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## YSU UNDERGRADS **PLACE** THIRD IN FINANCE COMPETITION



From left to right: Nicholas Conti, Samantha Anderson, Kayla Cerimele, Dr. Fran Wolf, Conner Kesner and Simon Rafidi.

STORY: LAUREN FOOTE | LAURENLEONAL@GMAIL.COM | PHOTO COURTESY OF: NICHOLAS CONTI

Six undergraduates in the Williamson College of Business Administration placed third at the Chartered Financial Analyst Research Challenge in Cleveland.

The team, comprised of Nicholas Conti, Samantha Anderson, Kayla Cerimele, Conner Kesner and Simon Rafidi, competed at the regional level against other teams from Ohio.

Students make, buy, sell or hold recommendations on publicly traded companies. For this competition, they submitted a report on Signet Jewelers.

"This is something that an investor would buy from a research company to make a recommendation to their clients," Conti said.

This is the first time Youngstown State University has participated in the competition. They competed against nine other schools with several years' experience and a combination of graduate and undergraduate students.

"Most of the people in the competition were masters level students that

have competed in something like this before," Kesner said. "We had to essentially develop our own template, our own framework, being undergraduate students."

He said about half the report — including the analysis and evaluation — is stuff undergraduates only see in their highest level finance courses, if at all.

"It was a lot of outside work, a lot of pulling together from outside sources. It was a lot of stuff from outside of class being pulled together," Kesner said.

Conti and Kesner partnered up to prepare for the competition and recruited Anderson, Cerimele and Rafidi because of what they could bring to the team.

The team performed financial analysis on the company, looking at not just the company itself, but the industry as a whole. They prepared an in-depth research report and oral presentation.

The students visited Signet's Akron headquarters in October to speak to

the company's investor relations representative.

Conti said the project took over 150 hours to finish and get ready for competition.

"Sometimes you could see us at Williamson working until 3 a.m. just to get everything together," Conti said. "We submitted the project the day it was due, and it was an arduous process."

He said it was a learning experience, and he was impressed with the performance given their relative inexperience.

"We really did well in the oral presentation," Conti said. "The judges said that all the top three teams were really close."

Following the presentation, there is a question and answer session with the judges.

"We were able to answer questions about future growth, where we see some advantages over the competitors, etc.," Kesner said. "We seemed to have better comprehensive knowledge than the other groups ... based

on our scores and how we felt about it afterwards."

Rafidi said they were motivated by wanting to represent YSU in a positive way.

"A competition like this is very new to our college and our university," Rafidi said. "We wanted to get out there and show what our college could offer to other students, especially when they are considering other schools that are more expensive or are more easily recognized."

Kesner said he hopes they helped pave the way for future groups that compete in the research challenge.

"That is what we were most excited about," Kesner said. "How much we were able to talk about this experience in interviews, and how we can get other people in our major and our field ready for something like this."

Conti said they would be available to assist or coach a future group, helping to guide them through the process.



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## BECOME A MASTER OF *Athletic Training*

STORY: SAMANTHA PHILLIPS | [SPHILLIPS@STUDENT.YSU.EDU](mailto:SPHILLIPS@STUDENT.YSU.EDU)  
PHOTO: SAMANTHA PHILLIPS

Youngstown State University will offer a Master of Athletic Training in the fall 2016 semester.

Jennifer Pintar, chair of exercise science, said they are excited to bring this grad program to YSU.

"We started the process about a year-and-a-half ago ... because

there was so much interest from the community for athletic trainers," Pintar said.

She and an athletic trainer at YSU began writing the proposal for the grad program, and when Jessica Wallace, assistant professor of exercise science, was hired, she helped write the final proposal.

Wallace said the goal of the program is for people to become certified athletic trainers. After a student graduates, he or she must also get a medical license and pass a national certification exam to practice athletic training.

Wallace said she is anticipating about 15 to 20 applications for the

fall 2016 semester.

"I think the first year will be the most uncertain year because it's brand new, and we have to get the word out," Wallace said. "As we get up and rolling, we expect the popularity to grow, word to get out and to get much higher admissions."

Pintar said there are

two options available for someone who wants to obtain their MAT.

A student who is receiving a degree in exercise science has the option of doing the 4+1 program to obtain their bachelor in exercise science and their MAT within five years.

Students not majoring in exercise science will need to enroll in the two-year program.

The program focuses on five domains: anatomy and physiology, pharmacology, health-care administration, gross anatomy and illnesses.

These comprehensive courses ensure that students will be competent in athletic training as well as treating sports injuries.

"We look at an athletic trainer as a total healthcare professional for people who are involved in sports and people who are physically active," Wallace said.

There will be a large amount of clinical work and observation, but Pintar said research is also an important component of the program.

"We are going to incorporate research projects as well as opportunities for data collection and evidence based practices within this program," Pintar said. "Students will do a capstone project and will be involved in a line of research or some type of project that peaks their interest."

The topics for their research can be anything from concussions, to sickle cell diseases or rotator cuff tears.

"Whatever sparks their interest, they will be able to find that niche and complete a

capstone project on that," Pintar said.

Wallace said there are always job opportunities for athletic trainers within the National Athletic Trainers Association, but students are likely to find job opportunities while completing their clinical rotations.

"They will be placed at a clinical site, where they will gain clinical experience and training," Wallace said. "So upon that they can find this avenue of athletic training they really like, whether it's collegiate athletics, professional athletics, high school athletics and follow a career trajectory."

Ericka Armeni, an exercise science major, is interested in enrolling in the program.

"It will open the doors to higher level jobs," Armeni said. "After graduation, I would like to find a job as a trainer on a college campus or with the masters be able to run a rec center like ours."

She said it's a very hands-on degree. Students will engage in classroom education in the mornings and experience clinical education in the afternoons.

"We're very excited about this program, and we do believe it's going to shine a very positive spotlight not only on our department but the university as a whole," Pintar said.

She said the plan is to engage the community with the program.

"You'll see our MAT students working with high school students, working with college athletes, so it's going to be great for touchpoints all around," Pintar said.

## LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS COMPETE IN YSU PHYSICS OLYMPICS

STORY: JEFFERY BASH | [JBASH@STUDENT.YSU.EDU](mailto:JBASH@STUDENT.YSU.EDU) | PHOTO COURTESY: CYNTHIA SMOTZER

Students from 15 local high schools participated in the 38th annual Physics Olympics this weekend at Youngstown State University.

Physics Olympics consists of multiple events, from creating musical instruments to expressing environmental concerns through art and pursuing sustainable energy solutions.

Cynthia Smotzer, professor of physics at YSU, organized the Physics Olympics. She has coordinated the event for the past five years.

"The physics Olympics began in 1978," Smotzer said. "It brings together high school physics students competing in 12 events that show how they have

applied basic physics principles. The schools come from Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull counties in Ohio and also from western Pennsylvania."

Smotzer said participating in the physics Olympics helps students become problem solvers.

"Things happen such as a rubber band breaks, a wheel sticks or something breaks, and they figure out how to fix it," Smotzer said. "They are immersed in the scientific process and are part of a scientific community."

Eamon Moore, sophomore at Farrell High School, has been part of a robotics team at his local high school and was

interested in attending.

"The way that I got involved was my second period class is robotics from the same teacher and since he has two other physics classes we ended up joining up," Moore said.

Robert McMurdy, another sophomore from Farrell, was also interested because of the robotics team and the chance to team up with Moore.

"I was actually the only one who originally wanted to be on the robotics team, but Eamon joined after me, and I think he enjoys it now," McMurdy said.

Caleb Hineman, a junior from LaBrea High School, was excited about build-

ing his transcript.

Caleb was joined by two other LaBrea seniors, Haley Davies and Emily Engler.

"It's an option at our school to take a science," Hineman said. "Not everyone takes it, but it really helps with your transcripts, and we didn't exactly know what we were getting into, but we knew it would be educational."

He said he wasn't supposed to be in physics but was assigned to it by accident.

"I found out they had an art competition," Hineman said. "Which is the major I want in college."

The students participating in the



events were challenged to use ping pong catapults, build a house of cards and even bounce eggs. During the egg bounce, they dropped eggs from a ledge and attempted to prevent them from

breaking by building protection for them.

Smotzer said students from Lisbon High School placed first followed by Lowellville High School and West Branch High School.



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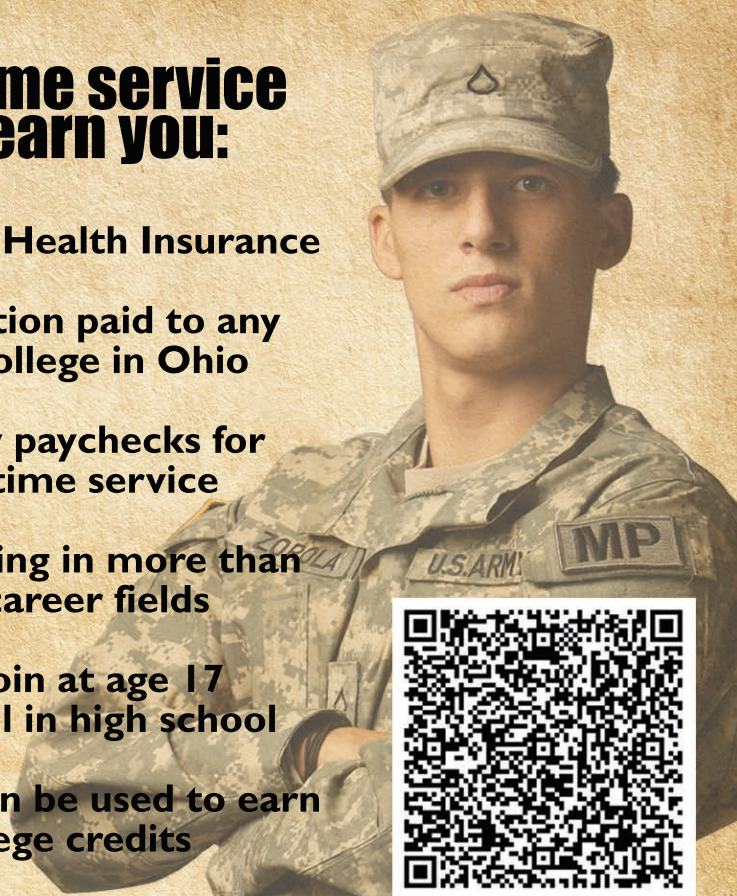
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# YO!

YO Magazine, The Jambar's semesterly features publication, is looking for YSU students to contribute. If you're interested in writing, send an email to: [yomagazine2@gmail.com](mailto:yomagazine2@gmail.com).

## NEWS BRIEF

### Northeast Ohio Robotics Competition at YSU

Middle and high school students from around the region will come to Youngstown State University for the 2016 Northeast Ohio Robotics Education Program on Wednesday, March 9 in Beeghly Center. The opening ceremony will begin at 9 a.m. and will be followed by team presentations and a concluding ceremony at 12:30 p.m.

### Studying the Jewish and Islamic Traditions Presentation

The next Studying the Jewish and Islamic Traditions presentation will focus on the Psalms this Tuesday on March 1. The event begins at 7 p.m. and is open to the public. The presentation will be held in the Gallery of the Kilcawley Center.

### "Music at Noon" Concerts Feature Percussion, Voice, Early Music and Brass

Youngstown State University Dana School of Music and The Butler Institute of American Art presents the Music at Noon performances on March 2, 16, 23 and 30. The concerts are free and open to the public. For more information, please call 330-941-2307.

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## YSU Student Organization Honors Dr. Seuss with Read ACROSS AMERICA DAY

CONTRIBUTOR:  
MARC WEEMS

The Youngstown Student Education Association is holding its ninth annual Read Across America Day. Read across America is an event based around Dr. Seuss' birthday. This event gives Youngstown State University students with children aged 3-10 an opportunity to participate in a day of reading.

The event is being held on Saturday in the McKay Auditorium of the Beeghly College of Education.

William Palma, the social media director of the YSEA and the Ohio Student Education Association, spoke about the event as a whole.

"It's mainly education majors who volunteer, but really anyone is welcome to help out. We invite kids roughly aged 3-10 to come in with their families, so there are people of all ages running around the Beeghly College of Education."

He also noted that the event gives parents a chance to educate themselves about the necessity of reading just as the children do during the event.

Marissa Mraz, president of the YSEA, spoke about the important link between the university and the city.

"Read across America is an

event that is known nationally and put on by the National Education Association," Mraz says. "It is important that Youngstown and those affiliated with YSU see the presence of a campus student organization. We feel it necessary to promote literacy as the RAA event does all over the nation."

Demetrianna Antonelli, YSEA historian and a state representative for the OSEA, spoke about what the event holds for the children and parents who attend.

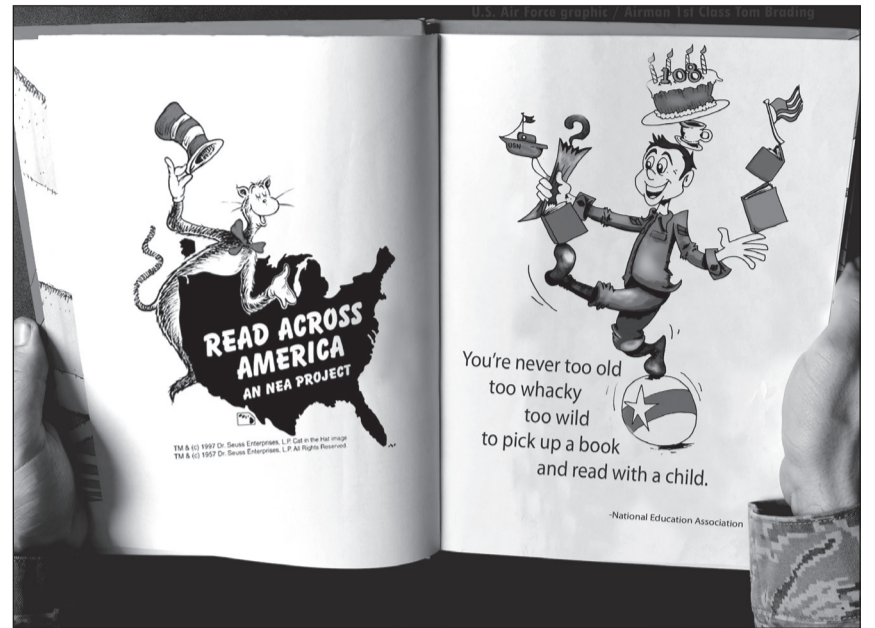
"We have a parent station, so the parents can gather information on reading and why it is important," Antonelli said. "There are different stations for each Dr. Seuss book, and the children express themselves by completing activities at each station."

She says that the event is im-

portant to the children because they learn the importance of reading for fun. It also allows the parents to have time away from their children while receiving an education on the benefits of reading.

"This event is so important because we focus on reading and how reading can be fun," Antonelli said. "I personally enjoy this event because I love seeing how the children react when you give them a sticker or when they are able to make something themselves."

The YSEA holds the event to further the educational work of Dr. Seuss. The event celebrates Seuss' 112th birthday. Seuss' work is world-renowned and has been around for more than 50 years.



"Airmen let loose, read books by Dr. Seuss" by Airman 1st Class Tom Brading is licensed under CC BY 2.0

## YSU Student Creates a Home for Future Veterinarians

STORY: SAMANTHA PHILLIPS  
SPHILLIPS@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF:  
COLLEEN MASKARINEC

When Colleen Maskarinec discovered there were no clubs at Youngstown State University for pre-veterinary medicine students, she formed the Pre-Vet Society.

The objective of the club is to reach out to the community of students who are interested in the veterinary field or learning more about animal science. She formed the club earlier this month, and it currently has 36 members.

"I want to be able to build networking connections not only for myself but for other students as well," Maskarinec said. "I want to help every single student who has the dream of being a vet."

One of the group's aims is to help students build their resumes and get the experience they need to be eligible for veterinary school. Maskarinec said students should shadow and work with local veterinarians and talk to students who have been through the application process.

She said some of the seniors have been through it already, so they can share knowledge with underclassmen on what they need to do.

Deborah Benyo, the club's faculty adviser, said to help reinforce the knowledge students will get about applying to vet schools, they will have an outside speakers answer questions about vet school and talk about the experience.

"They're going to do some hands on service projects at some of the area's humane societies," Benyo said.

She said they will also meet with other pre-vet students at conferences.

"I think that's really going to generate a lot of excitement for them and to connect with other students on other campuses that have pre-vet clubs also," Benyo said.

Benyo said the club is open to anyone who has a passion for animal care and humane practices of animal raising.

"Students in departments like engineering, they have a passion for animal care and want to be more well-rounded so that would be great exposure to



get not just kids in biology that are pre-vet majors, but students from around campus," she said.

Maskarinec said the club will benefit students who aren't sure where to begin in pursuing a veterinary career.

"It gives you a foot in the door. It will help with figuring out where you want to go," she said. "The more students we get together, the more opinions we'll have, the more knowledge we'll gain."

On March 10, the club will attend Akron Zoo Veterinary Day and go behind-the-scenes to see what the daily life of a zoo veterinarian is like.

"It's giving everybody something they can look forward to," Maskarinec said. "It's not just going to be farm animals or cats and dogs because [we want to show students a variety of what they could do]."

She said she hopes the club will have a wider appeal than just pre-vet biology majors.

"We also have a lot of engineering students that say [to build their resume] it's really good to get out of engineering field, to get into more of the medical side. They think dealing with animals and volunteering for different charities will [be beneficial]," Maskarinec said. "Part of it is they get to play with puppies and different animals, and who doesn't like that?"

Organizations like the Humane Society and 4-H

are already reaching out to the group.

Ashley Meade, a biology major, said the club gives her the chance to meet people in the field she wants to pursue.

"I hope to get some more hands on volunteering in animal shelters with them," Meade said. "I feel weird going to shelters to volunteer by myself. Now that they do too, I won't have to go alone."

Maskarinec is reaching out to local veterinarians, and some have said they will provide opportunities for job shadowing or assisting in surgeries.

The group is also working with high school students deciding on what major or program to pursue. They will be able to talk to these students about the programs they are involved in, what YSU has to offer and how their experience has been.

"It's cool because [it helps those students], and it will increase enrollment to YSU, especially for the science programs like biology and chemistry," she said.

Benyo praised Maskarinec's dedication to the club.

"This has been Colleen's idea, Colleen's passion," Benyo said. "She's a real go getter, doing it for the important reasons ... She's passionate about making this more than a club in name only."

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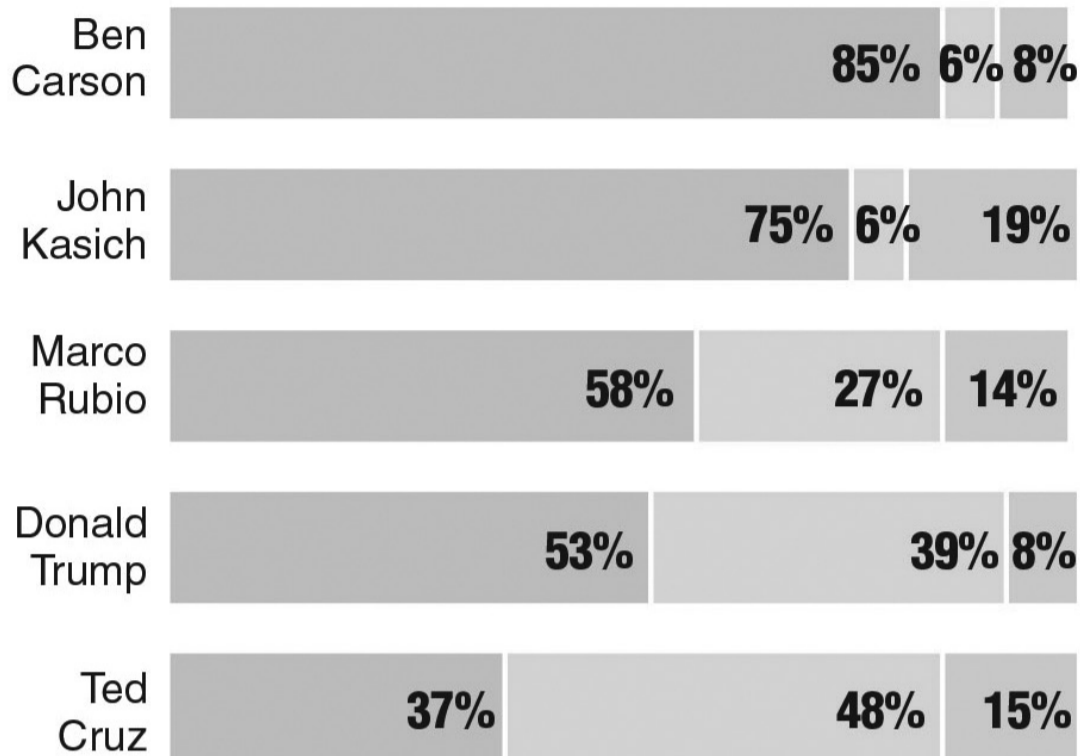
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## Behold the Brave

## PERFORMS AT THE SOAP GALLERY

STORY: AMANDA LEHNERD | [ARLEHNERD@STUDENT.YSU.EDU](mailto:ARLEHNERD@STUDENT.YSU.EDU) | PHOTO: AMANDA LEHNERD

Many braved the snow Thursday night to see a free show with Behold the Brave, a Tennessee psych-rock band, presented by Youngstown State University's Penguin Productions.

Behold The Brave, along with opening act Figurehead, a local Youngstown rock band, preformed at The SOAP Gallery in downtown Youngstown.

The show is part of Penguin Productions' Concerts with a Cause series. This series allows organizations the chance to set up a table during the event to raise funds, and the proceeds will go to that organization.

The organization that was featured at the show was YSU's Student Art Association. The SAA is a collection of artists in the student body that create art and sell it in the community.

According to YSU SAA President Annette Gottuso, what sets them apart from other groups is the ability to go to any event and do on-site screen-printing for the community.

The show at The SOAP Gallery opened with a performance from Figurehead, a progressive rock band that originated in northeast Ohio. The band's current lineup is Alex Hall on guitar and vocals, Dave Lynn also on guitar and vocals, Tim Wilderoder on bass and vocals and Mark Modarelli on drums.

"As a collective group the songs mean more to all of us when we write them or write parts of them," Lynn said. "All of our songs pass the sniff test — no one is playing anything they don't want to be, which allows us to go onstage and enjoy the show."

The band wanted to open the event because of its involvement with YSU student organizations.

"We like the idea that the YSU student association is throwing this event. It's like the linchpin for us," Wilderoder said. "Anyone could have been throwing this event, but what really makes it mean more to us is YSU invited us to play."

After Figurehead's set, Behold the Brave prepared to take the stage.

Behold the Brave originated in Chattanooga, Tennessee and moved to Nashville. The band's current lineup is Clayton Davis on lead guitar and vocals, Zach Randolph on guitar and vocals, Jeremiah Thompson on drums and Joel Parks on bass and vocals.

The band has been playing together since the end of college and is currently touring.

"Our typical audience is usually college-aged and early to mid-twenties," Davis said. "Our music is relatable, and we enjoy being able to cross over different genres of music to better relate to our audi-

ence and fans."

According to members of Behold the Brave, one facet of the band that sets them apart from others is that they each write their own songs. It's a collaborative process, and everyone can share his ideas.

The band has never been to Youngstown before but really enjoys the hospitality that has been shown.

"Everyone here is extremely hospitable, we have never been to Youngstown before so we didn't know what to expect," Thompson said. "We really like the vibe the city gives us and the people we have met from YSU."

The band plays an array of rock songs from soft to heavy bringing a dynamic energy to the stage.

"We enjoy playing the fast paced heavy rock songs that get the energy flowing," Randolph said. "All of our songs are a different piece of our art. Some have more meaningful lyrics than others."

The show closed with the band's favorite song, "Pigs or Pigs."

"As much as we play 'Pigs or Pigs,' it's the one song we all wrote together and has the most meaning to all of us," Parks said. "We usually close the show with 'Pigs or Pigs' because it's the one song everybody knows of ours, and it's our favorite."

# Honors' Got Talent

The Youngstown State Honors College hosted its fourth annual Talent Show in Kilcawley Center on Feb. 24. The event showcased the extracurricular talents of YSU students and raised money for the Honors Relay for Life team.

Thirteen acts took the stage in the Chestnut Room, performing for other YSU students and families who attended the event. They were followed by a performance from the YSU acapella group PellaPenguins. The acts were observed by a panel of three judges, and the top three acts were recognized at the end of the night.

First place was awarded to seniors Alana Lesnansky and Jonathan Pohl for their singing and dancing duet. Lesnansky danced and Pohl sang in their performance of "Show Off" from "The Drowsy Chaperone."

Lesnansky said she and Pohl had been planning the performance since last year when they thought it would be nice to do an act together.

"The whole premise of the song is that she doesn't want to show off anymore, but she's just kidding," Lesnansky said. "We figured it would be funny since it's our senior year."

Lesnansky and Pohl said schoolwork does not conflict with keeping up with their talents. They said that the talent show is a great way to express other dimensions of themselves.

"I sang a lot in high school, and it's nice to still be able to showcase that," Pohl said.

JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR:  
JORDAN UNGER

Second place was awarded to Tommy Carnes, Mike Palagano and Efrain Velez for their performance of Metallica's "Enter Sandman." Third place was awarded to Christopher Poullas and his band's performance of an original piece.

Christine Novicky is a YSU alumni and has judged the talent show for the past four years. Novicky said that the participants are reviewed by five criteria.

"We judge based on originality, entertainment value, audience appeal, skill level and overall esthetic appeal," Novicky said.

Amy Cossentino, the director of the Honors College at YSU, said that the first idea for the talent show came up during an Intro to Honors seminar in the spring of 2013.

"A couple of the students who were in that seminar seemed to be individuals who might take an interest in running that type of event," Cossentino said.

Cossentino said the talent show has been an annual event ever since.

The Honors Talent Show was founded by Alana Lesnansky and Kayla Zitello. Zitello said the organization of the event has improved since its first year running.

"The day of the show was a mess, and we've streamlined from that," Zitello said.

The founders said they've learned to organize the

acts more effectively and take care of things with more timeliness.

This year's show was organized by a committee of five students. Lesnansky said several of the younger committee members are expected to take over next year.

"We brought in a couple of sophomores now to help us," Lesnansky said, "So next year, when we graduate, someone knows how to [run the show]."

Stagehands also volunteered the night of the show to move equipment and props on the stage.

Zitello said the talent show is a significant way to stay involved on campus.

"It gives them a way to showcase their talents outside of the classroom," Zitello said.

All of the proceeds from the talent show supported the YSU Honors Relay for Life team. The YSU Relay for Life will begin at 6:00 p.m. in Beeghly Center on April 15. The overnight event will raise money for the American Cancer Society.

The YSU Relay for Life will feature activities through the night as people walk for cancer awareness, including Zumba, dancing, movies and games.

Kirstie Feorene is the Honors Relay for Life team captain. Feorene said it is an event that everyone needs to experience.

"Everyone is coming together for this common goal, which is such a pure thing," Feorene said. "It's just an absolutely wonderful room to walk into."

# YO!

YO Magazine, The Jambar's semesterly features publication, is looking for YSU students to contribute. If you're interested in writing, send an email to: [yomagazine2@gmail.com](mailto:yomagazine2@gmail.com).

### EDITORIAL:

## Forget it Dave, it's Youngstown

Misdemeanor or felony,  
corruption is corruption.

Youngstown Mayor John McNally pleaded guilty to four misdemeanors on Friday. The prosecutor that negotiated the plea deal allowed McNally to remain in office. Considering he was initially charged with 18 felonies, he got off rather light.

Dave Betras, chairman of the Mahoning County Democratic Party, is calling for the mayor's resignation. Others in the party, including three council members and the city's law director, expressed relief that the case was behind them, and the mayor can remain in office.

None of the mayor's supporters seem concerned about having someone in charge of the city who admitted to committing acts of corruption while holding an elected office. Perhaps that's because this is business as usual for Youngstown.

From the legendarily corrupt Congressman Jim Traficant to more recent examples of former County Treasurer Lisa Antonini, her predecessor John Reardon, former State Rep. Ronald Gerberry and McNally's co-defendant former County Auditor Michael Sciortino, criminal convictions among Democratic politicians is de rigueur.

Mark Munroe, chairman of the Mahoning County Republican Party, said in a comment to the Vindicator about McNally's plea that this is just another black eye delivered to the Mahoning Valley by the Democratic Party.

Sure, he is motivated by self interest, but he's not wrong. Perhaps this is the inevitable result of having one party dominate local politics. Without an opposition to keep you in check, it's easy for things to get out of hand. It seems that voters are beginning to agree. Ralph Meacham, Sciortino's replacement as Mahoning County auditor, was the first Republican elected to countywide office in 30 years.

So while we laud Betras's call for McNally to step down, it is just the latest in a long line of transgressions. Retroactive requests for resignation are not enough, Betras needs to address the source of the problem. Why does his party continually support candidates who can't complete a term in office without committing a crime? If he can't figure that out, maybe he needs to step down too.

As for McNally, The Jambar has enjoyed a good relationship with the mayor. We believe he has done a lot of good for the city during his time in office. But if the city truly wants to progress, it needs to stop harboring criminals in city hall. An attitude of, "but this one is a really good guy," just helps perpetuate the area's negative reputation.

It's bad enough that he committed a crime while in office, we don't need to keep him there now that it's been confirmed.

Misdemeanor or felony, corruption is corruption.

## Why 'Spotlight' Took the Top Prize

KENNETH TURAN | LOS ANGELES TIMES (TNS)

It was a year of two films. Until it wasn't.

It was a year of small but well-placed surprises, right up to the end.

It was the year "Spotlight," the third film on everyone's list of top three finishers, came from behind and walked off with the best picture trophy.

An impeccable ensemble picture that polished classic Hollywood virtues to a splendid shine, "Spotlight" won the first Oscar of the night, for original screenplay, and then had to wait three-plus hours for another trip to the stage.

In between, two other films traded momentum, with both looking at times like they had what it took to go all the way.

Fastest out of the box was the visual fantasamagoria that is "Mad Max: Fury Road," reeling off six Oscars in the richly deserved below-the-line categories, a real tribute to the astonishing imagination of director George Miller.

"Mad Max" reached the height of its run when it took the editing Oscar (marvelous work by Margaret Sixel) that was expected to go to "The Big Short."

But "Mad Max's" momentum stalled just two awards later when the visual effects award it was favored to win went to the unnerving "Ex Machina."

Periodic surprises like that

were the order of the night. Just when we were getting comfortable with favorites taking it all, out came a monkey wrench, like Jimmy Napes and Sam Smith winning for song over Dianne Warren and Lady Gaga.

And then there was Mark Rylance besting Sylvester Stallone for supporting actor.

In the program's middle section, things got surprisingly balanced, with no less than six dramatic features — "The Hateful Eight," "Room," "The Danish Girl," "The Big Short" as well as "Ex Machina" and "Bridge of Spies" taking home one Oscar apiece.

But toward the end, "The Revenant" with victories for Alejandro G. Inarritu for director and Leonardo DiCaprio for lead actor, added Emmanuel Lubezki's record third straight cinematography Oscar, appeared to pull away.

But deceptive appearances are an Oscar as well as a Hollywood tradition, and "Spotlight," the film I'd been telling people was going to take it all, actually won the prize for a variety of reasons.

Reason 1 was Oscar history. It seemed a given that Inarritu would win director after taking the DGA prize, but if "The Revenant" had won best picture as well, it would have marked the first time in the Oscar's 88 years that the same filmmaker had

won both director and best film two years running. The feeling for the film was just not strong enough to make that happen.

So what did "Spotlight" have that "The Big Short" did not? Three things:

It not only provided work for a lot of actors, it featured an actor (Tom McCarthy) who also co-wrote and directed. As "Good Will Hunting" proved years ago, actors, a big chunk of academy members like to see actors branching out.

It successfully clothed itself in the garb of significance, something that Oscar voters look on with favor. When I started to see ads saying things like "One Film Breaks the Silence, One Film Moved Us With the Truth," I started to see how "Spotlight" could win.

Finally, and perhaps most important, of all the three top contenders, "Spotlight" provided the most satisfyingly emotional experience, and it was honestly earned, unsentimental feeling at that.

Moments after Morgan Freeman announced "Spotlight's" win, an academy member friend who shared my belief in the film sent me the following brief email:

"We were right about 'Spotlight.'"

"Emotion usually wins best pic."

It certainly did Sunday night.

### JAMBAR POLICY

Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Collegiate Press honors. The Jambar is published twice weekly during the fall and spring semesters and weekly during the first summer session. Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. The first copy of The Jambar is free. Additional copies of The Jambar are \$1 each.

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# THE JAMBAR COM

## SPORTS EXTENDED

### Soccer's Here to Stay in America

STORY: DREW ZUHOSKY | DTUHOSKY@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

This Sunday, three months after the Portland Timbers took the MLS Cup title in a 2-1 victory over Columbus Crew SC in Columbus, those two teams will meet again in one of 10 matches played on the opening day of the Major League Soccer's 21st season.

Yes, there is a professional soccer league in this country, and it's gaining in popularity.

Just look at the attendance numbers from the 2015 MLS season. According to MLS figures, 7,335,053 supporters attended matches last year, accounting for an average of 21,574 spectators a match.

Additionally, half of the 20 MLS teams garnered an average of over 20,000 supporters per game last year, the most in a single MLS season — with Seattle Sounders FC leading the charge, welcoming 44,247 fans a game to CenturyLink Field.

However, the MLS has taken some licks from soccer pundits and critics around the world. In 2014, Arsene Wenger, the manager for Arsenal FC, was quoted as saying "You have two steps. Being completely at the top finishes when you are 34 at the latest. After that, you have different leagues like the MLS and the Indian League."

The very idea that MLS is considered to be a dumping ground for older soccer players is absurd. At the core, MLS is a league with an eclectic mix of international and stateside talents. If you watch MLS regularly, you'll be able to see that mix of players every week, especially in a big spotlight.

Back in 2012, the Los Angeles Galaxy won the MLS Cup 3-1 with a lineup of players including Omar Gonzalez, who left MLS for Pachuca of the Liga MX, Irish striker Robbie Keane, who previously played for Tottenham Hotspur,

West Ham United and Aston Villa, and the legendary David Beckham.

Even recently, MLS has become the home for some of the top international players. Last year, the Galaxy signed Steven Gerrard, formerly the midfielder for Liverpool FC, to a \$9 million contract and Orlando City SC signed midfielder Ricardo Kaka to a \$7 million contract.

Still, there's a notion that soccer isn't popular here in the United States. To that, I say balderdash.

As per figures released by the Pew Research Center and Harris Interactive last year, soccer is the fourth-most popular sport on television in this country.

In my personal opinion, the popularity of soccer in this country is to the point where it could overtake hockey. As for those who say that soccer will never make it in this country, I think it's obvious that they've never bothered to

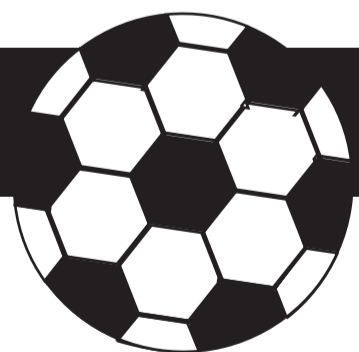
even watch a match.

If they took the time to watch a game, they'd see how wrong they are. Those are the type of people who say that soccer's boring because the teams don't score enough.

In actuality, the low-scoring soccer matches are very exciting. I can't tell you how many times I've watched soccer over the years and have had my heart race over a 2-1, 3-2, 5-4 or 0-0 match.

The defensive efforts and goals scored are dramatic in soccer, but a scoreless draw, especially if it's between two evenly-matched teams are just as exciting, if not more so.

Like it or not, soccer is here to stay in this country. The next time a soccer match is on TV, do yourself a favor and watch.



PRESSBOX PERSPECTIVE



The 1995-96 Youngstown State University women's basketball team receives special basketballs from YSU President Jim Tressel during the YSU men's game versus Northern Kentucky.

Twenty years ago, the Youngstown State University women's basketball team took a step that had not been taken before in school history by reaching the pinnacle of college basketball, the NCAA tournament.

The 1995-96 Penguins got off to a slow start that season, 3-11, and were only 7-7 through 14 games. But the Penguins caught fire winning 13 of their next 14 games and finished with a 20-9 record.

Then, senior Shelly Allen said it was the work ethic that allowed them to play so well together.

"Everybody came together as a team that year. It was exciting to be a part of all of that," Allen said. "We just played very well and were able to put a couple of games together."

The team ran through the Mid-Continent Conference Tournament, winning all three games by double digits and earning birth in the NCAA tournament, the first in the history of YSU.

Perhaps the most memorable moment of the entire season came from the Mid-Continent championship game against the University of Buffalo. Junior Shannon Beach dyed her hair green before the game to help motivate her team into March.

"There wasn't enough time to go and change to wash it out, so she had to play with it. It kept us all calm for the championship game," Allen said.

Beach said she was just happy the Penguins were able to pull off the victory, or else the reaction to her hair may have been different.

The Penguins made the NCAA tournament as the 15th seed and drew a tough matchup against the second seeded Penn State University in the first round. The Penguins played a tough game only trailing by one, 50-49. With only 15 minutes left to play, they were ultimately out matched by the Nittany Lions, losing 94-71.

"Going to Penn State and playing in an arena like that was great," Beach said. "The support we had from the community and university was so giving and receptive of all of that, and it was a great experience all around."

The Penguins would go on to make the tournament two more times over the next four years under head coach Ed DiGregorio, who was named to the YSU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2003.

"Coach D was really our father, grandfather figure. We didn't want to let him down. We didn't want to disappoint him," Beach said. "He's the reason I came here. His heart is so big and to have him 20 years later and to share it. Its just something special."

Beach said it was great to come back to YSU and finally be reunited with her team after 20 years.

"It's just great to see these girls," Beach said. "It's been 20 years, but it's like it was really yesterday."

## Remembering the Run

YSU Honors the 1995-96 Women's Basketball Team

STORY: JEFF BROWN | [JRBROWN02@STUDENT.YSU.EDU](mailto:JRBROWN02@STUDENT.YSU.EDU)  
PHOTO: DAN HINER

# PRESSBOX PERSPECTIVE:

## You Know What They Say About Big Hands...

DAN HINER | [DHINERJR@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DHINERJR@GMAIL.COM)

With the NFL Combine officially over, scouts and members of the front offices can begin dissecting the new crop of potential prospects.

According to the NFL and talent evaluators, every drill the players competed in, from the bench press to the 40-yard dash, is critical to the draft process. But hand size was one measurement that caught my attention, since scouts started recording it annually.

The theory says, if your hands are larger than nine inches, you'll be a better NFL quarterback because you can hold onto the ball better.

Brandon Allen, the

former quarterback at the University of Arkansas, went to a massage to stretch out his fingers prior to the measurement in an attempt to reach the nine-inch mark. The NFL said Allen had 8 7/8 inch hands, which scouts considered a cause for concern.

He was one of the top quarterbacks in the Southeastern Conference, one of the toughest conferences in college football. Allen is 6'1" and 217 pounds. He threw for 3,440 yards, 30 touchdowns, eight interceptions and completed 65.9 percent of his passes last season with the Razorbacks.

So out of curiosity, I decided to measure my

hand. And, as a 5'2," 150-pound sports editor, I can proudly say that my hand measured eight inches, less than an inch smaller than Allen.

So by NFL logic, could I be a Division I quarterback?

So the only thing holding me back is my history of concussions, my 5.10 40-yard dash, my height, a shoulder injury and two knees that crack every time I get off The Jambar couch (the last two are direct results of 11 years of baseball).

YSU Head Coach Bo Pelini said there will be an open competition for the starting quarterback job in the Summer between Hunter Wells,

Ricky Davis and Trent Hosick, a junior college transfer from Western Arizona College.

But no need to worry Pelini, I'll join the team and bring YSU back to a national championship contender next season. Sure I'm not the most athletic, and I've never seen the playbook, but my hands are almost the size of a DI quarterback and apparently that matters.

Teams, coaches and fans want to find a way to accurately evaluate talent, but scouting is an inexact science. You'll never know what you or your team got in a draftee in any sport, until they step onto the field or the hardwood.

Let's remember that

these are young men that have trained their entire lives for this moment. The next few months will determine if these players get a chance to play in the NFL, and we should remember that there are always exceptions to the rules.

I'm sure there were quarterbacks that had hands smaller than nine inches that led their teams to Super Bowls, made Pro Bowls and took their teams to the playoffs. There have also been quarterbacks that never saw the field and if they did, they weren't successful for long.

But isn't that the fun of watching the draft?

We all want to see the next great players, the future hall of famers and the busts. Fans could think of it as a game without a season. We cheer for our teams to make the right decision and get better, and we hope that our rivals choose wrong and suffer the consequences.

I'm sure the NFL will find another unnecessary aspect of the prospects' physical or mental intangibles to measure in the next few years, and this column probably isn't going to change anything.

But if that's the case, Bo, I'm always a phone call or text away if you need a signal caller next season.

# YSU Hopes to Make a Postseason Run

STORY: DAN HINER | [DHINERJR@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DHINERJR@GMAIL.COM)

GRAPHIC: DAN HINER

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team finished out the regular season by snapping a three-game losing streak on Saturday night after beating Northern Kentucky University 94-75.

Now the Penguins are focusing on the Horizon League tournament, which begins this Saturday. YSU is the seventh seed in the tournament and will travel to Joe Louis Arena, the neutral site for the tournament, to play the #6 seed University of Detroit Mercy.

YSU lost its first two games to Detroit (96-87 and 94-92), but head coach Jerry Slocum said the team is looking forward to going to Detroit and is excited about playing the Titans for a third time this season.

"We've really had two great games with them, and the difference in the games have been a four-minute

stretch," Slocum said. "At home, we had a five out of six possession turnover stretch at the five-minute mark to three-minute mark. That was the difference.

"At their place, it was almost identical spots. Had two good looks to go ahead, guys that we want shooting to go ahead and didn't make them. Obviously it's going to be on a neutral floor. Should be exciting to be a part of that in Detroit. We're excited about that."

YSU guard Cameron Morse said the team is getting ready to make a run at the Horizon League championship.

"After beating NKU how we did, we feel like we could make a big run in the tournament," Morse said. "We play Detroit, and the last time we played Detroit, we almost won that game. We feel real confident going

Final Horizon League Conference Standings				
Men's Basketball				
School	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
1 Valparaiso	16	2	26	5
2 Oakland	13	5	21	10
3 Wright State	13	5	19	12
4 Green Bay	11	7	19	12
5 Milwaukee	10	8	19	12
6 Detroit	9	9	15	14
<b>7 Youngstown State</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>
8 Northern Kentucky	5	13	9	20
9 Cleveland State	4	14	9	22
10 UIC	3	15	5	24

\*Top two teams receive a double-bye in the Horizon League tournament that begins this Saturday.

into this game."

Morse said the team "got nothing to lose" as they head into the first round of the tournament. He said the players are going to have to listen to their coaches and play fundamentally sound basketball on Saturday.

"Against Detroit, we have to control their pressure — don't turn the ball over," Morse said. "They're gonna play a four-guard lineup — so hand off the dribble, get rebounds and get out in transition — if we do that, we should come out with a victory."

The Penguins will have to find a

way to deal with Detroit guards Paris Bass, who's coming into the game as the fourth-highest scorer in the Horizon League (18.7 points per game), and Anton Wilson who scored 34 points in the first meeting between the two teams.

"Both teams like to play up-tempo, both teams want to push it and go, both teams will take quick shots," Slocum said.

Tip off against Detroit is scheduled for 7:30 on Saturday. The game can be seen on ESPN3.