

Change Promised and Challenges Presented in the State of the University Address

“What’s been exciting to me is- and really, a wonderful thing to observe- like we do in the Mahoning Valley, we rolled up our sleeves and decided we understood the challenges, but we are going to go to work on the challenges.”-YSU President Jim Tressel, on tackling the challenges presented in the last 31 months of his administration.



PHOTO BY SAMANTHA PHILLIPS / THE JAMBAR

BY SAMANTHA PHILLIPS

Jim Tressel, president of Youngstown State University, reflected on the challenges the university has faced in recent years and talked about his strategic plan in the State of the University Address, presented to hundreds of staff, faculty and students on Thursday in Kilcawley Center.

“It’s been an honor to serve,” Tressel said. “What you’ve accomplished in 31 months has been extraordinary; there’s been so much work being put in by so many people.”

Difficult Times for YSU

When Tressel was appointed as president in 2014, Youngstown State University was dealing with a 17.5 percent enrollment decline, \$10 million deficit in the budget

and replacing four presidents in just six years.

The rate of enrollment was higher in 2016 than 2015, but still lower than 2010. There were 12,756 students enrolled in 2015 compared to 15,194 students enrolled in 2010. The number of international students has increased by 100 in the last year.

Several staff and faculty positions were eliminated in 2014 to cut costs, which has required everyone to “do more with less people”, Tressel said. The YSU Foundation has also been handling the university’s expenditures and fundraising.

While the financial situation is improving, the university is still threatened by state-funding cuts, unfunded mandates and tuition freezes. In addition to these challenges, Tressel said the university is working towards solving problems presented in the campus climate survey last fall.

The Campus Climate Survey

The results of the campus climate survey, administered by the Chronicle of Higher Education, suggested that faculty and staff were unsatisfied with the lack of communication and shared governance at the university.

It’s everyone’s job to try and improve the communication flow between groups, especially from senior leadership, Tressel said.

“Ultimately it comes down to individual responsibility,” he said. “I’ve got to do a better job of listening and sharing information.”

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FEATURES



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

NEWS

- 3 | Gilman Scholarship
- 4 | Frisco Journey
- 5 | YESS
- 6 | Business Strategy Game
- 7 | Black History Month Breakfast

A&E ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

- 10 | Maggie Meiners / Students Talk Games
- 11 | Penguin Nights

OPINION

- 12 | Editorial / Column
- 13 | Pressbox Perspective

SPORTS

- 14 | Mens Basketball
- 15 | Womens Basketball
- 16 | FCS Championship

Scholarship Allows Student to Study Abroad in the Middle East

BY JORDAN UNGER

A political science student at Youngstown State University was awarded the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study abroad this semester.

Bryce Saunders, the recipient of the Critical Need Language Award, will be traveling to Jordan this month to study Arabic. Saunders said he chose to learn Arabic because he wants to pursue political affairs after graduation and always took an interest in the Middle East.

The Gilman Scholarship is offered by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs to students with limited financial means to study abroad. Madeleine Clendenin, Modern Standard Arabic instructor at YSU, said Saunders was very deserving of the scholarship.

"I knew early on in the semester that he would succeed," Clendenin said. "He was serious about learning the language and the culture of the Arab world,

and by applying for the Gilman Scholarship [he] shows how resourceful and motivated he is."

Saunders is the 19th student from YSU to win the Gilman Scholarship since 2012. Ann Gardner, the associate director of the International Programs Office, said this shines a positive light on the university.

"YSU has an excellent track record with scholarships," Gardner said.

The Gilman Scholarship awards students \$5,000 to study abroad. In addition, Saunders was granted \$3,000 for studying a language deemed critical for U.S. national security and opportunities in economics. Saunders said he was surprised to win the award.

"It's very competitive," Saunders said. "For the critical need [award], they received about 5,000 applications and they only give 70 out for the whole year."

Three programs are available to students who study abroad to Jordan through the Council on International Educational Exchange. Saunders said he will be participating in the Language and Culture program.

ideas and concerns. Martin Abraham, YSU provost, said shared governance and communication are two sides of the same coin, so having a town hall discussion would improve both concepts.

"It's an Exciting Time to be a Penguin"

There have been many academic achievements

over the past year, Tressel said. YSU had one Rhodes scholar and two Goldwater scholars in the past year -- Ohio State University is the only other college in Ohio to have that combination.

In addition to those academic achievements, Tressel said the Honors College has "exploded," increasing from 300 honors

"Nine of my classes will be strictly Arabic classes and the other nine will be regional and politics classes," Saunders said.

Clendenin said studying Arabic in an Arabic-speaking country will be a great learning experience for Saunders.

"Students should learn at least one other language because in the real world, they are competing with candidates who speak two, three or more languages," Clendenin said. "To become proficient, learning any language abroad where students can completely immerse themselves in everyday living situations is a must."

Opportunities such as this also help to eliminate stigmas and stereotypes of cultures, Saunders said. He said there is a disconnect between the cultures of the Middle East and the West.

"The West has their opinions of the Middle East and the Middle East has theirs of the West, especially America. I feel like more students going there and seeing what the culture's all about and taking an opportunity to learn a language will really help [change] those views."

students to over 700 in the past year. Another 179 applications have been submitted for this semester.

With the Moot Court going to nationals in Gulfport, Florida, and the YSU football team going to the national championship in Frisco, Texas, Tressel said it's an "exciting time to be a Penguin."

There are 32 counties

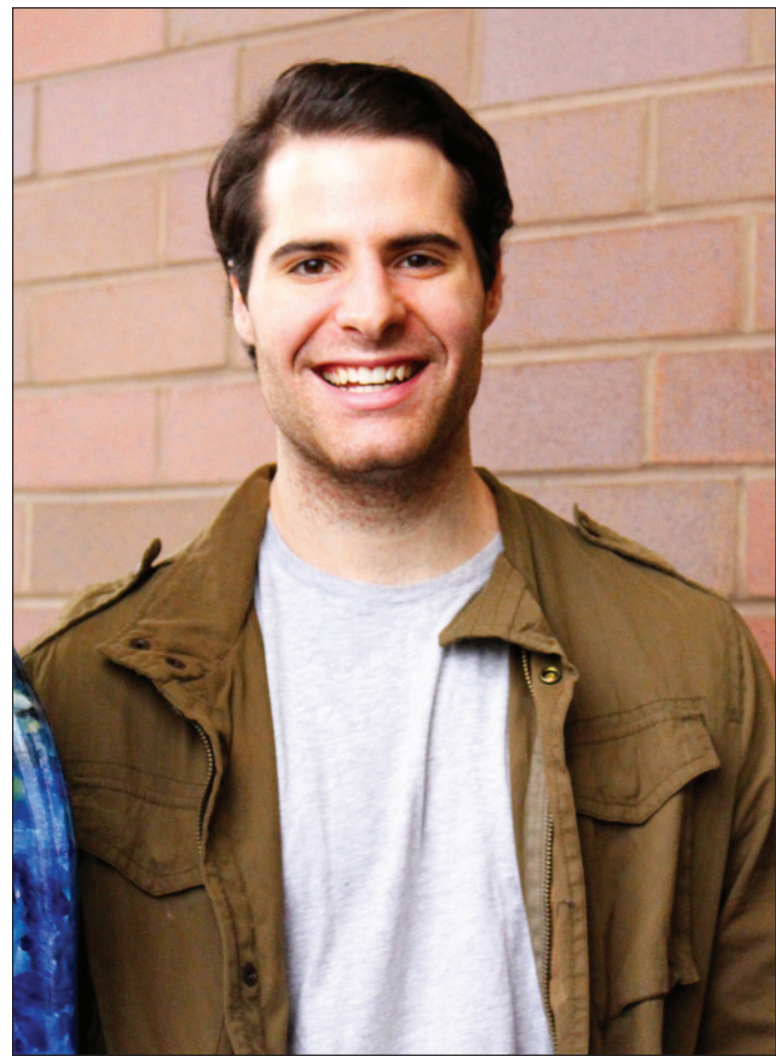


PHOTO BY JORDAN UNGER / THE JAMBAR

After returning in May, Gilman Scholarship recipients must host an event to promote the scholarship. Saunders said he will be showing videos of his trip to Jordan and discuss the scholarship, which he believes any student should look into.

"Even if you don't have the financial means to study abroad, there's always opportunities out there," Saunders said. "A lot of students think it's out of reach and it's really not."

YSU sends about 150 students

to other countries through study abroad programs yearly. Gardner said all students should consider these programs while in college.

"It will help them grow in ways that they might not even realize," Gardner said. "If they have any interest at all, they should come to a study abroad information session."

Sessions are held Fridays at noon in Tod Hall for students interested in the study abroad programs offered at YSU.

students find after college might be tied to the funding the university receives from the state, he said.

"My prediction is, we are going to have to prove that our placement of students in a major is at a certain level," he said, "I'm predicting that is going to affect the funding as we go."

within an hour driving span of YSU, Tressel said, which presents tremendous job and internship opportunities for YSU students in Ohio, western Pennsylvania and West Virginia. There are two million jobs in this range, and there are 34 Fortune 1000 companies headquartered in the area.

In the future, the success



In Good Company

BY ELIZABETH LEHMAN

The Youngstown State University Penguins did not face the Football Championship Subdivision National Title Game alone. They headed to the game in Frisco, Texas, with the cheerleaders, majorettes, flag line and the Marching Pride YSU band.

After spending all of Jan. 4 rehearsing for the performance, the group departed on Jan. 5 at 4 a.m. on Campbell school charter busses. They arrived on Friday morning around 3 a.m.

The group spent Friday rehearsing and checking out the logistics at the stadium, said Michael Barkett, a senior studying music performance.

Barkett said the game was a chance for YSU to come together and support the team.

“A historical thing for our university is happening this week, and it’s a privilege to be down here supporting the guys that have been working nonstop to get us here,” Barkett said.

The band held a three-hour rehearsal on Wednesday afternoon before they left campus. Brandt Payne, director of athletic bands, said the bitter cold in Youngstown presented some

challenges during the rehearsal.

The marching band performed their traditional pre-game show and a highlight from their halftime show last season.

Payne said the band was excited to meet the other team’s band members.

“We are eager to meet our new friends from James Madison University and share pre-game and halftime performances,” Payne said.

Cheerleader Christchianna Goldner said the cheerleaders prepared for the game by trying to involve the community in supporting the team and practicing as much as possible. The cheerleaders were busy, with the

basketball and football seasons overlapping.

“Between getting ready for the championship and still cheering for our other athletic teams, our schedule has been very hectic, so we practiced as much as we could,” Goldner said. “We made sure to help involve the community in supporting the team.”

Goldner, a sophomore studying criminal justice, said all 17 squad members were able to attend the game. Despite the loss, Goldner remained positive about the experience.

“We are upset that we could not bring home that National Champion title, but we have high hopes that we will make it back

next year and show them what we are really made of,” Goldner said.

The trip and participating in the game has been an amazing experience, Goldner said.

“It shows that Youngstown is not to be messed with,” she said. “I am blessed to have been a part of this, and it is amazing that we are now another part of YSU history.”

Payne said on the way home, there was a lot of sleeping on the busses. He also remained positive about the experience.

“Win or lose, we are always happy and proud to play for the Penguins, YSU and Youngstown,” Payne said.

PHOTO BY DAN HINER / THE JAMBAR

YESS Makes It Easy to Go Green



PHOTO BY SAMANTHA PHILLIPS / THE JAMBAR

BY SAMANTHA PHILLIPS

Angelica McKenney said she remembers seeing the greenhouse at Ward Beecher as a child, marveling at the big, beautiful plants inside. When she started attending YSU, the greenhouse was filled with clutter instead of plants.

As president of the Youngstown Environmental Sustainability Society, she has been working with the organization to make the greenhouse functional and thriving again.

YESS aims to raise awareness about environmental sustainability and teaching students how to grow their own vegetables. McKenney got permission from Ian Renne, assistant professor of Ecology, to use the greenhouse if they cleared it out, since they weren't allowed to create gardens on campus.

"So that's what we did. We cleaned it up, found some seeds and dirt, and we started planting things," she said.

Tyler Miller-Gordon, president of the Student Government Association, said the goals of YESS align with SGA's initiative to promote environmental sustainability on campus and in the city of Youngstown.

"This [group] provides opportunities for education, to diversify interest, to have access to healthier foods and take pride in your institution," Miller-Gordon said.

SGA is playing a supportive role in the efforts of YESS, Miller-Gordon said. Gabriella Gessler, executive president of SGA, said it's important to support the greenhouse because Youngstown doesn't have many other greenspaces grow good quality, fresh food.

"We are in a food desert; we aren't exploding with ag-

riculture," she said.

Last semester, YESS started a program called Adopt-A-Plant, where students from Cafaro House were encouraged to plant a seed at the greenhouse and then take the potted plant back to their dorms when it started producing vegetables.

Cafaro House didn't approve of keeping plants inside dorms, so YESS began donating the vegetables to the Rescue Mission. Recently, they donated three pounds of lettuce to the Rescue Mission. McKenney said they plan on donating vegetables to the Student Food Pantry once the pantry gets a refrigerator to store fresh food.

"Helping to provide food for people is the main purpose of our Adopt-A-Plant program," she said. "While promoting the greenhouse is a secondary objective, we are growing plants for a reason."

Previously, plants couldn't survive in the greenhouse because it wasn't built with the right kind of glass, and it wasn't retaining heat and sunlight in the room. To combat this, a few members of YESS built hoop houses.

Ian Matey, a member of YESS, said the hoop houses are a preventative measure against the cold winter temperatures and lack of sunlight.

"It's not greenhouse glass, so we try to capture as much sunlight and photons as we can," Matey said. "We plant the seeds in there, and once [the plants] get big enough we move them out."

Along with building the hoop houses, YESS also spent hours cleaning and recycling old things in the greenhouse, like extra pots. There are still small problems in the greenhouse that need addressed, like a hole in the floor where a pond used to be.

YESS is reaching out to Home Depot and Lowe's and

asking for donations of potting soil. Matey said he is going to ask businesses to keep a compost bucket and their stores.

"I would like to talk to Stone Fruit and Pressed and see if they can offer us old coffee grounds," he said. "Anything organic like that makes for good compost."

Joining this organization is beneficial for students because they get to help people in need, it gets them involved on campus and it's important to learn how to grow food, McKenney said.

"It's a skill you will never regret having, it is something that is always useful and can be incredibly relaxing and stress relieving," she said. "It's a big bonus."

About \$2 million is being allocated to renovate Ward Beecher in the summers of 2017 and 2018, according to YSU Provost Martin Abraham. McKenney said she is concerned because if more students and organizations don't use the greenhouse, then it could limit the amount of money that is used for the greenhouse.

"It's kind of at the point where you need to accept it the way it is and make some small changes like improving the lighting, or tear the whole thing down and rebuild it," she said. "A lot of things can't be retrofitted, and that's a problem."

New officers have to be appointed in the spring semester because McKenney won't be taking any classes and other officers are graduating. While she can't be a part of the organization because she won't be taking credit hours, she and the other officers will still be involved.

"Now more than ever it is significant to be conscious of our environment, how we use it and treat it, and what it needs from us," she said.

“Sim City on Steroids”: YSU’s Business Strategy Game

BY SAMANTHA PHILLIPS

Youngstown State University will be the first college to offer a business simulation program to undergraduate students through a partnership between the Business Strategy Game and YSU’s Entrepreneurship Center.

Students of any major can compete in the Business Strategy Game to win prizes. There will be 10 teams, with three to five players each.

Joseph Angelo, a YSU business professor, created a deal with the company to offer the program to undergraduate students for free this semester. He said the game is a fun way to learn about business concepts.

“I teach business students, but I want to see what other students, like art and education students, can do,” Angelo said. “They can take lessons learned and apply it to their careers.”

Players are in charge of running a ten-

nis shoe company in the game. They can decide everything from the quality of the materials that will be used to the price of the shoes. The winner will be the team that grows the largest company.

“It’s like ‘Sim City’ on steroids,” Angelo said. “Students will run a company and have a friendly competition against other teams. They have to set a sales strategy and make international business deals.”

The competition lasts 10 weeks, each week representing a year of business. Teams start at the company’s 10th year of business owning 10 percent of the market share, factory plants and some money.

Teams can decide how to spend their money, and whether or not they keep plants open. The success of other teams will have an effect on a team’s performance, because control of the market share changes.

“It’s a great way to teach non-business students some business concepts,” he said.

Simon Rafidi, secretary of Enactus, said his group will be competing. He said the game is valuable because it teaches students how their actions can build an organization or set it back.

“We want all of the colleges of YSU’s campus to participate, because every student has the ability to become an entrepreneur in their field of study,” he said.

The first place winners will receive \$400, and the second place winners will receive \$200. A third prize of \$100 will be given to the team that improves the most.

Angelo said a kick-off party will be hosted in the beginning of the spring semester, then the teams can run practice rounds to get accommodated with the software. The game will begin around the third week of the semester.

“This is an opportunity to make mistakes and learn important lessons from them, so you won’t make them in the real world,” Angelo said.

Progress submissions are due Tuesdays

so Angelo can keep track. Strategies will be discussed at the wrap-up party, which will be hosted when the game is completed.

Angelo said he would like for other universities to adopt the program and hold regional competitions.

“I’m excited; it’s going to be a unique and interesting experiment,” he said. “There is no risk involved for students.”

Jean DeAngelo, a finance major, is in charge of marketing the game to students. She said she is excited for the game to take off.

“I think anyone can learn how a small decision can affect a company,” she said. “We want people to know we are giving out cash prizes. It’s rewarding anyways; healthy competition is fun.”

Students who are interested in participating in this game can contact Joseph Angelo at 330.941.7149 or visit <http://cms.yzu.edu/entrepreneurship-center/entrepreneurship-center>

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Breakfast to Begin Black History Month

BY JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ

Youngstown State University will host its 15 annual Martin Luther King Jr. Diversity Breakfast on Jan. 19 in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center.

The breakfast is sponsored by the Division of Student Experience, Student Diversity Programs and the Student Diversity Council. It is free for students.

William Blake, director of Student Diversity Programs, said the event is attended by a diverse group of people, including students, faculty, politicians and religious leaders. The breakfast marks the beginning of events for Black History Month.

"The work of Dr. King is still having an impact and it should be celebrated," said Blake. "We include everybody. Every race and every gender."

Eddie Howard, the associate

vice president of Student Experience, said every student should take advantage of having this event at the university.

"Dr. King's dream was about the inclusion of all people regardless of the color of their skin or their beliefs. That message is still relevant today," said Howard.

The keynote speaker for the breakfast will be Rochelle Robinson, a YSU Alumna and the mayor of Douglasville, Georgia. Robinson was the first black and female mayor of the small town.

"I'll be talking about inclusion," said Robinson. "About remembering things of the past, celebrating the present and actions for the future."

Along with a guest speaker and food, there will be music provided by YSU jazz instructor Theron Brown. Six people will be recognized and presented with awards for different achievements and

their impact on diversity.

Booker Morris, a veteran who served in WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, is one of the six who will be recognized for his services. Last year, Dr. Tiffany Anderson received the Student Diversity Council's Distinguished Award.

Anderson is the director of Africana Studies and plans on attending the breakfast next week.

"It was so well attended — it is not just university people that go," she said. "I am looking forward to this year's speaker. It will help students understand the power of a YSU degree."

YSU students can receive a ticket from the Office of Student Diversity Programs in Kilcawley Center and need to have their YSU banner ID number. Non-students are also encouraged to attend, and can purchase tickets for \$20 at the information desk in Kilcawley Center.

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McDonough Museum of Art

YSU's Center for Contemporary Ideas, Art, Education, and Community



image credit: Alex Webb, *Tehuantepec, Oaxaca*, 1985

ALEX WEBB: LA CALLE PHOTOGRAPHS FROM MEXICO

January 20 – March 3 | Public Reception, Friday, January 20, 6-8pm

La Calle brings together nearly thirty years of photography by Alex Webb, created from 1978 to 2007 in Mexico City and the surrounding states, villages, and cities. Webb frequently credits the landscapes and cityscapes of Mexico for prompting his shift to color photography. He worked intensely on the U.S.–Mexico border and in the densely populated capital city through the early 1980s, inspired by what poet Octavio Paz calls “Mexicanism—delight in decorations, carelessness and pomp, negligence, passion, and reserve.” In *La Calle*, Webb presents a celebration of the street, taken in a vibrant, colorful place which has undergone transformations since his first trips to Mexico—including natural disasters, financial resurgence, political corruption, and drug wars. Webb’s ability to distill gesture, color and contrasting cultural tensions into single, beguiling frames results in evocative images. They convey a sense of mystery, irony, and humor, blurring the distinctions between photojournalism, documentary, and art.



La Calle is organized by Aperture Foundation, New York, and Televisa Foundation, Mexico City.
Curated by Alfonso Morales. All prints courtesy of the Televisa Foundation collection.



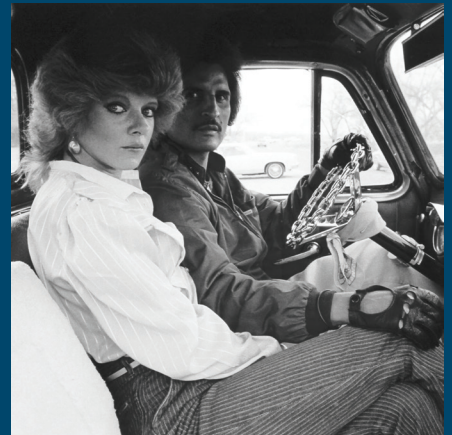
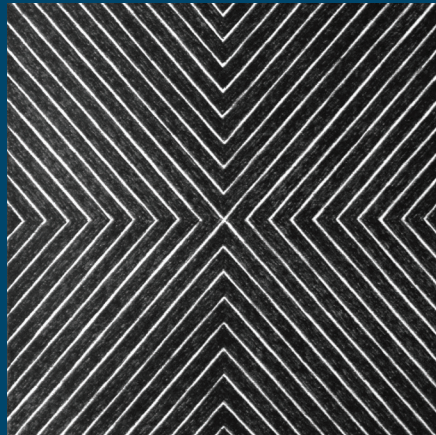
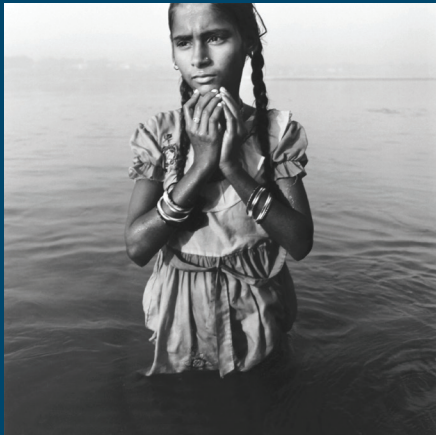
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McDonough Museum of Art

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Selections from the collection of the
Richard M. Ross Art Museum
 Ohio Wesleyan University



January 20 – March 3 | Public Reception, Friday, January 20, 6-8pm

We are very pleased to present Selections from the Collection of the Richard M. Ross Art Museum at Ohio Wesleyan University. The permanent collection at the Ross Art Museum consists of more than 2,500 works of art including American and European prints, drawings, photographs, paintings and sculpture. Artists featured in the exhibition include Elliot Erwitt, Joel Meyerowitz, Alen MacWeeney and Frank Stella. We are grateful to the exhibition sponsors Dr. Albert and Suzanne Cinelli for introducing us to the Ross and its outstanding staff.

image credit: detail left to right, on loan from the Richard M. Ross Art Museum: Mary Ellen Mark, *India*, 1989; Frank Stella, *Untitled from Black Series II*, 1967; Miguel Gandert, *Couple in '51 Chevy, Albuquerque, New Mexico*, 1986; Gilles Peress, *Demonstration in a stadium, Tabriz, Iran*, 1979

The Butler Museum of Art Presents: Maggie Meiners

BY GABE GARCIA

Maggie Meiners, an award winning photographer from Chicago, will be at the Butler Museum Sunday, Jan. 15 from 1-3 p.m. where she will be promoting her new exhibit "Revisiting Rockwell". Norman Rockwell is an artist that Meiners has always admired and recreated some of his iconic paintings with her camera, such as "Freedom from Want" and "Freedom from Fear". In this Q&A, Meiners was able to share some of what she has learned from her career as a photographer.

Q. Exactly how long have you been in the photography industry?

A. I began taking photography seriously in 2000 when I attended a workshop in Santa Fe. I met some other people, we put our work together and had an exhibition in Chicago. We then had two more shows. They taught me a lot about editing work, working collaboratively and presenting work in a professional manner. It was a great experience and one that I will always cherish.

Q. What are specific highs and lows of your career?

A. Truthfully, I can't say I have had many lows. Sometimes a rejection stings a little bit, but it feels good to get up, wipe off the dust and keep on going. Sometimes I will have a review that is not favorable, but that's OK too; viewing and doing art is so subjective — it's OK if not everyone loves or understands what I do. It's my experience, my perspective, and my expression; all I can do is share that and hope that it creates a healthy dialogue about something.

As far as highs, I've had so many. Every time I have an opportunity to exhibit and talk about my work, it is a wonderful opportunity. Specifically, asking to show my work at the Butler has been a shining light in my career and having another solo exhibition at the New England School of Photography in Boston in the spring is pretty exciting to me. Also working closely with my gallery, Anne Loucks Gallery has been a great experience — it challenges me always to think about creating new work. But many of the highs come from within.

For example, facing technical challenges, having a concept that I have no idea how to execute or waiting a long time for precisely the right light or right moment. Those are the fist pumps.

Q. What inspired you to want to take photos as a career?

A. In 1999 I went to an exhibit at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London and saw a photo retrospective and was so moved by it, I came home, told my now husband I wanted to quit my job and be a photographer.

Q. What drew you to add the Butler Museum to your list of stops?

A. It is a goal of mine to get the Revisiting Rockwell all over the world. The Butler is an esteemed institution in the arts, and it felt like a place that may understand the various levels of the work. Not only is the subject matter timely, but there is also humor, ambiguity, social and political undercurrents. The Butler felt like a great place to foster a dialogue about these pieces.

Q. What all will you be doing during your visit?

A. I'm not coming in for very long — just 24 hours. Apparently, there is a Rockwell exhibition occurring in Guangzhou that I will try to check out, and I have a good friend nearby that I am hoping to see. Also, there is an artist's reception Sunday, Jan. 15 from 1-3 p.m. I will be heading to the airport shortly after the reception.

Q. Is there any advice you'd like to give to students aspiring to become photographers?

A. Yes: you can do it! Never stop learning. Listen to podcasts, watch videos, play with film, new cameras, old cameras, etc. Most importantly, build your community. Most of the best advice and opportunities I get comes from other artists. Be open minded about others and their work. Share yourself generously.

YSU Students Talk Games

BY AMANDA LEHNERD

In today's society, video games play a prevalent part in people's lives. Many students spend hours perched in front of their game systems, awaiting the arrival of their new favorite game.

There are many controversies between which console is best, and what games are best to play on those consoles. Some Youngstown State University students shared their favorite games across consoles.

Nicole Johnson mentioned her top favorite games are "Overwatch", "Rainbow Six Siege" and "Uncharted 4".

JT Lavender stated his top games to play are "Overwatch" and "Skyrim" remastered, and Caleb Elkins favorite is "Rainbow Six Siege".

"Overwatch" by Blizzard Entertainment:

"Overwatch" is a team-based multiplayer first-person shooter video game; it was released in May 2016 for Microsoft Windows, PlayStation 4 and Xbox One.

"Overwatch" is a game that has a lot of hidden story to it, but it's still so great," Johnson said. "It's multiplayer based, and it's a game you can find a connection through a lot of the characters and their different playing styles! It's unique and very addicting."

"Overwatch" puts players into two teams of six. Each player selects one of several hero characters with unique movement, attributes and abilities. Heroes are divided into four classes: Offense, Defense, Tank and Support. Players on a team work together to secure and defend control points on a map and escort a payload across the map in a limited amount of time.

"Overwatch" is my number one for its gameplay," Lavender said. "It's very diverse, and for a multiplayer game you don't find yourself with the frustration that other first person shooter games create."

"Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six Siege" by Ubisoft:

"Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six Siege" is a first-person tactical shooter video game developed by Ubisoft Montreal and published by Ubisoft.

"Rainbow Six Siege" is a multiplayer based game," Johnson said. "With its simple concept, each match involves barricading a fortress to defend your team's objective, or strategically attacking to eliminate the opposing team. Essentially, boiled down it's a cop versus robbers game full of characters with different strengths, abilities and weapons."

"Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six Siege" is a first-person tactical shooter, in which players take control of an operator from the Rainbow team. Different operators have different nationalities, weapons, bombs and gadgets. The game features an asymmetrical structure — the teams are not always balanced in their ability choices.

"Rainbow Six" appeals to me because I like tactical gameplay," Elkins said. "I like having to think about what move you are going to make next; it keeps my mind active."

Uncharted 4: A Thief's End by Naughty Dog:

"Uncharted 4: A Thief's End" is an action-adventure game developed by Naughty Dog and published by Sony Computer Entertainment for the PlayStation 4.

The game is an action-adventure game played from a third-person perspective, with platform game elements. The player is Nathan Drake, who is physically able to jump, sprint, climb, swim and scale narrow ledges to get between points. Drake can use various weapons to attack enemies. Stealth elements are incorporated into the game, allowing the player to sneak up on enemies and attack them without being noticed.

"Uncharted 4: A Thief's End" is the newest and final Uncharted game just released in 2016. It's a fantastic conclusion to the action/adventure series that has an emotional and thrilling story," Johnson said. "The characters allow for a very connected and driving experience as you race to find a treasure. There is also multiplayer available for this game where you can continue the adventure with your favorite characters and friends."

"Skyrim" by Bethesda Game Studios: "Skyrim" is an open world action role-playing video game developed by Bethesda Game Studios and published by Bethesda Softworks.

This game is an action role-playing game, playable from either a first-person or third-person perspective. The player can roam over the land of Skyrim, an open world environment consisting of wilderness expanses, dungeons, cities, towns, fortresses and villages.

Players can navigate the game more quickly by riding horses, or by utilizing a fast-travel system, which allows them to warp to previously discovered locations. The game's main quest can be completed or ignored at the player's preference after the first stage of the quest is finished.

"Skyrim" remastered is good for anyone looking for a great story and a good role-playing game," Lavender said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DIVISION OF STUDENT EXPERIENCE

BY AMANDA LEHNERD

Youngstown State University's Division of Student Experience presents Penguin Nights: Casino Edition Jan. 13 in Kilcawley Center.

John Young, one of Penguin Nights event planners, said this is the fourth Penguin Nights and is a collaboration between Kilcawley Center, Student Activities and Penguin Productions, which are all part of the Division of Student Experience, and sponsored by Pepsi.

YSU Division of Student Experience wanted to provide students with a new program that would allow them to get together with friends and have the opportunity to meet new people.

Penguin Nights is a free, late night event exclusive to YSU students. There are a variety of games, entertainment and

prizes to win.

Carolyn Jesko, assistant director of programming for student activities, said, "We were looking to give students an opportunity to get together with friends and create that sense of community right in the heart of campus."

The casino night idea is implemented throughout the event's activities that are being offered during Penguin Night.

"Each Penguin Nights we try a theme. We use different types of entertainment, and use decorations to help transform Kilcawley Center," Young said.

"The Casino theme will have a dance party attached to a mock casino. The casino will have both slot machines and table games," Young said. "Each student will be able to register for free chips to play the games. The casino will be set up to encourage students to play, and volunteers will help teach the various games and en-

courage a fun atmosphere."

Not Your Granny's Bingo, which has become a signature event at Penguin Nights, will be offered at the casino edition. Granny's Bingo gives students the chance to win huge prizes, including the chance to enter the money machine, exclusive to the casino edition.

Along with Not Your Granny's Bingo, there will be a magician and mentalist, The Vindys will be performing and Rookery Radio will be playing some hits for a late night dance party. The selfie station will return to give students a chance to take photos with their favorite celebrities in Las Vegas.

"A magician and mentalist will be strolling throughout Penguin Nights entertaining students with amazing magical feats, intriguing mind-reading and unexpected twists and turns," Jesko said. "The Vindys will be performing in the VIP

Lounge. They will put on a high-energy show blending pop, jazz and rock featuring original songs and cover tunes."

Students attending the event will have the chance to eat at the late night breakfast buffet for free.

"Students can indulge their nighttime cravings with the breakfast bar," Jesko said. "The bar will feature some favorite late night snacks that everyone can enjoy."

The event takes place throughout Kilcawley Center. Most of the activities are contained to the lower level and in the Chestnut room, lounges and restaurants: Wendy's, KC Foodcourt, and the Hub.

Students will need to provide a valid ID to gain access to the event. All ID's will be swiped, and entry will take place at Chick-fil-a located on the north side of Kilcawley Center.

The Jambar Column

The Unexpected Joys of Doing Things You Hate

BY JILLIAN SMITH

Do what you love is common advice for us college students. We are told that is how you will find happiness. But what I found on a blustery cold January morning in Tampa is that sometimes the greatest joys can be found in doing the things you think you may hate.

Arguing about the Constitution to a panel of judges is the last thing I wanted to do when I came into college. Moot Court, which this was, sounded intense, intimidating and mean. I was born a middle child, which made me a woman of peace and very conflict-avoidant. I hated arguing for these reasons, but most importantly I hated it because I was convinced that I wasn't smart enough to do it. I managed to avoid moot court debate successfully for two years.

I finally chose to do moot court because I was told it would be the best preparation for law school, which I had roughly honed in on as the thing I would say to avoid answering "watching cat videos" when people asked me what I planned to do with my future. My first practice made me entirely certain that I should probably stick with cat videos. I detested it.

A room full of some of the smartest people I had ever encountered in my whole life was what greeted me. People were shouting over each other. They were waving their hands wildly while talking about things like the sherbet test, which had to do with First Amendment, not the delicious frozen treat. I felt in over my head.

Week after week went by with me cleverly finding a way not to argue because I felt there was no way I could do so in front of my experienced teammates. Somehow, though, I chose to do what I hated. In the vague back shadowy recesses of my brain, I knew that doing the hard thing was ultimately the better thing.

There were many arguments I presented when I sounded utterly incoherent. There were others where I became so nervous that I had to grip the desk because my knees shook so badly. There were times when our coach, the judge, would ask me questions and I felt like a teeny speck of unknowledgeable dust. But what was amazing about all of those is that doing it over and over

and over again had given me the calm I needed when I started to crumble.

It is amazing to think about what most of us will do to avoid discomfort. Doing the thing I hated forced me to stare into my fear. It forced me to realize that I could either do the hard thing and fail but then maybe succeed, or sit in the comfortable ignorance of having never tried at all.

Fast-forwarding to that blustery January morning, my partner and I managed to qualify for the National Moot Court Competition in Tampa Bay. We had debated two rounds before that, and our score was such that we had to tie in order stay in the tournament. I felt confident ... until I found out that the other team was the defending national champion. Immediately, all my earlier feelings of not being smart enough or tough enough came back.

But doing the thing you fear over and over again has a funny way of forcing you not to retreat into yourself when confronted with it again. My partner reminded me that in fact, I did know this stuff. It was tempting to work myself into a panic and say that I just lost the round because of that. But through the countless hours of doing the uncomfortable work, I was able to stop and calm myself. I was able to take the anxiety and fear I felt and channel them into energy for the discussion. I was able to hold my own when the judges questioned me about the law.

Ultimately I was able to deliver 10 minutes of pure, clean, blissful argument. We ended up debating what was the most incredible round of our entire careers and were able to tie the former champion team.

Doing that thing I hated has made me no longer hate this thing. I love moot court because it is my constant reminder that avoiding things is no way to know myself. Not only can I argue now, but I also know I am smart enough to do so. It might have been nice to have continued avoiding moot court and stayed comfortable, but it was much nicer to learn how to argue well, and in doing so, tie with the national defending champions. Also, sherbet tastes better knowing it is also a First Amendment standard.

Editorial

Positively YSU

In many local high schools, YSU used to mean "You Screwed Up" — a common joke tossed around in the cramped locker-lined hallways. However, Youngstown State University has been proving itself unworthy of the negativity and in need of some well-deserved praise.

While there are always going to be issues that need more attention and buildings or parking decks that need to be fixed and/or replaced, the first editorial of 2017 is going to focus on the things Youngstown State University does well.

It's affordable as far as education goes.

In-state tuition is a little over \$8,000, which is actually less expensive than the cost of room and board.

If one decides they want to have their own place instead, Youngstown boasts inexpensive housing right outside of YSU's borders. Another surprise? It's safe. The tales of car bombs and murder sprees are closer to the past than they are to the present.

YSU alumni go places.

Literally and figuratively. Graduates are all over the globe working at some of the most innovative and interesting companies around. Just because the university is inexpensive doesn't mean that the education provided is lackluster.

Some remarkable YSU grads include Ed O'Neill, Evelyn G. Lowery, Ron Jaworski, Nanette Lepore and Simeon Booker, just to name a few.

The professors rule.

No matter what program a student is in, they're guaranteed to find some of the kindest, most attentive professors around.

The student to professor ratio is 19:1 (as of 2010), so those who attend YSU are going to know their professors, know their classmates and receive individualized attention in and outside of class.

There's a diverse population.

YSU is filled with all sorts of different people who all share a common goal: education. Meeting and interacting with people who aren't carbon copies of your culture, race, thought process, etc. is a great way to expand understanding and make new friends.

Instead of limiting learning in classrooms, YSU offers additional educational opportunities in the form of a distinct student body.

Renewed Penguin pride.

Over the last decade, YSU athletics has been in a state of limbo. The numerous programs were unsuccessful or unable to have any success in the postseason. But the football, women's basketball and track and cross-country teams have experience postseason success.

The men's cross-country team won its first Horizon League title in school history in November; the women's basketball team played in a postseason tournament for the third time in three seasons; and the football team made national headlines after playing in the Football Championship Subdivision title for the first time since 1997.

Thanks to the current students, faculty, staff, alumni and administration, YSU is actively doing good work and continuing to improve. In the midst of what can seem like a plethora of negative news in the new year, YSU has made an otherwise positive impression.

If you think you can write better than this,
give it a shot.

thejambar@gmail.com

The Press Box Perspective:

Are There Too Many Bowl Games?

BY ANDREW ZUHOSKY

All right, I want to begin with a question today: How many bowl games (not counting this past Monday's College Football Playoff National Championship Game between the University of Alabama and Clemson University) were there this season?

If you answered with 40, you're right. This past bowl season, which ran from Dec. 17 to Jan. 2, featured 40 games, ranging from the New Mexico Bowl, won 23-20 by the University of New Mexico, to the Sugar Bowl, won 35-19 by the University of Oklahoma.

This year's total of 40 Football Bowl Subdivision bowl games was more than double the total of bowls that had been contested during the 1996-97 bowl season, which saw only 18 bowl games played between Dec. 19, 1996 and Jan. 2, 1997.

I know I'm going to sound like I'm echoing the sentiments of all the football widows out there, but I think that there are too many bowl games every year.

Don't get me wrong, I love watching college football and the bowl games every year, but let's face the facts: some of the bowl games played this past year were simply tedious. Case in point: Did anybody see the Miami Beach Bowl on Dec. 19?

That game was over before halftime. I remember shutting it off because it was such a blowout — a game won 55-10 by

the University of Tulsa.

Then again, the bowl season proved exciting, particularly so in the wild Rose Bowl Game in Pasadena, CA two Mondays ago. Boy, oh boy, was that an exciting contest between The University of Southern California and Penn State University.

The Rose Bowl have everything a great bowl game should this year, including a game-winning field goal for USC on the final play. I can safely say that it was one of the best football games I've seen on TV this season.

Still, though, the college football bowl season and the holiday season (fittingly) go hand-in-hand. Think about it: You overindulge with food while watching a smorgasbord of football.

The bowl schedule has gotten so full in recent years that ESPN, which broadcasts the majority of the bowl games, has had to rebrand its bowl game coverage from "Bowl Week" to "Bowl Mania."

There are simply too many bowl games, but last spring, the NCAA took steps to improve the quality of programs in the bowl season.

Back in April, they suspended the commencement of any new bowl games for three seasons, and under the conditions of the suspension, no new bowls will be launched until the 2019 college football season.

In 2015, three bids in the bowl selection process went to schools that were technically not bowl eligible (an FBS program must have a minimum of six regular sea-

son wins to be deemed bowl eligible) for that year's postseason.

This past year, there were four schools whose programs were selected for the bowl season that weren't technically bowl eligible. One of these schools was the University of Hawaii at Manoa, whose football team was conditionally granted eligibility for the Dec. 24 Hawaii Bowl at its own stadium.

Hawaii got into that game because it took precedence over ineligible 5-7 programs due to its 6-7 regular season mark and won 52-35 over Middle Tennessee State University.

I think it's good that the NCAA put the stops on any new bowl games for now. It shows that they're serious about improving the quality of existing bowl games.

You don't want to see too many bowl games having 5-7 teams playing in them because that isn't good football. I think the NCAA should take a look at which bowl games are and aren't performing well and cut the underperforming bowls.

I also think the minimum number of regular season wins toward bowl eligibility should be raised to eight. By raising the minimum number of regular season wins toward bowl eligibility to eight, it ensures the best quality teams will be playing in the postseason.

It all starts with cutting some bowl games that aren't doing well and then you work up from there.

Happy New Year, everybody. Welcome back to all returning students. Best of luck!

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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Hey you! Yeah, you!
Like what you see? Hate
what you see?
Have something fun to say?
Send us an e-mail
thejambar@gmail.com

Please remember to include your name
or your letter won't be printed



Men's Basketball Preps for Tough Test at Home

Matt Donlan (0) shoots a three-pointer over Jeremiah Bell (1) from Milwaukee in a game on Dec. 29, 2016.

BY RICK HENNEMAN

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team will host the Valparaiso University Crusaders (12-4, 2-1 in the Horizon League) on Jan. 12 at 7:45 p.m.

The Penguins (8-9, 2-2 in the Horizon League) are coming off a comeback win over Wright State University on Jan. 7.

"As starters, we have to start off with good energy. That's what is going on this season; our first half has been a little struggle," YSU center Jordan Kaufman said about the energy the team needs. "In the second half we do really well. If we can bring the same energy in the first half that we normally have in the second, we will be fine."

YSU is averaging 77 points per game while giving up 82 points per game this season.

One of the problems YSU had faced

early in the Horizon League schedule was poor free-throw shooting. YSU is shooting just 69 percent this season.

YSU head coach Jerry Slocum is impressed by how the team has recovered recently.

"We work hard on it all the time. About 70 percent of the year we shot the ball really well from the foul line. Hopefully we found some medication for the virus," Slocum said.

Slocum said that the backcourt duo of Cameron Morse and Francisco Santiago is a major key to YSU's future success.

"I thought going into the year that our backcourt was our strength. They got a lot of experience as a first-year-tandem last year," Slocum said. "They play well off of each other. I think that both of them, especially Cam, kind of picked up his defensive effort during the last two or three games. That's made them not only a good offensive backcourt, but a really good defensive one."

Valparaiso brings with them one of the best players in college basketball: senior Alec Peters. Peters declared for the NBA draft following his junior season, but eventually decided to return to finish his college career. He currently averages a double-double this season with over 24 points and 10 rebounds per game. Peters is projected to be a mid-first round pick in the NBA draft.

Slocum is far from surprised by how good Valparaiso has been this year with players like Peters.

"Valpo is who they are," he said. "They are one of the best mid-majors in the country. They probably have the number one player in the country out of the mid-major pool. You got to be able to put the ball in the basket because you know they will."

Slocum also said that any time you have a guy like Peters on your team, you will have good results. Valpo has also returned four of their five starters from last season.

Slocum said that is a huge plus for them.

Valparaiso leads the Horizon League in free-throw attempts per game (28.3 per game) as well as free-throw percentage (82.4 percent), and Slocum discussed that the Penguins will be focusing on staying away from foul trouble.

"They have good basketball IQ; you really have to guard the foul line against them," Slocum said. "There are two things they do extremely well: they go to the offensive glass to get rebounds and they get to the foul line. They drive it, and they really make you foul — that will clearly be a game emphasis for us."

The Penguins will also host the University of Illinois - Chicago (8-8, 1-2 in the Horizon League) on Jan. 14. UIC is second in the Horizon League for scoring defense (64 points per game) and three-point percentage (38.9 percent). Tipoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

PHOTO BY RICK HENNEMAN / THE JAMBAR



COURTESY OF YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

Kelley Wright (35) shoots a three-pointer while St. Francis (PA) defender Ace Harrison (34) attempts to block the shot. YSU's Indiya Benjamin (3) is in the foreground.

Looking to Rebound: YSU Women's Basketball Hoping to Start a Win Streak

BY MARC WEEMS

With the Youngstown State University women's basketball team (4-10, 0-3 Horizon League) currently on a three-game losing streak, they look to win their next two games to put themselves back on track.

"I don't know if I should be excited about competing and being right there in games," John Barnes, YSU women's basketball head coach, said. "Obviously the group that we are playing with, it has been a challenge and a struggle. We are hoping to get over the hump."

Barnes also said that he isn't sure if he should be disappointed because they aren't winning those games they always compete in.

YSU has lost six out of its last seven games. In those games, they've given up nearly 76 points per game, while only scoring while averaging 71 points per game.

The Penguins hope that their next two home games can put them on the right path. With a game against the University of Illinois at Chicago (3-12, 0-4 HL) on Jan. 12, and a game against Valparaiso University (5-10, 0-4 HL), YSU will get its chance.

"It hurts and it's disappointing," YSU guard Indiya Benjamin said about losing. "We just have some loose ends that we need to put together. We are going to continue to work on those and get better."

YSU's first opponent, UIC, is currently skidding as they have lost five consecutive games and have lost 11 out of their last 12 games.

UIC allows teams to average 72.5 points per game, but they average almost 11 steals per game as a team. They also allow teams to shoot 43 percent overall against them.

For YSU offensively, they average 69 points per game while shooting just under 40 percent overall.

On defense, the Penguins give up 74 points per game while also allowing teams to shoot 43 percent against them.

UIC's offense only musters 62 points per game while shooting just 27 percent from beyond the arc and also 55 percent from the free-throw line.

"Defense has been the reason we've been successful in the past," Benjamin said. "Not being as good has hurt us a lot. We have to focus on using defense, and then the offense will come to us."

Benjamin also said that part of that problem has been all the injuries the team has had, but doesn't use that as an excuse for them not playing well.

After their game against UIC, YSU will take on Valparaiso on Jan. 14.

Valparaiso averages 64 points per game, while giving up 76 points per game — although Valpo does shoot 79 percent from the free-throw line. Valpo's bigger issue is that it averages almost 20 turnovers per game.

"I think we know who we are and what we can do. It's now just trying to raise our level of play," Barnes said.

Barnes also said that Sarah Cash, who hasn't played since Dec. 3, will most likely not play the rest of the year and will red-shirt because of her injury.

"We are fortunate to have those players on our team, and how they've stepped up for us," Benjamin said about the freshmen athletes. "We have to continue to keep working and to do our best. We have to keep making strides and getting better each day."

YSU will also be without guard Alison Smolinski, as she is being put through concussion protocol.

"Holding everything together is tough," Barnes said. "We are just trying to focus on the little things and getting our young players improved."

YSU faces UIC on Jan. 12 at 5:15 p.m. and they also take on Valpo on Jan. 14 at 4:30 p.m.

And Then There Was WON: JMU Capitalizes on YSU's Mistakes

BY MARC WEEMS

With Youngstown State University looking to win their fifth Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) championship, the James Madison University Dukes stood in their way.

JMU defeated YSU 28-14 as they beat the Penguins in every aspect of the game.

"I'm disappointed, but I congratulate James Madison," YSU head coach Bo Pelini said. "It didn't start the way we wanted. We got behind the eight-ball, but they're a good football team. Our start didn't help."

JMU was able to get to the Penguins early as linebacker Justin Wellons blocked YSU's punter Mark Schuler and it was returned to the 24-yard line.

Two plays later, JMU tight end Jonathan Kloosterman caught a 14-yard pass from quarterback Bryan Schor to put JMU up 7-0 with 12:10 left in the first quarter.

After a shanked punt by Schuler, JMU marched down the field.

Originally, a pass from Schor to wide receiver Rashard Davis was ruled incomplete, but was overturned. That 18-yard touchdown gave JMU a 14-0 lead with 9:37 left in the first quarter.

After a nice drive which started with a 37-yard kickoff return by YSU tailback Jody Webb, a bad snap led to a fumble by holder Schuler, and JMU took over at their own 36-yard line.

"We've seen them on film. They did what they did on film," YSU quarterback Hunter Wells said. "But you've got to be able to adapt to that change, and obviously we didn't."

The first quarter ended with JMU leading YSU 14-0. The Penguins were only able to gain 26 yards to JMU's 100 yards.

"The ball just didn't bounce our way," Pelini said about making mistakes. "We had a young man make a mistake, and that's just the way that goes."

Pelini also said that, after all, these are just young kids, and that's the way the game is played.

After another unsuccessful drive by YSU, Schuler pinned JMU back deep, but YSU was unable to keep the Dukes back.

Schor quickly hit two receivers on deep throws to put them within the red zone.

After Schor set JMU up, running back Khalid Abdullah ran the ball in from 2 yards out to put JMU up 21-0 with 8:17 left in the second quarter.

Abdullah's touchdown set the JMU career rushing touchdown mark as that was his 44th career rushing touchdown.

JMU took over at their own 7-yard line, after a 67-yard punt by Schuler.

After YSU was able to get a piece of JMU's Gunnar Kane punt, they got the ball at JMU's 30-yard line.

Just two plays later, Wells connected with tight end Shane Kuhn to cut YSU's deficit to 21-7 with 3:35 left in the second quarter.

The end of the first half stayed at 21-7 in favor of JMU. YSU would receive the ball in the second half after mustering just 88 total first-half yards.

YSU's string of bad luck continued when JMU intercepted a pass by Wells that deflected off a Penguins' receiver and was caught by JMU cornerback Curtis Oliver.

That interception, plus a 15-yard pass interference penalty, set up JMU around YSU's 5-yard line. Three plays later, Abdullah scored from 2 yards away to put JMU up 28-7 with 10:10 left in the third quarter.

The score at the end of the third quarter was 28-7 in favor of JMU.

"The emotion I have now is not because of the outcome, but I'm going to miss these guys," YSU defensive end Derek Rivers said. "Honestly man, I wouldn't trade this season we had for anything."

YSU's Jeremiah Braswell caught a pass from Wells to cut the deficit to 28-14, but it was too little, too late for YSU as they came up short.

YSU out gained JMU by a count of 292 to 253 yards, respectively.

JMU's Abdullah was named player of the game with 101 yards and two touchdowns.



PHOTO COURTESY OF YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

Shane Kuhn, a Youngstown State University tight end, breaks a tackle and crosses the goal line in Saturday's Football Championship Subdivision game against James Madison University.