. He received his doctorate from the University of Calgary in Canada.

Butcher said he became interested in the field of anatomy and physiology after working in physical therapy. However, he originally had a much different goal.

"I wanted to be a professional



bicycle trick rider. I was a semi-professional rider throughout my teenage years and into my early college years," he said.

Immediately before coming to YSU, Butcher was doing post-doctoral research at Clemson University. Now, he has been at YSU for almost four years as an assistant professor.

Butcher teaches gross anatomy, comparative biomechanics and human physiology. He said he believes he won the award for excellence in scholarship for his research productivity and teaching ability.

"I have five manuscripts currently accepted/in revision and excellence in mentoring my graduate students in my field of comparative biomechanics," he said.

STEVEN BROWN, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

Steven Brown has a bachelor's degree in social theory from the University of California, Santa Cruz; a master's degree in American studies from San Diego State University; and a doctorate in foreign language education from the University of Pittsburgh.



At YSU, Brown teaches language acquisition, English grammar and sociolinguistics, among other subjects.

In the classroom, Brown tries to focus on current, real-world events that deal with his area of study.

"I try to have students think about how they personally relate to the material and try to have a little bit of fun," Brown said. "You're always honored when a committee of your peers gives you an award like this."

SGA PAGE 2

program would not happen until at least fall 2013.

"We can't go in and say, 'This is what we [want to] do.' We have to go through the steps of convincing administration, convincing faculty that this is best for YSU students," Vrabel said.

They said they feel that a first-year experience would foster academic success for students. They would also like to encourage more students to study abroad.

"One of my biggest regrets is not researching sooner and seeing how inexpensive studying abroad is. There's a lot of places you can go to and pay the same tuition you would at YSU," Okular said.

He said that students bringing back what they've learned in another culture would benefit the university as a whole.

"It's not like we're pushing students away from YSU. We just want them to have a fuller college experience, and that's one of the things they can do," Vrabel said.

They said they would also like to see an increase of bulk tuition rate from 12 to 16 credit hours to 13 to 18 credit hours.

"Right now, if you took 12 credit hours each semester here at YSU, it would take you five and a half years to graduate," Okular said. "So, I think it only makes sense that we go back to a maximum of 18 hours as what you pay for the maximum bulk rate."

They said they feel this will be their hardest task.

"If it is accomplished, it will also have the greatest impact to students because not only will students be saving money, but they will be graduating sooner, which also benefits the university," Okular said.

He said they have a meeting

set up with dining services to reform the meal plan, an item they added to their platform while campaigning. They've already begun canvassing campus to collect student input.

Under accountability and sustainability, they would like to establish a timetable on renovations for Kilcawley Center and other buildings.

"We had been working with them to develop the plan and details of the plan," Okular said.

Okular and Vrabel said they believe that since the Kilcawley Center plans were shelved, the student body deserves to know when renovations will take place.

Under student engagement, they'd also like to add an official student section to athletic fields.

"On a personal level, I am very passionate about YSU athletics. I think that one of the best ways to promote a sense of school pride — a sense of community on campus — is through athletics," Vrabel said.

got an opinion?

Send letters to:
thejambar@gmail.com

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF YOUNGSTOWN —ELECTRICIAN WATER DEPARTMENT

- SALARY: \$55,452.80. This is highly skilled electrical work involving the installation, maintenance, diagnostic evaluation and repair of Water Department electrical systems, telemetry control systems, and building electrical systems. **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENTRANCE TO THIS EXAMINATION AS ESTABLISHED BY THE CIVIL SERVICE**

COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF YOUNGSTOWN ARE AS FOLLOWS: Completion of a State Certified Electrical Apprenticeship Training Program with experience in electrical control systems and maintenance is required. At least three (3) years experience in the electrical trade in governmental, public or private utility, commercial or industrial environment. Must possess and maintain a valid State of Ohio driver's license. Applicants must meet the above mentioned minimum qualifications to be considered. **EXAMINATION INFORMATION:**

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE EVALUATION: Applicant's grade will be determined based on Education and Experience found in the application and resume. Each applicant is required to submit a detailed resume of his/her education and experience at the time of filing application, supplemented by proof of educational attainments, training and experience (original transcripts required). All candidates for employment with the City of Youngstown must be a resident of Mahoning County or an Ohio County that is adjacent to Mahoning County at time of hire. Application must be made on the regular application form available at the Office of the Civil Service Commission, 26 S. Phelps Street, 7th Floor City Hall, Youngstown, Ohio. Applications will be accepted from 8:00 a.m. on Monday, April 30, 2012 through 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 11, 2012. Applicant's applying for City Resident Bonus Credit must show proof of residency by providing the following: Driver's License, Bank Statements, Utility Bills, Mortgage Release/Lease, and/or Insurance Statements. In order to be considered applicants must submit four (4) different proofs of residency from one (1) year ago and four (4) current proofs of residency. **APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER 4:00 P.M. ON FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2012.**



"Beautiful / how it looks like Ohio / but feels like heaven."

- James Siegel, "The Other Side," Jenny Magazine Spring 2012 Issue

jenny magazine Spring 2012 Premiere

Thursday, May 3rd, 7-10 PM

Butler North Building (528 Wick Ave., Youngstown, OH 44505)

A night of live readings, music, food, drink, and friends.

This one's for Hartzell



The Youngstown Steel Valley Rugby Club battles Pitt City in a match on Sept. 24. The club's next scheduled event is a tournament on Saturday in Pennsylvania before the Mike Hartzell Rugby Classic on May 19. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

Rugby club organizes for Hartzell scholarship

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

Nine years ago on Sunday, Michael Hartzell, a Youngstown Police Department patrolman, was fatally shot in his police car while at a red light on West Federal Street.

According to the Officer Down Memorial Page website, Hartzell, who was filling in for an officer who called off, pulled over a car on his way back to headquarters. Hartzell did not initiate a traffic stop, but ran the license plate. The driver then exited the car and opened fire.

His parents, Howard and Mary Kay Hartzell, woke up at 2 a.m. to the sound of a phone call. It was a nurse at St. Elizabeth Health Center.

"You need to come to the hospital," the nurse said over and over. "Michael was in an accident."

While his parents made their way through a sea of police badges and black uniforms, Mary Kay Hartzell asked how her son was doing, but nobody knew.

Then, a doctor took the two into a room at approximately 3 a.m. and told them that Michael Hartzell had died. Howard and Mary Kay Hartzell could not see their son because he was "too bad" from the gunshots.

"I'll never forget it. It's a mother's worst nightmare," Mary Kay Hartzell said.

Mary Kay Hartzell said her son, also a former Cardinal District volunteer firefighter, was a quiet kid who always knew he would be a police officer.

"He told me before he graduated high school that that's what he wanted to be," she said. "He never gave us any trouble; he was a good kid."

Shortly after Michael Hartzell's death, Youngstown State University, along with Howard and Mary Kay Hartzell, established the Michael T. Hartzell Memorial Scholarship.



Hartzell

Six active police officers play for the Youngstown Steel Valley Rugby Club, and the club wants to raise money for the scholarship. To do so, it will host the first Mike Hartzell Rugby Classic on May 19 at Austintown Fitch High School.

All proceeds and donations will go toward the Michael T. Hartzell Memorial Scholarship Fund, which, according to the event's Facebook page, is awarded to the children of Mahoning County police officers who plan to attend YSU.

According to the Rugby Classic's Facebook page, 83 people accepted the invite, 69 said maybe and 1,792 are pending as of Monday at 6:30 p.m.

Youngstown will face the Canton Rugby Football Club in one full match. Gates open at 4 p.m., and kickoff is at 5 p.m. Admission is \$5 at the door.

YSU Police Chief John Beshara first heard about the event on Monday and said he might attend, depending on his work schedule.

"I think police in general always give back, but these events are significant for Mike Hartzell and the policeman that he

was," Beshara said. "He had a long life ahead of him, and it was cut short."

Brett Grabman, a Lordstown police officer and president of the rugby club, said the team wants to give back to the community while also getting its name out.

"Helping out a couple of students is obviously going to be a good thing, and that's kind of like the secondary issue," Grabman said. "The main issue for us was that we wanted to show the community and Youngstown State that we are a part of the community."

Matt Ruse, a graduate of Kent State University's Trumbull campus, is in his first year with the team and will be playing for his kid brother, YSU freshman Marc Ruse.

"I really don't know much about it," Marc Ruse said, regarding the event. "My brother's in it, and I'm kind of proud because he's helping out a cause ... getting the Hartzell family out there and honoring them."

Marc Ruse graduated from Cardinal Mooney High School in 2011 and was this year's recipient of the scholarship, along with freshman Derek McLaughlin, sophomore Olivia Bolender and freshman Daniel Farinelli.

"I heard about [the scholarship] through my father, who is a police officer for Youngstown," Marc Ruse said. "It's helped me get closer to the community."

Matt Ruse, a reserve officer for the Mahoning County Sheriff's Department, said the goal is to "get it going, start the tradition this year and just kind of patch that down."

"We figured this would be a pretty good route to go, and just show we wanted to give back to the community and help someone out," Ruse said.

Howard Hartzell said that whenever somebody in the community has an event for Michael Hartzell, it's heartwarming.

"Mike's past is still remembered, and his future," he said.

MVR bocce continues to thrive

Steve Wilaj
REPORTER

It started with one court and a dozen teams.

About 40 years later, the Mahoning Valley Restaurant in Youngstown — with four courts and almost 80 teams — hosts what owner Carmen Cassese describes as the largest bocce league in the U.S.

"Here in Youngstown," Cassese said. "How about

that?"

"It's good food, good times and a great game," said Dave Hinkle, a member of the league since 1992. "That's why we keep going back."

The bocce league at the MVR was created in the early 1970s. Cassese said the friendships built over the years have made the league successful.

"Everyone doesn't come down here because they're hardcore bocce players," he said. "They come down here because they want to interact with their friends."

Pat Casey, a league member for 20 years, agreed, saying he keeps coming back for the camaraderie.

A typical night for the MVR bocce league consists of teams from a men's division and a mixed division (men and women) playing three games.

It also includes food

and drinks from the MVR kitchen.

"There's people eating between the courts, and there's people eating up on the deck," Cassese said. "I hope that we continue to serve food and the people like it. That's all part of it."

Casey agreed, adding that the food is excellent.

"We have a great time down there," he said.

Cassese compared the atmosphere of game night to that of a carnival.

"It's loud. It's boisterous. It's fun," Cassese said. "It's as expensive a night as you want it to be, but it certainly doesn't have to be [expensive] at all."

He also touted the benefits of the sport.

"You can hold a beer while you play," he said. "What other sport allows that?"

While Cassese is glad to provide an enjoyable atmosphere, he said people do not take advantage of his flexibility.

"It's a mature group," Cassese said. "It can be competitive, but not to the extent where there's much anger."

Hinkle said he agreed. "There's very little controversy," he said. "It's just a nice family atmosphere."

In addition to regular season game nights, the bocce league includes a playoff to determine a champion. The

MVR also hosts a banquet at the season's end to give out league awards.

"That's something to look forward to at the end of the year," Cassese said. "You can win coats and stuff like that. It's a fun thing."

As for the effect his league has on the Youngstown community, Cassese said he thinks it is a good one.

"If you come here, you'd see all four of those courts going and the camaraderie," he said. "By the sheer numbers, people are having fun, or I wouldn't have this many teams."

Hinkle said he, like many others in the league, appreciates the opportunity the MVR presents.

"The Cassese family is awesome, and the MVR is a great venue," he said.

Cassese said he wants to continue the bocce league in the future and thinks it will maintain success.

"As long as we work at making it right and continue to create what we hope is a good atmosphere, we'll be fine," he said.

And although he realizes all that his restaurant and league provides, Cassese made it clear that he is not doing anyone a favor.

"The people are doing me a favor by being a participant," he said.

Sports Briefs

Roller derby opens season at Covelli

The Little Steel Derby Girls, Youngstown's roller derby team, will take on the Lansing Derby Vixens and the Central Ohio Roller Dolls in their season-opening doubleheader on May 19 at the Covelli Centre. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the bout begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at the Covelli Centre's box office (330-208-2045) or through Ticketmaster. For more information about the Little Steel Derby Girls, check out <http://www.littlesteel-derbygirls.com>.

Penguins

finish strong on final day of HL Championships

The YSU men's golf team shot a team score of 300, which was the second-best round on Sunday at the Horizon League Championships. The Penguins' three-day total was 929; this score gave them eighth place overall for the tournament, which was held at Florida's Mission Inn Resort. Anthony Conn had the strongest showing for the Penguins, as he shot a 75 on Sunday and a 228 for the tournament, giving him a tie for 11th place. The YSU women's team placed fifth with a three-round score of 1,024. Additionally, two golfers — freshman Allison Mitzel and junior Sarah Heimlich — placed in the top seven in the tournament, earning all-tournament honors for their performances.

Penguin Spotlight



Jeremy Banks

Year: Senior
Height: 6'1"
Hometown: Steubenville
Position: 1B



Blake Aquadro

Year: Junior
Height: 6'1"
Hometown: Memphis, Tenn.
Position: LHP



Jeff Hafely tosses a ball across the court during MVR bocce's opening day on Monday. Hafely represented the Holy Rollers as they took on Valley Foods. Photo by Joe Catullo Jr./The Jambar.

During a sweep of the University of Illinois at Chicago at Eastwood Field this past weekend, senior Jeremy Banks and junior Blake Aquadro both earned Horizon League Baseball Player of the Week honors. Banks, a three-time winner this season, batted .636 with seven hits in 11 at-bats with six RBIs. Aquadro pitched the Penguins' first nine-inning shutout since 2004 on Sunday. He allowed eight hits and struck out three batters while throwing 144 pitches.