

Students Propose Renovation for Meshel Hall

A computer science student uses eye tracker in the Empirical Studies Lab in Meshel Hall.

PHOTO BY ALYSSA PFLUG / THE JAMBAR

BY JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ

Students from the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems have created a proposal that outlines how they could secure funding for Meshel Hall renovations, which will be discussed with the dean of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math and the provost.

Meshel Hall was designated for CSIS, but last fall they began to house communications and journalism classes in the build-

ing as well.

This has caused an issue of space, said Samuel Pugh, a computer science student.

"They're trying to take the whole first floor from us and convert it to another department," he said. "We have work stations down there where we take apart computers and we really need that work space."

Although there are three computer labs in the building, Pugh said that not all computer labs are the same. They each contain different software and different

programs.

Kriss Schueller, the acting chair of CSIS, agreed the loss of space has caused problems for the department.

"We are looking at losing something like 38 percent of our computer lab space, 60 percent of the classroom space and we're down 28 percent of our faculty over the past six years," said Schueller.

Daniel Day, a computer science major, came up with a renovation idea which will expand Meshel Hall and plans to pro-

pose it to Youngstown State University.

"We've decided to take things in a new direction," said Day. "We want to propose a plan for funding this building and to get a total renovation."

Pugh feels the administration will be a lot more receptive of this idea, since the plan is to bring in funding from outside sources.

"We can maintain our size while maintaining our full capabilities as well, and essentially funding ourselves," said Pugh.

Day scheduled a meeting with Dr. Wim Steelant, the dean of STEM, where he will bring forward his renovation plan. If all goes well, he plans to take the proposal to Provost Martin Abraham.

Abraham is aware of the space concern in Meshel Hall and said the university is committed to expanding their space as the

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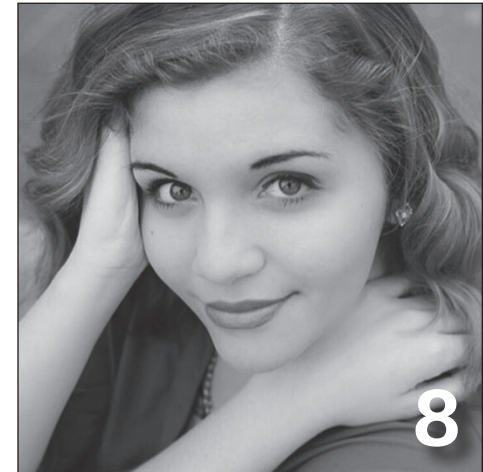
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SGA Hosts Panel on Post-Election Concerns



PHOTO BY SAMANTHA PHILLIPS / THE JAMBAR

From left to right: Keith Lepak, Kristine Blair and Ann Jaronski.

BY SAMANTHA PHILLIPS

The Student Government Association hosted a panel discussion that addressed some of the concerns people have after the first few weeks of President Donald Trump's presidency on Feb. 2.

About 25 students and faculty members attended. The speakers were Keith Lepak, a politics and international relations professor at Youngstown State University; Kristine Blair, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Ann Jaronski, the director of Student Counseling.

Eddie Howard, associate vice president of Student Experience, moderated the event. Gabriella Gessler, president of SGA, kicked off the discussion by assuring the crowd that the university wants to maintain global perspectives in light of the immigration ban and encouraged the participants to reject marginalization.

Lepak said American society has become increasingly vulgar, which is why it accepted a presidential candidate that talked about fondling women.

"[Trump] is the epitome of where American society and culture is at the moment," he said.

The rise of social media and the internet has engaged young people in politics, but with so many sources avail-

able it can be hard to discern real facts from something that's fabricated, Lepak said. He advised the audience to read news from various news outlets and to listen to people who have opposing ideas.

Blair agreed that social media has made citizens more engaged, but leaders and citizens should be responsible and accountable for how they speak online and in real life. She said she is impressed by the civic engagement demonstrated by YSU students and faculty.

"We prove daily that social justice rises above partisan politics, as it should," she said. "Yet in the cultural and ideological divide that has escalated [since the election], we find ourselves divided by a war of words."

Words can lead to division and violence when they signify hate, fear mongering and denial of civil rights, Blair said.

"One person's locker room talk is another person's misogyny," she said. "Our words have consequences — our words matter."

Blair said it's important for people to have productive conversations about their differences instead of agreeing to disagree or staying silent. She said citizens should actively listen, think critically and defend the value of the liberal arts.

Jaronski said there has been divisiveness since the

election, and intolerance of differing opinions and ideologies.

Making a positive change begins with people understanding their own values but also actively listening to the values of others, she said.

"We listen to reply, to respond," she said. "We don't listen to understand. One of the things that's important is to learn how to listen to understand ... learn to pause"

Having a conversation about differing ideas can be hard, Jaronski said, but civil discourse begins with inquiry, listening, problem-solving and acknowledging another person's perspectives. She said people learn by having their ideas challenged.

Gessler said SGA wants to make students feel secure in their beliefs and asked the panelists what advice they could give to students who are called names when they are trying to advocate for things they care about.

"Don't be intimidated by what they call you. Know your values," he said. "Don't let yourself be labelled a whiner."

Blair advised the audience to resist the labels that are given to some college students, such as snowflake.

"Don't shy away from discussions," she said.

Howard reminded the audience that leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. have risen from the same kind of conflicts that the U.S. is going through.

Rescuing the Mission

BY JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR
JOHN STRAN

Pastor Ron Starcher, the director of church relations at the Rescue Mission of Mahoning Valley in Youngstown, said he bases his efforts at the mission off of one quote:

“We don’t look to put people in new clothes, we look to put new people in clothes”

But as the mission’s building on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard deteriorates, so do their attempts to better the lives of those in need.

Once a segregated YMCA for African Americans, the building still holds remanences from its previous hardwood floors where beds are spread and tiled walls that resemble a swimming pool area are now lining the halls of a dining area.

Even if it does visually appear to be a step up from sleeping out in the cold, the mission does have some pitfalls, the biggest one being its size. For example, women who come to the mission alone have to stay in a separate area from men.

Sixty-four women share an area with a single bathroom and two showers.

The mission has been granted 17.5 acres of land to build a new building on Belleview Avenue, an area that once held a park and pool for Youngstown’s south side.

Though they have the land, the mission does not yet have enough money to start building.

Lynn Wyant, the Rescue Mission’s director of development,

said that so far the mission has raised \$500,000 in pledges and expect to raise another \$3 million from those who verbally committed to pledging, but have yet to donate. The project total is expected to be \$9.5 million.

The average overnight stay in 2008 was around 60 people. 2016’s average overnight stay came in at about 120 people. The reason for the increase is unknown to Starcher, especially considering how the mission is run.

“We base how we run the mission off a book called Toxic Charity,” Starcher said. “It’s this idea that people may be homeless due to reasons outside of their control, but the reason they stay homeless is because of [forces outside of their control].”

If one is staying at the mission, it is mandatory to attend bible classes and a learning academy, which holds a separate series of classes that help those at the mission when going out into the workforce.

Madison Goske, a 2015 YSU graduate, began as an intern for the mission in May 2015. Although Goske said she originally didn’t want to continue working at the mission, she found her purpose there after partaking in some of the bible classes.

“After interning here for nine months, I didn’t think that I really wanted to work here,” Goske said. “But after turning my life to God, I knew that this is where I wanted to be.”

Pastor Starcher’s 12 years at the mission have also been fueled by something outside of his

own control.

“My own daughter struggles with heroin addiction. She herself has spent time here at the Rescue Mission,” Starcher said. “It got to the point that I had to take her children off of her and raise them.”

The mission serves around 181 meals per day, giving an idea as to how many people come and go. Even though faces change substantially, Starcher remembered one man in particular.

“He told me that every time he used to drive past the mission, he would speed up because he hated looking at it so much,” Starcher said.

He was speaking about a Joe Spera, a former psychology professor at Youngstown State University.

Spera eventually found himself staying at the mission after struggling with an alcohol addiction and losing his family.

He became committed to getting clean and eventually finished the program created by the mission. Though he never went back to teaching, Spera did do some work as a ghost writer.

The alcohol addiction took its toll on Spera even after he had quit, and on Dec. 11, 2016, Spera passed away at the age of 69.

“You just never know; someone from Poland or Canfield could be a check away,” said Jim Echement, the executive director of the Rescue Mission.

The mission hopes to continue trying to reshape people’s lives, but only in a new building. The goal is to break ground sometime in the spring.

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UFOs: Fact or Fiction?

BY JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR
TANNER MONDOK

Stories of UFOs have been around for thousands of years leading to endless debates about their legitimacy.

Dr. Matt O'Mansky, associate professor and chair of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Gerontology at Youngstown State University, said he believes that there is life in the universe other than us, but doesn't believe that extraterrestrial life has ever visited Earth.

"There is life out there somewhere. Whether or not it's intelligent life is a whole other story," O'Mansky said. "Even if it is intelligent and they have the technology to travel through space and fly here ... I find that pretty much absurd."

When it comes to reported sightings of UFOs, O'Mansky believes that there is always some other explanation for what the person just saw.

"I myself tend to go to a more logical explanation," he said. "It could be an optical illusion from some kind of atmospheric effect, it might be something government ... I think all these things are more plausible than something from outer space coming here to visit us."

Dr. Patrick Durrell, associate professor of astronomy at YSU and Ward Beecher Planetarium director, said that there is no good evidence that suggests alien life has visited Earth.

"When someone says that they've seen something in the sky and they don't know what it is, by definition that is an unidentified flying object. So there's nothing wrong with that, but then people go out on a limb saying there must be aliens visiting us," he said. "There is zero, underline, underscore, boldface evidence that aliens are visiting us or that aliens are among us."

In regards to UFO sightings, Durrell said that there is always a more natural explanation.

"If people see a funny light changing colors near the horizon then Venus causes a lot of sightings," Durrell said. "Because part of it is, if you see something in the sky and you don't know what it is, not everybody knows the night sky as well as my students who took Astronomy 1504 do. Yeah, it's going to look weird."

Durrell said that aliens have definitely not visited Earth but also said that doesn't mean there isn't life elsewhere in the universe.

"One of the reasons we look for planets around other stars is that we're looking for planets like the Earth. Scientists are actively looking for planets that could have the possibility of hosting life,"

Durrell said. "There may well be alien life out there. I would kind of find it strange if we were the only ones."

There are also people who believe in UFOs and claim to have had sightings of their own. Chris Parsons, Community Outreach coordinator and member of the Board of Directors for the Mutual UFO Network of Ohio, has devoted most of his life to studying UFOs because of a UFO sighting he experienced when he was 10 years old in his hometown of Ironton, Ohio.

"I remember riding my bike and for no particular reason I had this compulsion to look up in the sky and there it was ..." he said. "This beautiful, shiny, silver metallic disk hovering in the clouds and it's motionless and it's silent."

Once Parsons started to really look at the object he started to go through what he now calls his laundry list.

"My laundry list was 'well that's not a balloon, that's not an airplane, that's not a helicopter that's not anything I've ever seen before,'" Parsons said. "It slowly but surely rose up into the clouds, the clouds covered it and it was gone."

Parsons said that he knows of many sightings that have occurred in this area of Ohio. One of the most popular in northeast Ohio is a UFO sighting which involved law enforcement officials following a craft from county to county until it eventually ended up in Pennsylvania.

Another popular sighting from this area involved a helicopter following a UFO while flying from Columbus to Cleveland.

When it comes to people who don't believe in UFOs, Parsons said that he feels he could persuade them if given the chance because most people aren't aware of the amount of credible information on the topic.

"I'm willing to lay down money that if a person gave me hours or a couple of days to walk them through what I consider to be the evidence, if somebody would give me the chance to show them why I believe it to be true, that I could persuade them," he said. "I could show them things that they've never seen before."

Scientific minded people such as Durrell most likely won't be persuaded by Parsons to believe in UFOs but this controversial topic definitely isn't going away anytime soon. UFO experts and scientists will not stop the debates until the day comes where there is proof of extraterrestrial life or evidence that aliens have visited Earth.

For more information on UFO sightings in the area, visit the MUFON of Ohio website at mufonohio.com.

Staying Alert on Campus

BY RALEIGH BASINGER

Youngstown State University changed their emergency alert system from YSU Alert to PenguinAlert, a system through Rave Mobile Safety to improve student safety on campus.

Rave Mobile Safety is a safety software company that covers about 1,400 higher education facilities. Ron Cole, YSU public information officer, said the change increases the reliability and the effectiveness of the system.

"We were able to find another provider that is used in universities across the nation, including Ohio State," Cole said.

PenguinAlert allows the YSU police department to communicate with people quickly in the event of an emergency on campus through email and text message, he said.

Shawn Varso, YSU interim police chief, said the new system is a large improvement.

"YSU Alert would take upwards to about 20 to 30 minutes for all of the messages to go out," Varso said. "With Rave, the messages go out much faster."

The old system had other safety concerns that are now recognized, Varso said.

"The old system had repeated system outages and we found out that with the outages, we can't get our messages out," Varso said. "Anything that gets individual messages out improves on safety."

All students are automatically signed up with PenguinAlert through their YSU email. In order to receive text messages, they must go to www.ysu.edu/penguin-alert and sign up with their cell phone. Cole encourages all

students to do so.

"If there is an emergency on campus ... the most direct way [to communicate] with you individually is by the way of a text message," Cole said.

Anonymous reports can be made by calling 844-208-1697 or visiting www.ysu.ethicspoint.com. Shannon Tirone, assistant vice president of University Relations, said it is important for students and faculty to report issues if they arise.

"If you see something that is happening on campus that either draws your attention or you think is out of the ordinary, [or] you want to make sure attention is given to something, then you should call," Tirone said.

Cole said they are trying to spread the word of PenguinAlert as much as possible.

"We tried to publicize as much as we can at our orientation sessions," Cole said. "We have had some signage, and we have had some emails going out on campus to remind students to go and sign up for this."

Currently not many students have signed up for the new system through their cell phones, Varso said.

"We were planning on doing some advertisement in the future to get people to sign up for it," Varso said. "... along with marketing and communications to increase the number of people who are signing up for the text messages."

PenguinAlert has the same features as YSU Alert, but there are potential features that are being considered, Cole said.

"We are looking at social media and some other possible communication avenues, but we haven't launched those yet," Cole said.

YSU Against DeVos:

A Protest for Public Education

BY DANIELLE GARNER

Participants in the Youngstown State University's Rally Against DeVos gathered Jan. 31 at the Beeghly Hall of Education to share their disapproval with President Donald Trump's secretary of education then-nominee, Betsy DeVos.

Chris Anderson, a graduate student at Youngstown State University and president of the Mahoning County Young Democrats, said DeVos was unfit to be the secretary of education because she has no public school experience.

"[She] has never taught in a public school, she's never been a public-school administrator and that's the person we're supposed to trust to make sure that every American child has the same opportunity I did," Anderson said.

Anna Maria Jadue, a YSU senior majoring in both music and English education, said that the public school system should address underachieving students and also students that excel.

"The way that she wants to implement her ideas into the school system would prevent especially lower class, impoverished and under achieving students [from

having the] opportunity for a higher-level education of any kind," Jadue said.

Public schooling and federal assistance helped students like Anderson by giving them opportunities he said they wouldn't have had otherwise.

"I don't think it's exactly a crazy notion to believe that every American student no matter their familial status, their economic status or their social status deserves to have that same opportunity," Anderson said.

Sarina Mauerman, a YSU student majoring in early childhood and special education, said that she was at the rally to voice her opinions on DeVos potentially harming the Integrated Disability Education and Awareness Program (IDEA) program—designed to help special education students keep up with their counterparts in the classroom.

"I think that once we take IDEA away from them and their parents, [special education] students don't have accurate representation..." Mauerman said. "Students with disabilities were actually put into segregated rooms and were not actually taught, they were almost just babysat and watched over."

In addition to those concerned about how DeVos might handle

K-12 students, many at the rally were equally unnerved about her take on, or absence of, higher education.

During her Senate hearing, DeVos admitted that herself nor her children have ever applied for financial aid, something that Anderson said is highly disturbing.

"I can't even tell you how nominee DeVos can change the higher education experience because much of her hearing was focused on K-12," Anderson said. "... more than eighty percent of all students need some form of aid. Isn't it important that we at least have a secretary of education who knows what the FAFSA looks like?"

Marissa Gray, an undergraduate student at YSU, said that she attended the protest to defend the need for Title IX, which provides counseling, protection and legal infrastructure to students affected by harassment, discrimination and gender violence.

"If you need reproductive health care or if you need abortion or a screening... after an assault the state is obligated to provide those," Gray said. "If you need a rape kit after sexual assault, it is free of charge to you. You also get an accompaniment to come to the hospital with you



PHOTO BY DANIELLE GARNER / THE JAMBAR

as well as come to court with you if there's family issues or if the assault was in the family."

Gray explained Title IX services make sure students affected by gender related offenses can continue to receive education and prevent conditions like PTSD and physical health issues from causing them to drop out.

"I know those rights are not only imperative but they are life-saving," Gray said. "Pursuing an education without those rights is

impossible due to mental health issues or triggers that occur in the environment."

Attendees of the Rally Against DeVos made sure their voices were heard not only locally, but statewide by using their smartphones and mobile devices to send video messages to Ohio Senator Rob Portman.

Despite complaints nationwide, DeVos was appointed as Secretary of Education on Tuesday.

MESHEL
FRONT

Abraham said enrollment in the computer science program has been declining over the past few years, but Pugh said there is a reason for that.

"Our enrollment is technically down, but our enrollment is down across campus," said Pugh. "Personally I don't feel our enrollment is down enough to justify this massive downsizing as opposed to other departments whose enrollment is down even farther than ours is."

Pugh said the number of freshmen

coming into the program has been on the rise since 2010. Day said over the next 10 years the demand for programming and computing related jobs could be as high as 1.4 million.

Schueller said there are over 500 students currently in the department and over 1,000 students in the Creative Arts

and Communication's department.

Day and Pugh both said the renovation plan would not only be beneficial to the students but to the university as a whole.

"We are trying to bring this together so that it benefits not just us but the students of the STEM department and the students of the entire university," said Pugh.

Adjunct Faculty Recognize 25 Years Since Last Pay Raise

BY JORDAN UNGER

Part-time faculty at Youngstown State University gathered in Kilcawley Center Friday evening to raise attention to the fact that their last raise was 25 years ago.

James Zupanic, an adjunct professor who retired from full-time at YSU, organized the event. Zupanic said he began arranging meetings to address the issue in 2013 and there was a significant response.

“At that point, [part-time faculty] hadn’t gotten in contact by anyone who was trying to do anything [about the issue],” he said. “It was mainly the people that had been teaching for a long time [who] realized the situation.”

Zupanic said he wanted to arrange something unique this year. The theme of the event was to emphasize how long 25 years has been, making something lighthearted out of a negative situation.

Attendees were treated to an anniversary cake and games, as well as informational posters to compare grocery prices and a timeline of YSU events within the past 25 years.

Kathy Durrell, part-time physics professor, said the event helped raise awareness for adjunct professors’ issues, particularly when that is their only job.

“I think a lot of people who aren’t part-time faculty don’t actually realize that we haven’t had a raise in 25 years. That’s a really long time,” Durrell said. “They don’t realize that the part-time faculty make next to nothing and we are a large fraction of the faculty.”

Part-time faculty, varying from short-term to long-term, attended the event. Zupanic said some of the faculty members have been teaching for more than 30 years, regardless of low wages.

“I think that many of them are not doing it for the money to begin with,” Zupanic said.

Tony Armeni, part-time art professor, said he does not regret the decision to become a part-time faculty member.

“The whole gig of teaching and interacting with young people is a pretty cool thing,” Armeni said. “Most people don’t get to do that.”

The adjunct faculty have attempted to improve the situation without luck. Armeni said adjuncts met with the United Steelworkers two years ago to form a union, but the partnership never lifted off of the ground.

“People were meeting and talking, but [it] really never gained much traction for a number of reasons,” Armeni said. “People didn’t want to stick their necks out and work contract labor essentially ... We may come back next semester, we may not.”

A part-time advisory com-

mittee was established by the administration to work through problems and solution for adjuncts. Durrell said the committee has been in discussion with Provost Martin Abraham, who is trying to get a raise through.

Student tuition and fees have increased by 270 percent over the past 25 years, Zupanic said. He also said an additional one-percent increase would fund the part-time raises.

“The best situation would be to have a decent raise and competition with other universities,” Zupanic said. “We can’t get out of whack with what other places are paying either, but I think an amount that would be significant [without] damaging the finances of the university would be very well appreciated.”

If a raise were to happen, Zupanic said he would like to encourage other universities to do the same.

“I’m going to make sure the other universities know that [the administration] did something for the people here,” Zupanic said.

Zupanic said he is thankful for the people who have been supportive and hopes to see events such as these pay off in the future.

“I just want to keep people feeling like somebody is trying to do something,” Zupanic said. “There’s some support by chairs, support by deans, but we’ll see if it goes anywhere.”

When an Old Establishment Becomes a New One

BY JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR
JOHN STRAN

George Case, the owner of Geo’s Music, relocated his business from above the Draught House to West Boardman Street last semester.

Case moved above the Draught House after experiencing issues with the roof. When offered the space above the bar, he took it and also offered to man the kitchen.

During his time there, Case found things that he didn’t like, one being that it wasn’t handicap accessible.

“There were customers who didn’t want to go into an alcoholic establishment,” Case said. “I lost a lot of my gospel customers and because it was on the second floor, I lost a lot of my handicapped customers as well.”

Case was not resentful towards the bar. He and Roxy Zoccoli, manager of the Draught House, both agreed that the whole idea just wasn’t working out. As for the empty space, Zoccoli said they are still unsure of what will become of it.

The September move put Case back into his previous shop with a new and improved roof. The size of this building gives him more room for records, CD’s, jerseys and enough space to jam with his band, Geo C and Tha Storm.

The location downtown is something that Case feels is often overlooked.

“The downside is that a lot of people from YSU don’t realize that it’s here,” Case said. “They think that downtown ends with Federal Street.”

An occasional worker and frequent customer that goes by the name L.A. said that he enjoys the location.

“[It’s] perfect, I love coming in here because I learn something new about music every time,” L.A. said.

L.A. has been in and out of the shop for about 15 years. Case looks out for L.A. because he is homeless, but L.A. looks after the store and Case’s band by setting up his equipment.

Case and his shop have been downtown for twenty years. Born in Painesville, Ohio, he took the trip down to Youngstown to attend college and play for the YSU baseball team. His playing days ended abruptly after an injury left him unable to play.

He stuck around because he knew that he wanted to open a record shop here. He opened his first shop at about 25 years-old on West Federal Street where V2 is currently located.

“I spent every last little bit of money that I had to open the shop. I had to make it my temporary home and sleep in the back where there was no electricity,” Case said.

Since his opening, Case has seen many businesses come and go in the downtown area. Witnessing this has given him an idea as to how to resurge the area.

“If downtown had more retail businesses, then all the current bars and restaurants down here would not have to rely so heavily on those at YSU,” Case said. “It needs to become more family oriented, as opposed to just a place for nightlife.”

As far as Case is concerned, he and Geo’s Music aren’t leaving Youngstown any time soon.

YSU Student Gets Lead Role in Hairspray

BY GABE GARCIA

Cast as the lead of Tracy Turnblad is freshman Halla Henry, who is currently earning her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theater at Youngstown State University.

“Our Acting I professor, Dr. Chris Hill, was the one who told us about it back in October,” said Henry. “Hairspray is my life, and I am beyond excited to be playing Tracy! It’s a dream come true!”

Henry auditioned for her role Jan. 28 and received a call back Jan. 29. She said it was a pretty fast process and she was surprised to get a call back so early.

“It was really funny how they conducted the auditions,” said Henry. “Initially I just had to read a few times, but then they had all of the Tracy’s compete against each other onstage individually, singing the song ‘Good Morning Baltimore’. The same thing happened with all of the girls that were auditioning for the role of Penny, it was fun.”

Also in the musical is YSU freshman AnnMarie Lowerre, a Musical Theater major as well. She will be playing the supporting female character, Penny

Pingleton.

“We play best friends in the show, and we’re already best friends in real life. It’s great!” said Lowerre. “First, the directors called Halla and then myself, we were both in the same room at the time. When they called me to tell me I received the part, I screamed with joy and then replied casually over the phone to appear cordial.”

Rehearsals shall begin at the end of February, according to Lowerre and Henry, and there will be one a night for the next eight weeks for at least three to four hours.

“We do vocalization exercises and jumping jacks, both during rehearsals and the musical itself,” said Henry. “Sirens are good for the soft palate, and I always drink a ton of water, and before rehearsals, I also have this little trick of downing straight black coffee to help get me ready.”

Henry has also been involved in other productions here in Youngstown, such as A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum as well as No More Peace.

“There are a lot of YSU students and alumni that are in-

involved in the musical as well,” said Lowerre. “Our friend DJ Davis is the assistant director and also Jessica Hirsch who plays Velma Von Tussle and is also the assistant choreographer.”

“I’m excited to be working with Halla Henry and AnnMarie Lowerre, who my team and I cast in their roles respectively,” said Dr. Chris Austin Hill, assistant professor of theater and dance at YSU.

According to Hill, it was an extremely competitive audition process with more than 75 actors, singers, and dancers auditioning for 35 roles. Of those roles, eight current YSU students had been cast.

“Both Halla and AnnMarie are very talented,” said Hill. “Their personalities shone during auditions, and they’re very versatile, but most importantly, they’ve both proven themselves to be rather fearless.”

Alongside Harris, Henry and Lowerre are working on their dance numbers for the upcoming President’s Gala.

“No matter how difficult a dance number may be, act as you know it,” said Lowerre. “I cannot stress that enough because forgetting the next step happens



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNMARIE LOWERRE

a lot more often than you think. For Hairspray, we act like our characters, and it’s just so much fun to watch. It serves as a powerful message because of how entertaining it is.”

There will be one play per night as mentioned in the dates above and a matinee on the Saturday dates. If the musical is proven to be a success that sells out, it’s possible it could get extended.

“I think the best part about being in a production is part of

such a great atmosphere,” said Henry. “The worst part is trying to find the motivation for things outside of it, like work or school. Rehearsals can take a lot out of you, and sometimes it drains both the body and the mind.”

Tickets for Hairspray will go on sale Monday, April 10, at 10 a.m. They will be \$17 for adults and \$14 for students of YSU respectively. The show will run May 12-14 and May 19-21 at the Youngstown Playhouse.

How is Emotion Conveyed in Online Text?

BY AMANDA LEHNERD

When people communicate in person, their emotions can dictate how the other people listening detect their speech. Facial expressions, the tone of voice and actions can influence how a person understands the words being said.

The current generation of college-aged students is spending more time communicating online, versus face-to-face communication, which can lead to misinterpreting text or emotions displayed in text.

Jennifer Behney, Youngstown State University sociolinguistics professor, states that college students have become more accustomed to communicating through online platforms and text messaging compared to older generations.

“I actually think a great deal of emotional nuance is lost because of the brevity of such communications,” said Behney. “I believe that people have learned to make accommodations for this loss of emotional nuance through the use of vowel elongation and emoticons.”

Robin Stears, a YSU student studying the usage of

emoticons, said emoticons are used as a digital form of facial expression.

“Emoticons are used as a digital form of facial expressions or body language like > : ([angry face],” said Stears. “An emoji can be used to communicate more complex concepts and ideas.”

Emojis were created to be a visual language by Shigetaka Kurita using symbols that were already familiar to people, like the smiley faces and some of the same images used in the Olympic Village, as well as familiar concepts from Japanese culture, like manga.

“My paper discusses the possibility that emoji might be a language or at least a language-to-be,” said Stears. “Using the Swiftkey Emoji Report, which studied emoji use in text messaging, and by studying the Twitterverse and Tumblr, which is a more visual social media site, I was able to find real-life examples for all the Language Universals. It doesn’t necessarily “prove” that emoji is a language, just that emoji use fits the parameters that every language has in common.”

Kelly Johnston, a YSU graduate student and high school language arts teacher, said students struggle more with appropriating emotions through text messaging and

email.

“I get a lot of students who send me emails and the emotion comes off as rude,” said Johnston. “I don’t think they mean to sound rude, but instead of giving me a ‘Hey, Mrs. J. I have a question’ I get ‘Why did I get that grade.’ They simply don’t understand netiquette.”

Students tend to have short quick responses to emails and texts, without implementing emotion, which stems from a lack of face-to-face communication. When communicating in person, people feel the emotions that are being conveyed. A simple phrase like “I love you,” can be understood much better when body language, facial expression, voice intonation and touch are present.

Students may lack in conveying emotion throughout emails and text messaging, but this is not displayed in their classwork.

“I don’t think online communication has had much of a negative impact on students,” said Johnston. “My generation didn’t have autocorrect so slipping in an ‘H8,’ ‘UR,’ ‘R,’ and ‘OMW’ was easy. Now many students use autocorrect, reducing the want to use these words. The problem that I see in papers is the usage of ‘kinda,’ ‘gonna’ and ‘wanna,’ which aren’t real words.”

Faculty Recital: Sean Baran

Q&A

BY AMANDA LEHNERD

Q: Can you tell me about yourself as a musician, how you got started in music and why?

A: I actually had wanted to play the piano for a very long time. I started taking lessons when I was 10 up until college. I think I've always been drawn to the piano, the keys and have always thought it was so interesting to be able to press the key and make the sounds. As [with] everything you know over time that relationship will change, and my relationship with the piano has changed. The piano is a means of expressing the music that I love to study and perform. And just making the different sounds and exploring the emotions composers have put into music.

Q: Why did you choose to do a show for Valentine's Day?

A: Out of 365 days in a year how do you pick one? I knew I wanted to do something in the wintertime, and honed in on Valentine's Day. I've never really done a program themed around a holiday before, and I like the idea of having something on Valentine's Day. As a musician we often times joke that one will spend Valentine's Day practicing their instruments, I figured, why not spend Valentine's Day at my instrument with other people. I also thought people often go to a movie and dinner for Valentine's Day, and felt it would be a good idea to go hear some live music that they wouldn't have otherwise been able to hear.

Q: How did you choose the music for your recital?

My program underwent so many changes and at first, I originally said I'm going to do a Valentine's Day recital but only one piece will relate to Valentine's Day. I changed the program and now all of the songs deal with some kind of love. The first three pieces I'll perform talk of the story between Robert Schumann and Johannes Brahms. Robert Schumann was married to Clara Schumann and it's well known in the music world that Robert and Clara Schumann were a marriage that was not endorsed by her father. It's almost a Romeo and Juliet type story, in a way where they made it happen against his will. Johannes Brahms is a very good friend of Robert. Clara and Johannes ended up having their own sort of intimacy, although nothing was scandalous. It is known that Brahms was extremely fond of Clara Schumann and both Robert and Brahms's music is really kind of centered on this emotional turmoil.

Robert Schumann was considered crazy because he heard voices and he had imaginary friends. In his music you can hear this sort of strife contrasted with this sort of prayerful music, which is oftentimes associated with his love for Clara Schumann. Brahms is a romantic and lots of music that sort of probes life in an existential way and even in Brahms's music there's a lot of themes, motives and ideas that oftentimes get associated with this sort of Clara Schumann infatuation that he never got to realize in his life. So those three pieces came as a set to describe the sense of true love. In one case, a sense of passionate love that was fulfilled in an-



PHOTO COURTESY OF SEAN BARAN

other, an unrequited love. The other two pieces are pieces that were dedicated to the composer's wife Clara. They're both American pieces and it seemed like a nice sincere gesture to add these pieces to fill out the program.

Q: Is there anything else you would like to share about the recital?

A: The one thing that has struck me as I prepared the recital is I've not been necessarily thinking specifically how these pieces connect to Valentine's Day, but how they connect to the themes of love and romance, which we associate with the holiday. The Brahms and Schumann pieces are interesting in that they're very intimate and introverted compositions, and

at times the music is very outward and it sounds very loud and bombastic. To me when I play the music of Schumann and Brahms it's like I'm opening up their diary and reading a page from it. The music is intimate and it's finely crafted. I just found this extremely contrasted with the final piece on my program, which is a piece by Vincent Persichetti. It is an extremely extroverted composition, and it's almost prosthetic in a way. I like that I'm closing with this piece, because it closes with a psalm. I am planning to change instruments specifically for the last piece. We have two pianos in the recital hall, one is a smaller piano, which I would consider more intimate, and the other is very large grand piano, which I think is a symphonic instrument.

YSU Student Media is accepting Applications for the Editor-in-Chief of the Jambar and its affiliated publications.

Application Deadline Feb. 23

To be eligible for an editorial board position a student must be in good academic standing and enrolled in at least 12 semester hours each semester for the academic year position and three semester hours for the summer positions.

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News Briefs

Shooting on Michigan Avenue

The Youngstown Police Department responded to a call about a shooting on Michigan Avenue near Youngstown State University at about 10 p.m. on Monday. According to the police report, Daryl Anderson, age 19, suffered a gunshot to his side and was taken to St. Elizabeth's the night of the shooting. The police have a suspect, but no arrests have been made as of Wednesday.

Pre-Law Scholarship Applications

Applications are being accepted for the Judge Sidney Rigelhaupt and Bert Rigelhaupt Pre-Law Scholarship. All of the funds for the scholarship are provided by the Judge Sidney and Bert Rigelhaupt Scholarship Fund, which is managed and administered by the Farmers Trust Company. This is a full scholarship for YSU students in all majors who are intending to go to law school. Eligibility is limited to financially needy residents of Mahoning and Trumbull County in Ohio. It is a renewable scholarship for underclassmen.

Applications are to be submitted by Thursday, Feb. 23.

Printable applications for the scholarship are available on the YSU web-page <http://www.ysu.edu/content/office-financial-aid-and-scholarships> or can be obtained in the Department of Politics and International Relations, 419 Debartolo Hall.

Bring completed applications to the department, fax to 330-941-3439 or mail to the following:

Youngstown State University
 Department of Politics and International Affairs
 Rigelhaupt Pre-Law Center
 One University Plaza
 Youngstown, OH 44555



PHOTOS BY ALYSSA PFLUG / THE JAMBAR

On Friday Feb 3, the Bridges out of Poverty Student Union hosted a Bridges out of Poverty simulation in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley. Students, faculty and other members of the community randomly picked a role as a family member of a family living out four weeks in poverty. "It really opens your eyes to what's happening around us," said Ben Carkido, a student who participated in the simulation. Rebecca Banks, a volunteer for the simulation, said that the purpose of the simulation is for educational purposes, and shows the barriers that those in poverty experience.

The Jambar Column

Spicy Soup and the Rule of Law

BY JILLIAN SMITH

It was an unseasonably warm evening in Shanghai as my friends and I walked out from dinner at “the spicy soup shop.” The shop had become our staple, even though the food was seasoned in a way that made me forget what it was like to have feeling in my lips. An immigrant Muslim family owned the restaurant, and therefore did not shutter completely to celebrate the Lunar New Year, as was the case with every other restaurant. The owner welcomed his monopoly over the foreign student market, even if the feeling in my tongue did not.

Trying to apologize to my mouth for what I had just done to it, I turned to ask Adam, a Chinese local and my newly minted friend, and asked about his life in Shanghai, hoping to keep my mind off the pain. I asked standard “get to know you” type questions, expecting standard responses. But, one question I asked, which seemed quite innocuous, belied a far deeper aspect of Chinese society than I had planned.

I asked Adam what his favorite part of living in Shanghai was. His response? Justice.

Having expected an answer that resembled there is more nightlife or better job prospects, justice was very perplexing to me. I probed further, while internally lamenting that language was a complex thing and that ideas simply couldn't be transmuted from one human to another. Adam performed a heroic feat in attempting

to explain his thought.

He liked Shanghai, he explained, because back home in the countryside, government officials could do whatever they wanted, and would not be punished for it. If a government official damaged your property or stole something from you, there was no way to complain or have your property restored. Worse yet, even if you did complain, most of the officials were part of powerful families and were all related, and therefore had no incentive to take action against one of their own. When I asked him if this had ever happened to him, he paused. No, he said, because his grandfather was very tough.

In contrast, Shanghai was a place where you could have your property restored. People and the government were accountable. They would get in trouble for wrong doings. His grandfather did not necessarily have to be tough, he further noted.

Perhaps in Shanghai, the financial capital of Asia, the rule of law has become a more standard practice due to Western business influence, where concepts such as contract reciprocity are a necessity to drive global business. But even business dealing with Shanghai-based Chinese companies are well-known for the practice of *guan xi*, or the giving of preferential treatment to those with whom one has either established relations or from whom one has received a gift.

The rule of law is something I take for granted in the United States. So much so that it didn't even

occur me to that a quick Internet search on the rule of law in China while using local Wi-Fi would turn up mostly blocked sites, which it did. President Xi Jinping came to power on the promise that he would eliminate corruption and promote judicial fairness. In 2013, the president explained that his crackdown, which mostly arrested human rights lawyers and activist celebrities, was promoting a rule of law that was a “knife whose handle was in the hands of the (Communist) party and the hands of the people.”

Whether or not one agrees with the idea of President Trump's “travel ban,” the federal judicial ruling that has forced the State Department to cease the ban is truly a remarkable testament to the strength of the rule of law in our nation. Despite Mr. Trump's dislike of the ruling of the “so-called judge,” not even the highest officeholder in our land is above the authority of our legal system. It can be easy to forget what an astounding concept this human experiment in a government that is accountable to the people who put it in power and is answerable to the same laws that it creates. It is also easy to forget the immense sacrifice required to ensure the continued success of this experiment. From my vantage point of the People's Republic of China, I am quite amazed and thankful for a nation where a President can lose a legal suit and must comply with the results in the same way that you or I must.

Editorial

Devos Must Go... *If Unqualified*

Over the past few weeks, President Donald Trump's selections for his cabinet members have come under scrutiny, especially that of Betsy DeVos, who was nominated to be the new Secretary of Education.

On Jan. 2, students and faculty at Youngstown State University, as well as other members of the community, gathered together to voice their displeasure with the nomination of DeVos.

DeVos is a billionaire from Michigan and heads American Federation for Children, a non-profit organization that supports charter schools and voucher programs. She also served as the chair of the Michigan Republican Party.

However, she lacks experience in the education realm. She's in favor of charter schools, loosening the regulations on the nation's school system and the privatization of public schools.

Private schools only teach 9 percent of K-12 students, compared to the 91 percent who are educated via federally funded public school systems. If the structure and funding of these schools are removed, the vast majority of American youth will not get a proper education.

Public schools also help combat childhood hunger. Most K-12 schools offer a free or reduced lunch program to their students, ensuring that kids in vital stages of development get enough nutrients to promote brain and body growth.

Privatizing education completely goes against Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a document created by the United Nations and housed within the International Bill of Human

Rights, which states:

“Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.”

On Tuesday, the Senate voted on DeVos and the Secretary of Education position. After the Senate was tied 50-to-50, Vice President Mike Pence voted in favor of DeVos to break the tie.

Those in the education field have been voicing their opinions loud and clear: DeVos is not qualified or wanted in this position. Does President Trump know enough about public education to appoint someone who can run it?

Educators around the nation have been begging the government for more funding, better books and safer classrooms. All of these things have been denied.

They have also spent their money to buy classroom supplies, spent their time tutoring students after class and spent years fighting so future generations can have it better.

Now, they are fighting to get rid of DeVos. If all of their other pleas go unheard, please listen to this one. Teachers and professors only want the best for the kids they educate. They prove that every day.

If DeVos isn't good for public education, give her the boot.

The Press Box Perspective: Rugby, Anyone?

BY ANDREW ZUHOSKY

I'm really excited about what's happening later today as it pertains to the sports calendar.

"Why?" you might ask. "The NFL season's over. There's no more football for a while, and it's still a week out from the NBA All-Star Game. What could you be so excited about?"

Today marks the beginning of the 2017 Super League Rugby season — Super League XXII.

That's right, ladies and gentlemen, we're talking rugby today. I know that a lot of you might not know what rugby is, and there might be a chance that you have not watched a rugby match on TV. With that in mind, here's an explanation of the sport of rugby.

Rugby is a team sport wherein matches are contested between two squads of 13 or 15 players — depending on whether the match is a rugby league or rugby union game — with the teams trying to outscore each other over two 40-minute halves.

Rugby league, which is what's played in Super League in England and the National Rugby League in Australia, has 13 players on the field for each team; whereas rugby union — what's played in Premiership Rugby in England and Top 13

Rugby in France, among others — has 15 players on the field per team.

The major score in a rugby match is called a try. A try is recorded when a possessing player scurries across the goal line, placing the ball down while doing so. In rugby league, such as Super League, each try is worth four points, with five points being scored on tries in rugby union play.

Immediately after a try, the scoring team will attempt a conversion. Conversions are universally worth two points.

At the core, rugby is like gridiron football in a way, except for the fact that a possessing team can't move the ball by making forward passes.

Super League consists of 12 squads — 11 of them being from England, along with Catalans Dragons, a French team.

Going into the new season, the Wigan Warriors are the defending Super League champions, having won the Super League Grand Final by a 12-6 score against the Warrington Wolves last October.

The Super League season is structured this way: for the first 23 weeks of the season, teams will play each other in a home-and-home slate. This lasts until July.

After 23 weeks, the regular season ends, and teams placing first through eighth in the standings advance to the

Super 8s portion of the season. Each team squares off with opponents once during the Super 8s.

Upon the finish of the Super 8s, the top four teams will then advance to semifinal games, with the winners squaring off in the Super League Grand Final in October.

Inside the United States, Super League matches are aired throughout the season on FOX Soccer Plus, a premium digital cable channel. This is also where NRL matches are shown during overnight hours.

In fact, FOX Soccer Plus is how I was first exposed to rugby. Four years ago, I bought the sports premium package on our family's cable. It had NFL RedZone. I couldn't pass that up.

Naturally, the first thing I did was scan the channels to see if I'd be able to find anything interesting. I got to FOX Soccer Plus and found a rugby match. I don't remember who was playing.

I initially thought "Hey, what is this?" — but as the months continued on, my thoughts changed to "how good is this!" Now, four years later, I watch all sorts of rugby.

With this in mind, if you have FOX Soccer Plus, watch a Super League match this week. You may enjoy it as much as I do.

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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Momentum is Key:

YSU Will Look to Build on Huge Road Win

BY MARC WEEMS

With the Youngstown State University women's basketball team (8-15, 4-8 Horizon League) coming off a big win on the road, it will look to build on that gain. YSU's 65-59 win in overtime against the University of Illinois at Chicago snapped its five-game losing streak with the Penguins heading to the state of Wisconsin.

The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay (19-4, 10-2 HL), their second opponent in Wisconsin, beat YSU 84-51 on Jan. 26 at the Beeghly Center behind Jessica Lindstrom's 19 points and 12 rebounds.

"It's huge for this team that has been battling all year," YSU head coach John Barnes said about their overtime win at UIC. "They've given everything they have to get a road win. It brought everybody's spirits up."

One of the major things for YSU is that both Mary Dunn and Jenna Hirsch played against UIC — both players were limited in the last few games. Barnes said they are both moving slowly back to playing, but are at least moving towards it.

Green Bay averages 69.5 points per game while giving up just 50.8 points per game, which ranks second in the country.

"We haven't focused too much on not having a road win," Barnes said. "We've just been trying to keep things in perspective and focus on ourselves. It could get in their mind as young players, but it really doesn't."

Barnes said that at this point just getting wins is what matters — not really where it happens or how.

For YSU, they give up the most points in the conference at 73.3 points per game. On offense, YSU averages 68.4 points per game while shooting 78.9 percent from the free throw line, which is sixth in the country.

"We have struggled with matchups this year," Barnes said. "For

instance, in the [Valparaiso] game, we struggled because they have a taller girl who caused us issues."

Defensively, YSU has struggled with teams that have size or that move the ball well. Their UIC win was a testament to their true defensive abilities.

YSU has one game that comes before the Green Bay, when they travel to play the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (15-8, 7-5 HL) on Feb. 9. Milwaukee narrowly escaped YSU at the Beeghly Center with a 78-74 victory on Jan. 28.

Milwaukee's size was also an issue for YSU as forward Steph Kostowicz put up 22 points and 12 rebounds along with six blocks.

"We showed some good things against Milwaukee," Barnes said. "I think that defensively, we need to step up and have a great game. They are second in the conference in scoring offense, and they are very good from the free throw line. We allowed them to get them to the free throw line 28 times."

Barnes said that they need to be in better positions so that they don't have a team shooting nearly 30 free throws in a game.

Milwaukee averages 74.3 points per game while shooting 43 percent from the field. YSU allows teams to shoot 43 percent from the field, but only 31 percent from the 3-point line.

"We just have to do a great job on the defensive side of the ball," Barnes said. "We are really struggling. We showed some signs against UIC, but we need to take another step forward. Milwaukee is a great shooting team and will be a big test for us."

Barnes also said that no matter what cards they've been dealt, they should no doubt be better than they are.

YSU will look to build off their last win against UIC as they hit the road. They play Milwaukee at 8 p.m. on Feb. 9 and then go to Green Bay to play on Feb. 11 at 2 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

Indiya Benjamin (3) drives to the basket as multiple Akron defenders look on in a game on December 6, 2016.

Teeing Off: YSU Women's Golf Ready to Swing



Courtney Shutt tees off during a practice round for YSU during the Fall season.

BY MARC WEEMS

With golf season right around the corner, the Youngstown State University women's golf team prepares for their first match up against conference foes. Last season, Oakland University was the Horizon League champion last season just ahead of YSU. Their first match of the season includes Oakland and Cleveland State University.

YSU is projected to finish second behind Oakland but one spot ahead of CSU.

"I'm super excited for this," YSU senior Mia Barchetti said. "It's going to give us such a great opportunity to see what's next for the conference play. Just being able to compete this early is going to give us such good experience."

Barchetti said that being friends with the girls from both teams makes matches like this very different from a competition point of view.

Barchetti is one of just two seniors on the team along with Haleigh Guerrero. Both girls were part of the 2015 Horizon League championship team that won by 11 strokes. Both Oakland and CSU came in second and third, respectively.

"There are three of us that are still on the team that were a part of that," Barchetti said. "It was such a great

experience. Being able to share that with the other girls is so hard to put into words. Having that experience is something to show the younger girls that we can do that again. That is my motivation."

YSU head coach Nate Miklos spoke on the upcoming season.

"For us, it's really all about getting better every day," Miklos said. "In this game, you can't really be too concerned with what any other team is doing or anyone else."

Miklos said that the key for the younger girls is to learn and grow with every tournament that they play in.

YSU's team features eight girls with three sophomores and two freshmen. They finished in the top-4 of every Fall tournament they participated in.

"I feel like it's an honor and big responsibility," junior Courtney Shutt said about leadership. "At the same time, it's hard because you have a lot of good decisions whether it's the popular decision or not."

Shutt posted five top-10 finishes last season and placed 16th at Horizon League Championships.

"I think it's fun because it's a challenge," Shutt said. "Since we are friends with these girls, it is fun to see how much they've improved since last season. My goal is to make progress every day and to make improvements each day. Also, for us to win the conference."

This tournament takes place in Sorrento, Florida this year and is only a one-day tournament.

"Most of our players have had their Fall season under their belts," Miklos said. "We have a lot of very talented players. We need to continue to learn at every event and make the improvements we need to."

Miklos said that even though a team like Oakland had a strong Fall season, they still are a good team that will compete with them.

"If we put in the work and make the improvements that we need to, we will be in good shape," Miklos said.

Miklos is currently in his fourth season and has kept YSU at the top of conference every year.

"I want another ring and I want to make as much of a mark as I can," Barchetti said. "Personally, I am setting the bar high and want to win as often as possible while still improving the team."

Last season, YSU placed in sixth out of eight teams with a 330 total compared to the 311 that Oakland posted.

"I just focus on our team because we won conference a few years ago," Shutt said. "I think it just adds fuel under us to push harder. It's easier to put in a lot of work knowing that we are capable of."

YSU starts the year in Sorrento, Florida at Red Tail Golf Club on February 20.

PHOTO COURTESY OF YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

YSU Enters 2017 With Talent and Experience

BY DAN HINER

Following a 30-21 season in 2016, the Youngstown State University is preparing for the 2017 season opener.

The Penguins finished with one of the best seasons in program history last year, but YSU's goal is to make it farther in the Horizon League tournament.

Cali Mikovich and Sarah Dowd were considered one of the most powerful tandems in the league. Mikovich and Dowd combined to hit 24 homeruns and drive in 76 RBIs.

The Penguins lost infielder Miranda Castiglione, YSU's stolen base leader and one of the most decorated players in program history.

This season, the Penguins roster is filled with underclassmen who contributed significantly throughout the year.

"The nice part is we have 17 returners, with six being seniors," YSU head coach Brian Campbell said. "We're looking forward to senior leadership and a lot of the young ladies being experienced. We added in five freshmen to

the class."

Dowd said the familiarity between all of the teammates will help the team this season. She said it's easier to win after playing with teammates for two or three seasons.

"In the outfield, we don't even have a single freshman out there to be honest with you. People you worked with, you get a feel for what everyone can do. You get a sense of ... accomplishment and teamwork out there. We really get along well and I feel like that getting along well and the ability to mesh well with each other will really take us far this year."

YSU will play Towson University, Coastal Carolina University and the University of Alabama in the first three games of the year. Campbell said the Penguins' offense will be the most concerning since YSU can't practice on the field during the winter.

"We understand that when we head down there this weekend, that Alabama has been on their field all spring — same thing with Coastal [Carolina]," Campbell said. "Townson might be in the same boat as us with them being a northern team.



PHOTO BY DAN HINER / THE JAMBAR

Brittney Moffatt, Youngstown State University's second baseman, gets into position prior to a pitch during a YSU home game last season.

"When we go down there, it's just about limiting the mistakes defensively and being aggressive offensively and make things happen. [We] gotta do a little bit more bunt and runs, hit and runs and steals when you're trying to produce runs when you start off early."

YSU second baseman Brittney Moffatt said she's excited about

the potential on the team. She said Campbell reminds them that "one swing can change the game."

The Penguins also have both full-time pitchers returning this season. Senior Caitlyn Minney and sophomore Paige Geanangel combined to win all 30 games last season. Geanangel led the Penguins with a 17-12 record

and pitched 13 complete games.

Geanangel's 17 wins ranked third in school history for single-season wins, and Minney's 13 wins ranked 10th on the list.

The Penguins will start the season on the road for the first month of the season. The Penguins won't play a home game until they host the University of Akron on March 12.