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OUT INTO THE WORLD

642 students graduate this fall

Ashley Morris
REPORTER

On Dec. 16, more than 600 students will receive their diplomas at Youngstown State University's fall commencement.

Altogether, 642 degrees will be awarded — 486 bachelor's degrees, 104 master's degrees, 48 associate degrees and four doctorate degrees.

Jacquelyn LeViseur, the director of alumni and events management, said caps and gowns will be distributed to students between Monday and Wednesday.

Michael Garvey, the CEO of M-7 Technologies and a Warren native,

is scheduled to speak at the fall commencement. Garvey said he's enthusiastic about being this semester's speaker.

"I'm thrilled, absolutely thrilled, absolutely thrilled," Garvey said. "I was approached by the administrators, and I said, 'Absolutely.'"

Although Garvey said he's excited, he added that he's uncertain about what message to leave with graduates.

"I don't have any idea right now," he said. "You want to give them the right message after they've spent so much money on their education."

Soon-to-be graduate Krista Ulbricht said her most memorable moment at YSU was switching from an account-

ing major to a theater major during her second semester.

"My mother passed away at the beginning of that term, but I stuck it out and kept going to school," Ulbricht said. "Professor Todd Dicken was there for me. That's what's wonderful about the theater department; the professors are our teachers, mentors and friends. The professors have a passion for teaching and the art of theater, which allows for a fun and productive learning atmosphere."

Ulbricht said she plans to interview for stage management positions after graduation.

"If they don't work out, I will be moving down south to find other theater opportunities," she said.

Tina Cvetkovich has been a non-traditional social work major at YSU since 2005; it was her second attempt at simultaneously pursuing a degree and raising three children and a grandchild.

"I have enjoyed my time here. This campus is great," Cvetkovich said. "I hope to come back next fall to start to my master's in counseling."

In the meantime, Cvetkovich said she plans to find work in her field. But she also left behind some advice for other nontraditional students.

"Keep track of everything you have going on," Cvetkovich said. "Make sure you even schedule 'me time,' too, and not combine it with family time."



Debbie Long, who has worked at Jump Asian Express in the KC Food Court since August, fills her post behind the counter. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

Mexican option to replace Jump Asian

Rachel Lundberg
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

On Jan. 14, the first day of the spring semester, a Mexican-themed restaurant will replace Jump Asian Express in the KC Food Court.

The new restaurant will have a theme similar to Christman Dining Commons' late-night Mexican option, Sombbrero's.

Melody Monroe, general manger of Sodexo Campus Dining Services, finalized the decision to replace Jump Asian during the week of Thanksgiving. She'd been discussing it for months.

"Jump isn't doing what we need it to do, and we can't get it to," Monroe said.

Sodexo has tracked Jump Asian's business at 15-minute intervals, and Monroe said the numbers are around two-thirds lower than traffic at other KC Food Court locations.

Stephen Dipaolo, a sophomore finance major at Youngstown State University, said he likes the idea of replacing Jump Asian.

"I think it's about time for a change there,"

Dipaolo said. "If it's like Coyoacan or like Chipotle, then that idea is good."

No construction will take place, however. Monroe said the existing facilities would serve the new Mexican restaurant well. All that is needed is new paint and signage.

"That's why it won't take months," Monroe said, adding that the transformation will begin Jan. 2. "There's no actual construction in this."

Monroe said Sombbrero's, which was introduced this semester, has become a popular option at Christman. She said she believes it will serve students better than Jump Asian.

"[Jump Asian] is a great concept. It just didn't work here," Monroe said. "We thought we'd try something different."

The new kiosk will still be part of the meal exchange program. Food options are still being finalized, but will include burritos, burrito bowls and vegetarian choices. Monroe said no ground beef would be used — only whole muscle meats and chicken.

"It's not a Taco Bell by any means," Monroe said. "I believe the students will find it well balanced."

Part-timers' plight

Jordan D. Uhl & Kacy Standohar
THE JAMBAR

They don't have job security, offices or benefits, and if they're not careful, part-time faculty at Youngstown State University may lose their jobs altogether.

A memo sent out on Nov. 29 by Kevin Reynolds, chief human resources officer, outlines a new university policy, which implements a 24-hour cap on adjunct faculty's work hours.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, otherwise known as Obamacare, led to the Internal Revenue Service classifying full-time work as 30 hours or more per week. As a result, YSU would be forced to provide health care benefits to eligible employees.

If they exceed the limit, they're fired.

"Part-time faculty means they are employed for that specific term, and there is no guarantee of any future employment after that term," Reynolds said.

"No exceptions to 24-hour limits but they could come back in later years," said Teresa Riley, associate provost.

The original limit was 18 hours, but after further evaluation and constant communication with department chairs, Reynolds felt 24 hours was a reasonable amount.

To avoid having to make exceptions, the administration hopes that informing faculty of the policy now will

lead to unilateral adherence to the rule.

The administration has concocted a formula to calculate true hours worked, balancing the discrepancy between teaching and clock hours. The most a part-timer could work throughout an academic year is 1,512 clock hours.

"YSU will use a multiplier of 63. For example: if a part-time faculty member teaches 6 hours during the Fall and 6 hours during the Spring, that load would equate to 756 clock hours (6 + 6 = 12 x 63 = 756). Therefore, that part-time faculty member could still work for 756 hours in other jobs," the memo reads.

"This is the government inventing ways to get around rules that are made by the government," said Matt Williams, vice president of New Faculty Majority.

New Faculty Majority is an Akron-based organization that represents the interests of adjunct faculty members across the country.

YSU employs 573 part-time faculty members and 432 full-time professors, one of the highest part-time rates in the state.

Guy Shebat, an instructor in the English department, oversees the composition program.

In the English department, the largest department on campus, 74 part-time employees far exceed the 29 full-time faculty members. He said the administration's adjustment of the policy was reasonable and helped allevi-

PART-TIMERS PAGE 2

Extra honor available for service-minded students

Rachel Lundberg
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Youngstown State University now offers an additional graduation honor for students who take courses with a service component.

Students who have completed 12 semester hours of coursework with a service component qualify to become Service Learning Citizen Scholars upon graduation. Students must also maintain a 2.75 GPA and earn a "B" or

better in the courses to qualify.

The Service Learning Citizen Scholars Program stems from the YSU 2020 Strategic Plan. Service learning is part of the bigger project of the student engagement team.

"We want students to have these experiences outside of the classroom," said Laura McCaskey, the program's coordinator.

McCaskey said students are recognized at graduation with a stole for their robe and can include the honor on resumes.

"Anything extra on a resume is a conversation piece," McCaskey said.

The service element has to serve both students and the community.

"We call it closing the loop," McCaskey said.

In addition, students can work with teachers to create a service-learning element to a course that would not normally have one.

McCaskey said she feels the program is not well enough known, but said it is still growing. She is in the process of developing a Web page for

the program outside of the Williamson College of Business Administration's website because the program is available to all YSU students.

"So many students at YSU are involved in civic engagement activities through their classes and student organizations," said Ronald Shaklee, director of the University Scholars and Honors programs. "More students should take advantage of the recognition they would receive by pursuing the completion of the Service Learning Citizen Scholar Program."

Containing YSU's carbon footprint

Justin Carissimo
REPORTER

When tracking the carbon footprint at Youngstown State University, researchers take various sources of emissions into account. Electricity, natural gas, waste and construction all contribute to carbon activity.

Bill Haas, assistant director of facilities at YSU, said electricity is one of the most important aspects of the carbon footprint on campus.

Over the weeks of the fall semester, YSU's campus has emitted 13,977,936 kWh of greenhouse gases through electricity.

According to the calculator on the Environmental Protection Agency's website, YSU's electrical usage emits enough carbon dioxide to provide electricity for 1,205 houses a year. The uni-

versity also accounts for 1,080,557 gallons of gasoline consumed and 22,415 barrels of oil.

Haas said that saving energy is something that most members of the YSU community should always be aware of.

"Energy is important because the more you conserve, the longer it will last and the cheaper it will ultimately be. The more you save, the more you'll be affecting your bottom line," Haas said.

Haas said even the smallest gesture such as turning a light off or shutting a computer down can contribute to saving energy.

"The electricity usage is the factor that everyone can control the most," Haas said. "It's just the right thing to do."

In 2012, the university spent \$3,131,130.61 on electricity to provide

lighting for classrooms, labs, facilities and lounges.

YSU took action to cut costs and gas emissions by partnering with Johnson Controls for a 10-year contract. The agreement has been in effect since 2007.

David Gaffney, energy performance engineer for Johnson Controls, elaborated on the efficiency of the contract. He said YSU paid roughly \$10 million for equipment upgrades associated with the performance contract.

Johnson Controls has guaranteed \$1.3 million toward the annual utility bill. Through the first five years of the 10-year guarantee, the guaranteed savings amount has been achieved each year.

"Over the 10-year period, [Johnson Controls] has guaranteed YSU will see a savings of \$13 million because of reduced energy consumption," Gaffney

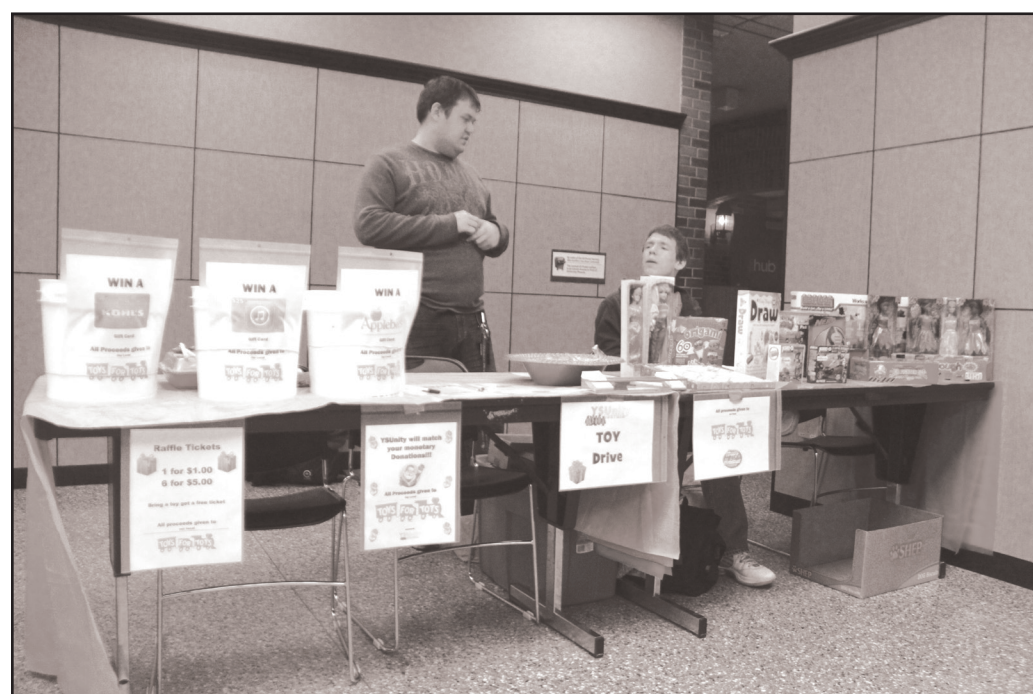
said. Johnson Controls updated many inefficient pieces of equipment across campus including lighting, chillers and devices. The equipment is essential when steam is used as a heating source.

YSU is billed for steam usage in units of mlb; each mlb is 1,000 pounds of steam.

In 2012, the university has spent \$2,786,177.66 on steam to keep its campus warm during fall and winter.

Andrew Kunkel, a senior at YSU, said he's glad the university has already taken steps to become more eco-friendly and cost-efficient.

"If we don't take steps toward reducing greenhouse gases, the environment will not be forgiving. I'm glad to see there's a conscious effort to make better choices when dealing with energy. I still think we can all do better," Kunkel said.



YSUnity helps Toys for Tots

YSUnity is holding a toy drive and raffle in Kilcawley Center to raise money for Toys for Tots. The group has raised more than \$238 in raffle ticket sales. YSUnity will be raffling off \$25 gift cards for Kohl's, Applebee's and iTunes, and all money from ticket sales will be donated to Toys for Tots. Toy donations can be made Friday in Kilcawley Center and Monday, Wednesday and Friday of next week in DeBartolo Hall. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

PART-TIMERS PAGE 1

ate the burden some part-time faculty members would have faced.

On average, an adjunct faculty member in the English department teaches 12.5 hours per academic year.

A part-time faculty member at YSU makes \$800 per semester hour, and often relies on logging additional hours in the English Language Institute or the Writing Center to make more throughout the year. Now, those additional funds appear to be out of reach.

If a part-timer maximized his time teaching, it would add up to \$19,200 before taxes, which is \$8,030 over the federal poverty line for a single person.

"We, too, are highly educated and highly skilled, and I feel we should be making a living wage. We do this because we love teaching, and we believe in the mission of YSU," said Karen Schubert, a part-time English instructor.

Part-time instructors are budgeted to collectively make almost \$4.6 million in fiscal year 2013, whereas full-time faculty members are allocated \$34.5 million.

"I guess the key thing is that this is a part-time position and as such, it's compensated as a part-time position," Riley said.

The discrepancy in pay is justified, Reynolds said. Full-time faculty are contractually obligated to engage in research, scholarship and community outreach-based endeavors in addition to instruction, whereas part-time faculty members only teach.

"No number of classes will allow me to obtain insurance, but the stress of more classes will lead to more health problems," Schubert said. "One of my colleagues had to put the cost of surgery on his credit card. We are in a very precarious position."

YSU President Cynthia Anderson and her Cabinet of nine made more than \$1.5 million in fiscal year 2012, not including the newly hired vice president for university advancement, R. Scott Evans. This is 33 percent of what the entire part-time faculty will make this year.

"The ethics of higher education has become the ethics of compensation for administrators," Williams said.

Williams said it's a moral dilemma, which the universities are handling in the wrong way.

"It's clear that over the last 25 or 30 years, there's been a substantial shift in focus of higher education, away from education to anything else under the sun," Williams said.

Much to Williams' dismay, it's a growing trend throughout academia.

"That's the way the other universities are approaching it. This is not a YSU issue," Reynolds said.

The Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles issued the results of its undergraduate teaching faculty survey in October. Nearly 75 percent of all faculty members cope with stress as a result of internal budget issues. Part-timers lack essential support necessary to maintain morale, with only 18 percent of part-timers reporting they were provided with personal space; most must share already limited resources.

In the English department at YSU, tables are scattered throughout the office for adjunct faculty to meet with students.

"The precipitous rise in the employment of part-time faculty at colleges and universities has not been accompanied by institutional policies and resources designed to support part-time faculty in their efforts to be effective educators," Kevin Eagan, HERI assistant director for research said in the report, which he co-wrote.

Individuals debating over whether they should attain higher education are often sold on the idea with a promise of increased opportunities.

"Whatever happened to social contract? The promise of better life through higher education? The same professors communicating that idea in the classroom are then denied [that opportunity]," Williams said. "It's bullshit. It's not true."

As a repercussion, students lack the support and dedication a full-time faculty member can provide.

"If I have six classes [at two different universities] with 15 to 25 students in each, and they are all giving me three essays and three drafts each semester, and a good review of an essay takes 20 minutes, well, there aren't that many hours," Schubert said. "If a student is struggling and would benefit from extra support, I can't offer it."

Student group seeks to redefine 'Arab'

Sarah Perrine
REPORTER

The Arabic Language and Culture Association wants to get to the bottom of stereotypes within our society — or at least at Youngstown State University.

Senior Lamia Sassya, an Arab-American biology pre-med major, has been president of the group for the past two semesters.

"It's mainly there for people to enjoy and to have fun, but at the same time it's there to kind of open a door for those who want to clear up those misconceptions and education," Sassya said.

Sassya, with fellow Arabic Language and Culture Association members Tausif Siddiqi and Mansour AlJazzir, recently created a documentary focused around the word "Arab."

Annette El-Hayek, assistant director for study abroad and exchange programs and the group's adviser, said she thought the documentary was a good learning experience for students.

"I thought it was a really good idea because most people don't know who are Arabs and who are not," El-Hayek said.

Sassya, a foreign film and documentary fanatic, was inspired by "The Listening Project," a documentary featuring a man traveling from country to country asking about the word "America."

AlJazzir, a sophomore engineering student from Saudi Arabia, helped to conduct the interviewing process with Sassya.

Upon beginning the project, AlJazzir was simply excited about the interaction among students.

"My first thought was to introduce Arabic culture for other people and make an interaction between students that no matter region or a language can impede to communicate with each other," AlJazzir said.

Participating YSU students were asked two questions: "When you hear 'Arab,' what is the first thing that pops into your head?" and "How do you define an Arab?"

Siddiqi and AlJazzir started the documentary by wearing clothing traditional to their culture. Sassya wore the traditional abaya and hijab, and AlJazzir wore a thobe and ghutra.

However, after having 15 to 20 students refuse to answer, they decided to see what would happen if they wore American clothing.

"I think it's because they were afraid to offend, and I told them they did not have to worry about that," Sassya said.

On the second attempt, a wide range of answers began flowing about food, religion and clothing, to more stereotypical answers including, "The dot on their forehead."

The group debuted the documentary on Nov. 16 at their event, Arabic Language and Culture Association Hafla. The event, held at the Arab American Community Center on Belmont Avenue, was dedicated to discussing common stereotypes within today's society. Roughly 100 people attended.

The results of the documentary were positive overall, and it captured the attention of YSU students.

"As a result of the documentary, some of my friends have curiosity to learn more about the Arabic culture and see if there is difference between other cultures," AlJazzir said.

In addition to the discussion about stereotypes, there was dancing and fun.

"We got to perform a dance that not many people see, because in the Gulf area, the women, they do a dance with their hair," Sassya said. "It's called Khaleeji dancing."

Sassya said this was one of the best parts of the event because the dance is typically done in private.

"The politics of today, and the target on the Middle East, I think has caused a really unfair view," Sassya said. "I hear it every day."

The Arabic Language and Culture Association was established in 2008. So far, they've completed trips to a mosque and local hookah cafes.

The organization has also hosted international coffee hour on Fridays and served Arabic food.

There are no plans for any other events this semester, and Sassya is looking for a student to take over her position after she graduates in December.

"You cannot define an Arab by the religion, the clothing, the region; the only thing you can kind of correlate them is the Arabic language, which itself has so many dialects," Sassya said. "So, it's good to open that awareness, and it did for some people; hopefully, we will find someone to take it over."

El-Hayek said she is not worried about finding a student to step up to the position.

"Leadership is always a problem," El-Hayek said. "I don't care what kind of group you're in, everyone has the same problem, and there are always some people within the group that put out more time and effort than someone else. But there's always somebody that is stepping up."

CORRECTION

In "YSU hosts workshop for mental health professionals," which appeared in Tuesday's issue of The Jambar, Elizabeth Pugh was paraphrased as saying that the workshop for mental health professionals wasn't much different than the subject she learned in class.

Pugh called The Jambar to clarify.

"I see how the workshop ties into the course material, and it's interesting to see the connection," Pugh said.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Jabali scheduled for Dec. 14

The 13th annual Jabali event will be held at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 14 in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center. Jimma McWilson, co-founder of the FAMILY Empowerment Student Achievement Institute, will be the keynote speaker. The institute was founded in 2006 to aid Youngstown City Schools in its academic progress. The institute has presented more than 3,000 awards to Youngstown students and teachers. The Harambee Youth Group and the African Students Union will perform at the Jabali event. Dinners are \$25 each. Dinners for students are \$10, and a table of eight will cost \$175. For more information, call the YSU Africana Studies Program at 330-941-3097.

Couple to donate \$1 million to YSU

YSU alumni Walter and Mary Healey have announced a planned gift estimated at \$1 million. They have determined that the funds will be used to beautify the YSU campus after their deaths. Heather Chunn, YSU senior development officer, said the plans for the money will not be finalized until the university receives the gift.

POLICE BRIEFS

Traffic stop yields marijuana, clear sandwich bags

On Friday, YSU Police smelled marijuana coming from the inside of the car they'd just pulled over because of an expired registration. After checking with the police identification system, YSU Police discovered that the driver had a suspended license and expired plates. YSU Police told the car's passengers to hand over any marijuana they had with them, and one passenger gave officers a sandwich bag containing the marijuana. During a search of the car, YSU Police also found several clear sandwich bags in the backseat.

Police respond to complaint of marijuana odor

On Saturday, YSU Police followed up to a complaint about a marijuana smoke odor coming from the sixth floor of Lyden House. A university police officer knocked on the resident's door, but there was no response. Music and voices could be heard inside the room, and the officer knocked again. After waiting several seconds, the officer knocked a third time and the resident responded. According to the police report, the officer detected the distinct odor of marijuana smoke inside the room.

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JEFF PAGE 6

working to better your videos ... motherf--ker!

Ah, no. It's Campbell. Haha. I still have love for you, Wilaj. Stop falling for the other team's mascot. They only tell you what you want to hear to get into your pants in order to jinx your team. YSU men's football might be undefeated if it wasn't for your fling in North Dakota.

Jordan: You're a very knowledgeable young man. After I found out about your knowledge of Nas, I was impressed and caught off guard. I turn to you for diverse, rational and intelligent opinions. I had to reassess my concept of your person a second time after reviewing your library. I always considered you as a smart person; now I know you're also a person who never ceases to amaze. I feel proud to see you dressed professionally. Be good kid ... and don't allow Kacy to negatively influence you.

Kacy: Don't negatively influence Jordan! I'm glad that you remember our first interaction. I knew an adorable person was hidden beneath those sweats and droopy sad face. You didn't seem happy at the information desk. You've become an impressive profes-

sional, and you're a perfect fit at The Jambar. I can't imagine the office without you. Thanks for answering all of my questions as I try to make sense of women and life.

Kevin: Man, I like you guys. You two are some of the coolest people to come from Bliss since Teresa Soos and her friends. Kevin, thanks for working with me and embracing the good in me. I know we don't listen to the same music, but you're open and very tolerant. Thanks for getting to know me and showing interest in my tales of worldly adventure.

Paris: I am so glad you don't listen to that *cracker* music, and for listening to enough emo music that all I have to do is ask you a question about it to get the answer because I am not going to listen to it. You need to get some Wu Tang in your life. You and Kevin have that youthful creativity that's current and fresh.

Emmalee: I remember your help at the Writing Center. The United States needs more people like you. Upon your earthly departure, the literacy rate will fall. In high school, I was too cool for proper grammar, and I'm paying for it now and playing catch up. You've also become a professional be-

fore my eyes. I'm happy to be a significant part of your style progression.

Alisa: I couldn't have imagined how our paths would meet. I remember you from The Bucks and The Y. Then, one day I was working with you at The Jambar. I enjoy talking to you. I am able to tell you anything without the fear of judgment. I respect your family values, morality, your personal and professional opinion. After you said that I should cut my hair, I thought to myself I should cut it. I prepared to cut my losses, and six months later I cut my locks-iz. I've never met someone who made me want to change habits and actions solely based on it being the right action. You being the person you are exposed who I should be. I knew better, but I wasn't doing better. You being the better person made me realize that I need to change in order to attract better people. Your parents should write a parenting 101 book because they raised a woman, a sister and a lady. Alisa, you are what girls should strive to be. Knowing you will forever change how I measure women. You also taught me to never settle for a lesser person to replace loneliness.

THE 13TH ANNUAL

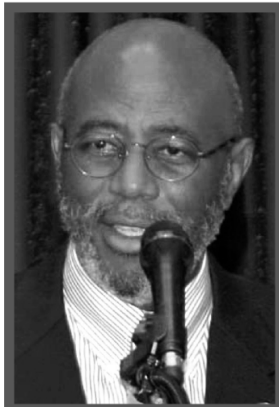
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Friday, December 14, 2012
The Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center
6:30 p.m.

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The Harambee Youth Group and the African Students Union (ASU) will entertain.
Dinner is \$25 per person,
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To the folks down at the Jambar office

Lacey Arnold
COPY EDITOR

The time has come for me to say “Goodbye.” It’s been an ... interesting year and half with you all, to say the least. But in all seriousness, all of you have played an important role in my life, or at least in my Monday and Wednesday evenings.

Because of your influence, I now have trouble writing paragraphs of more than two lines. It’s really becoming an issue in my literature classes. They don’t care for sentence-long paragraphs as much as the rest of you seem to.

But some good has come out of this place, too. I gained a lot of valuable experience as a copy editor, solidified my grammar and AP style skills, and met some really amazing people.

To my fellow copy editors:

Is it OK to tell you, now that I’m leaving this place for good, that I despise AP style? Well, maybe despise is a strong word. I mean, I’ve put up with it for quite some time now, changing “okay” to “OK,” “towards” to “toward,” “less than” to “fewer” when referring to countable objects. All of those things I could handle. But my soul died a little every time I had to omit a serial comma.

My biggest revelations in life have come to me halfway through production nights in the confines of our copy editing corner — like that time that I realized “bra” was short for “brassiere,” just like “jeans” are short for “blue jeans.” Thank you, Cassy. Then there was that time that we realized the best way to pluralize things is by adding an “i” to the end. Ocotopi. Newspaperi. Penis. I sure did learn a lot about life in that corner.

I’m going to miss planning “crocket parties” and “decorating parties” just to have an excuse to go out and drink with you guys. What will I do when I don’t

have you three to rant to about all the horrible grammar out there in the world? Emmalee—

You really are amazing at what you do. And, sure, that might have something to do with the fact that you’ve been here 14 years. But, regardless, I know you have a talent and a passion for this stuff, and it’s evident in every single production. You are going to do wonderful things out there in the real world.

My biggest regret is that we have never actually made our grammar superhero Web show a reality — you know, the one where you are “Emdash” (the super fast superhero), I am “The Hyphenator” (the one with incredible strength) and we run around in tights and capes correcting grammatical errors.

Because of your eye for the smallest of typewritten inconsistencies, I will be ever conscious of the difference between curly and straight quotation marks, so thanks for that. It’s just another thing to add to my list of things to be obsessive-compulsive about.

If there is one thing that you have taught me about life, it is this: Drink like a champ.

Jenna—

I love that we are doing shots of wine five-minute intervals apart as I am writing this. You have been my personal little instigator this semester, and I blame you for quite a few of my embarrassing moments — like singing Kid Rock and Sheryl Crow’s “Picture” at karaoke.

You are such a sociable, charismatic person, and your photography is amazing. I love that you are always down for anything, including coming up with the most ridiculous headlines I’ve ever heard.

Cassy—

Ying yang. Glasses. Telephone. Mail-

box. Mailbox. Open mailbox. (That was in code. I hope you know what it means.)

On a slightly less ridiculous note, I’m glad that you exist, so I can rant to you about how much I hate sans serif fonts. You know that I’m a Times New Roman gal.

But in all seriousness, you are such a talented PWE person, and you really have a handle on that grammar stuff. I mean, you found mistakes on the Purdue OWL website of all places. Who does that?

But best of all, you always find the greatest grammar memes and post them onto my Facebook page. I will miss sitting at the computer right next to yours on production nights and typing nonsense things onto your Facebook wall.

I know you don’t want to hear this again, but you’d make an amazing EIC next year. Just think about it.

Chris—

The first time we met, I think you asked me if I wanted to make out. I told you I did not, and I still don’t, just in case there was any confusion.

I am thankful to you, though, not just for running the office this semester, not just for printing six-page issues every week, but also for not making fun of me when Dennis LaRue made me cry during my interview.

Let’s not talk about that ever again.

I think I have a class with you this semester. I’m not really sure, because you’ve only been there twice. But, in all seriousness, I know it’s just because of the extra work you are putting in at the office. You are always running around Fedor Hall asking all of the Jambar workers if there’s anything you can help them with, and I know we all really ap-

preciate all the time you put into making The Jambar great.

Jordan—

You and Emmalee are the only other vegetarians in the office, and I love that the majority of our conversations seem to involve food. Vegetarian food. You have been my human garbage disposal since I started working here. Every time I come into the office with an eggplant sandwich, you waste no time before telling me that you are quite interested in my scraps.

I am fully confident in your ability to succeed in law school and become an awesome lawyer, or whatever it is you want to do, one day. The sections of the editorials that you write always make me laugh, or think, or whatever it is they’re supposed to do. You are one of the few people I know whose opinion I truly respect.

Joe—

Your videos are hilarious. There have been quite a few times where I’ve come into the office and was unable to work on whatever it was I needed to do because I was distracted by whatever ridiculous video you had playing at the time.

I’ve never met a better initiator to the slow clap. This is how I will remember you. Frankly, the decibel of your voice at the end of the infamous Jambar slow claps frightens me a little.

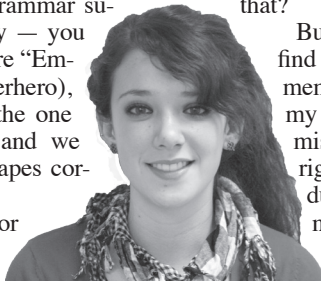
You are a funny guy, and I know you’ll go on to do great things.

To the rest of you all—

Mary Beth, Mary, Marissa, Kacy, Joe, Paris, Kevin, Steve, Keeley, Daniel, Rachel, Kevin, Jeff, Josh, Dustin and the rest of the people who go into making the Jambar great, you really do a wonderful job. I’m going to miss working with you all, and I know each one of you will go on to do amazing things after graduation.

But right now, it’s my turn.

Farewell!



Beers to you, don’t cha know

Daniel “Murch” MacMurchy
WEB MANAGER

Within the next two weeks, I will be interviewing for a professional career at a potential employer, receiving my diploma at commencement, and saying goodbye to my friends at The Jambar and Youngstown State University.

My four years at YSU have shaped me into a brighter individual and provided me with a foundation of knowledge to start a professional career.

This semester was my ultimate test.

With 17 semester hours and

two part-time jobs, I had my hands full. My teachers never let up, and the assignments piled higher and higher.

With finals week approaching, the heavy burden of homework and class projects has finally been lifted, and only one exam stands in my way before graduation.

I want to thank all of my teachers, friends and co-workers for the wonderful experience that was provided to me at YSU.

My biggest of thanks goes out to The Jambar’s staff. I have never witnessed

such a hardworking group of

individuals. The knowledge of these students amazes me, and I am thankful to have shared my experience with them.

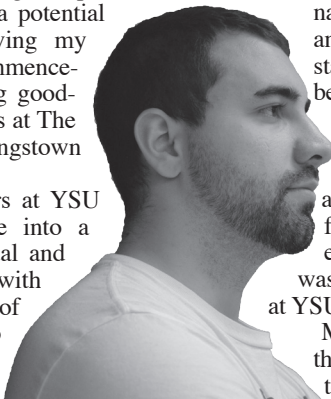
My role as Web manager gave me a chance to utilize the skills I obtained from my coursework. I hope that future employees of The Jambar will use my design and develop it even further.

The Jambar also gave me the opportunity to voice my opinion about my love for craft beer.

The weekly beer column gave me something to look forward to every week, and it took my mind off all my schoolwork.

With the semester coming to an end, I wish the best of luck to students and faculty during finals week and to your promising futures.

Cheers!



Rachel Lundberg
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

My time at The Jambar has drawn to a close, and it’s time to say a bittersweet goodbye.

The past three months working here have been full of lessons and memories I won’t soon forget.

I’ll miss doing the Carlton and chanting on production nights.

I think my most memorable experience with my Jambar friends was spending five days in Chicago. Drag-

ging you guys to tourist traps and the two-story Walgreens heaven was unforgettable. Oh, and I learned a lot at the conference, too.

Mary, you are quite possibly the coolest lady ever. Thank you so much for feeding us poor college kids.

Marissa and Kacy, I’ll miss keeping the boys in line with you and doing the Carlton. Boys ... try not to break any computers.

Joe, helping film “Jack Up the Rev” that one time was a

to others and look for truth.

Above all, you have the balls to stand up to bullshit and do the right thing in the face of danger.

Mary: You surpassed my expectations within a few months. I miss Olga, and there’s no replacement for her. However, there’s no replacement for you. You have a great sense of humor and we’ve shared some good jokes. I’m glad to have been able to make your transition into the office a smooth and enjoyable one.

Chelsea: I was amazed by your professionalism and work process. You’re my first example of an editor-in-chief, and you maintained a creative, free-flowing workplace. It allowed for endless topics and debates.

Josh: You applied knowledge from Chelsea’s example, and you raised the bar. Man, I witnessed the only editor in Jambar history to back to back the position. I was impressed with your leadership abilities, despite your young age.

...I watched relationships grow and blossom ... No one got knocked up ... Wait. That did happen.

pretty meaningful experience. You and Steve truly bring out the worst in each other. I’ll help you make a music video any time.

Alyssa, you’re the best secretary I’ve ever met. And the most stylish.

Jordan, I still owe you a meal swipe. I’ll miss your witty newsroom banter.

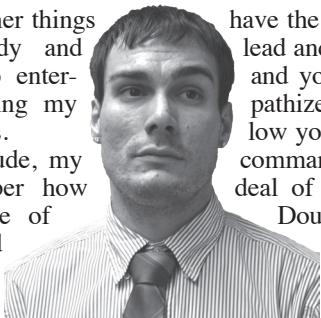
Steve, you little wallflower. I’m happy you came out of your shell a little this semester. I’m sorry I missed out on your early morning adventures in Chicago.

Josh, refrain from physical violence with Joe.

Kacy and Joe, I would like to address our grade on our Press Law project from last spring. It was unjust. The special edition of “Jack Up the Rev,” “Jack Up the Law,” deserved an “A.” Great job, guys! We’ll have a great time in Capstone together.

Sorry I’m leaving after just one semester, everybody. But the allure of graduating on time while maintaining my sanity was too strong. But don’t worry. I’ll be around.

Marissa: I remember your



Don’t touch my screen!

Many thanks to ...

Lamar: Your spontaneous, intelligent, outgoing, hilarious character was welcoming during my first day of workshop. If it weren’t for you, I wouldn’t have opened up to the office. Our shared interests of hip-hop, “The Wire” and philosophy led to mentally stimulating conversations. Ironically, I assumed you to be a grunge listener.

Mary Beth: Congratulations to you and Adam. Thank you for the right amount of wise words at the right time. On the first day of workshop, you reminded me of Julia Louis-Dreyfus. You conduct an academic environment that is journalistic, professional and conversational.

Adam Rogers and Brian: You two added to the welcoming environment of The Jambar and showed me what a newsroom is. The Jambar is a think-tank with a diverse workplace. The students within it have a goldmine of opinions and experiences. I was lucky to have the privilege of being part of it. I was able to bounce theories off my fellow coworkers and test ideas. We shared stories and memories, and we progressed together.

Teresa Soos: Dang, I miss the Pam Beasley of The Jambar. Teresa, I’m happy to have

shared my time at the office with you. I like your unique, artistic, creative, free-spirited personality. Wow, we shared a wide-range of memories from art, the finer things in life, comedy and food. You also entertained me during my wild hypotheses.

Sam: My dude, my dude. Remember how leery you were of me? I am glad to have restored your faith in rap by introducing you to hip-hop. Thanks for listing when I needed to vent; you’re a good friend. Don’t be a stranger.

Professor Pittman: You taught me that I am not a reporter, and I am grateful for that. You’re a good and understanding man. I’m also glad we share common ground because of “The Simpsons.”

Dan Pompili: You showed me the living, breathing definition of a news reporter; because of you, I respect news reporters. In addition to skill, hard work and long hours, great news reporters have an ability to visualize the story before it goes to print. You have it. I am happy to have witnessed a gumshoe reporter in action.

Doug: You’re a great outside-of-the-box thinker. I

enjoyed our opposing viewpoints debates and our academic approach to general — random — topics. Don’t let the stress get to you. You have the natural ability to lead and manage people, and you’re able to empathize with those below you on the chain of command. I have a great deal of respect for you, Douglas. Thanks for allowing me to pick your brain; you were generous with the distance you allowed me to push the envelope. That “Boardwalk” is wonderful television.

Chris: Yeah, naw ... that was whack on my behalf. I’d like to go on the record and say that sometimes Jeffrey is on his bullshit, and on event in question, Jeffrey was on his hardheaded BS. When I first met you, I knew we shared many similarities; I likened you to a brother. However, I knew our road to respect and friendship would be a hard-fought one. Thanks for being you. I respect your ability to test people about their unquestioned beliefs, and to allow them to make themselves look foolish in the face of facts. You produce good journalism because you’re willing to maintain an open mind. You listen

to others and look for truth.

to others and look for truth.



Broken neck doesn't break the spirit

Justin Jenista will graduate with a bachelor's degree in business administration on Dec. 16, after recovering from a broken neck. Photo by Kevin Alquist/The Jambar.

Kevin Alquist
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

With graduation nearing, Justin Jenista would only have a summer of work, rest and relaxation before he would enter the business world with a bachelor's degree in business administration. But on July 6, he leapt headfirst off a dock into shallow water and broke his neck.

When he made impact with the ground, all Jenista knew was that he'd hurt himself. But when he woke up the next morning still in serious pain, he knew something was wrong.

When the doctors at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center told him he broke the second vertebrae in his neck, he was shocked, even with how much pain he was in.

"I went from not even realizing it was anything that serious, then all the sudden I'm thinking, 'What am I going to do about work, my internship, my classes?'" Jenista said. "I didn't know how long it'd have me down."

With his last semester of college only six weeks away, Jenista had a lot to think about, but never for a second did he think about giving up.

Jenista was forced to wear a halo, a circular metal apparatus that stabilized his head, for two months, leaving his activity and social life restricted.

Jenista said he received a lot of support from friends and family during the time he was on bed rest.

"I didn't get to do too much," Jenista said. "But people always asked and wanted to know what happened, and I can joke about it. My friends showed so much support, and that meant the world to me."

For his summer class, a nonprofit leadership internship seminar, he said his instructor, Laura McCaskey, was very understanding about his situation.

"We were able to work some things out for him, but at that point in the semester, he had already done enough to earn his grade," McCaskey said.

McCaskey, who knew Jenista from a previous class, said he is one of the hardest-working students she had ever

come across and praised his sense of humor and ability to make a classroom break out in laughter.

The news of Jenista's injury hit McCaskey particularly hard.

"I felt a pit in my stomach when I heard about it," McCaskey said. "Tears came to my eyes, not only from thinking about him in such pain, but also because he was going to be OK."

On Aug. 31, Jenista got his halo off and left New Castle to return to his apartment in Youngstown and to return to classes after Labor Day weekend.

"It was so good to be back in Youngstown," Jenista said. "I missed campus. I missed the city. I had one semester to go, and I didn't let [the injury] hold me back. I was determined to finish strong as ever."

Looking back on his five-year collegiate career, Jenista said it amazes him how quickly the time went by. He said his broken neck was not the only challenge he faced.

"There were a couple tough classes, but I got through them just like I got past the neck injury," Jenista said.

Graduation is a particularly big accomplishment for Jenista, who never planned to attend college and may not have stuck with it had he not been successful from the start.

"I made the dean's list at the end of the first semester and really learned to enjoy the learning process," he said.

As for the future, Jenista said he is excited to enter the workforce. He'll be returning to New Castle to look for any job available and move up from there.

He said he hopes that past work experience, such as an internship at the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation and nearly three years at the Greyhound Lines bus station downtown, will help him find a job in the business world.

Tiffany Sokol, office manager at YNDC, praised Jenista's work ethic and positive attitude.

"Justin was particularly good because he was always willing to do whatever was asked of him," Sokol said. "That's so important at YNDC because we do a wide variety of things at a fast pace."

Bright's art & a bright future

Taylor Phillips
REPORTER

To Al Bright, painting is everything.

Bright, a professor emeritus of art at Youngstown State University, was honored with an artist reception on Sunday at the Eastwood Mall's Art Outreach Gallery.

His work — along with the work of more than 40 of his former students and middle and high school students from Niles City Schools — will be on display in the gallery through Jan. 6. The exhibit is titled "A Celebration of Al Bright: Artists' Reunion."

"Art is one of the greatest gifts we can have as human beings," Bright said. "If not creating art, it is wonderful to be around it."

A Youngstown native, Bright is an abstract artist who has been praised nationally and internationally for his unique style. His work hangs all over the country, in places like Kent State University, Stanford University and the Butler Institute of American Art.

Bright taught at YSU for 47 years. Alumna Mari Ann Cann said Bright always made time for his students.

"No matter what you painted, he would praise it if it were the best painting he has ever seen," she said.

Cann also praised Bright for helping bring out her creative side in her paintings.

"I still paint to this day," Cann said. "He made me fall in love with painting, and here I am today, with a master's in art."

Kathryn Bernard, director of

the Art Outreach Gallery, said Bright continued to be her mentor, even after she graduated from his classes.

"He guided me through my process as an artist and really helped me develop my own path in my career," Bernard said.

Bright said he worked to help each student find his or her inner artist.

"Teaching to me is not putting something into an individual, but pulling something out of them that is already there," Bright said. "It is important for someone to find his or her voice so they can bring out the best in themselves."

Bryan DePoy, dean of the YSU College of Fine and Performing Arts, said Bright's art reflected this individualism.

"Al will paint on a blank canvas as music plays in the background," DePoy said. "He has painted during various live performances, including various orchestras and jazz trios."

Bright has painted during performances by famous jazz musicians such as Wynton Marsalis, Julian "Cannonball" Adderley, Jimmy Owens and James Williams, to name a few.

"I try to take my work to the public so that they are engaged in the creative process with me," Bright said. "I am painting to the rhythms, sounds and colors of the music, and the audience is a part of my free expression."

YSU alumna Suzanne Gray said Bright has left a legacy at YSU.

"Al's art has influenced art in our community more than anyone else has," Gray said. "His legacy will also be on campus and inspire students for many years to come."

Kacy Standohar
NEWS EDITOR

When Jessica Sarich graduates from Youngstown State University on Dec. 16 with a bachelor's degree in hospitality management, she will be looking back on a college career spent helping her sorority sisters and friends.

She said getting involved with Greek life was the best decision she has ever made.

"Without Greek life, I wouldn't have met so many amazing people and had the time of my life in college," Sarich said. "I've also been able to do so much service for the community, and it's been very rewarding."

Sarich served as president of the YSU chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha, a sorority that raises funds for breast cancer research. She said her sorority sisters were her greatest motivation during college.

"I worked hard to get good grades so that I could contribute toward our high academic achievement on a local and national level," she said. "Zeta Tau Alpha as an organization has taught me so much, and I could never give nearly as much back to it compared to what I gained."

Sarich said she hopes to attend graduate school at YSU in the spring for counseling. She plans to work at a university when she com-



SARICH

pletes her master's degree.

Sarich said she appreciates the faculty and staff at YSU and is happy to stay for another degree.

"I've heard a lot of people complain about so many things here, but I think we are lucky compared to so many universities with the staff and faculty that are here to aid you in any way," she said. "So, utilize them, get to know them and appreciate them."

Sarich said YSU freshmen should remember to make the best out of their experience here. She said there is more to be learned than is taught in the classroom.

"Give YSU a chance, and get involved," she said. "The experience is all what you make of it, and without my involvement and activities, I wouldn't have had the amazing experi-

ence that I had. It's more than just some place to take classes."

Sarich's close friend and sorority sister Stephanie Rozzo said Sarich is involved with YSU's Up 'til Dawn. She said Sarich planned events to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

"Jessica is an amazing leader, and she is very determined," Rozzo said. "I am very lucky to have someone like her in my life, and I know anything she does with her life she will do by putting her whole heart into it."

Carrie Anderson, Zeta Tau Alpha's coordinator of programs and marketing, said Sarich was an influential leader in Greek life.

"She has had a significant presence in the Greek system during her tenure through her many leadership roles and the programs she has facilitated," Anderson said. "What I'll miss the most about Jess is her dependability, passion and leadership."

Anderson said Sarich was Greek Campus Life co-chair, and that she planned Greek Week and the 59th Annual Greek Sing. She was also the vice president of recruitment.

Sarich received various scholarships during her college tenure, including the Arby's Leadership Scholarship, the Ilajean Feldmiller Scholarship and the Jermaine Hopkins Scholarship.

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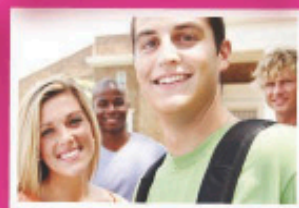
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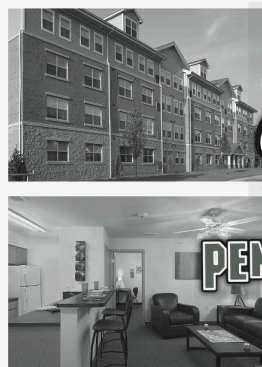


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The Office of Alumni & Events Management congratulates our fall 2012 graduates! We are proud of your success!

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- Register for free Alumni Society membership
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- Explore the School of Graduate Studies and Research

Caps and gowns will also be available on Tuesday, Dec. 11, and Wednesday, Dec. 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Further information about commencement can be found at webysu.edu/commencement

Part-time pay, full-time problem

To avoid paying health care costs for part-time faculty, YSU is cracking down on part-timers who work more than their classification implies.

Times are tough. Money's tight. We understand all that.

It's the formula used to value part-time faculty's contribution that we are arguing against. The administration multiplies the number of credit hours by 63 to determine the clock hours.

Teresa Riley, associate provost, said the administration calculates that part-time faculty members work 63 percent of the hours per semester hour as their full-time counterparts.

If a part-time instructor teaches 24 credit hours in an academic year, the administration considers that equal to 1,512 hours on the clock, which would come in just under 30 hours a week for a calendar year.

So, while part-time faculty members are allowed to teach the same course load as full-time professors, they aren't responsible for research or advising, and that's how they get 63 percent.

But part-time faculty don't get 63 percent of the pay or benefits as full-time faculty.

The formula seems concocted to comply with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act's provision that YSU must pay for health care for all employees who work fewer than 30 hours a week.

Two of the three numbers in the formula might as well be set in stone: 1,512 work hours and 24 credit hours.

If an instructor worked more than 1,512 hours a year, he or she would be dangerously close to being considered a full-time employee in the terms set by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

If the administration set the maximum course load above 24, they'd hear it from the part-timers who would gripe about teaching more classes than the full-time faculty; below and the administration might get in a bind if they need someone to teach an extra class.

That leaves 63. It seems that number was engineered simply to fit between 1,512 and 24, to max out the workload of part-time faculty while avoiding their health care costs.

We want to reiterate that we understand money doesn't grow on trees, and the Ohio Department of Education has indicated that state funding will continue to decrease.

But the part-time faculty didn't create the university's dire financial situation. And neither did the students who rely on them to teach a majority of some entry-level courses.

The president and the members of her Cabinet, who earn a third of all 573 part-time faculty, chose to spend the money that doubled the university's debt from 2009 to 2011.

Part-time faculty perform a valuable service, and the ones who really care make a difference.

There's room in a nine-figure budget to promote or at least incentivize the best of them.



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

The Christian case for gay marriage

Los Angeles Times (MCT)

Despite the increasing number of those who hold other faiths or no faith, Christians still wield substantial influence on our nation's cultural and ethical norms. After all, 73 percent of Americans still identify as Christian, according to a 2012 Pew Forum Study. So the fact that many churchgoers have changed their views about gay civil rights in recent years is one of the major under-reported reasons why same-sex marriage is now legal in nine states.

According to the Pew Forum, a majority of mainline Protestants and Roman Catholics now favor legalizing same-sex marriage. So when our more conservative Christian kin claim that gay marriage is against God and against the Bible, we beg to differ. And since Christians are a "people of the Word," we look to the Bible to justify our thinking. That's essential to Christianity, although all too often we get it wrong, at least at first.

In various eras, those who claimed to follow Christ used specific Bible passages to argue that the Inquisition was God's will, the Crusades were a good idea, slavery was legitimate, women should not be allowed to own property or have the right to vote, disabled people must have sinned to deserve their disabilities and God hated Jews.

Although each of these beliefs was based on the literal words of a particular Bible passage, all of them were in opposition to the message and life of Jesus and the prophets. So when Christians eventually rejected these positions, they returned to the Scriptures, in their original form, to reconsider the text.

This time around, it's the same process. Most New Testament Greek scholars now point out that there are only three passages that

deal with homosexuality in the New Testament—Romans 1:23-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 and 1 Timothy 1:9-10—and those passages don't deal with homosexuality as we define it today but rather with temple prostitution and other abuses. Because of dated (and often loved) translations, many versions of the Bible imply otherwise.

As for the Old Testament, some Christians cite Leviticus 20:13, which commands death for men who lie with men. But most of us acknowledge that if we took all of the Old Testament's orders literally, at least half of us wouldn't make it to age 40, because of commands to kill those who commit adultery (Leviticus 20:10), kill rebellious sons who disobey their parents (Deuteronomy 21:18-21), kill anyone who works on the Sabbath (Exodus 31:15) and the like.

Jesus never addressed the subject of homosexuality, other than what can be inferred from his example of loving and accepting everyone, especially the oppressed and those whom the religious establishment considered unclean.

Some Christians will disagree, pointing out that Jesus said marriage was between a man and a woman. What they are referring to is Mark 10:2-12, where Jesus protested the practice of men getting rid of inconvenient wives by simply handing them a certificate of divorce.

In this passage Jesus is objecting to a system that excessively penalized women, often causing financial devastation, loss of children and other unjust consequences. He was not saying anything about same-sex marriage, which didn't exist at the time.

Jesus never spoke against homosexuality, but he did speak very clearly against divorce. Yet the majority of churches today — in-

cluding those who view same-sex marriage as a sin — not only accept divorced members but also allow them to be church leaders. Why? Because marriage and divorce were different institutions in the time of Christ, and there are valid reasons for contemporary cultures to allow divorce in certain cases.

If you surmise that in A.D. 30 two men or two women marrying would have been anathema had it even been under consideration, you're probably right. But why not make the same cultural allowances for gay couples 2,000 years later that Christian churches have long made for the divorced (as well as women, the disabled, and others who faced discrimination back then)?

Literalism, says LGBT activist and Episcopal priest Susan Russell, leads to using Bible passages as weapons. "Instead of taking the Bible literally," she says, "we should take it seriously, with deep faithfulness to the Old and New Testaments' core values of compassion, justice and peace."

An ever-growing number of Christian clergy and lay people now believe that rejecting gay civil rights because of a literal adherence to certain verses directly contradicts these themes. They point out how these views are hurting all of the church, especially its most vulnerable members: young gay people who are convinced that their very essence is sinful. Furthermore, they can no longer support unjust laws that penalize committed same-sex couples and their families.

As more and more church members thoughtfully and prayerfully confront the evidence, it will only be a matter of time before the majority of Christians of all stripes become allies rather than antagonists for justice and equal rights for gay people. Then we will come out on the right side of history once again.

JAMBAR POLICY

Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Collegiate Press honors. The Jambar is published twice weekly during the fall and spring semesters and weekly during the first summer session. Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. The first copy of The Jambar is free. Additional copies of The Jambar are \$1 each.

OUR SIDE POLICY

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

YOUR SIDE POLICY

The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Submissions are welcome at thejambar@gmail.com or by following the "Submit a Letter" link on thejambar.com. Letters should concern campus issues, must be typed and must not exceed 500 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification, along with the writer's city of residence for printing. The Jambar does not withhold the names of guest commentators. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. Letters will not be rejected based on the views expressed in them. The editorial board reserves the right to reject commentaries and letters if they are not relevant to our readers, seek free publicity, fail to defend opinion with facts from reliable sources or if the editorial staff decides that the subject has been sufficiently aired. The editorial board will request a rewrite from the submitting writer based on these requirements. The Jambar will not print letters that are libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. The views and opinions expressed in letters and commentaries on the opinion page do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the faculty, staff or administration of YSU.

GOP's visa bill not real reform; Congress needs to pass comprehensive measure

San Jose Mercury News (MCT)

In their first postelection crack at immigration policy, House Republicans seemed to have forgotten the message they got so recently from their overwhelming rejection by minority voters. They passed a bill Friday that would actually limit legal immigration. Seriously?

The bill has no chance in the Democratic Senate, nor should it. It would do one good thing: increase the number of visas for immigrants with advanced degrees in science, technology, engineering and math. But it would do this by eliminating a lottery that provides 55,000 green cards a year to people from countries, including many in Africa, with low immigration rates.

It's not necessary to eliminate one form of legal immigration to increase another. That's why it's so puzzling that the GOP, after appearing eager to shed its mean-spirited image on this issue, would push

this bill through. Yes, the United States has to increase the number of visas for highly educated immigrants and make them easier to get. But that should be part of comprehensive immigration reform, and it should not lower the overall level of immigration, as the bill passed Friday would do.

San Jose Rep. Zoe Lofgren, one of the Democrats' leading voices on immigration, told us she is "cautiously optimistic" Congress can pass a comprehensive bill, one that both helps businesses compete and includes multiple ways for people from all walks of life to make this country their permanent home.

A central provision must be a path to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants already here. Voters rejected Mitt Romney's idea of "self-deportation"—making life so difficult for immigrants that they leave. Mass roundups of 11 million people would simply be impossible. Creating the opportunity for immigrants to earn legal status is the only realistic strategy.

Legislation should also offer a green card to all master's and doctoral students graduating from nonprofit U.S. universities with a science, technology, engineering or math degree, and to many entrepreneurs, as Lofgren has proposed. These talented, driven individuals should be welcomed to start their businesses and careers here, creating jobs in America.

And the country still needs a Dream Act. An executive order from President Barack Obama now allows many young people brought here as children to stay without fear of deportation, but the law must change to provide certainty. Kids in school or the military need a fast track to citizenship.

True reform also has to include a guest worker program and increase the number of H-1B visas while fixing abuses in that system.

There's only one way a comprehensive bill can pass, however. A majority of lawmakers finally has to accept the fact that immigrants don't hurt America. They strengthen it.

Hot in Youngstown

Steve Wilaj
SPORTS EDITOR

During the fall season and early portion of the winter season, many of Youngstown State University's athletic teams have seen considerable improvement and success.

"Obviously, we're happy with the direction [it's going]," said Ron Strollo, executive director of intercollegiate athletics. "We kind of felt that for some of the programs, it's been a multiyear process. We're happy to see that our kids are competing better and having better experiences."

The multiyear process Strollo referred to was YSU's adjustment to the Horizon League conference in 2001 from the smaller Mid-Continent Conference.

"When we moved into this conference for most of our programs, competitively, it was a significant step up," Strollo said.

Strollo added that the tougher competition combined with a lacking budget resulted in poor results for much of the 2000s.

"When you don't have resources just to throw at the problem, sometimes it just takes a little bit longer to get where you want to go," he said.

Recently, the Penguins are getting where they want to go — or at least taking steps in

the right direction.

For starters, the YSU soccer team posted its best season in school history. With this past season being head soccer coach Will Lemke's fourth at YSU, the Penguins recorded eight victories — the most in school history.

Finishing with an overall record of 8-9, Lemke's squad qualified for the Horizon League tournament.

"Coach Lemke did a good job of bringing in kids who could play right away," said Jamie Hall, an editor for YSU Sports Information who handles media relations for the soccer and men's basketball teams. "So, you had a lot of depth and a lot of talent on the field at the same time because of good recruiting."

Meanwhile, the YSU volleyball team — much like the soccer team — was much improved.

Led by first-year head volleyball coach Mark Hardaway, YSU was 15-14 overall. The 15 wins were more than those in the previous three seasons combined, including only five victories in 2011.

Furthermore, the Penguins contended for the Horizon League tournament.

"I think, if you ask them, they played with confidence," said John Vogel, an editor for YSU Sports Information who handles media relations for the volleyball and women's basketball teams. "They played with an enjoyment and remembered how fun volleyball

can be."

Capping the fall sports schedule was the YSU football team. Although the Penguins didn't make the playoffs, they took another step forward.

In head football coach Eric Wolford's three years with the program, YSU improved from 3-8 in 2010 to 6-5 in 2011 to 7-4 in 2012.

"For football to be above .500 and keep showing improvement under Coach Wolford was good to see," said Trevor Parks, director of YSU Sports Information. "The good thing is you look at Coach Wolf ... and he kind of turned the corner on some things."

Like Wolford, new or fairly new coaches lead many of YSU's teams. Strollo said recent successes in picking the right coach have sped up the process.

"I think, fortunately, we've been able to sell our story a little better when there has been openings," he said.

Parks addressed YSU's selling points when he said, "The coaches see the facilities that YSU has. They see the support that the administration has in them, and they see that everybody here works hard, is genuine and wants them to succeed."

As for the winter season, the YSU basketball program is moving in the right direction as well.

The women's basketball team is off to a hot start. It has come a long way since a 0-30 record in 2009-2010, posting a

6-1 mark so far this season.

At the head of the progress is third-year women's basketball coach Bob Boldon, who guided the Penguins to a 10-20 record last year.

"This being Coach Boldon's third year, that's helped," Vogel said. "If we can hit some shots like we did last year, we can be pretty darn good."

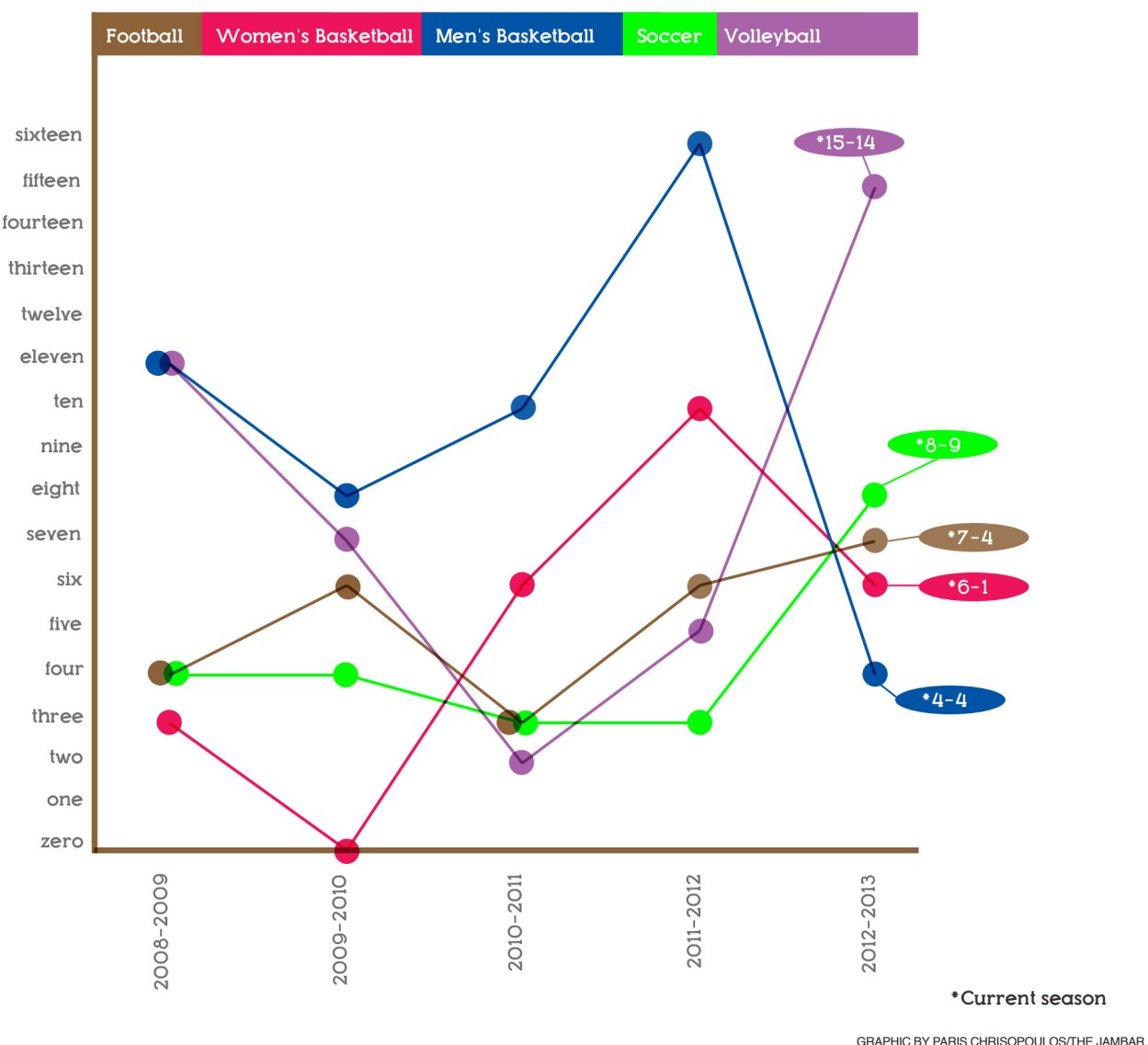
On the opposite side, the men's basketball team is steadily improving. Its progress over the past three seasons includes eight wins in 2009-2010, nine wins in 2010-2011 and 16 wins in 2011-2012.

Although the men are 4-4 on the short campaign, all signs are pointing to another improved season.

"They have a really solid core, and they're talented," Hall said. "As a team, they don't make many mistakes and are used to [head men's basketball coach Jerry] Slocum's system."

While it's hard to put a general explanation on the mass improvements to YSU's athletics program, Parks credited two simple aspects: hard work and dedication from the highest staff members down to the student athletes.

"For whatever reason, maybe this year it paid off a little more" Parks said. "I think it kind of runs in cycles, and right now it's on an uptick. I think we're kind of seeing when one team has success, it kind of motivates the other teams to have some more success as well."



'It's been a grind'

Steve Wilaj
SPORTS EDITOR

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team has "been in a grind" for the first eight games of the season, said head coach Jerry Slocum at Monday's press conference.

"We've played eight good teams. Every game has been nip and tuck. Two games of overtime, one-point games and all that kind of stuff. It's been a grind for a start," he said.

Along with a few bumps and bruises, YSU carries a 4-4 record. Although they'd like to hold a better mark, the Penguins faced numerous tough tests.

After quality wins against George Washington Univer-

sity and the University of Georgia to start the season, the Penguins stumbled a bit.

They lost three games in three days in an early season tournament at Duquesne University. The three-day swing included an overtime loss to North Dakota State University and a one-point loss to James Madison University.

YSU concluded its rough opening schedule last week with an overtime loss to Kent State University and a hard-fought win at Bowling Green State University.

Safe and the Penguins learned some valuable lessons in the process.

"That was obviously a devastating four-game slide we took, but we got a big win over Bowling Green," said Kendrick Perry, junior guard. "We know that it's not going to take just that one game to

dictate our whole season. We know we have to come in and get better every day, no matter who's on the opposite side of us."

In what should serve as a welcome change, YSU will play a couple of struggling Division III opponents this week. Geneva College (0-6) will visit Beeghly Center at 7:05 p.m. Thursday, while the Penguins will host Hiram College (1-2) on Saturday at 7:05 p.m. at the Covelli Centre.

"This week is a week where, obviously, you need to respect your opponent and take care of business," said Slocum, who compiled 202 victories at Geneva from 1987 to 1996.

With all due respect, the Penguins should have no trouble disposing of Geneva and Hiram. Last season against Division III Fredonia State

University, YSU defeated the Blue Devils, 69-35.

So, while Slocum wants to get the wins first and foremost, he also realizes other positives in the matchups.

"The other aspect of it is we're hoping that we get to develop some of our younger guys and get some good playing time for everybody," he said. "It's desperately needed."

Although the level of competition may not be equal to the Penguins' first eight opponents, Perry said YSU won't approach the next two games any differently.

"It's still competitive basketball; you either get a win or a loss," he said. "We're going to have to stay focused and stay hungry. We have to treat these games like we treated the Georgia and Bowling Green game."

CALENDAR

Men's Basketball
Thursday, 7:05 p.m.
Beeghly Center

Men's Basketball
Saturday, 7:05 p.m.
Covelli Centre

Women's Basketball
Sunday, 3:05 p.m.
Beeghly Center

Women's Basketball
Dec. 16, 2 p.m.
West Virginia University

Men's Basketball
Dec. 18, 7 p.m.
South Florida University

Women's Basketball
Dec. 20, 7:05 p.m.
Beeghly Center

Men's Basketball
Dec. 21, 7 p.m.
Bethune-Cookman University

Men's Basketball
Dec. 29, 2:05 p.m.
Beeghly Center

Women's Basketball
Dec. 29, 4:35 p.m.
Beeghly Center

Men's Basketball
Jan. 2, 8 p.m.
University of Illinois-Chicago

Women's Basketball
Jan. 4, 7 p.m.
Virginia Commonwealth University

Men's Basketball
Jan. 5, 4 p.m.
Loyola University

STANDINGS

Horizon League Standings

Men's Basketball

1. UIC 6-1
2. Cleveland State 6-2
3. Loyola 6-2
4. Valparaiso 5-2
5. Wright State 5-3
6. YSU 4-4
7. Green Bay 3-4
8. Detroit 2-4
9. Milwaukee 2-5

Women's Basketball

1. YSU 6-1
2. Green Bay 5-1
3. Detroit 4-3
4. Loyola 3-3
5. Milwaukee 4-4
6. Cleveland State 3-4
7. Valparaiso 3-5
8. Wright State 2-4
9. UIC 1-5