



SGA President's Resignation Brings a Transition of Leadership

BY SAMANTHA PHILLIPS

Jacob Schriener-Briggs was appointed as executive vice president of the Student Government Association on Jan. 18 when Gabriella Gessler, the former executive vice president, left her position to become the new president.

This shift in leadership was brought

on by Tyler Miller-Gordon's resignation as president of SGA in early January. Gessler said he stepped down for personal reasons.

Schriener-Briggs is familiar with the role. He served as executive vice president in the 2014-2015 academic year when Michael Slavens was president, and again in the fall semester of 2015 with Ashley Orr.

Gessler said Schriener-Briggs was select-

ed partly because he had previous experience. She said appointing him on short notice wouldn't cause disruptions for the body, and she already knows he is a hard worker.

"Having Jacob be able to step in with his knowledge of SGA was comforting," she said. "We needed to be able to focus on the body and it's well-being, make sure we are going in the right direction and

PHOTO BY TYLER ROTHBAUER / THE JAMBAR

start off the semester strong."

Schriener-Briggs resigned as vice president in 2015 due to a conflict of interest when he became the president of Sigma Tau Gamma. He was eligible to step back into SGA because his term as STG president ended in December of last year.

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JAMBAR STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:

GABRIELLE FELLOWS GFELLOWS@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

MANAGING EDITOR:

DAN HINER DGHINER@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

HEAD COPY EDITOR:

SAMANTHA WELCH SLWELCH01@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

ASSISTANT COPY EDITORS:

JORDAN MCNEIL JEMCNEIL@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

ELIZABETH LEHMAN ELLEHMAN@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

SARAH DOOLEY SDOOLEY@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

DESIGN EDITOR:

LAURA MCDONOUGH LLMCDONOUGH@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

ASSISTANT DESIGNERS:

KATIE STEARS KOSTEARS@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

LANI NGO ENGO@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

NEWS EDITOR:

SAMANTHA PHILLIPS SPHILLIPS@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR:

JORDAN UNGER JAUNGER@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

REPORTERS:

DANIELLE GARNER DKGARNER@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

ANTHONY KRIM II AMKRIM@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

RALEIGH BASINGER RJBASINGER@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

ALEXA DEVORE ANDEVORE@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

ELIZABETH LEHMAN ELLEHMAN@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ JARODRIGUEZ02@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR:

AMANDA LEHNERD ARLEHNERD@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTER:

GABE GARCIA GRGARCIA@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

COLUMNIST:

JILLIAN SMITH JSMITH04@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

SPORTS EDITOR:

MARC WEEMS MRWEEMS01@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

SPORTS REPORTERS:

ANDREW ZUHOSKY ATZUHOSKY@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

RICK HENNEMAN RDHENNEMAN@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

WILL CLARK WCLARK@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

WEB MANAGER:

ALYSSA PAWLUK ALPAWLUK@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

ASSISTANT WEB MANAGER:

BRUNO SERRANO BFSERRANO@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

SOCIAL MEDIA CURATOR:

MEGAN WHITE MLWHITE01@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

HEAD OF VIDEO PRODUCTION:

GRAIG GRAZIOSI GRGRAZIOSI@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

VIDEO JOURNALISTS:

COREY MCCRAE CDMCCRAE@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

TRE MASTRAN TCMASTRAN@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITORS:

ALYSSA PFLUG AMPFLUG@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

TYLER ROTHBAUER TJROTHBAUER@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

ASSISTANT ADVERTISING AND PROMOTIONS MANAGER:

AMELIA MACK AJMACK@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

BUSINESS MANAGER:

MARY DOTA 330.941.3094

ADVISER:

DAVE DAVIS 330.941.3095

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Cushwa Labs Need Major Improvement

BY RALEIGH BASINGER

The food labs in Cushwa Hall may be receiving renovations and some new equipment following complaints from students and faculty.

Joseph Mosca, dean of Bitonte College of Human and Health Services, met with Zara Rowlands, chair of Human Ecology, to discuss some of the problems with the lab and what solutions could be implemented.

“The plan at this point is to replace three of the stoves,” Mosca said. “Then we are looking at doing some other renovations with respect to the plumbing. In terms of the flooring and doing any sort of major renovations in that area, we need to have a plan and estimates.”

Mosca said he hopes to tackle some of the larger issues after summer, if there is enough funding for it.

Mark Zetts, Human Ecology professor, said people in the community are considering donating money to renovate the labs. He said he thinks their equipment is adequate for what they are teaching in class.

Mosca said he doesn't think the problems in the lab haven't impacted the student's experiences.

“The chair and the faculty in that area have really tried to accommodate as best as possible, especially with the stoves because that is kind of where the action happens,” he said.

Emily Battiato, a dietetics student, said she has experienced problems in the food lab such as an oven not turning on or a handle breaking off. When this happens, groups must share appliances, she said.

“That's not always feasible when various foods require different cooking temperatures, and it becomes too crowded,” she said.

Jacquelyn Oddo, a dietetics student, said some of the equipment is old and dirty, which can discourage students from using them.

“The equipment is very outdated, and you never know what will work and what doesn't,” Oddo said. “There are not enough of certain tools needed for every group in the class to use, so it is difficult to give everyone an equal experience.”

Oddo said there was a mold issue last year from people putting wet materials in a cabinet. Battiato said lab students and the teacher took care of it, and they haven't come across any mold since.

Rowlands said the room wasn't designed to be a food lab, so there isn't an exhaust system, there aren't enough out-

lets, and there isn't a proper drainage system for the lab.

“[The dean] has been generous in helping us buy pieces of equipment, but we need food processors and pasta machines and the little things that people don't think about that you would need for a food lab,” Rowlands said.

Rowlands said YSU can't compete with other universities that have upgraded equipment that are used in places such as hotels or hospitals, but that's mainly because those universities have bigger dietetics programs.

“We know that YSU has some budget issues so we are trying to be patient, and wait for our turn so that way we can have a space that is functional and that can attract students to programs that are really good,” Rowlands said.

PHOTO BY TYLER ROTHBAUER/ THE JAMBAR

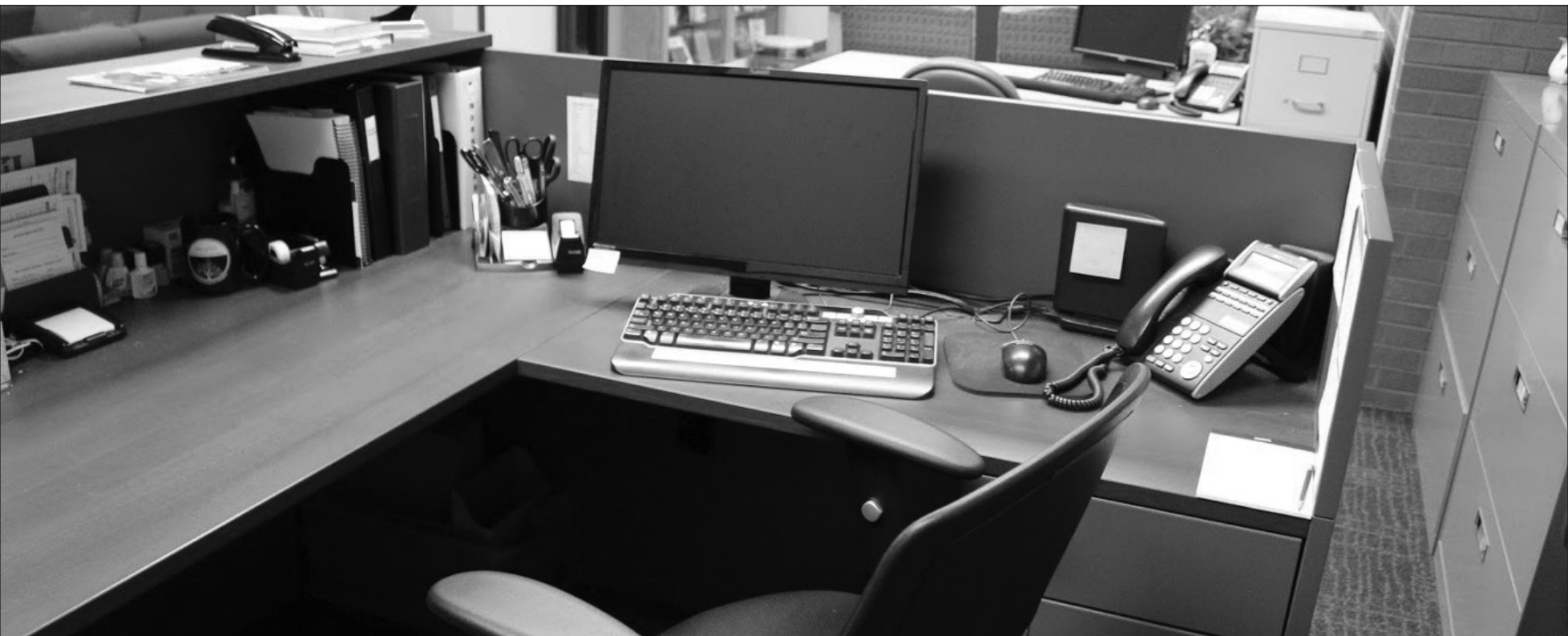


PHOTO BY JORDAN UNGER/ THE JAMBAR

Insistence for Assistance

BY JORDAN UNGER

Two departments at Youngstown State University continue to manage without administrative assistance after a recent request for a new hire was denied.

The Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies has been without administrative assistance for seven months due to budget cuts. Alan Tomhave, department chair, said this has been detrimental to the department.

“An administrative assistant does a lot of different tasks that help make the job of the faculty easier,” Tomhave said.

Administrative assistants perform tasks from making textbook orders and printing off exams to bridging contact between students and faculty. Tomhave said these tasks are now piled on the faculty, in addition to their academic responsibilities.

“They’ve been pretty good about understanding that that’s necessary, but they’ve also been frustrated a little bit too because it’s an extra piece,” Tomhave said. “It’s not the thing that they’re experts in.”

Michael Jerryson, philosophy professor, said the empty office hurts the students more than the faculty.

“It’s really disheartening for students

to come in and see a department with the lights off where no one’s there to answer questions,” Jerryson said. “I’ve had people come in while I’m in my office and go, ‘Hello? Who’s there?’... What does this signal to the students? Is YSU vibrant or is it no longer fully operational?”

The Department of Foreign Languages has been without administrative assistance since May 2015. A request was sent to Provost Martin Abraham to hire a full-time staff member to be divided between the two departments, which was denied last week.

Abraham said the decision was made because YSU has a limited budget and there are other areas of the university that are also requesting more staff or funding.

“We are doing our best to invest in those opportunities that provide the greatest return for the greatest number of students, while also being cognizant of critical academic needs,” he said.

The faculty union filed a grievance against the administration in regards to the situation. Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez, philosophy professor, said the ruling stated that absent administrative assistants’ functions should be done by the department chair.

“The problem with that is those functions belong to the ACE union employ-

ees,” Palmer-Fernandez said. “It is pretty much a standard thing that these are the things [ACE employees] do, [non-union members] don’t come and do them.”

The secretarial position was vacated in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies last July, when previous secretary Mary Dillingham was transferred to Career Services.

Bruce Waller, philosophy professor, said Dillingham helped organize all of the departments’ activities, including The Philosophy Circle and the Shipka Speakers Series. He said the Philosophy Circle raised over \$120,000 in scholarships last year with Dillingham’s help.

“We also received well over several hundred thousand dollars from philosophy circle members who left scholarships as a legacy,” Waller said. “The reason we’re able to do that, the reason that worked, was because we had somebody who knew everybody.”

The Shipka Speakers Series is one of the largest lecture series on campus. Jerryson said attendance was down one-third this year because it was planned the same day as the Bernie Sanders rally.

“I think partly that wouldn’t have happened if Mary helped with logistics, but that aside, a lot of people didn’t show up because Mary wasn’t there,” Jerryson

said.

The lack of administrative assistance turns students away, Waller said.

“If you have a really dedicated, intelligent secretary or administrative assistant who runs these things, they are the life and blood of a department,” Waller said. “You cherish them and everyone knows how much they contribute.”

The department has one student assistant to fill the gap and is hoping to hire another. Palmer-Fernandez said there are still limitations.

“She can’t go into your private records ... or ask the administrative assistant to do a course change form,” Palm-Fernandez said.

Kristine Blair, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, is planning to meet with faculty, the Association of Classified Employees, Human Resources and the Ohio Education Association over the next few months to standardize duties of all positions in the college.

Tomhave said the conversations are ongoing, and hopes the vacancy will be filled in the future.

“The dean understands the need for making sure those tasks get done,” he said.

Pitfalls of Social Media

BY JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ

There's an estimated 2.03 billion social media users in the world. According to Common Sense Media, a nonprofit organization, internet addiction could affect up to 26 percent of adolescents and college students.

With social media on the rise and smartphones in the palm of students' hands, some professors at Youngstown State University discuss that college students can be easily distracted by constant access to the cyber world.

Keith Corso, a social media professor at Youngstown State University, said there is a difference between being addicted to social media and overly dependent on it, but both scenarios can be a problem.

"Mobile devices, such as laptops [and phones], cause issues we didn't have years ago," Corso said. "They can be a constant distraction."

Joshua Monroe, a senior at YSU, said these devices at arm's reach add to the temptation of regularly checking social media.

"Since there's so many ways to get to it, it's just so easy to access it," Monroe said.

A publication in the 2016 Journal of Media Education studied 675 undergraduate students in 26 states. The study showed that 97 percent of students use their phones during class for non-educational purposes, 70 percent being social media.

Dennis Schiraldi, a communications professor, takes a modern approach at tackling the distraction that comes with social media use in class. Schiraldi said he embraces it.

"It is naive to think that learning doesn't take place in the sense that you are going to attend a professional conference or a concert [and share it on social media]," Schiraldi said. "And in order for you to feel like you're engaged in that event, you feel the need to connect with other people."

These connections through social media are beneficial, Monroe said.

"It connects communication throughout the world," Monroe said. "Businesses flourish from views and likes. Entertainment is viewed in a whole different aspect because of it."

Instructors should encourage the use of social media sites such as Twitter and Snapchat during classes, Schiraldi said.

"If you are live tweeting my class, then I know you're paying attention. You're engaged," Schiraldi said. "The modern form of note taking isn't necessarily you sitting writing on a piece of paper; it's you documenting this on social media."

Schiraldi and Corso agreed that social media should be handled in moderation. Corso said if someone feels overly dependent on social media, he or she must have the willpower to eliminate the distraction.

"If we do it enough, we can become addicted," Corso said.

It is important to know how to balance between school work and social media, Monroe said.

"Usually I can [prioritize] between the two by importance and time to complete projects," Monroe said. "When it is time to focus, I know not to use those sites."

By managing your time, you can help take away from social media addiction, Corso said.

Steel, a Bomb and a City; Youngstown's History of War

BY JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR
MORGAN PETRONELLI

Youngstown, Ohio, built on the foundations of the booming steel industry, played a significant role in World War II — manufacturing materials that were transformed into weaponry and other war items that went to aid U.S. military.

Although a particularly small city on the map, Youngstown has made its name one to remember by the hard work, blood, sweat and tears of its workers.

David Simonelli, a history professor at Youngstown State University, said Youngstown was an "arsenal of democracy" during the war.

"[It] was the colloquial term used to describe the U.S.'s smaller cities that produced vast amounts of material for the war effort," Simonelli said.

He also said that many young men in Youngstown signed up for the military prior to the war, thus making them involved in a plethora of major events including D-Day, the attack on Pearl Harbor and the dropping of the atomic bomb.

Bill Lawson, executive director of the Mahoning Valley Historical Society, describes life in Youngstown during WWII as a "boom time" for the city, but also a time of sacrifice.

"It was a time of rationing and self-sacrifice, family sacrifice and community sacrifice for the purpose of forwarding the war effort

and making sure we were victorious," Lawson said.

Lawson said recycling materials such as old streetcar tracks were used in the steel mills. Rationing other items such as tires, panty hose and food was common during that time period.

Steel mills were the epicenter of activity in the city at the time of the war. The mills ran 24/7 with three shifts and even deferred some employees from being drafted due to being so vital to the company and steel-making process.

Lawson said that when Youngstown men at the mills were drafted, their positions were quickly filled in by women in order to keep the steel manufacturing going. Some of the major steel companies in the area included Youngstown Sheet and Tube, U.S. Steel Corporation, Republic Steel Corporation and Sharon Steel.

Donna DeBlasio, a history professor at YSU, said that other businesses made alternative products related to steel other than what they were making beforehand such as Trustcon (Trust Concrete).

The concrete company, owned by Republic Steel at the time, made reinforced concrete, but transitioned to welding and manufacturing airplane landing mats to be used in the South Pacific. DeBlasio's own mother, a "Rosie the Riveter" type, used to work at Trustcon.

These steel companies helped the federal government and the

Roosevelt Administration sell war bonds to finance the war effort overseas. This included bringing celebrities into town — one specifically being Marlene Dietrich, a Hollywood movie actress, who visited Youngstown in the effort to solely sell war bonds.

There have been rumors circulating around that Youngstown was a possible bomb target during the war. Due to high cloud coverage and its location way inland from the coast, Simonelli said the probability of Youngstown being a bomb target was unlikely, but a possibility.

"It makes sense anywhere you're producing an industrial product — and frankly if you take out the steel mills, you're going to be hard pressed to build much of anything else unless you really got it all stockpiled," DeBlasio said.

Despite not knowing for sure if Youngstown was a definite bomb target, the city was still a big enough steel producer that it made it a contender for a rumor to swirl around.

Youngstown's steel mills kept producing through multiple other wars. Without those wars, the need for steel slowly faded away along with the steel mills and mill workers who eventually left town in search of new work. Although the city's significance to the war effort will forever be remembered in history.

"The war effort built Youngstown and Youngstown built the war effort," Simonelli said.

Whitney Tressel On the Move

BY JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR
MARAH J. MORRISON

For Whitney Tressel, it all started with flipping through magazines as a kid. Now a successful Jersey City local, and a freelancer and photographer for Google that travels all over the world, she has reached near stardom by reaching for her goals. She has worked for many publications such as Esquire, Rolling Stone, Budget Travel, The Wall Street Journal and United Airlines. Tressel also teaches in five different countries for National Geographic Student Expeditions.

While attending Boardman High School and living in Youngstown, Ohio, Tressel worked for the yearbook staff and always thought that the yearbook photographers looked so cool hanging outside the dark-room together with their hippie camera straps, photographing events and developing film together for hours.

Tressel was motivated by Mr. Thom Fecik, one of her teachers at Boardman High School, who told her that she should become a photographer. Now Tressel travels all over the world to capture moments.

"I love traveling completely, the ups and the downs," Tressel said. "Traveling all over the world is most definitely tiring, but it's what I call a 'fancy problem' to have, and the experience always wins over the tiredness."

The traveling photographer's favorite places to travel tend to be the places that she has spent the most time in, like Dubrovnik, Croatia, Granada and Spain.

"We can all be photographers," Tressel said. "We all have cameras in our pockets now and self-publishing social platforms to show our work. But can we all be good photographers?"

The photographer market is saturated and an aspiring photographer should cut through the noise and photograph what's unique to them and what excites them, she advises.

"Wake up early. Talk to that person. Ask one more question," Tressel said. "Spend time in just one spot. Wait a little longer. Reflect. And also, don't quit your day job. Yet."

Jim Tressel, president of Youngstown State University, said that his daughter's brave soul is only one of the many reasons he is proud to be her father.

"She's always thinking about the next adventure," President Tressel said. "We're awfully proud of her and she works really hard to be good at her craft. She's fearless."

Sarah-Marie Land, who is a close friend and colleague of the shutterbug in the National Geographic Student Expeditions program, has traveled a great deal as well all over the world. Paris is one of Land's favorite places that she has been to with Tressel.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM TRESSEL

"In the words of Hemingway, from the book 'A Moveable Feast,' 'If you are lucky enough to have lived in Paris as a young man, then wherever you go for the rest of your life it stays with you, for Paris is a moveable feast,'" said Land. "Traveling expands one's knowledge, horizons and understanding of a culture."

Tressel is currently happy with where she is at with her work right now, but she said she is always pushing herself further and plans to make it to all 189 countries.

"This ambition stems from both my parents, Carol and Jim, and my older siblings, Zak and Carlee, all whom kick ass in their fields," Tressel said.

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Campus Involvement Makes Better Students, Employees

BY ELIZABETH LEHMAN

Youngstown State University student leaders and faculty members discussed how getting involved on campus positively affects a student's college experience.

Many studies show that college students who are involved in extracurricular activities have higher GPAs, higher retention rates and better job satisfaction after graduation. James MacGregor, a graduate student, said he decided to get more involved on campus during his sophomore year.

MacGregor got a job at Beeghly College of Education, joined the Youngstown Student Education Association, Student Government Association and started volunteering for campus events. He said getting involved on campus had a positive impact on him.

"I cannot say why my grades improved, but I do know that my time spent on campus grew significantly and my network of friends to study with grew," MacGregor said. "I wanted to be here and I wanted to

succeed, so getting involved really showed me a new light."

Karen Becker, director of First Year Experience, said being involved on campus had a huge impact on her GPA when she attended college. She said her GPA in college dropped from a 3.7 to a 1.7 when she stopped participating in clubs to focus on academics.

Becker said when students are engaged and feel a sense of purpose, they have a better chance of succeeding. She said having a work study job gives students a taste of working in their desired career field.

"I think when students are engaged, whether it's work study or campus activities, they just budget their time better," she said. "You also start to see the relevance of your courses, if it ties into your activities."

Being involved on campus has many benefits, such as giving students the opportunity to acquire recommendation letters from club advisors and work bosses, she said.

Christina Bache Hardy, director of Career and Academic Advising, said employ-

ers want to know what experience students have and what skills they developed during college. She said this is what employers will look for during job interviews and on resumes, because they already assume applicants have a relevant degree.

"The GPA is important since most employers will eliminate resumes with a GPA less than 3.0," she said. "But, in many cases, strong experience means developing strong skills, which is what the employer needs to see."

YSU President Jim Tressel said academics are important, but participating in activities outside the classroom help students reach their full potential and stand out in a competitive environment.

"Some of the most important traits that employers are looking for is the ability to work as a team member, the desire to serve others, the ability to communicate effectively and the willingness to step out of their comfort zone to thrive as a member of a variety of groups," Tressel said.

Tressel said his extracurricular involvement was what made all the difference for him. During college, he was a student

government member, played football and wrote for his campus newspaper.

"The experiences that I had ... were truly the difference-makers that have served me in every phase of my professional career," Tressel said.

MacGregor said he didn't realize back when he was a sophomore that one day he would make a profession out of being involved on campus.

"I love what I do, and I have started to work professionally as a graduate assistant in the Student Activities Office. This is only the first step in my professional career, and I can't wait to see where this road takes me," he said.

MacGregor said he believes students are depriving themselves of a full college experience when they only attend classes on campus.

"I have met so many of my close friends and I have had some real life changing experiences," MacGregor said. "Joining student groups changed my life, and I will promote that idea to students for as many years as I am on this campus."



Youngstown Expands International Outreach

PHOTO BY ALYSSA PFLUG / THE JAMBAR

Youngstown State University President Jim Tressel discussed his recent trip to Israel at a press conference on Wednesday. The focus of the seven-day trip was to introduce Israeli 3-D printing companies and universities to the advanced manufacturing opportunities in the Mahoning Valley. "It was so welcoming, the desire to collaborate with us was overwhelming," Tressel said. Among the delegation was Barb Ewing, the Youngstown Business Incubator Chief Operating Officer, Ellen Tressel and members of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation. The trip was organized by the Youngstown Area Jewish Foundation, and is part of YSU's effort to expand its international outreach.



Pitch Perfect PellaPenguins

PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSIE PIETRAZ

BY AMANDA LEHNERD

Youngstown State University's PellaPenguins originated during fall of 2014 in the honors college and was named an official organization in 2015. The PellaPenguins is an A cappella singing group that sings in 4-part harmony.

"Anna Maria Jadue is the founder of the PellaPenguins," Christine Langer, secretary of the PellaPenguins said. "Jadue asked her suitemates and a few others in Cafaro if they would be interested in forming an A cappella group. Several of us were, and that's how PellaPenguins was created."

Natalie Halavick, a member of the PellaPenguins, said the group often sings at many events happening on campus, along with sporting events.

"We've performed in the Honors Talent Show, at track meets, the YMCA, the Festival of the Arts and Downtown Youngstown," said Halavick. "We mostly preform on campus, but we would like to see that expand to the community."

The group is made up of four sections: soprano I, soprano II, alto I and alto II. When preparing new music for events, the group spends many days working with each sec-

tion to ensure they have learned the music.

"We usually go through the song once or twice as a whole group, then split into sectionals," said Langer. "After sectionals, we reconvene and sing the whole song as a group. If there is an issue with the music as a group, we will stop and work through it. We do this for as many days as is necessary to learn the new song."

A strong musical background is not required to become a member of the Pella Penguins.

"To join the PellaPenguins you don't need any musical background at all, and you don't need to read sheet music, what we do is easy to pick up," Halavick said. "Some girls use the sheet music to know the correct words to sing."

Jessie Pietrasz, vice president of PellaPenguins states the group is made up of students from many different majors and colleges across campus.

"The group of girls is very welcoming, share the same love of music and come from many different academic backgrounds," said Pietrasz. "We all have different musical experiences. Some girls have been in choir and theater, others have been in the band and other are just girls who love singing. But all the girls work together

and work through the songs until everyone gets them."

To become a member of the PellaPenguins, students can participate in auditions that take place once a semester.

"To be a member of the group, you need to have good intonation. Intonation is the ability to determine if you are singing not only the correct pitch but if your pitch is in tune," said Langer. "It is also important to blend and balance well with the group; individual voices should not be heard except for solos. In addition to this, you need to be a good team player."

Joining a student organization is a good way to get involved on campus, and meet new people.

"The PellaPenguins is one of the best things that has happened to me in my three years here at YSU," said Pietrasz. "Not only are the girls like a second family to me, but I also have gained a new appreciation for music and my confidence has skyrocketed. It forced me to break out of my shell, and I feel like a brand new person because of it."

If someone is looking to join the PellaPenguins, they are welcome to contact the group on all forms of social media.

CROW's Take Over Suzie's Dogs and Drafts

BY GABE GARCIA

On Wednesday, Suzie's Dogs and Drafts hosted Youngstown State University Compose Review of Writing, for their annual CROW event in conjunction with LIT Youngstown.

YSU CROW showcased students Jared Lyder, Antonina Boggia, Lexi Rager and Tyler McLellan's writing works from past writing classes, along with others who chose to read their essays on subjects that influence them in their day-to-day lives.

"It was a free event for everyone to enjoy," said Angela Messenger, director of the Student Writing Center. "This was our sixth CROW event partnering with Karen Schubert from Lit Youngstown. We really liked the idea of putting this together in a different environment"

Rager, a sophomore majoring in integrated mathematics had her essay "Under the Skin of Eating Disorders," chosen to be presented at the YSU CROW.

"The media often likes to shame those with eating disorders," Rager said. "Just like any other mental disease, eating disorders aren't a choice."

Throughout Rager's life she has watched a family member struggle with an eating disorder and wanted to shed some light on this issue.

"I wanted to show the biological, social and psychological factors that play into developing an eating disorder," said Rager. "I wanted to showcase the idea of not of shaming people for something they can't control, but instead we should be focusing on ways to treat and prevent these diseases."

It was suggested to Rager that she submit her essay for CROW by her Honors Writing II professor James Hain. She had to have her essay peer reviewed several

times before she was able to submit it.

"You had to have the permission of a writing professor to submit your paper," said Rager. "Then you turn in a form with three copies of your paper to the Writing Center for review."

In order to make it a truly anonymous experience, Messenger had to personally review the submissions from students without knowing whose work belonged to who, along with a committee made up of several other YSU faculty members.

"Most often students are nominated by their instructors," said Messenger. "We have rolling submissions throughout the year, and these specific students were actually recognized for classes in fall of 2016."

McLellan, a senior double majoring in history and anthropology, was another reader at CROW. His essay "The Wrath of the Gods," is about the United States allowing Christianity, or any religion into its policymaking.

"I've never participated in anything like this before," McLellan said. "I've always had a passion for history, so that we may learn from our mistakes, and a strong belief in the separation of church and state."

Other essays that were read included "Paying College Athletes" by Jill Blacksten, "Comic Books: For Better or Worse" by Zameer Murad and "Youngstown, Ohio: A Place to Go" by Casey Infante.

"I had the opportunity to work with Rager and thought McLellan's essay was very intriguing and informative," said Messenger. "But I think the essay that I looked forward to hearing the most was Boggia's 'We'll Carry On: Welcome to the Black Parade' only because I grew up with My Chemical Romance."

At this time students are able to submit their works year-round to composeysu@gmail.com. The next deadline for work is June 1, 2017.

SGA
FRONT

While there is a term limit for the president of SGA, there are no restrictions on how long someone can be vice president, said Schriener-Briggs. He was still required to gain at least two-thirds of the body's vote before being appointed.

Schriener-Briggs said it was a smooth transition because of the welcoming nature of his colleagues, advisers, faculty and administrators.

"It was a unique feeling coming back, but also an exciting and good feeling," he said.

Gessler said becoming the president during this transition was an adjustment, but she has received tremendous support

from the body and faculty.

"I have a lot of confidence because our body is very young but very passionate. They all have initiatives they set their eyes on and have been very vocal about starting to work on them this semester," she said.

Schriener-Briggs said he would like to continue the initiatives that Gessler and Miller-Gordon started in the fall, such as the student food pantry and textbook affordability.

"They did great work in the fall," he said. "If I can help Gabi finish the work that her and Tyler started without too many hiccups, and bring a lot of these initiatives to their conclusions in the next 15 weeks, that would be an optimal accomplishment."

Gessler agreed that she would like to keep focusing on the plat-

forms that were developed in the fall, and hopes the future leaders of SGA will carry them on. She said Miller-Gordon did wonderful work.

Miller-Gordon said it was a pleasure working with Schriener-Briggs and Gessler, and the love they have for SGA is essential to carrying out their responsibilities.

"I am more than confident that these two will carry out the initiatives that were started under the fall 2016 administration," he said. "They will make positive, lasting changes at YSU, which will be remembered for many years to come."

Since Gessler and Schriener-Briggs will be graduating in May, there will be a new SGA president and vice president this fall.

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News Briefs

The intersection of Wick Ave. at University Plaza and Spring Street closed on Monday as construction on Wick Ave. progresses. A press release from Youngstown State University said the construction should take about two weeks, but Ron Cole, YSU's public information officer, said there isn't a set completion date. The F-1 parking lot will be closed, but students can still use the R-3 and R-4 lots through Holy Trinity driveway off of Wick Ave.

The Youngstown State University Police Department responded to an unarmed robbery on Jan. 25 near Wick Avenue and Spring Street. The suspect stole the victim's cell phone and ran north on Wick Avenue. The witness said the suspect was a black male wearing jeans and a red hoodie. No arrests have been made thus far.

Guinathon, Youngstown State University's Dance Marathon, will take place on Feb. 11 at the Chestnut Room in Kilcawley Center from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. Participants will dance to raise money and awareness for Akron Children's Hospital Mahoning Valley. Funds will go towards things such as new programs and equipment that will benefit patients. The last day to register is Feb. 3 and the cutoff date for donations is March 3. Students who are interested can sign up at <http://guinathon.weebly.com/get-involved.html>. There will be live entertainment and food.



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The Jambar Column

The Year of the Rooster

BY JILLIAN SMITH

It was with great excitement that my friends and I accepted the invitation to dinner with a Chinese local. It was Chinese New Year's Eve, and we had been told that the holiday was "bigger than Christmas in America." My imagination ran wild with visions of fireworks displays, parades and lanterns strung on every available space.

It became apparent quite quickly, however, that Shanghai is not the place to be for the biggest holiday of the year. Dinner, though it featured incredible sizzling meats and vegetables, was a sober, toned down affair. It was made strange and disquieting by the fact that we were one of the very few tables at the restaurant.

Our host, Adam, was very gracious and kind, but even he admitted that he would have liked to have gone home to his family, but they were impossibly far away. Dancing afterward was a slightly more festive experience, but only because it was at an "expat" bar, where westerners comingled with each other, and scarcely a single local was to be found. The streets of Yiu Garden, where merely days ago we could barely move through the shoulder to shoulder crowds, stood hauntingly empty.

Adam explained that the issue was that Shanghai is a place where people have come to make money. Chinese New Year is a time when you leave Shanghai to be with family. A striking majority of those living and working in the city are transplants; during the holiday, they return to provincial family homes, often in the less wealthy and less developed western half of the country.

The "Chul Yun," as the New Year

mass vacation is called, may have given my friends and I a more subdued experience than what I was expecting. But it was highly telling of what changes China has recently gone through. The large majority of those traveling home from the city are young people. This means that, while the parents of those young people still face the stark income inequality of a developing country, the vast distances and sacrifices made by their children to have access to opportunity and resources may soon prove an equalizing factor.

The younger generations of China seem more determined than ever to tap into the riches of their rapidly globalizing economy. Living in cramped apartments in smog-filled cities, seeing their families only once a year, the measures they are taking to achieve that access are truly noteworthy. When I mentioned to Adam that I liked to go dancing to relieve stress, he laughed and said, "most people here are too busy to relieve stress."

Our night ended on a successful note, with a cheery toast to the Year of the Rooster on the roof of the expat bar. Our view across the Huangpu River was the brilliant skyline of the Bund, Shanghai's famously iconic cityscape. I had mastered the Chinese phrase for "Happy New Year!" (Xin Nian Kuai Le) and was wishing it to anyone who would listen.

China has made monumental progress in its growth from its famine-inducing years of the Cultural Revolution. But much of that progress has remained stuck firmly on the coast, with wealth being concentrated almost entirely in three major cities. Hopefully, the empty streets of my mediocre New Year's experience means that it won't remain that way for long.

Editorial

In Defense of International Students

On Monday, Youngstown State University President Jim Tressel released a statement concerning international faculty, staff and students after President Donald Trump's immigration-related executive order.

President Tressel may be a little late in reassuring YSU's international population — Kent State University President Beverly Warren released a similar statement on Sunday — but it is still vital that he spoke out.

First, YSU just expanded its international studies program. In November, the university partnered with around a dozen Asian universities to expand the current international studies program, which recruits students from places in the Middle East, parts of Europe, Asia and Australia.

There also have been expansions and changes in the location and size of the international activities and programs to better accommodate foreign students and staff, which have no doubt taken time and money to enhance.

Second, the university benefits from inviting international students to attend class here.

YSU is a primarily commuter college, with a majority of students and staff living within an hour of university property. Some of these areas are considered more rural and do not have accurate representation when it comes to different

cultures.

Students at YSU learn not only from their instructors and books, but also from each other. Having Penguins from all over the world exposes students to different cultures outside of their own — something that grows more important by the day.

The time and money invested in the international studies program are one thing, but in all honesty, if President Tressel didn't speak out concerning the program and the seven students from YSU that are from said 'banned' countries, seven Youngstown State Penguins would be excluded and left behind.

Finally, and most importantly, to turn one's back on said international students would be a disgrace to everything our university has strived to stand for — acceptance, unity and community through education.

As soon as a potential student agrees to attend our university, they are one of us, regardless of place of birth, ethnicity, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

The university can and should fight for international students' right to be here. YSU welcomes and supports each and every student to its campus.

The Press Box Perspective: This is Some Showdown

BY ANDREW ZUHOSKY

There's a significant contest this weekend in Houston, and there's a significant chance that you might have heard about it in recent days.

No, ladies and gentlemen, I'm not talking about Dennis Bermudez vs. "The Korean Zombie" Chan Sung Jung in the main event featherweight fight at UFC Fight Night Houston on Saturday night.

I'm talking about an event that's dominated the sports newscasts the last week. Seriously, you probably have been able to turn on TV and see reports about it.

The likes of "NFL Total Access," "FOX Sports Live" and "The Jim Rome Show," along with other sports programs on TV and radio, have all been in Houston this week to cover this event.

On Sunday night at just past 6:40 p.m. EST, the AFC Champion New England Patriots will battle the NFC Champion Atlanta Falcons for the right to be named champion of the NFL. Both squads are in the top 5 of the league in scoring offense.

Man alive, what a showdown this is going to be. Let's start to break this down by talking about the Falcons.

This year, Atlanta began the season by winning six of its first 10 games, highlighted by a 4-1 stretch in the first five games of the season. In addition, the Fal-

cons have had their opening drive end in a touchdown in each of their last eight games, dating back to Nov. 27 against the Arizona Cardinals.

The Falcons have been led by quarterback Matt Ryan, who has thrown for 44 touchdowns this year, including the playoffs, along with wide receiver Julio Jones.

I think if Jones and Ryan each have career games this Sunday, the Falcons have a good shot coming away with the win, but don't forget about running back Devonta Freeman, who has scored two punt return touchdowns this year in addition to his 11 touchdown runs.

Although Freeman's been quiet in the playoffs, only rushing for 87 yards the last two games, if he can make New England's tacklers miss, he'll find the end zone with ease. Atlanta is the NFL's top scoring offense.

On defense, the Falcons are anchored by linebackers Vic Beasley and Deion Jones. They've been stalwarts all year, with Beasley leading the NFL in sacks and Jones leading the league in interception return yardage while tied for the lead in pick-6s.

But in the other corner stands Tom Brady, Bill Belichick and the 4-time Super Bowl Champion Patriots, looking to win the belt for a fifth time.

Brady has again been the catalyst for the #3 scoring offense, throwing for 33 touchdowns this year, including the playoffs, but he's been without tight end

Rob Gronkowski since early December after he was placed on injured reserve.

Julian Edelman and Danny Amendola have filled in ably in Gronk's absence. Edelman's caught 121 passes this year, including the playoffs, for 1,361 yards and four touchdowns all told.

Amendola only caught 27 passes this year, including postseason, for 255 yards and four touchdowns. All four of Amendola's TD receptions were made prior to Thanksgiving Day.

Don't forget about New England's defensive players like cornerback Malcolm Butler, who had four interceptions this season, two of them in the Christmas Eve game vs. the New York Jets. If the Patriots can pressure Ryan on Sunday, Butler might just pick off another pass or two.

I personally think it'll be a close game this Sunday night. It may go down to the wire. I like Atlanta in a 38-35 classic.

I thought it might be fun to run a simulation of the game using my copy of "Madden NFL 17" and see what the computer spit out.

Here's what came up: My simulation produced a 10-3 New England win. One would think that my sim also had Tom Brady as MVP, but that wasn't the case.

With three tackles and two sacks in the contest, my simulation had Dont'a Hightower as MVP.

Three days remain until the game. Enjoy it this Sunday, and if you're going to a watch party, please don't drink and drive.

JAMBAR POLICY

Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Collegiate Press honors. The Jambar is published 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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By: L. A. Bonté

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'The State of Youngstown' YSU Relevant in Local Recruiting Again

PHOTO BY DAN HINER / THE JAMBAR

Bo Pelini, head coach of the Youngstown State University football team, stands at the podium in the Stambaugh Stadium press conference room as he addresses the media on Wednesday.

BY MARC WEEMS

With the Youngstown State University football team coming off a championship run, it looked to improve their roster with a big recruiting class for 2017.

With a class of 19 recruits including the Junior College and college transfers, one of those transfers was Ursuline High School graduate Chris Durkin. He previously played quarterback at Virginia Tech and will be moving to tight end at YSU. That's just one of many players from the area that YSU signed.

YSU signed nine players from Ohio highlighted by running back Christian Turner from Cincinnati La Salle High School and linebacker Ray Anderson from Cardinal Mooney High School. Anderson just recently de-committed from the Naval Academy.

"I'm excited about this signing class," YSU head coach Bo Pelini said. "It's a

good group and our guys worked hard on this. The players worked hard on the official visits. It was team effort."

Over the border in Pennsylvania, YSU signed three players with running back Braxton Chapman and 3-star defensive end Antoine Cook as the biggest signees.

"We wanted to give a good representation of local kids this year," Pelini said. "It's a good representation of this area and a majority of our kids are local. Way back when Coach Tressel used to talk about the 'State of Youngstown' and that's what we've done now."

This season everything comes on quick for YSU as Spring practices begin on February 27 with three practices occurring before Spring Break and then they will have three practices for four straight weeks after that. YSU plays its annual Red and White game early this year on April 7.

"We gave our guys some time off due to the length of the season," Pelini said. "Soon it will be back to the usual grind." Pelini said that some of the local guys like Anderson and Warren JFK High School's

Jacob Coates bring so much to the program in terms of abilities and attitude.

YSU also picked up two running backs to fill the voids left by senior running backs Jody Webb and Martin Ruiz.

Pelini said both Chapman and Turner are expected to fit in nicely as they fill the voids left by those few players.

"Chapman from Farrell and Turner from Cincinnati La Salle were guys we targeted from the beginning," Pelini said. "We were able to get both so we feel really good about that position."

On the defensive side of the ball, YSU expanded their reach grabbing kids from the states of Minnesota, South Carolina, and Georgia.

"We will see but I like the group coming back on defense," Pelini said about the impact young guys can make next season. "We have experience coming back though and we have real playmakers. We did lose a couple guys in the secondary."

Pelini also said that the experience some of the younger guys got late in the year will do them well this upcoming

season.

"That's the way we kind of looked at building depth on our team," he said. "We are going to create competition and that's what we've done. The guys that are on guys, we've been able to work with them a little bit."

Pelini said that once you get through spring practice and you get into fall training camp, he said anything is possible with the guys, young or old.

The 2016 class was the smallest Pelini had with 11 players but he did get 30 guys for the 2015 season. This class falls right in the middle with around 20 players.

Pelini said that making a championship run made a huge impact on how they were able to recruit. He said that when they have good things going on, players notice.

"It really shortens your window to recruit," Pelini said about making a long playoff run. "We've would've got closer to our scholarship limit had we had more time. I hope we are in this situation every year."



Tough Stretch Coming: YSU Looking to Finish a Strong Homestand

PHOTO BY MARC WEEMS / THE JAMBAR

Jorden Kaufman (32) cuts to the basket as Alec Peters (25) defends him with Cameron Morse (24) looking to get him the ball against Valparaiso University on Jan. 12.

BY MARC WEEMS

With the Youngstown State University men's basketball team (10-13, 4-6 Horizon League) coming off a good win against Cleveland State University (6-16, 2-8 HL), YSU will look to beat both teams from Michigan.

The Penguins play Oakland University (16-7, 6-4 HL) on Feb. 2 and will look to continue their good play of late. YSU has played in three consecutive close games, including a huge win over the University of Wisconsin- Green Bay back on Jan. 20.

YSU head coach Jerry Slocum said the fundamental parts of the game are where YSU is starting to take a big step towards winning multiple games in a row.

"The Green Bay game, the [University of Wisconsin Milwaukee and the Cleveland State game were all games we played well defensively," Slocum said. "I thought that we've done a really good job on the glass and denying the basketball. I think we

could be better at times. Oakland serves a problem for us because they play closer to the basket than anyone in the league."

Oakland outscores opponents by nearly eight points a game, but has lost four out of their last six games. Oakland won their last game against Milwaukee in overtime. They average the second most points per game (77.8) in the conference behind Green Bay, who averages 80.4 points per game.

Slocum said that Oakland plays as close to the basket as anyone in the league. Oakland has the second-worst 3-point percentage in the conference at 31.1 percent. Despite their poor 3-point shooting, they still average 44.3 percent shooting overall per game.

Defensively they also stay close to the hoop as they are first in the conference with 5.3 blocks per game.

"We've tried to step our game up defensively," YSU guard Francisco Santiago said. "We've had to rely on our defense more. Early in the game, our shots aren't

always going to fall and if we can control that then we can stay in games."

Santiago said that for the most part they have played better defense as each game comes and goes.

For YSU offensively, they are the third-best scoring team in the league at 77.3 points per game while shooting 44 percent from the field. They also shoot 33 percent from the 3-point line.

"A couple times we took quick shots when we didn't need to," Santiago said about late game situations. "We just don't need that. When they go in, everything is okay, but they normally don't."

Santiago said small things like that are what need to be controlled in order to win close games.

Santiago has been YSU's best leader — he is first in the league with five assists per game and has a 2.1 assist-to-turnover ratio, which is also first in the league. He also averages 5.4 rebounds per game and 12 points per game while shooting 47 percent.

"[Santiago]'s got the best assist-to-turnover ratio in the league," Slocum said. "That's going to be big in the Detroit game because they force to turn the ball over a lot during a game."

Oakland's leading scorer, Martez Walker, is the fourth-best in the league at 16.7 points per game. They have three players who average double digit points.

"I think for me, today's practice is really important," Slocum said. "If you prepare well and you play well then the results will be there."

YSU's other matchup this week is against the University of Detroit-Mercy (5-17, 3-7 HL) who beat YSU in their first meeting 87-71. Detroit's Jaleel Hogan, who averages 15 points per game, holds the best field goal percentage in the league at 61 percent. He's also the fifth-best in the league at 1.19 blocks per game.

YSU plays Oakland on Feb. 2 at 7 p.m. and then plays Detroit on Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. as well. Both games finish up a three-game home stand for YSU.



Road Warriors: YSU Women Brace for Four Straight Away Games

Morgan Olson (25) boxes out Alli Ball (1) in a win against the University of Akron on Dec. 6, 2016.

PHOTO COURTESY OF YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

BY RICK HENNEMAN

The Youngstown State University women's basketball team (7-14, 3-7 Horizon League) is set to finish the second half of the Horizon League season with four straight road games, followed by four straight at home. Games away from home haven't been kind to the Penguins, who are 0-9 in true road games this year.

YSU's first test is at Valparaiso University (5-16, 0-10 HL) who gave them a tough test at home with a 76-70 victory.

"We've been doing everything we can to win at home and on the road," YSU head coach John Barnes said. "Obviously road games are tougher to win. With Valpo and UIC — our next two games — we're going to focus on Valpo and do everything we can to get that one and see where it goes from there."

For Valpo, they will be looking to snap a 12-game losing streak dating back to Dec. 10.

Injuries have plagued the Penguins from the beginning of the season. Mary Dunn, potential Horizon League freshman of the year, missed the game against Universi-

ty of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and senior Jenna Hirsch was limited to just 16 minutes. Barnes said that the status of both athletes is changing day-to-day.

"I'm still very unsure on the status of both of them," Barnes said. "Mary had 18 points against Valpo, so obviously she is very important for that game. Jenna is day-to-day; she is struggling with a bad back. We will see how she is later in the week."

YSU guard Melinda Trimmer is someone who has seen more playing time due to her teammate's recent injuries. With 21 minutes in the game against Milwaukee, Trimmer is trying to take advantage of her opportunities.

"No matter what, I'm going to try to do the best I can every time I go out there," Trimmer said. "It's really unfortunate what has happened with a few of our teammates. If they are there or not, I'm going to go out there and do the best I can and make the most of my opportunities."

Trimmer said that the younger players like herself are trying to put in the same amount of effort during practice in spite of all the injuries to the team.

"It [practice] is a lot of learning, but overall it is the same," Trimmer said. "We are just trying to keep the intensity high no matter what. It's nice to have the girls who are injured out there talking to us younger girls and

helping us throughout the way."

Trimmer also said that these injuries have changed the team dynamic, since most of the leaders are on the bench talking instead of being on the court.

Although YSU beat Valpo in their last meeting, guard Meredith Hamlet managed a career-high 29 points along with her first career double-double. Barnes explained that defense has been the Penguins' weakness and is something that will need to be improved to beat Valparaiso a second time.

"We are trying to get stops anytime," Barnes said. "We've really struggled holding teams down. We're definitely undersized with everyone out, so the rebounding has been a struggle. Valpo is going to be really hungry to get a win. Hamlet had a career game against us and [Dani] Franklin played solid. She is one of the better power forwards in the league. Amber Lindfors is 6-foot-4 in the post and depending on whether Mary is here or not, that will be a challenge too."

Valparaiso's Franklin leads the Horizon League in average scoring (18.4 points per game) while Lindfors leads the league in blocked shots with 42 on the year.

The Penguins will face Valparaiso Feb. 2 at 8 p.m. and the University of Illinois-Chicago on Feb. 4 at 4 p.m.