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'DON'T TREAD ON MY WOMB'



Photo by C. Aileen Blaine / The Jambar

Protestors chanted and held signs as part of a demonstration for women's rights Oct. 2.

Youngstown fights for women's rights

By C. Aileen Blaine
The Jambar

On Oct. 2, several hundred individuals of all genders, ethnicities and ages carried colorful signs and wore T-shirts with phrases such as "Women's rights = human rights" and "Don't tread on my womb." The group marched down Wick Avenue in protest of diminishing women's reproductive rights.

The demonstration was a part of the Women's March campaign, a nationwide organization advocating for social topics such as reproductive, LGBTQ, civil, disability and immigrant rights and more. The Oct. 2 marches took place in major cities such as Washington, Seattle, Chicago, Houston and nearby communities such as Akron.

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Faculty union casts vote of no confidence

By Abigail Cloutier
The Jambar

Members of Youngstown State University's faculty union, YSU-OEA, and Association of Classified Employees, ACE, voted "no confidence" last week in response to administration's COVID-19 protocols.

YSU-OEA spokesperson and BCLASSE faculty senator Mark Vopat introduced the motion during an academic senate meeting. YSU-OEA has also filed an association grievance, alleging that the university has failed in its contractual obligation to provide a safe and healthful working environment.

Union president Susan Clutter said the YSU administration has mishandled its COVID-19 response from the beginning.

"For example, only after students and faculty protested in August did administration implement an indoor masking policy for the fall 2021 semester, despite knowing their filtration systems were not upgraded across campus as they had promised," Clutter said.

YSU-ACE president Chuck Shaffer said its executive committee polled its membership about issuing a no confidence vote against the administration's handling of COVID-19.

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Women's march

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Led by Youngstown State University sociology professor Amanda Fehlbaum, Youngstown marchers wore masks despite the heat as they trekked down the avenue. They held signs high, chanting "You say no choice, we say pro-choice" and other phrases. The group came to a halt at the foot of the Mahoning County courthouse, where a lineup of speakers waited. These included YSU mathematics professor Alicia Prieto and the Rev. Joseph Boyd of Unitarian Universalist Church of Youngstown.

"I've been invited as a member of the community who cares that women have access to health care and have the support of law to govern their own lives, including their own bodies," Boyd said. "Reproductive health, reproductive freedom and the health of our democracy is at stake."

The speakers stressed the importance of voting at the local and state level and continuing to speak out against injustices against women and minority groups. Individuals in the crowd expressed their support, too.

"I'm here today because I'm a human,

and I deserve human rights, and I think it's pretty basic," Krysti Brea, an abortion rights supporter, said.

Kim Akins, president of progressive women's group The Salon and an attorney specializing in corporate, criminal and family law, said the march is a way to protect the rights of those who have uteruses and to keep society from regressing to times of antiquated mentalities.

"Where we are in this moment is that the forces of regression want to take us back to a time when women didn't have the right to choose ... where the LGBT community could not choose to be married," Akins said. "I want to continue to recognize the America that I grew up in ... and to make sure that we continue to move forward."

Since Oct. 2, the Supreme Court has upheld the Texas law that makes abortions extremely difficult to obtain for residents within the state. Ohio abortion laws are trending in a similar pattern as Texas' in what is called an abortion "trigger" bill proposed by Ohio GOP senators. This means that if the Supreme Court determines the landmark Roe v. Wade case to be unconstitutional, Ohio laws will automatically ban abortions in nearly all cases except when danger to the mother's

life is present.

The marchers were met with criticism in the form of a small group of counterprotesters standing across the street bearing signs opposing abortion. Few of the individuals wore masks.

Alisha Brownlee, one of the anti-abortion demonstrators, said she wants abortion rights supporters to consider that "science proves fetal life begins at conception."

"I know there's that big statement out there — 'follow the science,' 'trust the science' — but it's hard for me to understand how pro-choice people aren't following the science when it comes to abortions and life starting at conception," Brownlee said. "Being someone who is very pro-life, I wanted to be here to share that there are other opinions are out there in the U.S."

Akins said she respects anti-abortion advocates' right to difference of opinion just as she values her own.

"I respect their right to have a religion that informs them of what they do," Akins said. "What I want from them is the equal right to decide what my religion informs me, and that both of our religions stay the hell out of government."



A group of anti-abortion demonstrators holds signs protesting the Women's March.

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"While we do not support all of OEA's demands, YSU-ACE decided to stand with OEA and the vote of no confidence in the administration for how they have handled the entirety of the pandemic

response," Shaffer said.

A hearing between administration and the unions is slated for the coming weeks. In response, YSU representative Ron Cole said, "For more than 18 months, in close consultation with our public university colleagues across the state, as well as local, county and

state health officials, YSU has put into place protocols and procedures (all clearly enumerated on the university's consistently-updated Coronavirus Information webpage) that have resulted in a safe campus and minimal reports of COVID-19 cases among our students and employees."

Youngstown commissioner of health Erin Bishop called the university the "gold standard" in a meeting, according to Cole.

He said only one-third of the faculty union cast a vote in the no-confidence vote and two-thirds abstained.

DEMANDING BETTER



YSUnity is an organization aiming to help LGBTQ individuals who face discrimination.

Photo courtesy of Pexels.com

Pride vs. prejudice

By Elizabeth Coss
Jambar contributor

Students and organizations around campus found recent protests at Youngstown State University controversial. YSUnity, the only LGBTQ organization on campus, was especially affected.

Steven Miller, president of YSUnity, said the goal of the organization is to discuss topics and issues LGBTQ individuals face.

“Our goal is to promote equality among all gender orientations and sexual orientations, and we want to promote awareness of issues that we face, or that the community faces,” Miller said.

Miller, a sixth-year telecommunications major, said the organization is considering creating a counter-protest to the ones that have recently occurred on campus in order to denounce hate speech,

but it doesn’t have any set dates.

Since last year, the organization has been growing in number and seeks to provide a safe space for LGBTQ students. Members of YSUnity have been supporting and reaching out to each other following the protests.

“Having a group on campus that supports LGBTQ students on campus is very important because as a minority group, so many things are structured toward the majority on campus,” Amanda Fehlbaum, professor of sociology, said.

YSUnity is open to everyone on campus and acts as an inclusive, safe space for anyone of any background. Its goal is to build a positive place for students and their identities.

“[It] means that we acknowledge that LGBTQ students exist, that we are wanting them to come to YSU, and know that whenever you’re here, you’re a Penguin

and proud. And it doesn’t matter if your Penguin is of different colors, we still want you involved,” Fehlbaum said.

YSUnity treasurer Em Steeves said starting up the organization has been hard this semester.

“Right now, we’re just sort of taking it really slow because it is really difficult, one, trying to get something started in the middle of a pandemic, two, finding people who are able to have the time to be officers,” she said.

Steeves said the organization is still working on finding a meeting time, along with a location for the group.

Students who wish to join YSUnity can go to the Penguin Portal and click on Student Organizations, then search for YSUnity. Membership can also be 100% confidential between students and the officers. For any questions, email ysunity.sogie@gmail.com

COVID-19 cases continue to drop

By Abigail Cloutier
The Jambar

Youngstown State University’s number of COVID-19 cases have continued to trend downward. On Monday, the university reported 18 cases for the week of Oct. 3 - 9, a decrease from the 21 cases reported last week.

Of those, 16 were students living off campus and two were employees, which could be faculty, administration or staff.

This week, 42 people were tested through their asymptomatic voluntary testing program. Of those, three tested positive.

YSU’s COVID-19 dashboard is updated every Monday based on confirmed data from the week before. Students who have tested positive should report their case through the online form.

This week, YSU reminded students that it’s partnering with the Youngstown City Health District to offer three more vaccination clinics on campus.

These clinics will take place Nov. 4 and Dec. 2 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Ohio Room in Kilcawley Center. All students, faculty, staff and their families are eligible for either the one-shot Johnson and Johnson vaccine or the two-shot Moderna vaccine. Appointments are required at ysu-covid.com

YSU sent out an email stating free surgical face masks and KF94 face masks are available at no charge to students. They can be picked up at Maag library, Kilcawley Center room 2075 and any of the university residence halls and apartments.

N95 respirators are also available to employees who qualify. Individuals must complete a health questionnaire at ysu.edu/request-n95-0

Any questions about masks and respirators can be answered by Tim Styranec at tmstyanec@ysu.edu

HOPING FOR OHIO TALENT TO STAY

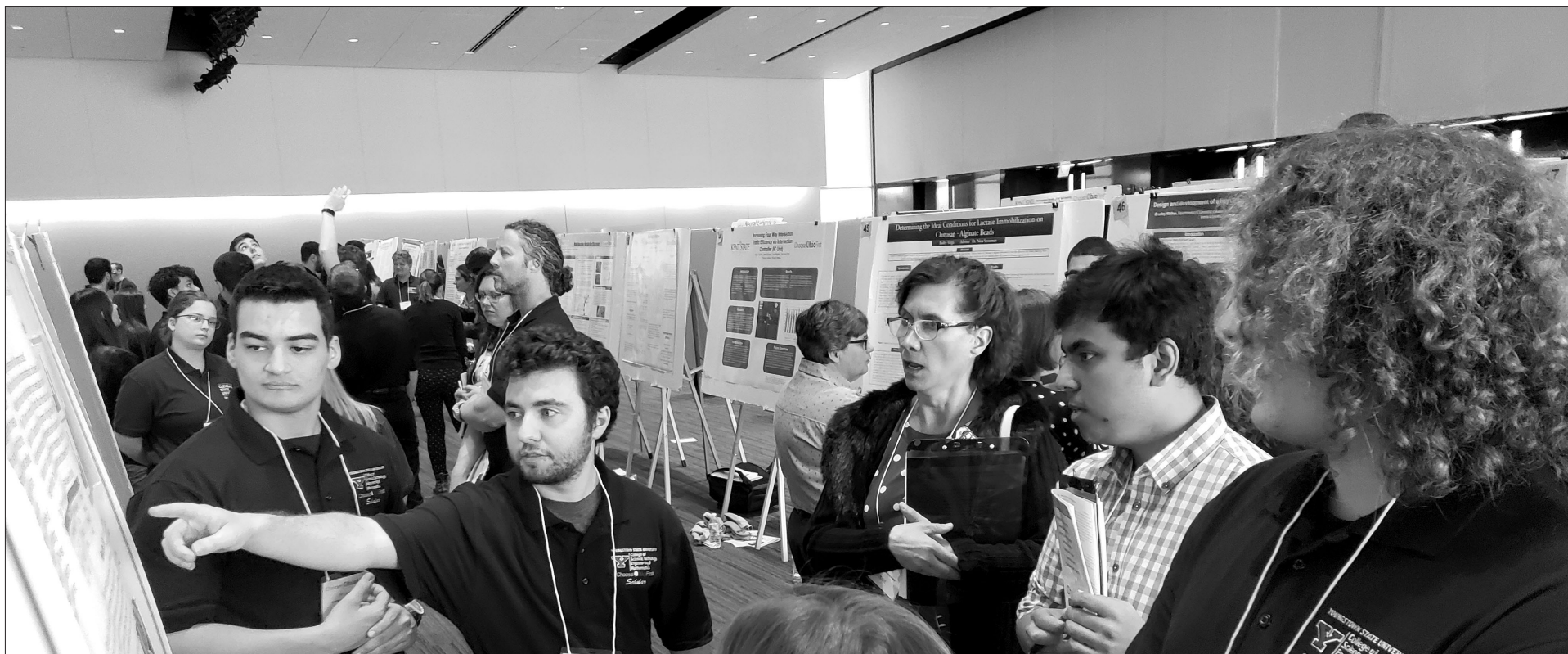


Photo courtesy of Emilie Brown

STEM students participate in Choose Ohio First program in spring 2019.

Keeping local talent in Ohio

By Jessica Stamp
The Jambar

Many scholarships are offered to Youngstown State University STEM students, but the Choose Ohio First scholarship is targeted toward increasing net enrollment and graduation for these students.

Emilie Brown, coordinator of outreach and scholarships for STEM majors, expresses how important it is for students to get involved in STEM, to keep them in the program until they graduate and then ultimately stay in Ohio.

“By 2025, it’s estimated that there will be about 3.5 million openings in STEM related jobs and only 1.5 million people qualified for those positions,” Brown said. “That’s a 2 million person shortage in our workforce in just a couple of years.”

In Brown’s opinion, it is important to get more students involved in the STEM areas and support them due to a significant shortage across the country along with trying to continue the country’s advancements in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

“It is urgent and extremely important that we get more students into STEM areas, that we support them through the process and make sure that they graduate

job or graduate school ready so that they can be ready to take those positions,” she said.

According to Brown, YSU’s graduation rate for STEM students in the program over the years is between 80-90%.

The Choose Ohio First program is for Ohio residents only because it looks to keep talent in the state. It targets students in the school areas of Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana counties to recruit into the program.

The program contains monthly meetings which involve student and faculty members talking about different topics, guest speakers, professional development and presenting a research project, which is a major component in the program.

Brown spreads the word about the program by visiting local high schools in the tri-county area.

“We work on those local schools in reaching out to the counselors and the teachers and the principals at those schools to help us identify students at their schools that would be a good fit for the program,” Brown said. “Also working with them to set up meetings and actually talk to students about the program.”

Thomas Wakefield, a department of mathematics and statistics professor, was a research team mentor for a couple of years and believes the program helps students

prepare skills for beyond YSU and encourages them to pursue internships.

“When they are a part of the program, they work on a research team, and they complete a research project,” Wakefield said. “The combination of the research experience, the valuable skill of working in teams, conducting research and solving a problem, which is valuable for employers.”

Wakefield said the program is an opportunity for students to pursue and promote the STEM disciplines while also hoping for students to stay in Ohio after graduating.

With STEM’s reputation as a difficult field, the Choose Ohio First program also offers a Summer Bridge program. It involves a free four-week summer program for high school students that helps build their math skills in algebra II to prepare for precalculus, calculus and college placement tests. It also assists students in getting ready for the ACT by concentrating on the basic fundamentals of math.

Students who participate in the Summer Bridge program and are eligible for the scholarship can get first priority.

MAKING TRANSITIONS EASIER



Photo by Jillian McIntosh / Jambar contributor

The Bouncing Back from COVID-19 project is meant to help students transition back into campus life.

Bouncing Back from COVID-19

By Jillian McIntosh
Jambar contributor

Bouncing Back from COVID-19 is a project created by faculty in the department of psychological sciences and counseling at Youngstown State University.

Amy Williams is an assistant professor who specializes in substance use disorders. She said the grant-funded project is to help first-year students transition and returning students integrate back into campus life.

"We really want to provide a lot of different avenues and opportunities for folks on campus to be able to learn and experience from the shift from surviving to thriving," she said.

Bouncing Back from COVID-19 will provide wellness workshops for the YSU community throughout the academic year.

Each month is based on the nine pillars of wellness that are displayed at Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center: physical, emotional, spiritual, social, career, financial, intellectual, aesthetic and environ-

mental wellness.

Graduate students in the counseling program are offered the opportunity to volunteer and host the workshops.

Each member of the grant staff will research and present topics that are both informative and entertaining.

Morgan Fisher, a first-year clinical mental health counseling student in the graduate studies program, is one of the graduate assistants who is working closely with the staff in organizing the workshops.

"I wanted to get involved because I feel that this is going to play a vital role in students' lives right now," she said. "Especially with the difficulties that have been brought to light during the whole pandemic."

Students can participate in the wellness workshops and receive merchandise offered in relation to the different topics discussed, such as inspirational notebooks.

"It's pretty easy to attend and get involved because [students] can show up at the booth," Fisher said. "Even if they can't stay for the entire duration of the workshop, they are free to leave anytime."

Workshops in October will center around physical wellness, and will offer tips on sleep, eating, exercise and routines. They are designed to tackle issues that students face on a daily basis and to help them make smart choices with substances and find ways to stay healthy.

Graduate student Kyle Shaffer works on the grant as a research assistant. He said the messages the workshops deliver are important to the YSU community.

"To me, this grant has covered and will continue to cover all of these things to ensure that the students at YSU are healthy, both physically and mentally," Shaffer said. "I saw it as a great opportunity to get involved on campus and promote a positive environment for the students."

According to Shaffer, workshop dates, times and topics will be announced on the Instagram and Facebook pages @YSU_BouncingBack



Photo by Sydney Stalneckner / The Jambar

Celebrity chef Michael Symon gives advice and talks about his journey in the food business at Stambaugh Auditorium.

Chef dishes out advice at Skeggs

By Sydney Stalneckner
The Jambar

Stambaugh Auditorium served a tasty lecture last Thursday, Oct. 7. Celebrity chef Michael Symon was introduced and interviewed by Youngstown State University President Jim Tressel for the first Skeggs Lecture of the semester.

The Skeggs Lecture Series has occurred on YSU's campus for decades now. It began in memory of Michael Skeggs in 1966 and has continued on to feature many guest speakers.

University events director Jacquelyn LeViseur recounted the previous speakers YSU has invited to campus.

"[It's] brought in, you know, many speakers from Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, Toni Morrison, Jane Goodall, recently we had Anderson Cooper. Some really well known people who are experts in their field," LeViseur said.

Tressel started the event off with an introduction of Symon.

"Michael Symon, of course, is an American chef, restaurateur, television personality and author," Tressel said. "He has been a regular on many Food Network shows including 'Iron Chef America,' 'Burgers, Brew & 'Que,' 'The Best Thing I Ever Ate,' as well as 'Cook Like an Iron Chef' on the cooking channel and 'The Chew.'"

According to Symon's website, he debuted on TV in 1998 on Food Network. He progressed to host more than 100 episodes of "The Melting Pot" and won the first season of "The Next Iron Chef." He has been named the resident chef of ABC and is in the eighth season of "Burgers, Brew, & 'Que."

He has published five cookbooks, including "Fix It With Food" which is a New York Times bestseller. It was published in 2019 and contains over 125 recipes to help those who experience inflammation and autoimmune issues. Tressel noted which of Symon's cookbooks he likes the most.

"The one I really like I brought with me, Michael Symon's 'Playing With Fire.' The only thing Ellen will let me do is grill," Tressel said.

Besides his involvement with Food Network and other TV programs, the Cleveland-native chef owns a few different restaurants in Cleveland, Atlantic City, Detroit and Los Angeles. His wife has been involved with the restaurants from the start.

"I feel very blessed. I met my wife, like I said, over 30 years ago," Symon said. "We worked together in restaurants [and] we opened our first restaurant together in 1997."

Symon said he is proud of all he's accomplished, but he's especially proud of what he and his wife have been able to achieve as restaurateurs.

"The thing that I'm most proud of [is] that we were

able to build a business that at one time — pre-pandemic — employed about 1,200 people," Symon said. "I'm proud that I was able to build that with my wife and one of my best friends from childhood."

He shared what he's learned and gave advice on how to succeed at running businesses in general, not just restaurants.

"You have to do your best to make customers happy, but you have to stick to your guns and stick to your vision," Symon said. "Do what you feel is right because once you stop ... is right then you're trying to make everybody else happy but yourself. Eventually you'll lose the love and the passion and you'll fail."

The rest of the fall 2021 semester and the following spring 2022 semester will be sprinkled with guest lecturers as well. These include CNN chief medical correspondent Dr. Sanjay Gupta and Bill Nye the Science Guy.

"We have a wide range this year for 2021 and 2022," LeViseur said.

The next lecture will feature Netflix's chief marketing officer Bozoma Saint John on Oct. 20. at Stambaugh Auditorium. Tickets are currently available.

LeViseur is willing to take suggestions from students for future guest lecturers. Email LeViseur at jmlevisur@ysu.edu to leave a suggestion.

INFLUENCING INSPIRATION



Photo by Emily McCarthy / The Jambar

Studio art professors Debra DeGregorio and Paige Stewart are showcasing their artwork Oct. 11-Oct. 22 in Bliss Hall.

Faculty members display art at Judith Rae Solomon Gallery

By Emily McCarthy
The Jambar

The department of visual and dramatic arts is hosting an art exhibition featuring the work of two faculty members Oct. 11 through Oct. 22, in the Judith Rae Solomon Gallery.

Debra DeGregorio, part-time studio art professor, is one of the two staff members displaying work in the exhibition. She has been teaching for 12 years and specializes in mixed media drawing.

“Visually, I am inspired by other artists — by seeing their work — and also by nature,” she said. “I gardened professionally and I garden a lot on my own so, sort of the macro and micro of nature is inspiring.”

While most of DeGregorio’s work is displayed locally, she sent work to places like Chicago and Arizona for juried art shows. She said her work made for this specific gallery has been unique with the experience of COVID-19 visibly affecting her work.

“I made a lot of work during COVID and it wasn’t — for a lot of people — a great time. It was a struggle. So

a lot of the work, I just kind of had to make myself do work because it was pretty isolating and unstimulating,” she said. “With that period ending and things becoming more open, I think the work I’ve been working on has reflected that ... it’s been a little more joyous and liberating.”

Paige Stewart, part-time studio art professor, is the other staff member with work in the exhibition. Her work has been shown in several states including: New York, California, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Washington DC, Maryland, Vermont and Connecticut. She said she is inspired by a lot of things, but being in her work environment is what makes the art.

“Color and light are really important to me and I look to nature for my initial ideas. I’m also influenced by stories, animation, philosophy, Biblical stories, psychology and other artists,” she said. “I’m interested in how stories and archetypes can influence people and societies ... I have a lot of interests that help generate ideas by just working through things, whether I want to work or not. Being in the studio is what produces art.”

Stewart said the work in this exhibition is a mix of in-

vented landscapes and observational paintings. Working toward this deadline helped her finish paintings she was struggling to complete.

Stephanie Smith, chair of the department of visual & dramatic arts, is proud to have the opportunity to showcase the work of Stewart and DeGregorio. She said the gallery exhibits art from two-dimensional and three-dimensional work to time-based video and installation.

“Faculty teaching in YSU’s studio art program maintain active studios and continue to exhibit their work locally, nationally, and in many cases, internationally. Teaching artists, who are active in the professional field, are best equipped to train students in their conceptual, technical and professional development,” Smith said. “We are extremely fortunate and proud to have such a strong group of active artists working at YSU. Debra DeGregorio and Paige Stewart both exhibit widely and it is a real treat for us to be able to showcase their work on YSU campus.”

The gallery will be open on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Judith Ray Solomon Gallery in Bliss Hall.

PENGUIN PRODUCTIONS COMES BACK ON FIRE



Photos by Abigail Cloutier / The Jambar

The Fall Fire Fest featured activities such as a food truck, ziplining and concert.

Fall Fire Fest sparks Penguin pride

By Abigail Cloutier
The Jambar

Homecoming weekend was back for the first time since 2019 at Youngstown State University and with it came the parade, a winning game and Fall Fire Fest.

Hundreds of students showed up for the event, which included food trucks, ziplining and a concert. International singer and rapper Wiz The MC headlined with his band the Aphrodites. Self-described as a modern Red Hot Chili Peppers, he released an EP last year and is planning another.

“My EP, ‘Where Silence Was Good,’ comes out in February next year, potentially going on tour for a good part

at the end of this year,” he said.

He got his start in Germany and moved to Los Angeles to pursue his career.

“America was always a big goal of mine to go over there and make music because I’m German and not many German people have made it overseas. So, I spent four years in Canada making music, and after [being] in Toronto for a couple years I wanted to expand ... My second-ever show in America was really exciting ... I just wanted to be all over the country and see how it is to be here and play music, because you guys inspire Europeans a lot,” he said.

Now on tour, he said he plans on hitting every small town in the United States.

“More shows in America, up until no small town in America can get away from my name, I can feel every tree that is in every small town in America. Just grow, make new music, spend some time alone, try new things,

“More shows in America, up until no small town in America can get away from my name, I can feel every tree that is in every small town in America.”

— Wiz The MC,
rapper and international singer

get out of my own way,” he said.

YSU President Jim Tressel spoke at the event.

“It’s so good to be out here. Homecoming weekend, so many alums are coming back that haven’t been here for two years. They won’t recognize the place, they won’t recognize how excited we are to be on campus this weekend. We’ve got to make sure that we make the statement to let people know that the Penguins are

back,” Tressel said.

Fall Fire Fest event leader Jordan Record said Penguin Productions was pleased about the turnout.

“I’m just so happy that we’re able to be back here. This is Pen Pro’s first in-person event since the [Federal Frenzy] Face-Off in February of 2020 ... so we’re just really excited to be here and to celebrate Youngstown,” Record said.

“We’ve got to make sure that we make the statement to let people know that the Penguins are back.”

— Jim Tressel,
Youngstown State University president



Rapper Wiz The MC and the Aphrodites got to play their music at homecoming weekend.

ACTS OF KINDNESS



Photo by Aaron J. Frantz / Jambar contributor

Greek life chapters participate in annual group service projects to raise money for charities.

Greek life chapters giving back

By Aaron J. Frantz
Jambar contributor

Youngstown State University Greek chapters are preparing for their annual group service projects. Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Zeta Tau Alpha are two of the many Greek organizations raising money for their respective charities.

Bronson Deangelo, SAE Philanthropy chairman, is responsible for planning the fraternity's yearly group service project. Sticking with SAE tradition, he said he has organized a project that has been successful in past years.

"Every year we have an event called Grilled Cheese with the SAE," he said. "Essentially, we make grilled cheese sandwiches and everyone on campus is welcomed to buy some or order some and we give all that money back to Akron Children's Hospital."

Emma James, ZTA chairperson for Pink Ribbon, has the responsibility of organizing the sorority's annual group service project. This service project is coming to

an end after a 20-year run.

"We host an annual event called The Pink Ribbon Cheer Classic with local high schools' cheer programs to help educate and bring awareness to breast cancer," she said. "We did not have the event last year due to COVID-19, so instead, we just did a video documentary of the history of the event. But this year, we are excited to go out with a bang."

Deangelo will implement something from last year's service project that should help the fraternity.

"Last year because of COVID, we held it at the Newman Center and we did not take cash. Instead, we used CashApp and Venmo, which made it an easier way to do a transaction with the pandemic going on," he said.

James said this year's competition pool will be a bit smaller than normal to make it as safe as possible.

"We are going to cut it off at 40 teams, and normally we have more than that, we just want to do it in the safest way possible especially since there are going to be breast cancer survivors in attendance so we do not want to put them in any danger," James said.

"Everything we are doing is for the safety of everybody and we just want to make it as best as we can since it is the last event."

SAE will have grilled cheese stands spread throughout campus in upcoming months cooking up sandwiches. ZTA's group service project will be held Oct. 24 at Beeghly Center. The start time is yet to be determined.

Carrie Anderson, associate director of Student Activities, is the primary executive for all Greek life service project activities. She actively supports these kind acts during rough times.

"Though this pandemic continues, it is so important for our organizations to give back to our communities that are hurting during this time," Anderson said. "Raising awareness and money for their philanthropic causes and doing service in the community is where their hearts are."

Anderson said even though things may be altered to ensure safety, the end results are still the same-to help those in need while making a difference in the Youngstown community.

A SPOOKY REVIVAL



Photo by Kaitlyn McCarthy / The Jambar

Planetarium hosts annual Nightlights Halloween shows every Friday and Saturday in October.

Nightlights Halloween show makes a return this October

By Kaitlyn McCarthy
The Jambar

The Ward Beecher Planetarium at Youngstown State University is starting its annual Nightlights Halloween show during weekends in October.

“We are doing the shows every Friday [and] Saturday, Friday nights, Saturday afternoons and Saturday nights in October,” Tiffany Wolbrecht, a planetarium lecturer, said.

The shows have been performed for 47 years and have become a tradition for the planetarium.

“The Halloween show has been a tradition here at Ward Beecher Hall since 1974,” Curt Spivey, planetarium engineer, said. “Last year was the first year since ’74 we didn’t do it. We are happy to be back this year.”

In order to ensure safety of students and families, masks will be required in order to watch the show to ensure safety and, also, to respect the mask mandate on campus.

For younger audiences, there is a less-scary show in the afternoon. Adults and children who are not afraid of certain parts of the show can attend the regular shows at night.

“We do this every Friday and Saturday evening at 8. That’s the traditional Nightlight, but we also have Night LITE — LITE because we also have younger members of the audience that come to our afternoon shows. Some of the younger members don’t like all the scary pop-up stuff, so we made a more kid-friendly version,” Spivey said.

Shows include music, special effects, lights and Halloween content. Each show will include different lighting and audio effects.

“We do a live light show in combination with the music and the immersive effects,” Wolbrecht said.

When the shows began in 1974, they were quite different from today’s. As technology advanced, so did the Halloween shows.

“In the early days, it was slides, it was music, it was practical special effects. These days, we have a 4k video system, we have a fully programmable RGB LED cove lights and we have a 5.1-surround-sound digital sound system,” Spivey said.

As the planetarium engineer, Spivey creates the shows and content.

“When I’m not doing public shows, my job is to make sure everything in [the planetarium] works,” Spivey said. “I take images and we manipulate them and make them fit the song. Everyone has a good time. It’s like a concert.”

Workers at the planetarium encourage people to come out and watch the Halloween shows.

“It’s a lot of fun and gets you ready for the holiday season. We encourage people to come in costume, and we just have a really good time with it,” Spivey said.

Wolbrecht also shared her sentiments about the return of the program after the brief hiatus.

“I’m just excited to be back. It’s been two years since we did this show. In the past, it’s been one of our more popular shows,” she said. “It’s always fun. People come with their families. We have kids, we have adults, and we are all here having fun.”

Audience members can expect a different experience every show. Admission is free for anyone who wishes to attend.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editors,

Two weeks ago, a frontpage article in The Jambar included a quote comparing vaccine mandates to the Holocaust. The ubiquity of such assertions, often from people of influence, may explain how it gained a foothold at YSU. As the director of the Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies, I feel obligated to explain why the comparison is misguided, insensitive, and even potentially harmful.

When people compare vaccine mandates to the Holocaust, they generally mean to suggest that through such laws, the government infringes upon our individual liberties, and that in tolerating mandates we acquiesce to an erosion of our freedoms. Holocaust analogies can serve as warnings, written in blood, against the potential for authoritarianism at the heart of democracy.

Yet one can make this case without analogizing the Holocaust. Stated plainly and with reference to authoritarian streaks in domestic politics, it would force proponents of mandates to explain why the state or private institutions should have the right to compel citizens to put medicines in their bodies. (We have good reasons for this belief!) The performative hyperbole of the Holocaust analogy, however, renders one's arguments and position easily dismissible.

The analogy, moreover, turns on a striking ignorance of German history. Vaccine mandates promote the well-being of all members of society without discrimination. Nazism, in contrast, removed Jews, Roma, and other targeted groups from the community of moral obligation, licensing their mass murder. That Nazism likened Jews to a pestilence plaguing the Aryan racial nation only demonstrates the cruel absurdity of the analogy.

In other words, the Nazis and their collaborators murdered Jews, Roma, and other racialized minorities not for failing to comply with authoritarianism, but simply for existing. They could not have evaded genocide by capitulating to Nazism. The Holocaust analogy fails. Closer but still wrongheaded comparisons might have been to Jehovah's Witnesses or to German antifascist.

This Holocaust analogy is also insensitive. It objectifies Jews and the Holocaust's enduring trauma to score rhetorical points or to excite a base. Some protesters have even donned Yellow stars. Drawing on long histories of supersessionism, this rhetorical device displaces actual Jews, and so erases their histories and experiences. It often does so under the guise of philosemitism, a love of Jews that can be as objectifying and as weaponizable as antisemitism.

Finally, Holocaust analogies can be dangerous because they transform one's opponents into genocidaires in waiting, implicitly legitimizing extreme and even violent responses.

I am not arguing that one should refrain from analogizing the Holocaust. Comparison is a historian's tool. (It would be salubrious, though, if we were to cease reaching automatically for Nazism when we seek to decry one wrong or another, especially because such argumentation tends to cast our opponents' perspectives as foreign, preventing us from situating them in our shared context.) I am simply saying that this particular analogy is inappropriate and counterproductive.

For those interested, I will be teaching a course on the Holocaust next semester.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jacob Ari Labendz

The Jambar Editorial

October means midterm season. On top of jobs, projects and papers, it also means burnout. Though some classes have moved away from the concept, just as many have kept it. It begs the question — what do we really gain from the tests?

All-nighters and cram sessions don't help us retain information. It leaves our brains as soon as the test is over. Things like projects and papers help us retain

the information way longer — and at the end of the day, isn't that the point?

We're so tired we can no longer think. On production days, we've listened to "Fruit Salad" by the Wiggles, and it plays on an endless loop in our heads, taking up space where grammatical rules once lived.

Please pardon our short editorial — we, like you, are so burned out and simply do

not have it in us.

See you next week, after a nice, long nap,
The Jambar

THE JAMBAR POLICY

Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Press Collegiate Press honors. The Jambar is published weekly in the spring and fall semesters. The Jambar is free for YSU students and faculty.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The editorial board consists of the editor-in-chief, managing editor, news editor, arts and entertainment editor and head copy editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles and do not reflect the opinions of any individual staff member. The Jambar's business manager, multimedia journalists and non-writing staff do not contribute to editorials, and the adviser does not have final approval.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Submissions are welcome at thejambar@gmail.com. Letters should concern a campus issue, must be typed and must not exceed 400 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification, along with the writer's city of residence for publication. The Jambar does not withhold the names of guest commentators. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. Letters will not be rejected based on the views expressed in them. The editorial board reserves the right to reject commentaries and letters if they are not relevant to our readers, seek free publicity, fail to defend opinion with facts from reliable sources or if the editorial staff has decided that the subject has been sufficiently aired. The editorial board will request a rewrite from the submitted writer based on these requirements. The Jambar will not print letters that are libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. The views and opinions expressed in letters and commentaries on the opinion page do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the faculty, staff or administration of YSU.

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Come work with YO!

YO Magazine is seeking writers and staff members for the 2021-2022 academic year. All majors are welcome!

Positions needed:

- multimedia content producers
- social media content managers
- writers
- editors

Stories should be 1,000-1,500 words long, contain 5 sources and be written using correct spelling, punctuation and grammar according to Associated Press Style.

If you are interested in writing a story for YO, please contact co-editors C. Aileen Blaine and Jacob Brandenstein by Friday, October 19, at yomagysu@gmail.com, with "YO Writer Interest" in the subject line.



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THROWING THE FLAG

1st penalty flag thrown at YSU game 80 years ago

By Yousof Hamza
The Jambar

Youngstown is home to many small pieces of history with lasting impacts on society. One of those is a small, yellow piece of cloth with a little weight attached to it: the penalty flag.

First used Oct. 16, 1941, in a game between then-Youngstown College and Oklahoma City University, it was meant to ease confusion on the football field in an era where it was just fish horns and hand signals.

The penalty flag was the brainchild of former

Youngstown State University head coach Dwight “Dike” Beede and his first wife Irma Beede. She sewed four red-and-white-striped cloths out of their daughter’s old Halloween costume.

The flags helped streamline the game and gave the audience visual cues as to what was happening on the field. This led to it being adopted by the American Football Coaches Association for game use in 1948.

The use of the flags was agreed on by Beede, former OCU head coach Os Doenges and former game officials Hugh McPhee, Jack McPhee, Bill Renner and Carl Rebele.

“Through the use of the signal flag, everyone in the stadium knows that something is wrong. It’s been a big help,” Jack McPhee said through YSU sports information.

Jack McPhee carried the flags with him for use in other contests that season, including several Ohio State University games. This led up to its use in that season’s Rose Bowl where the flag was used in front of over 100,000 spectators.

YSU retains two of the original flags in its Thomas F. Mosure Hall of Gridiron Glory on the fourth level of Stambaugh Stadium.



Photo by Yousof Hamza / The Jambar

Dwight “Dike” Beede used this flag made by his first wife Irma Beede.

Soccer secures another win

By Joey Frattaroli
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University women’s soccer team achieved its second victory of the season, overcoming Northern Kentucky University this Sunday, Oct. 10 at home.

Freshman Gianna Weigel led the team to victory — scoring her first career goal — and putting the score to 1-0 in the 21st minute. She was assisted by sophomore Justine Appolonia, who launched a long pass to Weigel deep inside the penalty area, allowing her to chip a shot into the center of the net.

In the second half, the Penguins were challenged by the NKU offense who were

relentless in their attack with 11 shots in total throughout the game.

The Penguin defence had the stamina to hold on, allowing sophomore Brooklynn Kirkpatrick to have her second shutout in the last three games and tallying one save on her stats.

This brings the Penguins’ season to 2-8-4 overall and 2-2-3 in the Horizon League, while NKU falls to 8-4-2 overall and 6-1-0 in the league after receiving its first loss in league play.

The team will play at the University of Purdue-Fort Wayne on, Oct. 14 and will host Cleveland State University for senior night Sunday, Oct. 17.

Check out Jambar TV at thejambar.com/jambar-tv

Volleyball falls late to RMU

By Kyle Wills
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University volleyball team lost in five sets, 3-2, at Robert Morris University this past Friday, Oct. 8. The set scores at UPMC Events Center were 25-23, 25-23, 19-25, 18-25, 15-13.

Freshman Paula Gursching had a match and career-high 24 kills on 53 attempts, and she recorded an impressive .302 attack percentage. Junior Nadia Pace provided 10 kills, and she was in on eight of the Penguins' 15 blocks. Junior Josi Borum had a match-high 19 digs, and sophomore Lexie Beeke contributed a career-best 49 assists.

Borum said the added presence of Gursching this season has helped motivate the team to play better.

"She's amazing. We all trust her that she can get the job done, especially in her hitting. She's definitely our

go-to and we set her every ball we can. She makes us all better because we all want to play up to her level," she said.

In the first set, RMU built a 10-5 lead, but the Penguins scored 6 of the next 7 points to tie the score at 11. YSU knotted the set again at 14, but was never able to pass the Colonials.

The Penguins held the upper hand for the majority of the second set, and their final lead was 20-19. A kill by Borum tied the set at 23. Ally Christman served RMU's third ace of the set to give them a 2-0 lead in the match.

The Penguins scored the first 8 points of the third set and the lead grew to as much as a dozen twice before the Colonials cut the margin to five twice. Gursching had seven of her kills in the third set.

YSU went on a 9-4 run midway through the fourth set to take a 17-11 lead, and the Penguins would win 25-18 to force a fifth set.

The women led 6-4 in the fifth following a kill by senior Amanda Lebioda, but a serving error sparked a key 4-point run by the Colonials that gave them an 8-6 lead. The Penguins tied the score at 10, 11 and 12 but were never able to regain the lead. A kill by Gursching saved one match point, but the first-year outside hitter's next attack at 14-13 went wide.

Borum discussed how there were still positives to be taken away within this defeat.

"It shows us that we can play with anybody and that even though we were down two [sets], we can still come back and fight," she said.

The Penguins will continue their five-match road stretch with contests at The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay on Oct. 14, the University of Illinois at Chicago on Oct. 15 and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee on Oct. 17.



Junior Josi Borum gets ready to serve in a match.

Photo courtesy of Sports Information

BREAKING SCHOOL RECORDS



Photo by Sydney Stalneckner / The Jambar

The YSU football team celebrates defeating Missouri State University at the homecoming game.

Electric-run game leads YSU past Missouri State to victory

By **Yousof Hamza**
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University football team beat the No. 15 Missouri State University Bears with a dominating run performance during the homecoming game.

YSU ran for 377 yards in a 41-33 upset. Redshirt freshman quarterback Demeatric Crenshaw led the Penguins in rushing with 195 yards and a touchdown — a school record for rushing yards by a quarterback. The touchdown came off a 73-yard run to seal the win.

Crenshaw also threw 10 of 19 for 99 yards and two touchdowns. He was happy about the win but stressed that he can do better.

“It feels good to get in the end zone, but I should have gone down. I felt open and I just kept running — I need to know to get down in [that] situation,” he said.

Crenshaw’s performance earned him the Stats Perform Freshman of the Week and he was also awarded the Missouri Valley Newcomer of the Week.

Head coach Doug Phillips explained that Crenshaw has not reached his full potential. He praised the quarterback on learning from his mistakes and being able to

handle the stress thrown at him.

“Whether it’s pass concepts, protections — we’re force-feeding it into him and he’s doing a great job studying during the week,” Phillips said. “The minute you see the light is coming on for him, he has the opportunity with his legs and arms here to hurt some defenses.”

Senior tailback Jaleel McLaughlin ran for 156 yards and two touchdowns, a sharp contrast from his mere 20 yards last week against the University of Northern Iowa.

Other highlights include senior placekicker Colt McFadden’s career-long 45-yard field goal. McFadden went 2 of 2 for both field goals and extra points.

MSU was sloppy with the ball with four turnovers: two fumbles and two interceptions.

Sophomore defensive backs Keyon Martin and Jordan White each had an interception. White also led the team in tackles with seven solos and two assists. Martin had three solos and two assists.

Martin also accounted for one of the forced fumbles along with sophomore defensive tackle Chris Fitzgerald. Senior defensive backs Zaire Jones and Issac James-Gray returned those fumbles.

Junior linebacker Griffin Hoak stressed the importance of practice heading into the game. The coaches wanted to see four turnovers per practice period, he said.

Despite these turnovers, MSU managed to put up 503 yards of offense with 372 yards in the air.

All season long, Phillips has stressed the need to have big, explosive plays to help win games. It was something he felt the team was lacking going into this game.

“Those explosives turned into touchdowns,” he said. “Think you can drive a ball 15 plays and getting 4 or 5 yards a crack in today’s game of football? [You can’t]. You’ve got to have explosive kickoff returns that lead to a touchdown, explosive pass plays lead to another explosive pass play and a touchdown.”

While he feels the team isn’t exactly there yet on explosive plays, Phillips believes the team is getting there and is connecting on more big plays.

YSU heads into a bye week before playing the Indiana State University Sycamores in Terre Haute, Indiana on Oct. 23 at Memorial Stadium.