

THE JAMBAR

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EMPOWERING WOMEN IN MATHEMATICS

Six students from Youngstown State University attended the Nebraska Conference for Undergraduate Women in Mathematics over the weekend. Each student presented her original research in the mathematics field.

The conference took place from Jan. 29 – Jan. 31 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The overall goal of the event is to help undergraduate women network with professional female mathematicians, gain feedback on their research and acquire self-confidence needed in a mathematics career.

Monica Busser, Sheri Cope, Emily Hoopes, Crystal Mackey, Ashley Orr, and Gabrielle Van Scoy represented YSU at the conference. About 270 undergraduates from around the country attended.

Angela Spalsbury, chair of the department of mathematics and statistics, said she has attended conferences with her students since 2001.

"I can honestly say that I have never been

with such a better group overall," Spalsbury said. "Their presentations were extremely impressive and made me very proud to be from YSU."

Spalsbury and Alicia Prieto, assistant professor of mathematics, encouraged their students to register for the conference. Crystal Mackey said she was advised to attend the conference by her advisers in the Pacific Undergraduate Research Experience in Mathematics program.

Mackey's research was titled "Numerical Results for the IVP to the Burgers Equation with External Force". She started her research over the summer at the California State University while working with researchers in the Research Experience for Undergraduates program. Her project simulated traffic flow using numerical methods.

"I presented to the largest crowd I have ever presented to before, and it felt like a great achievement," Mackey said. "A faculty member of [the university] came up to me and said the presentation



Gabriella Van Scoy, Monica Busser, Ashley Orr, Crystal Mackey, Emily Hoopes, Sheri Cope and Angela Spalsbury on the way to Lincoln, Nebraska for the Women in Mathematics Conference.

STORY: SAMANTHA PHILLIPS | SPHILLIPS@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

PHOTO: CRYSTAL MACKEY

was really good."

It was the last time seniors like Ashley Orr could present at the conference. Orr said it was an amazing experience, and she enjoyed seeing what her peers in mathematics have accomplished.

"It's geared towards women in mathematics because, historically, there has been such a lower concentration

of female mathematicians," Orr said. "The conference worked on female empowerment in the field, and also seeing what undergraduate research women are becoming involved in."

Orr presented her research titled "A Study of Youngstown Public Housing Program Participants' Preferences". She said the objective

was to mathematically measure the preferences of low-income individuals in Youngstown.

Busser said the NCU-WM was a unique and friendly conference, and the participants expressed excitement to hear the presentations, instead of trying to compete with others.

"Math is a very male-dominated field, so it was cool being

around only females who had gotten their PhD, who are examples of success in the field, or women who are in the same position as I am, in an undergraduate position where there's not a lot of females," Busser said.

EMPOWERING WOMEN
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YSU Works to Improve Accessibility in Light of Audit



STORY: LAUREN FOOTE | LAURENLEONAL@GMAIL.COM
PHOTO: JUSTIN WIER

Youngstown State University went through an audit to evaluate their compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act in October. The results of the audit show there is still a lot of work to be done.

Ken Schindler, associate vice president and chief technology officer, said the point of the audit was to understand how bad the problem was. The audit serves as a baseline so future audits will register the university's progress.

"There were some things that were brought to our attention by the audit that we

were surprised to see," Schindler said. "But there were also some things that we wish they would have gone a little deeper on."

Schindler said there are some areas where the Office of Civil Rights expects progress but failed to provide guidance.

"They are an enforcer," Schindler said. "They are the ones telling us to do something — whether it is possible or not is their issue."

Schindler said some instruments used in classes are impossible to use for blind students.

Thomas Madsen, as-

sistant professor in the department of mathematics and statistics, has researched preparing documents to allow screen readers to interpret mathematical equations. Schindler said this will take some time to address.

Madsen contacted a specialist at the University of Michigan who recommended a program called LaTeX. The program allows you to enter code into a text editor to produce a PDF file, and the screen reader is able to read the source code.

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Penguin Rundown

Penguin Rundown hosts Lincoln Williams and Katie Hackos sit in front of a green screen during of the show.

SportsCenter, Penguin Style

STORY: DAN HINER | DHINERJR@GMAIL.COM | PHOTO: DAN HINER

In a dimly lit room in the Youngstown State University telecommunications studio in Bliss Hall, Lincoln Williams sits in an office chair and directs his coworkers on their business for the week.

Williams and his staff are putting together the upcoming Penguin Rundown, a new weekly YouTube show that focuses on recapping YSU sports and previewing upcoming games.

YSU soccer player Katie Hackos and Williams host the show that airs every Friday on the YSU Athletic's YouTube channel. Williams wanted a student-athlete on the show to provide commentary on content from an athlete's perspective.

Hackos said the addition of a student-athlete also provides a good

networking tool for the show. She said YSU's size allows the athletes to communicate with each other on campus and set up interviews for the show.

"I thought it was going to be a great opportunity because having an athlete on the show brings in a lot more people," Hackos said. "This is a smaller school, so athletes know pretty much every single athlete on campus."

The Penguin Rundown features videos by the YSU athletic department. Athletics sends the highlights of previous games and the Rundown crew incorporates them into a video packet.

"Our liaison, Trevor Parks, gives us all our content," Williams said. "If we have anything he wants us to cover such

as a basketball recap, track, tennis or anything that's in season — we will get that information from him. Once we write the script, and we get the script approved, then he tweaks anything he wants to fix and other than that, we are locked and loaded and good to go."

Technology Coordinator Bill Brophy said the show gives students the opportunity to produce a weekly show and gain experience working with the equipment. Brophy said the Penguin Rundown provides an opportunity for students who are apart of the sports broadcasting track to gain real-world experience.

"Even people beginning [in] the professional world need to have a reel. They need to have clips. They need

to show what they can do," Brophy said. "In general, I feel people are less impressed by what educational background you have and more impressed by what experience you have. I think the education and the experience go hand and hand, if you could make it that way, and certainly that's one of the reasons we try to offer things like this Penguins Rundown and the sports broadcasting major itself."

Hackos, a telecommunications major, said she wants to make a career out of hosting. Hackos said the show gives her an opportunity to get in front of a camera and talk about sports at a university that's known for its athletics.

"It's really good to get out there, especially

because this is a 'sports known school'. For me specifically, as an athlete, you don't have the chances to be working all the time —getting that experience, having an internship during school when your focus is sports and school," Hackos said. "So it's really helpful on my part, and it's really interesting because everybody that I run into, in athletics or non-athletics, they are commenting on how this is a great step for the telecommunications department."

Williams said he wants to see more members of the student body participate in the program, and hopes the program will continue after his graduation.

"We actually have students that are not TCOMM majors helping us now, but I would definitely love to get the student body involved as much as I can," Williams said. "I'm all about helping the next generation for Youngstown State. One of my passions is helping other people and boosting those people. I said it in the meeting earlier, make sure everybody on this team supports each other in the other things they're doing on campus."

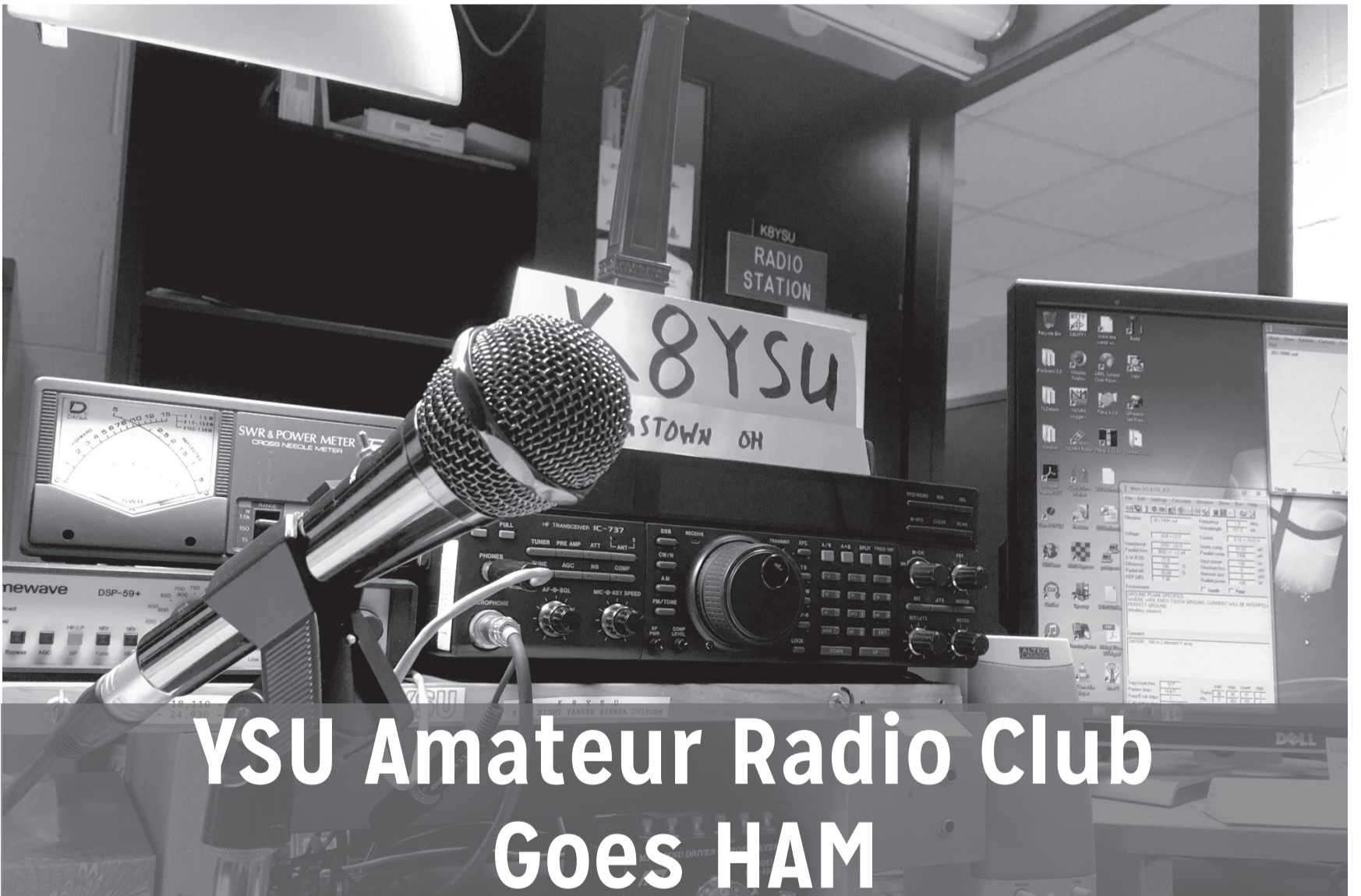
The Penguin Rundown began several years back, but the show eventually ceased production. Williams combined the interest from the athletic department and the telecommunications program. He said the combination should allow the Penguin Rundown to continue for the future generation of

YSU students.

"A couple of our students did the Penguin Rundown a few years back, and last year there were some inklings of a sports-based program that we wanted to start," Brophy said. "A senior student wanted to do it, and we did a pilot for it, but we never really got the traction we needed to make it a weekly show. But certainly this year, I think the idea of the Penguin Rundown coming back and a little different aspect to it, I think it's going to work. We had some attempts in the past to do it, but nothing has really gained the traction that seems to be building with this one."

Williams wants the viewers to understand the success of YSU's sports other than the football and basketball programs and said the show gives the lesser-known sports the publicity they deserve.

"The message I want people to get from this particular show is ... there are other sports on campus that deserve accolades," Williams said. "We have a great track program, we have a great tennis program and we have a bunch of other great DI programs that are successful in their sport other than football and basketball. This gives a light to those other sports, but also I want people to know that students are, as we say around here, 'Y and proud.' We are very proud of this university, and we want to showcase this university as best we can."



YSU Amateur Radio Club Goes HAM

STORY: JEFF BASH | JMBASH@STUDENT.YSU.EDU | PHOTO: JEFF BASH

Six Youngstown State University students communicate globally and potentially with space.

They comprise the Amateur Radio Club, tucked away in a corner on the fourth floor of Moser Hall. An assortment of electronic antennae and computer monitors fill the room.

Gordon Frissora, a criminal justice professor at YSU, displays the club's American Radio Relay League award.

"We won 10th place," Frissora said.

The club competes in the annual conference, placing against every other station in the United States.

Frissora said that unlike commercial radio, amateur or HAM radio isn't your typical transmission.

"I've communicated with the International Space Station before," Frissora said. "As long as they're in your line of sight, you can make

contact with just about anyone who is operating a radio."

Amateur radio's purpose is to provide a place of experimentation for non-commercial, licensed radio enthusiasts and for professionals in multiple agencies.

The Amateur Radio Club was founded in 2001 during a field day — a test of emergency broadcasting and reporting through amateur radio.

According to Frank Sole, the club's other faculty adviser, amateur radio technicians are at the forefront of informing local meteorologists, police officers and fire departments of breaking news.

"We are the minutemen of communication," Sole said.

Frissora said every college student possesses the skills necessary to obtain a HAM radio license. The students in the club have a 100 per-

cent pass rate on their radio technician tests.

Sole said those who become advanced in their skills can launch orbital satellites carrying amateur radio — commonly known as OSCAR. These activities have drawn people to technology some may see as outdated.

"Amateur radio isn't just for broadcasting," Sole said. "It has other uses."

The Federal Commu-

nications Commission issues certifications allowing people to operate their own amateur radio stations.

Elias Rafidi, an engineering student and member of the club, said students are not only learning technical skills but also social skills.

"The club gives you a different and great way to learn communication," Rafidi said. "This is who we do it for," Sole said. "The students."

AUDIT FRONT

"Now this is code," Madsen said. "So you would have to teach the students how to turn the code into the mathematical notation."

According to Madsen, the drawbacks are that the program is difficult to learn, and the students have to use a plug-in to translate the code to html, which isn't an easy process.

Schindler is part of a large ADA compliance committee, but there is a smaller, more hands-on committee that attempts to address things more quickly.

Bill Swann, instructional designer in the office of distance education, is part of Schindler's committee. He handles faculty requests for help with online course development and the Blackboard system.

The Blackboard software itself is accessible, but the files faculty members add to Blackboard also need to be compliant. Swann said they have improved over the last few months.

"Faculty have been working on making their content items accessible and uploading those versions to their courses," Swann said.

He said videos and links to web resources are the biggest issues. Videos need to be transcribed so they can be closed captioned, and many web resources are not ADA compliant.

YouTube has a built-in transcription feature. Swann said the transcripts require editing, but it simplifies the process. They are also using software called Dragon.

"Our EIT office has the software, and it can be used to create a voice profile for a faculty member and then generate a transcript from the audio track in their video," Swann said.

Schindler said they are currently trying to get extended deadlines on reaching the desired level of ADA compliance. The initial deadline was Dec. 31.

"That was an impossible timeline," Schindler said.

They have requested a June 2018 deadline, but it is dependent on a response from the Office of Civil Rights.

"We still need to hear back from them," Schindler said. "We got an extra six months just because they did not get back to us with enough time."

Rosalyn Donaldson, manager of training and development in the human resources department, provides programs and training to help faculty and staff improve ADA compliance. She said it was difficult to estimate a time when the university would be fully compliant.

"We have a wide variety of disciplines, each having their own set of challenges and sometimes obstacles," Donaldson said. "Obstacles come into play when as-

sistive technology is not in place to interpret content which is highly specialized."

Schindler said they will strive to address the issues they can bring into compliance. Problems with materials in the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services and some art courses will take more time and research.

"My job is to get us as close to complete ADA compliance as we can," Schindler said. "The audit is a bench mark. It is a beginning into trying to ascertain the margin of error and move from there. We are making progress in all areas, some areas a lot faster than others."

Schindler commented on the fact that some of the problems that were pointed out in the report were generalized. He wished the report had delved deeper into some concerns and narrowed down the focus on what should be fixed in the coursework, website and other matters that need to fit ADA compliance.

"There are some things they were not extensive enough [in addressing], areas they could have focused on more they didn't. They failed to separate the critical errors from the minor errors," Schindler said. "We want to know the errors, the warnings and nice to haves. The tool sets that they used were somewhat questionable there."

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NEWS BRIEFS

Study Abroad Table

The Center for International Studies and Programs and CISabroad will be holding a study abroad table in the Kilcawley Center on Feb. 9 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Students are invited to explore CISabroad and other opportunities. For more information, please contact Ann Gardner at 330-941-2336 or amgardner01@ysu.edu.

Penguin Productions Presents: Mike Styles

YSU Penguin Productions is happy to continue their new artist series with Ohio-based hip-hop artist, Mike Styles. The event will include live music with opening act SJ featuring 1093 Entertainment, dancing and food and drinks available at an additional charge. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Carolyn Jesko at cljesko@ysu.edu.

Last Call for Jenny Magazine Submissions

Final submissions for Issue 10, Spring 2016 Jenny Magazine will be open until Feb. 7. The magazine is looking for fiction, creative nonfiction and poetry submissions. Jenny Magazine is also hosting a 10 minute play contest that closes the same day. For guidelines and submissions, please visit jennymag.submittable.com/submit.

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EMPOWERING WOMEN FRONT

She said none of the girls believed the stereotype that women aren't as good in math as men, but it was empowering to be at the all-women conference.

Busser's research was titled "Unique Hamiltonicity and Computational Algebraic Geometry." She began her research over the summer while she was working at a university in Hawaii with the program REU.

She demonstrated a research-

er's proposition stating that a graph can be converted into a set of polynomials and by solving that set, the number of Hamiltonian cycles in it can be revealed.

"We looked at those types of graphs to see if we could find any that were uniquely Hamiltonian and didn't, but it was neat to be able to take those kinds of ideas and turn them into an algorithm," Busser said.

Hoopes presented her research in the form of a poster titled "Developing an Educational Sudoku Solver". She created

a computer program that can solve any Sudoku puzzle. It gives players hints about what strategy to use when they are stuck on a puzzle. She said she felt inspired from her experience at the conference.

"For me, the conference really solidified the idea that I shouldn't let anyone tell me what I can or can't do," Hoopes said. "I gained a lot more confidence in what I want to do with my life after seeing the fantastic mathematical projects other girls had completed."

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Wick Park Summer Concert Series Sees Budget Slashed

STORY: **BILLY LUDT** | wrludt@student.ysu.edu | PHOTO: **BILLY LUDT**

The Wick Park Summer Concert Series' funding was cut in half after budget cuts occurred across the board in Youngstown city departments.

Half of the concert series' funding came from Youngstown's Parks and Recreation department. The other half comes from first ward representative Julius Oliver, previously Annie Gillam, and third ward representative Nathaniel Pinkard.

Bob Burke is the director of Youngstown's Parks and Recreation department.

"As far as my budget, there's areas that I have to look at possibly making cuts or downsizing a little bit," Burke said.

Jonathan Blackshire is a Youngstown transplant, musician and member of the Wick Park Neighborhood Association, as well as the head organizer for the summer concert series. "Money's just not out there waiting," Blackshire said.

They are actively seeking funding from other Youngstown ward representatives.

Blackshire said that the funds for the concert

series were distributed mostly to musicians and some to seasoned soundman Rich Palmer, who worked sound at all the shows.

"I make gas money," Palmer said. "Most everything is just two or three of us putting the whole thing together. And of course we'd like to see our artists get paid."

If the funding for a full concert series cannot be acquired, Blackshire said that he thinks there will be at least two performances over the summer.

Blackshire did not dis-

close the exact funding they were previously working with but did say that a concert series of Wick's previous capacity would typically cost around \$10,000. But he said they worked with funding nowhere near that number.

The concert series is non-profit, and organized by three volunteers, including Blackshire. All performing acts are local musicians. All equipment used at the concert series performances belonged to Palmer.

The series, in past years, held five to six

performances through the summer season. All events were free and open to the public in an effort to garner a sense of community in the north side and Wick Park Neighborhood.

"Most of the people that come out — the audience that we have has been growing," Palmer said. "But it's hard to grow an audience when your production staff is us. What'd we forget to do? It's everything we forget to do that hits us back in the face again."

Palmer and Blackshire said the series is a revival, of sorts. Decades pri-

or, there were musical performances in Wick Park.

"I think that this part of town is the most ethnic part of town available to us," Palmer said. "I want different stuff to fit the neighborhood."

"I'm going to stand with this until it dies. It's my reputation — I do this. When I took it on, I took it on, and when they tell me, 'no, you're not allowed to do it,' I'll go somewhere else and do something else. Until then, the game's on."

88 Keys Brings Students Relief

A two-year scholarship fundraiser led by Caroline Oltmanns, Youngstown State University's piano professor, has surpassed its \$10,000 endowment goal this year.

Oltmanns' dream began in September, 2013 when she kick-started her philanthropic endeavor with a free concert and the initiation of "88 Hearts for YSU" — representing the 88 keys on a piano — with each key costing \$114 to reach the goal of \$10,000. "My dream is that before I die, I want the endowment to reach six digits," Oltmanns said.

Chaney Nezbeth, a development officer in charge of scholarships for the Dana School of Music for the YSU Foundation, said that thanks to many generous donors, the scholarship can finally begin.

"To endow a scholarship at YSU means that it is a permanent and lasting legacy," Nezbeth said. "Not only have we met the \$10,000 goal, but we have far surpassed it."

The original endowment goal has already been met, but if the principal sum continues to grow so will the number of scholarships to be awarded.

"We are aiming high," Oltmanns said. "[Increasing the principal] would allow me and my future colleagues to give very generous scholarships and provide a serious means of helping students in need. We want to bring in more talented students to the Dana School of Music. That's what this is all about."

Spencer Reed, a graduate piano student in the Dana School of Music, wholeheartedly supports Oltmanns' cause to create a piano-specific scholarship.

"Monetarily, scholarships can be limited when it comes to Dana because there are so many different instrument groups that compete for them," Reed said.



STORY: **WILL KEFFLER**
PHOTO COURTESY OF:
ASHNAPE93/FLICKR

This competition between students of different musical groups is what Oltmanns hopes to alleviate with this newly established scholarship.

"Achieving to receive a scholarship is a highly competitive process, and having the opportunity to add another scholarship specifically to the piano area alleviates some of that pressure," Oltmanns said. "We have been under-represented with schol-

arship money for pianists for years. This new scholarship will enable us to reach out to new potential students in the hope that we can grow the piano area."

As with all scholarships, certain criteria must be met to receive monetary compensation. For starters, students must maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or higher and also be enrolled in the Dana School of Music, working on a Bachelor of Music or a Bachelor of Art in Applied Music.

Additionally, students must be majoring or minoring in piano, which is Oltmanns' way of helping her piano students to be able to focus more on their studies, rather than financial worries.

"Having financial support greatly helps in undergraduate degrees that are performance orientated," Oltmanns said. "It enables the students to spend more time at the instrument rather than having to work [to support themselves]."

Oltmanns hopes to create future fundraising events to expand the scholarship, including a possible collaboration in the works with Steinway Pianos of the Cleveland sector.

With YSU being a Steinway exclusive university, many pianos that would be potentially donated must be denied if they are not of the Steinway brand.

"Steinway is working on a plan where they would sell [pianos which YSU cannot accept] on our behalf, a portion of those proceeds [would come back to us]," Nezbeth said.

Although the endowment goal of \$10,000 was reached, it is a policy that the money must remain untouched for one year before scholarships can be awarded, but by the 2017-18 academic year, the scholarship will be fully enacted.

.....THE.....

JAMBAR COLUMN

Suck My *Caucus*

STORY: GINO DIGUILIO | GRDIGUILIO@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

This past Monday, voters throughout the state of Iowa headed out to the infamous Iowa caucus at exactly 7 p.m. Now, I consider myself to be rather informed on the world of politics, especially for my age, and I had been following the process and results of this caucus extremely closely.

Now, I am not going to get into going over the results and boring you with all of the political jargon that I enjoy throwing into these conversations to make myself seem super smart. I wouldn't do that to you. But I am sparing you from this for a specific reason.

It had come to my attention that Iowa makes up less than 1 percent of the United States' population. And roughly only 300,000 citizens actually participate! That is .01 percent of the total population. Are you kidding me? It is bad enough that this archaic process of voting — if you can even call it that — is still used, but that .01 percent of the population has such a huge influence on setting the tone for the rest of the country. On top of that, it is said that millennial voters, or citizens age 18-29 had the lowest outcome of voter participation, not only in this specific caucus, but also on the last midterm election; 23 percent to be exact.

This got me thinking. With such a small amount of people holding the power to influence the rest of the country in their voting, why isn't the younger generation participating? Why are we, as the millennial generation, not attempting to make a difference? It's not like millennials aren't paying attention to politics. Some say they're easily better informed than past generations. I have had extremely intellectual and well thought out discussions with people

my own age than with people from older generations.

Ashley Spillane, the president of Rock the Vote says, "Politics right now is really disheartening. I think it's why you see in the polls that young people are not affiliating with political parties." According to the Pew Research center, the amount of millennials that consider themselves Independents have shot up 50 percent. To me, that's honestly so disheartening. The fact that our generation is so skeptical to pledge allegiance to the Democratic or Republican Party, because big government is not our forte.

Personally, I care very much about government, but a lot of the things they bring to the table just honestly do not apply to me. I am passionate about the issues that affect my generation and me. Is that selfish of me? Yes, probably a little. But that's why Presidents are elected in four year terms. After four years, my life and needs will most likely be adjusted, thus giving me the chance to choose a new potential president that is passionate about the same topics as me.

The sheer idea that such a small amount of caucusers held the amount of power they did really scared me, and I hope it scared you into learning more about politics and getting involved. We as a generation can make a difference. Regardless of who you vote for, what party you are a part of or what your beliefs are, the amount of non-voters that are in our generation is vastly horrifying. We are being so turned off by politics and how everything works. So why not be a part of it and try to change it?

Don't sit back and let the .01 percent make decisions for your future. Be a part of the change.

Stopping *Climate Change* Can Begin at Breakfast

STORY: CRAIG SHAPIRO

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS (TNS)

Dozens and dozens of world leaders are meeting this month at the critical world climate change conference in Paris, in the hope of reaching a legally binding, universal agreement to curb carbon emissions and keep global warming below 2 degrees Celsius.

The goal is crucial and long overdue.

But it's also in jeopardy. Concerns have already been raised that the summit will not meet its goal. Christiana Figueres, the United Nations climate chief, predicts that it will fall short of the 2-degree target, and there is heated disagreement over which countries among the more than 190 that will be represented should cut greenhouse-gas emissions the most and which ones should pay for it.

While diplomats bicker and compromise, the Earth suffers. But we don't have to wait for them to agree — each of us can act right now to protect the environment, starting with our breakfast. Simply eating food derived from plants instead of from animals is one of the most effective actions that we can take to limit climate change.

Raising and killing billions of cows, pigs, turkeys, chickens and other animals for food every year is responsible for a staggering 51 percent or more of greenhouse-gas emissions worldwide. It's no wonder that the U.N. has said that a global shift toward vegan eating is necessary to combat the worst effects of climate change.

Making that shift has never been more urgent. Last month, the World Meteorological Organization reported that concentrations of methane and nitrous oxide, key greenhouse gases, appeared to be increasing rapidly and that average levels of carbon dioxide had risen 43 percent over pre-industrial levels. Researchers at Britain's University of East Anglia followed with another ominous finding — the Earth's average temperature has exceeded historic norms by 1.02 degrees Celsius.

According to a 2014 study by researchers at the University of Oxford, just by going vegan, we can reduce the amount of greenhouse gases that our diet contributes to climate change by up to 60 percent. Eating plant-based meals also helps prevent other kinds of environmental damage.

Eighty percent of agricultural land — nearly half the land mass of the contiguous United States — is used to raise animals for food and grow crops to feed them. Meat production wastes precious water, too: It takes more than 2,400 gallons to produce a pound of cow flesh, while producing a pound of whole-wheat flour requires only 180 gallons. Runoff from factory farms and livestock grazing pollutes our groundwater, lakes, rivers and oceans. Reducing our reliance on meat, eggs and dairy foods would free up land, water and other resources for growing food for hungry humans instead.

Eating vegan doesn't just help the Earth. It has also been tied to lower rates of heart disease, obesity, diabetes, cancer and many other maladies. And of course, leaving animals off our plates prevents horrific cruelty.

Piglets raised for meat often have their tails cut off, the ends of their teeth broken off with pliers and notches cut out of their ears without any pain relief. Cows on dairy farms are repeatedly impregnated and their newborn calves are torn away from them almost immediately so that humans can take the milk that was meant for their calves. Turkeys and chickens are shackled upside down in slaughterhouses, have their throats cut and are plunged into scalding-hot water, often while still conscious.

Going vegan is eco-friendly, healthy and humane, but odds are that it won't be one of the solutions discussed in Paris. That doesn't matter, though, because climate change is everyone's fight, and the bell is ringing.

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 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.

EDITORIAL:

Signing Women Up for

WAR

It's time for the ladies to sign up for the draft.

At least that's the opinion of two of the military's top officers, according to a recent report in the Washington Post.

During a Senate committee hearing on Tuesday, the top officers of the Army and Marine Corps — Gen. Mark A Miley and Gen. Robert B Neller respectively — offered the opinions following the Pentagon's decision to open all combat jobs to female service members.

Signing up for the Selective Service — essentially, the draft — is a requirement for virtually all men in America between the ages of 18 - 25. At present, if a man doesn't sign up for the Selective Service, they are ineligible for federal student loans, government workforce training or practically any federal jobs. Failure to comply with the Selective Service can result in a \$250,000 fine, five years in jail or a combination

of the two.

Expanding Selective Service requirements to include women is a move in the direction of fairness and equality, certainly. But it's also a largely empty gesture.

The draft that pulled so many young men into Vietnam ended in 1973. Since then, the military has been a totally volunteer force.

During the years following the Vietnam War, there may have been a need to ensure that a proper fighting force could be gathered quickly in the event of a land war with Russia or some other foe.

No one took the idea of the draft returning seriously in the '90s during the Persian Gulf

War. Certainly no one should take it seriously now. Recent trends in military development point to a future of drones and the use of specially trained commandos. Speed and precision are key. Massive land armies accompanying armor columns are not the future.

In the event that a war breaks out that warrants a change in strategy away from unmanned vehicles and precision strikes, it seems — based on the public's response immediately following 9/11 — there would be no problem drawing a force of volunteers to rise to the occasion.

It's probably for the best that women sign up for the Selective Service. Despite the incredible unlikelihood of a draft, it is a consistent step in the direction of actual equality. But maybe rather than extending the Selective Service to women, we should consider whether the Selective Service should continue to exist.

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PRESSBOX PERSPECTIVE

Super Bowl 'Media Day' Makes Joke of Journalism

STORY: DAN HINER
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If you're a diehard football fan, you probably have read stories or seen clips of NFL players answering questions during Super Bowl media day.

Over the past 25 years, the media day has changed from a legitimate series of press conferences to a media circus in which reporters and players try to put together wacky interviews.

From Seattle Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch sitting in front of the cameras saying "I'm just here so I won't get fined" to Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski singing Katy Perry, fans have seen a wide array of hilarious moments that border on the idiotic behavior.

The NFL moved Super Bowl media day from Tuesday afternoon to prime time, the Monday before the Super Bowl. Some might see this as an attempt to draw even more unnecessary attention to the game, but others, including myself, see it as an attempt to encourage the antics players to draw more attention to themselves and the NFL.

The circus surrounding the Super Bowl is understandable. Football is America's most popular sport, so for fans to look for insight into the most anticipated sporting event in the nation is expected, and viewers want to be entertained by the number of flamboyant personalities from both teams.

But should the countless "journalists" that attend media day be given the chance to ask the most irrelevant questions in the history of sports journalism or condone the behavior and report the shenanigans as if they were actually newsworthy?

As a man who's been in his fair share of press conferences, there's nothing more infuriating than some shmuck asking stupid questions to get a response that takes time away from my job, the time of the coaches and actual reporters that have to turn in stories on deadline.

“...there's NOTHING more infuriating than some *shmuck* asking stupid questions...”

Last time I checked, Carolina Panthers cornerback Josh Norman showing up to a press conference wearing a luchador mask had nothing to do with football.

Unfortunately, the reporters try to show off their comedic side as well. Last night, Austrian sportscaster Phillip Hajszan showed up to the press conferences in a skiing outfit. In 2008, Ines Gomez Mont, a reporter from Mexico's TV Azteca, came in a wedding dress and asked New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady to marry her.

This could be the last time journalists get a chance to interview Peyton Manning, the Denver Broncos' quarterback and future Hall of Famer. It's a shame that Manning's potential retirement after the game, one of the biggest sports stories of the year, is buried underneath all nonsense.

In USA Today's coverage of Super Bowl media day, videos of Manning's responses to journalists asking about retiring wasn't brought up until after Miss Universe danced with Panthers players, Norman's mask and Panthers quarterback Cam Newton dabbing in the middle of an interview.

Manning's retirement should be the main headline during Super Bowl media day, or at the very least something that's actually relevant to the game.

USA Today, Bleacher Report and ESPN are major news organizations that endorse the behavior of the NFL and its players. These aren't some small market television stations or a San Francisco daily newspaper that rarely get a chance to go to these events. Some news outlets send reporters to Super Bowl media day just to say they had someone there.

Every year I turn on the TV or look at my Twitter feed, and I feel like I die a little on the inside. As someone who wants to make a career out of reporting sports, the poor reporting choices by the professionals at the Super Bowl make me question how seriously they take their jobs when they travel to one of the biggest spectacles in the sporting world.



Pelini Excited For New Recruiting Class

Bo Pelini, the head coach of the Youngstown State University football team, said the program needed a smaller recruiting class due to a limited number of rosters.

STORY: DAN HINER | DHINERJR@GMAIL.COM | PHOTO: DAN HINER

The ink on the contracts has dried, and the Youngstown State University football team has added 11 new players to its roster following Wednesday's National Letter of Intent day.

YSU head coach Bo Pelini admits this recruiting class is smaller than most, but he said coaches wanted to focus on a small recruiting class because the team only lost 12 players from last season's roster.

"I knew going in that we didn't have a big senior class, didn't have a lot of scholarship room to work with — probably the smallest amount I've worked with since I've been a head coach. It's just part of the deal," Pelini said. "So we were very specific in what we went after and how we wanted to address certain needs of our football team. I think we addressed them."

The recruiting class is highlighted by one of the top junior college players, Trent Hosick. The former Arizona Western College quarterback committed to YSU in January.

Hosick is a dual-threat quarterback that made a name for himself as someone who can

make plays when things go wrong. Pelini said Hosick will be in the mix for the starting quarterback position in the spring.

"We wanted to add another guy to the mix for competition, and Trent Hosick became available," Pelini said. "I knew a little bit about him from my time at Nebraska. I think he's a competitor and a really good football player. We don't take a lot of junior college guys at any position."

"We're very specific in how we go about it. We look into them pretty in depth and see if they fit the culture of our program. I think in Trent's case, and really all the guys that we signed, that first and foremost, they're good people, they're competitors ... and I like the group."

Three members of YSU's recruiting class are from northeast Ohio or western Pennsylvania; two members of the YSU recruiting class are from the area. Cardinal Mooney High School linebacker Devon McNutt, son of YSU secondary coach Richard McNutt, Farrell High School linebacker Malachi Newell and Garfield Heights High School offensive lineman Norman Fox

signed on Wednesday.

YSU also added three-star defensive end Jamal Smith from American High School in Florida. Smith, along with Hosick, are the top recruits in YSU 2016 class.

"We had a few of these kids that had FBS offers. We were able to get them to come our way. It's funny, sometimes to a certain extent; the perception nationally is better than the perception locally," Pelini said. "For whatever reason, I don't quite understand that all the time. Sometimes people get caught up in the 'alphabet' as I call it — the FBS verses FCS. But people come on campus and they meet our players and see our guys, and kids that are familiar see that there is pretty good football played here."

"You got to be a pretty good player to play at this level and to break our lineup here in Youngstown. I think some of the kids that we got, this group, they were excited about some of the things that we got going, about the future and wanted to be a part of it. That's exciting to me."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Women's Tennis Starts Season 0-3

The Youngstown State University women's tennis team lost its first two road matches against Duquesne University and the University of Akron. The Penguins lost their match to Duquesne 6-1 on Friday. Duquesne won the first five singles matches and lost all three doubles matches. They fell to the Zips 5-2 on Saturday. YSU lost the first four single matches and got swept in doubles play.

Track and Field Prepares for Big Weekend

The Youngstown State University track and field team will be hosting the two-day YSU National Invitational on Friday and Saturday. The track team will compete in another two-day event when they travel to New York for the Armory Elite Invitational.

YSU runner Chad Zallow, who has gotten off to a strong start this year, will look to continue strong freshman season.