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STUDENT GOVERNMENT



Photo courtesy of Gianna Battaglia

Senior finance major Nicholas Koupiaris ran for SGA president with sophomore environmental science and political science double major Gianna Battaglia as his running mate for executive vice president.

2021-22 SGA candidates run unopposed

by Jessica Stamp
The Jambar

Youngstown State University's 2021-22 Student Government Association candidates ran unopposed. Senior finance major Nicholas Koupiaris ran for president with sophomore environmental science and political science double major Gianna Battaglia as his running mate for executive vice

president. The results were finalized April 9.

One of the team's biggest goals is to expand college counseling services to help students decide on their major earlier.

"Something Nick is extremely passionate about is career readiness ... in order to get students more involved with the major they're choosing as well as their deans, their academic advisers, to

make sure that what they're doing is the right thing for them," Battaglia said. "So many people don't know what they want to do at such a young age, and that's so normal. But it would not only help their GPA, it would get them graduated on time, and it can also get them a better career opportunity in the future."

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COVID-19 update

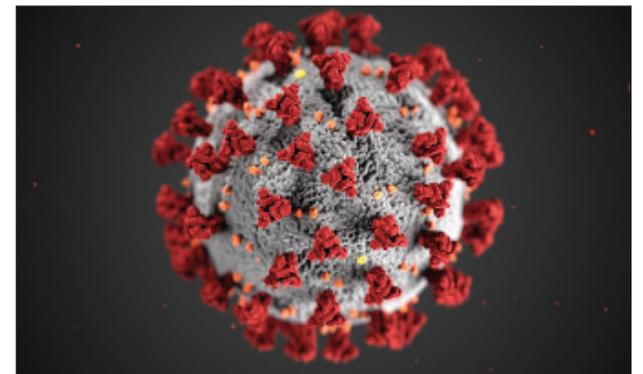


Photo courtesy of Pexels.com

YSU reports six new COVID-19 cases

by Abigail Cloutier
The Jambar

On Monday, Youngstown State University reported six new cases of COVID-19 for the week of April 11-17. These numbers included four students living off campus and one student living on campus. One employee of the university tested positive, making it the first time since the week of Feb. 27 to see an employee case. Faculty, staff members and administrators are all counted as employees on YSU's dashboard.

YSU tested 46 students, faculty and staff through its voluntary asymptomatic surveillance testing program, with zero positive cases arising from the testing.

For further updates, check YSU's COVID-19 dashboard every Monday.

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SGA

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They also want to implement as many student events and activities as possible to foster a campus community after COVID-19, including a community garden.

“This community garden would be somewhere on campus that students could go to as a recreational activity, and they could stay outside and socially distance if need be — hopefully not. It’s obviously going to be a few years in the making. But it really would be a great place for students — not only in STEM — to go and experiment. But, it’d be such a recreational place that I think is needed on campus,” Battaglia said.

“I love seeing students on campus and seeing them enjoy their college career and their college life, and I’m very excited for next year,” Koupiaris said.

One challenge the team had to face during the campaign was obtaining the required 150 student signatures to be put on the ballot. Koupiaris came up with the idea of linking QR codes to a Google Doc to make it easier to obtain student signatures and maintain safety precautions. The signatures undergo a verification process to make sure that students are not alumni and have put in their correct YSU banner number.

“Due to COVID, it just had to be digital. What I did to make that process easier is I turned it into a QR code, and I went around on campus and had people scan with their phones the QR codes,” Koupiaris said.

Battaglia, newly elected executive vice president, said there was a potential opponent who planned on running; however, they did not meet the required signatures to be on the ballot.

The current president of SGA, senior Justin Shaughnessy, said this election — unsurprisingly — required more planning after last year’s spring election, right when the pandemic began.

“Last year, it was kind of trying to piece together everything, especially when we’re all remote,” Shaughnessy said. “But this year, we kind of knew what we were going into, so we were able to kind of gauge what could happen.”

Shaughnessy started as a chair of the financial affairs committee his sophomore year, then was appointed vice president his junior year. As a junior, he ran for executive vice president for his senior year. As a senior, he ran for president.

“This year, serving as president was a lot different because it kind of touched all of those [past SGA] positions but more

like a unified way,” Shaughnessy said.

Senior biology major and current executive vice president Avery Howard joined SGA as a STEM representative and became the vice president of public relations. It wasn’t until after this experience Shaughnessy convinced Howard to run for executive vice president.

“I was like ... ‘Let’s try and let’s see what happens,’ and it ended up working out, and I’m here and I enjoy what I’m doing and I think if I didn’t pursue this, I would have regretted it,” Howard said.

He said some major differences between this year’s and last year’s election were the increase of students interested in joining SGA and the number of students voting. He encourages those interested to give it a shot.

“A lot of conversations are more than just passing bills or funding ... I think the one takeaway is that if you have any interest at all, or are even thinking about student government [to] give it a try, try to run in an election and try to get appointed ... and see if you like it,” Howard said. “Because I think you will be intrigued that many people can find their places in student government.”



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Photo by Laurel Stone / The Jambar

One last-minute donation was given by YSU President Jim Tressel and his wife, Ellen, who pledged \$1,000 at the event.

YSU Relay for Life team breaks previous fundraising record

by Laurel Stone
The Jambar

Youngstown State University's Relay for Life branch, Guins Against Cancer, held their relay from 12-8 p.m. Saturday, April 17 at the Watson and Tressel Training Site.

The purpose of the relay is to raise money for the American Cancer Society to aid in funding research to find new treatments, and, hopefully, a cure to end cancer. The highest known record for fundraising at YSU was \$47,771, set in 2019. At the end of the event Saturday, the total raised was \$49,157, breaking the record set in pre-pandemic times — with the site still accepting donations.

One last-minute donation was given by YSU President Jim Tressel and his wife, Ellen, who pledged \$1,000 at the event. Tressel gave a speech explaining why the cause is important to him, personally, and gave words of encouragement.

"Forty years ago yesterday I lost my brother to cancer," Tressel said. "I think about him constantly. I'm so proud of our students for what they're doing, making an effort. We are going to beat cancer. We have brilliant students here and throughout the world — we are going to beat cancer. We just have to keep working on it and working on it and making a difference."

Many of the students participating in the event do so in memory of a family member or loved one who had, or has, cancer. One of those students is event lead Devan Snyder, a junior biology major.

"I relay for my Aunt Kim, who was diagnosed with breast cancer a couple of years ago, and also for my grandma who passed away of cancer in 2013," Snyder said.

Caitlyn Risley, another event lead and senior criminal justice major, spoke

about some safety measures put in place this year in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This year, of course, we have different rules and regulations. Everyone has to wear a mask, which kind of sucks. It makes the speeches a little bit harder, but we are doing everything that we can to keep it socially distant and keep it safe," Risley said.

In addition to these guidelines, there was an hour time slot reserved for survivors to come to the relay where no one else was allowed in the building except for the members of the executive leadership team. This was done to ensure the event was as safe as possible for immunocompromised participants.

There were various activities for attendees to participate in, such as a raffle, relay races, Minute to Win It games, yoga and Zumba. There were slightly over about 30 raffle baskets to choose from, containing items ranging from YSU apparel and swag — such as a football signed by Tressel — to toy sets and a movie-night basket. Minute to Win It challenges included cup stacking, cup pong and cookie stacking. The individual relay events included balancing a pingpong ball on an upside-down spoon, crab walking and one-legged hopping.

Once every hour, the lights in the WATTS would briefly darken to let the lights of the luminaria — paper bags decorated in the memory of a loved one with a candle inside — shine as relayers walked a lap in silence and in memory.

The event concluded around 8 p.m. with one final lap in silence led by the flickering lights of the luminaria.

"Thank you everybody who has donated and offered your support for anything we have been able to provide through this, it's been really great," Snyder said.

Retiring faculty reflects on accomplishments

by **C. Aileen Blaine**
The Jambar

Faculty and staff at Youngstown State University leave long-lasting impressions during their years at the university, and many colleagues and students are sad to see them retire. Three distinguished and notable professors reflect on their accomplishments and careers.

In his years at YSU, geography professor Ron Shaklee has worn many hats. Starting as a professor in the geography department, he came to the university in 1987. Since then, he's accomplished many things in his career, but there are a few moments he's most proud of.

While serving as the director of the Honors College for 15 years, he assisted the university's first Rhodes Scholar. He also received three YSU Distinguished Professorship awards for service, and one for teaching. His Bahamas program, which takes students to the island of San Salvador to experience culture outside of the United States during winter break, is very popular.

One of the experiences he said he's proudest of is helping students from the Mahoning Valley realize their potential.

"I love the students at YSU simply because they are coming from a background that may or may not be a heritage of college education," Shaklee said. "Just to help them see that next level and see that they're capable of it ... is extremely rewarding."

Of his retirement, Shaklee said he's "not really retiring." He plans to continue the Bahamas program and to teach part-time in the spring.

"COVID is not making me retire — no mistake about

that," Shaklee said. "If I retire now, I can still teach my Bahamas class part-time as an adjunct professor, and I can still do the things I really, really, really love and not have to necessarily be caught up in all the other things that faculty have to do."

Many YSU community members may know biological sciences professor Gary Walker for his "molecular motions dance." In his 26 years at YSU, he always tried to make learning an engaging and memorable experience for his students.

Over the years, he's helped develop and expand the university's biology department. In collaborations with faculty members, such as Chet Cooper, Walker was able to help bring an external \$700,000 grant to start a molecular biology research group. As chair of the biological sciences department, he oversaw the addition of the YSU Pre-Veterinary Society and mentored in the biology club.

Walker said he enjoys his career and has many moments he's proud of, such as how he's been able "to watch people grow — intellectually as well as just as people."

"The students aren't the only ones that learned. I've learned a lot. Not only about biology," Walker said. "I've learned a lot about myself and how to interact with people in positive ways so they're constantly learning."

The pandemic isn't the only reason for his retirement. As the university's pandemic restructuring consolidated the chemistry and biology departments, Walker decided to move up his retirement by a year. After retiring, he plans to write, volunteer and move closer to his children and their families.

"I don't want to commit to anything right now. I want

to see how things are, how things go," Walker said.

Bill Buckler, associate professor of geography, first came to YSU in 1989. His 32-year-long career has been filled with many years of service, teaching and recognition for his accomplishments, including his involvement with the American Meteorological Society Education Program. He received Distinguished Professorships in both teaching and service, and also received the Master Teacher Award. He served as the coordinator of Academic Advising for several years, providing him with the opportunity to interact with those outside his speciality.

"I haven't been really putting a lot of emphasis in research while I've been here," Buckler said. "I put most of my emphasis in teaching and service."

Before the pandemic started, Buckler's original plans were to retire at the end of the spring 2020 semester. However, he rescinded his decision.

"I didn't know whether I was going to stick around the whole year," he said. "And when the pandemic kept going, I said, 'I can't go anywhere, so I might as well stay here and just teach more classes.'"

In his retirement, Buckler plans to fly-fish, wood work and travel. He intends to come back part-time in the spring to teach his basic weather class.

In his time at the university, he said he realized the value of the role all university staff, such as advisers and coordinators, have in education.

"I really recognize how important those people are, and that really, a university is a collection of colleagues that work to make things happen," Buckler said.



Photo by C. Aileen Blaine / The Jambar

Professors Ron Shaklee, Gary Walker and Bill Buckler reflect on their long careers at Youngstown State University.

Professors walk through publishing a textbook

The inception of a textbook from thought to shelf

by Douglas M. Campbell
The Jambar

With the semester about to end, students are either returning or picking up textbooks. While exploring the sea of textbooks at the campus store, students may be surprised to learn some were written by their professor.

It isn't uncommon. According to a 2019 Insider and Barnes & Noble Insights study, 67% of students say textbooks purchased were written by their college professor.

Susan Clutter, an assistant professor of forensic science, published her first textbook, titled "So You Want to be a CSI?" in late 2020 through the Kendall Hunt Publishing Co.

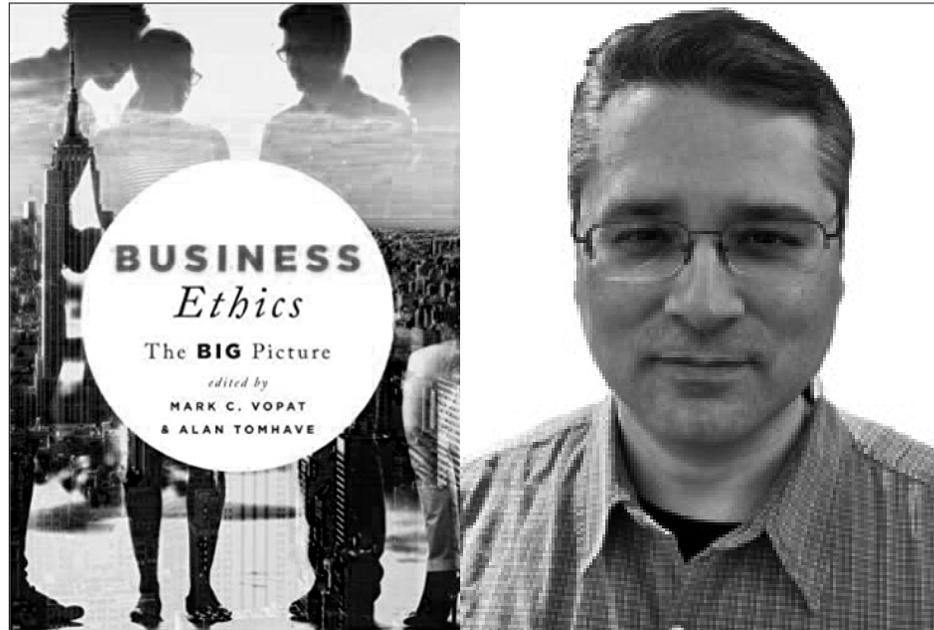
She published her work in collaboration with co-writers and former CSI workers Leggie Boone and David McGill.

"We really didn't know what to expect. Fortunately, Kendall Hunt, they were very patient and walked us through the process," Clutter said.

According to Clutter, the journey began with a cold call from Kendall Hunt to discuss the creation of a forensic science textbook with experience in the field. Clutter, Boone and McGill sat down with Kendall Hunt to discuss the plans for the textbook.

The goal of the textbook was to provide students with an inexpensive deep dive from three CSI workers in a conversational tone with plenty of picture examples. From that meeting onward, Clutter, Boone and McGill signed a contract to produce the textbook in about a year with several deadlines in between. The book contains 14 chapters divided evenly among the writers.

"We sent that [draft] over to Kendall Hunt, and they went ahead and



Photos courtesy of Mark Vopat

Mark Vopat, a professor of philosophy, co-authored two textbooks: "Business Ethics: the Big Picture" and "Business Ethics: It's Just Ethics."

gave us edits. Surprisingly, because we have never written a book, we thought the editing process would be a lot of red ink, cross outs and changes," Clutter said. "There were startlingly few changes ... mostly the changes were the occasional typo, and if they thought our sentence structure was sloppy, they would reword it."

Following the corrections, the publishing company gave guidance on acquiring photographs for the textbook. Clutter said this step was challenging and she worked to track people down for permission to use their work.

Once photos were acquired, the textbook underwent a process called proofing. This is where all content and components in the textbook are laid out before printing and examined one more time to ensure the textbook will stand out visually.

The final book, according to Clutter, has a spiral binding that can be reused. Plans were made to incorporate a virtual reality component, but due to COVID-19, it will be implemented in later editions.

Mark Vopat, a professor of philosophy, and Alan Tomhave, an asso-

ciate professor of philosophy, have published two textbooks jointly: "Business Ethics: The Big Picture" and "Business Ethics: It's Just Ethics."

"One of the motivations for it was we wanted a textbook that was grounded in our own views as to how business ethics should be taught," Vopat said.

Vopat and Tomhave's other goal with the textbooks was to keep the prices down.

For their first textbook, they were approached by a representative from Kendall Hunt. About five years after the book was published, a disagreement over the contract formed between Kendall Hunt, Vopat and Tomhave on the price of the textbook. Eventually, Vopat and Tomhave sought to publish another textbook.

"I was familiar with the Canadian publisher Broadview Press, and they publish high-quality textbooks and academic scholarly works, and they do it at a reasonable price," Vopat said.

Vopat called the company with their ideas and Broadview Press eventually showed interest in their

work.

During the publication process, the editor sends back a proposal form that questions the topic of the book, the audience and the course it can be used for. Depending on the publisher, the writers also send sample chapters. Editors then decide whether or not they are interested in the book. If they accept, they will write up a contract on the book's use and the royalties involved.

The textbook was a combination of original work from Vopat and Tomhave and an anthology of articles on philosophy. The use of previously published work resulted in paying royalty fees to incorporate them into the textbook.

"The publisher gives you a budget and the budget says, 'Here's how much you can spend on royalties,'" Tomhave said. "Some articles are expensive, and some are not."

After selection, the articles are sent to the publishing company to determine the cost compared to the budget. The budget for this textbook is estimated at around \$2,500 to \$3,000.

"I believe with Broadview, they sort of split the difference with us. So they didn't make us go down to where the initial amount was, but we couldn't keep everything," Tomhave said.

From there, new articles had to be selected to substitute the more expensive ones. Eventually, their book went through revisions, proofing and publication.

Vopat offers advice for anyone who wants to publish their own work.

"What I notice is that most publishers want a complete manuscript. Some will go off of one or two chapters if you have an idea for a book, whether it's fiction or nonfiction. I think most publishers want beginning to end ... finished," Vopat said.

He also advises doing market research, as well as preparing for potential rejections.

"Don't get too hung up on the rejections, you are going to get a lot of those and that is part of the process," Vopat said.

Goodbye Greyland Gallery



Photo by Zach Mosca / The Jambar

Westside Vintage offers a variety of goods for customers, such as vinyl records, vintage clothing, furniture, art, antiques and more.

Westside Vintage relocates downtown

by Zach Mosca
The Jambar

Youngstown-based business Westside Vintage will have a new home in downtown Youngstown, occupying the building that formerly housed Greyland Gallery.

According to Westside Vintage co-owner Alexis Sarty, while she loved the previous location across from Westside Bowl on Mahoning Avenue, she feels that downtown is a more accessible location for the business.

“Downtown’s a better location. They just finished that promenade — they’re doing a lot of stuff down there to ensure that not only is the housing happening at a very quick pace between students at [Youngstown State University], but there’s a lot of other things that have been talked about and deals that have been done to get Youngstown back to the great little city it was,” Sarty said.

Westside Vintage offers a variety of goods for customers, such as vinyl records, vintage clothing, furniture, art, antiques and more.

YSU alumna Rose Rivera is a frequent patron of Westside Vintage, as she is a major supporter of small businesses in the Youngstown area — especially when it comes to clothing. Always on the lookout for new places to shop, she said it’s important to her to shop secondhand.

“I’m always looking for new places to shop because I personally haven’t purchased any type of apparel from major corporations, so it’s very important for me to shop secondhand,” Rivera said. “It’s a little harder to find certain pieces when you’re going to your average thrift stores, and so vintage stores are a little more honed-in on specific styles, so I also try to seek that out because they have really unique, original pieces.”

Rivera went on to say she believes the

move to downtown will make it easier for YSU students to access the shop now that it’s closer to campus and in turn, can generate more business.

“I think that the downtown area will be much more accessible to college students who are kind of landlocked at YSU or don’t know much about the community on Mahoning,” Rivera said.

In addition to relocating, the business will rebrand from Westside to Greyland as a tribute to the store Westside Vintage co-owner Rocco Strait once owned.

“I have two other partners, and when we decided about the move and everything we thought it would be best to revive the Greyland name ... It’s a name that kind of represents Youngstown for a lot of us for how we see it. I always

say Youngstown’s kind of like this dead space. We always try to get stuff going on and everything like that, so it’s kind of like an ode to Youngstown being called Greyland,” Sarty said.

Once the moving process is finished and the Greyland Vintage opens, Sarty has high hopes for the future. Now that there is more space to work with, Greyland can offer a wider selection with more curated items than before.

“Between the three of us we have much more. We’re all collectors, we’re all buyers, we’re all sellers — so we’ll have a lot more of a selection going on for the future,” Sarty said.

In addition, the new location will keep the Greyland Gallery spirit going by offering live music, with proper COVID-19 safety procedures in place.

“We’d like it to be not only a retail space, but a venue as well,” Sarty said.

Greyland Vintage is set to open to the public in mid-May. Anyone interested in updates on the reopening can follow Westside Vintage on Facebook or Instagram.

“I think that the downtown area will be much more accessible to college students who are kind of landlocked at YSU or don’t know much about the community on Mahoning.”

— Rose Rivera, patron of Westside Vintage

JUST KEEP SWIMMING



Photo courtesy of Gunnhildur Baldursdottir

Solveig Baldursdottir discusses living with an eating disorder but says swimming helped her gain her confidence back.

Living with an eating disorder: How swimming helped my sister smile again

by Gunnhildur Baldursdottir
Jambar contributor

We often think, “This would never happen to me or someone that I love” until it does, and your world is suddenly upside-down. That’s how it was in our family when my 17-year-old sister, Solveig, dealt with an eating disorder.

We have always been close since day one. In 2018, she started slowly fading away from me until it felt like I’d lost her.

How it happened

It all started in 2017 when she began feeling pain in her elbow. After a visit to the doctor, it was clear she had Panner’s disease. It occurs in teenagers, but the disease is temporary and takes 2-6 years to heal. When not enough blood can access the tissues in the bone, the tissue dies and a hole starts to form.

Because she was no longer able to train for swimming, she wanted to do better in other areas of her life to stay in shape. Solveig’s mental state could be described as a “control freak.” Panner’s disease was something she couldn’t control, but she found something she could control, and she went all in.

Reflecting on the situation, Solveig said, “I was shocked that I had to almost quit swimming, but I did some kicking. With time, I got depressed because my self-image was all built on my sport. I thought it was easier to hate my body more by eating less to punish myself. I downloaded the MyFitnessPal app because it helped me to count all my calories. Very soon I knew the calories for every single food by memory.”

Rock bottom

Two years after the diagnosis, Solveig hit rock bottom. The hole in her elbow was almost healed, but be-

ing back in training while being so skinny didn’t help her swimming at all.

“I had mastered the skill of lying, so the [eating disorder] had been going on for a lot longer,” she said.

She had lost control. This was evident when her friend told her to delete the MyFitnessPal app.

“Before I knew [it], I was screaming my lungs out like Gollum protecting his precious ring — that was my disease talking. This is the worst part about the disease: how much the personality changes. I didn’t have any opinion or any emotion anymore except anger. Thinking about food took all my energy, so there was nothing else left,” Solveig said.

Our parents, Harpa and Baldur, were getting seriously worried — her plan of staying in shape had turned into a nightmare.

“No matter how many times I took her to the doctor, no one seemed to understand the seriousness of the disease,” my father said.

In my mother’s words, “The best offer the health care in Iceland could give us was a six-month long waitlist for mental help.” Harpa and Baldur were not giving up, and they found a private counselor. After seeing her counselor for a while, Solveig said “It turned out that we never really connected. The counselor just kept saying that things take time, and it will get better, but I was only getting worse.”

When the ban on gatherings hit Iceland in March 2020, everything collapsed. Solveig had become even more sick. An eating disorder is life-threatening both mentally and physically. It can destroy your body. People can lose their will to live. For example, Solveig was not getting her period — among other organic errors.

“Her appetite regulation was destroyed; she had no idea when, how much or what to eat anymore. Her

brain had also shut down to complete survival mode. She was already reaching the point where she couldn’t study, talk to friends. Her brain was starving,” Harpa said.

Harpa, Baldur and Solveig decided it was best for her to stop seeing the counselor.

Solveig met with a strong team of counselors, doctors and nutritionists in Iceland, all specialized in treating adolescents with eating disorders.

How swimming helped

By the end of 2020, Solveig was eating again without feeling terrible, but all of this effort would have been useless if she didn’t have the strong will to get better. Swimming was the key for Solveig’s recovery. She realized if she would not eat, she would never become a better swimmer.

Solveig is still under supervision, but it is priceless to see her dancing with herself and smiling again.

“It helped me a lot to see what my body could do for me, like wow, my muscles help me move fast in the water! It is just such a relief. Who thinks, anyway, when they are 90 [years old] about their size when they were younger? In the end, you only think about the people you met and the memories you had from your eventful life,” Solveig said.

What to do if you are someone in this situation

Solveig talked about more things that can help others in the same situation.

“First of all, get help sooner than later! Yes, it is hard, but think of it as a period that will help you through the rest of your life. Just remember that it will get better. Anyone can go through this if intervened in time, and they want it bad enough.”

FINDING HIDDEN GEMS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



Photo by Kelcey Norris / The Jambar

Professor of applied geology Jeffrey Dick oversees the curation and daily operations of the Clarence R. Smith Mineral Museum.

Exploring the Clarence R. Smith Mineral Museum

by Kelcey Norris
The Jambar

Students in the Youngstown State University College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math share space with a museum full of historical mineral specimens from around the world.

The Clarence R. Smith Mineral Museum in Moser Hall honors the legacy of the Smith family with its many display cases full of gems and rocks the father-son duo discovered.

Jeffrey Dick, a professor of applied geology at YSU, serves as its director, overseeing the operations of the museum.

“The museum was established in 2000,” he said. “It was a gift from Clarence R. Smith Jr. in memory of his father, Clarence R. Smith Sr. The Smith family was rather extraordinary in their love for geology, minerals, fossils and collected beautiful specimen from around the world. What you see in the museum here is just part of their collection.”

Founder of the museum Clarence R. “Sonny” Smith Jr. died April 13 of this year, leaving behind a legacy of major philanthropy in the Youngstown area.

He and his father were instrumental in collecting, maintaining and donating the vast collection the jewelry store-owning family had amassed.

“It’s just a wonderful asset to have here at the university and in the geology program,” Dick said. “Ge-

ology students get involved in lab assignments based on what we have here in the museum, for geology students and in our introductory non major courses as well. Some of our geology students are employed by the museum to take care of the curation.”

Some highlights to check out at the museum include Smith’s favorite and the most rare specimen — a piece of yellow, black and “snowball-looking” adomite — featured in the front glass window of the mineral museum.

“That was Clarence Smith Sr.’s favorite mineral, and it’s extremely rare,” Dick said. “You just don’t find it that often and you’ll never find it that nice.”

“When the donation was made to the geology department, it was rumored that ... the Carnegie Museum over in Pittsburgh was a little bit upset because they were anticipating the donation would be given to them,” Dick said. “That’s what I heard and just shows what a nice collection it is.”

There is also a curation of fossilized dinosaur remains and footprints that Dick said always gets attention during tours.

“We have an absolutely gorgeous mastodon tusk that’s a piece of paleontology — a fossil — but it’s also an art piece. It’s been intricately carved with a scene, a landscape, of the Serengeti Plain with trees and animals and everything,” Dick said.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, walk-in visitors to the museum are not accepted at this time. Anyone in-

terested in setting up a small group tour of the mineral museum is encouraged to contact Jeff Dick at jdick@ysu.edu.

Many of the visitors to the museum are middle and high school students, but they haven’t been able to visit come recently due to safety concerns. The museum has started giving away mineral kits as an educational supplement, which are baggies full of minerals and rocks to take home. They’re free while supplies last and contain 15 small, unique specimens.

“The museum was established in 2000. It was a gift from Clarence R. Smith Jr. in memory of his father, Clarence R. Smith Sr. The Smith family was rather extraordinary in their love for geology, minerals, fossils and collected beautiful specimen from around the world. What you see in the museum here is just part of their collection.”

— Jeffrey Dick, professor of applied geology



LEFT: Paleontology enthusiasts will notice this display, featuring fossilized dinosaur eggs, footprints and excrement.

BOTTOM LEFT: One of the rarest specimens in the museum is a piece of adamite, which is brown and yellow in color, resembling small snowballs.

MIDDLE RIGHT: Precious gems are displayed underneath a chart for birthstone recognition. The diamonds were found naturally in this form, which is rare, according to the museum director.

BOTTOM MIDDLE: Some of the minerals have bioluminescent qualities, which allow them to change colors in low light.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Close-up of a piece of light blue-colored celestite.

Photos by Kelcey Norris
/ The Jambar



YSU to host more in-person events over the summer

by Hailey Rogenski
Jambar contributor

Every summer, Youngstown State University's staff, students, employees and leaders for Campus Recreation collaborate to host events for the campus community. While virtual events will continue, there will be more in-person events happening this summer.

YSU typically holds events such as stress relief sessions, group exercise classes and outdoor gaming. This summer, in-person indoor activities will take place in the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center. Events begin May 12 and last through the beginning of August.

Ryan McNicholas, interim director of Campus Recreation, said these events will have limited space due to social distancing standards. The current limit is no more than 10 people per event.

"Most of our group exercise classes are pre-registered events to make sure that we are staying safe and secure," McNicholas said. "We do have some drop-in classes, but we will try to limit any of those based on attendance and limitations."

Domonique Sak is the coordinator of club sports and summer camps. She said the Campus Recreation team is also working to ensure other safety guidelines will be followed during these events.

"Facial coverings are required," Sak said. "We have cleaning supplies available at each of our events."

Sak also said bingo is a popular event they host. A recent virtual bingo game had more than 100 participants.

Although the summer events aren't completely finalized, there are some upcoming events students can enjoy. These include the Amazing Adventure

Rec Race on April 23 and Beginner Gainz Orientation, a circuit training session, on April 29.

"We are going to try beach volleyball, spike ball, cornhole, soccer — both indoor and outdoor — and flag football," Sak said.

Since the pandemic has caused additional stress for some students, McNicholas and the Campus Recreation team are creating experiences to ease stress. Relaxation Week runs from April 26 to April 30 and will offer events like outdoor yoga and painting.

"Some of the feedback we received is that students feel better after they've engaged with other students. They work out, they do different things, they even just come in here and hang out and have some stress relief," McNicholas said.

Ann Jaronski, director of YSU Student Counseling Services, said some students may struggle to attend these events due to anxiety and fear of going out.

"People are going to have different levels of anxiety, and it's going to depend on their baseline anxiety to begin with," Jaronski said. "Students that I've talked to that are already anxious, especially in social situations or interacting with people — some of them are very anxious about getting back and reconnecting with people."

Jaronski also said being at home so often and for so long may make it difficult for some students with anxiety to go out and socialize again.

"Having to stay home has made them feel more comfortable and safe, which means that they are out of practice because a piece of dealing with social anxiety is overcoming our fear and learning to interact with other people," Jaronski said.



Photo by Hailey Rogenski / The Jambar

Join Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center for summer events focused on stress relief and outdoor activities.

Australian punter playing football at YSU

by Yousof Hamza
The Jambar

Paddy Lynch was an Australian football player, but since arriving at Youngstown State University, he transitioned to an American football punter.

Lynch is from Emerald, Queensland, Australia, and arrived in Youngstown in January his freshman year to study professional communication. He is a product of Prokick Australia, an organization that trains Australian football players to play American football.

“I was looking at a few other schools and was really impressed with the caliber of the Missouri Valley Conference,” Lynch said. “I got talking with coach [Doug] Phillips and [assistant] coach [Evan] Harvey, and they both seem like coaches you want to win for.”

Special teams coach Evan Harvey said Lynch is transitioning smoothly.

“He’s made so much growth since he’s come here because of how serious he takes it – how competitive he is,” Harvey said.

Lynch said the transition has been seamless from kicking end-over-end to traditional spiral kicks. While the kicking styles are different, he said he hopes to have the traditional punt dialed in for the fall.

“Nick DeSalvo and Ryan Teminsky give me a lot of pointers, and I’m still in contact with the coaches at Prokick Australia, and they really help me out with that as well,” Lynch said.

Placekicker Colten McFadden said it’s been fun teaching Lynch about American football.

“In the beginning, he didn’t quite understand how everything worked. He

didn’t quite know when it was time to punt or how many quarters were in a game. But he picked things up quick and has done a great job in his role,” McFadden said.

According to its website, Prokick Australia was founded in 2007 and has helped save \$1.9 million in education fees by helping players get 75 scholarships or professional contracts. It has also produced 17 All-American football players, including San Francisco 49ers punter Mitch Wishnowsky.

Lynch said American football has seen an increased interest in Australia, in part due to Prokick Australia.

Australian punters are known for their rollout kicks, which are crucial for Australian football. Players must run and kick the ball on the move to other players or through posts to score.

“If you can’t kick in [Australian football], you can’t really play at all,” Lynch said.

There are two other methods of moving the ball in Australian football. The first is a player running and bouncing the ball back to them every 16 yards, and the second is to punch the ball out of their hand to another player.

Another feature of Australian football is players using each other as a springboard to catch balls.

“Nick DeSalvo and Ryan Teminsky give me a lot of pointers, and I’m still in contact with the coaches at Prokick Australia, and they really help me out with that as well.”

- Paddy Lynch, football player extraordinaire



Photo by Yousof Hamza / The Jambar

Freshman Paddy Lynch receives a snap during pregame warmups before playing South Dakota.

Student Conduct Board facilitates justice

by **Sydney Stalnecker**
Jambar contributor

Youngstown State University students are given the opportunity to hold other students accountable for their actions through the student conduct board. The board handles most cases ranging from warnings to expulsions.

Erin Hungerman, the university conduct officer and assistant dean of students, oversees the handling of all cases presented at YSU. The severity of the case determines how the office of student conduct handles the case. Lower-level cases can be handled through a one-on-one conversation. Higher-level cases are handled by the student conduct board and go through a process similar to a court case.

“When we start talking about things like suspensions, expulsions, sexual misconduct or assaults, things that are higher level, or just repeated offenses, those are things that would go to the student conduct board,” Hungerman said.

The board is set up to mimic the procedures of a courtroom.

“The student conduct board hearing functions a little bit like a court case. The student who is alleged to have done something comes and they present their case,” Hungerman said. “If there is a victim in the case, they give their testimony, any witnesses give their testimony. Then, the hearing panel kind of serves as a jury and they

make a decision in the case.”

Despite the title, the Student Conduct Board doesn’t consist only of students.

“The Student Conduct Board is a panel of three folks, and that is combined of faculty, staff and students,” Hungerman said. “They make decisions in cases that come before the office of student conduct.”

Francine Hazy, a graduate student in the College Counseling and Student Affairs program, started working with the Student Conduct Board in August 2020 and finds it to be a rewarding experience.

“You really get to advocate for students and kind of hear everybody’s perspective and try to handle things as fairly as possible,” Hazy said. “It’s more rewarding — you feel like you do get to make a difference.”

Veronica Erjavec, a senior communications major, joined the Student Conduct Board at the beginning of her junior year, and has participated for four semesters. She was motivated to start because she plans to earn her masters degree in counseling.

“I decided my sophomore year that I wanted to go into counseling and student affairs, and I thought one of the best things that I could do was to get more experience in other departments,” Erjavec said.

Like Hazy, Erjavec said being able to help students and make a difference in their future is rewarding.

“It’s just a very gratifying experience more than anything,” Erjavec said. “It just feels really good to know that you can maybe play a part in helping somebody im-

prove their future.”

Erjavec views the cases as an opportunity to hold students accountable for their actions — not to punish them.

“Do you want to view it like you’re getting someone in trouble or you’re punishing them or sanctioning them, or do you want to view it like we are holding people accountable for their actions?” Erjavec said.

Hazy’s role on the board provides opportunities for her to learn more about different aspects of campus and allows her to gain a well-rounded perspective on how students, faculty and staff view certain topics.

“You hear a lot of different perspectives from the witnesses, professionals on campus, professors, students,” Hazy said. “It’s helpful because — for example, with the residence case — I haven’t lived in a residence hall so I got to learn more about that part of campus life.”

The Office of Student Conduct will accept applications for next semester until Friday, April 23. Email Erin Hungerman at elhungerman@ysu.edu with any questions.

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.

The Jambar Editorial

Was college worth it this year?

COVID-19 has made college hard on everyone these last few semesters — so difficult we students are now left to wonder, “Was it really worth it?” We had to teach ourselves all semester, get yelled at by professors for not turning our camera on and wake up at 3 a.m. in a cold sweat because we realized we forgot to turn in a Blackboard assignment we were never reminded of.

Connecting with one another has also been difficult. Students express feelings of loneliness during isolation and participating in on-campus organizations isn't the same as it has been in years prior. Students who have been in quarantine know this feeling better than others. FaceTime and Zoom calls aren't enough to fulfill the need for human connection we all inherently have.

Many students work one or two jobs outside of college to afford rent and tuition. Being a full-time student and full-time employee can cause students to feel increased levels of stress and anxiety. A lot of students are struggling and feeling burned-out after the spring semester. Although we are continuously living through a pandemic, some professors make in-person attendance mandatory and take away points if we aren't in class, increasing exposure anxiety.

At the same time, so many of our professors and faculty have been incredibly understanding throughout the pandemic — let's face it, so many of them are as burned-out as we are. So many of our grades have been saved by lenient professors who chucked hard dead-

lines, late penalties and grading policies out of the window in an incredibly difficult time.

Negatives aside, we also were able to stay home and spend more time with our loved ones and pets. We saved money on gas, picked up a cookbook for the first time in our lives, got to live in sweatpants for months and attended meetings in pajama bottoms. We also got to witness nature taking the earth back, such as when monkeys took to the streets of Thailand.

While there were positives and negatives to this semester, one thing is sure: it has been the most stressful semester many of us have had yet. Was it worth it? That we have no answer for, but at least we only have two more weeks to go.

The Jambar Column

The daily mask

When it comes to discussing disabilities, I try not to make every column regarding it. While it is an important part of who I am, it isn't all I am. However, when I do write about it, I tend to discuss more about what others can do to help those with disabilities than I do actually describe what it is like to live with a disability and how it impacts my own life.

It isn't pretty. Every day I try my best to look put together, hide how much pain I am in because I hate it when people pity me or when they think I am any less capable than I am due to my condition. Even with my issues, I am still the same, somewhat-smart person who at least is able to write these articles every week.

Just because I am capable of many things doesn't take away from the fact



Mac Pomeroy

that yes, I do have daily struggles due to my disabilities. While I am used to my struggles, sometimes it feels like every muscle in my body hates me. To summarize, my condition is actually quite rare, but the key symptoms are chronic muscular pain and weakness and chronic fatigue. This, combined with my other problems, means there is a lot more struggle than I discuss with people.

This is the case for many disabled people. In front of the camera, we often feel the need to mask our actual problems, but behind closed doors, it

all is revealed.

For me, I am always tired. I hardly have the energy to get through the day, and I definitely don't have the physical strength. I can't stand for more than five minutes without intense pain.

Just these last few days, I have been especially worn down, and it seems as though I am sleeping more than I am awake. Such is typical of this time of year.

My shoulders don't work, my joints pop constantly and I lose my balance extremely easily. Even while trying to openly discuss how my conditions impact me, there is just too much to say. I won't pretend I could handle it all currently on my own.

Thankfully, I don't have to. I have a family who listens to me and tries

to help me in any way they can. My friends are very supportive. I work with a team at the paper that has always understood. I am fortunate to have a really great support system in my life.

But, for many disabled people, asking for help isn't always easy. Explaining our conditions is far from simple, and it gets tiring to do time and time again. However, sometimes we need a bit of understanding.

Even if the person doesn't usually look like they are struggling, listen when they say they need help or they need to take a break. Even if you really feel you understand the person's condition, you probably don't. You see the daily mask they wear, and not the ugly parts. Take time to listen, and do your best to understand.

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NEWS BRIEF

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Youngstown State University Women Retirees Scholarship was awarded to three women this year.

Julia Carson of Niles, Ohio. She is a psychology major who hopes to work on a graduate degree in clinical counseling.

Alyssa Osman of Lowellville, Ohio. She is a communication studies major hoping to work in job recruiting.

Katie Stomski of Boardman, Ohio. She is a biology major who plans to pursue a degree to become a physician's assistant.

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Baseball team keeps month-long winning streak

by Jordan Boitnott
The Jambar

Youngstown State University is playing their best baseball this season. After a tough 1-6 start, the Penguins have boasted a 17-11 record and haven't lost a series since they were swept by Wright State University mid-March.

Dan Bertolini, YSU baseball head coach, said the series was a turning point in the season offensively.

"We hadn't been outside much before playing, so I think [we're] kind of working some kinks out those first couple weekends. I thought it was good we found ways to win early, then lately the difference was really after the Wright State series," he said. "At Wright State — we kind of really made a change in what we're doing — the way we were practicing — and the guys have really responded that way."

The team scored a season-high 18 runs on Sunday at Northern Kentucky University. Senior catcher Nick Caruso went four-for-four at the plate with a homer, six RBIs and scored three runs. According to YSU Sports, Caruso was also named the Nike Horizon League player of the week.

Caruso believes the offense hasn't reached its peak potential yet.

"We really focus on those changes, whether it was 2-strike approach or not swinging 3-0, making sure you get your pitch to hit. Everyone really bought into that, and ever since our offense has been taking off," he said. "We're hitting above .280 as a team now, and we don't even think we've reached our peak. We've played a lot of good baseball."

The team has four series left — all against Horizon League opponents. In upcoming weeks, it plays two of the three teams ranked ahead of it in the league stand-



Photo courtesy of YSU Sports
Senior catcher Nick Caruso went four-for-four at the plate with a homer, six RBIs and scored three runs. Caruso was also named the Nike Horizon League player of the week.

ings: University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and University of Illinois at Chicago.

Phillip Glasser, junior infielder, talked about how important the upcoming series are.

"Obviously, every game is meaningful, especially knowing that they are only taking four teams from the Horizon League this year to the tournament," he said. "We can't really think about it too much and put too much pressure on ourselves, but we know what's at stake. We'll be ready to go every single day, every single game. At the end of the season, I'm sure we will be in the top four."

As of right now, the team sits right on the cut-off line at fourth place in the Horizon League.

Caruso detailed some workouts the team does to keep things competitive in practice.

"We have a thing called 'the catching olympics' that we do in the off-season, and we'll have our for catchers compete, and we'll go do anything like throwing into a target, blocking, pop-ups anything like that. It always goes into a point system we compete for about a week. We have something called 'competitive wage,'" he said. "We just constantly, constantly throw live, and we constantly have inter-squad scrimmage. It's just really trying to compete in any way possible to give us the most game-like experience."

The Penguins will have a four-game series at home this weekend against Oakland. The series will begin at 2 p.m. Friday. Saturday with a double header at 1 p.m.

and 4 p.m. The series will wrap up with a 1 p.m. game Sunday, all at Eastwood Field in Niles.

"We can't really think about it too much and put too much pressure on ourselves, but we know what's at stake. We'll be ready to go every single day, every single game. At the end of the season, I'm sure we will be in the top four."

— Phillip Glasser, junior infielder

FASTER THAN A HURRICANE



Photo courtesy of YSU Sports

Sean Peterson, a senior finance major, broke a 19-year record at the Miami Hurricane Alumni Invitational.

YSU track and field races toward the gold

by Kyle Wills
The Jambar

On April 9 and 10, the Youngstown State University track and field teams broke four school records when they traveled south to compete at the Miami Hurricane Alumni Invitational.

On Friday, sophomore Erin Bogard set a school record in the women's pole vault on day one, clearing 3.95 meters on her first attempt at the height. Bogard broke her own previous record of 3.90-meters last weekend at the Northeast Ohio Quad while earning an event win as well.

YSU secured eight top-five finishes, including two more event victories during Friday's events. Freshman Noah Weese and junior Noah Drudy finished first and second in the men's javelin with 56.70-meters and 55.54-meters, respectively.

Junior Wyatt Lefker took the gold in the men's pole vault, clearing 5.05-meters. His posting is just short of his YSU school record of 5.15-meter.

On day two of the Miami Hurricane Alumni Invitational, senior finance major Sean Peterson shattered a previous record. This was held by former-Penguin standout Kurt Michaelis who marked 1:50.42 in the

800-meter run, which stood for 19 years. Peterson set the new record with a time of 1:50.12 to earn the victory in the event.

"My initial reaction — I wasn't even aware that it happened because I know the indoor record is 1:49, so my goal was to get under that barrier. I wasn't thinking about the record, I just thought, 'Oh man, I'm so close,'" Peterson said. "[Michaelis] is one of the best mid-distance runners in Youngstown State history, so being in that class is awesome."

Junior Olivia Jones set a new school record in the women's heptathlon, surpassing her own school record of 4758 points set in 2019, with a total of 4865 points, to earn her a third-place finish in the event.

The women's 4x100 team consisted of sophomore Kyndia Matlock, sophomore Jahniya Bowers, senior Teneisha Myers and senior Jaliyah Elliott, who clocked a new school record in the event, posted a time of 45.51 in the race to earn a second-place finish. The team's time breaks the previous school record of 45.77 set in 2018.

Elliott earned an event victory in the women's 100-meter dash, as well as posting a 11.52 — the second-fastest mark in YSU history. Continuing her impressive day, she recorded a time of 23.65 to earn the

bronze in the women's 200-meter dash.

Junior Zach Gehm took the gold in the men's discus throw with a 53.65-meter mark, earning the first event victory of the day for YSU, and his third of the season. Gehm also clinched a top-three finish in the men's shot put, posting a 15.89-meter throw on his final attempt.

Following their impressive performance, Peterson, Elliot and Gehm were named Nike Horizon League Athletes of the Week. This is the second time Peterson and Gehm were awarded this honor this season and the second for Gehm in as many weeks.

On April 11, the track and field team was at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Ed Fry Invitational as the program picked up two event wins. Senior Ashleigh Rowley ran a 4:46.87 and was atop the leaderboard in the women's 1500-meter run. Senior Jessica Stever posted a 5.83-meter long jump to place first in the event.

YSU will be back in action next weekend this weekend at a handful of meets including the Slippery Rock Invitational, Hillsdale Gina Relays, Drake Relays and the Ashland Alumni Open. For full coverage of the YSU track and field, follow @YSUTrackFieldXC on Twitter.