



CLASS Dean Candidates Visit Campus



From left to right: Kristine Blair, Pamela Scott-Johnson and Vandana Kohli.

PHOTOS BY DAN HINER, GABBY FELLOWS, AND ALYSSA PAWLUK/THE JAMBAR.

JUSTIN WIER

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Last week, three candidates for the job of dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences visited Youngstown State University engaging with students, faculty and the administration.

The candidates are Kristine Blair, a professor of English at Bowling Green State University who served as the department's chair for nine years, Pamela Scott-Johnson, acting dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Morgan State University, and Vandana Kohli, associate dean of graduate and undergraduate studies at California State University, Bakersfield.

Blair told attendees of an open forum on Monday she would spend the first three months engaging in active listening, meeting with students, faculty and staff and then

evaluate the way departments in the college align with the strategic goals at the university level.

She said she would pursue external fundraising and grants to contend with budget constraints, and advocate for community engagement and service learning opportunities.

"I'm a person who likes to be involved," Blair said.

When asked about a proposed first-year experience course, she said it is a valuable tool to increase retention, but they are expensive and need to be properly funded.

"The dean's advocacy role is really crucial to argue for those types of resources to make the initiative a success," Blair said.

Blair said the dean of CLASS needs to help people understand what the liberal arts has to contribute in terms of fostering critically literate citizens who can communicate and speak ethically. She said she will also be concentrated on making sure students can

find work following graduation.

"In the end, we are fostering a liberal arts education, but that liberal arts education has to have an endgame, and that endgame is full-time employment for our students at both the undergraduate and graduate level," Blair said.

Blair said she will focus on implementing policies that help the College meet its goals and further the University's mission.

"I think policy is the roadmap to governance, so I think policy gives us a way to establish that type of collaborative commitment and shared vision," Blair said.

Scott-Johnson visited campus on Wednesday and said she was drawn to YSU by the university's strategic plan.

"Not only is it dynamic, but the mission and the vision of the institution as written in that plan is very strong," Scott-Johnson said. "Your commitment to the community and

your commitment to the types of students that come to your institution, is really what made me say, 'I think I could make a difference here.'"

She said it is critical to increase the University's graduation rate, retain quality faculty and build and strengthen the college.

"If you don't have good relationships in an environment, and people operate as individual islands, it doesn't work as well," Scott-Johnson said. "You spend a lot more energy because you're working as groups of one as opposed to a unit of one."

Scott-Johnson said her management style involves collaboration and communication.

"It really is about team-building. It really is about coaching," she said. "I'm one to lead and guide us because as a coach I have accountability."

Scott-Johnson said CLASS can help other colleges in the University build a founda-

tion for critical thinking. She said they can create a bridge between humanities and the professions to offer a cultural context and philosophical framework.

"Part of that is understanding what we can contribute [to other fields], and being more specific than global," Scott-Johnson said. "It really comes down to establishing who we are, showcasing who we are, sharing who we are and building partnerships internally and externally."

Kohli was at the University on Thursday and said she was drawn here by some of the difficulties the University faces.

"I like challenging work environments," Kohli said. "I think it's very easy to go into an environment where everything works and you just sort of sit there and hold fort, but that's not what turns me on."

Kohli said the dean needs to communicate the value of the

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TEDx Speaker Series Jennifer Gonda

SAMANTHA PHILLIPS

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Jennifer Gonda strongly believes that education is a right, not a privilege, and has dedicated her life to helping students with learning disabilities.

She co-founded Supported and Facilitated Environments, a non-profit that gives individuals with disabilities the resources they will need to be successful and independent. The organization teams up with Mahoning Valley Circle of Friends to take these individuals on group outings to build social skills, create friendships and simply have fun.

Gonda said the main objective is to provide the same opportunities for individuals with learning disabilities that anybody else has.

She recruited high school students from Cardinal Mooney High School, where she coaches the debate club, to volunteer at her non-profit. She said she realized that students with disabilities miss out on activities that neurotypical students are involved in.

"One of the questions that I

always ask is, 'raise your hand if you have ever had a kid with Down syndrome on your soccer team or a girl with autism in your dance class,'" Gonda said. "It's very rare that those things happen. And those opportunities should be extended to everyone. Everyone deserves that right."

She said schools exclude individuals with disabilities, which creates a lack of diversity in the student population. Some of the high school students she worked with had never met a student with a disability like autism and were curious to learn more about them. Students said they were inspired to become special education teachers because of their experiences.

Years before she started working in Youngstown, Gonda received her undergraduate degree in education policy while attending New York State University. She got a teaching job at a Brooklyn school where she created a "community organizing" club.

"The apex of this project over the semester [was] redesigning a playground and cafeteria for a school that was

being built three blocks away," Gonda said. "It got the attention of the developer of the new school and they really wanted to get to know the kids' ideas. So from there it just became [making sure] every kid reaches their potential."

While living in New York, she also had the opportunity to do research on the Black Panther Party. Many records were sealed for a certain period of time after they were donated, and Gonda was the first to read and do research on them. This research won her a grant to continue studying archives in San Francisco and Oakland.

"I was really interested in the civil rights movement and how education was a part of the movement," Gonda said.

She looked at the initiative started by the Black Panther Party to feed children free breakfast and lunch, a beneficial community project that Gonda said is often overlooked by the party initiative to arm African Americans and their habit of showing up in courthouses wearing leather and carrying guns.

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Transfer U: YSU Player Transfers Tell Their Story



Youngstown State University safety LeRoy Alexander comes up to make a tackle on a South Dakota State University running back. Alexander finished with eight tackles including a tackle for a loss.

DAN HINER

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Over the years the YSU football program has developed into a safe haven for student-athletes transferring from other universities. The Jambar tells a two-part story detailing head coach Bo Pelini's philosophy on student-athlete transfers, and highlights three transfers from this past off-season who are making an immediate impact in their first season and their journey to YSU.

This is part one.

The Youngstown State University football team has always had a reputation for being a place where players and coaches can find second chances — highlighted by the addition of YSU head coach Bo Pelini in January.

Since Pelini has arrived at YSU, the football team has seen several players from other universities find new homes in Youngstown. Players from powerhouse programs such as Michigan State University, the

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Nichols Discusses Emotion and Morality

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Shaun Nichols, a professor at the University of Arizona, presented a lecture on "Morality and Emotional Brain" in Kilcawley Center's Chestnut Room on Thursday as part of the Shipka Speaker Series.

Nichols' research looks at how our minds generate moral judgment and process morality. He discussed David Hume's idea that morality is connected to emotions and Samuel Clarke's idea that morality comes from rationality.

Clarke thought you had to be able to understand what is right and wrong to make moral judgments.

"It just takes a little bit of intelligence to realize that hurting innocent people is wrong. As long as you have that little bit of intelligence you will realize that," Nichols said.

Hume thought emotional reactions let us know when we were doing something wrong.

"If we had no feelings, we would not have the kind of moral interactions that we have as a matter of course. This is a prominent view in philosophy," Nichols said. "I am trying to make a case today that there is evidence in favor of the emotional based theory."

He spoke about research that looks at the distinction between moral violations and conventional violations.

"Justification in the case of why the moral thing is wrong is given in the terms of the

victim, the justification for why the conventional thing is wrong is because a rule was broken," Nichols said.

Research shows that the distinction between moral and conventional judgments can be seen in children as young as four, children with autism, criminals and people from different cultures.

Nichols recounted research conducted by James Blair that looks at whether psychopaths are able to make the distinction, noting a physiological difference between average people and psychopaths.

"They don't have the same feelings that we do," Nichols said. "We have these structures that sense sufferings in other people, and that's what generates the response."

Nichols said emotions don't

explain everything about moral judgment. Culture plays a role as well, but emotions play a key role.

"Emotions are the anchor. Hume is right. If you take away emotions, you get a psychopath — someone does not appreciate the same moral things that we appreciate," he said. "If we have had different emotions we would have a different kind of morality."

Deborah Mower, a philosophy professor who chairs the Shipka Speaker Series committee, said Nichols' work represents the best of modern philosophical research.

"He is a great lecturer to bring to Youngstown State University because he is so interdisciplinary," Mower said. "He appeals to every student and represents what YSU is

trying to accomplish. So many students are being narrowed into specific fields just to get a job, and philosophy is not thought of as important. Dr. Nichols is an example of how this is not true."

James Sartor, a mechanical engineering major, said it was an interesting lecture.

"It raised some questions on where morality comes from and how it comes out," Sartor said.

Nicholas Ruscitti, another engineering major, said the lecture challenged his worldview.

"I always felt the opposite of morality was rationality," Ruscitti said. "Now I agree that it could be emotion as well."



PHOTO BY LAUREN FOOTE

YSU Celebrates Coming Out Week

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YSUnity's Coming Out Week kicked off on Oct. 19 starting with the Coming Out closet door photo shoot in Kilcawley Center.

According to Tim Bortner, president of YSUnity, students participating in the Coming Out closet can do so to make any statement about themselves, regardless of their sexual orientation. Students are asked to walk through the door and support the LGBTQIA community.

"You don't have to come out as gay when walking through the door. [The Coming Out Closet] is in its fourth year, and we work with Bliss Hall and try to make it bigger and better every year," Bortner said.

The LGBT Parenting discussion is a new event added to Coming Out Week. People from each letter of the acronym "LGBT" that have families or children in the LGBT community are coming to campus to discuss their struggles and experiences of being LGBT families in Youngstown.

Get REAL, motivational speakers from Canada, will be talking about homophobia, bullying and harassment on Thursday at 5 p.m. in the Presidential Suite in Kilcawley.

"I met the group in Canada when I went to World Pride last summer, and they will

be coming to be a part of our Coming Out Week for free," Bortner said.

There was a suicide prevention speaker on Oct. 19, and there will be an asexual awareness discussion on Oct. 20 at 5 p.m. in the Jones Room in Kilcawley Center.

Brandon Gasper, YSUnity's secretary, believes Coming Out Week is an important event on campus because it provides an open platform for LGBTQIA topics to be discussed.

"When I came to YSU, Coming Out Week put me in touch with people who were very helpful as I was trying to understand my own sexual orientation," Gasper said. "It's important to give students a place on campus to get this information and meet people who may identify similarly to them."

Bortner stressed that YSUnity is the only LGBTQIA group on campus. Other campuses like Kent State University, Ohio University and The Ohio State University have at least two or three organizations. YSUnity relies on Cleveland Pride for its funding. Each year they sell pop and water with 10-12 other LGBTQIA groups. The money raised is split between all participating groups.

"Last year we made about \$13,000 to split between the groups, but this year, due to the event being cancelled and then rescheduled to a different date, we only raised about

\$4,000, which is not enough to help us out the entire year," Bortner said.

This year there will be an optional sit-down dinner held before the Diversity Prom on Friday, which will help raise money for the organization. Tickets will be available for purchase a week in advance. They are \$30 and include the prom ticket. Tickets for the prom alone are \$10 a piece.

The Diversity Dinner and Diversity Prom are open to the public regardless of sexual orientation.

"It's not just for LGBT community. This week is for the allies and straight community to educate and create awareness, so they are not scared of the LGBT community," Bortner said. "We hope to persuade them that we aren't bad people. We're normal people just like everyone else. We live the exact same boring lives that everyone else lives. Give us a chance and see we are normal people."

For Bortner, the spirit of coming out week is centered on letting oneself be vulnerable to others while being true to themselves.

"Coming out' isn't just about being gay," Bortner said. "It's about every person that you meet and that snap decision you have to make, whether or not you are going to go through that coming out process with them and to what extent. It's about safety, security and openness."

Hu Presents Finance Research

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Ou Hu, associate professor of economics at Youngstown State University, and Ding Du, associate professor of economics at Northern Arizona University, had a paper accepted by the "Journal of International Money and Finance" in August titled "The World Market Premium and U.S. Macroeconomic Announcements."

They presented this research at the Financial Management Association International this month.

Their research verified the international capital asset pricing model created by Bruno Solnik and Robert Grauer by studying market reaction on days U.S. macroeconomic announcements are released.

"The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics announces macroeconomic news the first Friday of every month," Hu said. "And will release news randomly throughout the year, as well."

The international capital asset pricing model applies the capital asset pricing model to world markets. The capital asset pricing model states that return on an investment should equal its cost, and the only way to earn higher returns is to take on more risk.

"Previous empirical studies failed to provide supportive evidence [to prove the international capital asset pricing model]," Hu said. "In our research, we found that looking at U.S. announcement days, and the U.S. being so important to the world's economics, that investors digest the monthly news, and it amplifies the relationship between the individual stocks and the market."

The duo looked at the releases of monthly unemployment

ment, inflation and interest rates of the U.S. and cross-examined them with the rates in 20 other countries.

Du said they were trying to determine whether or not the relationship was causal.

"In this case, we were looking at if the global economic conditions causally determine the risk premium in the global stock market," Du said. "To identify causality, we take an event study approach. Our paper made an important contribution because previous studies typically focus on predictability or association, which can be due to reverse causality."

Du said the Financial Management Association Conference is not uncharted territory for the pair.

"FMA is quite selective, but Ou and I managed to present at the conference many times," Du said. "This time, we have two papers accepted for presentation, of which one was nominated as a semi-finalist for the best paper in investment."

Du explained that Hu cross-listed over 50 million observations, monthly, for the U.S. alone.

"Ou knows SAS [analytic software] so well that he has great skills to manage large data sets," Du said. "Ou did all the data merges and formed the portfolios — rebalanced monthly — for our empirical tests. That was a lot of work required great data manipulation skills."

While this research examined empirical data, Hu said that in the future the duo will be looking at the psychological side of macroeconomics.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Papagna Family Trust Donates \$200,000 to Planetarium

William T. Papagna, a Youngstown native and Las Vegas businessman, designated funds from a family trust to benefit YSU's Ward Beecher Planetarium, and the purchase a memorial bench in support of the Campus Beautification Initiative. Family members came from across the country to celebrate the generous gift. The bench is located outside Ward Beecher Hall.

YSU Law Day Oct. 26

Sponsored by the Youngstown State University department of politics and international relations and the Rigelhaupt Pre-Law Center, Law Day is set for Oct. 26. The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Presidential Suites in Kilcawley Center. Students interested in studying law can network with representatives from numerous law schools throughout the region.

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TEDX FRONT

FRONT

"It's interesting that politicians take credit for [providing students with free meals] when in actuality over 100,000 kids in the country were getting free breakfast from the Black Panther Party. When the party fell, which was because of FBI counterintelligence, the government had to replace that," Gonda said. "I was curious about the timeline of how those things happened. That's part of our issue with how we teach history: we teach the winning side. We don't hear that side of history."

Although she had job offers coming from New York and New Orleans, Gonda decided to move back to Youngstown to be with her family and engage with the community she grew up in. She took additional training at Penn State University to become a board certified behavior analyst.

She was accepted to work for Teach For America, but she realized that it favored privileged people who could complete six weeks of unpaid training because they have financial support from their families. Although she doesn't like that aspect of it, she respects the program.

CLASS DEAN CANDIDATES FRONT

Kohli said the dean needs to communicate the value of the college to the community. She said a lot of high school students do not understand disciplines within CLASS because they're not taught.

"It isn't that difficult to market the disciplines within CLASS," Kohli said. "What may be difficult is overcoming the personality distribution that happens in higher education where we are not used to a culture of having to market ourselves."

She said as an international citizen, she has a unique perspective on the value of an education that follows the U.S. model — with a general education curriculum — because it doesn't exist in many other countries.

"When they come to school,

the general education is a great place for them to encounter our disciplines," Kohli said. "We need to put our best instructors in our general education classrooms and have them become the people who bring us majors."

She said we need to maintain and emphasize connectivity with professional programs, perhaps encouraging students in business and STEM to pursue a double major in CLASS.

"We have the skills that almost all employers tell us they're looking for in their employees, even in areas that require specialized training," Kohli said. "That training seems meaningless to our employers unless students are able to present a fundamental ability to solve problems through active listening and appraising."

Additional reporting contributed by Dan Hiner, Gabby Fellows and Alyssa Pawluk.

"I know that they bring students of different backgrounds into their program, and I value that. The organization has a more diverse background, and I applaud them for that, but it wasn't the program for me," Gonda said. Along with directing SAFE and coaching the debate team at Cardinal Mooney, she teaches at Camp Sunshine for Exceptional Students in Aurora, Ohio, sits on the board of directors of the Autism Society of Ohio, directs a special needs day camp at the Youngstown YMCA and works as a behavior analyst at Aaris Therapy. She also works as an adjunct

professor at Youngstown State University.

She said that being a teacher and influencing the minds of young people is very important, and it's a job where people must have a firm approach and a clear goal. It takes more than being a nice person who wants to help people.

"It's a very rewarding career but it's not just a job, you have to have the right mindset and the mentality," Gonda said. "You need to commit to the training and understand that education is a whole mindset. It takes being active and reflection. We really need to have that mindset for our teachers."

Non-traditional Students Deserve Better Support Systems

By Susan Groenwald

The Philadelphia Inquirer (TNS)

Mark Zuckerberg and Bill Gates have some company. Today, more than 1 in 5 working-age Americans is a college dropout.

Unfortunately, most dropouts aren't tech billionaires. Many are nontraditional students who leave school not because of academic concerns, but because of issues specific to their stage of life: a sick family member, a job loss, a lack of family support or just the pure shock of returning to school after a long hiatus.

Colleges must do more to reverse this trend. After all, they bear at least some responsibility for the fact that 20 percent of their students walk away.

Schools can drive down the dropout rate — and get more students to graduate — by investing in staffing support and resources for high-risk students.

The United States has the highest college dropout rate of any industrialized nation. Almost half the students who enroll in postsecondary programs fail to graduate within six years. More than 36 million Americans have already dropped out.

Dropout rates are even worse for nontraditional students — students who commute from off campus, go to school part-time, elect to change careers, or start pursuing a degree later in life. This burgeoning group comprises 75 percent of the college student population.

But even as their enrollment numbers have increased, nontraditional students' graduation rates have remained low. Nearly 2 in 3 fail to graduate.

Fortunately, some colleges are bucking the dropout trend. By providing targeted institutional support for nontraditional and first-time college students, these schools are graduating more students on time — and preparing them for

the workforce.

Consider the efforts of Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. It has implemented a personalized achievement contract that emphasizes helping students who come from low-income backgrounds and are the first in their families to attend college. Each freshman in the program is paired with a professional mentor who offers academic advice and helps with financial aid and career planning. Since its implementation, Mercy's five-year graduation rate has increased 20 percent.

A coaching service known as InsideTrack has delivered similar results. It provides students with personal coaches who regularly contact students to discuss classes, map out academic goals and suggest appropriate institutional resources. In a randomized study, InsideTrack coached more than 8,000 first-year students at eight institutions of higher learning. These students were almost 9 percent more likely to stay in school after their first year than non-coached students.

The effects of the program persisted even after the year-long coaching period had ended. Coached students were 13 percent more likely to graduate than non-coached students.

At Chamberlain College of Nursing, we've developed a philosophy of education called Chamberlain Care, which focuses on taking extraordinary care of students and providing robust resources to help them succeed.

A recent Gallup poll revealed that a primary factor in success in school and the workplace was having a faculty member who "cared about them as a person." Yet only 22 percent of those surveyed re-

ported receiving such support in college.

Through Chamberlain Care, students have access to success seminars and content-specific tutoring that teach communication, relationship-building, and emotional-intelligence skills. Students are also engaged in experiential learning through simulated hospital environments and clinical work.

Since the initiative was implemented two years ago, student academic performance has surged. In one key course, the number of students who passed increased from 71 percent to 92 percent. More students are also graduating and passing the national nursing licensing exam.

Perhaps more importantly, the program has proved invaluable for high-risk students who have failed at or withdrawn from other nursing schools. Since its inception, 230 such students have enrolled at Chamberlain's Addison, Ill., campus. Of that group, more than 90 percent graduated. Ninety-four percent passed the national nurse licensing exam on their first attempt — a rate roughly 10 percentage points higher than the national average.

The evidence is clear: Programs that provide motivation and academic support through a caring approach can and do help nontraditional and at-risk students graduate. Now colleges need to start implementing them.

The vast majority of would-be dropouts aren't trying to be the next Steve Jobs. They're trying to earn a degree to secure a brighter future for themselves and their families. For their sake — and for that of our economy — colleges must do more to get them to graduation.

Youngstown State University

Law Day

October 26, 2015 from 11 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Presidential Suite, Kilcawley Center

Representatives from various law schools will be available to answer questions, distribute catalogs, applications and financial aid information. This is a unique opportunity for students who are considering a career in law to gather information about law school programs.

This event is free and open to the public.

*Sponsored by the Department of Politics & International Relations/
Rigelhaupt Pre-Law Center*

'Destroy Cleveland' Destroys Youngstown

BILLY LUDT

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Youngstown native Matt Greenfield returned to steel town for a hometown showing of his documentary, "Destroy Cleveland," at the Little Youngstown Cinema on October 17.

"Destroy Cleveland" is a manic look at the aggressive, and often violent — albeit intriguing — hardcore punk rock scene in Cleveland, from the '80s to the early 2000s. Interviews featured in the film tell the story of such groups as H100s, Nine Shocks Terror, Cider, The Darvocets and One Life Crew.

These interviews are placed

next to show footage, photos and gig posters.

"I think I made the film mostly for my own amusement," Greenfield said. "I don't know what other people think. I'm amused; I'm entertained. I made it from that selfish perspective."

Greenfield said that the idea of filming a documentary on Cleveland hardcore came to him one day while he was working. Initially he thought somebody else should shoot it.

"These guys are so mysterious and crazy and funny," Greenfield said. "Another days go by and I was like, 'Oh my god. I should make this.'"

He reached out to his friends Jorge Mathew Delarosa and Colby Grimes. Greenfield

knew that Grimes and Delarosa had experience shooting movies, making low-budget horror films and documentaries.

Greenfield's first experience with Cleveland hardcore was a chance purchase of a Nine Shocks Terror and a H100s record.

"I somehow figured all those bands were connected because they kind of all sounded alike," Greenfield said. "I heard Nine Shocks Terror had members of H100s, so I wanted to see these bands live."

Nine Shocks Terror played at the Roboto Project, a known punk venue in Pittsburgh.

Four songs into their set, the venue pulled the plug on Nine Shocks Terror. Tony Erba, lead singer, promptly took his mi-

crophone and threw it into the crowd.

"I just loved it," Greenfield said. "I thought it was just as good as a show. It was a show to me. It was a performance. It was just Erba really pissed off."

Greenfield's second experience with Cleveland hardcore was a show that lives in infamy within the scene: the Gordon Solie Motherf---ers show at Speak in Tongues in Cleveland.

Erba, also the lead singer of Gordon Solie, was shirtless and donning a cape when he took the stage. As the band played, crowd members were shredding and throwing phone books; they brought in potted plants from the street and smashed them; a man in nothing but a jock strap had tied

firecrackers to his crotch, lit them and dove from the stage.

During the set, Erba was struck in the head and began bleeding profusely. He passed out on the stage for several minutes. The crowd chanted, "Erba's dead." He regained consciousness and played for another 20 minutes.

"This was super interactive," Greenfield said. "It was like going to see pro wrestling or something."

Greenfield premiered "Destroy Cleveland" at the Ohio City Masonic Arts Center in Cleveland. Gordon Solie reunited for the after show.

Greenfield currently resides in Austin, Texas. He runs the underground culture blog, Rust Belt Hammer.

Vespers Headline Fall Fire Fest



PHOTOS BY AMANDA LEHNERD/THE JAMBAR.

Folk-Americana artist and Youngstown native Jordan DePaul performed at the third annual Fall Fire Fest on October 15. Fall Fire Fest is organized by the YSU student organization Penguin Productions.

AMANDA LEHNERD

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The rain did not burn out the third annual Fall Fire Fest.

The event on Thursday night, held each year in conjunction with Youngstown State University's Homecoming Week, is meant to bring students together over music, food and tradition.

Fall Fire Fest opened with a performance from Jordan DePaul, a folk-Americana songwriter from Youngstown who currently resides in Nashville.

Although DePaul recently made the move to Tennessee, he said he still feels at home with a Youngstown crowd.

"It's always good to come back to Youngstown to see my family and friends. It's been great to have support from my hometown and especially YSU," DePaul said. "I have always wanted that and it has been really great to create that relationship."

After DePaul's set, President Jim Tressel took the stage with student athletes from each fall sport, giving words of encouragement for the end of the fall season's matches and games.

"Have fun, be safe, do right and go Penguins," Tressel said.

After the pep rally portion of the night, the headlining act, The Vespers, prepared to take the stage.

The Vespers are a band from Nashville that classify themselves as an Americana group that plays rock n' roll music on bluegrass instruments. The band has grown up together and has been performing and touring for the past six years.

"Our live performance is where we feel at home, we like to bring a lot of energy to the stage," a member of The Vespers said. "The main goal dur-

ing our performances is to get the crowd to feel that energy."

The Vespers enjoy doing college performances and like the vibe the university gives off. The group has traveled to 45 different states and performs at colleges at least once a month.

"We are excited to be here at YSU to get the students fired up for the game Saturday. We have enjoyed the atmosphere and people here at YSU. Everyone is so nice," another member of The Vespers said.

Event coordinator Erin Hall shared that along with the live performances and pep rally, attendees were able to enjoy a

bonfire with drinks and food. Hall included that this year they added a Second Harvest Food Bank Drive during the event.

"Student Government Association is providing some refreshments for students, and Catholic Student Association is passing out some goodies as well," Hall said. "There are some local food vendors selling items and the proceeds from the drink sales will benefit Carmstrong, which is a local nonprofit that raises funds and awareness for pancreatic cancer in memory of Carmen Cassese, a former YSU staff member."



EDITORIAL

Youngstown Caught with Its Pants Down on Bar Rescue

“Forget it, Jake. It’s Chinatown.”

The closing line of the classic 1974 film embodies an attitude that is all too common around Youngstown.

Even though the mob lost its grip on the local government after Lenny Strollo turned state’s witness in 1999, corruption still persists in Youngstown. Corruption persists in most cities. The difference is the blase attitude we greet it with.

You mean that politician is likely going to be indicted on corruption charges by the FBI? You know what? Let’s go ahead and elect him mayor.

The first Youngstown-based episode of “Bar Rescue” aired on Sunday. Mayor McNally sat outside with host Jon Taffer as he looked in on the owners. McNally looked horrified as bar owner Louie Kennedy exposed himself to patrons of the bar.

Hello America, welcome to Youngstown.

Next week, the episode featuring the newly rechristened Federal — formerly Martini Bros. Burger Bar — will follow.

Shortly after film crews packed up and left, Dan Martini — who operates The Federal — plead guilty to his part in what investigators called the largest case of domestic fraud in the history of eBay. He was laundering money for a ring of people peddling counterfeit autographed

sports memorabilia.

Reports said Martini allowed participants to use an eBay account in his name, and then he withdrew the money and gave it to the leaders of the ring.

On Sunday, citizens of the Mahoning Valley will sit by their television sets, watching as Martini’s bar receives a makeover as more evidence of the city’s corruption is broadcast to the world.

This is why so many people say Youngstown will never change. The mayor awaiting trial on corruption charges will watch as the money launderer’s bar receives a free makeover while kids walk by on the sidewalks wearing “Straight Outta Youngstown” T-shirts celebrating the city’s resemblance to a Los Angeles suburb known primarily for its gang activity and the few who managed to rise from that milieu to establish themselves as groundbreaking rappers.

As the city gets back on track, one of the things we need to leave behind in order to continue to grow is our nostalgia for the days when car bombs and con men held court on Federal Street.

If we want citizens to trust the politicians and leaders in the city — and investment in the area will not continue without that trust — we can’t keep viewing corruption as business as usual in Youngstown.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Heroin is a major issue facing northeast Ohio. Practically every week, there are stories in the news about a drug bust, or someone overdosing, or a story on the dangers of heroin addiction. According to a study by the Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network, the availability of heroin is a 10 out of a 10, with participants stating that “... in this region of the country; It depends on what you consider a ‘10.’ I mean, if you consider a ‘10’ that you can walk less than two minutes from this building and in any direction and find it [heroin] in four, five or more places, than yes, it’s a ‘10.’” Heroin has become an epidemic.

Heroin overdoses seem to be commonplace. A relative of mine passed away after overdosing on heroin, mere hours after leaving a rehab clinic. As sad as his death was, the most terrifying part of his story was that his friends, other heroin addicts, said that he must have had a “really great high.” Heroin had consumed and taken the life of my cousin, and continues to consume the lives of many others in the area, and no one seems to notice or care about the people affected until it hits close to home.

Of course, other drugs are available in the area, but heroin appears to be the most dangerous and commonly abused. The Mahoning

County Coroner’s office reported that 42.4 percent of all drug-related deaths it processed during the past six months were caused either by acute intoxication by heroin or by combined effects of heroin with another substance(s).

In the past couple of years, there has been a focus on local law enforcement to stymie the availability to get heroin, sadly with little effect. A participant said in the OSAM study that, “With the [recent heroin] bust, it [availability of heroin] really hasn’t changed; You’ll always have new people [selling heroin]; No matter how many people they put in jail, there’s still somebody out there [selling heroin].” Along with this, community professionals consulted in the OSAM also reported that the “availability of heroin has remained high during the past six months.”

Though heroin continues to be a problem facing the northeastern Ohio area, there is still hope. There are nearly 30 rehabilitation and detox centers in Youngstown alone, and local law enforcement continues to focus on stopping the flow of heroin into the area. Sadly though, northeast Ohio has underfunded law enforcement, high unemployment, high crime activity flowing in from major cities and an established drug trade all working in favor of the epidemic.

The biggest challenge of this heroin epidemic is challenging the stigma of addiction. Many people assume that drug users need to “just stop” using drugs. For addicts, it is not that simple. Addiction consumes your life; it is an illness, just as serious as any mental or physical illness.

Once addiction takes over, your life is no longer yours — it is just looking for the next opportunity to get your fix. Your goals, hopes, dreams, family, friends are all replaced with your addiction. Some do not seek to get better and break the cycle of drug abuse, and there is little to be done about that. Those that do cannot get jobs due to having a felony record or history of abuse. They are outcasts of society, and their only company is other users.

How can we expect them to be cured if we do not allow them any escape, or provide any support? We need to educate our community about what drug abuse/addiction is: an illness. These are still people that deserve our respect and care. These are our friends, family and neighbors, and only until we treat the issue for what it is and educate ourselves can we begin to change the epidemic.

Adam Depp
YSU, nursing student

JAMBAR POLICY

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

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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.

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Labels: An Awkward Life Journey

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Ah, the relationship limbo. That beautiful and slightly awkward time at the beginning of a relationship when all you can think about is the other person, what you are feeling, what that person might be feeling and ultimately how do you label your relationship. If you are even a little bit like me, you are very antsy and anxious at this stage in a relationship.

You hop between the desire to define and label your relationship so that you may stop the other person from dating someone else, but are also taking the time to decipher what it is you like about that person and make a conscious effort to make a final choice. Most people use that time as a buffer zone in case of a sudden change of heart. Personally, I have been on both sides of the spectrum and both are extremely stressful and anxiety filled.

A lot of college students are caught in this relationship limbo where the two

people are attempting to sort out their lives and put a label on the package. It used to be simple, “Are we just casually dating or are we a couple?” But in today’s culture, many people don’t like labels and some don’t like being tied down in a relationship. Thus, the necessary conception of the term “exclusive dating.”

Did you cringe? I did too... Taking a quick glance at many social media posts from my friends and other students throughout campus, I can see firsthand that a ton of you are embodied in this modern day dating term. It is a harsh place to be, and it is an extremely fragile state of relationship building. No, I am not a relationship guru, but these are just things I have noticed and hypothesized upon.

Exclusive dating is when two individuals like each other enough to focus on seeing where things go without dating other people. The label of being a couple hasn’t taken form yet, which helps mitigate the pressure of having to break it off if it goes south. But, the perk of not having to worry about him or her seeing someone else is encom-

passed in exclusive dating as well. In my life, I enjoy knowing I have first dibs on that person if they are free on the weekend or Friday night for a date or two. It is the unspoken rule.

So is being in an “exclusive” relationship a bad thing? I don’t believe so, just as long as it is not long term. Putting a definitive label on a relationship too early could be fatal and quite frankly destroy the desire to make you two a couple. Whereas putting a label on too late will not necessarily change much but will give you a proper amount of time to assess the situation at hand.

If you find yourself in this situation, don’t be frustrated. Most people will go through this or some modified form of it, whether they realize it or not. It is a natural phase to pass through in the world of modern dating. Take the time to smell the roses, learn about the other person and enjoy the time you have together. Don’t rush to put a label on something just because society seems to be forcing you.

There is no rush. Promise.

**THEJAMBAR
COM**



PHOTO BY DAN HINER/THE JAMBAR.

TRANSFER
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University of Iowa have made their way to YSU to join the roster and continue their dreams of playing college football.

Some of these players transferred because of on-the-field concerns, such as playing time or how they fit in a coach's schemes, others due to maturity and disciplinary issues at their previous universities.

From the public's perspective, some might say this is an example of YSU selling out its morals to win football games, but how many dig deeper and look at the players after they have arrived on YSU's campus?

The way YSU coaches grant second chances for player transfers was formed years ago, before Pelini stepped foot in the football offices. Jim Tressel, YSU president and former head coach of the YSU football team, is widely considered the original "father-figure" for many of YSU's football players in the late '80s and during the Penguins' national championship runs in the '90s.

Monquantae Gibson, a transfer from the University of Kentucky, was a workhorse for the Penguins at running back from 2004-2006. His 744 yards of total offense helped the Penguins make their last postseason run during the 2006 season under former YSU head coach Jon Heacock.

That philosophy was later adopted by former head coach

Eric Wolford, who took in a number of current players such as Jody Webb, Tre' Moore and Kenneth Durden. Some of his transfers are still making an impact on this year's roster.

Pelini said the addition of transfers to the roster is taken on a case-by-case basis, and the program doesn't know the number of transfers the university will accept in the coming seasons.

"At this level you're going to have guys that transfer out. That's just the day and age we live in," Pelini said. "You look at each one individually and look to see at their character and can they help your football team. You have to look at each one individually. You might go one year and not take any. You might take two or three. You never know how it's going to be."

Most of this season's transfers have one thing in common — a connection to Pelini. Two of the players featured in the second part of this story, LeRoy Alexander and Avery Moss, played for Pelini while they were at Nebraska and said the hiring of Pelini was a major reason for their decision to join the Penguins' roster.

The additions of Alexander and Moss have allowed for a smoother transition for the Penguins to Pelini's new defense scheme. Pelini said the defensive scheme isn't exactly the same defense he imple-

mented in previous seasons, but the same concepts are being implemented.

"I think they [Alexander and Moss] understood what we come from and what we do," Pelini said. "It takes 11 guys, and we're a little bit different from what we do here than what we did there. They kinda have a good understanding of what we're doing. I think it was easier for them. Having them in the room, they're able to help some of the other guys."

Lee Wright

One of those additions was redshirt sophomore linebacker Lee Wright, who was a member of the Appalachian State University football team in 2013 but didn't play due to a redshirt season. Wright transferred to YSU after the 2014 season after he violated team rules.

"I left Appalachian State after I got in a little trouble. I wasn't forced to leave, but I decided it would be better if I transferred to [YSU], and perused my career," Wright said.

Wright is a native of York, South Carolina, and was an all-state honoree during his senior year of high school in 2012. He was named the Charlotte Touchdown Club's 2012 Donnie Shell Defensive Player of the Year as the top defensive player in the Charlotte metro

area.

Wright could be found all over the field while in high school. He originally began his career at running back, but he transitioned to the defensive side of the ball before the beginning of his senior season.

"I don't know what he played before, I think he played safety in the past," Pelini said. "We moved him to linebacker. He made good progress. He's still got a lot of learning to do because this is all new to him. I think he's getting better and he's going need to continue to get better."

"He's athletic, he could do a lot of different things — he's versatile. He's just green, and he still has a lot of learning to do."

Wright has started all six games for the Penguins, and his 28 tackles are tied for third on the team. His seven tackles for loss and four sacks are both second on the team, behind only Derek Rivers, a Preseason All-American defensive end.

"I like to blitz. When they call the blitz for me, usually, it ends up with me getting a sack," Wright said. "My biggest strength is probably my speed. I'm a quick, fast linebacker, so that helps me with the blitz as well."

After Wright left Appalachian State, he reached out to a former high school teammate on the YSU roster. Wright was told about the YSU football

program and the coaching staff. The conversation piqued his interest, and he asked if there were any openings on the Penguins' roster as linebacker. After the discussion with his teammate, he transferred the following spring.

Wright said the defenses he played for in the past were more oriented toward reading the offense and reacting during the play. He said the success he's had to this point in the season is due to the defense that Pelini has implemented.

"Last year was more of a 'see ball, get ball,' and now it's more of a gap defense. Everybody has a gap, everybody has a responsibility and if you do your job the defense will be successful," Wright said.

It's rare to see players transfer and play well during their first season at a university. Normally there is an adjustment period where players have to learn the scheme, playbook and the tendencies of their teammates, but Wright has played well despite the limited game experience heading into this season.

"I didn't expect to have a big impact. This is, really, my first year in a well-organized defense," Wright said. "I was a little nervous going into it, but I'm hard working and it paid off once I really got into it."

Additional reporting by Jeff Brown.

Playing Young Linebacker Pays Off Big for Penguins Defense

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The Youngstown State University football team has always been successful when the program has been able to recruit from the plethora of talented players from Ohio and Pennsylvania.

YSU head coach Bo Pelini and his staff recruited 30 new players this past offseason. One freshman from the latest recruiting class has already made his mark as a Penguin.

Freshman Armand Dellovade was named one of the starting outside lineback-

ers before the Penguins' win against the St. Francis University.

"At first I was real nervous, that was probably the most nervous I've ever been for a football game, but once I started playing, after the first hit, I was good," Dellovade said.

Dellovade, a native of Imperial, Pennsylvania, began the season backing up incumbent starter Jaylin Kelly, but most of his playing time came on special teams. His playing time gradually increased during the first half of the season. Dellovade spent the first several weeks of the season adjusting to playing at the college level.

"I had no expectations coming in. [At] first I was just feel-

ing it out. I just tried to get better and better and eventually, I ended up starting," Dellovade said.

In five games this season, Dellovade has recorded 15 tackles, and his three tackles for loss is tied for third on the team.

"I definitely feel like I have a nose for the football," Dellovade said. "I'm trying as hard as I can ... just trying to have a non-stop motor and just keep working 'til the whistle blows and I find myself in the right spot."

YSU has one of the deepest linebacker groups in years, and Dellovade credited the veteran linebackers on the roster for his development.

"They definitely helped me," Dellovade said. "From guys like Nathan Pittman, Jaylin Kelly, Lee [Wright], Bam [Dubem Nwadiogbu] and coach T.J. Hollowell — they've all helped me a lot. This defense is real tough. It took a while for me to get the hang of it I guess, but they all were patient with me and helped me and coached me through everything."

Pelini said Dellovade has played well, but he still needs to improve as he continues learning the defensive schemes.

"Overall, he's just getting better as a player," Pelini said. "I think he executes well at times, but he still makes some young mistakes. I'm happy

with his progress."

Pelini said Dellovade has shown the skills needed to become an "every down" linebacker at the college level, and his versatility allows the coaching staff to use Dellovade in multiple formations and in different situations.

"He's a young kid. He's instinctive, he's tough, he's an instinctive football player and he's a guy who's developing into a real good football player," Pelini said. "He's still young and he still makes some young mistakes, but I think he's coming along and I think he's going to be a real good football player."