

# THE JAMBAR

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 YSU\_JAMBAR

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 THEJAMBAR.COM



## NINTH TIME'S THE CHARM



Jackson with Strollo and YSU President Bill Johnson.

Photo courtesy of ysusports.com

## Melissa Jackson named new women's basketball head coach

By Molly Burke  
Jambar Contributor

A new coach has been selected for the Youngstown State University women's basketball team, which has been without a permanent head coach since John Barnes officially stepped down Jan. 19.

Melissa Jackson, a native of Hazelton, Pennsylvania, was appointed the team's ninth head coach March 14.

Jackson has coached in Northeast Ohio for the past 16 years. She spent 15 seasons with the University of Akron's women's basketball team and was the

only coach with a winning record in program history.

Jackson spent the 2023-2024 season as an assistant coach for the Cleveland State University's women's basketball program, but stepped down before the team's postseason to focus on her new chapter with the Penguins.

YSU Athletics hosted a press conference March 18 in Beeghly Center, where Jackson said the women's basketball program will be centered around five core values: family, passion, toughness, commitment and gratitude.

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## YSU continues efforts to aid Eastern Gateway students

By Molly Burke  
The Jambar

Youngstown State University will waive application fees for incoming students from Eastern Gateway Community College as part of the university's plan to aid displaced EGCC students.

The community college announced in February it will pause enrollment and not offer classes and academic programs after spring 2024. YSU's board of trustees passed a resolution March 7 to facilitate enrollment for EGCC students to YSU.

In a letter to Eastern Gateway students, YSU's Office of Undergraduate Admissions announced the fees will be waived and described the transfer process. It stated students can use code "EGCC" to get the application fee waived.

According to YSU's website, the non-refundable fee to apply is \$45. A new page on the website was created specifically for Eastern Gateway students to enroll at YSU.

The transfer page states YSU will "conduct a transfer credit evaluation" to determine how each students' coursework at EGCC will transfer to YSU.

EGCC students were invited to visit Eastern Gateway's Steubenville campus March 11 and its downtown Youngstown location March 12 and 18 to aid with the transfer process, according to the transfer page.

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**Coach**

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“Those are going to be the pillars of our program. We’re going to stand on those every single day, whether it’s out in the community, whether it’s in practice and obviously when we compete,” Jackson said.

Jackson met with players a week before the conference. She said her first goal is to work on recruiting, which will be focused on transfers.

“It’s really about the players, about the incoming recruits. Meeting with the team was obviously really important. The transfer portal opened up today,” Jackson said. “We have seven signees, and I’ve been able to talk with them and their families and those have been really positive, great conversations, but nowadays it is the portal.”

As a previous visitor to Beeghly Center, Jackson said she is excited to call YSU home.

“YSU is a sleeping giant. The facilities here, the support, I am so excited to get people to campus and show this place off.” Jackson said. “I can’t wait to engage in this community and pack Beeghly every single night and continue to make it one of the toughest places to play in all of college basketball.”

While Jackson has met with current staff, she has yet to choose her coaching staff for next season.

“I met with the current staff last week, had some great conversations with them, really very much in flux right now. Obvi-

ously, being a head coach before, there’s a lot of people that I want to talk to. I really want to get the right staff for this program at the right time,” Jackson said.

It is unknown if John Nicholais, the team’s former interim head coach, will return. Nicholais began coaching for the Penguins in 2013.

According to Ron Strollo, executive director of YSU Athletics, the department looked into a few candidates through recruiting efforts. Strollo said Jackson showed interest and was a natural fit for the Penguins.

“For me, I want someone that wants to be here,” Strollo said. “When you start looking at what Melissa was able to bring with us with head coaching experience and experience in Northeast Ohio — and more importantly — when you talk to people that knew her or played for her, the things they said about her made it pretty simple for us.”

During Jackson’s season with Cleveland State, the Vikings won the Horizon League regular season title and were runners-up in the conference tournament. Cleveland State is 29-5, the second-highest single season win total in program history.

In her time with Akron, Jackson served as an assistant coach from 2008 to 2012, associate head coach from 2012 to 2018 and head coach from 2018 to 2022. In her first two seasons, Jackson registered 31 wins, a program record for a coach within their first two seasons.

As associate head coach, Jackson led Akron to its only appearance at the NCAA

Tournament in program history in 2014, along with three bids to the Women’s National Invitational Tournament.

As head coach, Jackson led the Zips to a 72-69 record with 40 Mid-American Conference victories. Additionally, Akron appeared at the Women’s Basketball Invitational and WNIT in 2022.

Before coaching in Northeast Ohio, Jackson spent four years with the University of Delaware from 2004 to 2008. Under her coaching, Delaware had two appearances in the WNIT along with an at-large berth to the NCAA Tournament in 2006-2007.

Individually, Jackson has coached successful athletes, including Tyresa Smith — the 18th overall selection in the 2007 WNBA Draft — and three MAC Players of the Year, with 23 All-MAC selections.

Jackson attended the University of Richmond from 2000 to 2004 as a political science major, where she made two appearances in the WNIT with the Spiders.



Photo by John Ostapowicz / The Jambar

Jackson speaks at the press conference.

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**7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST**

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

Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.
High: 35°F	High: 46°F	High: 43°F	High: 51°F	High: 61°F	High: 59°F	High: 60°F
Low: 19°F	Low: 35°F	Low: 23°F	Low: 35°F	Low: 44°F	Low: 45°F	Low: 37°F
Chance of precip: 0%	Chance of precip: 70%	Chance of precip: 25%	Chance of precip: 11%	Chance of precip: 25%	Chance of precip: 61%	Chance of precip: 2%



Partly Cloudy



Rain



Overcast



A Few Clouds



Partly Cloudy



Rain



A Few Clouds

Information courtesy of accuweather.com



# Oct. 7 survivors speak at YSU, met with discord

By Matthew Sotlar  
The Jambar

Youngstown State University's Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies hosted Surviving Terror: Four Stories from October 7 in DeBartolo Hall on March 18.

The event was coordinated by Adam Fuller, associate professor of political science, and featured four Israeli speakers who survived the Oct. 7, 2023 attacks known as Operation Al-Aqsa Flood.

One survivor, Inor Roni Kagno, was working as a photographer at the Nova Music Festival during the attacks. Kagno said his mindset has changed since.

"Being in Israel is very strange," Kagno said. "In our mind, in my mind, when I enter this school, I think, if there was a mass shooting right now, where should I go? Where are the exit points [for] each room I'm in? I think subconsciously like that."

The Oct. 7 attacks were committed by Hamas, an armed Palestinian Islamist militant group, in the Southern District of Israel. Over 1,000 people were killed, and many others were injured or left displaced.

Klil Valiano was attending the music festival when the attacks began. Valiano said he and his friends narrowly survived.

"We decided to wait," Valiano said. "We waited until we heard the gunshots getting closer, then we got into my car, immediately left my parking spot to enter a traffic jam. We used my low car to get under the trees offroad and get to the main road."

Elsewhere in the Southern District, other civilians in Israel were displaced and fled from the attacks. Gitit Botera, a medical center manager, said she withstood

the attacks with her husband and young daughter in a bunker

"We came back home because it was better to be in a safe place where you know the place. We come back to the house and we heard sirens again, and we ran to our shelter, and before we closed the door to the shelter, I saw some people try to open my house door," Botera said.

Botera and her family remained in a shelter for 10 hours with no food, water or electricity. She said she still struggles to accept the reality of the attack.

"Something about the 7th of October is broke. We know what is broken, I live with this. I have post trauma because of this — PTSD," Botera said. "People come to my house, my private place, and want to murder me."

Eitan Frankl was in his home in Nirim, a kibbutz in southern Israel, during the attacks. Frankl said he also struggles to move past the events.

"I can't get it out of my head," Frankl said. "People who are standing outside [yelling] 'Help, my house is on fire. Somebody help me,' and there's nobody there to help them. People were burning alive."

Frankl began discussing Palestine and said he supports a Palestinian state. Alongside the Russia-Ukraine war, Frankl added he believes the Israel-Hamas war will only lead to more violence.

"We are going to kill one another really soon. The Palestine-Israeli conflict is potent, but not as potent as World War III," Frankl said. "This is the continuation of everything. World War III started when Russia invaded Ukraine, and now everybody thinks they can do anything and get away with it. 'Yes, we can kidnap, rape and murder 1,400 people and it would be okay because Free Palestine.' I'm all about the Palestinian state — I've

said it before — but not like that."

Following Frankl's comments on Palestine, an audience member stood up and asked Frankl if he recognizes "Palestinians are undergoing a genocide right now," citing 31,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces.

Frankl responded saying, "Everybody knows how strong Israel is. If Israel wanted, we could wipe out the Palestinians in like 20 minutes, but we didn't," and an exchange continued.

An event organizer interrupted, saying the panelists could discuss "politics" after the event but the speakers were there to share their stories. However, Frankl continued.

"I don't think there is genocide, I think it's sad. What's happening in Gaza — " Frankl said before the audience member left immediately with two other attendees.

"That's all we needed to hear. You guys are denying genocide," the attendee said.

As the attendees began to leave, Botera stood up to address them further saying, "No, it's propaganda."

After they left, Botera said to the audience she wished people would listen.

"This is a problem. People do not listen, only screaming and go. You know? In the kibbutz, we see a little baby murdered, without [a] head, because the terrorists cut [off] the head. I came to speak about everything — but speak, not go. If she goes, the subject is closed," Botera said.

The event continued after the disruption.

The four speakers shared their stories at the Jewish Community Center later that day for an event hosted by the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation.



The Youngstown Area Jewish Federation hosted the survivors at the Jewish Community Center following their talk at YSU.

Photos courtesy of Elise Skolnick.

## Eastern Gateway

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In early March, YSU President Bill Johnson announced plans to establish a YSU campus in Steubenville to further expand the university's opportunities to Eastern Gateway's students.

Along with waiving application fees and establishing a campus in Steubenville, YSU's Academic Senate met March 13 and unanimously approved 32 associate degrees and certificate programs to allow EGCC students to complete their education at YSU.

According to a letter from interim Provost Jennifer Pintar, YSU already offers 10 associates degrees that do not require approval:

- Associate of Arts
- Business Administration Associate of Arts
- Civil and Construction Engineering Technology
- Criminal Justice, Corrections track
- Early Childhood Associate Pre K
- Electrical Engineering Technology
- Information Technology
- Mechanical Engineering Technology
- Medical Laboratory Technology

### - Nursing (ADN)

The 32 programs can be viewed on the Academic Senate's website.

While the programs are pending approval from the Ohio Department of Education and the Higher Learner Commission, Pintar stated EGCC students can start the transfer process by completing the YSU application.

"[Eastern Gateway students] are encouraged to indicate 'undecided' on the application until the programs are in the final stages of approval," Pintar stated.

Pintar also stated she is proud of YSU's efforts to expand its academic opportunities to EGCC students.

"The collaborative efforts across campus have been instrumental in making this transfer process smoother for our incoming students," Pintar stated. "The tireless efforts of our faculty empower YSU to remain steadfast in our commitment to providing accessible pathway to higher education for students across the region."

YSU will host virtual information sessions throughout March and April for EGCC students to learn about each program and meet advisors. The dates and times can be viewed on the transfer website.

## Programs that do not require approval:

- Associate of Arts
- Business Administration Associate of Arts
- Civil and Construction Engineering Technology
- Criminal Justice, Corrections track
- Early Childhood Associate Pre K
- Electrical Engineering Technology
- Information Technology
- Mechanical Engineering Technology
- Medical Laboratory Technology
- Nursing (ADN)

# 'Black Hole Sun' coming to Ohio

By Christopher Gillett  
Jambar Contributor

Much of the United States, including Ohio, is in the path for an upcoming solar eclipse April 8.

While Youngstown will only be in the path for a partial eclipse, other cities, such as Cleveland, Akron and Dayton, will be under a total solar eclipse.

Patrick Durrell, an astronomy professor at Youngstown State University, said Ohioans will have the opportunity to see a rare celestial event.

"The total solar eclipse, from our viewpoint, is where the moon briefly covers up the entire disk of the sun. So, it's going to go dark, most of the light from the sun is blocked, and you actually have the chance to see the faint, very outer atmosphere of the sun called the corona," Durrell said.

Durrell said a solar eclipse takes place when the moon moves in front of the sun.

"The moon orbits the earth, and about once a month, the moon is roughly in the same direction in between the earth and the sun. Most of the time, the alignment is not perfect. The moon is either above a bit or below a bit, so you don't have an eclipse," Durrell said.

According to Durrell, a solar eclipse near Youngstown is a rare opportunity.

"[Solar eclipses] happen once or twice a year, but the

shadow of the moon is only a little over 100 miles wide. So, that means most of the time, you have to go someplace to see one of these. This one is special because it is right in our backyard," Durrell said.

Youngstown will not be this close to the path of a solar eclipse again until 2099.

For Durrell, the total solar eclipse will be a first.

"I've seen three or four partial solar eclipses, and they're neat to see, but it's nothing like a total solar eclipse. So, this is the opportunity to drive a short distance from YSU and see a total eclipse. You got to take that opportunity," Durrell said.

Eye safety is an important consideration for viewing a solar eclipse. Viewers should purchase a proper pair of eclipse glasses to protect their eyes. A pair of regular sunglasses will not suffice.

According to Durrell, people can take off their glasses only when the moon completely covers the sun.

"It'll get dark enough. You won't actually see it with [eclipse glasses] on. You'll actually have to take [them] off to see the total solar eclipse," Durrell said. "That's only going to last a minute or two. Even if the moon covers most of the sun, like just before and after, you still need [eclipse glasses] on."

Durrell said a pair of eclipse glasses from a previous solar eclipse is likely expired by now.

"If [you] bought eclipse glasses from the 2017 eclipse,

you probably want to get new ones only because, after a while, these things get stored away. You might've put them in a bin, and something might've scratched the surface," Durrell said. "Don't laugh it off. 'Oh I don't need those.' Yes you do."

Durrell recommends purchasing glasses online from [greatamericaneclipse.com](http://greatamericaneclipse.com).

According to WMFJ, the Mahoning Valley Astronomical Society will be selling glasses for \$2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 23 at the Sparkle Market on South Avenue in Youngstown and from 5 to 9 p.m. the same day at the Ward Beecher Hall's lobby.



Photo by Christopher Gillett / Jambar Contributor

Patrick Durrell said eclipse glasses are necessary when viewing the eclipse.



# YSU provides a buddy for life

**By Tala Alsharif**  
Jambar Contributor

The Buddy Up for Life program at Youngstown State University trains athletes with Down syndrome by pairing them with volunteer buddies for tennis and fitness conditioning.

The program is open to athletes five years old and up and usually runs in the spring and summer on Saturdays at the YSU Indoor Tennis Center.

Alyssa Olsen, assistant coach and coordinator for Buddy Up, said the program helps athletes with Down syndrome learn tennis, increase social and listening skills and provide a fun environment.

The organization started over 10 years ago in Columbus, but has since branched out to more locations, such as Cincinnati and Boardman. The program has been at YSU for the past three years.

“It was started by a mother and a tennis coach of a person with Down syndrome,” Olsen said. “It grew and branched out ... There are a million different programs going all over.”

Olsen started working with Buddy Up at 10 years old

at the Boardman branch and moved up to working with athletes, then coaching and coordinating.

According to Buddy Up for Life’s website, volunteers aren’t required to have experience in tennis, but they have to be enthusiastic and energetic.

Isidora Susic, a volunteer student-athlete, said the program is an hour and a half long and usually starts at 10 a.m.

“We start ... with warming up exercises,” Susic said. “Then, we start playing tennis with them, and usually at the end of every session, we end it with Duck-Duck-Goose.”

A buddy’s main job is to make sure everything runs smoothly for the athlete they’re partnered up with. Olsen said it’s important for buddies to be aware every athlete with Down syndrome has different needs and understandings.

“My favorite thing to tell our volunteers is to make every activity their own and take full creative liberty to completely just figure out what works best for their athlete,” Olsen said.

Susic said having conversations and forming a connection with athletes makes them feel comfortable and

included.

Olsen said she believes the program teaches volunteers how to interact with and treat people with Down syndrome.

“Volunteers always end up learning how fun and amazing the athletes can be,” Olsen said. “It’s a fun experience for everyone.”

Susic said she enjoys being a part of the program, as it makes her day and makes her feel appreciative. She added she wishes more people were aware of it and got involved.

“I’m sure if more people knew, more people would be involved,” Susic said. “We really do need more volunteers.”

Olsen believes volunteering at Buddy Up for Life is a great way for students to gain experience working with people with disabilities.

“Eventually, someone will come across someone with a disability, and it is so important to know how to treat that person and how to interact with them in a way that isn’t disrespectful and patronizing,” Olsen said.

## News Brief

### AI on campus survey

The Youngstown State University’s Institute for Teaching and Learning is conducting a survey regarding the usage of generative AI such as ChatGPT on campus.

The goal of the survey is to gather opinions on AI, the practical use of AI on campus and the general training and support AI requires. The survey was sent in an email to the YSU community, stating it takes around 10 minutes to complete and is completely anonymous.

The ITL is collaborating with the Artificial Intelligence Think Tank, a YSU faculty and staff group interested in collecting information on artificial intelligence.

The data collected will be shared with ITL, the AI Think Tank and YSU stakeholders to make decisions regarding the usage of AI on campus.

## WADDLE TO THE POLLS



Residents can vote early at the Mahoning Valley Board of Elections.

Photo by Nicholas Bianco / Jambar Contributor

# Students' votes count

By Nicholas Bianco  
Jambar Contributor

2024 is a big year for politicians and voters alike, as Americans are preparing to elect a president. Mahoning County election officials are encouraging Youngstown State University students to vote.

Thomas McCabe, director of the Mahoning County Board of Elections, said some college students don't realize the importance of voting at their age.

"It's just not Mahoning County, it's not just Youngstown State," McCabe said. "It's just really tough to have voters — these young voters — come out and participate in the system."

McCabe said it may be difficult for students who commute to campus to vote on Election Day.

"The polling location for that student sometimes isn't convenient for the student either," McCabe said.

Recently, more young adults are registering to vote in elections. According to Ohio Capital Journal, more than 48,600 18-year-olds were registered to vote in Ohio as of Jan. 6 — a 35% increase since August 2023.

Jordan Pintar, president of YSU's Student Government Association, said SGA wants to make YSU a voter-friendly campus, an initiative with Campus Vote Project.

According to its website, Campus Vote Project works with universities to reduce barriers to voting and empower students with the information they need to vote. It has named 262 colleges voter friendly.

Pintar said SGA will be working with Campus Vote Project for ideas to get students involved with voting.

"I'm able to also work with another one of our [SGA] representatives who has a fellowship with Campus Vote," Pintar said. "It's just the two of us working on it right now, making sure everything's set up."

SGA has been working to get students registered to vote in upcoming elections.

"We were able to put up tabling events with laptops for a bunch of different states, where students can either change their address or register or reregister to vote," Pintar said. "Before, when we were doing just paper registration, we were only able to register people from Ohio ... but now we're able to register people from other

states who are still going back to those states to vote."

Pintar said SGA has also put on events to educate students about government and voting, such as hosting trivia and giving out prizes to winners.

"What we have been doing this past year, just to kind of prep ourselves for what this would actually look like, is putting on events that have been engaging students around campus," Pintar said.

In November, SGA hosted a voter discussion panel with students, community members, Youngstown City Council members and Mayor Tito Brown. Attendees listened to panelists talk about their roles in the community and could ask questions about voting.

Pintar said any student can be involved in making YSU a voter-friendly campus.

"Feel free to reach out," Pintar said. "We've worked with getting non-partisan organizations to help us, and we're doing different things, like the Constitution Day event."

The university annually celebrates the September holiday, which remembers the signing of the U.S. Constitution.



# Students lead to leave a legacy

By **Billy-Jack Colón**  
The Jambar

Youngstown State University's Emerging Leaders Program seeks to give YSU students the tools to become great leaders both on campus and in their communities.

Caleb Queen, the Emerging Leaders Program's coordinator of student involvement, said the program helps students break out of their shells.

"We try to get sophomore students because they've gone through their first year and they've started to branch out," Queen said. "We find those people who need a little bit of help being a leader, polishing the ones who are already great leaders, or the ones who are still in their shell."

According to the Emerging Leaders Program's website, the self-paced program awards students with a no-

tation on their academic transcripts, an official leadership transcript, a medal, pin and certificate at an annual awards banquet.

The program's slogan is "Developing leaders today to leave a legacy tomorrow."

"It's trying to get them to grow as student leaders and be better so they can spread out among campus," Queen said.

Those who have interest in joining the Emerging Leaders Program must be nominated by professors and other faculty members.

"Every year around February, we do a call for nominations. Nominations come from staff, faculty and certain groups of students we will reach out to, like peer leaders and student government, because they have that grip on who's on campus," Queen said.

Many campus events, such as Penguin Nights, are supported by the Emerging Leaders Program. Members

of the program are required to attend these events, as campus involvement is one of the organization's priorities.

"You're required to attend six campus traditions, which are basically just events that happen on campus. We want members to attend them and be active on campus," Queen said.

With a masters in education, Queen said he got involved because was interested in leadership development.

"I saw that the position had the emerging leadership program as part of it, and that was something I was interested in. So I applied and here I am," Queen said.

Queen said the program bases its values and practices on prominent leaders, pointing to the book "The Five Practices of Exemplary Leadership" by Barry Posner and James Kouzes for students who want to get involved with leadership.



Members of the Emerging Leaders Program.

Photos courtesy of Caleb Queen



# MAD unites and breaks stereotypes



By **Gunnhildur Baldursdottir**  
The Jambar

Stereotyping and misunderstanding are issues many African American women face across the nation. In a supportive and safe environment, Black women and allies at Youngstown State University can join a new student group, Melanin Ambitious Divas.

The club formed at the start of January and meets every week in Jones Hall, often on Monday or Tuesday at 4 p.m.

Adria Ingram, a senior majoring in general studies with a focus on communications and psychology, is a co-founder of MAD, which is in the process of becoming an official student organization.

According to Ingram, the club's name reclaims a stereotype.

"I've always been pitched as an angry Black woman. That's been a stereotype for Black women since way before my time, and we're always being called mad," she said. "I'm always someone who likes to turn one word into an acronym."

Ingram said the group's main goals are creating a community, sisterhood and environment where women are understood. She added Black women must support each other because they often feel pressure to be perfect, which can lead to unhealthy comparisons amongst their peers.

"Many African American women talk about the competition we have all the time, and to be frankly honest, I don't like that. When you unite as one, it's much more powerful, especially when the world is pitted against us because they want us to fail," Ingram said. "For us to go against each other while everyone else is going against us is not okay."

Heaven Anderson, a junior nursing major, is a member of MAD. Anderson said

during meetings, the club plays music while doing bonding activities.

"It's a bonding that really just allows us to get to know each other on a deeper level," Anderson said.

Anderson said she feels supported by the club as a Black woman majoring in nursing.

"When a lot of people find out what my major is, it's like a shock because you don't see a lot of us [African Americans] in that community," Anderson said. "It has changed over time, but [society] just expects us to be in anything but nursing because they don't feel like we're educated or have the willpower and the drive for these big biochem classes."

Nyla Hafeez, a freshman sociology major, joined the club at the beginning of the semester. Hafeez said the club has become a family away from home, which brings comfort during the college adjustment.

"The meetings give you a relaxing vibe where you can calm down and relax," Hafeez said. "Even if you're having a bad day, that's when I like to go to that meeting. You can talk about today and the stuff that's going on in the world or on campus."

Ingram said allies are welcome to meetings.

"[Allies] can help us because it's important to get our stories out there. It's also important to educate them so they know what we've been through," Ingram said. "Many people have friends from various backgrounds, but if they never talk about each other's struggles, those friendships typically won't last."

The club plans to host events soon, such as bringing inspiring female speakers to their meetings and throwing Zumba and yoga nights.



# Roq out with Sigma Chi

By Sydney Fairbanks  
Jambar Contributor

Sigma Chi's ninth annual Roquacade charity concert will take place from 6 to 10 p.m. on March 23 at Penguin City Brewing Company.

Vincent DeSanto, a junior finance major and head of the philanthropy chair, said Roquacade is Sigma Chi's main philanthropy event, which raises money for the Huntsman Cancer Foundation.

"Huntsman Cancer Institute actually found the most strains in the DNA of what causes genetic cancer in the country," Desanto said. "[Funds go] to the help of underprivileged families, it goes to help medical expenses, as well as research into trying to solve cancer."

DeSanto said 100% of the proceeds will go towards the foundation.

"None of that money goes to us. We actually lose a lot of money on this event to help the people over at Huntsman," DeSanto said.

The event will showcase performances by four local artists: Drifting Thing & Future Ghost, Sedona, Hayden Hanna, and Hard Knox, which features a member from Theta Chi, Tim Hanna. Each musician will play a 45-minute set with 15-minute breaks in between.

Sigma Chi will fundraise through a cover charge, t-shirt sales, a 50-50 raffle and an auction with a variety of donated baskets.

The baskets are made by community members and businesses, such as a student-owned gelato business and the Cleveland Browns, who Sigma Chi com-

pleted volunteer work for at home games.

Nick Allen, junior civil engineering major and member of Sigma Chi, said the fraternity is excited to roll out higher ticket items in the auction.

"Among our most notable baskets are a YSU spirit basket generously provided by the University Bookstore, a Cleveland Browns basket featuring four pre-season club tickets, a meal voucher, and a variety of high-end Browns merchandise and memorabilia ... and a premium spirits wagon with over \$1,000 worth of top-shelf and fan-favorite liquor bottles donated by alumni of our chapter," Allen said.

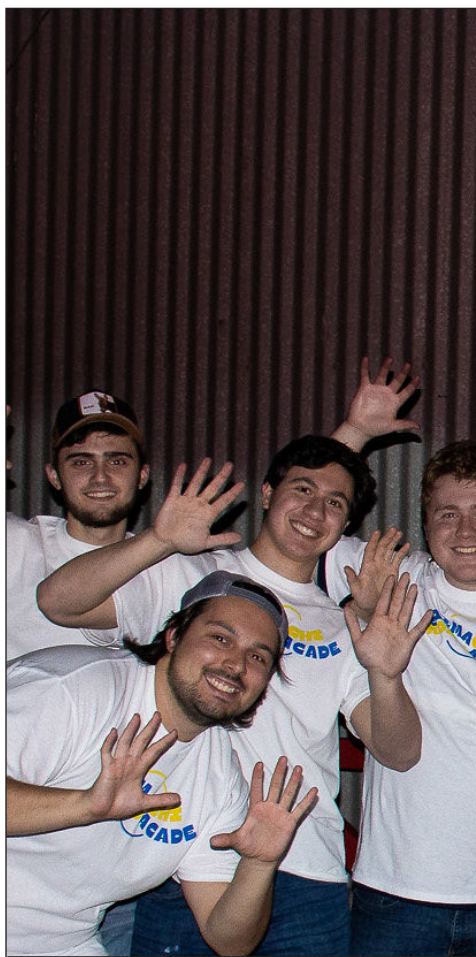
Last year, Roquacade made record donations of over \$10,000. Allen said he is hopeful that high-ticket items and positive community feedback will help Sigma Chi to reach its goal to raise over \$20,000 this year.

"We are hoping, with the higher-ticket items and the positive feedback from our attendees, we will be able to turn a heavy profit from the baskets that will be able to help the Huntsman Cancer Foundation's noble philanthropic efforts," Allen said.

The event is affordable for Sigma Chi as the bands play for free and Penguin City allows the fraternity to use the venue for free.

Other funding for the event comes from Student Government Association, Sigma Chi's member fees and various sponsors.

Tickets for YSU students are free and can be received in SGA's offices in Kilcawley Center. Non-students can purchase tickets at the door for \$10.



Past performances from Roquacade.

Photos courtesy of Sigma Chi.



# St. Patty's Day Word Search

O	L	E	L	C	O	Y	T	E	A	O	H	P	E
R	A	U	F	A	E	L	R	U	O	F	D	D	N
C	B	R	C	C	A	G	O	L	D	N	R	R	A
T	O	E	N	K	H	I	N	N	D	C	T	O	E
C	A	A	E	I	F	S	H	A	M	R	O	C	K
Y	D	A	R	R	L	U	T	E	E	R	E	B	L
U	U	A	S	L	H	S	I	R	I	L	A	U	A
O	C	E	N	R	B	E	I	D	P	A	A	W	A
R	A	I	N	B	O	W	A	O	N	D	A	Y	N
C	K	C	I	R	T	A	P	T	N	I	A	S	B
O	E	H	N	U	A	H	C	E	R	P	E	L	A
P	E	O	T	M	T	F	R	L	C	A	T	P	E
W	E	N	R	L	P	E	A	N	T	A	E	Y	R
P	A	R	T	Y	M	P	A	R	A	D	E	C	N

Gold  
SaintPatrick  
Shamrock  
Irish  
Dance  
Parade  
Party  
Rainbow  
Leprechaun  
Beer  
Luck  
FourLeaf



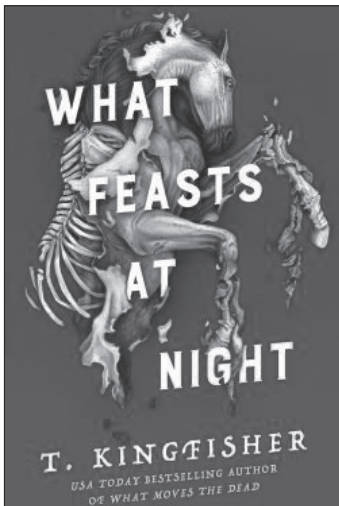
# Penguin Book Nook with The Public Library



## Nonfiction review

### **Kubrick: An Odyssey** by Robert Phillip Kolker

From “The Shining” (1980) to “Full Metal Jacket” (1987), Stanley Kubrick has been one of the most successful directors in American cinematography. This biography explores and captures his work over the span of four decades.



## Fiction review

### **What Feasts at Night** by T. Kingfisher

In this stand alone sequel to “What Moves the Dead,” Alex Easton is left to unveil what dark power is ravaging their home. Is it a monster from local folklore? Or for once, some rational explanation? Recommended for lovers of gothic, horror and fantasy.

## Upcoming programs

### **Saturday, March 23**

3 to 4:30 p.m.

Casual Scrabble

Registration required

### **Thursday, March 28**

6 to 7 p.m.

Soul(ar) Eclipse Journaling

Registration required

### **Tuesday, April 9**

6 to 7:30 p.m.

Relaxing Watercolor

Registration required

Visit [libraryvisit.org](http://libraryvisit.org) to register, get more information or find other programs

To find more information or to place a hold on a title, visit [libraryvisit.org](http://libraryvisit.org), meet us at 305 Wick Ave. or call the library at (330) 744-8636.

# Have something to say to The Jambar?

## Write a Letter to the Editor!

Email The Jambar at

**[thejambar@gmail.com](mailto:thejambar@gmail.com)**

## The Jambar Column

# Stop yucking yums

Once upon a time, a random seven-year-old told my best friend and roommate, Madison Fessler, “Hey! Don’t yuck my yum!” This statement deeply resonates in my soul.

All my life, I dealt with the stereotypes that — because I’m in an advanced math class — I must enjoy math or I am some sort of child genius.

This isn’t always the case. There are some topics in math that I struggled with so badly but got through by studying hard and practicing problems over and over until I eventually understood it.

Now a history major in college, I still deal with stereotypes. People often think I am a boring person or I must really enjoy boring documentaries or books.

Don’t get me wrong, I enjoy the occasional documentary or book about some random obscure event that happened in history. However, there are too many stereotypes about each major, and it annoys me. Why can’t people just let others enjoy something they like?

Along with stereotyping, people love to make you feel like utter trash for liking a specific style of music or for liking a movie. I get it, opinions like to be heard and everything, but can’t we be a little bit nicer in the way we express our thoughts?

Oftentimes, when I am in a conversation with a friend and we’re on the



Alison Butz

topic of music or TV shows, we come to a disagreement about whatever is our favorite on the topic being discussed. I tend to be very passive with arguments, and half the time, I won’t even voice my opinion.

However, when I do, I try to be as polite about it as possible because I do not want to offend someone because I like something different. For example, one of my all-time favorite movies is “The Martian,” and I am sure there is someone out there who would say, “Oh geez, that’s a horrible movie!”

It wouldn’t settle well with me because it’s a movie that I enjoy solely for personal reasons. It was my dad’s favorite, and I watched it all the time with him. Now that he’s gone, it’s something that reminds me of him in a very positive way.

Basically, what I’m trying to say is we need to stop being so rude to others based on what they like. You don’t need to judge someone’s entire character based on their major, and you don’t need to be so rude to others because of what they like. It is okay to voice our opinions, but do we really need to be so judgmental with it?

## The Jambar Editorial

# Beware of influencers

With the rise of the internet and the polarization of United States politics, many Americans have come to rely on a series of media figures to engage with politics, society and culture.

These figures label themselves many things, from politician to journalist to thought leader, but they are commonly described as influencers, specifically professional political influencers.

These professional political influencers rely on a series of skills regularly employed by journalists, columnists, politicians, corporate brands and pundits.

Their content may consist of live streams, reaction videos and tweets about whatever’s in the news, the latest political controversy or good old fashioned drama.

Many Americans, who are busy with their personal lives and inundated with social media, lack time to learn about politics outside of short sound bytes.

Because of this, Americans have come to rely on these influencers to catch them up on important news and what they’ve missed throughout the day and week.

On the other hand, becoming a professional political influencer is now a viable career option for those inclined. These influencers are flushed with money from donations, crowdfunding platforms, monetized views and sponsorships.

Oftentimes, these influencers have stuck their brand to whatever political stance they hold — left, right, center or

something else — and deviating from that opinion can lose them support from fanbases.

Similar concerns are present for politicians seeking votes and grassroots journalists seeking basic financial support.

Because of this, it’s hard to tell whether these influencers and the politicians they support personally hold the opinions they say they do.

To a certain extent, it doesn’t matter. Actions speak louder than words, and words speak louder than thoughts. The potential harm or benefit of the policies influencers advocate for is the same regardless of whether they support the policies or not.

However, it does matter. If the only reason an influencer advocates for a politician or policy is because it’s profitable, that means their views might follow the money, whether it be following sponsor’s views or catering to their base.

These influencers’ content is usually lazy. Reaction videos to the latest event or controversy do not require any research, originality, thought, careful analysis or planning. They just require some charisma and experience with a computer.

Keep in mind two questions when seeking political analysis and opinion from an influencer: How much work goes into forming their opinions? And how willing would this person be to express an opinion their viewers and supporters might not agree with?

## Quote of the Week

“What’s the matter, you dissentious rogues, That, rubbing the poor itch of your opinion, Make yourselves scabs?”

— William Shakespeare  
English playwright and poet



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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 advisor, business manager, multimedia journalists and non-writing staff do not contribute or have final approval in editorial content. Editorials published by The Jambar do not necessarily represent the views of faculty, staff or administration at YSU.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Submissions are welcome at thejambar@gmail.com. Letters should concern issues related to Youngstown State University, but may encompass outside topics. Letters must be typed and not exceed 400 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification, along with the writer's city of residence. The Jambar does not withhold the names of guest commentators for publication. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity and will not be rejected based on expressed views. The editorial board reserves the right to reject letters if they are not relevant to our readers, seek free publicity, fail to defend opinions with facts from reliable sources or have been adequately covered in The Jambar. The editorial board may request rewrites from a guest writer based on any of these requirements. The Jambar will not print letters that are libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. The views and opinions expressed in letters and guest commentaries do not reflect those of The Jambar.

# WORK WITH STUDENT MEDIA

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

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Assistant News Editor	Assistant Video Production
Sports Editor	Line Producer
General News Multimedia Journalist	TV Director
Student Life Multimedia Journalist	Technical Director
Sports Multimedia Journalist	Floor Director
Columnist	TV Crew
Web Manager	Teleprompter Operator
Assistant Web Manager	Designer
Social Media Manager	Copy Editor
Advertising Producer	Assistant Copy Editor
Assistant Advertising Producer	Assistant Rookery Radio Manager
Photographer / Videographer	

Apply online at thejambar.com by **Wednesday, April 14, 2024**  
For questions, contact Mary Dota at **MFDOTA@YSU.EDU** or call **330-941-3094**



# Lacrosse winless to start season

By Dylan Lux  
The Jambar

Following its outdoor season openers against Longwood University and the George Washington University, the Youngstown State University women's lacrosse team began Mid-American Conference play against Kent State University on March 17.

After going 0-7 in non-conference games to start the year, a new slate started with the team's first conference match against the Golden Flashes.

Just two minutes into the contest, YSU got on the board first in the match with a goal from sophomore Ally Garrett off an assist from junior Kayla Stecker.

The Golden Flashes followed with two goals, but freshman Ava Kreutzer answered unassisted to knot the score at 2-2.

Throughout the next nine minutes of the first quarter, Kent State scored five unanswered goals to bring the score to 7-2 after 15 minutes of play.

Garrett started the second quarter scoring with an unassisted goal followed by a KSU score. Youngstown State scored the following two goals by freshman Grace Rund and senior Aryn Lohrey, cutting the lead to 8-5.

The Golden Flashes found the back of the cage four more times in the second quarter while YSU freshman Katie Grottenthaler scored twice in the quarter, leading to a 12-7 halftime score.

Freshman Lena Cox scored first in the second half, while Kreutzer scored her second and third goals of the match. This marks Kreutzer's third-career hat trick.

Grottenthaler finished off the scoring run for YSU with a goal at the 4:25 mark of the third quarter. Kent State scored its lone goal in the third, bringing back the Golden Flashes' lead at 13-11.

Cox scored with 10:46 remaining in the contest, cutting the deficit to one point, but KSU brought the lead back to two.

Cox proceeded to go on a three-goal scoring run by herself and took the lead for the first time since the first quarter. The second of the three goals was assisted by

sophomore Emma Hoffman.

With the lead at 15-14 for Youngstown State, Kent State scored with under one minute to go in the game, tying the score at 15.

Just 30 seconds later, KSU scored once more for the final time in the contest. The final score of the matchup was 16-15 in favor of Kent State.

The loss brings YSU to an 0-8 overall record and starts the team off 0-1 in conference play.

The Penguins looked to bounce back against non-conference opponent Lindenwood University on March 20 in St. Charles, Missouri.

After a 7-7 score at halftime, the Lions pulled away in the second half, defeating the Penguins, 17-10.

The leading scorer for the 'Guins was Garrett who found the back of the cage four times.

The Penguins will travel to Michigan to take on the University of Detroit Mercy on March 24. First draw is set for 1 p.m.

# Penguins make a splash in the postseason

By Marissa Masano  
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University swim and dive team competed from March 14 to 16 at the College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America National Invitational Championship in Ocala, Florida and the NCAA Zone C Diving Championships in Louisville, Kentucky.

The team competed with eight men and four women at the National Invitational. At the Diving Championships, sophomore Emma Schum and freshman Hanna Held represented the Penguins.

Schum competed in the one-meter dive and placed 54th out of 56 divers, with a score of 193.40. Held placed 25th out of 27 divers in the five-dive platform event with a score of 189.00.

In the CSCAA National Invitational, Senior Gavin Webb had a podium finish in the men's 500-yard freestyle with a school-record time of 4:24.69. Webb bested his seeded time of 4:25.90 to place third.

Later in the meet, the senior advanced to the A-final in the 400-yard individual medley and placed eighth at 3:54.09.

Sophomore James Slessor broke his own school re-

cord with a time of 54.54 in the 100-yard breaststroke. The time advanced him into the B final, where he finished 20th with a time of 54.64.

Slessor also competed in the 200-yard and 50-yard breaststroke, placing 26th with a time of 2:01.39 and 27th with a time of 25.51, respectively.

Junior Dominic Bono advanced to the B final in the 200 yard backstroke and placed 20th with a time of 1:50.06. Bono also competed in the 400-yard individual medley, placing 22nd at 3:59.70.

Senior Christian Taylor placed within the top 20 in two of three events. His highest finish was in the men's 1650-yard freestyle, where he placed eighth with a time of 15:44.26. In the men's 1000-yard freestyle, Taylor placed 12th with a time of 9:27.84, and in the men's 500-yard freestyle, he finished 29th with a time of 4:37.23.

Seniors Rares Druga and Jasper Liekens also clinched top-30 finishes for the Penguins.

Druga placed 29th in the men's 200-yard freestyle with a time of 1:41.00. Liekens competed in the men's 200-yard butterfly, finishing 30th with a time of 1:52.70.

Senior Gavin Redden, freshman Kyle Mizell, Druga and Slessor represented the Penguins in three relays.

In the 200-yard freestyle relay, the group finished 21st with a time of 1:23.49, and in the 200-yard medley relay, the exact four placed 26th with a time of 1:31.33.

The four Penguins then competed in the men's 400-yard freestyle relay and clocked in a time of 3:01.22 to place 18th.

A separate relay team of Druga, Liekens, Taylor and Webb competed in the 800-meter freestyle relay. The team placed 13th with a time of 6:43.34.

Overall, the men finished with 159 points and placed 17th out of 36 teams. Texas Christian University placed first at the invitational, rallying 859 points.

On the women's side, sophomore Miriam Frass and junior Hailey Clark competed in individual events.

Frass placed in the top 30 in two out of her four individual events, finishing 29th in the 1000-meter freestyle with a time of 10:21.96 and 30th in the 1650-meter freestyle with a time of 17:06.52.

Clark competed in the 1650-meter freestyle and 1000-meter freestyle and placed 31st and 33rd, respectively.

A team of senior Brooke Schuette, sophomore Madelyn Mahoney, Frass and Clark represented the Penguins in the women's 800-meter freestyle relay, where they placed 28th at 7:36.54.

With the conclusion of the postseason, the swim and dive teams will take a break until next season.

## PENGUINS CONQUER MOUNTAINS

# Music stops early for the Penguins

By Madeline Hippeard  
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University bowling team finished second in its final tournament of the regular season March 15 to 17 at the Music City Classic in Smyrna, Tennessee.

Day One of the tournament consisted of five Baker matches in which the Penguins posted a total pinfall of 4,982 against Belmont Abbey College, Lewis University, Valparaiso University, Howard University and Sacred Heart University.

The 'Guins began the day with a 935-919 loss to Belmont Abbey College. However, the Penguins were able to win the last four matches of the day.

The team began its winning streak against Lewis and Valparaiso. The Penguins shot a 272 pin difference against Lewis, finishing the match with a score of 1,060-788. The team shot 175 above Valparaiso at 1,028-853.

The 'Guins continued, defeating Howard 847-824. YSU finished day one with a 1,128-980 win over Sacred Heart.

Head coach Doug Kuberski said communication is one of the team's biggest strengths.

"We have long six, seven hour days, and we're changing pairs and we bowl five matches per day, and it takes a lot of communication to get ahead of the adjustments, stay ahead of the moves and be competitive against other teams," Kuberski said.

Day Two of the Music City Classic consisted of five traditional matches in which the 'Guins finished with a 4-1 record.

First, Youngstown State defeated Louisiana Tech University 1,127-975. Next, the Penguins beat Vanderbilt University 1,073-950.

The Penguins' only loss of the day followed, losing to Jacksonville State University 1,077-1,037.

Despite the setback, the 'Guins finished the day with two more wins against Mount Aloysius College, 1,005-

660, and North Carolina A&T University, 1,058-956.

Throughout day two, senior Kristen Moore bowled a 1,170 set over five games, earning first overall in individual standings for the tournament.

The Music City Classic marks Moore's third individual title this season, following victories at the Penguin Classic and the Mid-Winter Invitational.

Day Three of the tournament consisted of a best of seven championship bracket. The Penguins entered the bracket ranked second overall.

The team first competed against Jacksonville State University, defeating them 4-1.

After a second round bye, the 'Guins faced Jacksonville State once more for the tournament championship.

The Penguins were unable to defeat Jacksonville State for a second time, losing the match 4-2

Youngstown State bowling will return to the lanes March 22 for the beginning of the Conference USA Championship.

# Baseball steals first two wins of the season

By John Ostapowicz  
The Jambar

After a 15-game losing streak, the Youngstown State University baseball team secured its first two wins of the season over the University of Pittsburgh and Purdue University Fort Wayne.

Pitt, a Power Five opponent, stood at 9-4 overall prior to the matchup against the Penguins. The Panthers earned notable wins over the University of Washington, the University of Oklahoma and the University of California.

Originally slated for Feb. 28, the game was rescheduled for March 13. Youngstown State toppled Pitt, 7-6, in extra-innings.

YSU found success at the Charles L. Cost Field in Pittsburgh over its past four meetings with the Panthers, maintaining a 4-0 record on the road — a streak that started March 13, 2019.

In the March 13 matchup, the Penguins scored three runs in the top of the first inning before the Panthers

advanced two runners to home in the top of the second inning. Youngstown State owned a 6-3 advantage in the ninth inning, but Pitt scored three runs to force an extra inning.

Redshirt senior Trey Law led the way for the Penguins, as he went 4-for-5 to go along with a double and four runs scored. In the 10th inning, freshman Chris Domke pitched a one-out single to secure the team's first victory of the season.

With the win, YSU picked up its seventh victory over an Atlantic Coast Conference opponent during head coach Dan Bertolini's tenure.

Youngstown State returned home from March 15 to 17 at Eastwood Field in Niles for the first time this season as it began Horizon League play.

Over a three-game series, YSU earned its home-opening victory over Purdue Fort Wayne, but the Mastodons claimed the series, 2-1.

In game one, junior Jacob Gehring, a transfer from Ohio State University, pitched throughout eight innings and only allowed two total runs to earn the 4-2 win.

Offensively, junior Teddy Ruffner hit a three-run

double in the third inning to give the Penguins a 3-0 advantage. Ruffner finished 2-for-4 with three runs batted in, while freshman Alejandro Covas added the last run against the Mastodons.

Purdue Fort Wayne evened the series in game two, 13-3. The Mastodons out-hit the Penguins 19-4 to go along with a two-run home run in the top of the sixth inning.

In the final game of the series, Purdue Fort Wayne stole five bases and recorded 16 hits en route to a 18-5 victory over Youngstown State.

Despite the loss, Covas shined in the outing, as he tied the single-game school record with two triples and set a new career high with three hits. He also went 3-for-4 with an RBI and scored a run.

Youngstown State planned to round out its four-game homestand March 19 against Mid-American Conference opponent Bowling Green State University, but the game was canceled because of weather conditions.

The Penguins will restart conference play at home from March 22 to 24 against Oakland University and will act as the visiting team.



# Softball sweeps conference opener



By Cameron Niemi  
The Jambar

Since the start of the season in early February, the Youngstown State University softball team has played in three tournaments: The Gardner-Webb Tournament, Presbyterian College Tournament and East Carolina Tournament.

The Penguins combined for nine wins and six losses in 15 games over the three tournaments.

The team wrapped up its final road trip of the season as it defeated Norfolk State University and lost two games to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Youngstown State had its home opener March 12 and hosted the University of Akron for a doubleheader at the YSU Softball Complex.

In the first game, the Penguins picked up a 5-3 victory. Despite being tied at three, the 'Guins went on to score two unanswered runs — one in the fifth inning and one in the sixth inning to pick up the first home win of the season.

Akron responded in the second game with a 10-8 win, splitting the series against YSU. The Zips jumped out to an 8-0 lead by the second inning.

The Penguins scored six straight runs as they attempted to comeback from the deficit. The Zips scored two more runs, making the score 10-6. Freshman Autumn Behlke hit a two-run home run in the bottom of the seventh inning, but it was too little too late for the 'Guins.

The following day, the team traveled to Kent State University on March 13 for one game. The Golden Flashes defeated the Penguins, 2-1. The game was tied at 1-1 after the first inning. In the sixth inning, Kent State gained the lead

as it scored one run and held on for the victory over YSU.

Youngstown State faced off against University of Detroit Mercy on March 16 and 17 at home for a three-game series, which kicked off Horizon League conference play for both teams.

Game one of the doubleheader was taken by the Penguins as they won 11-1, snapping a two game losing streak. Senior Sophie Howell pitched her eighth win of the season.

In game two, YSU won by a final of 10-1. Freshman Lydia Wilkerson brought the Penguins on the board first as she hit her first collegiate home run. Senior Elyssa Imler added to the lead as she hit a grand slam in the fourth inning, marking her second home run of her career.

Youngstown State swept Detroit Mercy on March 17 with another 10-1 victory over the Titans. All three games of the series were called in five innings because of the mercy rule, and the Penguins outscored the Titans, 31-3, in just three games.

Howell pitched her ninth win of the season, and fifth-year senior Conchetta Rinaldi led the team with three hits and three runs batted in. Senior Hailey Niederkoher led the team with four RBIs.

The series sweep against the Titans gave Youngstown State a 3-0 record to start conference play. YSU currently has a 14-10 overall record on the season.

The Penguins were scheduled to host Bowling Green State University in a doubleheader on March 19, but because of weather conditions, the two games have been postponed to Apr. 24.

The Penguins will look to continue their win streak as they will start a five-game road trip in Indiana to take on Purdue University Fort Wayne for a three-game series. Game one is at 3 p.m. on March 22. The doubleheader on March 23 will start at 1 and 3 p.m.