

## SGA Candidates: Prepared for Upcoming Election

**ALYSSA PAWLUK**  
alpawluk@student.ysu.edu

Student Government Association elections at Youngstown State University will be held during the week of April 6, allowing the student body to cast votes online and select the president and executive vice president for the next academic year.

The presidential candidates include Ashley Orr, SGA vice president for financial affairs, and Nick Chretien, vice president of YSUScape and a member of SGA's university affairs committee. Their respective running mates are Jacob Schriener-Briggs, who is already serving as SGA's executive vice president, and Ciara Andrews, an SGA representative on Academic Senate.

Orr has served on SGA since 2012; she said that the platform she and Schriener-Briggs have set up is based on student concerns.

"I really want to just speak to the students, hear what some of their concerns are and make sure that they know that myself and Jake will be spending our time and energy on making sure that those concerns are addressed," Orr said.

Schriener-Briggs, having



had a year's experience serving as SGA's vice president, said that he decided to run with Orr based on their shared ambitions for students as well as the student government body.

"I was excited to have the opportunity to run with her specifically because I think she is really well suited to be president, and me having experience being vice president, I just thought it was a good fit," Schriener-Briggs said. "Together, we could do some positive things."

The opposing team — Chretien and Andrews — are no strangers to SGA operations either. Chretien has been with the Student Government Association for a year, but had first contact with the group last academic

school year when given funding for his student group, YSUScape.

"Last year when we first started our student organization, Student Government helped us out. They allocated funding to YSUScape and that was my first introduction," Chretien said.

Andrews said that she has been involved with the group as well.

"I have had contact with SGA my entire time at YSU. My freshmen year I was on the board of elections and then my sophomore year I was on Academic Senate as part of the general education committee. This year I am also a representative for Health and Human Services as well as Academic



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ASHLEY ORR AND NICK CHRETIEN.

Senate," Andrews said.

Candidates' Ideas

Orr outlined some of the objectives that she and Schriener-Briggs plan to establish in the SGA body if elected.

"Something that I bring into possible administration of SGA is just a strong concern and care about our students, their initiatives and their ideas, and what they want to do. One thing that I bring to the ticket for Jake and I's collaboration is being able to continually fund and support. It's a continuation of initiatives that I'm working on this year," Orr said. "We're trying to increase our overall funding to student organizations, not necessarily in the dollars per organization,

but to organizations funded. We can also increase our support of the student organizations in addition to that."

The student academic success initiative is one of the goals that Schriener-Briggs would like to have continued if elected. Some of the policies include being able to schedule for an entire year, improving or streamlining the advisement process and implementing a possible incentive program where students who are on track to graduate in four years would receive book store vouchers or tuition reduction.

"It's something that Michael Slavens and I have been push-

SGA  
PAGE 3

## Envisioning Downtown's Future



PHOTO BY JUSTIN WIER/JAMBAR.

Students from Holy Family presented a model of Youngstown in 2176 at Tuesday's Economic Action Group meeting prior to the unveiling of the Downtown Vision and Action Plan.

**JUSTIN WIER**  
jcwier@student.ysu.edu

On Tuesday, the Youngstown Economic Action Group unveiled the Downtown Vision and Action Plan.

The 150-page plan outlines a shared vision for the city center that was arrived at by conducting several surveys and interviews with stakeholders downtown over the last year. It also includes a strategic plan for realizing this vision.

Sara Wenger, community development program manager for the Eastgate Council of Regional Governments, co-authored and presented the plan. Wenger said it arose from a lack of an overall development strategy and a desire to develop focus.

The plan is focused on "breaking down the barriers that limit downtown from

reaching its potential by facilitating economic development, attracting cultural amenities and supporting the rebirth of a residential market." It intends to be "a blueprint that will direct growth, investment and development in the downtown by offering direction and recommendations."

Wenger said the plan would foster pedestrianism, entrepreneurship, arts and culture.

"We want to create an environment where people want to stay here," Wenger said.

It establishes initiatives like marketing downtown as a destination, recognizing opportunity sites, improving wayfinding and streetscapes, addressing a lack of green space, improving campus and pedestrian connections and enhancing infrastructure.

It breaks each larger piece into small immediate, short-term and long-term objectives.

"Most of these actions can take place within five years,"

Wenger said.

Phil Kidd, a downtown resident and business owner, said the plan has been needed for a long time.

"I think that there have been a lot of significant individual efforts and investments that have been made over the last couple years. But the strength of this plan is that it's pulling a lot of those stakeholders together so that we can work on some common things that benefit the downtown as a whole," Kidd said.

Dominic C. Marchionda, city-university planning coordinator for Youngstown State University's Center for Urban and Regional Studies, co-authored the plan with Wenger and addressed concerns that it was just another plan that will sit on a shelf somewhere collecting dust.

"It's an ongoing document, and I want it to change as op-

DOWNTOWN  
PAGE 4

## HARDWORKING PENGUINS

**CAITLYN BROWN**  
caitlynbrown01@gmail.com

More and more, college has become a game of striking the right balance between school and work. Few students know this better than those at Youngstown State University, who are among the hardest working in Ohio outside the classroom, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

For college students, especially those from low-income or working-class families, taking a job is not a matter of choice but a necessity.

At YSU nearly 80 percent of the more than 4,000 students who live in the suburbs around the campus and commute to school are working their way through college, according to figures compiled from the 2013 American Community Survey. The average student works 30 hours a week — not accounting for the time dedicated to their studies. The Census Bureau figures cover the year ending on July 1, 2013.

The share of YSU students who commute to school and work is significantly higher than elsewhere in the state. The Census Bureau figures show that about 60 percent of students in Ohio work.

Michael Moamis, a sophomore business major, said the only way he can work and go to school is to live at home. Moamis commutes from Liberty every day.

"I live at home because there is less distraction there when I do my school work," Moamis said. "If I went away to college, I wouldn't want to study as much because I would be distracted by other things around me. Living at home makes it easy for me to study and work."

Moamis studies about three to four hours a night if he is able to. According to Collegeparents.org, students should spend about 2-3 hours of study time for each hour they spend in class. The average student takes 15 credit hours of course work. Doing simple math, that's roughly 30 hours of study time a week, plus 15 hours in class. All together that's 45 hours a week on school, which is basically a full-time job itself.

It is hard to imagine many of these working students are willing or even able to dedicate this kind of time.

While keeping on top of his studies, Moamis also works for the YSU Athletic Department as a marketing intern. He works every football and basketball game. On a football game week, Moamis works about 40 hours, and about 25 hours a week on an off week.

"Sometimes I get stressed out with work and my school work," Moamis said. "I wish I could cut down on work hours, but I can't. I take 17 credit hours, so it can get hectic."

Moamis' school cost is covered by scholarships, so he works for extra money. Moamis carries a 3.51 grade point average.

HARDWORKING  
PAGE 4



VISIT THEJAMBAR.COM  
For information on breaking news as well as complete access to these stories and more.



Like us on Facebook!  
Facebook.com/thejambaratYSU



Follow us on Twitter!  
Twitter.com/TheJambar



PHONE  
330-941-1990



EMAIL  
jambarad@gmail.com

# CHEMISTRY IN MOTION

Team from YSU makes nationals in Chem-E-Car competition



Right: A picture of the YSU team's 3-D printed car with a penguin at the wheel.

Below: A photo of team members preparing for the competition, pictured from the left: Michael Maravola, Alex Lincoln, Bridger Kowalczyk, Chris Rudzinskas and Diana Konik.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALEX LINCOLN.

**LIAM BOUQUET**  
lcbouquet@gmail.com

City, Utah for the national competition this November.

At the regional competition in early March, the YSU team of eight engineers competed against 14 other Midwestern universities, beating teams from University of Michigan, Ohio State University, University of Minnesota and University of Notre Dame.

The Chem-E-Car competition challenges the teams to create a car that is started and

stopped by a chemical reaction. The team, then, is tasked with traveling a certain distance with a certain load of water placed on the vehicle within two minutes — the specifics of the distance and water load were not given to the teams until the day of competition.

The victors were determined by which teams ended closest to the distance line; YSU's car ended 0.43 meters from the line.

Alex Lincoln, a senior chemical engineering major and the leader of YSU's team, described YSU's car.

"It is a little 3-D printed model of a pickup truck, and it runs on a zinc-carbon battery and uses iodine clock reaction to stop the power to the motor," she said. "No other teams utilized 3-D printing in their vehicle design. Judges, students and general attendees to the conference loved the design and were very impressed. Teams usually have cars that look like robots with coils, valves and beakers showing. YSU wanted to be a little more creative and use the 3-D printer to our advantage and make it look like an actual car."

Each team was given two hours to prep their car. YSU's team split into two groups — one to manage the battery and one the iodine clock reaction. The battery determined the speed of the car, and the concentration of the iodine clock mixture determined the stopping point.

Holly Martin, a professor of civil, environmental and chemical engineering and the team's adviser, explained the knowledge and precision required to be successful in the competition.

"Our iodine clock — we can't have brakes, no mechanical devices allowed — we timed it so it would turn black, cutting off our laser and then our car would coast to a stop. You basically had a grasp of how long it would take the iodine clock to turn on based on concentration and then you knew how long it would take your car to get to the distance you were going," Martin said. "There were some teams there that their car didn't even get off the line. ... [YSU's car] stopped second closest to the line. It moved very quickly compared to other teams, and it was a very well put together vehicle."

Lincoln contributed the success to the substantial time and effort of the students involved. The team started work in August and Lincoln estimated over 300 hours poured into the project.

"I think what set us apart is it was our first year competing so we didn't know what to expect, but our students took it very very seriously in comparison to some other schools that have been well established. ... We spent so much time in the lab, plenty of time on all the paperwork we had to do. We were pulling late nights to 9, 10, 11 o'clock at night every week day trying to get this car ready to go," she said. "We prepared based on what we knew just from what we have read online and everything that is posted online is based on the national level. So basically we were prepared to compete at a national level and it ended up paying off really well."

Jason White, a senior chemical engineering major and another leading member

of the team, added that the team's success proved the clout and excellence of YSU's engineering program.

"I know I have heard from some juniors that 'Wow, I never thought we could compete with them, maybe this program is not as underrated as it seems to be.' Our quality of students are just as good as those other schools, and I think it is going to motivate underclassmen to maybe go into chemical engineering at YSU and maybe motivate them to join this team," he said.

From here, the team will prepare the car for the national competition, which will follow the same rules as the regional competition.

"We are actually allowed to change any part of the car that we would like to, which is kind of a benefit because that gives us plenty of time to fix any errors or tweak anything just to make it a little bit more predictable. But I think a lot of time is going to be spent with the circuit board, altering that and making it a little bit more smooth and controlled. And, also, trials upon trials of work using the homemade batteries and the iodine clocks," Lincoln said.

The team was able to raise approximately \$3,000 for this competition, through sponsorship by Vollourec, Delphi and the YSU Student Government Association. The car was 3-D printed by the Center for Innovation in Additive Manufacturing.

Lincoln said the team must worry about raising funds for nationals — which will be three times the cost of the regional competition according to Martin. In addition, Lincoln said the team will have to find at least three new members for the team.

"It is actually going to be a little bit difficult because six out of the eight members on the team are graduating and the way that the competition works is that if you are not currently a student, then you are not allowed to compete on the team. Certainly we have two students who know the car very well who are left to compete, which means we have to do a lot of recruiting and training for a bunch of new students to complete the team," she said. "There is a minimum of five members that have to go, so that is going to be a struggle trying to get a bunch of new people in there to understand the car as well as the current people do right now."

Members of the YSU team that competed at Illinois include Lincoln, Nicole Abate, Diana Konik, Christopher Rudzinskas, White, Michael Maravola, Bridger Kowalczyk, Samuel Faykus and Josh Bilger. Michael Crescimanno, professor of physics and astronomy, and Tim Styranec, environmental specialist in the Office of Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety, also assisted the team.

**Congratulations to All Youngstown State University Students And Faculty Invited To Join Chapter 143 of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi**



THE HONOR SOCIETY OF  
**PHI KAPPA PHI**

**Avalon**  
DOWNTOWN

Handcrafted Pizza

Homemade Daily Soups

Salads

Grilled Sandwiches

Pasta

Homemade Desserts

Full Service Bar

Student discount to all YSU students with proper I.D!

Hours of operation

Mon-Thurs: 11:00-9:00 PM

Fri.-Sat: 11:00-12:00 AM, walkup window open until 3:00 AM

Sunday: 12:00-7:00 PM

17 W. Federal Street, Youngstown Ohio 44503

330-740-0000

www.avalondowntown.com

Check us out on Facebook and Twitter!



learn improv techniques from an experienced performer!

improv 101 workshop: presented by  
john poole and stacy alan

saturday 3.21.15

9:30am - 3:30pm

@st. john's episcopal church

lunch is provided, \$15 donation appreciated  
RSVP on our facebook page: @stjohnohio  
or email: [stjohnohio@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnohio@gmail.com)

Switch to Sprint for the Best value in wireless



Up to 5 lines for \$81/mo.

on the Sprint Family Share Pack with Unlimited text and 12GB shared data all while on the Sprint network. Price after waived access charges and SDP discount of % is applied on \$90 monthly data charge.



Waived activation fees for students for new lines of service up to \$36 value.

10% discount for students of YSU

Applies to select regularly priced Sprint mo. data service

Student discount code: GMCT3\_YSU\_ZST

FOR SALES call Sprint 330-965-3700

430 Boardman Poland Rd. Youngstown, OH

Don't delay! Limited time offer.

Activ. Fee: \$36/line. Credit approval req. Sprint Family Share Pack: Offer ends 5/14/15. No discounts apply to access charges. Includes unlimited domestic Long Distance calling and texting. Data allowance as specified. Restrictions apply. See store or sprint.com for details. ©2015 Sprint. All rights reserved.

# THE JAMBAR COM

Don't wait until it is too late...Walk in and take control of your SUCCESS!



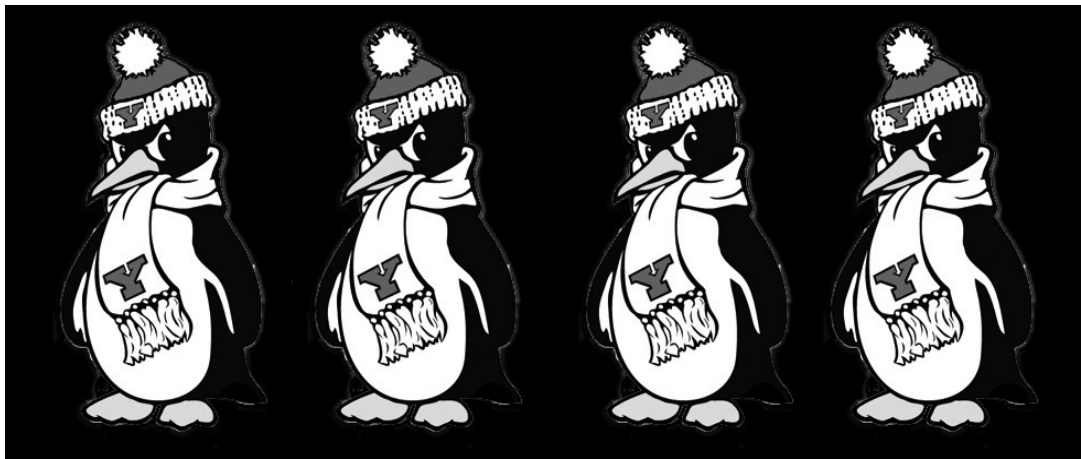
Hours:

Monday (8am to 7pm)

Tuesday—Friday (8am to 5pm)

Location:

Near the steps outside of Dunkin Donuts



# \$99 DEPOSIT

THRU 4/15/15 + 1ST 25 LEASES SIGNED LOCK IN THIS YEAR'S RATE!



Now through 4/15/15, pay just a \$99 deposit at University Courtyard! Plus, the first 25 leases signed lock in this year's rate! University Courtyard Apartments provides a student-focused lifestyle, with amenities and conveniences designed to help you make the most of the college experience. Call or visit us today to reserve your space at University Courtyard - where you fit in '15!

FIT IN '15!

UNIVERSITY COURTYARD



UCYOUNGSTOWN.COM 91 WICK OVAL | YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44502 888.239.9375

Youngstown STATE UNIVERSITY

# STRAUSS' DIE FLEDERMAUS

March 20 & 21 at 7:30 p.m. & March 22 at 2:00 p.m. Ford Theater in Bliss Hall | 330-941-3105 | ysu.tix.com



ing and are continuing to push this year. Basically, it's just a combination of policy recommendations for the university administration that we think would help YSU students graduate in four years and also help with graduation and retention rates," Schriener-Briggs said.

Orr said that increased dialogue is just another one of the goals for the administration that she and Schriener-Briggs would enact if elected. "We would really like to increase our dialogue with specific groups of students and just making sure that all students are represented," Orr said.

Chretien explained the three themes for his and Andrew's campaign: accountability, capacity and engagement.

"Our three main themes that we recognize, when we started meeting with people just our friends, talking about getting things going, I made them write down 'What are the three things you would like to improve about Student Government?' They all provided input. We came up with accountability, capacity and engagement. All of those three things, we've recognized deficiencies and we are going to improve them next year," Chretien said.

Chretien explained what their platform would bring to benefit the student body at YSU.

"Accountability — we want to make sure that the work getting done weekly is worth it for the students of Youngstown State University. We want to make sure that work is getting done efficiently. Capacity — we want to make sure Student Government is leveraging its full capacity to the student body at YSU. And engagement — we want to engage the student body, the community of Youngstown through Student Government," Chretien said.

Andrews added that she and Chretien would reach out to all students on campus and not just those involved in campus activities.

"We also want to make sure that we have a presence on campus for students who aren't necessarily involved in student organizations, or maybe they don't have a bunch of mutual friends on Facebook with students who are involved, and so we have a couple of things that are in the idea stage still. Just to be on campus, and get attention of students, maybe commuter students, and things like that," Andrews said.

The slogan of their team is "Elevate Student Government," and Chretien said that social media has played an important role in their campaign.

"The big thing that we have done is social media. That has been our basis so far since we haven't had much time to actually plan face-to-face meetings. With that, we have gotten close to 275 followers with our likes on Facebook. People have been very receptive via social media. We got to get our boots on the ground, and that is the most important part — meeting with the student organizations," Chretien said.

Chretien said that he is prepared for the election.

"I recognize that there are a lot of great things going on in the city. There's momentum downtown, at the university, within student organizations on campus, and I feel that this ticket would bring it to the Student Government Association," Chretien said. "We are prepared and we're ready to go."

Andrews added that social media has also given the two a support network.

"We have a great support network behind us, just with our Facebook it is showing. We have so many people behind us and supporting our efforts," Andrews said.

Orr expressed her excitement for the upcoming election.

"I think that voter turnout is really important and it is something that SGA has been moving toward with our bringing out the voting platform online," Orr said. "While it's great to have a digital platform for voting, I still really value the human connection and just going out and speaking to the students, talking to student organizations during their meetings and then just one-on-one conversations."

## Sigma Alpha Epsilon to Create Confidential Hotline for Racist Incidents

MATT PEARCE

Los Angeles Times (TNS)

The national leaders of the embattled Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity plan to create a confidential hotline for reporting racist incidents such as the chant that thrust the group's University of Oklahoma chapter into the spotlight, fraternity officials said Wednesday.

The hotline was part of a package of new diversity initiatives announced in Chicago by SAE executive director Blaine Ayers, who oversees 15,000 undergraduate fraternity members, only 3 percent of whom are black.

"Now we must begin a task of seeking forgiveness and taking steps to ensure that this never happens again," Ayers said Wednesday at a televised news conference.

Two weeks ago, University of Oklahoma officials almost immediately threw out that campus' 163-member SAE chapter after video emerged of fraternity members singing a racist chant on a bus. SAE national leaders suspended the chapter pending an internal review.

University officials, responding swiftly to national outrage, expelled two men they identified as leaders of the chant, despite skepticism from legal experts who thought the chant was protected

by the 1st Amendment. The chapter has since retained Stephen Jones, the high-powered attorney who once represented Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh.

On Wednesday, the fraternity's national leadership described the chant as an isolated and unsanctioned incident, but also said they are investigating reports of similar incidents at other chapters and launching a new set of diversity initiatives.

"How can you know? How can you call it an isolated incident?" one reporter asked Ayers. "That's what the investigation is for," the executive director replied.

Ayers said the fraternity's executive leadership was planning to add "a director of diversity and inclusion," the first such position created by any major fraternity or sorority.

All SAE members and staff will be required to take diversity training to be rolled out at chapters next week, Ayers said, and national leaders plan to create a "national advisory committee on diversity and inclusion" made up of undergraduates, alumni and outside experts to address diversity issues.

The new confidential hotline for reporting racist incidents would be similar to a hazing hotline that the fraternity created a decade ago, Ayers said.

"We will investigate every call," Ayers said, adding that if any discrimination is found, "We will be swift in our response."

## JAMBAR STAFF

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:

Liam Bouquet 330941.1991

## MANAGING EDITOR:

Frank George 330941.1807

## COPY EDITOR:

Jordan McNeil 330941.3758

## NEWS EDITOR:

Graig Graziosi 330941.1989

## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR:

Gabby Fellows 330941.1913

## ASSISTANT NEWS EDITORS:

Alyssa Pawluk 330941.1989

Justin Wier 330941.1989

## WEB MANAGER:

Gabby Fellows 330941.1807

## DESIGN EDITOR:

Stacy Rubinic 330941.1807

## ASSISTANT DESIGNERS:

Scott Brindiar 330941.1807

Gwen Gadsden 330941.1807

## SALES MANAGER:

Anthony DiPiero 330941.1990

## COLUMNIST:

Amanda Tonoli 330941.1913

## ASSISTANT COPY EDITORS:

Sara Pompeo 330941.1913

Amber Palmer 330941.1913

Liz Howell 330941.1913

## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT REPORTERS:

William Ludt 330941.1913

Alexis Rufener 330941.1913

## MULTIMEDIA REPORTERS:

Alan Rodges 330941.1913

Steve Wilaj 330941.1913

## SPORTS REPORTERS:

Daniel Hiner 330941.1913

Andrew Zuhosky 330941.1913

Jeffery Brown 330941.1913

## GENERAL ASSIGNMENT REPORTERS:

Spencer Curcillo 330941.1913

Ashley Smith 330941.1913

Lauren Foote 330941.1913

Caitlin Sheridan 330941.1913

## BUSINESS MANAGER:

Megan Shargo 330941.3094

## ADVISER:

MaryBeth Earnhardt 330941.3095

.....

## EMAIL thejambar@gmail.com

FAX 330941.2322

## CLASSIFIEDS

## OTHER

## Need Birth Control, Plan B, Pap Smear, STD Test, Pregnant?

Dr. Hill, 1350 Fifth Ave., near YSU campus, all insurances, walk-ins. 330-746-7007, askthedoctor@ai-health.com, answered confidentially.

## HOUSING

## IT TAKES TWO!

Licensed and Inspected two-bedroom apartment includes all utilities, appliances, and laundry. Plus ADT, cable, dual broadband Internet. \$455 each. Call Chris 330-743-7368.

## CHECK MY PACKAGE!

CT Rentals has nice, city licensed, all inclusive houses and apartments. Now leasing for August tenancy. Our package includes: All appliances plus over 90 channels of cable T.V. broadband Internet with WiFi and ADT Security. All private bedrooms with individual leases and all utilities, maintenance and groundskeeping included from \$445.00 month per person. Call Chris 330-743-7368.

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Personal Assistant needed to organize and help. Basic computer skills needed, good with organization. Willing to pay \$250 per week. If interested, contact: tracyjeffer-son95299@outlook.com.

Summer job. Lawn Care Company looking for crewmembers. Send resume to lawncarejob14@yahoo.com

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Spaghetti Dinner and Bake Sale

Wick Lodge #481 F. &amp; A.M. is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner and Bake Sale on Thursday, March 26, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Masonic Temple in Youngstown, Ohio. All proceeds will benefit the Youngstown Scleroderma Support Group. Tickets are \$10, and \$5 for children under 12. Take out is available. Advanced tickets may be purchased from Gary Shane at (330) 719-4714 and Leni Schulz at (330) 654-2538.

## 2015 STEM Jobs Approved College

YSU's College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics has been designated a 2015 STEM Jobs Approved College. The list of schools is featured in the Winter 2015 issue of STEM Jobs magazine. The list measures how effectively schools align their programs to high demand, high paying STEM jobs and how well they assist students in achieving career aspirations in STEM fields. For more information visit <http://stemjobs.com/2015-stem-jobs-approved-colleges/>.

portunities arise," Marchionda said. "These things can change. I expect them to change, and it certainly won't offend us."

Wenger emphasized that unlike previous plans, this one is not tied to any specific time, person or organization.

"This plan doesn't have a date. It's not tied to an individual such as the mayor. It's these groups and individuals as stakeholders that should take ownership of this plan and find the initiatives where they best fit," Wenger said.

Marchionda said they didn't want to put a name on it because people come and go.

"This isn't going to council tomorrow, and this isn't being forced down anybody's throat either," Marchionda said. "I never planned on taking this entire document to council and saying, 'We need to adopt this.' I'm much more interest in seeing who wants to come together on a specific initiative and then take that to council."

Sharon Letson, executive director of Youngstown CityScape, stressed the need for continued involvement and collaboration.

"The plan is only as good as all of us. So that's really key for all of us to remember, that the implementation of this plan is up to us, and how it looks is up to us, so it's important that we all continue to be involved," Letson said.

Kidd highlighted the importance of reducing larger goals to smaller implementable components.

"A lot of the stuff in there are real, actionable items. These are things that are going to keep this group together," Kidd said. "Things that we can work on and month-to-month come back and report on, which is very important when it comes to planning because if things get too big-picture than you just kind of lose focus and these things often fall apart."

He said the diversity of individuals involved will also help because you don't have Eastgate or YSU telling people downtown what they need to do.

"The people that are part of this group and this initiative are a lot of the right people," Kidd said. "You have a lot of business owners, a mix of city officials and community organizations, residents of downtown, so you have the right mix."

Senior Emily Diorio of Canfield transferred home to YSU from Akron University to offset her cost.

"I transferred because I was \$11,000 in debt and I didn't want to push that number even further," Diorio said. "So, I moved home and paid off \$10,000 of my loans."

Diorio works at Victoria's Secret in the Southern Park Mall about 12 hours a week, and also as a student assistant in the Williamson College of Business Administration advising office on campus for about 14 hours a week.

On top of her workweek, Diorio took 18 credit hours during the fall semester and is currently taking 15 as a political science major.

"I do have a lot of school work, and some professors are flexible and understanding, but most of them are not," she said. "I try really hard to make sure work doesn't get in the way of my school work but sometimes its unavoidable. For example, I worked Black Friday and that's the biggest day in retail. It made me become really behind on all my assignments."

Diorio works to pay off her school loans, for books, gas to commute to school and work and her sorority.

Even when you add in the thousands of students who live on campus or nearby in

Youngstown, YSU students still outwork their peers across the state with about 65 percent of them working an average of 25 hours a week.

Dolores Sisco, a professor in the English department, believes that it is very helpful to the students to be a flexible professor.

"I know a lot of my students work jobs, and I also have some nontraditional students as well," Sisco said. "I give as much help as I can. I understand that my students have other classes and have to work full-time jobs. I expect it since we live in a working class area."

Before becoming a professor at YSU, Sisco taught at Michigan State University. With experience outside the area, she has seen the different work ethic between students.

"When I was teaching at MSU, a student of mine wanted to get out of class early because her father was sending a private jet to pick her up. You would never see that here. A lot of my students at MSU didn't have to work," Sisco said.

Sisco said YSU students are the hardest working students she has seen.

"I will always offer my help because I see how hardworking my students are," she said.

The Census figures show that students are working more hours today than in the 1990s and early 2000s. They have to because tuition has gone up along with the cost of gas, food and housing — most of their salaries have not kept up with the rate of inflation.

"This is a hard working blue collar town, that's why they work hard," Sisco said. "It's in their blood."

LIKE  
US ON  
FACEBOOK  
THE JAMBAR

## Attention YSU staff and instructors!

### Your Medical Mutual insurance covers massage therapy for you and your family.\*

\*Only if deemed medically necessary



Call our office for details and to set  
up your appointment.

**Gainan Chiropractic & Massotherapy**  
6960 Market Street  
Boardman, Ohio  
(330) 629-9476

## It's Not Too Late To Refinance Your Current Mortgage!

as low as **10 or 15 Year Term**  
**2.75% APR\***

On Campus call (330) 941-3204

Located in Tod Hall



**ASECU**  
ASSOCIATED SCHOOL  
EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION

Federally Insured By  
NCUA

**330-792-4000 • www.asecu.com**

\*APR - Annual Percentage Rate. Rates and terms are subject to change without notice. Rate shown is for qualified borrowers. Other rates and terms are available. Contact the credit union at 800-77-ASECU for complete details.



# Beefing Up Security Through the App Store

**GRAIG GRAZIOSI**  
grgraziosi@student.ysu.edu

Alongside Instagramming parking deck sunrises and sending hookup yaks, students may eventually be able to use a mobile app to summon campus police at the touch of a button.

Over spring break, Youngstown State University Chief of Police John Beshara and Student Government Association President Michael Slavens visited Cleveland State University to attend a demonstration of CSU's comprehensive mobile security app, Viking Shield.

The app — developed by 911 Cellular — streamlines CSU's security services, allowing students a direct line to campus police and emergency personnel.

Slavens said he believes student access to the app would not only provide a new layer of security for students,

but also peace of mind for their parents and families.

"It seems really great. It has all kinds of amazing features, everything from an anonymous police tip service to a shuttle tracker. ... I think it has the potential to further eliminate the safety concerns that people have [about YSU]," he said.

The app's other features are a mix of security and health services. Students who witness a crime or suspicious activity can take photos or record audio or video and send the information directly to the police. In the event of a student's bodily injury, the app can, with permission, store their relevant medical data for use by emergency personnel.

While the CSU app was the most recently examined by Beshara, the YSU police chief has been reviewing a variety of apps that may eventually serve the security needs of YSU students.

"[The YSU] needs to do our due-diligence in staying on top of emerging security technologies," Beshara said.

"Today, our security needs are taken care of with [YSU's mass alert system], but tomorrow our needs may change. We have to be ready to meet those needs, and knowing what kind of technology is out there to fill those roles is a necessity."

Most of the systems Beshara has tested would work alongside the Wireless Emergency Notification System — YSU's text alerts — rather than replacing the current system.

"Utilizing both services is what we call redundancy, and we don't see it as a bad thing," Beshara said. "We want systems in place to ensure we're never left without a way to contact students in an emergency."

CSU students using the Viking Shield app are given access to the app at orientation and encouraged to sign up their first week. Slavens was impressed by the app's apparent ability to lessen the stigma that CSU was a high crime campus, and believes it or similar apps could do the same for YSU.

"Personally, I'm on board and love it. This would be a great marketing boost and a way to change a stigma for little cost," Slavens said.

While the app may have found success at CSU, Beshara is taking careful consideration of current and potential technology options before committing YSU to any expensive contracts with app companies.

"We looked at several apps, some of which had costs that ranged from \$15,000 a year to \$75,000 a year ... obviously we need to be careful before we commit to a contract. ... In my opinion, CSU's system may work for us in the future, but it seems more meant for large campus populations, and as we're a commuter school, I don't know that it's practical here at YSU," Beshara said. "Just because our current system works doesn't mean we should stop looking. We have to be ready to meet the changing needs of our security situation."

# Report: Obama Administration Worse Than Ever on Freedom of Information Requests

**ARIT JOHN**  
Bloomberg News  
(TNS)

The Obama administration continued its less than stellar transparency record in 2014, breaking the previous year's record for denying and censoring requests under the Freedom of Information Act, according to a new analysis of the administration's FOIA data by the Associated Press.

The report comes in the midst of Sunshine Week, which raises awareness of open government issues like compliance with the Freedom of Informa-

tion Act. The White House has already faced some criticism this week for formalizing a rule from the Bush administration that exempts the White House's Office of Administration from FOIA requests.

According to the AP, the government "took longer to turn over files when it provided any, said more regularly that it couldn't find documents, and refused a record number of times to turn over files quickly that might be especially newsworthy." A third of the government's decisions to withhold documents violated the Freedom of Information Act, the news organization said.

This is the second report this week to shine a light on the government's transparency under

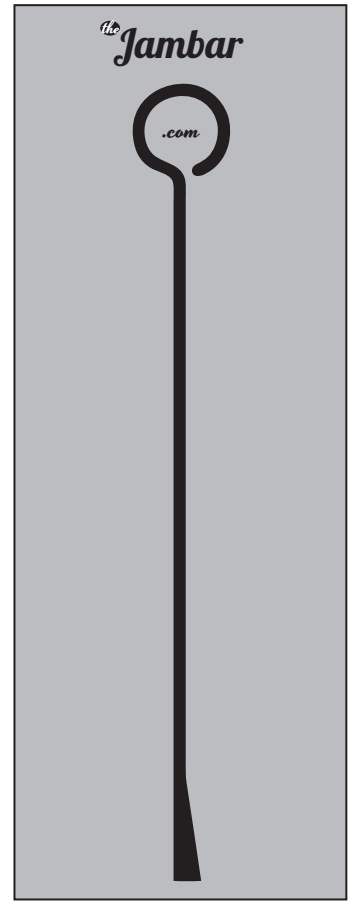
FOIA. A Tuesday report from the Center for Effective Government, an open government advocacy group, analyzed 15 major agencies and found that most received unsatisfactory marks when it comes to processing requests, maintaining its disclosure rules, and updating its FOIA websites.

The State Department, currently in the news over former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's exclusive use of a private e-mail account, scored significantly worse than any other agency. It only processed 23 percent of all requests and took, on average, 540 days to fill simple FOIA requests; the law dictates that it should take 20 days.

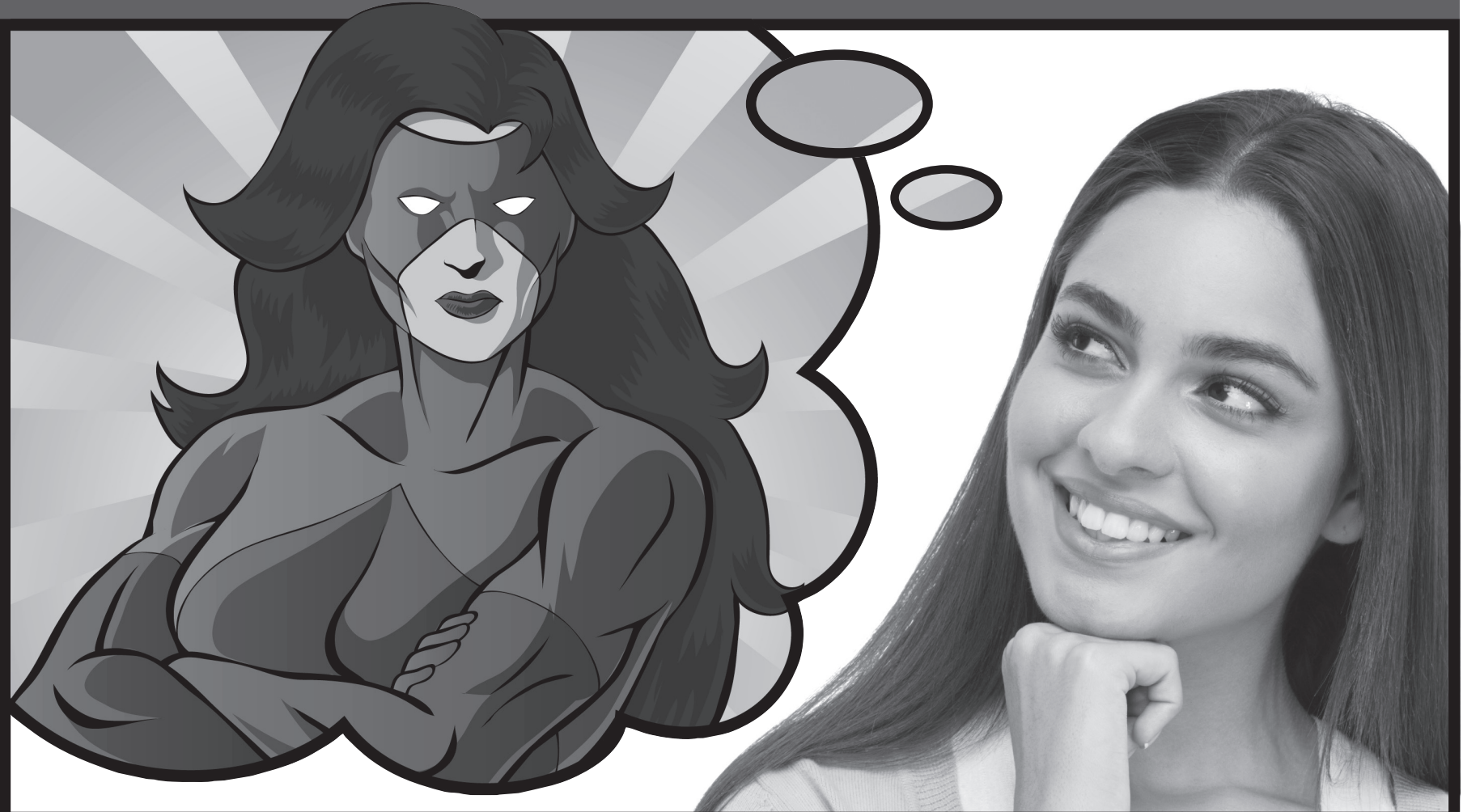
The Obama administration — often mocked for its promise

that it would be the most transparent administration in history — said that in 91 percent of cases the government released all or part of the documents requested. "We actually do have a lot to brag about when it comes to our responsiveness to Freedom of Information Act requests," White House press secretary Josh Earnest said.

But the AP said the 91 percent figure doesn't include instances where the document was lost, when the requester couldn't or wouldn't pay for copies, or when the document request was "determined to be improper under the law," and is lower than any other year Obama has been in office.



# SUPERHEROES WANTED



**Earn up to \$275 this month & \$80 this week!**



**Give and get back more!**

**Donate life saving plasma.**  
**You have the power to save lives!**  
Schedule an appointment at [biotestplasma.com](http://biotestplasma.com)

Youngstown • Biotest Plasma Center  
444 Martin Luther King Blvd • Youngstown, Ohio 44502  
(330) 743-1317



# Breaking the Barrier with Emmy-Winning Jen Ralston



PHOTO COURTESY OF DANIELLE LEONE

**BRIGITTE PETRAS**  
bmpetras@student.yosu.edu

There's a common expression saying that people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones, but does the same apply for throwing stones in order to break glass ceilings? The term "glass ceiling" is a political term that signifies the obstacle for women and other minorities to break through and rise to success despite certain boundaries that exist in society.

As the event title suggests — "Throwing Stones at the Glass Ceiling: An Evening with Jen

Ralston, Emmy-winning Sound Editor and Underground Filmmaker" — Jen Ralston will be communicating how she is breaking that glass barrier in the entertainment business.

Ralston, who lives in California, has worked on many films including "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and recently is working on the HBO TV series "Treme" in New Orleans. She received an Emmy in 2009 for sound editing.

Teresa Leone, an English professor at Youngstown State University, and Diana Palardy, director of women's studies, will be co-hosting the event March 19.

Ralston is having a lecture and discussion from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in McKay Auditorium inside Beeghly Hall specifically for the students and faculty of YSU. The public is welcomed later that night from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for another lecture and special screening of the winners from the Women's and Gender Studies Video Contest.

When Leone was aware that she was able to teach a screenwriting class this semester, she came up with the idea of having Ralston lecture to her class.

"I wanted my students to be able to talk directly to someone who has been working in the film industry, to

hear about their first hand experiences," Leone said.

Leone also gave a quick overview of the upcoming lecture.

"[Ralston] will share her experiences writing, directing and producing. She will also discuss gaining recognition and overcoming obstacles that surface within the entertainment industry," Leone said. "Because of her wide range of knowledge in so many areas of filmmaking, her talk would be of interest to film studies students, creative writing students, screenwriting students, theater students and anyone else in the community that is interested in diversity or the

film-making process."

When Leone first proposed the idea to Palardy, she was very enthusiastic.

"[Ralston] has worked on some very impressive films. I was surprised that we were able to have such an amazing opportunity just land in our laps like that," Palardy said. "This would be such a meaningful and engaging experience for our students that we just couldn't pass it up."

The event has many sponsors including the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, the English department, Women's and Gender Studies, YSUnity and Student Diversity.

## Raw Alternative

**GABRIELLE FELLOWS**  
gfellows@student.yosu.edu

Scanning through the radio stations available in Youngstown, the same songs are heard on repeat, every hour, like clockwork. Classic rock, Top 40 and a mix of bland '80s and '90s pop fill the radio waves. Magazines that line the shelves cover the latest news concerning Lady Gaga's new single and One Direction's latest love interests.

What about those people who don't want the run-of-the-mill music and music coverage? What do they consume? According to Rick Pollo, former Youngstown State University journalism student, whatever they please.

Pollo is the main man behind The Raw Alternative — a Rookery Radio show turned online magazine specializing in covering music, poetry and art that lends itself to the obscure.

The radio show began when Pollo discovered that there weren't any stations in the area that actively played rock or alternative rock music. From there, the show opened its doors to local artists and allowed them to share their original music with a larger crowd via frequency instead of an overpriced set at one of the few venues in the area that still hosted shows.

After graduation, Pollo decided to keep the idea of an alternative music scene alive in the form of an online-only publication, also called The Raw Alternative.

"I thought, well, let's just do this for fun," he said. "Let's write about cool music that we like, feature local acts that we thought were cool and extend it out to artists and poets that I think do phenomenal work, but otherwise don't have a place to show that off."

From there, the online magazine took off. Brandon Judeh, one of the main content provid-

ers for The Raw Alternative, said what started as a rock lover's muse became one that attracted the attention of a sea of people.

"People steer clear of the alternative music scene — people want to be rich, I get it, I want to make more money too. I love [The Raw Alternative] and I'm passionate about it, so I do it," Judeh said. "People like Rick and I latch onto stuff like this. And it's doing really good. In one week in July we had over 500,000 hits — for this little Youngstown, Ohio online publication! Anything non-mainstream is still viable. It might not be the most popular thing out there, but there are still a lot of fans."

The Raw Alternative writes articles on both local and national acts. The Gaslight Anthem, vocalist Mark Lanegan of the Screaming Trees and guitarist Brad Shultz of Cage the Elephant are only a few of the many big name artists that have spoken with some of the writers on the site.

Although the site is doing well with the crew already established, the publication is always looking for more people who wish to contribute to the counter-culture. While the site doesn't offer paid positions, Pollo said that anyone who has a passion for music, literature and art that is out of the ordinary should definitely be pursuing it, regardless if it is with The Raw Alternative.

"If you find your niche and find something you really love ... take advantage of it. ... Don't be afraid to go for it. This is something I do for fun, but I got to interview people I really respect because of it," Pollo said. "I encourage anybody who wants to do something they love to follow their dreams. ... You'll find time for it if it's something you want to do."

The Raw Alternative can be contacted through their website, RawAlternative.com, or by their Facebook page of the same name.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRANDON JUDEH

## EDITORIAL

# The Nittany Lions Aren't the Only Predators on Penn State's Campus

While discussing the recent metaphorical train wreck at Penn State University, one of the members of our editorial board brought up a literal wreck he once experienced.

On Wick Avenue years ago, a car spun out, toppled over and crashed into the guardrail. He said that he rode in the passenger seat with his sister, and he asked if they should stop; she said no seeing as a few other people had parked along the side. He sat silently, agreeing, as they drove off, and the crash disappeared into the rear view mirror.

He admitted that his complacency, more than the crash itself, stayed with him even after they discovered that the victim had walked away unmolested.

This, as many first-year psychology majors and crime drama aficionados know, is commonly referred to as the bystander effect. In layman's terms, the bystander effect refers to the propensity of individuals to ignore people in danger, specifically in crowds or groups. Though he was not actually in the crowd, he was impacted by the presence of others crowding around the car.

Now back to our other wreck. A police investigation revealed Tuesday that members of the Penn State Kappa Delta Rho fraternity had taken photos of naked, uncon-

scious women and had been posting them on the group's Facebook page for the better part of a year. And, as you may have guessed, this was not consensual.

Of course, the salient point that this is an egregious breach of everything good and proper is likely going to be accepted by everyone but serial killers. This doesn't make it less disgusting of course, but the devil is found both in the headline and in the details. You see, the page they posted these photos on included 144 members. One person went to the police.

Don't you love people? Though this group was made for the intent of showing these nude photos, we know at least one person was against it. While the majority of it revealed in it, there must have been an in-between — members of the group who were invited and either left or ignored the page.

These, in addition to the individual who took apparently took eight months to report this, are the few we want to talk about because they represent the larger problem of disassociation among social media users.

This group of careless Facebook users may actually have something in common with our editorial board member — both ignoring others' distress. He, however, made a choice in the moment and regretted it later. The

key phrase here is "in the moment."

Those commonly subjected to the bystander effect are often making decisions out of a fear that their involvement will place them in a dangerous, vulnerable situation. They would far rather let a figure they see as an authority act. They would far rather let someone else in the group deal with it.

Sometimes someone else acts and sometimes they don't — sometimes people die. But it is all in the moment, and the human mind cannot always be seen as a rational actor; we are all well aware that instinct runs the game in moments of high stress.

You know what isn't a high stress situation? Watching, or being aware of, naked photos of obviously non-consenting girls being posted again and again on a Facebook page and doing nothing.

This is, of course, the same foible in the human mind that causes the bystander effect, even if it is a distinct phenomenon — the desire to maintain the status quo of our lives and the game of responsibility hot potato.

Unlike the common understanding of the bystander effect, however, the individuals' choice was not a knee-jerk reaction, and, even if they made their best aghast face when the newest nudes

were thrown up, they made the conscious and deliberated choice to ignore it.

This, however, isn't only about a condemnation — it is about identifying a trend that is born from our understanding of the bystander effect.

In this so-called information age, we have miraculously created technology that at once makes users actors and observers — controversies become both immediate and distant. We are more connected than ever before and, as a result, we can play a role, however large or small, in an eclectic batch of situations. But there is still a disconnect between who we are and who we are online — a sort of ad hoc persona that lives and dies when we log on and off our computers.

If you put someone in front of a robbery, there is a good chance they will do nothing especially if in a group; if you force them to stand there alone and watch as the victim bleeds out, they are far more likely to act. This is because in the beginning moments, they are able to disassociate themselves; they are able to identify themselves as bystanders, passive observers and not actors, and this gives them the moments they need to flee before reality sets in and the magic of the crowd fades. If you force them to remain alone, however, that aforementioned reality will not leave them

unaffected.

Online, they do not need time or crowds as their protection. Their profile is a consciously, meticulously crafted totem of themselves, but it is not truly them — those pixels that create a picture and those Facebook statuses do not conflate to form them. This online personality exists in a pseudo-reality, and this online world is why this whole issue was not regulated to a scrapbook tucked into a frat house — spreading to at least 144 people and likely beyond.

This wall in between the user and the web serves to perpetually assure the illusion of the bystander. Online they get the benefit of disassociation in perpetuity. But this world is no illusion; it is as real as the street corners where people walk by injured strangers.

This is in no way an excuse, but there is little we can say to convince the kids directly involved in abuses such as this that they are disgusting. We can, however, speak to the people who are aware but not participating.

We hope in identifying and understanding why we make the decisions we do, in understanding why we will passively observe harassment or sexual violations, we can overcome our nature — we can become more than simply human.



## JAMBAR POLICY

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

## OUR SIDE POLICY

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

## YOUR SIDE POLICY

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

# Mind Matters: Mental Health's Stigma

GABRIELLE FELLOWS  
gfellows@student.ysu.edu

It's finals week, your boyfriend just broke up with you, your car just broke down and you accidentally wasted your one Masterball on a measly Pidgeotto. You're probably feeling like you can't recover from this devastating week, like you've lost all motivation.

Now imagine feeling hopeless, guilty and irritable all the time.

For many college students, the symptoms listed above sound incredibly familiar. In 2011, the American College Health Association-National College Health Assessment took a nationwide survey of college students at two- and four-year institutions and found that around 30 percent of college students report feeling "so depressed that it was difficult to function."

During college, many students are stressed, overworked, underfed, running on little to no sleep and are operating with strict limitations on their hard-earned dollars. How can one tell the difference between just being an average student with stresses and having clinical depression? Sadly, these two do get confused often, and many college-age students are operating on a day-to-day basis without the medical assistance their bodies need to function correctly.

The following are red flags for depression: loss

of interest in activities one used to enjoy; lack of energy; problems concentrating, remembering information or making decisions; problems falling asleep, staying asleep or sleeping too much; drastic change in appetite; persisting aches, pains, headaches, cramps or digestive problems.

While college — with its strenuous schedule and rigid expectations — may cause a lot of these symptoms, clinical depression is not something to take lightly. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, many students who feel as if they might be depressed don't seek out help because they think their symptoms are just part of the typical college experience or they worry about being judged if they seek mental health care.

These facts are sickening and alarming. But what is perhaps more bothersome is that so few people care about the state of our society's mental health.

Is anyone aware that there are counseling services available through the university? How about that mental health is something that is covered under a basic federally provided healthcare plan?

Physical health is something that we as a culture glorify. How many magazines have glaring headlines showing off how one can lose 20 pounds by following a simple regimen? There are tons of success stories when it comes to physical health and overcoming bodily issues.

It's a shame the same doesn't go for mental health. The public will glorify the contestants of The Biggest Loser for losing all the weight they acquired, but will ridicule the celebrity that was diagnosed with depression and an eating disorder.

The fact is, I've lost many friends to mental illness. I can't say I've lost a single one due to any physical issue. Mental illness is something that we shove into a corner and ignore, claiming that "things get better" without help and with just thinking "more positively." I have a thyroid problem that makes it difficult for me to stomach certain foods, makes me nauseous at least half of the time and blurs my vision under certain circumstances. If someone told me that I should "just get over it" or that it "was just a phase," I would definitely fly off my rocker.

Something wrong with your body? Let's fix it with medicine!

Something wrong with your brain? Get over it!

Something is wrong with society, and we need to fix it. We need to better broadcast the mental health services that are available to those who may think they need them. We need to better empathize with those who are suffering from stress disorders, depression and other mental ailments.

We need to eliminate the negative stigma attached to mental disorders and begin to move forward as a culture with progressive health care.

# Women's Basketball Prepares for WNIT

**DAN HINER**

dghiner@student.yzu.edu

With the regular season over, the Youngstown State University women's basketball team is ready for the post season.

YSU has been invited to participate at the 2015 Women's National Invitational Tournament. The Penguins will play Duquesne University in their first round matchup on March 19.

"It's very important. It's making us better. It's getting us used to this," guard Indiya Benjamin said. "It's giving us more experience to see what it's like to get into the NIT or the NCAA or any other tournament other than the regular season."

The Penguins made it to the second round of the NIT back in 2013 before being eliminated. That season forward Heidi Schlegel was injured and missed most of the team's first round game but came back for the Penguins' final game.

"I think it's an honor to be in the NIT honestly — it's a really respectable tournament," Schlegel said. "I think that it's really good that we made it this far. Some of my best memories are from the WNIT two years ago when I did get to play. I came back the

first game and played the second game. I think it is really good, especially for the freshman to get them experience."

The Dukes have a combination of size and athleticism that might give the Penguins' undersized roster trouble. Head coach John Barnes said the team would have to focus on its fundamentals to counter Duquesne's size.

"They're definitely long and athletic, but we shoot the three very well," Barnes said. "So hopefully that stretches out their defense. I think they are very aggressive at shot blocking and trying to get up on their post players, but you make good

whoever else on the outside to knock down shots to bring the taller people out more to guard us more," Benjamin said. "When we're driving and attacking, obviously they like to block shots so they will be drawn to us — we could dump it down to the post players to get them some open looks."

The Penguins will have a quick turnaround. YSU isn't concerned with the schedule and the players don't view the tournament different than their Horizon League schedule.

"I don't think there is a concern about that either. I think this is how our preseason was — we didn't know the teams. Conference was a little bit

different because we know the teams and we played against the teams in years past, but I think our preseason prepared us for these games," Schlegel said. "We've played all season — we know what we do well and we know what we don't do so well. So we need to focus on what we're doing during the tournament games."

Barnes said having Schlegel play in the NIT is a great opportunity for the senior and the program.

"She's been very healthy this year," Barnes said. "She's

had a great senior year and she's ready for Thursday night. She's worked her whole career for these types of opportunities. To be able to play at home in front of a great crowd is very exciting for the whole team and the whole program — so we are looking forward to it."

## WNIT 1<sup>ST</sup> Round Breakdown

	DUQUESNE	YSU
<b>Record</b>	<b>21-10</b>	<b>21-10</b>
<b>PPG</b>	<b>70.6</b>	<b>69.4</b>
<b>FG%</b>	<b>40.5%</b>	<b>41.9%</b>
<b>3-PT%</b>	<b>35.2%</b>	<b>34.6%</b>
<b>PT's Allowed</b>	<b>63.3</b>	<b>62.7</b>

GRAPHIC BY STACY RUBINIC/THE JAMBAR

strong moves and sometimes that negotiates that length and height."

The Penguins were successful shooting threes during the regular season — 34.6 percent. YSU will try to maintain that success in the NIT.

"It's very important for me, Nikki [Arbanas] and

# Men's Golf Tees Off Spring Season

**WILL CLARK**

clark2381@gmail.com

The Youngstown State University men's golf team will be teeing off its spring season with a competitive schedule ahead of them.

Collegiate golf is separated into two separate seasons: fall and spring. With the team coming back from a tournament last week at the University of Georgia located in Athens, head coach Tony Joy said he feels that his team is ready to play.

"The kids played pretty well. It was a 36-hole event and we finished up fifth out of the 14 teams that played in the tournament," Joy said. "It was right around the area I thought we would finish up in the tournament — we played some of the top schools in the nation."

YSU entered the second round in seventh place after shooting 302 in the opening round of the tournament. The Penguins then rebounded in the second round to shoot 298.

The Penguins have four remaining tournaments left throughout the season — taking place in Williamsburg, Virginia for the Middleburg Bank Intercollegiate; the Wright State International in Dayton, Ohio; Hoosier Invitational in Bloomington, Indiana; and the Penn State Rutherford Intercollegiate in State College, Pennsylvania.

The Penguins will be seeing a lot of Horizon League opponents —

Wright State University, Cleveland State University, Oakland University and Valparaiso University — in many of the tournaments. Joy said the Horizon League would be competitive this spring.

"The conference is very competitive this year. There is no team that is really above each other — out of all the teams we are ranked at the top," Joy said. "It'll make for a very competitive conference final."

In the previous season, the Penguins finished up 40-17 and third in the conference championship, and got off to the best start in program history. During the fall, the golf team finished first in the Whistling Straits Intercollegiate and the Joe Feagan Marshall Invitational back in September.

There are returning golfers that have experience and great knowledge of the courses. Senior Bryan Yeo led the team in scoring and made All-Horizon League last season. Working alongside with junior golfers Bill Gaffney, Brandon Pluchinsky and D.J. Holub — who are All-Horizon League Tournament players — these golfers should provide a great deal of support to take the Penguins to the next step.

After being on the road all season, the YSU men's golf team will finish at the Horizon League Championship in Orlando, Florida, with many of the golfers familiar with the course.

"Having players that come back always helps throughout the season — a lot of the courses we've played at are places we visited before," Joy said. "The Horizon League Championship course is somewhere we have played for the past three years and are very familiar with."



PHOTO COURTESY OF YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

The Youngstown State University men's golf team finished fifth in the Strong Southern Intercollegiate Tournament on March 16. The Penguins next tournament will take place at the Middleburg Intercollegiate on March 22.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Softball Prepares for Conference Play

The Youngstown State University softball team has its opening day scheduled for March 20. The opening day will also mark the beginning of Horizon League play for the Penguins. YSU (7-12) will host the University of Detroit Mercy (1-6) at the YSU Softball Complex. First pitch is scheduled for 3 p.m.

### Merling Named Golfer of the Week

Senior golfer Aislynn Merling has been named one of the Horizon League Golfers of the Week. She shot a two-day total of 156 during the Penguins' win at the Bulldog Florida Invitational. Merling finished second overall in the individual standings.

### Men's Tennis Play Dayton

The Youngstown State University men's tennis team will play the University of Dayton on March 21. The Penguins lost their last two matches against Gonzaga University and the University of California Irvine. Matches are scheduled to start at 1 p.m. in Dayton.

### Baseball Scores Win

The Youngstown State University baseball team defeated Bowling Green University 6-2. After falling behind 1-0, the Penguins scored five unanswered runs and took a 5-1 lead in the seventh. The Penguins escaped a bases loaded situation in the seventh inning — allowing only one run. Centerfielder Frank Califano led YSU — going 3-5 and driving in three runs.