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ONE PENGUIN FAMILY



Fall commencement ceremonies will be held Saturday, Dec. 15.

Photo courtesy of Jambar Archives

YSU's future commencement

By Raeghan Hilton and Tala Alsharif
Jambar Contributors

While fall 2024 commencement will remain the same as years past, Youngstown State University's spring commencement will change in hopes of creating a more personalized experience for graduates and attendees.

In the past, commencement was one joint ceremony that included all YSU colleges.

Jackie LeViseur, director of University Events, said in 2021 a combined ceremony was held in Stambaugh Stadium, which resulted in a huge attendance.

However, she said students would leave after each college's ceremony finished.

"It was just like, mass exit ... We really want kids to stay. We want more of that personal, engaging experience for them," LeViseur said. "So, the deans and the provost decided to do individual college ceremonies."

In spring of this year, graduation consisted of separate ceremonies, which include one college at a time. LeViseur said this structure proved a personal investment for students, faculty and guests.

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Holiday phishing scams

By Matthew Sotlar
The Jambar

With the holiday season fast approaching, many buyers will order gifts from online retailers. While having purchases delivered to the front door has its perks, it also comes with the risk of being hacked.

Associate Director of IT Services Sean Melnik said one of the more common scams is impersonating official agencies via email or text.

"Typically what [hackers] do is they'll impersonate reputable shipping and logistics companies," Melnik said. "It looks like you got an email or text from [United States Postal Service], Fedex or [Dalsey, Hillblom and Lynn]."

Melnik said there are ways to identify these scam messages, such as suspicious links within emails and poor grammar.

"What you end up seeing is the language inside of [the email] is very broken," Melnik said. "Something else you'll notice is they will use the company logo, but if you hover your mouse over the logo where they're trying to get you to click, it's some off-the-wall kind of URL."

If these links are interacted with, the risk of downloading or being infected with malware increases.

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Graduation

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Since positive feedback was shown from attendees, the structure for next spring's ceremony will be similar to that of this past spring, with six ceremonies over two days, three on Saturday and three on Sunday.

"That's gonna be in the plans that will establish a template for 2025. We might tweak that a little bit, but that's it. We're going to go more toward the individual college ceremonies," LeViseur said.

The upcoming fall graduation will remain as one ceremony, as they prepare to completely transition the structure of graduation into individual college ceremonies.

The ceremony will include a student speaker and faculty marshals from the graduates' respective colleges.

LeViseur said planning for the commencement is a campus effort.

"The deans all participate in commencement. The president, the provost and the board of trustees are always invited," LeViseur said.

The commencement committee, formed in 2021, meets prior to each commencement to address changes under the guidance of the provost.

Additionally, student musicians can be involved by performing at the ceremony, as well as Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets who perform the presentation of colors.

Students can also be nominated as Honorary Student Marshals.

"[It's] a position of excellence for students that have done really well, that are graduating per college," LeViseur said. "You can nominate yourself, your peers can nominate you... [and] your professors can nominate you."

Students can also volunteer through Pete's Pride, a network of volunteers with the alumni office that helps with commencement.

LeViseur says about 70% of graduates attend their commencement and she enjoys seeing those students' families and friends as guests.

"Everybody's just in a good mood and celebrating. I mean, what an accomplishment it is, to fulfill your academic career and get that diploma. So, it's a big deal. It's a big celebration," LeViseur said.

LeViseur said her favorite parts are the presentation of colors and the singing of the national anthem, as she finds them

moving.

"[They] just really get you into the moment, the importance of the ceremony and get things off in the right tone," LeViseur said.

LeViseur advises students preparing for graduation to try on their cap and gown before the ceremony to ensure it's the right size. She also advises students to not bring any valuables with them.

This semester's commencement ceremonies for undergraduate and graduate students will take place Dec. 15. The undergraduate ceremony will start at 1 p.m., and the graduate ceremony will follow at 4:30 p.m.



Photo courtesy of Jambar Archives

Commencement will be held in Beeghly Center.

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7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

Thu.



Snow

High: 28°F
Low: 24°F
Chance of precip:
86%

Fri.



Snow

High: 32°F
Low: 22°F
Chance of precip:
60%

Sat.



Overcast

High: 35°F
Low: 28°F
Chance of precip:
25%

Sun.



Partly Cloudy

High: 42°F
Low: 36°F
Chance of precip:
18%

Mon.



Rain

High: 48°F
Low: 38°F
Chance of precip:
75%

Tue.



Partly Cloudy

High: 43°F
Low: 28°F
Chance of precip:
1%

Wed.



Rain

High: 37°F
Low: 27°F
Chance of precip:
68%

Information courtesy of
accuweather.com

A+ PROFESSORS

Student feedback matters

By Nicarlyle Hanchard
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University has a new course evaluation form. The link to the re-named Student Course Feedback form is available through student emails and Blackboard.

In February, the Academic Senate through YSU's Institute for Teaching and Learning approved the new form.

Cary Wecht, professor of communication and director of faculty development in YSU's ITL, said her committee was charged with reviewing and later updating the previous form.

"The items had been looked at, but they hadn't been revised in any significant way," Wecht said. "Maybe 20-30 years it's been pretty much the same. We've added some questions for online learning, but by and large, it was the same document."

Along with completing the ITL Reciprocal Responsibilities for Undergraduate Students and Instructors document and the common syllabus, Wecht said her committee completed the Principles of Good Practice in Teaching document.

The completion of the form aided in the revision of questions in the new feedback survey.

"We thought, in light of having recently defined what good teaching looks like. Why don't we take these documents and try to explain what that would look like on the student feedback system," Wecht said.

Prior to the change, the committee conducted research to identify problematic areas on course feedback forms. Wecht said the findings suggest a susceptibility to bias based on an instructor's race, gender, sex and nationality.

There is a notation at the beginning of the updated form informing students of "unconscious and unintentional biases," encouraging them to focus on the content of the course and not professors' personalities.

"The instruments are tricky, so we try to reduce the problematic questions by putting in things you can see with your eyes and hear with your ears," Wecht said.

The forms are completely anonymous and responses will not be shared with faculty until all grades are submitted.

Wecht said during previous years, a student was assigned as proctor for the evaluation sessions. The committee is encouraging the integration of this system with the current layout.

"Not only do the questions differ now, but we're also encouraging faculty to go back to a system we used to have," Wecht said. "The instructor would leave the room, taking the last 10 minutes of class, and the student-proctor would read the instructions to everyone, and they'd complete it in class."

She said this layout allows everyone to complete the form. The online forms saw an average of 50% of students completing the evaluation. Wecht said this average is unreliable when considering course revisions.

The new form features an open-ended question at the end for students to elaborate on a previous response or add new information.

Wecht said the forms are important to faculty looking to advance in their professions.

"We want to know what you think, and we want to do better," Wecht said. "But they also have real consequences for people in their careers."

Forms are available for every course, but those with a small number of students are often exempt. The questions are also tailored to individual courses.



The surveys will be open until the end of the semester.

New "Student Course Feedback" Survey (2024.02.07 passed by Academic Senate)

Directions: This survey is to be administered in-class unless the course is asynchronous online. The instructor(s) is to leave the room. A volunteer student shall share directions to access the survey and/or QR code, read aloud Section 1, and ask students to refrain from discussing their answers with others (repeat, if necessary).

Results of this measure should also indicate context, such as class modality, number of students, lower or upper division, etc.

Section 1 – Purpose, Anonymity, Bias

Student Course Feedback

Your feedback plays an important role in helping your instructor maintain or improve the course. Feedback is also considered in their performance review. Your answers are anonymous – your name does not appear on any report – furthermore, your instructor will not see your feedback until the semester has ended.

YSU recognizes that student evaluations of teaching are often influenced by students' unconscious and unintentional biases. As you fill out this measure, please keep this in mind and try to resist stereotypes about instructors.

The USPS package has arrived at the warehouse and cannot be delivered due to incomplete address information. Please confirm your address in the link within 12 hours.

uspscom-freight.icu/i

(Please reply Y, then exit the text message, reopen the text message activation link, or copy the link to Safari browser to open it, and get the latest logistics status)

The US Postal team wishes you a wonderful day!

The sender is not in your contact list.

CSE Federal CU- Due to recent fraud, all customers are asked to authenticate their accounts to prevent unwanted access. Authenticate here 1423.co/csefcu

The sender is not in your contact list.

Scams

Page 1

“They try to impersonate companies in that sense, but really it’s not going to their website. It’s going to some kind of website containing malware or the ability to potentially hack the person that clicks it by having a fake format there and gathering information,” Melnik said.

Melnik said the best course of action when dealing with a phishing email is to report and delete it.

“In Outlook, you have the ability to use the PhishAlarm. The one thing you may want to do is go to the PhishAlarm button in Outlook and report it accordingly,” Melnik said.

While these phishing scams are common, Melnik said they increase in volume during the holidays.

“Anyone can get it,” Melnik said. “These are sort of seasonal. You can get these any time of the year, but around the holidays, it’ll ramp up. In a couple of months when we start talking about tax season, you’ll start to see emails that look like they came from the [Internal Revenue Service], for example.”

Melnik said buyers should be mindful of when and what they purchase online to avoid becoming victims of these scams.

“The other thing that students and faculty and staff should be mindful of is, ‘Did they recently order something? Is this something they would expect?’ Things of that nature. They try to craft these messages so they look legitimate, but there are subtle details inside of the messages that you can easily identify,” Melnik said.

Melnik said anyone unsure of an official-looking email can contact IT Services.

“When in doubt, don’t click,” Melnik said. “If you’re ever unsure or if you ever feel that you’ve been compromised in any way, shape or form, or your account has been compromised, you can always contact the IT Service Desk.”

The IT Service Desk is located in Kilcawley Center and can be contacted at 330-941-1595.



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Photos by (top) John Ostapowicz and (bottom) Madison Fessler / The Jambor

GIFT OF GIVING

Giving tree drive supports local families

By Syann Ellis
Jambar Contributor

The Emerging Leaders Program teamed up with the Young Women's Christian Association to launch a Giving Tree donation drive. The collaboration aimed at uplifting the Youngstown community this holiday season.

The YWCA hosts the Wish Upon a Star program, which includes the Giving Tree initiative. Caleb Queen, program coordinator for ELP, said the organization collects wish lists from children in need.

"The YWCA hosts the Wish Upon a Star program, and so that's the Giving Tree. They give the list of these children that are in need that might not get many gifts for the holidays," Queen said. "This year, we have about 63 children that we would be purchasing gifts for."

Student Activities has been overseeing the Giving Tree donation drive for 12 years. The students in ELP help by promoting the drive to their friends and families as well as organizing and helping wrap gifts and deliver them to the YWCA.

Both Emerging Leaders and members of the Youngstown community can get gifts off a child's wish-list.

"The ELP is looking to donate gifts to benefit up to 50 children this season. You can sign up virtually for a child

by viewing and signing up for a wish list. Once a child is chosen, they will email you their list" Queen said in an email on how to help donate.

Queen emphasized the impact of the program not only on the families receiving gifts but also on the students and community members who are involved. They get over 100+ gifts every year for the donation drive.

"A lot of times, especially during the holiday season, there are people that don't think about those who aren't in the same situation as them," Queen said. "It's beneficial for students to see how what they're doing affects the local community, particularly since the majority of these students are from here."

Jessica Gibbs, events manager for the YWCA, said the organization is committed to supporting the Youngstown community through various programs.

"We have housing with supportive services in Trumbull and Mahoning counties, child care on site, STEM programming for children and teenage girls, and we are involved in racial justice programming," Gibbs said.

The Wish Upon A Star program allows families in the YWCA's housing programs to submit wish lists for their children.

"All of our housing case managers will reach out to their families, and they'll fill out a wish list for each of their children," Gibbs said. "Then, I send it out to all of the donors."

Gibbs noted the positive feedback from families who have benefited from the program.

"We've had comments from individuals saying if this program didn't exist, I wouldn't have been able to provide for my children this year," Gibbs said. "It's always nice to see that we know we're helping, but to get that reassurance that we did do something for somebody is heartwarming."

Looking ahead, the YWCA is celebrating 128 years of service to the community and aims to raise \$120,000 by May of next year.

"We're doing our International Women's Day event in March, and we also have a Young Woman with Bright Futures program that honors senior females from schools in Mahoning, Trumbull, and Columbiana counties," Gibbs said.

Students get accepted into ELP based on nominations submitted by faculty and staff members, as well as former emerging leader members and student leaders.

Those applications are then reviewed and selections are made based on a number of factors. Student involvement, academics, need and fit of the program, faculty recommendations all play a role in the selections.

If any student is interested in donating to the Giving Tree donation drive, reach out to Queen via email at mcqueen@ysu.edu.

Resources for Penguins in need

By Jacqueline Arroyo
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University provides numerous resources for students, faculty and staff. Among the most utilized are the Penguin Pantry and Career Closet, both located on campus.

Cushwa Hall houses the Penguin Pantry and Career Closet, which are situated on the third floor. The pantry supplies hygiene products, fresh and frozen food and cleaning supplies, while the closet offers professional attire for students.

Nicole Kent-Strollo, dean of students and ombudsperson, assists students facing extenuating circumstances. Address-

ing basic needs, including donations of food and other essentials, is among the categories she helps oversee.

"We are happy to accept donations every single day of the year," Kent-Strollo said. "That's actually how the Penguin Pantry and the Career Closet run, through the generosity of amazing people in our community."

She noted that large donations are typically made around the holidays to help others celebrate events, such as Friends-giving.

The pantry also distributes blankets to help students stay warm during colder weather.

"There's so many students from south-

ern states and also international students who have never experienced a Youngstown winter," Kent-Strollo said. "With those blankets, we can basically say to people, 'If you need a blanket, just let us know.'"

The blankets were donated by the Student Government Association during its annual Craft for a Cause event, held as part of Swipe Out Hunger Week.

The goal of Swipe Out Hunger Week is to address food insecurity in the area. The programs organized by Student Government Association aim to raise awareness of food insecurity and collect donations for the pantry.

Lydia Noble, vice president for assessment and enrichment, focuses on improving the student experience and enhancing their overall quality of time at YSU.

"The craft for a cause event, where we're making blankets for people who need them, that's just a great way to strengthen community ties by having students work on a project that will go to support their Penguins in need," Noble said.

In addition, the pantry has also begun

collecting pans for students to use.

The initiative originated in the dean of students office after staff observed that many international students not only needed access to food, but also lacked the knowledge and tools to prepare it.

Destiny Miller, dean of students case manager and YSU alumna, joined the dean of students office in March and has experienced just one academic semester at the university.

"We collectively as an office, as a team, said, 'Hey, why don't we try to do things like put together recipes, offer pots and pans, canned goods, things like that,'" Miller said. "We can say, 'Here's a can of green beans,' or, 'Pick up this to eat healthy. This is how you prepare it.' But if they don't have anything to go home and prepare it in, then that's not much help."

She said the YSU Pan Drive helps eliminate barriers students might face if they lack the tools necessary to prepare food.

During the fall semester, the pantry is open from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Students can check in using the YSU app or complete a registration form on-site.

Spring hours may vary depending on staff and availability.

Beginning new era with new league, reputation

By **Jacqueline Arroyo**
Jambar Contributor

The Youngstown State University bowling team has found success after becoming an affiliate member of Conference USA. From earning runner-up honors at Conference USA Championship to achieving academic distinction, YSU made a strong start in its first season.

YSU transitioned from the Southland Bowling League to compete in Conference USA for the 2023-24 season.

Conference USA, is a college sports conference that competes at the NCAA Division I level. It was formed in 1995 through a merger of the Metro Conference and the Great Midwest Conference.

Member schools in Conference USA are primarily located in the Southern and Western United States. Notable members include Jacksonville State University, Florida International University and New Mexico State University.

Conference USA sponsors competition in 19 sports — eight for men and 11 for women. Men's sports include baseball, basketball, football and golf, while women's sports include basketball, beach volleyball, bowling and cross-country.

In addition to sports and academic recognition, Conference USA provides YSU valuable opportunities and support as an affiliate member.

Doug Kuberski, head coach of women's bowling, has led YSU's transformation into one of the nation's elite programs since taking over in 2018. He has led the team to four consecutive NCAA tournament appearances,

three Elite Eight finishes and two Final Four trips.

Joining Conference USA will likely bolster future success, while emphasizing diversity, equity and inclusion, community ties and mental health initiatives.

"Great competition and an opportunity to win an [automatic qualifier] to the NCAA Tournament," Kuberski said.

In March, YSU finished as runner-up in Conference USA Championship after falling to Jacksonville State. The bowling program tied their best-ever finish at a conference event, matching their performance at the 2022 Southland Bowling League Championship.

Kuberski said the transition to join the conference began in 2017 under former head coach Chelsea Gilliam.

"I believe our program's first head coach, Chelsea Gilliam, put in a lot of work searching for a spot for us in a conference with the creation of AQ's," Kuberski said. "A team switched conferences and opened up a spot, and she applied for membership."

Although YSU applied for membership years ago, it did not take effect until recently. Kuberski said the Southland Bowling League announced it would no longer sponsor the sport after the 2022-23 season due to affiliate member rules.

As a result, the eight teams previously in Southland began searching for a new home. Affiliate members of Conference USA collaborated with the league to facilitate the transition, welcoming the eight Southland teams along with Jacksonville State.

When new teams join a conference, NCAA rules differ from those that apply to existing members.

Scott Hays, Conference USA chief of staff and general counsel, joined the organization in August 2017 as a sports administration assistant.

Hays said he played a key role in integrating bowling into the league. In his current position, he oversees legal matters and internal operations, including office management, litigation, mediation and contracts.

"Honestly the biggest hurdle was NCAA legislation and how it managed," Hays said. "We had to request a waiver from specific legislation within those bylaws to allow the league to come to us."

Hays said the NCAA understood the challenges of a league investing significant resources into a sport without having full membership. He explained that transitions like this require patience from both sides, as each institution has its own processes and considerations.

The hope, Hays said, is that the excitement and enthusiasm surrounding the move to Conference USA will help teams navigate learning curves and adjustments.

Conference USA leaders listened to feedback from Southland and adopted strategies that had contributed to Southland's success.

Conference USA has three sports with affiliate memberships: baseball, beach volleyball and bowling. Despite being affiliate members, these teams are regarded as full members because of their high level of competition.

"They are so competitive, they are so good in those sports and they bring value to Conference USA," Hays said. "Youngstown State being a top-five program in women's bowling is awesome for us."



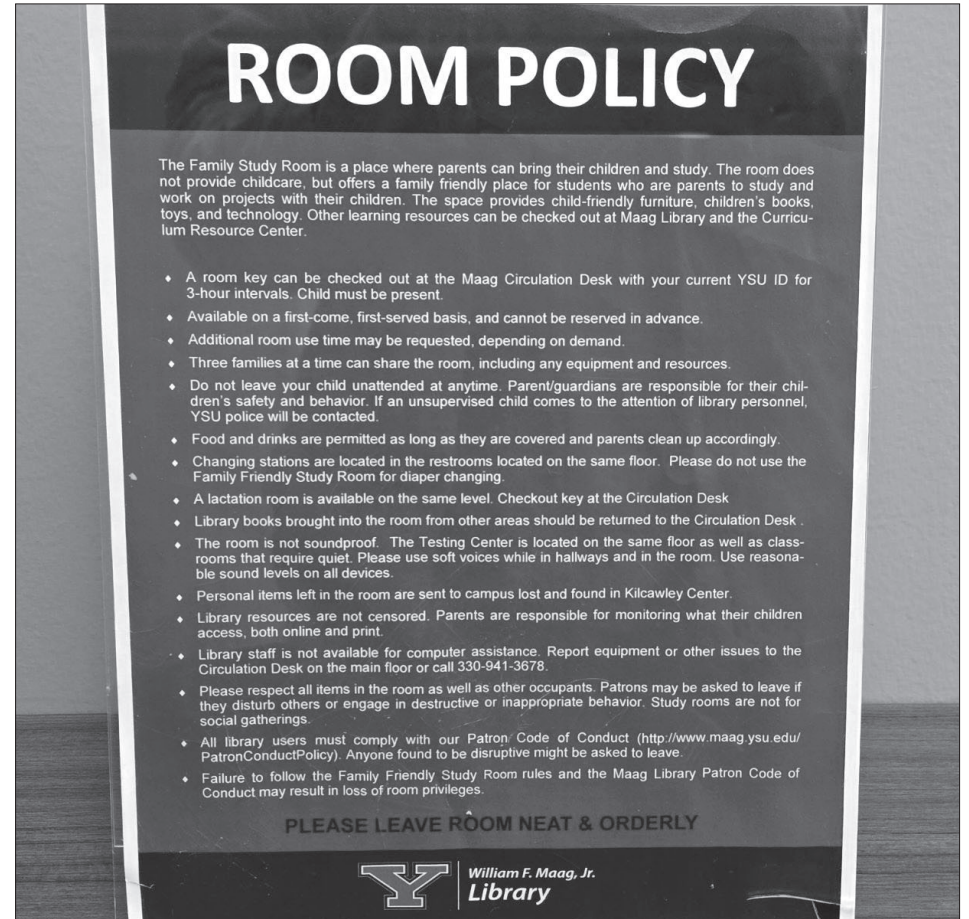
Bowling looks to build on Final Four appearance last season.



Photos courtesy of Lorraine Hollabaugh



Maag family room provides a space for parents and children.



Photos by Dylan Bigelow / Jambar Contributor

Maag Library offers family space

By Dylan Bigelow
Jambar Contributor

Within the twists and turns of William F. Maag Jr. Library's basement labyrinth, resides a safe place for students raising young children.

The Maag Library family study room is located in room 143. It provides a child-friendly place for parents who bring their kids to campus to study without worry.

Alayna Harkleroad, a sophomore communications major, has used the room with her 4-year-old daughter. "My daughter did not want to leave," Harkleroad said. "When it was time to go, she was upset."

Harkleroad said she enjoys studying in the library, but found it difficult to do so when she had to bring her daughter to campus with her. Then she discovered the family room.

"Sometimes, I wanted to take my daughter to study, but I didn't want her getting into things she wasn't supposed to," Harkleroad said. "The family room seemed like a perfect place."

The room features children's books, toys and plenty of colorful furniture for kids while parents focus on their work. A computer is also available for students to use if needed.

"They have a little drawing table where you can draw with your kids. They have a dry-erase board where you can study or have your kids draw on it," Harkleroad said.

According to the Maag Library website, parents must check out a key from the Library Services Desk using their YSU ID to access the room.

The website also lists rules and reminders for proper room use. These include limiting the room to three families at a time, cleaning up any food or drink spills and using restrooms for diaper changes.

The library emphasizes that children must not be left unattended at any time. If a child is found unsupervised, library personnel will contact YSU police.

Although exams can be taken in the room — either on a personal computer or the one provided — Harkleroad suggested using the space for assignments that don't re-

quire uninterrupted focus.

"You're still responsible for your child. So, working on a relaxed assignment or a paper, I would recommend that," Harkleroad said. "You can stop and pay attention to what your child's doing."

For nursing mothers, the library also offers a lactation room in room 147, adjacent to the family study room. It includes a chair, table and electrical outlet for breastfeeding or pumping.

According to a 2019 article by The Jambar, the family study room was a collaborative effort between the Student Government Association, the Division of Student Experience and Maag Library.

Then-SGA president Ernie Barkett approached Maag Library Director Ana Torres and Co-Director Christine Adams with the idea, proposing the use of surplus funds from a strategic investment initiative. About a year later, the room was opened to the campus community.

"My daughter was totally taken away," Harkleroad said. "It's a very nice resource to use."

Professor connects communities



Photo by Molly Burke / Jambar Contributor

Montaldo works on Somos Youngstown with Arsenio.

By Molly Burke
Jambar Contributor

Paulina Montaldo was working as a reporter and producer for national news stations in Chile before she immigrated to New Castle, Pennsylvania in 2001.

For a while, the move meant giving up her journalism career.

“When I moved here, I tried to apply to some of the TV stations, but the problem — if it was a problem — they said your accent,” Montaldo said. “That was the end of the possibilities of doing TV. I tried to say, ‘Well, I can work behind cameras,’ but the opportunity was not there.”

Montaldo instead got her masters in higher education at Geneva College and then moved to the Mahoning Valley. She’s been teaching Spanish at Youngstown State University and Ursuline High School ever since.

However, after over 20 years away from the field, she’s writing and anchoring her own Spanish news show called Somos Youngstown on YouTube.

“Somos Youngstown’ translates as ‘We are Youngstown,’ and it’s not just Youngstown — I’m trying to cover the Mahoning Valley area. I want to highlight the stories and what the Hispanics contribute to the society and the community,” Montaldo said. “I was told, ‘No you cannot do TV because of your accent.’ Well, I’m doing it in Spanish — maybe 20 years later, but I’m doing it.”

Montaldo believes there is a need for news in Spanish. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Youngstown is home to over 6,600 Hispanic and Latino residents. For her, Somos Youngstown is a service to the community.

“Maybe they have their basic English, but to listen to the news, watch news in their own language is a whole different story,” Montaldo said. “[I’m] doing this as a nonprofit — I’m really not thinking about living off this, not doing a business, but doing a community service.”

While Montaldo does all the show’s reporting and editing, she has help from old friends. Rocio Perez, a producer in Spain, oversees the show’s production. Also, each episode opens with a voice over from Edison Sanchez, a news anchor in Ecuador.

Victor Arsenio, a part-time Spanish faculty

member at YSU, helps Montaldo with videography. He said the show helps to bridge the gap between Hispanics and non-Hispanics.

“It’s important because it’s like a connection,” Arsenio said. “It’s a way to say all of us — we are the same. We are similar in different bodies, but we have a lot of commonalities.”

Montaldo has also covered stories of the Hispanic community at YSU. She interviewed math professor Alicia Prieto Langarica for a story about the university’s Dia de Muertos celebration in November.

“This area has a long history of Latinos being here, and we don’t have a lot of visibility, and we don’t have a lot of representation,” Prieto Langarica said. “I think this is a long time we’ve been needing this.”

Prieto Langarica has done multiple interviews for news outlets in English, but she said it meant a lot to do one in her native language.

“When you talk about feelings and when you talk about culture, it’s so much easier to do it in Spanish, and it’s so much easier to talk about family, familiarity, things like that,” Prieto Langarica said.

Senior Spanish major David Bresko is one of Montaldo’s students. He said Somos Youngstown is educational for all people, regardless of ethnicity or nationality.

“There were times that Professor Montaldo said something about our local community, about some of the events that are held that I wasn’t aware of,” Bresko said. “It’s good to see what’s actually in our local community — what kind of people do we actually have living here, because sometimes we can live in our own little bubble.”

Montaldo has been planning the project for years, and she hopes to grow it even bigger. Her dream is to have a Spanish segment on a local TV station.

“I want to do a segment with legal advice and also medical advice,” Montaldo said. “I want to tell the community, this is the news, but also these are the services. ... There are so many good nonprofit organizations around the area willing to help, but people might not know that that help is available.”

Somos Youngstown is free to watch on YouTube. Updates can be found on its Facebook page and Instagram, @somos_youngstown.

Staying positive on social media

By Tala Alsharif and Raeghan Hilton
Jambar Contributors

Social media plays a major role in students' everyday lives and there are many ways students can use social media platforms positively to minimize its negative impacts.

Allison Centofanti, associate director of communications in the Office of Marketing and Communications, said it's important for students to have a clear strategy of what they want to achieve with social media.

"Understand what your goal is. What do you want to accomplish, what do you want to use this tool for and who are the people that you want to reach? [Break] it down into smaller pieces, a manageable strategy and a manageable goal," Centofanti said.

Additionally, she encourages students to be mindful of what content they want to see on their feeds and filtering content based on preferences.

She said despite the rise of promoted, unrealistic and polished content, younger generations are pushing back and prioritizing authenticity.

"There is this sense of realness that we haven't seen in a long time on social media, where people are acknowledging this," Centofanti said. "They're saying, 'These [ads] are not realistic, this is not an expectation that I can live my life by.'"

Centofanti said students should manage their time spent on social media platforms to avoid burnout.

"Pay attention to that and start to realize where you are allocating a lot of your time during the week," Centofanti said. "If you're ending your weeks feeling totally drained and burned out, maybe it's time to start moving some things around."

Office of Marketing and Communications Coordinator, Savannah Sheely emphasized the importance of seeking out content that makes students feel good.

"It's not a very competitive kind of content. You just see it, you like it, you engage with it and you move on," Sheely said. "It's not something you sit there and dwell over."

In addition to being mindful of content preferences, Communications Coordinator Garrett Sah said students should utilize social media platforms for connecting with others.

"People can make friends, people can get out there and research any information they need on any organization they might want to join," Sah said. "It's an important logistical tool, especially for first-year students."

Adrienne Sabo, founder and director of Clever, also believes social media creates a digital community that brings people together.

"Even if it's just digitally, you're able to connect with people that have the same interests as you and share your experiences," Sabo said. "It could also be really great for sharing knowledge and information."

Sabo pointed out students can find content creators that give them tips in the job search field, such as how to create a resume.

"Find the ones that are niche to what you want to do or what's related to you," Sabo said. "You just have this wealth of information at your fingertips."

Sah said social media platforms, such as LinkedIn, are great networking tools.

"There really is no end to who you can contact or get into contact with, and how that can help you professionally or as a student," Sah said.

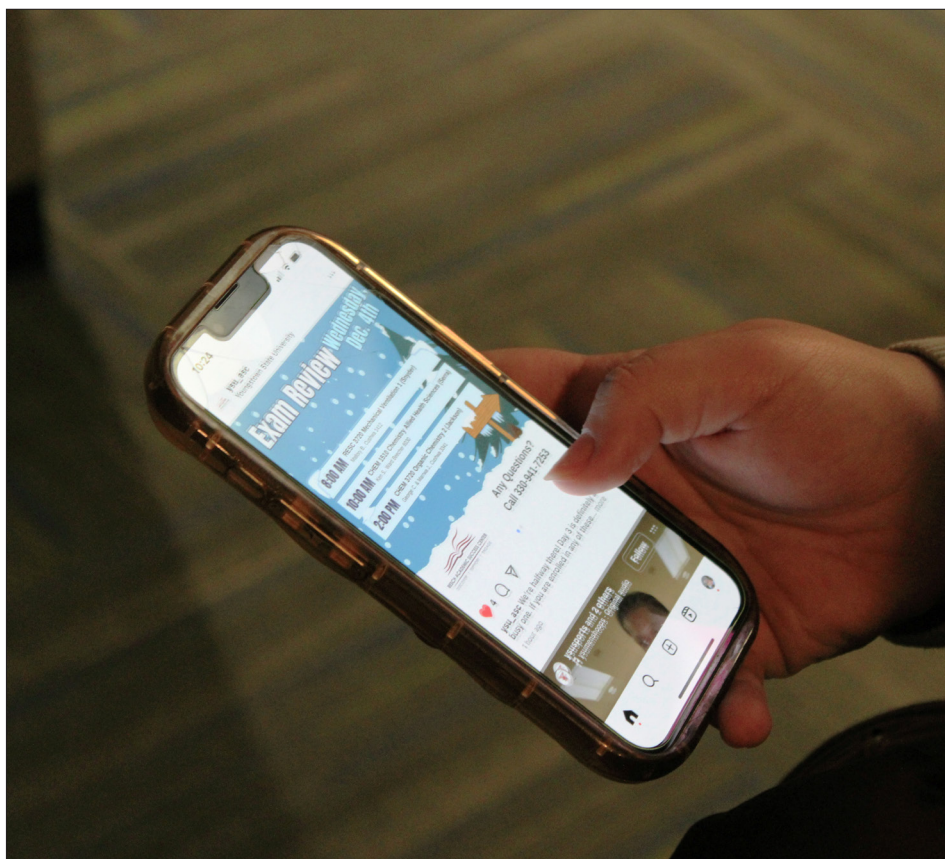


Photo by John Ostapowicz / The Jambar

Social media offers connections with professional opportunities.

Business Calendar

Dec. 5

Pure Flight Disc Golf presents:
Winter Putting League
7 p.m. Pollock Ballroom

Dec. 6

Youngstown Holiday Parade and
Flea on Phelps
4-6 p.m.

Christmas Tree Lighting at
approximately 7:15 p.m.

OH WOW! Open to public from
4-6 p.m.

Santa's Workshop, Spruce Pop-up Shop and free Pictures with Santa will be housed at the DeYor Performing Arts Center.

YSU Penguin Productions 10th Annual Request Sing-A-Long with Drew & Kin
Free Admission, all ages
7:30-10:30 p.m.



CRUISING FOR AMERICANA

Dreams come to Fruition



Fruition wrapped up its “How To Make Mistakes,” tour in Pittsburgh.



Photos courtesy of Kaja Sigvalda

By John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

Portland, Oregon-based band Fruition is fresh off three shows in Kent, Columbus and Pittsburgh, to promote its new studio album, “How To Make Mistakes,” released Aug. 23.

With over 100,000 monthly streams on Spotify, Fruition mixes hints of rock, soul and folk into the Americana genre with the combination of acoustic elements and vocal harmonies.

The quintet is made up of three primary singer-songwriters — Jay Cobb Anderson, Mimi Naja and Kellen Asebroek. Drummer Tyler Thompson and bassist Jeff Leonard make up the band’s consistent rhythm section during larger shows and recording sessions.

After three consecutive studio albums, the band went on a hiatus because of COVID-19. In 2022, Fruition released a live rendition of its songs followed by the band’s seventh studio album.

In regards to the pandemic, Thompson said he’s seen a drop in attendance at shows for a number of reasons.

“It’s been pretty rough though, ever since COVID the music industry is not what it was. People are not going out to shows as often and most people nowadays are saving up for those big concerts with three to five major artists on them,” Thompson said.

What started as a trio of singer-songwriters in 2008, evolved into a full-fledged band.

In late 2010, Thompson joined the band and said the early stages of touring were always an interesting sight with constant travel, large instruments and a portable drum kit.

“We would always cause a scene everywhere we went. Even if we were grabbing a

cup of coffee before we hit the streets, people were like, ‘What are you guys doing?’” Thompson said.

Thompson said his approach to drumming changed as he had to switch from a full-size drum kit to the basic fundamentals.

“I really stripped it down into early years. I just had a kick drum, snare drum and maybe a cymbal. I was really minimal and even strapped a tambourine to my foot,” Thompson said.

In 2012, Fruition released its debut album titled, “It Won’t Be Long.” After its release, the band began touring and opening for acts such as Greensky Bluegrass and Leftover Salmon.

Thompson said the band is thankful for the opportunities it has received for over 15 years and the bands that have helped Fruition along the way.

“It’s funny how we got picked up by some of those bands that took us pretty far. As we played in that scene where there’s that kind of jam and jamgrass, we’ve always found ourselves always being the departure band,” Thompson said. “It’s been an interesting ride as we get older realizing ‘Maybe we’re not quiet in the scene where our music belongs in.’”

In total, Fruition has amassed over 20 million collective streams. The band’s track “Mountain Annie” is its No. 1 streamed song with over 12.8 million listens.

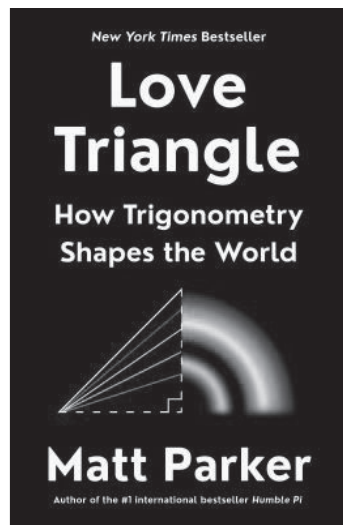
Before the presidential election, Fruition released “Whole World of Trouble,” which Thompson said is the band’s political-statement song.

“It’s our political song that is against everything so to speak,” Thompson said. “Just claiming we could do better as a world.”

Although no official release date has been confirmed, Fruition is working on another album, which is expected to drop in late 2025.

The band’s music is available to stream on Spotify and Apple Music.

Penguin Book Nook with The Public Library

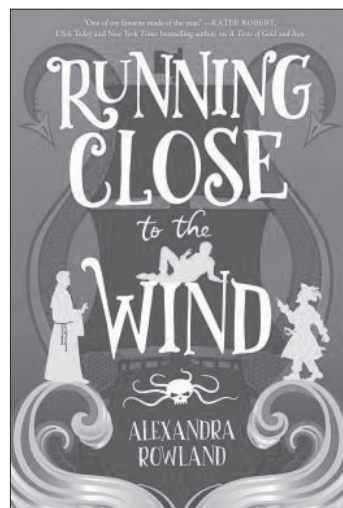


Nonfiction review

Love Triangle: How Trigonometry Shapes the World

by Matt Parker

Perhaps an overlooked shape by most, Parker shares his passion for the triangle in all the ways it has allowed us to advance in society, starting with the daring mathematicians, engineers, and philosophers who dared to take triangles seriously.



Fiction review

Running Close to the Wind

by Alexandra Rowland

A pirate, a monk and a thief all aboard a pirate ship...what more could go wrong. This queer pirate romance is full of hilarious hijinks, chaotic characters, and a little romance to even it all out. Throw in some sea serpents, a pirate island worthy of Blackbeard himself, some glowing blue dogs and the most important cake competition ever, you have yourself an adventure worthy of the high seas.

Upcoming programs

Wednesday, Dec. 11

6 p.m.

DIY Colorful Penguin Heating Pad

Wednesday, Jan. 15

6 p.m.

Cafecitos y Libros

Wednesday, Jan. 22

5 p.m.

Dungeons & Dragons

Visit 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, 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

The Jambar Column

Sharing the wealth

As the fall semester wraps up and I prepare for graduation in May, I've found myself reminiscing on my time here at Youngstown State University. It's bitter-sweet. Yes, I'm excited to leave the stress behind, but that means diving headfirst into the unknown.

Before I go, I wanted to share some of the things I've learned. I've been in college since I was 16-years-old and I've accumulated a lot of knowledge, not just with school, but life as well.

My biggest piece of advice I want everyone to internalize is stop serving things that do not serve you. By things, I mean people, jobs, activities, anything you do or have in life. If it doesn't bring you joy, support, a future, then leave it behind.

It's better to feel alone by yourself than feel alone surrounded by things you love that don't love you back.

Don't take that advice as me telling you to drop out. College provides the opportunity for the future and while it's hard, especially with finals coming up, look to the future and give yourself the opportunity to dream big. The answer is always no until you ask.

That leads me to my next point, give yourself grace. College is hard, friendships are hard, life is hard, so why make it worse by being hard on yourself.

At the end of the day, we're all human. We all experience highs and lows and beating yourself up when you're low doesn't help — only harms. Give yourself the space to feel and rest, after all, this is your first time being alive.

My mom always tells me "Your body



Madison Fessler

knows what it needs, take the nap before the nap takes you. Exhaustion only leads to you feeling worse," and I should've taken that advice more often. Take the advice given to you, learn from my mistakes. While you're at it, learn from your mistakes too. It ties back to giving yourself grace. You're human, you're going to mess up. What counts is your reaction to it.

Swallow your pride, admit you messed up and take the necessary steps to fix it, like asking for help.

Speaking of asking for help, ask for it. The people who love and care about you will never see you as a burden. I reiterate, swallow your pride and learn from my mistakes. There's been too many moments in my life where if I had just asked for help, a bad situation could've been avoided.

Again, we're all human. There's only so much we can take before it crushes us, recognize your crushing point and ask for help before you get there. You're not weak for asking for help, in fact it makes you stronger.

Yes, I did cry while writing this. I love my YSU family and I'll be sad to say goodbye to the school that has given me so much.

The Jambar Editorial

So long, farewell

I've been through a lot in my time at The Jambar, and while my tenure here has been shorter than many others', I've found this experience so rewarding.

I officially joined "The Family" in fall 2023 as an assistant copy editor, which, by the way, is a role you only take if you're okay with people hating you. Luckily for The Jambar, I actually prefer it.

I learned so much in that first year, mostly from my partner-in-crime Elizabeth "Betty" Coss, the amazing former Editor-in-Chief Shianna Gibbons and our former faculty advisor, Michele Gatts.

With their guidance, I gained experience in Associated Press Style — the bane of every journalist's existence — in reporting and perhaps most importantly, I gained experience in teamwork.

While I had worked in team environments before The Jambar, I had never worked at a place that was entirely made of young students who were so passionate. You don't realize how much it takes to be passionate about something until you're actively in the trenches, fighting for your life, loving nearly every minute of it.

Sure, no job is all rainbows and sunshine, and we at The Jambar probably get in as many fights as we do hijinks. Regardless, the joy always outshined the anger, and the art was always worth the time it took to complete.

As head copy editor and arts and entertainment editor, I learned a lot about leadership. Suddenly, I had people looking to me for help. Not only that, but I was also a resource for my fellow editors. Let me tell you, the imposter syndrome was real.

When you're thrust into a leadership role like that — I applied for it — you quickly realize how to crapshoot. In all seriousness though, I also learned the importance of transparency, decisiveness and patience.

No one understands the importance of these traits more than my leadership, Editor-in-Chief John Ostapowicz, Executive Producer and Managing Editor Raeghan Hilton, Faculty Advisor Adam Earnhardt and Business Manager Mary Dota.

I would like to give my heartfelt thanks for all the time and energy each of these individuals has devoted to both me and The Jambar.

To my successors, Assistant Copy Editor Katelyn Obermyer and Volunteer Copy Editor Maria Schwartz, I wish the best of luck. Both have been so fun to work with, and I have full faith our friendship will last the test of time.

No goodbye letter would be complete without mentioning the peanut gallery, which nowadays has withered down to Sports Editor Dylan Lux and me, annoying a very tired Head Designer Madison Fessler.

Matthew Sotlar, news editor and phenomenal columnist, what can I say that you don't already know? You're Matt Sotlar.

I'm not sure if I'm making any kind of point here, so I'll just leave you with a deathbed quote from Ludwig van Beethoven.

"Applaud, my friends, the comedy is over."

— Hannah Werle

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED: Struthers Parkside Church seeks a worship service Tech Assistant with audio/visual/tech skills and collaborative mindset. 6-8 hours per week with partial flexibility. Pay: \$20/hr. To apply, email resume and cover letter to: spcwhite@outlook.com

THE JAMBAR POLICY

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

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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



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Penguins face four game skid

By Dylan Lux
The Jambar

After four-straight wins to start the season, the Youngstown State University women's basketball team dropped its last four contests, falling to 4-4 overall.

The Penguins defeated Mercyhurst University on Nov. 19 in Beeghly Center, which capped off a 4-0 start to the season — all at home.

For its first road test of the season Nov. 23, YSU traveled to Lewisburg, Pennsylvania to face Bucknell University.

The Bison's defense proved to be tough on the Penguins, as they held YSU to 36 total points on 15% shooting. The team shot 9 of 60 and only shot 12.5% from 3-point range.

The final score came to a 51-36 Bucknell win.

Head Coach Meslissa Jackson said Bucknell had length on defense, which made YSU's offense stagnant.

"Bucknell's length definitely affected us, [though] I don't think it should've affected us as much," Jackson said. "For the first time the ball stuck way too much in our offensive system."

With Youngstown State suffering its first loss of the season, Jackson said she was happy with the team's attitude in the face of adversity.

"We have some room to grow in that area, but I've been really happy with how they responded in practice," Jackson said. "The energy and effort [has been] unbelievable and that's exactly how you want your team to respond after a loss."

Just three days later, Youngstown State took on Big East Conference foe Xavier University in Cincinnati.

A commanding first quarter helped the Musketeers jump out to a 10-point advantage early in the contest, which helped propel them to a 61-43 victory over the Penguins. Senior Jewel Watkins led the 'Guins in scoring with 14 and also nabbed a steal.

The 'Guins traveled to Manatí, Puerto Rico for the Puerto Rico Clasico on Nov. 29-30.

YSU faced off against the University of Southern Indiana on Day One of the tournament. At halftime, a lopsided game came across the scoreboard, as the Screaming Eagles led 32-5.

YSU was able to find a rhythm offensively in the third quarter, scoring 21, but USI had too much offense for the 'Guins to handle. After outscoring YSU in all four quarters, the Screaming Eagles emerged with the win 70-34.

Day Two of the Puerto Rico Clasico saw the Penguins play Towson University. Coming into the matchup, the Tigers were 0-6 on the year, looking for their first win of

the season against Youngstown State.

The Tigers got what they'd been searching for, with a 68-57 win over YSU. The 'Guins fell to 4-4 following the contest, with conference play on the horizon.

Next up for Youngstown State was the team's first Horizon League duel of the season Dec. 4, against the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee inside Beeghly Center.

To view stats from the conference matchup, go to ysusports.com, or to watch the full game, visit ESPN+.



Photo courtesy of ysusports.com
Sophia Gregory attempts a shot.

YSU claims Garden State Classic title

By Joel Fuzo
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University bowling team won the Garden State Classic on Nov. 22-24, hosted by Monmouth University.

Among the 20 participating teams, the Penguins defeated three top-five opponents — Vanderbilt University, Jacksonville State University and University of Nebraska Omaha, to claim their first title since the 2023 Destination Orlando tournament.

Seeded at No. 3 in the championship bracket, YSU's victory marked a triumphant conclusion to the fall semester.

The Penguins finished with an impressive, 12 consecutive wins at Howell Lanes in New Jersey.

Head Coach Doug Kuberski said he was proud of the team's strong finish at the tournament.

"We have been making strides and elevating across the board, and it's sure nice to finish with a win," Kuberski stated.

YSU began the event with a narrow nine-pin loss to Wilmington University, scoring 916 and placing 11th on Friday.

However, the Penguins rallied, surpassing 1,000 pins in eight of their next nine matches to climb to third place.

Youngstown State's path to victory required overcoming three top-ranked foes. In

their opening match, YSU defeated No. 4 Vanderbilt in six games.

Key doubles from graduate student Kirsten Moore and senior Madison Doseck sealed crucial victories in games four and six.

Against Jacksonville State in the semifinals, the Penguins fired a 226 in the opener and closed with consecutive wins of 246-168 and 226-156 to advance.

YSU's dominance continued in the championship match against Nebraska.

The Penguins won the first three games by an average margin of 23.7 pins.

Although Nebraska took game four, YSU responded by striking in seven of the first eight frames in game five, clinching the title with a 211-162 victory.

Doseck shined throughout the event, earning tournament MVP honors and capturing her first career individual title.

Doseck's five-game series of 1,133 included a high score of 245, topping the individual standings by 48 pins.

Senior Madyson Marx and Moore also made significant contributions, earning Second-Team All-Tournament honors by placing seventh and eighth, respectively.

As a team, the Penguins posted the highest pinfall in traditional play on Saturday, collectively scoring 5,225 total pins. Their head-to-head victories included wins over Coppin State University, Delaware State University and No. 10 Duquesne University, punctuating an unbeaten round.

Youngstown State will return to action at the Northeast Classic on Jan. 17-19 in New Castle, Delaware.

YSU football takes on offseason

By Teziah Howard
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University football team ended its season in dramatic fashion against the University of Northern Iowa on Nov. 16. The Penguins captured a one-point win over the Panthers in overtime.

The game featured a total of 77 points, resulting in a 39-38 victory for YSU. Sophomore Beau Brungard led the game and Penguins' passing attack with 256 yards and two touchdowns.

The Penguins closed out their season at 4-8 overall and 3-5 in Missouri Valley Football Conference play. Aside from the win over UNI, the Penguins defeated Valparaiso University in week two 59-25 and defeated Indiana State 21-14 down the road.

The Penguins opened their 2024 season where the 2023 season ended, in Villanova, Pennsylvania. As the month of August came to a close, Youngstown State played against Villanova University.

The season prior featured less of a dogfight than the 24-17 Week One loss for the Penguins, but the team was quick to bounce back inside Stambaugh Stadium the very next week.

Early season adversity had the Penguins in high hopes for a turnaround, but unfortunately YSU would not hold a winning streak for the remainder of the season. After each win, YSU dealt with consecutive losses.

In week nine, YSU hosted the top-ten ranked University of North Dakota. The game could not be decided through four quarters, as the Penguins took the Fighting Hawks to overtime and held a goal-line stand to secure the victory over UND 41-40.

The Penguins faced adversity early in the season when they traveled to Pittsburgh to play at Acrisure Stadium against Power Four opponent University of Pittsburgh. The Panthers outscored the Penguins by 56 points.

Although the Penguins struggled on paper, there were bright spots in their level of play. The MVFC released its list of All-Conference nominees on Monday.

Brungard was a first-team selection who started all 12 games and finished the season with 3,191 total offensive yards. Brungard put up 2,141 yards through the air while rushing for nearly 1,000 yards. He also was awarded MVFC Offensive Player of the Week three separate times.

Junior Max Tomczak joined Brungard in first-team selections for YSU. Tomczak hauled in 73 receptions for 904 yards and four touchdowns. In conference play, he had 53 receptions for 658 yards and two touchdowns.

Head Coach Doug Phillips spoke highly of Tomczak and mentioned his viewpoint on where the wide receiver stands in the league amongst other receivers.

"[Tomczak] has been doing it all year and I still think he is the best receiver in this league," Phillips said.

Second-team selections were Jaison Williams, Sam Merryman and Brenden Kilpatrick. Williams received a 98% pass-protection efficiency rating, while Merryman helped the YSU kicking squad lead the nation in net punting.

The Penguins will look to recover and regroup for the offseason. The football team will have a grace period before starting spring workouts in January 2025.

Youngstown State begins its new campaign Aug. 28, 2025 against Mercyhurst University at Stambaugh Stadium.

FCS Playoffs Recap

First Round, Nov. 30

No. 12 Illinois State University 35, Southeast Missouri State University 27
 No. 10 The University of Rhode Island 21, Central Connecticut State University 17
 University of Tennessee at Martin 41, No. 16 University of New Hampshire 10
 Lehigh University 20, No. 9 University of Richmond 6
 No. 11 Villanova University 22, Eastern Kentucky University 17
 No. 15 Abilene Christian University 24, Northern Arizona University 0
 No. 13 Tarleton State University 43, Drake University 29
 No. 14 University of Montana 41, Tennessee State University 27

Second Round, Dec. 7

All games on ESPN+ unless listed otherwise.

2 p.m. | No. 11 Villanova at No. 6 University of the Incarnate Word
 2 p.m. | No. 10 Rhode Island at No. 7 Mercer University
 2 p.m. | No. 14 Montana at No. 3 South Dakota State University
 3 p.m. | UT Martin at No. 1 Montana State University
 3 p.m. | No. 15 Abilene Christian at No. 2 North Dakota State University
 3 p.m. | No. 13 Tarleton State at No. 4 University of South Dakota
 4 p.m. | No. 12 Illinois State at No. 5 The University of California, Davis
 9 p.m. | Lehigh at No. 8 University of Idaho

Semifinals: Saturday, Dec. 21

National championship:
 7.p.m, Monday, Jan. 6 on ESPN

Beginning conference play

By Marissa Masano
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team traveled to the Axe 'Em Classic on Nov. 21-23 and returned home Nov. 27 and 30.

The Penguins opened the tournament with a 72-62 victory over Monmouth University. Senior EJ Farmer led the team with 18 points, while fifth-year senior Nico Galette recorded his first double-double of the season, contributing 16 points and 10 rebounds.

Despite trailing 38-29 at halftime, the Penguins started the second half strong, scoring 14 of the first 18 points. A layup by Farmer gave the team its first lead of the second half, making the score 43-42. The Penguins maintained their lead for the remainder of the game.

In the second game, the Penguins fell to Presbyterian College, 67-42. Fifth-year senior Ty Harper led Youngstown State with 12 points. The Penguins struggled offensively, shooting just 27.1% from the field compared to Presbyterian's 46.3%.

To close out the Classic, Youngstown State faced Stephen F. Austin State University and lost 64-57. Galette led the team in points, three-pointers and rebounds, finishing with 20 points and five rebounds.

The Penguins dropped their 2024-25 home opener at Zidian Family Arena, losing to Western Michigan University, 73-62. Farmer led the team with 20 points, while junior Juwan Maxey, in his home debut, added 12 points and led in three-pointers.

Despite the early struggles, Maxey remains optimistic as the team approaches conference play.

"It's a long season, it's still early. But it's about making the right reads. We're a good team. We just have to make shots and continue to have faith, so we're good," Maxey said.

The Penguins went 11-for-33 from the field in the first half and entered halftime trailing by six. They opened the second half with a 9-1 run to take a 39-37 lead. However, the Broncos responded with an 11-2 run to regain the lead, which they held for the rest of the game.

Youngstown State tied the game at 60, but couldn't sustain the momentum, as Western Michigan closed the game on a decisive 13-2 run.

The Penguins secured their first home victory of the season at Beeghly Center with a 128-60 win over Bethany College.

Sophomore Gabe Dynes led the scoring with a career-high 23 points, while Galette contributed 15 points, seven rebounds and a career-high eight assists. Junior Cris Carroll also scored a career-high 20 points, with Farmer adding 13 points.

The Penguins set a school single-game record with 38 assists. Their 68-point margin of victory over the Bison ranks fifth in program history.

Additionally, the team's 128 points and 63.6% from the field are the third-highest marks in school history.

After the game, Head Coach Ethan Faulkner shared insights into the team's preparation for upcoming Horizon League opponents.

"I've told our guys you've got to earn wins. You have to earn wins with the way that we practice and the way that we prep. You guys know how competitive Horizon League play is, so we've got to get ready," Faulkner said.

The Penguins traveled to Robert Morris University on Dec. 4 to open conference play. For the final score visit ysusports.com.

Youngstown State will return home against Oakland University at 2 p.m. Dec. 7. The game will be available to stream on ESPN+.

