



Darius Shackleford was killed Saturday, Feb 6, in a fatal car crash near the Albert Street and McGuffey Road intersection. Photo courtesy of **YSUSPORTS**

REMEMBERING DARIUS SHACKLEFORD

JORDAN BOITNOTT

The community lost Youngstown State University alumnus Darius “Shack” Shackleford Saturday night in a fatal car accident. According to WKBN News, he was sitting in a parked car when he was hit by another vehicle during a police chase. The vehicle then fled the scene.

The 24-year-old attended Youngstown State University from 2015-2020. Shackleford was a wide receiver on the football team. He was also a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in general studies last fall.

Officers with the Youngstown Police Department were initially pursuing a car driven by a 19-year-old male, according to the first police report released. The vehicle ran a red light before striking Shackleford, driving west near the Albert Street and McGuffey Road intersection.

The Youngstown Police Department questioned and charged the driver of

the vehicle, Adrienne Washington of Youngstown, Tuesday, Feb. 9. Washington was riding along with a 17-year-old passenger.

Police Chief Carl Davis said he considers this an ongoing investigation.

Shackleford grew up and attended high school in Newark, Ohio, where he was a three-sport star athlete, playing football, basketball and baseball.

As a member of the YSU football team, Shackleford played special teams along with playing wide receiver. In 10 games played as wide receiver, he had 11 catches, 213 yards and two touchdowns.

Shackleford was considered a “deep threat,” seen from his first touchdown of 42 yards and his second of 62 yards, according to the YSU Sports website.

Many of his teammates and coaches will remember him for his personality. Doug Phillips, YSU football head coach, tweeted a heartfelt response.

“Darius was not only a great player, but

he was an even better teammate and friend. His smile and energy were infectious. He not only affected so many within the football department in a positive way but also crossed paths with the entire athletic department,” he posted Feb. 7. “We will all carry fond memories of him the rest of our lives. Our entire team and staff extends our deepest condolences to his family.”

The morning after the incident, YSU President Jim Tressel tweeted his condolences.

“Please place the light in the hearts that feel darkness. Place the wings on the backs of those that feel hopeless’ - Alicia Keys #QuietTime,” he posted.

Another tweet by Tressel read: “You never know how strong you are until being strong is the only choice you have’ - Bob Marley.”

A memorial service was held for Shackleford at Stambaugh Stadium Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.



Lt. Gov. John Husted visited Youngstown following an investment of \$12 million into Mahoning County through the creation of the YSU Energy Storage Innovation and Training Center. Photo by **Samantha Smith / The Jambar**

OHIO LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR INVESTS IN YSU

SAMANTHA SMITH

Ohio’s Lt. Gov. Jon Husted visited the Youngstown area Tuesday to discuss his investment to the community and Youngstown State University.

Three weeks ago, Husted invested \$12 million into the Mahoning Valley for General Motors’

repayment of tax credit incentives. \$5 million of the investment will go toward YSU for workforce development and creating the YSU Energy Storage Innovation and Training Center.

He believes the center will bring advantages for the university and overall community in Youngstown.

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MCDONOUGH HOSTS BLACK HISTORY MONTH EXHIBIT ON PAGE 8



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COVID-19 VACCINES COMING TO THE VALLEY: NOT YET AT YSU

A student waits in line for Youngstown State University's free COVID-19 testing service. Photo by **Jessica Stamp / The Jambar**

JESSICA STAMP

With the recent distribution of the COVID-19 vaccinations in the Mahoning Valley, the Youngstown State University community waited to see if the vaccines would be distributed to students, faculty and staff. Julie Gentile, director of Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety, said YSU was not going to provide vaccines for members of the YSU community in an email to the campus Jan. 29.

"The health department is not allocating any vaccines [for] our campus," Gentile said. "So we are not going to be distributing it at this time in accordance with Gov. DeWine's roll-out plan."

Gentile's email included links to the City of Youngstown and Mahoning County health departments.

The Mahoning County Public Health department released its total immunization list in a press release Feb. 5. "5,342 first doses of COVID-19 immunizations to recipients in both Phase 1A and Phase 1B and 378 second doses of COVID-19 immunizations to the same recipients," the department said.

Ohio is in Phase 1B of the vaccination program, which

focuses on K-12 school staff and teachers. It also includes those 65-years-of-age and older as well as those with underlying health conditions.

The Ohio Department of Health set up certain locations to distribute vaccines. Mahoning County and the City of Youngstown are using local hospitals and other clinic locations around the area.

Though higher education students, faculty and staff are not included in Phase 1B, some members of the YSU community who qualified have already received their vaccines.

"Some of our HHS [Health and Human Services students] have signed up and gotten their vaccine through their health department, dental hygiene and nursing [majors]. Both of those groups, the faculty have been vaccinated," Gentile said.

Along with asking HHS, the office of Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety is asking those associated with music, theater and education students going to K-12 schools as student teachers to participate in the surveillance testing.

"In addition to those two items, based on living location, as

well as area of study, we have it open to everybody," Gentile said.

YSU is trying to figure out who is asymptomatic, someone exposed to COVID-19 but does not show any symptoms of the virus, by offering free onsite COVID-19 testing to students, faculty and staff. Testing is offered Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Wednesdays 2-6 p.m. in the Presidential Suite in Kilcawley Center. Appointments are required and can be scheduled up to 72 hours in advance online at cvs.com/campustesting.

"The focus of this is to reach out to anybody and everybody on campus," Gentile said. "Some of our higher priorities would be our residential students, so those living in onsite dorms as well as campus partner properties like the [University] Edge and Enclave."

If anyone is interested in getting a vaccine and meets the criteria, they can pre-register online or contact a local healthcare provider.

SCHOLARSHIPS SUPPORT DIVERSITY AT YSU

KELCEY NORRIS

Youngstown State University students of diverse backgrounds can take advantage of scholarship opportunities offered by campus organizations as a way to celebrate and acknowledge students' differences in the community.

The YSU Foundation, Youngstown Business and Professional Women's Club and the Shades of Blue Association of Youngstown are just a few of the agencies offering scholarships to help minority students succeed.

Each year the YSU Foundation provides over \$8 million in scholarships. Barbara Brothers, a retired dean and administrator in education at YSU, recently endowed a scholarship to help currently enrolled Black YSU undergraduate students pursuing degrees in education who also attended Youngstown City Schools.

Tiffanie Thomas, the endowment stewardship coordinator, said Brothers endorsed diversity and inclusion in the college for the past 40 years.

"It's good to have someone that looks like you, that you can aspire to be and learn from [in education.] No one knows what it's like to be a woman other than another woman," Thomas said. "To have someone that looks like you — it does matter to support more African Americans in the field of education."

Students interested in applying for the scholarship can contact the

YSU Foundation.

The Youngstown Business and Professional Women's Club is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to one full-time female student, renewable each school year. It's called the Dr. Anne McMahon Scholarship.

The organization celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2020. Rebecca Davis, president of YBPW, said students eligible for the scholarship must submit the application alongside three letters of recommendation, a copy of their most recent transcript and complete an essay requirement.

"A big part of our mission is to assist women with their education," Davis said. "A lot of time at YBPW, we're mentors to the scholarship recipients and members that come into the club."

Although the YBPW scholarship is associated with the YSU Foundation, applicants will need to fill out a separate form at www.ybpw.org, not the Foundation common application. Submissions must be completed by March 15.

The Shades of Blue Association of Youngstown celebrates diversity represented in law enforcement. They're raising funds to support a minority student over the age of 21 pursuing a career in law enforcement at either YSU or Trumbull Police Academy.

Ronnie Casey Jr., deputy sheriff of Mahoning County, serves as president and is a founding member of the Shades of Blue Police Association.

"There's not a lot of minorities in law enforcement. What we wanted

to do was establish a scholarship giving minorities the opportunity to get into the police academy. One of the main reasons why minorities don't go into the police academy is the cost," Casey said.

Malik Mostella, parliamentarian and fellow founding member, said graduates of the police academy have bright futures. Mostella has worked at the Youngstown Police Department for the last 20 years.

"There are people out there who want to get into law enforcement and they just can't afford it," Mostella said. "We're going to do our best to raise enough money to send one person to the police academy in the fall ... A lot of judges and lawyers start out as police officers and work their way up."

They described the mission of their organization as an effort to change the community's understanding and ideology of law enforcement.

"In most communities, people learn more about the police from watching TV than actual police," Mostella said.

They're raising money for the scholarship by selling raffle tickets to win a \$500 gift card to Giant Eagle.

All of the proceeds from the \$10 raffle ticket sales will go toward "providing the financial peace of mind" for a police academy minority student. The raffle drawing will be March 31.

Students interested in applying can visit www.shadesofblueoh.com or email sbpascholar@gmail.com. Scholarship applications are due May 21.

COUNSELING SERVICES EXPAND MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

ABIGAIL CLOUTIER

Last semester, the Department of Higher Education awarded Youngstown State University a grant worth \$124,200 to expand mental health services during the pandemic, according to the Ohio Checkbook government portal. Student Counseling Services used the funds to hire another full-time counselor, two part-time counselors, and a graduate assistant. They also contracted with a local provider for additional behavioral health services.

Ann Jaronski, director of Student Counseling Services, is using the spring semester to create wellness programs for all students, regardless if they are actively in or seeking counseling. Counseling Services will roll out biofeedback devices to track physical stress responses this week and light therapy boxes to help with seasonal depression in March. Students will be able to check out either device through Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center.

"Contrary to what you might think, greater heart rate variability is a better thing. Your heart and your nervous system are more able to roll with the punches. So using a tool like biofeedback, where you're actually getting feedback from your body, about your heart rate — it'll walk you through some guided imagery, so teaches you to slow your breathing down, teaches you to focus, which helps improve your heart rate variability, which helps improve your ability to handle stress, your ability to focus, to calm yourself down," she said.

Tiffany Spisak, first-year graduate student and graduate assistant for Student Counseling Services, is working with campus rec to create wellness and self-care classes.

"I'm very excited to be here and help out with outreach and spreading mental health awareness to the students of YSU. I am very passionate about mental health and strive to show others the importance of the continuous process of improving

our mental well-being," she said.

Katie Stephen is Counseling Services new licensed professional clinical counselor, and will provide counseling services directly to students. Though she was initially hired through the COVID-19 grant, Jaronski expects Stephen to be a permanent addition to Counseling Services' staff.

"I am so proud to be able to be a part of the YSU family and to continue to grow in my profession. I have wanted to return to higher education since graduate school and I am excited to be able to do that here at YSU," she said. "My overall goal is to be a supportive, listening ear to students helping to motivate them and increase their overall well-being. I hope to create a safe place that students feel comfortable coming to when they need it."

Despite the pandemic, counseling appointments haven't increased this year, possibly due to issues like Zoom fatigue.

"People are really tired of being online, and are

really craving in person connections and contacts," Jaronski said. "I anticipate an uptick in requests for services once we're back in person. I think that's when people are going to want to reconnect, they're going to struggle to reconnect, people are going to be rusty."

With the rest of the COVID-19 mental health grant, Jaronski is working with a few different companies to create mental health education resources for issues like substance abuse, anxiety, depression and eating disorders. Part of the grant also went to creating wellness kits for students stuck in quarantine.

"So, on a continuum, we're also looking for resources that students can use and engage in on a lower level. Let's say [students] don't need to talk to a professional counselor, or aren't ready for that yet," Jaronski said. "What are some of the self-help or minimally guided kind of resources that students can use?"

Q & A: DAVID HUGHLEY III

JOSEPH CHAPMAN

Freshman David Hughley III has forged his own creative path since arriving at Youngstown State University this fall. He was valedictorian at Warrensville Heights High School and joined the Honors College at YSU. David is studying accounting with a minor in entrepreneurship at the Williamson College of Business Administration. Recently, he published his first book, “Hunter Black.” Released Jan. 17, it is available as both a paperback and as an e-book via Amazon. He said he prefers people buy the e-book to save paper. I was able to sit down with David and discuss life at YSU and his recent work as a writer.

What led you to choose accounting as your major?

Kind of just a good start. It's the language of business. I could learn about assets, liabilities, fact checking in business, bookkeeping and also working as an accounting intern for the YSU Foundation. So it's given me an internship experience to become ready. And later with my entrepreneurship ... I wouldn't even need an accountant because I'd be an accountant.

Was your decision to make entrepreneurship your minor inspired by you beginning to write and publish independently?

I'll watch anime, I like to do creative things. Sometimes you get into fanfiction. And you're like, “That's pretty interesting, [the] story is interesting.” Alternatively, you start to write your own. It becomes a way for you to grow outside of class and not just to be a student or not just be a worker, but to be your own person. So that's what came out of me with the “Hunter Black” book.

Are all your works inspired by anime?

It's a bit of everything. It's about the entire journey. Just looking at movies and cartoons and shows and getting their cinematic approach and, like, making it into your own. We all have our favorite show or favorite movie. We just want to create our own.

What is “Hunter Black” about?

It's about how things are going, how a group of friends

adjusted to the pandemic. They're questioning themselves, and they're growing up in a world that they didn't expect to be like this. It's a story about adversity. Finding who you are, essentially. It's a quick read, 60 pages, and I'm going to write more eventually. But this is a good starting spot to my writing career.

You mentioned your book was LGBTQ inclusive?

When I created this e-book, it was kind of like a learning experience because a woman reached out to me on LinkedIn, she mentioned the Colors+ Youth Program in Cleveland. I thought that was interesting. So I was questioning [how my book was related]. She said, “Your main character is asexual and that's technically under the queer umbrella.” I was confused because I thought queer meant homosexual. So I asked and we went back and forth and she was teaching me so much about the queer umbrella that the LGBTQIA+ community is ... They really enlightened me. They really gave me some good opportunities. So I just want to thank them on my behalf for posting my book and giving me some good feedback and teaching me something that I didn't know.

What's your favorite way to volunteer for the Honors College?

I run the Warrensville National Honor Society page. [I'm responsible for] reposting things, reaching out to people, linking things together and managing the emails. I created a cool logo [and] created the link tree.

What are your post-grad plans?

I graduate in 2023 here at YSU ... I'm probably going to go to grad school, get the Masters of Accountancy and have a good 4+1 program. With me taking College Credit Plus courses at Warrensville, I'm a bit ahead of the game. So things are going to be a bit sped up and that's going to do nothing but benefit me in the long run ... I just know that I'm going to be an accountant. I'm going to eventually have my own business. I'm going to go back to school for that political science degree. Just get prepared to be mayor. If that's the case, political campaigns can get crazy.



Youngstown State University's Honors College chooses a student of the week to recognize their accomplishments. Jambar reporter Joseph Chapman sat down to get to know this week's honoree, freshman accounting major David Hughley III. Photo by **Joseph Chapman/The Jambar**

SGA STARTS TUESDAY TEA TIME PODCAST

DANNY GAGE
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Youngstown State University Student Government Association created its very own podcast last December.

Tuesday Tea Time, the new YSU SGA podcast, first aired Dec. 8, and has since released a total of five episodes. The podcast was created to shed light on campus life for students and help those who feel disconnected from the university amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

SGA president Justin Shaughnessy, one of the podcast hosts, said students don't have the same access to information they used to, and he wants the podcast to serve as a source of information.

"Right now, a lot of students are disconnected from the university because of the pandemic, and having a place where they can check in every Tuesday and learn a different functional area of the university can broaden their understanding of who they need to talk to and go for when in need of assistance," Shaughnessy said.

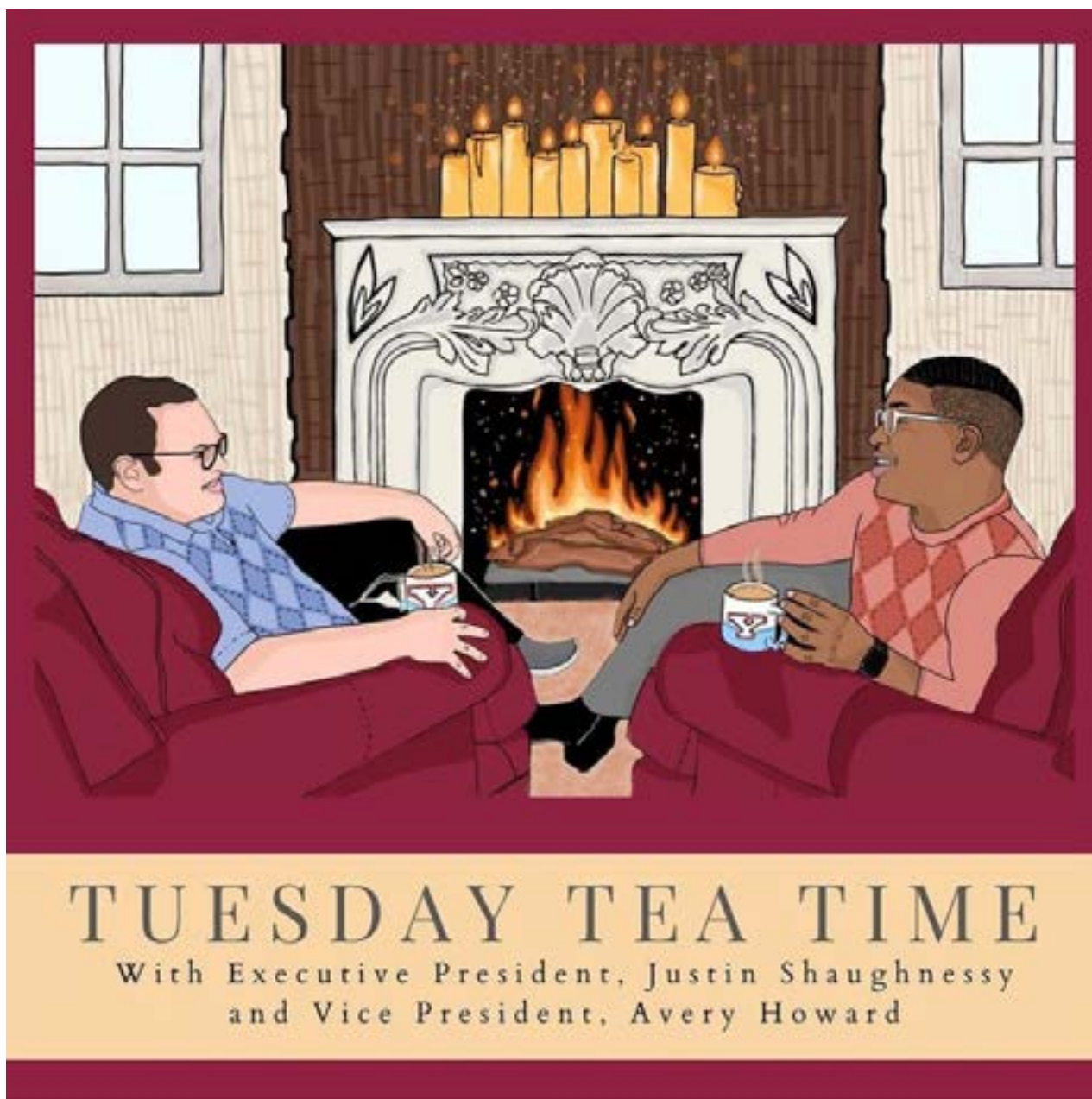
Avery Howard, SGA vice president and second podcast host, discussed leaving behind a social media footprint for listeners of the podcast.

"We want to help students with personal development. Everything in our podcast is going to follow us, and we want what follows us to be helpful. We want this podcast to help students with lifestyle development. So, watch the podcast because one, I'm funny, and two, you learn things," Howard said.

He said the name was born because he and Shaughnessy had "tea to spill."

"We have tea to spill to students, so why not Tuesday Tea Time?" Howard said. "The alliteration was the best part of the idea. The Tuesday aspect gives our audience a day to look forward to, and we are spilling the tea."

Tuesday Tea Time featured interviews with Eddie Howard, vice president of Student Experience at YSU, and YSU President Jim Tressel. The podcast is relatively new, but Shaughnessy and Howard have already thought of future interviewees and plans to expand the podcast beyond YSU.



*Executive President of Student Government Association, Justin Shaughnessy, and Vice President Avery Howard talk to influential members of the Youngstown State University community. Photo courtesy of **Justin Shaughnessy***

"There has been a lot of support for YSU from the Youngstown community," Howard said. "The Second Harvest Food Bank has been a partner for Student Government by helping with the food pantry, so we'd love to have one of their representatives on the show."

Tuesday Tea Time has been met with warm remarks. Students, faculty and other members of YSU SGA have complimented Shaughnessy's and Howard's efforts in creating a casual, yet informative, podcast. The two expressed the desire to see the podcast continue on and grow.

"The podcast Spotify account was specifically created for Student Government so that it can continue. Maybe we'll change the bylaws so Avery and I could be president and vice president forever and always host the podcast," Shaughnessy joked. "But, if that doesn't work, I'd have no problem handing the mic over to someone else in Student Government."

Students can tune in and listen to Tuesday Tea Time on Spotify every Tuesday.

"Right now, a lot of students are disconnected from the university because of the pandemic, and having a place where they can check in every Tuesday and learn a different functional area of the university can broaden their understanding of who they need to talk to and go for when in need of assistance."

— Justin Shaughnessy, Student Government Association president

43RD ENGLISH FESTIVAL CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS



YSU President Jim Tressel and high school participants in the 2018 English Festival lift their hands to show their Y-pride. Volunteers can help students show off their pride virtually this year in April. Photo courtesy of YSU English Festival

C. AILEEN BLAINE

Youngstown State University's English Festival enters its 43rd year and its second year hosted online. With sessions occurring both synchronously and asynchronously comes the need for student volunteers in a variety of roles.

Some of the volunteer positions include Zoom meeting co-hosts to start and end meetings, monitor the chat and manage participants. Other positions include acting as moderators for the Not-So-Trivial Pursuit sessions or other virtual meeting rooms, such as Insight Discussions.

Volunteers interested in leading sessions can pre-record 5-20 minute videos for students to watch and interact with via Facebook and YouTube. Sessions leaders should read at least one of the festival books and can discuss aspects of the theme, history or content of the book itself.

Volunteers will also be welcome to attend the recorded sessions with guest lecturer Ruta Sepetys, author of "Between Shades of Gray" and "Salt to the Sea."

The festival will still occur over three days. High school grades 10-12 will participate on April 21 and middle school

grades 7-9 April 22 and 23.

Melanie Loew, festival coordinator, said only about 50% of the typically participating schools registered for this year. This represents a total of nearly 100 schools from Ohio and Pennsylvania, compared to the usual 200 or so.

Terry Benton, member of the festival committee, sent an email to the English and world languages department expressing appreciation for the English Festival volunteers of years past.

"A major highlight of the year is the annual YSU English Festival, when hundreds of high school and middle school students join us for a three-day celebration of reading and writing," Benton said in the email. "The English Festival has been so successful because of the many volunteers who facilitate sessions and help in other ways."

Angela Messenger, festival co-chair, said the festival committee hopes session-leading volunteers will be creative.

"What we're looking for is that if people are inventive and can think of ways [to encourage students] to pause the video and do some writing or go to a particular drawing app

and create something that's inspired by part of the book," Messenger said.

The festival's advisory board considered many things when planning events and activities. This included the input from teachers of participating schools.

"We surveyed [the teachers] in advance of the festival," Messenger said. "We took all of their considerations in mind when we were trying to develop something that could offer an asynchronous or synchronized platform."

Last year's festival was postponed by a month so the planning committee could transition such a large, in-person event to a completely virtual setting. It was difficult, and most sessions occurred asynchronously. But this year, students and volunteers will be able to interact with each other in real time.

"Many of our regular, small group size sessions will allow students to actually talk to one another again, and to talk to the presenter. And that's what we're excited to bring back this year," Messenger said.

For more information, visit the YSU English Festival website, or contact Angela Messenger at ajbarwick@ysu.edu



ONLINE BLACK HISTORY MONTH EXHIBITION: VOICES OF AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTISTS

Malcolm Mobutu Smith's ceramic works are inspired by art from graffiti, comic books and his passion for hip-hop and jazz. Photo courtesy of **Malcolm Mobutu Smith**

DOUGLAS M. CAMPBELL

To celebrate Black History Month, the McDonough Museum of Art will highlight a variety of African American artists online. Claudia Berlinski, the museum director, curated the month-long exhibit.

"Each weekday I will be featuring a new artist — a Black artist — on our social media platforms. That would be Facebook, Instagram and Twitter," Berlinski said.

Berlinski did a similar online exhibition during the summer called "Black Lives Matter, Black Artists Matter." The exhibition highlighted around 60 African American artists, including Malcolm Mobutu Smith, a ceramic and drawing artist, and Mike Gibson, a topiary artist whose work can be seen in a slideshow on the museum's website.

Improvisation of 3D objects guide Smith's ceramic works of cups, scoops, vessels, vases and illustrations. His work is inspired by art from graffiti, comic books and his passion for hip-hop and jazz.

"Graffiti art was something that I started to get engrossed by even as I was deciding to commit myself to the academic study of fine art in junior high school. Those two things sort of came together at once and I was a participant as a hip-hop practitioner," Smith said.

He found the ever-increasing culture surrounding hip-hop and graffiti art fascinating as an artistic expression for an under-represented group.

"These daring young people inventing styles and very cohesive styles of drawing that they would then risk life and limb to go do out in public space and still have all of this energy and skill represented in the hip-hop culture," Smith said.

Gibson, a local Youngstown artist, found his creative spark at the age of seven when his father taught him how to trim bushes. His love for the craft solidified years later when his father introduced him to the art of African American topiary artist Pearl Fryar.

"After he showed me his work, it was like, 'Mind. Blown.' And ... that's when my eyes opened and my mind opened a little bit more and I started getting a little bit more creative," Gibson said.

To bring more beauty to his hometown, Gibson's mission was to sculpt and create 330 structures in honor of the area code. It took him six years to reach the goal.

"The mindset that I have going into a new project is similar to someone that is trying to solve a Rubik's Cube. I stare at a bush and I'm seeing and putting together until I like the outcome and then I'm able to do it," Gibson said.

Smith thinks with the work displayed online, there should

be something for everybody, with deep histories to learn from different cultures and lessons from now.

"We got all different types of mediums displayed here, we are talking about high-level painters, sculptors — mixed media artists of all types. Many of them are people I looked to as superheroes myself, — as mentors from afar. I'm just thrilled to be a part of the group," Smith said.

Along with the social media posts and online slideshow, the museum will also show a documentary called "The Foreigners Home" at noon every Wednesday in February, at the lecture hall.

"It was actually recommended to me a year ago by an artist. I contacted the filmmakers and we talked about doing a big screening last spring where the filmmakers would be here and talk about the film and answer some questions and we would be able to have a full audience," Berlinski said.

Due to the pandemic, those original plans were canceled and the film was incorporated into the museum's plans for Black History Month.

Seating in the lecture hall is limited to 24 people and masks are required.



El Anatsui's art pieces use discarded items such as liquor bottle caps, printing plates and cassava graters. Photo courtesy of **The McDonough Museum**



Kevin Beasleys' art pieces are made from found materials and clothing, and reflect the bodies that may have once inhabited them. Photo courtesy of **The McDonough Museum**



Mike Gibson's goal was to create 330 topiary structures of all varieties within Ohio. Photo courtesy of **Mike Gibson**



Mike Gibson found his creative spark at the age of seven and has since been on a mission to beautify his home town. Photo courtesy of **Mike Gibson**



Cauleen Smith's art pieces reflect on the possibilities of imagination. Photo courtesy of **The McDonough Museum**

YSU WELCOMES INCOMING ART STUDENTS WITH VIRTUAL SESSIONS

ZACH MOSCA

When it comes to picking a major in college, knowing exactly what that major entails is key. That's why Youngstown State University is offering a series of virtual art information sessions to serve as an orientation for incoming art students.

These sessions will be split into multiple subcategories dedicated to each individual section of the art department. The first session, which was held Feb. 8, covered the art education section. Other sessions will feature departments such as interdisciplinary studio art, graphic design and sculptures and ceramics.

The incoming freshmen will meet with professors and art majors. Nick Aducci, senior art education major, made an appearance at the first session to talk about his experience in the art education program.

Aducci said he has enjoyed a positive experience with YSU's art program so far, noting how robust it is and all the skills he's learned from the program alone.

"It's a tremendous program. I've been in all kinds of mediums and all kinds of different things that I didn't even think I was going to be involved in like welding, the pottery wheel, making jewelry, soldering woodshop — all these things, YSU's got it," Aducci said.

Samuel Adu-Poku, art education professor, said YSU's art education program in particular attracts students to the university because many other nearby universities don't offer anything similar.

"I know the University of Akron discontinued their art education program, and then there's another university — I think it's Cleveland State University — also discontinued their art education program, so

we are beginning to take advantage of that," Adu-Poku said.

Another art professor featured in the session, Lillian Lewis, graduated from Penn State's art education program, but she decided to come to YSU because of its studio space.

"For instance, our ceramics studio is two floors and we've got incredible, durable equipment there and lots of space for students to work," Lewis said.

In addition, Lewis said she was very impressed by the faculty of the art department, such as Adu-Poku.

"He is originally from Ghana and his formal education is from Canada, so he brings this rich and complex global perspective to the program," Lewis said.

When it comes to the values of learning art, Aducci said he feels like many skills students can learn from studying art are often overlooked. In addition to growing as an artist, students can learn practical life skills.

"The skills you learn in art [such as] critical thinking, creativity and decision making are often overlooked and can apply to other areas in life," Aducci said.

One aspect of the art program Adu-Poku is excited about is its revamped curriculum, which will allow for more students to graduate without having to take any extra classes.

"Now that we've been able to reduce the graduation requirements, the students are excited, and a lot of students feel that they could graduate quicker and save money," Adu-Poku said.

More information on the virtual art information sessions and the art department in general can be found at ysu.edu



SGA members Justin Shaughnessy, Jeffrey Senediak, Kennedy Romeo (back row), Gianna Battaglia and Faith Marscio (front row) celebrate our mascot's 88th birthday with the mascots. Photo courtesy of **Justin Shaughnessy**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, PETE!

SHARE YOUR NEWS

See something cool?

Doing something cool?

Send us a message!

thejambar@gmail.com



Members of the YSU women's rugby team pose during their pre-pandemic play. Photo courtesy of **Ally Borak**

HAILEY ROGENSKI **JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR**

The women's rugby team isn't able to play games yet this season, but that doesn't stop the players from practicing. The season for this club sport generally runs in spring and fall, and the team hopes to be allowed to compete against opponents in the fall.

Ally Borak, junior biology major and president of the rugby squad, said the team was unable to play in 2020 but performed well the previous year.

"In 2019, we actually made it to the playoffs, so in the fall we're hoping to make it past that," she said. "We've been pretty active. We still practice four times a week."

Borak said the team is limited in the number of people allowed to safely practice at one time.

"Depending on how many people there are, you will be divided into pods, meaning you'll only practice with that number of people throughout the week," she said.

Borak said the new rules mirror those many students are familiar with in classrooms.

"Of course, we wear masks during practice. We also sanitize all of the equipment before and after use," Borak said. "Along with our water breaks, we also have our handwashing breaks."

Siara Bradich, a criminal justice major and a junior member of the team, said players must be especially careful because rugby is a close-contact sport.

"Not being able to touch and not being able to tackle has been hard, but when we had our coach with us last semester, she brought these pool noodles and we played touch rugby with them," Bradich said. "Every time we would go to tackle someone, we would just hit them with a pool noodle."

Borak said the game of rugby consists of 15 players on the field. Games usually run about 80 minutes.

"It's a sport where players try to make the ball down the field by running the ball, passing the ball backwards, or kicking the ball down the field. All without getting tackled by the opposing team," Borak said.

While they're unsure if they'll be able to compete later this year, the rugby team still plans to host fundraisers this season. The team mostly has to pay for its own travel for competition, although it can apply for Student Government Association

funding.

"For the spring semester of 2021, we really want to focus on fundraising since we can't do any competition. We're gonna try to run two, so if you see any posters up on campus, please try to participate," Borak said.

Although she is unsure of when the fundraisers will be, the team will post information about them on its Instagram page.

They often stick to playing teams nearby. This includes traveling to places like Columbus, OH, Pittsburgh and Erie, PA. The team doesn't usually travel more than 12 hours away. When the team does compete at home, it plays at Stambaugh Stadium, Borak said.

Club Sports administration will decide whether the team gets to play in competitions in the fall, Borak said.

"We will know by next semester. With COVID, it's all based on what the season is looking like," Borak said.

The team is accepting new players. Anyone interested in learning more can visit the team's Facebook and Instagram pages or email Ally Borak at arborak@student.ysu.edu.

NIRSA WEEK EVENTS

SAMANTHA SMITH

The National Intramural Recreational Sports Association is an organization that regulates a multitude of sports throughout colleges and universities nationwide. In celebrating the day it was founded, Feb. 22, 1950, colleges like Youngstown State University host events for students to participate in and promote the organization.

R.J. Markowitz, coordinator of Adventure Recreation, explained what YSU does to celebrate and why these events occur over a span of a week.

"Usually, the format for our NIRSA week is – what we do is – try to have events that will encapsulate each area of the rec center," he said. "We have our wellness events, we have club sports events, intramural events, fitness events, strength events. So we figured if we do one of those on each day, it makes it easier."

Events this year include: the kayak clinic, virtual 5K, tennis day tournament, art-to-go and fit minute challenges.

The kayak clinic, held Feb. 19, is open for those interested in learning the basics of kayaking. The number of participants is limited to five, so to check for available spots, students can go to the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center website.

The virtual 5K will take place throughout the week of Feb. 22. It encourages students to track their own miles however they like and at their own pace.

The tennis day tournament will be held Feb. 23 on National Tennis Day. The tennis club members will help facilitate singles tournaments for students. Anyone interested must register to participate through the IMLeagues website by Feb. 22.

Peaceful Painting, also called art-to-go, allows students to relieve stress and relax virtually with others. Students must pick up the art supplies provided by the rec center and reserve a spot by Feb. 19 to be a part of the art lesson.

Students can take on the fit minute challenges, keeping track of how many situps or pushups they can do per minute Feb. 26. Anyone passing by the rec center can join. Each challenge will last 1 minute, and every 30 minutes challenge winners can receive prizes.

Each event will follow COVID-19 protocols, including limiting numbers and social distancing, so students can have fun and stay safe.

Markowitz said each of these events can benefit students.

"I think you can see a bunch of different benefits from motivation to increasing your physical and mental health, to learning different skills and ultimately having fun," he said. "That's the biggest thing. We're recreation; we want you to be having fun while you're doing all of this."

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VIVA LA VALENTINE'S DAY

This has been an incredibly untraditional year, with many holiday traditions being broken for the first time in generations due to the pandemic. COVID-19 is a term we've all heard more than we've ever wanted to and it has become a scapegoat for anything and everything — although it normally is the culprit — but we must not allow it to claim Valentine's Day. Whether you want to celebrate with a significant other, spend time with friends or simply be left in peace, take this day to do something fun. Below are some suggestions from your friendly Jambar editorial staff on ways to get into the holiday spirit.

For the Couples:

Take a small weekend trip to get away from it all and rekindle the romance. Maybe one of your families has a cabin in the woods or maybe you can try out an Airbnb; either way, pack some board games, movies, fuzzy pajamas, yummy snacks and make a weekend out of it. If that is too much of a hassle, then have a fun and romantic dinner at home. Put on some dancing music, pull out your "kiss the cook" apron and get in the kitchen together and make one of those recipes you've shared on Facebook but have never attempted to actually make.

For the Besties:

Don't have a significant other but still want an excuse to have some fun? This is the perfect holiday for spending time with friends without the pressure of buying them gifts. Get the gang together for a virtual movie night; pick out one of your favorite movies and watch it together while you Zoom call each other. Meet up for a friend-date at One Hot Cookie and enjoy the sweetness of the season.

For the Solitary:

So you don't like people — well that's no excuse not to treat yourself. Go out and get some of your favorite snacks, a bottle of wine — if you're of age — and then binge some of your favorite movies, whether they be chick flicks or horror films. Take a bubble bath, curl up with a good book, beat that level of your favorite video game that you've been stuck on, paint, draw, or color, do anything that fills your heart with joy.

No matter which category you fall into, make sure to take some time and enjoy life instead of just letting it pass by while awaiting a more "normal" time. Set those textbooks aside, forget about that cleaning you've been meaning to do and give yourself a well-earned night of relaxation and possibly a little romance.

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WHAT ABOUT GRAPES?

MAC POMEROY

Lately, my life feels like every day is the exact same. Get up, go to class, eat, write, crochet. Your world lacks much variety when you spend every second of it within the four green walls of your bedroom. Well, my bedroom, I don't know what color your walls are.

To state simply, my life right now is extremely boring. I worry about this leaking into my being, causing me to also be extremely boring.

I was never thrilling. I have never been some great story protagonist, adventure at every corner. I was someone. I went with the flow, seeing where the day would take me. This is where my columns and ideas would come.

I never quite realized how much I relied on spontaneity prior. Yet, when I considered it, it became so obvious. All of the jobs I have had were because of spontaneous choices. All of my friendships were due to random moments. If anything, I think I fall flat when it comes to actually planning things.

So, it isn't shocking this current pattern has me feeling like I am in some kind of Groundhog Day horror movie. At this point, I feel like I am even having the same conversations everyday.

Being disabled doesn't help the situation. I can't leave my house to go for a jog, even when it isn't winter. I currently don't drive, so I can't just get into a car and drive around.

I think my folks are confused lately about why I am so eager to ride along when they go pick up something from Walmart Inc.

I can't really walk outside with the ice right now or else I may hurt myself.

During a time of such chaos and hurt, it seems outrageously selfish to write an article to complain about being bored. Perhaps it is, but it is also important. Just because we have been in this situation for a while, and because we need to play our parts to stay healthy and safe, doesn't mean we stopped being human.

Throughout this whole thing, I have done my best. I stay home. I only interact with my family. I haven't spent time with any of my friends since February of last year.

My cooperation doesn't mean I haven't been metaphorically banging my head against the same green wall. I find my mind asking about the weirdest things to keep itself occupied. That being said, does anyone know if grapes or grapefruit were named first?

There isn't a final lesson to this article. I am still struggling to keep myself focused and calm during all of this. Slowly, though, I am getting the hang of this. It's becoming less hard to find something nice in my everyday life, even if the nice thing is just when my sister texts me a photo of her cat, or drinking some tea.

Maybe right now, it is better to focus on the little moments than to stress about the big picture.



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.

OUR 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.

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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.



Fans of NCAA rejoice at the return of the collegiate football video game. Photo by **Jordan Boitnott/The Jambar**

JORDAN BOITNOTT

On Feb. 2, EA Sports dropped the bombshell they were bringing back their beloved NCAA Football franchise. After their announcement, chaos broke loose on Twitter and many other social media platforms. Gamers all over the country expressed their excitement.

Colt Fairbanks, a Penn State fan and NCAA Football player, said he's been waiting years for the franchise to return.

"This is awesome. When you write this article, you better emphasize that because I am losing my freaking mind. I've been waiting years for the game that I spent countless hours playing as a kid to finally return after all these years," he said. "It brings back a lot of memories playing with friends and has a lot of potential to bring back people to the gaming world."

The last version of the game to release was NCAA Football 14. In 2013, the NCAA announced they wouldn't renew their contract with the gaming company due to legal battles since the game used players' likenesses.

The franchise reached mainstream popularity once again last year during quarantine when Barstool Sports' Big Cat streamed Dynasty Mode games under the persona "Coach Duggs." The run included nightly streams, photoshopped Sports Illustrated magazine covers and even staged press conferences.

The Dynasty Mode, Big Cat, played is a fan favorite and one of the main reasons gamers are so excited for the franchise to return. The game mode allows you to take over any Division 1 school of your choosing as the head coach and build a "dynasty" by recruiting players and playing out seasons in hopes of winning a national championship.

Kyle Ricketts, an avid NCAA Football player, said dynasty was his favorite game mode.

"My favorite [memory] is playing those game modes with my buddies back when I was a kid, at 15 years old. The satisfaction and enjoyment I had of playing with my buddies and beating them in championship games is something I hope I can experience again once the new game comes out," he said.

Ricketts also said he is curious to see how the game will have evolved and improved since the last installment.

"The creative game modes like Road to Glory and Ultimate Team are awesome, but I'm really excited for them to add the new NCAA playoff system into the new game since that's something the old one didn't have," he said. "I'm also curious to see how they make changes to the recruiting part of the game. I hope they make it more detailed and unique."

The two game modes Ricketts discussed are also fan favorites. Road to Glory is a game mode where players can start their own

personal career as a player in high school, graduate, and then play their college career. Ultimate team is a card collecting game that allows players to build their team with past NCAA football legends like the iconic "Epic Bo Jackson" card and compete online against other players.

Ricketts discussed his love for the ultimate team game mode and why it holds a special place in his heart.

"The nostalgia is what does it for me, being able to play with my favorite players like Tim Tebow was awesome. One card stood out from the rest though, everyone who plays knows. Epic Bo was a god, simple as that," he said.

Cody Taylor, a college football enthusiast, said he hopes they do the game justice and do it right for the fans.

"I think this game will bring a lot of people back, if done right. I haven't touched my Xbox in two years, but I will 100% buy a PS5 just to play NCAA," he said. I almost cried when I heard the news. I just hope they don't screw it up like Madden. Honestly, I don't know anyone who will even play Madden anymore when this game comes out. I know I won't."

EA Sports announced they have over 100 universities on board to return. According to ESPN, the game is expected to release sometime in 2023.

PENGUINS SLAY MASTODONS

KYLE WILLS

The Youngstown State University women's basketball team swept Purdue University Fort Wayne this past weekend and set a new school record for points in a Horizon League game in their 102-60 victory on Friday.

YSU started the game going on a 16-0 run and led by double digits for the remainder of the game. The Penguins led 24-10 at the end of the first period. YSU's lead increased 46-30 at halftime, following a 10-1 run by the women.

The women shot at least 56% in every quarter and 60% from the field for the game as they won for the seventh time in eight games.

Mary Dunn was 10-12 from the field and scored a game-high 23 points in 19 minutes. She also helped the Penguins hold a 50-14 scoring edge in the paint. McKenah Peters collected the double-double with 15 points and 11 rebounds, while Nneka Obiazor, Malia Magestro and Lexi Wagner also scored in double figures for the women. Chelsea Olson also had 11 assists with 7 points in 24 minutes.

The last time Youngstown State scored more than 100 points was when they beat Sacramento State 102-94 on Nov. 20, 2016, in Hawaii.

Following the win on Friday, head coach John Barnes talked about the women's strong

shooting performance and whether shooting is contagious.

"I think it is. When the first few shots go in, it gives everyone confidence and they feed off one another," he said. "I thought Nneka [Obiazor] and Mary [Dunn], being able to score inside and finish, gave our outside players some more confidence. Also, them being able to finish in there draws all [the Mastodons'] defenders in, so the perimeter players can stand out there, and catch and shoot."

On Saturday, the women's basketball team used a strong effort in the third quarter to beat PFW 68-52. The victory has now given the Penguins wins in eight of its last nine games and improves its record to 8-4 this season.

Peters led the Penguins with 19 points, and she collected the 150th 3-pointer of her career in the second half. Nneka Obiazor had 16 points and a team-best eight rebounds, while Mary Dunn scored 15 points in 21 minutes. Obiazor and Dunn would shoot a combined 11-16 from the field.

In the second half, YSU would shoot 57.7% and 51% for the game. The Penguins had success again inside, shooting 20-of-30 inside the 3-point arc and holding a 38-14 edge in the paint.



Senior Chelsea Olson of the YSU women's basketball team scores against Purdue Fort Wayne. She'd lead the way to the team's victory over Purdue, 102-60, Friday. Photo by **Kyle Wills / The Jambar**

Barnes is pleased with the team's plays as of late, but believes this upcoming weekend will give them a better idea of where it is collectively.

"We have four games left and we've won eight out of our last nine, which obviously I'll take any year, so I'm fairly happy," he said. "We're still struggling a little bit defensively and trying to be more stubborn on that end, but offensively we've been playing much better. Going into IUPUI, one of the best teams in the league, it's going to tell us a lot more about where we're at."

Obiazor was named Nike Horizon League Freshman of the Week for the third time this season following her impressive performances this past weekend.

Obiazor averaged 14.5 points and 8.0 rebounds while shooting 63.2% (12-for-19) from the field, 1-for-2 from behind the arc and 4-for-4 from the free-throw line. She had 13 points and eight rebounds in 14 minutes in Friday's victory, and followed that up with 16 points and eight rebounds in 26 minutes in Saturday's win.

YSU will be back in action to play their final road games of their regular season this Friday and Saturday as they travel to play the defending conference champion, IUPUI. Both games are scheduled for 6 p.m on 1390 WNIO and ESPN+.

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YSU BASEBALL FLYING SOUTH TO START 2021 SEASON

Senior outfielder and infielder Jeff Wehler hits a line drive toward third base against St. Bonaventure in April of 2019. Photo by **Richie Juliano/The Jambar**

RICHIE JULIANO **JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR**

The Youngstown State University baseball team opens its season in Alabama, taking on the Troy University Trojans for a four-game series starting Feb. 19. The team will then face Nicholls State University, followed by Louisiana State University.

YSU plays LSU Feb. 26 and 27. The Penguins are led by fifth-year head coach Dan Bertolini.

“We’re really trying to focus on Troy. That’s the first one. Sometimes you don’t want to look past it. It’s definitely exciting, I know the fans are excited locally. It’s nice that we get to play some other teams before we get into conference play,” Bertolini said.

The Penguins have an experienced roster this upcoming season, with 12 seniors and 12 juniors. Potential standouts are seniors and left-handed pitchers Colin Clark and Collin Floyd.

Jeff Wehler, senior general studies major, has three years’

experience as a starter with YSU and feels confident the seniors can handle themselves in the early stages of the season. He switches between infield and outfield.

“A lot of veteran guys on the team know what we’re capable of, know how to handle themselves going down south and playing this early in the year,” Wehler said.

Wehler finished last season with a team-high 56 at-bats. Known for his speed, Wehler led the Horizon League with eight stolen bases.

Clark pitched a team-high 26.2 innings a year ago while leading the Horizon League with 26 strikeouts. Floyd returned after only getting four starts on the bump for the Penguins in 2020. Floyd finished second in the Horizon League in strikeouts with 25 strikeouts while only walking five batters in 23 innings pitched.

The Penguins’ record last year was 7-7, the best 14-game stretch to open the season for YSU since 2010. Although last

year was a good open to the season, Bertolini doesn’t want his team to become complacent.

“We have to be focused everyday. We really put a premium on trying to win today. We appreciate being here together today, and we will try and get better tomorrow,” Bertolini said.

The Penguins’ last game was March 10, 2020. Bertolini said his team is ready to get back out on the diamond.

“I know our guys are itching to get out there and play against some other teams because we have been going against each other for so long, but we really have to focus on getting better everyday,” Bertolini said.

Fans can listen to the first games against Troy and LSU on YSNLIVE.com for the audio broadcast. The first pitch of the season is at 7 p.m. Feb. 19. Fans can also check out ysusports.com for live stats and the recap.