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YSU DETECTS COVID-19 ON CAMPUS EVEN FASTER THROUGH SEWAGE

Biology professor Chet Cooper collects a sewage sample from Lyden House early Tuesday morning. Photos by **Abigail Cloutier/The Jambar**

ABIGAIL CLOUTIER

In the last two weeks, black barrels surrounded by traffic cones popped up near Youngstown State University's residence halls. They're the result of an initiative through the Ohio Department of Health to detect COVID-19 earlier through wastewater testing.

According to biology professor Chet Cooper, who handles the testing, it'll allow YSU to target specific on-campus populations for surveillance testing and to stay ahead of the curve.

"When you're doing the nasal swab, you're looking at the actual moment where you suspect they may already be showing symptoms. Peer-reviewed studies have shown that people who are infected with the coronavirus, part of that infection also establishes itself in the intestinal tract," he said.

This makes the viral RNA detectable in our wastewater even sooner than a rapid test or traditional test.

"People who are infected begin to shed the virus about two days before they actually start showing symptoms. If you know a couple days ahead of time, then that's two more days that you have to implement any policy or practice to mitigate further infection," Cooper said.

Every Tuesday and Friday, Cooper rides around campus to collect the wastewater samples from the automatic sampling machines for Lyden, Kilcawley and Cafaro houses, as well as the two Courtyard apartment buildings. John Hyden, associate vice president of facilities on campus, helped facilitate the project and set up the machines around campus.

"The president's office was approached by the Inter-University Council, who was approached by the Ohio Department of Health regarding this program that they were trying to put in place to test," he said.

The ODH provided the automatic samplers and funding for Cooper and three undergraduate assistants to conduct the testing.

"It gives some of our students an opportunity to earn a little bit of money and to gain some really valuable experience — real life experience. This is not the sort of thing that's ever been done around here. While it might not be a glamorous job, it's real life," Hyden said.

The students, who all studied under Cooper in his microbiology course, help collect and package samples, which are then shipped to a lab in Texas for data processing.

"We felt that we didn't have the time or resources available immediately, because it was going to take a while to set up that kind of system, and we needed to get this operational as soon as possible," Cooper said.

The lab processes the samples and sends the data back to Cooper electronically within a few days. Then, Cooper and his research assistants analyze the findings. Brooke Bocker, a sophomore biology major, is one of the assistants on the project.

"I think this is really interesting to be in a lab and do more in-depth experiments than just the normal lab for normal classes," she said.

After analysis, they provide the results to the Office of Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety, which



Testing wastewater can detect COVID-19 faster than rapid and traditional swab tests.

will decide how to target residents for surveillance testing and if they need to enact additional COVID-19 policies. Cooper encourages the campus not to speculate about testing and results.

"This is just an evaluation. It doesn't necessarily mean anything in general," he said. "But what's really exciting about this is that it's a real time application of a potentially serious situation. This is one thing we can do as a university to benefit the welfare of our students on campus."

DESSERT SPOTS ON PAGE 11



FEATURES



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 3 Lit Yo
- 4 Center for Workforce Development / COVID-19
- 5 Fullbright Program
- 6 Veterans' Vaccines / Lt. Gov REPRINT
- 7 WYSU Black History Month
- 8 Stonefruit
- 9 Du Yun
- 10 Sunrise Yoga / Hot Cocoa Bombs
- 11 Dessert Spots
- 12 Michael Hanni / Classifieds / editorial
- 13 Column / Jambar Policies
- 14 Phantoms
- 15 Men's Basketball
- 16 Football Opening Season

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Lit Youngstown offers the “New Book News” Series, featuring authors whose works were published during the pandemic. Photo by **C. Aileen Blaine/The Jambar**

C. AILEEN BLAINE

With the winter cold and the COVID-19 pandemic raging on, Lit Youngstown still offers virtual events to provide readers and writers around the nation the opportunity to get their minds off their troubles.

Karen Schubert is the executive director for Lit Youngstown, a community-based nonprofit organization for the literary arts. She’s busy involving the organization in multiple programs despite the pandemic, such as the First Wednesday Readers Series, Teen Writers Workshops and Food for Thought book discussions, all hosted via Zoom.

This year’s Winter Writing Camp was canceled due to the pandemic. In past years, the camp offered sessions for different styles of writing, including poetry, fiction and nonfiction. However, a new series is taking its place this year.

The “New Book News” series features writers whose new books were published during the pandemic. On Sunday evenings, three authors read from their books and have a conversation afterward. Schubert’s idea for the Sunday series came to her when the pandemic forced friend and Cleveland

poet Philip Metres to cancel his readings and live events.

“The readings have been so fun because the readers themselves are amazing, and they are Zooming in from all over the U.S., coast to coast, and even Trinidad and the U.K.,” Schubert said. “Readers can talk to one another on the level they’re working. It has led to elegant and enlightening conversations.”

Poet and novelist Kevin Carey was a featured author for the Jan. 31 reading, sharing pieces from his poetry anthology “Set in Stone.” He said he enjoyed the format of the series, and he appreciates how it brings writers together.

“Thank God for having just the ability to still stay in touch with the literary world and listen to each other’s work,” Carey said. “I can’t imagine the void that would be there if we didn’t have the capacity to do it this way.”

Author Kim Roberts also participated in the Jan. 31 reading. She reached out to Schubert, interested in sharing work from her book “By Broad Potomac’s Shore,” a poetry anthology from Washington, D.C. poets of the 19th century. She expressed her appreciation of the nationwide reach Lit Youngstown has.

“I have loved working with [Lit Youngstown],” Roberts said. “I had never done anything with them until I was part of the

series, but I’ve been really impressed with the programming ... I would love to continue having a relationship with them.”

The March book discussion will focus on “We Need New Names” by Noviolet Bulawayo. The upcoming “New Book News” reading will feature the book “Columbus Noir,” a collection of stories by various authors.

Schubert said Fall Literary Fest 2021 will likely occur in person. Sessions and workshops will discuss writing, teaching and publishing. Several authors, including poet and essayist Ross Gay and playwright Mike Geither, will make appearances, with some reading pieces from their works. The event, held at Youngstown State University, will be free for YSU undergraduate students and \$10 for graduates.

Schubert said some events will continue to be offered online even after the pandemic subsides, as participants all over the country enjoy the opportunity to participate.

Those interested in learning more about upcoming events and supporting featured authors can visit Lit Youngstown’s website.

YSU CENTER FOR WORKFORCE EDUCATION AND INNOVATION

EMILY MCCARTHY

Youngstown State University arranged a program to create pathways for people in the community to have an easy transition into the workforce. High school and university students over the age of 17 can join pre-apprenticeship programs within the YSU Center for Workforce Education and Innovation, helping them acquire skills and experience before starting their careers.

Jennifer Oddo, executive director of the Center for Workforce Education and Innovation, said her relationship with the university started back in 2019 when she was with International Business Machines.

After releasing the misalignment between the community and the jobs within it, they began an initiative with YSU to bring more IT training skills to the community.

“President Tressel had approached me because of all the emerging needs coming into the area, focused on the workforce,” she said. “[The initiative was] not just for university students, but for anyone in the workforce who wants to get some foundational skills in technology.”

Oddo came to the university about four months ago to unite all other workforce initiatives surfacing within the university,

including IT Workforce Excellerator.

“[There are] three sectors it will be focused on, advanced manufacturing, which is the new construction happening on Fifth [Avenue] and Commerce [Street],” she said. “The second will continue to drive up IBM partnership with the IT Workforce Excellerator, and then in the recent news, you may have heard through the General Motors community investment, a new grant from the department of energy, that we will be standing up a new energy storage innovation training center,”

The program will assist a variety of people, including: those who recently became of working age, those transitioning from the military to the working world, high school students entering the workforce and university students wanting to pick up skills. They’ll also consider anyone else in the community who is interested.

“So, a lot of attention on the workforce [is] to help get the community skills more aligned with the in-demand jobs that are coming into the community,” Oddo said. “I actually spent about the first three months of my role really taking time to meet with the business leaders in the community-based organizations really understanding from a workforce perspective what’s working, what’s not working, what do they need and how

can we help?”

David Sipusic, executive director of the Excellence Training Center and general council for research, said the construction for the ETC will likely be done in April. He became executive director in 2019, where he leads the operations team and keeps the construction project on track. He also leads the Mahoning Valley Innovation and Commercialization Consortium.

“[It’s] the consortium of partners around the region: Eastern Gateway Community College, Mahoning County, Columbiana County, Trumbull County Career and Technical Centers, are a part of that. Youngstown City Schools Choffin Career Center, and then America Makes and the Youngstown Business Incubator,” he said.

Sipusic said they meet regularly to discuss programming and how they can best train workers to meet the needs of the companies and industries. In the ETC there is also a workforce and education piece where YSU students can come and use their equipment to be trained as part of their degree programs, do applied research and work on commercial projects.

“It’s an interesting time to be here in Youngstown,” he said. “Especially at YSU, a lot of positive things are happening.”

COVID-19 UPDATE: YSU REPORTS 18 NEW CASES

ABIGAIL CLOUTIER

Youngstown State University reported 18 new cases of COVID-19 for the week of Feb. 14-20. Of the count, 12 of the cases were students living off campus, four were students living in on-campus residence halls and two were employees of the university. As of two weeks ago, YSU’s COVID-19 dashboard now includes data about voluntary surveillance testing through CVS. Last week, YSU tested 126 students and staff, with three positive tests.

In the Jambar’s week off, YSU reported only 16 new cases for the week of Feb. 7-13, with two employees, four on-campus students and nine off-campus students. Eighty-seven students

and staff took voluntary surveillance tests. It was the first time reported cases were below 20 this semester.

The university reported 25 new COVID-19 cases on its dashboard for the week of Jan. 31-Feb. 6. The count includes one employee, two students living on campus and 22 students living off campus, with 113 voluntary tests. Voluntary testing began Jan. 13.

YSU reported 544 total coronavirus cases since Aug. 1, 2020. Check YSU’s COVID-19 dashboard every Monday for an update.



Healthcare professionals fill out forms and prepare to swab a drive-up patient for COVID-19 testing at a free event in October 2020. Photo by **James Potts/The Jambar**

YSU GRADUATE BEGINS FULBRIGHT PROGRAM IN SOUTH KOREA

ABIGAIL CLOUTIER

Nearly a year after Youngstown State University graduate Emily Henline was accepted into the Fulbright Program, she touched down in Seoul, South Korea to begin her master's program. Henline, who graduated in 2020, deferred her enrollment from fall 2020 until the spring 2021 semester because of travel restrictions.

"I was definitely sad, because I did want to start and not lose my language ability more than I had. As time goes on, you lose more from not using it," she said. "But in the end ... starting later was better. I'll have a better college experience."

Henline graduated with a dual degree in integrated language arts and English with an endorsement in teaching English to speakers of other languages. She's planning on studying the effects of colonization on language in her master's program in Korean studies at Yonsei University. Even though her program was delayed, Henline didn't let those extra four months go to waste.

"I had an internship at the time, so, a fun thing was there was a Seoul International Book Fair. [OverDrive] does book selling and is trying to work with publishers. They were trying to get publishers in Korea. Some of them didn't know English that well, so I got to talk to them in Korean and, like, use my skills a little bit through my internship. It was an interesting and fun way to keep up my skills," she said.

After arriving in Seoul Feb. 8, Henline faced mandatory COVID-19 testing and was quarantined until Feb. 21.

"I had to download apps where every day during quarantine I had to state if I had symptoms or if I had a temperature. I just had to let them know every single day or they would come and be like 'Hey, why aren't you telling us your symptoms?' They just want to make sure that we're COVID free," she said.

While quarantined, Henline had groceries delivered through apps and by friends she made when she studied abroad in Seoul in 2017. Though her classes don't begin until March 2, she's excited to explore the city and make connections.

"I did research for all professors for my Fulbright before I came, and one of the professors I did some research on — and I really want to learn from — is teaching two of my classes this semester," Henline said. "I'm really hoping to make connections with him and try to get my thesis going."

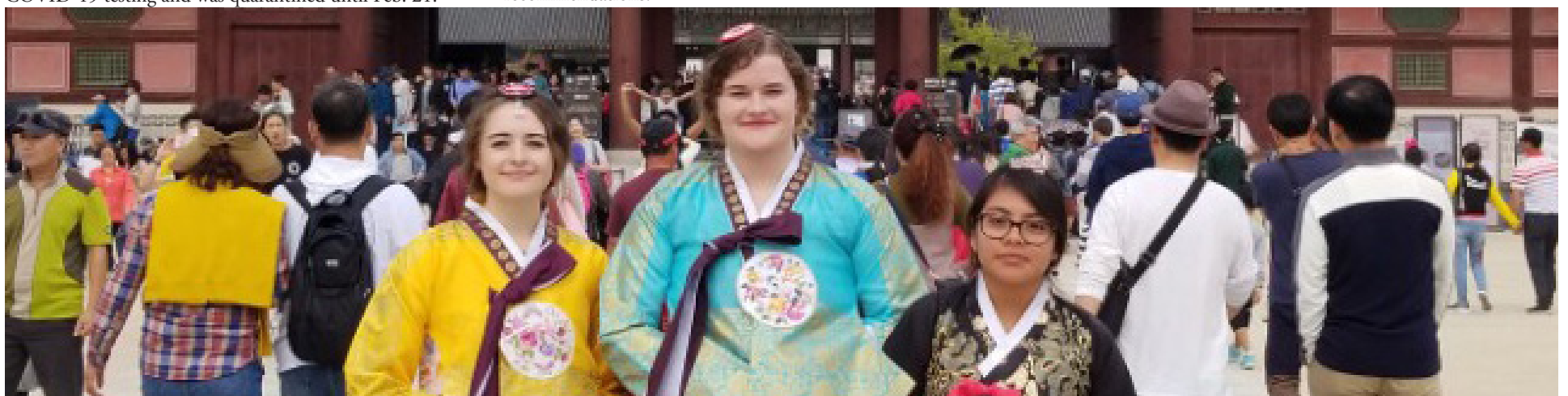
Though her graduate classes are online this semester, she plans to try to get an internship and network during the two-year program.

"I think ultimately, I will come back to the states to finally get a job after a master's degree. Maybe once I get into my job a little more, I will try to get a Ph.D. We'll see when the time comes for that, but those are my ambitions right now," Henline said.

Henline is YSU's first Fulbright Program semifinalist since 2016. The competitive process includes essays and faculty recommendations.



YSU alumna and Fulbright Scholar, Emily Henline, snaps a photo between rounds of COVID-19 testing after landing in Seoul, South Korea Feb. 8. Photo courtesy of **Emily Henline**



Fulbright Scholar Emily Henline (center) poses for a photo during her South Korea study abroad trip in 2017. Photo courtesy of **Emily Henline**

COVID-19 VACCINES UNDERWAY FOR NORTHEAST OHIO VETERANS

ETHAN J. SNYDER

Recently some northeast Ohio veterans received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Although college-aged Ohioans aren't able to receive the vaccine yet, some frontline and healthcare workers in the field are on the early list for the shot.

The Veterans Affairs Northeast Ohio Healthcare System has prepared four sites for distribution of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to eligible veterans.

"Vaccines will be given by appointment only. The distribution schedule and locations are based on vaccine availability and the current priority group," said Jill K. Dietrich, executive director of the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System.

The designated sites in Northeast Ohio are the VA Medical Centers in Cleveland, Akron, Mansfield and Youngstown. Retired army military police specialist Pete Price was one veteran to receive a dose.

"I was really looking forward to getting it. The whole system was very fluid — I was in and out of my appointment in 17 minutes and 15 of those minutes was the waiting period after I

got the shot," Price said. "They were just 'boom-boom,' in and out — it was sweet."

So far, the VA has distributed more than one million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine across the country.

According to the VA, 582,000 first doses and 44,000 second doses of the Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine have been delivered to veterans, while more than 401,000 doses have been given to VA employees.

"They notified me in December where they had a pre-sign-up list," Price said. "A few weeks ago, they gave me a phone number to call the Cleveland location. They tell you where the vaccine is available, and they set up your appointment. I could go to Cleveland, Akron or Mansfield and I chose Akron because Youngstown wasn't scheduling at the time."

Eligible veterans include people above the age of 65, people with underlying medical conditions, people residing in congregate living settings, such as nursing homes and essential workers. This is how retired Navy Capt. Greg Cooper received his vaccine.

"Although I am a veteran, I had arranged to get the vaccine through the Mahoning County Educational Service Center because I am a substitute teacher. That was enough for me to be eligible to get the vaccine as early as I did," Cooper said.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, more than 209,000 VA patients were diagnosed with COVID-19. Roughly 9,200 have died, including 1,800 in January alone. This means that January was the deadliest month to date for VA patients, surpassing the record in December by nearly 1,700 people.

"It's a tremendous logistical challenge to try to get the vaccine to all Americans, I think they're trying to do it as quickly as they can but unfortunately, it's kind of a case of 'we're trying to fly the airplane while we're building it,'" Cooper said. "I'm sure that they want to get the vaccine to as many people as they can, but they have to prioritize it. There are people that are going to question what the priorities are, should it be old folks, teachers, healthcare workers, but the answer is everybody and the sooner we can get everyone vaccinated the better."

OHIO LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR INVESTS IN YSU

SAMANTHA SMITH

CORRECTION: Last edition, only part of this story was published. The full story is below.

Ohio's Lt. Gov. Jon Husted visited the Youngstown area Feb. 9 to discuss his investment to the community and Youngstown State University.

Five weeks ago, Husted invested \$12 million into the Mahoning Valley for General Motors' repayment of tax credit incentives. \$5 million of the investment will go to YSU for workforce development and creating the YSU Energy Storage Innovation and Training Center.

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

"The creation of the YSU Energy Storage Innovation and Training Center is exciting," Husted said. "This community should be excited about what it's doing to position itself and its people for the future of the economy."

Husted discussed what a thriving economy needs to continue to grow and advance: innovation, investment and talent.

"Three important things. Innovation. You got to have three new ideas ... It requires investment because those great ideas must have fuel of investment to take them from an idea to a reality. And it requires talent. You got to have talented people, both on the innovation side and on the delivery side of those great ideas," he said. "The three of those will prosper and create prosperity for the community, for the state."

Alongside Husted, YSU President Jim Tressel; Lydia Mihalik, director of the Ohio Development Services Agency; and Jennifer Oddo, executive director for the Center of Workforce Education and Innovation, stepped up and spoke about what this investment means for the community.

The conference was held in the soon-to-be Excellence Training Center in Youngstown. This

building is a part of Husted's vision and investment in workforce development.

"All of those investments and innovation, you need to leverage for the betterment of this community, but we have to do our part to find that town to prepare people for that future," Husted said. "That is what we're here celebrating, the beginning of today."



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



On-campus radio station WYSU plays musical arrangements by historical Black musicians and decorates the front desk with inspirational Martin Luther King quotes. Photo by **Zach Mosca/The Jambar**

ZACH MOSCA

Black History Month is a time to recognize the historical achievements and figures from the Black community. That's why all throughout the month of February, WYSU hosted special programming honoring Black contributions to music, culture and history in general.

According to WYSU's director of broadcasting Gary Sexton, WYSU hosted programming for Black History Month for many years with a variety of segments and special programming.

"This particular year, we did things that are in both of our primary formats: music and news and information," Sexton said.

Sexton described some of the specials for this year. On the music side, WYSU aired a two-part series called "Song for the Struggle — Jazz and the Civil Rights Movement," which was hosted by Dan Polletta. According to Polletta's LinkedIn page, he is an award-winning broadcaster, interviewer and writer based in Cleveland.

"It was a look into a bunch of musicians like Louis Armstrong, Cassandra Wilson, Billie Holiday [and] Duke Ellington and how their music, in both subtle and unsubtle

ways, called attention to civil rights issues," Sexton said.

WYSU is an NPR affiliate station. According to WYSU's Coordinator, Ed Goist, an episode of the Nation Public Radio (NPR) show, "Throughline," focuses less on music and more on news and information.

"'Throughline' is a new show from NPR, and one of their first episodes will be a Black History Month special, which will feature profiles of jazz vocalist Billie Holiday and United States politician Shirley Chisholm. Both of whom are Black women," Goist said.

Sexton is the host of a classical music program from 1–3 p.m. on weekdays. He said he celebrates Black History Month on this program too.

"Every day, I feature a work from a Black composer ... for instance, a couple days ago, I featured a work called 'Three Black Kings' by Duke Ellington," Sexton said.

In years past, WYSU has engaged much more with Youngstown State University during Black History Month beyond just radio programs; however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of these methods of engagement had to be called off for this year.

"In years past, the university has had a really robust offering of Black History Month programs [such as] panel discussions,

speeches, music performances and stuff like that. Obviously, that's been backed down for this year, but we've been a major media sponsor for that over the years," Sexton said.

Response to the Black History Month programming has been overwhelmingly positive, with many listeners expressing appreciation for sharing highlights of Black culture, as well as highlighting some lesser-known Black historical figures.

"Generally, people appreciate that that's the kind of thing we do here at WYSU. We provide a wide range of programming that's thought-provoking, entertaining and of high quality, especially when you consider the type of jazz and classical music that we offer," Sexton said.

Those interested in WYSU's programming can tune into 88.5 FM or visit its website which offers a full list of programming offered by the station.



STONEFRUIT COFFEE CO. DONATES TO LOCAL HOSPITALS

During and well before the COVID-19 pandemic, owners of StoneFruit give back to the Youngstown community. Photos by **Yusof Hamza/The Jambar**

YUSOF HAMZA JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Patrons of StoneFruit Coffee Co. can pat themselves on the back. Thanks to their support and the collaboration of a few local companies, the coffee shop donated more than 1,000 bags of coffee to local healthcare workers.

Their donations averaged 250 bags per week between Thanksgiving and the New Year.

Co-owner of StoneFruit's Youngstown State University location, Mike Cupp, was proud of the community support.

"One of the biggest things is it's Youngstown — it's the community support. They see that we're giving and they want to come and support us," he said.

Customers were able to buy bags of coffee for healthcare workers and add personalized messages to them.

Trumbull Regional Medical Center received approximately 150 bags of coffee. A statement from its marketing director, Alexa Polinsky, expressed gratitude for the donations and the

support from the community.

"The team has been overwhelmed and humbled by all of the kind gestures from community members and local businesses," she said.

Amy Reed, director of development for the Salem Regional Medical Center Foundation, said the staff received weekly donations of coffee over four weeks.

"The coffee was a tangible reminder that community members truly appreciate our staff's faithful fight against the virus," she said.

John Mercer, senior gift officer at Mercy Health, said workers at St. Elizabeth Youngstown, St. Elizabeth Boardman and St. Joseph Warren hospitals were grateful for the coffee. The community effort, Mercer said, was meaningful to the frontline workers and helped with their stressful jobs.

Josh Langenheim, owner of StoneFruit and chief coffee meister, said he was proud of the Youngstown community and how the initiative kept StoneFruit busy roasting coffee.

"This initiative kept us very busy, but we're thrilled we were

able to donate so many bags to those who've done so much for us," he said.

Langenheim also thanked DeSalvo Construction and Zelina Concrete for large contributions.

StoneFruit partnered with 898 Marketing, White Glove Payroll and Jet Creative for this giveaway.

Jeff Ryznar, president of 898 Marketing, said he was overwhelmed by the support from the community.

"Josh's team at StoneFruit Coffee delivered more than just coffee to our local hospitals — they delivered hope, gratitude and support to those who selflessly sacrifice for the health of our community during this pandemic," he said.

Mike Cupp also said they donated to the Rich Center for Autism at YSU earlier in the pandemic.

He added that charity is nothing new for StoneFruit. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, they donated to several places, notably to Friends of Fido.

While StoneFruit isn't currently running any charity drives, it hopes to host one for YSU's hackathon, HackYSU, in April.



DONALD P. PIPINO PERFORMING ARTS SERIES: DU YUN

Du Yun, a Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and musician, performs music that's 'out of the box' and not limited to one specific genre. Photo courtesy of Du Yun

DOUGLAS M. CAMPBELL

Shining bright on everyone's screens, the third season of the Donald P. Pipino Performing Arts Series continues this month. This time, the series brought in Du Yun, a Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and musician, who gave a virtual masterclass and a virtual performance and presentation on Feb. 24.

Kivie Cahn-Lipman, an assistant professor of cello, contacted Du Yun to present at Youngstown State University. The series' online format allows the school to host guests previously unaffordable.

"Du Yun is one of these superstars: she is a Pulitzer prize winner, she's been a director of contemporary music festivals, she's traveled the world as a pop artist as a performer herself. So it's great to be able to bring her," Lipman said.

Du Yun's compositions merge many genres with a unique flair of unpredictability. Her style of work is what Phyllis Paul, dean of the Cliffe College of Creative Arts and Communication, wants to expose students and the community to with this series.

"Some of what some people may call 'outside of the box' stuff that she does — but everything, if you've read enough about her, you know she is not just a musician, not just a composer ... she's also deeply concerned about society," Paul said.

An example of this is with Du Yun's Pulitzer Prize compositions with Royce Vavrek, a librettist on "Angel's Bone," which follows

two fallen angels found by a couple, the X.E.'s, who forces them into prostitution.

"We focused more on Mr. and Mrs. X.E. than we do on the angels because I realized that the middleman being also the middle person is something I wanted to engage in more. When you want to explore other people you want to know why and how ... neither Royce nor I have been a victim of human trafficking. So I thought to put myself in the lens of victims is not as powerful as trying to understand the middle person going through that ... because every one of us can be in a situation where we can exploit other people," Du Yun said.

Lipman, whose ensemble worked with Du Yun for a pre-premiere of "Angel's Bone," said her music tends to be challenging to her listeners.

"She likes to push boundaries, and so some of her music is going to sound pretty strange to the uninitiated," Lipman said.

In her masterclass, two YSU students — Max Franco, a senior music composition major, and Jesse Crownover, a freshman music composition major — got the chance to present their original pieces and workshop them with her.

"I'm always interested in hearing other people's ideas and interpretations and their connections with it," Du Yun said.

Franco's piece was written at the end of 2020, where he collaborated with another YSU student who played the violin. He describes it as a meditative sound with the violin, partially

inspired by his mood during the pandemic.

"The idea for that piece came from my mood during the whole pandemic thing, everyone was kind of in their houses and going through some different things. I know I personally went through some mental changes through the time," Franco said.

Crownover's piece, titled "Anew," started with a theme of three notes on the piano, which was eventually orchestrated for a woodwind quintet.

"It's a pretty unique sounding piece. There's a lot of dissonance in it, I really like how it sounds and I'm excited to share it with her and eventually have it played live by some people here as well," Crownover said.

Next to present at the Donald P. Pipino series are Anthony Roth Costanzo, a countertenor, and Tyshawyn Sorey, a multi-instrumentalist and composer.

More information is available at Cliffe College's Office of Community Engagement and Events.

WAKE UP WITH YOGA

SYDNEY A. STALNECKER
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Midterms are quickly approaching, leaving some Youngstown State University students wondering how to lessen test anxiety while improving their grades. Brooke Crissman, a sophomore biology major and Group X yoga instructor, says yoga can help.

“Taking a little time for yourself is really beneficial,” Crissman said.

Crissman advises students and faculty to try the Group X yoga classes offered by the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center. She finds it important for students to take time to relax, especially during the more challenging times of the semester.

“Sometimes it can feel like, ‘Oh, if I go to this class, I’m going to waste an hour and a half that I could’ve been studying,’” Crissman said. “But the hour and a half that you spend going to a yoga class, or a Zumba class, or spinning is going to improve your studying because you’re going to be kind of more chill, and it’s good for you.”

Maggie Glaros, a sophomore physical therapy major, regularly attends Crissman’s class and finds mindfulness an important aspect of yoga, which improves schoolwork.

“Yoga puts a focus on mindfulness and being intentional about the moment that you’re in,” Glaros said.

According to Glaros, mindfulness matters off the yoga mat, too, and applies to all aspects of life.

“When you’re studying, [make] sure that your studying is intentional and also your interactions with people,” she said.

Crissman said she has practiced yoga since her sophomore year of high school and has gained strength and flexibility as a result.

“It made me build that mind-body connection,” Crissman said. “Just linking the breath with the body, it makes you more flexible, it makes you stronger, but it also makes you more aware.”

She also said regularly practicing yoga has impacted her mental health.

“I used to struggle a lot with anxiety, especially when school was really difficult,” Crissman said. “Yoga was one thing I could do to really relieve it, and I’m happy to say that I don’t really have a problem with it anymore.”

Crissman received her primary yoga certification three years ago so she could begin teaching classes and share her passion with fellow peers.

Necessary materials for the class, such as yoga mats and face shields, are provided by the rec center. Crissman recommends using a face shield because they make it easier for her to breathe during the practice.

The practice is judgement-free and suitable for beginners throughout the semester. Modifications are always provided during more challenging poses. She suggests bringing a yoga block to help with inflexibility.

“Yoga blocks are a great way to modify poses, [they] kind of bring the mat higher up, so that you can get the same benefits of poses without having to be as flexible,” Crissman said.

Students who are new to the practice shouldn’t be afraid to start, she said.

“I know it can be scary to do something you’re not good at. I couldn’t touch my toes when I started doing yoga, but it’s good for you, and it’s fun,” Crissman said. “People of all levels come to my class, so you’ll definitely feel at home.”

The Group X yoga classes are held in person at 7:15 a.m. Tuesdays with Brooke and Wednesdays with Galena at. Both classes are held on Court C at the rec center. A virtual class is held at 5 p.m. Thursdays via Zoom.

The yoga classes are free for all students and faculty, but registration is required to participate. To register for a class, visit the rec center’s store website.



Brooke Crissman demonstrates the pose Downward Dog in her yoga class. Photo by **Sydney A. Stalnecker/The Jambar**

ONE HOT COOKIE LEADS HOT COCOA BOMB TUTORIAL

DOUGLAS M. CAMPBELL

The winter holidays are past, but for Youngstown State University students stuck at home, the hot cocoa continues to flow.

At 7 p.m. Feb. 24 and 25, Student Activities will lead an at-home tutorial for hot cocoa bombs by Bergen Giordani, the president of One Hot Cookie, and Morgen Chretien, the vice president. Hot cocoa bombs are hollowed-out chocolate balls filled with hot cocoa mix and marshmallows they trended last year on the social media platform TikTok.

“It was probably November or December of ... 2020, this winter. We heard about it, people started calling and saying, ‘Do you have these hot cocoa bombs?’ We were like ‘No ... no,’ we got so many calls that I was like, ‘We have to do this,’” Giordani said.

The store began to sell hot cocoa bombs soon after and it was a big success for the business.

“We started making them and it was crazy — we had to put a limit. We’ve never had to do this ... you could only buy five at a time when you came into the store because we couldn’t produce them fast enough,” Giordani said.

In their store, they sell pre-assembled hot cocoa bombs in traditional and salted caramel flavors. In January, they began to roll out home kits that came in two varieties: Candyland flavor which consists of gummi bears, M&Ms and sprinkles and a regular flavor with marshmallows and sprinkles.

The mother-daughter duo of One Hot Cookie began to post tutorials online on their YouTube channel and on Facebook. From both platforms, the tutorials in total amassed over 3,000 views.

Carolyn Jesko, assistant director of programming, found the hot cocoa bomb trend over the winter break and



Photo courtesy of **Student Activities**

sought to make it a student activity.

“We are partnering with One Hot Cookie on this program, and they have been a great partner in the past, working with us on events, and it’s great to support local businesses. I saw that they were offering the hot cocoa bombs for the community and I reached out to them,” Jesko said.

Student Activities has 75 hot cocoa bomb kits from One Hot Cookie available for students. Students must reserve their spot on one of the two nights before they will get the kit.

“You would reserve your video time slot and that reserves your hot cocoa bomb kit, so it comes with all of the supplies you need to make the hot cocoa bombs. You just need a microwave — which all residential students in the resident’s halls have in their room — and a microwavable plate,” Jesko said.

Giordani said the most common mistake made by first-time makers of hot cocoa bombs is not dispensing a double layer of chocolate in the spherical mold.

“The key is to double-line the layers in the sphere. So, in the live class, we will talk you through all the steps and the tips and tricks we’ve learned. But that double layer helps you take it out of the mold without breaking,” Chretien said.

For students who applied for the tutorial online, the hot cocoa bomb kits are available to pick up at the Student Activities office in Kilcawley Center.



DELICIOUS DOWNTOWN DESSERT SPOTS POWER THROUGH PANDEMIC

Operating under the same owner, One Hot Cookie in downtown Youngstown will be moving to make way for OH Donut Co. Photo courtesy of OH Donuts Co.

KAITLYN KELLEY

2020 was a taxing year for small businesses, but One Hot Cookie and OH Donut Co. didn't let the pandemic hold them back. Despite some challenges, they plan on going into 2021 better than ever.

"OH Donut is actually expanding," Courtney Watson, an employee at OH Donut Co., said. "We are going to open a new location in downtown Youngstown in the next few months, I believe."

OH Donut Co. was founded in April 2019, with its first location opening up at 1315 Boardman-Canfield Road in Youngstown. As the name entails, they offer a wide selection of donuts to choose from. They also sell breakfast sandwiches and serve multiple different lunch options such as salads, soups and sandwiches.

Mikayla Shiels, a sophomore nursing student, recently tried its donuts for herself.

"My friends and I had a dozen donuts delivered to us on a whim," Shiels said. "But they were literally so good. I tried this M&M-flavored donut, and it was the best donut I'd ever had."

Bergen Giordani, who is the co-owner of OH Donut Co. and One Hot Cookie, said the company plans to open up a second location on 112 W Commerce St. in downtown Youngstown, which is currently the location of One Hot Cookie.

One Hot Cookie was founded by Giordani and her daughter, Morgen. They said it "started as a whim," and officially became a business in 2013. The company has since grown, with locations open in two states. Their goal is simply to make the communities around them "a little sweeter."

"One Hot Cookie is going to be focusing primarily on online sales from this point on," Bergen Giordani said. "And we kind of just wanted to try something new with that business. That is why OH Donut Co. will be moving into the building where One Hot Cookie is now."

Bergen Giordani said this doesn't mean One Hot Cookie is

closing — they will still be working out of Boardman, under the same address as the current OH Donut Co. location. While they'll still focus primarily on online orders, customers can get their cookies and other desserts delivered to their door with services such as Doordash or Grubhub.

"I love One Hot Cookie a lot, and I used to go there a lot my freshman year," Shiels said. "Obviously, I'm a little bit sad to see it go. But I also really like OH Donut, and I hope things open back up soon so I can go with my friends and try all their stuff!"

While OH Donut Co. plans to have indoor dining in its new location as soon as possible, it also offers delivery and takeout under the same methods One Hot Cookie uses. Catering is also available for large crowds.

Currently, One Hot Cookie and OH Donut Co. only offer delivery and takeout. OH Donut Co.'s hours are 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. One Hot Cookie is open from 12-9 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and 1-8 p.m. on Sunday.

MICHAEL HANNI MEMORIAL

Michael Hanni, coordinator for student conduct at Youngstown State University, died Feb. 16. According to his obituary and a GoFundMe set up by his sister for funeral expenses, Hanni died of complications related to COVID-19. He was 27. Below are tributes for Hanni from his colleagues at YSU.

Erin Driscoll, executive director, Division of Student Affairs

This past week, YSU lost a part of our Penguin family. Michael Hanni, Coordinator for Student Conduct and Cafaro House Coordinator, passed away on Tuesday, February 16, 2021.

Michael began his career at Youngstown State in September of 2019. Though officially hired as a Coordinator for Student Conduct, Michael quickly became a part of the fabric of many additional components of student life on our campus. Michael served as advisor for the Residential Housing Association and for Theta Chi Fraternity, as well as the elections board advisor for Student Government Association. In the summer of 2020, Michael took on the additional responsibilities of serving as the Housing Coordinator for Cafaro House, overseeing the operations of the residence hall and supervising Resident Assistants and Desk Attendants in their service and support of Cafaro House residents.

During his time on campus, Michael built relationships with students and staff throughout our community. He was always up for a conversation, whether about his beloved Pittsburgh Steelers, “The Office” or his latest meaningful interaction with a student. He also put his culinary skills to work for the good of the community in his “At Home with Hanni” videos, which will provide us with lasting memories of him for years to

come.

We extend our sincere condolences to Michael’s family, and to all of the students and staff who are experiencing this loss. We will be sending a collection of cards and memories from YSU to Michael’s family. Notecards are available in the Cafaro House lobby for any student who wishes to send a note to Michael’s family. Notecards can also be obtained in the Student Activities & Student Government Suite in Kilcawley Center, or by contacting Justin Shaughnessy or Erin Driscoll.

Erin Hungerman, university conduct officer

My initial memory of Michael stems from his first time on campus. He had just finished the first half of his day-long interview process and sat down to eat lunch with former Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Eddie Howard, and me. I don’t remember what was on the menu, but it prompted a discussion between Michael and Dr. Howard. Prior to receiving his master’s degree in student affairs in higher education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Michael completed culinary school. Dr. Howard was impressed by this and said that if “he had it to do over again,” he’d have gone into something culinary-related. Michael laughed and said that was a coincidence, since his dream was to be a Vice President for Student Affairs someday.

We interviewed two other candidates for the coordinator of Student Conduct position for which Michael was ultimately hired. He was the most professionally inexperienced out of all of them. I remember calling his references and telling them this, seeking some sort of feedback on his potential in the position that would help me with my decision. One of

Michael’s former supervisors told me he initially had the same concern when he brought Michael onto his team. He also said that he learned that his passion for students could make up for years that others had working in the field. I am someone who very much believes that you can train any skill set except an element of care. You can’t train someone to view the student experience from a lens of compassion and empathy. I offered Michael the position the next day and with his acceptance, we became a team.

Housing and Residence Life

This past week, YSU Housing & Residence Life lost a part of our Penguin family. Michael Hanni, our Cafaro House Coordinator, passed away unexpectedly, Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021. In addition to his responsibilities as coordinator for Student Conduct, Michael also served as the advisor for the Residential Housing Association (RHA) and for Theta Chi Fraternity, as well as elections board advisor for Student Government Association. Michael loved making those around him laugh and his caring nature will truly be missed — especially by his Cafaro House residents, his Resident Assistants and his Desk Manager and Desk Attendants.

Housing & Residence Life extends our sincerest condolences to his family, friends and all who knew him. As we grieve together, please know that there are campus resources available to students and staff. Students seeking support can contact the YSU Counseling Center at (330) 941-3737. For additional support and services, please contact the office of Student Outreach & Support at (330) 941-4721.

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Youngstown State University announced the spring 2021 semester would not include a week-long spring break. Instead, we have wellness days to take “time off from the rigors of school” which “can help reduce stress and can be conducive to overall improved mental health.” The general consensus is mixed, more often than not leaning toward a negative perspective, but we can all agree we need a break. In addition to going to school, a lot of us are working full-time and going to class full-time. Data collected by the Center on Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University shows 70% of full-time college students work anywhere between 15 — 35 hours per week. The next upcoming wellness days will be March 11 and 12, then the regular class schedule resumes all the way until the first week of April. While it’s admirable the university is acknowledging our need for days to take a few days off, is it enough? Mental health among students has deteriorated since the beginning of the pandemic, approximately 63% of them reported to the Jed Foundation last year. Eighty-two percent of students reported struggling with anxiety and 63% struggling with depression. Above all, we need to take care of ourselves and our mental health, because that’s what’s most important! Take advantage of the days off and try to implement some time for yourself once in a while.

MORE TIME TO PANIC

MAC POMEROY

On Tuesday, Feb. 16, Youngstown State University canceled classes for a “wellness day.” On Monday, Feb. 15, I rolled my eyes.

Don’t get me wrong, I appreciate a day off. I am not groaning at the idea of a day off or at taking a break for mental health. Instead, my frustration comes from the fact of these days being meant to replace our spring break.

The cancellation of spring break was announced a few months ago, and even back then the idea of giving up a longer period of relaxation for a bunch of individual days was absurd. Now that it is in practice, I question if this is helping anyone.

I can’t speak for everyone, but one day is not enough time for me to relax. It is not an uncommon attitude that you can’t relax until your work is done.

What was I doing on Tuesday? I was doing my homework. I planned to edit this article. I tried to do my work on my day off to lessen the load later in the week.

What was I not doing? Relaxing. I need more than a day to calm down from the nerves and fast pace of school. Sometimes, even the weekends aren’t enough — I find myself wanting at least three days. The first day I can calm down, the second day actually relax and the third I prepare to go back.

Of course, not everyone is like me. I don’t make it a secret I have anxiety, and I may take longer to settle down. But, I know even for many students who don’t have anxiety, a single day won’t be enough. As I mentioned prior, they will also be trying to catch up on their schoolwork.

It isn’t just the length of our current “break” that has me writing this article, but also the break we are not receiving. I understand we are in a pandemic, and the reason given seemed to be this will lower the risk of students traveling, but it also further isolates students from their own lives.

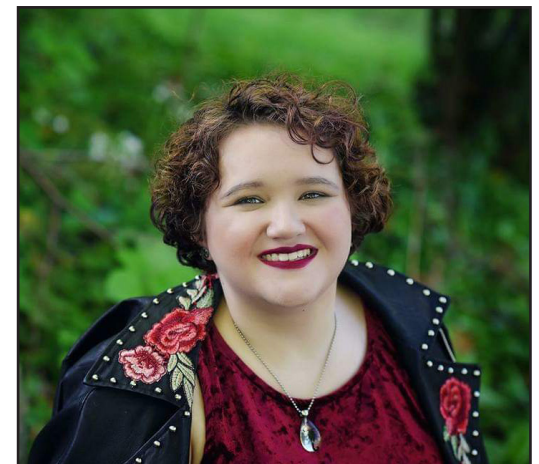
This may be to stop kids from traveling back to see their families, but what about people whose families are here and in their own bubble already? I know the implication seems ridiculous, but with the chaos of school, especially online classes, many students already don’t have time to spend with their loved ones. I haven’t even seen my own sister in nearly a month with how hectic things are.

A day won’t even give a busy student enough time to call home and ask how things are, especially not when the day is a random Tuesday.

Of course, I am not part of whoever made this decision — I am just a student giving my opinion, and so I don’t know their full reasoning.

I am just questioning if a day is truly enough time for anyone to take a break. With a day, the pressure of our work and the need to be productive does not fade away. It isn’t even enough time to catch up on any chores that may have been neglected during the semester. It is basically just a busy day without the Zoom meetings.

This all being said, I tried to try to enjoy at least a few minutes of my one day. I worked on this crochet scarf that has been bugging me for a few days with the few minutes I had left after doing all of my work.



JAMBAR POLICY

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

OUR EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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



PHANTOMS FANS ENJOY BEER DOWN IN Y-TOWN

The Phantoms hockey team plays at the Covelli Center in downtown Youngstown and fans can enjoy dollar beers during Saturday Drink in the Rink. Photo by **Richie Juliano/The Jambar**

RICHIE JULIANO **JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR**

The Youngstown Phantoms' front office is hustling to find fun, unique ways to fill the stands with fans for the 2021 season. The Phantoms play their home games in downtown Youngstown at the Covelli Centre.

Arielle McNutt, director of marketing and media relations with the Phantoms, is now in her fourth season with the front office, she helped adjust the games, such as changing seating protocols, for COVID-19 safety.

"We are allowed to have up to 1,500 fans in the building. We do pod seating so everything is spread out six feet," McNutt said.

The Phantoms play all but one of their home games on the weekend, with ticket prices beginning at \$15. The Phantoms have a stacked month of games in April, which includes eight home contests.

Along with low ticket prices, the Phantoms have implemented

Drink in the Rink every Saturday night during home games, which features \$1 beers until the end of second intermission.

"It's a great way to bring college students down," McNutt said. "It's the most exciting and fun experience on ice. You can't beat dollar beers for a couple hours."

The team has talent from across the globe. The roster includes six players hailing from outside the United States. One of those players is team captain Reilly Funk, who is from Portage, a small city in Manitoba, Canada.

"It was definitely a change when I first got here last year. I have grown to love it — love being here for every second of it," Funk said.

The Phantoms have veteran coach and general manager Brad Patterson leading the way this season. Patterson has been a part of the Phantoms coaching staff since 2009.

"The players come from everywhere — it's worldwide. That's why our league has been known as one of the best in the world," Patterson said.

Patterson, like Funk, is from Canada, the country renowned

for and that developed hockey as we know it. They both enjoyed strong fan support in the Covelli Centre.

"It has been terrific. To feel the support is huge. That's what these guys play for — to play in front of people," Patterson said.

The fan loyalty helps the team get pumped up in the rink.

"It makes it so much easier to show up to the rink. They are so loud and so great," Funk said. "We got such a big second half coming up, and seeing them in the rink is going to be so key to us."

The Phantoms have a plethora of promotions in the next couple of weeks. There are six promo nights on the schedule in March and April. Fan appreciation night is the last promotion, ending the season April 24.

To see the Phantoms in action at home, fans can call 330-747-PUCK or grab tickets at the box office before the game. For more information, visit the Youngstown Phantoms' website.

MEN'S BASKETBALL FINISHES SEASON STRONG

KYLE WILLS

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team capped off their regular season, taking on Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW) Feb. 12-13 and IUPUI Feb. 19-20 at the Beeghly Center.

On Feb. 12, the team shot 53.3% from the field in the second half and had five players reach double figures to knock the Mastodons, 84-70.

Senior Michael Akuchie led the team by recording his sixth double-double of the season with 23 points and 13 rebounds. Senior Garrett Covington scored 13 of his 18 points in the second half, while senior Naz Bohannon had 14 points and both junior Darius Quisenberry and freshman Shemar Rathan-Mayes scored 13 points.

On Feb. 13, the men again played IPFW in a 72-70 victory. Bohannon scored a game-high 22 points to lead the team while Covington scored 16 points, including 14 in the second half. Rathan-Mayes scored 15 points and Quisenberry scored 11 points.

Head coach Jerrod Calhoun believes the team has earned itself a favorable position going into the final two games of the regular season.

"I think we're in a really good spot," he said. "We opened this season eight out of 10 on the

road, and certainly on the back end here we got quite a bit of home games. I think it's good to get in a routine. It's good to play home games late in the season."

YSU returned to action on Friday and Saturday to take on IUPUI at the Beeghly Center for the final two games of the regular season. Quisenberry scored 20 points, and Bohannon posted his fourth double-double of the season as the men's basketball team lost 72-70 on Friday.

IUPUI went 1-for-4 from the free-throw line in the final 28.4 seconds to give the Penguins a chance. Bohannon's putback with 10 seconds left cut YSU's deficit to 71-70, and the Jaguars split two free throws with about 9 seconds left. Quisenberry attempted a last-second contested 3-pointer, but missed the potential game-winning shot. The team went cold in the second half, missing 14 of their last 17 shot attempts.

On Saturday, Bohannon had a team-high 23 points in a 77-70 win over the IUPUI in the regular-season finale following a tremendous first half shooting performance. YSU shot 58.6% (17-for-29) in the first half and improved to 14-11 overall and 9-11 in the Horizon League following the victory.

Darius Quisenberry scored 14 points while Rathan-Mayes also recorded 14 of his own.



Senior Naz Bohannon scored 14 points against IUPUI Feb. 20 and would earn Horizon League post-season honors. Photo courtesy of **Robert Hayes/YSU Sports**

Covington added 11 points for the Penguins while Akuchie had 11 rebounds.

On Tuesday, Bohannon, Covington and Rathan-Mayes received Horizon League postseason honors after a vote by the league's head coaches. Bohannon was named All-Horizon League Second-Team while Covington was named to the All-Defensive Team for the third straight season. Rathan-Mayes was selected to the All-Freshman Team.

Being named All-Horizon League Second-Team is a great accomplishment for Bohannon, but he is more focused on winning the next games ahead.

"It's a great accolade, personal accolade," he said. "But like me and Coach talked about

earlier on, it is one of those things that happen when you play the right way for a certain amount of time and if something happens along the quest of trying to get to where you want to get to, it's fine to look back on years down the line. But the ultimate goal is to win the next four games."

The men's basketball team will return to action after earning the No. 6 seed to host a first-round game in the 2021 Horizon League Men's Basketball Championship against No. 11 UIC on Thursday, Feb. 25. Tipoff is scheduled for 8 p.m. at the Beeghly Center. The game will be broadcasted on ESPN+ and 570 WKBN.

NOW HIRING FOR FALL 2021

THE STUDENT MEDIA COMMITTEE IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR YSU STUDENT MEDIA LEADERSHIP POSITIONS. APPLICATION DEADLINE IS **MARCH 16**.

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* Must be available Wednesday and Thursday afternoons

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YSU FOOTBALL OPENS ITS SEASON

The Penguins opened up spring football at North Dakota State University. Photo by **Yousof Hamza/The Jambar**

JORDAN BOITNOTT

Youngstown State University football opened their season on the road against the No. 1 ranked defending champions North Dakota State University Sunday. The game didn't go in their favor, with YSU losing 25-7.

The Penguins dug an 11-0 hole early in the game by halftime. They were able to hold the Bison to 11 points until the second half, where they scored an additional 14 points. YSU responded with a 15-play touchdown drive making it 18-7 before NDSU closed the game with a final touchdown.

Doug Phillips, YSU's head football coach, said in a post-game press conference the opener and his first game with YSU showed what kind of character his team has. He added that they evaluated the team based on their attitude, effort and competitiveness.

"I wanted to see how our young men would react in adverse conditions. The one thing we said before the game, 'Don't look at the scoreboard...' We walked away and believed our kids

competed and stuck together when things got tough," Phillips said.

One of the big problems YSU faced last weekend was their rush defense. They gave up 248 yards on the ground to the Bison. Phillips said the offense needs to help the defense so they can stay rested in the coming games.

"I thought we kept our defense on the field way too long. In the first half, we took care of that a little bit. In the second half, I think our time of possession was 31 minutes, which you wouldn't realize you had the ball that much without getting those first downs in the first half," he said. "So, we got to take care of our defense. We got to create some explosives [plays]. If you look at the touchdown drives North Dakota State had, it was probably off of explosive plays, whether it was a big run. So, we [have to] eliminate that."

James Jackson, junior defensive end, said he liked the team's mentality throughout the game.

"I think the biggest thing is everybody just stayed together. There was no arguing on the sideline — everyone was just trying

to figure out what we needed to do to get a win. So, I love that about us and I love how hard we fought through adversity. It's a great sign," he said.

The Penguins will open the Ice Castle this weekend against No. 5, the Northern Iowa Panthers. Both teams will come in with an 0-1 record. It will be Phillips' first game at Stambaugh Stadium.

Josh Burgett, junior tight end, said he thinks playing at home will give the team a much-needed boost.

"I think it'll add that little more spark underneath us, not that North Dakota State didn't, but playing in front of your own people, you know a lot of family is going to be there," he said. "It's going to bring us together a lot more. Everybody's going to be coming out giving that little bit more that we need to get this win this weekend."