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Thursday, April 29, 2021

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HONORS HELPING FUTURE SCHOLARS



Taylor Sebastiano and Bronson Deangelo, both freshmen biology majors, began the Honors Helping Future Scholars initiative this year.

Photo courtesy of Taylor Sebastiano

YSU freshmen start new tutoring program

By Kelcey Norris
The Jambar

A group of freshmen at Youngstown State University dedicated their first year on campus to enriching the education of the younger generation. The Honors Helping Future Scholars program started in the YSU Honors College.

They have been able to connect YSU students virtually with

44 middle and high schoolers at New Castle and Valley Christian schools to tutor them in a variety of subjects and earn volunteer hours.

Taylor Sebastiano, a freshman biology major on the pre-med track, explained how she and a few close friends started the initiative. Sebastiano said she came up with the idea with fellow YSU freshman Bronson Deangelo, who's also a biology major with a

pre-med track.

"We wanted to get a team of doers together, around four people who will be able to get this off the ground, because it was just an idea at the time. He came to me and two of his closest friends and started to make the whole thing happen. We run the whole thing now," Sebastiano said.

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COVID-19 update

Vaccines and more

By Abigail Cloutier
The Jambar

Youngstown State University reported five new cases of COVID-19 for the week of April 18-24. All of the cases were students living off campus. YSU also tested 26 students, faculty and staff through its voluntary surveillance testing program, and zero of those tests came back positive.

On Tuesday, YSU announced it rescheduled Johnson & Johnson vaccine clinics specifically for YSU students, faculty and staff May 6 and 13. The clinics follow a lift on the temporary pause on distributing Johnson & Johnson vaccines after a Food and Drug Administration review. The clinic will be hosted at the Covelli Centre, and appointments are required.

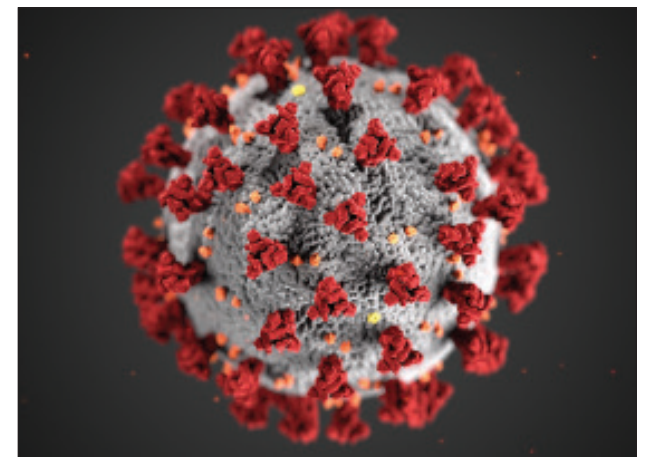


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There are currently 11 YSU Honors College students participating as virtual tutors as part of the Honors Helping Future Scholars program. They've clocked over 50 total hours in the first semester with plans to expand in the future.

"It's been an enriching experience and a unique leadership opportunity, especially as a freshman in college. We're very thankful to reach out and help the future scholars of tomorrow and years down the line, but we're also able to help our peers in the Honors College gain that experience," Sebastiano said.

She explained her role as a coordinator between the schools and the tutors.

"We send out the emails, organize who's tutored and who does the tutoring," Sebastiano said. "What Bronson and I will also do is sit on [Webex], and we're there if anyone needs, sort of supervising and making sure everything's going smoothly. The tutor and the student reach out to each other and form that communication and educational relationship that really makes a difference."

They have plans for an informal ACT preparation session where tutors can answer questions or concerns the high school students have before taking the big test.

Joseph Lasher, a freshman music education major, moderates the tutoring sessions as well.

"I monitor each tutoring session just to make sure tutors and students are staying on track, and, if any technical difficulties arise, I'm the one to fix those. I'll also remind tutors of their meetings with emails," Lasher said.

As an aspiring educator in instrumental music, Lasher said he's learned valuable teaching skills already without having yet stepped into the classroom physically.

"It's taught me how to work one-on-one with someone, like in private lessons in my case," he said. "More importantly, it's taught me patience. When you're working virtually, not everything is going to work right off the start, so it's important to be able to adapt and be patient with your students."

The YSU Honors College will soon be accepting applications for the Honors

Helping Future Scholars program to tutor during the fall semester.

"I'm so thankful to the Honors College for giving us this opportunity and also bringing awareness to the program," Sebastiano said. "We'd love to get more tutors, and we'd love to expand our range of subjects. We have the core subjects now, and some of our tutors do foreign language, but we want to broaden that."

"We wanted to get a team of doers together, around four people who will be able to get this off the ground, because it was just an idea at the time. He came to me and two of his closest friends and started to make the whole thing happen. We run the whole thing now."

— **Taylor Sebastiano**, freshman biology major



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UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM



Photo courtesy of Phyllis Johnson

Previous Youngstown State University students in University Partnership Program posing together.

An experience opportunity for social work students

By Jessica Stamp
The Jambar

At Youngstown State University, social work students have an opportunity to gain field work experience with the University Partnership Program. The program allows students to obtain real-life experience and internships in a competitive field.

The program partners with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Institute of Human Services, Ohio Child Welfare Training Program, Public Children Services Association of Ohio and public children services agencies in all 88 Ohio counties.

Phyllis Johnson, UPP coordinator, helps students in their junior or senior year interested in working in child welfare to have a chance at getting hands-on experience.

“Our goal is to develop a workforce — a fast-track workforce — that will enable students, once they graduate, to already have somewhat of a foundation upon which they would be able to do their job,” Johnson said.

These students receive other benefits in the program, such as a field internship at a child welfare agency and incentive money upon program completion.

Getting into the program is highly competitive, as it only accepts seven to 11 students.

“The Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services gives every university a number,” Johnson said. “Getting into the program is highly selective [and] is somewhat competitive because we do have to select students that we feel will be successful and who really have a strong passion for doing child welfare.”

Julia Kozel, senior social work major, has been in the program for approximately a year and was recruited by a friend in the program.

“You ... had the people that are in the program, tell them about their experiences, what they liked and what they didn’t and just to see if it’s right for them,” Kozel said.

She said this program gave her the opportunity to complete the training hours necessary for a job.

“When you take these classes, you basically eliminate almost 100 hours worth of training that you would

have to complete,” she said.

Clay Vosslier, social case worker at Trumbull County Children’s Services, participated in the program before graduating in 2020.

“It was a good experience. I feel like it really helped me get the hang of the whole child welfare field before I actually started,” Vosslier said.

Vosslier said the UPP-provided training gives students better opportunities for employment.

“It gives you a lot of good practice before you’re hired,” he said. “It guarantees you an internship at a child welfare agency.”

Vosslier collaborated with Johnson to recruit students by attending freshman and sophomore social work classes.

“I attended the social work beginning classes with the coordinator and just pretty much told them my experience, how I feel the program is beneficial [and] what you have to do in the program,” Vosslier said.

To apply for the program, students must complete social work classes and have an average GPA of 2.5 or higher.

Greeks weigh in on anti-hazing bill

By C. Aileen Blaine
The Jambar

Senate Bill 126, also known as Collin's Law, was re-introduced to the Ohio Senate in early March following the fatal hazing event involving a student at Bowling Green State University. Youngstown State University Greek Life members offer their support.

A BGSU student, Stone Foltz, died March 7 from a fatal level of alcohol intoxication brought on by a hazing initiation involving the Pi Kappa Alpha chapter at the university. The recent incident has spurred lawmakers, such as State Sens. Stephanie Kunze and Theresa Gavarone, into action.

It was first drafted in 2019 after the fatal hazing event involving Collin Wiant at Ohio University in November 2018. Wiant's parents worked with legislators to ensure something like this doesn't happen to someone else.

The bill, which is also referred to as the Ohio Anti-hazing Act, would increase the penalty for hazing from a fourth-degree misdemeanor to a second-degree misdemeanor, and when involving drugs or alcohol, a third-degree felony. It seeks to include all forms of hazing, not just those considered severe.

YSU's past is not entirely clean of hazing incidents. In February 2012, YSU student ReSean Yancey was hospitalized in critical care after receiving "serious

injuries sustained over being hazed multiple times" to join the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, according to a statement by the Youngstown Police Department following the incident. Eight former YSU students were charged with felonious assault. The fraternity was suspended from forming a chapter at YSU until fall 2027.

Abbey Cochran, president of the Panhellenic Council and a human resources management junior, said the Yancey case is a clear example of unacceptable behaviour of hazing for any student organization.

"Even though this case happened a decade ago, it shows that the repercussions of hazing last for years after it occurs. [Pi Kappa Alpha] is still dealing with the consequences to this day," Cochran said.

Integrated mathematics education junior and vice president of Interfraternity Council membership development Clay Miller said the BGSU case allows YSU Greek chapters to have more serious conversations regarding hazing.

"The best way for YSU organizations to prevent and eliminate hazing is to eliminate the experience hierarchy," Miller said "All members of all organizations should be treated equal, regardless of years of service."

Since then, the university has revised its anti-hazing policies, which define hazing as "an act which endangers the mental or physical health, or safety of a student." YSU is an anti-hazing campus, and Greek organizations receive information and resources on what to

do should an event occur.

This semester, Greek Life members shared a letter-writing campaign, where they wrote to district congress members to express support for the bill. Each September, Greek organizations offer events during Hazing Prevention Week, with "These Hands Don't Haze," a pledge Greek members sign.

Ian Ward, biology junior and president of the Interfraternity Council, said Greek Life members and campus leaders across the state stand in unity for Collin's Law.

"This adds that extra level of accountability all across the board in the whole state," Ward said. "We all stand together on the issue that hazing is never okay and should never happen on our campus."

Camryn Ealy, vice president of Panhellenic Council membership development and an exercise science junior, said despite the current lack of hazing occurring at YSU, it's an important discussion for campus to have.

"It has brought up the issue and made us sit here and be like, 'This is still something that's happening,'" Ealy said. "It doesn't affect me, but that doesn't mean I shouldn't advocate for [the anti-hazing act], and I should talk about it and realize that it is an issue."

If anyone suspects an incident of hazing, a report form is available on the YSU Greek Life anti-hazing policy page.

Dana School of Music resumes in-person performances

By Zach Mosca
The Jambar

Last Sunday on Walnut Street near Bliss Hall, the Dana School of Music at Youngstown State University hosted its very first in-person concert since the start of the pandemic.

The performance was directed by Dana School of Music professor Misook Yun and featured a variety of students performing various vocal pieces. Yun said she is very excited to be able to have her students perform in person again.

"It was so good to see my students performing live. It was so good to see my students in person. We had dress rehearsal on Thursday, so it was so good to see them and hear them live," Yun said.

While Yun and the rest of Dana staff were able to get used to online teaching and performances, Yun said the feeling of seeing her students perform live can never be replaced by a virtual recital.

"We tried to make [the] best out of the situation, so we all got used to teaching and learning through Zoom ... but still — the live instruction — you cannot

replace it," Yun said.

Yun is not the only one who was excited to be back in person again. Lauren Faber is a second-year master's graduate student majoring in vocal performance. Faber said she is also excited to be back, and this performance was invigorating for her.

"Obviously with a live stream performance, there's no one sitting there, it's just the camera. So you're not getting any feedback, you're not getting any applause, you don't really have that energy to bounce off of. But today everyone could be clapping and laughing along with different things, so it was nice to be able to share that energy and bounce it off of the audience," Faber said.

For other students, like freshman vocal music education major Alexa Mosca, this was their first in-person performance since starting at the Dana School of Music. For her, this performance was very nerve-racking, but she was satisfied afterward.

"It's definitely different going from recording all of your performances to singing live for the first time. It's very different, but it's a great experience," Mosca said.

Mosca went on to say the biggest difference between doing a virtual recital compared to an in-person one is the inability to perform multiple times over during a live performance.

"When we record, you can take as many takes as you need. It can take an hour — I mean I usually take more than I should. Whereas in person, it's live, so you get that one performance," Mosca said.

When looking at the future of live performances for the school, Yun said she's become more experimental and creative during the pandemic. She also plans to bring that experimentation into the school's live performances.

"Under the normal circumstances, I would never have thought about using somebody's kitchen to record or using puppets, but we are creating lots of opportunities, so why not combine those things for an actual performance?" Yun said.

YSU students can check out Dana School of Music's website for updates on upcoming events.

BUSINESS COLLEGE SAYS GOODBYE



Photo courtesy of YSU

Betty Jo Licata became the dean of WCBA when she first began working at Youngstown State University in July 1995, almost 26 years ago.

WCBA Dean Betty Jo Licata announces retirement

By Samantha Smith
The Jambar

The dean of Williamson's College of Business, Betty Jo Licata, announced her retirement for the end of the fall 2021 semester.

Licata became the dean of the college when she first began working at Youngstown State University in July 1995, almost 26 years ago. She has worked for five different YSU presidents during this time.

"We've had nine [presidents], so I've worked with the last five of them, and I think we've seen tremendous growth in YSU in the last 26 years, both in terms of our campus facilities, as well as the stature of our academic programs," she said.

Before joining YSU, Licata worked at Gannon University in Erie, Pennsylvania, as the dean of the

Dahlkemper School of Business.

"[When] the opportunity became available at YSU, I thought it would be a great move — larger university and still in a geographic area I was interested in," she said.

Alongside her job as the dean, Licata was involved in other opportunities and activities in and outside the business college.

"I've had the opportunity outside the college of business to be involved with a variety of our Higher Learning Commission accreditation teams. I've been on the negotiating team several times where the university negotiates the contract with the faculty union," she said.

Licata has also chaired a university engagement committee, chaired a committee at the Reenvisioning of General Education in 2001 and worked with a team

of people throughout the campus to develop the first Student Success Stories campaign at YSU.

Licata said her feelings toward retiring are bittersweet, but it will allow more time for herself and family.

"It's an opportunity to move on and do some traveling with my husband and take advantage of that kind of freedom that you have when you retire," she said.

Licata said she will miss YSU students and faculty once her retirement comes.

"What you remember most, and what I think creates the most special memories for you, are the relationships that you have. Watching our students grow, and the celebrations we have with our students' success — that'll be the hardest part to leave," she said.

THE SEARCH FOR A JOB ...



Photo by Emily McCarthy / The Jambar

Faculty at the Career and Academic Advising office, located in Jones Hall at Youngstown State University, help students more easily transition into the workforce.

Positive career outlook for class of 2021

By Emily McCarthy
The Jambar

The past year has caused a lot of worry for college students looking to find a job after graduation. Faculty at the Career and Academic Advising office at Youngstown State University help transition students into the workforce more easily and help them immerse themselves into careers relevant to their majors.

Justin Edwards, director of the office of Career and Academic Advising, said there are a variety of ways that YSU helps support students about to graduate.

"Our services empower students to explore diverse occupational fields and academic programs while providing career development and professional preparation opportunities for job [or] internship seekers and alumni," he said. "These professional preparation opportunities include resume development, mock interviews, job search assistance, LinkedIn [and] ePortfolio support and professional-dress guidance."

These services include helping students and former students update resumes and pivot career paths even years after graduation. Edwards said post-graduation support is available for all YSU alumni, and professional preparation support is offered by alumni working in the field for many years.

Though the past year brought notable differences for students looking for jobs post-graduation, Edwards said there is good news for upcoming graduates.

"The job search has become more of a virtual endeavor than pre-COVID. Networking is much more reliant on digital tools like LinkedIn or Handshake. Students should be ready to engage with video chat interviews and practice virtual interview etiquette," he said. "The National Association of Colleges and Employers reports a 7.2% increase in hiring directly from college graduates in the class of 2021 as compared to the class of 2020. This is good news for upcoming graduates, as employers seem to be more confident in hiring and the current job market trends."

NACE also has higher salary pro-

jections for the class of 2021 who are earning bachelor degrees. Students are predicted to earn an average salary of 7.1% more than the class of 2020 after graduation.

Christina O'Connell, director of the Center for Career Management at the Williamson College of Business Administration, said her office offers many opportunities to help students better understand and prepare for future careers.

"Students have the opportunity to schedule one-on-one appointments with our office for assistance in cover letters, resumes, interviewing, creating a job search strategy and networking. We want to be sure students are fully prepared for the job search and understand how to use multiple resources when searching for jobs," she said. "We do host a variety of workshops if students choose to attend, and we are invited to attend different student organizations to discuss internship [or] job search strategies."

O'Connell said there are many jobs available right now, which can be more easily found through Handshake. She

said there are many other opportunities as well, but the most important thing for students to remember is the value of networking and making connections.

"The National Association of Colleges and Employers reports a 7.2% increase in hiring directly from college graduates in the class of 2021 as compared to the class of 2020. This is good news for upcoming graduates, as employers seem to be more confident in hiring and the current job market trends."

— Justin Edwards, director of office of career and academic advising

Service opportunities for college graduates

Marta Hergenrother serves in AmeriCorps

By Yousof Hamza
Jambar contributor

Members of AmeriCorps serve communities across the country. It's an opportunity for recent college graduates to make money and gain experience while getting involved in community service, but it's open to people of all ages.

AmeriCorps partners with Notre Dame Mission Volunteers who has over 4,000 members in 24 cities. Laura Roch, the Northeast Ohio site director and Youngstown State University alumna, said there are great benefits for those serving in the communities.

"In communities, especially where ours are, a lot of people are struggling just having a member kind of be the light to them," she said.

Many members who were initially uncomfortable with their work later grew to love it, Roch said. A live-in member at Zelig's Home in Cleveland initially couldn't connect with anyone and was having a hard time.

"She reached out to me and her site supervisor, which is the person on staff there all the time, and said how much she grew to really love the home and love her position," she said. "She actually wants to come back for a second year."

AmeriCorps members are paid \$15,100 while serving. They also receive an education credit of almost \$6,000, which they can apply toward student loans or future education costs.

Roch said there's a myriad of other benefits to help members after they've served.

"They receive an alumni AmeriCorps access, job board access, free tax returns, other discounts," Roch said. "Say you're planning on doing your master's, some colleges will actually look at that and say, 'Wow, this person did a year of service,' and then they'll match the education awards."

Roch said students can serve up to

four times, but only get the educational credits twice.

Other benefits include forbearance on eligible student loans, interest accrual payment on all eligible student loans, health insurance and child care.

Recent YSU graduate Marta Hergenrother is serving in AmeriCorps with the Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown. She said the experience pushed her outside of her comfort zone and allowed her to learn new skills.

"I have also served as a tutor for Beatitude House's Immigrant Outreach Program where I help with ESL [English as a Second Language] classes for adults and coordinate the after-school tutoring program for kids," she said.

Hergenrother said the connections she made were one of the biggest benefits of serving.

"Being able to learn from so many different people on a daily basis has been the most significant part of my AmeriCorps experience," she said.

Recent college graduate and veteran William Brown said serving has helped him out. He is serving in the organization Alliance for Congregational Transformation Influencing Our Neighborhoods in Youngstown, which aims to develop a community of diverse leaders and to raise racial awareness.

"It's a great transition getting out in the field and, you know, just getting your name out there," he said.

Brown said serving in AmeriCorps helps tremendously with his student debt.

"The VA paid all my school loans, except for around \$30,000 of it. So, that extra money of doing a year or two of AmeriCorps — they're going to pick up a little bit of that as well," he said.

Notre Dame Mission Volunteers has several opportunities in northeast Ohio, including a position as a teaching assistant at the Rich Center for Autism on YSU's campus.



Photo courtesy of Marta Hergenrother
Marta Hergenrother, who graduated from YSU last May, "on the job" with Americorps, tutoring a young boy at Beatitude House Immigrant Outreach in Youngstown.

SOUP OF THE DAY WITH A SIDE OF COVID-19



Photo by Douglas M. Campbell / The Jambar

Suzie's Dogs & Drafts owner Christian Reinhart said it is not hosting bands due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Downtown restaurants and COVID-19

By Douglas M. Campbell
The Jambar

As the virtual Frenzy Vision takes the place of Federal Frenzy this year, the typical aura of the event in downtown Youngstown will not be the same, with restaurants yearning to return to a pre-pandemic world.

Jorge Carreño opened his restaurant, Gringos Tacos, near the beginning of the pandemic.

"When we opened this place up it was during COVID, so we didn't know any other way. We had nothing to compare to what it was before or what it is from the inside, but as an outsider — as a consumer — I can tell you downtown is not like it was before the pandemic," Carreño said.

Main Street construction and the lack of students on campus also impacted the business, according to Carreño.

Eventually, Carreño saw students returning to the restaurant little by little, most notably on Saturday evenings.

"They keep coming out and utilizing the place ... it's a public place [where] they can eat and drink and be online and do homework," Carreño said.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Christian Reinhart, CEO and owner of the Justice League Restaurant Group, had to change restaurant operations. The restaurants within the group consist of O'Donald's Irish Pub, Mission Taco and Suzie's Dogs & Drafts.

"We have changed our entertainment structure. At

Suzie's, we are not doing bands until things get back to normal. That way, we have enough floor space to space our tables properly. We have guys at the door to make sure you wear your mask and stay socially distanced," Reinhart said.

He said this task was a challenge to stay on top of in an environment where people usually like to have a drink. The other challenge presented to Reinhart's restaurants was having to close his establishments early in the day due to the Ohio Public Health Advisory orders.

Despite the obstacles, he found support within the community and college students at Youngstown State University.

"We pretty much kept Suzie's closed and only tried O'Donald's. Surprisingly, the community adapted pretty well and supported us during those times," Reinhart said. "Definitely a little bit better now that we are open later, but we were able to survive during that period."

Despite the maintained support from locals, Reinhart still misses the pre-pandemic activities his restaurant hosted.

"We miss the interaction, the fun ... we miss having a little more trivia nights, a little more live music would be great to have back," Reinhart said.

Joey Mamounis, assistant manager of Avalon Downtown pizzeria, has worked there for three years. He said the shop was suited for the pandemic with takeout orders but had to adjust its scheduling and hours of operation.

"Thankfully, we were in the pizza business ... [the]

most popular food item in the world. So, everyone is defaulting to pizza when they don't want to cook or just want a bite of comfort or little bit of nostalgia here in Youngstown," Mamounis said.

Mamounis said he looks forward to downtown events returning and masks no longer being a part of daily life once the pandemic is over.

"[Lifting] the mask mandate is what we are looking for ... to take the training wheels off and go back to normal. We are seeing capacities come back right now and are starting to see the normal flow of business on a Saturday night," Mamounis said.

Beyond the pandemic, Reinhart is looking forward to the future of his restaurants on Phelps Street by introducing new interactive elements in a new restaurant.

"Between O'Donald's, Suzies and our new concept [restaurant] is going to be Wolfgang Clucks. It'll be the chicken sandwiches, chicken tenders ... We are going to add a few more ax-throwing booths, video games, put a bocce court in the basement so we'll have a lot more interactive stuff. So, we can't wait to see what that will turn into," Reinhart said.

Carreño is looking forward to working with other bars and businesses in the area.

"The main goal is to have this place packed every single day, provide more jobs, provide a different atmosphere in the streets but also work together with everybody else," Carreño said.

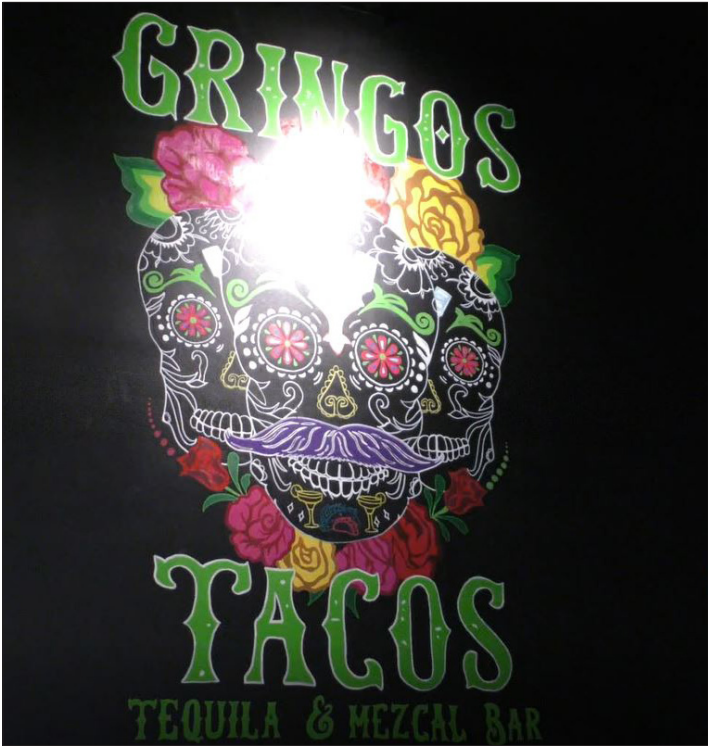
He encourages college students to spread the message of supporting local businesses.



LEFT: Business owners Ken Vigorito (left), Jorge Carraño (middle) and Rodney Freel (right) toast to the beginning of a new opportunity, Gringos Tacos. This photo was taken shortly after they decided on the business venture in 2019. Photo by Kelcey Norris / The Jambar



RIGHT: Barstools are stacked on top of the bar to limit seating inside Suzie's Dogs and Drafts. Photo by Doug Campbell / The Jambar



LEFT: Gringos Tacos opened during the COVID-19 pandemic. Photo by Doug Campbell / The Jambar



RIGHT: Reinhart said the community support for Suzie's Dogs and Drafts from YSU and downtown Youngstown has been amazing, even during restricted business. Photo by Douglas M. Campbell / The Jambar

Student opinions: In-person graduation

By Jessica Stamp
The Jambar

With Youngstown State University's spring 2021 in-person commencement ceremonies at Stambaugh Stadium, students around campus are excited for those graduating.

Marshall Calvin, a sophomore mechanical engineering major, said the in-person ceremony will bring joy to some graduating students.

"A lot of people really like having that kind of personalized ceremony where their family and people can come and celebrate the occasion with them," Calvin said.

Addrine Johnson, a junior social work major, said graduates deserve to be able to walk in the com-

"It's good for them because they did get to miss out, and I know that a lot of high school students also missed out on their graduation. So I think that it's good that college students get to come back and walk — because high school, it's a good milestone, but college is even a bigger milestone. It's a great opportunity for them, and anyone that wants to come back and walk should do it."



Kameya Parks, a junior theater studies major.

"Everyone has to wear their mask and everything and take safety precautions, but, I think it still would be good that they would be able to get their degree in-person and to get to experience all that after their hard years of work."

mencement and celebrate their achievements.

"It's really amazing because [YSU graduates] kind of got cheated out of not being able to [have an in-person ceremony] because of COVID. So, because they get to participate, they get to celebrate it and be able to feel like their hard work is being seen by being able to walk," Johnson said.

Kameya Parks, a junior theater studies major, said it will be great to see 2020 graduates come back and walk since they didn't get a chance to last year.

"It's good for them because they did get to miss out, and I know that a lot of high school students also missed out on their graduation. I think that it's good that college students get to come back and walk — because high school, it's a good milestone, but college is even a bigger milestone," Parks said. "It's a great opportunity for them, and anyone that wants to come back and walk should do it."

Multiple COVID-19 safety rules and precautions are in place to protect the graduates and their families. Mya Atwood, a freshman nursing major, thinks even with all the COVID-19 safety precautions, it is rewarding to see the graduates walk in the ceremony.

"Everyone has to wear their mask and everything and take safety precautions, but I think it still would be good that they would be able to get their degree in-person and to get to experience all that after their hard years of work," Atwood said.

Sarah Rambo, a junior math, physics and astronomy major, has a friend who is participating in com-



Photos by Jessica Stamp / The Jambar

Mya Atwood, a freshman nursing major.

mencement this spring and said this makes her look forward toward her own graduation.

"One of my friends is graduating," Rambo said. "I'm looking forward to graduating [myself], that's for sure. Hopefully, all this COVID stuff has calmed down."

Alyssa Fillion, a sophomore criminal justice major, said it will be great to see the graduating students experience a ceremony while wearing the caps and gowns they purchased for the event.

"I hope it's just as normal for them as possible, just so that they can get that experience that they deserve," Fillion said.

"It's really amazing because [YSU graduates] kind of got cheated out of not being able to [have an in-person ceremony] because of COVID. So, because they get to participate, they get to celebrate it and be able to feel like their hard work is being seen by being able to walk."

— Addrine Johnson, junior social work major

Hello 'Goody Two-Shoes Girl'

YSU graduate releases newest single

By C. Aileen Blaine
The Jambar

By day, Candace Campana works full time at Youngstown State University's international programs office as a business operation specialist. By night, she pursues her true passion: all things music.

Campana began singing as early as she can remember. By the age of 3, she would toddle around while singing tunes. As she grew older, her mother would take Campana and her siblings to theater productions, which she found fascinating.

Music still has a powerful hold on her, and it always plays an important role in her life.

"Nothing else gives me that drive like music does. I could sing all day, every day and never get sick of it," Campana said. "It's just always been a major part of me."

She dreams of touring with Carrie Underwood and collaborating with Korn's Jonathan Davis, and she's working to get there.

In 2012, she decided to expand her musical capabilities, so she picked up the acoustic guitar. Influenced by Kirk Hammett from the rock band Metallica, she then decided to pursue electric guitar.

"I really love Kirk from Metallica and how he just shreds, and I wanted to do that," she said.

Now, she takes music and tap dance lessons several evenings a week and plays violin, mandolin and drums in addition to guitar and her vocals.

The Struthers native recently released her newest single, titled "Goody Two-Shoes Girl," on several music streaming services such as YouTube and Spotify. She already has another project in the works to release in early July. Campana is excited about it.

"The song I'm working on in the studio is a little different from the ones I've recorded and released in the past," she said. "So,

I'm really excited about that."

Many of her songs fall into the country genre, but beyond the country-girl persona lies something perhaps a little surprising: she considers herself a metalhead.

"I love country fairs — I love being outside. I love showing animals [and] I love being with animals. So, country fits me, but I listen to heavy metal," she said. "I love Korn, I love Ghost ... Alice in Chains, stuff like that."

She doesn't just enjoy the sound of chugging guitars, rattling drums and the occasional bagpipe dirge. She also appreciates the complexity behind



Campana's music is available on Spotify, Apple Music, ReverbNation and YouTube.

the lyrics and their deeper meanings.

"Metal, it's way more acceptable to talk about darker things like depression — things like that I can relate to," she said.

Campana also has several notable performances under her belt. Earlier this month, she sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" at the opening of a Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game, and she's also done so for Cleveland Browns and Chicago Bears football games.

One of her favorite memories is her first NFL opening performance for the Chicago Bears, the team her late grandfather played for in the 1950s.

"It was packed — there wasn't a seat left — and when I finished singing, the audience just roared," she said. "When I walked back to my seat, everybody I walked by stood back up and clapped. I was like, 'Oh, this is so awesome. This is what Carrie Underwood must feel like.'"

It hasn't been easy to get herself out there, but with help from her biggest fans and supporters — her family — she's been able to find the secret to success without compromising her personal standards.

"There's so many people who just say no, and if they kind of say yes, you just don't know why they're saying yes," she said. "I have a lot of self respect, and I have a lot of morals. I'm not going to change who I am to get where I want to go."

Even though her journey hasn't always been smooth, she encourages others to pursue their goals.

"Persistence is key," Campana said. "Do not ever take no for an answer, and don't let those sleazy situations stop you from pursuing the golden ones because when you get that yes, it's going to be so worth it."

Her music is available on Spotify, Apple Music, ReverbNation and YouTube. Follow her Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages for more.



Photos courtesy of Candace Campana

Candace Campana, an alumna of Youngstown State University, graduated in 2014 and recently released her newest single, titled "Goody Two-Shoes Girl."

The Jambar Editorial

Dear Jamily,

There's a series of plaques outside the Student Media office in Kilcawley Center dating back to the first editor-in-chief of The Jambar, Burke Lyden, from 1931 and every editor's name since. This year was the 90th anniversary of our student newspaper, which was so mind-boggling that I was a part of this huge piece of Youngstown State University history. I'm beyond proud to have been one of the editors in this long list of student journalists and honored that everyone gave me this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It's been my dream since I was 12 to work in news journalism, and this was the biggest opportunity I've had so far.

I'm mostly proud of the history we made as a publication during the last two years of The Jambar. In 2019, Rachel Gobep and Alyssa Weston started the first-ever student news show at Youngstown State University, and I got to sit in on the meetings from the very beginning. I was able to learn from them as they transformed an idea into a reality that had us all thinking, "Wow, we should've started doing this a long time ago!" The quality and organization of the publications both Rachel and Alyssa managed as editor-in-chief and managing editor are inspiring and not as easy as it looked. Thank you both for taking me under your wing and teaching me more than I expected but exactly what

I needed to know by example. You are both who I look up to, my role models in journalism and my role models as just great women and leaders. The Jambar and Jambar TV are so important to the university and neither of the two would have been as great without you both! We're all so proud of you.

I'm so lucky that I had my own partner-in-crime at The Jambar, a girl always by my side and always willing to go the extra mile to ensure the job gets done. Abigail Cloutier and I met freshman year of college. Now, both entering the final semester of our senior year, I can't picture my life without knowing her. Since we met as neighbors in the Cafaro House residence hall and realized we were both journalism majors, we've been inseparable. We tell each other everything and do basically everything together. A timeless duo, we can usually be spotted either in the Student Media office or in the Dunkin Donuts line.

Although my time at The Jambar as editor-in-chief is ending and I'm feeling sad that it's wrapping up, I'm mostly thrilled and excited about what the next EIC will do in the fall! Abigail, I'm so excited you'll be moving over to editor-in-chief. Every week you've worked so hard on every episode of Jambar TV as the producer, while also editing the weekly edition of the paper,

which is not easy at all! You're one of the smartest and most talented people I know. I know we'll see each other as much as we can, but wow, I'm really going to miss you, Abigail!

To my fellow Jambar staff members — my beloved Jamily if you will — I've really become attached to seeing all of you after class ends on Wednesday to talk and joke around and give romance updates, aka "Tinder Time," for hours on end while editing the paper. During the pandemic, these nights producing the paper have helped me come out of my shell and connect with you all in a way I'll never forget. I'm so thankful that you all put me in charge and allowed me to come in every week and have fun. Thank you to all of our first-year staff members who had no idea what they were getting into, but were not afraid to try. We're so appreciative of all of you and can't imagine our little Jamily without you. I can't wait to see what you do with the publications in the upcoming semesters.

Sincerely,

Kelcey Norris

The Sidebar

Send us a message at Facebook. com/ysujambar to have your thought posted here. Please limit comments to 50 words or less.

THE JAMBAR POLICY

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

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Submissions are welcome

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

The Jambar Column

Till next time ...

Somehow this semester was even more exhausting than the last. Any remaining energy from spring 2020 was drained, leaving behind the desire for something to improve soon. Classes dragged on forever, deadlines felt now or never and there was hardly enough air to breathe. Or, at least that is how it felt for me.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, I have been on campus once, and that was to go to the Jambar office. This isn't ideal in general, but it also has not helped these columns.

While I would not consider myself a campus life columnist, I take inspiration from the world around me. However, lately that world has been very small.

Usually, I made a habit of going around



Mac Pomeroy

campus and seeing what students could use some advice or encouragement on. Now, I am sitting in my bedroom where the only comment needed is telling my cat to stop eating random things she finds on the floor. That isn't exactly news-worthy material.

But, I still worked at it. Right now, we are in a constant rotation of life-changing circumstances. We are still stuck in the panic of the past year but also trying to move forward. This uncertainty makes

our jobs and tasks far more difficult.

I was never really sure what an article would be about each week. I adore this job — it means the world to me. However, when your world is a bubble, it is hard to see through it. But I did, and I wrote an article. And another the next week. And another. And another. All the way to this point, despite being stuck in circumstances.

I won't lie — maybe some of these have not been my best. Some may have felt a bit repetitive or like I was rambling. But I did it, and that is what matters.

I am proud of the work I have done this semester. The persistence shown to keep reaching forward and trying to do better. Even if the articles weren't the best, I

have grown a lot as a writer.

Even in the face of struggles, when we feel like our work is not shining the way we wish for it to, we need to be able to stop and look back. Be proud of what you have done and all you have overcome. Admire the work on its own, and appreciate how much you have grown.

I am eager for next semester, though. I intend to be on campus much more. I hope that through working more closely with the rest of our Jambar family (Jambar family), I can do even better than I have before.

Keep your heads up, Penguins. We are Youngstown, and we are strong. Keep pride in what you do, and keep working hard. Till next time.



By Penguins, for Penguins

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Kelcey Norris

Thanks for all your hard work!
We will miss you!

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Football banned from recruiting

By Jordan Boitnott
The Jambar

Two-year punishment due to Bo Pelini's violations

Last week, Youngstown State University football received a two-year probation punishment due to recruiting violations made under Bo Pelini. The NCAA announced the decision in a press release April 20.

"The university, the football assistant coach and NCAA enforcement staff agreed that, while the prospect was enrolled at a Division II university, the assistant coach had 41 impermissible contacts without obtaining written permission from the prospect's school," the press release said. "Additional impermissible contacts occurred when the prospect made an unofficial visit and a later official visit, during both of which the assistant coach and other coaches engaged in impermissible contacts over extended periods of time."

The press release also stated the coaches believed the player under review was in the transfer portal after he told them he so. Division II rules don't require a university to grant an athlete their transfer portal request,

according to the NCAA.

Along with the one major violation, the same assistant coach made "impermissible contacts" with 16 other prospects due to not taking the 2019-20 coaches certification request.

According to YSU Sports, YSU's football program will receive a list of punishments due to the infractions.

"The penalties include: two years of probation from April 20, 2021 to April 19, 2023; a \$5,000 fine; a reduction of football official visits by three during the 2021-22 academic year; a two-week ban on unofficial visits during the 2020-21 academic year; a two-week ban on all recruiting communication during the 2020-21 academic year; a reduction of football evaluation days by three during the 2021-22 academic year; the assistant football coach was suspended from all coaching duties during three preseason football dates; and the assistant

coach was banned from recruiting activities from Feb. 13-26, 2021."

After the announcement on April 20, YSU Sports released a public statement.

"YSU identified and self-reported recruiting violations, conducted an internal investigation and worked cooperatively with the NCAA to negotiate a resolution. Additional policies and procedures have been implemented to enhance NCAA rules education and avoid future violations. Youngstown State Athletics is committed to maintaining and ensuring the highest standards of compliance in our intercollegiate athletics program."

The team is currently preparing for the fall season after a 1-6 record in the shortened spring season. YSU Sports declined to comment further on the issue.

Softball team earns top spot in Horizon League

By Richie Juliano
Jamabar contributor

The Youngstown State University softball team currently sits at the very top of the leaderboards in the conference. The Penguins have a record of 27-9, and have taken the Horizon League by storm with a record of 20-4 in conference play.

Thirteenth-year head coach Brian Campbell leads the Penguins. Campbell recently coached his 1,000th career game at YSU. He said every player accepting their role aids the team's success.

"Our team slogan is 'we over me,'" Campbell said. "We have pinch hitters and defensive players that have accepted their role, and have done a fantastic job in those roles."

Two players were deemed Horizon League Players of the Week for their performances in the series against University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. Junior infielder Nikki Saibene won the Batter of the Week

"Our team slogan is 'we over me.' We have pinch hitters and defensive players that have accepted their role, and have done a fantastic job in those roles."

— Brian Campbell, head coach

title while junior pitcher Elle Buffenbarger won the Horizon League Pitcher of the Week award.

Both Saibene and Buffenbarger have won their second Horizon League weekly honor of the season. Saibene said her positive mentality contributes to her successful junior campaign.

"Coach Zilles has helped me a phenomenal amount with telling me to go into the box and be positive no matter the outcome," Saibene said.

Buffenbarger leads the Horizon League in four different pitching categories in 2021, with 153 batters struck out as one of the four categories. Buffenbarger emphasizes hitting her spots while on the mound.

"My mindset is to focus on what I can control, and that's hitting my spots," she said. "I am going into games not trying to do too much."

The team slugs the ball on offense this season, outscoring total opponents by 61 runs. With the heavy run support, Buffenbarger says that takes a ton of pressure off the pitching staff.

"It allows our pitchers to throw our games a little more, while having that comfort cushion of the runs behind us," Buffenbarger said.

YSU had its biggest conference stretch of the season in the past couple weeks. The Penguins swept the No. 2 seeded Oakland Golden Grizzlies April 16 and 17, before

facing off against No. 4 seeded Robert Morris University April 23 and 24. The team won two of the four games in the series against RMU. This weekend they'll host Cleveland State starting at 3 p.m. Friday.

Although the next couple matchups are highly anticipated, Campbell wants his team to focus on one game at a time.

"Friday we play, and that's as far as I want these young ladies to look at," Campbell said. "The way that the games are laid out this year having no mid-week games, it has really helped having the opportunity to break things down."

The Penguins have a younger roster this season with only three seniors to lead the way. Saibene said the young women on the team have really stepped up this season.

"The younger players have all done a great job whether they are starting or coming in," Saibene said. "They are very positive and help our team a lot."

Diving into the record books

By Kyle Wills
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University swimming and diving teams capped off their season at the Horizon League Championships April 5-10 at the Indiana University Natatorium.

On April 5-6, junior Tess Weiskopf and freshman Cody Thill competed in both the 1- and 3-meter diving events. Weiskopf appeared in the finals of both the 1-meter and 3-meter events. She posted a score of 210.30 to finish eighth in the 1-meter finals and had a score of 231.00 to also finish eighth in the 3-meter finals. In the prelims of the 3-meter, she had a score of 231.20 and posted a score of 214.35 in the 1-meter prelims.

On April 8, freshman Jael Dankle finished fifth in the 500-yard freestyle to lead the women on the first day of the swimming events. Dankle had a personal-best time of 5:01.59 to tie for fifth place in the event. In the 200-yard freestyle, the Penguins posted a time of 1:37.54 to finish sixth.

For the men, senior Ben Gingher and freshman Gavin Webb had record-setting performances in both the prelims and the finals. They opened and closed the day with school records in the relays.

In the 200-yard freestyle relay, sophomore Wilson Cannon, freshman Gavin Redden, freshman Darren Laing and freshman Rares Druga posted a time of 1:23.23, which eclipsed the school mark set at last year's Horizon League Championships. In the 400 medley relay, the relay of Druga, Gingher, sophomore Karan Raju and Cannon shattered the previous school mark with a time of 3:20.76.



Photo courtesy of YSU Sports

Members of the swimming and diving team competed at the Horizon League Championships April 5-10 at the Indiana University Natatorium.

Gingher posted a school-best time of 1:50.87 in the 200 individual medley to lower his school mark. He placed third in the consolation final and was 11th overall. Webb was second in the consolation final in the 500 freestyle with a school-record time of 4:32.58. He finished 10th overall and beat the previous school best by 11 seconds.

On the women's second day, freshman Ella Kerr placed fourth in the 100-yard breaststroke with a school record time of 1:03.20. Kerr broke the previous mark of 1:04.02 set by Hannah Reynolds in 2016.

Breaking the record was one of her goals, and she was overjoyed when she finally placed her name at the top.

"I was really excited," Kerr said. "I touched the wall and I was really out of breath, but as soon as I could I tried to focus my eyes to try to see the time. I was just ecstatic because I knew that was my goal the whole season. To be able to finally get there and do what I wanted to do, I was really excited."

Also on day two, the men set two relay and five individual school records. Freshmen Soma Albert and Brenden Reeves, along with Laing, Gingher and Cannon all set individual records.

Gingher had the best individual finish, placing sixth in the 100-yard breaststroke

with a time of 55.05 seconds. Albert placed ninth in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 49.77 seconds and Druga finished 11th with a time of 50.15 seconds.

In the 100-yard butterfly, Cannon set the mark with a time of 49.43 seconds in the prelims. In the finals, Raju finished 11th in the event with a time of 49.44 seconds, just missing out on the school mark. Cannon finished 12th with a time of 49.61 seconds.

The men had a strong showing in the 400-yard individual medley led by a school-record time as Reeves swam a time of 3:59.03 in the event to set the school record and place eighth. In the 200-yard freestyle, Laing set the school record with a time of 1:41.92 and finished 12th in the event.

On the final day for the women, Dankle was third in the 1,650-yard freestyle and Kerr was third in the 200-yard breaststroke. Kerr's time of 2:17.20 in the finals set the new school record and gave her an impressive third-place performance. The previous record time was 2:18.09 set by Samantha Roberts in March 2013.

The men would add five more records on day three as Raju, Gingher, Albert, Webb and Druga all set individual school marks. The Penguins closed the meet with a school-best time in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

YSU had a big showing in the 1,650-yard freestyle led by Webb. He finished fourth with a time of 15:33.55, which topped the previous mark of 16:24.10 by Tom Hilk in 1980.

In the 200-yard butterfly, Raju posted a time of 1:49.33 to finish sixth. In the 200-yard breaststroke, Gingher posted a school-record time of 1:59.77 in the prelims. In the finals, he was sixth with a time of 2:00.17. Albert also had a time of 1:46.43 in the 200-yard backstroke, which was good for a fourth-place finish.

In the 100-yard freestyle, Druga set the school record with a time of 45.59 seconds in a swim-off to make the consolation final. In the 400-yard freestyle, YSU posted a time of 3:02.86, breaking the previous mark by just under 5 seconds.

Kerr believes the team has turned a corner and is ready to prove to be a tough competitor for years to come.

"We've come such a far way, even just last season with reinstating the men's program, I think that we've really established ourselves," she said. "I've had coaches from other teams come up to me and said, 'Great swim,' and coaches have come up to coach Brad and said, 'Congratulations. Your team came to play this year,' so I think everyone sees that we're a bigger competitor."