



Choosing the Next Chief of Police

PHOTO BY ALYSSA PFLUG / THE JAMBAR

BY SAMANTHA PHILLIPS

Candidates who hope to become the next police chief of the Youngstown State University Police Department spoke to Youngstown citizens and the YSU campus community at Tod Hall from April 4 to April 6.

The three candidates — Shawn Varso, the YSUPD interim police chief; Stephen VanWinkle, captain of Miami University's police department and Jeffrey Scott, the police chief of the University of Notre Dame — each pitched their ideas and took questions from the audience.

Varso is a familiar face to the YSU community. He has served in the YSUPD for 27 years and said becoming police chief is his dream. Varso, formerly a YSUPD lieutenant, was named interim police chief in

April 2016 after former police chief John Beshura was put on administrative leave.

"For the past 27 years, I have spent more time at YSU than any of my homes. YSU is my home," Varso said. "I want to do what's best for it."

Varso said he wants to create programs where people can learn more about the YSU Police Department, so they can be more accessible to faculty, staff and students.

VanWinkle, captain of Miami University's Police Department, said he chose to apply for the vacant chief of police position at YSU because the MU and YSU police departments are similar and he wanted to work on a campus with comparable policies and procedures.

"We try to educate before we discipline at Miami University. Students are coming to campus to better themselves; I don't think anybody there wants to become a career criminal," VanWinkle said.

Jeffrey Scott, the police chief of Notre Dame, said it's essential to build positive relationships with neighboring departments and build trust with the community.

"The more information we have, the more informed that we are, the better we can protect the campus," Scott said.

Each open forum included discussion of how each candidate views conceal and carry on campus.

Carrying weapons on campus is prohibited at YSU, but a law passed in Ohio in March allows Ohio universities to choose whether or not their faculty or students can possess a concealed weapon on campus.

It would be challenging to have conceal and carry on campus, Varso said, because in a situation where there's an active shooter, it would take more time to identify the perpetrator amongst innocent but armed students.

Scott said he is neutral on conceal and carry, but shared the same concern as Varso.

"When you have people that are not able to identify themselves and they're carrying guns and there's a shooting going on ... you can't discriminate what the target is," he said. "An innocent person's life could be in jeopardy."

VanWinkle said he doesn't see a reason for them being on campus, and at Miami, some students skipped class when their university passed open carry laws.

Each candidate expressed a need for establishing a better relationship with the campus community and showing students how to recognize and prevent being scammed by someone that is hacking the university.

Additional reporting by Dan Hiner and Jordan Unger.



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Advocating for Immigrant Workers

PHOTO BY JORDAN UNGER / THE JAMBAR

BY JORDAN UNGER

Jeff Stewart, coordinator of the Immigrant Worker Project, teamed up with researchers to discover the number of immigrants in Ohio in 1998. Studies estimated that there was a population of about 15,000 to 18,000 immigrants.

After finding more rural and farm-working immigrants, Stewart and the researchers found the actual number was 63,500 to 70,300, and he began working towards making them aware of the services his organization provides.

Stewart spoke about how IWP, a nonprofit based in Canton, advocates for the workplace rights of immigrants at Fok Hall on April 3. He said the organization has seen over three workers die on the job, and countless others

abused.

"One of the dairy farms where it was really bad, they were charging guys for being injured," Stewart said. "This was [a] place where there was a lot of abuses, a lot of stuff happening where we really stepped in and started working."

Aside from handling workplace rights complaints, IWP also teaches leadership skills, English and economic literacy. There are also programs for children who are coming to the United States alone to escape the violence in their home country, Stewart said.

Many of the immigrants who live in rural areas of Ohio came from rural areas of Mexico and Guatemala, Stewart said.

"Naturally we've seen this over hundreds of years of immigration patterns in the United States," Stewart said. "People gravitate to where they can replicate their community."

Alicia Prieto Langarica, a YSU

math professor who attended the event, said non-immigrants don't understand how bad conditions are in those countries.

"They know what they are coming to and this is what is at the big, beautiful end of the journey," Prieto Langarica said. "Can you even imagine what it's like there for mothers to say, 'Yes, I am going to send my 14-year-old boy alone?'"

Stewart said this is a question that leaves many people on the fence.

Georgia Kasamias, a YSU student who organized the event, said she interns at IWP every Saturday.

"I realized that not many people in the Youngstown area know ... of how many undocumented immigrants live and work in Ohio," Kasamias said. "I think understanding the situation is going to ultimately be the thing that's going to reverse or prevent xenophobia."

"Endure for the Cure"

BY RACHEL GOBEP

The sixth annual Endure for the Cure event will be held at Youngstown State University's Stambaugh Stadium on April 22.

The two-mile obstacle course race raises funds for Flashes of Hope, a non-profit organization that donates funds to cancer research and takes portraits of children with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses.

The event is held by the Student Recreation Advisory Committee and will consist of obsta-

cles such as tire flipping, sled pushing and more.

The price of a ticket is 25 dollars for college and high school students, 30 dollars for faculty members and alumni, and 35 dollars for members of the community.

There is also a team option, which costs 60 dollars for 3 people and 95 dollars for 5 people.

Non-YSU students, faculty and staff must pay a five-dollar parking fee.

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and the first race will start at 10:00 a.m.

YSU Partnership Reduces Time to Get a Law Degree

BY JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ

Youngstown State University and the University of Akron have created a partnership that enables students to complete law school in six years rather than seven.

The new 3+3 program is designed to reduce the amount of time it takes students to receive a law degree. Students from the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences as well as the Williamson College of Business Administration are eligible for this program.

Ron Cole, the YSU public information officer, said YSU has set out to decrease the time it takes students to earn a degree.

"By doing that, the overall cost to students is reduced, and ultimately, it helps reduce student debt," Cole said. "By potentially reducing the time it takes to earn a law degree from seven years to

six, this partnership with University of Akron Law School accomplishes all of that."

With this new program, students will spend their first three years at YSU and the next three years at the University of Akron Law School. Students will receive their bachelor's degree after their first year of law school.

The program is set to begin as early as the next school year.

Paul Sracic, chair of Politics and International Relations at YSU, said the program is ideal for new students entering their freshman year, but is available for all students.

According to Sracic, over the past five years roughly 100 YSU students have went on to law school.

"We believe that YSU has one of the best pre-law programs in the state, and this new partnership only serves to enhance that reputation and to expand the opportunities for our students," Cole said.

Erasing the Stigma: A Series on Student Athletes Part 3/4

BY JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR
KATIE MONTGOMERY

For many athletes, admitting that they have a chronic, invisible condition they can't fix is terrifying.

Common fears about mental health include loss of playing time, loss of teammates' respect and being seen as a quitter or a complainer.

Of course, that's assuming athletes know mental health issues when they feel them and know it's not a "fake" illness.

For Alexandra Butta, a swim-

mer at Youngstown State University, the way she viewed her anorexia never registered as "sick enough" for her to get treatment.

"When people talked about anorexia, I saw this super skinny, helpless, dying woman in bed," she said. "I literally laughed in the doctor's face when he recommended 24/7 care. I didn't believe him."

Her anorexia began her senior year of college as her swimming career came to a close. She panicked about what she was going to do after college now that she would never have a coach yelling at her, telling her what to do next

to stay in shape.

Still fiercely competitive and goal-oriented, she decided she was going to become a bikini model.

"I would find diets online and I'd halve them. I wanted to get to my goal faster and better than anyone else," she said. "I even started seeing a trainer and would work out twice as much as he recommended, just because I was so determined."

This kind of perfectionism is now classified as a vice by psychologists, along with narcissism and egocentrism. But for coaches and athletes, it's not uncommon to hear it praised as a virtue.

"All I had known was being excellent and accomplishing what I wanted," she said. "I always got what I wanted because I fought for it."

Because of her almost perverse dedication to starving herself, the disease almost killed her. She exercised intensely and impulsively. Her personality changed and she wasn't thinking logically anymore because her brain was "starved," as she puts it.

It took years for her family and friends to convince her to seek residential treatment, and she still struggles to gain the weight back.

But she's determined to fight

the stigma, and to educate anyone who might listen. She publicly advertises herself as a spokesperson on anorexia, and has started hosting regular food discussion groups for those with eating disorders or who have people in their lives struggling with them.

"The mental health stigma isn't going to go away unless we make it go away," she said. "The disease is not who I am now, and I don't mind talking about it. This is the only way to help people like me."

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News Brief

Ferndale Foundation Scholarship

The YSU Foundation announced the expansion of the Ferndale Foundation Scholarship. The number of scholarships has increased from two students per year to five. All recipients will receive \$1,000 for the 2017-18 academic year. The scholarship will be awarded to international or domestic students with at least one parent from Mexico or Central Amer-

ica.

Applicants must be a full-time student at Youngstown State University and in good standing with a minimum 2.8 GPA. The scholarship can be awarded multiple times as long as any recipients meet the eligibility.

The application can be found on the YSU Financial Aid website.

Check out more
content online
at
TheJambar.com

Ewing Announced as New YBI CEO



PHOTO BY GABRIELLE FELLOWS / THE JAMBAR

BY GABRIELLE FELLOWS

During a press conference held at the Youngstown Business Incubator on Monday, Barb Ewing, YBI's COO, was appointed as the next CEO of the company.

Ewing will replace current CEO, Jim Cossler, beginning on May 1. Cossler said he will still be at YBI as the Huntington Bank entrepreneur in residence, which

allows him to work more closely with the Incubator's portfolio companies.

The transition from Cossler to Ewing has been happening since the beginning of 2016, according to a press release sent by Colleen Kelly, the director of development at YBI.

Jim Yukech, YBI chairperson, said Ewing embraced the challenges the Incubator faced and guided the staff in the right direction.

"It made it a very easy decision to put Barb in this role because she was heading down the path we knew we had to go," Yukech said.

Ewing said she considers this transition "an evolution, not a revolution," and wants to continue dispelling disbelief in what Youngstown and YBI can do.

"I am so very honored ...," she said. "Any organization is only as strong as its weakest link, and [I] can say in all sincerity

that we [YBI] don't have one ..."

Although he won't be leading the Incubator into the future, Cossler said he is very confident in Ewing's abilities as a leader and an innovator.

"... I also believe they think our very best is yet to come. Barb Ewing will confidently lead us there. She is going to take YBI to heights never imagined. I know that," Cossler said. "And I'm just going to sit back and be her biggest fan."

YSU Plans to Update Internet Security, Wi-Fi

BY VICTORIA REMLEY

Youngstown State University is planning on increasing internet security and Wi-Fi power by updating its current coverage.

The project will cost around \$6 million, with \$1 million being paid per year for the next six years. The money will come out of YSU's operating expenses.

Moser Hall's Wi-Fi was updated this semester and as a result, the speed of the Wi-Fi and security coverage improved. Maag Library and the Kilcawley Center will be updated next during the

summer of 2017.

Other programs besides Wi-Fi and security improvements will be updated. A complete network infrastructure refresh is being planned, which includes the wiring in the walls of the Maag Library and Kilcawley Center being replaced.

These improvements will take about a week to perform per building. The installation deals with the infrastructure of the building, which is more complicated than simply plugging a cord into a router.

An unavoidable problem when updating security is that once the update is complete, the secu-

urity team will have to start over because the updated protection services will be outdated.

Chris Wentz, the associate director and information security officer for YSU, said that while they want the updates to be quick, they also have to deal with outside forces working against it.

"We understand the frustration and we'd like to move faster than we are," Wentz said. "But there's constraints, like with anything."

Currently, thousands of security threats are bombarding YSU's firewalls every day. The university blocks around 70 percent of these attacks.

On average, 10 to 12 million attacks happen monthly. Less than 10 percent of threatening emails sent to YSU actually get to the recipients and only three percent of emails scams get through YSU's security.

The security update won't change the university's system completely, but make updates to the existing security.

In addition to updating security, YSU will utilize the vulnerability management program to combat security threats.

The program tests different locations on campus to see how easy it would be to access the university's sensitive information. If

a weak location on campus is detected, that location becomes top priority for being updated.

Mickey Hancharenko, a security supervisor, said the team also looks at YSU's devices and figures out how easy it would be to hack them.

The security team said that some wireless access points on campus are weak because they're old. Once a weak location has been detected, the security team comes up with ways to protect the device from attacks.

The security coverage rose from 23 percent to 46 percent on campus. The security team hopes to be at 100 percent by the



YSU Enforces New Gun Law

PHOTO COURTESY OF PAVEL KOUCKY/ FLICKR

BY JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR
MORGAN PETRONELLI

Ohio Gov. John Kasich signed a bill in December 2016 that made it legal to carry a concealed weapon at Ohio college universities.

However, the university board of trustees must vote to allow concealed firearms on campus. Ron Cole, Youngstown State University public information officer, said the YSU Board of Trustees still does not

allow concealed guns on campus.

The Student Code of Conduct states, "Illegal or unauthorized possession of firearms, fireworks, explosives, other weapons, or dangerous chemicals on University premises or use of any such item, even if legally possessed, in a manner that harms, threatens, or causes fear to others."

According to Cleveland.com, all Ohio public universities still prohibit guns on campus as of March 2017.

An Ohio law began on March 21 that al-

lows employees with concealed carry permits to keep their guns concealed in their car, even if their workplace bans weapons inside their businesses.

Shannon Tirone, associate vice president of University Relations, said a permit holder's gun must remain locked in their car to comply with campus rules.

"This law allows for an individual to have a gun locked in their private vehicle," Tirone said.

The Youngstown State University Police Department will enforce the law, Cole

said.

Military members and those in training on campus follow YSU's original weapons policy.

"I believe university policy does not allow weapons on campus. So since we are very much a part of this campus, that is our policy," Lt. Col. Joseph Paydock said. "The ROTC program has no special provisions or special permissions to carry weapons on campus."

Tattoo Parlor Finds New Home Near Campus

BY JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR
JOHN STRAN

For those who have thought about getting a tattoo or are looking to add to their skin art collection, a tattoo parlor is relocating close to campus.

City council recently gave the go ahead for DNA Studios LLC, a Warren based tattoo shop and art gallery, to relocate their shop to 137 Lincoln Ave., near the campus Jimmy John's.

Though this is a new concept for the YSU campus, colleges like Kent State University and Ohio University have multiple tattooing and piercing shops surrounding them.

Dennis Kirsch and Amber Slick are the married couple who do the tattooing at DNA Studios. They are accompanied by their manager, Roy Schmidt.

Schmidt is also the man in charge of handling the move. He found the business to be well received amongst a couple of their new neighbors.

"YSU and even the Catholic Diocese were on board," Schmidt said. "So we felt pretty confident about getting the place."

The business has been in Warren since August 2011 but began in Newton Falls in 2009. Though DNA studios has made improvements to their Warren location since moving in, they feel that the location in Youngstown has more to offer.

"Financially speaking, Warren can no longer support us," Slick said. "YSU gets thousands of new kids every year, which will be great for business and personally will be an enjoyable experience."

Slick grew up in Youngstown and said she is ready to be a part of the

city she loves again.

"I miss the culture of Youngstown," Slick said. "The city really grew on me and I have so much affection for it."

The size of their new space is similar to their current one and the plan is to recreate the same environment that they currently have; the front room will hold the art gallery and the back will be for tattooing.

The art gallery is the visual attraction of the business while the tattoo parlor plays the role of backbone. Slick said the gallery only exists because of the money made from the tattoo parlor.

The types of tattoos they do varies – abstract works known as biomechanical tattoos, tattoos created by Kirsch and Slick and classic tattoos will all be done at the shop.

Slick and Kirsch say they always strive to remove any bad connotations that tattoos and tattoo artists receive. They want their tattoos to be perceived as art and not something that connotes bad decision making.

They want to be seen as artists and not as undisciplined tattooists who run their business unlawfully.

"Tattoo artists have to keep improving," Schmidt said. "Their talent is judged by their most recent piece, so improvement is crucial."

Slick said she understands the permanence of a tattoo and the pressure that comes with being a tattooer. Schmidt trusts Slick and Kirsch's skill – he only gets his work done at DNA.

The group doesn't have a set date as to when they'll open up the new place, but they plan to start closing up their Warren shop in weeks to come.



ACS Shows Makes Science Fun For Kids

PHOTO BY ALYSSA PFLUG / THE JAMBAR

BY SAMANTHA PHILLIPS

The Youngstown State University chapter of the American Chemical Society performed experiments for children in the Success After Six program at the Youngstown Community School on March 28.

Harley Parker, member of the Youngstown State University American Chemical Society, said some of the students from the Success After Six program thought the chemistry experiments they demonstrated was magic.

"The younger kids thought it was magic instead of science, but the kids were really excited about it," she said. "They had a bunch of questions."

The group has done demonstrations for children at other venues, such as OH Wow! Center and the Canfield Fair, but it was the first time they have had an event for Success After Six.

"One of the activities we enjoy doing is chemistry shows for area school children and other events," Sam Kulifay, vice president of YSU ACS, said.

Samantha Mock and Joe Pallone, members of ACS, showed about 100 children demonstrations such as producing a ball of fire by blowing fine powder through a candle flame and oxidizing a gummy bear to produce sparks.

"They really liked the gummy bear experiment. Anything involving fire seems to get kids excited," Parker said.

Kulifay secured funds from the YSU Student Government Association to purchase 50 ACS t-shirts, and some of them were given to the children as prizes. The rest were donated to the in-school store, where students purchase items based on credits they earned in the classroom.

"We hope to peak their interest in science and give them incentive to apply themselves in school," Kulifay said. "Hopefully this will stimulate interest in STEM fields and steer a few of them toward rewarding careers in such fields."

Michael Serra, the advisor of the YSU Chapter of ACS, said he is always impressed by how much time and energy the team contributes to the society.

"I think they are a great asset to the chemistry department and great ambassadors for chemistry," he said.

Q&A with Artist Carrie Longley

BY AMANDA LEHNERD

Q1: Who are you as an artist?

I am a studio artist and educator. I am currently an assistant professor of fine art and chair of the Fine and Performing Arts Department at Indiana University East. I hold a BA in Studio Art from Wittenberg University and a MFA from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. My teaching and art making go hand in hand, my students motivate me to continue to stay connected in the field and fearlessly experiment with creative expression.

Q2: How did you get started in ceramics?

I met clay my sophomore year of college in a 3-D design course. I was immediately hooked. Thankfully, I had a wonderful professor that saw my potential and encouraged me to pursue an art major.

Q3: Did you always want to study and work with ceramics?

No. Until my sophomore year of college, I had no clue what I wanted to study or what career I wanted to pursue. I grew up in a family of artists, but never considered myself one. I never considered working with clay until I had a clay assignment for a course. I value all forms of expression. I think clay is just another tool/material like any other to use for visual expression and it just happens to have a diverse/amazing history. Even though I'm primarily a sculptor who happens to work with clay, I proudly identify myself as a ceramicist. The material continues to inspire and amaze me.

Q4: How does your artwork investigate the relationship between the art object and a scientific specimen?

My inspiration comes from nature (pregnancy, childbirth, fossils, insects, plants, etc.). My sculptures are displayed like scientific specimens, under glass bell jars to encourage the viewer to more closely observe the art piece and question its authenticity. Over the past year, I've been serving as a visiting artist in collaboration with Katy Börner, professor of Information Science at IU Bloomington. This collaboration is part of the "Places & Spaces: Mapping Science Exhibition". Using the purpose of this exhibition as a starting point, I have experimented with clay and wire to create 3-D prototypes representing the growth and intersections of distant fields of knowledge. As an artist, this project has inspired me to more carefully consider the meaning of form, surface and color relationships as they are tied directly to specific information.

Q5: What will you be talking about during your workshop?

I will demonstrate how I use china paints to heighten the dimension of my sculptures and create a more believable organic surface. Then, I will invite participants to experiment with a variety of water based mediums to apply china paints. Participants can china paint on glazed tiles (provided) or bring in their own glazed ware. Mediums include: glycerin, artificial sweetener, MiraLax, gum arabic, glue and milk. Each of these materials has a completely different effect with the china paint, some dry quickly and are great for detailed linear work, others stay "open" and are great for gradients and blends.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARRIE LONGLEY



Butler Art Museum Presents: Slow Art Day

PHOTO BY GABE GARCIA / THE JAMBAR

BY GABE GARCIA

The Butler Art Museum presented Slow Art Day on April 8, a day internationally observed. The theory behind Slow Art Day is for people to visit their local museums and galleries to appreciate the artwork.

Ciaran Malys, a docent at the Butler Institute of American Art, feels it is important for people to really focus on the art they are looking at.

“During Slow Art Day, we want to take 10 or 15 minutes to look at a work of art,” Malys said. “People should look at the painting and not just get the history of the artists, but try to understand the artwork itself.”

Taking a tour of a museum tends to require people to stay in a group with their

guide; the guide is there to answer questions about the artwork. When people are on a tour they don’t have much time to wander, and explore art on their own.

“Here at the Butler we’re evolving and trying to engage everyone that comes in,” Malys said. “We want people to be able to find out how the painting captures their attention and what mood it sets for them.”

For Slow Art Day, the Butler Museum hand selected and featured six works of art in a mini tour from 12-3 p.m.

The artworks featured were “Ship Starlight” by Fitz H. Lane, “Snap the Whip” by Winslow Homer, “In Flander’s Field” by Robert Vonnoh, “The Little Dancer” by Robert Henri, “Lincoln the Railsplitter” by Norman Rockwell and “Americans: Youngstown People” by Alfred Leslie.

“I think it’s all about the presentation, to have the docent walk with you to explain further some of the details you don’t pick up as a common person,” said Youngstown local Cheryl Emrich.

Patrons were gradually coming into the museum, at first one at a time, and then couples as well as parents accompanied by their children to take part in Slow Art Day.

“It really gives you some time to look at the pieces a little more closely, especially when you’re able to explore the museum on your own,” said local Linda Hahn. “It’s also a good excuse to come down and check out the museum.”

The works of art that really seemed to spike the most interest was the guitar exhibit on the second floor, as well as the

series of Impressionist paintings in the Watson Gallery.

“One artwork I really liked was the one I saw of Lincoln by Norman Rockwell,” said local Rose Wilkens. “When I lived over in Illinois we went down to his house in Springfield which was definitely something worth seeing as well.”

According to one of the docents, the painting “Lincoln the Railsplitter” is estimated to be worth at least \$3 million and is on loan to the Butler by an esteemed patron of the museum.

“I came today because there was an article in the paper that my friends had seen, and they didn’t want to come by themselves,” Wilkens said. “I like art, so I just decided to tag along with them. I really enjoyed it too.”

Flute Festival Features Marianne Gedigan

BY AMANDA LEHNERD

Youngstown State University is holding their 24th annual Flute Festival. The event will be held in Bliss Hall on the YSU campus, with registration beginning at at 8:30 a.m. Registration fees are as follows: adults are \$20, students/seniors are \$10, parents of attending students, YSU students, faculty and staff are free. Exhibitors from around the country will have booths offering flutes, music and flute-related items for sale throughout the day. People looking to attend the festival can register online at <https://ysudanaflutesociety.wixsite.com/ysuflutefestival/register>.

Anna Reitsma breaks down the top five highlights of the festival, and what people should expect when attending the festival:

1: The flute festival is hosted annually by the YSU Flute Society under the direction of Kathryn Thomas Umble. It is an all day event consisting of a recital by special guest artist Marianne Gedigan, a two-hour master class, a lecture and performances by area chamber ensembles.

There will also be a show tunes reading session, a workshop with Umble, a beginners flute ensemble reading session, an intermediate/advanced flute ensemble reading session and a junior high master class with Anna Reitsma.

2: The special guest was chosen based on her reputation as a world-class flute performer and teacher. The performance of special guest artist Gedigan, will feature works by J.S. Bach, Cécil Chaminade, Ian Clarke and Otmar Taktakishvili. The final flute ensemble concert will feature music by Catherine McMichael and Georges Bizet as well as a featured solo with Umble playing the Vivaldi Concerto in D major accompanied by the YSU Flute Ensemble.

3: The master class allows students at YSU the opportunity to perform for the guest artist and receive valuable feedback to help them improve as a performer and musician. The students performing in this year’s master class are Madeline Grimes, Jewellea Wyne, Hailey Baker and Anna Reitsma. There will also be a high-school student from Butler High School performing in the master class.

4: The exhibitors include flute specialists Royal-

ton Music, Motter’s Music, Haynes Flutes and FluteFX. The Guest Artist Recital will feature Marianne Gedigan accompanied by Dianne Frazer. The final flute ensemble concert will feature Central Green Flute Ensemble under the direction of Mandi Lawrence. The members are Jordan Bell, Sarah Bish, Kristen Black, Holly Grainger and Daelen Jenks. It will also feature the YSU Flute Ensemble under the direction of Umble. The members are Sidney Charles, Amber DeCaprio, Jackie Jupina, Emily Karr, Lindsey Kiselica, Anna Reitsma, Nadya Stratton and Jewellea Wyne.

5: There are three events designed to give everyone who attends a chance to play their flute. The first is a show tunes reading session. Everyone will have the chance to sight read popular songs including tunes from “Harry Potter” and “The Lion King.” The second is a beginners flute ensemble reading session. This is designed to give people who are just learning a chance play in an ensemble. The final is an intermediate/advance flute ensemble reading session. This is designed to give people to sight-read flute ensemble music.

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The Jambar Column

You've got to be kidding me.

BY JILLIAN SMITH

This was my thought as I eyed the ancient, crumbling staircase that was sewn roughly into the side of Qingcheng Mountain. It was midday, and my shirt was clinging to my back, sweat and mountain dust making the light cotton feel suddenly like it weighed five pounds more than a shirt should.

My friends and I had spent the past two hours scaling up the precarious face of the north end of the mountain, edging past throngs of tourists, chanting monks, shouting merchants and precocious children.

The stairs, which had been steadily and cruelly increasing in altitude, drooped suddenly, a set of impossibly narrow, impossibly steep and incredibly intimidating little platforms threatened to make me slip and fall flat on my face for many hundreds of painful feet. The stones glistened with a slick moistness. The open expanse of the Sichuan province sky met the steps on the left hand side, with no guard rail separating it from clumsy tourists.

"Are you sure this is right?" I yelled back to my friend Mike, who had climbed the mountain

once before. "Why are we going down? Shouldn't we be going up?"

"Well yeah," he answered back. "But sometimes you have to go down in order to go back up."

I thought what he said sounded vaguely philosophical, but I was panicking too much to consider it at that moment. The throngs of people who had been trailing us up the mountain were finally catching up as I dithered near the top of the stairs. I had drunk little water over the course of the hike, and the strain on my muscles coupled with my dehydration causing my legs to shake involuntary, like they were struggling under the weight of some massive barbell. I desperately clutched the side of the cliff face, digging my fingers into the soft dirt, in an attempt to gain some stability.

"Hurry up Jillian, keep going," yelled Mike, who could not see the staircase of death from behind. We had worked hard to escape the oppressive press of the crowd, and I knew he wanted us to keep up our lead.

I swallowed hard as I peered down at the teeny tiny little footholds that were covered in dew, the only lifelines between myself and an incredibly un-

pleasant and wildly careening sled ride over stones and mud and tree branches. The bottom of the staircase looked even tinier. It seemed a mile away, at an eighty degree drop. I had seen such drops before, but only when I was safely in the car of a roller coaster. I felt my hands turn into two dead, cold fish. My head began to swim. My stomach felt like it had turned to scrambled eggs and was being turned by some invisible spatula.

Mike was suddenly right behind me.

"Oh shit," he exclaimed, starting down the steps with me.

We both paused for a moment, assessing our own athletic ability and mental stamina. The path was too narrow for him to pass me. The only thing to do was to either keep going forward or stop and turn around.

"There's a really cool Taoist temple down there," he said, attempting to encourage me.

I breathed deeply. "Yes, I want to see that!"

I lifted one jello-ey leg. My balance was nonexistent. I peered down again at the massive staircase and froze.

"Oh God," I whispered. "I don't know about this."

With my head spinning and heart racing, Mike offered some

mountain climber wisdom that seemed to cut right through the thick slab of my own disorientation.

"Don't look at the whole staircase," he said calmly. "Just focus on one step."

I wanted to turn around and see if he meant for that to be some kind of Taoist philosophical axiom, or simply a way of getting my behind further down the mountain. I took it as both.

One step.

That was all I focused on when I unclenched my clawed hand from the soggy earth and lifted my twitching leg. All I have to do is move my legs one step.

Left, right. Done.

I paused another moment, amazed. I had moved down the mountain, and I hadn't died. Nothing had happened. I was ok. And all I had done was taken a step.

I heard Mike from behind again. "Great!"

One step. I was a little further down. Incredible.

Not bad at all, I told myself. I can easily do this. At this rate, I could probably clear ten steps in a minute and....

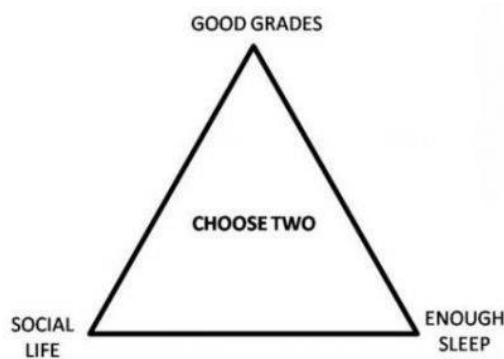
I had accidentally raised my head back up and looked at the whole staircase as I considered my progress. Instantly, the quea-

sy spatula-stomach feeling came back in full force. I desperately fought the urge to jump back up the stairs and turn around and curl into the fetal position.

Just one step, I reminded myself. I breathed deeply again, and focused my thoughts into impossibly small time increments. One ... two ... three ... step. One ... two ... three ... step.

In this way, I methodically picked my way down the staircase, in a near meditative trance. Reaching the bottom, I was met with the coolness of the mountain mist and the chanting of the monks. Mike and I wordlessly followed the scent of burning incense to the temple that jutted out from the base of a cliff. Standing at the mouth of the temple, we watched candles flicker as the faithful knelt and offered prayers. A wave of peace came over me.

I am one who is often prone to over think things. It is tempting for me to panic when I feel overwhelmed. But Qingcheng Mountain showed me something incredible. In touristy mountain climbing, and in life, one must not be discouraged by the enormity of the staircase. Anyone can scale a mountainside if they simply only focus on just one step.



Editorial

A Reminder to Students

Good grades are important, but so is self-care.

Try as hard as possible, study and get your sleep.

Instead of waiting until last minute and staying up for three days straight studying, sacrifice a weekend out for a date with your textbooks. You'll thank yourself now if you start your work early and manage your

time better.

You might miss out on a shift at work or hanging out with pals, but you'll also avoid the stress of procrastination.

As of today, you have around three weeks left of school. Start studying for finals and writing your term papers now. It'll be a lot easier on you that way.

The Press Box Perspective: Can Romo Succeed in the Booth and What's Next for Simms?

BY DREW ZUHOSKY

Last week, the Dallas Cowboys lost their veteran quarterback, Tony Romo, who only threw for 29 yards and one touchdown in the 2016 season, to retirement.

Throughout the offseason, there were rumors floating around that his next career move would be to the broadcast booth. On April 4, the same day that Romo ended his playing career, those rumors were proven true.

Beginning in 2017, Tony Romo will be paired with veteran play-by-play commentator Jim Nantz on "The NFL on CBS" as the lead announcing team.

Romo will succeed former No. 1 color commentator Phil Simms, who spent the last 19 seasons on CBS' lead commentary team — first with Greg Gumbel at the inception of the current incarnation of "The NFL on CBS" from 1998 until 2003, before Nantz and Gumbel swapped places on "The NFL Today" and game coverage in 2004.

All told, Simms has spent the past 23 seasons in broadcasting, spending the 1994 season at ESPN as a studio analyst before joining NBC's top broadcast crew in 1995 with Dick Enberg and Paul Maguire. Both Gumbel and Simms moved to

CBS in 1998 upon CBS regaining broadcast rights to NFL games.

Gumbel previously worked at CBS from 1988 to 1994, during which time he spent four years anchoring "The NFL Today" with Terry Bradshaw as analyst, leaving for NBC in 1994 after CBS lost NFL games to FOX.

Now, this leads to two questions: one, what will happen to Phil Simms, and two, will Tony Romo succeed as a broadcaster?

For the first question, note that Simms' contract with CBS Sports is still ongoing.

Last Saturday, he spoke for the first time on losing the top spot to the newly-retired Romo to Gary Myers, an NFL columnist for The New York Daily News via text, writing simply, "I am not done."

Myers outlined several possible avenues for Simms, like podcasting with son Chris, who played at quarterback like his father, and also serves as a color commentator on CBS like his father.

The most obvious avenue for Simms in my opinion would be to spend Sunday afternoons in the fall in Studio 43 at the CBS Broadcast Center on West 57th Street in New York City on "The NFL Today."

There's already an opening at the desk, which features James Brown, Bill Cowher, Boomer Esiason and Bart Scott after Tony Gonzalez announced he'd be leaving the long-standing pregame show last

month.

Simms could be plugged in easily, I think, especially since he and Esiason already work on Showtime's "Inside the NFL."

Now, for the question about Romo: obviously, since we're less than five months out from the start of the new NFL season, there is no definitive answer as to if he'll succeed in the booth.

However, in my opinion, Tony Romo will do just fine in the booth, especially with a great talent in the form of Jim Nantz on play-by-play. Nantz and his colleagues, whether it's golf, the NFL, or college basketball, always work well together.

When you consider that Nantz is the top play-by-play commentator for CBS in all three of those sports and that Nantz' career highlights include some of sports' highest-profile events, I think he and Romo are going to work well in the booth.

As of the time I wrote this (last Sunday afternoon), the NFL schedule for the 2017 season had yet to be released.

If you follow the NFL's Thanksgiving Day telecast rotation closely, you'd know that CBS has the rights to the Cowboys' Thanksgiving game in odd-numbered seasons, meaning Romo will be the analyst for that game this year.

Good luck to Romo in his new venture.

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Ahead of the Rest: YSU Men's Soccer Gearing up for Fall

PHOTO COURTESY OF QUSAI ABUHAMMAD

Qusai Abuhammad (Pictured in Black) poses with members of the Midwest Alliance Soccer Conference at the Annual Presidents' Meeting.

BY MARC WEEMS

With the spring coming to a close, the Youngstown State University men's soccer club is looking to make a statement. YSU men's soccer club will be competing in the Eastern division of the Midwest Alliance Soccer Conference.

It will be competing against large schools such as Bowling Green State University, Kent State University and the University of Akron.

"We have an organization that has nearly 60 players," YSU soccer club president Qusai Abuhammad said. "When we compete, we only compete with a 24-player squad. We have three goalkeepers and 21 other players."

This will be the first time the team will be competing in an official capacity as an organization. The games it plays along with the results count towards its place-

ment in the 2018 season.

"What you get in the beginning of the 2018 season is based off of the results of the 2017 matches," Abuhammad said. "It is all about how we do against the teams we schedule in the Eastern Division."

The season begins on Aug. 19 with a home game against Wright State University. The idea, according to Abuhammad, is to play at least three home games and three away games.

YSU's schedule includes home games against WSU, the University of Toledo and BGSU. Away games include Ohio University and the University of Dayton. He also said the team hopes to play Kent State as well.

"Based on our draw, we won't play Ohio State University or the University of Miami (OH)," Abuhammad said. "Unfortunately, no one can play a 12-week schedule due to school. We play one match every week on weekends mostly."

"What's really interesting is we have really good high school soccer around

here. We just don't have soccer on campus. That didn't make any sense to me at first. We understood that the organization needed someone to put it all together. It was for the best of everybody. That's what we did in the last year."

Abuhammad also said that the organization got a lot of positive feedback from people around the community who desperately want a men's soccer team in the area.

"Why not?," Abuhammad said about hoping to get YSU into the Horizon League one day. "If we can make it there, why not? If it benefits this school and if it benefits this community, I don't see why not. We will be playing at Farmers Bank Field which was recently built. We have really nice facilities on campus right now."

Abuhammad also said that the timing for this team couldn't be better because of these facilities. The team does most of its practicing at the Watson and Tressel Training Site. He also said being able to use these facilities when other schools

don't have them is huge.

"This is basically three years of effort," Abuhammad said. "This didn't just come out of nowhere. We've played [the University of] Pittsburgh and Westminster University. We also had a lot of people coming in and out of this team. We had to talk with ex-presidents and even presidents of other school clubs. We needed their experience to understand how to run it."

For the past three years or so, YSU has played some tough competition such as Pitt. Abuhammad believes that playing that level of competition has helped put them in the position they all are in.

As part of being president of the club, he went to the Annual Presidents' meeting. It was held at Purdue University on April 8.

"I had the chance to meet all the presidents of all the club soccer's," Abuhammad said. "There are over 50 schools in the alliance, so that was a great opportunity to get going with."



PHOTO COURTESY OF YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

Benjamin's Stellar Season Earns Her the MVP

BY RICK HENNEMAN

The Youngstown State University women's basketball team held their annual postseason awards banquet last Saturday at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Social Hall. Among those honored at the banquet was junior guard Indiya Benjamin. However, there was some special significance to the award she received this year.

Benjamin is just the second guard in the last ten years to be named the Coach Ed DiGregorio Most Valuable Player.

DiGregorio took over the women's basketball program at YSU in 1983 and what was meant to be a short term appointment turned into a 20-year legacy.

DiGregorio led the Penguins during some of the team's most successful seasons in program history, finishing the

1990-91 season with a 24-4 record. He also coached YSU in every conference in which the program has been a member, Ohio Valley, Mid-Continent and the Horizon League.

Benjamin had worthy competition for the award amongst her own teammates. Sophomore Alison Smolinski led the conference with 85 3-pointers while freshman Mary Dunn won the Horizon League Freshman of the Year.

"I was very surprised [to win the award]," Benjamin said. "Al [Smolinski] is a very good player. She was tremendous for us this year and the previous year but this year she really broke out. Mary, against all odds, came through for us big time in a lot of games. I am honored to be selected but it could have been any of us."

Benjamin, however, had an especially impressive season. She led the Horizon League in assists while posting a career-high 11.6 points and 5.6 assists per

game.

"I really wanted to get my teammates involved this year," she said about her season. "Our confidence had been low with what happened to our team. I wanted to get everyone involved and playing together. I was passing the ball to the open person and getting their shots going. My teammates knocking down shots is what gave me all of the assists."

Being awarded the MVP placed Benjamin in the same company as many YSU hall of fame inductees. Former women's basketball stand-outs and current hall of famers such as Jen Perugini, Brianne Kenneally and Liz Hauger have been recipients of the DiGregorio MVP award.

"I feel honored," Benjamin said. "It's a big privilege to be selected like some of the other hall of famers. It was a surprise for me because we haven't given out that award at previous banquets. I was very shocked but happy at the same time when

I was selected."

While Benjamin is pleased with her performance this season, she said that the award is giving her even more motivation for next year.

"It gives me a lot of motivation," Benjamin said. "To see that I got this award in my junior year gives me so much more confidence to work harder, play harder and give it all I got my last year."

Benjamin's performance this past season not only set career marks for her as a player but also moved her up the ranks of the all-time bests at YSU statistically. She is now ranked among the top eight in program history for career assists (453) and the top-20 for career points (972).

Other award recipients at the postseason banquet were Alison Smolinski for Most Improved Player and Mary Dunn for Newcomer of the Year.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KENDRICK PERRY

The Journey Continues:

Perry's Dream of Pro Career Leads to Title

BY JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR
CHRIS MCBRIDE

Kendrick Perry, a former Youngstown State University basketball player, set several records, including a Horizon League record for steals and a three-time All-Horizon League First-Team selection.

After his YSU tenure ended in 2014, Perry continued his career overseas.

After leaving college, he signed with the Sydney Kings of Australia in 2014. Perry said the leap from college to professional international play proved to be an adjustment.

"The style of game is faster, more physical, kind of the same transition from high school to college basketball," Perry said.

While the college and international style is drastically different, he cites some ways in which the two are familiar.

"The road trips are pretty similar," Perry said. "Practicing, eating together at the hotels and spending time with teammates in closer quarters."

One change that comes with professional basketball are the motivations of the players as their responsibilities go be-

yond the game.

"A lot of these guys [especially the older guys] have their own families and priorities," Perry said. "So it's not like we can sit around and play 2k all day like we would after practice at YSU."

While some may consider overseas a step down, Perry sees it as an opportunity to continue doing what it is he loves. He described the experience as being "humbling," among other things.

"It can open your eyes to show you that things we may complain about in the states are very minor on a global scale," he said. "Getting to meet different people, try different foods and learn about different history makes the experience great."

Since moving to Sydney, Perry has become accustomed to the international style of play. After a brief stint with Memphis Grizzlies' D-League Affiliate, Iowa Energy, he headed back overseas to Hungary.

There he played for Körmend, a team Perry believed he had something special with before a knee injury derailed his season.

"The guys on the team were close, everyone seemed to be on the same page and obviously it helps when you're suc-

cessful on the court as well," he said.

Following his knee surgery, he then joined Karpoš Sokoli, a Macedonian basketball club located in Skopje, Macedonia.

Playing overseas allows him to play the game he loves, but it takes him away from the people he loves, something Perry says comes with the territory.

"Anyone that knows me knows how much time I spend with my family and childhood friends back home," he said.

His brother, Aubrey Perry, knows this all too well as he's currently playing soccer in Sweden.

"I've been playing overseas since 2013 so it's something our family has gotten used to," Aubrey Perry said. "There's usually a period, a month or so, when neither of us are home so that's when the house is quietest." With both Perry brothers out of the house, Aubrey Perry assured that while their absence is hard, their parents know it's been good for them.

And though Kendrick Perry's collegiate career has passed, he said those days were some of the best of his life.

"I'll always look back on my days at YSU with the utmost gratitude for all of those who helped me grow as a person on and

off the court," Kendrick Perry said.

To former YSU teammate Blake Allen, Kendrick Perry is still a player that leads by example.

Kendrick Perry's current team, Karpoš Sokoli, recently participated in a midseason tournament that produced a National Cup for the club. With the win, Kendrick managed to get a glimpse of that team success he longed for.

"Personally, it was a great feeling for me because I never won a championship," Kendrick Perry said. "In high school, Austin Rivers and Winter Park derailed my journey to the state championship."

Coming off the cup win, Kendrick Perry and Karpoš Sokoli are eyeing a bigger prize: a Macedonian League championship.

And while playing in the NBA is the goal for many basketball players, Kendrick Perry isn't too worried about whether he'll suit up in an NBA jersey.

"At this point, it doesn't matter. I'm not going to base my playing career on whether or not I make it to the NBA or not," he said. "Now with that being said, I will continue to work as hard as possible and be the best me I can be."