

The Jambar

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veterans (Stay
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SERV-ing
veterans

PICTURES ONLINE

'I'd go back
tomorrow if they
asked me to'

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Ohio says no on 2

Jordan D. Uhl
NEWS EDITOR

All eyes were on Ohio on Tuesday, when the economically challenged state overwhelmingly struck down Senate Bill 5 in the first labor-related referendum since 1958.

"It's a sense of empowerment," State Sen. Joe Schiavoni said. "I'm happy for our policemen, firefighters, teachers [and] all public employees."

The partisan legislation — which had the power to limit, or in some cases end, some collective bargaining rights for public employees — met fierce opposition and ultimately failed when 2,145,042 Ohioans, or 61.3 percent, voted no on Issue 2.

All but six of Ohio's 88 counties voted no, which came as a shock to the issue's biggest opponents.

Mahoning County and Trumbull County voters opposed the measure by more than 71 percent.

That 71 could grow to 72 after all is said and done, said David Betras, chairman of the Mahoning County Democratic Party.

"In political terms, that's a routing, and it's a reflection of the attitudes and the values of the Mahoning Valley," Betras said.

William Binning, professor and chairman emeritus in the political science department at Youngstown State University, said it was a big turnout for an off-election year. In comparison to the 2009 off-election year, more than 250,000 additional voters made their way to the polls.

While the turnout surprised Binning, the galvanized opposition from Mahoning County and Trumbull County voters was expected.

"This area has a very strong labor culture," he said. "More surprisingly to me was the 61 percent statewide."

Binning said he was projecting a statewide opposition of 57 percent.

A sigh of relief comes from col-

lege campuses, where faculty unions dodged a bullet. Many felt SB 5 had enough steam to effectively end faculty unions.

"I'm really grateful for the wisdom of the people of Ohio," said Julia Gergits, president of YSU's branch of the Ohio Education Association.

Gergits has previously expressed concerns about future attempts by Gov. John Kasich to endorse or propose similar legislation. She may be consoled by Senate Democrats who are preparing to introduce legislation that would implement a two-year waiting period before referendum issues can be revisited in Congress.

"Basically, it's not that we're necessarily afraid; it's just that we're saying we need to take some time," said Nicole Staples, deputy director of communications for the Senate Democratic Caucus. "It's really just a way to make sure that we take some time to look at



ISSUE 2 PAGE 3

GRAPHIC BY PARIS CHRISOPOULOS/THE JAMBAR

'Help a sister out'

YSU offers additional scholarships for minorities

Marissa McIntyre
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The burden of paying for tuition may be eased for minority mothers at Youngstown State University with new scholarships.

Women Hand in Hand Inc. contributed \$25,000 for a scholarship, and the YSU Foundation matched that amount.

C. Reid Schmutz, president of the YSU Foundation, said he thinks the scholarship will bring minority mothers to campus since finances are often what prevent potential students from pursuing an education.

Applications are being accepted, and recipients will be chosen through an interview process. Applicants must have a minimum grade point average of 2.2 and be at least a sophomore.

Talks with Women Hand in Hand began last spring and the scholarship will be distributed to recipients during the next academic year, Schmutz said.

Women Hand in Hand is a private organization founded in 1986 by Doris Perry, whose late husband served on the YSU Board of Trustees.

The organization provides educational opportunities for mothers.

Jacci Johnson, annual giving coordinator at YSU, said the YSU Foundation has been matching scholarships for minorities for 15 years. Since then, minority enrollment has increased.

Schmutz said this began in former YSU President Leslie Cochran's era, when university officials were concerned that the campus minority population was under-represented.

SCHOLARSHIPS PAGE 3



Frank Castronovo talks about his 44 years at YSU on Tuesday afternoon in his office at Bliss Hall. Castronovo plans to retire in June 2013. Photo by Nick Young/The Jambar.

Kacy Standohar
FEATURES EDITOR

After 44 years of service and witnessing a department expand and then split, 69-year-old Frank Castronovo is calling it quits.

On June 30, Castronovo, chairman of the theater and dance department at Youngstown State University, will retire, marking the end of his more than four-decade long career.

Castronovo, also a professor, completed his undergraduate degree at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, majoring in English with a minor in theater. He attended the University of Arizona for his master's degree in theater and completed his doctorate at Kent State University.

He began his career at YSU in 1971 as director of theater and dance. The department split from the communication department five years ago, allowing theater and dance to become its own.

He said the department began with just two people and grew to nine.

"It's great to look back from where we started and see how far we've come," Castronovo said. "We now have national accreditation."

Castronovo, who trained as a theater historian, said he's lost count of the number of shows he's directed.

"Most of the shows I have done have been pure joy. I've enjoyed working with the students and seeing them grow," he said.

YSU junior Krista Ulbricht assisted Castronovo in stage-managing two shows:

"The Baker's Wife" and "1940s Radio Hour." She said she is sad to see him go.

"He'll be missed by the students. He's very social and a great director," Ulbricht said.

Ulbricht added that Castronovo helped immensely with Alpha Psi Omega, the national theater honor society.

"He just really wants what's best for all of us," she said.

Castronovo said the theater program made vast strides over the years and has great potential at YSU.

"I have high hopes the program will flourish," Castronovo said. "I wish everyone well, to steer the ship and avoid rocky shores."

He mentioned the economy's effect on academic budgets, but said he hopes for

CASTRONOVO PAGE 3

Student-athletes perform in the classroom

Caitlin Cook
REPORTER

Youngstown State University's 314 student-athletes set a record with a spring 2011 cumulative grade point average of 3.06.

This is the highest cumulative GPA since the athletics department began documenting academic performance nine years ago.

In fall 2010, YSU's 326 student-athletes combined for a

3.03 GPA.

Out of 16 varsity programs, only four teams had average GPAs lower than 3.0.

Ron Strollo, executive director of athletics at YSU, said the athletics department's academic standards are on par with other campus departments.

"Academically, I think they perform really well," he said. "I'm very proud of our grade point average where it is."

Strollo said it's unique that this academic success is not from just one semester; it demonstrates continued success

over time.

Marilyn O'Bruba, senior athletic adviser, said student-athletes participate in study hall, held in Stambaugh Stadium's Jermaine Hopkins Academic Center. Typically, incoming freshmen, transfers or any students considered high risk with a GPA of 2.5 or lower would be required to participate in study hall.

"Each coach sets up their own parameters on how they want their students to participate in study hall," O'Bruba said.

Women's cross-country led the athletics department, earning GPAs of 3.71 and 3.77. Each semester, every team member carried a GPA of 3.0 or higher for both the semester and cumulatively.

Samantha Hamilton, a junior and member of the cross-country team, said her team hasn't had many academic problems. Hamilton and her teammates constantly talk about classes and upcoming assignments.

GPA PAGE 3

Professors recognized for philanthropic efforts

Patrick Donovan
NEWS REPORTER

Youngstown State University held the 14th Annual Research Recognition Luncheon on Tuesday in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center.

The event focused on honoring professors who have committed themselves to expanding sponsored programs, research and scholarships at YSU in the past academic year.

Peter Kasvinsky, associate provost for research, has hosted the event each year since its inception in 1997, and he stressed the importance of recognizing the hard work of faculty members and departments that have gone above and beyond to seek external funding.

"These funds are really critical to providing an appropriate research infrastructure for the university," Kasvinsky said. "The accomplishments and grants really reflect the high level of dedication that our faculty and staff have here."

Three dean's awards were presented at the ceremony. One was presented to the department of chemistry, which grossed 42 percent of the grant activity within the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Another was presented to the Public Service Institute, which contributed the second largest sum of external funding,

greater than all six YSU colleges combined. The last went to Darrell Wallace, a professor in the department of mechanical engineering, who secured a grant totaling more than \$1 million.

"This is a huge honor, but the award is really the result of a lot of contributions," Wallace said. "I just happen to be the guy whose name is on the plaque. There is a lot of darkness surrounding finances right now, and a lot of things that people can be cynical about. But this is an area where YSU is growing."

Although the event focused on the contributions of faculty and staff, YSU students were also acknowledged as integral parts of the equation.

"The students participate very heavily in these projects, and our students are as good or better than any other students in Ohio," Kasvinsky said. "These kinds of programs are essential to YSU, and grants are an important part of that."

Michael Kovach and Adam Palumbo, two of seven graduate students involved in the Cushwa Commercial Shearing Fellowship, were also acknowledged for their participation.

"I am currently partnered with General Motors Lordstown studying the failure of robotic joints," Kovach said. "Originally the program started by accepting two students per year, but it has been growing."

Over the last 15 years, grant money



(From left to right) Peter Kasvinsky, Ronald Chordas, Darrell Wallace, Daryl Mincey and Ikram Khavaja. Chordas and Mincey accepted the dean's award for the department of chemistry and the Public Service Institute at the 14th annual Research Recognition Luncheon on Tuesday. Photo by Patrick Donovan/The Jambar.

earned by YSU faculty and staff has increased from \$1.2 million in 1996 to \$8.7 million in 2011.

"This is a significant amount of money," Kasvinsky said. "It affects everything: students' overall learning experience, recruitment, quality of faculty and available equipment. These projects are helping to make YSU competitive with the premier research colleges in the state."

Grant money this year was the second highest in YSU history, and with the continued commitment of faculty, staff and students, the numbers are projected to grow, Wallace said.

"This means we don't have to ask for higher tuition," Wallace said. "We don't have to ask for additional resources. This way we are providing resources that otherwise aren't there, and through that everybody benefits."

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YSU now runs on Dunkin'

Darla Conti
REPORTER

Kilcawley Center's Hub is fully operational.

The first-floor area that previously housed Peaberry's Cafe features a Sub Connection, which moved from the KC Food Court, and a Dunkin' Donuts.

Dunkin' Donuts opened Nov. 2, prompting long lines of students, faculty and staff. It is open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"I'm excited that there's a new alternative for coffee," said sophomore Rachael Kerr.

Kerr said she likes the variety of flavors Dunkin' Donuts offers. She was one of many students in line.

"Having Dunkin' Donuts on campus is the best and worst thing that could have happened," said senior Natalie Cates.

She said she is excited for the new coffee option but also worried about her bank account.

Cates is looking forward to some stability in her morning routine.

"I like knowing it's going to be the same every time I get it," she said.

Jack Fahey, vice president for student affairs, said changes were made to renew and refresh campus food service offerings.

Tom Totterdale, general manager of dining services, said the contract with Peaberry's Cafe, which was housed in Kilcawley Center since 1998, ended.

A new plan to create the Hub was then proposed, taking into account the opinions of students, faculty and staff.

"We knew [Dunkin' Donuts] would be huge," Totterdale said. "In the first week, sales are good, and we have a [steady] line."

Matt Novotny, director of Kilcawley Center, said he jumped on the opportunity to bring Dunkin' Donuts to campus.

"I think it's going to be a winner for everybody," he said. "You want to keep current and, whenever possible, refresh options."

Still, some students are

having a little trouble embracing the change.

"I will miss the chance to get a good [Peaberry's] sandwich," said senior Andy Kunkel. "I do prefer smaller business. It won't be the same."

Renovations to create the Hub amounted to around \$260,000. Sodexo Campus Services, which manages dining services, made the investment.

"By creating the Hub, we were able to maximize student space," Novotny said.

He added that the food court was overcrowded. Moving Sub Connection into the Hub created more space.

Additional changes in Kilcawley Center include the addition of Denny's Fresh Express and Jump Asian Express.

Novotny said renovation plans for Kilcawley Center are still being made.

"We have to use money wisely," Novotny said.

Novotny said he plans to create a stronger relationship with student organizations for better use of the Hub.

Campus Connection

How do you feel about the new Dunkin' Donuts in Kilcawley Center?



"It's pretty cool. Dunkin' Donuts is good. The line is pretty long. ... It just opened, so the line will be long for a while probably."

-Ross Applegate, freshman



"I think it's good that we have one. It's good to have doughnuts once in a while, and they have good coffee."

-Simon Abou-Jaoude, sophomore



"I haven't gone there. I don't really like Dunkin' Donuts. I'm a Starbucks fan."

-Ta'Rae Murphy, freshman



"I haven't been there yet, but it was a good idea and is a good addition [to campus]."

-Hannah McAndrew, freshman

THIS WEEK SHE MASTERED THE TUBE.
CALLED HOME FROM A RED PHONE BOOTH
AND TOOK CLASSES IN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY.

AND YOU?

30 USAC

Discover where you'll study abroad at usac.unr.edu

YouTube f

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational sessions offered for school psychologist program

To help fill a critical need for school psychologists in Ohio, the Beeghly College of Education is accepting applications for a new, three-year graduate-level school psychology program. Classes will begin in July, and graduates will earn two degrees: a Master of Education in Intervention Services and an Educational Specialist Degree in School Psychology. The specialist degree is a first for YSU. A public information session on the new program is planned for Tuesday from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in Kilcawley Center. RSVPs are due Friday. Another session is planned for Dec. 6 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in Suite 220 at the Mahoning County Educational Service Center, located at 100 DeBartolo Place in Boardman. RSVPs are due Dec. 2. To RSVP or to find out more information, contact Richard VanVoorhis at 330-941-3266 or rvvanvoorhis@ysu.edu.

Student radio wins big at media convention

Rookery Radio, YSU's student-run, online radio station, returned from last month's National College Media Convention in Orlando, Fla., with \$16,000 worth of software and services. The radio station won the grand prize in the College Broadcasters Inc.-Spacial Contest. Rookery Radio is on air from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday. To listen, visit <http://rookeryradio.com>.

POLICE BRIEFS

Men found shooting music video in Ward Beecher

While working campus patrol on Friday evening, a university police officer found two men in Ward Beecher Hall. The men — who said they weren't YSU students — were filming part of a music video. YSU Police issued the men written trespass warnings.

Student trapped in DeBartolo elevator

On Friday, YSU Police responded to a woman trapped in the middle elevator on the fifth floor of DeBartolo Hall. The elevator was between floors, and the inside elevator doors were stuck open. Maintenance arrived on the scene but could not open the elevator with the key. A squad from the Youngstown Fire Department opened the door with their key and extricated the woman. Maintenance locked the elevator and notified the service company.

Student makes threatening posts on Facebook

On Nov. 2, a sociology instructor in DeBartolo Hall told YSU Police about a male student who was using Facebook to post comments that appeared threatening to himself and faculty members. Another student in the class reported these posts to the instructor. A university police officer took the printed Facebook pages and began an active investigation on the male student.

SCHOLARSHIPS PAGE 1

According to the Office of Institutional Research, more than 20 percent of YSU students are minorities, an increase from 10.5 percent in 1999.

"It's hard being a working mom. I can't imagine being an undergraduate mother," Johnson said. "It's a juggling act, and every opportunity helps."

Sophomore Clarion Adams said she knows friends that could be affected by this scholarship.

"I think it'll be good for them," Adams said. "School will give them something to look forward to instead of just staying at home."

YSU graduates Kimberly Ford and Rashada Alexander have started another scholarship called Help a

CLASSIFIEDS

HOUSING

2 BR-HOUSE 1ST FLOOR-near YSU Parking lot. Has ADT, appliances, washer and dryer. \$500 plus utilities. Craigslist 'Sept 29' call 330-533-4148.

OTHER

Cleveland Orchestra Student Appreciation Weekend Nov. 11-13. Student tickets available at the ridiculously low price of \$5! Ticket Office: 216-231-1111; clevelandorchestra.com; Promo code 11032.

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things, digest what happened and take some time."

The bill, which will be sponsored by State Sen. Capri Cafaro, will be elaborated on further Thursday at a news conference in Columbus.

Even without legislation preventing Kasich from revisiting the failed measure, some experts think the issue is dead in the water.

"I don't think he's going to open this can of worms again, messing around with collective bargaining," Binning said.

However, the ramifications for Kasich may not be that severe. With Republican control of the Senate and House of Representatives, Kasich won't face re-election until 2014.

"Don't stick a fork in him; he's not done," Binning said.

The polarized debate over collective bargaining has topped the public watch list since SB 5 passed in March. But some feel that time may stymie voters' memory of the Republican-backed bill.

"There's a lot of time for voters to forget about this," said Paul Sracic, chairman of the political science department.

Betras and fellow Mahoning County Democrats, however, won't forget.

"John Kasich is not the CEO of Ohio," Betras said. "If you want to fix problems, you don't take a sledgehammer to kill a fly; you use a flyswatter."

Sracic said that 2012 presidential election efforts may stem from the unions' organized campaigns against Issue 2 and SB 5.

"I think it's silly to think this won't have any impact on the get-out-to-vote efforts for the unions in 2012, and presumably the [efforts] will be for Barack Obama," Sracic said.

Binning agreed that Tuesday's vote had implications on the president's re-election chances.

"This is a boost to Obama, who, I still think, will have a challenge winning Ohio," he said. "He can put that on his battleground state list now."

As for Kasich, Binning and Sracic said the likelihood of his re-election would hinge on the economic status of the state and the unemployment rate. A balanced budget and more working Ohioans will give favor to Kasich.

SB 5 passed by a one-vote margin in the state Senate, 17-16, but legislators will need to consider the public vote when bidding for re-election.

"If I'm a Republican, and I'm up this year, and I got 60-some percent, I'm not going to want to be talking about this," Binning said.

Sister Out, which will be given to an African-American female student studying science.

Ford and Alexander studied biology and chemistry, respectfully.

This scholarship will be awarded to one student for the spring 2012 semester, and applications are being accepted.

Heather Chunn, senior development officer at the Office of University Development, said the first award is \$500. Future amounts will vary depending on what donors can give.

Chunn said she appreciates the two graduates giving back to YSU, especially since neither Ford nor Alexander live in Ohio anymore.

"People think you need to be older and wealthy to give back, but this isn't the case," Chunn said. "They want to give back."

YSU freshman Richard Boudrey was recently laid off from his job and said he hopes these scholarships will continue to thrive for years so his grandchildren will have the opportunity to apply.

"No matter what, they should be able to get an education," Boudrey said.

GPA PAGE 1

"I think it's just something we know we need to do, just like running," she said. "Distance running takes a lot of time to excel at. We have had a long tradition of that work ethic carrying over into the classroom."

The soccer team earned the second highest team GPA (3.43) for spring 2011 and the fifth highest (3.36) for fall 2010.

Head soccer coach Will Lemke said he uses academics to bring his team closer. Like all teams on campus, Lemke's players start out in academic study tables, but his student-athletes remain in study hall regardless of their GPA.

"We have it where everyone goes to those, whether it's a freshman or junior, so it becomes more of a collective communal experience," he said.

In addition to his players completing three study hall hours each week, he and his assistant coach review weekly grade reports. Lemke said they act immediately to address any academic problems — usually by adding an additional hour and a half every two weeks if needed.

However, he hasn't had to do so yet.

"We've done a good job, and everyone is expecting that from everyone else, so having that atmosphere, that culture, is kind of contagious," Lemke said.

Men's basketball and football had the lowest GPAs, earning 2.96 and 2.79, respectively.

"I think that is kind of standard across the board," Strollo said. "I'm not saying it's necessarily acceptable."

Head football coach Eric Wolford views his team's 2.79 GPA as a success. He says it's a compliment to O'Bruba's work and the coaching staff's ability to stay on top of all players, adding

CASTRONOVO PAGE 1

a better economic era ahead.

"I plan to keep the department healthy and keep the budget viable during the rest of my time here," he said. "All things pass and this [budget deficit] will too."

Castronova said the new dance management major makes him proud. He worked closely with Christine Cobb, associate professor of theater and dance, to formulate the first dance degree offered at YSU.

"I have worked with him choreographing shows since 1993, so

GRAPHIC BY PARIS CHRISOPOULOS/THE JAMBAR

Youngstown State University Intercollegiate Athletics

Spring 2011 Team GPA

Team	Cumulative GPA
Women's Cross-Country	3.77
Soccer	3.43
Softball	3.40
Swimming and Diving	3.34
Women's Basketball	3.31
Men's Tennis	3.20
Women's Track and Field	3.18
Women's Golf	3.15
Volleyball	3.11
Baseball	3.08
Men's Golf	3.05
Men's Track and Field	3.03
Women's Tennis	3.00
Men's Cross-Country	2.99
Men's Basketball	2.96
Football	2.79
3.06 All-time high	

that it's a big difference between having 10 to 15 players instead of 100.

"You have to constantly, constantly re-emphasize the things that are important, and it's going to class every day, sitting in the first three rows, put your phone away, pay attention in class, take notes," Wolford said. "We have our coaches go out and check classes all the time."

Football team captain Kurt

Hess said the coaching staff really emphasizes academics, and he tries to set the example by going to class every day.

"As a college student and young adult, you realize it's really important to go to class and know what you're doing because everyone is going to have life after football," Hess said. "You can't play this game forever, and one thing you can take away forever is your education."

Schools of Theatre.

"He is an actor, director, administrator; a wearer of many hats, multifaceted. He can do it all," Cobb said.

Castronova said it's time to hand the baton over to someone younger and more flexible to handle the changes. He added that this is such a time intensive occupation that requires 110 percent.

"While I'm still young, there are some other things I want to do," he said. "I've had a good long run, and there are lots of changes coming."

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SERV-ing veterans

Alyssa Italiano
REPORTER

A student's phone call to John Schupp, then an instructor at Cleveland State University, began with a chemistry question.

But the phone call quickly took a personal turn when the student agonized about her transition from the battlefield to the classroom.

"She was a returning vet who kept dropping and failing," Schupp said. "I'm not military. I don't know anything about this stuff. I thought, 'Is this normal? Let me find out.' It's normal, so I had to see why."

Schupp now teaches chemistry at Tiffin University. But his work with Supportive Education for the Returning Veteran, a program he founded at CSU after that phone call, brought him to Kilcawley Center on Oct. 25.

"Veterans tend to think, 'I'm OK. Someone is worse off than me, so take care of him,'" Schupp said to nearly a dozen Youngstown State University students and faculty members. "That's the mentality on the battlefield, and that's the mentality in the classroom."

Schupp found that returning veterans had trouble focusing in the classroom. And without focus, they couldn't pass.

To find out why, he began an experiment.

He changed the learning environment by putting all veterans in one class. Keeping the same course material as his other classes, the all-veteran class scored a higher average on his test than the regular class.

"They are trained to evaluate the environment," Schupp said. "In war, the environment can kill you. When you have a class full of people with backpacks and texting on phones, it can distract you. When you take away the civilians and put

all vets in, you take away the anxiety of the environment. Now the assignment becomes the priority."

Daniel Curl, a YSU sophomore and Navy veteran, majors in applied math and works in the Office of Veterans Affairs.

Curl took a veterans-only communication class when he started at YSU. He said it helped that everybody in the class had something in common.

Working in the Office of Veterans Affairs, Curl aims to reintegrate veterans into education and let them know about the benefits YSU offers.

"We try to rotate what classes we offer every semester, and we're trying to get more," he said. "Right now, they're mostly intro-level classes. It's an attempt to welcome veterans back to school. We try to make the classes less stressful because they're now a part of the older crowd. They're almost a non-traditional student at this point, compared to somebody coming straight out of high school."

About 340 veterans attend YSU, said Dave Olekshuk, a network services technician and interim coordinator of the Office of Veterans Affairs.

Aside from offering veterans-only classes, the Office of Veterans Affairs waives application and student orientation fees for veterans.

Yulanda McCarty-Harris, director of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity at YSU, called YSU a "veteran-friendly campus."

"That basically means we embrace our veterans here, welcome them and help them," she said.

Anne Lally, a counselor with Career & Counseling Services at YSU, collaborates with the Office of Veterans Affairs, and she often helps students who need short-term counseling, consultations or referrals.

She said veterans often need



Sophomore Daniel Curl fills out paperwork in the Office of Veterans Affairs at Youngstown State University on Nov. 2. Curl's job is to reintegrate veterans into education. Photo by Alyssa Italiano/The Jambar.

to speak with someone on campus.

"There are a variety of reasons, but mostly adjustment," Lally said. "Just coming to campus and adjusting to college life is a challenge, but with vets there's another adjustment. You may have trouble adjusting back into civilian life, which can be quite a challenge."

As of May, more than half of the 71,000 Ohioans deployed have returned, according to statistics presented by Schupp.

Schupp said that 18 percent of those veterans are attending college. He also said that in a five-county region, YSU brings in the second largest amount of veterans of Ohio.

Schupp praised YSU and the area for having quality programs for veterans and applauded the university's outreach to disabled veterans, although he refused to label them as disabled.

"I use the word injured," he said. "When people use the word disabled, vets think, 'That's not me. I'm not disabled. I'm hurt. I'll get better.' They avoid the disability services office like the plague because they don't want to be labeled as disabled."

Edward Savel, president of the county's Veterans Service Commission and a YSU alumnus, served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War. He was discharged and diagnosed with a nervous condition, and he experienced the feelings Schupp described.

"Like they were saying, veterans don't like to admit they have problems," Savel said. "I knew I was getting discharged within a few months from when I started having problems. I just thought once I got back to Ohio I'd be fine, but I wasn't. It was a pretty serious problem."

Curl considers the lifestyle change his most difficult adjust-

ment. "[Getting back into] certain things are hard," he said. "There are programs, but they're not very well designed or efficient to plan transitioning from military life to life as a college student. It's one of those 'What do I do? Where do I go next?' type things. That's one of the nice things about the office over there. Not everyone seems to know about it, though."

Schupp stressed that a veterans affairs office on campus increases recognition within the community and has the potential to bring money into the area.

"I love Youngstown, and I love YSU," Schupp said, noting that his travels have taken him to colleges and universities across the country. "I brag about YSU wherever I go. YSU has done a great, great job with developing programs for vets. This whole area is tremendous."

'I'd go back tomorrow if they asked me to'

YSU network technician remembers military service

Rachel Lundberg
REPORTER

Iraq is dusty, desolate, hot, humid and, above all, sandy. That's how David Olekshuk remembers it.

In 2008, nearly 20 years after joining the United States Air Force Reserves, David Olekshuk finally got the call to serve.

He shipped off to Iraq for six months, working on emergency management. Every day he responded to two or three calls about chemical spills, gunfire or mortar attacks.

David Olekshuk worked 12-hour shifts and slept in a barracks above the office. He said it was more like working 24 hours a day, his downtime regularly broken up by emergency after emergency.

"The first attack that we got, everything pucker up on you; let's put it that way," he said, adding that responding to attacks didn't become easier as time passed.

But he got used to it. Within his first few weeks of returning home, a loud sound would put him on edge. A bang still causes him to perk up.

The soldiers knew they were there for a reason, though, David Olekshuk said. Their only complaint was the heat, but they had a job to do, and they did it.

The soldiers he worked with became his family away from home. For six straight months, they played Wii Golf and watched movies nightly, worked together, shared a barracks and played practical jokes on one another.

"We got along great," he said. "We had to. We didn't have a choice. You're with them 24 hours a day [and] seven days a week for six months. And you get to become a family."

They still keep in touch today with weekly emails or calls, even though they're scat-

tered around the country.

David Olekshuk, a Youngstown State University graduate, has been a network services technician at YSU for 12 years. He is also interim coordinator of the Office of Veterans Affairs.

David Olekshuk said YSU is a great supporter of the military and that he's never been given a hard time.

Jim Olive, program manager for the Office of Veterans Affairs, has been working with David Olekshuk at YSU for about 10 years.

"I found him to be just a great guy who can't sit still," Olive said. He added that David Olekshuk is a great worker, a family man and "a great guy to have on your side."

David Olekshuk didn't join the reserves until he was 28. He left for six months of training the day after Christmas in 1991.

He left his wife, Diana Olekshuk, behind during basic training in Lackland, Texas.

During his deployment, however, he also said goodbye to his teenage daughter, Ashley Olekshuk.

He communicated with his family through daily emails and frequent phone calls, but he was still missed.

David Olekshuk recalled his daughter crying the day he left, but his wife held it together until his return.

"We emailed, and then he had limited time on the phone, but I missed him a lot," Ashley Olekshuk said.

His wife said hearing about the first couple of attacks was unbearable. She was trying to stay strong for her daughter, but eventually had to ask that David Olekshuk keep the dangerous side of his deployment to himself.

David Olekshuk said his family, neighbors and co-workers would frequently call to check in and offer help to his wife.

"Whether people supported the war, you support the fam-



David Olekshuk

ily," Diana Olekshuk said. She added that their friends and family were exceptionally supportive.

When David Olekshuk neared the end of his service, he and his wife planned a surprise for their daughter.

He surprised her by showing up in uniform at the high school football game where she was cheerleading. His presence was announced over the speakers, and he greeted her on the field.

"I was at our cheerleading game, and he came out on the track and surprised me," Ashley Olekshuk said. "I was so excited to see him."

In the reserves, soldiers are required to complete the training of full-time soldiers in a single weekend every month, along with two extra weeks in the summer.

David Olekshuk has visited more than 10 countries for training since joining the Air Force.

"It's an experience being in the military," he said. "You get to see a lot of the world."

David Olekshuk said he joined the reserves out of patriotism and thankfulness for the freedoms Americans have.

He said leaving his family while he served was difficult, but it was his duty.

"I'd go back tomorrow if they asked me to," he said. "It'd be tough, but I would go."

Radio to the past

Theater troupe time travels to the '40s

Chelsea Telega
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
EDITOR

The 1940s represented the prime of radio broadcast — a time when "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" was continuously playing over the air.

Youngstown State University's Department of Theater and Dance is traveling back in time to pay homage to when radio brought optimism to the nation.

The production, "1940s Radio Hour," depicts a mythical radio station broadcasted from the Hotel Astor's Algonquin Room in New York City during World War II. The scene is set on Dec. 21, 1942, showcasing the life of a struggling producer and his distracted staff.

Frank Castronovo, theater department professor and chairman, said he chose this play because it has been on his mind for 15 to 20 years. He said that the radio was an outlet for people looking for positivity.

"Radio provided some ray of hope and optimism for the future," Castronovo said. "It was the entertainment medium of the time and also the mass communication medium of the time."

Plays performed by the department are comprised mostly of theater majors. However, students from other majors also take part.

"For the most part, this is our laboratory," Castronovo said. "University theater season, that's when we put to use the things they learn in the classroom."

Students receive class credit for their time in the productions, but Castronovo said he thinks the most important part is the performance and production experience.

The department works tirelessly to develop the seven pro-

ductions that it hosts every year, Castronovo said.

The students practice every night for three hours. For musicals, hours are the same but rehearsals last a couple of weeks longer.

"It's very time intensive," Castronovo said. "It requires a good commitment from everyone."

He said that the students work exceptionally well together and that the audience will be able to notice the compatibility on stage.

"I think it's obvious that they're having a good time," he said. "This period is a time when their parents probably weren't even born yet, but they got a feeling for the time, for the period and the music."

The students, he said, are the central focus for what makes a play successful. The directors are there merely for direction.

"No director likes to become a puppeteer," Castronovo said. "You depend upon the imagination and skill and the talent of the actors on the stage, and then you simply coordinate them and make sure they all work together because theater is ultimately a collaborative effort."

Throughout his four decades in the theater department, and in light of his upcoming retirement, Castronovo recalls putting a bit of himself into each production he has directed.

"I look back and they're all fun to do," he said. "They're all, to some degree, a labor of love."

Castronovo said the play is lighthearted, and he hopes people will smile and have a good time as they watch student-actors portraying a rundown radio station.

The production will show Thursday through Sunday and Nov. 18 through Nov. 20 in Bliss Hall's Ford Theater.

Dear John:

The Jambar
EDITORIAL BOARD

RELATED STORY
ISSUE 2 PAGE 1

Ohioans' approval ratings for Gov. John Kasich are taking a nosedive.

According to an ongoing Quinnipiac poll, 22 percent of Ohioans disapproved of Kasich when he took office in January, and 30 percent approved.

The telling number is the 48 percent who were undecided.

That number has shifted drastically as only 12 percent remain undecided. Those formerly undecided voters have joined the 52 percent who now disapprove of the governor.

Under Kasich, the jobless rate has subsided. Ohio unemployment is on par with the national average of 9.1 percent, down from 10.6 percent when the governor took office.

So, how has the governor's disapproval rating ballooned 30 points in just six months?

Two out of three Ohioans failed to see eye to eye with the governor over SB 5. That's how.

The governor chose to tackle budget deficits by amending health care and pension plans for government employees.

He should have looked elsewhere.

Education has been cut and private reforms, though controversial, have been enacted.

Kasich should look next to reforming out-of-control health care costs. Medicaid expenditures alone will climb \$800 million next year, totaling \$18.8 billion with a staggering 2.2 million Ohioans in the program.

SB 5 wasted time and money, which caused too many people to lose focus on the state issues at hand.

The governor needs to stop barking up the wrong tree. The public bites when teased.



Cartoon by Paris Chrisopoulos/The Jambar.

A win for the 66 percent

McClatchy-
Tribune News Service
(MCT)

Bank of America's decision last week to drop its plans for a \$5-a-month fee for most of its debit card holders could be seen as the first victory in the revolt against the American plutocracy.

Or not. That revolt is not yet fully formed. And you don't have to be camped out on Wall Street to think that banks, which are using your funds to make money for themselves, shouldn't charge you for accessing it. We suspect that among Bank of America's 38 million debit card holders are Tea Partiers, Occupistas and plenty of apolitical people, too.

They should stay alert. Bankers will not take this lying down. Debit card fees, high "swipe fees" charged to merchants for debit purchases and absurdly high overdraft fees helped create seven- and eight-figure paydays for big bank executives. Five bucks a month times 38 million debit card holders works out to nearly \$2.3 billion a year, which pays a lot of bonuses.

Bank of America and its megabank competitors — who were

watching to see if BofA could get away with this heist — are not suddenly going to reduce expectations and operate like the Bailey Bros. Building & Loan. They'll think of something.

But thanks to the Dodd-Frank financial reform bill, thanks to the creation of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, thanks to Sen. Dick Durbin's, D-Ill., war on swipe fees, thanks to lawsuits that successfully challenged the way banks tabulated debit withdrawals to maximize the chance of overdrafts and, yes, thanks to the attention spawned by the Occupy movement, it's now tougher for consumer banking to operate in secret.

The real news here is that Americans appear — finally — to have wised up to what's been going on.

Support for that conclusion includes a recent New York Times/CBS poll that found 66 percent of Americans think the nation's money and wealth should be more evenly distributed.

This is an astounding figure. It's not the "99 percent" that the Occupistas claim, but that is just a slogan. Sixty-six percent is a real number — two in every three Americans have figured out the deal.

If they needed further evidence, the same day The Times/CBS poll was released, the Congressional Budget Office reported that between 1979 and 2007, the top 1 percent of earners more than doubled its share of the nation's income — going from 8 percent to 17 percent.

Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz of Columbia University thinks it's even worse: The top 1 percent, he says, receive nearly 25 of all earnings and control 40 percent of all forms of wealth.

At the other end of the scale, the Brookings Institution reports that the number of Americans living in extreme poverty — defined as neighborhoods where at least 40 percent of residents live below the poverty line, making it harder to break free — rose by a third between 2005 and 2009.

In America, change is effected in two ways. The first is economically, through boycotts or threats of boycotts. This is what happened with debit card fees.

The second way is politically, when public dissatisfaction is manifested at the polls. Next year's elections will test whether the 66 percent can overcome the plutocratic power of the status quo.



JAMBAR POLICY

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

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What's the motto with Congress?

St. Louis Post-Dispatch
(MCT)

There's a classic bit of stand-up comedy from the "Flip Wilson Show" in 1972 (you can find it on YouTube.com) where the great Albert Brooks imagines what might happen if the United States ever decided it needed a new national anthem. One entrant:

"Oooh, oooh, oooh.
"I like the U.S.A., ooh-oooh
"I like the U.S.A.
"It's better than Russia
"And China and Yugo-slahh-vee-a."

The key to the bit is the absurdity of the idea. Nobody's ever going to mess with the national anthem, just like nobody's ever going to mess with the national motto.

But then again, you can't ever be too sure.

The U.S. House of Representatives devoted much of a day last week to debating a resolution that reaffirmed that "In God We Trust" is the national motto. Not surprisingly, it passed, squeaking by on a 396-9 margin.

This was a little surprising. No one had been challenging the motto and when Republicans took charge of the chamber in January, they vowed that they weren't going to waste time and money on symbolic and commemorative resolutions. Indeed, after President Barack Obama announced May 1 that Navy SEALs had killed Osama bin Laden, the House refused to take up a resolution praising U.S. troops and the intelligence community.

Spies? Not worth it.
Troops? Not worth it.
God? Worth it.
"I realize there are some who don't see a difference between

what we're doing from naming a post office or commending some athletic team," said Rep. Randy Forbes, R-Va., the sponsor of the resolution. "But I happen to believe when Thomas Jefferson stated in the Declaration of Independence that our rights came from God, that he didn't think it was irrelevant or not important."

You can't argue with logic like that.

So what did it cost taxpayers to reaffirm "In God We Trust?" It sort of depends on how you figure it.

The House budget is \$1.36 billion this year and it devoted one of the year's 365 days to this issue, so that would be \$3.7 million. But the House usually is only in session about 130 days a year, and it spent one of those days on this resolution, so that's more than \$10 million.

But the House members worked on other stuff, too, and their staffs — who do most of the work anyway — were getting other stuff done, so you have to factor that in. Based on one estimate of what it cost the House to spend 90 minutes reading the Constitution last Jan. 5, a million bucks is a fair guess for the cost for reaffirming "In God We Trust."

Would God be pleased? The Bible says he wants to be worshipped. But it also says he wants us to sell our possessions and give the money to the poor, which is sort of a wealth-redistribution thing.

Interpreting God's will, and separating it from our own, is pretty tricky. A lot of evil has been done under pro-God mottoes. Richard II slaughtered the Saracens under the banner "Deus vult" — God wills it. Every Wehrmacht soldier during World War II wore a belt buckle that featured a swastika, an eagle and the motto "Gott mit uns" — God is with us.

The cockpit recording from United Flight 93 on Sept. 11, 2001, ends with a guy repeating "Allahu akbar!" over and over.

"In God We Trust" suggests that we're going to do whatever we think God wants us to do. This is not particularly helpful, because people of good will often have distinctly different ideas of what God wants us to do. Indeed, there are plenty of people of good will who are skeptical of God's very existence, or at least of his interest in our affairs.

That's OK, according to the U.S. Supreme Court, because for government purposes, God really means "God-ish."

Wrote Justice William J. Brennan in a 1984 dissent to one of those tedious "creche in the public square" cases, "I would suggest that such practices as the designation of 'In God We Trust' as our national motto, or the references to God contained in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag can best be understood ... as a form of 'ceremonial deism,' protected from Establishment Clause scrutiny because they have lost through rote repetition any significant religious content."

But Rep. Forbes, the resolution's sponsor, professed to be worried that "In God We Trust" was losing its punch. Designers of the new Capitol Visitors Center and new presidential dollar coins had tried to marginalize the motto. In a speech last December, President Barack Obama mistakenly said "E Pluribus Unum" was the national motto.

Shockingly, "In God is our trust" doesn't even show up in the national anthem until the fourth verse, and no one ever sings that.

Something should be done about that.

Penguins open with familiar, unique enemy

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

With just two days before the 2011-2012 season opener for the men's basketball team, offseason practices and scrimmages will be thrown out the window.

"Samford [University] is kind of a hard game to play because of the fact that they play a different style," said head coach Jerry Slocum. "We got our hands full for a different kind of a team in terms of the style of play."

Senior guard Ashen Ward said the Bulldogs play a spread offense.

"They do back cuts, and they shoot a lot of [three-pointers], so we have to rebound the ball and play very well defensively," Ward said. "That's really our main goal."

Ward added that this game could help the team compete against Horizon League foes down the road.

"We play who's on the schedule; that's the way I look at it," Ward said. "[If] we can learn something from this game that can help us in our conference, then I'm all for it."

Ward finished last season with 259 points, 96 rebounds, 51 assists and 21 steals. He also led the team with 50 three-pointers.

Going against the Bulldogs requires athleticism, Slocum said, but it may also be a disadvantage.

"Hopefully our athleticism will help us in terms of keeping them in front of us, but in the same breath we can't be undisciplined in terms of our athleticism or you're just going to get backed out and give up layups," Slocum said.

He added that athleticism helps the defense.

"You just can't get trapped into coming down and just making one or two passes and



Ashen Ward represents one of two seniors on the Penguins basketball team this season. Despite only having two seniors, Ward said he feels the team has enough experience to take YSU to the next level. Photo by Nick Young/The Jambar.

launch the [three-pointers]," Slocum said. "You constantly think you're open all the time because they're backing off of you the whole time."

The Penguins opened last season against the Bulldogs at Beegly Center and won 64-61. Senior forward DuShawn Brooks played 29 minutes, collected six rebounds and scored 20 points off the bench.

Overall, the Penguins made nine three-pointers in 33 attempts. Slocum said he

plans to keep the three-pointers coming.

"We're not different in the fact that we're going to shoot a lot of [three-pointers]," he said. "We're going to play in games where we try to push the tempo. We're probably a little bit too much of a jump-shooting team right now than I would like us to be."

Slocum said he likes the experience level, even with only two seniors.

"I think our experience has shown," he said. "I think

our backcourt is solid in [junior Blake Allen] and [sophomore Kendrick Perry]. I think our inside game is solid with [junior Damian Eargle] and DuShawn [Brooks]."

Ward agreed with Slocum. "I feel we've got that experience," Ward said. "We've got a comfort level both on the floor and with each other."

The Penguins head to Samford looking for their first road win since Dec. 16, 2009.

Women prepare to climb the mountains

Nick Mancini
SPORTS REPORTER

Compared to last year, the Youngstown State University women's basketball team is more prepared for its season opener on Friday against West Virginia University.

"Last year's team, I felt like we weren't as far along as this year's team is," said senior point guard Macey Nortey. "Just the progression that I have seen compared to last year's team is just amazing, and it's kind of comforting and amazing in the same sense because I know we still have so much more to learn."

Head coach Bob Boldon said he sees some specific differences between this year and last.

"We have shot the ball better and have a better understanding of what we want to do defensively, so it is an exciting time," he said. "Obviously, we have quite a ways to go until we are a good team, but they have a real willingness to learn, [and a] willingness to compete."

The Mountaineers return one starter from last year's 24-10 team.

Boldon said he knows the game will be a challenge but looks forward to playing in an electric environment.

"They are obviously a more athletic team than us [and] bigger," he said. "They are going to try to take advantage of that size, and we are going to have to do our best in guarding the low post and doing that effectively. I think we will need to slow down their team speed as well."

Nortey said the team has a good idea of what to expect from the Mountaineers.

"In practice, we learned that the guards are really quick, and that they are going to feed it into the post," she said. "We have to do a good job of being as big as we can."

In each of the past five seasons, the Penguins have opened against a Big East team. Their last win came on Nov. 19, 1997, against the Mountaineers. The Penguins won 96-86.

Coming into this season, Boldon said the team feels good.

"I think the mindsets are completely different than they were one year ago," Boldon said. "[Junior forward] Brandi [Brown], being named Pre-Season Player of the Year, has brought some buzz around the team, and they have shown a genuine happiness for Brandi."

Nortey said depth gives the Penguins many options.

"I am really excited about our bench and our newcomers, and the fact that we have different options," Nortey said. "With [freshman point guard] Kelsea [Fickiesen] at the point and [sophomore guard] Melissa [Thompson] playing the 3 and 4, it really gives us a lot of looks to throw at opponents."

Even with the excitement around the team, Boldon said he knows more work is needed.

"Our weaknesses will be exposed," he said. "We will find out exactly what we aren't good at Friday night. All your non-conference games, you hope you can learn and get better for your conference games. They really help to prepare for our conference season in January."

Penguins on the hunt for Bison

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

Throughout the 2011 season, the Youngstown State University football team successfully hunted Crusaders, Sycamores, Salukis, Cougars and Leathernecks. Now the Penguins look for another head to put on the wall: Bison.

"This is our championship game," said senior defensive end Obinna Ekweremuba. "We have to win this game. We don't have a choice. [If we win] this game, we're making a statement that Youngstown State football is coming back."

Ekweremuba added that the Penguins face a "sense of urgency."

"We got to go out there and execute our jobs to get the win," he said. "We feel like if we get this win, then everything is back in place for us."

The Penguins (5-4, 3-3) travel to face North Dakota State University (9-0, 6-0), the No. 1 team in the country.

"They're ranked number one, so they must be doing something right," said junior center Mark Pratt. "I think we have to go out there and think like they're number one."

He added that the Penguins need to "approach [the game] this way."

"I think we are going to come out with that mentality that this is a statement game for us [and] that we need to perform and show the nation what we can do," Pratt said.

The Penguins play in a dome for the second straight week but on a different surface.

"This is more like the traditional turf that we used to have," said head coach Eric Wolford. "It's kind of like the



Junior tailback Jamaime Cook takes a handoff against the University of Northern Iowa on Saturday. Cook was held under 100 rushing yards for only the third time in nine games this season. The Penguins will look to get back in the win column this weekend against the Bison. Photo Courtesy of YSU Sports Information.

turf that you have on your porch in your backyard."

Wolford added that he worries about the Bison defense, especially when it comes to passing.

"They don't give you a lot of opportunities in the passing game," he said. "I think the other thing that goes unnoticed is they put tremendous pressure on the quarterback, and that starts with their defensive line."

Sophomore quarterback Kurt Hess has compiled 1,925 passing yards and 19 touchdowns through eight games. Hess threw for 175 yards and one touchdown during the 21-17 defeat against the University of Northern Iowa on Saturday.

"It was kind of demoralizing a little bit, but I think it kind of opened our eyes," Pratt said about the game. "We need to

come more ready to play and get things going early and to finish games."

One aspect of the UNI game that Wolford said needs corrected is the Penguins' ability to close out games.

"It's frustrating for everyone, myself included," Wolford said. "In order for us to take the next step against these elite teams, we have to show that we can close, and who says this isn't the week that we can show we can close them out? When I talk about closing, I mean closing on offense."

To further elaborate, Wolford described one specific time when he was an assistant coach for the University of Illinois. The Fighting Illini upset the then No. 1 Ohio State University on Nov. 10, 2007.

"You have got to be able

to stay on the field for seven or eight minutes and close the game out," Wolford said. "We rode [Isiah John] 'Juice' Williams down the field, basically ran the ball every play and found a way to close the game out, and we won and upset them. That's the next step we got to get ready to take."

Ekweremuba said the team must also come out firing.

"We learned the hard way that we got to come out ready to play," he said. "We can't come out flat, and I feel like we played better in the second quarter, but we got to come out ready for four quarters of football."

Wolford made another Big Ten comparison, this time with NDSU and the victory over the University of Minnesota, 37-24, on Sept. 24.

"If you didn't know what colors the schools were, you would have thought North Dakota State was the Big Ten team," Wolford said. "I'm not pulling your leg when I say that. That's recruiting. Let's not kid ourselves. You got to go out there and recruit."

Wolford said NDSU is the most physical team he's seen on film this year.

"If you catch balls, you're going to get hit; that's their philosophy," Wolford said. "Offensively, they like to pound on you. They're going to motion around, and, all of a sudden, they're running a play action on you."

As a team, the Bison are tied first in interceptions thrown (one), second in scoring defense (12.89 points per game), fourth in turnover margin (+1.67 average per game), eighth in passing efficiency (155.97 passer rating) and tied ninth in red-zone offense (89 percent).