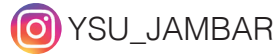


THE JAMBAR

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931



Thursday, December 7, 2023



CONCERNS CONTINUE TO RISE



Photo by Shianna Gibbons / The Jambar

Jacob Schriener-Briggs, class of 2017, spoke to the board during the Governance Committee to express concerns Dec. 6.

“Closed doors, closed wallets”

By Shianna Gibbons
The Jambar

Youngstown State University alumni, YSU Foundation trustees, donors and supporters have condemned the board of trustees for its decision to conduct a confidential search for a new YSU president without community input.

In a statement released Nov. 28, the YSU Foundation addressed community and donor concerns by stating it would have preferred an open process, but the Foundation will continue its mission.

“Individuals have reached out to the YSU Foundation trustees to express concerns and their reluctance to provide ongoing support moving forward,” the YSU Foundation stated. “We will continue our

mission as an independent, nonprofit organization that supports student scholarships, student development and career opportunities.”

Ed Muransky, former chair of the YSU Foundation, resigned as chair Nov. 27. There’s no reported reason for his resignation. Muransky left during a meeting earlier that day, according to the new chair, Nader Atway.

YSU alumni Daniel Catello, Madeline Grimes, Ashley Orr, Tyler Pabst and Jacob Schriener-Briggs released a statement after the contract of employment was approved for Johnson. The statement said they were dissatisfied with the board’s exclusion and its choice to dismiss the over 2,600 alumni who signed the alumni petition.

Donors, Page 2

Ends intertwine for graduation

By Christopher Gillett
The Jambar

Around 700 students will graduate from Youngstown State University Dec. 17, with undergraduate and graduate commencements taking place on the basketball court of Beehly Center at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m., respectively.

Undergraduate commencement will host senior human resource management major Colleen Davis as the student speaker, and country music writer and YSU alumnus Bob DiPiero as the featured speaker.

Davis is president of the Society for Human Resource Management at YSU and vice president of the Student Nonprofit Leadership Organization. Davis said she’ll miss YSU but is considering a nonprofit career because of her university experience.

“I love school. I am a person who loves going to school, getting graded on my assignments, and having something to do. I would honestly consider myself to be a workaholic — so I will miss just having class,” Davis said. “I have always been someone who’s always wanted to help people in some capacity and I never considered a career in the nonprofit industry [before YSU].”

DiPiero said he’s excited to pass along wisdom to the graduating students.

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“We will also withhold donations and other forms of material support to the University until its recent administrative [failure] is rectified. Although we love YSU, cherishing what it has done for us and so many others, we encourage you to do the same: current YSU leadership does not deserve a vote of confidence,” the alumni letter stated.

The Jambar was invited to a private meeting to speak and ask Johnson questions Nov. 30. When asked about upset donors and alumni stakeholders, Johnson said people are disappointed with the process, which he had no part in.

“They’re upset with the process. I had nothing to do in deciding that — it wasn’t my process,” Johnson said. “No amount of money will buy them a vote on the trustees’ decision.”

Bruce Zoldan, who announced a \$5 million donation for a new student center, said the Zoldan family wants to reconsider how his donation is used. Zoldan said he’d like for it to go toward student scholarships, rather than his name on a building.

Along with monetary donations being withheld or reconsidered, Youngstown native and “Modern Family” actor Ed O’Neill, announced he is returning his honorary doctorate because of the board’s decision.

In the meeting to approve the contract of employment, the board announced it

would not be accepting public comment until the Dec. 6 meeting. SGA, Rose McClurkin and Schriener-Briggs spoke during the Dec. 6 Governance Committee meeting with the board of trustees about the negative response to its decision.

According to Schriener-Briggs, he drove from Connecticut on less-than-24-hour notice to provide concerns shared by thousands of alumni. He asked the board 11 questions surrounding the process and its decision.

“On Aug. 24 you released a presidential perspective, which established criteria for selecting YSU’s next president. The perspectives said ‘an ideal candidate would understand the workings of higher education and bring stakeholders together.’ But the congressman has no experience in higher education, the chair of the YSU Foundation has resigned in protest and the wider community is in turmoil. Did the perspectives mean anything?” Schriener-Briggs said.

Michael Peterson, chair of the YSU board of trustees, said in an interview with 27 WKBN First News that

the board will not reconsider its decision for Johnson.

“If we all have that love [for YSU] then trust this, [the board is] not going to put someone in that seat who does not deserve it, who’s not going to be a workhorse for the 100% of YSU students,” Peterson said. “[Johnson’s] the right decision — not the popular one — I understand that I knew it going into it, but it’s the right decision.”



Photo by Shianna Gibbons / The Jambar

Observers came to the board meeting with signs protesting the confidential search process.

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7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

Thu. Fri. Sat. Sun. Mon. Tue. Wed.

High: 47°F	High: 55°F	High: 58°F	High: 47°F	High: 36°F	High: 42°F	High: 43°F
Low: 35°F	Low: 48°F	Low: 42°F	Low: 30°F	Low: 25°F	Low: 27°F	Low: 27°F
Chance of precip: 25%	Chance of precip: 5%	Chance of precip: 24%	Chance of precip: 94%	Chance of precip: 17%	Chance of precip: 15%	Chance of precip: 25%



Overcast



Partly Cloudy



Overcast



Precipitation



Mostly Cloudy



Partly Cloudy



Partly Cloudy

Information courtesy of accuweather.com

YSU to offer master's in data science

By Tala Alsharif
The Jambar

Youngstown State University will begin offering a Master of Science in data and statistics in fall 2024.

The program involves collaborative efforts between the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and the College of Graduate Studies.

Thomas Wakefield, chair and professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, said the program aims to attract students from a variety of disciplines since different student perspectives can be valuable.

"We like to think of the program as data science for all," Wakefield said. "Data science at its heart is interdisciplinary."

Wakefield said growing student interest and a demand for data analytics is what led the faculty in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics to work on a proposal to add this program.

"[There is a] demand from employers, both in the re-

gion and in the state and nationally for students who are trained in data science and the analysis of data," Wakefield said. "Our faculty who have really interacted with the students ... see the positive impact that ... this training would have on their own employment outcomes."

The program will train students in data management, and teach students how to manage and manipulate large databases, predictive modeling, data ethics and data visualization that provides tools to effectively tell stories from data.

"We think [the data ethics course] is really important, maybe the most critical," Wakefield said. "[It's] how to use mathematical algorithm techniques that are used in the industry to extract information from data."

In the program, students can participate in the YSU Data Mine or engage with projects in data science or analytics. Internships can also be completed as part of the program.

"[The YSU Data Mine] is a really great opportunity for students to work collaboratively in a team on an ac-

tual data analytics project from a corporate partner," Wakefield said. "We've been running that for the past two years, and it's been a really great experience for students."

Students can also take courses in computer science, statistics, biology, industrial engineering, economics and more.

Wakefield said students in the program will also gain the experience they need to make business decisions.

"I hope [the program] provides students the opportunity to ... get the experience they need to ... feel confident in using these data science and data analytics tools to make business decisions, ... to apply those decisions in a context for a company or to the YSU Data Mine or in their individual disciplines of interest," Wakefield said.

To enroll in the program, interested students are required to have a bachelor's degree from an accredited university and a 2.5 or higher GPA.

New foreign language policy at YSU

By Molly Burke
The Jambar

Youngstown State University's Academic Senate approved a new foreign language policy at a meeting Nov. 1.

The Academic Standards Committee proposed a policy that would leave foreign language requirements up to individual degree programs for Bachelor of Arts majors. The policy was approved with a vote of 44-9, with 4 senators abstaining. It will take effect in fall 2024.

Chair of the Academic Standards Committee, Dawna Cerny, said the committee conducted research and found there was no existing policy on foreign language requirements for BA degrees prior to Nov. 1.

"This has been more than a year in sort of trying to work out — and with a lot of people digging into documents across the state, across YSU — to try to narrow down, where does the policy lie?" Cerny said. "We realized ... the university needs a policy on this so we have at least guidelines or guard rails that we can work through."

Cerny said decades of changes to YSU's foreign language requirements created confusion on what the policy was, demonstrating a need for clarification.

"As YSU changed institutional formats over several decades, the policy for students became exceptionally muddled and confused," Cerny said.

The new policy was introduced after Mary Beth Earn-

heardt, chair of the Department of Communication, approached the committee to remove foreign language requirements for communications students following the department's move from Cliffe College of Creative Arts to Williamson College of Business Administration.

Cerny said Earnheardt's interest led the committee to create a campus-wide policy that is flexible for changes to colleges, departments and programs when they are merged together or moved to other locations.

"We wanted to ensure that we didn't have to go back to the drawing board every time there was a change that was being made by the administration," Cerny said.

The policy included a clause stating, "YSU [should] maintain a healthy and resilient foreign language program ... students electing to study a specific foreign language are able to meet their needs unimpeded."

Earnheardt is the academic senator for the Department of Communication, and she spoke in favor of the policy at the Academic Senate meeting. Earnheardt said she voted for the policy because it allows faculty within each program to make informed decisions on the education of students.

"The people who really understand the discipline, who understand trends within the discipline, who understand expectations of accreditors ... the faculty that work in your program are the ones in the position to best determine how to guide your educational journey," Earnheardt said.

Earnheardt said removing the foreign language re-

quirement for the Department of Communication was important because of the limited variety of foreign languages offered by the Department of English and World Languages.

"[The department] offers [American Sign Language], Spanish and Italian," Earnheardt said. "Our students who were coming in who had not taken [ASL], Italian or Spanish had a lot of apprehension about needing to change their language. So our only fix for them was to send them outside the university to take a language ... which felt unfair."

At the meeting, the policy was met with criticism by YSU faculty members, including Italian professor Jennifer Behney, who gave a presentation on the importance of world languages for BA degrees.

Behney said the new policy places YSU at a disadvantage to other Ohio public universities that require foreign languages by college.

"Students in Ohio at a public university who are in a college of arts and sciences should be taking at least two semesters of a world language ... that's in line with what other universities in Ohio are saying," Behney said. "[The policy] really puts YSU at a disadvantage."

According to Earnheardt, some programs may opt to require classes that supplement the cultural aspect of foreign language classes. Students in the Department of Communication will be required to take intercultural communication.

Graduation

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“If they can just take little morsels of what I have to say or little pieces of story or wisdom that I might have to impart, then I’ll be very excited to pass that along,” DiPiero said. “I want to ... inspire them to go after what they really want — not what mom or dad want — but what [they] want as a graduate.”

DiPiero has written many award-winning songs including “American Made” performed by The Oak Ridge Boys. Alongside speaking, DiPiero will also receive an honorary doctorate in music from YSU. DiPiero said he felt humbled upon learning about the doctorate.

“I was surprised, delighted, I felt very humbled be-

cause truly music is all I have ever done — writing, song-writing, performing, playing my instrument, which is the guitar,” DiPiero said.

Graduate commencement will host Nico Morgione — who will receive a master’s degree in business administration — as the student speaker. Cornel Bogdan, a YSU alumnus and host of the music radio show, “Tangled Up In Blues,” will be the featured graduate speaker.

Alongside being a long-time Mahoning Valley resident, Morgione is also the associate director of business development and industry partnerships for the Division of Workforce Education and Innovation. Morgione said he’ll remember all the opportunities YSU gave him.

“[I will remember] the relationships built throughout my time here, the various jobs, working on campus, getting to know so many different professors and other

students and just getting involved on campus — just being able to get such a great education without having to relocate or leave the Mahoning Valley,” Morgione said.

Bogdan also remembered his experiences at YSU, including working at radio stations and covering music stories for The Jambar, from local bands to Bruce Springsteen performing at the Richfield Coliseum. Bogdan said he loved the opportunities the university gave him.

“Between being on the radio, being on the underground sound at YSU, writing for The Jambar, I was able to open up the doors for myself in a lot of ways as a very very young person that probably would be shut nowadays,” Bogdan said. “I love Youngstown State University. I know a lot of people say that, but YSU has been so good to me in my profession.”

Photo courtesy of @youngstownstate on Instagram

Spring 2023 graduation was the last commencement held in Stambaugh Stadium.



Photo by Christopher Gillett/ The Jambar



Photo courtesy Bob DiPiero

Photo by Christopher Gillett/ The Jambar



Photo by Christopher Gillett/ The Jambar



The fall 2023 commencement featured speakers: (from top left to bottom) Nico Morgione, Bob DiPiero, Colleen Davis and Cornel Bogdan.

Take a book, leave a book

By Matt Sotlar
The Jambar

This fall, Youngstown State University's Student Government Association began an initiative to install little libraries across campus. The first little library was set up outside Tod Hall and the William F. Maag Jr. Library on Nov. 18.

The library was donated by the Rotary Club of Youngstown. SGA Vice President Jordan Pintar said the libraries are a new way for students to access books on campus.

"It's just a really great opportunity for students to participate in a whole community event [to] take a book, leave a book," Pintar said. "It's just a little box, and it opens and closes to protect the books from the weather. You can take a book, leave a book. It's just a way for people to have fun and participate in something that the whole community can get into."

The Rotary Club has installed numerous little libraries across Youngstown, including one on Wick Avenue. SGA reached out to the club, and it agreed to donate one to YSU.

Pintar said SGA had been collecting books before the library was installed.

"Before it was installed, we [had] a bin in the student government office and in the Maag Library," Pintar said. "We were already collecting books to be able to go in. So right now, we still have those two spots running."

SGA began planning the little libraries during the summer. Pintar said the initiative was new to YSU.

"We were able to get one on campus, and we were really excited to see that, but obviously, we've had these little libraries around the city for some time," Pintar said.

SGA is currently looking for a permanent place for a drop-off bin. Books can be dropped off at either Maag or the SGA offices at any time. Pintar said the library is

kept stocked with overflow books from Maag Library.

"[Maag] library has been able to have some old books that they can put into [the little library] if it is running low. We have representatives that have also been doing a little book drive as well, so we have some excess books in case it does run out," Pintar said.

SGA hopes to install more little libraries. Pintar said they are hoping for campus-wide expansion.

"As campus expands, we would want to expand the little libraries with it. Right now, I want to say there are three around the city of Youngstown, so I know people have already been participating in it a lot, so we would love to expand it, obviously, seeing as people continue to participate, maybe up near the dorms would be a good spot next," Pintar said.

The little library is open to anyone in the community and can be accessed at any time.

Dance the year away with local bands

By John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

As the year winds down, local bands Red Wanting Blue and The Labra Brothers will partner up from Dec. 29 through Dec. 30 in Central Ohio.

The End of the Year Bash will begin at The Bluestone in Columbus and conclude on The Kent Stage in Kent.

For Red Wanting Blue, the event has become an annual tradition that began in Cincinnati a decade ago. Each year features local artists from the Mahoning Valley.

Last year's lineup consisted of JD Eicher and Angela Perley at the Goodyear Theater in Akron.

The venue and musicians change each year, but Red Wanting Blue has stayed consistent and continues to expose its fans to new music as well as touring opportunities.

This is The Labra Brothers first year performing with Red Wanting Blue for its annual End of the Year Bash. The two bands have already crossed paths earlier this year at Westside Bowl in Youngstown.

Guitarist and lead vocalist of The Labra Brothers, Adrian Labra, said the combination of the two bands is a fitting way to conclude the year.

"We're looking forward to it, it's been an exciting year and it seems like it's an appropriate way to round things up," Labra said.

Dean Anshutz, drummer for Red Wanting Blue, who graduated from Youngstown State University, said he felt that the two bands mix well together and both fan bases enjoy each other equally.

"[Red Wanting Blue] has wanted to do something for a while with [The Labra Brothers] and this just turned out to be a great fit for them to come back," Anshutz said. "It seemed like a good fit and our crowds both enjoyed each other."

Both Red Wanting Blue and The Labra Brothers have had a busy year with touring and working on new music releases.

Keyboardist and guitarist of Red Wanting Blue, Greg Rahm, is from Columbus and graduated from The Ohio State University in 2005. With a performance scheduled in the band's hometown, he said he feels great to be able to come home and close out 2023.

"It feels awesome to be back, it's been forever and a day plus one playing a show at home. To come back is always exciting to have a hometown show in your backyard," Rahm said.

When the two-day tour concludes, both bands will begin an eventful 2024. Red Wanting Blue will kick-start its Road to Rock Boat '24 tour, and The Labra Brothers will begin booking shows to promote its new album, "Home."

Before the End of the Year Bash, The Labra Brothers

will make a pit stop with the Huntertones on Dec. 8 at the Beachland Ballroom & Tavern in Cleveland.

Tickets for the bash are on sale now at etix.com for the Kent Stage and Ticketmaster for The Bluestone. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and The Labra Brothers will start the show at 7:00 p.m. on both days.

VIP packages are also available. They include early entry, a sit-in on the band's sound check and a signed concert poster, which can also be purchased at redwantingblue.com.



Photo courtesy of Michael J. Media Group LLC
Red Wanting Blue (above) live in concert.

Become the next Indiana Jones: YSU edition

By Aleksa Radenovic
Jambar Contributor

Measuring old bones and discovering ancient civilizations lost to time are only some of the adventures archeologists embark on.

Youngstown State University's anthropology program allows students to travel and assist on archeological digs all around the world.

Matt O'Mansky, an archeologist and associate professor at YSU, said his career took him to some of the world's most remote destinations.

"As an archeologist, I worked in France, Belize, Guatemala, [The] Bahamas and many other exotic locations," O'Mansky said.

O'Mansky's connections led to organized trips where students had the chance to participate in archaeological digs, making their education a hands-on experience.

As a strong advocate of international exposure, O'Mansky believes the trips equip students with the practical skills and critical experience for a successful career in archaeology.

"I'm really passionate about studying abroad," O'Mansky said. "When we apply for a job we can all look good on paper, so having an archeological field trip to The Bahamas or Guatemala gets you noticed."

As archaeology breathed life into forgotten civilizations, students like Jordan Pintar, philosophy and an-

thropology major, took advantage of the opportunity to travel

Pintar said she discovered numerous artifacts, including broken tools that once served as practical instruments.

"One of the biggest finds they had last year was a fire-place hearth," Pintar said. "There are also cooler parts of the trip where you don't have to dig, where we saw skeletons of ancient houses and gardens."

Pintar said students ventured beyond the excavation sites, embarking on swims into caves, delving into marine biology, actively engaging with the local community, participating in beach clean-up initiatives, attending holiday celebrations and even visiting labs with ancient remains.

Pintar intends to pursue archaeological ethics. She said the trips set students apart in graduate school applications.

"It's really cool to see how your learning changes. You have weeks of lectures building into the trip, but what really makes a difference is being able to actually go there and dig," Pintar said. "You're getting experience that will set you apart in a masters program."

Anna Kozinska, an undecided major, is aiming to confirm her interest in archaeology.

"For the longest time I didn't know what I wanted to do about my future, but I realized that I really want to see and learn about different cultures in different parts

of the world and anthropology is a good way to do that," Kozinska said.

Kozinska said she believes archaeology reveals more than artifacts — it uncovers her own aspirations and the purpose of current explorers, extending her knowledge beyond history books.

"Digging in the ground for artifacts and figuring out more about the past, is like digging in my brain and figuring out more about my future," Kozinska said.

Despite offering overseas experiences, affordability is a crucial consideration. O'Mansky said the estimated cost of these trips is estimated to be \$1,400, covering the student's plane ticket, transportation, permits and half of the meals and hotels.

O'Mansky is working to establish the Meaghan Galloway Study Abroad Scholarship in Anthropology to support students who might struggle to afford the trip.

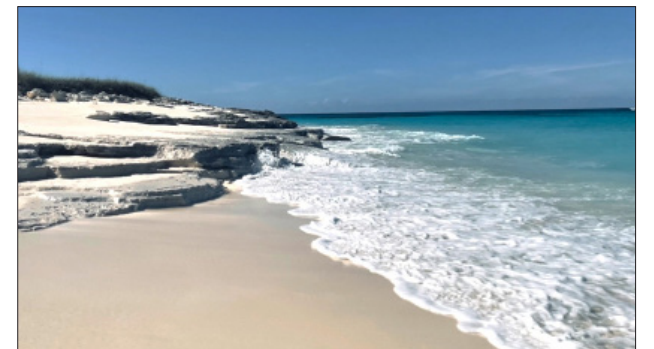
In order for the scholarship to get into motion, he needed a donation exceeding \$10,000.

"I thought about it for years, and then a friend of mine who went with me to Guatemala in 2007 got brain cancer," said O'Mansky. "She died a young mother in her 30s, and with the blessing of her husband and her mom, I named the scholarship after her."

For more information about the opportunities and the scholarship fund, contact O'Mansky.



A group of students visited The Bahamas for archeology digs, cave swims and more.



Photos courtesy of Jordan Pintar



What a pleasure it has been to work and grow with you all. My time as editor-in-chief of The Jambar is coming shorter than anyone anticipated — especially me. Unlike most Jambar goodbyes, I'm not leaving because of a cap and gown with my name on a diploma — that will be next semester.

I'm resigning from The Jambar with a heart full of excitement and sadness. I was approached with an opportunity to start my career early by serving the greater Youngstown area as a multimedia journalist for WKBN 27 First News, and I eagerly accepted the offer. When opportunity knocks, answer the door.

In the spring of 2022, I was introduced to The Jambar through my journalism courses. I reported for The Jambar for class credit, something most journalism students will do at some point, and I fell in love with reporting.

I came to Youngstown State University in the fall of 2020 with a major in journalism and a medical mask. I was unsure of what I wanted to do or even how I would do it until I came to The Jambar.

The Jambar didn't just give me direction in my current and future career; it gave me opportunities I initially didn't account for — and it kept giving. I didn't go to The Jambar with the intention of becoming editor-in-chief, but Michele Gatts — my professor, mentor and friend — saw the potential in me, encouraged me and supported me every step of the way. Thank you.

There are far too many thank yous that are in order. Thank you to my reporters,

opinion writers, designers, social media coordinators, assistant editors, the student media board, JambarTV and all the friends I made before they left Jambar too.

To my editorial board, thank you for your hard work, dedication, support and friendship.

Thank you, Elizabeth Coss, for your guidance and advice for every position and task I took on. Thank you, Christopher Gillett, for all the puns and dad jokes. Thank you, John Ostapowicz, for all the DJing and sports talk. Thank you, Molly Burke, for your dedication and makeup tips. Thank you, Maddie Fessler, for always inspiring me creatively. Thank you, Caleb Ellison, for always being silly with me.

A special thank you to my managing editor, Dylan Lux, who has always gone above and beyond for me — even before our positions required him to. When I asked for video editing help over a year ago, I never anticipated the journey ahead of us. Thank you for being my confidant and support.

I wish you all nothing but the best.

I'm nervous about this new chapter. Looking back, I was nervous about starting at The Jambar — but look at all the good it brought me.

Sincerely,
Shianna Gibbons

The Jambar Column

“Out of Touch”

The worst has come to pass; Daryl Hall is suing John Oates. I know, a world of constant turmoil; what does a catty dispute between two washed-up 70s pop stars have to do with anything? Let's first take a look at their humble beginnings.

Hall first teamed up with Oates when they were youngsters in Philadelphia. Their debut album, “Whole Oats” — which I find quite humorous — was released in 1972 with poor sales. Their follow-up album, “Abandoned Luncheonette,” landed in the Top 30 of the Billboard 200 Albums list the following year. From there, the rest is history.

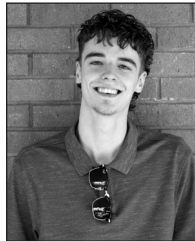
The duo's first hit was “Sara Smile,” a smooth, soulful ballad written for Hall's girlfriend, Sara Allen. It peaked in the top 10 in 1976, kickstarting a trend of hits the duo replicated over 20 times throughout the 70s and 80s.

Hall and Oates secured six No. 1 hits, including “Rich Girl,” “Maneater,” “Out of Touch” and “Private Eyes,” over the course of 7 years. They were an unstoppable, hit-making machine — until recently.

With 18 studio albums and eight platinum records, Hall and Oates may be synonymous with 80s music. According to my Apple Music Replay, I listened to 30 hours worth of their music this year. I've got to get those numbers up.

With all of their success, Hall and Oates were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2014, far later than they deserved.

In early November, Hall filed a lawsuit against Oates, followed by a restraining order. This shocked me, and I had to know why these brothers were dueling it out, legally, so to speak.



Matthew Sotlar

In October 2021, Hall and Oates agreed not to sell their shares of music, which is represented by — and I'm being completely serious — Whole Oats Enterprises. Fast forward two years, and now Oates is interested in selling his shares to Primary Wave Music. Hall just can't go for that.

On Nov. 9, Hall filed a lawsuit against Oates for breaching their agreement. Oates kept on trucking, and six days later, Hall filed a temporary restraining order to prevent the sale altogether. It's not known how much Oates will profit from the sale, but we can assume he won't need to rely on the old man's money.

Neither Hall nor Oates have commented on the issue. The restraining order was set to expire Nov. 30, so hopefully, nobody will be out of touch or time then, and they can resolve their problems peacefully.

But how do the boys feel about each other? Hall has called Oates his “business partner” but not his “creative partner,” in spite of the 18 albums they recorded together and their over 50-year partnership. Oates was more blunt about it, saying it was a “miracle” he and Hall were friends.

Every great friendship has its peaks and valleys, and Hall and Oates seem deep in a valley. I want to make it to at least one of their concerts in my life, but the way things are looking, they won't make my dreams come true.

The Jambar Editorial

The people have spoken

Youngstown State University students are tired: socially, emotionally, mentally and especially politically.

With our latest hardship being the board of trustees' presidential selection process — we're being mocked by the same system created to provide the best for us.

The board of trustees told us there would be opportunities for community participation in the search. Those opportunities were not only limited, but handled with unprecedented secrecy.

According to 21 WFMJ, the documents created during the presidential search will be destroyed or will remain with the search firm. A court order is necessary to release the documents to the public.

The university has pushed forward — defending its choice of a confidential selection process because a search firm said it was standard.

Confidentiality does not overrule ethics, especially when the man selected has voted to overturn the 2020 election and against COVID-19 pandemic relief bills.

U.S. Rep. William “Bill” Johnson's appointment came as a huge shock. However, it becomes less shocking after learning his political campaigns received donations from several YSU trustees, according to Mahoning Matters and FEC records.

The three trustees who donated, Richard C. Fryda, Joseph J. Kerola and Charles T. George, as well as every other YSU trustee, have been appointed by a Republican governor.

Did these trustees inform the other board members they had donated to Johnson's campaign? What other interactions did these members have with Johnson prior to the presidential search?

Where was the transparency that our trustees had stake in the game we never knew was being played — rather paid — behind closed doors?

Although the search firm chose candidates, shouldn't these trustees have abstained from the vote to preserve ethical standards and ensure integrity? Let's take a look at the board's bylaws, shall we?

Under Article II, 5(c), the bylaws clearly state, “A trustee may abstain from voting on a matter. A trustee that abstains from voting shall be counted in the determination of a quorum but shall not be counted as voting in favor or against the matter upon which the vote is taken. Trustees having a direct personal or pecuniary interest in a matter that is not common to other members of the board should declare that interest and refrain from discussing and voting on that matter.”

For Fryda, Kerola and George, the definition of pecuniary is as follows according to Merriam-Webster: consisting of or measured in money.

If these pecuniary interests went unknown to the community until recently, what other personal relations might these trustees have to Johnson behind closed doors?

To the board of trustees: who are you truly representing?

The Youngstown State University Mission Statement's Values clause states, “We root all behaviors, decisions and actions in the achievement of integrity, mutual respect, collegiality, equity and inclusion.”

You're representing a set of standards students, faculty, staff and other administrators demand to be upheld.

There is no integrity, respect, collegiality, equity or inclusion when the decisions you make on our behalf are met with protest and outcry, which you push to a later date to address.

The people have spoken, and you have sewn your ears shut.

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.

WORK WITH STUDENT MEDIA

The student media committee is accepting applications for YSU Student Media positions.

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PENGUINS HUNTED IN VILLANOVA STADIUM



The Penguins finished the 2023 season 8-5 overall, with several players entering the NCAA Transfer Portal.

Photos by Dylan Lux / The Jambar

Wildcats eliminate the Penguins

By Cameron Niemi
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University football team traveled to Philadelphia for the second round of the FCS Playoffs and faced off against Villanova University on Dec. 2. The Penguins came up short and were defeated by the Wildcats with a final score of 45-28.

No. 8 seed Villanova came into the matchup with a 9-2 record and the Coastal Athletic Association Co-Championships. They were the last of the eighth seeded teams for the FCS Playoffs and received a first-round bye and home field advantage for the second round.

Villanova jumped out to an early 7-3 lead in the first quarter. Early in the second quarter, senior quarterback Mitch Davidson connected with redshirt freshman Joey Farthing for a 34-yard touchdown.

The touchdown gave the Penguins a 10-7 lead, their only lead of the game. The Wildcats went on to score two unanswered touchdowns before halftime and led 21-10.

By the end of the third, the Penguins were outscored, 10-3, and Villanova extended its lead to 31-13 heading

into the fourth quarter.

YSU scored two touchdowns in the final quarter, but the Wildcats also added two of their own to end the game and move on to the FCS quarterfinals.

Davidson finished the game 27-of-44 passing for 287 yards, three touchdowns and two interceptions. Farthing finished with two touchdown receptions, and sophomore Luke Hensley had one.

Davidson finished his final year of his collegiate career with 3,088 passing yards, 24 passing touchdowns, 4 rushing and six interceptions. The Salem product completed 69.6% of his passes and set a YSU playoff passing record.

Senior wideout Bryce Oliver ended his last season in Youngstown with 64 receptions for 978 yards, and he led the team with eight touchdown catches. Oliver also set the record of the most receiving touchdowns by a Penguin with 26.

Oliver announced Dec. 6 he has declared for the 2024 NFL Draft on his Instagram page.

Senior tailback duo Tyshon King and Dra Rushton had a strong year running the rock as they each scored nine touchdowns. King finished the year with 1,011

yards rushing and averaged 5.4 yards per carry. Rushton averaged 4.1 yards per carry and had a total of 664 yards.

Despite the second round loss, the Penguins made a return to the FCS Playoffs for the first time since 2016. YSU finished the 2023 season with an 8-5 overall record and 5-3 in the Missouri Valley Football Conference as they finished 4th.

The NCAA Transfer Portal opened up Dec. 4 and as it stands, 10 YSU players have entered the portal. Some key names departing from the program on the defense are juniors, Alex Howard, D'Marco Augustin, Ezekiel Blake, Anthony Johnson, and seniors Dylan Wudke and Andres Lehrmann.

The MVFC announced the All-Academic-MVFC honors Dec. 5. Junior offensive lineman David Metzler was named to the first-team. Wudke, senior tight end Jake Benio and junior center Aidan Parker were named honorable-mentions.

YSU will return to the field in spring 2024. To keep up with the team in the offseason and moves in the portal, go to ysusports.com or visit @youngstownstfb on Instagram.

'Guins break the ice at indoor track season

By Madeline Hippeard
The Jambar

Two Penguins on the Youngstown State University track & field team had a record-breaking season opener at the YSU Icebreaker.

Youngstown State's previous long jump record was broken by senior Tye Hunt with a distance of 8.08 meters. He set the previous record at 7.74 meters last season.

The record-setting day continued as fifth-year senior Jakari Lomax set the triple jump record for the Penguins with a distance of 15.52 meters. The previous school record — set during the 2022 Icebreaker — was 15.4 meters.

Senior multi-event athlete Alexis Prater said the Penguins used the Icebreaker

to ease their way into the indoor season.

"The first Icebreaker is kind of just to get our foot in the door and just kind of see where we're starting. We haven't competed since May, so this kind of just gets our nerves out and kind of see where we need to improve from here," Prater said.

Eleven other Penguins posted victories during the meet, including senior Dorian Chaigneau who broke the YSU Icebreaker meet record in the pole vault by clearing 5.35 meters.

Four other athletes placed first in men's events. Senior Lonnie Harper won the high jump at 1.99 meters, and fifth-year senior Dominic Perry won the shot put with a total of 17.79 meters.

Laubacher placed first in the 60 meter hurdles with a time of 7.91 seconds.

Fifth-year senior Christian Ford won the 200-meter dash with a time of 21.65 seconds.

The Penguins had five more athletes take first place in women's events.

Graduate student Morgan Cole won the 5,000 meter run with a time of 17:25.10. Senior Nia Williams-Matthews placed first in the triple jump with a distance of 12.26 meters, and senior Madison Murry won the 60 meter hurdles with a time of 8.69 seconds.

The Penguins have been practicing for their indoor season since they returned to campus in August. Murry said practice is crucial to prepare for a successful season.

"I have been practicing everyday, making sure that I have been focused in my practice and being very intention-

al in everything I do. I know we have a very big reputation to hold up, so that is something that is definitely driving me through practice all the time," Murry said.

Sophomore Ainsley Hamsher, senior Emma Etwiler and graduate student Erin Bogard all cleared 3.80 meters in the pole vault, putting them and an athlete from Slippery Rock University in a tie for first place.

The track & field team will return to action Jan. 13, 2024 to compete in the Penn State Nittany Lion Challenge and the Kent State Jud Logan Memorial Invitational.

For more information on the meets and to follow the team's scores throughout the event, visit ysusports.com.

Comeback checkmated in Colonial country

By Dylan Lux
The Jambar

After a 2-0 start to the season, the Youngstown State University women's basketball team has hit a rough stretch as it began conference play Nov. 30 against the University of Detroit Mercy.

Four Penguins average over eight points per game — as fifth-year forward Emily Saunders averages 11.5 points per game to go along with 6.5 rebounds per game.

Coming into the matchup with the Titans, the Penguins were at a 2-4 record. The home matchup opened up Horizon League play for the 2023-24 season.

Acting head coach John Nicolais wants to treat the upcoming conference games like a new slate.

"We know that we have conference play coming, and everybody is 0-0," Nicolais said. "We want to get off to a good start."

UDM came into the game with a 4-3 overall record, looking to improve on its winning season.

YSU yet again struggled from 3-point range in the first half, shooting 5-22 from three through the first 20 minutes of play. The 22.7% clip from three led to the Penguins trailing at half, 32-25.

The second half saw similar shooting numbers from the Penguins, as they only drained one more 3-pointer in 12 attempts.

With the shooting woes from Youngstown State, the team came up short at home against Detroit Mercy, 59-

50.

The Penguins finished the game shooting 20-61, finishing with a 32.8% field goal percentage. From 3-point range, the team ended the contest 6-34 — just 17.6%.

Senior guard Malia Magestro — one of the four Penguins averaging at least eight points per game — said shot selection and the team's effort were not key factors in the team's loss.

"Our effort's there — we had a lot of good looks ... a lot of wide open threes, myself included, they just didn't go in today," Magestro said.

To wrap up the two-game conference stretch, the team traveled to Moon Township, Pennsylvania for a matchup with the 2-5 Robert Morris University. The Colonials were also 0-1 in conference play after their loss to Cleveland State University.

RMU held a 21-14 lead on YSU through one quarter of play, but the 'Guins managed to trim the lead to four at halftime, with Robert Morris leading 34-30.

The Penguins took the lead in the second half and held a 58-55 lead late in the fourth quarter.

With 22 seconds remaining in the contest, YSU held a 63-62 lead after a Saunders free throw, but the Colonials came back with a layup on the other end to retake the lead, 64-63.

A turnover by Magestro attempting to get the ball to Saunders gave the ball back to the Colonials, who buried a free throw to go up by two, and the Penguins were unable to answer, giving them their sixth straight loss.

Leading the way in points for Youngstown State was junior Hailey Thierry, who scored a career-high 16 points with a block.

Thierry was followed by Magestro and Saunders, who each finished with 13 points.

The Penguins struggled from beyond the arc, finishing with four 3-pointers in 22 attempts.

The Penguin's next matchup brought them back to the Beeghly Center for a non-conference matchup with the University of Akron. The game took place Dec. 6 at 6:30 p.m.

To view stats from the game, visit ysusports.com.



Photo by Dylan Lux / The Jambar

The team celebrating after a basket.

Penguins begin Horizon League play in Beeghly

By Marissa Masano
The Jambar

In its Horizon League opener Nov. 29, the Youngstown State University men's basketball team defeated Cleveland State University, 94-69, in the Beeghly Center.

Sophomore John Lovelace Jr. led all players with 23 points and eight rebounds. Fifth-year guard Brett Thompson was the Penguins' second-highest scorer with 17 points.

Fifth-year seniors Bryson Langdon and Ziggy Reid finished in double digits with 14 and 10 points, respectively.

Defensively, freshman Gabe Dynes accumulated four blocks in 16 minutes of action.

The Penguins held the Vikings to 39.3% shooting and posted seven blocked shots and eight steals.

For head coach Jerrod Calhoun, it was a group effort to shut down Cleveland State's offense.

"I have to give our guys a lot of credit. They dissected the scouting report. I thought coach Robinson and coach Asher did a tremendous job on the defensive game plan. They had our guys ready to go defensively," Calhoun said.

Shooting 51.6% from the field, YSU only trailed early in the contest twice. At half-time, the team led by 18 points. The largest lead was 29 points for the Penguins.

Late in the second half, the Vikings pushed, going on a 15-3 run to cut the deficit to 80-63. However, the Penguins' offense went on a 14-6 run as they reached the final buzzer.

For Thompson, the victory is not only a motivator, but just a taste of what's to come.

"It's most definitely a big win. It was about making a statement at home. We don't want to lose home games. Being a fifth-year, conference play is real critical and we are trying to do something the Penguins have never done before and that's get to the tourna-

ment," Thompson said.

The Penguins traveled to Moon Township, Pennsylvania on Dec. 2 to play Horizon League opponent Robert Morris University.

YSU captured its first road win this season and stayed undefeated in its first two Horizon League matchups.

The Penguins defeated the Colonials 71-57, and fifth-year DJ Burns led the offense with his fourth double-double of the season. Burns posted 18 points and 13 rebounds to lead the Penguins.

Thompson, Reid and fifth-year Brandon Rush also reached double figures for the Penguins.

Thompson scored 17 points with three 3-pointers. Reid had 14 points and Rush posted 12 points with three 3-pointers.

The team was strong from the 3-point line, making 10 with a 35.7% shooting percentage.

The Penguins had a two-point lead heading into half-time, and extended its lead in the opening moments of the second half by 11 points.

Youngstown State increased its lead to a game-high 24 points to secure the victory.

The Penguins traveled to Ohio University on Dec. 6 to continue their non-conference schedule. To view the box score from the matchup, visit ysusports.com.

YSU rounds out its three game home slate against the University of Western Michigan on Dec. 9. The game will be streaming live on ESPN+ and tipoff is set for 1 p.m.

