



WHAT STUDENTS CAN EXPECT WHEN RETURNING TO CAMPUS

This custom-made hand-washing station is one of 10 installed throughout campus. Take 20 seconds in between classes and wash your hands in Kilcawley. Photo by Joseph Chapman

KELCEY NORRIS

As Penguins waddle back to campus this fall, Youngstown State University administration had to figure out how to keep the campus community safe. Administration implemented many new rules and regulations aiming to keep students and faculty safe during the global pandemic, which were released to the YSU community via email July 15.

President Jim Tressel laid out the guidelines for fall classes, which included a significant increase in online learning. All 4,000 fall classes were altered to be one of four types: traditional, agile-hybrid — a combination of in-person and online — virtual campus, or strictly online.

“14 percent of the classes are web-based, which are at your own pace. 25 percent are face-to-face. 60 percent are in that agile-hybrid group,” Tressel said. “What that will do is de-densify the campus. We’re still going to have in the neighborhood of 12,000 students, but they all won’t be here at the same exact time.”

Administration is asking the community to maintain social

distancing, wear face coverings at all times and wash hands regularly through it’s “For Pete’s Sake” campaign.

“When we hand out our welcome packets, everyone will get hand sanitizer and two YSU masks,” Tressel said.

Custom hand-washing stations have been installed inside campus facilities.

“A friend of mine made one of them with a YSU [logo] on it, and invited me out to see it,” Tressel said. “I said ‘Oh my gosh... I want 10 of them. We’ll put them all over campus.’ They were custom-made, just for YSU.”

Tressel has more ideas still in the making, such as a free coronavirus testing site right on campus.

“We’re trying to get the National Guard to come do one on campus right after Labor Day,” he said. “If anyone wants to test, even if they don’t have symptoms.”

Julie Gentile, director of the Office of Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety, her department has been working on outlining detailed instructions for a safe return. Gentile also serves as the co-chair of the recently established

Return to Campus Committee,

“We want to encourage students to be social distancing,” she said. “Students need to be wearing masks at all times whenever they’re inside a building. The only exception is for professors who are working in their own private offices; they can take the mask off then.”

She said this also applies to students studying in private, secluded areas. A newly formed student group will be traveling around campus to make sure everyone follows the mask rule.

“We started a group called Pete’s Patrol,” Gentile said. “They’re basically glorified hall monitors. They will remind students to put masks on and everything.”

Pete’s Patrol will incentivize social distancing by handing out Chick-fil-A gift cards to students they see taking safety measures. But even off campus, Gentile encourages students to make smart decisions.

“Don’t gather in large groups, and carry your mask with you everywhere you go,” she said.

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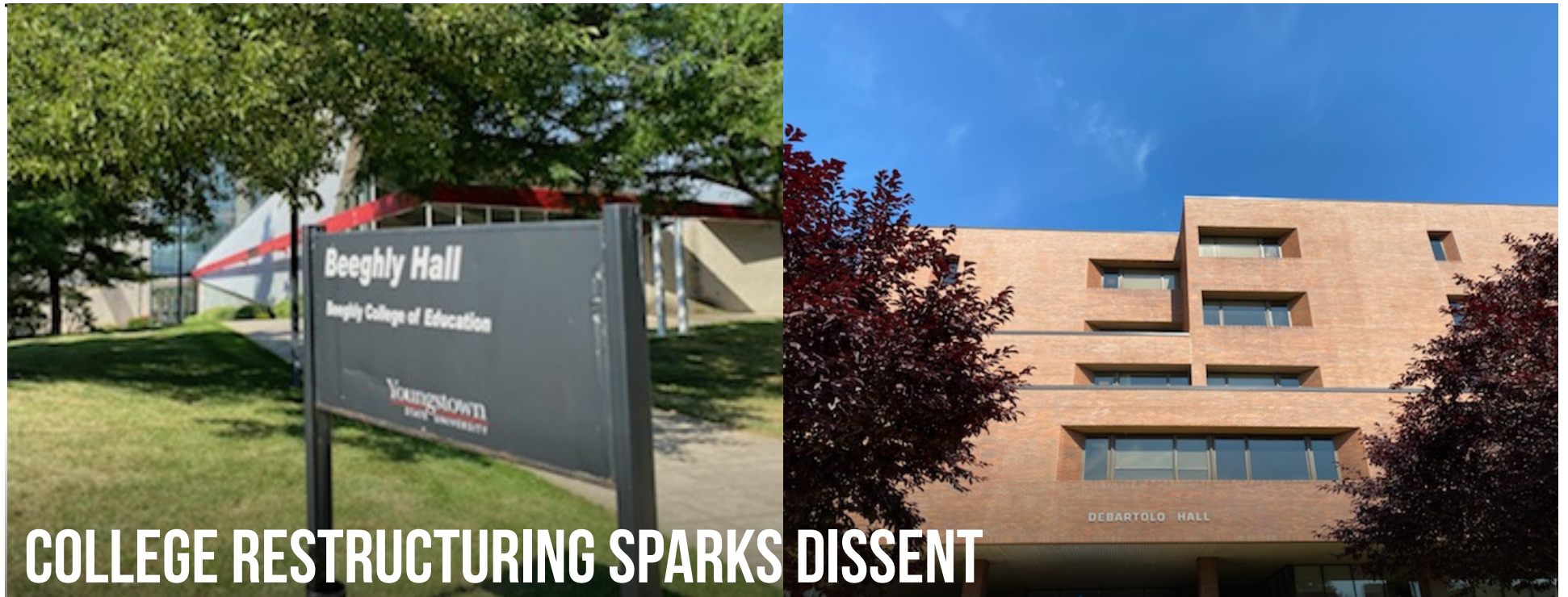
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The Beeghly College of Education merged with the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences in a restructuring move to save on administrative costs. Photos by Joseph Chapman

ABIGAIL CLOUTIER

Youngstown State University's Board of Trustees decided on June 3 to merge the Beeghly College of Education and the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

The combination of the colleges — now BCLASSE — is estimated to save the university \$1 million and cuts multiple administrative positions. Yet, this decision was criticized as hasty in a release from YSU's faculty union, a chapter of the Ohio Education Association.

Provost Brien Smith noted that the restructuring plan was designed quickly to help save on costs.

"[It] certainly wasn't the amount of time that I would have hoped to have vetted this across many different groups. You know, normally you would like to see around 18 months to really get this kind of proposal," he said.

When asked about this hastiness, Smith cited a 2017 policy on shared governance, allowing institutional leaders to act in the best interest of the university without shared governance.

"You know, we feel bad that we had to make these kinds of decisions in these tough times," he said. "But I don't see this as something that we're trying to tell people that we don't want to listen to their input. We are interested in their continued comment and input."

Mark Vopat, professor of philosophy in the new college and YSU-OEA's spokesperson, said subsequent input from faculty has been minimal.

"It's one of those situations where it's nice that you're asking after the fact, but at this point it's a done deal. Faculty are just attempting to adapt to the changes. I'm not sure what to state other than that we felt this was a hasty move on the part of the university," he said.

According to Vopat, the faculty would have appreciated being a part of the conversation early on.

"At least it could have been done methodically and with the interest of the faculty and students taken into account," he said.

Yet Smith doesn't anticipate the consolidation to impact students directly.

"The intent is not to take these program majors that are now under a new department title, and somehow mash them together with other majors or put new constraints on them," he said. "The idea is that the majors, qualifications and their quality constraints will remain exactly the same."

Vopat said that the loss of administrative assistants in particular will put strain on professors. The combined college went from 15 to eight assistants after cuts.

"I went from the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies with a part-time administrative assistant to seven departments combined with one administrative assistant," he said. "That just means that there's one person that is now severely overworked."

This one administrative assistant, according to Vopat, will now have an increased amount of work for over 20 faculty members just in this newly combined department. Without help from multiple assistants, faculty members now have to take on more tasks. One such task involves rewriting documents that outline how departments are governed that became inaccurate after consolidation. That leaves professors less time to give students attention.

"When professors are doing research, writing papers or going to conferences, these activities have a direct impact on the classroom," he said. "That's the kind of individual attention you can do when you're not taking care of the things that were formerly covered by our administrative assistants."

Though student employees will help fill in the gaps left behind by those assistants, they can't replace years of advising

and expertise.

"A department isn't just faculty, but it is the administrative assistants that work there. We have students that come to the department just to say hi to the assistant," Vopat said. "This is someone who supported or guided them. Especially when you get a lot of first-generation college students, sometimes they don't know what to ask. It's those kinds of informal conversations that you just can't replicate with a student worker."

Charles Howell, the new dean of BCLASSE and former dean of BCOE, said his executive secretary Desa Pavlichich has a relationship with students that can't be matched.

"She knows a lot about study-abroad. So when students would come in to talk to me about study abroad, they talked to Desa first. She had a whole lot of inside knowledge," he said.

There are also tasks that student assistants can't complete, like accessing faculty and administrative calendars, running student grade summaries for advising, completing class overrides, or even photocopying exams.

"In an office we don't have a single student worker who's there all the time. Maybe a dozen. I couldn't have a dozen different people making changes in my calendar; that wouldn't work out," Howell said.

Though he's looking forward to collaboration between the departments, Howell said the restructuring was like "drinking water out of a fire hose."

"There were a lot of administrative details to be worked out. You used to have 10 departments, now you only have four. Who are going to be the secretaries for those four departments? Who are going to be the department chairs for those four departments? So there were a lot of things that had to be straightened out," he said.



NEW YEAR, NEW LEADERS OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

The student body elected Student Government Association President Justin Shaughnessy and Executive Vice President Avery Howard.

SAMANTHA SMITH

Justin Shaughnessy and Avery Howard were elected into office as president and executive vice president of Youngstown State University's Student Government Association on April 13.

Shaughnessy, a first-year graduate student majoring in counseling, has been part of SGA for four years. He started out as vice president of the financial committee, and worked his way up to the highest role.

As president, Shaughnessy helps lead initiatives and makes sure that the needs of the student body are addressed.

"Any concerns students have, I can help either connect them with resources or, a lot of times, those concerns that students have turn into initiatives that Student Government pushes," he said. "We speak with administration and work on getting those on the desks of appropriate administration."

Shaughnessy said he has seen the impact SGA has had on students and how greatly he can make a difference.

"A lot of times when I sit down with a student or I'm talking to

a student about student government, it's kind of very surprising to them all that we do," he said.

Outside of SGA, Shaughnessy is a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity, and was a member of the Criminal Justice Club and the Forensic Science Club during his undergraduate term.

Shaughnessy's presidential campaign wasn't without its challenges. While campaigning in mid-March, YSU transitioned to online instruction. But with the help of Howard, "door-to-door" canvassing through social media and email became a breeze.

"I give a huge shoutout to Avery [Howard]," he said. "He kind of helped me de-stress with that type of stuff. He's very good with social media and making sure we're still addressing the concerns of our students."

Senior biology major and Shaughnessy's right-hand man Howard helps the administration know the needs and wants of YSU students.

"That kind of requires me to sit on different committees or maybe attend different meetings to hear that student voice," he

said. As he enters his third year in SGA, Howard said the feeling of belonging is what he appreciates most about the group.

"I love that the government feels like a family within a family," he said. "You feel like you're a part of change, you're a part of seeing new things happen."

Shaughnessy and Howard's vision for SGA includes improving funding for student organizations, advocating for the Penguin Pantry, increasing mental health awareness and increasing diversity and inclusion on campus.

"I think with current situations that sometimes those things need to be established," Howard said. "We kind of see this whole new change as a blessing that is bringing to light these problems."

If any student wants to join SGA, Chief of Staff Gianna Battaglia says freshmen can look for the emails sent out to them, while all other students can go onto the SGA website to find applications.

"I would say do it. I mean, it changed my life," Shaughnessy said. "Once I joined, I was 100% sold."



Youngstown State University welcomes Jeffrey Allen as the new dean of the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services. Photo by C. Aileen Blaine

C. AILEEN BLAINE

The last few months have brought numerous changes to Youngstown State University, including the consolidation and rearrangement of departments and colleges. The university has also welcomed a few new faces, such as Jeffery Allen, the new dean of the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services.

Allen is no rookie when it comes to working in higher education. Starting his career as a faculty member at Wright State University in Dayton, he worked his way up to the position of associate dean. He would then go on to serve as the founding dean at Clarion University in Pennsylvania. Holding a Ph.D in clinical psychology with focus in neuroscience and gerontology, Allen has worked with many specialists in a variety of health care fields.

Allen specializes in working with patients who have suffered strokes or brain injuries, and those who have cognitive difficulties. He's worked with physical, occupational and speech therapists, as well as nurses, physicians, social workers and other human service providers. He's had many collaborations

with doctors over the years in the transdisciplinary training of students, including the chair of the geriatrics department at Wright State, where he helped add to the gerontologic program offerings for students.

"Transdisciplinary training increased the visibility of geriatrics and gerontology as a career," Allen said. He hopes to implement such growth in YSU.

One of the things he hopes to continue developing at YSU is the concept of multi- and transdisciplinary training within the Bitonte College. This vision consists of introducing students to specialists in various disciplines to help enrich the learning and client service environment and to potentially open the door to new career choices that may not have been originally considered.

"At YSU, there are many disciplines and potential for additional academic program opportunities and growth," Allen said. "[The university] has done a good job with the rearrangement of the departments under Bitonte. I hope to get more disciplines involved in the curricular process and continue to recruit students."

Allen also wants to continue partnering with the community, particularly through the Mercy Health Wick Primary Care Clinic open to non-students, to help faculty and students increase the number of clientele served. He believes that the additional departments to the Bitonte College will help it to do more in its service to the community.

He believes that COVID-19 will undoubtedly be a challenge for the college this semester.

"This fall we will have to remain very flexible," Allen said, "but I want students to try to take advantage of a very perilous situation." While the coronavirus may provide challenges for students, Allen also thinks that health and human services students may be fortunate to train for careers at the time of this pandemic. He hopes that students will be able to take the challenges that come and use them as an opportunity to "hit the ground running."

"Who more than our students," Allen said, "will be optimally trained to deal with COVID-19 and future public health challenges?"



YSU EDUCATION MAJORS STILL EXPECT FIELD EXPERIENCE

Photos displayed in Beeghly Hall show undergraduate student teachers working with elementary-aged students. Photo by Joseph Chapman

GABRIELLE OWENS

As Ohio public school systems saw major shut-downs due to COVID-19, students and teachers transitioned to online learning. Charles L. Howell, dean of the Beeghly College of Liberal Arts, Social Sciences and Education, has a plan to ensure that education students gain field teaching experience through online instruction in local schools.

“For the fall semester, we anticipate that it’s going to be a mix between fully face-to-face instruction, hybrid instruction and online instruction; for students to complete their placement, many school districts are going to welcome our student teachers,” Howell said.

BCLASSE’s student teaching field experience continued to provide the best one-on-one experience for each student teacher during the shutdown, according to Howell. Education majors need this vital field experience — without it, they can’t be certified to teach.

“Last semester, after the school shut down, most of our student teachers continued to be involved in both online and

in-person instruction,” he said.

According to Howell, nearly all student teachers during the spring 2020 semester were able to complete their hours. This allowed them to fulfill their student teaching requirements and gain eligibility for their Ohio teaching license.

The BCLASSE professors and education students are working together to adapt to online instruction for the fall semester.

“Our student teachers are more comfortable with the technology than some of the teachers in the school, it’s very helpful to have them participating, and they have a lot of ideas for online instruction,” Howell said.

Therese Kightlinger, administrator of student field experiences, assured that undergraduate student teaching experience was minimally altered by the pandemic.

“Nothing has changed; we have an excellent partnership with the districts, and they collaborate and support our student teaching field experience program. Even when the shutdown occurred, our student teachers stayed in the field working, and

the district did not decline having them there,” she said.

Kightlinger is committed to adapting to the changes in the field to ensure students’ success.

“The student teachers need to learn and enjoy the experience and understand that the student teaching field experience is a great opportunity,” Kightlinger said.

Angela Lock, a senior integrated language arts education major, is currently participating in student teaching field experience. She said she is uncertain of what to expect for the fall semester.

“It’s definitely going to be a challenge, because this pandemic is something no one could have prepared us for. A lot of student teachers have a lot of questions and no one really has the answers for them. So, there is really no one to go to if you have a problem,” she said.

According to Lock, the student teaching field experience program has been a great learning opportunity overall.

“I’m learning a lot and the faculty and staff are making sure we are feeling supported,” she said.



Members of Sig Tau Gamma fraternity in 2019 during recruitment. Photo Courtesy of Clay Miller

KRISTA RITZ

Virtual class adjustments and campus restrictions have affected numerous school organizations, with one of the most impacted organizations on Youngstown State University's campus being Greek life. Student leaders and Student Activities discuss changes to Greek life amid a pandemic.

Carrie Anderson, associate director of Student Activities, oversees more than 200 organizations on campus, including all fraternities and sororities, and believes that modifications to student organizations are ahead.

"Sorority recruitment will be fully virtual," Anderson said. "It would be the same with fraternities. Instead of them necessarily having events or different things going on, they're going to be able to meet on a virtual platform."

Anderson is eager for student activities on campus to return to normal as soon as the restrictions lift.

"The coronavirus has changed the way we're going to think about programming moving forward, of course," she said. "If

they clear everything, then we would want to be able to get back to some of our things as usual."

Like Anderson, Mary Fitch, president of Alpha Omicron Pi, embraces the new adjustments to the schedule with her sorority sisters.

"The biggest changes will be our social events," Fitch said. "Usually we have mixers, so you get to meet members of other fraternities and sororities. We might be able to do this, but it won't be the same."

Last year, events like "Bachelor Night" brought fraternities and sororities together for a viewing party of the hit reality show "The Bachelor." Now, in-person events could be difficult to plan as students are expected to remain socially distant from one another.

Going forward, each event will be based on capacity. If the potential group gathering is small enough, there will be a better chance for members to get together face-to-face. Larger groups will join a Zoom call for activities.

As Greek Life adjusts to a new normal, Clay Miller, president

of the Beta Gamma Chapter of Sigma Tau Gamma, discussed restrictions within his fraternity house and fall recruitment.

"One of the main things is talking about how many guests we can have over," he explained. "We are going to limit that kind of stuff. We don't want our house to be as much of a hub as it usually is."

It may be harder for fraternities to recruit new members as less students take traditional classes, but Miller is still optimistic about membership.

"I think it is fair to assume as an entire [interfraternity council], we will likely see a decrease in recruitment, specifically within our own chapter," he said. "Does that mean that we will recruit less? No. I think any chapter does still have a shot at recruiting the same [number of], if not more, members than we recruited the previous fall semester."

Although Greek life faces new challenges this year, members remain hopeful for the upcoming semester. Both the fraternities and sororities plan to join together as a community of leaders in support of one another.

NEWS BRIEF: HORIZON LEAGUE POSTPONES FALL SEASON

JOSEPH CHAPMAN

The Horizon League Board announced on Aug. 13 that fall sports will be postponed until further notice as a result of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

According to the release, a vote will be held at an undetermined later date to decide whether fall sports will be rescheduled for spring semester.

The sports affected are baseball, football, softball, volleyball,

men's and women's cross-country, football, men's and women's golf, men's and women's soccer, and men's and women's tennis.

The Horizon League and the Youngstown State Penguins joined the Big Ten Conference - which includes the Ohio State Buckeyes - and the Mid-American Conference - which includes the Akron Zips - in choosing to postpone their fall season.

The Pac-12 Conference and the Mountain West Conference have also canceled their seasons.

The NCAA Division I Council recommends that athletes who do not participate in the fall season be eligible for an extension of eligibility.

However, the extension has yet to be approved by the NCAA's Board of Directors.

Last spring, many athlete's careers ended abruptly after the NCAA chose not to extend eligibility.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY MASKING UP

Jessica Neral models a mask she created with her sister Samantha Neral to raise money for the Starkey Hearing Foundation. Photo courtesy of Jessica Neral

KAITLYNN KELLEY

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the way students will be going about their day-to-day lives in several ways, with one of the most apparent changes being the enforcement of face coverings across campus.

Coming into the Fall 2020 semester, Youngstown State University announced students are required to wear face coverings on campus and inside campus buildings for the safety of themselves and others.

Some YSU students saw this as an opportunity to not only undertake a new project, but also to use that project to help others in need.

Sisters Jessica Neral, a senior hospitality management major, and Samantha Neral, a senior psychology major, are two of these individuals. They are both a part of different organizations on campus and have been making masks as a means to raise money for the charities associated with those organizations.

"I'm raising my money for the Akron Children's Hospital," Samantha Neral said, "because I'm a big part of Guinathon. Jess's money goes towards the Starkey Hearing Foundation for Delta Zeta."

The two make many different variations of masks, most of which focus on the logos and mascots of YSU. Some masks are made for specific organizations, such as a YSU Greek Life

mask Jessica made.

They said they have sold masks to mostly YSU students, but some alumni have placed orders, including one from North Carolina.

"We've probably raised a couple hundred dollars total," Jessica Neral said. "And made about 70 masks, give or take a few."

Jessica and Samantha Neral aren't the only ones on campus working hard to make a difference.

Sally Frederick, another YSU student, has been making masks that she sells for \$5. The money made from the sales helps provide masks for veterans.

"We have made over 800 masks and donated about half of those to the VA [Department of Veteran Affairs] for homeless veterans," Frederick said. "And to people when we see them without, and we have been donating some to our local cat shelter."

Frederick also elaborated on the mental strain of the pandemic and how making masks has given her something to do.

"I've been making the masks with my mother as a way to avoid despairing over the pandemic and a way to help out," she said.

Her masks brandish the YSU logos and Pete the Penguin, with most of her sales coming from YSU students and parents of students.

Jessica Neral, Samantha Neral and Frederick have used the new guidelines as an opportunity to make fashionable masks for good causes. Currently, they all still have masks for sale, available on the YSU app.



A mask Sally Frederick created to raise funds for veterans. Photo courtesy of Sally Frederick.



The Fall semester's social distancing theme is displayed in chalk drawings at Kilcawley Center. Photo courtesy of Carrie Anderson

DOUGLAS M. CAMPBELL

Feelings of caution and excitement fill the air as students and staff return to campus for the first time since March. This semester's theme for Welcome Week is appropriately called "Six Feet Apart, but Together at Heart."

Carolyn Jesko, assistant director of programming, said flexibility was key in planning for the events over the summer.

"We've adjusted our plans for Welcome Week quite a bit. We have plans A, B or C depending on the circumstances this semester," she said.

Tie-dye mask stations, build-your-own-terrariums and an outdoor movie are the top in-person events planned for Welcome Week. "Joker" was the first outdoor movie selected by students, shown Aug. 16 at Heritage Park.

Several measures are being taken to ensure that Welcome Week festivities are run safely and efficiently.

"We will have students sign up in advance for events and we'll have two people limited to a station at those designated times," Jesko said.

The Student Organization Fair will also be held during Welcome Week. Carrie Anderson, associate director of Student Activities, said the event is still on but under new accommodations.

"[The Student Organization Fair] will be in the campus core like normal, but with a much larger area footprint. Tables will be spaced out with a reduced number of students allowed to work it," said Anderson.

Erin Driscoll, executive director of student experiences and residence life, reflected on the reorganization of IGNITE, the extended orientation for freshmen which took place just before Welcome Week.

"In the past we have had large scale events. This year we [gave] each student a one-on-one experience for an hour with our student leaders," Driscoll said.

Brooke Schaefer, a senior biology major and an IGNITE intern, has worked with the program for three years.

"Our staff watched training videos to prepare. We are prepared to handle any situation that may arise and ensure safety guidelines are followed," said Schaefer.

IGNITE traditionally occurs over a two-day period, but ran for four days from Wednesday to Saturday before classes began.

"We [provided] a class-find tour with students to help them better navigate the campus. Due to online classes, we have also identified spots where students can plug in and work on campus," Driscoll said.

The tour included stops to assist students with the upcoming semester. Students took pictures for their Y Cards, stopped by the campus' bookstore, and had help ordering parking passes.

"We really wanted to tailor that hour to helping students feel comfortable and confident and ready to start the fall semester," Driscoll said.

Anderson said students will meet for the Student Leadership Summit, which will be newly online and hosted through Webex on Aug. 21. Students will attend live sessions at the conference based on what they want to learn.

"We will answer students' burning questions on how they can operate their clubs this semester," Anderson said. "Different speakers will discuss different topics, such as how to operate Webex and how to up your social media game."



Anthony Taddeo created Alla Boara, shown performing live at Cleveland's Bop Stop on Feb. 26. Photo courtesy of Jamal Lawson.

KELCEY NORRIS JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Anthony Taddeo, a graduate student studying music composition, has a love for a unique genre of music that stems from his ancestry.

Fascinated by Italian culture, Taddeo created Alla Boara, a musical group composed of Youngstown State University students who play Italian folk music. The name translates to a type of song that blue-collar workers would listen to while on the job.

"I wanted to focus on the music of the peasant, rural people, not the classical, more operatic music that is traditionally tied to Italy," Taddeo said. "Folk music was the peoples' music, and even though I have mixed elements of new music ... it's still coming from that place in Italy's rich history when music was a tool used in everyday life, inseparable from the day-to-day tasks."

Taddeo a percussionist, has studied this style of music on and off for the past 10 years, even learning directly from extended relatives in Italy.

"My dad is from Italy and I've grown up my whole life as a proud Italian American," Taddeo said. "But I never knew how diverse and eclectic the folk music was until later in my adult life."

Recently, Taddeo conducted a musical research project for one of his classes at YSU as part of requirements for his master of music in jazz studies degree. Twice a week, Taddeo and a few other YSU musicians started practicing the songs he'd written for Alla Boara. He described this experience as "a dream."

"My whole career, I've been a utility or a side man, which means I am whatever someone needs me to be," he said. "With this project, I have a place to focus musically. ... I finally have

this chance to create something that's focused, beautiful and my own. I can create my own way of expression, which is really special."

Taddeo has also recruited professional musicians to join Alla Boara and help share his elegant arrangements with a broader listening audience.

"I have an ensemble of professional Cleveland-based musicians that are going to be a part of the group," he said. "We're going to start touring around the Midwest and around the country. And hopefully, one day, it would be really cool to have some shows abroad in Italy."

Ian Kinnaman, a music education major at YSU, plays bass in Alla Boara.

"[Taddeo's] playing ability can definitely be intimidating, but he's extremely encouraging. He's always asking for our ideas and our feedback," Kinnaman said. "In a way, it's like Salvador Dali asking you to paint with him."

All of the Italian folk songs Alla Boara performs are written by Taddeo. According to Kinnaman, that allows the band members the opportunity to improvise freely, resulting in a "deep, immersive and powerful experience."

"I have more freedom to play what I hear rather than what's on the page in front of me," Kinnaman said. "I've been told by audience members that performances are like a journey that takes you in and makes you forget where you are. Anthony also tells the stories behind the folk tunes he used as inspiration during the performance."

In addition to his skills on the drum set, Kinnaman said Alla Boara's founder is an excellent leader.

"One of the signs that Anthony is a great leader is the growth of everyone in the group," he said. "My playing ability, confidence and musical maturity have taken off as a direct result of joining Alla Boara."

Professor Dave Morgan was one of Taddeo's earliest supporters when he started writing his own music and formed Alla Boara.

"At first it was just going to be one or two songs that I would write, but [Morgan] helped me dream of making this even bigger with a greater purpose because it had potential," Taddeo said. "I decided to make it an actual group, be a performing group."

Morgan, a professor in the Dana School of Music, said after two years of teaching Taddeo at YSU, he was proud to help inspire Alla Boara's creation.

"A common trend amongst leading jazz musicians today is to find their own voices and authenticity by exploring and incorporating the indigenous music of their heritage," Morgan said. "By fusing the sounds of modern jazz, American popular music and indigenous folk songs, exciting new forms of music are being created."

Morgan said Taddeo distinguishes himself from his peers with his prior education at The New School, located in New York City, and his experience as a professional musician.

"He brought a lot of real-world experience to the academic experience and was incredibly excited to be able to explore ideas more deeply," Morgan said. "Plus he's just a great drummer and overall musician and a fun, high-energy guy with empathy for others."

According to Morgan, Taddeo's busy schedule never interfered with class work.

"Even though he has a young family and tours around the country as a musician, he always came to school prepared with excellent work and full of questions," Morgan said. "The sky's the limit for Anthony Taddeo."

THE JAMBAR

EDITORIAL

NEW STAFF CONSIDERS CHALLENGING YEAR AHEAD

As we approach the fall semester, we're feeling cautiously optimistic. It's been up and down since leaving campus in March.

Questions in group chats that recurred: Would we be able to come back in the fall? Would we be able to move into our dorms and apartments?

Will classes be all online, like at some other schools? What about sports? For a while, we didn't know many answers.

But now, we're back, and embracing the new rules: wearing our face coverings, keeping our distance and watching out for each other.

When we reunite with friends from school, we fist bump instead of hug. We find ourselves having to take a moment to recognize familiar faces covered in masks.

We're excited about the way the administration has worked collectively to make a cohesive plan for fighting this virus on our campus. The administration has taken to social media to explain new protocols and answer questions.

We have more answers now.

Yet there are added elements of uncertainty. There are some decisions the administration announced that were not quite as universally accepted by the student body, at least in our opinion.

Despite layoffs and budget cuts across multiple departments, there's also a newly installed, re-turfed football field. A field which will not be used as much as in previous years, if it's even used at all.

This summer faculty layoffs affected our business manager, Mary Dota, who won't be returning to our office this semester either.

Hardship affected many colleagues, classmates and friends who decided not to return to campus this fall.

Here at the Jambar, we're so excited to be publishing and producing content again. It's going to be an interesting year. Most of our staff is new, yet eager to learn.

New restrictions impact the way we gather news, put together our paper and film our news show.

We thank the previous editorial team, the now-infamous

2020 graduates, for all their mentorship and friendship during these strange times.

We welcome our new bright and talented staff with open arms.

The wise outlook from our advisor, Mary Beth Earnhardt, clings to our minds.

She said despite how different every-day routines have become, this period of time is great for reporting news.

We're dedicating ourselves to bringing the Youngstown State University community the news it needs to know, in regards to the coronavirus, athletics, student affairs and more.

Here's to the rest of 2020.

STAYING STRONG: A NEW NORMAL

MAC POMEROY

I have tried quite a few times to figure out how to start this article, but none felt genuine.

Instead, I will take a quick pause from my usual storytelling intros to be human. I hope you all are doing well. I hope you and your friends and family are healthy and safe.

I'm so glad to be back to doing what I love to do, which is writing these articles, to hopefully help, inspire or motivate some of you.

With everything going on with Covid-19, my life has been very different. Of course, I am fortunate enough that everyone in my family has stayed safe, and that I have not been separated from them during this time.

However, that doesn't mean it hasn't been difficult.

I'm not sure if I have discussed this in any prior articles, as it is a very difficult subject for me to even think about, but my father has a bad heart. Not as in he is not a great person, but as in his actual heart is weak.

In my lifetime, he has had two open-heart surgeries. He is at-risk, which stresses me greatly. He is one of my best friends, so I have been extremely cautious about staying at home.

At the beginning of the pandemic, I did not leave my house for the first two months, save for going to my sister's apartment to steal some Wi-Fi.

After that, I attempted to adjust to the changes that lockdown and safety orders brought forth. While I still strictly follow the stay-at-home order, I did figure out some safe ways to get out a bit; I went to the drive-in theatre and the park.

At home, I did my best to remain occupied. Admittedly, I took part in the Animal Crossing: New Horizons craze. I worked more and more on my writing and artwork.

I also spent a lot of time with my cats. While Charlie is not thrilled about so many people being home, Nancy loves all the attention and has not left me alone for a second. She is currently sleeping on my bed as I type beside her.

Basically, that was all a way to say, despite the pressure, I have found a new normal in my life. It is strange to think about, considering everything seems so unsure.

But it is for the best. This semester, all of my classes will be online, and I intend to remain home to stay safe.

You, too, will find some sense of normality. You will find yourself feeling less confused and more settled. Of course, it is completely normal and valid to feel afraid right now.

Regardless of what I am saying, it is okay to feel uneasy during such a trying time. Some of you may have been living a much different life than I have been during this time.

Perhaps you are an essential worker and have not been able to follow the stay-at-home order. Perhaps you have had to help take care of a family member who is at-risk.

Maybe you or a family member or close friend was infected with the virus, and your focus has been aimed towards recovery. It's okay to feel worried about what is going on right now.

I cannot say the perfect thing. This is a very difficult time, and everyone's experiences, while in the same situation, are also quite different.

What I can say is that we will get through this together. We all need to play our part to stay safe, but we can get through this.

It may take a while, and tragedy may strike time and time again, but we are strong and capable. We can and will persist.

Stay strong, Penguins, and have a great semester.

CONTINUED: RETURN TO CAMPUS 2020

Housing and Residence Life had to increase precautions for students moving on campus from high-risk states.

Stephanie Reed, associate director, said for the first time YSU dorms are offering single rooms for an increased fee.

"Typically, we don't offer single rooms for purchase," Reed said. "We're offering these rooms to students who can purchase them at a discounted amount of \$500 per semester, \$1,000 a year [on top of room and board fees]. They have to commit to

it for the entire year, but that's how we've reduced occupancy."

Reed said the overall occupancy level has decreased by approximately 75 percent by making many of the double rooms into singles in Lyden House and Kilcawley House.

The goal is to reduce the number of residents crowded in communal areas, like restrooms.

"Students are required to wear a face covering in all common areas of the residential building," she said. "That includes

restrooms, study labs, computer labs, lounges — anything that isn't their room. It's also required of any guest that students might have on campus."

Tressel encourages the YSU community to stay positive and follow the three W's — "Wash your hands, wait six feet apart and wear your masks."

**WASH
YOUR HANDS**

**WAIT
SIX FEET APART**

**WEAR
YOUR MASK**

THE STUDENT VOICE OF YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY SINCE 1931

THE JAMBAR

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

BRUCE N. WALLER

Editor, The Jambar:

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes makes no secret of its dedicated bigotry toward members of the LGBTQ community.

It promotes among young people an attitude of bias against homosexuals, and demands that its members must endorse a “sexual purity” code that includes this paragraph:

God desires His children to lead pure lives of holiness.

The Bible is clear in teaching on sexual sin including sex outside of marriage and homosexual acts.

Neither heterosexual sex outside of marriage nor any homosexual act constitute an alternative lifestyle acceptable to God.

Not only does the FCA promote the absurd claim that homosexuality is an “alternative lifestyle” that persons may choose or reject, but it also treats homosexuals as vile and impure.

In clear contrast to the bigotry and exclusion of FCA, the YSU statement of values claims that:

“We root all behaviors, decisions and actions in the achievement of integrity, mutual respect, collegiality, equity and

inclusion.”

And the YSU statement on affirmative action — signed by James P. Tressel — contains the following inspiring statement:

“University policy prohibits all forms of harassment based on sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, disability, or veteran status . . . The entire University community is responsible for the prevention of discrimination and the realization of the objectives of equal opportunity and diversity.”

Sadly, the Steel Valley Fellowship of Christian Athletes is currently promoting an “FCA Game Time Dinner” that is “Featuring YSU President and legendary coach Jim Tressel.”

While Tressel is president of YSU, he should not publicly support organizations that promote views in fundamental conflict with the principles espoused by the university, and he should never allow his name and image as YSU president to endorse an organization devoted to bigotry against those YSU is pledged to welcome and respect.

Whether at official functions or in his life outside the university, he remains the face of the university.

If he supported the racism of the Klu Klux Klan in his spare time, that would prompt the legitimate outrage of the university community.

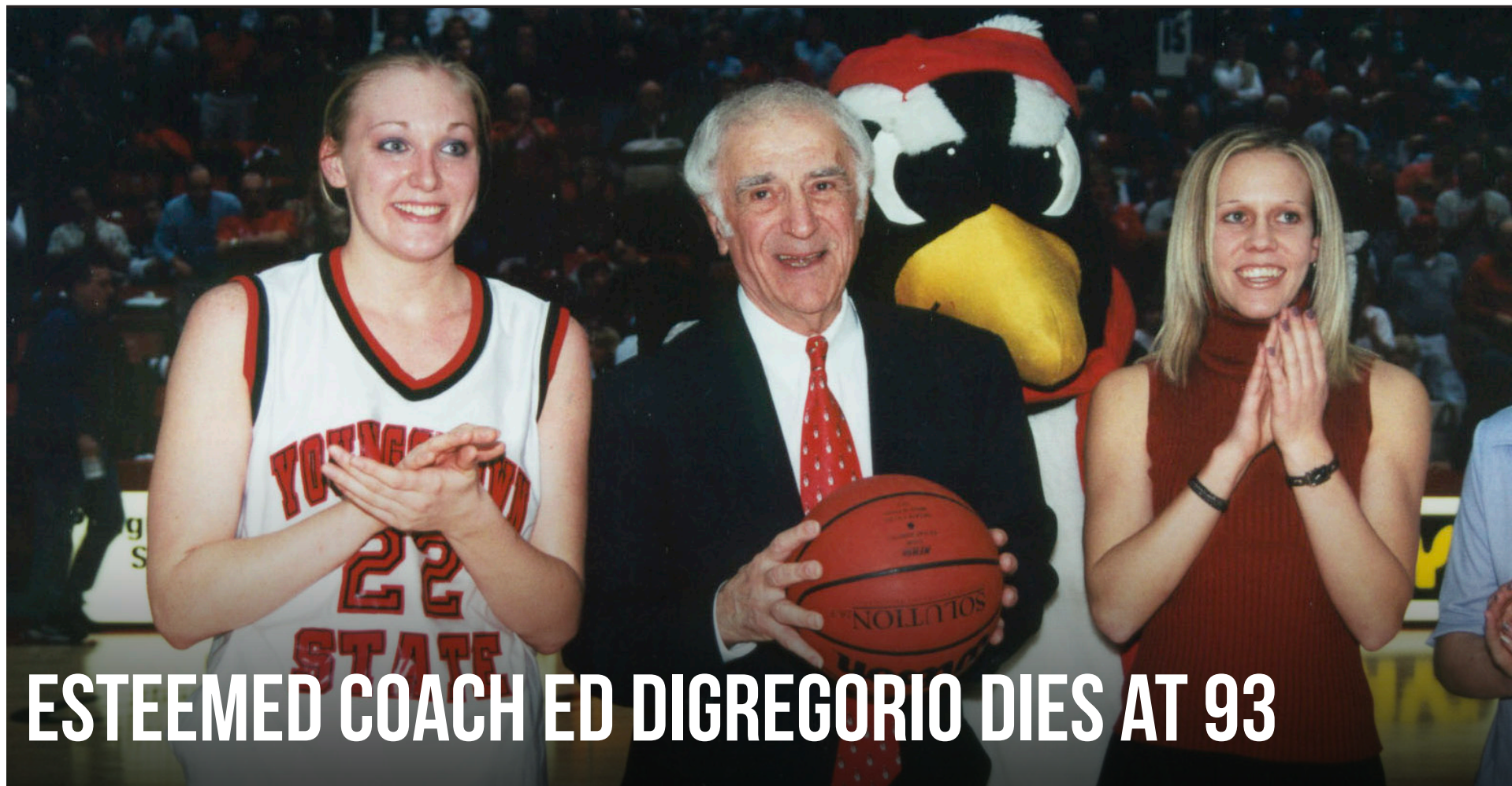
If YSU is genuinely committed to the values it claims, then Tressel’s support of FCA bigotry against homosexuals should prompt the same outrage.

A wise Jewish teacher of some two millennia ago taught these words, as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew:

“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other.”

Jim Tressel must choose which master he will serve: the bigotry of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes or the inclusive ideals of Youngstown State University.

Bruce N. Waller, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy,
Youngstown State University



ESTEEMED COACH ED DIGREGORIO DIES AT 93

Coach DiGregorio helped lead the women's basketball team to a record 320 wins at Youngstown State University from 1983-2003. Photo courtesy of YSU Athletics.

PRESTON BYERS
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Ed DiGregorio, the Youngstown State University women's basketball coach with the most wins in program history, died April 5 at age 93.

Hired by former athletic director and personal friend Joe Malmisur in 1983, DiGregorio coached the Penguins for 20 years, winning a school-record 320 games in that time. His team qualified for the NCAA tournament three times, and he was named Mid-Continent Conference Coach of the Year twice, in 1995 and 1999.

But his accomplishments aren't the first thing people who knew him will bring up. DiGregorio was, by all accounts, a kind and giving person who treated his team like family.

Greg Gulas, a YSU alumnus and former sports information director, met DiGregorio in 1983 when he was interviewed for the women's head coaching job. Gulas said he knew DiGregorio was the right person for the position.

Gulas also said DiGregorio was the most giving coach he'd ever been around.

"We used to take two buses — one for the women and one for the men," Gulas said.

"The men would get some meal money. And I was basically attached to the men's team," he added. "But I always traveled with the women's program because Coach DiGregorio made sure he'd have a box of apples, a box of oranges, three or four pounds of meat, three or four pounds of cheese, fresh bread and some dessert. So his team, not only did they travel in style but they ate in style."

On the court, DiGregorio's teams were some of the most successful in program history. When he took over the program in 1983, DiGregorio was the third head coach in as many years and in the year before, the team finished 11-16.

After a 7-17 season in 1983-84, the worst in program history to that point, the Penguins improved to 14-13 the following year. DiGregorio's teams floated around the .500 mark until 1990-91, when YSU finished the season with a 24-4 record and a perfect 13-game home record.

After joining the Mid-Continent Conference in 1992, the Penguins enjoyed some of their greatest success. In the 1990s, YSU won five consecutive Mid-Continent Conference regular season titles and three conference tournament championships. The latter of these clinched YSU's spot in the NCAA Women's Division I Basketball Tournament.

While YSU would be unsuccessful in its first NCAA tournament game against Pennsylvania State University in 1996, the Penguins qualified again in 1998 after a 27-2 season. This remains the best season in school history.

As a No. 12 seed, YSU won its first — and only — NCAA tournament game by upsetting the University of Memphis, which had qualified for the national tournament four straight seasons. The Penguins would lose to eventual semifinalists North Carolina State University in the second round, but DiGregorio's legacy was secured with the win against Memphis.

After coaching more than 500 YSU games, DiGregorio retired in 2003. The same year, he was inducted into the YSU Athletics Hall of Fame.

Even in retirement, DiGregorio supported the program he had helped build, according to John Barnes, the current YSU head women's basketball coach.

"He always asked if I needed anything or if he could help in any way," Barnes said. "So many people loved him around here and thought so highly of him. He was just a great guy."



QUARTERBACK JOE CRAYCRAFT ENCOURAGES TEAM TO CARRY ON

Junior biology major and Penguins quarterback Joe Craycraft .Photo courtesy of YSU Sports Information

KYLE WILLS

Junior football player Joe Craycraft is lined up to take over the reigns as quarterback this upcoming season for the Youngstown State Penguins, whatever that season may look like.

With former quarterback Nathan Mays graduating this past school year, Craycraft is prepared to take on the leadership role both on and off the field.

This Marion, Ohio native saw limited action in his first two years but appeared in 11 out of 12 games last season as a sophomore, starting in three.

He is building off last season's experience, where he

completed 66 of 27 passes for 893 yards with eight touchdowns while rushing for 143 yards on 59 carries with three scores.

Craycraft is expected to lead the charge for the Penguins on offense this season.

But, whether he's starting or backing up, Craycraft said he intends to prepare for the season the same way.

"Even if you're the backup, third string, or whatever it is, you need to prepare like you're the guy," he said.

This season, however, Craycraft wants to take on a greater leadership role now that he is one of the veterans on the team. Not only through his actions, but also with his voice.

"This year I'm making it a point to myself to try and be more of a vocal leader," Craycraft said.

Like with many of the fall sports, COVID-19 will have an effect on the football team this season. The Missouri Valley Football Conference has cancelled conference play until the spring where there will be a full 8-game spring schedule with fall competition still up in the air. However, Craycraft does not want to think too far ahead on whether or not there will be games played this fall or even in the spring.

"Our job is just to be ready," he said. "We just got to look at it one day at a time. You come everyday and live in the present."



With the installation of a glowing new football field also comes an uncertainty as to whether or not the YSU Penguins will play any games this fall. Photo by Jordan Boitnott

JORDAN BOITNOTT

Due to COVID-19, the Missouri Valley Football Conference has decided to push all eight conference games back to Spring 2021. They plan to have the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs after the eight-game season.

According to ESPN, the Mid-American Conference, the Ohio Valley Conference and the Northeast Conference have all postponed their seasons, making the outlook for fall play uncertain. Despite conference games being postponed, Youngstown State is still slated to play two non-conference games before the spring. As of now, the team will play two games, the first on Sept. 12 against Duquesne and Eastern Kentucky on Sept 19.

In a statement released by Youngstown State University Sports Information President Jim Tressel - who also serves as chair of the MVFC President's Council - said the MVFC is

doing everything it can to listen to coaches and players.

"Without question, the most important part of our decision-making process was listening to our student-athletes and hearing their feelings. What we clearly heard was that they want to play this year for a chance to participate in the FCS Playoffs," he said. "It's great to know that they believe we are taking all the steps necessary to keep them safe in the process. All 11 MVFC teams weighed in with their positions on the options we considered, and all thoughts and concerns guided our thinking."

YSU junior defensive lineman Antoine Cook said in order to keep players safe, the football team has taken multiple precautions.

"The team has been following safety protocols like being six feet apart and sanitizing more often. We also have been watching what we do off the field," he said. "Lifting and practice have been the same as usual, just now we have to

wear face shields. All of the equipment has also been getting sprayed and cleaned more often."

Cook said all of his fellow teammates want to take the field, but for now they are trying to stay positive.

"Right now, I'm not depressed at all or anything. I've been being with my teammates more, speaking with my family more often and worrying about my schoolwork," he said.

The extended offseason could be beneficial for the team.

"It is giving us more time to get into the playbook, which helps since we have a new coaching staff, while being able to focus more on important things off the field," Cook said.

If the season commences, Cook wants fans to expect a great performance from this year's football team.

"I don't want to say we are going to be good. I just want to show it. I believe we can be as good as we can be, and the sky's the limit. Right now, we need to be together and focus on the small things to be as good as we can be," Cook said.