



Coming Out Week 2



FACULTY RAISE CONCERNS OVER PROVOST SELECTION



“I THOUGHT IT WAS the **BEST THING** FOR US TO DO”
— JIM TRESSEL

PHOTO BY GRAIG GRAZIOSI/THE JAMBAR

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The Oct. 7th Youngstown State University Board of Trustee’s meeting saw Martin Abraham, dean of the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, installed as interim provost of the university, replacing former interim provost Teri Riley.

Abraham’s ascension to the role of provost came as a surprise to many, as Abraham had not applied for the job and was not a member of

the final four candidates who visited campus in early September.

The four candidates — David Starrett, Graham Glynn, Nathan Ritchey and Cheryl Torsney — were selected by the provost search committee, a panel of 16 individuals assembled to help select the new provost under the leadership of Chester Cooper, a professor of biology. Despite their selections, Abraham was chosen by President Jim Tressel for the provost position, possibly permanently.

Addressing the Academic Senate last Wednesday, Tressel cited a disagreement among the search committee and Abraham’s qualifications as primary motivating factors in his decision to appoint Abraham to the position.

“The search committee was in charge of compiling candidates, and as we looked at the candidates we came to very different opinions of those selected,” Tressel said. “The polarizing nature of the selection was concerning to me.”

Though Abraham’s quali-

fication for the position were never questioned, some faculty members questioned the methods by which Tressel made the final decision, worrying that the balance of the university’s shared governance between faculty and administration was being corroded.

Diane Barnes, professor of history, conveyed concern over the inclusion of faculty in major decisions at the university.

“[The faculty] get our information from the Vindicator before the administration,

and that’s demoralizing,” Barnes said.

Suzanne Diamond, English professor, sought clarification as to whether or not the administration intended to honor the decision of the search committee.

“If there was a committee consensus, would [President Tressel] have honored it? To those 16 people on the committee who put time and effort into the search process, it may be a devaluing experience to know their decisions were disregarded,” Diamond said.

Tressel attempted to lessen the faculty’s concerns, ensuring the assemblage he would have honored the agreement in the face of total consensus.

“Yes, if there was rigorous consensus, I would have honored the search committee’s decision ... I think the proof of the success of our decision will come in the value of the [Abraham’s] work,” he said.

A concern of the administration’s decisions shared by several faculty members centered around whether or not the decision to abandon the final four candidates without declaring a new search will hurt YSU’s ability to attract viable candidates in the future. Ellen Jones, assistant professor of the department of theatre and dance, asked President Tressel whether or

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TEDx Speaker Series: Brett Conner The Additive Manufacturer

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On Jan. 23, 2015, Brett Conner, associate professor of mechanical and industrial engineering at Youngstown State University will be presenting at TEDx Youngstown, along with a variety of other speakers.

The event runs in conjunction with the Technology, Entertainment and Design organization, a non-profit organization devoted to spreading innovative ideas, which is well known for their popular TED Talks, and it will be located in the Ford Theater of Bliss Hall.

The theme at the TEDx Youngstown event is “Breaking Boundaries,” and offers a diverse group of teachers, musicians and professionals who want to spark in-depth discussion and connections among students, faculty and anyone willing to listen in the community of Youngstown.

Conner takes on multiple occupations: dad, soccer coach, entrepreneur and full-time professor. On top of being a current, full-time professor, he is the father of three children and an entrepreneur at the Youngstown Business Incubator.

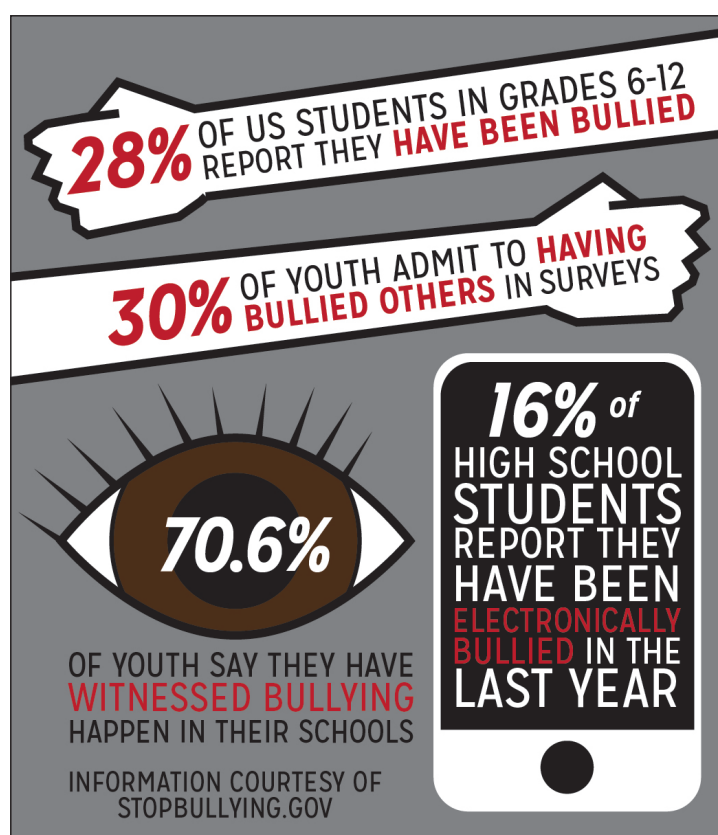
Conner grew up in Kansas City, Missouri, where he attended Blue Ridge Christian High School. Conner spent 15 years in government and industry before coming to YSU last August. He served as an officer in the United States Air Force for nine years, and spent five years at Alcoa — a lightweight metals technology engineering and manufacturing industry — as well as one year as a defense contractor.

“When I was in high school, I wanted to be a fighter pilot. The funny thing is, in the course of my career, I’ve always had the opportunity to do some really cool things. I don’t think that it was really planned,” he said. “I feel blessed with the way that my life worked out. I was able to work with fighter jets, spacecrafts, rockets and big trucks and at an aluminum factory. That opportunity comes with education.”

Currently, he is working to bring additive manufacturing

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YSU Says No To Bullying



GRAPHIC BY STACY RUBINIC/THE JAMBAR

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In an effort to combat the ever-growing problem of bullying, a panel of speakers gathered in Beeghly Hall on Monday, collectively discussing fruitful ways to address the issue.

Among the panelists were John Beshara, Youngstown State University Chief of Police; Sylvia Imler, interim director of diversity & multicultural affairs; Thursday Wilson, a YSU graduate assistant; and Minnijean Brown-Trickey, a motivational

speaker of the Little Rock Nine Foundation.

The discussion focused on the causes of bullying, what needs to be done to prevent it and some of the factors that motivate bullying: race, gender and age.

Imler discussed some of the ways to help stop bullying. She said that the most efficient way is to contact the police.

“Sometimes it’s a matter of just yelling out ‘Stop it!’ or ‘I’m getting ready to call [the police]’, but people are afraid that they’re going to come after

them. If nothing else, use your phone to call 911,” Imler said.

Beshara said that he believes a lack of trust and communication between people and law enforcement plays a role in people’s inaction to stop harassment.

“We are a community. We have to trust each other. If there’s no trust here, back and forth, why would you tell me anything?” Beshara said. “There are many crimes that probably could get solved, but there is no trust. There are witnesses who don’t want to come forward.”

Beshara added that wherever YSU students go, be it the mall or away at home, they still represent the university, regardless.

“When you become a Youngstown State University student, that day until you graduate getting that diploma in your hand, you represent something more than yourself. With that comes rules and procedures and regulations and conduct. So whether it be here on campus, whether it be out at the Southern Park Mall, or that weekend at home, you represent our university,” Beshara said.

The presentation, sponsored by YSU Student Diversity Programs, served as a part of YSU’s ongoing non-violence week, which spans Oct. 5-10.

The remaining events of the week include screenings of the movie “Bully” in James Gallery of Kilcawley Center on Thursday at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. as well as a series of workshops throughout the day in Kilcawley Center on Friday.



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COMING OUT WEEK 2014

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Coming Out Week has taken over Youngstown State University's Kilcawley Center. The rock has been painted, information tables and lectures have been held and a few more events are yet to come. Tim Bortner, the president of YSUnity, hopes students will participate in the annual event.

"This is something that we do every year, and it's been going on since the early 2000s, maybe even the '90s. It's a week of events geared towards the LGBTQIA community. Allies are welcome as well, it's not just the LGBT community," Bortner said.

The week kicked off Monday with a Coming Out Closet, consisting of a door that was placed in the main hall of Kilcawley Center from which students would emerge with white boards describing their sexual orientation in tow.

Through thought-provoking events like the Coming Out Closet, Bortner hopes students' awareness of LGBT issues will increase.

"It's to create awareness and education on campus, so that's why we have educational seminars and workshops. We also have things to celebrate coming out and being yourself, and we also have just plain old goofy events. Everyone is invited to attend these events. We're supportive of anyone so you're welcome to attend," Bortner said.

YSUnity has promoted awareness during Coming Out Week in a variety of ways, including an organizational fair that contained numerous support groups from the area, a BRAVO anti-violence workshop, a Equality Ohio Speaker and representatives from the Ohio equal rights campaign. A speaker from Get REAL, an organization from Canada, spoke on Tuesday about bullying and harassment in schools.

For many, this week is about the strug-



PHOTO BY ASHLEY SMITH/THE JAMBAR.

Leading up to national Coming Out Day, Coming Out Week celebrates personal acceptance and shines a light on the struggles individuals face when coming out concerning their sexual orientation.

gles of the LGBTQIA community, and ways in which the community can be supported. Corey Seitz, a general studies major, hopes the events will better illuminate the struggles of those coming out about their sexuality.

"The purpose of Coming Out Week is to educate everyone on the struggle that it is to come out. There are a lot of fears that someone of the gay community has — one of which is a fear of rejection from friends and family, and another key fear is the fear of one's own personal safety and wellbeing," Seitz said. "I feel like this week is suppose to educate everybody on those challenges that someone who is LGBT has to face and go through, to actually get more people on board so we can have more rights and more protections for working opportunities, educational opportunities and our basic civil rights."

There are still plenty of events to participate in this week, including two larger events at the week's close.

"The biggest event that I would highlight this week would be the NOH8 photo shoot on Thursday, and the Diversity Prom on Friday," Seitz said.

Thursday there is a NOH8 photo shoot on the first floor of Kilcawley from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The NOH8 photo shoot includes participating students, dressed totally in white, being photographed against a white backdrop while wearing tape across their mouths reading "NOH8." There will also be a Transgender and Bisexual discussion from 5-7 p.m. in the Jones Room of Kilcawley Center.

Wrapping up the week on Friday will be a YSUnity information table from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the first floor of Kilcawley, and the 2nd Annual Diversity Prom takes place Friday night from 7-10 p.m. in the Chestnut Room. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door.

companies into the Youngstown region through the YBI. He said that he will be discussing additive manufacturing, or 3-D printing, and customization during his talk at the upcoming event.

"I'm very interested in materials, and how 3-D printing ties the materials closer together to the final product. It's a real departure from the typical way we make things. Whether it's the clothes that you wear, the phone that you have, or whatever it is, they are all mass manufactured at a factory that's far away. With 3-D printing, we can potentially bring that factory close to your city or neighborhood. Also, you get the opportunity to have more engagement as to how that product is going to be made," Conner said.

Additive manufacturing, simply put, is the application of layers of materials to create 3-D objects. At its most basic form, the technology can be created to single material models, but it has also been used to create artificial organs and manufacturing parts. Conner said his motivation to pursue 3-D printing was that it is a unique way of manufacturing products compared to the common factory.

"What if you had the opportunity to customize what you want? Not just the color on it, but the shape and the functionality of the object. You can influence that. It's a big change from how we've been doing business since the beginning of the industrial revolution," he said.

Conner said that he was drawn to YSU through the opportunities for 3-D printing businesses in the area, specifically America Makes.

"What attracted me to YSU was our proximity to America Makes, a national additive manufacturing innovation institute here in Youngstown. When you hear about President Obama talking about setting up national manufacturing institutes to address some of the key challenges of manufacturing in the United States. I think there are a lot of good opportunities here at YSU, and it's given us a chance to build our 3-D printing program here," he said.

Conner expressed his gratitude to speak at this event in January.

"I think TEDx is a great opportunity to share big ideas and hear about big ideas. It's an honor to speak and it's also going to be an honor to listen to others who will be speaking," he said. "For me, what's very interesting about TEDx is hearing people talk about the big ideas in so many different fields. It's not just about technology; it's about society, business and social responsibility."

He encouraged his students and others not to worry about their career paths after graduation because there is always a chance to learn and grow with experience.

"It wasn't until graduate school that I thought about going down the career path of teaching. I kind of encouraged my students by saying that you don't really need to know at the moment of graduation what the rest of your life is going to have to look like," Conner said. "You have the opportunity to learn, grow and find out. You're always learning."

YSU Students Share Their Coming Out Stories

LISA RONQUILLO



I never knew what it was like. I never got what my friends were talking about when they talked about boys. I never understood what they meant about how "they felt fireworks," or "I got butterflies in my stomach," all of those cliché statements — I just never felt any of it. I tried, believe me. But any boy that I ever kissed and dated, it just never came. After a while, I thought something was wrong with me. I thought maybe I could be asexual. Maybe I was incapable of love. I was disinterested in having a physical relationship.

I was 18 when I graduated high school — mind you, I went to a Catholic school; this is important to know. I celebrated this milestone with my family and friends — my very best friend, in particular. We became closer in my final two years of high school. She became an essential part of my life.

One day, on an ordinary summer day, she and I were cleaning and organizing my room and just hanging out. I recall being surrounded by boxes or mementos, clothes and photos. We fell into a companionable silence for a while, but then I sensed that she had something to say. I remember seeing her open her mouth, then close it just as quickly. She did this a few times before she finally spoke. I always talk about this moment as "the seven words that changed my world forever."

"I think I'm in love with you." I didn't think I heard her correctly. My heart was racing, in a way I never felt in my entire life — I honestly thought that it was going to beat right out of my chest. I was scared. I was excited. I was really scared. I responded with something mundane like, "I'm hungry. What do you want for dinner? Pizza? Chinese? I could really have pizza right now." We didn't deal with those words for many hours, until the evening. It was the second moment that changed my life forever.

One kiss. All it took was one kiss from her. My best friend, the one who opened my eyes, and in one moment I felt everything that my friends had always talked about — the fireworks, the butterflies. I knew, indeed, I was in love the entire time, but had no idea because I never considered that I might be gay.

While my newfound love changed my life for the better, it also showed me the negative aspects of loving someone in a way that wasn't "normal." For

the longest time, we kept our relationship a secret. We didn't tell our closest friends for a few months, fearing we would be judged and left behind. At the time, we were lucky to have such wonderful and supportive friends.

My family was a different story, as was my church. I was inadvertently outed by a family member, who had gone through my things to prove their suspicion of my identity and relationship. My parents were furious. I was kicked out of my house and had to take shelter in my girlfriend's and close friend's houses for a few weeks. After that, it felt like everyone knew. I felt naked and exposed. I couldn't trust anyone.

It was a dark time for me. Whenever I would go to church, I felt that those who knew about me were throwing disdainful glances, wondering what I was doing there. I felt shunned. The entire world, as I knew it, was no longer a world I felt comfortable in.

In the three-year relationship that I had with my best friend, we were very much in love, but very fearful of the world around us. We felt as if the only safe shelter we had was with each other. Eventually, my parents quietly accepted my lifestyle, but that acceptance wouldn't come for another a few years, after I had moved out of their home.

As a result of my "Coming Out Story" — which really isn't a coming out story since I was outed — I have learned to make a home for myself within myself and with whomever I feel safest with, whether that is with my partner or my chosen family and friends. It has taken me a long time of self-discovery and advocacy to be who I am today. Being the president of YSUnity from 2011 to 2014 and having the ability to reach out and help others who are going through what I had gone through is my way of paying forward all of the wonderful hearts along the way, who have always accepted mine, unconditionally. These people are my heroes. I can only hope to be one to someone else one day.

COREY SEITZ



I started to realize I was gay around the age of 15 or 16 years old. With the school system that I was in and the church I was a part of — Independent Fundamental Baptist — there was no way that I was coming out. I was battling myself for years about whether or not to come out. The more I battled with myself, the more depressed and miserable I became. It got to the point where I was just a big ball of hate, anger and every miserable emotion possible, just walking around being mad at everything and everyone.

It wasn't until I got to college when I started to feel the least bit happy. There were different people that were a lot more accepting of people from different backgrounds, race and ethnicity. I felt more myself, but still was battling with the idea of coming out. From high school until I decided to come out, I was struggling with the thought of suicide, thinking I would be better off. I felt this way until I decided to take a course called Careers in Psychology. The teacher I had was a good professor, but it seemed as if she was harder on me than the other students and I didn't know why. At first I thought maybe she didn't like me, but then I figured it out. She knew something was wrong and bothering me. And there was — I still had yet to accept myself for who I was and was meant to be. Everything just started to stress me out to the point of exhaustion.

When I went home for Christmas vacation that year, I thought about saying something to at least my mom, but chickened out. Well I got my cartilage pierced with my cousin, who is a big supporter of me and who I am meant to be. I then came back and was told by my pastor at the IFB church that I could no longer play in the church orchestra, because I had a piercing in the cartilage. I then stopped going and continued my life in college, working for the campus food service, as I was still struggling with my sexuality.

Spring break came around, and I was excited because I was going home without going home. I was staying with my manager, her husband and her daughter. Needless to say, she already knew that I was gay. I was just so tired and exhausted trying to be straight or thought I was being straight when I re-

ally wasn't. So I came out to her, and a couple friends first. Their reaction was "Corey, we already knew you were gay before you did. We were just waiting on you."

I was happy that they accepted and loved me unconditionally. I then called my mom and swore her to secrecy, or I would never talk to her again. When she agreed, I told her I was at Krystal's house in Huron and asked her to come to me on her way to work. When she got there, I started to tear up and she was asking me what was wrong. Through my tears I told my mom I was gay and I hope she still loves and accepts me for me. She started to hold me tight and tearing up as well and said "I will always love and accept you unconditionally, for you are my son. I'm happy as long as you're happy. I will support you and help you out whenever you need it." I was so afraid of her reaction and of being rejected by the one person I loved the most, and that is why I waited so long to tell her.

After we hugged it out and cried together, we talked a little bit and she then left for work. After she left I called my mimi — dad's mom — my aunt, my cousins that I was close to, my brother and sister-in-law, my sister and lastly my dad. Everyone was very accepting and supportive minus my dad and my sister — at first and still kind of today. I barely have a relationship with my dad. I got an email from my pastor asking where I have been and the reason why I stopped coming to church. I then proceeded to tell him that I was gay. After the long back and forth emails leading up to me telling him I was gay, he stopped emailing me and had everybody in the church unfriend me on Facebook because I was gay.

I would just like to add that people need to be more sensitive to people around this subject because it is very emotional and hard to accept oneself as part of the gay community.



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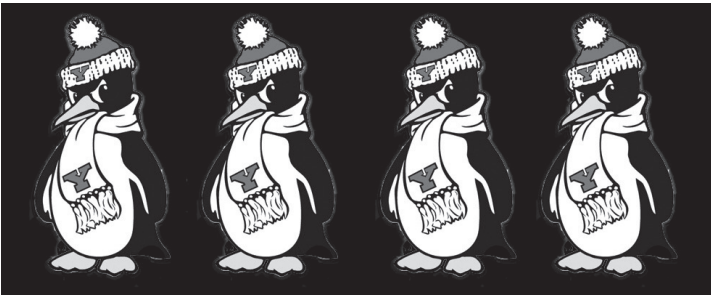
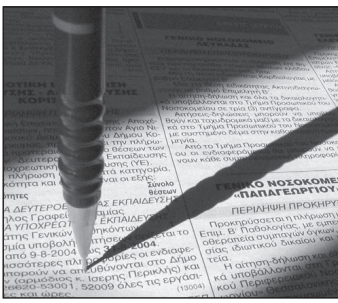
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NEWS BRIEFS

Students Advance to National Sputum Bowl

YSU respiratory care students competed and won the Ohio Society for Respiratory Care Sputum Bowl and will now travel to Las Vegas for nationals. This is an academic team competition that tests students' knowledge on respiratory care in a style similar to Jeopardy. The national competition is Dec. 8-12.

International Jewish Musicians and Scholars Gather at YSU

On Oct. 19, 20 and 21, a conference titled "Jewish Music and Jewish Identity" will provide lectures, recitals and performances. Some of the events include "Jewish Identity in Oratorio and Opera," "Articulating Transnational Identities" and a free film screening of "Iraq n' Roll." For meal reservations, contact Elizabeth Howell at judaic@ysu.edu.

Skeggs Lecture Presents Best-Selling Novelist Wally Lamb

Wally Lamb, New York Times best-selling novelist, will present the YSU Skeggs Lecture on Wednesday Oct. 22 at 7:30 p.m. in Stambaugh Auditorium. Tickets are free but mandatory, and the event is open to the public. Tickets are available through the Stambaugh Auditorium Box Office. For more information, call the YSU Office of Alumni and Events at 330-941-3497.

not he considered the future impact on administration search campaigns.

Michael Jerryson of the department of philosophy and religious studies echoed his concerns.

"When people are applying for a big position, like provost, they're outing themselves at their universities ... you're relying on the integrity of the college to keep things professional and that your candidacy will be treated professionally. If candidates see a place that ignores finalists to promote internal candidates, they aren't necessarily going to want to take the risk [of applying]," Jerryson said.

In response to Jones' ques-

tion, Tressel admitted he may have overlooked potential future ramifications, but defended the judgment used in making his decision.

"I hadn't thought of that. I was trying to go with the candidate who had faculty support coming in loud and clear," he said. "I thought it was the best thing for us to do."

At the root of the faculty's concerns was the issue of shared governance and their ability to affect the future of the college. As the position of provost includes overseeing the entire academic staff and strategy of the university, faculty voiced their desire to have a hand in selecting which candidate would best represent

their interests.

"I don't know of many colleges and universities where there is a literal shared governance, usually administration has the ultimate say, but — and I can't speak for everyone, but this is how I see it from my perspective — what the faculty here seem to want is efforts from the administration to include us in conversations, particularly ones that have to do with education and academic standards," Jerryson said. "The provost position is at the helm of that ... if we're left out of this, then the concern is, what will we be included in when it comes to education at YSU?"

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'PUTTING SHOES ON THEIR FEET' Founder of TOMS speaks at Stambaugh



PHOTO BY ALAN RODGES/THE JAMBAR

Blake Mycoskie spoke to a packed Stambaugh Auditorium about the importance of altruism in modern business practices, as well as in building a personal brand.

SARA POMPEO
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Stambaugh Auditorium was nearly packed on Oct. 7 for the Youngstown State University Paul J. and Marguerite K. Thomas Colloquium on Free Enterprise. The featured speaker was Blake Mycoskie, founder of TOMS and New York Times best-selling author.

Mycoskie talked about his one-for-one business model, and how his business grew to sell over 35 million pairs of shoes since it began in 2006.

"One-for-one is the concept that for every pair of shoes sold, TOMS donates one pair to children in need," Mycoskie explained.

This means that over 35 million pairs of shoes have been

donated by TOMS Shoes.

Mycoskie's shoe venture began while on vacation in Argentina. One day, he met people in a cafe who were there doing volunteer work. They invited him to come along for their shoe drive. He went with them to pass out shoes they had collected from wealthy families.

"The ladies explained how children in Argentina are required to have shoes for their school uniform, in order to get an education. Some children could not go to school because they did not have shoes," Mycoskie said. "While putting the shoes on their feet, I was overcome with an amazing sense of joy, excitement and accomplishment. That day, we put shoes on 250-300 kids."

Mycoskie realized that children's feet grow fast and won-

dered if his efforts were all for nothing because the kids would eventually grow out of the shoes. This really bothered him, so he decided to try and solve the problem through business and entrepreneurship, because donations were not enough to solve problems for charities.

Thus, the TOMS company and one-for-one business model were born.

Based on his life's experiences, Mycoskie concluded the lecture by giving two important business and life lessons to the audience.

"I encourage everyone to give more, in their businesses and in their lives," Mycoskie said. "Giving feels great. It is also really good for business, which is OK, because more good can be done then. When businesses have more aim other

than for profit, customers appreciate that."

Mycoskie believes altruism can create a customer base more inclined to purchase a business's product frequently because they remember their charitable actions. It also helps to build a strong and respectable personal brand.

He told the audience a story about how he saw a woman wearing his shoes in an airport, and upon approaching her about her shoes, she went on and on about the one-for-one aspect of TOMS, rather than the shoes themselves. This ensured Mycoskie that his business plan was working, because he was generating more than just customers — he was generating supporters.

Mycoskie also emphasized the importance of incorporating service and volunteering into businesses.

"When you incorporate a purpose into your business, it can help to attract and retain the most amazing employees in the world, because they are also willing to sacrifice and commit outside of the job," Mycoskie said.

Mycoskie and TOMS did not stop just with shoes. To date, Mycoskie said TOMS Eyewear has helped restore sight to more than 200,000 people.

For every pair of sunglasses purchased, TOMS Eyewear will give medical treatments to adults and children around the world.

"When people ask me what my greatest joy in life is, I say it is visiting our sight clinics. You

know how people say the circus is the greatest show on earth? I think that seeing people's eyesight restored is the greatest show on earth," he said.

The one for one model has also branched out into the TOMS Roasting Co. For every bag of coffee sold, TOMS Roasting Co. gives one week of clean water to families in need.

"I went to one of the countries where we give out our shoes. I met a coffee farmer in Rwanda and saw that the quality of the coffee depended on the quality of the water. I knew that families did not have access to this water, so I decided to do something about it," Mycoskie said.

He decided to help out the economy by directly trading with the coffee farmers to help stimulate their businesses, but also provide water for the needy.

Men and women of all ages and professions attended the lecture, including YSU President Jim Tressel and his wife Ellen.

Amanda Irwin, a sophomore marketing major, was required to attend the lecture for one of her business classes and was happy she went.

"The lecture really impacted me. It motivated me to do something with charity in my future job, and it also made me emotional to hear about the children," Irwin said. "I think that YSU chose to have Blake speak because he can really hit home with students and impact their lives."

'My Favorite Thing About the U.S. is Freedom'

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Mohammed Alkhateeb, a freshman international computer science student at Youngstown State University, originally hails from a Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia. Despite the 7,000 some miles between the two countries, Alkhateeb is no stranger to America.

In 1999, Alkhateeb visited

the United States with his family, at the request of his pregnant mom who wanted to give birth to his brother in the U.S. After his mom gave birth, they returned to Riyadh — with his brother now an American citizen.

Alkhateeb has also been exposed to American and western culture throughout his life. In Saudi Arabia, he was taught English through the various stages of his schooling, and, due to the rapid spread of American

culture, he was exposed to both American movies and shows from a young age. His knowledge of American culture is what peaked his interest in coming back here to study abroad.

He chose to come to YSU after hearing an old friend from school, who now attends YSU, brag about all the great things at YSU. Alkhateeb then decided that this was the place for him.

"My favorite thing about the U.S. is freedom, how you can go from one thing to another, and being rich off of following your dreams. You can make great things happen here off of one small idea. In the U.S., a person will give up their lives to follow their passion as young as 16 or 17 years old. In my country, there are people who have those talents, but they keep it underwater," Alkhateeb said.

Even though Alkhateeb loves the US, he cannot help but feel homesick. He talks to his

family at least once a week.

"To help with my homesickness, I participate in my biggest passions in life, which are music, prayer and soccer. These things help relieve me," he said.

Though he is far from home, he has not strayed in his dedication to his religion — Islam. He still prays five times a day, as well as always trying to put into practice his beliefs on a day-to-day basis. He has tried to seek out a place of worship in the Valley, but, for numerous reasons, he didn't feel comfortable. Now, he simply prays with a couple of students and fellow practitioners of the faith.

"Islam believes that praying with 2 people is just as effective as praying with a hundred," he said.

Alkhateeb goes on to explain that, culturally, the U.S. is radically different than his home.

"The hardest thing is approaching women because

where I am from, you do not interact with women often, and you are not allowed to approach them," he said.

Despite the culture differences and his homesickness, he has had no problem making friends, and his social life is healthy, thanks in part to YSU's International Living Learning Community.

"I like how the ILLC helps us international students by planning events such as the coffee hour and parties, so we can make new friends and become more comfortable with living here," Alkhateeb said.

Though he loves the US and is open to staying here if he finds the right job, when Alkhateeb graduates with his computer science degree, he's not quite sure where he will end up. What he does know, however, is that he wants to contribute the knowledge he gains to his country.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ACCORD QUARTET.

The Hungarian music group, Accord Quartet, is playing a concert Oct. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church in Youngstown. The quartet is made up of Péter Mezö, violin; Csongor Veér, violin; Péter Kondor, viola; and Matyás Öveti, cello. The group is one of high prestige in Hungary and they have played at the likes of the Museum of Fine Arts of Bruxelles, the Museum of Fine Arts of Madrid and the Hermitage of St. Petersburg. They have also played shows for the Royal Family of Belgium and the President of Hungary. The Accord Quartet has won many prizes in major music competitions. Christopher Daniels, the group's liaison, is a native of Bessemer, Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of Mohawk High School and was the band director at Springfield Local High School. He later became the assistant production manager and the artists' liaison at the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra for six years as well as the executive director of the San Bernardino Symphony and the Pasadena Pops Orchestra. More information concerning the show is available through the Dana School of Music at 330-941-3636.

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EDITORIAL

Beating, Abduction, Murder: Just Another Day at College

Forty-three students have gone missing in Iguala, Mexico, though some believe that 28 have been found ... in a mass grave.

The main suspects in the disappearance are not international narco criminals, nor some Zapatista guerrilla militia striking from the depths of the jungle. No, the primary suspects are actually the town's local police force.

Let's repeat that. A local police force, accused of working alongside local gangs, is believed to have ambushed, abducted and very likely murdered at least 28 — potentially up to 43 — college students. All because they were actively involved in social justice campaigns. The final offense the students committed before their disappearance was fundraising to demonstrate against cuts to their school's funding.

On the other side of the world, Hong Kong has faced turmoil in the form of college-aged protesters taking to the streets to voice their opposition to the impotent democracy mainland China is offering the island region.

Explaining the history and complexity of mainland China and Hong Kong relations is beyond the scope of this editorial, but to put it in most basic terms, Hong Kong has a limited capacity to elect its own leaders, but can only choose to elect representatives hand-picked by the central Chinese govern-

ment, not by the people. The students protesting want a true democracy and the right to pick officials they feel represent them, not the interests of the Chinese government and the wealthiest members of Chinese society.

Though the protests are beginning to dwindle, during the most turbulent days of the demonstrations, police used heavy-handed tactics to deal with the throng, and allegations of pro-government gangs assaulting the assemblage were well documented in media coverage. Beatings, tear gassing and hesitation to even hold discussions with protesters from the police illustrated an obvious lack of understanding from the Chinese government as to the desires of their citizenry.

What can the modern American college student take from the actions of students in more tumultuous parts of the globe?

For one, it's a blessing that the Youngstown Police Department isn't hiding in wait to ambush and kill scores of students for being active in politics. Try to keep that in mind during the next DUI checkpoint.

Second, and more important, the Mexican and Chinese students should serve as a reminder that the world we inherit tomorrow, can — and should — be shaped by the actions they take today.

While America certainly suffers its fair share of corruption and, in more recent times, excessive use of force by police while dealing with protesters, there is still a much better system in place here than in China or Mexico for general citizens to effect change and a higher expectation that demonstrators are protected while petitioning the government.

Despite this, it seems that when it comes time to vote, students in America are one of the most underrepresented groups at the polls. While 87 percent of students registered to vote will, over a quarter of students nationwide aren't registered because they either don't know how or don't know where to register.

Even in the 2008 presidential election, to which the youth vote is often touted as one of President Obama's primary reasons for success, only 19 percent of college-aged voters showed up to the polls.

The November elections are only a few weeks away. Sure, it may be cold out and waiting in line sucks. On the bright side, there likely won't be tear gas, beatings, abductions, ambushes or murder awaiting those who turn out to vote.

Major decisions are happening all over, and it is within the power of college-aged Americans to greatly influ-

ence those decisions.

The Community Bill of Rights is on the ballot for Nov. 4. Whether you think it will destroy the fragile economy of Youngstown or save our future generations from living in a dystopian wasteland, you have a say in how the decision comes down.

Whether you see legalizing marijuana as the most obvious decision in the world to help raise state revenue and keep first time offenders out of jail, or you see it as the pathway to moral corruption, you can organize and force your voice to be heard.

There are myriad topics that Americans are passionate about. It's why blowhards like Rush Limbaugh and Glenn Beck have such an enormous following; they play to people's passions, either reinforcing beliefs or enraging those opposed.

That passion, with work and determination, can become a voice for change.

We owe it to young people around the world trying to fight their way out of oppression to embrace our ability to turn our desires into actionable goals. Don't let your passion fizzle out when you turn off your TV or shut off your phone.

The Hong Kong protesters and Mexican student victims certainly wouldn't.

SOMETIMES THE SILENCE DOES NOT HAVE TO BE FILLED

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Death. It's blunt, sad and sometimes sudden. Recently, my friend's sister passed in a freak accident. I didn't know what to do, since she was away at school and we aren't that close anymore. When faced with the internal debate, do I call, text or send a card? What is the appropriate response to such a tragedy? And am I the

only one stuck in this terrible limbo of not knowing how to respond to such a situation?

Everything is changing, and I mean everything. What was once done in person — business conversations, interviews, discussions of serious or emotional topics or even something as simple as asking someone on a date — is now acceptable to be done via phone call, text or the Internet.

Jo Bryant of Debrett's, a specialist publisher of proper British etiquette, wrote "Technology and Manners" in Sep-

tember, breaking down what was proper etiquette when utilizing technology.

"Technology facilitates fast and easy communication, but keeps contact at a distance," Bryant said. "Remember to pick up the telephone regularly or, better still, see people in person rather than relying on quick, impersonal updates."

A problem with the fast rate at which news hits social media or is shared via text is one of sensitivity. Within hours of someone's death, breaking stories are shared on Facebook, tweeted out via Twitter or texted among one another. News spreads fast. But how does that affect the people that lost someone?

"News of Dad's Death, Spread on Facebook" written by Amanda MacGregor in April on modernloss.com, gives her narrative of a tragic accident and death of her father. Before her family notified her, the story had already hit Facebook.

"Time to privately mourn, or even just take a breath before deciding how to announce a death, seems like a quaint thing of the past," Mac-

Gregor said. "The realization didn't hit me until this whole mess went down that the actual news and what happens in the immediate aftermath are now tweet-worthy tidbits, Facebook posts, or quick texts arriving with a cheeky ping."

Bryant reminds us that texts are good for short messages to one another, but they aren't as appropriate for longer stories or sensitive topics.

The debate I was having was not only choosing the most respectful and appropriate form to contact her, but also finding the best way to show sympathy — something I personally don't think could be portrayed over a text message, Facebook post or tweet.

That's one of my biggest problems with texting — it can't convey the emotion that my emotional wastebasket self sometimes needs to convey. It seems to be a present problem in arguments as well. The amount of times that I have gotten into a disagreement with a friend because he or she did not understand my tone through words has escalated since I became an avid texter.

The family of my friend's

recently deceased sister has shut out the world, staying off of Facebook, keeping the TV off and keeping newspapers off the porch. Seeing their loved one's name mentioned in the name of such a misfortune only furthers the pain that they already feel.

"I now watch in revulsion as people jump to post about deaths on Facebook or share a news story link or publicly speculate about the circumstances," MacGregor said. "I can't help but think: You vultures. Back away. Someone has died; someone's family is grieving. Just because we can find and share news at any given second doesn't mean we should."

Although one may think they are being helpful in posting the love that they have for the person that has died, has anyone ever thought, maybe peace and silence is really what they need? To be alone with their thoughts. To recollect themselves and figure out a way to move on, rather than being bombarded with "I'm sorry" and "I love you" from people they haven't heard from in the last 10 years.

ROOKERY NEWS: WF 8M-10AM

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Volleyball Starts Conference Play

DAN HINER

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The Youngstown State University volleyball team began this season winning its first six matches entering the Michigan Invitational with a 9-3 record.

But the Michigan Invitational didn't go as planned for the Penguins, as they lost all three games in Ann Arbor. While YSU was competitive, the team thought they could have played better. Junior Jessie Gerig thought the team had a chance to win, but executed poorly.

"We weren't quite as ready as we needed to be. I know that our first game against Michigan, we just didn't execute the plays that were given to us. They gave us a lot of easy stuff, but we didn't execute very well," Gerig said.

The Penguins then began conference play losing to Oakland University, but rebounded the next day, defeating Wright State University and sweeping the first three sets.

This past weekend, the team played University of Illinois at Chicago and Valparaiso University.

The Penguins lost 3-1 against Valparaiso on Friday night. Even though they won the first set 25-16, they lost

the last three sets 22-25, 20-25 and 13-25.

On Saturday, the team started strong, winning the first two sets against UIC 25-23 and 25-15. They lost the third set but won the fourth 25-20, resulting in a 3-1 YSU win.

YSU is currently 11-8 during the regular season and 2-2 during Horizon League play — placing YSU fourth in the Horizon League standings.

This upcoming weekend, the Penguins have the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay at home. With YSU currently sitting in the middle of the conference standings, every game will be critical for the rest of the season.

Head coach Mark Hardaway said he believes the struggles over the past two weeks were attributed to fatigue. The Penguins began the season with 15 consecutive away games and didn't play a home game until the conference opener against Oakland.

Fatigue could have played a factor at Michigan. The volleyball team played three games in two days. After playing their first match against the University of Michigan Wolverines, YSU had to play Eastern Michigan University later on that



PHOTO BY DUSTIN LIVESAY/THE JAMBAR

Youngstown State University volleyball coach Mark Hardaway talks to his team during a timeout against Wright State University on Sept. 27 at the Beeghly Center. The Penguins swept the Raiders 3-0.

evening.

The Penguins may have had a tough time over the past couple weeks, but the players have experienced individual success throughout the year. Gerig said she believes the team is starting to turn things around, and the team's chemistry is starting to improve.

"Recently we've started

building each other up, and I think that was a big thing in the past tournaments," she said. "We were losing in the games and we didn't feel confident in each other, and we're gaining that back."

The Penguins have ten games left in the regular season. All of them will be conference games. Hardaway said that the Horizon League

has improved over the years, but still believes the Penguins can make a run at the conference championship.

"We can't go into the gym and play poor and expect to win. I really think this team can beat anyone in the conference," Hardaway said. "A lot of the teams are 1-1 and anyone could still win the conference."

YSU Cracks Top 10 and Implements New Practice Schedule



PHOTO BY DUSTIN LIVESAY/THE JAMBAR

Youngstown State University quarterback Dante Nania (3) avoids being tackled while scrambling for a first down, juking around the tackle by Missouri State's Cecil Bratton (98) during the first half of Saturday's matchup at Missouri State University.

JEFF BROWN

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The Youngstown State University football team cracked the top 10 in this week's Football Championship Subdivision coach's poll after last weekend's 14-7 win against Missouri State University.

The Penguins defense had their best showing of the year against the Bears — and possibly the best in head coach Eric Wolford's tenure.

"It was definitely one of our better ones," Wolford said. "I knew the potential was always there. It's just a matter of them having their opportunity to shine."

Junior safety Tre' Moore had a breakout

performance for the Penguins, earning Missouri Valley Conference Defensive Player of the Week honors after recording 11 tackles and two interceptions in the victory. The second interception stopped a potential game-tying drive by Missouri State late in the fourth quarter.

"He's just matured. He's doing the things we want him to do," Wolford said. "He's got his focus where it needs to be. He's taking more of a business approach and usually when you do those kind of things you have success on the field."

Wolford thinks his team is in better shape late in the games thanks to a new practice schedule. Under the new guidelines, a regular practice now takes place on Friday after walkthroughs occur on Thursday. In the past, the days were reversed.

According to Wolford, research shows that if athletes want to perform at their peak on Saturday, they should be more active the day before an event.

"I'd heard it from a lot of other people. Whether I hear Baylor's doing it, Texas A&M, Chip Kelly — a lot of guys are, even the Browns," Wolford said. "I had the intuition that I needed to make a change and keep our team fresh."

Wolford said he's already noticed a difference on the field and thinks the change was a big part in the defense's success late in last week's game.

"I thought we looked fresh, whereas maybe we would have been tired in the past," he said. "The research is there. You just got to trust it, but I like the early indications."

Quarterback Dante Nania thinks the change is working and that team needs to stay the course.

"I thought we were flying around, moving around fast at an up-tempo pace on Tuesday and Wednesday last week," he said.

YSU hopes the new practice schedule continues to pay off this weekend as they take on Western Illinois University, which has a 2-4 record, and is coming off a strong performance against the defending three-time national champion North Dakota State University. WIU led NDSU in the fourth quarter, 10-3, but was unable to hold on, eventually losing 17-10.

WIU was led last week by a strong running game that rushed for 253 yards. J.C. Baker, running back, led the way with a career high 175 yards. Safety Donald D'Alesio had nothing but praise for Baker, who he remembers from last year's 24-14 win against WIU.

"He's good, he's up there with the best in our conference," D'Alesio said. "When we were getting on the plane last week me and coach Bryant started to talk about Western Ill, and that was the first thing I said, I remember how good their running back was."

The WIU defense also had a strong showing against NDSU, forcing the Bison to commit three turnovers. This is something YSU had its fair share of troubles with last weekend, as they turned the ball over three times. They also fumbled an additional two times but were able to recover them.

"The first four games I was doing a good job and then I had two turnovers," Nania said. "I just got to be careful with it."

Kickoff against WIU is set for this Saturday at 7 p.m. at Stambaugh Stadium.