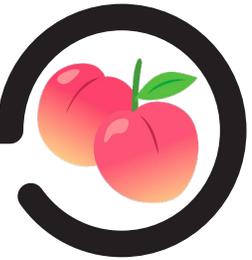


THE JAMBAR

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931



Thursday, April 18, 2024



List of Open Title VI Shared Ancestry Investigations

Protecting Students > Race, Color, or National Origin Discrimination > Issues >>

Overview

As a public service, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) publishes this list of elementary-secondary and post-secondary institutions that are currently under investigation for discrimination involving shared ancestry. OCR updates the list weekly. For the full list of cases under investigation, please see Pending Cases Currently Under Investigation at Elementary-Secondary and Post-Secondary Schools.

Some of the complaints that resulted in OCR opening those investigations, and possibly additional records from those cases, are posted on a Freedom of Information Act library page.

An institution named on this list means that OCR has initiated an investigation of a case concerning that institution. Inclusion on the list does not mean that OCR has made a decision about the case. For more information about OCR's case processes, please refer to OCR's Case Processing Manual.

Last Updated: April 16, 2024
Updated every Tuesday

Show: 10

Search:

| Institution | Location | Date Investigation Opened |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Central Bucks School District | Doylestown, PA | 04/16/2024 |
| University of Massachusetts – Amherst | Amherst, MA | 04/16/2024 |
| School District of Philadelphia | Philadelphia, PA | 04/09/2024 |
| University of Michigan | Ann Arbor, MI | 04/09/2024 |
| Youngstown State University | Youngstown, OH | 04/09/2024 |
| Princeton University | Princeton, NJ | 04/03/2024 |
| Lehigh University | Bethlehem, PA | 04/02/2024 |
| Howard County Public Schools | Ellicott City, MD | 03/25/2024 |

Photo (right) courtesy of finearts.uky.edu and photo (right) by Molly Burke / The Jambar

The Title VI investigation was filed by Marschall (left) and can be seen on the U.S. Department of Education's website (right).

YSU accused of ignoring antisemitism, federal Title VI investigation underway

By Molly Burke
The Jambar

Youngstown State University is under a federal Title VI investigation with the U.S. Department of Education for alleged antisemitism on campus.

The case was filed by Zachary Marschall, an adjunct professor in the Department of Arts at the University of Kentucky and the editor-in-chief of Campus Reform, a self-described conservative news online publication.

According to a statement Marschall gave to The Jambar, he has filed 33 Title VI complaints for an-

tisemitism at universities with the DOE's Office of Civil Rights since Oct. 7, 2023.

Hamas, a Palestinian Islamist militant group, attacked the Southern District of Israel from Gaza and killed over 1,000 people on Oct. 7, 2023.

In his statement, Marschall said the complaints have resulted in 13 open investigations with the DOE. He would not elaborate on his complaint against YSU but stated he believes YSU students have been openly antisemitic on campus and the university has failed to address it.

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Governor DeWine visits YSU, promotes literacy

By Christopher Gillett
The Jambar

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine hosted a roundtable discussion at the McCay Auditorium of Beeghly Hall on April 15 with Youngstown State University President Bill Johnson and Stephen Dackin, the director of Ohio's Department of Education and Workforce.

Alongside showing clips from the film "The Right to Read," the discussion focused on DeWine's policy initiatives to promote literacy education, such as bills that would require education students in college to learn the science of reading. The Ohio legislature is currently debating them.

DeWine said it's unacceptable that literacy education is not more grounded in science.

"For us to tolerate classrooms where we're not using the best evidence and the best way of practice to teach someone how to teach is just, I think, totally unacceptable. To quote a friend [from] this morning, 'It's immoral,'" DeWine said.

Dackin said children across the country lack an effective literacy education.

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“Youngstown students have felt comfortable to broadcast their antisemitism in public because there are no authorities on campus condemning anti-Jewish discrimination. I’m encouraged by the Title VI process and hope universities including Youngstown realize they need to overhaul how they handle antisemitism on campus. Universities can no longer get away with doing nothing about their students’ and staff’s antisemitic language and activities,” Marschall stated to The Jambar.

Adam Fuller, associate professor of political science and director of YSU’s Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies, said he believes there is no antisemitic discrimination at YSU.

“I don’t believe that we have a problem here. If there is a problem, I would have probably heard about it,” Fuller said. “I don’t think that this administration is looking the other way when it comes to antisemitism ... I just wish that maybe [Marschall] had reached out to me before they filed this complaint.”

Fuller said YSU has hosted several events on campus to bring awareness to Israeli issues, such as hosting a table of Israeli survivors from the Oct. 7 attacks. Fuller also said students “get a very fair assessment of Zionism” in an Israeli politics class he teaches.

“[Campus Reform] didn’t bother to investigate themselves further to look into what is going on at YSU. Had they done that, they would’ve realized that actually this university has taken a lot of steps,

especially since Oct. 7, to make sure that antisemitism doesn’t rear its ugly head in any sort of mass level on this campus,” Fuller said.

The case is listed on the DOE’s website, but the file is not available to read unless forced to by a Freedom of Information Act Request. The Jambar has filed an open records request for the documents, but it is currently unknown what the complaint contained.

Fuller said he believes there’s context to the investigation.

“For what I understand, the entire investigation is based on a video on Campus Reform made shortly after Oct. 7. They were on our campus and were asking students about the war over there in Gaza,” Fuller said. “The newly formed Students for Justice in Palestine — one or two of their students was in the video that [Campus Reform] made, and there was one in particular, upon being asked, ‘Do you condemn the actions of Hamas?’— they refused to.”

The video Fuller referenced was posted on Campus Reform on Oct. 19, 2023. He said he believes the interviewee’s comments in the video were “wrong” but were protected free speech.

Omer Genc, a professor of management and marketing and advisor for YSU’s chapter of SJP, which formed in September 2023, said the organization does not discriminate against Jewish people and has invited Jewish speakers to events.

“The goal of this organization was to educate, community, faculty — all stakeholders on campus — about what is happening in Palestine, and we have nothing to do with violence or antisemitism,” Genc said. “I think there was an interview which

caused this complaint about the investigation to be done. There have been a lot of articles on Campus Reform about our students, our officers, our organization, myself as well. We tried to contact them because there is a lot of misinformation and misinterpretation in those stories ... We didn’t get any response.”

Both Fuller and Genc said they have not been contacted by university officials.

Fuller said while he supports reporting antisemitism at universities, he believes opening the investigation at YSU could result in a “phenomenon of boy who cried wolf,” where “egregious” complaints would not be taken seriously.

“If there is a problem of antisemitism, and if the administration is failing to deal with it, I want that solved. However, I will say, I don’t think the investigation will lead to that conclusion,” Fuller said.

The Jambar reached out to Dana Lantz, the executive director of Equal Opportunity and Human Resources, and YSU President Bill Johnson for comment. University Relations responded with this statement:

“Youngstown State University is firmly committed to maintaining a working and learning environment free of discrimination and harassment of any student, employee or visitor. The university community works to eliminate discrimination and harassment through education, encourages staff, faculty, students, visitors and volunteers to report concerns, and follows up on all complaints. The University will comply fully with all requests from the DOE as it relates to their investigation.”

Continue to follow The Jambar for updates on this story.

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7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| High: 71°F | High: 62°F | High: 56°F | High: 54°F | High: 63°F | High: 61°F | High: 59°F |
| Low: 54°F | Low: 43°F | Low: 33°F | Low: 33°F | Low: 39°F | Low: 45°F | Low: 40°F |
| Chance of precip: 3% | Chance of precip: 84% | Chance of precip: 9% | Chance of precip: 8% | Chance of precip: 20% | Chance of precip: 25% | Chance of precip: 3% |



Mostly Cloudy



Rain



A Few Clouds



A Few Clouds



A Few Clouds



Overcast



A Few Clouds

Information courtesy of accuweather.com

YSU scrambles to fourth place in case race

By **Gunnhildur Baldursdottir**
The Jambar

Youngstown State University hosted and placed fourth in a case study competition at the annual Midwest Sciences Institute conference at the Williamson College of Business Administration on April 12 and 13.

This was the first time YSU hosted the conference, with over 130 students, faculty and staff representing eight universities. Teams of three to four undergraduate business students from each university participated in the competition, where they had 24 hours to create a solution to a made-up case study.

Alina Marculetiu is the co-organizer of the MWDSI case competition and a YSU professor of operations management and supply chain studies. Marculetiu said in cooperation with Boardman-based Summer Garden Food Manufacturing, students had 24-hours to find a solution for egg supply chain disruptions caused by bird flu.

“The students started by touring the company, then they came back to campus, and they were released the case,” Marculetiu said. “They also had the opportunity to read [the case] and they had to present the solutions the next day to judges. So, they only had less than a 24-hour time window.”

The teams visited Summer Garden Food Manufacturing at 10 a.m. on April 12. Later that day, they competed

in a judged question and answer session and received the case. The teams then worked together to find a solution to the case, which they presented at 9 a.m. on April 13.

Marculetiu said the presentations were judged by supply chain professionals from the area and protagonists of the case, which are central decision makers in case studies.

Jeong Hoon Choi, a professor in the management and marketing department, said MWDSI is part of nine regional chapters of Decisions Sciences Institute, which is a parent organization that hosts annual international conferences in November.

“The conference is to meet new people, and then we have many research presentations,” Choi said. “This year’s theme was Innovation and Adaptation: Navigating Change in the Dynamic Business World. So, this is about the sciences.”

Of the eight universities participating, John Carroll University took first place, winning a \$1,000 team award. Cleveland State University placed second, receiving a \$500 award, and The University of Akron placed third, receiving a \$200 award.

YSU’s team, Team Frittata, was half a point shy of the podium. Seniors Cierra Anzelmo, Rebecca Catlos, Jason Gibson and junior Jordan Clark represented the Penguins.

Catlos is double majoring in marketing and supply

chain management and is the captain of the YSU team. This was the second time she’s represented YSU in a case race. She said it was nice having the competition on home grounds and networking with other students.

“It was fun networking with students from other universities, hearing their input and hearing math questions about the case competition because everyone reads it and thinks differently,” Catlos said. “We have also been able to work and have fun together as a team, even though some of us have never met before, and I think that’s really cool.”

Marculetiu said the competition is mutually beneficial to students and the company.

“Students from nearby get exposure to potential jobs, and the companies actually want to participate so they can recruit the best students,” Marculetiu said. “Even if you’ve only participated and didn’t win, it’s still great for your resume because I think it’s sort of like making it to the Olympics but on a smaller scale.”

Marculetiu said organizers made changes to last year’s rules for the case race to ensure unbiased results.

“We had a set of rules for example, where students were not allowed to wear themed outfits or say what university they came from because we didn’t want the judges to be biased towards the Universities,” Marculetiu said.



(Left) Opening remarks at the conference. (Right) Anzelmo, Catlos, Clark and Gibson present their solution for the case study at MWDSI.

Photos courtesy of Alina Marculetiu

Governor

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“The biggest struggle is that many of them have not been exposed to learning how to read through the science of reading. That is absolutely an issue that has affected thousands of kids across the country, not just in Ohio,” Dackin said.

Referring to Dewine’s initiatives, Dackin said the state has been sending out materials to assist in teaching.

“We are in the process of rolling out high quality instructional materials that districts are required to purchase that are aligned to the science of reading. We’re providing professional development for teachers, principals,” Dackin said. “We’ve got literacy coaches in some of our highest needs districts to help teachers implement the science of reading.”

Attendees at the roundtable included members of university administration, Ohio politicians, local business leaders, YSU students and local librarians. Guests had the opportunity to ask questions.

When one of the roundtable attendees brought up teaching career training, Johnson said it needs to be taught.

“[YSU] used to do a program called Manufacturing Your Future, and we used to bring in children

from middle school, high school, and we would do exactly what you’re talking about,” Johnson said. “[Career training] needs to be more systemic. It needs to be more integrated into the school system.”

The roundtable also talked about cutting down on childrens’ phone and social media usage in schools. DeWine said schools banning phones improves young students’ growth.

“We’ve even seen [from] schools that have banned phones during the lunch hour, is the teachers tell us that the lunch hour is very, very different,” DeWine said. “They’re interfacing with each other. They’re laughing. They’re going back and forth. They’re talking. That’s really what kids need.”

Adding onto DeWine’s points, Johnson said if more school systems implement phone bans, the results will show.

“As school systems begin to understand this — and as we begin to sideline the use of phones and technology in the classroom — parents are going to find out. It’s going to be a self-marketing thing, because [kids] are going to go home and say, ‘They’re not letting me have my phone at school,’” Johnson said.



Photo by Christopher Gillett / The Jambar

DeWine (left) and Johnson (right) shake hands.

Write or wrong, critics belong

By Elizabeth Coss
Jambar Contributor

With finals around the corner at Youngstown State University, numerous classes will sign off with a final paper or research project. From peer reviews to an editorial process, criticism can come in many forms.

In many cases, writers can be their own worst critics, but for published authors at YSU, criticism can be much more than negative comments — it can be a tool for development.

Christopher Barzak, an author and English professor, said dealing with self-criticism can be a struggle for many writers, including himself.

“That’s true, that old saying that someone can be their own worst critic,” Barzak said. “When it comes to self-criticism, I’m criticizing even as I write. There’s this advice that you have to turn off your own internal editor to get the first draft down, and that’s true. It’s really hard to turn that editor off.”

Barzak recently published a novella, “A Voice Calling,” in March, as well as a short story collection titled “Monstrous Alterations” in September 2023. While Barzak said editorial feedback is his favorite kind of criticism to receive, navigating it requires understanding why edits

are suggested.

“If I find problems or difficulties or technical kinds of mess ups in what I’ve created, [editors are] going to be able to reflect that back to me before that book becomes a public item, and then it’s open to criticism from everybody,” Barzak said. “I take that process very seriously — I love to work with editors on my books — I like getting that insightful perspective from somebody who’s worked on tons of books and with writers of all kinds of different calibers and backgrounds.”

Thomas Welsh, a nonfiction author and adjunct journalism professor, recently finished his latest book “The Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown.”

With many of his works, Welsh said he gathers information on a narrative’s subject but sometimes collects more than is needed. While a lot of what may be found can be interesting, Welsh said a writer may need to “kill their darlings” and remove unnecessary information.

“When it comes to self-criticism, I found that some of the things I enjoyed [writing about] — and this goes back to William Faulkner’s comment ‘kill your darlings,’ but some of the things I found [the] most interesting and spent a lot of time developing in early drafts of stories of narratives because I write nonfiction — were things that were superfluous,” Welsh said.

For Welsh, the most common criticism he receives from a reader oftentimes is questioning why certain things are included and others aren’t.

“You’re going to naturally find yourself criticized — putting too much of an emphasis on certain people at the expense of others, but you really have to let the narrative determine those kinds of choices ... You try to be inclusive, but you’re never going to be as inclusive as some people would like you to be,” Welsh said. “Ultimately, you just have to justify your decisions by saying, ‘I’m going to let the story dictate my choices.’”

While many public reviewers may not be professionals or have experience in the editing field, Barzak said he does read online reviews and occasionally considers the criticism.

“You have a lot of people on those sites that, they’re not professional ... they’re going to rant and rave about whatever they want,” Barzak said. “You have to sort of take reviews like that with a grain of salt, but there are also people on there who are very well-read, and you can tell from how they write about anything they review. So, I do pay attention to reviews on sites like that, that seem like the person who has put it together is both a fair-minded person and understands how difficult it is just to write a novel in the first place.”

HAVE A LAUGH

Clowning on campus

By Sydney Fairbanks
Jambar Contributor

Of those who came to Kilcawley Center's 50th Birthday Celebration on April 10, few can say they were at its grand opening in 1974. However, one special guest was among both crowds to provide entertainment to the Youngstown State University community.

Jocko the Clown, the stage name of Youngstown resident Joe Sullivan, has been clowning since he graduated from the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey College of Clowns in 1969. He attended YSU and graduated in 1979 with a degree in advertising and public relations.

"I worked here at Kilcawley Center once a year every two years doing Jocko the Clown, the balloon man — the Mr. Joe Show, which was a clown without makeup," Sullivan said.

With his 2024 return to YSU, Sullivan entertained attendees as he sculpted elaborate balloon animals and joked with those he gave them to.

Growing up, other kids were interested in sports, but Sullivan spent his time at the library reading books to learn skills he still uses as Jocko the Clown today. In addition to balloon sculpting, his show includes juggling, puppetry, performing magic tricks, music and plate spinning.

Sullivan said he takes inspiration from entertainers he watched in his childhood, such as Howdy Doody and Captain Kangaroo.

"We would watch on TV the Ed Sullivan show — which was the old Sunday night show — and if there was a juggler on Sunday night, Monday I'd be at the library trying to find a book on how to juggle," Sullivan said. "Whatever I saw on TV that was interesting to me at that time is what I wanted to become in my own little imagination."

Sullivan said he wanted to have unique skills and enjoyed seeing people's reactions to them.

"If you learn to juggle and nobody else was juggling, you stand in recess and you juggle three tennis balls or whatever. The kids say, 'Oh, that's different. He's a different sort of

person,'" Sullivan said. "People reward you for what you're doing. If you're doing something that they enjoy, they reward you and then you want to do more of it."

Sullivan decided to pursue a career in entertainment around 1967 after he performed his learned skills at the library where he borrowed his books.

"I would go and show the library [staff] a trick that I learned to do," Sullivan said. "Toward the end of the summer, she asked me, 'Would you like to come and do a show — a presentation — of what you learned this summer with these books?' I thought, 'A show? Show business, sure.'"

Sullivan said he realized he can turn his interests into profit after began performing at libraries across Youngstown, getting paid \$30 each time.

"They said, 'We're gonna take you to some different libraries so you can do a report on what you learned this summer reading the books,' and every time I turned around, there was a little envelope. That feeds into the idea that I can actually be paid to do this, and it started from there," Sullivan said.

When Sullivan was a junior at Ursuline High School, he made connections with other clown performers in the Youngstown area by bonding over a coveted clown makeup brand, Stein.

Through connections, Sullivan earned the opportunity to attend the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey College of Clowns, which was an eight week program only 18 people in the country were invited to attend. Sullivan dropped out of high school and pursued an extension course for exchange students so that he could graduate when he returned from Florida in 1971.

After graduating from clown college, he went on tour with the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

In his career, he also volunteered his draft in the Army under special services entertainment alongside other performers, such as Bobby Goldsboro and the Ramsey Lewis Trio. He also worked at The Vindicator for 19 years in the circulation department.



Photo by Sydney Fairbanks / Jambar Contributor

Jocko the Clown returned to campus for Kilcawley Center's 50 year anniversary.

Puppy toy palooza

By Alex Sorrells
The Jambar

Students at Youngstown State University hand crafted puppy toys for New Lease on Life Rescue at an event hosted by the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center on April 9.

Rachel Jeffries, an academic intern at the Rec, said New Lease on Life rescues dogs in need of a home.

“We just hope that everybody comes out and enjoys what we do here and also support New Lease on Life and adopt some of their puppies. Some of the puppies need a home,” Jeffries said.

Staff cut up climbing rope and other materials for students to braid and twist into homemade toys. Olivia Vargas, a junior theater studies major, said she attended the event because of her love for dogs.

“I came to the event today because I saw they were making dog toys, and I’ve been wanting another dog for a long time. Unfortunately, I have to wait until after I

graduate, but I thought it would be sweet to make one now to anticipate the dog that I hope to get in a year,” Vargas said.

According to Jeffries, the Rec frequently partners with New Lease on Life for other events such as Puppy Palooza and Puppy Yoga.

“We’ve been collaborating with them for a while. They have a lot of puppies that need adopted and to be played with. So, we like to bring the puppies out and let the students enjoy them and also get some activity for the puppies as well,” Jeffries said.

One last Puppy Palooza event is set to take place April 27 in the Rec’s front entrance. Jeffries said the events can also help students wind down with a stressful finals week ahead.

“Everybody should come. It’s really fun. It’s great for students to take a step back, especially during finals week coming up,” Jeffries said. “Take a step back and play with the puppies and get involved, and it’s good for the puppies to not be in their cages at all times and run

around and have some human interaction.”

Other than donating toys, there are many ways to help New Lease on Life, including volunteering or rescuing a dog that needs a home. Vargas said she hopes to get involved.

“I wouldn’t mind donating or volunteering in the future to rescue shelters. If I had the time to do it I think I would, just because I really love dogs and it makes me sad whenever there are dogs in need,” Vargas said.

Vargas said many rescue dogs come from rough environments but students can help by encouraging adoptions and donations.

“It’s just something to do. I mean, especially if you love animals, you’re doing something sweet for them so whether it’s your dog back home or a dog you hope to get in the future,” Vargas said. “You could just donate a toy to the shelter. I think it’s a sweet thing to do.”

Jeffries said those who want to get in touch with New Lease on Life to volunteer or adopt a dog can contact the organization through Facebook Messenger.



Students make puppy toys for New Lease on Life Rescue.



Photos by Alex Sorrells / The Jambar

BFA students to showcase work at McDonough

By Tala Alsharif
Jambar Contributor

For art students at Youngstown State University, it's a goal to showcase a portfolio of passion projects to the world. For Avery Sandy, this proud moment came when 20,000 people saw one of his art pieces at a music festival.

Sandy, a graphic and interactive design student, created a digital poster for Porter Robinson's album "Nurture." It was featured at the Second Sky Music Festival in 2022.

"It was shown to over 20,000 people in attendance at the music festival," Sandy said. "That was one of my proudest moments and best things I've worked on as a designer."

That same piece will be featured at McDonough Museum's 2024 Spring Graduating Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibition, which will open with a public reception from 5 to 6 p.m. on April 19.

The exhibition will display the work of 14 graduating YSU art students and will be on display until May 4.

Claudia Berlinski, director of McDonough Museum, said the BFA exhibition is a part of a senior project class where graduating students, many of which are graphic design and studio art majors, present their diverse bodies of work.

This year's exhibition includes works of graphic design, studio art, ceramics, digital media, painting and sculptures.

"We have a student who focuses on digital media and she will have some animated

films," Berlinski said. "The second digital media person created an [Alternate Reality] art piece."

Sandy said the reason for this diversity is because graphic designers explore different mediums to have a well-rounded understanding of art.

"We can apply all those little elements of these different mediums into our design work," Sandy said.

Sandy's show will feature an accumulation of his favorite pieces he's created during his four years at YSU, which includes mixed media graphic design. Much of his work is inspired by music, which led to him working with music artists.

"I incorporate random scraps and stickers into my digital design work, just to create a nice blend between digital and real," Sandy said. "I always found [it] fascinating and it creates a very deep, heavy piece."

Sandy said students will be setting up their own work at the BFA exhibition, which gives them experience in learning how to set up exhibits and further prepares them for their careers.

Berlinski said the exhibition is an exciting opportunity for students to practice their professionalism in organizing and installing their work.

"It's a really culminating event for them from their four years that they've been here, and it's really gratifying," Berlinski said.

According to Berlinski, students often pursue a Master's degree in Fine Arts after college. Many also work at museums, and some open their own studios.

Sandy said he hopes to work in a designer position where he can contribute his creativity to a company's work.



Students prepare the 2024 Spring Graduating BFA Exhibition.



Photo by Tala Alsharif / Jambar Contributor

Spring Thing returns to the Valley

By John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

Over 40 years ago, Spring Thing at Idora Park became a staple music festival for Youngstown. With the festival's comeback, classic rock band Left End will return to the Mahoning Valley at 7:30 p.m. on May 26 at the Youngstown Foundation Amphitheatre with Youngstown's Houseband.

After 1984, Spring Thing officially ended after a fire burned most of Idora Park. The original event was sponsored by 101.1 WHOT-FM. Spring Thing 2024 is promoted by 102.9 WYFM-FM, known as Y-103.

The upcoming performance is a tribute to the 1981 sold-out Spring Thing with Left End and the Cleveland-based rock group the Michael Stanley Band.

Left End consists of frontman Michael Lawrence, drummer Patsy Palombo, bassist Roy Guerrieri and guitarists Tom

Figinsky and Jim Puhalla. The band performed at 13 consecutive Spring Things at Idora Park along with national and local acts, such as the Eagles, David Cassidy, The DeFranco Family and Ramatam.

Palombo said the reunion of Spring Thing is for fans who want to relive moments from the '70s and '80s.

"The whole purpose of [Spring Thing] in May is to bring back that spirit of the original Spring Thing at Idora Park," Palombo said.

Left End reunited after a nine-year hiatus March 11, 2023 at Packard Music Hall in Warren, where over 1,500 fans packed the venue to watch the band perform. Palombo said the performance in Warren played a key role in making Spring Thing 2024 happen.

"After the Packard experience, the members of the band as well as promoters were talking about it, and we were convinced that people wanted to come see the band again," Palombo said. "The

major attraction was that people from that generation wanted to relive those times."

At Spring Thing 2024, Youngstown-based members of the Michael Stanley Band — bassist Michael Gismondi, guitarist Gary Markasky and saxophonist Gary Rohan — will join Youngstown's Houseband to play songs from Michael Stanley Band's original performance at Idora Park.

Youngstown's Houseband has several members who performed at Idora Park over the years. Guitarist Jerry Centifanti played at Spring Thing with Next Of Kin, while keyboardist Kevin Mazy played with a band called Link.

The band currently consists of lead singer Mark DeVicchio, drummer Carmen Speziale, Mazy, Centifanti and Gismondi.

Gismondi played at the 1981 Spring Thing with the Michael Stanley Band. He said the event was fun for the band

and that Youngstown felt like a "home crowd."

"Anytime we played in Youngstown, we played at Beeghly [Center] as well as [Youngstown State University]. We always got a great reception from the local people. We have a lot of support from Youngstown," Gismondi said.

With Youngstown's Houseband performing the Michael Stanley Band song "In The Heartland," DeVicchio said that the "heartland" encompasses Cleveland, Akron, Canton and Youngstown.

"That's what [Michael Stanley Band] catered to. That was their people, and the crowd loved them," DeVicchio said.

Thomas John, a former DJ for WHOT and its nightly rock format WSRD — known as The Wizard, is currently putting together a video of all the bands that played at Spring Thing.

Tickets for the performance range from \$25.50 to \$71 and are on sale now at Ticketmaster.com

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KATY ROBINSON AND THE WANDERERS | LAUREN BRABSON
MADAME MARLOWE | NICK ADDUCI | OHAYO | PHATZ ELLIOT
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This flier is posted all over campus in promotion of the upcoming Federal Frenzy Music & Arts Festival on April 27.

READY TO STRUT

Fashion is for EveryBODY

By Madeline Hippeard
Jambar Contributor

The Youngstown State University fashion show production and promotions class will host its annual EveryBODY Fashion Show at 6 p.m. on April 24 at Beeghly Center. The event is free and open to the public.

While the EveryBODY Fashion Show serves as the final project for the class, professor Jennifer Frank said it was created to honor the memory of a former student who died from an eating disorder.

“The theme is showing that every body is beautiful and fashion is for everyone. That’s the whole message behind the EveryBODY Fashion Show,” Frank said. “You’re going to see all shapes and sizes on the runway, all ages, all genders.”

Frank said around 130 models will walk in this year’s show. Keeping in line with the theme of the show, the models come from different backgrounds. Some are current students, some are YSU alumni and others are volunteers from the Youngstown community with a passion for fashion.

Gianna Chetsko, a junior fashion and interiors merchandising major, said she’s been a model in the EveryBODY Fashion Show for 10 years.

“Everyone’s sense of style, personality and confidence that is seen every year on the runway is just something amazing to see,” Chetsko said. “Every year — just seeing how supportive everyone is in the audience and just wanting to see your own confidence on the runway — it makes me want to come back every year.”

According to Frank, students in the class spend the entire semester preparing for the EveryBODY Fashion Show, including working behind the scenes to coordinate its location, seating, lighting and music.

“Every spring semester in January, I get a new group of students and they learn from start to finish how to produce and promote a fashion show,” Frank said.

In addition to featuring student-made pieces, Frank said the EveryBODY Fashion Show partners with stores in the Youngstown community, such as T.J. Maxx, H&M and E.J. Hannah, to borrow clothes on loan for models.

Madison Howard, a junior in the class, has been involved with the EveryBODY Fashion Show for two years. Howard said her favorite part of producing the show is seeing the final product.

“I love the show. It’s so much fun, I love the energy that goes on with it. I love walking down the runway. It’s one of my favorite things. This year I’m actually teaching the models to help them with more confidence to walk down the runway,” Howard said. “I’m looking forward to it.”

Sophomore fashion and interiors merchandising major Colin Ryan said the EveryBODY Fashion Show gives the models an opportunity to showcase what makes them unique.

“It’s very positive for fashion because there are very strict and unfair rules on being a model,” Ryan said. “We have gone completely different to change these perceptions.”



Photo (top) by Madeline Hippeard / Jambar Contributor. Photo (bottom) courtesy of Jennifer Frank

Photos from the 2023 EveryBODY Fashion Show.

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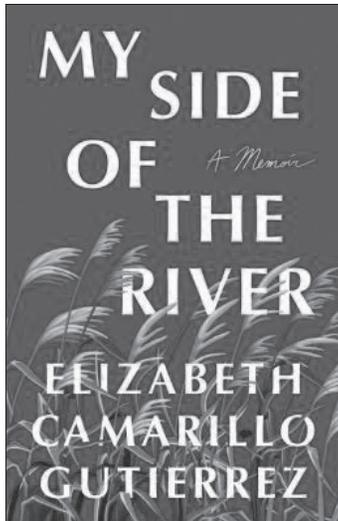
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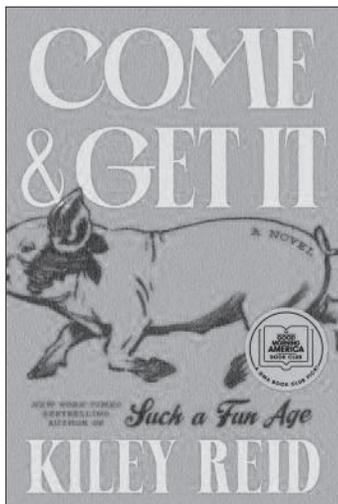
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Nonfiction review

My Side of the River: A Memoir by Elizabeth Camarillo Gutierrez

At the age of 15, U.S.-born Elizabeth witnessed her immigrant parents be deported to their home country of Mexico. In this vulnerable memoir, she shares the turmoil she faced and overcame as a result of becoming parentless and teaches us the often overlooked effects of immigration policy.



Fiction review

Come and Get It by Kiley Reid

Senior resident assistant and student at the University of Arkansas, Millie Cousins, has a list of goals she is determined to meet. When she finally gets an opportunity that will make it all come true, quickly and easily, she jumps at it. But, in the end, does she really get what she wants?

Upcoming programs

Monday, May 13

6 to 7 p.m.

DIY Butterfly Garland
Registration required

Tuesday, May 14

6 to 7:30 p.m.

Relaxing Watercolor
No Registration required

Wednesday, May 15

6 to 7 p.m.

Spiral Sun Catchers
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Have something to say to The Jambar?

Write a Letter to the Editor!

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thejambar@gmail.com

The Jambar Column

Checking out

Oftentimes, I am sitting in front of my laptop trying to write a paper, and I find myself stuck. With it being so close to the end of the semester, the issue is very prominent now. It's the point in time where pretty much everyone is checking out for break. It's so close, yet so far.

Each semester brings different levels of how motivated I am for finishing strong, and this spring definitely feels worse than it ever has been. It could be because of personal reasons or the workload I got myself into this year.

Don't get me wrong, I have enjoyed every second of this semester because I tried so many new things and made new friends, although I lost some great ones as well. However, there is something so satisfying about classes winding down and not having so many assignments due in rapid progression.

For example, in one of my classes this semester, we have been writing short essays about a documentary series we're watching, and the last one is due this Sunday. I have fully enjoyed watching it. There is something so satisfying about finishing something and not having to worry about it anymore.

The same can't be said about finishing



Alison Butz

a really good book or movie in your free time — that always makes me sad for some reason.

I guess it makes sense that I'm checking out this early in the semester because I am closing in on graduating, which really scares me.

It also just feels rather weird for me because this is the first semester that I didn't have to take web-based classes. There are some days that I don't have to log into Blackboard at all, and it just feels like I am neglecting classwork.

At the end of the day, I have learned so much about myself this semester, and I am so proud of the person I have become. Not meaning to get sentimental, I am glad I tried my hand at writing columns for The Jambar, and it was for sure an experience.

Learning a new style of writing and being able to write about whatever I want has served as a form of ranting about my midnight thoughts. It provided me with an outlet so that I didn't need to bother my roommates.

Quote of the Week

“Fine art is that in which the hand, the head and the heart of man go together.”

— John Ruskin,
English writer and philosopher

The Jambar Editorial

Another live-action flop

In the past decade, there has been a rise of live-action recreations of animated TV shows and movies.

While some, such as Disney's 2023 recreation of “The Little Mermaid,” were fun to watch. Most, such as “Alice in Wonderland,” “Beauty and the Beast” and “The Lion King,” are subpar and have too much awkward CGI.

Netflix has made multiple live-action remakes of animated shows. Recently, though, it crossed the line with its remake of the 2005 animated series “Avatar: The Last Airbender,” a beloved show among many people born in the late '90s and early 2000s.

“Avatar” follows the story of a young boy named Aang who has to master bending of the four elements — earth, fire, air and water — to save the world from the evil Fire Lord Ozai. His friends, Sokka and Katara of the Southern Water Tribe, guide him along the way.

The animated series' target audience is children, but anyone can enjoy it. The show has a profound ability to discuss sometimes emotionally-heavy topics with children in a relatable and sensitive way that even adults can find comfort in.

Its animation, though simple and 2D, beautifully captures the essence of eastern cultures with a playful style.

Netflix's recreation, which goes by the same name, had a budget of over \$90 million dollars and amazing source material. Nevertheless, the recreation was simply put, a flop.

The show mostly uses the animation's storyline with some dialogue being directly pulled from the original. Its costumes and set designs are near one-to-one recreations. However, it may look like the original “Avatar,” but it lacks its heart and carefree spirit.

The show does not have to be an exact replica to its source material to be good, but Netflix has created a confusing product.

Paul Sun-Hyung Lee who plays Iroh in the live-action “Avatar,” said Netflix wanted to make the show for a more mature audience. While there were several changes made to accomplish this, they didn't pay off.

Netflix made the show much more violent. Yet, the writers frequently broke the “show, don't tell” rule with tons of unnecessary exposition as if viewers aren't mature enough to draw their own conclusions.

This also came at the cost of character development and relationship building. The show's main characters, Aang, Sokka and Katara, hardly felt like friends.

Unfortunately, the actors who played these characters — Gordon Cormier as Aang, Ian Ousley as Sokka and Kiawentiio as Katara — are all fresh faces in the industry, and they were given a script that limited their abilities to show their talent.

The show did have some good qualities. The adult characters were fairly written well. Of the younger characters, Fire Nation Prince Zuko, had a well-developed arc. The actor who played him, Dallas Liu, was excellent in bringing Zuko's story to life.

The special effects and set design mostly looked great, but the best part was the action. Many of the cast members are trained in martial arts, and it was amazing to witness their cultures' talents on screen.

Regardless, its few good qualities could not make up for the lack of an interesting, relatable and impactful journey.

Overall, Netflix's “Avatar” was another disappointing testament to the age-old truth that animated projects do not need to be acted out by people. Even with potential to make something amazing, Netflix prioritized spectacle over story.

Hopefully, the adaptation at least motivates viewers who have never watched the animated series to check it out.

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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.

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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.



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PENGUINS VS. PENGUINS

Red and white face off in the Ice Castle

By Cameron Niemi
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University football team finished spring camp at its annual Red vs. White Spring Game at Stambaugh Stadium on April 12.

The white team won the scrimmage, 21-7, over the red team. The scrimmage featured two 15-minute halves and another 30-minute period with a running clock.

Spring ball started March 15. Since then, the team has had 15 practices and a few scrimmages leading up to the red vs. white game.

The white team featured sophomore quarterbacks Beau Brungard and Max Blanc.

Brungard served as last year's backup quarterback. He appeared in 10 games and went 14-of-20 passing for 108 yards with one interception. Brungard rushed 28 times for 129 yards and scored three touchdowns.

The red team also had two quarterbacks — sophomore Brady Shannon, a transfer who played baseball at the University of Central Florida and redshirt freshman Bryce Schondelmyer, who was on the team last season.

Brungard and Shannon started for their respective teams and took the majority of the snaps throughout

the game.

The white team scored the first points of the game as senior tailback Tyshon King ran in the touchdown. King was last year's leading rusher for the team, as he averaged 5.4 yards per carry and racked up over 1,000 yards, scoring nine touchdowns.

The white team extended its lead to 14-0 as sophomore tailback Stephan Byrd ran in a three-yard touchdown. Byrd is a transfer from the University of Cincinnati.

Blanc led the white team on the following scoring drive as he connected with sophomore wide receiver Joey Farthing for a 30-yard touchdown, making the score 21-0.

Farthing caught nine passes last season for 222 yards and scored four touchdowns.

Schondelmyer led the red team on its only scoring drive of the game. He completed five passes, with one to junior wide receiver Luke Hensley in the front corner of the endzone for a touchdown.

Both red and white team defenses played stout throughout the game, as multiple players recorded sacks. Despite the effort, there was only one turnover by the defense and a forced fumble, which was recovered

by senior Devin Johnson.

Head coach Doug Phillips, who is entering his fifth season, said it benefits the team to have the quarterback battle taking place throughout camp.

"Our quarterback room, I feel good about it. For us, it's about having a guy ready to go through 12 games — no matter who that person is — [who] can you take the field and win football games with," Phillips said.

Phillips also said he was happy with the defense's performance.

Brungard said the scrimmage was great work for the team as it prepares for the fall season.

"We had a lot of expectations coming in of what we wanted to get done, and I think we did. We're still not there yet, but we are gonna keep striving to get where we need to be," Brungard said. "We got a lot done and we're in a better place than when we started."

The Youngstown State football team will return to practice in late July. The Penguins will kick off the season on the road at 6 p.m. on Aug. 29 against Villanova University, which eliminated YSU from the FCS Playoffs in the 2023 season.

YSU will have its home opener at 2 p.m. on Sept. 7 against Valparaiso University.



YSU football ended spring camp with the Red vs. White Spring Game.

Photos by Dylan Lux / The Jambar



YSU soccer competes in its spring season with returning players.

Photos by Dylan Lux / The Jambar

Dust off the kits, 'Guins

By Dylan Lux
The Jambar

After being eliminated from Horizon League playoff contention in October 2023, the Youngstown State University women's soccer team returned to the field for its annual spring games in February.

The Penguins lost five seniors and graduate students after last season, but have many key players returning.

Senior Lianna Van Sice, who led the team in points through nine games in 2023 will return along with University of Pittsburgh transfer junior Maddie Kiester.

Other returnees include graduate student Jordan Evans, sophomore Taylor Berry and junior Ella Sueber-

ling.

The team has competed in four games throughout February, March and April, and will play its last spring game April 20.

Youngstown State traveled to Columbus to face The Ohio State University Buckeyes on Feb. 23 inside the Woody Hayes Athletic Center.

The Buckeyes were victorious in the matchup as they won, 4-0, over the Penguins.

The Penguins then waddled over the state border to Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, where they faced Bucknell University on March 24. Youngstown State lost in a 2-1 decision.

After games in February and March on the road, the

Penguins returned to Farmers National Bank Field in Youngstown for two matchups against Pittsburgh-based opponents.

Youngstown State hosted a game between Duquesne University and Robert Morris University before the Penguins took the pitch.

Game one for the 'Guins was against Horizon League foe RMU, where the Penguins took a 1-0 victory after a second-half goal from junior Maddy Bellaver.

YSU then played host to Duquesne the same day, where the team came up short in a 1-0 loss to the Dukes.

To round out the spring season, the Penguins will host Kent State University on April 20. Opening kick is set for 1 p.m. at Farmers National Bank Field.

Bowling strikes third at nationals

By Madeline Hippeard
The Jambar

With a third place finish at the NCAA National Collegiate Bowling Championship on April 12 and 13, the Youngstown State University bowling team finished its best season in program history.

Like the conference and regional championships, the national championship was played in a mega-match format.

Youngstown State began its championship run with a 2-0 loss to Arkansas State University.

The Penguins trailed throughout the traditional match and fell, 987-860.

In the Baker round, the 'Guins took an early 23-point lead after two games, but the 'Guins were unable to keep it against Arkansas State. In total, the Red Wolves bowled 11 strikes in a row during games three and four, resulting in a 1,059-956 loss.

After its loss to Arkansas State, YSU fought off Sam Houston State University, 2-1, in an elimination match to remain in the tournament.

The Penguins lost the traditional round, 1,009-882. Despite the loss, the 'Guins threw seven strikes in a row in round one of the Baker match, finishing with a score of 233-202.

With the conclusion of round one, Youngstown State held a 16-point lead throughout the remainder of the Baker match and won, 1,013-979.

Head coach Doug Kuberski said the Penguins have treated the national tournament just like any other regular season week to remain focused.

"Our workouts are geared towards mental focus. We've had some book sessions, some classroom sessions together, one on one work together. Everything's kind of geared towards keeping things focused on that process," Kuberski said. "We don't really get too up or down on the score. We try to make sure we evaluate things based on our process and our work."

Because the teams split the traditional and Baker rounds, Youngstown State and Sam Houston moved to a best-of-seven Baker game to determine who would move on.

The Penguins won the best-of-seven match,

4-2. The team won games one and two with scores of 226-181 and 247-221. The 'Guins lost game three, 216-212, but responded with a 232-190 win in game four. Sam Houston extended the match with a 233-168 win in game five, but the Bearcats were no match for the Penguins as they took game six, 231-184.

Youngstown State's championship run came to an end against Arkansas State when the 'Guins fell, 2-0.

Despite keeping an early 70-pin lead in the traditional point, the Penguins were unable to keep up with Arkansas State late in the match and fell, 964-851.

Arkansas State remained in the lead throughout the Baker round, defeating the 'Guins, 1,112-1,002.

Although Youngstown State did not win the tournament, the team took home several individual awards for its record breaking season.

Freshman Amanda Granata credited the team's successful season to its strong start in the first tournaments of the year.

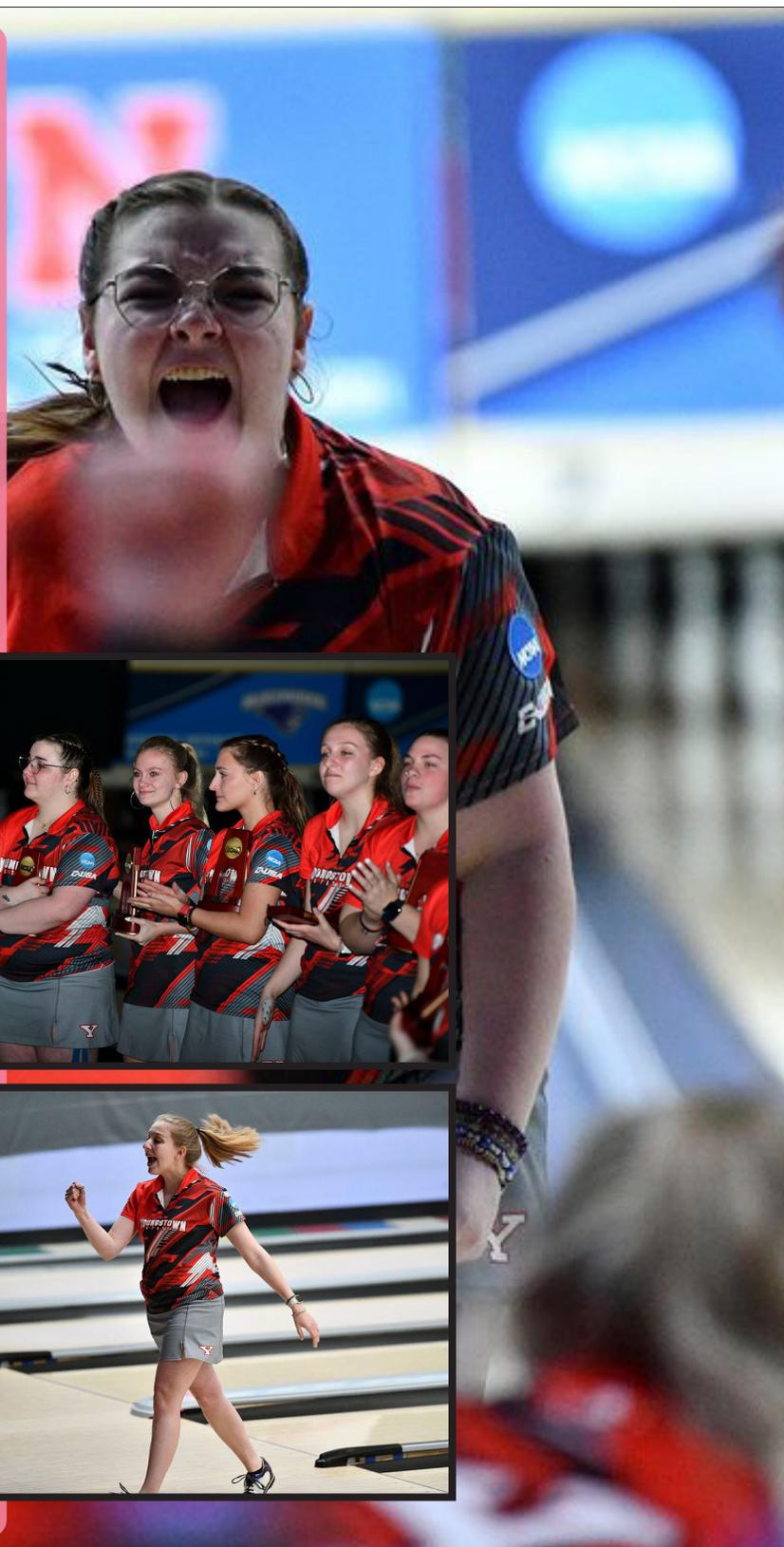
"The beginning of our season, even starting our very first tournament with the second place and then just seeing the potential of our team, it kind of just struck us that we can do this — we can win tournaments. So, we were able to put that together and win a couple events this season," Granata said.

Kuberski was named the Bill Straub Division I National Coach of the Year, and three Penguins earned All-American honors.

Junior Jade Cote became YSU's first athlete named to the First Team All-America by the National Tenpin Coaches Association.

Seniors Madyson Marx and Kristen Moore were named second team honorees. Moore was also the recipient of the Elite 90 award at the tournament.

All members of this year's team will return next season, except fifth-year senior Megan Grams, who is out of eligibility for the 2024-2025 season.



Grams celebrating with teammates. INSETS: (Top) Women's bowling holding trophies. (Bottom) Moore fist-pumps in celebration.

Photos courtesy of Robert Hayes