



Youngstown Stands up for Science

PHOTO BY SAMANTHA PHILLIPS / THE JAMBAR

BY SAMANTHA PHILLIPS

Chants of “Science not silence” rang out in Wick Park during Youngstown’s March for Science on Saturday, where experts and educators spoke about the importance of science and caring for the environment.

About 200 Youngstown community members showed their support for scientific research funding, science education and stopping climate change as they marched around the park and carried signs with slogans such as “There is no Planet B”.

The Youngstown march was one of about 610 satellite marches that broke out on Earth Day, according to marchforscience.com. The primary March for

Science was held in Washington D.C., and featured speakers such as science educator Bill Nye.

The protests were in response to President Donald Trump’s administration cutting the budget for national scientific departments such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Aeronautic Space Administration.

The march showed support for a variety of disciplines under the umbrella of “science”, including biological, environmental and social science.

Speakers talked primarily about climate change and how advancements in science have increased quality of life, and explained why the budget cuts are harmful.

Alexis Smith, radiologist at

Trinity Health System, worked with the Mahoning Valley Voices for Change and Progress Mahoning Valley to organize the Youngstown march after noticing the traction the National March for Science was gaining on social media.

“I think coming together helped us after the election. We are really worried about science and the way things are going with the administration so I think being active like this has helped us feel better because we are doing something,” Smith said.

Patricia Dunbar, environmental specialist at the Ohio EPA, advised people to start making calls to elected officials about the budget cuts and to attend community events that take action against the cuts.

“We have to keep the administration straight, because they work for us — we the people,” she said. “We want a healthy environment. That’s what we must tell them: we won’t settle for anything less than taking care of our planet.”

The advancement of medical science, such as vaccinations, has saved countless lives, Smith said. She said she is concerned that cutting the budget towards science research will prevent cures for diseases and other important discoveries from being made.

“We want people to be more aware of what science has done for them,” Smith said. “The march is non-partisan, but we also want to focus on the fact that we think the best available

science and research should be used when making decisions about policies on the state, federal and local government levels.”

Dunbar said she used to tell her class that climate change is something that wouldn’t affect them, but would affect their grandchildren. Now, she said, the acceleration of climate change is creating a problem for their generation.

“How could anyone accept and support the removal of the accomplishments that the advances of science have given us? Science provides answers to all of our questions and it always will,”

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:

RALEIGH BASINGER RJBASINGER@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ JARODRIGUEZ02@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

NATHAN HRITZ NSHRITZ@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

RACHEL GOBEP REGOBEP@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

CONTACT US

✉ THEJAMBAR@GMAIL.COM

☎ 330 - 941 - 1991

🖨 330 - 941 - 2322

ADVERTISING

✉ THEJAMBARAD@GMAIL.COM

☎ 330 - 941 - 1990

FEATURES



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

NEWS

- 3 | PAYO Carnival / Science March Cont.
- 4 | International Housing / Inspirational Spinning Instructor
- 5 | Phonepaycheck / Atwood Quotes
- 6 | Jenna DeLaurentis

A&E ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

- 8 | Behind the Scenes of Federal Frenzy
- 9 | Federal Frenzy Coverage

OPINION

- 12 | Editorial / Letter to the Editor
- 13 | Press Box Perspective

SPORTS

- 14 | Men's Tennis Breaks Record
- 15 | Val Jeffery
- 16 | Men's Baseball



PAYO Carnival Held to Benefit Youngstown Children

PHOTO BY JORDAN UNGER / THE JAMBAR

BY JORDAN UNGER

The Poverty Awareness in Youngstown Organization hosted its second annual carnival on Saturday at Warren G. Harding Elementary School to promote education in Youngstown City Schools.

Megan Evans, a senior at Youngstown State University, co-founded PAYO as a service project in 2015. The group aims to raise awareness and donations for children with limited resources in Youngstown. Events are held throughout the semester to acquire donations, all of which are given to kids at local elementary schools in the spring.

PAYO partnered with the Advancing Education-Reducing Crime initiative, a change from last April's event. Elizabeth Zoc-

cole, graduate assistant who volunteered at the carnival, said the collaboration links the importance of education and staying safe.

"We're talking about police officers, their duties in the community and how they have a positive impact," Zoccole said. "Officer Awadallah is here today to show that the children can interact with him on a positive level and not be afraid of him."

An activity at the criminal justice booth let kids determine the difference between positive and negative choices in situations such as offering drugs. Zoccole said she was pleased with how the students were responding to it.

"They seem to understand the difference between the negative and positive of a situation and chose the right way," Zoccole said.

Evans said the need for more

collaborations came as a lesson from last year.

"As long as you really make those connections and talk to people about what's happening in the city, you can partner and make something bigger," Evans said.

This year's donation collection centered on books and dental hygiene products. Evans said it was much easier for PAYO to focus on specific donations than a broad spectrum.

"Compared to 1,000 books last year, we have over 4,700 this year," Evans said. "We were able to make partnerships more pointed, so that way we could have a larger amount of donations."

Student groups such as the Student Art Association, the Room of Requirement, the American Chemistry Association and Intro to Honors classes organized the activities, including

face-painting, pie-tossing and a variety of carnival-styled games. Co-organizer Marta Hergenrother said the diverse selection of activities is important.

"It caters to the students and the kids more because everyone has different interests," Hergenrother said. "If they are able to see more activities going on, it might spark their interest in something that they didn't really know about."

Each of the Intro to Honors groups were permitted to create their own activity for the kids. AnnMarie Lowerre, honors student who volunteered at the event, ran a booth where the kids had to guess which Disney movie would play next on a random shuffle.

"It's cool to be a part of something where they're spreading the awareness of reading, hygiene and just being able to have fun," Lowerre said.

Students Noor Khalayleh, Sarah Elisabeth Odidika and Jasmine Smyles co-coordinated the event as well. PAYO will be helmed by the four co-coordinators after Evans graduates this semester, something that Khalayleh said will be a big change for the group.

"We're going to miss Megan, and it's going to be really odd to not have her around," Khalayleh said. "But the way that our family has been working together lately, throughout this whole experience, I feel like we'll have more organization skills and more experience coming in the fall."

The carnival ran from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Donations were also distributed to Martin Luther King Elementary School, William Holmes McGuffey Elementary School and Taft Elementary School.

SCIENCE
FRONT

Dunbar talked about the bleaching of the coral reefs, increasing ocean acidity and the rising sea levels, and explained that climate change is apparent because of the extreme weather changes.

Jessica Morris, a YSU alumna who gave a speech about wildlife conservation, said more people need to get involved with events such as the science march because

if things remain stagnant, then there will be more deforestation and the air quality will worsen.

Mandy Fehlbaum, YSU sociology professor, spoke to the crowd about social sciences, including anthropology, psychology and sociology. She said she is concerned about budget cuts to science.

"The danger of people not being educated about social science is that it makes people closed minded. I think it's important for people to come to the march and celebrate a passion for science," she said.

Fehlbaum said it's important to distinguish the real facts from "alternate facts" and to do research on policies and ideas before supporting them.

"Research is under attack now more than ever. Thank you for reminding our elected leaders, our neighbors and even yourselves of the important role that evidence plays in informing policies and forming a better world," she said.

Lashale Pugh, associate geography professor, said people can live an ecofriendly lifestyle by making small changes such as

recycling and joining environmental activist groups.

"Climate change is real. Global temperatures are increasing and they have been since the industrial revolution, but the rate at which climate change or those increasing temperature is occurring is happening faster," she said.

Smith said the march is the start of a campaign, and "days of action" will be posted on the March for Science website.

YSU's Housing Contract Doesn't Cover Spring Break

BY JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR
NAMI NAGAOKA

During spring break, some students are forced to face difficulties due to Youngstown State University's housing contract, which doesn't allow students to stay in their assigned dorms on campus.

According to Ian Tanner, associate director for residence life, there were only 32 students that requested housing for this past spring break — only 4 percent of the total students who live in university housing during the academic year.

Ten applicants out of the 32 were international students.

Furthermore, 17 of them requested to stay less than three nights. YSU provided Lyden House for temporary housing, but those staying would have to pay \$26 a night, or \$205 for the whole week. The whole week price includes \$70 Pete's Points to eat.

"With limited number of students requesting housing during break, there is no need to have more than just one residence hall open," said Tanner. "If we had more students request break housing, we would accommodate them by keeping other residence halls open."

TJ Pham, a senior from Vietnam majoring in chemical engineering, moved to the University Edge dorm from Cafaro House dorm last year.

"[Living at the University Edge] is more convenient [than living] by myself, and I can stay during a break," said Pham,

"[YSU] should have limited housing ... for free [for] whoever signs up for housing."

For the 2016 spring break, he had to leave Cafaro house but continued working at the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center.

"Mostly I travel in summer, so I don't wanna spend my money [during spring break]," Pham said. "I had to find a place to stay ..."

Pham ended up staying with a friend from Boardman, who had to take Pham to work at the Rec Center when he was scheduled.

Rachel Davis, a senior majoring in English, is currently working as a RA in the Kilcawley House. Davis said properly housing international students and providing them with adequate services is an important part of their YSU experience.

"[International students] make up an important part of the residence halls and they help us to [create] true diversity in the community," Davis said. "There should be more accessibility, like a bussing system, [available] for the international students."

Tanner said the housing office had a meeting the past fall semester with the International Programs Office (IPO). Tanner said IPO brought some concerns that some international students were having, including difficulties about finding safe and affordable housing off campus.

Tanner and others who work within housing and residence programs are attempting to make changes to make international students' stay at YSU more welcoming and inclusive.

"[We're] working with the international programs office to make sure that we can find them some off-campus [housing]," Tanner said. "If they ever want to move to off campus, maybe move to the Courtyards, we can help coordinate for that a little bit so that there is an easy transition."

According to a story from WKBN earlier this year, there are seven students that are affected by President Donald Trump's executive order on immigration at YSU, and the International Programs Office is prepared to provide assistance to those affected.

Also, Tanner said the YSU housing office will be offering a support for those students who would get stuck if they go back home during the break due to the Trump's order.

During the summer semester, some apartments on campus are open, but every dorm on the campus is closed.

"In that the situation, [international students] can definitely contact our office, and we can handle on a case-by-case basis," Tanner said.

The housing office can give international students break housing if necessary, Tanner said.

"We can definitely accommodate and make sure that students are in a space ...," he said.

"We wanna treat [international students] like we would [treat] anyone else."

This will go by a case-by-case basis, Tanner said. Students in need of housing during breaks can reach out to the housing office, talk to Tanner or Kate Fitzgerald, director of Housing and Residence Life, or contact IPO.

A Spinning Class That Will Inspire You

BY JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ

Cornel Bogdan has been holding spinning classes since the mid-90's and said he loves it. It keeps him in shape and reduces stress levels. During his classes, he spreads messages of inspiration and motivation.

Q: What made you want to start doing this?

A: I was always Mr. Jock, but I needed that competition. As you start to get older, the competition fades and I wanted to challenge myself. I'm also a stress monger so I know for a fact when I work out I am better for humanity.

Q: When and where do you hold these classes?

A: I'm here at Youngstown State on Saturdays and I'm at a place called Black Boxx Spinning in Niles on Mondays and Tuesdays. I'm at the Niles Wellness Center on Thursdays and I may do a fill in somewhere at one of those places. I do go through the summer, but not at YSU because they aren't open on weekends. But I'm at YSU during fall and spring semesters and at my other locations all year around.

Q: Why is this type of class important?

A: The big thing I try to get across is everybody goes through their day and has their stress. Whether you're a 19- or 20-year-old college student or a 60-year old guy working at GM. For 45-60 minutes, it's okay to get selfish. I compare it to a cell phone, you're in there charging your battery. As you start to get older, people work out because of health but you don't realize how much you need to work out for your mental and spiritual well-being. You come in with problems and you leave and you don't have any. You feel a lot better.

Q: What are some challenges people may face when it comes to working out?

A: The hardest thing about a workout is getting to the gym. Getting into your car, loading up your stuff and dealing with whatever problems you have and getting there. But once you get there, that's the easy part. Usually there are 15-20 people at the class, and I love self motivators. These people are showing up at 12:15 on a Saturday to work out. Those are the kinds of people that I like to hang around.

Q: What kind of positive message do you try and implement during your classes?

A: I run into so many different people at the facilities I work out at that have gone through issues, whether it be personal, with their work or their careers and they say "Man I should've done this" or "I should've done that." But you learn from the past and you have got to move forward. Never once do I say during the class to pedal backwards. So that's been my big push wherever I've been at. You can't beat yourself up for so many things, but move forward. Forward, forward, forward.

PhonePaycheck: The App that Pays While You Charge Your Phone

BY JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR
TANNER MONDOK

College students are always looking for unconventional ways to make money, like allowing an app to use their phone while it's charging to earn a paycheck.

PhonePaycheck is an Android app developed by NeoCortex, a company located in Mountain View, California, and promoted in Youngstown that pays users to charge their phone. The app is not available for iOS devices.

To start making money, the user has to download the app from the Google Play Store, connect their device to Wi-Fi and then plug their phone in.

The main purpose of the app is to make your phone act as a "fake user" on businesses websites to test for website traffic overload.

Kelli Johnston, a Youngstown State University graduate and independent contractor for PhonePaycheck, gave an example as to exactly how and why the app is acting as a "fake user" on websites.

"Victoria's Secret runs different sale promotions online and also have the Victoria's Secret fashion show. Therefore, they know that they have certain peak times that people may get on their website," she said. "In order to make sure that their website can handle the amount of traffic or users at one time, they must test it using 'fake users'"

during times when they are not expecting a lot of actual traffic. Previously, businesses such as Victoria's Secret would utilize computer processors that would run scripts and act as fake users. This can be very expensive and use a lot of energy."

Johnston said that since the methods that websites use to test web traffic are so expensive and power hungry, PhonePaycheck creates a "win-win" situation for everyone who is involved.

"Victoria's Secret is spending less money by giving PhonePaycheck a script to run and the PhonePaycheck users are benefitting from renting out their phone's processors," she said. "As a user, you do not see the fake user activity, you just see the app generating money."

In regards to the amount of money a user can make while using the app, Johnston said that a phone charging with the app running generates 22 cents in eight hours and 66 cents in 24 hours.

To make more money, users can have up to five phones generating money at once. Johnston said that she keeps her main phone and a spare plugged in a lot. The app launched on March 1 and since then Johnston has made \$29.49.

"That is money in my pocket that I wouldn't have had before and I haven't had to do a single thing for it," she said. "I know as a college student, every dollar counts."

The money generated goes into the user's PayPal account. Users also have the option to donate their monthly earnings to a charity of their choice options like United Way, UNICEF, Save the Children, American Red Cross, PETA, Hope for Paws, Animal Advocates, Animal Aid Unlimited, Humane Society and Let's Adopt International.

Lloyd Watts, CEO of NeoCortex, said that the idea for PhonePaycheck was born when he decided he wanted to build a company like Google that used commodity processors to build large scale brain-like processes.

"I was preparing to build big data centers out of cellphones, when several friends of mine pointed out that there are 2.6 billion cellphones out in the world, often sitting idle at night when people are sleeping," he said. "Why not just rent their spare computer time? Thus, the idea for the PhonePaycheck app was born in August 2016."

Watts said that there were many problems that occurred when creating the app. He said that some of the reasons for the issues were because even though Android devices have capable processors, the operating system isn't intended for cloud computing applications.

The reason the app isn't available for iOS is because Watts doesn't believe that it would be possible to implement the necessary persistent background services on the

devices. Watts also mentioned that it was important that the app was secure to protect users' personal data and to keep the payment system safe from hackers.

According to data provided by Watts, the app has 482 users, 934 active devices and 39 of those being from the Youngstown area. \$2,260 has been redeemed to users since launch.

The app started to be promoted in Youngstown when Watts met with members of the Youngstown Business Incubator at a meeting called Jobs Across America.

Brittany Housel, director of program management at the YBI, said that Watts was interested in getting someone to promote the app in the Youngstown area with the purpose of building up the app's user base.

According to Housel, the YBI saw a good opportunity with PhonePaycheck to create a strong user base here in Youngstown. She also said that the money the app generates can be helpful to a lot of people in the area.

"As far as people in Youngstown, I think that there's a certain population, whether it be students or young families that need a little extra money and it's a great way for them to be able to do that," Housel said.

PhonePaycheck is available to anyone who owns an Android device and is free to download on the Google Play Store.



THE HONOR SOCIETY OF
PHI KAPPA PHI

**The Youngstown State University
chapter of the honor society
Phi Kappa Phi (Chapter 143) extends
our congratulations to our spring
and summer graduates!**

**We congratulate all of YSU's spring
and summer graduates!**

**A great future awaits you!
Let your journey begin!**

Top 5 Quotes from Margaret Atwood's Skeggs Lecture

BY ELIZABETH LEHMAN

Margaret Atwood, the author of more than 40 volumes of poetry, children's books, novels and non-fiction books, was the keynote speaker of a Skeggs Lecture on Saturday at the Stambaugh Auditorium. She is best known for her novels such as "The Handmaid's Tale", "The Robber Bride" and "The Edible Woman." Here are a few of her most memorable quotes:

"If we were already inside 'The Handmaid's Tale' you wouldn't be sitting here, I wouldn't be standing here and we would not be talking about this book because it would be forbidden. And the female part of the audience would be forbidden even to read, but we aren't there yet."

"Who would have anticipated all this? Not myself at the time I was writing it. My expectations were modest. I thought of it as a book that might annoy some people, should they read it, should they read."

"The details of 'The Handmaid's Tale' don't come from very far away and long ago. There are possibilities within every society including ours. 'The Handmaid's Tale' poses the question: If America were a dictatorship, what kind of dictatorship would it be? Religion used as a control and propaganda would surely be a major component."

"What's my next hope for this book? The same hope it's always been: I hope that 'The Handmaid's Tale' will remain between its covers, that it will not become a reality any more than it already is."

"The humanities have been under funding threat recently because they're thought not to deliver things of value, financial value, stuff that investors can make money out of. We want, apparently, genetically engineered babies in bottles and artificial intelligence and sex robots; we're making them anyway and spending a lot of money doing so. But we aren't so keen on fictions about those things, or the mysteries of them."

Around the World With Jenna DeLaurentis

BY JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR
NATHAN HRITZ

Imagine spending your college years traveling to countries such as the Bahamas, Chile and Brazil, and becoming immersed in new cultures while gaining an education. That's exactly what Youngstown State University junior Jenna DeLaurentis is doing, and she talked to The Jambar about her experience so far and how other YSU students can do it, too.

Q: How has your experience been with traveling?

A: Going abroad has been the best decision I have ever made. When you arrive in a new place with no knowledge of the language or customs, you arrive with only your personal determination to make the experience the best that you can. Through traveling, I have met hundreds of people from around the world, learned new languages, and have experienced so many beautiful cultures and destinations. It has given me the opportunity to enhance my education on a global scale, which I think is vital in today's global workforce.

Q: Which organization are you travelling with?

A: Right now I am studying abroad with University Studies Abroad Consortium Study Abroad in Santiago, Chile. I have had great experiences with USAC and it is a more affordable program compared to many other study abroad program providers. My semester here finishes at the end of April and then I will be spending a month traveling around Chile and Peru—South America is a super budget-friendly place to travel; it is great for college stu-

dents with limited budgets!

Q: How are you funding your trips?

A: I fund all of my study abroad experiences in the same way. First, I pick a more affordable study abroad program. I study abroad with USAC Study Abroad because they are affordable and reliable! For example, studying in Brazil with USAC was about \$9,000; other programs are charging ridiculously outrageous prices for a semester abroad, so I do not use those programs. Second, I transfer my merit scholarships through YSU.

Anyone with merit scholarships at YSU can do this; since I receive \$4,000 in merit scholarships per semester, I receive this money when I study abroad. Third, I apply for a grant through my college at YSU (College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences) and I also apply for scholarships through USAC Study Abroad. I have received \$3,000 in scholarships this way. Other than that, I work four different jobs in Youngstown and do freelance photography and videography work. The long hours are not fun, but it is worth it when I get to go on incredible trips around the world. Next semester, I will be studying abroad in Chiang Mai, Thailand, with USAC Study Abroad. This program is just about as affordable as it gets, with the whole semester of tuition, room and board costing \$5,400. Keep in mind that a semester at YSU while living on campus costs about \$8,000.

So yes, it is actually more affordable to spend a semester in Thailand than on campus! I follow @TheFlightDeal on Twitter and refuse to book expensive international flights. This is seriously the best Twitter account ever; there are constant flight deals being posted. I booked a \$196 round trip flight to Santiago, Chile instead of paying

PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNA DELAURENTIS / THE JAMBAR

over \$1,500 because I follow this Twitter account.

Q: What kind of scholarships or funding options do YSU students have to study abroad?

A: A Ton! You can transfer your YSU merit scholarships to go abroad and all of your financial aid will usually transfer. Many colleges at YSU will give grants/research grants for study abroad experiences. If you receive a Pell Grant through financial aid, you have many more opportunities to receive thousands of dollars in study abroad scholarships. There are honestly too many study abroad scholarships to list here, so I would recommend going to the study abroad office in Jones Hall to see specifically what scholarships you qualify for. It is also possible to receive a full scholarship to study abroad.

Q: What are you studying?

A: My major is Political Science (Foreign Affairs track) and my minors are Telecommunications and Italian.

Q: Could you briefly describe your travelling experience since starting at YSU?

A: Freshman year, I went on a 10-day YSU field study trip in the Bahamas with the Honors College and Geography Department. I spent the spring of my sophomore year in Florianópolis, Brazil and the summer after sophomore year in Italy with YSU's Italian Department. I am currently in Chile for my spring semester of junior year. I will be studying in Thailand this fall, and will be finishing my last semester at YSU before graduating in May 2018!

CONTINUE READING AT
THEJAMBAR.COM

Letter to the YSU Board of Trustees and YSU Campus Community:

Toward the end of 2016, YSU released the findings of the Chronicle of Higher Education's "Great Colleges to Work For" Campus Climate survey, wherein faculty, staff, and administrators were asked to voice their opinions and concerns about current conditions at YSU. The survey revealed an astounding array of systemic problems that warrant serious attention. In every category, YSU's campus climate fared much worse in comparison to the campus climate of peer institutions across the nation. Even in our strongest categories, YSU rated only in the "Fair to Mediocre" level on the Great Colleges Scale. In our weakest categories, like those on faculty and staff relations with upper-level administration, shared governance, and campus collaboration, YSU rated 20 to 30 percentage points below the average of our peers. Faculty and staff have been given many opportunities to elaborate on the results of the survey and provide additional feedback, yet no meaningful measures have been taken to address the root causes of most of these problems.

These results should have the entire community concerned, not only because they highlight an unhappy working environment, but also because they reveal significant problems in many of the areas the Higher Learning Commission will use to evaluate YSU as part of next academic year's accreditation review. Because the results reveal such wide gaps between YSU and its peers in these critical areas, there is a real risk of corrective action from the accrediting agency.

Employees on campus, including full-time and part-time faculty, staff, and the Administration, share a commitment to student success and desire to see the institution thrive. However, many full-time faculty, including all signatories below, are deeply concerned with the direction of YSU in recent years. Some of our most notable concerns are:

YSU faculty opinions are too often ignored when making important institutional decisions
The majority of hires in senior administrative posi-

tions in the past five years have been appointed without consideration of faculty and staff opinions, which is a violation of YSU standard procedures, and accepted best practices for higher education.

In several instances, the recommendations of faculty and staff-led committees have been wholly ignored, and upper-level administration has acted unilaterally.

YSU faculty is the lowest paid among comprehensive state universities in Ohio

Despite having one of the highest teaching loads in the state, YSU faculty currently ranks lowest of all comprehensive Ohio public Universities in terms of salary. Compared to our peers, an assistant professor at YSU is paid about \$10,000 less; an associate professor about \$8,000 less; and a full professor about \$20,000 less.

YSU faculty has been falling further behind peers

Since FY 2011, YSU faculty endured significant decreases in real compensation: Pay for summer teaching has been capped and reduced; Teaching loads have increased; Research and service time has been severely cut; Healthcare contributions have skyrocketed; Extended teaching for faculty near retirement has been eliminated.

As a result, YSU spending on faculty salaries has been reduced by approximately \$5 million, which represents an 11% decline.

YSU's budgets have placed academic affairs behind athletic and administrative spending

Since FY 2012, spending on academic affairs has declined by 5.3%, or \$4.7 million, while spending on intercollegiate athletics has increased by 26.8%, or \$3.1 million.

Spending on intercollegiate athletics is projected to exceed its earned income by \$11.3 million this year, or approximately \$1,100 per full-time equivalent student. This deficit is funded through a transfer from YSU's General Fund.

A 2013 financial audit showed that YSU spends significantly less of its budget on academic affairs, and signifi-

cantly more of its budget on auxiliary/athletic enterprises compared to other public institutions in Ohio.

This year, the Board of Trustees approved significant salary raises for many upper-level administrators. These included \$10,000 annual raises for the Provost, the Vice President of Legal Affairs, and the Vice President of Finance and Business Operations. Several of these upper-level administrators were singled out specifically in the survey as directly contributing to failures in shared governance and lack of support for the academic mission.

As evidenced by the campus climate survey, this lack of prioritization of academic affairs and unwillingness to govern through collaboration has created a campus community that feels undervalued, disrespected, and overworked.

Moving forward, YSU's Board of Trustees and Senior Administration can continue on the current path, forcing faculty to fall even further behind peers in pay and work conditions, further reducing employee morale, and diminishing our ability to hire and retain top faculty. This path will surely exacerbate the already feeble climate on campus, and this deterioration will be in plain sight of the Higher Learning Commission officials as they consider our re-accreditation.

Or we can choose a new path, one in which we make learning the priority by increasing support for our academic programs. Administration can start by avoiding contentious negotiations and offering faculty a fair contract with real increases in compensation and increased support for research and service projects. The Administration and Board of Trustees must also show a firm commitment to shared governance by heeding the majority opinions of faculty and staff on university committees when making institutional decisions, following best practices widely accepted across Higher Education, and by our accrediting body.

For the sake of this institution and the success of our students, we sincerely hope that the latter path is chosen.

SAMUEL ADU-POKU
JAMES H. ANDREWS
DANIEL AYANA
DIANE BARNES
REBECCA BARNHOUSE
CHRIS BARZAK
CHRISTOPHER M. BELLAS
EWELINA BOCZKOWSKA
BRIAN BONHOMME
FRANK J. BOSSO
PHILIP BRADY
JEFF BUCHANAN
WILLIAM R. BUCKLER
JONATHAN CAGUIAT
STEPHEN CHALMERS
JOY CHRISTIANSEN ERB
SUSAN CLUTTER
CHRISTINE COBB
ELEANOR A. CONGDON
MICHAEL CRESCIMANNO
DRAGANA CRNJAK
LAUREN CUMMINS
DONNA DEBLASIO

SUZANNE DIAMOND
THOMAS P. DIGGINS
JOE D'UVA
DIANA FAGAN
JOHN FELDMEIERS
STEPHEN RAY FLORA
TIMOTHY FRANCISCO
STEPHEN L. GAGE
JEANETTE GARR
PAUL GORDIEJEW
JAY L. GORDON
RICHARD HELFRICH
CRYSHANNA JACKSON LEFTWICH
MICHAEL JERRYSON
CARL JOHNSTON
BIRSEN KARPAK
JOHANNA Krontiris-LITOWITZ
KAREN LARWIN
DAVE LAW
ALINA LAZAR
SCOTT LEONARD
HEATHER LORIMER
SHERRI LOVELACE-CAMERON

JOSEPH LYONS
NDINZI MASAGARA
MISSY MCCORMICK
JEANINE MINCHER
MUSTANSIR MIR
ALLAN MOSHER
NICOLE MULLINS
MICHELLE NELSON
TOM ODER
PATRICK O'LEARY
ANITA C. O'MELLAN
TOMI OVASKA
DIANA PALARDY
GABRIEL PALMER-FERNANDEZ
DENNIS PETRUSKA
RACHAEL POHLE-KRAUZA
DAVID PORTER
ALICIA PRIETO LANGARICA
STEVEN REALE
STEVEN REESE
JENA ROOT
JENA ROOT
GLENN SCHAFT

PAM SCHUSTER
BONITA SHARIF
DAVID SIMONELLI
CARLA ANNE SIMONINI
DOLORES SISCO
PATRICK SPEARMAN
NINA STOURMAN
SHARON STRINGER
LINDA J. STROM
ALBERT J. SUMELL
ROBERT THOMPSON
STEPHANIE A. TINGLEY
TACI TUREL
YOGESH UPPAL
FRED VIEHE
MARK C. VOPAT
BRUCE WALLER
ROBERT E. WARDLE III
MARK WOMBLE
MARY LYNN YACOVONE
MISOOK YUN

Preparing for the Frenzy: Setting up for Youngstown's Biggest Outdoor Concert



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRENT BIGELOW

BY JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR
MARAH MORRISON

The Youngstown State University Penguin Productions and the city of Youngstown planned for Federal Frenzy for a few months due to what it entails.

Carolyn Jesko, assistant director for programming in the Student Activities Office and one of the advisers for Penguin Productions, said she loves working with the Penguin Productions' students.

"We have 19 students on the Penguin Productions Programming Board and two advisers," Jesko said. "We partner pretty heavily with the city of Youngstown, with Mike McGiffin, who is the director of downtown events."

Jesko said the heavy implementation and planning process happens in October. During that time, YSU Penguin Productions think of artists and headliners.

"We're always thinking about it," Jesko said. "I know that Judah & the Lion, our headliner for this year, had

come up over the summer after some of our students saw them perform live."

Jesko said being a part of this event is a great learning opportunity for students involved with Penguin Productions and that are committed to it.

Megan Crees, who is majoring in communications, is one of the co-event leads for Penguin Productions and the Federal Frenzy this year. Crees said being a part of Penguin Productions made her decide to create her own minor in event planning.

"As event leads, we run the meetings for leads every Monday, and then Wednesday we have committee meetings," Crees said. "... and then Friday we have our two-on-two meetings with our advisors to make sure everything is going smoothly."

Crees said attending and preparing for these meetings, plus going through emails and actually doing the planning, is a lot of work.

"When you combine that with school and other orga-

nizations, it's a little stressful but it's definitely worth it," Crees said.

Hannah Telesz, who is also majoring in communications and working on an event management minor, is another co-event lead for Penguin Productions and the Federal Frenzy. Telesz said planning for this event can be stressful but in the end, it is definitely worth it.

"We do a lot of things, especially with helping out the leads if there's different aspects that they are missing towards planning," Telesz said. "Some people kind of think of event planning like the overall picture, but there are a lot of tiny little details that we have to put time and effort into to make sure that the event goes smooth."

Telesz said being a part of Penguin Productions and this event teaches discipline and that it also has a big impact on students that attend YSU.

"I think that really comes out in our work to kind of benefit the students," Telesz said. "... and to get them involved in different activities."



Judah & The Lion Headlines Federal Frenzy

PHOTOS BY AMANDA LEHNERD / THE JAMBAR

BY AMANDA LEHNERD

Youngstown State University Penguin Productions presented Federal Frenzy April 22. The event showcased performances by 19 different bands. There were five different locations for the concerts that branched across downtown Youngstown's West Federal Street.

The main stage was titled the City of You Stage, where the headlining act Judah & The Lion performed at 9:30 p.m. Other acts on the main stage were Stone Senate, Jul Big Green and Welshly Arms.

Judah & The Lion

Judah & The Lion met and formed in Tennessee. The band members consist of Judah Akers on guitar and lead vocal, Brian Macdonald on mandolin and vocals, Nate Zuercher on banjo and vocals and Spencer Cross on drums.

Akers said his favorite and most relatable song is "Insane" which relates the idea that everyone struggles and people are not alone.

"It is talking about the need to be 'on point' or always act kind of happy go

lucky," Akers said. "It in a lot of ways relates to people who are going through stuff, and it gives you a feeling that it's OK to struggle and to feel insane, you're not alone in it."

The band had never been to Youngstown and was excited to explore the area and to perform their show.

"We are just stoked to be here, we saw some videos from last year's festival and thought it looked awesome," Macdonald said. "So far we have had a little time to check out the town, but this is our first experience here."

Onstage Judah & The Lion likes to play a high energy set and get their fans to participate in the show.

"We like to mix things up and surprise people on our sets. Our genre is not even defined," Akers said. "We like rock and pop music and some of the songs we cover fall way outside of the folk genre, but ultimately we like to dance and have a good time."

Now that Judah & The Lion has traveled and opened for Twenty One Pilots, their music has started to play on radio stations across the United States.

"One of the most interesting things I think for us is having songs on the radio

now," Zuercher said. "'Take It All Back' is becoming more mainstream, and people really like to sing the song when we are playing a set, and it allows us to feel connected to our audience."

White Buffalo Woman

White Buffalo Woman is originally from Minerva, Ohio. The band started playing music in a basement at a funeral home. The band members consist of Evan Rutledge on vocals, Adam Murphy on guitar, Devin Bezeredi on Guitar, Alex Leggett on bass and Joe Wales on drums.

"Our drummer's dad is a funeral director, and he allowed us to start playing music in the basement of the funeral home," Rutledge said. "We started jamming in the basement, and that is where we started writing songs."

The band doesn't really have a process for writing songs; they have a more trial and error approach to creating music.

"It is more of a trial and error process where we plug away at a couple of different tunes," Murphy said. "Sometimes we get a new song out of it, and other times it becomes nothing, we pick the jams we like and record them."

For White Buffalo Woman, Federal Frenzy is like a reunion with other musi-

cians from the area.

"I think it's cool being in an environment where there is a bunch of other bands, and you can just hang out and enjoy the music," Rutledge said. "We know some of the other musicians and its cool to see what they have been up to and what venues they have been playing and just to catch up."

The band's music is a blend of all the members' tastes. They like to incorporate different sounds, and don't necessarily identify as one specific genre.

"We write songs that focus on events in our lives that are currently happening," Leggett said. "We all influence each other and we like to relate to older artists and songs that we grew up listening to."

Along with Judah & The Lion and White Buffalo Woman, there were performances by:

Stone Senate, Jul Big Green, Welshly Arms, The Angie Haze Project, The Vindys, Everyday, Hypnotist, Where's Winona Now?, Speedo Agreedo, Drop The Act, The Labra Brothers, Backpocket, Whiskey Pilot, Retroantics, Artificial Consciousness Machines, SJ- The 1093 Experience and Spirit of The Bear.

CLASSIFIEDS

HOUSING

ALL PARTIES WELCOME!
 CT Rentals has nice, city licensed, all inclusive houses and apartments. Now leasing for tenancy. Our package includes: All appliances plus over 90 channels of cable T.V., broadband Internet with Wi-Fi and ADT Security. All private bedrooms with individual leases and all utilities, maintenance and groundskeeping included from \$475 a month per person. Call Chris 330-743-7368.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Historical area - Walking distance to YSU
 Studio Apt. \$395
 1 Bedroom \$495
 2 Bedroom \$595
 All utilities included. Licensed and inspected by the city. Call 330-301-1626

APARTMENTS AUSTINTOWN AND BOARDMAN

Russet Place
 147, 156, 167 Shields Rd., Boardman, Ohio. First month FREE -- 1 bedroom apt. \$470 per month and efficiencies are \$400 per month plus electric. Heat, trash, and water are included in the rent. Close to stores and banks - for more information call 330-318-4312 or the office at 330-286-3413. 10 minutes from YSU.

Westminster House Apartments
 69 Westminster Ave., Austintown, Ohio. First month FREE -- 1 bedroom apt. \$485 per month and efficiencies are \$415 per month. Utilities are included in the rent. Close to stores and banks - for more information call 330-286-3413. 10 minutes from YSU.

BRYSON STREET APARTMENTS

1 & 2 bedroom apartments available. Walking distance to campus, all utilities included.
 Call HBF Properties @ 330-744-5478

CAMPUS VIEW APARTMENTS

1, 2, 3 and 4 bedroom apartments available. Close to campus, all utilities included.
 Call HBF Properties @ 330-744-5478

APARTMENT FOR RENT

Two bedroom apt's for rent. One block from YSU. All utilities plus cable/internet included in rent. Call 330-720-0964 or 330-770-4472. \$500 per student.

CHRIS HAS HOUSES!

Nice all inclusive homes with individual leases. For your group of four or more, from \$425 each. Call Chriss: 330-743-7368

HELP WANTED

ALL STAR DRIVING SCHOOL

Hiring full-time or part-time. Great opportunity for college students looking for job to fit around school schedule. Must be 21. Will train, no experience necessary. Call 330-726-3377 or email info@allstardriving.net for more info.

HIRING CATERING SERVERS!

Immediate openings for catering servers. Days, evenings and weekends available. Flexible hours. Setting up and working events with Crystals Catering. 330-743-8062

OTHER

NEED BIRTH CONTROL, PAP SMEAR, STD TEST? PREGNANT?

Dr. Hill, 1350 Fifth Ave., near YSU campus, all insurances, walk-ins. Mon-Sat - 330-746-7007, askthedoctor@aiwhealth.com, answered confidentially.

OTHER CONT.

GARAGE SALE

April 29-May 1 - Men's Polo, Nike ect. Shirts XL, women's clothing, various items-something for everyone. Hours 10-7. Location 224 Fifth Ave. Youngstown.

ADVERTISE WITH THE JAMBAR FALL 2017

THEJAMBARAD@GMAIL.COM

330.941.3094



Come in **WE'RE OPEN**

ASECU **to the COMMUNITY!**

ASSOCIATED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION

Join today - Support local business!

Auto Loans 2012 & newer models

as low as **2.75%** APR 60 months

ScoreCard Rewards MasterCard
 No Annual Fee • No Balance Transfer Fee

9.99% APR

Need home repairs?
 Home Improvement Loan
 up to \$10,000 as low as **3.99%** APR

Apply Today!
 (330)792-4000
Loans@asecu.com
www.asecu.com

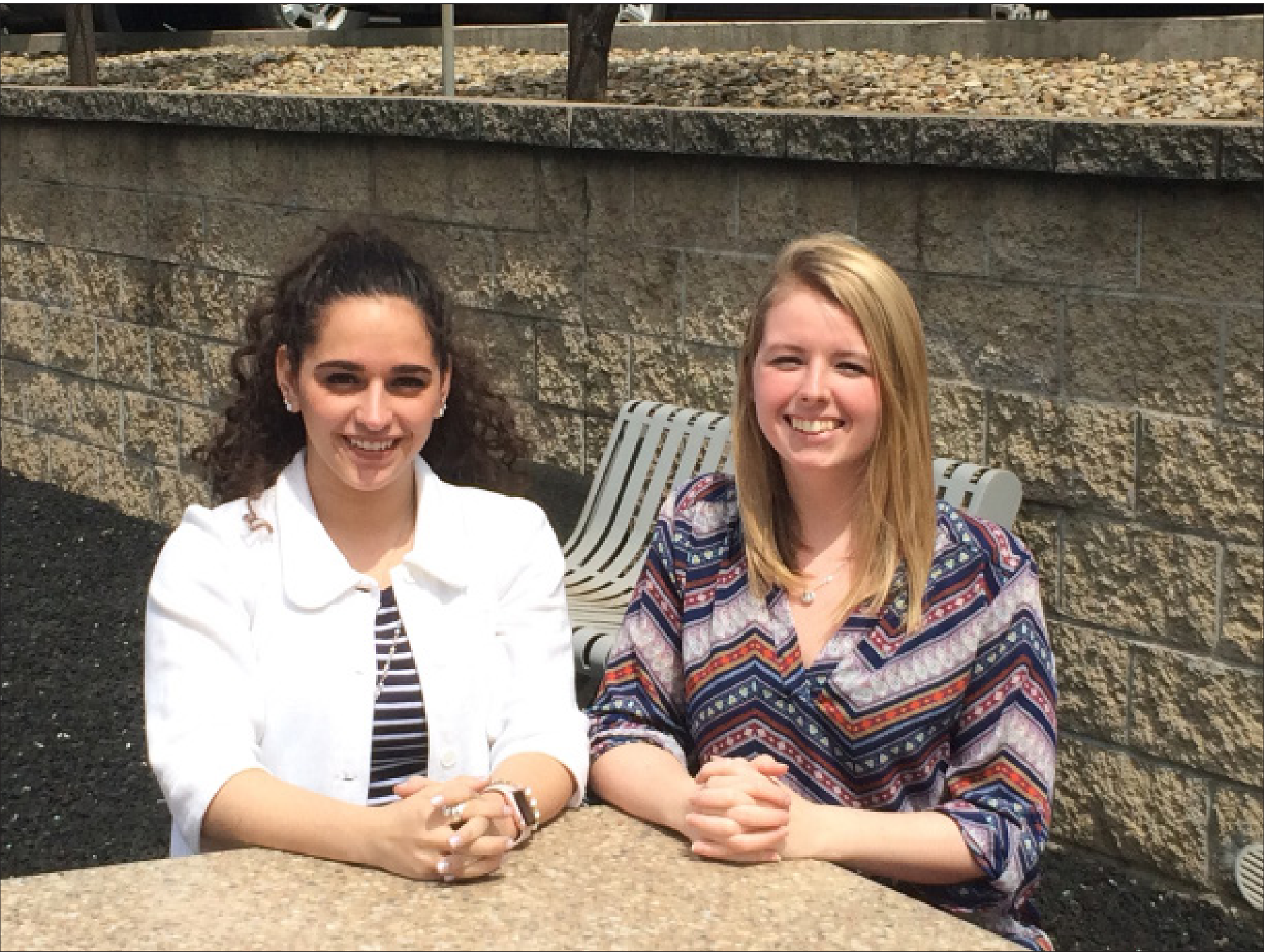
Traditional lending with alternative financing. Alternative loans available. Credit subject to review. Terms, conditions and restrictions apply. Cashback will make a difference. For complete details, visit www.asecu.com

FREAKY FAST! FREAKY GOOD!



WE DELIVER!

TO FIND THE LOCATION NEAREST YOU VISIT JIMMYJOHNS.COM



Vallourec would like to thank our graduating HR interns from WCBA, Nicole Mastrian and Danielle Lanterman, for their contributions this semester.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Editorial

Going to Grad School? Go to a Counselor

College students are stressed—that's nothing new. Studies done by the American Psychological Association found that 78 percent of college students reported having feelings of anxiety or depression.

The stress seems to intensify in graduate school. According to ScienceDirect.com, one in two PhD students experience psychological stress and one in three graduate and doctoral students are at risk of developing a psychiatric disorder. These problems stem from being underpaid and overworked.

These academics are paying absurd amounts of money—or are getting paid extremely low wages in an assistantship—to get their education. They're also more likely than undergraduate students to have a family, have rent to pay for and a full-time job working 40 hours a week.

The sad part of this is that the feelings of anxiety, depression and stress are so common in graduate and doctoral students that they joke about it.

In an article written by Kristin Hugo for PBS Newshour, she talks to Megan (last name omitted for privacy reasons), who said that her and her friends often joke about their mental illnesses.

"Me and my group of friends are all like 'Yeah, we all have panic attacks. And we all have depression.' Like 'What meds are you on? Oh, that's got fun side effects,'" Megan said. "We just talk about it casually and then we laugh. Like, man, we're messed up. We're all just nodding and crying inside."

The prevalence of mental illnesses in higher education makes it seem like everyone has some sort of mental illness, which, according to statistics, they do.

The fact that students have been, and continue to struggle with mental illness at this high of a rate is disturbing. Schools have been trying to combat this by hiring more on-site counselors, organizing groups where students can vent their issues and providing fitness and nutrition centers so students can 'work off the stress.'

Sadly, though, that's not enough. Pursuing graduate or doctoral degrees shouldn't mean suffering mentally, feeling depressed or having panic attacks, especially if they're chronic. If it's impossible to get out of bed, how is one going to

earn a degree?

Data proves students are stressed to the max, so now the question is, what are universities, especially Youngstown State University, doing to combat these statistics?

There are a few options:

- Grad schools could have hour caps—those attending often have families, other jobs and obligations to attend to as well. Working additional hours can cause more stress that contributes to mental breakdowns.
- Schools could reimburse graduate and doctoral students for child care or offer child care programs. The UAW 2865, for example, represents the University of California's main campuses. This organization gives grad and doctoral students reimbursement for child care and a 17 percent pay raise over four years. If a student must worry about their children during the day, their focus is averted from their studies or their work.
- Universities could hire more mental health professionals to help guide their students through rough times. Currently, YSU only has one licensed counselor on staff and the wait list is weeks long. Although students can talk to counselors-in-training, some may not be comfortable with that and need a licensed professional to assist them.

Students can and do take their mental health into their own hands, but sometimes that's not enough. Mental health care is expensive and students entering grad school are often at the cusp of being knocked off of their parent's insurance.

It's time for universities to get serious about helping their students. Graduates are expected to go out into the world and make a name for the universities they attend, their achievements always reflecting back to the school they learned their founding skills from.

If these graduates are expected to take care of the school, isn't it time for schools to start taking care of them?

Letter to the Editor

Things I Learned from my Brown Bag Lunches:

One of the outcomes from the Great Colleges survey was that administration needed to communicate more effectively with campus, and one of the recommendations from our continued data collection in the fall was that the Provost should host a series of brown bag lunches. I thought that was an excellent idea and scheduled four of those to occur throughout the spring semester. I found them highly useful and engaging, and based on the suggestion of the YSU Excellence Steering Committee, wanted to share with the community some of the things that I learned through this activity.

To begin, I learned that our campus community is highly engaged with discussions that are occurring on and around campus. Each of our lunches covered a wide range of topics. And the topics were highly dependent on recent actions or discussions on campus. During one session, we spend considerable time talking about the changes in the graduate assistant funding model, with special attention to the impact that decreasing the number of GAs would have. At another session, we talked about budget priorities. This past week, the focus was on faculty and staff hiring.

While we had an excellent discussion in each of these cases, I learned that the specific topic wasn't the most important feature. Yes, I received some good input from faculty and staff. I also came to understand how decisions I make or we make collectively as an administration, done for what we believe to be in the best interest of the university, could lead to specific challenges for faculty and staff wanting to do quality work for their students. It brought to the fore-

front some of the challenges that each and every one of our faculty and staff face every day.

These discussions also gave me an opportunity to explain the decision-making process. We discussed the importance of our strategic goals in allocating resources. We discussed the difficult choices that we need to make, because there are not sufficient resources to accomplish everything we need to do. I observed more than once during these lunches individuals who would ask a question or raise an issue, as for example with the decrease in GAs, leave not necessarily any happier, but with an understanding of why that decision had been made. Perhaps they still disagreed with the decision, but at least the understanding of how we came to that outcome provided some level of satisfaction. At least, it appeared that way from my vantage point.

In sum, the best thing that happened with the brown bag lunches was the beginning of a dialog. I got to learn from faculty and staff, and they got a little more understanding of how decisions are made or resources allocated. It is my hope that taking some of the mystery out of the process will begin to create more openness and inclusion. So we'll continue these events next year and proceed along this journey to improved communication on campus and better shared decision-making.

Thank you to all of those who have attended one of these lunches and thank you for sharing your thoughts with me.

**MARTIN ABRAHAM, PROVOST
AND VP FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

The Press Box Perspective: Say Good Night, Drew

BY ANDREW ZUHOSKY

Well, here we are. It's been three years for me here at the paper and seven years at Youngstown State University, but it's time. This is the final Press Box Perspective written by me.

After seven years at YSU, I am now only nine days away from becoming a YSU alumnus. It's been a long seven years as a student, and at times, it's been a hard road to get to where I am this morning and perhaps more importantly, where I want to be.

Over these seven years, I've learned many valuable lessons from professors, teachers and friends. I've also made more than a few colleagues along this road.

Today, I write my final Press Box Perspective, not to talk sports, but rather to say thanks to the people who helped me and supported me over the years. So, here we go.

First and foremost, I wish to thank my parents and family. Without the support of my family, I would not be here right now. I wouldn't be talking to you today.

While on the subject of family, I'd also like to thank my brother and sister-in-law. Last year, I had the good fortune of becoming a brother-in-law.

This year, I'll have the good fortune of becoming an uncle. Congratulations, Jon and Allison!

Second, I wish to thank all of my friends, from high school and here at YSU. Without my friends, I wouldn't have people in my corner to inspire me and keep me going.

Thirdly, I wish to thank everyone in the YSU Athletics Department, specifically those in YSU's Sports Information Department for authorizing and organizing my interviews with athletes in my days as sports reporter.

I'll always remember the time when I was called upon to work home soccer matches during the 2015 season. I enjoyed working those matches. I love soccer, so getting to cover one of my favorite sports was a major thrill for me.

In addition, some of those fall weekends were pretty full for me in 2015, working soccer matches on Friday night and Sunday afternoon, as well as the football games on Saturday. One weekend, I worked a soccer match and football game on the

same day.

I spent all afternoon and evening on campus that Saturday.

Speaking of football, I want to thank everyone here at the paper for giving me the opportunity to run our Twitter account during home football games over the three years that I've been here on the staff.

Fittingly for me, my run as the Twitter host for The Jambar on YSU home game days ended with an incredible postseason run.

To this day, I still don't know how I was able to hold my excitement in during the quarterfinal game last year, but by George, I did it.

That game, as well as the entirety of the season in 2016, ranks high as one of the greatest sports moments I've ever experienced.

I wish to thank my colleagues here at the paper for being great co-workers with me. If I could buy you all steak dinners, I would.

I'd also like to thank former editor-in-chief Liam Bouquet and Mary Beth Earnhardt for approving my story idea to interview ESPN's Heather Dinich for an online exclusive regarding the state of college football after the inaugural College Football Playoff during my first year at the paper.

That was the interview I was most nervous for, but despite my nervousness, it turned out great.

Finally, and most importantly, I'd like to thank Earnhardt for inspiring me to start working for The Jambar back in 2014.

It started out by emailing Earnhardt and asking her to write a mock letter of recommendation for a class assignment.

Time passed and she replied to my email while letting me know that there was a vacancy in the sports department and that she thought I would be perfect for the role. I jumped at the opportunity, three years later, here I am, writing my final piece.

So, that's that. Thank you to all of the readers of this column, as well as all of the readers of the paper.

I don't know where I'm going to end up next, but one thing's for certain: I will always be proud of everything I have accomplished here. I will always be proud to be a YSU Penguin.

Thank you.

Good night.

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.

OUR SIDE POLICY

The editorial board that writes our editorials consists of the editor-in-chief, the managing editor, the copy editor and the news editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles. They draw on the opinions of the entire writing staff and do not reflect the opinions of any individual staff member. The Jambar's business manager and non-writing staff do not contribute to editorials, and the adviser does not have final approval.

YOUR SIDE POLICY

The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Submissions are welcome at thejambar@gmail.com or by following the "Submit a Letter" link on thejambar.com. Letters should concern campus issues, must be typed and must not exceed 500 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification, along with the writer's city of residence for printing. The Jambar does not withhold the names of guest commentators. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. Letters will not be rejected based on the views expressed in them. The editorial board reserves the right to reject commentaries and letters if they are not relevant to our readers, seek free publicity, fail to defend opinion with facts from reliable sources or if the editorial staff decides that the subject has been sufficiently aired. The editorial board will request a rewrite from the submitting writer based on these requirements. The Jambar will not print letters that are libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. The views and opinions expressed in letters and commentaries on the opinion page do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the faculty, staff or administration of YSU.

**Love to create comics?
See them featured here!
thejambar@gmail.com**

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

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

Men's Tennis Breaks Wins Record

BY MARC WEEMS

The Youngstown State University men's tennis team (18-7, 5-2 Horizon League) are getting ready to enter the Horizon League Championships. Before it enters that, we all must address the fact that the previous record for wins at YSU was 16, which was done this season.

"It's my first semester here and I'm sure what type of team we had before," YSU sophomore Danylo Veremeichuk said. "We have some of the most talented players in the conference. Every one of us gives maximize effort in every match. We all have the same purpose and same drive to win as the rest. It happens that

whoever are the six people in our lineup are the best that day."

Veremeichuk also said that the team's winning is based off of how the coach thinks day to day. He also said the team is just doing its job.

YSU is taking a great streak into the Horizon League Tournament. It has won its last six of seven matches and have won nine out of its last 12 matches.

"That's obviously a great achievement for this team and well deserved," YSU head coach Mickael Sopel said. "The guys put a lot of work into this season. They worked every day at practice and we have such a great, talented team. We are very young but quite talented. It is one more stepping stone for this group."

Sopel also said that this feat was one more benchmark that it

wanted to achieve and it did so easily.

"It has been awesome. This is my favorite group of guys I've had," YSU senior Mitch Maroscher said about being the only senior on the team. "It's really exciting. There are a lot of fun personalities on this team. I think will be something that we as a team will always remember. Maybe hopefully, they can break it again."

During this record-breaking season, YSU was very consistent. It won eight matches at home and eight matches on the road with two neutral-site wins along the way.

"Breaking the record was never really a goal for us," Sopel said. It just happened because of how well we have played. It was great but our goal was always to win

the conference. We are on track to do that and are still ready to do that. Breaking our conference win record was more important to me. We got five wins in the conference and were tied for second."

Sopel said that because the team had never done that, he was very proud of winning five matches in the Horizon League this year.

YSU tied for second during the regular with the University of Detroit Mercy and with the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay at 5-2.

Also as part of this season, sophomore Gabriel Tolesani was named to the Horizon League All-Academic team. He also had double digit wins for the first time in his career.

"This truly has been an incred-

ible season by far," Sopel said. "The way it all came together was great. We worked hard and knew that results were going to follow. This is the first time reaching those benchmarks and that's really big for us."

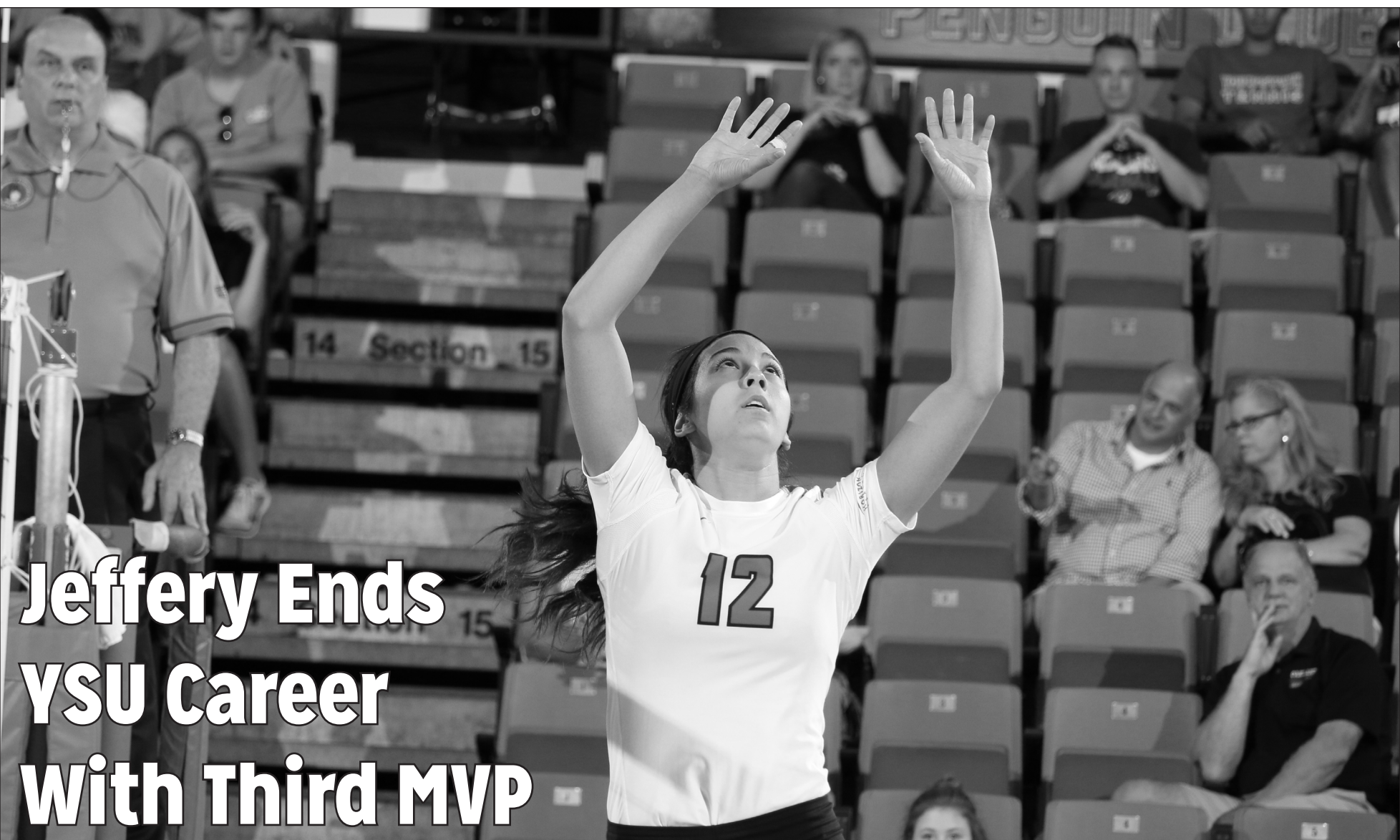
YSU will have to play Northern Kentucky University on April 28 in Ann Arbor, Mich. YSU defeated NKU on April 2 by a 5-2 score.

"We went through a lot of tough battles," Maroscher said. "All these matches have just made us stronger, both physically and mentally. When comes time to perform, we will take care of business. Momentum is really important for us."

Maroscher said that momentum gives this team a lot of confidence and that is exactly what it needs going towards the Horizon League Championships.



PHOTO COURTESY OF YSU SPORTS INFORMATION



Jeffery Ends YSU Career With Third MVP

PHOTO COURTESY OF YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

BY RICK HENNEMAN

Youngstown State University senior Val Jeffery was named MVP for the third straight season at the volleyball team's annual postseason banquet.

"I was surprised [to win the award]," Jeffery said. "I thought that a lot of us contributed to our team's success and most of us showed MVP qualities. I thought other people had the potential to win it, but it was a good surprise."

Jeffery transferred to YSU her sophomore year after spending a year at High Point University in North Carolina. YSU head coach Mark Hardaway was not surprised by how she performed throughout her career in Youngstown.

"We knew she was really good," Hardaway said. "We actually didn't need a setter in that class. It was just the fact that we had seen her in high school and club and thought so highly of her. We expected her to be very good but I feel bad for her because she is a championship caliber setter. She didn't get the recognition she deserved because of where we finished seasons."

Hardaway has coached volleyball for over 25 years but said that Jeffery was one of the most impressive players that have played for him.

"She is by far the best setter I've ever coached," he said about Jeffery. "I've never had anybody as good as Val. It has been a privilege and she actually challenged me. It challenges me to make sure that she gets the training she needs. I know you aren't sup-

posed to have favorites but when you think through your career, Val is at the top of the list."

Hardaway also said that Jeffery's work ethic is what puts her ahead of many of the players that he has coached and that she is never satisfied with a performance.

Jeffery ended her incredible three-year YSU career with another great Horizon League season. In addition to the MVP award, she was named honorable mention All-Horizon League while recording more than 1,000 assists and 100 kills for the third straight season.

"I definitely didn't expect my career here to play out as it did," Jeffery said about her time at YSU. "I didn't expect many of the opportunities that Mark [Hardaway] gave me. Looking back, I think it's frustrating

because I know we could have done better. Obviously you can't change the past but I am so proud to have represented YSU and I wouldn't change a thing."

Jeffery now ranks second in program history in assists per set (9.87), fifth in total assists (3,217) and sixth in attack percentage (.253). She was also voted the Horizon League Setter of the Year in 2014.

During her time at YSU, Jeffery spent time competing in tryouts for the U.S. Women's National Team. She said that the opportunity was a turning point for her career as a volleyball player.

"Being at those tryouts really opened my eyes up to seeing how much teamwork is an essential part of volleyball," she said. "To really work with other people, to get the flow of how they play and to be confident in their ability to

accomplish the little things to accomplish a win is what I learned the most. You have to trust your teammates and strive for the same goal."

Jeffery will graduate from YSU next year and while her time playing volleyball as a Penguin is over, she is not done contributing to the team.

"I'm going to be helping out the team as much as I can as a student coach," she said. "I'm going to help coach the setters. After that I have a choice to play professionally if I keep up my skills in the gym."

Jeffery also said that she has considered pursuing a career in nursing after she obtains her degree, but she hasn't made the decision yet.



PHOTO COURTESY OF YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

Joe King (16) throws a pitch in his first save of the year against Oakland University on March 25. YSU won 5-4.

Seventh Inning Stretch: YSU Baseball Having Good Season

BY MARC WEEMS

With the Youngstown State University baseball team (12-27, 6-13 Horizon League) having had quite the odd season, it has had many quality wins along with some terrible losses. Among those wins were a road win at No. 29-ranked Kent State University 11-6 on April 4. The other major win was against No. 17 Georgia Tech by a score of 12-3.

This season, YSU has struggled to stay consistent but has always played as hard as they can. Currently, YSU is on a two-game win streak. YSU started the season 1-11 which were all road games. YSU has played to a 11-16 record since.

"I think that we've shown that we can play with anyone," YSU head coach Dan Bertolini said. "It shows that what we are capable of. I wish that we would play better on the consistent side of things. With the new staff that came in, I think it took everyone some time to get used to the way we wanted to play. It shows our potential."

Bertolini believes that the team can put together a nice run to end the season. The Horizon League has seven teams and only six of them make the postseason tour-

namment. YSU is in sixth place now, just 1.5 games ahead of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. It is also a 1.5 games behind Valparaiso University for fifth place.

YSU gets to face Valpo for the next five games with a 3-game series at home on April 28-30 and then it goes on the road for April 5-6. YSU has a great chance to take over fifth place in the next week or so.

"It's been really fun so far," YSU catcher Lou Cordona said. "Obviously, there has been a lot of ups like beating really high profile teams. We've also had a lot of downs. We are really trying to figure ourselves out. This is the last stretch of about 18 games or so."

Cordona also said that the team is really finding themselves and it is figuring out how to win together.

These next 10 games or so are very important considering the No. 3 team, Northern Kentucky University, and the No. 7 seed, Milwaukee, are just five games apart in the standings.

"It's very important to end the season on the right note," YSU left-handed pitcher Joe King said. "You really want to know that winning feeling going into the conference tournament. The first goal is to make the conference tournament because only six out of seven teams make it.

We want to get into the tournament on high note."

This season, King has appeared in 17 games. He posted a 2-5 record with a 5.27 earned run average in 42 and 2/3 innings.

Cordona has played in 30 games. He's batting .277 with five runs batted in and eight runs scored. Both players have been part of the way YSU has won.

"It's really important to end the season by playing our best baseball," Bertolini said. "I told everyone at the beginning of the year that it is not how you start but it's how you finish. A lot of people remember how the 2014 team ended their season. That's important for us to play well."

Bertolini said that other than a bad game against the University of Illinois-Chicago and Wright State University, the team has been super competitive in almost every game.

"Big games show what type of potential this team has," Cordona said. "It shows us that we can compete with anybody. Those wins overall are just good confidence boosters for the entire team. It really gets us going."

YSU will look to make a push towards the postseason when it faces Valpo on April 28 in the Go4theGoal Children's Cancer Game at 5 p.m.