



## YSUNITY RETURNS TO CAMPUS AFTER HIATUS

YSUnity offers LGBTQ students a chance to participate in events like Coming Out Day and the annual drag show. *Photo courtesy of YSUnity*

### C. AILEEN BLAINE JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

After a two-year hiatus, the LGBTQ student organization YSUnity is making its return to Youngstown State University once again. With its revival, its executive members believe it will once again serve as a safe space for students.

Amanda Fehlbaum, associate professor of sociology, is a co-adviser of YSUnity. She said there's a waxing and waning of interest in YSUnity that happens to many other campus organizations.

"We've been trying to get enough concerted energy together to where we have enough folks who want to be officers, so that we can get YSUnity off the ground again," Fehlbaum said.

She said the pandemic affects how well students can participate and communicate their interest in the organization, but she hopes interest will increase.

"We are, as a campus, prioritizing the experiences of more marginalized communities. Saying, 'You matter, we like that you're here and we support you,'" Fehlbaum said.

Steven Miller, a fifth-year telecommunications major, is the

organization's current president, after serving as the secretary.

"In the future, I want to reach out to, say, full-spectrum community outreach, and some of the organizations around in the Valley," Miller said.

He said he hopes to increase student enrollment in the club to re-establish it as an official student organization.

Brian Wells, academic adviser for the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services, serves as the organization's co-adviser. His history with the group is rich, as he'd served as vice president and president of the then-called LGBT organization in the late 1990s.

He said the campus is in need of the organization's return.

"YSUnity did a marvelous job of creating allies to the LGBTQ community over the years," Wells said. "Many missed out on the impact that YSUnity could have had on their future careers as well as their own sense of self as an ally to the community."

Wells said he hopes the future leaders of YSUnity will reopen the doors that may have closed for LGBTQ students on campus.

"My hope is that our students will once again see the group as a source of hope ensuring our campus is a place where all feel

welcome and supported as they excel in achieving their goals," Wells said.

Miller also said YSUnity means something special to him.

"Just knowing that there's people that support us," he said. "It's always held a place in my heart, knowing that."

In the past, the organization was involved with Coming Out Day, Trans Day of Silence and an annual drag show open to the community. In addition to the contributions to events and activities, the organization advocated to include the "gender identity and/or expression" language to YSU's non-discrimination policy.

Wells and Fehlbaum will speak in a virtual LGBTQ symposium Nov. 6, hosted by the Mahoning Valley juvenile court and the Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Board. The event will discuss resources available within the Mahoning Valley as well as clarify misconceptions of the LGBTQ community.

For students interested in more information regarding YSUnity, they can visit the group's Facebook and Instagram pages.

## YSU'S COVID-19 NUMBERS CONTINUE TO RISE

### ABIGAIL CLOUTIER

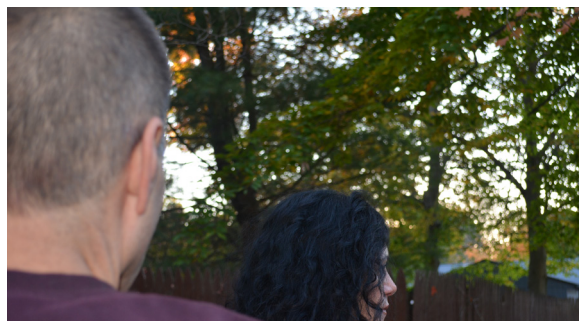
COVID-19 cases at Youngstown State University continue to rise. Monday, the university reported 19 positive tests. Like the previous week, there are 15 students with coronavirus, but employee cases jumped this week. Four employees of the university tested positive for the virus. This is a relatively

significant increase from previous weeks, when the university reported very few, if any, cases. The university classifies employee as faculty, administration, janitorial and service workers on the dashboard. Currently, there is no distinction between faculty who test positive and other university employees.

The majority of student cases this week come from students who live off-campus or in undergraduate apartments, such as

University Courtyards, University Edge, the Enclave, the Lofts and Buechner Hall, located just across from the Kilcawley residence house. Two cases belong to students who live in residence halls such as Kilcawley, Cafaro and Lyden houses. There have been 57 coronavirus cases at YSU since the first week of October.

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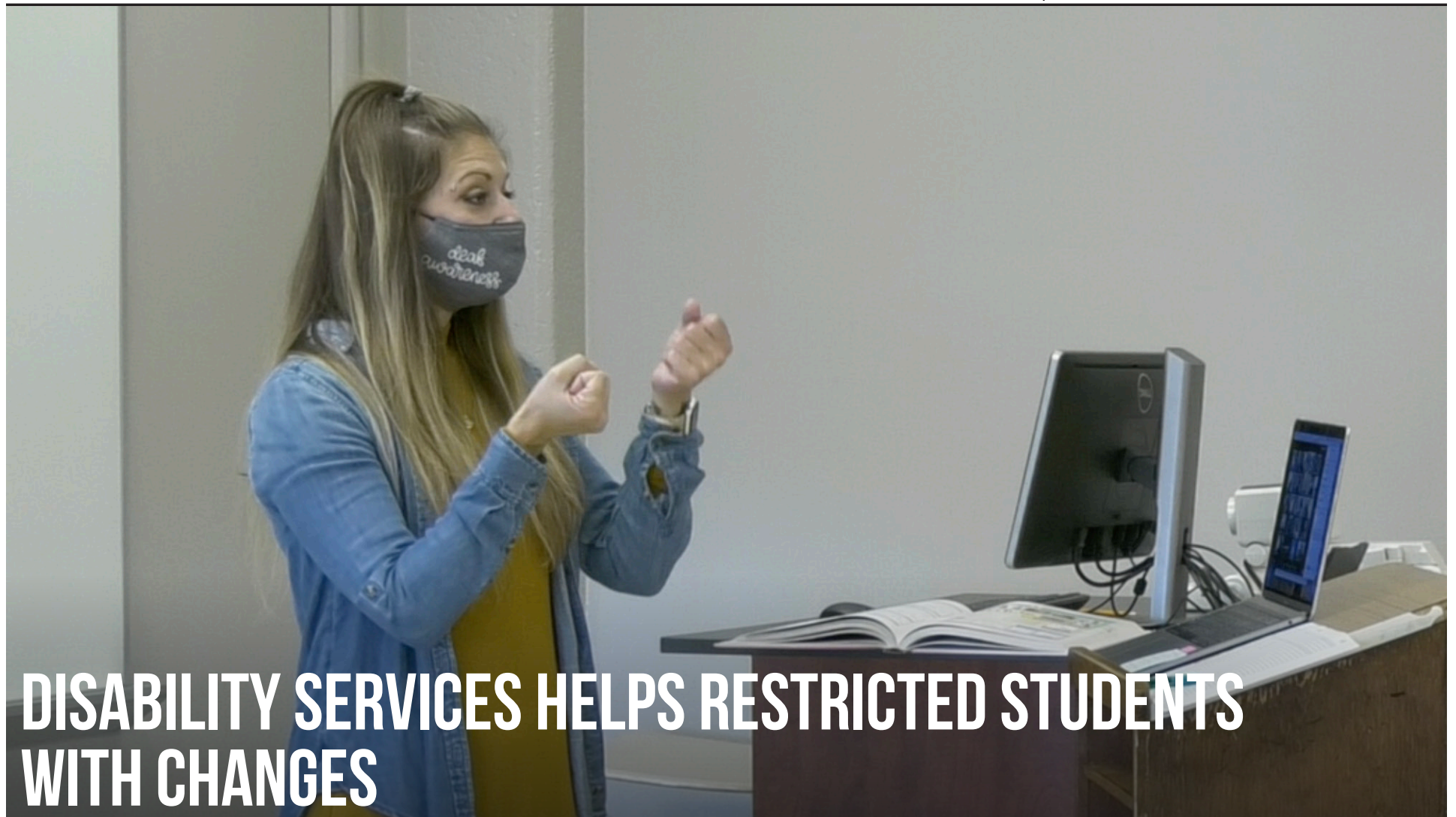
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# DISABILITY SERVICES HELPS RESTRICTED STUDENTS WITH CHANGES

Jessica Basile, an American Sign Language (ASL) professor at YSU, shares solutions to teaching students both in-person and online. **Photo by Jessica Stamp/The Jambar**

## JESSICA STAMP JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Youngstown State University's Disability Services office assists students with disabilities in regard to the changes in their classes.

Gina McGranahan, associate director of Disability Services, said the office assists students with any physical, psychological and educational challenges based on individual needs.

Since many classes went online, the college experience is easier for some physically restricted students, according to McGranahan.

"Many students stay home and do everything virtual, except for tests. Then the student comes to the office and sees two of the five testing rooms because of COVID-19," McGranahan said.

She said if a physically restricted student needs to be on campus for a class, Disability Services can help with accommodations, such as transportation assistance between classes.

"[Students with disabilities] ... have found the online environment fabulous for them," McGranahan said.

She said some students with autism like the face-to-face interaction with professors and others prefer online classes.

"Just like anybody else, it depends on the person and what their strengths and weaknesses are as to what they like and what they don't like," McGranahan said.

For hearing impaired students, online classes allow them to adjust the volume to hear better.

"If remote and taped, they can listen to it again and turn it up as loud if they need to," McGranahan said.

If these students still struggle, the university provides note takers to help. The training course pays a volunteer student \$80 to take a picture of their notes and send to the student in need.

For on-campus classes, hearing-impaired students have found it difficult to read lips due to wearing masks, McGranahan said. Disability Services provided professors with clear masks.

Jessica Basile, an American Sign Language (ASL) professor, said wearing the clear masks can make it more difficult for most of her students with traditional hearing capabilities to read her lips. As part of the ASL instruction, lip reading is important because it helps indicate certain words; but with

the masks on, the students cannot see it.

"I tried teaching in [the clear masks], but they don't stay clear for very long. They fog up and it's a constant wiping it out," Basile said.

To help ASL students grasp the material better, Basile uploads additional information, with her mask off, turning to the side and signing.

"Teaching students to communicate a hearing-disabled language online has been more challenging because teaching a 3D language through a 2D screen makes it harder for the students to understand and retain the information," Basile said.

Logan Mitchell, senior psychology major, said going online for the ASL class was difficult because of technical issues.

"It is a little more frustrating now since you are missing the non-manual markers that you get from the mouth," Mitchell said.

She said she's always been interested in ASL.

"I found a language that uses hands for words and signs and found that interesting," Mitchell said.





# STALKING ON CAMPUS

Jambar reporter Krista Ritz tells the story of an anonymous student stalked on campus. Photo by **Krista Ritz/The Jambar**

## KRISTA RITZ JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Stalking is a growing crime on college campuses, and Youngstown State University is no exception to this trend. A student spoke out about her experience with stalking on campus, detailing the severity of the issue.

Mark Weir, director of Equal Opportunity and Policy Development, said although there was only one reported perpetrator at YSU last year, multiple women were targeted by the offender.

“We had four official cases, all for the same respondent,” Weir said. “These multiple individuals alleged different things against this individual.”

One of the women affected by the perpetrator spoke to The Jambar under the condition of anonymity.

“I met him in one of my classes and we became friends instantly and he seemed like a really nice person,” the student who was targeted said.

After a few months, she said, the perpetrator stopped showing up for class. When he was arrested in Pennsylvania

and charged with raping a minor, she and her classmates began discussing the ways he had harassed them.

“In my own personal experience, he did touch me, not explicitly or inappropriately, but [he got] too close without asking. There wasn’t any consent given,” she said. “At one point, he had put his hand over my hand while I was writing in class and I looked at him and said, ‘Don’t touch me.’ He had [also] placed his hand on my thigh.”

Together, the student and seven other complainants with similar stories about the perpetrator reported him to the Title IX office.

According to Weir, the Office of Student Conduct held a judicial hearing and recommended the vice president of Student Affairs and the director of Student Conduct should expel the perpetrator.

Weir said when a complaint is filed with his office, targeted students are provided with no-contact orders and perpetrators can face removal from school. Weir said the complaints must be considered “severe or objectively offensive.”

YSU Police Chief Shawn Varso said once campus police become aware of a situation, they act on it quickly to ensure

the safety of the students involved.

“Our department is here. We are out there patrolling. We’re out there as an active presence in the campus community,” Varso said. “If anyone does have the slightest of doubt whether something is a crime or not, they can come to us and speak to us.”

The complainant of last year’s case expressed gratitude toward the Title IX office for handling the case with immediate care.

While incarcerated at the time of the hearing, the perpetrator made a video apologizing to the YSU female students he targeted. When offered an opportunity to view the video, the interviewed complainant respectfully declined.

“It didn’t do justice to everything that had happened because a lot of people were involved in this case,” she said. “Grades slipped, people weren’t able to go to class and feel safe. It was crazy and the apology didn’t suffice.”

One year later, the targeted student feels comfort in knowing the perpetrator is incarcerated. Now, she said, she is not as trusting of people and “watches her back,” especially on campus.





# STUDENTS FRUSTRATED OVER VIRTUAL COMMENCEMENT

Seniors signed petitions to encourage YSU to hold an in-person fall commencement instead of the planned virtual event. Photo by **C. Aileen Blaine/The Jambar**

## C. AILEEN BLAINE

There will be no “Pomp and Circumstance” echoing through Beeghly Center this December. Instead, Youngstown State University’s fall 2020 commencement ceremony will be held virtually.

Graduating seniors are expressing their dissatisfaction regarding a virtual ceremony. Several created and signed petitions to fight for an in-person graduation ceremony.

Ross Mymo, an allied health senior, said he feels seniors should have some form of in-person graduation ceremony.

“I just feel there should be some kind of walk. If it’s one college a day or just only students allowed and start at 9 a.m. and do it that way for all day,” he said. “Seeing everyone that worked so hard and not having that experience of walking across the stage and take that picture with President Tressel,” he said, takes away from the full participation an in-person ceremony offers.

Mahoning County rapidly trends toward Level 4 status, meaning exposure and spread of the virus is high and activities should be limited as much as possible. Crossing

into Level 4 could mean residents should only leave their homes for supplies and services.

In a statement addressed to graduating seniors by Provost Brien Smith, the university’s virtual event will be held Dec. 13 at 2 p.m.

“We would love nothing more than to celebrate with our graduates and their guests in person,” the statement reads. “The current climate of uncertainty, however, makes that impossible.”

Jackie LeViseur, director of Alumni and Events, said the university is following recommendations set by Gov. Mike DeWine and state and local health departments to keep students and their guests safe.

“I think our students understand the current climate and that we cannot jeopardize their health and safety and that of their families and friends. They are tough and will join their fellow graduates in virtually celebrating their accomplishments,” she said.

Current plans for the ceremony include speeches made by YSU President Jim Tressel, Provost Smith, featured speakers and the college deans. A virtual presentation will be shown,

and a social media campaign is being created for the event as well.

Mckenzie Cooper, an allied health senior, said she’s comfortable with not having an in-person commencement this semester.

“Sure, it might be cool to have 10 seconds of ‘your time to shine,’ but it’s really not worth it. I’d rather celebrate by taking pictures with my family and going out to eat,” she said. “I’m also not big on tradition for the sake of tradition, though!”

She said contracting the coronavirus isn’t a risk she’s willing to take.

“I’d rather not risk anything with COVID. Myself and a few other family members are high risk, so why celebrate in person when it could be dangerous? A phone call is safer and a better use of my time.”

LeViseur said graduating seniors should know faculty at YSU are proud of their academic accomplishments, determination, resilience and perseverance.

“We applaud their success and know that they have what it takes to accomplish anything they set out to do,” she said.





## STATE THEATRE MURAL HONORS HISTORY

Bob Barko Jr. initiated the "State Theatre Block Project" to honor the history of the building demolished in 2008. Photo by **Zach Mosca/The Jambar**

### ZACH MOSCA

Ever since the old State Theatre was demolished in 2008, a major hole was left in downtown Youngstown. Local artist and owner of Steeltown Studios, Bob Barko Jr., decided to create a mural on Federal Street honoring the State Theatre.

Barko teamed up with organizations such as Youngstown CityScape, Leadership Mahoning Valley and Strollo Architects for the project, known as the "State Theatre Block Project." He said this project will consist of two parts.

"The first part, which is nearly completed, is a mural on the old State Theatre facade ... which depicts an idealized version of the grand entrance of the State Theatre as it appeared back in the '20s," Barko said.

The second part will address what Barko described as a "missing tooth" in the cityscape as a result of the 2008 State Theatre demolition.

"There's currently about a 6-foot fence that blocks that area off from the street. We're going to replace it with a 10-foot fence and install a 10x42-foot weather resistant banner which depicts my 'Here in Youngstown' mural," Barko said.

Barko is not alone in this endeavor, thanks to the help of many sponsors donating toward the production costs of the mural.

Sharon Leston, executive director for Youngstown CityScape, said this project began merely as a mural depicting the history of Youngstown, but during production it became much more, blossoming into a mural for the State Theatre.

Leston also said she is grateful to be a part of this project and engage with the community while sharing Youngstown's history.

"For most big projects, it takes a lot of partnerships and a lot of input, and we're just excited to be a part of all of that along with the artists and property owners of our downtown community," Leston said.

Kim Calvert, vice president of Marketing and Members Services at the Youngstown Regional Chamber, as well as a member of Leadership Mahoning Valley's class of 2007, said Leadership Mahoning Valley's involvement came from Barko being a part of the organization's class of 2020.

"Leadership Mahoning Valley is a 10-month leadership training program ... and each year there is a new 'class' of

participants, and as part of their curriculum they choose a class project that they'd like to tackle together," Calvert said.

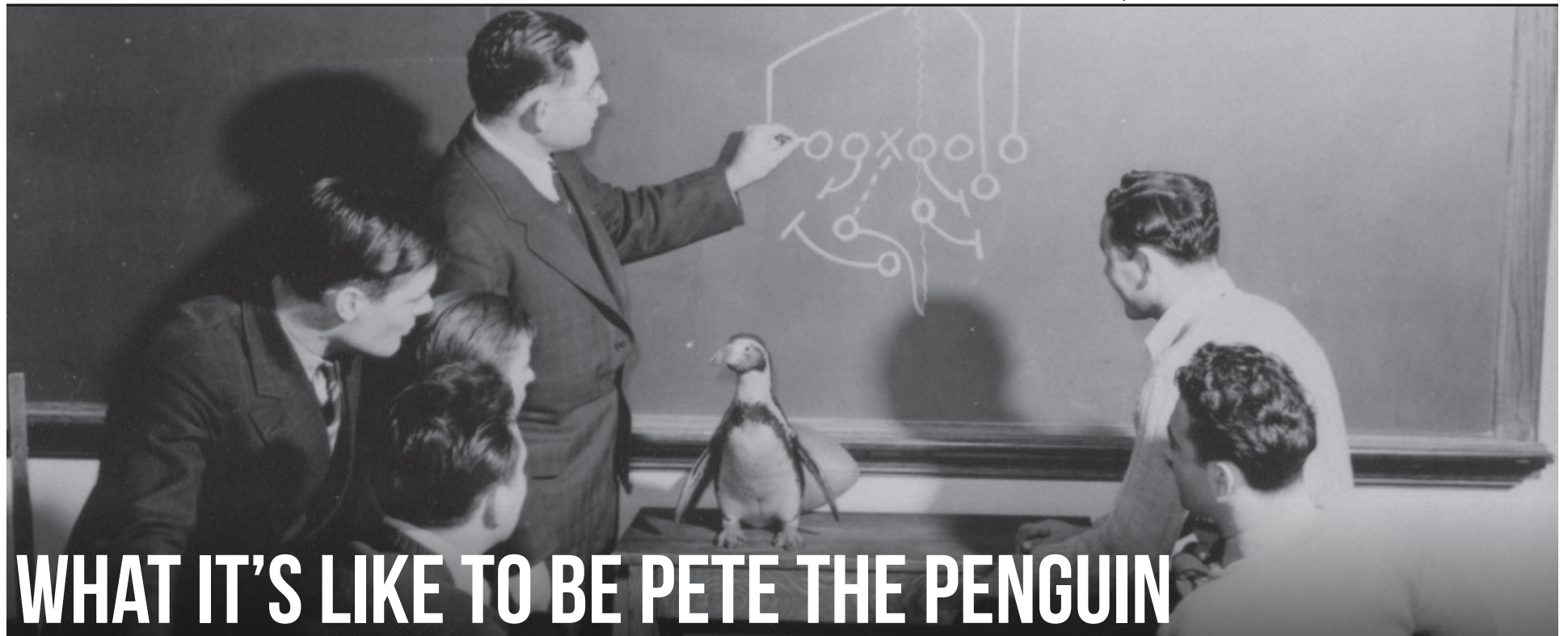
Barko wanted to create this mural as the class project, and it became a reality. Calvert said this project was among a few others that Leadership Mahoning Valley worked on this year. Calvert also explained the organization often leaves the creation of the projects up to the class.

"The point of the class project is that the executive director of Leadership Mahoning Valley will facilitate but doesn't really step in. The class project truly belongs to the class," Calvert said.

Barko has been providing Youngstown with art for decades. He said he is grateful for everyone who's supported him and wants to repay the community for supporting his art over the years.

"Previous to [this project] there was this old beat-up barricade that people probably just rushed by, but now there's something there to draw their eye and see this old beautiful facade that's almost 100 years old," Barko said.





# WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE PETE THE PENGUIN

*Pete the Penguin learns a play. Photo courtesy of YSU Archives and Special Collections*

## JOSEPH CHAPMAN

Youngstown State University is the only NCAA program with the nickname the Penguins. Each semester, the students and faculty look forward to sports where the iconic mascot, Pete the Penguin, inspires school spirit and leads teams to victory.

Michael Sebastian, YSU alumnus and current Pete the Penguin, said his love for dancing led him to be the mascot for his high school. He continued to grow his mascot legend by stepping into the flippers of Pete the Penguin as a college student. He said his favorite memories as Pete are charitable events such as taking a trip to the Akron Children's Hospital and performing at the Panerathon.

"I say fall for it, even if it doesn't work out. If it makes you happy, just do it ... when you put on that suit. You're a completely different person," he said.

Michele Ristich Gatts, Pete the Penguin from 1986-1987 and adjunct professor, followed Sebastian's advice almost exactly and said one of the goals she set for herself in college was to be bolder. Gatts tried out for Pete and got the job. She said while she was Pete, YSU President Jim Tressel, football coach at the time, created a community-oriented, almost family-like environment, inspiring lifelong friendships.

She even got to be a part of one of Pete the Penguin's most historic moments — his wedding. She said her friend, who played Penny the Penguin, decided the two should be a couple, and then they planned an event which inspired togetherness. It even managed to bring in archival Akron Zip's mascot Zippy to attend the wedding. Gatts said she believes being Pete the Penguin even assisted her as she continued life outside of college as a journalist.

"Being Pete the Penguin was probably the best decision I ever made out of anything I did in my college career ... [it]

really opened doors. When people would find out I was Pete [it was], suddenly, 'Wow! You were Pete the Penguin? How was that?'" she said. "When you think of YSU, you picture Pete the Penguin. Just mentioning that you were affiliated with the university in that capacity and being the most well-known cheerleader for it, so to speak. It really means a lot to people."

Before YSU had a costumed mascot, it had live penguins. Even before then, the university didn't have a nickname. They were simply referred to as "the Locals" or "Y college." Lisa Garofali, YSU archivist, said the nickname arrived when YSU was still called Youngstown College. After traveling to play West Liberty College during a blizzard, the players were freezing in an unheated locker room. This led to the players performing an unorthodox warmup.

"The team decided to warm up on the court by flapping their arms. The West Liberty coach said, 'Look at those kids from Youngstown hopping around the court. They look like a bunch of penguins,'" she said.

The name stuck, and in 1938 when the first football team for Youngstown took the field, they did so as Penguins. The following year, YSU's first president, Howard Jones, acquired Pete I, who made his first appearance during the second homecoming game. Unfortunately, he died in 1941, only to be taxidermied and put in Jones' office. He was then stolen a week later, never to be seen again.

In 1942, Pete II was acquired but died from pneumonia; this led to the first Pete the Penguin in costume in 1964, who at the time was referred to only as "the Penguin."

Garofali said it was then when Jambar managing editor, Vic Rubenstein, was called into action by his mentor and dean of men, John Gillespie.

"So they made this papier-mâché head, and he had to rent his suits ... and he would show up at the games, and the

crowd loved it," she said.

Since then, YSU has had another live Pete, Pete III, who died from gout. It seems now the school decided to let humans fill out Pete's identity, and his legend grows to this day.



*Former Jambar managing editor Vic Rubenstein was the first ever Pete the Penguin in 1964. Photo courtesy of YSU Archives and Special Collections*





# YOUNGSTOWN SYMPHONY DEDICATES CONCERT TO LATE CONDUCTOR

*The Youngstown Symphony returns to the stage Nov. 14 to celebrate the life and impact of Randall Craig Fleischer. Photo courtesy of the Youngstown Symphony*

## KELCEY NORRIS

The Youngstown Symphony announced their first concert since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Nov. 14, the performers will honor the life of conductor Randall Craig Fleischer, who died unexpectedly this past August.

Rachel Stegeman, concertmaster of the symphony, said this concert features a smaller group of chamber musicians with one vacancy at the front.

"We didn't talk about this, but I feel like Randy was the Youngstown Symphony. To try to invite someone to come in at this point just didn't feel like the right timing quite yet," Stegeman said. "We said, 'Let's have the musicians get together and honor Randy the way we know how, with great music that he would have loved.' We will be a single unit, working together, and he'll be there in spirit."

Stegeman also works with the Wheeling Orchestra in West Virginia, the Pittsburgh Ballet Orchestra and the Pittsburgh Opera Orchestra.

"This concert — I'm super excited about it," Stegeman said. "Given the state of affairs for classical musicians and how everything has been for us, basically things have been on a shutdown. Some of the other orchestras I'm in have hesitantly opened the doors for concerts, getting the orchestra back

together on a smaller scale, socially distanced and very safe."

The Youngstown Symphony will perform pieces like "Corelli's Christmas Concerto" at the Edward W. Powers Auditorium Nov. 14 at 8 p.m.

"Music is such an important part of a community's life. We were trying to think of what we can do to help the community feel like a community again," Stegeman said. "The Youngstown Symphony, with Randy's passing, it's been a time of mourning for us. We can't all get together on a large scale, but maybe we can get together on a small scale."

Before she started as concertmaster at the Youngstown Symphony, Stegeman won the opportunity to perform the "Tchaikovsky 'Violin Concerto'" with the National Symphony, conducted by Fleischer.

"I didn't even realize it until after I was already concertmaster in Youngstown; my girlfriend was going through her attic and sent me a program from that concert, which was in 1990, a long time ago. I was just reading through it and who was the conductor but Randall Fleischer," she said.

Stegeman encourages Youngstown community members to attend.

"We will lead this concert as a unit. It's not about any one person; it's about getting together to serve the community

and honor the memory of our beloved conductor," she said. "What other chance do you have to hear live music? Even if you're not a classical music fan, these are live musicians in a beautiful place. It's incredible music that will bring peace to your soul."

Michael Strauss, solo violist in the symphony and professor at Youngstown State University, feels a special connection to this tribute concert. Strauss' solo was supposed to be conducted by Fleischer last year.

"A month before my solo date, I had an emergency quintuple bypass surgery on my heart, and Randy and the entire Youngstown Symphony family was really supportive of my recovery. We moved my solo date to this year. Randy and I worked on [the repertoire] beforehand, we were in close communication," Strauss said.

The absence of his long-time friend and conductor adds even more significance to the first concert of the year.

"His death was such a shock and a personal sadness for me. My wife was a friend of Randy's way back in college — known him for over 35 years," Strauss said. "This concert means everything to me and I know Randy will be with us. It's a great opportunity to play my heart for him."





Woodland Cellars, a winery in Hubbard, held a haunted wine trail on Logan Way throughout October. *Photo by Douglas M. Campbell/The Jambar*

### DOUGLAS M. CAMPBELL

The sounds of leaves rustling and ominous screams filled the air as the Halloween season came to a close in Youngstown. Woodland Cellars, a winery in Hubbard, held a haunted wine trail on Logan Way from Oct. 2 to Nov. 1 from 5-10 p.m.

Nate and Dani Wilson, owners of Woodland Cellars, recently purchased the Sampson Estate. Built in the early 1900s, the estate has a unique history. The estate burned down in the 1920s, and eventually was rebuilt; it became a spiritual retreat center in the 1950s.

"I was talking to a zoning inspector — he had brought up this property which contained two mansions and 27 acres. It just peaked my interests through that description," Nate Wilson said.

The property will be renovated to become part of their winery. During the renovation of both mansions, the Wilsons decided to take a break and use one of the mansions to partake in Halloween festivities.

"Initially, the haunted wine trail came about by exploration of the mansion. You come through here by nighttime with a couple of friends and the creepiness occurs naturally," he said.

Jim Bogus, a haunted house consultant, helped the Wilsons turn their mansion into a house of horror.

"One of the first things we look at is the safety and security of our guests and staff. We make sure there aren't trip hazards, there is sufficient light and our guests have a fun and haunted time," Bogus said.

Wilson said assembling the perfect atmosphere for a haunted house was a collaborative effort between Wilson, Bogus and volunteers who portrayed the monsters.

Ryan Sheffield, a senior management major, portrayed the Grim Reaper inside the attraction.

"I can't just come in here and say, 'I'm going to scare someone tonight.' I try to position myself well. I'm dressed in black, so I try to find the right dark area so I can be at the right place at the right time to get the right scare," Sheffield said.

The haunted house took further precautions due to the coronavirus pandemic to ensure safety for both staff and guests.

"The upside of a haunted house is everyone is wearing a mask, and they are wearing masks underneath their masks. We keep things spaced out. The line out front is spaced out and we space guests out in between by a minute before

entering the mansion," Wilson said.

Scare prompts were altered to fit safety guidelines.

"The scares are more subtle, not necessarily up in your face like a lot of haunted houses in the past. We try to keep that social spacing, and it's more theatrical and more imagery," Bogus said.

Other events at the haunted house included a haunted trail directly behind the mansion, food stands, an escape room and a kiddie's haunt.

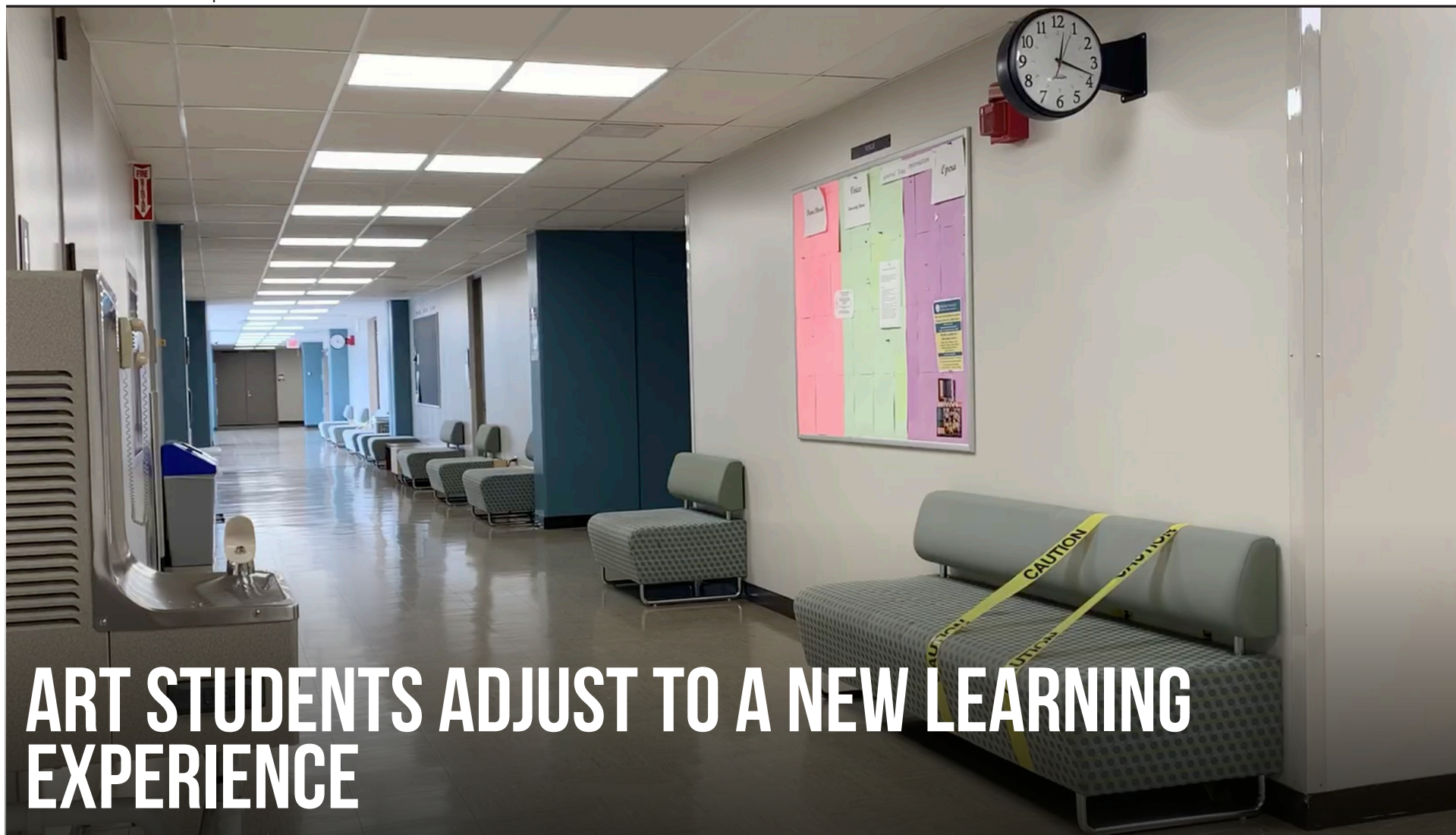
Tickets were \$15 per person. Wine tasting before entering the mansion was an additional \$5. Drinking wine was permitted in the mansion.

"We were concerned initially we'd get a kid-drops-ice-cream-on-floor scenario. People may be jumpy going through so we have larger cups with smaller pours. So you get your money's worth and you can shake it a little," Wilson said.

Wilson appreciates the community's reception to the haunted house throughout the month of October.

"The crowds that have turned out have been amazing, and we want to thank the community for the support. It's hard to be the first haunt in the neighborhood," he said.





# ART STUDENTS ADJUST TO A NEW LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Art students continue creating despite COVID-19 restrictions. Photo by **Emily McCarthy/The Jambar**

## EMILY MCCARTHY JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Cliffe College of Creative Arts faces unique barriers when it comes to safety for art classes. While in most classrooms there is not much more than a desk, seat and computer to disinfect, many students must share equipment in art classes. In some classrooms, students are required to use equipment provided by the prior class for shared use.

Adjunct art professor Anthony Armeni has taught at Youngstown State University since 1990. He said the COVID-19 pandemic added many safety protocols to his classroom this semester.

“If I’m handling anything ... if I’m passing anything out to the students, I’m wearing rubber gloves. I’m trying my best to maintain a six-foot [distance],” Armeni said.

Used tools, such as cordless drills and slab rollers, are wiped down with disinfectant.

Armeni teaches 3D design and introduction to sculpture hybrid courses. Fortunately, he said, the projects and courses this semester are taught nearly the same as previously. Though this semester presents its own demands, he said this

past spring was most challenging for him.

“I had to develop a shift in the way I was designing my projects, so students could work with the process at home,” he said. “Sculpture class was a little different, using cardboard and found materials versus using wood and steel, and the woodshop and metal shop. That was a little challenging.”

Milo Simpson, freshman interdisciplinary studio art major, is taking a variety of art classes. His 2D foundations course is a hybrid class, which he said he only attends in person on Mondays, and is online on Wednesdays. His drawing fundamentals class, however, is completely online.

“[The instructor] actually set up a discord service for us to use, where we not only do our class meetings ... she [also] has specific categories and channels for us to upload our work,” he said. “I can see the frustration and the annoyance of [online classes], but I am not really struggling.”

In his classes, Simpson said, everyone uses their own equipment. While the mix of online and hybrid classes are not what he initially expected for his first semester of college, he said he would consider taking them again.

Jennifer Kirkpatrick, studio art support specialist and part-time professor, teaches several hybrid courses this semester.

She made adjustments to her courses to ensure every student is spaced out and using a minimal amount of shared materials.

“Instead of mixing our own clay from dry materials, we purchased premixed clay for the students with lab fees,” she said. “Students are required to purchase a basic pottery tool kit and a couple of other small items. Tools like our clay slab rollers, which are still shared, are disinfected between every user.”

Kirkpatrick, students and custodial staff clean using the disinfectant spray the university gave them, as well as an electrostatic sprayer she uses to disinfect work stations in between classes. One of the biggest changes, she said, is how social distancing has increased the number of classrooms being utilized.

“My ceramics class is split across four adjacent classrooms to allow for enough distancing between students, so I’m not in the same room as everyone at one time,” she said. “I have to be careful to make sure I’m dividing my time evenly between each group of students.”





Gail McCullough, owner of Chick-fil-A in Poland, explained requirements students must meet to obtain a scholarship. Photos courtesy of Gail McCullough

## KRISTA RITZ JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Restaurant chains give millions of dollars in scholarship opportunities for student employees.

Chick-fil-A, Chipotle and Taco Bell are among many restaurants offering scholarships to employees. Since all three have locations on campus, the scholarships are a way for students to connect with this opportunity.

According to its website, Chick-fil-A has invested \$92 million in college scholarships for their team members since 1973.

Gail McCullough has been the owner of Chick-fil-A in Poland for 40 years and said the company's scholarship opportunity is available to students who work for any Chick-fil-A within the area.

"[With] this college scholarship, [students] can get \$2,500 or \$25,000 scholarship. This is done on a one-to-one basis. They give away around 40 [scholarships] a year and the \$2,500 is open to most team members in the chain," McCullough said.

Chick-fil-A employees must meet requirements to receive a scholarship.

"You have to have some type of community service that goes with this besides being an active team member. They want people

to help out in the community. To help out with their schools or churches and reach out any way they can," McCullough said.

Other requirements include being an undergraduate or graduate student planning to enroll in a two- or four-year university or technical school and having a minimum GPA of 2.5.

Chick-fil-A looks for college-oriented students when hiring, McCullough said. One YSU student won the \$2,500 scholarship three times.

Junior business administration major Alyssa Beeman is a catering manager at Chick-fil-A in Poland. She received the \$2,500 scholarship for the last three years and said she has benefited greatly from it.

"You can choose how the money is broken down between two semesters, and both scholarships are generous amounts that help take the load off taking out other student loans," Beeman said.

Beeman encouraged students to work in the food industry.

"The food industry can be a very challenging but rewarding field to work in as a student. You can learn communication skills, leadership, teamwork and how to handle difficult situations," Beeman said. "Everything a student could learn from working in the food industry can help them in a future career. I would recommend finding a job in the food industry where you can

learn these skills ... that will provide opportunities for growth."

Along with Chick-fil-A, Chipotle has a tuition reimbursement program where students can receive \$5,250 a year.

Assistant manager Chelsea Henrie has been working at Chipotle in Boardman for 12 years and received two years of benefits from the program.

According to Henrie, employees must have at least one year of employment at Chipotle, maintain a C average and meet their performance review expectations.

Originally, the tuition reimbursement was only available for salaried managers, but now it is offered to any students attending college.

"It's really great. It's a reimbursement so it goes straight into your bank account. I think that's a really great incentive as long as the hours are manageable with what you're doing," Henrie said.

Taco Bell gave \$3 million in scholarships for its workers. It requires recipients to be 16-24 years old, have three months of continuous employment and be enrolled in a post-high school program.

Students can visit the restaurants' websites for more information on scholarship opportunities.



# SITTING DOWN WITH: DERRICK MCDOWELL, OWNER OF YOUNGSTOWN FLEA

**ABIGAIL CLOUTIER**

*I sat down with Derrick McDowell, founder of Youngstown Flea, a community-based consignment market. McDowell recently purchased a new facility for the market and plans to use it for community involvement and more. He plans for the downtown Youngstown space to be ready for the Flea to use by next season. For more interview features, check out JambarTV every Thursday at noon.*

## **What inspired you to purchase this new space?**

The many vendors and community residents that we serve, that's really the inspiration behind it. We saw the pandemic and we thought about how helpless we felt as a business and as a platform, to be able to support those that we'd been supporting for five years. So we felt this building could help us become a little more "pandemic-proof" if you will.

## **What are your plans for the space, what are you most excited about?**

I'm most excited about the community's excitement. The community of makers that we've shared, the building space

... the community residents, we just had a quick open house tour Sunday [Oct. 25]. So many people were excited to be in a space that's been locked up and shut up [for] decades. I'm just excited about the excitement around it ... plans [include] mixed-use community space. Certainly we want to relocate Youngstown Flea from the parking lot space we've been using next door to Covelli [Centre]. This will be the new home of the Youngstown Flea at 365 East Boardman St. That's enough to be excited about there, that's part of "Phase 1."

We want to get into a ton of things. We've talked about Flea School [and] having coworking spaces where our vendors and makers can come and do what we call show and tells. [Vendors] show you and tell you how they make their product and educate you about the business that they're in. We want to allow the community to suggest to us feedback on how to use the space, whether it be wedding receptions or different activities that don't particularly get a lot of attention because of some of the limited spaces in the downtown. Not everybody can afford a large convention center, not everybody belongs in specific theaters or performance hall

spaces downtown, so this industrial building gives us a lot of opportunity to open it up to the community for different types of activities.

## **How do you think those activities and the community space will benefit Youngstown as a whole?**

We know that there's this sentiment that some of the community carries. There goes another thing for downtown. We want people to know that though this is located in the downtown area. This is for the entire community. We want the dreamers, we want the small business owners on the South Side, we want the entrepreneur on the East Side, we want the maker on the North Side, the West Side to understand that, yes, this is a centrally located space, but we want to draw in, not just from the Youngstown area, we want the surrounding areas. The Flea already draws vendors and partners from Akron, Canton, Cleveland, Pittsburgh. We hope that people recognize, though, this is in downtown, it's for all of Youngstown.



Founder of Youngstown Flea Derrick McDowell (right) expanded to 365 East Boardman St. Photo by **JambarTV**



# THE JAMBAR<sup>o</sup>

## — EDITORIAL —

# COURSE MODALITIES CAUSE FRUSTRATIONS

Youngstown State University students have mixed reactions to new methods of course delivery for the semester. Everyone has a preference between the five modalities — traditional, agile-hybrid, virtual classroom, online-live and web-based. Some students struggle to focus on online classes when it's easy to cook dinner or play a video game instead of listening to the lecture. It feels less like learning and more like regurgitating assignments. The ability to look up answers to online quizzes is much easier than studying the night before an in-person one.

Professors are occasionally inconsistent with their scheduling for agile-hybrid classes, promising students there will be in-person class then canceling at the last minute to hold class online. Inconsistency makes learning more difficult than it already is during the pandemic.

Some students are asking the administration to make an all-or-nothing decision, to move completely online instead of half-and-half.

Despite these struggles, it's a learning process. The administration as well as the faculty have been working since this pandemic began to ensure we'd have a plan for classes, and they delivered. Sure, there may be some kinks in the system to work out and some clarifications to be made, but overall, the fact we're still able to continue our education is remarkable. Hopefully, there will be no need for the five modalities next academic year, but for the time being, they're here to stay. We know the students will continue to adjust and excel, even under difficult circumstances.

## TWO WEEKS

### KELCEY NORRIS

Two weeks feels much longer than you would expect. Two weeks takes a lot of time. Two weeks feels like two eternities.

This is a sentiment I've heard from others who've been in quarantine, but I didn't understand it fully until I experienced the two weeks myself. Others experience much longer stints of time in lockdown, but two weeks was all I needed to start missing the little day-to-day interactions.

Cut off, I actually started to miss attending classes. I missed updating my friends on the little triumphs and frustrations of the day. I missed the daily friendly conversations with Chad, the barista at Starbucks in Maag Library, which always help start my day on the right foot. Rest assured, I happily ordered my regular, venti hot white chocolate mocha, the day I was released.

I missed walking across campus every day, so I started doing laps outside my apartment to escape a bit. The rest of the time I was practically pacing in my bedroom, missing the days I could go to the gym or the mall to clear my head. What made it worse was my car stalled out that week and my room key was malfunctioning. This extra stress made me feel even more trapped, unable to leave for fear of not being able to get back in. The air in my room became so congested and stuffy after I'd been there for two weeks.

I began to hate relocating from doing homework in my bed to my desk, then going right back to my bed at the end of the day. It was monotonous, annoyingly the same day in and day out. I thought an introverted person like myself would enjoy this extended stay-cation.

But it was completely worth it. If I hadn't quarantined, I risked spreading the virus. I was exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19 and, after self-reporting, was advised by the university to quarantine for two weeks. While complying with their recommendation, I received my own test results: negative, twice.

Despite understanding the logic of it, I struggled with feeling guilty while in quarantine. I felt guilty for not being there to lead my Jambar team. I felt guilty for not going to class, frustrated and feeling like I was falling behind. I felt angry that even after negative results, I couldn't return to normal life quite yet. My appetite wasn't right and it became increasingly hard to focus on work I needed to get done.

My advice to others having trouble in quarantine: don't blame yourself. Focus on what you can do, not what you can't. If you're struggling, don't be afraid to reach out to friends and family. You'll feel like you've missed a lot in two weeks, but you can also learn a lot about yourself in that time.







# PARS FOR PENGUINS

Golfers participating in Pars for Penguins met at Henry Stambaugh Golf Course throughout October and received a discount to play. Photo by **Samantha Smith/The Jambar**

## SAMANTHA SMITH

Throughout October, Youngstown State University's Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center partnered up with the Henry Stambaugh Golf Course to let students participate in some physical activity during these virtual times.

The rec center held the event, Pars for Penguins, in the past, but only for one day. This year, they extended it to a whole month.

Ryan McNicholas, associate director of YSU's rec center, explained how this idea was created.

"After a long discussion, we talked about it and we've done some collaborative efforts with the city of Youngstown. I'm a pretty avid golfer myself, so I like the idea of students joining the game and being again physically active," he said.

McNicholas went on to say, "We thought because of the proximity for campus, the discount on pricing and how many

students I hear talking about golfing, it'd be a good program to incorporate."

Dawn Turnage, parks and recreation director of the Henry Stambaugh Golf Course, stated what the golf course and the rec center were going to provide for students during the pandemic.

"We had to think outside the box. We could no longer provide the big picnic-type style where we would have hot dogs and a raffle and prizes like that," she said. "What can we do outside the box that will still provide something for the students? [We want] the opportunity to come up and enjoy, since we were able to open under the CDC guidelines and our local health department."

Turnage also explained the relationship between the golf course and YSU was developed to offer students an opportunity to get away from campus and spend time outside.

The rec center will provide this program again in the future for students, McNicholas said. Because of the weather

throughout October and the COVID-19 pandemic leading to decreased involvement, he hopes to have the program again in the spring and possibly in the summer next year to get more students to join.

Now that the program is over, McNicholas and the rec center staff will review and evaluate the success to determine if Pars for Penguins will be a month-long event in the future.

Some improvements McNicholas would like to make include expanding marketing and using more promotive options to get more students' attention.

"[I'm] trying to get the word out there because I would love to have all 10,000 students or 11,000 students at YSU go up there and golf. I know not everyone's a golfer, but just to even walk the course would be a good physical activity," he said.

Pars for Penguins was created to give students something more than just virtual options while still staying safe during the pandemic.





Alex Cardona (left), Conner Johnson (center) and Andrew Russell (right) transferred to YSU for the 2021 season. Photo courtesy of **YSU Sports**

### JORDAN BOITNOTT

Youngstown State University baseball announced three new transfers will be joining the team this season. The transfers are relief pitchers Alex Cardona, Conner Johnson and Andrew Russell.

Dan Bertolini, YSU baseball head coach, said the team needed to add pitching this offseason.

"We knew this was going to be a strange year, just with COVID. With the roster being basically intact from a year ago, we knew our recruiting class was going to be a little bit smaller," he said. "We needed some depth. We needed some quality arms."

Alex Cardona, an athletic junior and general studies major, transferred from Mercyhurst Northeast Junior College after playing there for two years. Cardona is also from the area; he played baseball at Boardman High School.

Bertolini said Cardona is a great player with a bright future.

"Alex is a great kid. He's a good student. He has a really good breaking ball and a chance to really help our bullpen," Bertolini said.

Cardona said playing for YSU is a big step up from being at a junior college.

"The coaching staff, the staff in general, athletic trainers and everyone around makes sure you're up on your stuff and doing what's best for your body," he said. "[Everybody's] pretty upbeat and doing something different everyday. It's different in every aspect, like a whole nother step."

Conner Johnson, a junior business major, transferred from Utah's Salt Lake Community College. According to Bertolini, Johnson could also make a strong impact in the team's bullpen.

"He had a great career at Salt Lake being a back end reliever, until COVID kind of ended the season. He's done really well for us this fall to be a potential

late innings reliever for us," he said.

Andrew Russell, a sophomore information technology major, transferred from Ohio University. Russell is a designated hitter along with being a pitcher from nearby Champion, Ohio where he played on a state championship team.

Russell said once he arrived at YSU, he felt more comfortable and like he's where he should be.

"I think I've definitely made a little bit better of a connection with the coaches and the players for sure. I feel like I'm really home. Even though home is only 15 minutes away, it feels like my home," he said.

Despite the concerns with Russell's eligibility due to how late he transferred, Bertolini said he could play a big role in the team's future.

"He is a two-way player for us. He can pitch at a high level. Probably a starter for us at some point down the line," he said.

Due to COVID-19, last year's seniors were able to return and there are now two freshman classes. Cardona said all the extra bodies have created more competition than normal among the team.

"It's 100 percent a more competitive environment. Coming off the field, and even in the weight room, guys are always trying to one-up each other to stand out and secure a spot."

Bertolini said he plans to use all three players off the bat if able.

"Having good depth is extremely important. I do think all three of those guys, with Andrew being the exception, we will see what happens with his eligibility for this year but the rest, those other two guys, we recruited them to come in and help us right away," he said.

The new transfers have been practicing daily this semester in order to get acclimated to the team and their new environment.

## THIS WEEK IN YSU SPORTS HISTORY: WOMEN'S 2012 SOCCER TEAM

### BEN LULI

The Youngstown State University Women's 2012 soccer team is the most successful in program history. They tallied eight wins during the season, a program record. The Penguins also posted a 3-4 record in the Horizon League. The 2012 season is the last season the team played their home games at Stambaugh Stadium. The following campaign marked the inaugural season of Farmers National Bank Field being the home of YSU soccer matches.

The 2012 team started their campaign on a four-match win streak, tied for the longest such streak in program history. YSU outscored their opponents 9-2 and recorded three shutouts during this four-game span. They obtained road wins against Duquesne and Robert Morris University and home wins against the Buffalo Bulls and the Canisius Golden Griffins. The Penguins then experienced a four-match losing streak, losing each match by one goal. The final non-conference contest for the Penguins was a 3-1 home victory over Cedarville.

YSU started their Horizon League schedule at home versus Milwaukee, a 2-1 victory. The Penguins then dropped three consecutive matches. The first was a road matchup with Green Bay and lost 2-1 in overtime. The team then returned to Youngstown and dropped matches to Cleveland State and Loyola universities. YSU finished their Horizon League schedule by winning two of three

matches. Close victories on the road against Valparaiso and home against Wright State sandwiched a road loss to Detroit. The Penguins' last match of the season was a first round Horizon League tournament game. They hosted Wright State, their last opponent from the regular season, and lost 1-0 in overtime.

The 2012 squad was one of the best offensive teams in program history. At the conclusion of the season, they were third all-time in points scored and goals scored with 65 and 23, respectively. They also finished third in total shots and assists.

This team is still top five in many offensive categories, but their defense was the team's best attribute. The Penguins never allowed more than two goals in any of their 17 matches during the season. Their 1.15 goals against average (GAA) is also the best in program history. Jackie Podolsky and Ali Viola were the two goalkeepers used during the season, both are top two in GAA for a single season. Podolsky is the record holder with a 1.15 GAA and Viola is second all-time with a 1.16 GAA. They also combined for four shutouts, second best in program history.

YSU's success in 2012 was a complete team effort but there were some individual standouts as well. The Penguins had three players earn All-Horizon League honors. Jade Flory earned first-team All-Horizon League honors, and was joined by Chelsey Haney who received second-time All-League honors. Haney was also on the league's All-Newcomer team along with teammate Tyesha Kizer.





# WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM HOLDS FIRST OFFICIAL PRACTICE

The YSU women's basketball team practices guarding the ball-handler. Photo by **Kyle Wills/The Jambar**

## KYLE WILLS

The Youngstown State University women's basketball team held an energetic and high-effort first official practice Oct. 14 as they prepare for the upcoming season.

The team had been working out together on a limited basis since Aug. 31, and Oct. 14 was the first official day of practice across the country.

Senior guard McKenah Peters said she couldn't wait for the team to begin playing again.

"It was super exciting to get everybody back on the court," she said. "We've been waiting for so long, since we didn't have the whole summer to workout and get together as a team. Coming together a couple weeks ago at the first team practice, it was just so nice to get everyone back on the court and get ready for the season."

Head coach John Barnes agreed the team was ecstatic to get back out there.

"The team was really excited. With everything going on and all the question marks whether you have a season or not have a season. For us to get going and settle into practice, the team's really enjoying it," he said.

The transition from high school to college sports is a challenge for athletes of all types. However, Peters said she couldn't believe how well the new members of the team handled this challenge.

"I'm super impressed with how well the freshmen are adapting to college basketball. I know when I came in as a freshman, it was super overwhelming, especially with them not being able to have a summer to go over plays and just go over what type of basketball we play here," she said. "I'm super excited to see what they can do on the court once the season starts."

Barnes is impressed with their work ethic and how determined they were through the first few weeks of practice,

despite distractions.

"Our team is very focused and working very hard," he said. "It's sometimes hard with all of the distractions outside of basketball with the election, COVID, some classes being virtual, some in-person, some hybrid. I'm very proud of how focused they are once we get in the gym."

YSU has 14 players on their roster and are bringing back experienced players. All five players who started at least 15 games last season have returned, and the Penguins also got back fifth-year senior Mary Dunn, who missed the final 26 games of the 2019-20 season with an injury. Only Dunn, Peters and Chelsea Olson have played more than one season.

The NCAA has set a start date of Nov. 25 for competitions, and YSU, along with the Horizon League, are working to complete its schedule in the future.