

The Jambar

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

Blocker living life to the fullest after conquering cancer

Senate approves official urban research university definition

Grant funds to connect city, campus

Maldonado, Granger to be arraigned

University releases statement on employee's indictment

YEC to Eastern Gateway by 2014

Antivirus update affects campus computers

'NOT RESPONSIBLE'

Charges dropped against football players

Trustees to consider YEC compromise investments

YEC under scrutiny, funding future uncertain

YSU pays \$1.8 million to union

Martin resigns after winless season

Boldon announced as new women's coach

STUDENT-RUN RADIO IN THE WORKS

University honors Sweet with gallery

Fahey named interim Student Affairs VP

ACE grievances neglected, union chair says

STUDENTS HELPING HAITI:

Campus organizations rally to raise relief efforts for Haiti communities

Board votes Anderson first female president of YSU

TRACK AND FIELD BREAKING RECORDS

Maldonado remains active in ACE, divides union

New state funding formula changes YSU's academic focus

House passes sweeping health care bill

Lenhoff avoids jail, fined for misdemeanor

SPRING 2010

A SEMESTER IN HEADLINES

NEWS BRIEFS

Banners to greet visitors of Youngstown

A joint effort between Youngstown State University and the city has brought welcoming banners to downtown Youngstown. Signs that read "a great university town" or "a top ten city for new business" now greet people as they venture downtown. The idea, conceived by the YSU marketing department, is part of the effort to link YSU with the downtown area.

Third Eye Blind to play YSU

Legendary band Third Eye Blind will rock Youngstown State University's Beeghly Center tonight. Tickets are still available at the Stambaugh Stadium ticket office for \$5. Doors will open at 6 p.m., and the concert will begin at 7 p.m.

POLICE BRIEFS

Book bag stolen

University police were called to Beeghly Center after a person claimed to have had his book bag stolen. It was later found out the victim was threatened with box cutters by the suspect. After the victim ran for safety, the suspect proceeded to steal his book bag. A short time later the suspect was apprehended after police officers chased him down.

Police officer injured

A YSU police officer was injured after an attempt the chase down an aggravated robbery suspect. Lt. Cretella exited his squad car and tried to question the suspect outside Beeghly Center, but then realized his right knee was throbbing with pain. The suspect was soon apprehended, and Lt. Cretella went to the police station for further treatment.

License plate missing

A YSU student called police after realizing that his license plate, secured to the rear of his vehicle by two magnets, was missing. One police officer arrived at the M-1 parking deck, where it was determined that the plate could have fallen off the car and was not stolen. The officer checked the immediate area, but could not find the plate.

Idea comes to life after death

Sundial will be erected in memorium of planetarium tech

Josh Stipanovich
NEWS EDITOR

While working as a technician in the planetarium at Youngstown State University, Richard Pirko had the idea to build a sundial.

Plans are under way for the construction of that sundial, but Pirko will not be here to witness it. He passed away unexpectedly on the morning of Oct. 15, 2008, as a result of sudden cardiac arrhythmia.

"His heart started beating wildly and quit," said Warren Young, instructor of physics and astronomy.

Young said Pirko's death came while he was attending a meeting at an airport in Geauga County.

"He kept himself in shape, and he ate healthy, and it was a great shock to everyone who knew him," Young said.



After Pirko's death, fundraising for the project began immediately, and the YSU community, friends and family paid their respects by fill-

ing the planetarium in Ward Beecher Hall for a memorial ceremony.

Young said \$5,500 has been raised for the project,

and it would be enough for the sundial, but more money will need to be funded in order to purchase a plaque as well.

"I don't know what it's going to cost, but it's not too much," Young said.

Young said as a student of his, Pirko was a "very inventive individual" who could come up with "remarkable" ideas for the planetarium.

Ray Beiersdorfer, professor of geological and environmental sciences, said the project was on Pirko's mind for two years prior to his death.

"It was something [Pirko] wanted to do, and it's sad that his death wound up sort of being the spur to get it to happen," Beiersdorfer said. "This is in memory of [Rick]."

Beiersdorfer and Pirko worked together on an array of projects including different shows at the planetarium.

SUNDIAL page 4

Convocation celebration: best of the best honored at ceremony

George Yanchick
REPORTER

It is an event that is steeped in tradition.

For the 51st time, Youngstown State University faculty and students were honored at the Honors Convocation on Monday night in Kilcawley Center's Chestnut Room.

This year, 26 faculty members received Distinguished Professor awards, including excellence in teaching, scholarship, university service and public service. Additionally, the Watson Merit Award was given to department chairpersons for outstanding administrative performance.

More than 100 students were also honored, and they received scholarships in their respective fields of study.

The prelude and procession, performed by the YSU Trinity Brass Quintet, gave those in attendance the signal

that the ceremony was about to begin.

Soon after, Ikram Khawaja, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, addressed the audience.

"We have come to recognize and celebrate academic excellence. Collectively, they make Youngstown State an outstanding institution of higher learning. They represent excellence in the classroom, the laboratory and everywhere else."

Each college and department was well represented at the ceremony. As YSU administrators announced recipients' names, they marched across the stage and received certificates to commemorate their work.

Communications professor Daniel O'Neill was honored for excellence in teaching.

"It was really nice to win this award. In the 42 years that I have been doing this, this is the first time that I have won. I am very much honored to be

CONVOCATION page 4

HR document shows resolved grievances

Dan Pompili
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Although the Association of Classified Employees at Youngstown State University claims the university has been negligent in resolving grievances in a timely fashion, university officials say only a few disputes remain.

All 162 timeline grievances filed by ACE since October 2008 have been resolved according to documents provided by Carol O'Brian, administrative assistant in the Human Resources department.

The timeline grievances were filed after ACE officials say YSU violated one of the articles of the union's collective bargaining agreement with the university.

Article 9; Section 5 of the 2008 agreement states that "within 10 days after receiving the grievance, the appropriate department will hold a grievance hearing." If that timeline is not met, the union may file a timeline violation grievance

on top of the original grievance.

About 80, or less than one-third, of the grievances filed since the 2008 ACE collective bargaining agreement remain active, according to the human resource documents.

Some of the timeline grievances were filed during the period when now-former Human Resources director Craig Bickley resigned from office, and there was no one in any official capacity to consistently hear grievances.

The timeline infractions make for complicated reading. One grievance can become four or five grievances when timeline infractions are filed.

For example, grievance 342 triggered five separate timeline grievances. The first was 409, followed by grievances 462 and 526. However, grievance number 518, filed on April 11, 2009 – the same day as grievance 526 – also was a timeline violation on 342. A total of five timeline grievances were

ACE page 11

Sweet cites partnership, enrollment growth as points of pride

Chelsea Pflugh
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Jambar recently had the opportunity to sit down with outgoing university President David C. Sweet to discuss his ten years of service. The following are excerpts from his exit interview with The Jambar.

The Jambar: Can you summarize what it's been like to be the president at YSU for the past decade?

President Sweet: It's been an exciting time for Youngstown State University and for the Sweet household. We're proud of the accomplishments of the committee over the past decade. We're particularly proud of 10 years worth of commencements, which I think have totaled 36 commencements and 17,000 graduates that have moved on to become YSU success stories. I'm particularly proud of having established three goals of building enrollment, diversity and university partnerships.

The decade has seen a great deal of progress. It's also seen a number of challenges, not the least of which have been the state budget, but we've made

progress in many dimensions.

Q: What is your biggest accomplishment?

A: I think we've raised expectations, raised the vision of the university. The university had experienced a decade of decline and low morale. I think we were able to project a common vision of an outstanding university providing outstanding education to our students. Everyone was pulling together toward a number of common objectives. The results suggest we have been successful in mobilizing the talent that exists on this campus ... We've done an excellent job with raising private funds for university projects, most importantly the Andrews Recreation Center.

Q: What's one thing you wish you could have spent more time on during your tenure?

A: The interesting thing about a president and a president's calendar is that it's pulled in many directions. We've had issues as it relates to labor management relations. We have made some progress and had some setbacks, so that is an area that continues to be a focal point. My wife and I have greatly enjoyed attending performances and athletic events, I just wish we had more time to see everything.

We're not only a resource for our students, faculty and staff, but we're also a community resource.

Q: In recent years, YSU has experienced many alterations to state funding. How have you managed to do more with less? What has been sacrificed?

A: There's a number of responses to that. One is we have had tuition increases, but it's been flat for the past couple of years. The university has sought to minimize tuition increases on our students, but we continue to be the lowest among the comprehensive universities in the state. If we're going to have quality programs, we have to invest. And that investment comes either from the state, which now is a diminishing portion of our total budget.

Our SB6 ratios are very strong, though. We're among the top two or three in the state in terms of financial strength. I think that's a result of prudent management and effective budgeting, and it is also a result of investments we've made in an attempt to improve our operations.

Q: Can you tell us what the ideal transition is for YSU to become an urban research institution? When will we know that have become one?

A: In many respects, we already are an urban research university. Expanding research activities [and] graduate programming are all indicators of becoming more of an urban research institution ... I think what the community will see over time is a continued, strong commitment to undergraduate education, but an increasing number of graduate students and graduate programs focused on the economic revitalization of our area.

Q: An evident problem for YSU has been their relationships with labor unions. Can you talk about how YSU can improve those relationships?

A: We have four collective bargaining units. There have been ups and downs with all four. Over the past several years, I think we've had strong working relationships with the faculty and police unions. I think we have the greatest challenge with our classified staff, the ACE union. With the turnover of leadership, with the president leaving and a new one coming in ... I think there's an opportunity for a new day and new relations. There is also caution that we are in very tight financial times. One of the primary reasons for the conflict, which

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"How a lot of people become friends quite often they have a lot of common interests and shared experiences," Beiersdorfer said. "We're both very much interested in science and science education and public outreach, the earth and other planets of the solar system?"

They took part in the manifestation of an acre-size garden on Pirko's property, and Beiersdorfer rode in his plane with him to shoot "geologic features of the sky" as Pirko was a licensed pilot who co-owned a plane.

"It was fun. It's fun going up in a small plane," Beiersdorfer said. "There's hardly a week goes by when something comes up that I wish he was still alive to work on."

Beiersdorfer said while this sundial will be a lifelong memory of Pirko, he hopes he will also have a memorial on campus so he and Pirko could share that as well.

"I hope when I die to get cremated and made into a diamond and put on display in the mineral museum so memorials for both Rick and I will stay here on campus," Beiersdorfer said.

Children between the ages of 8 and 17 experienced their first flights with Pirko while he was a member of the Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagles program.

In a letter, which can be found on the YSU website, Beiersdorfer wrote about his dear friend. In the letter he refers to Pirko as "a passionate educator" who spent his last

years of life inspiring faculty, staff and students, both at YSU and around the community, giving them opportunities to succeed as he did.

As an avid volunteer, Pirko spent time with the Boy Scouts of America, educating them about astronomy. He also aided YSU's department of theater and dance as a photographer along with co-creating Dr. Ray's Amazing Sideshow of Science, which is used to present the study of science in a satirical way to "teach critical thinking and skepticism."

Beiersdorfer said all of the shows are dedicated to him.

Pirko's photographs of the Serpent Mound Archeological Site were recognized by the Ohio Historical Society and were shown at the British Museum in London.

"[Pirko's] still around in our thoughts and memories, which is really nice, and this is going to be a long-term memory," Beiersdorfer said.

Pirko's widow, Victoria, said the memorial demonstrates how much respect YSU and the community showed toward him.

"It's a really wonderful tribute to the lives he touched," Victoria said. "For me personally, it's just in recognition of all the efforts he gave to the university. Rick was the face of Youngstown ... when you talk to people about YSU, they go, 'Oh I know the guy from the planetarium, yeah that's him.'"

Young said he hopes the unveiling of the sundial will take place in July.

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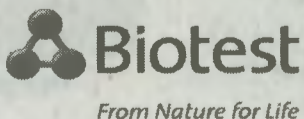
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CONVOCATION page 2

here tonight," O'Neill said. He also talked about the nomination.

"I owe many thanks to our department chair, Cary Horvath, and some great students who also helped out," O'Neill said.

The professors also shared the night with many students who were honored for their accolades.

James Roberts, a senior accounting major, was honored with the Credit Reporting Services academic scholarship.

"I was very excited, and I still am," Roberts said. "You just have to stick to your work and try your hardest, so that it will benefit you down the road.

This is a great honor."

Sarah Brothers was honored for Best Undergraduate from the 2010 QUEST presentations.

The news, however, came as a bit of a shock to the chemical engineering major.

"To be perfectly honest, I was not even sure what I was nominated for, but I sure do now. I am very proud to have this scholarship; it really means a lot to me," Brothers said.

The awards ceremony, which lasted a little more than an hour, wrapped up with a special reception for those honored, as well as their families, in the Ohio Room.

TheJambar.com

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OUR SIDE

More than a job

The Jambar
EDITORIAL BOARD

RELATED STORY

The editorial board had big shoes to fill this year. During the previous year, The Jambar's editorial board was breaking news stories, asking the tough questions and establishing themselves as a respectable, competitive news outlet. The editorial board stood for freedom of speech, even when it wasn't popular.

Could this year's editorial board do the same, or even better?

This year, we made the news of YSU a top priority. When there was a concern or something questionable happening, we made the time to investigate. Sometimes, our investigations proved fruitless. Other times, we found the dirt and reported fairly. We took the job seriously, sometimes too seriously.

A Jambar editorial board alumnus told us that if we weren't losing sleep doing our jobs, we weren't doing our jobs correctly. We can honestly say that after the paper is sent on (or after) the last deadline, we will return to normal sleeping hours.

Being a reporter is infectious. We challenge the next editorial board to maintain The Jambar's current reputation. Follow the news. Care about the students. More importantly, there is no such thing as a story falling through.

Upholding the standards of journalism is now more important than ever. No one knows exactly what the future of the media will be. We urge the next editorial board to remain the watchdog. If the Jambar isn't doing the digging into YSU's administration, it's likely that no one will.

So instead of summing up this editorial with a cliché or some inspiring words of wisdom, we'll just let our hard work from this past year sum it up for us.

ABOUT THE JAMBAR

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

OUR SIDE POLICY

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

YOUR SIDE POLICY

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

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

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

The Jambar Editorial Board



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

FCC and the Internet

McClatchy-Tribune
MCT

The U.S. Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia recently ruled that the Federal Communications Commission has no authority to tell Internet service providers how to manage their networks.

The case stemmed from Comcast's move three years ago to slow the access of peer-to-peer users such as Gnutella whose large file transfers consumed lots of Comcast bandwidth. Public advocacy groups argued that Comcast was violating FCC rules. Comcast stopped the slowdown and changed how it managed its network.

But then the FCC ordered Comcast to disclose its new network management regime. Comcast went to court to challenge the FCC's basic right to intrude on how it operated its network.

The appellate court has now sided with Comcast, ruling that the FCC had "strained the outer limits" of its authority and, with the Comcast case, "seeks to shatter them entirely."

The judicial rebuke certainly hasn't fazed the FCC. It is determined to regulate the Internet.

FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski declared that the court decision "does not change our broadband policy goals, or the ultimate authority of the FCC to act to achieve those goals." The strategy, he said, is "to connect all Americans to broadband, unleash innovation and investment, enable job creation, and ensure a bright future of economic opportunity and prosperity."

We couldn't agree more with the goals. But the best way to achieve them is for the FCC to leave a good thing alone.

There was a time when the FCC knew that. The commission in 2002 recognized that fast-evolving Internet innovation could be strangled by regulation. Inflexible government rules lock in place the competitive landscape and make it hard for players to respond quickly to technological or market changes. The FCC determined that the Internet is an "information service" and would not come under its decades-old regulatory purview of "common carrier" providers of telephone and television service.

That hands-off attitude has helped the Internet to grow and thrive. Nearly every American has access to some form of broadband service now, and many have access to competing services. That competition helps to keep a lid on prices for Internet service. Telecom companies invested \$50 billion in the last two years in broadband, according to the FCC. That money has flowed in largely because investors see the potential to profit.

Underlying the Comcast case is the company's brief attempt to slow access to services that made the heaviest use of its broadband. Internet providers want to keep the option to charge more for heavy use — to price their own products. Proponents of so-called net neutrality argue that the government must command that everyone has the same access.

That heavy government thumb on the scale would discourage the investment that has allowed Internet use to mushroom.

The FCC could appeal the Comcast ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court. It could try to craft new rules in a way that doesn't violate the court ruling. It could revisit its 2002 decision and determine that Internet service providers are common carriers of telecommunication services, like telephone and cable television, and subject to the same regulation. Some members of Congress are tempted to step in.

Here's an idea: Regulators can stand aside and marvel with the rest of us as this incredible communications tool continues to expand and create jobs and foster investment and deliver more information to your home and office than you once ever dreamed possible.



What are you doing for summer?



"Take classes [I] have to take physics."

Mike Lowery, senior



"Make money for vacation."

Jon Barth, junior

Filibustering progress

Bob Edgar
MCT

Sorry, folks, a majority just isn't good enough anymore.

As Senate Democrats tried to begin debate on financial regulatory reform this week, 57 were in favor and only 41 opposed. That does not, however, add up to victory in the U.S. Senate, where 60 votes are needed to cut off a filibuster, and almost everything is at risk of being filibustered. As a result, a mere 41 senators can block nearly everything.

To any observer outside the beltway, this is shocking to say the least. Despite a global financial meltdown, the resulting economic pain on Main Street and a daily succession of Wall Street outrages including a fraud case against Goldman Sachs, could regulatory reform really fail even with the support of 57, or even 59 senators?

Meanwhile, rumblings of a filibuster are growing over President Obama's not-yet-named nominee to the Supreme Court. Even a liberal nominee would make no change to the current 5-4 split on the court. But Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama, the top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, refused to rule out a filibuster, declaring only a "mainstream" nominee could prevent it.

These senators are not operating under any pretext that they need more time to deliberate and consider how to vote. Instead, the goal is to prevent debate entirely.

Originally fairly obscure, the filibuster has grown out of control, taking on a dominant role in Senate lawmaking. Today filibusters are not just reserved for the biggest fights in Washington, but everyday business. In fact, since the current session of Congress began, there have been 50 votes to end filibusters. The 50th came last week when Sen. Tom Coburn moved to block an extension of unemployment benefits for jobless Americans.

Senators no longer take to the floor to filibuster. They merely threaten it. By making the filibuster standard operating procedure and setting the bar at 60 votes before holding an up or down vote, the Senate has rigged the game against progress and

in favor of endless obstructionism that paralyzes the entire government. This arcane tactic may earn the chamber more attention from the president and colleagues in the House, but it also cements its reputation as a swamp of inaction.

The filibuster has always been remarkably undemocratic (just 21 states can provide the necessary 41 senators), but some politicians argue that protecting the rights of the minority is exactly the point. In reality, the Senate is already designed to do this through equal representation of small states — and with remarkable power. When the first Senate met, the population ratio of the largest state, Virginia, to the smallest, Delaware, was 12 to 1. Today, California has 70 times the population than tiny Wyoming. The minority is very well-protected.

The filibuster is a political tool, not a part of checks and balances. Democrats and Republicans both know it. It has been used by both sides to block up or down votes. Progressives note how the threat of a filibuster took the public option off the table for health care reform, endangers the Employee Free Choice Act, and delayed historic civil rights legislation until it was long overdue. Conservatives balk at failed oil drilling in Alaska's wildlife refuge, the defeat of Robert Bork, or attempts to reform Social Security.

It also rests on extremely shaky constitutional ground. Sure, the Senate can make its own rules, but no Senate rule can break the law or violate the Constitution. (Try adopting a rule that barred women senators from voting on Tuesdays.) The Constitution explicitly lays out the five different actions that require a supermajority vote, but otherwise calls for a majority to do business.

The unprecedented abuse of the filibuster is getting worse, hurts both parties, and cannot be tolerated. With all the work that is left to do this year, including finance regulatory reform, the appointment of a new justice to the Supreme Court, and more, America cannot afford rampant obstructionism. The Senate created these undemocratic rules, and now it needs to end them.

JAMBAR SENIOR STAFF GOODBYES



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KEVIN JOSEPH AND JOSH KRYGOWSKI FOR THE JAMBAR

Designing my future

Adam Rogers
MANAGING EDITOR

Many times throughout my career at The Jambar I have been asked one question over and over by faculty, students and friends alike: You're a TCOM major, so why do you work for The Jambar? My answer has always been one word, or noun I should say: Facebook. Yes, the social networking website that for many graduates becomes a hindrance to their job search when they realize they forgot to make last year's photo album of drunken escapades private.

For me it was the opposite. Facebook got me the job, mostly thanks to my listing of graphic design as a minor and former Jambar editor Leonard Glenn Crist's site search for students to take over the task of designing The Jambar. Now nearly four and a half years later it's finally my turn to write this senior staff goodbye letter.

It really does feel like I have been working here forever, and if you were to ask our adviser Mary Beth Earnhardt, she would likely back me up on that feeling, as she jokingly tells me that I pre-date Jambar founder Burke Lyden. But it has been a long time, and through the years I've had the privilege of working alongside an outstanding group of co-workers.

My first day on the job I was greeted by a newsroom that included Crist, Katie Libecco, Bill Rodgers, Steve Lettau and Justin Smolkovich. More importantly there was cake, as it was The Jambar's 75th anniversary. I couldn't believe how lucky I was. I was getting paid to design, and there was free dessert. I knew this was the right place for me.

It's probably time for me to begin thanking people who have impacted me greatly throughout this experience.

Richard Louis Boccia walked through the doors of the office one day and made an immediate first impression on

me. I didn't like him. He kept telling me what to do, how to design things, to crop photos differently and to stop messing with fonts. Who the heck did he think he was? Oh, wait; he was hired as my superior. Eventually I gave in and began to see things his way, and that's still one of the best decisions I ever made. I'm not sure I would be where I am today without his help and guidance.

J. Breen Mitchell, Richard's successor, came to The Jambar with a different skill set and a passion for news. He constantly would ask why, research, investigate, make phone calls and push reporters to find the real story. He may not realize it, but it was his enthusiasm for journalism that made me want to try my hand at reporting, which over the last year I've had the opportunity to do. I have to admit I kind of like it.

Watching Josh Stipanovich and Lamar Salter jokingly fight is one of the most destructive and funny things to ever hit The Jambar office and has been a highlight of this past year. They've really added a "hole" new dynamic to the newsroom. Lamar's sarcastic, cynical personality always leaves you guessing as to whether or not he's serious and fits well with my sense of humor. Josh's "intense" but playful persona is almost too much to handle at times, especially if you're a wall. No matter how many times Lamar says "stop trying to be my friend," I'd like to think that one day he'll admit that we are. Aside from all the fun, both have the ability to be serious and get the job done when called upon. They leave me confident that The Jambar is in good hands for the next academic year.

The first time Chelsea Pflugh met me I allegedly told her to "shutup." I don't deny it, as it's something I would likely say, but I also don't remember it. She said she thought I didn't like her, but she eventually got to know my personality and realized it was all in good fun. We've spent a lot of time together developing many inside jokes, making fun of anything and everything Lamar does,

typing to each other in all caps, singing on car rides, talking as loud as possible in public, sneaking off to get breakfast at Arby's, constantly hanging out with Lamar on the weekends and oh, yeah, covering, interviewing, writing, calling, filming and managing the staff. You have been there the whole time, pushing me and rewarding me with trips to the Candy Counter for motivation. Because of you it has been one of my best years on staff and at YSU altogether.

Brian Cetina has been with me since the beginning. We both started on the same day as design editors and have held on as long as we could to our cushy Jambar jobs. I'd like to talk about some of the inside jokes that Brian and I share, but they're too inside and mostly not fit for print. Regardless, we've stuck it out through some major and minor staff changes and live to tell the tale to Jambar staffers from now and into the future. I hope you are successful at the Lima News and if you get to meet the cast of "Glee," please get me some autographs, or at least Rachel's phone number. Just remember, I have a lot of respect for you, even though we both know that I am way better at my job.

Through the ups and downs, slow news days, breaking news chaos and love triangles, the staff over the years has always been close, and I thank everyone for being there through all of it. I couldn't imagine surviving college without you all.

Though many of my Jambar memories will forever be indexed through photos and status updates on Facebook, the same medium that brought me to this office in the first place, they will always be a part of me as each experience and person that I've met and worked with along the way has shaped me into the student, journalist and professional that I am today.

I will never regret my decision to come to Youngstown State University. Once a Penguin, always a Penguin, but above all, a Jambar staffer for life.

taught many the ways of The Jambar. I bet it will feel good to not be working from the bunker anymore. We have had hundreds of inside jokes that I don't think ever really got old. I'll make sure to get you on "Glee" when I move. Good luck with the job search.

Chelsea Pflugh is one of those transfer kids like myself. I'll never forget sitting in the conference room working out schedules because classes never counted. Thanks for ruining Adam's car with me at karaoke. I still don't like hockey, the Steelers are terrible and go Mountaineers. We experienced a lot, whether it was the semi-truck or the KC hospital. You're good at your job, and I wish you luck in D.C. I had to add more words to this just so my word count didn't remind you of the Penguins. Highfive.

I have known Chelsea and Adam since I started here at YSU. "Never have I ever" experienced two friendships in such a short time that have made such an impact on me and that I wouldn't change for the world. I will miss you two and all the hilarity that we caused. Show em', Adam.

Lamar Salter, Josh Stipanovich and Keith Langford, it has been fun working with you guys. Intramural sports and playing pool after late nights at the office were quite the experience. Even though we won most of our flag football games on forfeits, it's still a win. I haven't known you three as long as I have known other staffers, but getting to know you guys has seriously been a pleasure. Josh and Lamar fight and can be destructive, while Keith does his 50 Cent impression.

See ya at the Lampost Lounge, Keith. Thanks for getting kicked in the nuts for the sake of Chatroulette, Josh, and oh hey, Lamar. You drunk?

Dan Pompili, leader of the crazies. I could have included you in the last paragraph with the other guys but you are a breed of crazy all on your own. If I can find a publication that has a Farmville

editor, I will definitely recommend you for the position. I will miss your ridiculous sense of crude humor, but you're a good man. I say man because aren't you like 45? But seriously ... your 45th birthday is coming up, right? It has been interesting to work with you but also a pleasure. Good luck in your future endeavors and barn raising.

Sam Marhulik, I have known you for much longer than most here. Our friendship goes back to our old jobs before college at the Dairy Queen. Way to get into journalism too. I wish you the best of luck taking on the Jambar's design next year. Make it stylish, but not Adam Lambert stylish. See you at the shoe in like a week, I'm sure. Rich Rodriguez is a failure and go Browns.

Aaron Workman and Emmalee Torisk, the other ladies of the office, you have been fun to work with. Emmalee, it took you some time to break from your quiet shell, but once you did I think you could take Adam in a fight. Throw some books at him. Also, I took your green chair at work every night.

Aaron, you have been fun, one of my favorite people to talk to about life. I owe you many thanks. I'm pretty sure your dog doesn't like me, but I wouldn't hold it against you. I wish both of you the best of luck in your future endeavors. Play me off, keyboard cat.

To all of my fellow coworkers at The Jambar, I wish you the best in future endeavors and experiences. Good luck with the job hunt. Keep in touch.

I am leaving this student publication proud of my work and am ready to pursue my new job, bringing all my experience with me. I feel lucky that my work here at YSU has gotten me into the job I am getting ready to take on.

I will miss all the fun times at the J-bar. In the words of 2Pac, "I'd love to go back to when we played as kids, but things changed, and that's the way it is." Peace out.

Going out in style

Chelsea Pflugh
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It took me a while to find my purpose here at Youngstown State University.

I came here as a music education major and played in music ensembles until my schedule no longer allowed it. I worked in the SGA office, then at the Rec Center and Student Programming. I went Greek and joined a sorority. I walked down the 50-yard line at Stambaugh Stadium as a member of YSU's Homecoming court in 2008. I volunteered for anything and everything I had time for.

But nothing compares to the Fedor Hall basement.

I remember the day I was offered the position of editor-in-chief. I was joyous for about 5 minutes, but was restless for weeks thereafter. Could I manage a group of my peers? Was I ready to devote my time, emotions and energy entirely to better this publication? More importantly, was I capable of ensuring that The Jambar would keep its reputation as a respected news source, as my predecessors had worked so hard to establish? I lost sleep over the possibility of disappointing my peers, faculty and staff.

I made those fears my sole motivation to succeed. I was relentless. But I learned from the best.

Mary Beth Earnhardt, my adviser, instructor and mentor, you serve as a constant reminder that what I work for every day matters. You kept me grounded when I thought I would lose it. You encouraged me when I needed to be appreciated and offered criticism when I needed to be motivated. You have impacted my college career more than I can condense in a paragraph. Alyssa Lenhoff, you are an inspiration to me. Your ability to see a news story when others see nothing fascinates me. You have helped me more than you know. Tim Francisco, you were my first college reality check. You made me realize that if I wanted to make it in this business, I had to work for it, and work hard. And don't worry; I have no problem with you, either. Tom Pittman, we have only worked together for a short time, but we clicked instantly. Thank you for always offering advice and reminding me your office was always open to vent.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention a few Jambar alums that helped and motivated me to move up the ranks at the Jambar. Sarah Sole, thanks for leading by example. Cristina Cala, thanks for beating it into my head that the AP Stylebook is the journalist's bible. Richard Boccia, thank you for your endless knowledge and insatiable desire to improve everything.

Thank you, J. Breen Mitchell. You are a best friend first and local media competition second. It was fun trying to beat you to stories this year, and I'll apologize now if I ever purposely didn't tip you on something so we could get the story first. I owe absolutely everything to you. I hope that no matter where we end up, we can still call each other from our newsrooms and talk business. You are irreplaceable to me.

Now, to my family. Keith Langford, you've come a long way in three semesters. I remember the days where you'd just stare blankly at InDesign, but now the sports page demands respect. And you're right, we ain't goin' to no Lampost Lounge. Ever.

Dan Pompili, you define tenacity. Your ability to crank out stories on extreme deadline sometimes gave me a heart attack, but that's just the way you operate. I'm excited for you to take over at news desk, I'm certain you will be great. You may have to come to terms with letting your crops wither on Farmville while you write more stories, though.

Emmalee Torisk, you've kept me sane over the year. I enjoyed watching YouTube videos with you and taking impromptu trips to the Candy Counter for energy drinks. I will miss our talks about the AP Stylebook that only we as copy editors understand. Just remember, its website and not Web site now. Best of luck keeping the boys in line next year. Play me off, keyboard cat ...

Lamar Salter, there is so much to say. I have no idea how our friendship started, but it doesn't matter. You have so much potential, now do something great. I have faith that the website and staff will excel under your management. Thank you for resurfacing the musician in me. We share a unique bond, and I will certainly miss you. Maybe we can even go fishing on your fishing dock this summer before I move away.

Aaron Workman, we've become best friends in no time. Thanks for the lunch dates at Winslow's and weekend outings. Our friendship means the world to me, and I won't go into detail about missing you, because I'm certain we'll be seeing each other even more now that I'll be unemployed and bored every day! Hang on for just one more year; you're almost out of here.

Josh Stipanovich, I have had to sit here and re-write this paragraph three times because I just want to cry over how proud I am of you. You are going to take this paper in a new direction. I can let go of The Jambar knowing it's in great hands. Just promise me that news will always be your first priority and to call me if you ever use the "Big Bad Wolf" hammerhead. Don't lose your drive. You are a natural-born leader and you will be great. The rest is better left unsaid here. I can't thank you enough for every role you've played over the past year. Without you, I would've died from the stress.

Brian Cetina, remember that time you wore that T-shirt of my favorite band and that's the only reason we were even friends? You have been the one I've known the longest here, and you are irreplaceable. As a fellow transfer student, you felt my pain. Remember that time we got hit by a semi-truck and almost died? Or the time where I screamed at a taxi driver to take you to the closest emergency room because you split your head open in Kansas City? There is so much I could put here. Best of luck in Lima. Music, dance parties and silver Pontiac Sunfire. That about sums it up.

Adam Rogers, the first thing you ever said to me was "shut up." You had just met me, and you knew me so well already. You and I went from casual acquaintances to inseparable in such a short time. Together, we took on a newspaper that already meant so much to us and made it our entire life. I will never touch your cheese puffs again. Do you want to get Arby's breakfast? It's 10:40 a.m. ... it's too late. OH NO! Do you want me to get you a Snick? I will miss screaming random things and talking in weird voices with you ... but I'm sure we can do that after graduation considering we're both unemployed now. Let's start planning for Louisville and never turn in our keys so we can just live here. You've made this past year the best year at YSU, and for that, I can't thank you enough, dooooooood.

So now, I bid farewell. As I sit here at my desk for the last production night, I look out at a group of people who have turned into a family. They have been the best blessing I could have ever been given.

Good luck, Jambar.

JAMBAR GOODBYES

Keith Langford Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

Yo, what's good! This how I really talk. Straight hood. I went to the Lampost Lounge and made it rain. All jokes aside, I had fun in my four semesters at The Jambar.

Apart from being the other black guy on staff (Thanks, Lamar), I had fun writing for The Jambar, and I enjoyed it.

I've learned a lot working here. I've learned how to work under stress and to perform beyond what I expected even from myself. I have learned more about sports and how to write about sports. I've learned the beauty of covering breaking sports stories. I've learned that YSU plays football in the Missouri Valley Conference and not the Horizon League. My mistake. I've also learned being on the field and court is way cooler than the stands. I got to be on the court, and you didn't. Are you jealous? You should be.

I want to thank Mary Beth Earnhardt for her knowledge of everything remotely journalistic. Anytime I had a question about anything pertaining to journalism she answered it. Thanks for always being there. Copy Bowl third place, who would have guessed? I also want to thank David Lee Morgan Jr. for his knowledge through his sports writing class, my favorite class in my time here at YSU. We always had interesting debates in the class, and I wish YSU offered more sports journalism courses.

My time at The Jambar was interesting, to say the least. I felt very welcome, but I was kind of reluctant to know anybody beyond The Jambar. That's just my personality. I didn't mean any wrong by it; I just like to role solo. Regardless, I had fun, and I enjoyed the ride. I've learned so much in the two years I've been on staff, and I am forever grateful for being sports editor for the past three semesters. I didn't want to hang onto my post like some staffers even though I have one semester left. I felt the time was right to end my tenure.

I regret not hanging out with the staff more, but I had fun when I did. I enjoyed that one night for Nick Young's birthday party over Chelsea's. I never really seen everybody

drunk, and it was cool except Lamar being sober. Also karaoke last year was a blast. Pimpin' has retired from the game. Brian, we killed on Snoop and Akon's "I Want to Love You." I also killed on 2Pac's "Changes." Things will never be the same is so true.

I cannot forget about The Jambar's staff, the most random assortment of screw-ups ever. Finally, I get to say what I really feel in print.

First off I enjoyed being captain for Jamballin' and Slambar. Even though we weren't any good, we still had fun. If you need me in the fall to play flag football, I'll be there. Sorry, Josh for wanting to beat you up (Unfair advantage; I think he's on steroids).

Chelsea P: You have been the best EIC anyone could ask for. You were always professional and kept us in line. Pittsburgh's a fine city, but the Steelers still suck in my eyes. Hockey too.

J-Steezie: Even though we almost fought during flag football, you're still cool in my eyes. Lay off the chew as EIC; I know it's going to drive you nuts. Good luck as the new EIC. Maybe Jimmy Clausen will pick up the slack for Brady Quinn.

Lamar: I always had good conversations about music with you. Keep dreaming, you half Puerto-Rican playa. Loosen up, man; have a couple of drinks. You might mellow out.

Thanks for always making the staff and I laugh over your Lamar antics. Good luck as the new managing editor.

Brian C.: See you at the Lampost Lounge. We gone make it rain and get Lamar drunk so he could get a lap dance. Good luck in Lima. Remember to tip the strippers; they will do extra. That's what she said.

Sam M.: We always had interesting conversations about sports. Go Cavs and Browns. Good luck as the new head designer. You will do great. Smack a hoe, and shoot the club up!

Dan P.: Don't change your crazy, interesting outbursts.

They always made me think, no matter how odd they were. Don't kill anybody on staff. Go easy on the new staff. As always, go Bucks. I left some Ritain in your new news editor desk.

Adam R.: Thanks for always messing up my page. Just kidding. You always hooked my page up when it needed to be fixed. We have to golf sometime in the future.

To everyone else: Hey, it's been fun working with you, but all good things must come to an end. Now I must quietly go back to my own world, which consists of my girlfriend, Gina, and the best foxy-chi puppy in the world, Chino.

Man, it's really over. I'll still be here for one more semester, just not at The Jambar. Now on Monday and Wednesday nights, I am free. Sweet. I am going to miss it, but now I'm free to play basketball on those nights. Ballin'!

Gary S. Angelo
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
REPORTER

Dear Youngstown State University, student body and Jambar staff,

As my intellectual core and physique gently levitates off your lush campus grounds, "the goddess Diploma" and the sweet sirens of the career market call out to me, serving as zephyrs whispering tiny messages of wisdom in my ear. Tiny messages, but big impact. Oh, the sounds they make are beautiful drones and trills to me now as I rest against the goddess Diploma's warm, angelic bosom, reflecting on my accomplishments.

I want to utter these last words of departure as the penguin's wings droop with sadness, and my time here on campus expires. My spirit points up, but my heart points down as I am coherent and over-caffeinated, treasuring every last YSU moment. Alone in the solemn forest of futuristic meditation, I ponder every last hour of each week thanking my mentors, kindred spirits, friends, love interests, enemies, professors, acquaintances and anyone who has made my YSU journey worthwhile.

As I swam through YSU's sometimes harsh

tides, I transfigured and surfaced into many beings: the journalist, the lover, the jokester, the mentor, the guide, the artist, the enigma, the man of mystery, the music guru, the voice of healing, the son, the older brother.

Whatever role I have assumed, my creativity has served as my oxygen mask and safety valve that has preserved and moved me to success.

Hiking with stick in hand and eyes throughout the journey, I have been cast aside, experienced rejection, intimidation, heartbreak and isolation, but somehow this disheveled star has risen above it all. Black coffee, anger, determination and humor were the feats of strength that formed a seal over the ravaging bullet holes that pierced my soul. Somehow even the worst experiences brought the strongest part of me.

I discovered who I was, and who I wasn't, but every hour was not a waste or a useless brown smog of obstruction in my 27 years of existence.

Now the good part, or the frosting on the torte, the drink on the couch at the end of the day, and that is to savor each moment at YSU. Each moment floats like frosting on the top of life's futuristic slice of pie. Don't judge individuals, but welcome and embrace life's eclectic opinions. All I can say is that it is more important to have plenty of dreams instead of dusty memories. Enjoy the trip; I will see you all at the top.

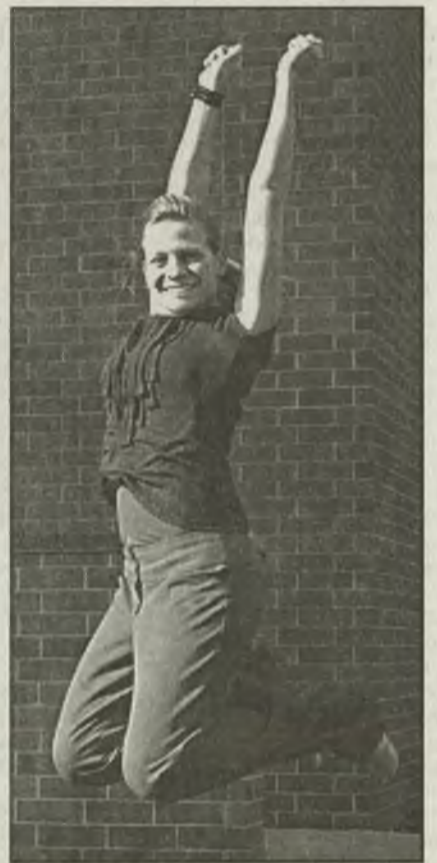
Jennifer Tomerlin
REPORTER

It's the Sunday before the final week of my college career, and I can honestly say the scene is not as I would picture it at all. I am surrounded by scattered papers, open books, pens, pencils and drafting tools. Of course, Facebook is open on my Internet Explorer. There are no parties, celebratory outings or a parade in my honor. I am two weeks away from getting the glorified piece of paper that says, "I survived four years of college," and yet I feel like the light at the end of the tunnel is getting dimmer and dimmer. Getting to the end is going to be harder than I thought.

I came to Youngstown State University four years ago in fall 2006. And let's just say I was not happy about the situation. I spent three months of summer listening to my high school friends talking about what they were getting for their dorms, who they were living with and just how great their sports teams were. I had four years to look forward to living with my parents and having my closest friend at least 40 minutes away. I couldn't wait to get out, and I didn't even start school yet.

Looking for anything to make this prison sentence more enjoyable, I joined a sorority in October as a result of a "Spa Night" I was invited to. I never knew that signing that membership book was going to change my life and college career indefinitely. It was in this sorority that I was posed with the question by my adviser: "What impact will you leave on the campus at YSU?" Impact? I didn't think that was something you did in college. I thought you studied, hung out at the student union and partied on the weekends. Who said anything about making an impact? Needless to say, I was up to the challenge. YSU then for me was never the same. It was a roller coaster that was going to take me through high drops, corkscrews and inversions, leaving me screaming and wanting more.

Now I can go on for paragraphs on top of paragraphs about what I have done at YSU since my arrival, but it's all rather boring and, to be honest, my editor allotted me only 600 words. The best thing I can do is give the readers advice and words to live by. Here it goes. If you don't know what you want to do with the rest of your life, don't worry. In my 22 years of life I've wanted to be a princess, teacher, singer, ballerina, actress, director, fashion editor, fashion designer and movie producer.



This leads into my next lesson: Never limit yourself. I can honestly say I have worn many hats as a student at YSU. I have been involved in the theater program as an actor and director, a dancer and choreographer in the YSU Dance Ensemble and Dance Team and a reporter for The Jambar. The worst thing you can do is close a door on a possibility that may be absolutely perfect for you. Embrace your surroundings and hope for the best. Take chances. What doesn't kill you definitely makes you stronger, and living for the moment is the only way you will ever find passion and fulfillment in all that you do. Going through the motions day by day leads to a boring, mediocre life, which is not an option. Hey, I'm still hoping that princess thing works out.

So as I come to the end of my letter, I would like to say thank you to everyone who has made my time here at YSU such a wonderful and impactful experience. The people I have met here were the ones who helped me turn into the person I am today. I only hope that the footprint I leave at YSU is one of many that will help another student follow the path to where he or she belongs. Goodbye, YSU; I can't believe our time has come to an end, and I will never forget you.

Adam Planty
WEBSITE EDITOR

I've churned out last-minute research papers, hastily composed final projects and nearly forgotten homework assignments during my time as a student. I've procrastinated so much I've turned a four-year degree into a five-year escapade. But all the while this letter is the hardest thing I've ever had to write. I've been able to let things slide because they've come with directions explaining how to complete them, what criteria to hit for a grade. Unfortunately, there's no syllabus for saying goodbye.

I started out as a Computer Science and Information Systems major at YSU. When somebody asked me what I wanted to do with the rest of my life (because these are things you know about yourself at age 18) my reply was "... ummm ... I like computers?" and off we went. It didn't take long for me to realize that the field wasn't for me, and I meandered to my other love, English. Apparently there's an entire field dedicated to designing documents, being nosy and writing the occasional snarky commentary. Who knew?

Which brings us to this letter. It was never my intention to get involved with The Jambar, to do anything for a school paper for a campus I felt mostly ambivalent about. I lived an hour away in Ashtabula County for the vast majority of my college career, only moving to Austintown late last year. It was easy for me to do the commuter business of showing up for class and quickly scooting off campus to the rest of my life. Along the way, though, I started taking some journalism courses, experienced the exhilarating joy of being published for the first time and quickly altered my priorities on what I wanted out of my college experience. I've been fortunate to do so as well. I've been able to get real practice conducting interviews and working on quick deadlines. I've gotten to be part of a group of people that comes together on a regular basis to produce a fairly fantastic product. I've also seen those same people meltdown in Christian



Bale-esque moments of stress-induced fury. So, just like any other family I suppose.

As great as the experience has been, I'll have my regrets. I wish I'd gotten involved sooner. I wish I'd dedicated more time to my position as student and staffer. I wish I'd been around more so I could have better known some of the great people I've met. I wish I could say that it didn't take a professor telling me I was an intelligent but lazy student for me to clean up my act. I wish I could say I'm graduating without any major problems having arisen along the way. But as my parents will remind me, most of them are from my doing anyway. A quick heads-up to any younger students looking for a nugget of knowledge: Flunking a course and telling your parents it was so nice you're taking it twice will do nothing to lessen the glares they will burn into your skull. Or the awkwardness of handing them the bill for next semester.

So that's it. I'll sit through commencement while reminding myself to not fidget, text or wonder what everyone is doing afterward. I'll pose for pictures and enjoy my day to breathe a sigh of relief knowing that I did something my parents and teachers have always told me I'd do, even if I doubted myself at times. But don't worry, YSU. Even though I don't plan on coming back any time soon and I don't know where my life will take me, wherever I go, I'll always speak fondly of you.

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CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE GRADUATING
JAMBAR STAFF.

GOOD LUCK WITH ALL
YOUR FUTURE PLANS

Dance Dance Dance!



YSU set for May Day

Jennifer Tomerlin
REPORTER

Third Eye Blind is set to take the stage at 7:30 p.m. in Beeghly Center as the main event for Youngstown State University's annual May Day.

Joy Polkabra Byers, assistant director of Programs and Special Events, said 2,200 tickets have been sold. Tickets can be purchased until the show begins on Thursday evening. Tickets are \$5 with a valid student ID and \$20 for the public.

Polkabra Byers said she's excited about the success of the event and how Penguin Productions coordinated the event.

"I'm extremely proud of this group. They worked really hard putting this together. The students have been really involved, and [they] made it possible, proving this could be done by students," Polkabra-Byers said.

Although the concert is the main event, other events will be taking place.

The Student Government Association will be hosting a pre-party from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Rec 5 area before the concert.

There will be free food, a Chik-fil-A sandwich giveaway and cornhole. Every student that attends will receive a free gift upon entrance.

Students will have a chance to meet with student organizations and meet the new SGA representatives for the 2010-11 school year.

"[It] gives back to the students," said freshman Elyse Gessler. "We want everyone there and to get everyone excited for the evening. It's a send-off before the summer starts."

The pre-party event is free. Students will need to show their valid student IDs upon entering the event.

YSU Dance Ensemble prepare's for spring concert

Lamar Salter
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
EDITOR

Dance Ensemble President and junior Mandi Fetty raised her stocking back to show friend and first year member junior Sarah Greene a bruise on her leg she received after intense hours of rehearsal.

Although she squints in pain, there is a triumphant, confident, possibly coincident tone in her voice. Greene gazed in interest at the "battle scar" as the two dancers talked about an upcoming practice.

In an almost textbook statement Fetty explained the benefits of dancing in college. "It is proven fact that physical activity increases cognitive functioning," Fetty said.

It's "tech week" according to the staff of the Dance Ensemble. A time to critique the stage at Ford Theater, balance the lights and make final adjustments for the upcoming annual spring concert.

It's "hell week" for the dancers though. A time to perfect routines, critique moves

and make final switches to the schedule.

The Dance Ensemble has two semesters to prepare for just a three-day event, and hell week is described as the unremitting summarization of the last couple months of work.

Every spring, Ford Theater is greeted by a plethora of original student choreography.

"This year we will have modern, hip hop, swing, tap, ethnic and musical theatre," Fetty said, as she tried to think of other themes.

Like last year, Fetty will be choreographing an original work for the volunteer-based organization. There is a sense of anxiousness in Fetty's demeanor.

"I can't wait to do it," Fetty said as she talked about the upcoming performance. "I love being in front of the stage and making eye contact with the audience."

Although she has only been in the ensemble for two years, Fetty has been dancing for 18 years and teaches at the Dance Space in Warren.

Greene has a similar repertoire; She has a different perspective of her upcoming debut despite dancing for 15 years and teaching.

"I get stage fright," Greene said with a laugh. "It always drives me crazy."

The Dance Ensemble recruits a variety of Youngstown State University students to complement the organization's reputation for eclectic works. Hopeful members must pass auditions to be initiated.

"We're pretty strict," Fetty said about the group.

A self-sufficient student organization, the ensemble and its roughly 22 members raise funds individually with bake sales, event hosting and student discounts.

For this year's concert, Fetty said she wanted to adapt ideas she got after attending the American College Dance Festival Association hosted at Mercyhurst College in Erie, PA.

"It was different last year," Fetty said. "We really didn't know what was expected of

us. This year is a lot more developed."

Fetty said she hopes the concert to be more "conceptual" in theme and display more of the group's "artistic vision."

Artistic is a great word to describe the event, from choreography to costumes.

"I will admit some of the costumes are kind of eccentric," Fetty said.

As everything comes together, the two dancers hope that this spring's concert can help open more doors for an organization that invite everyone to share in their passion.

Both medical assisting majors, Fetty and Greene have different ideas for their futures.

While Greene plans to get a job in her major, Fetty could only dream of the day where she could keep dancing.

"I just want to do it forever," Fetty said.

The annual Dance Ensemble spring concert kicks off April 29 at 7 p.m. Tickets for students are \$3 and \$7 for the general public.

Rosetta Rave: Local restaurant makes plans to open venue

Gary S. Angelo
FEATURES REPORTER

Greg Sop, co-owner of the Rosetta Stone Cafe and Wine Bar, located on 110 Federal Plaza West, is working to open the ultimate alternative and dance club venue called The Vault.

It will be located in Rosetta Stone's basement and will host a diverse array of touring acts. Sop plans on having two major concerts during the week, as well as two dance nights.

Sop's mission is to bring in groundbreaking acts. He said that he wants to bring in

groups that could be the potential Brand New or Shine-down. Sop is trying to book acts linked with Ticketmaster such as Three Days Grace and Billy Talent.

"I have been a music ticket broker for 15 years and was always into promoting music. Music is so fluid and ever changing. Every band today brings in unique influences to the table," Sop said.

Sop is working with Art Youngstown to paint the inside of the venue. Sop said he wants the venue to have an "underground subway graffiti appeal," and also wants the club to have pop-out fluorescent paint over black. Art Youngstown wants to extend this project to all area artists,

YSU students and to anyone who would like to contribute.

RoseMary Baty-Willcox, public relations personnel, said that on Monday from 5 to 6:30 p.m., Art Youngstown will host a meeting for anyone who is interested in being part of the project. Painting sessions will begin Tuesday at 5 p.m. until the project is finished.

Sop said he believes The Vault will help draw more crowds from Youngstown and the outside areas through its diverse candid entertainment.

"This venue gives me the opportunity to bring these bands in an intimate, up-close, small and impersonal environment. I am also having dance nights where DJs

will spin a mix of dance and top-40 music," Sop said.

Sop also made reference to a rather interesting Youngstown-centric historical fact about the basement section of the Rosetta Stone.

"The basement area used to be a Woolworth's department store. Another well-known venue that was a Woolworth's department store was the House of Blues in Cleveland," Sop said.

Sop feels the venue would be an enhancement to Youngstown's budding entertainment district.

"This is what Youngstown needs: a consistent source where music lovers can see national touring acts," Sop said.



IMAGES COURTESY OF GREG SOP

"I think every piece is different; it just flowed and the composition came naturally."

Daniel Brandt, senior

YSU music student premieres first composition

Krystle Kimes
REPORTER

On April 19, Daniel Brandt, a senior composition major at the Dana School of Music, premiered a piece of music he composed titled "Afshar's Escape." The Dana School of Music's concert band performed the piece in Powers Auditorium.

"Afshar's Escape" took Brandt two days to write.

"I think every piece is different; it just flowed and the composition came naturally. I wasn't trying to speed through," Brandt said.

The last time a student wrote a composition for a band at the university was in the early-2000s.

The piece emanated anxiousness and represents a memory that one wants to suppress, or something that the person wants to forget about. The composition has many explosions within the ensemble to retain the tempo and make the intensity of the music explode.

The title was picked off a poster about a guitarist, and the music sounds like an escape from something, Brandt said.

"I like the name of the piece because it gets the sense of the

piece across because 'Afshar' is kind of this ornate ethereal piece and its escapee. The title should always encapsulate the feeling to the audience," Brandt said.

Brandt got into composition because he said his skills are either math or music.

"Music seemed more fun," Brandt said.

The composition major started writing when he was 14 years old, and he played in the band in Mercer, Pa., during fifth grade. He plays euphonium, piano and trumpet.

Brandt's most inspirational teacher was his high school band director, Travis Weller.

"He was the first legitimate musician to listen to my music and tell me if it was good," Brandt said.

Brandt wrote a piece his senior year in high school for his band titled "The Thing in B Minor," and said the experience is what made him want to continue into college. He has written three other band pieces.

After graduation, he is looking to apply for jobs in commercial-, film- and media-related organizations or attend graduate school at the University of Colorado at Boulder with renowned composer and Grammy nominee Carter Pann.

MCT CAMPUS PHOTO

SUMMER EVENTS IN THE YO

Saturday, May 15: Johnie 3, Tilt Patrol, Hollywood Blondes and the Hi Life at Cedars Lounge, 10 p.m.

Saturday, May 22: Ditosto Production and Juggalo Family Entertainment present thirty band extravaganza at The Paradise Inn, 4 p.m.

Saturday, May 29: Opening night of Summer Concert Series at Warren Amphitheatre, Opening Act: Jackie, Headliner: Zoso (Led Zeppelin Tribute), guests urged to get there by 6 p.m.

Sunday, May 30: Jonesfest III at Nelson Ledges Quarry Park at noon and 1 p.m.

Saturday, June 5: Gay Pride Festival at Federal Plaza, noon to 9 p.m.

Saturday, June 12: Warrenstock Music Festival, 6 p.m. opening act: Stranglehold (Ted Nugent Tribute), headliner: Thunderstruck (AC/DC Tribute)

Saturday, June 19: Electric Frankenstein, Turbo Lovers and The Cheats at Royal Oaks, 9 p.m.

Saturday, June 19: Summer Concert Series at Warren Amphitheatre, opening act: Lock 4, headliner: Almost Queen (Queen Tribute)

Saturday June 26: Rock the Block 2 in Downtown Youngstown 3 p.m.


Saturday, July 3: Summer Concert Series, Warren Amphitheatre, 6 p.m. opening act: Rudey and The Professionals, headliner: Fins to the Left (Jimmy Buffet Tribute)

Sunday Aug. 15: VexFest 7 in downtown Youngstown, noon



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-Love Emily

CONGRATULATIONS MIKE!

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in your future. we knew you could do it! Love You!

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DANIEL DEMAIOLO**

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grad school.

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YOU HAVE
ACCOMPLISHED!**



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Mom, Dad, William and Jaimie

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your dreams. Around you, all who love you.
Within you, all you need.

I know how hard you've
worked to get to this day,
how deep your dreams
run, how bright your future
shines. You have a special
gift that can change lives.
Now, go out in the world
and do well, but more
importantly, go out in the
world and do good.



I'm so proud of you.
Love, Mom

SWEET page 4

arose in the negotiations in 2005 had to do with employee participation in the healthcare, which was an objective that was set by the board and the administration. It was agreed to, but it was painful getting to that point. There is increasing recognition that there has to be a partnership, shared responsibilities between the institution and the administration. I'm hopeful that there will be a focus on new leadership bringing new ideas and hopefully this will enhance collaboration.

Q: How do you feel the student body has benefited by having you as university president?

A: I hope the student body has gained an opportunity for outstanding education, I hope they have engaged in activities outside the classroom. I hope a number of students have taken advantage of campus housing. I would hope that students have become more familiar that YSU is not an island, we're part of a very important city. I hope they have explored downtown.

Q: What's your advice for President-elect Cynthia Anderson?

A: Well, I think she has unique credentials because she's very familiar with the institution and I'm certain she has her own ideas. One of the pieces of advice I've given

her is get ahold of your calendar. It's very easy to become over-committed because everyone is anxious to meet the new president. I think that my watchword has been persistence. If you have a goal or vision, you have to recognize that most initiatives take a lot of time and collaboration. New degree programs require continued support of the president. So, identify priorities and be persistent in pursuing them.

Q: What's next for the Sweet household?

A: We have four children and seven grandchildren, so we're going to relocate to be near most of them, we're thinking North Carolina. We will continue to be interested in and return to Youngstown. My 95-year-old other still lives here, and so we'll be back visiting and hopefully attending a Penguin game now and then and participating in some of the art culture of the university. That's the next step. The advice we've been given by the National Network of University Presidents is that it's always best for an outgoing president to provide the incoming president with, if you will, open turn so to speak. So the advice is normally to relocate. I think it facilitates the new president becoming the focal point of leadership for the university.

ACE page 4

filed on grievance 342.

ACE President Brian Brennan said his list, provided by ACE Grievance Committee chairwoman Christine Domhoff, shows several grievances have been resolved, but some were approved for arbitration.

According to records in the Office of General Counsel, YSU has spent as of March \$89,683.63 on labor-related litigation since July 2009. The Ohio Educational Association's expenses are not public record, as YSU's are, so the cost to the OEA — and ACE in particular — remains non-specific. However, a response from the OEA's legal services department is expected regarding those costs.

Brennan said there is a \$30 filing fee with the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service when a grievance is sent to arbitration. The additional costs can exceed thousands of dollars if the arbitration "drags out." The OEA generally pays most of the expenses on the union's behalf, and splits the base cost of arbitration with

YSU, 50-50.

Domhoff was out of her office and unavailable for comment. However, committee member Robert Truitt, when asked whether he felt the grievance process was beginning to work again, said, "I don't believe so; that's really my only comment."

"It's been very slow," Brennan added. "I know Christine has had some successes, and she did make a motion to members at the April 7 meeting that if anyone wished to withdraw their grievances, then there would be a form for her and I to sign [along with the grievant], legally ending the grievance."

Brennan said the union is trying to work with YSU and new HR chief Kevin Reynolds to resolve grievances.

"We're making an honest attempt to avoid arbitrations," he said.

As of Wednesday, Brennan said he only knows of one grievant who has come forward to withdraw a grievance.

Career and Counseling Services offers advice for grads

Andrea DeMart
REPORTER

Graduation is approaching, and many students are faced with the decision of what to do with the degree they have earned and where to go for the rest of their lives. Career and Counseling Services can help.

"We are like the career management and marketing for the university," said Gary Boley, director of Career and Counseling Services.

The department, located in Jones Hall, assists students in finding a future job in their respective field and also provides mental counseling for issues that may be troubling a student.

Counselors assist students in making the best decision going forward, whether that be continuing their education in graduate school or going directly into the job market.

"[We] help students make better resumes, conduct mock interviews, provide ways to search for jobs and put students in touch with alums," Boley said. "If you would like to get a job in your field, we work with you to ensure you can find a way to pursue that."

The department employs four career counselors. Walk-ins and appointments are welcome. This semester, the department has had 581 appointments with students.

Career and Counseling Services provides a graduate survey each year to all students

who have graduated. The current survey, fall 2008 through spring 2009, shows that 77 percent of respondents are employed, though not necessarily in their desired field, and 17 percent decided to continue their education. Overall, this is a 1 percent increase from the previous surveyed year.

The survey is intended to give students an idea of success rates after graduation. The completed survey can be found on the Career and Counseling Services website in the next week.

Judith Gaines, executive director of Student Life manages and coordinates the mental counseling department within the career and counseling department. Gaines says that a "variety of individual counseling, presentations and group counseling" are available to students. Appointments are preferred for mental counseling.

"Our department has one mental health counselor in the office," Boley said. "The school of education has multiple counselors, operated by the academic side."

Boley said students should be optimistic for the future. The increase of graduates finding jobs versus the previous year is comforting. Boley said the "downturn in the economy was reflected in the previous year's results."

"[We] are doing the best to put you out there in the situation to be hired," Boley said.

YSU retention rates above average

Juliana Hull
REPORTER

According to the Statistical Profile for Ohio's Colleges and Universities, prepared by the Ohio Board of Regents in 2008, Youngstown State University's first-year retention rates are the highest among other state open admissions universities.

The YSU Institutional Research website states that "the number of first-time, full-time degree-seeking students in fall 2005 returned to the same institution in fall 2006." YSU's graduation rates are also "above average," said Jonelle Beatrice, director of the Center for Student Progress.

"I know our retention rates are much higher than the national average, and I think we

are in line with most institutions of our nature with graduation rates as well," Beatrice said.

At 56 percent, YSU's freshman-to-sophomore retention rate among first-generation college students is the second highest in the state. Cleveland State University is at 50 percent, while the average percentage of first-generation college students in Ohio is 40 percent.

The study also showed that from 2001 to 2006, 88 percent of YSU's associate degree graduates had found jobs in Ohio within a six-month period. During that same time, 79 percent of students graduating with a bachelor's degree found in-state employment within six months of graduation, and 83 percent of graduates with a master's degree found in-state employment.

A study done by YSU in 2003 found that of the 1,811 students who enrolled in YSU seeking a bachelor's degree, 12.5 percent or 207 students graduated in four years or less and 34.2 percent or 628 students graduated within six years or less. Becky Geltz, director of Institutional Research at YSU, said this information is the most recent information that they have to report to the government.

"We have to track the students for six years until they graduate; that's why we go back to 2003. When we complete the 2010 graduation rates, we will be able to know how long it takes students to graduate who started back in 2004," Geltz said. "When you look at other open enrollment public institutions I would say that our graduation rates are good, slightly above average."

Final SGA meeting concludes with the passing of the gavel

Andrea DeMart
REPORTER

the past four years of college combined," Brown said.

After members gave their final words, the gavel was handed over to incoming president Nicholas Meditz.

Meditz began the second half of the meeting by introducing himself and also his vice president Steve Mesik to the new SGA members in attendance.

Business quickly resumed to the appointments and elections of the executive committee members. All who were nominated accepted their appointments compiling the executive committee for the 2010-11 academic year.

Next on the agenda was the nomination for home-

coming king and queen for fall 2010. A member was nominated for each position, pending their acceptance of the nomination.

The new SGA assembly discussed future ideas for summer and fall. Some ideas mentioned were a group retreat for all members and campus heating issues. Another task to be completed over the summer is the election of student representatives by the executive committee.

Meditz acknowledged that SGA offices will be open in the summer from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Students are welcome to visit the offices with any concerns or issues.

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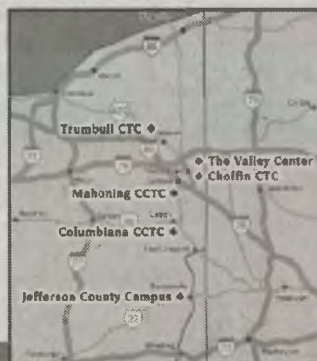
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**JULIA GERGITS
-EXCELLENCE IN
UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

As an avid reader and dedicated teacher, Julia Gergits has been awarded the title of Distinguished Professor for her services to the university.

She originally went to DePaul University in Chicago for American Studies in English to become a lawyer, but she decided to attend graduate school for English after taking note of former professors. Gergits was somewhat concerned about the lack of jobs for English professors, but her grades and test scores gave her the courage to go for it. Gergits received her Master of Arts in English from Pennsylvania State University and later attended the University of Minnesota where she received her doctorate in English.

Gergits said her undergraduate teachers had the most impact on her.

"At DePaul [University] ... the professors learned to

know us," she said. "In my case, some pushed me hard to improve my writing in particular."

Gergits taught as a graduate assistant before she came to Youngstown State University 20 years ago. She serves as the coordinator of General Education but will be returning to the English department in the fall. She teaches classes that range from freshman composition to graduate literature courses, but she primarily teaches classes in professional writing and editing.

"The most memorable students are not always the most brilliant ones," Gergits said. "They may be the ones who are struggling against all odds to complete their degrees and find a future or the ones who are particularly funny and generous to one another."

She likes working with all students but added that she can become frustrated when students "squander their chance

for a degree by not attending class or doing their work."

Gergits said she most often writes about teaching and pedagogy, and she was recently published in Teacher-Scholar and Inside Higher Education on teaching at "state comprehensive universities."

She said one of her current projects is creating a hybrid version of a professional writing and editing class on BlackBoard 9.

Outside of YSU, Gergits still takes time to read for her own pleasure. She said she prefers science-fiction novels, mystery novels and Victorian literature. She is reading "Ilium" by Dan Simmons.

She also takes time to be the mother to her two boys. Her family has been watching all the Disney and Pixar films because her youngest son loves 3-D movies.

By: Joe Giesy



**PATRICIA MCCARTHY
-EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING**

Patricia McCarthy works in the nursing department and teaches Contemporary Nursing, Nursing Research and an RN Completion Program. She has been teaching at Youngstown State University for 34 years.

McCarthy grew up in Michigan and attended Mercy College in Detroit. She received her master's degree from Wayne State University. She received her doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh.

Prior to teaching at YSU, McCarthy was able to work in the field.

"I taught at Sharon Regional Hospital. I taught psychiatric nursing," McCarthy said, adding that she worked mainly in the psychiatric unit.

McCarthy was also the chairwoman of her department from 1986 to 2005. She said one of the greatest achievements she's experienced was witnessing how much the nursing department has grown since she first started at YSU.

"When I first came to YSU in the 1970s there was only an associate degree program," she said. She talked about playing a part in the development of the RN Completion Program, which allows students to enroll directly from high school and get a degree in four years.

McCarthy also talked about how the department has grown with other program offerings. The enrollment of students in nursing has risen and continues to rise with students from Akron, Canton, Salem and areas farther south attending YSU. She said she's glad to be a part of that.

By: Rebecca Steh



**RONALD SHAKLEE
-EXCELLENCE IN
UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

"Shak" goes above and beyond for YSU students

Professor Ronald Shaklee, affectionately known as "Shak," has been teaching at Youngstown State University since 1987. A professor of regional geography, Shaklee has seen his department grow and thrive.

"At YSU, you can reinvent yourself as a teacher," Shaklee said. "I've always tried to do so."

In addition, Shaklee is also the director of the University Scholars and Honors Program. For him, the focus has always been his students.

"References get you your first job," Shaklee said. "I had a professor who told me it was up to him to get me my first job, and that's the way I look at my work."

A graduate of the University of Kansas, Shaklee taught at Missouri State University and Mississippi State University before coming to YSU. Those schools are where he developed a devotion to student service.

"Other places I've worked are very similar to YSU," Shaklee said. "They had a lot of first-generation students like we have here."

Shaklee is an adviser for geography majors, as well as an active adviser of students in liberal arts and social science. His office is located inside Cafaro House.

Along with the hard work he puts in for his students, he has a fun-loving attitude that does not go unnoticed. Honors student Cory Okular said Shaklee has made his college experience much better.

"Shak" looks like a stoic professor, but when

you get to know him, you see that he really enjoys a good time and a good laugh," Okular said. "Every day when he leaves the office he says, 'Have a good weekend.'"

Every year, Shaklee brings one of his geography classes to the Bahamas, and most years he goes back a second time with some of the honors students. The trips present the unique opportunity to study tropical geography and learn more about the culture of a third-world country.

"I look at everything as a geographer," Shaklee said.

As a weather and climatology professor, William Buckler has accompanied Shaklee to the Bahamas numerous times. Buckler said that working with Shaklee is a pleasure because he always has something constructive to say.

"We get a chance to really know our students in the Bahamas," Buckler said. "He insists they call him 'Shak' and not Dr. Shaklee."

Shaklee is the organizer and initiator of the geography department's annual honors banquet. He also is the adviser for the Phi Kappa Phi honors society for geography.

Shaklee said he really has no idea how much longer he'll teach, so instead he's enjoying the here and now.

"I don't get up in the morning and say, 'Crap, I have to work,'" Shaklee said. "At YSU, you can reinvent yourself as a teacher, and I'm looking forward to it."

By: Jared Buker



**ZARA ROWLANDS
-EXCELLENCE IN UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

Professor Rowlands reaches out to dietetics students

Since 2004, Youngstown State University's Zara Rowlands has aided students with her dedication and guidance.

Born in Trinidad and Tobago, Rowlands received her doctorate from Florida International University before beginning her career at YSU. In 2007, she was awarded a Distinguished Professor award for teaching.

"The students really are our legacy," Rowlands said. "Most people interact with their clients, but we touch the students in a more far-reaching way."

A professor of food and nutrition, Rowlands feels making an impact on her students is easy because the human ecology program is relatively small.

"Because the dietetic program is so small, students and teachers really become a family," Rowlands said. "YSU keeps me here because of that sense of family. You don't see that in other universities."

Rowlands is adviser to Kappa Omicron Nu, the family and consumer sciences honor society. Sarah Cornman, president of the group, said working with and learning from Rowlands has been a tremendous honor.

"Dr. Rowlands is one of the most intelligent individuals I have ever met," Cornman said. "Her extensive knowledge of dietetics has helped to prepare me for my career as a dietitian."

Janice Elias, head of the human ecology department, nominated Rowlands for her second distinction award because of her involvement in the program.

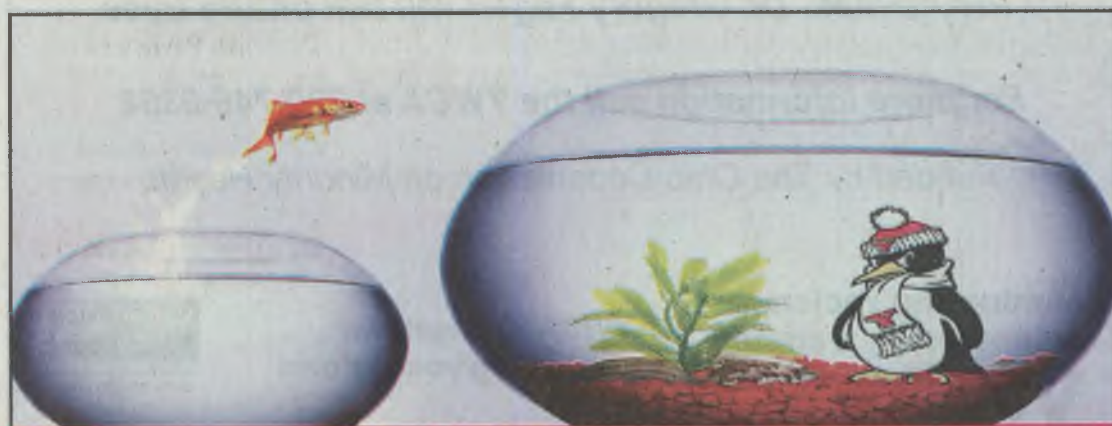
"Zara is particularly committed to achieving a diverse and welcoming YSU community," Elias said. "Because of her excellent organizational and interpersonal skills, she is often asked to serve on and chair committees."

Elias said Rowlands has worked hard to build a strong food and nutrition program. She has been a member of the Higher Learning Commission, a self-study committee on diversity, and was elected by her colleagues to the Academic Senate for the 2006-08 term. In addition, she has broadened the food and nutrition major with outreach activities and new classes.

Rowlands' students are also fond of her artwork in painting penguins, a hobby that she had long before coming to a college with a penguin mascot.

"We have a fire for our field that is more than just practicing it," Rowlands said. "It's all about passing that fire on. It's where our heart is."

By: Jared Buker



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DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR PROFILES

SHERRY LINKON
-EXCELLENCE IN UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Sherry Linkon's Distinguished Professor award should come as no surprise for anyone who has met her. During her 20 years as a faculty member at Youngstown State University, Linkon has made a major impact on Youngstown, YSU and the academic community.

Linkon is co-director of the Center for Working-Class Studies, an "interdisciplinary academic center devoted to understanding and making visible working-class culture." Linkon said YSU is seen as starting the academic field in working-class studies. Through the CWCS, Linkon is the editor of, and one of several contributors to, the Working-Class Perspectives blog. She has a blog called Lincoln Avenue that accompanies her WYSU radio program of the same name. Through the CWCS, Linkon coordinates Steel Valley Voices as well.

"[Dr.] Linkon has demonstrated an extraordinary outreach to the community through the Steel Valley Voices initiative," said John Slanina of the I Will Shout Youngstown blog. "By recording the memories of multiple generations of Youngstowners, her work will extend their essence for generations to come."

Steel Valley Voices digitally archives collections of stories and memories of the Mahoning Valley to share with anyone who is interested.

"[Linkon] presents [Youngstown's] people, its passions and its contributions to the world in an amazing way," Slanina said. He added he has notes from a class he took with Linkon and learned a lot about why Youngstown was such a special place from her writings.

Linkon co-authored one book called Steeltown USA: Work and Memory in Youngstown, which is currently in its seventh printing. She also has a manuscript under review for a book about teaching literature, and she is starting a new textbook about critical reading. She said the latter book is aimed at undergraduates with an all-around theme of understanding work.

Linkon has taken an interest in teaching since she graduated college. She said she got into the profession because she didn't want to stop being a student. She said there is great irony in her career because the projects she takes on to improve the academic field can sometimes keep her from teaching as much as she'd like.

The teachers Linkon said had the most impact on her are the ones who paid attention and made her a better writer. For this reason, she strives to make her students better writers also.

YSU senior Chris Lettera said Linkon is the "real deal." He has taken her courses in American genres and senior seminar.

"She guides us toward truths [and] toward the development of a new critical lens with which to see the world," Lettera said. "Her dedication to teaching and her social activism are unequalled in these parts."

By: Joe Giesy

JOAN BOYD
-EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Joan Boyd works in the health department. She teaches Clinical Laboratory Science, Clinical Chemistry, Immunology, Body Fluids and Introduction to Clinical Lab Science. She has been teaching at Youngstown State University for 33 years.

Boyd graduated from YSU with a bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry. After finishing her bachelor's, Boyd completed a one-year internship at St. Elizabeth Health Center and became certified in clinical lab science. From there she received her master's degree from Central Michigan University. She received her doctorate in public health.



"I have always been interested in going into the medical field but not [working] directly with the patients," she said. "I like to help but not with the everyday problems."

Boyd said she desires to work with the lab tests to help patients.

"When I first started working I helped develop a two-year associate degree program and have grown with it and seen it go to accreditation," she said.

Boyd is married and has four sons. In her free time, she likes to attend operas and concerts and listen to classical music. She is also interested in art and flower arrangements.

By: Rebecca Steh

MARGARET GITTIS
-EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Margaret Gittis works in the psychology department and teaches Statistics and Research Methods, Psychology of Women and Physiological Psychology. In the past, she has taught Psychology of Learning as well. Gittis has been teaching at Youngstown State University for 34 years.

Gittis is from Syracuse, N.Y., and attended St. Lawrence College. She attended graduate school at The Ohio State University and taught there for five years. After obtaining her doctorate, she taught at the University of Maryland.

Additionally, Gittis entered a European program, which brought college to military men and women and forced her to spend time in Germany.

"I came home for my husband," she said.

Gittis became interested in psychology after a she attended a field trip to a local mental hospital.

"The hospital had an open-door policy, but that meant some patients were over-medicated."

It made me very upset and I realized I wanted to help after seeing their conditions," she said.

That is when she decided she wanted to be an experimentalist.

"I realized I liked to teach in graduate school," Gittis said.

"Some students who I have had a hand in teaching have gone on to get Ph.D.s, which is very nice."

When she is not teaching, Gittis said she had a knack for knitting before she had her children. She said she used to make her own clothes when she had the time and always made Halloween costumes for her children. Gittis said since then she has become an accomplished swimmer.

"I always liked to swim and I am a confirmed lap swimmer. I try to exercise every day," she said.

By: Rebecca Steh

JOHN WILCOX
-EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

John Wilcox received the Excellence in Teaching award for being a violin and viola teacher. His passion for music shows with his violin sitting on his desk and music books lining his office.

Wilcox has been teaching at Youngstown State University for 31 years, and said it's what's on his "bucket list" of things to do. Wilcox received his degrees from Florida State University and Kent State University and was a member of the National Symphony in Washington for six years.

Wilcox comes from a musical family. He joked about going to school for music because it kept him out of going to Vietnam, and said that's why he worked very hard at playing the violin all the time.

He started playing the violin in second grade and his most influential teacher was his primary teacher: concertmaster of the Boston Symphony, Richard Burgin.

"He set me straight in college. I just wanted to go to school and have some fun. After a very short number of weeks, he made it clear what's going to happen or what wasn't going to happen," Wilcox said.

Wilcox is concertmaster of the Warren Philharmonic and conductor of Three Rivers Young Peoples Youth Orchestra in Pittsburgh, Pa. Wilcox also conducts the Orchestra at YSU and teaches violin and viola along with his many other contributions to music.

"I really enjoy working with young people," Wilcox said. "I love that we have Powers Auditorium and Stambaugh Auditorium. Great places and a lot of culture."

His love for teaching showed as he talked about his students.

"Being a musician is being a well-rounded intellectual person," Wilcox said. "When you speak intellectually about situations people really listen to you because they know that you're not just in it to make money and you're trying your best to help, and that's what a teacher does." Wilcox said teaching is like a foster sort of care with knowing his students. "Teaching is a great way to stay healthy and mentally inspired," Wilcox said. "Knowing young people is critical."

Wilcox said he was surprised about the award but not so much about the date of the ceremony.

One of the Dana School of Music's clarinetists' recitals is the same night as the awards ceremony, and Wilcox shows that he's a true teacher at heart because he would rather go listen to the recital than be at the ceremony.

"I think it's funny when you have these awards, and I never sought those things out, but the rewards you get from teaching is incredible," Wilcox said. "I'm teaching kids of students."

By: Krystle Kimes

LOUISE PAVIA
-EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE

Louise Pavia has dedicated her life to helping children and teaching those who share her passion. She has worked in some aspect of early childhood education since 1979 and has taught at Youngstown State University since 1994 with a two and a half year sabbatical in Slovakia.

Janice Elias, chairwoman of the human ecology department, nominated Pavia for a Distinguished Professor award in the public service category "because of her many contributions to improving the quality of early childhood education through engagement with the community."

Pavia has worked with Mentoring Early Childhood Professionals, a program to help the development of professional childhood education practitioners in their respective fields. She is also working on a project with pre-kindergarten faculty in the community that allows preschoolers to plant, harvest and prepare their own vegetables for consumption.

Pavia has recently submitted a chapter for a soon-to-be published book on the unintended consequences technology has had on children under the age of 6. She has been asked by Mahoning Youngstown Community Action Partnership to start a research project in the Head Start program that will train teachers to implement technology into their classrooms.

Pavia said she loves working with kids in

early childhood, and 3-year-olds are her favorite.

Some of her favorite students are those with a commitment to children and a sincere desire to learn. She said she loves when her students take that desire and use it to get all the information they can.

"You can't teach that [desire]," Pavia said.

At YSU, Pavia is the coordinator for the Pre-Kindergarten Program in the human ecology department. Here, she guides students in their first and final practicum. In the practicum, students are required to observe the children's behaviors in a preschool or Head Start setting and write lesson plans, which Pavia looks over to ensure they are done properly.

Marcella Blystone, a family and consumer studies major, said Pavia is an incredible person, and her passion for children shows through her instruction.

Elias has described Pavia as "an excellent teacher, scholar and university citizen."

"It was difficult to decide in which category to nominate her for a Distinguished Professor award," Elias said.

By: Joe Giesy



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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YSU track riding high heading into championships

Keith Langford Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

A strong, solid outdoor campaign for the men's and women's track teams will culminate with the Horizon League Championships this weekend.

Head coach Brian Gorby said he believes his teams have a shot to bring home a championship even if the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee team is the favorite going into the meet.

"If we go out and compete as we've done all season, we will have a shot to bring home a championship," Gorby said. "I'm excited to get things going this weekend and going after that top-two performance."

Gorby said Milwaukee and Butler University are the Penguins' stiffest competition at the meet.

"They [Butler and Milwaukee] have probably been in the top two as many times as we have in the past seven to eight years," Gorby said.

The Penguins are coming into the meet with confidence because of the way the outdoor season has gone. Multiple school records and personal best times have been earned.

"If you look at it from a school record and top-five standpoint, this is the best team we've had going into the conference," Gorby said. The X-factor for Gorby is how other teams to do. Gorby stressed the Penguins can only control what they do and not what the competition does.

Junior Alisha Anthony, who holds the school record in the long jump and triple jump, believes the Penguins can come back home with the hardware if the team comes together and performs to their abilities. The goal will not be easy with Milwaukee standing in the Penguins way.

"Milwaukee's the favorite team but anything can happen at conference. They're pretty far ahead of us right now, but we are going to go out and try our best," Anthony said.

Anthony said the Penguins may have the edge mentally because everyone expects Milwaukee to dominate, and she said she believes they might



Senior Clarence Howell glides down the track in a long jump attempt on the old YSU track.

have it won already.

"They probably do think they have it won, and we might be mentally tougher than them going into it," Anthony said.

Junior Adam Kagarise, who holds the 400-meter indoor and outdoor records, echoed Anthony in her assessment of the top team in conference, Milwaukee.

"Wisconsin-Milwaukee is going to be our toughest competition. Second place is well within reach for us," Kagarise said.

Individually, Kagarise has the ability to provide a strong boost in the sprints for Penguins.

"I definitely think I can do some damage. I think I can

get at least second place," Kagarise said about the 200- and 400 meters.

Whether or not the Penguins are underdogs, Gorby said he would not want any other group of athletes going into battle than the group he has now.

"[These kids], I would put them against anybody in a competition," Gorby said.

HORIZON LEAGUE BASEBALL

1. WRIGHT STATE
2. VALPARAISO
3. MILWAUKEE
4. UIC
5. YOUNGSTOWN STATE
6. BUTLER
7. CLEVELAND STATE

HORIZON LEAGUE SOFTBALL

1. CLEVELAND STATE
2. VALPARAISO
3. UIC
4. WRIGHT STATE
5. BUTLER
6. LOYOLA
7. GREEN BAY
8. YOUNGSTOWN STATE
9. DETROIT

PENGUIN SPOTLIGHT



KIM KLONOWSKI

POSITION:	Infielder
YEAR:	Junior
HOMETOWN:	Canton, Mich.
AVG:	.297
OB%:	.335
HIT:	43
HR:	5

SCHEDULES

BASEBALL

- April 30 WRIGHT STATE
- May 1 WRIGHT STATE
- May 1 WRIGHT STATE
- May 7 @Cleveland State
- May 8 @Cleveland State
- May 8 @Cleveland State
- May 11 @Toledo

SOFTBALL

- May 1 @Valparaiso
- May 2 @Valparaiso
- May 8 @Green Bay
- May 8 @Green Bay
- May 9 @Green Bay
- May 13-15 @Horizon League Championships

MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

- April 30-May 2 @Horizon League Championships

WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

- April 30-May 2 @Horizon League Championships

Softball cranks school record six homeruns in defeating Niagara

Chelsea Miller
SPORTS REPORTER

The Youngstown State University softball team braved the cold weather to face Niagara University in a doubleheader Wednesday.

During their previous home game, the Penguins went out swinging, ending the first game with a final score of 15-10 and breaking several school records in the process.

Sophomore Haley Thomas started off strong for the Penguins, hitting two homeruns in the first inning while bringing five runners in.

Thomas was the strongest player of the game, breaking the school records for most homeruns in an inning (two), in a game (three), most RBIs in an inning (four) and tying for most RBIs in a game (six). Thomas was shocked when she heard the results.

"Wow. Yeah, it feels good," Thomas said. "I don't know what else to say."

YSU also broke the school record for most homeruns in a game with six. Ironically, the last time that happened was in 2008 with five homeruns against Niagara.

Wednesday's game was largely an offensive one. YSU secured a large lead early in the first inning with eight runs to Niagara's one, but the Purple Eagles caught up quickly with two runs in the second inning and four in the third. Pitcher Cassie Stone pitched



Junior Kim Klonowski swings for the fences. Klonowski jacked two homeruns in defeating Niagara University in the first game of a doubleheader, 15-10.

three scoreless innings for the Penguins, allowing one hit.

YSU regained the lead, however, in the fifth inning with homeruns by junior Kim Klonowski and sophomore Amanda Palmore. Jordan Ingalls also contributed to the effort, grounding out a hit to

second base, and Caroline Krombach singled the middle, but she was later called out at second on a steal.

Ending the game, Thomas cranked out another homerun, her third of the game, and Klonowski, her second. Junior Kristina Rendle had a single as well.

Senior Cheryl Cale and freshman Hana Somogyi pitched for the Penguins. Somogyi pitched an inning giving up four earned runs, but striking out two batters. Cale, pitching her last home game in her YSU career, had eight earned runs and four strikeouts. Cale, who has a 3.84 earned run average, is ranked eighth in the Horizon League in strikeouts with 65. Last season, she led the team with seven victories and 69 strikeouts, tossed two shutouts and threw 23 consecutive innings without allowing an earned run. Cale said she would miss her team members most when she graduates.

"It feels like a relief kind of ... that I waited four years, but it's almost sad at the same time. I feel like we've come a long way in four years, and it's kind of disappointing that I have to leave when we're at the peak of everything," she said.

Cale said she thought the Penguins did well offensively and kept with Niagara defensively.

Coach Brad Patterson echoed Cale's sentiments and said he was pleased with the results of the game and the records broken in the process.

"I think the young ladies did a good job... they jumped out right away, and Niagara's a really good hitting team and for them to come back, and for us to come back and answer, I thought we did a really good job," he said.

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