



PHOTO BY BILLY LUDT / THE JAMBAR

YSU GRADUATE STUDENT WINS INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

BY JORDAN UNGER

Opoku Minta-Afari, an international graduate mathematics student at Youngstown State University, won first place in the LewerMark Scholarship contest for his essay on how he will make the world a better place.

Minta-Afari attended Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana, where he received his actuarial science degree in 2010. He moved to Youngstown last fall to further his education.

He grew up in a low-income region of Ghana, where he suffered from polio and

leg paralysis at a young age. Minta-Afari said growing up in this environment influenced him.

"One way that I think it has helped me is in finding a way of thinking about how to overcome any challenge that you come across," Minta-Afari said. "It makes you more innovative."

Overcoming these obstacles helped him find success in the United States.

"When you transition from such a situation, or such a country, to a place with so many resources, it's quite easy to succeed if you just look out for opportunities," Minta-Afari said.

In his essay, Minta-Afari said he plans to pursue a career as a health actuary. Living with the challenges of accessing health services encouraged this career choice, and he plans to use his education to develop affordable and efficient health insurance products.

Minta-Afari chose YSU after it was recommended by one of his favorite math professors, Emmanuel Harris. YSU's mathematics program research and the low cost of living in the area also influenced his decision.

"He came back to Ghana to lecture, and I was quite close to him," Minta-Afari said. "When I discovered my plans to further my education outside Ghana, he recommended YSU."

Minta-Afari is the current organizing

secretary of the African Students Union at YSU. Nathan Myers, the associate provost of International and Global Initiatives, said the entire YSU community is honored to have Minta-Afari.

"Mr. Afari represents our hard-working YSU students who go the extra mile to reach successes both in the classroom and beyond." Myers said.

This is the first time an international student from YSU won the LewerMark Scholarship contest in the 11 years it's been running. President Jim Tressel said he was proud of Minta-Afari for his accomplishment.

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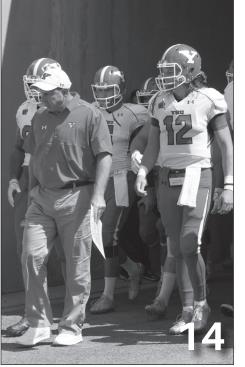
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STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

"It was really a feather in the cap of Youngstown State University," Tressel said. "I had the chance to be there at the little press conference for [Minta-Afari], and to be singled out amongst all the international students in our country is a special thing."

Minta-Afari said he was excited when he learned that he won first place. "I was hopeful that I'd win, because I felt I had a compelling story and it's related to the topic that LewerMark brought up," Minta-Afari said, "but obviously it was a surprise."

He is expecting to receive about \$1,000 from the contest. Minta-Afari said the recognition meant more to him than the monetary prize.

"Someone can read your story, read what you have to say and relate to it, so it was exciting," Minta-Afari said. Minta-Afari said he has enjoyed living in Youngstown since last fall.

"Youngstown is great," he said. "Especially for international students, it's a great place to start your life in the states. You don't get too overwhelmed, unlike the big cities."

The friends he met at YSU within the first month made him feel at home.

"That's very important to me, because I think when you leave your family environment and you go somewhere you don't know anything about, you need people who want to make you feel at home," Minta-Afari said.

When asked what advice he would give to other international students, Minta-Afari said it is important to engage in the society he or she moves to.

"You're able to fit in better, and the people you're with understand where you're coming from, so they treat you better," Minta-Afari said.



PHOTO BY JORDAN UNGER / THE JAMBAR



PHOTO BY ALYSSA PFLUG / THE JAMBAR

City Club Comes to Youngstown

BY SAMANTHA PHILLIPS

The City Club of Cleveland is an institution that has hosted discussions intended to help democracy thrive for over 100 years. Using Cleveland's example as an inspiration, the City Club of the Mahoning Valley will hold its inaugural event on Wednesday.

Jim Tressel, Youngstown State University president, will be part of the panel discussion on economic development, alongside former Youngstown Mayor Jay Williams, who leads the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration, Ohio Sen. Capri Cafaro and Tom Humphries, president and CEO of the Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber.

The event will consist of a panel discussion and a question and answer session.

Phil Kidd, associate director of Youngstown CityScape, helped organize the event. He said the City Club of Cleveland sparks changes and helps residents network.

"Obviously we aren't on Cleveland's scale, but we want to be able to do that," Kidd said. "I think it's important to have a forum like this to discuss topics in the Mahoning Valley."

They want to do two larger events and a smaller one to get a sense of what works best, Kidd said. In future years, they would like to hold four events annually.

Each event will feature a new topic with a discussion on how it affects the community. The next panel is scheduled to take place in November with an election theme.

The majority of speakers will be from the Mahoning Valley, but state and national figures will offer their insight as well. Kidd said Williams brings a national and local perspective to the discussion on economic development.

The club has secured Marilyn Geewax, senior business editor at National Public Radio, for the election-themed meeting in November. She also grew up in the Mahoning Valley.

"We'll blend it," Kidd said. "We'll get local folks because it's about local issues, but we want national speakers as well, to offer their opinions."

He's part of a local planning committee that meets to brainstorm themes and programs. They plan on holding events centered on art, education and sports in the future.

"It takes a lot of effort to coordinate," Kidd said. "You have to first identify a topic, think of speakers to invite and then secure speakers. You try to choose top level people, but they're busy."

The organizing is being done by volunteers, and the Raymond John Wean foundation is covering start-up costs.

For the first event, Cafaro said she will speak about economic tools available to the region and the projects she has worked on during her time in office.

"I think [the City Club] will be very beneficial," Cafaro said.

Getting real-world perspective from local and state figures makes the event important for the community, she said. Unlike a lecture, the audience will be able to join the discussion.

Tressel said they are looking forward to see how various partners can collaborate on economic development for the Mahoning Valley.

"We are excited about being a part of this," he said.

Kate Fitzgerald Fills Seat of Residence Life Director

BY JORDAN UNGER

Kate Fitzgerald was appointed as the new director of Housing and Residence Life at Youngstown State University this semester on Sep. 1. She's replacing former director Danielle Meyer, who took a job at the University of Missouri.

Ian Tanner, associate director of Housing and Residence Life, said he was initially worried by Meyer's departure.

"[Meyer] was here at the university for roughly 16 years," Tanner said. "So whenever you lose someone with that type of experience, that type of YSU knowledge, it's a little nerve-wracking."

Tanner said Fitzgerald has the experience needed to fulfill the position.

"We wanted to find someone who can step in and instantly fill those gaps and fill that void," Tanner said. "I think Kate does that."

Fitzgerald worked at the Uni-

versity of Iowa for 13 years, where she was in charge of residence education. Fitzgerald said she supervised resident assistants, professional staff and student learning communities.

This experience will come in handy for her new position at YSU, she said.

"We have some academic learning communities here at Youngstown, and they're pretty new," Fitzgerald said. "I think we can make them a lot stronger and make them a much better experience for our students."

Prior to her starting date, Fitzgerald came to YSU for move-in weekend in August to interact with students and parents. Tanner said he was impressed by this.

"She was not paid," Tanner said. "She was just here, which is fantastic. She was willing to travel here all the way from Iowa for move-in."

Tanner said he looks forward to seeing what Fitzgerald will bring to the residence education program, and knows she intends on keeping the residence halls a happy, comfortable and safe place for students.

This is important, because students who live on campus are spending a majority of their time in and around the residence halls when they aren't in class.

Fitzgerald will hold meetings with students to discuss their experiences, both good and bad, in the residence halls. She wants to be proactive by reaching out to these students, so she can assess their needs.

To make the residence halls more secure, Fitzgerald wants to require students to swipe their YSU ID before entering, an idea that was considered in previous years.

Andreial Tyson, a resident assistant at YSU, said she thinks Fitzgerald will succeed as the new director.

"She seems very nice," Tyson said. "She's still learning about us as a whole, but I think once [Fitzgerald] gets to know us all



PHOTO BY JORDAN UNGER / THE JAMBAR

and our different personalities, she'll be just fine."

Fitzgerald said the RA staff at YSU is on the right path.

"By looking at the activities that they've planned at the beginning of the year to get people to get to know each other, the work they did with move-in and the stuff they've been doing with on-call and instances in the residence halls so far, they seem like they're pretty on top of stuff," Fitzgerald said. Fitzgerald said she has been pleased with the campus and its people.

"I have been pleasantly surprised that Ohioans are extremely polite and very nice," Fitzgerald said. "I feel like walking through campus here, more people say hello to me, and I'm a total stranger to all of them."

If students in the residence halls have any questions or concerns, Fitzgerald said her office door is always open.





NEWS **Political Science Honors Society** Wins National Award

BY SAMANTHA PHILLIPS

After becoming active again last year, Youngstown State University's Alpha Alpha Rho chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, an honors society for political science, has won the organization's best local chapter award.

Pi Sigma Alpha gives awards to local chapters based on their enrollment. A total of 12 chapters were awarded, and each winner got a \$250 grant.

Greta Frost, president of Alpha Alpha Rho, said her chapter was excited to win because their student leaders worked hard to get the organization back off the ground last year.

"We worked very hard last year, and we are all very passionate about education, politics and academia," Frost said. "We hope we can apply again next spring and get it. We were proud to receive this award."

Paul Sracic, chair of the department of politics and international relations, said the society was dormant for years, but assistant professor Adam Fuller reformed it last year.

"We're really proud," Sracic said. "They're an ambitious group. They do a lot of things with the community and the election.'

Fuller said the group's volunteering efforts caught the judges' attention. After the terrorist attack in Paris, the group held a dinner and bar crawl to raise money for victims, and painted the campus rock with a "Pete for

Paris" logo.

"They were impressed about the fact that a brand new chapter was so energetic in its first year," Fuller said. "[And] by how the students sprang into action."

With the upcoming national and local election, the group is focused on educating voters on campus this semester. Frost said they will have tables set up in Kilcawley Center where they will provide information on candidates and issues and help students register to vote, if they haven't yet.

"Our goal is to provide opportunities for people regardless of party," Frost said. "It doesn't matter to me who they support; I just want them to go out and vote."

Frost said the group is nonpartisan, and the students have open-minded conversations with people of various political ideologies.

The honor society gives students the opportunity to network, go to political conferences and promote education and politics on campus, Fuller said.

"It's a prestigious honor to be a member," he said. "The vast majority of their peers are not eligible to be a part of this honor society, so it's something they can put on their resumes.'

Fuller said he's proud of the work they've done.

"I'm really happy to have reactivated a chapter that has been recognized so quickly by the national office as one of the best chapters in the nation," he said.

AWKWARD CONVERSATIONS WITH W. KAMAU BELL

BY JUSTIN WIER

Comedian W. Kamau Bell spoke with Youngstown State University students prior to delivering a speech at Stambaugh Auditorium.

The speech was presented by the Centofanti Symposium, and beforehand Bell spoke with journalism and communication students, as well as several students training to become police officers.

"My schedule says an informal talk, and now I'm behind a podium talking to a bunch of cops," Bell joked. "I need to talk to my agent."

Bell asked if anyone had been to his hometown of Berkeley, California, and after no hands went up he said he didn't think so, because he saw a Trump sign on the way in.

He's known as a political satirist, and he said it sucks doing political satire in 2016. He's ready for the election to be over.

"Who's a better comedian than Donald Trump?" Bell asked. "I don't know.'

When asked about the controversy created by Colin Kaepernick refusing to stand for the national anthem to protest violence against black Americans by the police, he said black people that want to express their displeasure are in a lose-lose situation.

"In Ferguson you have black people in the streets, and white people say, 'that's not the right way to protest," Bell said. "Then Colin Kaepernick is sitting quietly, and white people are like 'That's also not the right way!"

A lot of the conversation revolved around race relations in America and particularly the relationship between black Americans and the police.

It's going to take a lot of awkward conversations for things to get better, Bell said, and we can't avoid those conversations.

Bell talked about an episode of "The United Shades of America," his CNN show, where he met with members of the Ku Klux Klan.

He said they seemed more human when the cameras were off, and he got the impression that they were unhappy with their place in the world and needed someone to blame. Though he joked that black people were an odd target for people living in rural Kentucky.

"There aren't enough black people in this town for you to be afraid of black people," Bell said. "The Klan doesn't crop up in Harlem."

In regards to the relationship between black people and the police, he suggested that a return to community policing where police know the people in the neighborhood, and those people also know the police officers would help.

"I think there's a sense in which police officers see themselves as separate from the community," Bell said. "It's your job to rebuild that relationship.³

While race relations in America have experienced a lot of ups and downs, Bell said he's still hopeful about the country's future.

"Over an infinite timeline, America gets better," Bell said.

PHOTO BY BILLY LUDT / THE JAMBAR



NEWS

Seeking the Snitch at Wick Park: Harry Potter Club Holds Quidditch Event

said.

BY DANIELLE GARNER

Harry Potter fans got to experience a real life game of Quidditch, a sport from the series, on Sept. 7 at Wick Park. Prizes were given out to the best teams.

"Potter in the Park" was hosted by the Room of Requirement, a Youngstown State University student organization. Amanda Dradt, president of the club, said it's fun to watch people bring this fictional game to life.

"It's just a bunch of people having fun. Some people come up with really random stuff," she said.

The event was co-sponsored by the YSU Recreation Center. They handled the marketing and promotion for the event.

Potter in the Park lasted for an hour. There were two teams, Hogwartz and Ilvermorny. With a final score of 100-80, Hogwartz won.

In the world of Harry Potter, wizards fly on broom-

sticks and try to throw a ball through a ring-shaped goal mounted on a pole to score. Quidditch is played a little differently in the real world.

"This is a muggle version of the Harry Potter sport, muggle being non-magic people. We don't use brooms or anything like that," Dradt said. "It's based off the Harry Potter game, but we use a volleyball, dodgeballs and a tennis ball."

The volleyball represented the quaffle, and was thrown through the hoops to score. The dodgeball was the bludger, which players can throw at the other team to keep them from scoring. A person holding a sock with a tennis ball in it is the snitch, and the other players try to catch the "snitch" to score more points.

Aaron Graneto, a member of the Room of Requirement, said the game merges dodgeball, soccer and tag.

"It introduces the students to a high intensity game that is fun, challenging and encourages teamwork," he

PHOTO BY BILLY LUDT / THE JAMBAR

Dradt said people are welcome to come watch the game before they participate to get a feel for the game's rules.

"If you want to watch first that's fine, get a feel for it but mainly just play nice with others, look out for all the big guys, because it's a contact sport," she said. "We just want to have fun."

Dradt said nearby people joined the game, because they were drawn in by the Harry Potter music. The Room of Requirement plans on hosting three Quidditch events per semester. She encourages students to come explore and even watch the game.

Dradt said participating in this game creates fun college memories.

"How fun would it be to tell your kids in 20 years that you played Quidditch for a sport in college?" she said. "It's like this fantasy world of wizards that play on their broomsticks and stuff."

TOP TEN: YSU's Longest Working Professors

BY JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR TAYLOR DRESSEL

Youngstown State University employs hundreds of faculty with a variety of backgrounds. The Jambar reached out to the 10 who have been here the longest. The answers below have been edited for length, and the full interviews can be found on www.thejambar.com.



Dan O'Neill Department of Communication CCAC

48 years



Philip Munro Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering STEM

42 years



Fred Owens Department of Communication CCAC

40 years



Stephen Rodabaugh Department of Mathmatics and Statistics STEM

38 years



William Vendamia Department of Management WCBA

34 years

INTERVIEW WITH PHILIP MUNRO

Q. What do you love the most about YSU?

Munro: My mother used to say I had a good way of explaining things, and her comment influenced my interest in teaching. That would be my greatest "love" for YSU, the opportunity to teach and help our students.

 ${\bf Q}.$ When did you get hired, and why did you decide to take the job?

Munro: In 1974 I had my Ph.D, and as God was leading us, we looked for a university teaching job. After several interviews at a few places, YSU offered me an assistant professor of electrical engineering position, and the Lord led us to accept it.

Q. What made you want to continue working at YSU all these years?

Munro: Part of my continuing to work in our department of electrical and computer engineering has been the department's fine faculty, and how we work together and take care of our students. Certainly the YSU situation has had its ups and downs, but hopefully my presence at YSU has been positive for the university. So I am still here for a little longer.

INTERVIEW WITH WILLIAM VENDAMIA

Q. What do you love the most about YSU?

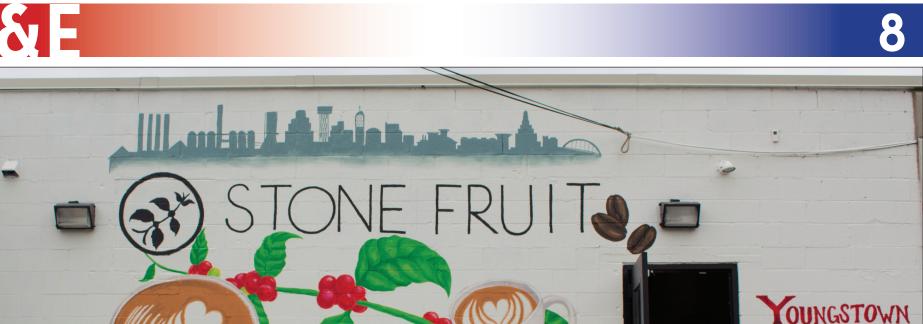
Vendemia: The best thing about YSU (and why I am still enthused after all these years) is the ability to know the students and enjoy their success. The university is large enough to offer a wide range of programs, but small enough that a professor can really get to know their students.

 ${\bf Q}.$ When did you get hired, and why did you decide to take the job?

Vendemia: At the time I applied for the position, my then fiancee, Maureen, was just completing her second year in the dental hygiene program. She encouraged me to apply. I can't imagine how things could have turned out better. She retired last year after completing 35 years at YSU, I am starting my 35th year, and we just celebrated our 34th anniversary. In addition, we have seen our two children grow up around YSU and both graduate as Penguins.

Q. What made you want to continue working at YSU after all these years?

Vendemia: It is amazing to see these students as they progress through their academic careers. And, the greatest joy is seeing the same students on graduation day.



BY AMANDA LEHNERD

N[.]O Parking

WNER'S .EXPEN

Stone Fruit Coffee is headed to Youngstown State University campus and will be setting up shop on 131 Lincoln Ave. behind Jimmy Johns.

Josh Langenheim, owner of Stone Fruit Coffee and a YSU alumni, created Stone Fruit based on a hobby rooted in the culture and City of Youngstown.

"This is a hobby that has gone wildly out of control that started in my garage with a tiny coffee roaster," Langenheim said. "I grew up in Youngstown, and it didn't make sense to move. I wanted to keep things local, and we're very involved in the Youngstown lifestyle."

Langenheim believes in keeping the company local, which also includes selling local vendors products.

"We only deal with local businesses. We get our candles from 1820 House Candles, our biscotti is from a local artisan called Brown Box Biscotti and the clothing we sell is Flight School Apparel," Langenheim said. "Everything we do is Youngstown related; all consumables are in-house."

One thing that differentiates Stone Fruit from competitors is the large focus that is put on the end product.

"We roast our own coffee, and I think it is important for people to know where their coffee is coming from," Langenheim said. "If you ask me where our coffee comes from, I will tell you to come to Boardman. I'll show you the raw product, how I cook it, cool it, grind it and deliver it."

Stone Fruit started their business in Canfield. The main goal was always to reach Youngstown.

"We started the business in Canfield, and it was our launch pad. We moved to Boardman for the space to produce our coffee, and we closed Canfield," Langenheim said. "Youngtown is where we are finally able to do what we always wanted to do."

The new location will feature the same design concept and aesthetic as the other

locations, but with a twist.

If You Like Coffee, We Like You

Christian Powers, an employee at Stone Fruit Coffee and a local artist, is painting a mural on the side of the new location in Youngstown.

"The mural will represent Stone Fruit. It will have a coffee plant, some lattes with latte art and at the top will be a skyline of Youngstown," Powers said. "It will read 'Youngstown Proud' paying homage to Youngstown."

Along with being a Youngstown-oriented business, Stone Fruit plans to be involved with YSU and its students.

"I want to be a part of programs. Whatever services we can get help with, we want to," Langenheim said. "We want to be involved, and we want to teach you."

Stone Fruit has already started talking with some of the professors in the Williamson College of Business Administration about creating a lesson where students can learn marketing strategies firsthand.

"We are planning to work with a pro-

fessor at the university, who teaches Business Management Concepts," Langenheim said. "The students will come to our business, and we will go over marketing strategies, the way we run our social media and give a real life example of how we run our business."

PHOTO BY BILLY LUDT / THE JAMBAR

PROUD

With the growing popularity of Stone Fruit in the Youngstown area, students are starting to become excited for the arrival of the new location.

Brianna Wall, an early childhood education major, is happy to see a trendy local business making its way to campus.

"I think there's a shortage of 'trendy' spaces to study on campus with an inviting atmosphere," Wall said. "The fact that Stone Fruit is so connected with Youngstown is a huge selling point for me. I think the quality of the coffee is great, plus I enjoy supporting local businesses." Langenheim said they

are trying to beat the Lincoln construction, and be open and running in about 40 days.

ΑδΕ



Penguin Nights Returns: Red, White & BOOM

BY WILL KEFFLER

On Sept. 22, politics will be taking over the entire first floor of Kilcawley Center. Student Experience will host its third edition of Penguin Nights, featuring a theme of "Red, White and BOOM."

The event will run from 10 p.m. - 2 a.m. on the first floor of Kilcawley Center and is free to all Youngstown State University students.

Vaughn Myers, an operations manager of Kilcawley Center, said that students can gain admittance through the Elm Street entrance after presenting a valid student ID.

Students can then head to the lower

level to find a multitude of activities, including a showing of the movie "Central Intelligence," a dance party, a game called "Not Your Grandmother's Bingo" and more.

There will be an All-American themed buffet in the food court and a mock election where students can decide between presidential candidates Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton and YSU mascot, Pete the Penguin.

Sticking with the presidential election theme, students can stop by a selfie station to snap photos in "The Oval Office."

The first main event will be Family Feud — the American President's Edition. The teams will be made up of student organizations on campus and offer USA-themed prizes to the winners.

The closing entertainment for the night will be Upright Citizens Brigade, who take the stage at 12:15 a.m. The group is based in Los Angeles and New York, and was founded by comedian Amy Poehler.

Michael Cardwell, an operations manager for Kilcawley Center, said he was happy to know the Upright Citizens Brigade would be returning again.

"We had them here before back in January, and we had a great turnout along with great reactions from the students," Cardwell said. "We're expecting a large turnout, especially because of the good feedback we received from last year." During the night of festivities, many students will be volunteering their time. Kilcawley Center will be sending out a mass email in the coming days to extend the opportunity to all students who wish to participate.

Sara Pretoka, a YSU student and a volunteer for past Penguin Nights events, said that she expects a large crowd to show up to Kilcawley.

"There [is] free food and free entertainment, so I think a lot of students will come check it out," Pretoka said. "It's the third Penguin Nights, so it's still new, but it's gaining momentum to be one of the bigger events on campus."

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF STUDENT EXPERIENCE

So You Think You Can Dance?

BY AMANDA LEHNERD

Youngstown State University's Dance Club is a student run organization that meets every Thursday from 5-6 p.m. in Stambaugh Stadium, Gym A.

Rachael Penick, president of Dance Club, says the club is a relaxed environment and welcomes everyone.

"Dance Club is a student organization dedicated to introducing students and faculty to various styles of ballroom dance," Penick said. "We are a social dance club, meaning that we practice in a very relaxed environment, where everyone has the chance to dance with each other."

The club is not limited to members who have dance experience. Students and faculty can join at any skill level.

"People don't need dance experience to participate, and we encourage beginner dancers to come," Penick said. "We start teaching dances at the most basic level, so everyone learns together. This club is for people who have always wanted to dance but were not sure how to start."

Although the club is not competitive, it introduces stu-

dents to competitive ballroom dancing. The organization has seen competitive dancers perform in the past, but has not performed competitively.

Errek Pham, treasurer of Dance Club, has been a member since his freshman year when he saw them practicing in the Cafaro House multipurpose room.

"I had never danced before, and I thought the club would be a fun activity to do," Pham said.

Dance Club has a professional dance instructor named Bob McPhail, who comes and teaches students the different types of dances. The club learns dances ranging from ballroom to swing.

Many members of the club dance socially, which inspires the use of modern music.

"We learn dances to popular music. Since some of us dance socially outside of the club," Penick said. "We like learning dances to music that we would likely hear at a social dance event. Just last week, we learned how to Salsa to the song, 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams."

Frank Bosso, adviser of Dance Club, thinks the organization is a good place for students to meet new people and learn to appreciate dance as an art form.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RACHAEL PENICK

"In many ways, like all campus organizations, Dance Club gives students an opportunity to meet a group of diverse people and learn a lifelong activity," Bosso said. "The club offers social opportunities to students and the chance to learn a variety of different dances, and the best part is you don't need dance experience."

Students who want to participate in Dance Club have the opportunity to pick what style of dance they would like to learn next.

"We create a poll that allows students to choose what type of dance they would like to learn next," Pham said. "Every two to three weeks, we start a new genre, and the poll determines what type of dance we will do next."

Dance Club holds many social events throughout the year. The first event will be coming up in November.

TOP TEN: YSU'S LONGEST WORKING PROFESSORS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7



Eric Wingler Department of Mathmatics and Statistics STEM

34 years

Q. What do you love the most about YSU?

Wingler: I have never really thought much about this, but I suppose it would be the mathematics department. I also love the beautiful campus. The flowers and trees give it a very inviting atmosphere.

Q. When did you get hired ,and why did you decide to take the job?

Wingler: I think that at the time jobs were hard to come by. Youngstown is situated in a beautiful location. The climate is fairly nice, and there are hills and trees. This is in contrast to my original location in east central Illinois where the land is almost completely flat and filled with corn and bean fields.

Q. What made you want to continue working at YSU all these years?

Wingler: I like mathematics. I like interacting with both students and faculty when we are learning mathematics (Yes, even those of us with Ph.Ds continue to learn new things).



Pamela Schuster Department of Nursing BCHHS

33 years



Tod Porter (Chair) Department of Economics CLASS

Tied with Jalal Jalali

32 years



Hojjat Mehri Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering STEM

33 years

Q. What do you love the most about YSU?

Mehri: What I like most about this institution is the students. Some of my students have been the first in their families to go to college, and it is exciting to watch them acquire new skills and perspectives and get their first professional jobs.

Q. When did you get hired, and why did you decide to take the job?

Mehri: I started teaching part-time after working as a practicing engineer for some time, and I realized that my real-world experience was an excellent foundation for teaching. When YSU offered me a position I eagerly accepted, and I have never regretted that decision.

Q. What made you want to continue working at YSU all these years?

Mehri: I am always learning something new as I prepare my courses. There are always new challenges and opportunities available, and that has kept me energized all these years.



Dennis Petruska Department of Economics CLASS

33 years

Q. What do you love the most about YSU?

Petruska: The only reason that I am still teaching at YSU is because I enjoy teaching classes for the good students who attend class, work hard and have a desire to learn. Fortunately, most of our students are good students.

Q. When did you get hired, and why did you decide to take the job?

Petruska: I thought that YSU would be a good fit for me since I was raised in Levittown, Pennsylvania, which is a blue collar community much like Youngstown. I paid for my tuition and room and board while I was an undergraduate student at University of Pittsburgh by working at the US Steel Fairless Works, so the Steel Valley reminded me of my hometown. Also, unlike most people I like the weather around here.

Q. What made you want to continue working at YSU all these years?

Petruska: When I initially started teaching at YSU, I was not sure how long I would stay. I liked the students and the other faculty members so I am still here over 30 years later.



Jalal Jalali (Chair) Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering STEM

32 years

Q. What do you love most about YSU?

Jalali: I love Youngstown State University as a midsize campus with its diverse students and faculty. The campus continues to grow and makes a difference in the community and beyond.

Q. When did you get hired, and why did you decide to take this job?

Jalali: I realized that the YSU's campus community is friendly and has an excellent reputation in the mid-Atlantic region. At YSU, I am able to teach and conduct research, and also have the opportunities to help students of diverse backgrounds and cultures to successfully acquire their educational goals.

Q. What made you want to continue working at YSU all these years?

Jalali: My strong interest in the success of students, and YSU has kept me motivated and has energized me to work harder and never stop. When I observe all students who I have helped become successful in their profession, it spurs my interest and motivates me to continue to help more enthusiastic and hardworking students to successfully graduate.

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OPNION The Jambar Column Why Youngstown

Why Youngstown is Made for Fall

BY JILLIAN SMITH

Youngstown wears her seasons well. In the summer, the warm nights are accompanied by festival music and the sizzling of an incredible variety of ethnic foods being grilled or fried or broiled. In the winter, our Christmas parade and subsequent tree lighting would warm any "grinchy" heart. In the spring, Fellows Riverside Gardens burst into life with stunning arrays of some of the world's most carefully cultivated floral species. I contend, however, that Youngstown and her surrounding areas do no season better than fall. With the Autumnal Equinox being in one week, I present to you: The three major reasons why Youngstown is made for fall.

1. We Are Beautiful

One view you must see this fall is the reflection of many brilliantly colored, orange, red and yellow leaves in a near perfect mirror image on Lake Glacier in Mill Creek Park. When paddling a kayak in the lake, seeing the waterfall and the fiery spires of trees in the crisp fall air is something downright majestic. If you can't get enough of that view, and are up for some physical activity, run in the Peace Race, another famous fall tradition for the Valley. The Peace Race is the longest continuously held race in Youngstown. The event goes through some of the most breathtaking trails in Mill Creek Park just at that time that the bite of fall begins to give the park's carpet of leaves its crisp, Oct. 23. The 10k race was started, and continues 46 years later, with the intent of bringing runners from around the world together as a symbol of unity and peace.

2. We Are Delicious

Whitehouse Fruit Farm is the obvious first recommendation under the category of delicious fall experiences. Located slightly outside the city in Canfield, they offer the most delicious blueberry doughnuts, homemade fudge, make-your-own caramel apples, old fashioned candy and 10 cent apple cider. All this cements the place as a hands-down local fall favorite. Other delicious fall picks include the sauerkraut at Kraut Fest, hosted by Haus Orchard and Cider Mill on Sept. 24 and 25. Haus offers cider pressing all September, which you can make as you shop for locally grown cabbages, pumpkins or apples. To round off local fall sumptuousness, the Johnny Appleseed Festival, happening in Lisbon on Sept. 17 and 18 features anything made of apples you could imagine: dumplings, fritters, cider, butter and ice cream. While only the pies are judged officially, nearly all of the food could stand up to competition.

3. We Are Artsy

Youngstown is a town of immense artistic talent. One of the great fall happenings in Youngstown that you may have never considered is the opera. If you think opera is only for hoity-toity fancy folks, think again! Tickets are as low as \$20 for Opera Western Reserve's production of Carmen happening on Nov. 11. If you aren't sure you want to dive into opera all the way, head over to the Soap Gallery's "An Evening in Spain." The event, co-hosted by Mahoning Valley Young Professionals on Sept. 16, is a chance to hear some of the music being performed by the Young Artists of Opera Western Reserve while snacking on tapas, sangria and beer and getting a feel for what opera is all about. On the other end of the spectrum, is our plethora of Maker's Markets open for the fall season. Head over to the Youngstown Flea on Sept. 24, the Boardman Rotary October Festival or the B&O Night Market.

Whether you are a Youngstown lifer or are just arriving on campus for the first time this semester, there are always new places to explore in our city and surrounding area that are full of hidden gems. While there are many such gems all year long, some of the best — you'll find if you follow this list — happen in that magical little chunk of time between September and November.

Editorial

The Local Opioid Epidemic Goes Viral

First responders saved a couple who had overdosed on heroin in East Liverpool by administering Narcan, an opiate antidote. In northeast Ohio, cases like this are becoming a routine occurrence.

What wasn't routine was that the East Liverpool police posted an image of the overdosing couple on Facebook, with the four-year-old buckled into his car seat behind them. The shocking nature of the image caused it to go viral.

More than 4,000 people commented on the post, and several news outlets picked up the image.

The police department wanted to raise awareness of the opioid epidemic in the region. According to the Ohio Department of Health, opioid overdoses killed over 3,000 people in Ohio last year.

While some praised the police for posting the picture, others condemned their actions as publicly shaming those addicted to drugs. Using shame to change behavior doesn't solve the problem. In fact, Maia Szalavitz, a journalist who covers science and addiction says it makes it worse.

"Shame is particularly harmful to people who struggle with drug addiction because it sends this message that the person is worthless," Szalavitz said. "It cuts the social support drug users need to recover and stay clean."

Drug addiction is a disease, not a criminal justice problem. The idea that people can be scared straight has been proven wrong by the millions of people who leave prison and continue to use drugs.

Because an addiction is a compulsive act, people who use aren't deterred by

negative consequences. Their desire to get high is placed over everything else.

Blasting a picture of an overdosed couple on social media isn't going to push them to seek treatment.

A 2007 study by addiction researchers William White and William Miller found that offenders with substance abuse disorders were more likely to relapse when they underwent forms of therapy incorporating guilt and shame.

Shame can make an addict feel worthless, and many who abuse drugs use drugs as a coping mechanism to deal with negative feelings. There are better ways to help.

Medicinal and behavioral treatments are available, and drugabuse.org says they're most effective when combined.

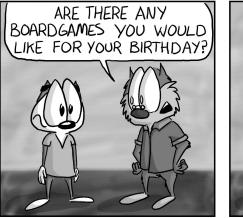
There are drugs available that block users from feeling high when they take opiates, which can relieve cravings.

Cognitive-behavioral therapy teaches people with addiction problems how to develop healthier coping strategies and letting them know what to expect while in the process of quitting opiates

People who need help can contact local resources like OhioCAN Mahoning County, an organization that educates people on heroin use and helps people through recovery.

The East Liverpool police were right about one thing: there has to be a way to decrease the number of heroin deaths in this region. Narcan has been effective in preventing death, but we still need to mitigate addiction. One thing is clear, trying to scare addicts straight by making an example of a couple at the lowest point in their lives isn't the way to go about it.

OPINION





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By: L. A. Bonté

Letter to the Editor Race, Freedom and *Patriotism*

BY JACOB SCHRINER-BRIGGS

On Aug. 14, before his team's first preseason game, San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick remained seated during the playing of the "The Star-Spangled Banner." His action was repeated but remained unnoticed until the third preseason game. When prompted, Kaepernick offered justification stating, "I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color. There are bodies in the street, and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder." Critics of groups like Black Lives Matter, groups making the same, or similar, claims as Kaepernick, have questioned or downright denied their assertions. The data, however, makes a clear and compelling case.

Using statistics compiled by "The Guardian,s" Todd Beer of Lake Forest College revealed several findings regarding lethal force by police officers. Most tellingly, the data showed that "... unarmed whites continue to make up a smaller percentage of victims than their portion of the population, while unarmed blacks make up about two and a half times the portion of the unarmed victims compared to their portion of the general population."

However, instead of focusing on why Kaepernick is protesting, though black lives do matter and violence against them is something we are morally compelled to acknowledge and address, I would like to speak to those who criticize him as "unpatriotic."

When we think about the United States and the values for which it stands, we take mental shortcuts. Our brains conjure symbols of national pride. Prominent among those symbols is the country's flag and its namesake anthem; but what is a flag or an anthem without corresponding principles underlying them? The answer is nothing more than arbitrary allegiance and acquiescence. The real reason we take pride in our flag and anthem is because we, as a people, believe in the principles our country holds dear, principles our military fights to sustain and protect. Included among them are expressive freedoms enshrined in the First Amendment of our Constitution, freedoms that allow us to speak up when we recognize injustices. Freedoms that allow us to sit when "The Star-Spangled Banner" sounds through a stadium's PA system.

On that note, I offer one more consideration.

"The Star-Spangled Banner" originated as a poem written by Francis Scott Key in 1814. The third stanza of that poem contains the following lines: "No refuge could save the hireling and slave / From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave: / And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave, / O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave." Considering the historical context, as well as the plain meaning of those very lines, the 'land of the free' came with some qualifications – namely, if you were black, you did not qualify.

If we, as a people, are truly proud of our country, then lambasting those of oppressed and marginalized groups for exercising the freedoms that should be underpinning our pride is not only ironic, it is corrosive. Thus, as Colin Kaepernick sits for the national anthem, I stand with him and his freedom to do so.

-JAMBAR-POLICY

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-YOUR-SIDE POLICY-

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SPORS Penguins Won't Underestimate **Robert Morris**

BY MARC WEEMS

With Youngstown State University's football team coming off a tough loss to West Virginia University, YSU is looking to improve and get better.

After going into halftime tied 14-14, the Penguins were outscored 27-7 in their 38-21 loss to the Mountaineers. Starting defensive end Derek Rivers spoke about the team's experience with playing West Virginia.

"It was a very humbling experience. The positive things that we took from West Virginia is that we can compete," Rivers said. "We see how good our defense can be, and we saw the little things that we have to tighten up. That goes for both offense and defense."

Head coach Bo Pelini said the Penguins gained confidence after their performance against West Virginia.

"I think they were confident going into the game. I think they learned some lessons the other day," Pelini said. "It's all about us, and the way we do things on the field. We have some things to improve on for sure."

On Saturday, the Penguins will play Robert Morris University. The Colonials almost upset YSU last season, but the Penguins pulled out a 21-14 win in overtime.

"You go into practice and prepare for Robert Morris just like you would for West Virginia," Rivers said. "If we can learn to do that, we can prepare for anybody we play. You have to respect everyone you play. Robert Morris has respectable talent that we have to be ready for."

Starting left tackle Justin Spencer said the team isn't going to overlook Robert Morris this season and will prepare as if the game will be close again on Saturday.

"I think it's important to have a really good week of practice. They [Robert Morris] took us to overtime last year," Spencer said. "We have to come in with a good mental mindset — that this is another game and step toward our goal. We have to prepare for a team that almost came in and beat us."

YSU's offensive line hasn't allowed a sack through the first two games of the season. By this point last year, the Penguins allowed eight sacks — including two against Robert Morris. Spencer also talked about the offensive line play and what

they, as a unit, have been able to get done. "We have to make sure that we play as hard as we can until the whistle blows," Spencer said. "It's nice to have a guy like Cameron Fraser, who's first at almost every position and knows every position like the back of his hand. Communication is a big thing for any group on the field but for

the offensive line especially." Robert Morris has yet to score an offensive touchdown while only giving up 27 points on defense. Pelini talked about Robert Morris' offensive struggles and how they will react to that.

"I know they are young on the offensive line," Pelini said. "Every week gives you an opportunity to improve and get better. We better be ready to play this week, and PHOTO BY DAN HINER / THE JAMBAR

last year's game was a perfect example. We need to play well and play better from week to week."

Rivers said the YSU players 'underestimated' Robert Morris last season, and the veterans need to push all the players to practice and play hard this week.

"We didn't harp on guys about playing hard all the time, no matter who we play," Rivers said. "That's on our leadership guys to get that done. It shouldn't really matter who we play. We determine what we do, so it doesn't matter who it is. It could be 'Bama [Alabama], and we would still have to play just as hard."

The Press Box Perspective: NFL Drops the Ball With Newton

BY ANDREW ZUHOSKY

Did anyone happen to see the Carolina Panthers vs. Denver Broncos game last Thursday night? If you did, you also probably saw Panthers quarterback Cam Newton take some nasty hits to the head.

This was a bad-to-worse situation for the NFL, especially on a night where the Broncos were honored for winning last year's Super Bowl, complete with appearances from legendary Broncos quarterback-turned-general manager John Elway and recently retired quarterback Peyton Manning.

Newton was hit in the head on 17 instances during Thursday night's ballgame, three of which were sacks. To make matters worse, the officials mostly did not penalize the Broncos defense, nor did the Panthers remove Newton from the game.

Newton was asked about the absence of calls on his hits to the head in the postgame press conference.

"It's not my job to question the officials," Newton told the media. "I really like this officiating crew, so it wasn't something I know that they did intentionally."

He also told the press that he tries to tell the officiating crew in the event that he gets hit.

"If the flag is not called, then it's OK," he said.

Newton later informed the press that he was asked questions after the game but was unable to recall them at the time of the press conference.

On Sunday, the NFL Players Association announced that it would review the medical staff's handling of the situation.

The NFLPA released a statement by Brian McCarthy indicating that the league and Players Association would take a look at all pertinent video and paperwork to see whether or not the concussion protocol was followed to the letter.

Even NFL Network's Steve Mariucci,

who serves on the NFL's Player Safety Advisory Panel, weighed in on the controversy on last Sunday's season premiere of "NFL GameDay Morning."

"The hit that was helmet-to-helmet, the offsetting penalties, that one is what we're going to discuss next week with this panel because it seems to me that a helmet-to-helmet should override any other penalty because that's what we're trying to eliminate from our game," Mariucci said on air.

I agree wholeheartedly with Steve Mariucci there. Vicious blows to the head, much like the ones Cam Newton took a week ago on national TV, do not belong in football, level or league notwithstanding.

These kinds of hits can cause irreversible damage and can cost someone their life.

The mishandling of this situation is particularly shocking, especially in an era of the NFL where the safety of the athletes who play the game is routinely touted as a number one priority.

If I had been in Panthers head coach Ron Rivera's position during last week's game, I'd have called Cam Newton over to the sideline during a break in the action and told him, "Cam, I'm taking you out of the game. You're getting beat up, and I don't want you out for a long period of time as the season progresses."

Newton stayed in at quarterback for the entire game with the Panthers ultimately losing the contest 21-20.

The decision to not flag most of the dirty hits Newton absorbed sends a bad message to young football players who were watching the game. They'll think "OK, since the Broncos weren't flagged on those plays, my team can get away with it, too."

Like I said before, those hits have no place in football, and Newton should have been taken out of the game.

SPORTS YSU Intramurals Offer Students a Competitive Way to Stay Active

BY JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR RICK HENNEMAN

Sept. 18 marks the beginning of the 2016 fall intramural season at Youngstown State University. Students can participate in many different leagues and tournaments from flag football to bubble soccer and more.

Graduate student Matt Yourstowsky has played intramural basketball and soccer at YSU in the past, and said he enjoyed the experience.

"Absolutely anyone could enjoy intramurals," Yourstowsky said, "It's a good time to get away from school and work."

In Yourstowsky's opinion, intramural sports would be a great experience for students who enjoy more competition than an average pick-up game. "Competition was great," Yourstowsky said. "Yes, you had your occasional stacked team or team that couldn't score, but all in all the competition was solid."

For those with busy schedules, Yourstowsky said that the intramural schedules are very organized and easy to follow.

"The schedule was laid out prior to the season starting," he said. "They do a great job of keeping you up to date." Yourstowsky said that in years past the sign-up process was a "breeze" and Dan Schaefer, intramural sports intern, said that attempts have been made to make this year's process even easier.

"We have switched to a new signup system on a website called IMLeagues.com," Schaefer said, "Students can join IMLeagues from any computer by making an account with their YSU email."

Now, Schaefer said, there is even an app available for students who don't sign up through IMLeagues.

"An alternative sign-up method is by downloading the REC*IT app, which makes the whole process much easier for students," Schaefer said.

The REC*IT app is available on both the Apple store and Google Play for Android phones.

Teams planning to sign up for a league sport like flag football or soccer will have to pay a \$20 per team league fee. Schaefer believes that the league sports are worth the small cost.

"We feel that \$20 is a reasonable amount," Schaefer said. "The league fee goes toward paying the officials that we bring out to referee games."

Refereeing provides another way that YSU students can participate in intramural sports. Schaefer said that referees are needed for both fall and spring sports.

"We are always looking for officials," he said. "If anyone is interested, they can turn in their resume with a cover letter to the Campus Rec main office at any time."

Along with the league sports, YSU offers many one day tournaments, including beach volleyball, racquetball and basketball. These tournaments provide students who couldn't put together a team large enough for the league sports an opportunity to participate in intramurals.

"I encourage them to come to our one day tournaments, which are free to all students," Schaefer said. "We are always trying to make a competitive and fun atmosphere for intramurals, and we would never want someone to be intimidated to play simply because of their experience level."

Students can sign up for one day tournaments using the IM-Leagues website.

The first registration deadline is Sept. 13, but students have until November to sign up for some sports. A full schedule of registration deadlines and when play begins for all of the fall intramural sports is available on the YSU intramural website.

YSU Football				
Schedule 2016				

Date	oate Opponent		Result/Time	
9/1	VS.	Duquesne	W 45-10	
9/10	@	West Virginia	L 38-21	
9/17	VS.	Robert Morris	4 p.m.	
10/1	VS.	South Dakota*	4 p.m.	
10/8	@	Illinois State*	3 p.m.	
10/15	VS.	Northern Iowa*	7 p.m.	
10/22	@	South Dakota State*	3 p.m.	
10/29	VS.	Indiana State*	4 p.m.	
11/5	@	North Dakota State*	3:30 p.m.	
11/12	VS.	Southern Illinois*	12 p.m.	
11/19	@	Missouri State*	3 p.m.	

Missouri Valley Football Conference Standings

		MVFC	Overall	STATS Top 25
1	Illinois State	0-0	2-0	5
2	Missouri State	0-0	2-0	
3	North Dakota State	0-0	2-0	1
4	Western Illinois	0-0	2-0	16
5	Indiana State	0-0	1-1	
6	Northern Iowa	0-0	1-1	10
7	South Dakota	0-0	1-1	
8	South Dakota State	0-0	1-1	9
9	Southern Illinois	0-0	1-1	
10	Youngstown State	0-0	1-1	20

GRAPHICS BY DAN HINER / THE JAMBAR

SPORTS

Kicked to Punter Schuler Moved From Tight End to Punter

BY DAN HINER

Two years ago, Youngstown State University's Mark Schuler played a number of different positions for the Springfield High School football team. It's also been two seasons since Schuler was called a punter, that is, until this summer.

Schuler started his YSU career as a tight end but didn't see any playing time after being redshirted his freshman season. So when Schuler saw an opportunity to get on the field, he decided to make a change back to special teams.

"I always thought about it, because two of my older brothers were punters, one almost went to the NFL, so I had a lot of teaching with that," Schuler said. "Being a punter in high school, I always felt like I was a little bit better than the punters we faced because of my background — having my brother help me out."

During the offseason, Schuler made the transition back to punter after last year's starter Nick Sheely left the team.

"During camp, it transitioned a lot because there were four tight ends ahead of me on the depth chart," Schuler said. "Just knowing I had a better opportunity to punt, I started working on it a little bit more and more. Eventually, I did it the whole time. I'm getting a lot more kicks off, a lot more reps, and I get an opportunity to shake that rust off. That really helped me a lot, especially going into that first game because it was a whole year and a little bit since I actually punted in a game."

The Penguins brought in punter Nate Needham on national signing day to backup Sheely. Schuler said there is a learning curve associated with playing punter at the collegiate level.

Schuler said he went through it as a freshman last season, and he thinks Needham was going through the changes when the position was vacated. He said the transition from high school to college gave him an opportunity to step into the starting punter position before Needham got a chance to establish himself with the coaching staff.

"We both were doing well. We would both have a good day, and we both would have a bad day," Schuler said. "Overall, I think I just did a little bit better because, especially for me last year, there's a big transition from high school to college just being a lot faster and you're expected to do more. I think Nate [Needham] had that same mentality."

Schuler said he was "a little jittery" when he took the field for the first time as a punter during YSU's 45-10 win over Duquesne University.

"I was just thinking to myself 'just get it off clean, don't let it get blocked and don't kick it into the end zone," Schuler said. "I kinda just tapped it a little bit. It got the job done, but I think just being able to get out there helped me a lot — especially last week. It's a lot bigger stage, going to a school like West Virginia."

But Schuler has statistically performed better than the punters from last season. After the first two games, he's averaged 41.6 yards per punt, including a 59-yard kick on Saturday against West Virginia University. YSU averaged 35.8 yards per punt last season.

During his senior season, he was a First-Team All-Ohio selection in Division IV. Schuler caught nine passes for 62 yards PHOTO BY DAN HINER / THE JAMBAR

and a touchdown, recorded 72 tackles, four sacks and averaged 40.5 yards per punt on 31 attempts — including 12 inside the 20-yard line.

Schuler said there were schools that were looking at him to play other positions. He said the schools that had interest in him as a punter "hinted at it," but didn't officially bring it up to him during their recruiting pitches.

Schuler said the ability to practice against starting defensive ends Derek Rivers and Avery Moss allowed him to see what the best talent in college football has to offer. He said the opportunity to play at West Virginia didn't affect him too much because he was forced to practice against the same level of talent during his redshirt season.

"Just being able to block them and go up against them in your first year, you're like, 'Oh my god, it's Derek Rivers. He's like, a stud," Schuler said. "After a while you get used to it. Just being able to compete, and know I can compete, helped me a lot with my confidence and relax."