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INCREASING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Photo courtesy of Lori Factor

Students volunteer for the Youngstown State University Summer Festival of the Arts in 2019.

Festival of the Arts relocates

By Zach Mosca
The Jambar

This summer, Youngstown State University will host the 23rd Annual Summer Festival of the Arts, and for the first time, the festival will not be held on campus. This year, the 23rd Annual Summer Festival of the Arts moves downtown.

According to Director of Community Engagements and Events Lori Factor, the festival is relocating to Wean Park near the Covelli Centre and the Youngstown Foundation Amphitheatre. Factor said a major reason for this venue change is to increase community engagement within a larger space that follows safety guidelines set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

"It helps people to learn a little bit more about all of the things going on in the city and it allows us to grow in a different way and utilize the Amphitheatre," Factor said.

Festival, Page 2

COVID-19 update

9 new campus cases; 2nd clinic scheduled

By Abigail Cloutier
The Jambar

Youngstown State University reported nine new cases of COVID-19 for the week of March 21-27. All nine cases belonged to students living off campus. This is a spike compared to the previous week, when YSU reported only two cases.

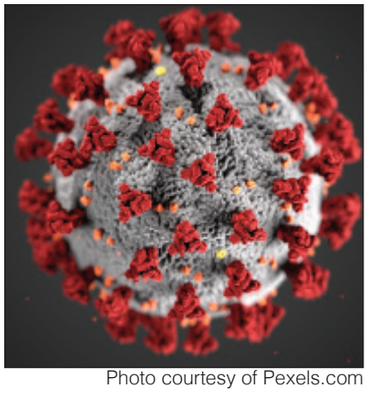


Photo courtesy of Pexels.com

The university also tested 66 students, faculty and staff through its voluntary surveillance testing program. Two of those participants tested positive.

YSU administered over 800 Moderna vaccines Tuesday during its first vaccination clinic in Beeghly Center. Participants included students, faculty, staff and families. All participants were automatically scheduled for their second dose of the Moderna vaccination April 27. The second clinic is scheduled to take place from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. April 6 and is already fully booked.

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Creative writing workshop: Quill

By Samantha Smith
The Jambar

Youngstown State University's Quill, a group within Creative Writing Workshop, allows students to write different pieces such as poetry, short stories, song lyrics and more.

McKayla Rockwell, first-year graduate student in English, manages emails, sends reminders to the group and helps set up events. She said the purpose of the group is to help students improve their wording and writing skills with the feedback they give each other.

The group meets virtually on Discord for weekly write-ins of about 3,000 words at a time. There is no exact meeting time, but throughout the week students must read the piece sent out in the Discord through Google Docs by Rockwell. Students can then leave a critique or comment at the bottom of the piece for the writer to later read.

Rockwell also said when they are not having critiques, she will give out small writing challenges to keep students writing throughout the semester.

In the Discord server, there is a general chat and voice chat for members to communicate with one another throughout the week about the piece.

Rockwell said Quill is holding a raffle until the end of the semester and what the rules and prizes are for students.

"It's where, if you submit a piece for critique or if you comment on a piece or you give a critique, then you get entered to win a raffle. And it's as many times as you either submit a piece or comment on one," she said. "It's to win a Barnes & Noble gift card and a Dairy Queen gift card."

In the past, Quill hosted student pizza parties and participated in National Novel Writing Month. At the beginning of the pandemic, they continued to keep members involved by having a Facebook open mic night where the group members sent in videos of themselves reading or singing any piece of writing they have.

The group is celebrating National Poetry Month in April and usually tries to have a celebration or open mic night for the group members at the end of the semester. With the pandemic causing changes to meetings and events, nothing is set in stone yet. Rockwell said the group will keep its Facebook page updated with later announcements.

In the Facebook group, there are future writing events, publication opportunities and other writing workshops being posted and promoted in the group for any students interested.

"We'd love to have more members," Rockwell said. "We're really small, really relaxed."

For any student wanting to join Quill, email marockwell@student.ysu.edu or composeysu@gmail.com for information on the group, guidelines for submitting writings and links for the Discord and its Facebook.

Festival

Page 1

The festival will take place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, July 17 and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, July 18. The event will be free to the public.

Because this is the first time the festival has moved off campus, relocating comes with its fair share of logistical problems. Factor described the main challenge of moving locations is adjusting used to the new venue and planning where everything is going to go.

"When you pick up an event and move it to a new location, you have to look at all of the ways that you have to sort of maybe bring people in from another direction, making sure everybody has new directions and placing our artists and performers so it makes sense in a cohesive way," Factor said.

Over the years, the Summer Festival of the Arts has showcased local artists who work with all mediums. One of these artists is YSU alumnus Bob Barko Jr. He has participated in the festival since its beginning and said he is excited to see what the change of venue has in store.

"It will be different, but I know [Factor] and her crew will do a hell of a job. They've always been great [with] welcoming all of us artists to the Summer Festival on campus and I am highly confident that hospitality will continue in downtown," Barko said.

Barko also said he believes the festival can attract even more people than ever before due to its new location.

"I don't think you can help but increase the visibility, being that you're going to be right there off the two bridges going into downtown. Folks may stop by just for the fact that they look down and see all the tents and hear the music and smell the food and all that good stuff," Barko said.

The Summer Festival of the Arts is not just for visual art. According to Factor, the festival welcomes performing arts as well as local art and culture groups such as Valley Western Reserve and The Butler Institute of American Art.

"From a collaborative standpoint, there will also be activities. The Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Summer Fest will occur that same weekend. We'll also have things happening at the steel museum," Factor said.

"It will be different, but I know [Factor] and her crew will do a hell of a job. They've always been great [with] welcoming all of us artists to the Summer Festival on campus and I am highly confident that hospitality will continue in downtown. ... I don't think you can help but increase the visibility, being that you're going to be right there off the two bridges going into downtown. Folks may stop by just for the fact that they look down and see all the tents and hear the music and smell the food and all that good stuff."

— **Bob Barko Jr.,** artist and YSU alumnus

Student shares her three stories

First book published at 16

By C. Aileen Blaine
The Jambar

Freshman chemical engineering major Savannah Allen is more than just a student at Youngstown State University. She's also the author of three published books, with plans for many more.

"Honestly, I've always been a writer," she said.

Allen published her first book, a novel titled "106 Days Before," when she was just 16 years old. The plot follows the story of a girl diagnosed with cancer, and explores the protagonist's emotional ups and downs as well as those of the people in her life. Allen's two most recent publications are two poetry anthologies, titled "Feel" and "Going Under."

After graduating from high school a year early, she started college right away because she hoped to tackle the challenge of coursework and writing while meeting new people along the way.

Although Allen said she finds it hard to pinpoint the exact moment when she knew she wanted to pursue her passion for writing, she credits her seventh grade language arts class as an inspiration.

> "Don't give up on writing a book," she said. "I gave up on several book ideas before I finally finished my first book. It's a lot of work — it really is — and it's time-consuming and you want to cry a lot of times, but you get a feeling of accomplishment once you're done."
>
> — **Savannah Allen,** author, YSU freshman chemical engineering major

"We had an assignment, like a short story, but mine ended up being 13 pages long," she said. The story would become the basis for her first book.

When it comes to inspiration for her work, she derives it from a variety of sources. Song lyrics, quotes and social media platforms all serve as idea-generators.

"My inspiration, it doesn't come from just one thing," she said. "I could hear a lyric in a song and relate to that. I follow a lot of quote pages on Instagram and I get a lot of ideas from quotes."

With criticism around every corner it might be hard to please everyone in the literary world, but for Allen, many of her challenges come in the form of her self-doubt. Even so, she holds on to her optimism and doesn't let criticism discourage her. Instead, she uses it to grow as a writer.

"I kind of just take whatever criticism I'm given, and it inspires me to keep writing," she said. "I'm still young and I can still improve my writing, so I pretty much use the negative criticism as fuel to become a better writer."

When it comes to her future as a writer, Allen said she hopes to pursue her passion as long as she can.

"I plan to publish books pretty much every year until I can't write anymore," she said. "I'm hoping to have a really, really long writing career."

In addition to a prolific fiction and poetry output, she also hopes to someday publish an academic paper related to her chemical engineering major.

A writer's path to success is not always easy, but Allen offers advice for those who might be interested.

"Don't give up on writing a book," she said. "I gave up on several book ideas before I finally finished my first book. It's a lot of work — it really is — and it's time-consuming and you want to cry a lot of times, but you get a feeling of accomplishment once you're done."

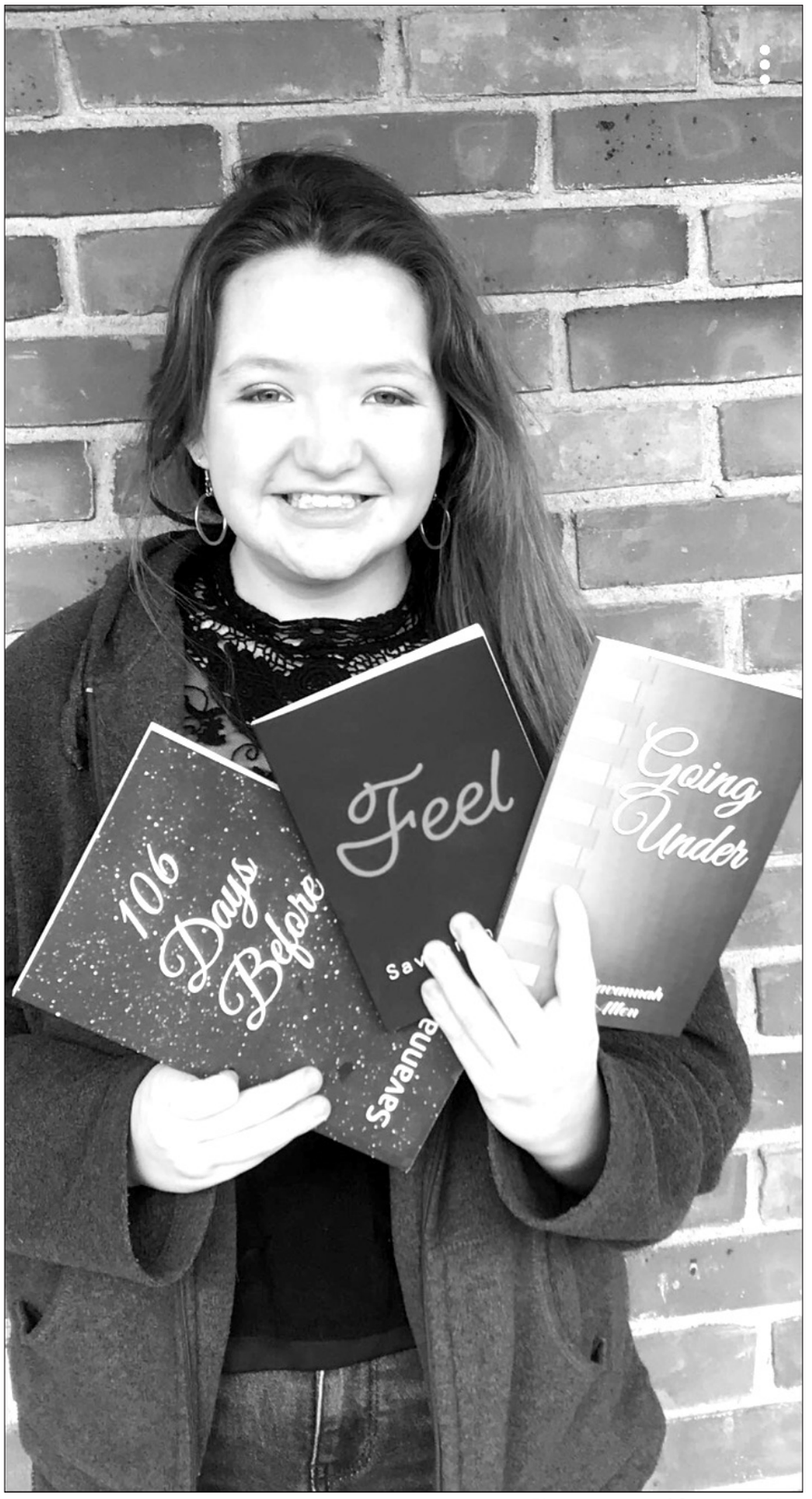


Photo courtesy of Savannah Allen

Freshman chemical engineering major Savannah Allen published her first book, a novel titled "106 Days Before," when she was just 16 years old.

How YSU spent its CARES funds

By Abigail Cloutier
The Jambar

In the past year, Youngstown State University received multiple federal grants to offset losses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. YSU has received $10,376,462 from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund to date. The university was required to spend a minimum of $5,188,231 in direct payments in the form of emergency financial aid to the students.

According to Ohio Checkbook, YSU website received $5,188,231 from the Department of Higher Education through the Coronavirus Relief Fund, including $3,924,308 on Aug. 3, 2020 and an additional $1,962,154 on Nov. 2, 2020. YSU was also awarded an additional $124,200 specifically for mental health relief. The university used this fund to add additional counselors and programs to Student Counseling Services.

The university achieved this through a two-part grant program. According to the updated 2021 operating budget released Dec. 3, the first was the YSU Penguin CARE Emergency Grant, which dispersed $1,000 grants to 2019-2020 Pell Grant recipients. Phase Two of this program opened up grant applications for all students in need of financial assistance. Students received between $500 and $2,000 through this fund.

In total, 3,133 individual students were eligible to receive funding from these grants and save received both phase 1 and 2 grants. To date, YSU has distributed $5,188,572 in direct payments to students.

The remaining $5,188,231 of the HEERF funds were designated for university spending. YSU was required to spend this on expenses restricted by the U.S. Treasury and the Department of Education, including but not limited to emergency payroll designations, cleaning and PPE to combat COVID-19. According to the budget, much of these expenses went to instructional and office supplies. Other expenses included safety equipment and uniforms.

YSU spent $826,101 on instructional computers and printers, an additional $208,902 on non-instructional computers and printers as of Nov. 16, 2020.

Additionally, $75,000 was designated to WYSU-FM, YSU's radio station.

On March 5, YSU's vice president of finance Neal McNally sent an email to the campus asking for grant proposals for the Coronavirus Relief and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act. Individual institutions are expected to receive up to $150,000. The grant may be used on distance education, faculty and staff training and student support activity expenses related to COVID-19.

COVID-19 compels teachers to retire

By Ethan J. Snyder
The Jambar

Those at higher risk for contracting virus step down for their own safety

Since its emergence in late 2019, COVID-19 has ravaged the U.S. economy. Workers across the country were compelled to retire early in order to protect themselves from the virus.

People aged 60 and older are most at risk for contracting COVID-19 in the workplace — this is the same age demographic that sees the most new retirees.

According to a study published by the Pew Research Center in Washington, D.C., by the end of 2020, 28.6 million people born between 1946 and 1964 reported retiring. The retirement rate had risen by 3.2 million since 2019, the largest increase in retirements in years.

Dan O'Neill, a professor in the department of communications at Youngstown State University, retired last fall. O'Neill's retirement coincided with his 50th year of teaching. During his time at YSU, O'Neill earned several teaching awards from YSU and the Ohio Communication Association.

"The impact of COVID had a large role in my decision to retire last fall, since I am in the highest COVID mortality age group—over 75—and continuing to teach would leave me vulnerable when retirement would be the more rational choice," O'Neill said.

The strain on the economy is causing many employees to entertain the idea of using money from their retirement savings to stay afloat. According to a report published by the Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies, "One in five workers said their confidence in their ability to retire comfortably declined in 2020, and only 27% are very confident that they will be able to fully retire with a comfortable lifestyle."

"I am still writing and doing research while spending more time with my wife and our dogs with whom we are deeply involved," O'Neill said. "Part-time teaching remains an option when we return to a more normal post pandemic social context. I, like so many others, look forward to live—rather than online—teaching and social interactions."

In May 2020, the National Council on Aging and the LeadingAge LTSS Center @UMass Boston released a statement, noting that, "There's a misconception that older adults are asset-rich, yet the reality is that the vast majority — 80% — are financially struggling now or are at risk of falling into economic insecurity as they age. While the financial situation for older Americans may be difficult today, our analysis suggests things may be getting worse. Ninety percent of older households experienced decreases in income and net value of wealth between 2014 and 2016."

The federal government passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act last March. According to the Internal Revenue Service, the CARES Act "provides for expanded distribution options and favorable tax treatment for up to $100,000 of coronavirus-related distributions from eligible retirement plans" for retirees. It also increases the limit workers can borrow from their retirement plans with extra time to repay those loans.

> "I am still writing and doing research while spending more time with my wife and our dogs with whom we are deeply involved. Part-time teaching remains an option when we return to a more normal post pandemic social context. I, like so many others, look forward to live rather than online teaching and social interactions."
>
> — **Dan O'Neill,** a retired professor in the department of communications at Youngstown State University

Pandemic pushes HackYSU online

Event begins Friday; winning team to receive Amazon gift cards

By Douglas M. Campbell
The Jambar



Photo courtesy of Samuel Hofmann

Due to the pandemic, the HackYSU competition this year will be held on Discord.

This weekend, laptops and computer monitors will light up rooms across the city as the Youngstown State University Hackers group hosts the seventh annual HackYSU competition.

The competition is an event where students of all majors and experience levels can come together and within 24 hours create anything from a creative technology project to an innovative device. The event usually lasts the entire weekend, but was shortened due to the Easter holiday.

James Dittrich, a web programming professor, is an adviser to the campus group and regularly encourages students to participate in the event in his classes.

"I have always made mention of these things in my classes, and it's such a good educational experience. You have that condensed learning over the course of the event that all ability levels—regardless of whether you can make a contribution or not," Dittrich said.

Due to the pandemic, the competition this year will be held on Discord, an instant messaging and digital distribution platform used mostly for gaming.

Samuel Hofmann, a sophomore computer information systems major, is the president of the group and said the decision to use Discord for the competition came from the group utilizing it earlier for meetings as well as for hosting and moderating smaller events.

"It's been interesting seeing the event grow. Every year we have more people show up. We are hoping for at least 80 people this year. We know that it might be a smaller event than it usually is, but it's been interesting to see it grow," Hofmann said.

> "Every year we have more people show up."
>
> — **Samuel Hofmann,** (a sophomore computer information systems major)

Excluding the pandemic, obstacles for the group in organizing the competition this year include securing funds for the event. Private companies haven't donated as much in comparison to prior years due to economical constraints. The STEM College and the Student Government Association were the main contributors this year.

"That was the main obstacle this year in securing funding and having people at the event that would have links to corporate professional organizations," Hofmann said.

The event will consist of an opening ceremony, guest speakers who will give presentations throughout the day and time designated for participants to "break the ice."

Rules for the competition are: all teams must consist of five or less members and all projects must be created at the event. Additional rules can be found on their website under the Major League Hacking's code of conduct, which asks participants, judges and sponsors to be respectful.

Ryan Lalchand, a junior computer science major, is the group's secretary and is a coordinator and moderator for the event. He recalls projects in the past.

"We have had people work on art, designs," Lalchand said "There was someone who wrote a research paper on ransomware attacks — you name it. It is mostly programming, but you can come and do whatever you [want]. It doesn't have to be computer-oriented and you might even have a shot at some cool prizes."

Other items created in past competitions include a virtual reality dishwashing game that can be played on an Oculus and a 3D-printed braille grocery tag.

Winning team members will receive Amazon e-gift cards for a yet-to-be determined amount.

The event will begin at 6 p.m. Friday, April 2 and conclude at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 3. More information is available on the HackYSU website.

Study abroad online from home

By Sydney A. Stalnecker
The Jambar

Study abroad opportunities for Youngstown State University students went virtual after being postponed in 2020 as a result of COVID-19 travel restrictions.

McKenzie Drapola, a senior nursing major, originally planned to study abroad at the Nebrija University in Madrid in the summer of 2020.

Instead, she's studying Spanish this summer virtually in Seville, Spain, but is not associated with a specific university. Drapola was given a custom program called the 2021 Online June Program through Spanish Studies Abroad, The Center for Cross-Cultural Study.

"I'm taking a beginner's Spanish, so it's like equivalent to YSU's Elementary Spanish [course]," Drapola said. "It's just like basic verbs and basic words."

Nate Myers, associate provost for International Initiatives, helps students get involved with study abroad programs.

"They would have to reach out and contact me. My information is on the website," Myers said. "We do regular study abroad sessions every Friday at noon, and those are drop-ins. You don't have to schedule those. Anyone can just Webex in."

The International Programs Office expects typical study abroad programs to return in spring 2022, and Myers currently counsels students for the semester.

"If a student wanted to study overseas in spring 2022, I would really recommend that they apply for [a] program, we nominate them in August or September," Myers said.

Once nominated, students can begin applying for different scholarships to support their trip.



Photo courtesy of McKenzie Drapola
McKenzie Drapola, a senior nursing major, will be studying Spanish this summer virtually in Seville, Spain.

For example, Drapola was awarded the U.S. Department of State's Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship for summer 2020, which she found through the help of the advisers at the IPO.

"I received the Gilman's scholarship and you apply online, and honestly I didn't know about it until the YSU study abroad advisers told me about it," Drapola said.

According to the Gilman Scholarship's website, the scholarship encourages students to study diverse languages and cultures, especially those important to national security.

Another scholarship fitting the same criteria is the Critical Language Scholarship.

"The state department maintains a list of about 30-40 languages that our government considers important to national defense and security," Myers said. "If your program includes one of those languages, you can apply for that scholarship and maybe get funded."

The virtual program Drapola is enrolled in lacks some key elements associated with a typical study abroad program, such as travel, but she is excited nonetheless.

"I was supposed to live with a family over the summer, so I wanted to, like, get the whole culture experience," Drapola said. "I'm still excited to, like, study from legit Spanish teachers."

She chose to learn Spanish because she thinks it will help her in her future career as a nurse.

"I would like to learn it just because healthcare has a lot of Spanish-speaking people, like, patient-wise," Drapola said. "It would be cool to be able to communicate with more patients."

Studying abroad offers more than an opportunity for students to enhance their resumes.

"If you've ever had a thought about living in another place, meeting people who are different than you, learning another language, waking up in a different kind of a living environment every day in a different culture," Myers said. "This is the time to do it."

"I was supposed to live with a family over the summer, so I wanted to get the whole culture experience. I'm still excited to study from legit Spanish teachers. I would like to learn it just because healthcare has a lot of Spanish-speaking people patient-wise. It would be cool to be able to communicate with more patients."

— **McKenzie Drapola,** a senior nursing major



Photo courtesy of Lori Factor

Caitlin Hedge will be one of the lecturers highlighting YSU Fiddle Day Aril 10 from 1 - 5:30 p.m.

Students learn from the pros

Violinists, cellists and more highlight YSU Fiddle Day

By Kelcey Norris
The Jambar

Youngstown State University student musicians lit up the stage Sunday, March 28, at their first in-person performance since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite their recent return to the main stage, the Dana School of Music is taking advantage of virtual meetings once again to host three guest lecturers. They'll provide once-in-a-lifetime learning opportunities for music students.

Some of these students studying the violin have a one-day virtual opportunity to learn from the experts in their field. YSU's Fiddle Day will be held this upcoming Saturday, April 10 from 1 to 5:30 p.m.

Wendy Case, lecturer of violin, and the YSU Strings Guild sponsor the event.

Guest lecturers are Caitlin Hedge of the Warren Philharmonic, author and contemporary musician Tracey Silverman and international violinist Steven Greenman.

"All three clinicians are master performers and excellent teachers, and I am delighted to see how Dr. Case has organized such an excellent workshop for our students and the public. She is making great strides to enhance YSU's reputation as a center for string pedagogy in the region," said Randall Goldberg, director of the Dana School of Music.

> "All three clinicians are master performers and excellent teachers, and I am delighted to see how Dr. Case has organized such an excellent workshop for our students and the public."
>
> — **Randall Goldberg,** director of the Dana School of Music

The students will be able to learn directly from experts right from home. Each of the guest speakers will host a class and teach a different style of string instrument performance, specifically Celtic, klezmer and chop music styles.

Other upcoming events hosted by Cliffe College of Creative Arts include the virtual performance of "An Evening with Billy Shakes," reenactments of Shakespeare's classics with a twist.

There will also be a new painting exhibition called "A Visual Exploration of Adolescence: Growth, Identity, & Resilience," created by graduate Emily Goerig in Bliss Hall on April 5.

Students follow their passion for ink

By Kelcey Norris
The Jambar

Youngstown State University student Dylan Hawk cleans up ink and paper towels after a typical late-night shift as a tattoo apprentice. She said she's exactly where she's always wanted to be: in a tattoo shop.

"I was hooked ever since I got that first tattoo when I turned 18 and my mom didn't have to sign the form anymore," she said.

Hawk, a junior digital arts major, has started tattooing at DC4L Tattoo Shop in Warren as an apprentice.

She started by tattooing her friends, family and walk-in customers to work toward getting her certification in tattooing.

"I've always been encouraged to pursue art," she said. "My dad is an art teacher and my mom is an interior designer, so I've always been pushed to pursue it."

Although some people believe pursuing art as a career is not credible or reliable, she said it's worth taking the risk.

"It's something I love, and it's something I'm passionate about," she said. "I'd rather do something I'm passionate about than slave away at something I think somebody else would want me to do."

She described acquiring the apprenticeship as a perfect fit.

"I was in art school with this full portfolio, where am I gonna go? This place took me in with open arms. I love everybody here, and they gave me a chance that I don't think anyone else would have," Hawk said.

After finishing her degree, she hopes to pursue her art as a full-time job.

> "Tattooing fell into my lap instead of me just searching it out, which is kind of not the traditional way you'd really get into the tattoo industry."
>
> — **Amelia Fisher,**
> a sophomore criminal justice major

"I would absolutely love and adore to do that," she said. "I can technically take tattooing anywhere, as long as I have a solid portfolio and I know my stuff, I could transfer that anywhere in the country."

As a digital arts major, she described her initial favorite forms of art, like character design and story art.

She said all the skills she learned in classes with the YSU Department of Art transferred directly to learning how to tattoo.

"Things like line weights, line depths, the difference between foreground and background, contrast and all of that fun stuff," she said. "Color theory is a big one, too."

Amelia Fisher, a sophomore criminal justice major, is an apprentice at Industrial Strength Tattoo in Youngstown.

"Tattooing fell into my lap instead of me just searching it out, which is kind of not the traditional way you'd really get into the tattoo industry," Fisher said. "I happened to drive past the tattoo shop, it was brand new, and I thought, 'How cool would it be to work in a tattoo shop?'"

When she first applied, she said she was mostly expecting a desk job, with tasks such as answering phones and making appointments.

"But I happen to doodle, I'm pretty good at drawing, so I went in and asked for an apprenticeship or a desk job," Fisher said. "The owner said, 'Actually, we're looking for an apprentice, so would you like to give it a shot?' I've been there ever since and loving every second of it."

She described how nervous she was to walk into her first day at an actual tattoo shop.

"Shaking like a leaf," she said, "but after about the first week, I felt so comfortable there. It became like a second home; they're all very nice and helpful guys."

So far, she's done 12 tattoos on real skin, after practicing for a few months on fake skin. Her first two tattoos were a match and a semicolon surrounded by a butterfly for suicide awareness.

"I'm slowly falling in love with tattooing, so who knows I may go down this path, but for now I'm just taking my time and enjoying it," Fisher said.



Photo courtesy of Amelia Fisher
Amelia Fisher, a sophomore criminal justice major, is an apprentice at Industrial Strength Tattoo in Youngstown.



Photo by Abigail Cloutier/The Jambar
Dylan Hawk, a junior digital arts major, is an apprentice at DC4L Tattoo Shop in Warren.

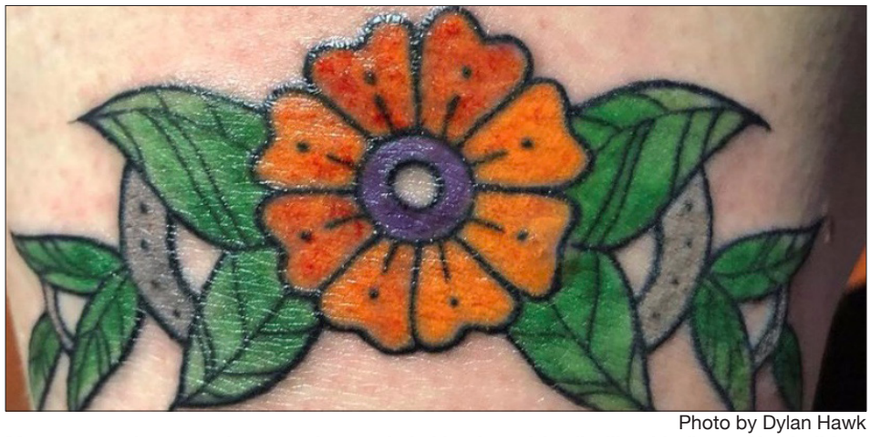


Photo by Dylan Hawk

Many apprentices practice tattooing on their friends and family, like this flower Hawk did on her boyfriend's knee.



Photo by Amelia Fisher

Fisher has done about 12 tattoos on her close friends, starting with a small match and this butterfly outlining a semicolon for a friend named Katie.



Photo by Dylan Hawk

One of the first tattoos she did was a few mushrooms growing on her ankle.



Photo by Amelia Fisher

One of the most intricate tattoos she has done is this skull and roses thigh piece.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE



Photo by Hailey Rogenski/The Jambar

Members of the Contemporary Ensemble practice for potential future performances.

Ensemble can't wait to perform live

By Hailey Rogenski
Jambar Contributor

The Youngstown State University Contemporary Ensemble hopes for more opportunities to perform in the near future. The Contemporary Ensemble is a musical performance group consisting of drums, horns, bass guitar and vocals, which tries not to limit itself to just one variety of music.

The ensemble's only guitarist, Eric Thompson, a junior music recording major, has practiced music since the age of 11. Outside of the ensemble, he performs in a band called Astronauts Exposed, as well as in a few other bands.

"I hope to work in studios, do session guitar work and play gigs," Thompson said.

The ensemble began in 2019, but it hasn't held any live concerts recently due to pandemic restrictions.

"I hope we can play live shows in the future," Thompson said. "I've only been able to play one live concert with the ensemble."

He said unlike most music groups at YSU, the ensemble plays a variety of genres.

"One of the nice things about the contemporary ensemble is the fact that we aren't really pinholed into one specific genre," Thompson said. "We've played anything from blues to rock, some pop stuff. We have an Instagram where we post weekly and do anything from pop to guitar licks."

Chase Taylor is a saxophone performance graduate student and the saxophonist for the ensemble. He has 15 years of experience. Outside of the ensemble, he performed in church groups, at Christmas shows and even toured with country singer Tim Shelton.

"We have a couple videos of past concerts on YouTube and on Facebook through the Dana School of Music, and also on Facebook through the YSU Jazz Society page we have a few recordings," Taylor said.

The group hasn't had much experience with live performances, he said.

"The second semester, we were fortunate enough to play at one concert, and then everything got shut down by COVID and we transitioned to an online setting," Taylor said.

John Anthony, the director of the YSU contemporary ensemble and a music teacher for Roosevelt Elementary School in McDonald, Ohio, said he wanted to give students an opportunity to play different genres of music.

"I was here in grad school from 2010-2012 and a lot of the students here were very interested in doing something outside of the jazz and classical world," Anthony said. "Throughout the last couple of years, we've seen a lot of students come to YSU where there has been more interest in other styles of music besides jazz and classical."

In addition to being the adviser, Anthony teaches music classes at YSU. He said he often leaves things in the hands of the ensemble. He also said the ensemble students take on a lot of leadership.

"I've been very lucky to see a lot of leadership grow, and a lot of the work that normally an ensemble director would do has been placed on them," Anthony said. "I've been monitoring a lot more than really having to take over everything."

Though they don't have any performances in the near future, the contemporary ensemble posts performance content on social media.

Unsung heroes keep sports going

Equipment staff wash the competiton away

By Richie Juliano
Jambar contributor

Youngstown State University athletics has over 10 teams playing this spring semester. That means the equipment staff at YSU is working hard to stay on top of all the equipment needs of each team.

Tim Gallo is the assistant equipment manager at YSU and is now entering his 15th year with the staff. Gallo said they've been challenged this spring season.

"The workload has been a little bit extra this spring, but I've got some good student workers," Gallo said. "It's been challenging, but it has been okay."

Programs competing now are: baseball, football, men's and women's golf, men's and women's tennis, bowling, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming and diving and track and field.

Alvy Armstrong is the head equipment manager for the Youngstown State Athletic Department. The American Equipment Managers' Association certified Armstrong in 2001. He mentioned what a spring football season has been like inside the equipment room.

"Doing football in the spring is a whole different concept," Armstrong said. "I help out whenever I can, however I can."

The YSU equipment staff has 10 student helpers this semester. With only two head equipment managers and 19 intercollegiate sports at YSU, both Gallo and Armstrong appreciate their student workers.

> "Everything we do is in the equipment room — we don't have to travel with the teams. It's just a lot of washing and doing laundry, as well as handling all the equipment."
>
> — **Tyler D'Antonio,**
> junior mechanical engineering major

"The students are an immense help to me," Armstrong said. "Without the students, the job would be undoable."

"I would be lost and swamped without my students," Gallo said. "All of them have been with me long enough to know exactly what needs to be done, and how I want it done."

One of the student helpers in the equipment room is Tyler D'Antonio, a junior mechanical engineering major. He washes and dries many of the uniforms.

"Everything we do is in the equipment room — we don't have to travel with the teams," D'Antonio said. "It's just a lot of washing and doing laundry, as well as handling all the equipment."

Washing and drying uniforms everyday can be a repetitive process, but even mundane situations can create some fun and unique moments in the equipment room.

"We actually do have quite a bit of fun in our equipment room. It's very open in here," Armstrong said. "Sometimes you chase each other around with bats, but we all know it's good fun."

D'Antonio spoke positively about the relationships staff build while working in the equipment room.

"Sometimes we have fun with how we put things away or little things here and there," he said. "It gets a bit repetitive, but we are able to have fun with each other just because we like each other."

With the students working to prepare the uniforms and equipment, this opens up time for Gallo to work on the business side of equipment management.

"With the students helping me, it enables me to do more of the paperwork, shuffling, ordering and inventory," Gallo said.

Gallo thinks very highly of his student staff.

"I would be willing to put up my kids against any other Olympic sports equipment students' help," Gallo said. "I just think they're tremendous, and that's the biggest thing I'll miss personally when they leave."



Photo by Richie Juliano/The Jambar
The YSU equipment staff has 10 student helpers this semester with only two head equipment managers and 19 intercollegiate sports at YSU.

The Jambar **Editorial**

Summer festival moves downtown

As the world begins its slow return to a pre-pandemic normal, we begin to look forward to the return of some of our favorite annual traditions: fairs, festivals and concerts. However, one of our favorite on-campus traditions, Summer Festival of the Arts, will look different this year.

The festival has been held on Youngstown State University's campus since its debut in 1999. This year it will take place in downtown Youngstown at Wean Park.

The park boasts a beautiful 20 acres of green, natural space combined with walking paths for easy navigation for visitors, and it sounds like the perfect natural setting to host this festival.

While we'll miss seeing the beautiful works of art we have grown up knowing on YSU's campus, we are also proud of the advances the city of Youngstown has made for the better to improve the safety of the community.

According to a release on YSU's Summer Festival of the Arts webpage, university president Jim Tressel and Youngstown Mayor Jamael "Tito" Brown are supportive of the change.

"We hope this move will help further grow the festival and will also help further introduce the community to this beautiful new downtown recreational area," Tressel said.

Brown called the festival a "perfect fit" for the park.

We hope the move to downtown will draw even more vendors, artists and students than ever to the festival. We look forward to the enriched blending of cultures and creative expression unique to our area.

The Jambar **Column**

Snapshot of memories

Last year, I made a bit of a spur-of-the-moment purchase. Feeling stir-crazy and wanting to try something new, I bought an instant camera. Initially, my idea was to take photos of stuff around me and make a fun collage. However, as it turns out, nothing happens when you are home 24/7, and I really hate collages.

I guess such should have been expected. So, on my desk the camera went, and there it sat for a while. While I loved the camera itself, there was just no opportunity to actually use it — until recently.

Since I got the first dose of the vaccine, I have tried to start living again. I am trying to go spend some time outside, in a COVID-19 safe environment. Suddenly, it seems like even the smallest moments stand out so much.

The day of my first vaccination, I went to the Jambar office for the first time in a year. Almost like a treat to reward myself for doing it. I used to go there once a week, yet walking up the ramp and through the door, it felt like I was transported into a strange world.



Mac Pomeroy

I was quite nervous. While I am an extrovert and I love being with people, my anxiety was reminding me of how long it had been. What if I forgot how to act? Perhaps my presence would just be unwanted.

My anxiety was quickly hushed when I was greeted by people who remembered me. I was able to talk to some of them, laugh a bit. Admittedly, I didn't get any work done due to how I was feeling from the shot, but in the moment, smiling with people after so long, I felt okay again. I wanted to capture the moment and save it.

These precious moments of our lives go faster than it takes an instant camera to print them, and often we don't think about it. It is insane for me to consider how a bit over a year ago, I was leaving my American literature class as though it were nothing. I waved goodbye to my peers, not realizing how long it would be until I could do such a thing again.

I don't intend to overlook more of these moments. I know I am speaking as though I am an 80-year-old, looking back on my youth with sweet sentiment, but these words are genuine. I was foolish enough to not value the time I had with my friends or even sitting bored out of my mind in class.

I received my second dose Wednesday, so I plan to try my best to use that camera. I want to value whatever happens next — not that I'll suddenly go back to living with reckless abandon. I am still going to be careful. However, now I just want to notice more and value more. From the glistening rainbow bubbles in a car wash to the ridiculous yet hilarious jokes of my friends, I want to try to be there for everything.

Maybe now we could all use an instant camera.

> "... but in the moment, smiling with people after so long, I felt okay again. I wanted to capture the moment and save it."
>
> — Mac Pomeroy

Football's home game against UND rescheduled

By Jordan Boitnott
The Jambar

On Friday, March 26, Youngstown State University announced the home football game against the University of North Dakota was postponed. The game, originally scheduled for March 27, is rescheduled for April 17. The announcement came after UND identified one positive COVID-19 test in its Tier 1 personnel. According to YSU Sports, UND's Tier 1 classification includes players, coaches, equipment managers and staff.

The schedule change extends YSU's regular season by one week. Due to the positive COVID-19 test, YSU and UND received a bye in a season originally eight weeks long with no off weeks for any teams.

Derek Hite, sophomore offensive lineman, talked about how the bye week affected the team in his Tuesday press conference.

"It was definitely different. We practiced the whole week. We were focused on [UND], obviously, which was kind of a bummer not to get to play them on Saturday," he said. "Coach gave us a couple days off to kind of get our bodies right and then came in yesterday focused, flipped the switch and focused on Western Illinois."

After the two-week hiatus, the Penguins will travel to Western Illinois University to play in their first night game of the season Saturday, April 3. WIU enters last in the Missouri Valley Football Conference with an 0-5 record. However, the team currently has the No. 1 passing offense in the conference.

YSU's head football coach Doug Phillips talked about WIU in his press conference this week.

"They're the No. 1 passing team in the league and that's what jumps out. They haven't been fortunate enough to finish a football game and win a football game, but statistically they're No. 1 in passing so they're gonna throw the football around," he said. "We [have] got to be ready for that. They've been successful. They've been in games in the third and fourth quarter just like us."

Another issue the team had to deal with is the transfer portal. YSU lost junior defensive end Antoine Cook last month. Phillips said the team is keeping an eye on players from other schools in the portal.

"The portal, what's unique about it, the one philosophy I've always had is, you know, if they're in the portal in January that tells me what have they been doing? I kind of want to wait and see, I want to see the players that actually went through spring football at a school and competed and just found out maybe they're not getting enough reps at that school," he said. "There are some young men that are in the portal that—I'm sure some of our coaches fill out the proper paperwork and have spoken to them—that we're actively recruiting, but there's nothing they can sign."

YSU will play at WIU at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, April 3 on ESPN+. The Penguins haven't had a road Missouri Valley Conference win since 2017.

The Sidebar

Send us a DM to our Instagram: ysu_jambar to have your thoughts posted in the paper. Please limit comments to 50 words or less.

THE JAMBAR POLICY

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

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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

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Power Plant Technology Information Session

The Power Plant Technology Program in the School of Engineering Technology is hosting an Information Session on

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The event will be in the **Cushwa Hall Auditorium, room B100** (bottom floor)

All are invited to come and learn about the great careers and opportunities available to graduates of this Associate Degree Program

Student. Athlete. CEO.

Basketball player starts a clothing line

By Joseph Chapman
The Jambar

What can't senior Naz Bohannon do? When he isn't hitting the books or helping the men's basketball team secure a victory, he's running his own small business. In October 2019, Bohannon began working to launch his clothing company, Majestic Stylez. As a business major, Bohannon is well prepared to take on the task. I was able to sit down with Bohannon and discuss what it has been like during his first year of operation.

Q: When starting your business, did you get any advice from the Williamson College of Business?

A: We were off the campus because our school was [closed], so I really didn't ask too many people until I got back, but my aunt owns our own salon at home. So she helped me figure out how to form an LLC. What were the parts of it? What were some hardships that I will face along the way? As that went and she just encouraged me every step of the way: "Here's how you go about doing this. This is how you figure out what your brand or what is going to represent and what it's going to mean." And things of that sort.

Q: How did you get the idea to do clothes?

A: It was my girlfriend, actually. I always loved business and outside of basketball, I always tell people I wanted to be a business mogul sometime in my life. I would love to be in Forbes Magazine. So, I had a liking for style and getting dressed in fashion. She loved clothes as well, so it went hand-in-hand and saying, "Let's get into the industry of clothing business." And I know it's a way to make money. There's a market to go to. She went to a different school, I went to a different school. [We're] both from two different cities. So the networking was there, and it actually helped.

Q: How is it to run a business based out of two different cities?

A: It's been great. Sometimes, you face the discrepancies in the differences in the weather because she's from Kentucky and Louisville and I'm from northeast Ohio. We know here, you have two seasons, almost — summer and winter — but there they have traditional four seasons and it's hotter longer, so sometimes we'll do hoodies. It's okay for here, but there, it may not be. But for now, it was fine because we'll do fleece shorts or something. You can throw on a hoodie and shorts there, but here, maybe you want to go for the full sweatsuit still. So, getting around that.

Q: Who designs your clothes?

A: Actually, at this point, we outsourced a couple of things and we had a manufacturer overseas do something. That was the easier way, but because of COVID, sometimes we had to wait 45 days between getting what we needed to get. At this point, we have our own machines at the house and we come up with edits and designs. We hired a couple graphic designers. We come up with an idea in our head.

Q: How did you come up with the lion logo?

A: The lion is actually my idea because [my girlfriend] came up with the name of Majestic Stylez. I thought of the lion because our brand focuses on the royalties and life and everybody being a king or queen in their own way. Our slogan is dressing royalty, so with the lion I just mean that when you think of majestic it's the first thing that comes to my head because it signifies beauty and strength and that everybody has style in their own way. So that's where the name was. As far as our staple, it was going to be the crown. We bring the crown on every different thing. But then I was like, "No, I liked the lion." We put [the crown] on the lion. The lion symbolizes a lot just outside of even being majestic, and it's been working this far.

Q: What are Majestic Stylez' most popular items?

A: Last summer we did shorts that had "royalty" across the front. This past winter/fall, we did sweatsuits and those were big. They had the lion branded on the front with "Majestic Stylez" [on the chest] and on the pants, and girls would just have a signature "Majestic Stylez."

Q: Anything big coming up soon?

A: Oh yeah, so just literally before we walked in here today we were dropping something live today. We have a four-part spring collection that's coming soon, and the first part of it was a grey crewneck and a red and yellow tie-dye hoodie we'll have available later on today.

Q: Are your staff made up of professionals in the area, or did you find that it was more beneficial to hire people closer to you personally?

A: Like family, friends or people that I've met along some time in my life that you would have never known that you needed, or they had a skill here or there. It goes to show just what knowing somebody can do for you. I think it being more personable obviously helps me, too, because it's easier for me to get on the phone and call them and we can go back and forth about the design. Like, "Hey, what do you like?" Or sometimes, I like for people to be their own creative selves. I'm like, "Hey, I got this idea, I don't want it to be subjective to what I think. You try it and you show me what you like." And in doing so, I've got a couple nice logos and things going with the lion that I haven't experimented with yet, but this summer I'm going to.

Q: Is there anything about Majestic Stylez that people should know about that we didn't talk about?

A: I would just say that this is a brand that can help exemplify who you want to be in life. In doing so, we say be a king or be a queen, and it's just to feel confident in anything and everything it is that you're doing. Just always wear your crown, don't ever get too down, keep your head up and keep pushing through everything.



Photo by Richie Juliano
Majestic Stylez products being packaged for distribution.



Photo by Richie Juliano
Bohannon's business displays lion logo on finished products.

PENGUINS PITCH GREAT GAME



Photo by David Dermer /The Jambar

The Penguins are now 6-1 at Eastwood Field for the first time since 2003.

YSU wins series against Wright State

By Kyle Wills
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University baseball team won three of four games against Wright State University at Eastwood Field last weekend. The victory gives the team their first series win against the Raiders since the 2015 season.

On Friday, the team defeated Wright State by a score of 12-10. Senior catcher Nick Caruso went 3-for-5 with a career-high five RBIs and a three-run triple in the fifth inning. Junior infielder Phillip Glasser went 2-for-4 with a solo home run. Senior outfielder Dominick Bucko went 3-for-5 with two RBIs while his fellow senior Jeff Wehler, infielder, was 3-for-5 with a pair of runs scored.

Sophomore outfielders Turner Grau and Andre Good each recorded two hits as eight different Penguins notched a hit in the contest. Right-handed pitcher Gary Clift Jr., a senior, performed in the ninth and retired the Raiders in order to record his fifth save of the season.

On Saturday, the baseball team earned a 4-0 win in the first game before losing 20-8 in the second game of a doubleheader. Redshirt pitcher senior Collin Floyd scattered five hits and struck out nine batters. He did this over seven scoreless innings in his second complete game shutout of the season, leading the victory over Wright State in game one of the doubleheader. His performance earned him Nike Horizon League Pitcher of the Week for the second time this season and the fourth time in his career.

With his nine strikeouts, Floyd passed Dave Dravecky (251) and Phil Klein (258) to move into second place on the YSU all-time strikeout list with 260 in his career. He needs just six more punch-outs to break Aaron Swenson's career record of 265, which has stood since 2010.

In game two of the doubleheader, senior infielder Blaze Glenn and junior catcher Dylan Swarmer each had three hits for the Penguins while Bucko went 2-for-3 with a two-run home run and three RBIs. Sophomore infielder Braeden O'Shaughnessy also contributed going 2-for-2 with a pair of RBIs. YSU starter junior Jon Snyder took his second loss pitching of the season after allowing three runs on four hits and striking out three over 2.2 innings.

On Sunday, YSU battled back from a six-run deficit to earn a 11-10 victory and the 3-1 series win over Wright State in the series finale. With the victory, the team won their first series against Wright since taking two of three games at Eastwood Field in 2015.

In the bottom of the eighth, Wehler reached on a throwing error to begin the inning and advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt by Glasser. After Wehler advanced to third on a groundout by Caruso, junior infielder Steven D'Eusanio hit a hard ground ball that ricocheted off Wright State shortstop and into center field for a single allowing Wehler to score the game-winning run.

Head coach Dan Bertolini talked about how the team needed a different approach after being swept by the Raiders earlier this season.

"After we played Wright State the first time, we had to make some adjustments to our plan and how we played, and I thought our players responded really well," he said. "We were much better with two strikes. We didn't chase out of the strike zone. We wanted to make it difficult for the pitchers from Wright State and I thought our guys did a great job of that."

The men improved to 11-12 overall and 6-6 in Horizon League play while Wright State drops to 13-8 and 13-3 in conference action. The Penguins are now 6-1 at Eastwood Field for the first time since 2003. YSU started 5-0 at Eastwood Field for the first time in program history.

Up next, the baseball team will take on University of Illinois in Chicago in a doubleheader Friday and another one on Saturday at Eastwood Field. First pitch for game one is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Friday and noon on Saturday. All games will be available on YSN's website