

# THE JAMBAR

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 YSU\_JAMBAR

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## CASH FOR KILCAWLEY



Photo by Nicaryllye Hanchard / The Jambar

Student Organizations' host spring semester tabling for the final time inside Kilcawley Center.

## Donating to Kilcawley's future

By Nicaryllye Hanchard  
The Jambar

Several donations were made to the Kilcawley: Centered on the Future campaign over the holiday season.

A \$200,000 donation was made to the Kilcawley renovation campaign by Jim and Ellen Tressel, former president and first lady of Youngstown State University.

In a press release from YSU's News Center, Jim Tressel stated his excitement in furthering his family's support of YSU through the donation and looks forward to a modern, collaborative space with the renovation.

"We are excited to support the renovation of the

Kilcawley Center, a place that has served as the heart of student life for so many generations of Penguins," Tressel stated.

Heather Chunn, vice president of operations and human resources at the YSU Foundation, said plans for Kilcawley's future renovations began under Tressel's presidency.

"When Jim and Ellen were president and first lady, they saw the value in having a new center for students, faculty and staff to utilize," Chunn said. "They wanted to support that endeavor and worked with the foundation's president, Paul McFadden, to finalize their commitment."

Donations, Page 2

## Expanded programs to grow enrollment

By Jacqueline Arroyo  
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University board of trustees met Dec. 11-12 in Tod Hall to discuss key university topics, approve measures to foster student success and enhance academic programs.

Discussions among various committees occurred Dec. 11, while Dec. 12 was reserved for formal votes on agenda items. The formal meeting's agenda included presentations, reports from the university president and consideration of both unfinished and new businesses.

Two presentations captured attention during the formal meeting. Alan Tomhave, philosophy professor and associate dean of Beeghly College of Liberal Arts, Social Sciences and Education, detailed the achievements of YSU's Ethics Bowl team.

Meanwhile, men's sophomore tennis player Onder Balci shared a personal account of how YSU provided him opportunities through the tennis program.

"My colleague is setting up a two-minute timer and you'll understand what that two-minute timer is in just a minute," Tomhave said. "In that two-minutes, they have to come up with an answer to that question and figure out which sort of ethical approach they want to take".

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**Donations**

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Their donation will support the naming of two areas in the renovated Kilcawley Center. For the Tressels' continued contributions to YSU, the first-floor meeting room will be named in their honor. In honor of Ellen's parents, Frank and Norma Watson, the second-floor lounge will be named after them.

\$148,000 was donated to the Kilcawley campaign Dec. 5, 2024, by the estate of Richard Zarilla, YSU alumnus and retired educator.

Paul McFadden, president of the YSU Foundation, stated in a press release that Zarilla's donations to YSU will leave a positive legacy.

"His estate gift is a powerful reminder of the transformative impact that planned gifts can have on our university and our students," McFadden stated.

President Bill Johnson stated that Zarilla's donation underscores his enthusiasm for education and student development at YSU.

"His gift will play a crucial role in the Kilcawley Center renovation, which will create new opportunities for students to connect, collaborate and thrive," Johnson stated. "We are deeply grateful for his vision and legacy."

Joe Kerola, a member of the YSU Board of Trustees, and his wife Pam, made a \$750,000 pledge to the campaign Dec. 12, 2024.

"We are thrilled to make this gift to a place that has been so important to our community and to Youngstown State University," Kerola stated.

The Kerolas' enduring support of students and student life at YSU can be seen in the John Kerola Athletic Scholarship and the Kerola Family Scholarship in Business offered to students.

Chunn said that the campaign seeks to reach out to more alumni and community members.

"Those individuals in the cabinet are great ambassadors for YSU. They're out there helping us make connections with potential donors and introducing us to alumni and even community members who are interested in supporting," Chunn said.


The Kilcawley renovation is projected to cost over \$40 million. Chunn said the hope for the campaign is to receive as many donations before demolitions begin in June.





Between three donations, the Kilcawley: Centered on the Future campaign received over \$1 million.


Photo by Nicarlyle Hanchard / The Jambar


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**7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST**

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

High: 25°F Low: 23°F Chance of precip: 2%	High: 25°F Low: 23°F Chance of precip: 25%	High: 29°F Low: 21°F Chance of precip: 65%	High: 30°F Low: 24°F Chance of precip: 21%	High: 30°F Low: 16°F Chance of precip: 55%	High: 26°F Low: 12°F Chance of precip: 55%	High: 22°F Low: 14°F Chance of precip: 55%
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Overcast



Overcast



Snow



Overcast



Snow



Snow



Snow

Information courtesy of [accuweather.com](https://www.accuweather.com)

# YSU family keeps growing

By Nicholas Bianco and Tala Alsharif  
Jambar Contributors

Youngstown State University saw a growth in its student community last fall semester.

According to YSU's news center, the university experienced a significant enrollment surge in 2024.

With a total headcount of 12,164 students, YSU achieved a notable 10.7% increase from last year's 10,993 enrolled students. The increase marked the university's largest enrollment since 2018.

There was also an 11.4% increase in undergraduate students and a graduate increase of 8.1%.

Jennifer Pintar, provost and vice president of academic affairs, said the student enrollment increase can be credited to faculty members and deans, who worked to create new programs for transfer students from the former Eastern Gateway Community College.

"Because of the closing of Eastern Gateway, [students] needed a home and so our faculty really worked hard to set up those curriculums," Pintar said.

According to YSU's news center, the campus saw a 106.5% rise in transfer students. In total, 475 students transferred from Eastern Gateway to YSU.

Jeanne Herman, associate vice president of strategic enrollment, credited YSU for opening the doors to students whose community college closed down.

"We really did stand up for the residents in our area and our community, and that really attributed to some of the growth," Herman said.

Herman also said the addition of associate degree programs for former Eastern Gateway students might have contributed to the enrollment increase.

"It wasn't just the transfer students who took those associate programs, so there is very much a definite need to have those programs offered for the students

within our area," Herman said. "We had more than 70 Eastern Gateway students who then transferred to be bachelor's seeking students."

YSU also saw a 44% increase in international student enrollment. Pintar said the increase in international students is attributed to positive campus experiences and affordable enrollment costs.

"A lot of that is based on word of mouth. Students are having good, positive experiences at Youngstown State," Pintar said. "Tuition is quite a value for international students and for the most part that I'm hearing, they feel very comfortable at YSU."

According to Herman, YSU's recruitment is very broad with graduate, undergraduate and international admissions.

"We're targeting specific programs that students may want and specific areas where students may be at for specific programs and I think we've been very successful with that," Herman said.

"In addition, we've been very consistent with going out to the high schools [and] college fairs, meeting students where they're at."

Pintar said YSU looks to attract transfer students from other universities.

"We're flexible and agile with our offerings both online and face-to-face," Pintar said. "We're doing a lot of marketing work towards reaching out to those students who have invested in a part of a college degree, but then for whatever reason have stopped."

Pintar said YSU is doing focus work such as getting faculty in front of the camera to talk about their passion.

"We've really worked with the faculty for programs that are low enrollment, but by all looks at jobs, opportunities in the Bureau of Labor Statistics, they should be much higher enrollment," Pintar said.

Pintar said YSU looks to continue its enrollment increase with a goal of 15,000 to 20,000 enrolled students.



YSU currently has over 12,000 enrolled students.

Photo by Nicholas Bianco / Jambar Contributor

## Board of trustees

Page 1

Tomhave said the Ethics Bowl is a debate-style competition centered on a set of cases that require students to conduct a detailed analysis of ethical issues.

During his presentation, he outlined four key components of the Ethics Bowl. According to Tomhave, teams are not told which cases will be assigned to them in advance or the specific questions asked. Students' success depends on their comprehension and analysis of the case, in which teams are given two minutes to confer and prepare for their 10-minute presentation.

A key element in preparing students was the involvement of guest judges during practice sessions, which provided feedback and insights on how the team can better themselves and their arguments.

"We have faculty from across campus that have represented four colleges that regularly come and give us two hours of their time," Tomhave said.

He concluded his presentation by highlighting YSU's performance during the competition and introduced members of the Ethics Bowl team. The students shared how the experience shaped their critical thinking skills, especially under the pressure of

time constraints.

Following the Ethics Bowl presentation, men's tennis Head Coach Kody Duncan, and Balci took the stage. Duncan outlined the team's goals and accomplishments, followed by a personal story from Balci.

A native of Antalya, Turkey, Balci is a business major who began playing tennis at age five and quickly developed a passion for the sport. He shared how he was left speechless when YSU's previous coach reached out with an opportunity to join the team.

"I was amazed by this chance because I didn't have the opportunity to keep playing tennis," Balci said.

Since arriving at YSU two years ago, Balci has expressed appreciation for the facilities and resources that have helped him improve his game. He looks forward to continuing to pursue his passion for tennis, while advancing his education.

"All I know is that YSU's meaning in my life is priceless," Balci said. "I was going to be a student back home but now I have the opportunity to do what I love."

These presentations contributed to the board's decision to further invest in attracting international students and continuing support for academic programs.



YSU board of trustees met Dec. 12, followed by two presentations.

Photos by Jacqueline Arroyo / The Jambar

# Youngstown Clothing Co. goes to Eastwood



Photos of the new storefront in Eastwood Mall.



Photos courtesy of Matthew McClure

By John Ostapowicz and Matthew Sotlar  
The Jambar

Youngstown Clothing Co. has its headquarters in the Southern Park Mall in Boardman. Up until recently, it's only shop was located in Southern Park. Now, the brand has branched out to Niles at Eastwood Mall.

Founder and owner of Youngstown Clothing Co., Matt McClure, began the company in 2015. Since then, it has serviced over 50,000 customers and has raised well over \$200,000 in charitable donations.

McClure said he started Youngstown Clothing Co. out of a sense for his local pride.

"It kind of came out of necessity," McClure said. "It started with having a lot of pride and being from this area ... I feel that local pride is a big thing everywhere, but here, I feel that it's even more so. We're very proud of where we come from, the way that we're brought up."

He added that he was inspired by other printing companies and felt that Youngstown was in need of its own clothing company.

"It kind of came out of us wanting to wear this stuff [and] represent this stuff. I had seen other places doing similar things and just felt like Youngstown definitely needed to be represented as well," McClure said.

McClure said the opening of the Eastwood store had gone well, and that it had attracted a new crowd of customers.

"Things have been going really good," McClure said. "I got to meet a lot of new people already. A lot of people have come in and mentioned that they're glad they don't have to drive so far to Boardman anymore, but it's good to have locations in both

places."

Youngstown Clothing Co. focuses mostly on Mahoning Valley-related products. McClure said he wanted to create a nostalgic feeling with his designs.

"We love the nostalgic. We say we like to think of ourselves as bridging the gap between the glory days and the bright future that we feel is ahead for this area. We love to do past, present and even future general designs," McClure said.

In addition to clothing, McClure said the company sponsors a Yonation Jar, which receives donations and sponsorships from local businesses.

"A big thing for us is our Yonation Jar. That's when we work with local, stateful family businesses that we grew up admiring and loving so much, and we feel so honored that a lot of these businesses entrust us to come up with designs for their brands and businesses," McClure said.

Youngstown Clothing Co. collaborates with over 15 local businesses for its Yonation Jar, including White House Fruit Farms, Handel's Homemade Ice Cream and DiRusso's Sausage.

Along with serving the community, McClure said Youngstown Clothing Co. has worked closely with Youngstown State University for many years.

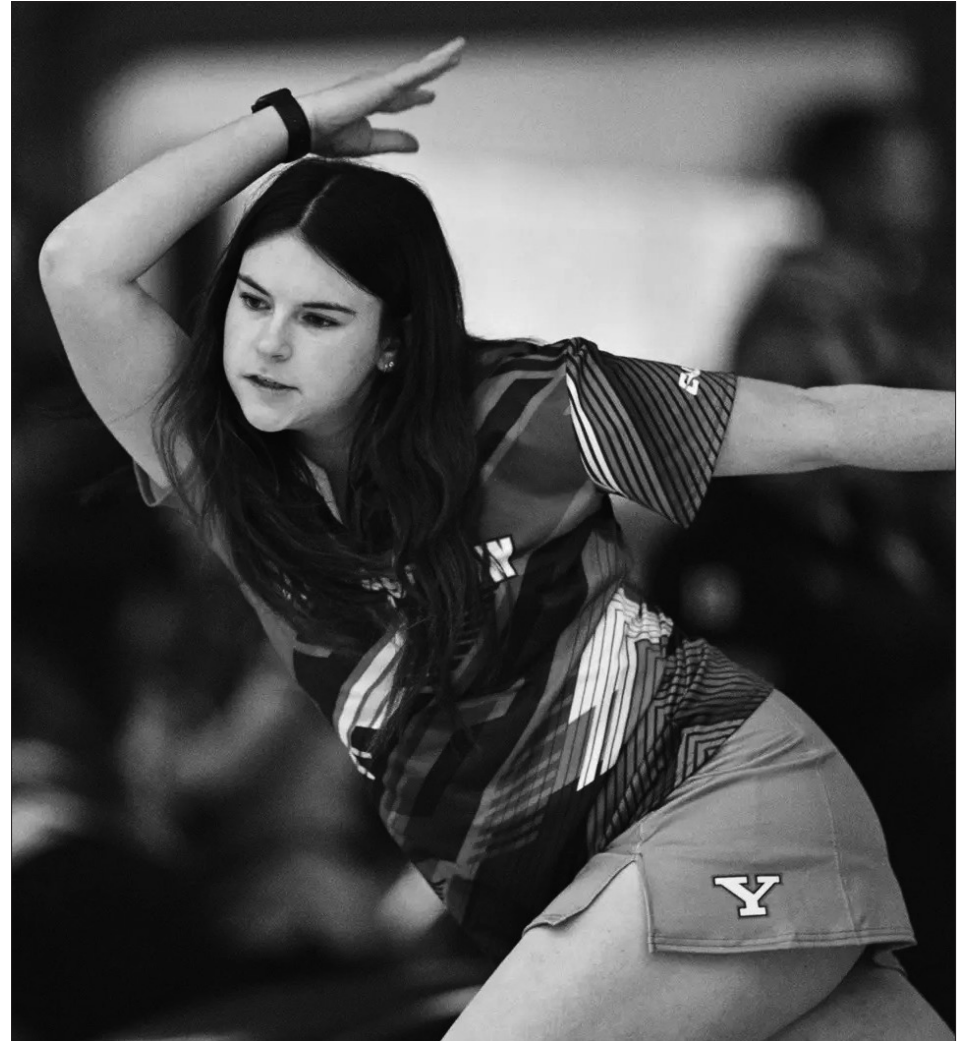
"YSU has been so great with our partnership," McClure said. "I feel like we've offered officially licensed YSU gear since probably right around 2019."

Youngstown Clothing Co. in the Southern Park Mall is open Monday-Saturday from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. and on Sundays from 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

While the new location at Eastwood Mall is open Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m.-9 p.m. and on Sundays from 11 a.m.-6 p.m.



The Penguins bowling team is currently ranked No. 4 in the country.



Photos courtesy of Robert Hayes

# Turning recruiting success into national success

**By Tim Corso**  
Jambar Contributor

The Youngstown State University bowling team is hard at work on the recruiting trail during the 2024-25 season.

Currently ranked No. 4 in the country, the program is led by seventh-year Head Coach Doug Kuberski.

While skill is essential for any program, the Penguins consider a variety of factors when constructing a roster. Kuberski said performance in the classroom holds significant weight in the recruiting process.

“Really, academics is a big thing for us,” Kuberski said. “Obviously, grade point average is one part of that.”

Kuberski said when it comes to attracting talent, an important area is YSU’s campus.

“I try to highlight what I believe is the best part of campus and that’s the staff,” Kuberski said. “I have them meet our staff and folks we work with on a daily basis.”

Part of the team’s recruiting success is displayed both in and out of the bowling

alley by senior Ellie Drescher.

Part of her responsibility as a student-athlete is to engage with and help current recruits. Drescher said she works to ensure the newcomers are becoming a team, with national championship aspirations each year.

“When hosting a recruit, we do a lot with touring them around campus,” Drescher said. “We normally take them to dinner, hang out with them for a while [and] understand them. Kind of see who they are as a person and see if they’d be a good fit for our school.”

It wasn’t that long ago Drescher and her teammates were recruited to bowl at YSU. Drescher said there tends to be a mentorship role that comes along with being a veteran presence in the program.

“With me being older and a lot of the other girls being older, we almost see ourselves in the recruits that are coming in,” Drescher said. “We want to take that responsibility to make them feel welcomed on their visit, so they know that this place can be a home for them.”

Kuberski and his staff have signed a pair of 2025 recruits including Alivia Baskin from Elk Mound, Wisconsin and Leyna Kratzer from Bangor, Pennsylvania.

# Helping during holidays

**By Madison Fessler**  
Jambar Contributor

With the conclusion of the holiday season, many people felt the need to volunteer more in the Mahoning Valley.

In a 2021 article by The University of Texas at Dallas Magazine, it stated volunteerism rises 50% during the holidays.

Mollie Hartup, director of Sokolov Honors College, said the increase in volunteers comes from reflecting inward.

“Many of us have blessings in our lives and at this time of year, we look for ways to give back. While we’re thinking about the people on our shopping list, we also often think about those who are less fortunate and may

have to go without a holiday,” Hartup said. “It’s very natural for people to want to open up their hearts and perhaps their wallets.”

Allison Russell, who teaches at UT Dallas, stated there’s a connection between volunteering and improved well-being.

“There’s just something special about being able to give and serve someone else,” Hartup said. “The holidays can be a joyous time and if you’re able to give a little bit and make a difference in the lives of someone else, who wouldn’t necessarily have as nice of a holiday, how could that not make you feel good?”

Gabbrial Perrotta, senior biology major, said she likes having a meaning behind her volunteerism.

“I like knowing what I’m doing is impacting someone in some way. It just feels good,” Perrotta said.

Russell also said volunteering leads to personal and social fulfillment through connections.

“[Volunteering connects] people with other members of their community who share their values and beliefs. It can also provide a way to build new skills or increase one’s knowledge and experience and can even lead to career opportunities,” Russell stated.

Hartup said the honors college teaches students to pick volunteer opportunities that interest them.

“If you’re doing something that you enjoy doing, it’s not going to feel like work. The best type of community engagement projects are those where you really are sharing your talents, your interests and truly meeting somebody else’s needs,” Hartup said.

Volunteer opportunities for students, faculty and staff are available on the Penguin Pulse website.

# Getting crafty for gifts

**By Madison Fessler and Dylan Lux**  
Jambar Contributors

Finding affordable gifts for family and friends for holidays, birthdays or special occasions can be difficult for many college students.

Rayvin Gorrell, Youngstown State University senior anthropology major, said crafting can be a great source for gifts.

“If you have time, there are crafts like crocheting where you can get [supplies] on sale at JOANN Fabrics to do crocheting or knitting,” Gorrell said.

Making cards, paintings, a scrapbook page or a mood board does not require a lot of materials and is easy to individualize.

Gorrell said taking the time to make a meaningful gift is better than buying something.

“Just being creative and thoughtful and intentional with your gifts, no matter how much you spend on it, is what most people care about,” Gorrell said.

Other staff members at YSU have had memorable and cheap gift ideas from their times in college.

Ryan McNicholas, director of Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center, remembered an idea he had that cost no money at all.

“When I was a broke college student, I gave my

wife a coupon book of things I would do around the house — clean, do dishes, wash her car — things like that,” McNicholas said. “It didn’t cost me any money, but it was really appreciated.”

Wilson Corbisello, a senior multimedia communication major, said he spent no more than \$10 on a gift for his parents, allowing him to showcase activities they do as a family.

“One of my favorite things to do with [my parents] is go to the movies, so I printed out our tickets of the movies we went to for the year and put them in a little book that I bought for \$5,” Corbisello said. “I printed the tickets on campus completely free, and my parents really appreciated that.”

Dan McCormick, studio coordinator and broadcast engineer at YSU, said one of his favorite cost-effective gifts came from his children.

“A few Father’s Days ago, my kids surprised me with ice cream for breakfast because they know how much I like ice cream,” McCormick said. “Instead of getting me a gift, they had all these ice cream [flavors] that they made, and now it’s become a tradition.”



Photo by Madison Fessler / Jambar Contributor

**There are many affordable options to make gifts.**

# Get degrees overseas

By Dylan Lux and Sydney Fairbanks  
Jambar Contributors

Youngstown State University International Programs Office has given students the opportunity to learn in countries around the world.

Study Abroad allows students to earn credits for their major through 10 direct exchange programs, while being a part of another community, culture and country.

Direct exchange programs last 17 weeks throughout the fall and spring semesters, but vary throughout the summer.

Jina Vitullo, coordinator of the English Language Institute, took on Study Abroad in the summer. She said the program partners with 10 universities in different parts of the world.

“We’ve condensed the Study Abroad program to re-

flect 10 specific direct exchange programs,” Vitullo said. “Students are able to travel abroad to different universities that we have agreements with.”

YSU has agreements with five countries, including Finland, Japan, South Korea, the Netherlands and Taiwan, where students can study abroad.

Vitullo said she and the university plan to expand the program as she becomes more experienced with Study Abroad.

Fees for students to Study Abroad vary by program, but the overall payment goes through YSU tuition.

“What makes [Study Abroad] unique is that it’s affordable,” Vitullo said. “Any financial aid or scholarships that you have, they can easily be applied to your [YSU] tuition while you’re studying abroad.”

To be eligible for the Study Abroad program, students must have a 2.5 GPA at the time they begin the appli-

cation process. More specifically, Vitullo said students need to fulfill two other requirements before the program will accept them.

“[Students] have to be at least a sophomore. We’d rather that students study for a year here first before studying abroad,” Vitullo said. “Students also have to have good standing with the university, which means no holds, balances must be paid in full, so on and so forth.”

Anthony Micco, a senior computer science major, joined the Study Abroad program in the fall semester through the International Student Advisory Board. He said the Study Abroad program is a way for students to experience life outside the U.S.

“It’s quite similar here, but there’s also a lot of differences. The experience of being outside the U.S., being independent and getting that experience is something I would highly recommend,” Micco said.



YSU plans to expand its Study Abroad program.

Photos courtesy of ysu.edu



# From classroom to vineyard

By Keon Edington  
Jambar Contributor

When Youngstown State University's communication professor Cary Wecht is not teaching the next generation of students, she's operating Cove W Winery in Deerfield.

The winery, located on Berlin Lake, opened three years ago and is co-owned by Wecht and her husband, Dave Wilson.

The couple started the winery as a passion project for their family. After buying the property four years ago, the winery's purpose changed over time. "The more we sat there and looked at the property, the more we thought we should do something with it," Wecht said.

With no prior knowledge of how to run a business, Wecht said she and her husband turned to family to help set up their establishment.

Julia Depinto, Wilson's daughter and part-time bartender, said her bartending experience was an asset to the couple.

"[Wilson] and [Wecht] obviously have no experience, so I was able to provide that kind of help in the time being until they got their bartenders up to speed," Depinto said.

In addition to handcrafted wine, the owners make their own beer and have added food options including burgers, hotdogs and ribs. The winery also began its own food truck.

"We have some really interesting flavoring concepts with our wine," Wecht said. "We try to make it fun and give it a little bit of personality."

Wecht said the business ensures the quality of its wine stays consistent, as any mistake can damage a specific wine.

"It will either spoil or referment," Wecht said. "You want to make sure your flavors are good and pleasing to people."

With other wineries across the region, Wecht said what sets hers apart is the inclusion of a waterfront deck.

"It's on the water, the boats come right up and the beach right on our property," Wecht said. "People can come up in their bathing suits. It has an island feel."

The deck includes two spaces, one by the water and another by a wine tasting building with picnic tables.

Depinto said the positive feedback from customers keeps the business alive.

"It's hard to kind of put into words how positive the feedback's been and how much people have really enjoyed being there," Depinto said. "It's really cool to see that, like [Wecht] and [Wilson] brought that to the Lake Berlin community."

Like any business, the winery doesn't come without challenges. Wecht said her and Wilson had to learn the intricacies of operating a business, including taking safety classes.

"We had to learn food safety requirements, point of sale systems and customer service," Wecht said. "It was a steep learning curve."

The company has now expanded its staff to a team that includes bartenders, food truck operators, cooking and cleaning staff. Family members help when needed.

In the future, Cove W Winery plans to develop a third yard space featuring shaded areas and expanded parking for customers.

"We've been pouring money into the [winery]," Wecht said. "Hopefully we can actually make some money this year."

The venue is open from Memorial Day weekend to Oct. 1. Cove W hours range from noon-9 p.m. on Friday-Saturday and Sundays from noon-5 p.m.



Photos courtesy of Cove W Winery on Facebook

Cary Wecht and Dave Wilson started Cove W Winery as a passion project.

# Not defined by degrees

**By Nicarlyle Hanchard**  
Jambar Contributor

Stacey Adger, a Youngstown State University alumna and dispatcher for the YSU Police Department, is one of many college graduates who've not been defined by their major.

Among her numerous career achievements, Adger is a renowned baker. She said time management is key to balancing all her roles.

"You make time for things that are important. I like baking because that is a de-stressor for me," Adger said. "You see a lot of things in law enforcement — and in life — and you need to find an outlet. For me, that outlet is baking."

Adger said baking is one way she gives back to her family and community.

"Your family and your service to the community are important," Adger said. "We always need to find ways to improve the community and give back, and so, that's one of the things I really like about where I'm at now."

At a young age, Adger started cooking and baking from her mother's teachings. She continues the tradition to honor her mother.

"I enjoy doing it because it just takes you back to simpler times, and for me, it reconnects me with my mother and aunt," Adger said.

Adger enjoys baking because of the simplicity of mixing different ingredients to create baked goods for people to enjoy.

Volunteering on the boards of the Mahoning Valley Historical Society and the Ohio Genealogy Conference has allowed her to acknowledge the culinary arts as a family tradition.

The Historical Society hosts the event Cookie Table and Cocktails, where there is a baking competition. Adger has placed several times over the years, but believes she will continue to improve.

Though baking is a personal pleasure, Adger said friends and family members often enlist her services during the holiday season.

When Adger isn't baking, she works as a dispatcher. Before that, she worked in broadcast news for nearly 20 years.

Adger graduated from YSU in 1988 with a degree in telecommunications. She said at the time the degree was newly introduced.

Adger said college graduates entering media, or any specialized field, should be flexible

"Get your education, learn what you can here and then, once you get that piece of paper, you're off. Find your niche, find who you are and be you."

— **Stacy Adger,**  
YSU alumna and YSU Police  
dispatcher

as life happens and will have to adjust accordingly.

"I always thought I was going to be a radio DJ, end up at a big station and everything, and then I got into the field and realized there were many different avenues — news, television and community affairs," Adger said. "You have to be open and receptive to whatever lies ahead of you."

She said although the media landscape has changed over time, a communications degree enables those in the field to branch out into multiple fields.

She also said that a degree is one way to open the door to other opportunities.

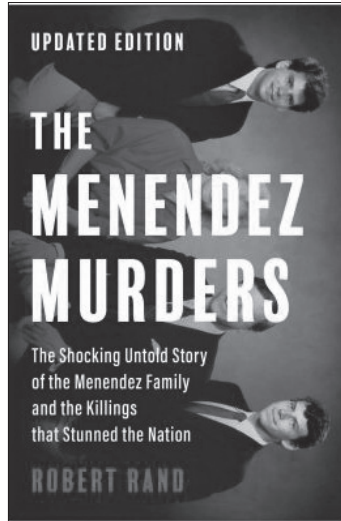
"Get your education, learn what you can here and then, once you get that piece of paper, you're off," Adger said. "Find your niche, find who you are and be you."



Photo by Nicarlyle Hanchard / Jambar Contributor

**Stacey Adger, Dispatcher, YSU Police Department.**

# Penguin Book Nook with The Public Library

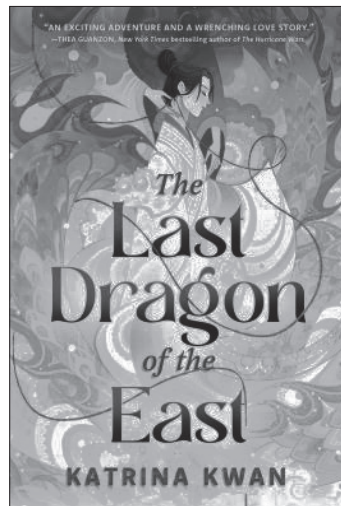


## Nonfiction review

### **The Menendez Murders: The Shocking Untold Story of the Menendez Family and the Killings that Stunned the Nation**

by Robert Rand

This is an updated edition by the Emmy Award-winning journalist who has been covering the Menendez brothers case since 1989. Recommended for those who watched the Netflix drama and documentary and want to learn more about this compelling true crime story.



## Fiction review

### **The Last Dragon of the East**

by Katrina Kwan

Two bound lovers Sai and Jyn by a single strand of fate set off on a journey to find a cure for Sai's mother's illness. But little do they know that the string of fate that holds them together may have a significant meaning that relates to their own past lives.

## Upcoming programs

**Wednesday, Jan. 15**

6 p.m.

Cafecitos y Libros

**Thursday, Jan. 16**

6 p.m.

Sewing 101

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

## Welcome back, again

Welcome back again, Penguins. What a time for us to be the Penguins, am I right? Whether you even sojourned through the blizzard onto campus this week or you're reading this from the comfort of your warm homes, welcome back. Let's make this semester "lit," as the youngsters say.

I know you may be wondering, "What did you do over winter break, Matt Sotlar?" My reply? Not much. What is there to do when it's freezing cold and there's snow and ice everywhere? Sit back and write, and that's what I did. I wrote this column in the middle of a snowstorm.

Having an entire month off, I had plenty of time to explore a lot more diverse genres of music. I didn't listen to just a few albums, I dug deep. All types of artists too — Scritti Politti, Joy Division, Aztec Camera, Big Country, Visage, anything I could get my hands on. The weirder, the better.

How were the holidays? They were okay. We all get to a certain point in our lives where holidays are a little less magical than when we were young. I enjoyed Christmas. I got plenty of nice gifts and a fair deal of money, but it wasn't as fun as it used to be.

I went far and wide over winter break, from New Castle, Pennsylvania all the way to Lisbon. What a worldly, scholarly man I am. I also had to stop and get new winter tires before the start of the semester. An expensive investment, but it's worth not skidding off into a ditch.

I did plenty of reading over the break. If you did not know, I am a huge fan of horror and thrillers, especially old horror



**Matthew Sotlar**

like H.P. Lovecraft, Algernon Blackwood and Ambrose Bierce — all of which are perfect names for cats.

Now, we are in a new semester. We are in a new year, with new opportunities for success. I say we should all seize this opportunity and use it to our advantage. We only have one New Year's Day, and we all make baseless resolutions out of societal pressure, but how many people can say they followed their resolutions?

I know you all don't want another pep talk from Coach Matt. Well, guess what? You're getting another pep talk.

This is 2025, the Year of the Snake. Chinese symbology notes that snakes are courageous and intelligent creatures. Now, while this may sound wrong, act like snakes this year.

Learn something new, take a chance and be daring. You only live once, make the most of it. Those were all posters my computer teacher hung up in her classroom in high school. Why do I remember them? I never paid a lot of attention in computer class.

More than likely, we'll have one more column by me this year. Who knows how 2025 will go? All we can do is hope for the best and above all, be our best.

# The Jambar Editorial

## A look back at 2024, The Jambar's top stories

A new semester at Youngstown State University ushers in another busy four months for The Jambar.

2024 was arguably the biggest year for the publication, in terms of online viewership and newsworthy content. The-jambar.com had over a combined 2,000 views on various stories written by current and former Jambar staff members.

Although it's impossible to count the amount of paper views, The Jambar website has tracked its online viewership with the help of WordPress.com.

Through 12 editions of the publication and countless articles, The Jambar has compiled a top five list of its most viewed stories of 2024.

Starting the list at No. 5 is "The arts push back against cuts" written by former Copy Editor Elizabeth Coss.

In the first week of 2024, YSU announced its plan to sunset four music degrees in the Dana School of Music.

A petition was created and backed by both YSU alumni and current students to "Save Dana" on Jan. 5 in response to the cuts.

The petition gained over 7,000 signatures and several protests were held to combat the cuts on the programs, which many feared was the end of Dana.

Two articles tied at the No. 4 spot, each garnering 181 views. Another story by Coss makes the list with "Cutting down to business; YSU ends six degrees."

The 2024 spring semester was met with uncertainty, as YSU began its agenda to sunset six programs. From a Bachelor of Arts in Geography to a Master of Music in Jazz Studies, those degrees were phased out because of low enrollment.

Two months later, former Sports Editor John Ostapowicz wrote "From bedroom pop to Boycott." The article depicted the musical journey of indie pop and indie rock band, Boycott.

Multi-instrumentalist Scott Hermo Jr. formed the band in 2015. Since the band's formation, tracks such as "Nova Scotia 500" and "Killer Whale" have a combined 50 million streams on Spotify.

The spring semester was also YSU President Bill Johnson's first year at the university. His first few months were met with mixed reviews.

Former Editor-in-Chief Molly Burke and former News Editor Christopher Gillett wrote a collaborative article titled, "Students to walkout on Johnson's first day."

The story focused on YSU students organizing a walk out against Johnson's presidency at 10 a.m. Jan. 10 outside of Tod Hall. The information within the published work grabbed the attention of over 200 viewers, which ranks at No. 3 on the list.

Recently rising to the No. 2 spot is "Goodbye to Google" by Burke. Google is one of the most used programs in the world and at YSU, it's no longer supported on campus-owned devices.

The announcement was made in early February because of YSU's increase in cybersecurity attacks over a 12-month span.

A surprise entry at No. 1 is an editorial written by former Managing Editor and Associate Producer Dylan Lux titled, "Who's going to win the Super Bowl?"

Lux's article has cemented itself as one of the most viewed on The Jambar website with 418 total interactions.

Looking back at the article, Lux got the winner of Super Bowl LVIII correct, as the Kansas City Chiefs' organization hoisted its second-straight Vince Lombardi Trophy.

With Johnson's one-year anniversary approaching Jan. 22 and Super Bowl LIX in February, it's quite possible bigger news is on its way in 2025.

# 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](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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# Track and Field heats up and chills out

By **Marissa Masano**  
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University track and field teams split up to open its 2024-25 season.

Some Penguins stayed at home Dec. 6, 2024 for the YSU Icebreaker presented by Southwoods Health, while others traveled to the Grand Valley State University Holiday Open in Allendale, Michigan.

A day later, Youngstown State traveled to the Sharon Colyear-Danville Season Opener, hosted by Boston University.

Inside the Watson and Tressel Training Site, Youngstown State won six events, along with a school record from fifth-year senior Madison Murry.

Murry set a school record with a time of 8.36 seconds in the 60-meter hurdles. In the finals, the Ohio native placed first with a time of 8.39 seconds. Her preliminary time sits atop the Horizon League and is tenth in the country.

In the men's 60-meter hurdles, senior Luke Laubacher clocked a personal best of 7.72 seconds in the prelims. This time is also the top time in the Horizon League and

second in the country. Laubacher won the event with a time of 7.77 seconds in the finals.

Junior Emmanuel Asabere won the men's long jump with a jump of 7.45 meters. In his school debut, Asabere set a new personal record, which ranks first in the Horizon League and sixth in the country.

In the men's high jump, freshman Noah Crozier and senior Zachary Webb shared the win as both cleared 2.05 meters. In the women's pole vault, sophomore Kaitlyn Eger and juniors Melana Schumaker and Ainsley Hamsher all cleared a height of 3.90 meters to share the victory.

The Penguins swept the podium in the women's shot put. Placing first was freshman Brooklyn McIntyre with a throw of 12.76 meters. Freshmen Olivia Mason and Grace Bundy finished second and third, reaching 12.41 meters and 11.11 meters, respectively.

After the meet, the team claimed three of the four Under Armour Horizon League Track and Field Indoor Athletes of the Week awards. Laubacher and Murry were named Men's and Women's Runner of the Week, and Asabere was named the Men's Field Athlete of the Week.

At the GVSU Holiday Open, the men's and women's teams competed in the 5000 meter.

Senior Tobias Jones led the Penguins with a fifth-place finish. He posted a time of 14:19.93. Junior Owen Brady placed 11th with a time of 14:27.95, while senior Thomas Caputo placed 12th with a mark of 14:27.95.

For the women's team, junior Jenna Razavi placed 13th with a time of 17:29.80. All four Penguins set personal-best times at the meet.

Three runners competed in the 5000 meter at the Sharon Colyear-Danville Season Opener. Fifth-year senior Hunter Christopher lowered his school record by eight seconds, posting a time of 13:38.45 and placed 41st overall.

Sophomore McKinley Fielding ran a career-best time of 16:55.23. Fielding's time is now third fastest in school history for the indoor event.

After the university's winter break, the team will return home at 12 p.m. Jan. 17 for the YSU College Invitational, presented by Southwoods Health.

The event will be held inside the WATTS as both the men's and women's teams will celebrate its seniors.

# Swim dives into Open Water Championship

By **Joel Fuzo**  
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University distance teams made waves Dec. 12, 2024 at the College Swimming & Diving Coaches Association of America Open Water Championship, hosted by Florida International University.

The championship was held at Biscayne Bay in Florida. In total, 108 swimmers competed in the women's 5K competition.

Junior Miriam Frass led the way on the women's side in the 5K, with a time of 1:06:40. Frass earned second place in the event.

Freshman Olivia Sweetman and senior Hailey Clark followed with back-to-back finishes in 45th and 46th place, swimming times of 1:10:25 and 1:10:35, respectively.

Freshman Morgan Glass was just behind in 48th at 1:10:44, while senior Macy Wang rounded out the Penguins' efforts by placing 70th with a time of 1:13:15.

The women's team finished eighth overall among 19 Division I squads.

The men's team kicked off the action at 8 a.m. in the 5K race, showcasing a strong collective effort.

Fifth-year Gavin Webb led the Penguins with a 10th-place finish out of 95 competitors, clocking in at 1:01:22.

Freshman Poyraz San Askin was close behind, finishing 11th with a time of 1:01:25, while fifth-year Crispy Barton placed 42nd with a time of 1:06:17.

Sophomore David Grant and freshman Ethan Woycehoski added consistent finishes, coming in 57th and 59th with times of 1:09:03 and 1:09:05, respectively.

Youngstown State finished in fourth-place among 11 Division I programs.

The Penguins will now shift their focus back to the pool, as they prepare for Horizon League competition against Indiana University Indianapolis at 5 p.m. Jan. 10 and 10 a.m. Jan. 11.



Photo courtesy of ysusports.com

Distance swimmers competed in the 2024 CSCAA Open Water Championships

# 'Guins, twins and wins

By Teziah Howard  
The Jambar

As the fall semester concluded in early December, the Youngstown State University women's basketball team was just getting started.

The team began Horizon League play Dec. 4, 2024 against Northern Kentucky University, and ended with a win. A quick and humbling turnaround found the Penguins in Columbus to face The Ohio State University.

Fortunately for the Penguins, they weren't completely unfamiliar with the Buckeyes. However, the same could be said about familiar faces on the YSU side.

Senior Haley Thierry went head-to-head with her twin sister and fellow senior Taylor Thierry. The Thierry sisters played a combined 40 minutes on the court, in an 87-39 statement win for Ohio State.

Haley Thierry expressed her emotions leading up to the matchup and how they impacted her and Taylor's family.

"I texted the family group chat and told them we'd be playing Ohio State and everyone was so excited. I told our high school friends and teachers," Thierry said. "Some of them came up for the game so it was a great and fun environment to be in."

The Penguins returned to Beeghly Center to face the University of Detroit Mercy on Dec. 18, 2024. In a hard-fought divisional matchup, the Penguins were defeated 65-58. The Titans gave the Penguins their first home and conference loss of the season.

The 'Guins had a quick, three-day turnaround to play Point Park University back inside Beeghly Center. YSU won in convincing fashion over the Biso, 85-42.

Young talent was on the rise in the matchup, as freshman Sophia Gregory recorded one of the best games in her early career. Gregory posted the fourth most points by a freshman in Youngstown State's Division I era, as she dropped 28 points against Point Park.

After the game, Head Coach Melissa Jackson said what traits she stresses to her team as the season progresses.

"We talk a lot about being disciplined, both offensively and defensively. A big point of emphasis for us offensively was sharing the ball, so I love seeing 25 assists from our group," Jackson said. "I thought we had some great offensive possessions and played with pace."

With the win over Point Park, the Penguins concluded nonconference play and will finish the season with a stretch of Horizon League opponents. The Penguins traveled to Indianapolis for a matchup against Indiana University Indianapolis.

Youngstown State was defeated 65-50 on the road. The Penguins looked to bounce back on a short week as they faced the University of Purdue Fort Wayne. The Mastodons handed the Penguins their second-straight loss.

YSU will host the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay today at 6:30 p.m. inside Beeghly Center.



Twins, Haley Thierry (right) and Taylor Thierry (left), battled in Columbus.

Photos courtesy of ysusports.com

# Penguins thrive in winter

By Dylan Lux  
The Jambar

After a 73-62 loss to Western Michigan University on Nov. 27, 2024, the Youngstown State University men's basketball team has won eight of its last nine contests.

The team hosted Bethany College inside the Zidian Family Arena at Beeghly Center. YSU prevailed 128-60, which started an eight-game win streak for the 'Guins.

Next up for the Penguins were two Horizon League foes — Robert Morris University on Dec. 4, 2024 and Oakland University on Dec. 7, 2024.

In the matchup against the Colonials, junior Juwan Maxey led the game with 16 points. He also tallied four rebounds and recorded zero turnovers en route to a 72-58 victory for the Penguins in their first conference matchup.

Against Oakland, YSU held the Golden Grizzlies to 50 points on 35% shooting from the field. The 'Guins emerged victorious in a 66-50 battle to move to 2-0 in league play.

A week later, Dec. 14 2024, Youngstown State faced Mid-American Conference opponent the University of Toledo in Beeghly Center. This was the Penguins' second MAC foe of the season, after facing off against Western Michigan.

The 'Guins got their revenge on the MAC, winning 93-87 over the Rockets.

Sophomore Gabe Dynes had nine blocks in the contest and credited his teammates for forcing the Rockets to drive, allowing him to use his 7-foot 3-inch frame to alter shots.

"That's a big part of my game is being my size," Dynes said. "I can't really do anything without my teammates' help — it's really just them funneling their guys to me so I can block a shot."

The team traveled to Dayton for a matchup with Wright State University, where they emerged victorious 80-70 for their fifth-straight win.

For YSU's second-to-last non-conference game of the year, it faced the University of South Carolina Upstate on Dec. 21, 2024 in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Youngstown State prevailed, with its sixth-straight victory, 72-64.

To end 2024 on Dec. 29, the 'Guins hosted the University of Detroit Mercy, where three Penguins scored in double figures, helping YSU secure a 73-64 victory.

Back-to-back road games in Indiana were next for the 'Guins, as they traveled to play Indiana University Indi-

anapolis and the University of Purdue-Fort Wayne in a four-day span.

Head Coach Ethan Faulkner said he's seen great strides from his team recently, but there's always room to improve.

"We've certainly made a lot of improvement over the last four to five weeks," Faulkner said. "There's certainly growth for our team, but I'm pleased with where we're at."

The 'Guins continued their winning streak with a 77-61 win over IU Indy on Jan. 1.

Purdue Fort Wayne proved to be a formidable opponent for YSU, snapping its winning streak. The Mastodon's scored 90 points, the most the Penguins have allowed in regulation this season.

PFW came away with a 90-81 victory over the 'Guins, dropping Youngstown State to 5-1 in conference play.

Youngstown State will play its next two games inside Beeghly Center against Horizon League foes.

The Penguins faced Northern Kentucky University on Jan. 8 and will square off against Cleveland State University on Jan. 11.

Both games will be broadcasted live on ESPN+ and 570 WKBN.



Gabe Dynes (top) and Chris Carroll (bottom) helped lead the 'Guins to an eight-game win streak.

Photos (top) courtesy of ysusports.com and (bottom) courtesy of Robert Hayes