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THE JAMBAR

A FULL-TIME ISSUE FOR PART-TIME FACULTY

Photo by **Tanner Mondok / The Jambar**

TANNER MONDOK

In February 2017, adjunct faculty at Youngstown State University gathered to "celebrate" 25 years since their last pay raise with a birthday cake. Since that party, there still hasn't been a raise for part-time faculty. The cake didn't work.

"We invited all of the university administration; shockingly none of them came," Katherine Durrell, a part-time physics professor, said.

Staughton Lynd, a peace and civil rights activist, described the part-time faculty situation at YSU as "bush league," or second-rate.

"It's pretending to be a university, but not really being one," he said. "It's an absolutely oppressive and unsatisfactory system to the extent that you have so many adjuncts depending on this work. Something is going to have to change."

There are more than 500 part-time faculty at YSU compared to about 370 full-time professors.

In relation to those numbers, part-time faculty teach over 50 percent of the total credit hours at YSU.

Pay for part-time faculty is based on the professor's education level. For those with a bachelor's degree, they receive a pay rate of $650 per semester hour. Adjuncts with a masters degree are paid $800, while those with a doctorate receive $1,050.

In 1991, an adjunct with a masters degree was earning $800 per credit hour and student tuition was $2,415. In 2018, the pay for part-time faculty is the same, while tuition has raised to $8,807 — a 235 percent change for tuition compared to zero percent for adjunct pay.

Durrell broke down the pay received by adjuncts per semester hour and what it looks like after a full year of teaching. If a part-time faculty member with a Ph.D. teaches the maximum number of courses, which is nine semester hours, they will be paid $18,900 a year.

"That's not a very good wage for someone with a Ph.D.," she said.

Durrell, who is married to Patrick Durrell, associate professor of astronomy and the Ward Beecher Planetarium director, said between her salary and her husband's full-time salary, they're financially stable.

When she thought about those who live on a part-time salary, she got emotional.

"There are people who try to live on my salary. And I don't know how they do it … " Durrell said. "If I had to live on this, I wouldn't be doing this. I'd be doing something else."

Because adjunct salary isn't sufficient at times, Durrell said she and many other part-time faculty members teach at other schools and work additional jobs on the side.

"There was one semester I taught [at YSU] and at Eastern Gateway. I also do online tutoring, and I teach a fencing class in Austintown," she said. "I have multiple jobs. I accumulate jobs here and there because my salary is not sufficient."

Neal McNally, vice president for finance and business operations at YSU, said there was a time when YSU was paying part-time faculty higher than other universities paid adjunct professors.

"Basically, what has happened is the university has overpaid part-time faculty for probably 20 of the last 25 years and now the market has caught up to them," he said. "The reason we know that is because we have data from other campuses and other institutions. Not just in Ohio, but from around the country that show we're pretty much in line with part-time faculty pay."

Other universities such as Kent State University, University of Akron and Cleveland State University are paying part-time faculty similar to what YSU is paying, according to McNally.

Unlike those other universities, McNally said YSU provides adjuncts with free parking, a fee that would usually be $115 per semester.

"So, I think the misconception that they're underpaid, relative to what other universities [pay adjunct faculty], is one that's a notion or a misconception that I think is based more on emotion than economics," McNally said. "Because certainly if you haven't had a raise in 25 years, I can see where that would be an issue."

He said even though YSU is doing well financially, the university isn't in a position to provide raises for adjunct faculty at this time.

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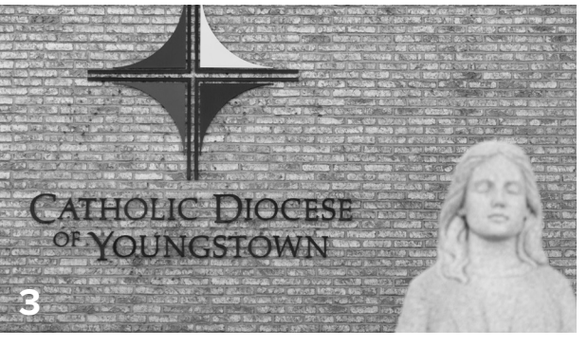

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DIOCESE OF YOUNGSTOWN MAKES ULTIMATE CONFESSION

ALYSSA WESTON
AND JOHN STRAN

Bishop George Murry of the Youngstown Catholic Diocese released the names of 31 Youngstown priests; two religious clergy members and one non-clergy member from a religious order who were removed from the clergy over credible sexual misconduct allegations on Oct. 30.

According to Murry, these priests were put on the credible accusations list after a thorough investigation and review of available information, from the diocesan review board, proved the sexual abuse claims to be more true than not.

Murry said the review board includes a psychologist, the chair of the Mahoning County Board of Children Services, two attorneys, a medical doctor, the Dean of Youngstown State University's Health and Human Services Department, a Trumbull County children services member and director, two pastors and a parent.

"We take a look at the allegations and work with a private investigation firm made up of former FBI agents," Murry said. "We investigate every claim that comes to us and [the FBI agents] make a recommendation to us about whether or not the allegation is credible."

According to an independent study conducted by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, the national percentage of priests that engage in sexual misconduct is four percent.

Murry said three percent of the 1,026 Youngstown priests from the diocese and other religious orders who served between 1943 and 2018 have been credibly accused — a number he said is absolutely unacceptable.

"Three percent is far too many," he said. "One percent is far too many, and we have to do everything possible to make sure that children are always protected."

According to Murry, the last sexual abuse case reported within the diocese was 2005, making it a 14-year gap separating the last case and the releasing of the names.

The Youngstown Catholic Diocese has paid victims around $500,000 in settlements since the 1940's.

The 2005 case involved Stephen Baker, a non-clergy member from a religious order, who was accused of sexually abusing 28 Warren John F. Kennedy students during his stint as teacher and coach at the school from 1986-1991.

In 2013, Baker committed suicide in a monastery in Pennsylvania, making him one of 22 names on the list who are deceased.

Murry said the purpose of releasing the names is "for the victims."

"We want them to know that they have been heard, responded to and if there are other people who have been abused, but have hesitated to come forward, we invite them to come forward," he said. "But it cannot end here. We have to take concrete action to ensure our children are safe."

Murry said he thinks people are more aware of the issue in recent years, and with improvements and training within the seminary, superiors are much more aware of identifying people who have these tendencies and getting them out.

"I think that has resulted in a dramatic decrease in this activity," he said.

Murry added that he believes children in the Diocese of Youngstown today are safe because of the programs put in place and because of the dedication of clergy to make sure children are protected.

While he hopes one day sexual assault cases within the Diocese of Youngstown will cease to exist, he's uncertain this will ever be the case.

"What you can never control is there are some people who are psychologically disturbed, and we try to root them out," he said. "Everything that I can do and that our staff can do to prevent this problem, we will."

Wayne Penny Jr., YSU alumnus and Cardinal Mooney High School alumnus of 1999, was disheartened that his former history teacher, deacon Ernest Formichelli was on the list.

Formichelli lost his teaching license in 2013 after the group Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP) brought forward allegations against Formichelli, according to an article written by The Vindicator.

Penny described Formichelli as someone who was very involved with the school's student body.

"[Cardinal Mooney students] put our trust in the church and he does this. When I saw the list I was praying to God I didn't know anyone on it. This has me sick," he said. "There's people on my Facebook messaging me about this. We are shocked. It never happened to us, but we are thinking, 'are you kidding me?' We put our trust into [Formichelli], and [he's] doing this."

Penny theorized that faculty of the high school may have known about these allegations early on, but Cardinal Mooney could not be reached for comment to clarify.

"All administration, deacons, bishops and teachers who knew about it and hid it should be fired immediately," Penny said.

Penny said Bishop Murry and the Youngstown Catholic Diocese did the right thing by releasing the list.

"[Murry] hasn't been here too long so people shouldn't be upset with him. Maybe the bishop before him, but [Murry] is just finding out about this."

Penny talked about the possibility that the settlement money could've been used to pay off those who knew about the allegations and believes the accused should face charges.

"The church should press charges, but some parents may not want their children's names in the public and to have to go through this all over again. [The families] don't want the scrutiny and backlash," he said.

Penny discussed the possibility of more names being released in the future.

"There's probably 30 more names," he said. "More is coming and heads are going to roll."

Kayla Phares, a junior forensic science major and member of YSU's Catholic Student Association, said she knew about this issue in other parts of the country, but when she heard priests were being accused in Youngstown, she was disheartened.

"It doesn't benefit anybody. It doesn't benefit the kids that are harmed and it doesn't benefit other people in the Catholic Church," she said. "It's awful. I have worked with kids in Sunday schools before coming to college, and just the thought of that happening to any of them is very sad."

Phares believes that incidents like this are likely to discourage people from converting to Catholicism.

"[The fear] is understandable, but I think it's important to know not all priests are like this and most of the ones I know are very nice and good with kids and would never do anything to hurt them," Phares said.

She said the Catholic Church is taking measures to prevent this from happening again.

If any YSU students have experienced sexual misconduct, they are encouraged to speak with Title IX Director Kelly Beers.

However, Phares suggested students can also reach out to Catholic faculty and staff on campus such as YSU physics professor Michael Crescimanno, head director of The Newman Center, Thomas Brozich, and assistant director of The Newman Center, Darlene Marx, if students would like to speak with someone of similar beliefs and of the same faith.

"We're all sad about this. We all want this to stop happening and we want kids to grow in their faith and be happy doing it. This problem ending will benefit everybody," Phares said.

Those who have been sexually assaulted by a priest or member of a clergy or know a child who may be a victim can reach out to Delphine Baldwin-Casey, victim assistance coordinator for the Diocese of Youngstown, at (330) 718-1388.

Due to time constraints, Cardinal Mooney High School did not return The Jambar's phone calls regarding the allegations against Deacon Ernest Formichelli. This story will be updated if The Jambar hears from the school's administration.

Read the full list released by the Youngstown Catholic Diocese here: https://www.thejambar.com/youngstown-diocese-releases-names-priests-credibly-accused-sexual-misconduct/

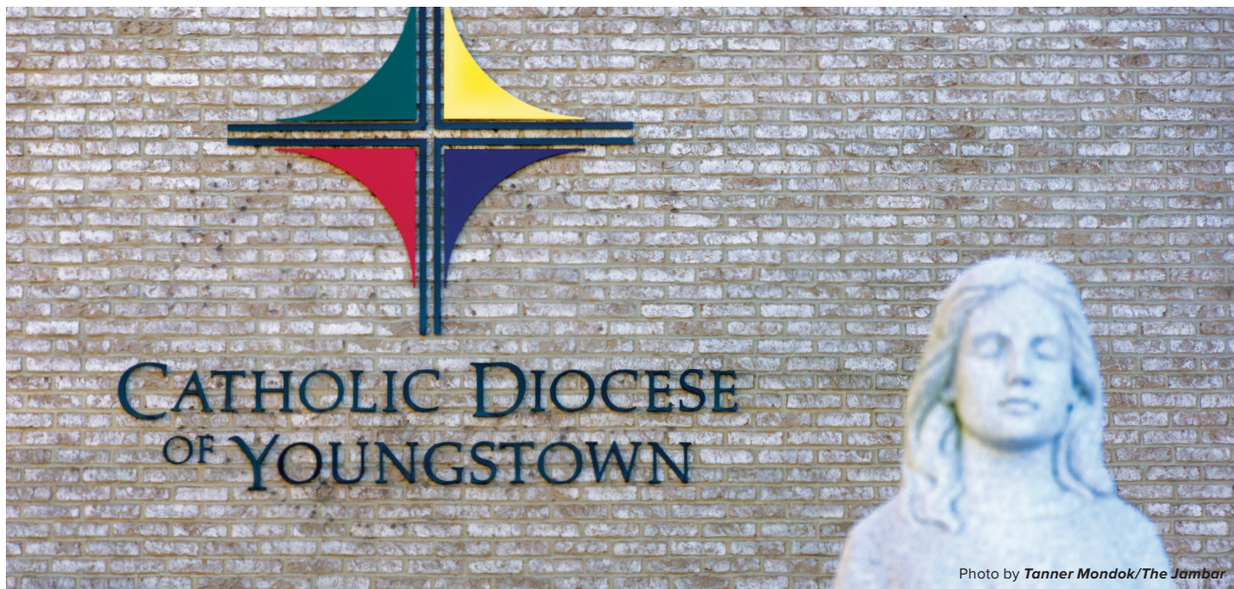

Photo by *Tanner Mondok/The Jambar*

A FULL-TIME ISSUE FOR PART-TIME FACULTY (CONTINUED)

"We're not particularly well-positioned to increase our compensation costs needlessly. If we were going to do that, we would want to do that for real, good strong strategic reasons," he said.

Rachel Faerber-Ovaska, one of two adjuncts on the university senate and a part-time French and German instructor, said she believes a raise is possible for part-time faculty.

"You have to examine the case on its merits. It is not true that YSU cannot afford a raise for part-time faculty," she said. "They're doing many great things here like putting in the AstroTurf along the streets, so the grass always looks green and that's nice, that's good. But I think the budget for that would give a raise to part-time faculty for two whole years. I think that the work we do is so important and they need to fund it properly."

She also included an idea of what kind of raise could work for YSU and its part-time faculty.

According to the information Faerber-Ovaska provided on her idea for a raise, if an average adjunct were to teach three credit hours a semester, or six a year, increasing the pay by $500 per course would cost YSU $600,000 a year to give part-time faculty that kind of raise.

This number represents 0.34 percent of YSU's fiscal year 2018 budget, an equivalent to a rounding error in the university's almost $200 million budget.

Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez, professor in the department of philosophy and religious studies, said YSU athletics is an area where money could be cut from to give a raise to adjunct faculty.

"Probably unbeknownst to the vast majority of YSU students, in your tuition is a fee of about $1,000 a year that goes to athletics," he said. "You didn't have a choice in any of this."

The exact amount of the yearly tuition fee that goes to YSU Athletics is $991. This number comes from an article published on April 30 on Cleveland.com regarding cost per student on campus to subsidize sports.

Palmer-Fernandez said allotment of money reflects what the university values.

Joseph Mosca, interim provost and vice president of academic affairs, said adjuncts are valued by the university and "critical to student learning."

"They bring a tremendous amount of applied knowledge and expertise, and are able to help our students to integrate and connect theoretical foundation knowledge with applied real-world employment experiences," Mosca said.

Faerber-Ovaska said she has seen the university lose valuable instructors because of positions they found with higher wages and better benefits, and mentioned how teaching at a high school could be more beneficial to teachers because of better pay and benefits.

She said adjunct faculty are great people who have a lot to offer, but they work until they find a better job or "until they can't stand being underpaid" because it makes them feel like they are not valued.

Jim Zupanic, a former YSU associate professor of engineering technology who retired in 2006 after teaching since 1978, has been standing outside on campus protesting the lack of pay raises for adjunct faculty.

At 70 years old, Zupanic said it's not easy for him to go out and hold a sign.

"I don't want to say it's embarrassing, but I'm more embarrassed to go home at night and look at myself in the mirror and say 'I wasn't willing to do that,' then I am to go out there."

Zupanic said it was a long time before he felt like he needed to protest on campus.

"Out of the 27 years that we developed this problem, for 22 years I was part of the problem," he said. "Twenty-seven years ago, I was teaching here fulltime and a coordinator of a small program within the department. The small part of my responsibilities was to recruit a small number of part-time faculty."

Zupanic said since he was part of the hiring process, he realized how important adjuncts were to their department in regards to their practical, professional, industrial experience and technical expertise.

"At the time I never really ran the numbers or looked at them in detail, but I knew financially they were a good bargain," he said.

Zupanic said five years ago he began to have more free time, so he decided that he wanted to take a look at the adjunct situation at YSU.

"The kinds of problems that we've had are not unique in anyway. They're very common," he said. "The only thing that's really unique is this 27 years thing."

After talking to the administration several times, Zupanic said he has encountered the same situation every time. They would always bring up the budget.

"It's the same thing year after year," he said.

He said adjunct faculty pay needs to be part of the budget making process, not an afterthought.

As for why he protests on campus, Zupanic said it is because he owes it to the people who made his career possible.

"Universities like to be thought of as this shining city on the hill that has rational reasoning and takes everything into account, and people at universities seem almost compelled sometimes to tell everybody in the world how to run everything," he said.

"So, if you get to a point where the university won't make an honorable effort to clean up the dirty laundry in their own backyard, then I think their credibility and making pronouncements on all sorts of issues can be justifiably questioned that they're not the shining city on the hill," Zupanic continued. "And I want them to be."

For more information on part-time faculty at YSU, go to http://ysuparttimefaculty.blogspot.com/, a website created by Zupanic.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT CONSIDERING FOUR DAY WEEK

JOHN STRAN AND JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR TYLER MCVICKER

The Communication Department at Youngstown State University stated the possibility of decreasing classes from five days to four days a week in an email sent out on Aug. 29.

The email said, "The Department of Communication is considering changing our class schedule to a four day week, where classes would be offered on either Monday-Wednesday or Tuesday-Thursday."

Adam Earnheardt, chair of the department of communication, said students in the communication department have expressed a desire to streamline their schedules, making for a longer weekend.

Earnheardt said this change was brought on by efficiency alone, and the initial idea came from a report sent to him last year.

When asked about any financial benefit to this change, Earnheardt said, "I think part of the idea behind it is this push for YSU to be more efficient. The idea is there. We would actually create, in essence, more efficiency for students, but you'd actually be able to take a four-day-a-week schedule, and use those other three days to do other things."

James Potts, a senior telecommunications student, said he likes the idea of a four-day week and would use the extra day to catch up on homework or pick up extra hours at work.

When asked if a possible reduction in days of class offered would lower tuition costs Earnheardt said, "I wish."

The change wouldn't affect tuition costs or professors pay.

"I'm already on a shorter schedule" said Gabe Cofield, a sophomore English student. "If my department did this, I would be happy with the decision. If this decision was made due to money, however, I would think making the buildings more energy efficient would be the better option."

Cofield is not the only student at YSU on a shortened schedule. Earnheardt compared the communication department's idea to ones that are already implemented within different programs in the Williamson College of Business Administration.

"They've had this four-day structure in place for years, and it's worked quite well for their students and faculty," Earnheardt said.

The department's decision to possibly reduce offered classes comes at the same time many other measures are being taken by the university, such as air conditioning curtailment and year-to-year tuition increases. Nonetheless, the communication department feels that this change is only being made to help students.

"To be honest, I think what we are looking at are all of the potential options of that four-day week. So, the models that we've seen at other universities are, that you would have a three-day traditional course schedule, where the time slots would mirror each other," Earnheardt said.

This change will alter the class scheduling process due to the staggering of classes. According to Earnheardt, these classes, regardless of days offered, will be following the standard Tuesday-Thursday times.

This means instead of the usual fifty minutes per classes offered on Mondays, the classes will always be an hour and fifteen minutes in duration.

"Nothing has been decided. It's all up in the air and at this point, everything is just an idea," Earnheardt said. "It may not apply to every program and every course in our department."

Photos by ***Rachel Gobep /The Jambar***

YSU PROFESSOR DISCUSSES BIGOTRY, RACISM IN LIGHT OF SYNAGOGUE SHOOTING

RACHEL GOBEP

The Youngstown State University community mourned those who died in the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh through a discussion on the impacts of such events in Debartolo Hall on Friday.

On Oct. 27., 46-year-old Robert Bowers allegedly opened fire at the Tree of Life Synagogue on the Jewish Sabbath, killing 11 and wounding six more, including four police officers, according to multiple reports.

Jacob Labendz, the director of the Center for Judaic and Holocaust studies at YSU, led the talk on the event titled, "The Pittsburgh Massacre: A Discussion about Bigotry, Racism and Violence."

Labendz said he expresses sympathy for the community in Pittsburgh, his Jewish siblings around the country and his rage about what occurred.

"It is great to come together, but we can't just come together every time something happens. We have to be united in action, united to do something for a reason," he said. "This was a political crime, and it demands a political response and that requires knowledge."

Labendz said although he could not promise to provide comfort, he offers knowledge and understanding. He discussed the history of anti-Semitism and how it has persisted throughout time, and emphasized the idea that words matter.

According to the Anti-Defamation League, an organization that aims to fight against defamation and hate, in its annual "Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents," the organization found a 57 percent rise in the number of anti-Semitic incidents in the United States, which is "the largest single-year increase on record and the second highest number reported since ADL started tracking such data in 1979."

"The sharp rise was in part due to a significant increase in incidents in schools and on college campuses, which nearly doubled for the second year in a row," the ADL reported.

The ADL believes the attack is "the deadliest on the Jewish community in the history of the United States."

"Shocked, but not surprised," is one phrase Labendz used to describe his initial reaction to the tragic event. This is echoed by the statement released by the ADL after the shooting.

"This violence occurs at a time when ADL has reported a historic increase in both anti-Semitic incidents and anti-Semitic online harassment."

Adam Fuller, assistant professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations, said the shooting was a tragic experience that was so close to home, which warranted a larger conversation at YSU.

The YSU community was also able to place a stone under a poster with the names and photos of the 11 victims, which is consistent with the Jewish custom that pays respect to the deceased on the first-floor of Kilcawley Center.

Ani Solomon, the assistant director of Diversity Programs at YSU, organized the stone placement memorial, and said it's important for her to recognize when any group is targeted by acts of violence or threatening behavior.

"I think it's just a good thing to do just to say we see this has happened; we know that it's not okay, and to take a moment to think about the people and the families that were directly impacted, as well as our community as a whole," Solomon said.

The event was sponsored by Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies, the Student Activities Office, Pi Sigma Alpha (Alpha Alpha Rho) and the Department of Politics and International Relations.

Photos by ***Frances Clause /The Jambar***

POTENTIAL PENGUINS PREVIEW YSU

FRANCES CLAUSE

Youngstown State University welcomed over 500 potential Penguins during Penguin Preview Day at the Watson and Tressel Training Site on Nov. 2.

This college visit day gave high school juniors and seniors the chance to experience what YSU has to offer by taking campus tours, talking to YSU students and professors and learning about different majors.

The high school students began their experience at 9 a.m., visiting tables around the WATTS that represented YSU's different colleges, programs and services.

The Beeghly College of Education gave potential students a glance into the different areas involved in the education field and answered questions.

Rachael Malizia, a graduate student, said she was proud to be a part of Penguin Preview Day representing the BCOE because high school seniors need as much guidance as possible.

"When I was in the high schoolers' shoes, I really could have used the guidance and someone to tell me about the programs offered at YSU," she said. "I wanted to make sure I could give high schoolers this important information by being a part of this day."

The BCOE serves as a premier provider of programs that prepare teachers, school psychologists, counselors and educational administrators, as well as provide developmental education programs to the YSU community.

"One of the things I like to tell potential students is education is a good backup plan," Hunter Thomas, a senior early childhood education major said. "This is because the BCOE offers a degree in many different areas."

These areas include art, health, language arts, math, science, social studies, Italian, Spanish, music, physical education and special education.

Maddy Demetra, a Boardman High School senior, said the area of the BCOE she was most interested in was seventh through 12th grade language arts.

"I always wanted to be a teacher since I was young because I like the thought of being able to make a difference in students' lives," she said. "I believe YSU has the power to help me achieve this goal."

Before leaving the WATTS for college tours, the YSU pep band, directed by Brandt Payne, taught high schoolers YSU's fight song. President Jim Tressel spoke to the students after the performance about positive change occurring on campus.

"In the last few years, [YSU] has added about 600 apartments on campus, a Barnes & Noble and we're in the midst of building an intramural sports field and an innovation center," he said. "There are a lot of exciting things happening."

Tressel said YSU is a great place for high school students to consider because the faculty works directly with the undergraduate students to reach their goals.

According to Tressel, there are three main goals students should be focused on during their time at YSU.

"Goal number one [YSU] hopes students consider is coming here and finishing in four years, and goal number two is at the end of those four years, [YSU] wants students to know where they are going next," he said. "The third goal is leaving with as little or no financial debt as possible."

The potential students left the WATTS with President Tressel's advice and followed representatives of the college of their interest for campus tours.

The next Penguin Preview Day is Nov. 30 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., starting at the WATTS.

A LOOK INTO THE WORLD OF NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE

AMANDA JOERNDT

Native American Heritage Month is celebrated nationally in November. It encourages people to learn about Native American heritage and culture and is celebrated in different ways all over the country.

Youngstown State University welcomed a Native American speaker on Monday to discuss Native American cultural background and diversity with students and to teach them about the different communities that make-up the Native American nations.

Gyasi Ross, author, lawyer and media personality, is from the Blackfeet and Suquamish nation and lives in the Port Madison Indian Reserve near Seattle, Wash.

Ross is the author of two books, "Don't Know Much About Indians," and "How To Say I Love You in Indian."

While visiting different universities, he shares personal experiences and discusses the historical context bordering the Native American population.

Ross said he tries to be a credible storyteller to get his point across about the Native American culture and communities.

"I like to awaken some consciousness that is already there," he said. "I think people had a different idea about what a lecture about Native American Heritage Month might be instead of focusing on contemporary things that interface between a lot of different communities."

Ross said he wants people to expand the Native American Heritage celebration to an everyday practice instead of one month out of the year.

"Stop limiting [the Native American Heritage celebration] to a month and be unafraid to say 'it is June second, and this is a good time for a native story as any other time,'" he said. "It doesn't have to be relegated into a specific space bubble that doesn't infiltrate into the rest of the year."

Ani Solomon, assistant director of diversity programs, has worked to bring Ross to YSU since the beginning of the semester.

Solomon said celebrating Native American Heritage month is a way for students to become well rounded with different cultures.

"There's so much going on and we're all here on this land and not many of us have the native roots," she said.

Solomon said bringing an authentic piece of Native American heritage to YSU was important when researching ways to celebrate the culture.

"I really thought [the lecture] was important for me to bring someone who is current, relevant and can connect well with the students," she said. "I hope this is a learning experiences for folks and a chance to reflect on the history of the country we're all in."

E'Dazjia Solomon-Green, a junior marketing major, is a chairman for the student diversity council on campus.

Solomon-Green said Ross commenting on the Pittsburgh Synagogue shooting during the lecture hit home for her and helped her feel connected to his presentation.

"I'm from Pittsburgh, and I know a lot of people out there. Just hearing him say, 'what can I do to support,' that really resonated with me," she said.

Solomon-Green said listening to Ross discuss supporting one another's culture can have a huge impact on people.

"No matter who you are and what diverse group you come from, I think to myself, 'how can I support you,'" she said. "I just feel like he's given me a new initiative to try and help somebody else."

Abigail Lyon, a senior business administration major, attended the lecture to learn more about the diversity within the Native American culture.

Lyon said some specific comments Ross made during his lecture stood out to her and put her viewpoints into a different perspective.

"He stated that all of our brilliances together will one day be beneficial and we can see how we're all different and work together in society was something that I took with me from his talk," she said.

Photo by ***J Harvard Feldhouse/The Jambar***

SISTERHOOD UPRISING RALLY SPURS VOTING ENTHUSIASM

FRANCES CLAUSE

Chants of, "And still we rise!" echoed in front of the Mahoning County Courthouse at the Sisterhood Uprising-Flexing Our Power rally Nov. 3.

The Salon, a women-led nonprofit organization, the Youngstown Chapter of The Links and local congregations organized the rally to demonstrate the individual and collective power of women in the Youngstown community for the midterm elections.

Youngstown community members marched from East Wood Street to the courthouse at noon, wearing white in honor of the original suffragettes.

Speakers who encouraged the rally-goers to vote on the courthouse steps said the hardships the suffragettes endured to win this right is why it is important for women to vote. Other topics discussed by the speakers included the renewal of the Federal Violence Against Women Act and Equal Pay legislation.

Attorney Kim Akins, the host of the rally, said The Salon sponsored the rally because it's time women's voices were heard on a local, state and national level.

"We're at a crucial time in our history," she said. "It's vital that women, who are the backbone of the community, be the ones that send this message."

Marge Staples, co-host of the rally and president of the Youngstown Chapter of the Links, a nonprofit entity of professional women committed to enriching and sustaining the culture of African-Americans, welcomed and thanked the crowd for being there.

"There's no more excuses to say why we're not voting," Staples said.

Other speakers at the rally included Mayor Tito Brown, Michele Lepore-Hagan, state representative of Ohio's 58th district, Carol Righetti, councilwoman of Youngstown's 4th Ward, Janice Bernard, recording secretary for the Mahoning Trumbull CLC, Evelyn Burnett, co-founder and partner of the ThirdSpace Action Lab, Rev. Monica Beasley-Martin, Rev. Robin Woodberry and Rev. Kristina Spaude.

Along with the speeches that stressed the importance of why women's votes matter, the rally provided an opportunity for diverse groups to meet and strategize for future involvement with local and state officials.

Anita Davis, councilwoman for Youngstown's 6th Ward, invited the rally-goers and community members to Flambeau Dinner Club on Dec. 8 to sit down and discuss major happenings in the neighborhood.

"I do a thing once a month called coffee and conversation, and I put out a press release to The Vindicator," she said. "Still, we only get about 20 to 25 people."

Davis said this number is not good enough, and just because the community votes on candidates to represent them does not mean the participation ends there.

"There should be more people than that coming from the 6th Ward of Youngstown because we have a lot of problems there," she said. "Every single one of you have a responsibility as a citizen to participate because without your voices, nothing will get done," she said.

Davis will provide complimentary coffee and breakfast at the Dec. 8 coffee and conversation meeting as she answers questions concerning topics affecting the 6th Ward and community.

SHE'S MAKING NOISE

MARAH J. MORRISON

Lauren Goshinski, an audio and visual curator and creative director, provided a free and open-to-the-public lecture on Monday at the McDonough Museum Lecture Hall.

During the span of her career, Goshinski has curated and produced screenings, tour visuals, audio-visual festivals and many more. She is also a board member of International Cities of Advanced Sound, which is as global network of non-profit festivals dedicated to adventurous music and art.

Goshinski said when she was growing up, she didn't know that this field of study existed, and she had equal interests in areas that others could see being expressed.

"I was super musical, but didn't know for a very long time what DJing was," she said. "I was doing things that would lead me to that. I was cutting up tapes and I was creating my own weird remixes of things and not really understanding that that was a thing."

Goshinski said on the performance side of the industry, she enjoys creating worlds that have their own logic to them and acting those out with other people. Sometimes these worlds would either be a narrative or visual, creating a whole world to be lived in.

"I was a very visual person," she said. "I was drawing and painting and building things all the time, so it was coming from a creative place at every point."

Goshinski said her favorite aspect about this industry in general is the various people she meets.

She said no two artists are the same, no two audience members are the same and no two people are the same.

"When you bring them all together in this way, I think you get to see a side of people that is incredibly inspiring and beautiful," she said.

Goshinski said being in this industry gives her a sense of hope and joy at a level she can't find in other places. She added there are a number of different festivals where it's more about a moment in the festival where an artist snaps a chord with people.

"You see everybody on the same page, and I love seeing that for artists that are emerging or aren't super Top 40 names," she said. "Seeing them crack an audience open and watching people find something they never knew existed before."

Goshinski said the way she got to where she is now in her career was not traditional because she didn't come through an entertainment program, but came through art history.

She said no one told her or taught her how to do this.

"There's not going to be anyone there to hold your hand," she said. "You're going to have to create this on your own and have a vision that is yours."

Dana Sperry, an associate professor in the Department of Art in digital media at Youngstown State University, said the lecture provided an understanding of coming out with an art degree and how it allows a wide variety of things someone can do.

Sperry said there's a cultural creation thing around curating and putting together festivals or events. He said in this industry, it takes a whole field of people working together and making decisions.

"Artists and designers create a larger creative culture," he said. "It's not just [making] shows in galleries. We make a lot of things that end up everywhere and it takes a lot of different types of people to make that happen."

Photo by ***Marah J. Morrison/The Jambar***

Photo by ***Tanner Mondok/The Jambar***

THE JOURNEY OF KATHLEEN HOWELLS

VICTORIA REMLEY

Kathleen Howells, senior vocal performance major at Youngstown State University, performed her senior recital on Oct. 30 at St. John's Episcopal Church.

Over the years, Howells grew to have a love-hate relationship with music and getting to this performance was not simple. She said breaking down comfort barriers is the biggest thing she's had to deal with as a musician.

"I've crossed many lines for myself, like doing things I never thought I'd possibly be able to do," she said.

In high school, Howells participated in drama club and theater. She took voice lessons with a musical theatre teacher from her hometown. Her teacher realized Howell had an operatic voice and gave her more classical pieces, along with musical theater pieces.

During her junior year of high school, Howells started thinking about what she wanted to do for the rest of her life and what she was going to study in college. She said her teacher made her realize she could major in a music-related field.

Howells played Prince Charming in YSU's production of "Cinderella" last year, which was challenging because she played a man.

She also performed in YSU's production of "The Medium," which she said was a depressing opera. She hated the show at first, but fell in love with it by the last performance. She said it was an experience in and of itself.

"[I took] something that I find extremely vocally challenging and that I grew to hate over time and completely flipping the switch, and it ending up being my favorite show in my whole collegiate career," Howells said.

In 2017, Misook Yun, Howells' vocal coach and the head of YSU's vocal department, sat down with Howells to decide what music she would perform for her senior recital. Yun asked her what composers she liked and disliked, and based her pieces around that.

To prepare, Howells worked on memorizing her recital pieces. She took part in weekly lessons with Yun to work on them. During this time, Howells dealt with struggling to meet Yun's expectations with her pieces.

To get a vocal performance degree, students are required to take voice lessons, go through a music theory program, and take music history classes and IPA courses. It also involves lot of vocal practice.

After graduation, Howells plans to move home to look for jobs in music administration. She wants to work with a theater or opera company, and may obtain a masters after working for a while.

Yun taught Howells for three and a half years. She said Howells grew vocally and matured.

"She is a bright student and she has the personality of 'I want to do well,' so she ended up becoming very uptight about things which was causing lots of physical tension," Yun said.

Howell's techniques improved throughout her studies. These techniques involved her upper register and her vocal range.

"Her voice was always pretty, but she had lots of tension. It has to do a lot with people's personalities. If you are OCD about it, sometimes you end up putting yourself in a box. Because of certain personalities, sometimes they [students] get very uptight about things," Yun said.

MARIO'S MOVIES: BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY

MARIO RICCIARDI

As of 2018, there should be a rule that any biopic about a rock star has to be a 12-episode miniseries. I specify rock star because that's what "Bohemian Rhapsody" is (a full band would require more). The film has little to do with the band Queen so much as it has to do with the life and times of Freddie Mercury.

"Bohemian Rhapsody" hustles the audience through the band's rise to fame, the band's break up and then getting back together for one final performance, but it is clear that Freddie is the reason for every peak and valley. Maybe rightfully so. The film tries to show so much that it rarely gets the chance to reveal anything more than a Wikipedia page's worth of information.

The film's strongest takeaway is the emptiness of excess. Freddie Mercury is portrayed as a man who has everything and nothing all at the same time. From his lavish lifestyle to a larger-than-life personality to match, he becomes everything he ever wanted to be. The catch is that all the things that he had dismissed to rise to fame end up being the things that he yearns for the most.

Another trope in a film full of them, this one proves to be the most cautionary and resilient after the credits roll. There is the life that is made and pursued (success, power and immunity) and there is the life that is handed to you just by being alive (family, friends and talents). All these things are prevalent topics in the movie's portrayal of Mercury, but they're often pushed aside for the visuals, costumes and music.

The act of balancing a biopic with fan pleaser is never quite achieved, but there are sparks of each for both. Most prevalently is actor Rami Malek's portrayal of Mercury. Malek completely disappears in the role and when everything else in production fails, his performance is the clear in the storm. After watching the movie, I cannot imagine anyone else carrying the film on their shoulders the way Rami Malek did.

If properly executed, (and I know this is like sacred ground for film geeks), we could have had a performance right up there with Heath Ledger's Joker. Unfortunately, despite Malek's uncompromising spirit, the final edit of the film doesn't quite do his work justice.

The truest biopic/fan service moment is the one that makes the entire film worth it. The final minutes of the film are a near exact replication of Queen's 1985 Live Aid performance. Brilliantly executed, the final performance of the film reaches incredible heights with its relevance to the source material. Picking and choosing its creative liberties to round out the story it is an ending nothing short of epic.

Unfortunately, an epic ending deserves a build up of equal proportion. That said, "Bohemian Rhapsody" does its best with everything it was given and at the end of the day, is nothing short of fun. When it should have ultimately been the story of a man coming to terms with not only himself, but also with what makes life worth the journey.

It takes more of a direct route to material that's easier to digest. The lessons are still there, but they just get glossed over in a sweeping, stylish film that is 10 hours too short.

3/5 Penguins

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Photo by ***Tanner Mondok / The Jambar***

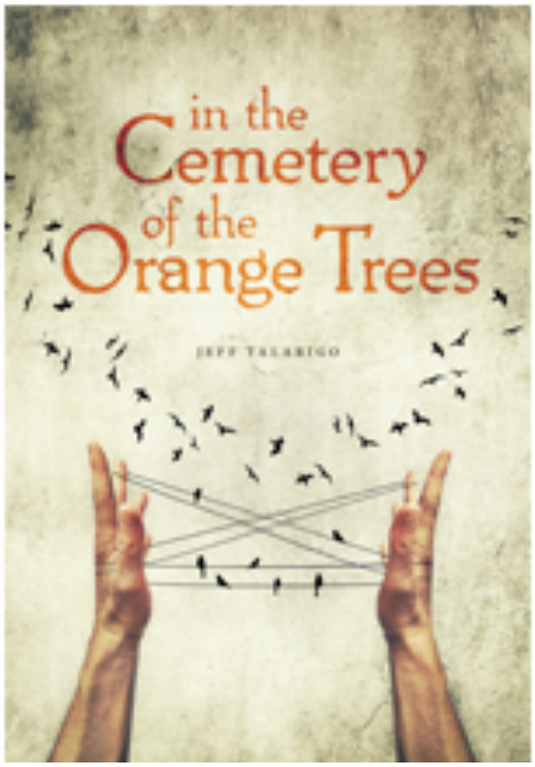
Youngstown State University President Jim Tressel scoops chili into a bowl during a chili cook-off put together by the Controller's Office in Jones Hall Wednesday.

The office has been putting together a chili cook-off for 11 years, where YSU faculty prepare their own chili then give ratings to the other submissions. A winner is decided at the end of the cook-off.

Steve Hoffmaster, accounting manager at the Controller's Office, took first place this year. He described the event as a fun thing to do after a busy time of year in their office.

Tressel also entered his own chili into the contest.

"This is a tough duty," he said. "It's just a fun thing, when the weather gets colder you always want a little bit of chili."



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THE JAMBAR

EDITORIAL

A WAVE OF WOMEN TAKES OVER CONGRESS

Whether you went out to the polls to exercise your civic duty or stayed glued to the TV all night analyzing the results as they poured in, it was apparent that this midterm election season was one of the most pivotal and contested events of our lifetime thus far.

From upsets to landslide wins, there was a lot to digest on election night. It was a big night for both Democrats and Republicans with Democrats running with the rumored "blue wave" movement by flipping the House of Representatives and the Republicans upholding a "red wall" in the Senate.

Parties aside, it was a historic night for women in politics.

CNN predicted that roughly 98 women could win their House races and 12 could win seats in the Senate.

Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) became the first woman elected senator from Tennessee and previously served in the US House since 2003.

Another first goes to the first Muslim women elected to Congress, Rashida Tlaib (D-MI), and Ilhan Omar (D-MN), a Somali-American refugee.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez became the youngest woman ever elected to Congress at the ripe age of 29.

Native American women finally had their voices heard with Sharice Davids (D-KS), of the Ho-Chunk Nation, and Debra Haaland (D-NM), a member of the Pueblo of Laguna, becoming the first Native American women elected to Congress.

The vote is still out and despite party affiliation, Arizona will elect its first female senator to Congress. Only time will tell if it will be Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) or Martha McSally (R-AZ).

Despite a neck-and-neck Senate race between Texas Democrat Beto O'Rourke and Republican incumbent Ted Cruz, the "Lone Star" state will elect its first Hispanic women to Congress. Veronica Escobar will replace O'Rourke in the US House, and Sylvia Garcia will take over for Democrat Gene Green.

In the gubernatorial races, South Dakota elected its first female governor, Republican Kristi Noem, who flipped the former blue state to red.

During the duration of the midterm election season, rumors ran rampant of an alleged "blue wave," but what actually took place was a "wave of women."

Diversity should be celebrated, and in what better way than to elect those diverse individuals into office?

This midterm election season revealed how much the U.S. has progressed since the 2016 election and showcased the public's yearning for a more diverse political landscape. Now, only time will tell if the public will follow this female trend during the upcoming 2020 presidential election.

SGA LOOKING TO PROMOTE BLACKBOARD ON CAMPUS

COURTNEY HIBLER

Members of the Youngstown State University Student Government Association are working to promote Blackboard Education among faculty members who may not use it.

According to the Blackboard website, Blackboard is a partnership between Newark Computing Services and the Office of Academic Technology. The system is used to extend the learning environment outside the classroom by including features facilitating teaching, learning and interaction.

Ernie Barkett, president of the SGA and a graduate student majoring in financial economics, said the SGA would like to see all faculty members upload a syllabus and grades for their classes to Blackboard.

The idea to promote Blackboard came from a discussion within SGA, their executive board and the Information Technology Department at YSU.

"We have received numerous complaints from students of professors not using Blackboard," Barkett said. "After a meeting with the IT Department, we decided to get working on it."

Daunisha Lude, a sophomore dental hygiene major, said she would like all of her professors to use Blackboard because of its convenience.

"All but one of my professors haven't used [Blackboard] at all this semester," she said. "It's very frustrating."

Students who would like to help SGA to promote Blackboard as well are encouraged by Barkett to let their dean or professor know Blackboard can help benefit students in the future.

SGA plans to have representatives meet with chairs and deans in their respective colleges to understand what issues are arising with Blackboard.

"We also hope to meet with specific professors who are against using Blackboard," Barkett said. "We want to see what their concerns are and to inform them on how Blackboard benefits their students."

Adam Fuller, assistant professor of politics and international relations, said Blackboard doesn't fit into his preferred teaching style because his classes being based around lectures, in-class discussion and essay writing assignments.

"I prefer the old-fashioned approach to teaching, where professors come together in a room with their students and everyone actually engages one another face-to-face about the vast universe of ideas," he said. "Education has existed for centuries before any of this computer technology was invented and the human race did just fine without it."

Although, during the summer semester, Fuller did use Blackboard and received negative feedback from his students when they told him they preferred in-class discussions.

Sarah Jenyk, senior lecturer in the Department of Economics, has a different outlook on Blackboard.

"I use Blackboard for some of my classes," she said. "I find it useful for students and myself."

In Barkett's opinion, using Blackboard can help students and keep them updated with their assignments and schedules.

Barkett added that Blackboard may help the student produce a more informed decision on whether they should withdraw, drop or continue a certain class.

"Having a readily available syllabus will decrease the chances a student misses an assignment," he said. "If all grades are uploaded on Blackboard, then a student will have a better understanding of where they stand in the class."

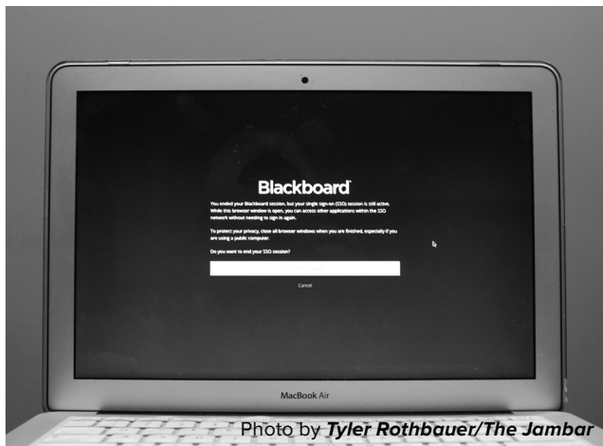

Photo by *Tyler Rothbauer/The Jambar*

From left to right, Naz Bohannon (#33), Garrett Covington (#32) and Devin Morgan (#22) pose as they look to take Youngstown State Men's Basketball into a new era.
Photo courtesy of ***YSU Sports Information***

MEN'S BASKETBALL LOOKING TO CHANGE CULTURE WITH GOOD START

BRIAN YAUGER

The Youngstown State University men's basketball program kicked their season off on Nov. 6 on the road in Pittsburgh, taking on the University of Pittsburgh Panthers.

The Penguins have had some success in season openers, winning five of their last eight and are 41-47 all-time in season openers before that game.

YSU came up short with a 69-53 loss to Pitt.

"I think as a competitor you have to be confident in not only yourself, but in your team," second-year Head Coach Jerrod Calhoun said. "I think our guys saw a little success in the scrimmages so I think they have a good mindset heading into this game."

"You don't ever go into a game thinking you are going to shoot the ball that bad. The first two scrimmages, we averaged 13 made threes a game," he continued. "When you're playing a Power 5 school, the size of the athletes is so much different. It was good for our guys."

Calhoun expressed interest in playing Pitt every other year because he believes it helps his team tremendously.

YSU has a fresh roster this season, returning only two starters from last season, sophomores Naz Bohannon and Garrett Covington. The Penguins have nine newcomers to the program in 2018-19, and have just one senior, Noe Anabir.

Only one player on the roster has more than one year of Division I playing experience, junior Devin Morgan, who spent two years at Delaware State University before transfering to YSU.

"We recruited eight players," Calhoun said. "I think we did a good job of that. We've got size, we've got length, we've got skill. We've got some inside guys that can block shots, we've got some wings that can really shoot, and I think we've got some depth at the point guard spot. We've got some guys that give us depth at each position."

Against Pitt, YSU struggled to shoot as they hit just 27 percent of their shots. A positive was definitely their 32 bench points to Pitt's nine.

Morgan was more than ready to go before the game.

"We're very eager," Morgan said on playing against another team instead of practicing against each other. "We've been playing against each other since May, now we had two scrimmages that went pretty well, so we're excited to play against another opponent, and we're confident about getting this win, so we're ready.

Bohannon was named to the 2018 Preseason All-Horizon League Team after a vote from the Horizon League's head coaches, athletics communications directors and media. Bohannon averaged 7.2 points and 8.1 rebounds per game last season, and scored 230 points and snagged a total of 259 rebounds, the most by a YSU player since 1991-92.

He finished the Pitt game with 10 rebounds and three assists in 26 minutes.

The Penguins' lone victory over Pitt came in a game at the Beeghly Center in 1976.

"We've been together since May," Morgan said. "With our new guys coming in, I think we have every piece that we needed. We have a lot of scoring, shot blocking, the way we want to play, pressing, shooting threes and getting up and down the court. So, I think with all the guys coming in, that we're ready."

YSU is coming off an eight-win season in which turnover was plenty. YSU will look to get all these young guys into the fold and ready to go.

"Part of coaching and recruiting is finding players that just love basketball and buy into the team," Calhoun said. "What Ola [Olamide Pedersen] does, he comes in with a smile every day and very coachable. He will be an all-league guy down the road. That's why you coach."

Pedersen finished the game with four points, three blocks and three rebounds. Kendale Hampton was the offensive star for YSU with 15 points and four 3-pointers off the bench in 16 minutes.

In under two years, there isn't a single player recruited by former head coach Jerry Slocum. That is quite the turnover in the roster, but it isn't a concern for Calhoun and this group.

YSU will use this momentum for their game against the University of Akron on Nov. 10 at 4 p.m. at the Wolstein Center in Cleveland, Ohio.

YSU MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY WINS AGAIN

BRIAN YAUGER

Youngstown State University's men's cross country team won their second Horizon League Championship in the last three years, capturing the 2018 Championship with help from senior Ryan Sullivan setting a new program record, and finishing second overall with a time of 24:27.4.

"With this group of guys, I feel such a sense of accomplishment," Penguins Head Coach Brian Gorby said. "As the guys kind of said, 'euphoria' pretty much. So, basically this was a two-year process."

"Two years ago, when a lot of the guys were juniors at the time, [they] redshirted for a year. [They] gave up starting to work and graduating to all come back and do this," he continued. "To set that journey up is one thing, but to go through and actually do it was so fun."

Sullivan broke Matt Folk's record of 24:32 that was set in 1998. Sullivan and fellow senior Alan Burns were both named first-team All Horizon League. C.J. Schumacher and Derek Basinger earned second-team all-league honors.

"[Sullivan] lost his shoe a few weeks ago at the pre-national meet," Gorby said. "He was running with guys from Oregon and Arkansas, he ran the race of a lifetime. He ran the last five miles with no shoe. We knew he was going to make a great run at that record and he did."

Gorby received honors as well, being named the Horizon League Men's Cross Country Coach of the Year.

"We've been blessed," Gorby said. "I can't take all the credit. I want to give a lot of credit to coach [Eric] Rupe. He's got a pretty good pulse on things, and him and I work hand-in-hand. He ran with us and was a part of many championships.

"Coach Rupe is out there running with the guys daily in practice. Between the two of us, we put the blueprint together. We've been through a lot together," he added. "We've won 37 [Horizon League] championships on our end, so naturally he's been in them, won five or six on his own, so it was nice for us to work together."

Gorby credits leadership for a lot of the team's success.

"The leadership group we have is just phenomenal," Gorby said. "Those four seniors, the combination of what those guys did over the last three or four years was fantastic."

There were high marks set on the women's side as well, as Nicole Squatrito's 16th place finish with a time of 22:16.3, ranks as the third-fastest time in the 6K in YSU history. The young women's team placed fifth.

"They're going in the right direction," Gorby said. "We graduated a lot of seniors in 2013 and 2014. I had all freshmen last year so my goal was to try and get them in the top four or top five this year, and top five is about where we were on paper so we did what we needed to do."

The Horizon League champion Penguins will compete at the NCAA Great Lakes Regional in Terre Haute, Ind. on Nov. 9.

"We're ranked 10th in the region, which is the highest ranking we've had, I think the highest we've been before is 12th," Gorby said. "We're ahead of Ohio State right now, we're ahead of about half the MAC right now. We want to be in that top ten. If we get top five, we'll go out to nationals. Not sure if we're quite to that level, that would put us top 35 in the country, but our goal is to be top nine, which would be the highest in program history."

The Youngstown State University Men's Cross Country team poses as the Horizon League champs. | (Photo courtesy of ***Brian Gorby***)

YSU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM EXCITED FOR FIRST GAME

BRIAN YAUGER

The Youngstown State University women's basketball team got its season of to a good start with a 69-59 win in overtime over the Robert Morris University Colonials.

It was Melinda Trimmer's game-tying jumper that pushed the game into overtime. YSU outscored RMU, 13-3, in OT.

The Penguins now have an all-time series lead over Robert Morris, winning 17 of the 23 total contests between the two teams.

Head coach John Barnes, returning for his sixth season, notes the season has been starting earlier and earlier, but the new NCAA rules regarding practicing have made that earlier start a bit easier to manage.

Melinda Trimmer (#14) looks to make a move as Laura Carrasco (#10) guards her around the 3-point line in Youngstown State's 69-59 overtime win. | (Photo courtesy of ***Robert Hayes***)

"It does seem like the season is starting earlier and earlier every year," Barnes said. "But since the NCAA has allowed us to work with our players pretty much all year round, [it] makes it a little easier to start. I'm kind of old-fashioned, where I liked the Oct. 15 across the board, that would be the start of practice, and the games would be a month later, but that's kind of old school."

Sarah Cash returns to the Penguins for her fifth and final season, capping off what will be one of the best careers in YSU women's basketball history.

Cash is on pace to set the record for career field goal percentage, and is in the top-20 all-time in multiple categories. She was also selected to the first-team preseason all Horizon League roster.

"She's one of the smartest players I've ever coached," Barnes said. "I think being another year out from that knee injury, she's going to be even better. Very similar to her first year at YSU when she had to come off of a knee injury from her senior year of high school."

Making the second-team preseason all Horizon League roster was sophomore Chelsea Olsen. Olsen scored a career-high 26 points at Cleveland State University last season, the highest total by a league freshman that season and the most by a YSU freshman since 1995.

In YSU's win, Olson shone very bright with 13 points, 14 rebounds, four assists and a block on the night.

"It's really nice to get that redemption," Olson said. "We've been working really hard on rebounding and I think we outrebounded them."

YSU grabbed 41 rebounds to RMU's 35 including 15 offensive rebounds.

The Penguins are also returning Alison Smolinski, who missed a large portion of last season with a foot injury. In her time on the court last season before the injury, she was averaging 10.6 points per game and led the team with 25 3-pointers, and was the team's leading scorer in the season prior.

"I put a lot of work in during the offseason," Smolinski said. "Jenna, our trainer, and Jake, our strength and conditioning coach, really got my foot back to normal. Last year was a bit of a freak accident so I kinda want to just go right back where I left off."

The Colonials are returning their guard duo they refer to as the "Splash Sisters." Sophomore guards Megan Callahan and Honoka Ikematsu broke out last season as two of the top 3-point threats in the Northeast Conference, finishing fourth and third, respectively in conversion rate from beyond the arc.

The Penguins start at home for the sixth season in a row, something that Barnes isn't complaining about.

"I think defensively to hold them to 59 with an overtime period is pretty good," Barnes said about defense and rebounding. "That was probably our No. 1 key outside of toughness. They outrebounded us by 20 or 21 last year. That was a huge key for us with Chelsea with 14 and Sarah Cash doing her thing."

YSU has a quick turnaround as they host Loyola University Chicago on Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. at the Beeghley Center.

YSU SWIMMING AND DIVING ENJOYING REVAMPED PROGRAM

MARC WEEMS

In an era where swimming and diving programs are disappearing and losing money, Youngstown State University decided to fund the redevelopment of the Natatorium inside Beeghly Center. That showed this program everything it needed going into Head Coach Ryan Purdy's second season at the helm.

"We are all working really hard in the pool right now," senior swimmer Taylor Tofil said. "The expectations are that we will be rested up for conference and for our midseason invite coming up. We will swim a little faster and get where we want to be."

Tofil is one of just four seniors on the team, while there are nine freshmen on the team including diver Tess Weiskopf, who was named Women's Diver of the Week for the week of Oct. 16.

"Right now, [it's about] getting used to stuff and preparing," Weiskopf said about preparing for the grind of the full season. "The first two weeks were tough to transition since I'm from New York, so being away from was tough. Everything has settled down now, I think just training as hard as we can for the CSU Invite."

The Penguins were projected last in the Horizon League behind the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and the University of Illinois Chicago.

"That's the goal here that going into my second year as head coach, the goal is to move up," Purdy said. "We are working really hard to change the culture and have expectations to move up. In swimming and diving, it takes a little more time than in other sports. We are taking 18 people to the conference championship. Having a core group of 18 that can contribute is the goal moving forward."

YSU has competed in four meets so far without any wins, but wins aren't the only goal during at this part of the season.

"We want to move up and not be at the bottom of our conference again," senior swimmer Rachel Shipp said. "We have all the potential to do that. All of our dual meets are practice for us. It's not like football where every game counts. Even if we don't win every single meet, we can still win our conference. It's about practicing individually and as a team."

YSU now has one more regular meet against Bowling Green State University on Nov. 10 before they go to the Cleveland State University Magnus Cup Invitational on Nov. 16 through 18.

Not only is it a new season for the Penguins, but their facility is revamped and looks great. For everyone involved, it's about time.

"Especially for me, this is my fifth year here, I've been waiting for this for four years now," Shipp said. "I've practiced with the horrible blocks that we had before. The timing system didn't work and the pool was a mess. Now, to have such a remodeled and up-to-date facility just makes it that much easier to practice."

For Purdy and his Penguins team, the only way to go is up and that seems to be something that everyone shares as the freshmen class was his first recruiting class at YSU.

"The upperclassmen are continuing to develop and the core group of freshmen, there are 10 of them and one transfer student, are doing a great job and continue to work with the upperclassmen," Purdy said. "The program is going to be much different in four years when they are seniors than what it is now."

Despite not winning any meets yet, YSU has competed well in all four so far. For Tofil, every meet is important no matter the implications of it.

"Honestly, we treat every dual meet kind of the same, whether it is conference or not. Compared to basketball, we don't have as many meets/games as them so we have to go into every meet ready to go," Tofil said.

YSU has two tournaments before getting the month of December off in preparation for the conference slate.

Tess Weiskopf prepares to make a dive in a meet against Oakland University at the Beeghley Natatorium on Oct. 19. | Photo courtesy of ***YSU Sports Information***