

# THE JAMBOO

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 YSU\_JAMBAR

Thursday, October 31, 2024

 THEJAMBAR.COM

## A GROWING FAMILY



Photo by Hannah Werle / Jambar Contributor

Ross Morrone became the academic marketing and enrollment strategy officer in July.

## YSU grows its Penguin family

By Hannah Werle  
Jambar Contributor

Recent efforts and changes at Youngstown State University have largely contributed to a rise in enrollment, defying industry trends with a 10.7% increase in fall 2024.

Ross Morrone is YSU's academic marketing and enrollment strategy officer, a position created in an effort to improve YSU's marketing to incoming students.

Prior to this role, Morrone served as the university's chief marketing officer, and worked alongside Jennifer Pintar — who was associate provost — on ways to better market YSU's academic programs.

"I was working with her and starting to really set that line in the sand of how do we market the programs versus how do we market the institution — and where should that responsibility lay?" Morrone said. "We realized the Office of Academic Affairs never really focused on that marketing."

Morrone said YSU created his position to blend the responsibilities of admissions and marketing into one role specifically focused on boosting enrollment.

While Morrone officially started his new role in July, he'd been doing the work since October 2023. Since then, he's initiated several efforts to make YSU's programs more appealing.

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## Communications looks to BCLASSE

By Matthew Sotlar  
The Jambar

The Department of Communications is set to transition from the Williamson College of Business Administration to the Beeghly College of Liberal Arts, Social Sciences and Education by fall 2025.

BCLASSE Dean Charles Howell said the move would not affect any students or faculty currently involved with the communications department.

"We've only had very preliminary discussions, but I don't believe it's going to be a difficult transition at all," Howell said. "[The communications department is] staying in their present quarters, they have access to their specialized equipment. So there will be no physical move, they will just join us organizationally. There will be a fifth department in our college."

Howell said the merge is still in the early stages, but BCLASSE is actively working with the communications department.

"Right now we've already engaged in preliminary talks, and our colleagues from communications are going to join us in our all-college meetings, in our chair's meetings and also in our Dean's Advisory Council meetings," Howell said.

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**Enrollment**

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One initiative was creating the Explore YSU website. Separate from YSU's main site, it focuses on recruitment and streamlines the marketing process, from advertisement to contact with the university.

"It's a whole marketing funnel. Getting ads in front of them, so that when they're searching for a degree, they can find us. Then, come into our funnel, get on our website, get more information and then be able to reach out to somebody," Morrone said.

The next step of this process was creating an Academic Master Plan. Morrone explained most colleges, including YSU, have a Strategic Enrollment Plan, but other colleges also have an AMP.

The AMP focuses on everything within the academic sphere, from meeting faculty and student needs to assuring program names respond intuitively to students' searches.

Morrone said the AMP would work with YSU's SEP and the newly-created Strategic Communications Office to blend academic marketing with enrollment strategies and positive public relations.

While Morrone's efforts have yielded positive results, he admitted there's more to the enrollment increase than just marketing.

One short-term cause for YSU's enrollment spike was its absorption of students from Eastern Gateway Community College.

Jeanne Herman, the associate vice president of Institutional Effectiveness, worked with EGCC and YSU officials to transfer students from the community college after it closed at the end of the spring semester.

Herman said representatives from YSU's admissions, financial aid, registrar's, bursar's, marketing and academic affairs offices met regularly to create a transfer process that would best suit the needs of EGCC students.

"What came out of those meetings was a simplified process to apply, a website for their students and then academic affairs would constantly bring back to us the programs as they began getting approved," Herman said.

According to Herman, the process involved transferring students into equivalent associate degrees — and creating such programs if they didn't exist.

To create new programs and secure federal-aid permissions, academic affairs needed approval from the Ohio Department of Higher Education, the Higher Learning Commission and the U.S. Department of

Education.

Herman said she applauds the departments, chairs and faculty who worked to create these programs.

"On the academic side, I know what goes into creating a curriculum, and it is very labor intensive and the fact that they were able to put together a substantial curriculum that is with the YSU integrity and passed all of the approvals is amazing," Herman said.

With EGCC's closure driving some of this year's enrollment boost, questions remain about whether YSU's rising numbers are a one-time occurrence.

Herman said YSU is still assessing demand for more associate degree programs, which could attract additional transfers. She added that because these programs are permanent, they may continue to draw students beyond the community college.

"Now that we have grown substantially with our associates, what we found is not only that [EGCC] students came and registered for our new associate programs, but other students did too," Herman said. "[It] was definitely our [EGCC] students, but it was other students in the associate programs that also helped [contribute] to the increase in enrollment."

While incoming EGCC students certainly added to the increase in enrollment, one group has seen consistently rising numbers, despite a recent net decline in overall students enrolled at YSU.

YSU's Fall 2024 Preliminary Enrollment Summary shows that first-time undergraduate international students more than doubled from 208 in fall 2023 to 469 in fall 2024. However, this figure excludes graduate, continuing and otherwise-classified international students.

Nicholas Dubos, an international student and scholar adviser at YSU's International Programs Office, attributed YSU's increasing international student population to a welcoming environment and word-of-mouth.

"First of all, I think we have created an excellent environment. Especially in certain parts of the world, where we tend to get a lot of our students ... it's like, they know YSU exists. And so, friends and family tell people," Dubos said.

Morrone, Herman and Dubos agreed many factors led to the YSU's enrollment increase this year.

From a new marketing strategy to a fortuitous closing and continuous efforts for a welcoming environment, YSU has worked hard over the year to boost enrollment.

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**7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST****Thu.**

Overcast

High: 79°F  
Low: 46°F  
Chance of precip:  
25%

**Fri.**

Partly Cloudy

High: 55°F  
Low: 36°F  
Chance of precip:  
7%

**Sat.**

Partly Cloudy

High: 54°F  
Low: 37°F  
Chance of precip:  
25%

**Sun.**

Partly Cloudy

High: 63°F  
Low: 52°F  
Chance of precip:  
13%

**Mon.**

Mostly Cloudy

High: 67°F  
Low: 55°F  
Chance of precip:  
17%

**Tue.**

Mostly Cloudy

High: 69°F  
Low: 49°F  
Chance of precip:  
30%

**Wed.**

Mostly Cloudy

High: 62°F  
Low: 48°F  
Chance of precip:  
15%

Information courtesy of  
accuweather.com



# Youngstown's got ghosts

By Sydney Fairbanks and Madison Fessler  
Jambar Contributors

Youngstown is one of the oldest cities in Ohio, and with the plethora of history in the Mahoning Valley comes a variety of ghost stories too.

Amy Fluker, associate professor of history, said ghost stories are an important piece of American history, rooted in the fear of death and being forgotten.

“Ghost stories are such an interesting way to see how people care about the past. Ghost stories are a way of keeping the past alive — particularly people we’ve lost — and they’re often also a way of looking for justice,” Fluker said. “We think of ghosts as haunting to call attention to some kind of wrong, like an untimely death, a person who was murdered or betrayed, their soul cannot rest and so they’re haunting.”

Fluker said investigating these hauntings gives the living a chance to correct past wrongdoings and make a better future.

There’s a number of haunted places on campus and the surrounding area.

In the 2007 Halloween edition of The Jambar, four staff members stayed the night in these haunted locations.

They went to the University Courtyard Apartments, Kilcawley House, Sweeney Hall and the Wick-Pollock Inn, now the president’s house.

Andrew Berry, former sports editor for The Jambar, wrote that the group started their investigation in Kilcawley House.

“Inside Kilcawley House, we begin with the stairwell, where a janitor supposedly hung himself years ago,” Berry stated.

Kilcawley House didn’t yield physical evidence of the spirit, but the story of the janitor remains as campus lore.

In Wick-Pollock Inn, the group took a photo where a singular white orb is vis-

ible.

Orbs in photographs are often regarded as spirits, though its validity is disputed. Using photography and videography to catch evidence of ghosts has been a long-standing practice for paranormal investigators.

Liz Khumprakob, owner of Unique Boutique and Youngstown Exorcism & Spirit Library, said taking photographs is what got her into the paranormal.

“I traveled to Atlanta, Georgia, and walked around a cemetery there. When I got my photos back from the trip, one of the pictures was of a gravestone with a statue of a lady and in the top left corner, there was this little mist coming into the photo,” Khumprakob said. “It was big enough and noticeable enough, I thought, ‘What is this? That wasn’t in the picture when I took it, there was nothing like that. It wasn’t misty.’”

Khumprakob’s experience led to her becoming a paranormal investigator for years. She said paranormal occurrences can happen anywhere and disrupting a grave can have consequences.

“Everywhere is haunted, especially cemeteries, because there’s such a connection with the remains and the final resting place and marker of someone. If a grave is desecrated in any way, either purposefully or accidentally, and it’s not rectified, it causes unrest with a spirit. It could cause a problem for someone in the next life,” Khumprakob said.

While stories surround locations labeled as haunted for centuries, they can shift overtime, especially when there’s no irrefutable evidence.

Fluker said this speaks to how these stories relate to history.

“Ghost stories are inherently about history. They’re such a cool way for us to connect with the past and often it’s local history. People care about ghosts in their town or on their campus,” Fluker said.

## Local Trick or Treat times

Oct. 31

5 - 7 p.m.

- Campbell
- Coitsville
- Jackson Township
- Lowellville
- Poland Township
- Springfield Township
- Struthers
- Youngstown
- Girard
- Hubbard Township
- Liberty Township
- McDonald

Oct. 31

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

- Austintown
- Boardman
- Niles

Oct. 31

6 - 7 p.m.

- New Middletown

Oct. 31

6 - 8 p.m.

- Howland

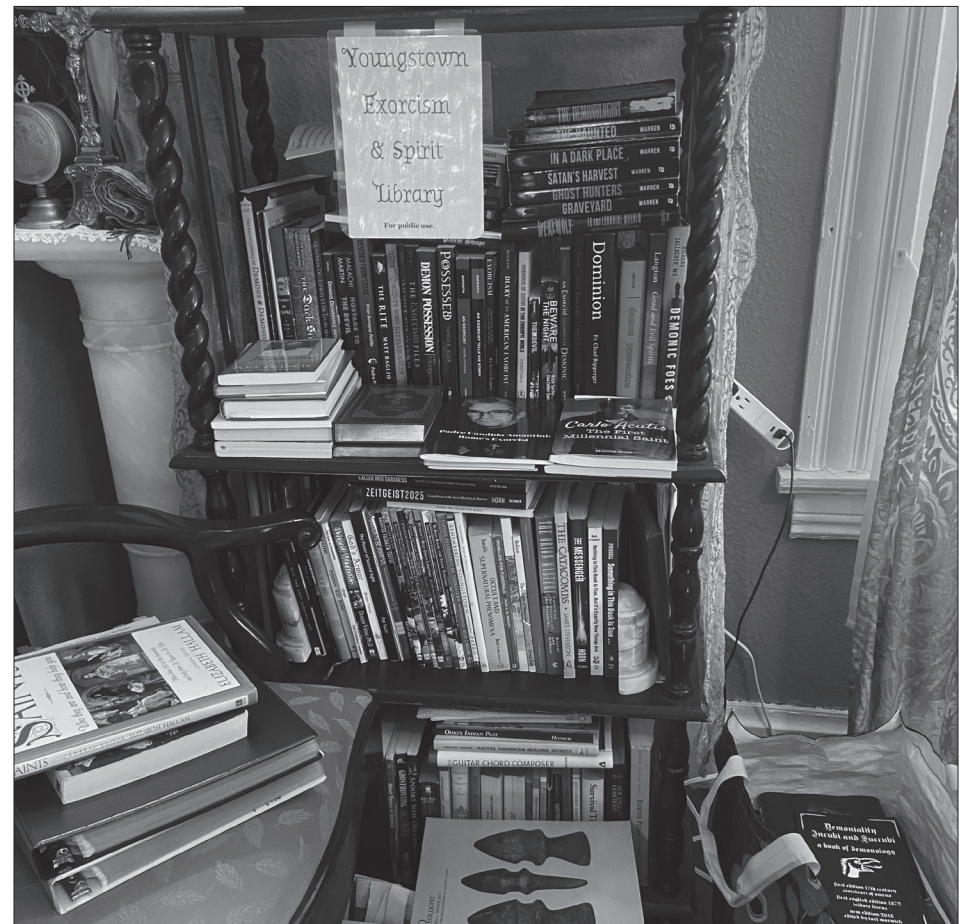


Photo by Madison Fessler / Jambar Contributor

Youngstown Exorcism & Spirit Library offers free publications on the paranormal.



## COMMUNICATIONS ON THE MOVE



The Department of Communications will move to BCLASSE July 1.

Photos by Matthew Sotlar / The Jambar

## Communications

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Courses for incoming communications majors will not be affected. Howell said most BCLASSE-based majors have introductory courses similar to those in communications.

“The advising structure for our college ... is really in three parts,” Howell said. “The first is YSU 1500. Communications has its own YSU 1500, so they’ll continue to do so. After 1500, for sophomore year, that’s done by college advisers, and we have college advisers who would handle those responsibilities.”

Howell said juniors and seniors would remain relatively unaffected by the transition.

“The faculty typically advise students in junior and senior year,” Howell said. “That would continue to be the same for communications.”

Howell said the move was suggested to Jennifer Pinter, provost and vice president of academic affairs. He said the faculty and staff of BCLASSE were highly receptive to the move.

“As I understand it, [communications] approached the provost, and the provost wanted to make sure everybody was on board with it, in communications and [BCLASSE]. So I consulted with my colleagues and ascertained that this would be a harmonious relationship,” Howell said.

Howell added that he keeps in contact with the communications department.

“I went over there and had a conversation with their faculty and it was really interesting,” Howell said. “Pretty soon I’m going to go over there and have a tour of their facilities. I’ve discussed it with the Dean’s Advisory Council and there were a number of good suggestions for helping us get integrated.”

Along with the addition of communications, BCLASSE has added several new courses.

“Another area in which we’re going to be working together involves scientific communication,” Howell said. “We have a new data literacy minor that we’re proposing ... and one of the courses is a communications course which is called ‘scientific communication,’ which we believe will be a great asset to our undergraduate majors.”

Howell said he felt communications worked well with BCLASSE.

“With communications, it’s a really good fit,” Howell said. “Partly because journalism, The Jambar and the English department will be working together ... the other thing is, we promote co-teaching, so we really like pairing instructors in different disciplines to teach together and develop courses together.”

The communications department is set to join BCLASSE on July 1, 2025.



# Greatness on campus

By Keon Edington  
Jambar Contributor

Tennis player Venus Williams spoke to a crowd of over 1,000 at 7 p.m Oct. 23 at Youngstown State University's Beeghly Center.

As a part of YSU's lecture series, presented by the Thomas Colloquium on Free Enterprise, the event was held inside Beeghly Center. The crowd was comprised of the YSU women's and men's tennis teams, VIP guests and community members.

Williams opened the lecture talking about her new book "Strive: 8 Steps to be Awesome," which focuses on eight ways to turn choices into habits.

"It was amazing. I've spent so much time in this world learning a lot of lessons, a lot of knowledge I'd like to pass on," Williams said.

When talking about her switch to entrepreneurship, Williams said starting a career wasn't an easy endeavor.

"The first step is always the hardest," Williams said. "If you're afraid you have to ask yourself 'What decision I would make if I weren't afraid,' and that's the decision you need to make."

While talking about her book, Williams gave tips for those fearful of starting their own careers.

"We are who we tell ourselves, if we allow ourselves to be afraid and let that be our leader, then we'll get the

results of fear," Williams said. "It's about framing that fear in a different way."

Williams also shared that she and sister, Serena Williams, are the first African American female minority owners of any National Football League team. They acquired the Miami Dolphins in 2009.

Williams says she loves football and track and field, as much as tennis.

"I'm a huge football fan. I love seeing those guys on the field," Williams said. "Sports is such a big teacher, you become confident and strong."

Later in the lecture, the conversation shifted to a topic relevant to all students, the world of artificial intelligence.

Williams said AI will continue to evolve and has impacted her design business.

"AI is starting to do powerful things, being able to find solutions. You're able to process things quicker, do things quicker. It's just the beginning of what it can do," Williams said.

In 2002, Williams founded V Starr, a full service design firm. Since then, Williams also created a plant-based protein company called Happy Viking, and owns Palazzo — an artificial intelligence company.

Williams has won seven Grand Slam titles, 14 double Grand Slam titles, two Grand Slam Mixed Doubles Titles, five Wimbledon championships and four Olympic

gold medals.

Williams answered questions about her historic tennis career including what the game taught her.

"Confidence, because you have to learn to believe in yourself," Williams said. "Even when you don't, you've got to pretend like you do."

Williams shared a time during a match when she had to compete with her less-experienced teammate.

"I ended up playing with a partner who was not as experienced as everyone else," Williams said. "We arrived at the final. I saw his body still there, but his spirit had left the court."

Still, the pair played its way to a tiebreaker. Williams said she complained about the loss for years, until she realized she made an error.

"I felt like we were in the driver's seat and unfortunately, we didn't play as well and lost that match," Williams said. "I missed the last one, no matter what happened I still had control over myself."

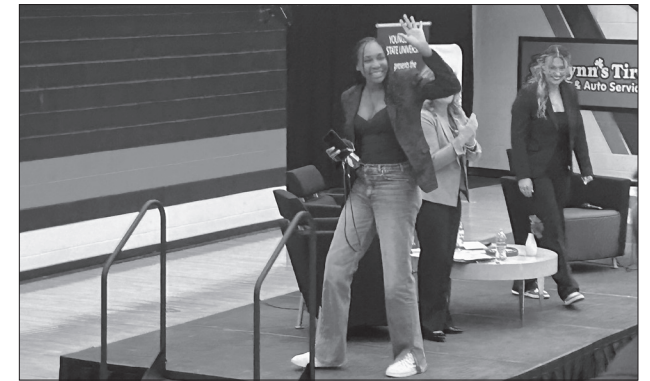


Photo by Keon Edington / Jambar Contributor

Venus Williams spoke to a crowd of over 1,000 guests.

# Financing future

By Nicholas Bianco and Sydney  
Fairbanks

Jambar Contributors

Managing finances can be difficult, but Youngstown State University offers financial literacy courses to educate students on this issue.

For students who are struggling, these classes provide tips and strategies on how to better handle their finances.

According to Elton Bryson Stephens Company, personal finance is becoming a required course in many American high schools. However, 40% of college students are not equipped with adequate financial literacy knowledge and skills.

Sarah Jenyk, a senior lecturer of eco-

nomics, teaches a course that navigates students through a financial journey.

"We cover everything from buying a car, financing a car, to buying a home [and] the mortgage process. Once you start your career, how you budget for a household, just either for yourself or if you have a family, the things you need to consider there, all the way through to retirement savings," Jenyk said.

Connie Augustine, a lecturer with the Lariccia School of Accounting, said there are general education courses that teach students about finances.

"We cover just a little bit of everything. 'What's life insurance? What are credit cards, and how should you use them to your advantage?' You shouldn't com-

pletely ignore them," Augustine said. "You have to think about your credit score and how you can use that to purposely build a solid credit rating. It's a great course for life skills."

Financial literacy professors implement projects and assignments in their courses to give students an example of how to handle finances.

Jenyk said she uses a stock market project in her course to give students the experience of investing. Students learn about the stock market, research a specific company and analyze stock prices.

"It's fun for students to start [the project]. They get to choose whatever stocks they want to invest in," Jenyk said. "Then we see where they end up a couple weeks later — which student ended up with the highest returns."

Jenyk explained an investing technique that could benefit students financially.

"If you start saving when you are 25 and just put \$200 away in a retirement

account that's tied to the stock market, annual stock returns maybe around 10% per year [on] average. By the time you retire at age 65, you will have \$1 million," Jenyk said.

Jenyk said consistently saving at a young age will likely increase the chances of financial stability at retirement.

"If you start young and do it consistently, your sacrifice is going to be much smaller than if you try to catch up later in life," Jenyk said.

Jenyk encourages students to categorize their spending habits.

"Try to make a list of what are the things that I absolutely have to spend money on, things like rent, things like gasoline, like a car payment," Jenyk said. "[You] have your other category of fun or unnecessary expenses, things like entertainment, clothing, and you can kind of see how much of your budget is spent in each category and make the necessary adjustments."

# Burch returns home

By **Tim Corso**  
Jambar Contributor

With the 2024-25 Youngstown State University women's basketball season soon underway, redshirt junior Faith Burch will begin her first season as a part of the team, but it's not her first time in the Mahoning Valley.

Burch is a Warren native and played basketball at Warren G. Harding High School for four years. She was a starter each year and tallied more than 900 points and over 900 rebounds throughout her career as a Raider.

Burch said she is excited to play in front of her friends and family on a consistent basis as she transferred from Cleveland State University over the offseason.

"I'm already getting told it's about to be a packed house," Burch said. "I know when I was at Cleveland State my mom made fatheads of me. So I'm expecting a lot of those."

While at CSU, Burch played in 62 games across two seasons. She averaged over three points per game and nearly four rebounds a game for the Vikings.

First-year Head Coach Melissa Jackson was an assistant coach at CSU before both she and Burch moved to YSU.

While Jackson didn't recruit Burch, she said Burch's

recruitment out of the transfer portal was important to the program.

"[Burch] brings unbelievable intangibles to our program. She's got an unbelievable energy and effort, very consistent with that every single day," Jackson said. "It also was really important for us when we looked at the transfer portal to bring in some players with some experience. [Burch] has that."

Burch said Jackson was the main reason she decided to transfer to YSU.

"She wasn't my position coach, but she always made a point to always pull me to the side, say encouraging things or things I can apply to the court," Burch said.

While Burch has yet to start a collegiate game, Jackson said she believes Burch will have an immediate impact, citing her defensive skills.

"[Burch is] very much a vocal leader. She's done a really good job with that," Jackson said. "Coming in every single day, giving that effort on the glass, being a rebounding machine for us, as well as continuing to work on her post defense and being that anchor of us defensively."

Burch and the Penguins will kick off the season at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 4 against the University of North Dakota inside the Beeghly Center.



Photo courtesy of ysusports.com

**Faith Burch played high school basketball at Warren G. Harding, then went onto play for two years at CSU.**

# New sport sparks substantial success

By **Dylan Lux and Tala Alsharif**  
Jambar Contributors

Youngstown State University is always expanding and evolving — especially within athletics. The women's lacrosse team is one of the newest sports to join YSU athletics' repertoire.

Lacrosse was added to YSU's existing sports in 2021, with its inaugural season at the Division I level in the Mid-American Conference — where its played since its inception.

Ron Strollo, executive director of Intercollegiate Athletics, said the process for adding lacrosse came from evaluating what sports were growing in popularity locally.

"Although it's growing in the state of Ohio, [lacrosse] allows us to recruit kids from outside the area that wouldn't necessarily come to [YSU] unless it was for ... the fact that we're sponsoring lacrosse," Strollo said.

Strollo said the process of bringing in new students wouldn't be difficult, because of young athletes wanting

to continue their athletic career.

"There's a lot of young people that want to continue their athletic careers past their high school experience. To attract those kids isn't difficult," Strollo said. "Now, obviously the difficult part is trying to find the right ones, because not only do you want to add the sport, you want to be competitive in the sport."

Strollo also said athletics looks at different clubs throughout the area, to see where the region's interests lie.

"Some of it begins with trying to get a sense of our students and our region's needs and interests. We always try to take a peek at what club sports are out there," Strollo said.

The men's lacrosse club competes against regional schools, such as the University of Akron, the University of Findlay and the University of Pittsburgh.

According to YSU's website, the team strives to compete at a high level and grow their members into well-rounded players. The program emphasizes that being a competitive team requires putting the best players

on the field.

Strollo also highlighted the campus' welcoming community as key to drawing in potential coaches and students.

"It's not only the facilities, but [also] the people. If you talk to our coaches, they've all enjoyed living here. They've all enjoyed working on campus. It starts with the people and the people in our department," Strollo said.

Involving the community in the lacrosse program at YSU helps engage local high schools to sponsor the sport.

"It's a good way to introduce kids to YSU, whether they're going to be here to play lacrosse or not, and just hopefully help grow the sport in this community," Strollo said.

Strollo said the program receives funding through its gender equity plan and a portion of students' tuition and fees.



## PAINT THE TOWN



YSU students paint local murals.



Photos courtesy of De'Janae Oliver (left) and by Syann Ellis / Jambar Contributor (right)

# Art enriches YSU and Youngstown community

By Syann Ellis  
Jambar Contributor

Through various programs offered by Cliffe College of Creative Arts, students are coming together to foster creativity, promote inclusivity and engage residents to transform Youngstown into a hub of artistic expression.

Junior Jamie Beasley and senior De'Janae Oliver are both studio art students who have worked on murals for the campus and Youngstown businesses.

Beasley has worked on three murals, which includes two for Purple Cat and one for Trek Coffee House.

"Dragana [Crnjack] was one of my first teachers here," Beasley said, "She runs the mural painting program and was willing to let me take the class ahead of time, which pushed me to want to pursue mural painting as one of my main careers."

Beasley is mostly a 3D artist, but also has experience with illustration and painting.

"With murals, I realized that I like spray paint a lot more than traditional painting and I want to make spray paint my main focus with the murals," Beasley said.

Beasley explained the collaboration with small businesses to create the mural.

"With companies, they tend to describe what they want as a business. But with the mural for Trek Coffee House, we had some community members join us in pitching and brainstorming ideas and then asking what they wanted," Beasley said.

Beasley said the process usually stems from the main focus of the mural, and he plans different compositions to convey what the business likes.

"With the Purple Cat mural, I had more artistic freedom because of how long I have worked with the company, and the owner trusted me to do what I wanted," Beasley said. "The owner wanted a graffiti style, so we further pushed that graffiti theme, while incorporating some illustrations and phrases associated with the company."

Oliver worked on a mural for Graphic Services in the Kilcawley Student Center for Welcome Week.

"The ones I have done in the past were chalk murals, which I had never done before, but they were for events on campus," Oliver said.

Both students said they received positive feedback on their murals from the community and students.

"There's a lot of happiness in the community that comes from the fact that there's a mural now and pub-

lic displays of art. When you're working on the mural, people tend to honk and say hi and express how much they love it, and it's a great feeling," Beasley said. "Having people who truly appreciate the art is a great feeling because we tend not to get that as much outside of our own communities."

Oliver also expressed the positive feedback she received from the director of Kilcawley, who said he loved her chalk mural of Pete the Penguin.

Both students said they plan to continue pursuing art.

"I want to get my portfolio out there and see if I can find other ventures in the area through different businesses and companies that might showcase my work," Beasley said. "I'm putting quite a few of my works in the holiday show coming up that was sent out to all the [CCCA] students."

Oliver explained her excitement about her upcoming work and projects.

"Upcoming projects that I have are for my senior project, and that concept and collection is titled 'Girls on the Block,'" Oliver said. "'Girls on the Block' is about sisterhood and unity. I've always wanted to do something that represents me and other African American women."



# Penguins take flight



The Communications Department and political science program took students to Ghana in 2020.



Photos courtesy of Cryshanna Jackson Leftwich

**By Molly Burke**  
Jambar Contributor

Fluorescent blues and oranges color the illustration of shells, a sea turtle, a shovel and a research station logo on Ravyin Gorrell's left calf.

The illustration is a tattoo capturing the senior anthropology major's favorite memories from a class trip to the Bahamas in 2022.

"It opened my eyes to different foods and ways of life and culture and architecture and how much history there is in the world," Gorrell said.

The study abroad opportunity was one of many faculty-led trips offered to Youngstown State University students.

Multiple departments offer classes that end the semester with a chance to travel to another country for around two weeks — over winter or spring breaks or the beginning of summer.

Matt O'Manksy, an associate professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, takes anthropology students to the Bahamas each December to complete archeological digs on San Salvador Island. This year, the trip costs students less than \$800.

"We're digging those sites of the Lucayan Indians," O'Manksy said. "There's a research station. There's an old U.S. naval base, and so we have somewhere to stay."

Gorrell is planning for a third trip to the Bahamas this December. She said studying abroad is an essential step

in advancing career preparations.

"I feel like you don't really get the sense of what the job is going to be unless you're out doing it, and a lot of the majors we have here deal with international issues. I can't dig in the ocean in Ohio," Gorrell said. "Being able to have hands-on learning and it be out of the country was incredible."

O'Manksy also takes students to Belize and Guatemala every other spring to learn about Mayan culture and history. Previously a business major, senior Colton Diaz was inspired to become an anthropology major after taking the trip.

"I just fell in love with the entire field of that one trip alone," Diaz said. "The one [site] we went to in Guatemala is called Tikal, and it's actually a national park. So, we go to stay at the park and see that, which was very cool, especially as someone who's never left Ohio before."

The Communication Department has also offered faculty-led trips to the United Kingdom, France and Greece. The department is teaming up with the political science program for a second trip to Ghana in May.

Communication professor Jeff Tyus is teaching the communication section of the course. He said students will see a variety of cultural and political sites, costing between \$3,000 and \$3,500 per student.

"We'll go to Cape Coast because it's where a lot of the slave castles are ... The National Forest is over in the Cape Coast, which is also on the Atlantic Ocean as well,"

Tyus said. "This is an educational trip, but we are also big on having fun when we're there as well."

Cryshanna Jackson Leftwich, a professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, is teaching the political science section of the course. She said studying abroad helps students expand their worldviews.

"It's just something you can't replicate. You can't do it on a map. It opens your eyes to things you've never thought of. It takes away some fear of traveling," Jackson Leftwich said. "It's really important that we encourage people to get out there and see different parts of the world."

Some trips are restricted to students in a major, but others are open to anyone with permission from a course instructor. O'Manksy said regardless of where students go, the faculty-led trips make studying abroad accessible and easy.

"A lot of our students who have not traveled are a little intimidated by going off for a semester or a year or have family obligations, work, whatever," O'Manksy said. "These are shorter trips, so you can fit into the schedule usually, and it's safer. You're with faculty who have done these things, who know the areas."

Several other faculty-led study abroad courses will be held in spring. Students interested in registering can talk to their advisers.



## SPOOKY SCARY STARS



Curt Spivey is the engineer for the planetarium.



Photos by Mick Dillon / The Jambar

# Paranormal planetarium

By Mick Dillon  
The Jambar

Ward Beecher Planetarium capped off its 50th year of Halloween shows this past weekend.

As opposed to the homemade lasers and real corn stalks of the original 1974 shows, the newly revamped Halloween planetarium festivities included 4K full-dome video and digital surround sound.

Planetarium engineer Curt Spivey has been working at the event since 2009. His current role at the planetarium includes hosting public shows, keeping equipment running and making sure the professors teaching in the Planetarium have what they need for classes.

“The easy version is, I run my mouth and play with cool toys,” Spivey said.

Oct. 4 saw the first show at the planetarium since the roof caught on fire in January 2023. The planetarium

has seen over 2,000 guests in the three weeks since re-opening, and overflow shows of “Nightlights” were held on Saturday afternoons due to the high demand.

“We literally did double the number of shows that were on the schedule,” Spivey said.

The “Nightlights” Halloween show launched Oct. 11, and ran from 8-9 p.m. every Friday and Saturday through the end of October. The planetarium also featured “Night-LITE,” a kids version of the Halloween show from 2-3 p.m. on Saturdays.

The all ages “Nightlights” show featured jump scares, loud music and a different variety of songs from the “Night-LITE” matinees.

“We had a great response on both of them. [As a] matter of fact, we had some people that came to both, just so they could hear the different songs,” Spivey said.

Spivey looks forward to the new wave of returning viewers the musical Halloween shows has brought to

the planetarium.

“They’re really designed to get people in the door, to experience the planetarium and to get them to come back for our other shows on our schedule later in the year,” Spivey said.

As for the future of the planetarium, it’ll feature shows that change every month. November will feature “Undiscovered Worlds,” which is about exoplanets and will feature a live look at the nighttime sky.

Show viewers can also keep an eye out for a “Let It Snow” show, which will be similar to the Halloween experience, featuring a variety of Christmas music.

“Shows are free and open to the public,” Spivey said. “It’s a cheap date. Come on out and see the sky.”

The list of upcoming shows is available on the Ward Beecher Planetarium website.



## CRAWLOWEEN

# Downtown thrills and chills



Local businesses in Youngstown participated in Crawl With Us on Oct. 26.

**By AnnaBelle Boone**  
The Jambar

Over 200 guests gathered this Halloween weekend to participate in the Youngstown Bar Crawl.

Presented by Crawl With Us, the largest bar crawl company in the country, party-goers from cities around the U.S. celebrated All Hallow's Eve from 4-10 p.m. Oct. 26. The Halloween centered-crawl was themed Thrill the World, and included other cities like New York, Atlanta and Seattle.

At 10 p.m., the after-party began at Ryes Craft Beer & Whiskey, chosen for what Crawl With Us deemed the best late-night atmosphere.

Check-in began at Penguin City Brewing Co. and guests received a lanyard with a bottle-opener, a badge and a make-your-own-adventure crawl. Penguin City also included a photo-op with an official Crawl With Us photographer, whose photos will be posted to the Youngstown photo album.

According to Crawl With Us, a make-your-own-adventure crawl allowed participants to pick and choose the order of the bars they visited.

Participants could also vote on their favorite costume. The photo that receives the most likes by Nov. 4 will receive four tickets to next year's crawl and a chance to win \$1,000 in the national Crawl With Us costume contest.

The businesses that participated included Avalon Downtown, Gringos, Imbibe



Photos courtesy of Eric Vargo (left) and Penguin City Facebook (right)

Martini Bar, Noble Creature Cask House, Ryes and Penguin City. Several bars featured Halloween-themed drinks such as zombie martinis and caramel apple shots.

Aspasia Lyras-Bernacki, co-owner of Penguin City, said official members of Crawl With Us were present to manage the event.

"[Crawl With Us] was the company that put the event on and [there was] a team there at the registration table," Lyras said. "It was a very fun day for downtown Youngstown."

Sierra Arnal, a third-year YSU student, attended the downtown bar crawl.

"I enjoy these big community events," Arnal said. "They're good for everyone and help bring the community together."

Arnal began the crawl with a group at check-in, then continued down the stops until they ended up at Noble Creature.

"I loved the atmosphere. Seeing so many people dressed up was just so fun," Arnal said. "Halloween-themed everything was just so much fun for me and everyone else."

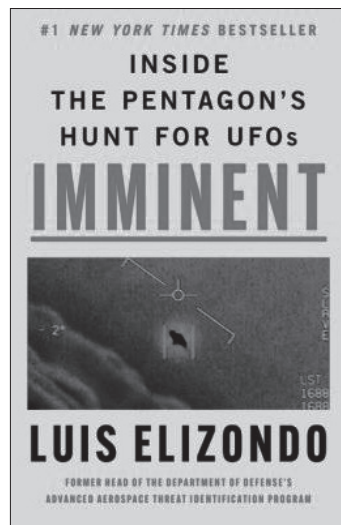
Arnal dressed up as the character Puss-in-Boots from "Shrek."

"I don't think I'll win the Youngstown costume contest, let alone the national one," Arnal said. "But I don't think winning the contest is always the main goal. Spending time with friends, just enjoying each other's company is the main goal."

Although the Halloween weekend festivities concluded, The Octave and Penguin City will both host karaoke today. The Octave's event will begin at 8 p.m. and Penguin City's event will be 9 p.m. - 3 a.m.



# Penguin Book Nook with The Public Library



## Nonfiction review

### **Imminent: Inside the Pentagon's Hunt for UFOs**

by Luis Elizondo

A former senior intelligence official and special agent, Elizondo unveils all the secrets of the U.S. Government's extraneous involvement in UFO investigations. For all enthusiasts and conspiratorialists alike.



## Fiction review

### **Two-Step Devil**

by Jamie Quatro

The year is 2014, the state is Alamba, and the man we are following goes by the Prophet. After stumbling across a girl tied up in the back of a car, the Prophet feels he's finally found his calling in rescuing her. But how does his intentions, fueled by faith and fear, misguide his mission?

## Upcoming programs

**Tuesday, Nov. 12**

6 p.m.

The Galaxy Escape Room

**Wednesday, Nov. 13**

6 p.m.

Cafecitos y Libros

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

## This might be Halloween

Boo! Did I scare you? I apologize if I did, but I'm just so excited for Halloween. That's a lie, actually, holidays don't excite me like they used to. Anyway, I'll stop being bitter so we can talk about Halloween, and the even scarier election five days afterward.

First off, I'm no Scrooge, I do like some holidays. I like Christmas and Thanksgiving, but that's the extent for me. Halloween was fun when I was a kid getting candy from strangers. Y'know, the one thing my parents told me not to do? Yeah well, Halloween was an exception.

Did I buy a costume this year? No, too expensive. I considered buying a stencil kit and hazmat suit and going as one of the guys from Devo, but my internal accountant told me that would be a needless investment. Instead, I bought a Culture Club T-shirt, a more proper, sane investment.

One thing I've noticed is, there's no real Halloween music. Yeah, there's that godawful "Monster Mash" song and I guess "She Blinded Me With Science" counts, but you'll never hear a Wham! song about last Halloween.

I've got a few friends who enjoy dressing up and going down the bars to party for Halloween. If I ever start acting like that, assume "The Thing" has taken over my body. I love my friends, but they'd need a cavalry of wild horses to drag me to a Halloween party again.

Speaking of "The Thing," there's a great deal of good scary movies out there for Halloween. Look over about seven inches to the editorial to find out which ones we like. Instead, I'll give you some good scary book recommendations. Just Google "Stephen King," and you're set. I recommend "Salem's Lot" and "Misery," which are also both movies, naturally.



Matthew Sotlar

Even more terrifying is the election. Yeah, that's right, I'm going to do it. I'm going to talk about the election. We're at a crossroads at what may be the most consequential election in American history, and that's twenty times scarier than any movie on the market, excluding "Insidious," of course.

Both sides have flaws, and I'll agree with that. Kamala Harris was thrown into the race suddenly after President Joe Biden dropped out in July, and Donald Trump is running alongside Ohio's own JD Vance. If you told me ten years ago that Donald Trump was running for president, I'd tell you to shut up and give me back my Legos.

I'm not here to tell you who to vote for, that's your business. I believe everyone has the right to vote for the candidate they feel is right. Instead, all I ask that you do is go out and vote.

Not to sound like Hank Hill, but voting is the foundation for America's greatness. We only get to vote for a president every four years, so why miss out? You can go out now and vote. Right now, put down the paper and go vote! Nov. 5 isn't Election Day, it's the day the election ends.

If you decide to go out tonight, be safe. Don't take drinks or food from strangers. Better yet, just avoid strangers altogether. Lastly, Nov. 5 is coming quickly. Get out and vote, it's quick, totally painless and every American's duty.

# The Jambar Editorial

## Scariest horror flicks

Today is Halloween and for many, it will be filled with trick-or-treating, dressing up to bar hop or staying home and watching movies.

From horror movies to animated classics, there are several genres of Halloween-themed movies to choose from. For those seeking a thrill on the holiday, horror movies arguably deliver their fair share of frights.

Horror movies are arguably the most creative movie genre with the use of lighting, distinct sounds and practical effects to create realistic scenes.

The Jambar has compiled a list of the top-five scariest movies of all time.

The criteria is based around the fear factor each movie delivers. The list itself will omit gory, obscure and banned horror films such as "House of 1000 Corpses," the "X" film series and the "Terrifier" series.

To start the ranking at No. 5 is the recently-released film "Longlegs." Having come out July 12, the movie stars scream queen Maikia Monroe as Lee Harker, an FBI agent tasked with investigating a series of murders related to the 14th day of each month.

The self-titled antagonist is played by Nicolas Cage, who delivers a thrilling performance by smashing his head off a table during his interrogation. "Longlegs" does a great job of keeping the audience engaged by revealing the serial killer and how they relate back to the protagonist.

With twists and turns, the 2014 psychological horror film "Babadook" crashes its way to No. 4. The Australian screenplay, directed by Jennifer Kent, follows a mother who reads her son a pop-up book titled "Mister Babadook." The top hat-wearing monster eventually shows up and torments the family of two.

The name "Babadook" is based on babaroga — the Serbo-Croatian word for boogeyman. The creature in the film is arguably one of the scariest and most slender-looking portrayals of a monster in film history.

However, the plot of the movie could have been avoided if the book was never opened. Besides, why read a bedtime story that's scary?

Summoning its way to No. 3 is the 1973 film, "The Exorcist." The film is considered one of the key movies that helped pioneer the horror genre. "The Exorcist" portrays two priests as they perform an exorcism on a 12-year-old girl possessed by the devil.

Whether it's the 360 degree head spin or the projectile vomit, "The Exorcist" captures the horrors of the expanding film genre. Even the film's theme song is enough to feel uneasy while watching "The Exorcist."

The 2018 film "Hereditary" rolls to the No. 2 spot. The camera angles and sound effects add a sense of originality to the horror genre. From random jump scares to clicking noises, the whole experience will leave the viewer on edge.

A controversial pick at the No. 1 spot is the 1982 horror and science-fiction film, "The Thing." Directed by John Carpenter, the movie depicts an alien encounter in Antarctica, with a group of men tasked with figuring out who is infected by the creature.

The movie's chest defibrillation scene is arguably one of the most iconic horror movie scenes of all time. "The Thing," also features some of the most captivating and horrific use of special effects.

With thousands of horror movies to choose from, the top-five list will surely leave those in shock for Halloween.



# THE JAMBAR POLICY

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

## EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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



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# YSU competed at Viking Invitational

By Joel Fuzo  
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University men's tennis team participated in the Viking Invitational, hosted by Cleveland State University on Oct. 25-26.

Freshman Matteo Ceredelli finished in the quarterfinals after winning three matches in singles play.

In his first match, Ceredelli won against Case Western Reserve University freshman Konrad Kwiatkoski, with both sets finishing 6-1.

Ceredelli defeated Butler University sophomore Riccardo Baldi in his second match 6-2, 5-7 and 10-7.

Ceredelli's final win of the tournament was by default against Bellmarine University junior Vineet Ramesh. In a three-set decision, Ceredelli fell to Cleveland State junior Cole Chappell. The final scores were 6-1, 5-7 and 11-9.

YSU senior Chester Wickwire won his first match against Case Western senior Ben Martin in three sets. The scores were 6-7, 6-0 and 11-9.

Wickwire lost his second match against Butler junior Aidan William, and the final scores were 3-6, 6-3 and 10-7.

Wickwire, in his final match, won against Duquesne University true freshman Arnau Anton Garcia, with scores of 4-6, 6-1 and 11-9.

In double's play, the pair of Wickwire and Ceredelli finished with a record of 1-1, losing to Chappell and sophomore Maxime Aremon. The score was 7-5.

Against Case Western Reserve, sophomores George Kossedfi and Trey Lambright, defeated Wickwire and Ceredelli, 6-3.

With the conclusion of the final tournament for the fall semester, the Penguins will return to the courts at 2 p.m. Jan. 24, 2025 against Radford University inside the YSU Indoor Tennis Center.



YSU men's tennis will return to action in the spring semester.

Photos courtesy of ysusports.com

## This week in YSU Athletics

<p><b>Friday, Nov. 1</b> 6 p.m. at Beeghly Center Volleyball vs. Oakland University</p>	<p><b>Saturday, Nov. 2</b> Noon in Green Bay, Wisconsin Cross Country Horizon League Championship</p>	<p><b>Saturday, Nov. 2</b> 2 p.m. at Beeghly Center Volleyball vs. Oakland University</p>	<p><b>Monday, Nov. 4</b> 7:35 p.m. at Beeghly Center Men's Basketball vs. Westminster College</p>
<p><b>Saturday, Nov. 2</b> 11 a.m. at Beeghly Natatorium Swimming and Diving vs. Cleveland State University</p>	<p><b>Saturday, Nov. 2</b> 3 p.m. at Normal, Illinois Football at Illinois State University</p>	<p><b>Monday, Nov. 4</b> 5:30 p.m. at Beeghly Center Women's Basketball vs. University of North Dakota</p>	 <p><b>Go Guins!</b></p>



BUMP! SET! SPIKE!

# 'Guins continue conference contests

By Dylan Lux  
The Jambar

Across a slate of five games, the Youngstown State University women's volleyball team tallied a 1-4 record against Horizon League conference foes.

Oct. 18-19 saw two games against Indiana University Indianapolis inside Beeghly Center.

In Game One, Youngstown State took the first two sets 25-21, followed by an IU Indy win in the third set 25-18.

The comeback attempt by the Jaguars didn't last long, as Youngstown State ended the game in set four, with a 25-16 win.

Leading the game in kills was junior Abbie Householder with 16. She also led the game with 20 digs. Fifth-year senior Isabel Schaeftbauer had 38 assists in the win.

YSU blocked eight shots in the contest while only having one shot blocked all game.

Game Two had a thrilling matchup between the two squads, as the game went to five sets.

The Penguins took a 2-0 lead in two sets once again, with 25-18 and a dominant 25-10 win. The 'Guins were countered by two wins by IU Indy in straight sets to even the score 2-2.

Despite a closely contested final set, Youngstown State never held the lead after a 1-0 start. The largest lead by the Jaguars was three, with multiple ties.

In the end, IU Indy was able to split with the Penguins after a Game Two victory, 3-2.

Next up for YSU was a trip to Milwaukee, Wisconsin for a two-game series against the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Coming into the matchup, Milwaukee was at 7-2 in Horizon League play — second in the conference.

Youngstown State lost Game One in straight sets, with Milwaukee leading the game in kills, assists and digs.

Even through the loss, the 'Guins led Game One in aces with nine and blocks with six. Fifth-year senior Dayan Malave led the game with four blocks, while Schaeftbauer had the most individual assists with 25.

In Game Two, a similar result graced the scoreboard, as Youngstown State was swept 3-0 yet again.

The Panthers held Householder to 21 kills in six total sets, though she still led the 'Guins in the statistic.

Youngstown State returned home to Beeghly Center to face off against Robert Morris University on Oct. 29. The Colonials offense overwhelmed the Penguins defense as the team was swept 3-0.

Despite the loss, junior Bianca Giglio recorded a career-high 13 kills, while Householder posted a match-best 22 digs.

YSU will be back inside Beeghly Center for two-straight games against Horizon League opponent Oakland University.

Game One will take place at 6 p.m. Nov. 1 and Game Two at 2 p.m. Nov. 2.

Both matches will be streamed on ESPN+.



YSU will play two-straight games in Beeghly Center.

Photos courtesy of Robert Hayes



Photo courtesy of Robert Hayes

The YSU football team jumps to a 41-40 win over UND. Photo has been digitally altered.



# YSU football works overtime

By Teziah Howard  
The Jambar

Football is a game of inches, and the Youngstown State University football team won the battle after stopping No. 7 University of North Dakota Fighting Hawks on a two-point conversion.

The game ended with both teams combining for over 80 points. YSU held off the Fighting Hawks to secure the victory 41-40.

The Penguins were led by their rushing attack. The three-headed monster of sophomore Beau Brungard, seniors Tyshon King and Ethan Wright conquered the run game with over 300 yards.

Brungard was able to find the endzone three separate times on the ground, while King found the endzone once. Wright tallied under 100 yards on 16 carries.

Head Coach Doug Phillips had high praise for his team's run game. Phillips said the ground-and-pound method in the second half played a huge part in the Penguins' success.

"The team that comes out in the second half and is able to run the football is the team that is going to get what their work deserves," Phillips said.

North Dakota junior Simon Romfo completed 19 passes on 24 attempts and threw three touchdowns. Fifth-year senior Bo Belquist hauled in two touchdowns for the Fighting Hawks and recorded over 100 yards receiving.

For the Penguins, redshirt freshman Cyrus Traugh led the way with three receptions for 27 yards. The Penguins moved the ball down the field on the game's opening drive to secure a 7-0 lead.

Defensive plays for the Penguins were showcased throughout the duration of the game. Juniors Michael Voitius and Preston Zandier tallied sacks to force the Fighting Hawks to punt on their first drive of the second half.

Senior Devin Johnson led the Penguins' with eight tackles. The game featured nine lead changes, with the Penguins possessing the grit to hold the North Dakota offense to a failed two-point conversion after scoring.

After a 14-13 lead, the Penguins pinned the Fighting Hawks inside their own 10-yard line. It took 11 plays for the North Dakota offense to reach the end zone after a 90-yard drive.

Youngstown State responded promptly to regain the lead, when Brungard led the offense down the field to make the score 21-20 before halftime.

With the matchup being decided by one point, all three phases — offense, defense and special teams — were imperative. Brungard expressed the importance of team work during the overtime win.

"[Phillips] talks about putting together every phase of the game for 60 minutes all the time," Brungard said. "This is what this team can do when we put all three phases of football together for the whole game and I couldn't be more proud of everyone on this team."

The Penguins will travel to Illinois for back-to-back weeks, with the first matchup at 3 p.m. Nov. 2 against Illinois State University.