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Thursday, September 1, 2022



Photo by Elizabeth A. Coss / The Jambar

Students explore campus with Welcome Week activities.

Out of this world welcoming

By **Samantha Smith and China Goodson**
The Jambar

Youngstown State University welcomes students back for its fall semester by hosting a series of events the first week of classes Welcome Week.

Dina Fabry, the fitness and wellness coordinator for Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center, explained how the Welcome Week activities can help students get engaged and learn more about the university.

“[It’s] a welcome to new students, to students who have been on campus prior,” she said. “We want to

have fun, engaging activities for everyone that’s on campus, specifically our students. We realized that it can be very stressful to maneuver and navigate through campus, get comfortable with what buildings you have classes, all that good stuff.”

Events earlier this week included the Student Organization Fair, Puppy Palooza, Aye Aye Captain!, Ice Cream Social, Welcome Back BBQ, Space Trivia & Intergalactic Karaoke Night and more.

The Student Organization Fair, hosted in the

Welcome, Page 7

Tressel reflects back while looking forward

By **Elizabeth Coss**
The Jambar

President Jim Tressel gave his final State of the University Address on Aug. 24 in Williamson Auditorium after his previous announcement he’d be stepping down as president in February 2023.

Tressel began the event by introducing new and returning staff to Youngstown State University while praising the accomplishments of various employees over the past year.

“As a collective group, our faculty had a 12-year high of nearly \$11 million in grant activity,” Tressel said. “This past year 96 different grants were awarded to our faculty and we’re awfully, awfully proud of that.”

Despite the successes of faculty, Tressel expressed disappointment toward faculty compensation.

“One of the challenges that I’m most disappointed with, that we haven’t progressed as much as I would like, is in the compensation of our workforce, our faculty ... You’ve heard all the extraordinary things they’ve done. We’ve got to make good decisions so we can compensate properly,” Tressel said.

He also highlighted the collaborative successes of the university in a PowerPoint presentation, including the creation of Candidate Relationship Management Recruit, which streamlines the application process for prospective students; CRM Advise which focuses on the advisement and mentoring of students; the creation of

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Address

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the Penguin Pass which operates as a degree auditing system and checklist for students' degree plan and finally the Higher Learning Commissions' midpoint assurance plan.

The most notable announcement regarding community engagement and upcoming collaborative success was a \$3.5 million endowment tied to the Williamson Innovation Park.

"Through the unbelievable work of the YSU Foundation working with the Williamson family, Bud Williamson had this dream of having young people in the region spend time on science and problem solving and thinking and so forth," Tressel said. "So, he's donated 200 acres, built buildings, built a runway and ponds... has given us an endowment to maintain the property."

Alongside the announcement of the endowment, Tressel mentioned what could be expected from not only the money gifted, but the land as well.

"We're only limited by our creativity... We've even talked with the Student Government [Association], you got 200 acres, we've got a food pantry we deeply care about. Hey, why don't we start a big garden," Tressel said. "There's going to be so many neat things. Stay tuned on that work."

In the address, Tressel covered campus improvements, mentioning the dem-

olition of the M60 parking deck located on Lincoln Avenue and improvements to expect in the near future.

Tressel briefly discussed what the future of Kilcawley Center could look like as the university has been considering renovations or a new center altogether.

"[Kilcawley Center] was built in 1964 and then there was a little addition in '71," Tressel said. "So it's at the stage where the building – it's time to go. We're having conversations with the board of trustees, with the YSU Foundation as to how can we go about starting over if you will, and having a student center that meets the needs and the activities of today's students and not the ones from the 1970's."

Additional campus improvements being made in relation with athletics include a 150-seat auditorium to Stambaugh Stadium as well as a physical therapy center to be added within Beeghly Center. Tressel attributed the funding for these projects to private funding through the YSU Foundation and thanked private donors.

A notable university accomplishment achieved last year was the Collegiate Purple Heart Award, which is given to universities that make exceptional efforts to provide for students with military backgrounds.

YSU was also awarded the Changing Campus Culture designation for achieving a five out of five-star rating from the

Department of Higher Education for changing cultures on campus in regards to sexual violence.

For a second year in a row, YSU has achieved a top rating for fulfilling the state of Ohio's Sunshine laws, including the Ohio Public Records Act and Ohio's Open Meeting Act.

Alongside all the successes of the university, Tressel also discussed the hardships it has faced regarding enrollment.

"It's not a new challenge but if you're going to put it in perspective, there are 111 institutions of higher ed in Ohio, under level, and a decreasing number of students projected to go to colleges," Tressel said. "The 13 main campuses that are four-year publics like ourselves, if you look at the last five years, five of them have held pretty steady. Eight of us have gone down from an enrollment standpoint. What's encouraging to me is, we've gone down the least percentage of any of those."

Tressel accredited the programs offered, affordability, and opportunity at the university as leading factors against the enrollment decline and stated he looked forward to the challenges the year brings until his presidency ends.

"I know we have the talent, fortitude and really, the ingenuity to meet these tremendous challenges," Tressel said. "I will enjoy being in the trenches there with you until February."

7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.
High: 82°F Low: 55°F Chance of precipitation: 0% mostly sunny and pleasant	High: 85°F Low: 64°F Chance of precipitation: 9% warm with plenty of sunshine	High: 88°F Low: 64°F Chance of precipitation: 25% sunshine, warm and more humid	High: 85°F Low: 62°F Chance of precipitation: 40% a thunderstorm in spots	High: 82°F Low: 59°F Chance of precipitation: 40% humid; a stray morning shower	High: 77°F Low: 57°F Chance of precipitation: 55% Partly sunny with a couple of showers	High: 78°F Low: 58°F Chance of precipitation: 0% plenty of sun
 Fair	 Fair	 Fair	 Fair	 Fair	 Fair	 Fair

Information courtesy of accuweather.com

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Photo by Henry Shorr / The Jambar

A small fire occurred in the Courtyard Apartments which the Youngstown Fire Department responded to.

Small fire in Courtyard Apartments

By Henry Shorr
The Jambar

The Youngstown Fire Department responded to a small fire at the Courtyard Apartments on Aug. 20. The fire caused only \$10,000 in damages and affected only two rooms.

The fire report stated that it was set intentionally by igniting paper towels and other refuse. The fire was no larger than two meters in diameter. According to Captain Kurt Wright of the YFD Fire Investigation Department, the alarm was triggered immediately, which is what the fire department responded to.

“There was no delay. The fire department was initially dispatched for the fire on a fire alarm,” Wright said. “Before they even left the fire station, they had received phone calls from the scene that it was an actual fire, not just a fire alarm. So then they dispatched the full complement of trucks.”

The retinue from the YFD included five trucks and a battalion chief. The fire report explained and Wright corroborated that the fire was contained in one room on the third floor of the apartment. The only damage

sustained was to that room and the one directly below due to water damage from the sprinkler.

The fire report also verified the resident who started the fire “self-extricated” themselves from the building and was taken to St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital via American Medical Response.

Wright also cleared up some rumors that have been disseminated about the events of the fire. According to Wright, he received calls wildly speculating about various illicit incidents and other rumors which he made sure to dispel.

Joy Polkabra-Byers, associate vice president of Student Experience, pointed out there is training and systems in place to ensure staff and resident safety in these situations, and they all worked as intended.

“There’s processes in place and training of staff ... to ensure that they’re evacuating the building; we do testing of our sprinkler system and our alarm system throughout the semester,” Polkabra-Byers said. “All of those are really to prepare individuals so when there’s a situation like there was on Saturday they were properly evacuated from the building ... I commend highly the students that were working on Saturday night and

the professional staff that was in the courtyard and how well they handled the situation.”

Polkabra-Byers wanted to highlight that everything went right that could in this situation: the alarms alerted the YFD, the sprinkler system put the fire out and evacuation went smoothly. She stressed that Student Experience, which includes housing, is dedicated to making sure that residents on campus have a safe and seamless experience.

“We are committed to the experience that our students are having, and making sure that their needs are met. So whether there were students that needed to be relocated, the university has been in contact with them, making sure that their needs are addressed and that we are committed to making it the best experience possible for our students,” she said.

On Wednesday, the Courtyards sent an email to residents stating it would increase corrective measures and impose fines against individuals who wrongfully trigger fire alarms.

The building is on fire watch until they can be sure the alarm and sprinkler systems are back to normal. The investigation is still ongoing.

Parking changes at YSU, impacts students

By **Jessica Stamp**
The Jambar

During the summer, the M-60 parking deck on the corner of Lincoln Avenue and Fifth Avenue was demolished, with plans to build a surface parking lot.

Danny O'Connell, director of parking services, said one of the main focuses with the new lot is accessibility as it will include approximately 165 parking spaces. The lot will be shaped like a track to help traffic move smoothly.

"We were interested in keeping some accessible parking spaces ... it made sense to put down not a complete parking lot here but one that was two sections so it gave us kind of a track," O'Connell said.

O'Connell also mentioned other lots on campus that replace the lost parking deck spaces.

"We built a new parking lot behind the stadium and [WATTS] that has a large number of spots ... we improved the lot [in front of the tennis courts]," O'Connell said. "We haven't really filled up the M-70 lot which is our largest service lot with over 550 parking spaces."

O'Connell is hoping for the project to be completed by October but there have been a lot of challenges like bids for a contract to complete the lot, which have prolonged the construction of the parking lot. Bids for the

new lot are currently being advertised and have to go through three to four weeks of advertising per state requirements.

The Edge will receive 38 overnight parking spaces located behind the Enterprise. Right below the overnight parking lot will be another parking lot primarily for the Excellence Training Center. Parking Services is aiming around Sept. 14 for both parking lots to be completed.

Alexis Funaro, a junior middle school education major with a concentration in mathematics and science, believes the removal of the parking deck will impact the education majors drastically due to Beeghly Hall being within close proximity.

"It's so close to so many of the buildings especially like the Debartolo and it's close to Kilcawley ... and it's just not going to hold as many people and that's my main concern,"

Negin Mirzade, a sophomore pre-medical major, wants more available space for students to park.

"It was pretty old and we couldn't use many of the floors ... I hope that we will have more space for students," Mirzade said.

Some students understand the safety concerns and the reasoning behind the demolition of the parking deck but believe that parking on campus will still be a problem even if a parking lot gets put in place.

"It was technically going to be ripped apart because it was very old and from safety concerns, I understand why the university management decided to take it apart. But at the same time, the parking is still a key issue on campus," Ilgar Guliyev, a fifth year accounting major, said.

Guliyev pointed out that YSU should change the prices of the parking passes due to fewer available parking spaces at the core of campus.

"This semester we're not going to have as much ... parking but there's still a requirement to pay the same amount," Guliyev said. "I feel like the fee for the parking services should be appropriate and approximate the availability of parking."

Elman Kazimli, a junior finance major, thinks YSU should have put more thought into the timeframe of the demolition and construction of the new parking lot.

"It was kind of a fault from the university administration that they didn't plan it ahead. First, they said that the due date is some late September and now they're saying late October," Kazimli said. "I think next time just think everything through comprehensively and probably put a lot more thought to it."

For those interested in parking information on campus, call parking services at 330-941-3546 or send an email to parking@ysu.edu.

Ohio U. S. Senate Candidates Tim Ryan and J. D. Vance.

Will Ohioans burn their group health insurance cards?

Find out why!

Jack Labusch and Friends of Health Care Free Speech:

The Case for Banning America's Unique Group Health Insurance Now.



Photo Courtesy of Jambar Archives

Mercy Health - Wick Primary Care at Youngstown State University

YSU updates COVID-19 policy

By **Shianna Gibbons**
The Jambar

Youngstown State University is not mandating masks on campus and will not require individuals to report COVID-19 symptoms and positive tests.

Shannon Tirone, associate vice president of University Relations, said the policy is in accordance with guidelines set by city and county health officials.

“The city and county health officials deal with these sorts of things on a daily basis; whether it’s COVID, a flu outbreak, or chickenpox, we go to the table with the experts to make sure we are making the best judgment call for those at YSU,” Tirone said.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s COVID-19 Data Tracker, the Mahoning County community is classified as “high” and recommends individual precautions such as wearing masks in public settings, staying up to date on vaccines and getting tested if symptoms are present.

Erin Bishop, Youngstown city health commissioner, said the CDC’s recommendations are reflected in current city and campus policies.

“The CDC passes on to the Ohio Health Department, then the Ohio Health Department passes on to the local health departments,” Bishop said. “YSU just always made sure they were aligned with what we as a city were coming out with.”

The city of Youngstown has seen a declining number of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

“Right now, our 7-day average is about 20 [cases] a week, down from 30 [cases], which was reported a month ago,” Bishop said. “Almost six months without

any [COVID-19 related] deaths and low numbers of hospital admissions.”

YSU and the Youngstown City Health District will continue to offer free COVID-19 vaccination, booster and flu shot clinics to students, faculty, staff and families. The clinics will take place Sept. 20 and Oct. 18.

Bishop said the vaccines are one way to help combat the severity of COVID-19.

“As more people are getting vaccinated [fewer] people are in the hospital,” Bishop said. “The different strands of covid are affecting people differently, and some aren’t getting as sick as before.”

Tirone said the university is prepared to change the policy based on COVID-19 trends or surges.

“There will be no masks for the start of school, but we are also flexible if something happens with a COVID spike,” Tirone said. “If we are seeing large hospital admits and everything else, we are determined to be flexible with those changes and those plans.”

YSU’s COVID-19 task force and health officials meet on a monthly basis but are in constant communication.

“We touch base concerning what we are thinking about doing if we need to put any restrictions in place or not. We met with them about three weeks ago, and we based our plan on that conversation,” Tirone said.

Nickiforos Mastorides, president of the Student Government Association, represents the student body in the meetings to determine COVID-19 policy.

“Due to our surveys administered to the student body by student government, I was able to properly advocate for what the majority of students wanted within the committee,” Mastorides said. “If students feel their health is at risk with the current policies, we highly en-

courage them to reach out.”

Mastorides said the SGA would provide supplies to help students stay safe.

“We recommend that students follow the guidelines set by the State and the University due to our county being a ‘high risk’ area. SGA will still be handing out various cleaning materials to encourage healthy practices for our students,” Mastorides said.

Tirone said YSU encourages masks and other COVID-19 precautions for individuals who may feel uncomfortable or are at risk for severe illness.

“If an individual feels they want to wear a mask, not only because of COVID but maybe because of the Flu, or anything else that may be jeopardizing their health, we are asking everyone to respect those choices,” Tirone said.

Tirone said people should stay home if they are experiencing symptoms and feeling ill.

“If you wake up in the morning and you get a stomach virus or whatever is going on, don’t come to campus,” Tirone said. “The same thing is with COVID.”

Tirone said the COVID-19 information page on YSU’s website is a good resource for policy information, testing information, vaccination information and information on if an individual believes they have COVID-19.

“We are always updating the website, so there is that COVID resource button,” Tirone said. “Anytime the city or the CDC update how many days for quarantine, how [long] they recommend wearing a mask around others with symptoms, if you’ve had your shot and how to go forward with that. That’s the best place to look at.”

For individuals interested in COVID-19 information, visit YSU’s coronavirus information page.

New academy set to teach recruits IT skills

By Christopher Gillett
The Jambar

Youngstown State University launched a new tech academy to teach students information technology skills such as cybersecurity and coding. Students will learn skills in IT that will prepare them for future employment after graduation, including at YSU's IT department.

YSU students and incoming high school seniors can apply before and at the beginning of each semester. Junior and senior YSU students can apply, but they will receive an abridged course. Any major can apply, but recruits are required to pursue careers in IT. Afterward, they are interviewed and selected by the IT department.

Accepted interviewees will work as student employees at IT services for their first year and in field services for their second year. Third year students will be assigned a mentor from the IT department.

Among those applying is senior IT major Marquise Goodlet. Already working for the IT department as a Student Service Desk Technician, he explained why he applied for the academy and where he wants to go with an IT career.

"I saw the tech academy as an invaluable opportunity. In IT, sometimes getting your foot in the door or sometimes getting hands-on experience can be hard to come by, so the tech academy was a great opportunity," Goodlet said.

He elaborated on where he wanted to take his career within the discipline, wanting to focus on a non-technical role within cybersecurity.

James Yukech, associate vice president for technology and chief information officer of YSU, has been working at the university for six years. He was the brain behind the tech academy's creation. He explained how the academy was formed.

"[The tech academy] is not new in the sense that [the IT department has] had student workers for decades. We've always been managing student workers, [and] I think by formalizing it into the tech academy one of the challenges we face now is we only have so many spots to fill," Yukech said.

He explained how challenging it is to pick the right students.

"We have seven spots to fill and we might get 13 to 15 applicants. Doing those interviews and making sure we get the right seven candidates every year is going to be

different from the way we've done things in the past," he said. "We hope that by bringing students into the tech academy that the best and brightest stay here at YSU."

The students who are accepted will work under Sharyn Zembower, the associate director of IT services who has been at YSU for three years. She explained how academy entrants will develop two types of networking skills.

"They'll be networking with folks in IT. They'll also be looking, if they're looking [at online networks], at specific network infrastructure, which keeps our things running like the WiFi and connections and phones," she said.

Depending on what they choose to study in the academy, students will learn numerous other IT skills. They might keep apps like Penguin Portal functioning, learn cybersecurity through watching for phishing scams, or program and code software.

Interested students can apply on the YSU IT tech academy website. There is still time to sign up for the fall semester, as the academy is still holding interviews. Though there is no set deadline for applying this semester, Zembower said in regards to applying for the tech academy, "the sooner the better".

News Brief

Silly Science Sunday comes back to downtown Youngstown

Have you ever watched a watermelon explode from the force of rubber bands? Have you ever done an egg drop challenge 50 feet up from a drone? OH WOW! The Roger & Gloria Jones Children's Center for Science & Technology would like to show people how it's done. OH WOW! will host its twelfth annual Silly Science Sunday event on Sunday, Sept. 18 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Downtown Youngstown with the support of Sweeney Chevrolet, Buick, GMC.

Watermelon explosions will be just

one of many demonstrations happening outside the Center's doors on Sunday. OH WOW! takes over Central Square as well as a portion of W. Federal Street to provide a variety of hands-on activities, exhibitors, and stage shows all related to science, technology, reading, engineering, art and mathematics.

"Silly Science Sunday is a day meant for all ages to visit OH WOW! and get excited about STEM education in the Mahoning Valley," said Colleen Ruby Director of Visitor Services. "We en-

courage exploration and experimentation at the museum every day, and Silly Science is an expansion of our mission."

Exhibitors include Youngstown State University College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, YWCA of Mahoning Valley, First Robotics, The Solar Education Project, The Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County, Mahoning County Career Technical Center, Valley STEM Academy, NASA Glenn Research Center, Kent State University, Pittsburgh Insti-

tute of Aeronautics, the Bold, Resilient, Transparent and Empathetic Energy Innovators, Youngstown Phantoms, Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics, Western Reserve Media PBS, Students motivated by the arts, Sharon Robotics, City Machine Technologies, and many more. In addition to exhibitors, there will also be food vendors including Sweet Sips, One Hot Cookie, Armida's Cucina and G&G Concessions.

Interested in puzzles? Check the Word Search on page 11.

Welcome

Page 1

Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center and held on Tuesday Aug. 30, allowed students to meet different organizations to learn about each one and see how they can be involved on campus.

During the fair, Jacob Stack, a senior exercise science major who is a part of the men's baseball club, talked about what the student organization can offer students.

"I'm looking forward to meet some of the new students that are here," he said. "Hopefully get some of them interested in our [baseball] club. I'm always willing to help young students that are here and just get ready for school."

Puppy Palooza was also held Tuesday in Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center and allowed students to decompress and spend time with puppies of different breeds from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Another event hosted Tuesday was Aye Aye Captain!.

Students were able to learn about the new Intramural Sports fee, registration, and payment.

Fabry detailed what she hopes students gain from Welcome Week and the importance of having these types of events.

"I think [Welcome Week] is important because it kind of unites all students and everyone on campus," she said. "It's a great way for all of us to come together, socialize, show our 'Y' pride. It's a great way to raise awareness of all the fun things that you can do on campus."

Some of Thursday's events are YSU Day, Student Veteran Picnic, Get The Scoop On Success, Who's In Your Orbit Student Mixer and more.

YSU Day celebrates when YSU joined the Ohio state school system. Students who attend will learn about YSU's history and get the chance to paint the rock. A performance by the YSU Marching Pride will take place during the event.

The Student Veteran Picnic will be held again Thursday and will allow student veterans at the university to

connect with the Veterans Center staff and learn about veteran and military education benefits.

The Resch Academic Success Center is hosting an ice cream social which will provide free ice cream as well as information about what services the campus offers, such as tutoring services for students.

The Who's In Your Orbit student mixer, hosted by Student Activities and the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, will be in The Cove, allowing students the opportunity to meet new people and student organizations with snacks and activities provided.

Friday's events include Galactic Crafts in The Cove, Build-A-Penguin — location to be decided — Game Night in the St. John Henry Newman Center and DEI Presents: The Yard Show in the Veterans Plaza featuring various Greek life organizations on campus.

Students can visit YSU's webpage about Welcome Week for a detailed list of past, current and future events.



The Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center hosted Puppy Palooza to help students relax from the first week.

Photo by Samantha Smith / The Jambar



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University President Jim Tressel conducts Marching Pride.

Photo by Molly Burke / The Jambar

Meet the Pride

By Molly Burke
The Jambar

Friday Aug. 26, the Youngstown State University Marching Pride held its annual kickoff event, Meet the Pride at Stambaugh Stadium. The free public event showcased the band's hard work throughout the summer for the upcoming football season.

In addition to the traditional fight song, families and friends gathered to hear a throwback of classic rock selections by bands such as Led Zeppelin, AC/DC and Van Halen.

Senior music education major Katie Berlin is a drum major in the band. She discussed what she looked forward to for the event as well as some challenges the band overcame in preparation for its performance.

"I'm really excited for people to see how much the band has grown. Over the past few years, we had a slight dip in numbers because of [coronavirus], but now we're back and we're bigger than we've been in several years. I think the band is producing a really awesome sound and it's going to be a great show," Berlin said.

Not only did the Pride face the obstacle of adapting to the pandemic, but the band experienced another transi-

tion last year as Kate Ferguson became the new Director of Athletic Bands. However, this change has been a positive one for the band's morale.

"We definitely are still getting into the swing of things and finding our stride with her, but she is doing an awesome job. The Pride has really adapted very well," Berlin said.

At Meet the Pride, the band followed Ferguson's direction with every beat. The performance was the result of weeks of training under her enthusiastic lead.

"They've been preparing all summer long, and now they've been in band camps for the last several days. We're putting together all of our music, our drill and getting ready for everything that goes into pre-game, half-time and everything for the football season," Ferguson said.

Ferguson has been working with the members of the Pride through long hours in the sun during band camp. Despite this, she described everything that makes practicing in the intense heat worth it.

"My favorite part [of directing the Pride] is watching everyone grow and come into their own. They're learning new things, making new friends and becoming better leaders and teachers," Ferguson said.

Sophomore computer science major Caroline Manjerovic is an alto saxophone player in the Marching Pride. She gave insight into what inspired her to be a part of the band.

"I decided to join the Pride because I love band, and this was an opportunity to join a very large band. I went to a very small high school, [but] here, there's so many people. This year we have over a hundred people in the band. It's an opportunity to play with a lot of great players, a lot of very helpful players, and a lot of very good people," Manjerovic said.

Some of the performers Manjerovic mentioned include wind instruments, a drumline, penguinettes, feature twirlers and colorguard. These different roles complement each other in a variety of field patterns that accompany the music.

The Pride can be found at every home football game, and at the University of Kentucky for an away trip Sept. 17. It will also be playing at several volleyball games as well as some local band performances in the Youngstown area. For more information, check out the Marching Pride website.

Cliffe College of Creative Arts Calendar of Events for September

				Thursday, Sept. 1 Foundations Student Exhibition - Judith Rae Solomon Gallery	Friday, Sept. 2 Foundations Student Exhibition - Judith Rae Solomon Gallery	Saturday, Sept. 3 Foundations Student Exhibition - Judith Rae Solomon Gallery
Sunday, Sept. 4 Foundations Student Exhibition - Judith Rae Solomon Gallery The Dana Ensemble - The Butler Institute of American Art @ 3:00p.m.	Monday, Sept. 5 Foundations Student Exhibition - Judith Rae Solomon Gallery	Tuesday, Sept. 6 Foundations Student Exhibition - Judith Rae Solomon Gallery	Wednesday, Sept. 7 Foundations Student Exhibition - Judith Rae Solomon Gallery Music at Noon - The Butler Institute of American Art @ 12:15p.m.	Thursday, Sept. 8 Foundations Student Exhibition - Judith Rae Solomon Gallery Artist Talk: Alisa Hen- riquez - McDonough Museum @ 5:10p.m.	Friday, Sept. 9 Foundations Student Exhibition - Judith Rae Solomon Gallery Fall Exhibitions reception: Alisa Henriquez, Gavin Benjamin, Eva Kwong, Scott Goss and Kirk Mangus - McDonough Museum @ 5:00p.m.	Saturday, Sept. 10 N/A
Sunday, Sept. 11 N/A	Monday, Sept. 12 Hispanic Heritage Month Exhibition - Judith Rae Solomon Gallery	Tuesday, Sept. 13 Hispanic Heritage Month Exhibition - Judith Rae Solomon Gallery	Wednesday, Sept. 14 Hispanic Heritage Month Exhibition - Judith Rae Solomon Gallery Music at Noon - The Butler Institute of American Art @ 12:15p.m.	Thursday, Sept. 15 Hispanic Heritage Month Exhibition - Judith Rae Solomon Gallery	Friday, Sept. 16 Hispanic Heritage Month Exhibition - Judith Rae Solomon Gallery	Saturday, Sept. 17 Hispanic Heritage Month Exhibition - Judith Rae Solomon Gallery
Sunday, Sept. 18 Hispanic Heritage Month Exhibition - Judith Rae Solomon Gallery Caroline Oltmanns Faculty Piano Recital - Ford Theater, Bliss Hall @ 4:00p.m.	Monday, Sept. 19 Hispanic Heritage Month Exhibition - Judith Rae Solomon Gallery Visiting Artist: Teresa Dunn - McDonough Museum @ 5:10p.m.	Tuesday, Sept. 20 Hispanic Heritage Month Exhibition - Judith Rae Solomon Gallery Visiting Artist: Teresa Dunn - Bliss Hall @ 11:00a.m.	Wednesday, Sept. 21 Hispanic Heritage Month Exhibition - Judith Rae Solomon Gallery Music at Noon - The Butler Institute of Ameri- can Art @ 12:15p.m.	Thursday, Sept. 22 Hispanic Heritage Month Exhibition - Judith Rae Solomon Gallery	Friday, Sept. 23 Hispanic Heritage Month Exhibition - Judith Rae Solomon Gallery	Saturday, Sept. 24 Hispanic Heritage Month Exhibition - Judith Rae Solomon Gallery
Sunday, Sept. 25 Hispanic Heritage Month Exhibition - Judith Rae Solomon Gallery	Monday, Sept. 26 Hispanic Heritage Month Exhibition - Judith Rae Solomon Gallery	Tuesday, Sept. 27 Hispanic Heritage Month Exhibition - Judith Rae Solomon Gallery	Wednesday, Sept. 28 Hispanic Heritage Month Exhibition - Judith Rae Solomon Gallery Artist Talk: Eva Kwong - McDonough Museum @ 5:10p.m. Music at Noon - The Butler Institute of American Art @ 12:15p.m.	Thursday, Sept. 29 Hispanic Heritage Month Exhibition - Judith Rae Solomon Gallery	Friday, Sept. 30 Hispanic Heritage Month Exhibition - Judith Rae Solomon Gallery The Revolutionists - Spotlight Theater, Bliss Hall @ 7:30p.m.	

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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, sports 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.

Head to page 14 for the answer key

The Jambar Editorial

Student loan forgiveness

A campaign promise and a follow-through few of us expected, to be frank; student loan forgiveness has been plastered in the news recently and as such, questions and concerns are being raised across the nation.

What are student loans and what is student loan forgiveness exactly? Student loans, in short, are funds taken out by students from the federal government when seeking higher education. To many students coping with debt it is a fresh start but to others it is being deemed unfair to those who have worked decades to pay off their own educational loans. Regardless, student loan forgiveness is the erasure of debt owed to the federal government, either with or without interest that has been accrued over a period of time.

According to The Washington Post, up to 43 million borrowers are eligible for forgiveness on their loans. However, despite such a large number of Americans being eligible for relief, there are criticisms from a variety of angles.

For those making under \$125,000 a year and filing independently, students could qualify for up to \$10,000 of relief. Those under the same conditions but those who receive Pell Grants are eligible for up to \$20,000 of forgiveness.

But, relatively speaking, is this enough for those tackling student loan debt? With minimum wage hardly re-

flecting the cost of living in much of the nation, many seek higher education as a means to survive. The idea of needing a college degree has fed into a broken system of belief they will make more, and hence, be more likely to afford a higher standard of living.

The addition of student loan debt however, makes this a broken system, forcing a false narrative of a living wage. A minimum wage is the lowest amount of income an individual can make reflected off of state laws. Minimum wage is essentially an employer saying, "if I could pay you less, I would."

A living wage is the lowest amount of income a person can make without being considered in poverty. Commonly, we associate individuals who make minimum wage as without a college degree, and those making a living wage as individuals with a degree.

Are they really any different however, when a person who makes minimum wage does not owe \$20,000 back to the government and is struggling to pay bills, compared to an individual who makes above minimum wage and now owes thousands of dollars back to the government while still struggling to pay bills?

In another Washington Post article, one in five Americans have loan debt, but 53% of borrowers owe less than \$20,000. Even after loan forgiveness, 47% of these borrowers are still going to have debt, and truthfully, this is

under the assumption that the entirety of the 53% aforementioned is making less than \$125,000 a year.

According to a living wage calculator, the living wage in Ohio is \$15.61. Under the assumption you work full time, your annual income before taxes is approximately \$32,460. This doesn't include any other costs of living, Food, housing, medical bills or even insurance. Hypothetically, to even make a living wage, you have to go to college, take loans to afford college in many cases, only to wind up \$20,000 in debt and only make \$32,460 roughly a year. Assuming of course, you are amongst 53% of America. Oh, don't forget to pay your taxes – your income was actually \$27,034 a year.

We as students deserve more. 47% of us are still going to have debt despite loan forgiveness. We are America's next doctors, lawyers, engineers, teachers, musicians, receptionists, counselors and journalists. Most of us aren't going to make hundreds of thousands of dollars.

In case you think loan forgiveness is a problem or new to the nation, I highly encourage you all to research the auto industry bailout from 2008, airline bailouts from 2020, the Paycheck Protection Program loan forgiveness that started in 2020 or the Mortgage Debt Forgiveness and Mortgage Debt Relief Act which goes back to 2007.

The Jambar Column

A breath of fresh air

School is back in session at Youngstown State University and it seems as if summer flew by like a racehorse. I must admit I'm quite confident this semester will be a great one.

As the fall semester begins, we will meet new teachers and students and make new friends. We will learn new career paths, become more involved in our future careers and even settle upon what we hope for our future career to be. Although these are pleasantries that we experience as we grow and learn with each semester, there is one thing that will make this semester much better than the rest – the relaxation of coronavirus regulations.

Toward the end of the last spring semester, YSU lifted its mask mandate. This semester, we will be able to enjoy the company of others without wearing masks and maintaining social distancing



Hailey Rogenski

precautions. We've spent more than two years under strict coronavirus regulations and taking off the masks and being closer to our friends and classmates is long overdue.

It can be hard to build a connection with others while wearing masks and social distancing. Although it's good to be safe and spread out, a high-five or a hug from a friend or classmate is nice every once in a while. While distancing from people, it's harder to communicate without being too loud, especially when wearing masks. Masks can make it harder to talk and even breathe while also muffling our voices which can make it difficult to hear each other.

As someone who suffers from asthma,

wearing masks makes it extremely hard to breathe, even more so when it's hot outside or I'm moving around.

In my spare time, I enjoy utilizing the gym in Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center. Unfortunately, for a long period of time I couldn't do that because I am unable to workout with a mask on since I am at risk of having an asthma attack. I can barely manage walking to class with a mask on – not to mention it makes my face sweat and I feel as if I'm breathing in hot, smelly air.

Masks can be distracting inside the classroom as well. As someone who wears glasses, I can't count how many times my mask has ridden up the bridge of my nose and gotten in my eyes. If the mask is too loose and isn't adjustable, it tends to fall down which can also be a nuisance.

Students can have a more difficult

time trying to understand what teachers are saying during lectures. When students can't understand what teachers are saying, they miss out on important information that may appear on homework or future tests.

Having the freedom to choose whether or not to wear masks is like a breath of fresh air. Although we had to undergo over two years of coronavirus regulations, it felt as if it had been an eternity. Welcome back Penguins, and I'm looking forward to sharing this semester with you as a new columnist.

For those interested in the current Centers for Disease Control and Preventions' recommendations on the use and care of masks, when to wear one and the COVID-19 community level, visit the CDC website.

Have something to say to The Jambar? Send a Letter to the Editor!

Email thejambar@gmail.com

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Volleyball serves first two opponents of the season

By Cameron Stubbs
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University volleyball team opened the 2022 season by hosting the Double-Tree-Youngstown Invitational at the Beeghly Center.

The Penguins look to improve their 6-23 record from last year and started the season off strong with back to back wins day one of the season.

The women swept The University of Idaho in three sets.

Sophomore Paula Gursching led the way with 13 kills followed by senior Nadia Pace and junior Elise Moeller with 12 and seven kills respectively.

The second match of the day was a battle against Delaware State University as the match went to five sets with Youngstown State pulling away with a 16-14 final set win.

Gursching again led the team with 26 kills on 72 attempts, good for a .292 hitting average. Those 72 attempts also set a school record for a single match.

Sophomore Isabel Schaeffbaur distributed 29 assists against the Hornets, while senior Isidora Sisic contributed 20 digs and Pace added six blocks.

Head coach Aline Scott is confident in second year leader Gursching as she took the reins for the day, “[Gursching is] just so steady and we trust her,” Scott said. “When it’s clutch time we give her the ball and she’s going to handle it.”

Gursching commented on the challenge of playing two matches in one day.

“For me the hardest part is having a break [between games] because we sat down and got cold,” Gursching stated. “As soon as we start playing the energy comes.”

Against the Hornets, freshman Abbie Householder earned 10 kills off the bench and recorded the last kill to end the day with a win for the Penguins.

Householder commented on her big match off the bench and what it means to be that spark,

“That’s always the goal,” Householder said, “When you can tell everyone’s heads are down just a little bit because we’re in a slump, so that’s always the goal com-

ing in.”

Youngstown State battled Valparaiso University in the title match Saturday.

History repeated itself for the second straight year as the Penguins fell to the Beacons, this time by a final of 3-1.

The team was led by Gursching again with eight kills, but was coaxed into eight errors as well.

Gursching’s big weekend resulted in her being named Horizon League player of the week as she averaged 4.27 kills per set. This is her third time achieving this honor due to her 47 kills, 15 digs, and two aces over the weekend.

The 2-1 start will be put to the test as the Penguins head to St. Louis to participate in the Billiken Invitational on Sept. 2 and 3.

The volleyball team will take on Central Michigan University and Saint Louis University on day one, and The University of St. Thomas on day two. Follow along for live stats and updates on YSUsports.com.

News Brief

LIT YOUNGSTOWN TO HOST WRITERS FROM
NORTHEAST OHIO

Lit Youngstown will host writers from Toledo and Kent in its First Wednesday Readers Series presenting Alice Cone of Kent and Jonie McIntire of Toledo.

Emelia Sherin will co-host the free reading at the Soap Gallery in downtown Youngstown

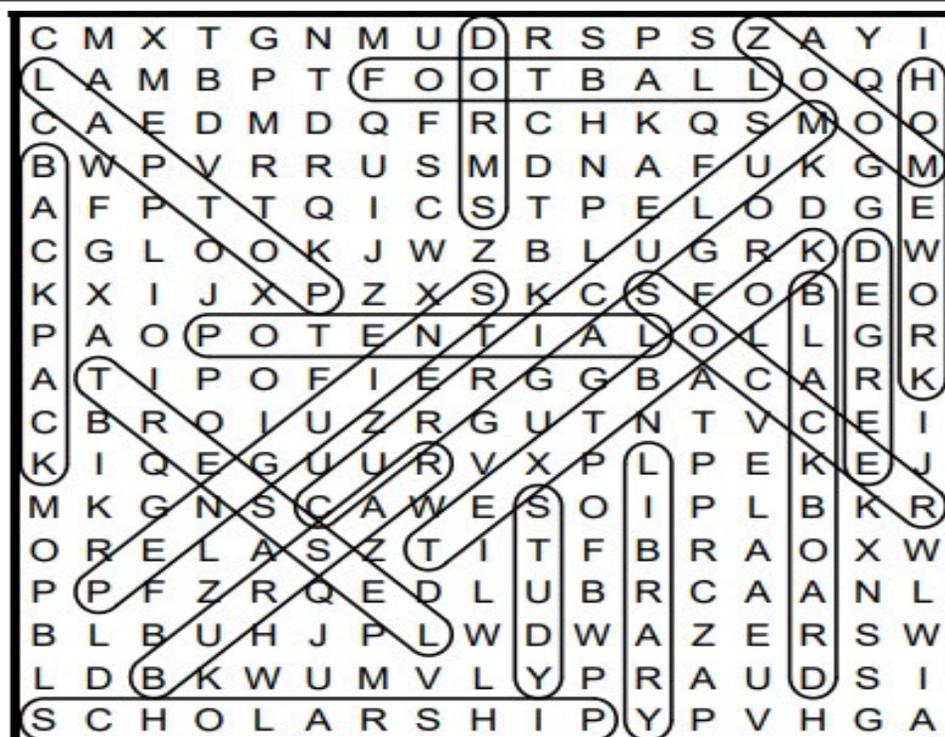
Wednesday, Sept. 7 at 7:00 p.m. The featured readers will be followed by an open mic.

A career adjunct at Kent State, Alice Cone has worked for the Wick Poetry Center as a teaching artist and programming assistant. Her M.A. from Boston University is in poetry writing; her chapbooks include “Shattering into Blossom” and “As If a Leaf Could Be Preserved”; her latest (unpublished) novel is “The

Trickster Center.”

Jonie McIntire, author of “Semidomesticated” (winner of Red Flag Poetry chapbook contest, 2021), (Beyond the Sidewalk Nightballet Press 2017) and “Not All Who Are Lost Wander” (“Finishing Line Press,” 2016), and poetry editor at Of Rust and Glass, hosts a monthly reading series called “Uncloistered Poetry” from Toledo, Ohio. Learn more about her at joniemcintire.net.

The Oct. 5 reading will feature prose writers Lynda Montgomery and Toni Thayer of Cleveland. Lit Youngstown is a literary arts nonprofit for writers, readers, and storytellers. More information is available at LitYoungstown.org.



Soccer 0-4 for second season in a row

By John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University women's soccer season started off on the wrong foot as the team fell 0-1 on the road against the University of Akron on Aug. 18 and Valparaiso University on Aug. 21.

In the game against Akron, the Penguins outshot the Zips 13-7 but only managed one shot on goal. Senior Abriana Rondin and freshman Chloe Weiland led the team with three shots, although none landed in the net.

The game against Valparaiso was no different as the team was shut out for a second consecutive time. Despite the loss, junior Brooklynn Kirkpatrick warded off the Beacons until the final minutes of the game when a late score secured the Penguins fate.

Kirkpatrick continues to play at a high level averaging 19 saves over 4 games. Against Valparaiso, she faced 17 shots and only allowed one goal.

In both games, Youngstown State was unable to capitalize on its possessions. Over four games, the women's soccer team has attempted 47 shots with only one goal to attest for its efforts.

On Aug. 25, the Penguins played a highly competitive



Photo by John Ostapowicz / The Jambar

Women's soccer team practicing.

home opener against Duquesne University but dropped the game 2-1. The Dukes now lead the all-time series 10-1-2 in the 13 times both teams have faced off.

Heading into the game, head coach Brian Shrum coached under Duke's head coach Al Alvine for six seasons before accepting the Youngstown State head coaching job. He holds a 34-22-7 career record and a 18-10-2 mark in Atlantic-10 play during his tenure at Duquesne.

In the first half of play, senior Maddie Root was able to break the Penguins scoring drought as she scored her first goal of the season. The goal was assisted by junior Abby Knight who tallied her first assist of the season.

Shrum was pleased with how Root was able to go down the middle of the field and put the ball in the net from 28 yards out, while also being able to execute the play at a high level.

"She did a nice job. We've been talking about people and players wanting to take opportunities. She saw an opportunity and took it," Shrum said.

Despite no goals so far to show for her outstanding freshman career, Taylor Berry continues to have a great season as she recorded five shots including four shots on goal. Against Valparaiso, she recorded three shots on

goal to up her total to five on the season along with 10 attempts.

After the loss, the women's soccer team headed to Loyola, Maryland to take on Loyola University of Maryland on Aug. 28. The Penguins fell to the Greyhounds 0-4, making it the third time this season the team was scoreless.

After Loyola, Youngtown traveled to Olean, New York to face off against St. Bonaventure University on Sept. 1. For more information on the game check out ysusports.com.

As the season goes on, the schedule proceeds to get tougher for the Penguins and Shrum knows that the team must turn things around before the point of no return. The Penguins are slated to play at home for two straight games which will be a breath of fresh air for the team.

"I think playing at home is something that the players enjoy as they get to play in front of their families," Shrum said.

The Penguins start off 0-4 on the season and continue to look for their first win as the team's at home for the next two games against Bucknell University on Sept. 4 and Kent State University on Sept. 8.

Penguin Preview: Football returns to the Ice Castle

By Kyle Wills
The Jambar

In search of its first winning season since 2017, the Youngstown State University football team looks to turn the program around in 2022 with numerous impactful players returning from last year.

With only four victories in the last two seasons, the Penguins aim to break the .500 mark for the first time since its 6-5 campaign.

Third-year head coach Doug Phillips is excited to get the season underway after a year's worth of hard work.

"This is what you work for. You get 11 guaranteed football games, you work all year for those 11 guaranteed. You can't take it for granted. This is why we put the time in this off-season. This is why we put the time in during the summer time — to play this season," Phillips said.

Senior defensive end James Jackson shares the same excitement and is ready to get back on the field.

"I can't wait. It's been a long process. We've been working hard through the winter and fall camp, so I can't wait to get out there and show what we can do,"

Jackson said.

Offensively, Youngstown State will welcome back its leading rusher from 2021, senior Jaleel McLaughlin, as well as last year's starting quarterback, sophomore De-metric Crenshaw.

The lead back had a monumental season on the ground, rushing for over 1,139 yards while scoring 12 touchdowns. He is the active career NCAA leader in attempts, touchdowns and yards, and is up to 14th place on the all-time list in NCAA history. He was also named to the Walter Payton Award Watch List.

Crenshaw was also a force on the ground, running for 599 yards and seven touchdowns. He also showed glimpses of his potential in-the-air attack, completing 62.2% of his passes for 791 yards and 6 touchdowns.

Crenshaw will look to improve upon his first campaign as starter with the return of his favorite redzone target, junior Bryce Oliver. Oliver finished last season scoring eight touchdowns while collecting 266 yards in his first year as a Penguin after transferring from the University of Kentucky.

Defensively, YSU will need to replace its top two tack-

lers from 2021 who made a combined 118 tackles. However, junior linebacker Griffin Hoak will look to stabilize the defense after finishing last year with 47 tackles, three tackles for loss and leading the team with four sacks.

James Jackson will also return to the field for Youngstown State after finishing last year with 21 tackles in 10 starts at defensive end. He was also an Honorable-Mention All-Missouri Valley Football Conference selection following the 2021 spring season.

Also returning to the defensive line is sophomore defensive tackle Chris Fitzgerald who started all 10 games last year, recording 29 tackles and a sack.

Jackson said the team's chemistry this year has improved from past seasons.

"I feel a different type of brotherhood. I feel a lot of unselfishness and all of our attention is on going out and getting some wins this year," Jackson said.

The football team kicks-off its 2022 campaign at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 3 at Stambaugh Stadium, hosting the Duquesne University Dukes. The game can be listened to or watched on 570 WKBN or ESPN+.



The football team practices ahead of its season opener Sept. 3 versus Duquesne University.

Photo by Kyle Wills / The Jambar