

RENOWNED LATINO SPEAKER TO BE FEATURED IN INTERACTIVE SEMINAR

C. AILEEN BLAINE JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

The pandemic may have rained on the usual events for Hispanic Heritage Month, but it has also made it possible for Youngstown State University to feature Michael Benitez, a Latino educator and speaker, as a keynote speaker. Organizers of the event are excited to have him, due to his engaging and interactive delivery style.

Alicia Prieto, associate professor of Mathematics and Statistics and member of the Hispanic Heritage Planning Committee, said she's enthusiastic to have Benitez speak to the community and YSU.

"I'd seen [his lectures] before....and thought he was amazing," Prieto said. "It's nice when somebody comes in and doesn't just talk to you....but they actually reflect and think about what you're saying to them. That's what's great."

Prieto said Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations will look different this year. There are typically two main events presented by YSU to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, but due to the pandemic, the Benitez event will be the only major event offered.

Prieto said one of the things that may be enhanced by the online delivery is the interactivity of the lecture via such features as chat boxes, unmuted mics and polls. The plan is to have two speaking events: one open to the public and one open to students. She said she hopes Latinos in the community will know YSU is welcoming.

Ana Torres, Maag Library co-director, said arrangements for Hispanic Heritage month typically begin many months in advance, but uncertainties surrounding the pandemic forced in-person events such as presentations with guest speakers to be

canceled. That includes the Hispanic Celebration, typically held in Kilcawley Center.

"We felt it was important to continue with some programming in a different form via virtual platforms," Torres said.

Carol Bennett, associate provost for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, connected Benitez to the university in January. Bennett said the seminar will focus on diversity and Hispanic inclusivity, as well as Latino identity and gender. One of the topics to be discussed is the dismantling of Latino stereotypes.

"We say Latino, Latina--but what does that mean?" Bennet said. She also said she hopes Benitez's seminar will help others gain an understanding of how culture and identity are more than titles.

"I am hoping individuals will be inspired by Dr. Benitez as he is a young voice in an established area," Bennett said.

"We think that Dr. Benitez is the ideal person to engage and lead the students and the campus community in the overdue conversation regarding the complexities of identity formation, especially within the LatinX culture," Torres said.

As for future events like this, Torres said she hopes there will be more.

"It is important to bring to campus and the community speakers like Dr. Benitez, who are experienced in facilitating difficult conversations and who can share with us tools and strategies to help us move towards better understanding," Torres said.

The seminar will be held via Webex Sept. 30. A student meet-and-greet will begin at 3 p.m., and the lecture will take place from 4:30-6 p.m. Registration is available at <https://tinyurl.com/YSUHHM2020>.



Michael Benitez, Latino educator and speaker, headlines this year's Hispanic Heritage month activities as keynote speaker Sept. 30 via Webex. Photo courtesy of Student Activities

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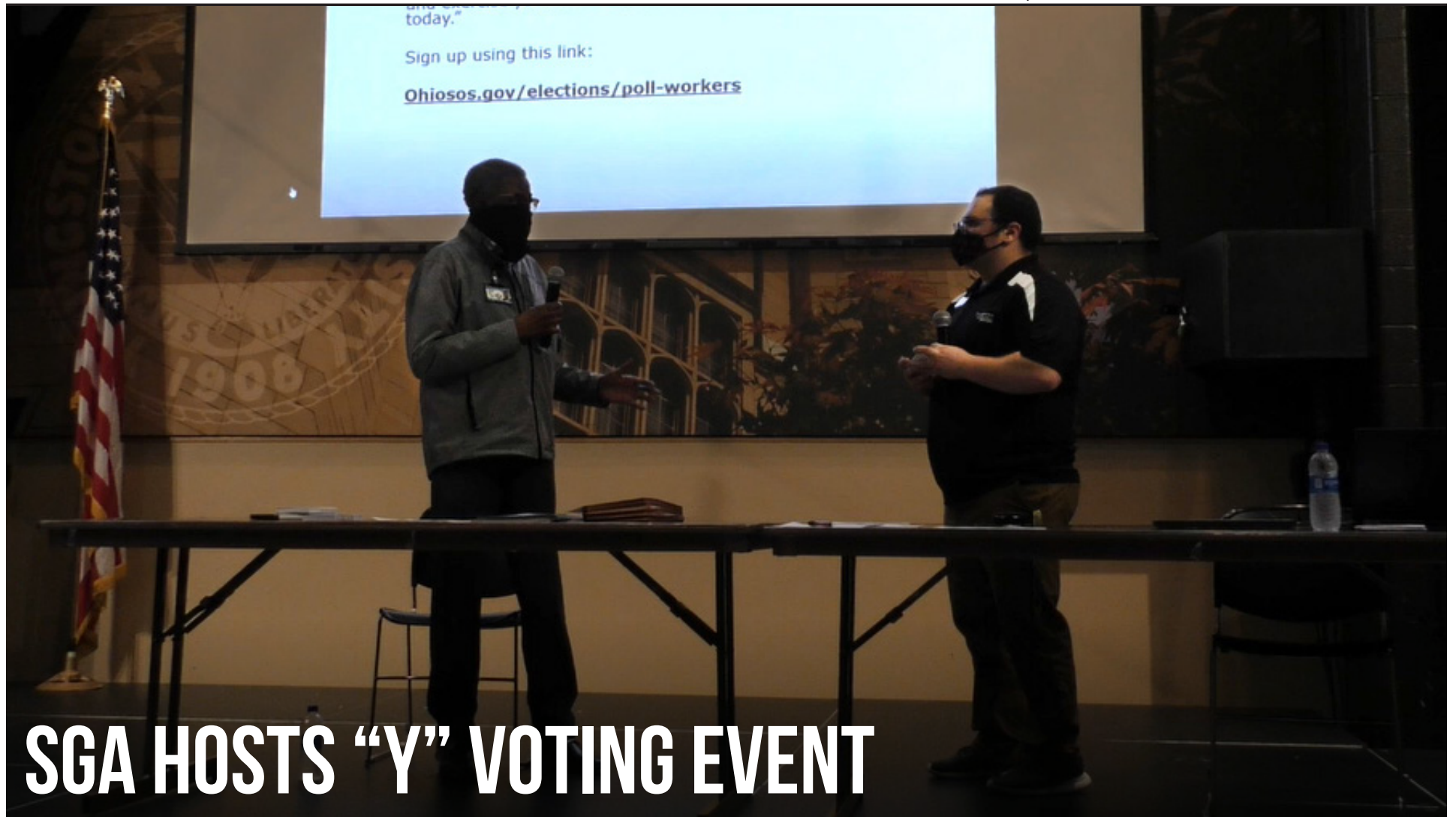
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SGA HOSTS “Y” VOTING EVENT

Raymond Butler, the secretary for the Mahoning County Board of Elections, and Student Government Association President, Justin Shaughnessy, answer students' questions about registering to vote and mail-in ballots. Photos by **Samantha Smith/The Jambar**

SAMANTHA SMITH

Youngstown State University's Student Government Association hosted an event for students to learn and ask questions about voting Wednesday Sept. 16. Justin Shaughnessy, president of Student Government Association, was there to lead the conversation and ask questions coming in live from Facebook for Raymond Butler, board secretary for the Mahoning County Board of Elections, to answer.

The event highlighted any issues students may have had with registering to vote, completing absentee ballots or working the polls for election day. Butler made sure to answer every question asked.

Students were sent an email to RSVP if they would like to attend and fill out a form of registration where they could submit their questions. Viewers watching the Facebook Live coverage were able to ask their questions through the chat in current time.

Shaughnessy said the event was held to inform first-time voters, clear up any confusion about voting and emphasize its importance.

“There’s a lot of questions that need to be answered and

there’s a lot of changes that are going on with elections,” he said. “It gives people the certainty that their votes can count and makes sure that they’re taking the steps to ensure that their vote counts.”

One of the students who attended in-person is Jasmine Pendergrast, a YSU senior studying biology. She said this event helped eliminate any confusion she had on the topic of voting.

“I think it definitely answers a lot of questions that maybe people are afraid to ask, like in a one-on-one session because you’re in a group you know everyone could have that question,” Pendergrast said. “Personally, I got a lot of answers and I thought I knew a good bit about voting.”

Another student who attended, Michael Cline, a junior studying integrated science education, agreed with Pendergrast and said the event let students ask questions without being nervous.

“It opens up a forum for students to ask questions like Jasmine said, not in an one-on-one situation, but in an open forum,” Cline said. “[The students] don’t have to state their name, they can just send their questions and they can be answered.”

Butler, aside from answering all questions, said the board of elections is making sure voters know it’s safe and secure to vote by mail if they prefer to do so. He also said the board is following COVID-19 protocols at all their locations for voters to stay safe if they prefer to vote in-person.

He encourages students to visit the board to learn about the process and gain more knowledge about what goes into voting and even working at the polls.

“If you might have a chance, come on up to the board. Even do an interview with our deputy director. Let us walk you through the process so you can see it,” Butler said. “Most people never get to see the inner workings of the board unless they’ve worked it.”

If there was a question that was not asked, or if there is still some confusion about a certain topic discussed in the event, Shaughnessy said SGA is open to making sure everything is answered by just sending them an email about the concern.

The event was recorded, allowing students to watch the event on Facebook whenever they want. If you do not have Facebook, you can email SGA at SGA@ysu.edu for the video.



YSU SHUTTLE SERVICES HALTED

Due to social distancing constraints, the Youngstown State University shuttles will not be in service this semester. The university is partnering with WRTA to offer free public transportation for YSU students. Photo by **Tanner Mondok** | *The Jambar Archives*

GABRIELLE OWENS **JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR**

Due to COVID-19, Youngstown State University shuttle buses are not in service this semester. YSU and the Western Reserve Transit Authority partnered to offer free bus rides for students to travel throughout the Youngstown community.

Danny O'Connell, director of Support Services, said the YSU shuttles are out of service due to social distancing concerns.

"We have worked in conjunction with WRTA, who's actually our manager, and they administer our shuttles on campus, to provide transportation for students during the fall semester," he said.

The WRTA put many social distancing procedures in place to ensure the safety of all passengers and drivers.

"Each passenger must enter through the rear entrance, which

separates the passengers from the driver and this is something we do not have with the smaller shuttles because there is only one door to get on," O'Connell said.

For 18 years, YSU has partnered with WRTA to provide transportation for students, especially those living on campus.

"They have been fabulous partners, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, in coming up with this concept that students can ride to the Southern Park Mall, Austintown, Eastwood Mall or anywhere they would like to go, for free," he said.

Dean J. Harris, executive director of WRTA, said WRTA enacted many changes when the COVID-19 pandemic started.

"When the pandemic first started, we ended up shutting down our fixed route services for six weeks and all we ran was our curb-to-curb service. Also, we do extra cleaning on each bus and each passenger is required to wear a mask during each ride,"

Harris said.

He said students can register online to book a trip with the WRTA curb-to-curb services, which will allow them to have a ride to the grocery store or a ride around the Youngstown community.

"We still have services available for students who need a ride to Walmart. Students can call our customer service line and they can definitely give students directions on what buses they can ride and times for those routes," he said.

Santajah Douglass, a freshman psychology major, said the free WRTA services are a great resource to have on the YSU campus.

"The WRTA is very effective; not only does it help me get to campus, it also helps me get to work. So, I am very grateful to have free transportation," she said.

Students looking for a ride from WRTA can visit its website or call its customer service line at 330-744-8431.



FRESHMEN EXPERIENCES DIFFER DURING COVID-19

Elizabeth Williams, a freshmen engineering major, and Emily Vero, a journalism major, live on campus in Cafaro House for their first year. Photo by **Kelcey Norris/The Jambar**

GABRIELLE OWENS

Youngstown State University's Division of Student Experience created many events, for freshmen both virtual and traditional face-to-face, for the fall semester. Each event will allow new students to gain the full college experience, despite COVID-19 restrictions.

Eddie Howard, vice president of Student Affairs, said he and the Division of Student Experience staff made a variety of changes to comply with social distancing guidelines.

"We canceled a variety of face-to-face events that we normally would have. For example, we had to cancel our annual IGNITE program, which would normally have all our freshman students attend that program. Everything we did in the past couple of years had to be altered due to social distancing and the 10-person limitation that we have on campus," he said.

Howard said students will still have the opportunity to participate in limited face-to-face events on campus.

"We have done a lot of limited events where we opened the campus recreation center for students to use. Also, we've adjusted

the spaces in the Kilcawley Center for student organizational meetings and smaller group sessions," he said.

Every Monday students will receive an email with a variety of virtual or in-person events to participate in, according to Howard.

"There are a number of virtual and in person events planned throughout the semester to hopefully engage students. So, we are trying to find creative ways for students to access these events and interact in a safe way," he said.

Caitlyn Sapp, a freshman biochemistry major, is currently enjoying her first year at YSU. She said she's having a good semester while learning online.

"It's not what I expected, I am trying to get accustomed to everything which is the hardest part, but I think I'm starting to get used to things and it's getting easier to manage," Sapp said.

Claire Berardini, associate provost for Student Success, said the First Year Experience staff created a new seminar to help students adapt to academic life.

"This fall all of the first-year students will have a new course called YSU 1500, and this course will be taught by their

academic advisor so our freshmen can have a better advising model than in the past, which is going to be a big support for them," she said.

Berardini said students should reach out to their academic advisor if they need help with adjusting to their online and in-person classes.

"That would be the first person to go to if students need help during the semester," she said.

The Center for Student Progress has many resources available for students to utilize during the semester.

"The Center of Student Progress offers group tutoring and individual tutoring, which is offered both online and in person. Also, if students feel like they need help with structuring, organizing and time management, they can ask for an individual coach," Berardini said.

Berardini wants freshmen to enjoy their first semester at YSU.

"Try to connect with students in your classes, we can still make friends and get to know people," she said.



COMPUTER PROGRAMMING FOR ALL: YSU RECEIVES RESEARCH GRANT FROM NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Abdu Arslanyilmaz, a professor of computer science, received a research and development grant from the National Science Foundation. His focus is on developing computer programming curriculum for students with autism. Photo courtesy of Abdu Arslanyilmaz

KELCEY NORRIS

Abdu Arslanyilmaz, professor of computer science said after his third time applying for a grant from the National Science Foundation, he received great news. Arslanyilmaz learned he would receive a \$286,526 research and development grant from NSF for an in-depth study on how the computer programming curriculum could be improved for students with autism spectrum disorder.

For his research and development, Arslanyilmaz is partnering with Margaret Briley, a professor in special education, in the Beeghly College of Education. He's also working with Potential Development High School with Students for Autism and the Rich Center for Autism.

"About 100 proposals are submitted each year from many large research institutes, and about ten of them are usually awarded," Arslanyilmaz said.

He said this grant serves as a symbol of success for Youngstown State University. This specific research grant, called Computer Science for All, aims to improve the learning experience and give proper access to everyone in computer science education.

"This is to do research to improve computer science for everybody, people with all different backgrounds, people with different characteristics," he said.

Arslanyilmaz explained they are now in phase one, beginning to conceptualize the research and make a plan. During the second and third phases, they will develop educational

materials, such as assessments and carry out workshops, while observing and conducting research.

"Our research is in creating and developing a successful curriculum for students with autism and reporting the results, whether the accessible curriculum we will be creating is effective or not," he said. "NSF would like to see first the material that we are going to be developing and also the results that we are going to be reporting."

Margaret Briley, professor of teacher education in Beeghly, assists Arslanyilmaz to give helpful insight into the learning experience for students with autism.

"I've worked with both the Rich Center and Potential Development in the past and my primary responsibility is to look at adaptations or accommodations for the curriculum to teach students," Briley said. "We will eventually be hiring teacher education students to work with the students next year and I'll be active in that."

Briley agreed the NSF grant given to YSU speaks volumes for the university.

"The NSF research is known internationally," Briley said. "This is the first time the college of education has ever been involved in one."

According to Briley, students with autism could rarely find a computer programming curriculum accessible for those with autism.

"Right now, there's very few programs around the country that even offer students who have autism a computer coding," she said. "They do get some technology instruction, but it's

usually for communication and socialization, not necessarily to prepare the students to be skilled in computer coding."

Carolyn Fernberg, high school coordinator at Potential Development, said she is excited to work with YSU to conduct research over the next two years.

"We will be working with the current sixth graders now who will be coming to the high school next year as seventh graders," Fernberg said. "These are the students who will be using the curriculum developed. The plan this year is to study the students, their learning styles ... then build the curriculum and then next year, apply it to the students in the classroom."

Because few of the students have had access to computer programming education, Fernberg described this as a unique opportunity for the students' development.

"It's something they haven't had a lot of exposure to. On our end at the school, we're interested in seeing how they respond to it ... tweaking it along the way with what works and what doesn't work," Fernberg said. "It's going to be offered to all of our students, regardless of their functioning level within the classroom."

Fernberg hopes this one-of-a-kind research she is now involved in will be used nationwide to make computer programming accessible to all.

"It's not something that has a lot of research," she said. "There's not a whole lot out there for our kiddos, so finding out what works and what doesn't work will be beneficial for students with autism all over the place, not just here at our school."

THE JAMBAR QUESTION: YSU STUDENTS RESPOND TO COVID-19 CHANGES

JOSEPH CHAPMAN

Everything from classes to parties have seen big changes. This year I hit the streets to ask my fellow Penguins how they coped during lockdown this summer and how they feel about the current semester with the newly imposed restrictions.

Shane Trevor, a sophomore journalism major, praised the mask policy enforced by the university.

“So far, I don’t see a whole lot of people not wearing masks. I think it’s a majority. For the most part, I think, you know, pretty much every building I go into people are doing their part, he said. “I have a science lab as well. And I know, they’re taking super special care with that, wearing gloves all the time and using disinfectant.”

He was unsure about whether or not he trusts the new contact tracing system.

“You never know, like, how accurate is it? Did someone come into contact with somebody? Did they take the mask off for a second? You know, there’s so many factors that I feel

like there’s potential there for it to work, but I wouldn’t place my faith in it.”

Chris Matthews, a senior sociology major, wishes everyone had the same access to testing as he does as an athlete on the diving team.

[“They’re] more worrying about the symptoms,” Matthews said. “As long as you don’t have the symptoms, they just assume that you don’t have it, I kind of would have liked everyone on campus, like students to be tested before we came back.”

For Matthews, adapting to the new modalities has been a struggle.

“It has thrown my schedule way off,” he said. “And I’m still trying to get used to the schedule. Four weeks in school, five weeks, I’m still getting used to all the changes and everything. So it’s been interesting. It’s definitely been hard.”

Anjali Gopalakrishnan, a junior finance major, criticized the new agile-hybrid modality.

“I kind of wish that they either had [classes] in-person or not at all. I mean, coming to campus once a week, especially

[with] commuter students and stuff, I don’t think it helps the spread,” she said. “You’re at home and then you have to come to campus, like once a week. I just feel like that adds.”

She also added she would prefer if professors chose one platform to rely on for online class rather than choosing from a plethora of software including Blackboard, Cisco Webex and Zoom.

Taylor Jones, a freshman business management major, is optimistic about the university’s effort to stop the spread of the disease will allow her to play lacrosse at YSU soon.

“We still have to wear the mask. So it’s really sweaty and awful,” she said. “But hopefully, we don’t have to wear those anymore. But yeah, I mean, my spring season last year got canceled so it really sucked. And hopefully we get to play this spring.”

Jones also touched on the university’s response to parties. “They were responding well to parties and making sure they weren’t, you know, happening after that big one happened. I mean, I went to that one, but I learned my lesson because everyone —everyone— got in trouble,” she said. “I play lacrosse and after the party happened, we couldn’t practice for two weeks, and I couldn’t go on the field and stuff. So it really sucked ... but now we’re back.”



Jambar reporter Joseph Chapman interviews Chris Matthews, a senior sociology major, and discusses YSU’s reaction to COVID-19 and newly introduced protocols. Photo by Kelcey Norris/The Jambar

COVID-19 UPDATE

ABIGAIL CLOUTIER

According to Youngstown State University’s coronavirus dashboard, there are now four cases of Covid-19 on campus. The number includes one staff member and three students. One of these students lives on campus in a residence hall. The university will not disclose which residence hall this student resides in. The other two students live off-campus. Apartments such as The Courtyards, University Edge, The Enclave and the Lofts are counted in the off-campus tally. YSU updates the dashboard every Monday. Last week, the university reported one case; a student that resides off-campus.

For more information, visit <https://ysu.edu/coronavirus-information/covid-19-dashboard>

As of Wednesday, there are 2,845 total coronavirus cases in Mahoning County. This is an increase of 32 cases since Sept. 16, an average of four new cases a day.

For more information, visit <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards>



MILL CREEK METROPARKS OFFERS ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITIES DURING COVID-19

Mill Creek MetroParks offers visitors a variety of outdoor activities and preserves historical sites, such as Lanterman's Mill. Photo by **Kamron Myers/The Jambar**

DOUGLAS M. CAMPBELL

As summer transitions to fall, some Youngstown State University students still struggle to find activities amidst the pandemic. However, socially distanced activities are in plain sight, just 10 minutes away from campus.

Lynn Zocolo, an educator at Mill Creek MetroParks, believes the park has a lot to offer students to decompress from everyday stress.

"I think it becomes a way to connect with nature and to get our visitors introduced to the plant collections, agriculture education and a piece of history," Zocolo said.

Mill Creek MetroParks, established in 1891 by Youngstown-based lawyer Volney Rogers, offers visitors access to 4,500 acres of nature, activities and Youngstown history, such as Lanterman's Mill.

"The mill has become an iconic treasure in the park and valley. It is the third mill on that site," Zocolo said.

The first mill was built and operated from 1789 to 1823. It was replaced in 1825 by a mill with a better frame structure. But less than 20 years later, in 1843, a flood destroyed the second mill. The third mill was built in 1845.

"German Lanterman and Samuel Kimberly replaced the mill but built it up higher to avoid the floodplain, as well as build the foundation into the bedrock," she said.

The Ward and Florence Beecher Foundations helped restore the mill in 1982. It is still used today to grind buckwheat, wheat and corn for the community.

Additional areas of the park include:

- Fellows Riverside Garden
- James L. Wick, Jr. Recreation Area
- Trails
- Bikeways
- Lakes, ponds and more

Mill Creek MetroParks typically hosts a variety of events within the park. However, these events were canceled due to COVID-19.

Chris Bundy, a recreation manager in the James L. Wick, Jr. Recreation Area, believes students can still make the most of the recreation activities currently open. These include two golf courses, a batting cage, tennis, pickleball and sand volleyball courts, as well as baseball and soccer fields.

The MetroParks Farm recently added a disk golf course in Canfield to the recreation area.

"I would say stop into the Wick Recreation area, we have a lot to offer up here," Bundy said.

Mill Creek took extensive precautions to ensure these activities follow COVID-19 safety guidelines.

"If you were to rent one of our golf clubs or baseball helmets or bats, we sanitize them after every use," he said.

In their free time, some YSU students took advantage of what the park offers.

Derek Gustovich, a master student of the athletic training program, goes to Mill Creek MetroParks four to five times a week. He tries to relax at the park by only packing light hiking gear, and he explores trails daily for a couple of hours.

"I like nature a lot so I take the trails and go hiking. Since everything is closed it's a place you can go out and do something. I would do a hike and if I'm not pressed for time I would stop by the Lily Pond to relax," Gustovich said.

Chaste Chapman, a first-year graduate student in the student affairs counseling program, goes two to three times a week. During quarantine, Chapman picked up photography as a hobby while walking alongside Lanterman's Mill.

"I was out with my sister, and I told her I never went to the park; she has many times. So I figured, why not go. All of the skills that I didn't have, I decided to work on, and am still working on," Chapman said.

Zocolo looks forward to the park fully reopening after COVID-19.

"Hopefully, 2021 will bring new park adventures for all of us, and we can get all of our facilities back open and running," Zocolo said.



SMALL BUSINESSES, BIG THINKERS: STUDENTS RUN THEIR OWN BUSINESSES

Kayla Venters, a junior business administration major, turned her hobby of painting and crocheting into her own business, selling commissioned pieces. Photo courtesy of Kayla Venters

C. AILEEN BLAINE

While juggling busy schedules and heavy course loads, some students at Youngstown State University have found the time to run their own small businesses. They agree it's not easy, but the payoffs are what make the experience worth it.

Kayla Venters, a business administration junior, paints and crochets. In 2017, with the encouragement and help of her friends, she began selling her paintings and crocheted pieces on commission and request.

"I've always been a drawer, so it came naturally when I started painting," Venters said. "Funny thing, I took an art class and hated it. I didn't like them telling me what to do, I like my freedom."

When it comes to balancing being both a student and running a small business, Venters said she splits her work between semester breaks: crocheting blankets during winter and painting portraits during summer.

Venters is currently in the process of developing a new business called The Metric, which will expand businesses and help individuals within the community. She said she wants

to promote Black businesses and develop classes for financial literacy.

In 2016, Ivan Bosnjak information technologies and marketing sophomore, began an all-natural dog treat business with psychology major Brianna Morton. The business, named Sadie's Tasty Treats, after Morton's dog, is something Bosnjak hopes will serve as a stepping stone toward a larger business in the future.

The pair has since expanded their business and now offer delivery to customers in the Youngstown area. They donate a portion of their sales to Animal Charity of Ohio at the end of each month. In August, Bosnjak and Morton were awarded WYTV Hometown Heroes award.

While Morton is mostly responsible for making and selling the treats, Bosnjak runs the business's e-commerce site and is in charge of marketing through ads on social media.

Bosnjak said students contemplating entrepreneurial endeavors should take action, particularly in e-commerce. He said while it may be difficult to juggle school work and business matters, time management can be a key component to success.

As far as his future entrepreneurial endeavors are concerned,

he said he hopes to build up Sadie's Tasty Treats.

"I'm going to own a business that's going to be bigger than this one, but it's a start," Bosnjak said. "You have to start somewhere. This is the start of something bigger."

Angela Lock, an integrated language arts senior, may have only had it for a few weeks, but she's already established her business via her Etsy shop, Locked Studios. She said since the pandemic started, she's sewn masks and made t-shirts to sell.

"I had nothing to do, so I just started making the masks," Lock said. "And then I had so many masks, so I started to sell those."

When it comes to finding time to make orders, Lock said she often will use her hour-long lunch breaks to sew, or will wait until the weekend. She said she's had orders from customers as far away as Texas and California.

She said she hopes to expand the items she sells to include sewn capes, but just until graduation.

"My biggest suggestion would be, if you're thinking about it, just do it," Lock said. "If you just start out with one thing, see how it goes. If you make money, then throw on the second thing. Do it right when you have the idea."



LIVE MUSIC COMES BACK TO YOUNGSTOWN

Phoebe Breckenridge, marketing manager for the Youngstown Foundation Amphitheatre, said the venue is putting social distancing measures in place. Photo by **Zach Mosca/The Jambar**

ZACH MOSCA

Live entertainment across the world came to a screeching halt in March at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, live concerts are making a comeback in Youngstown with the official reopening of the Youngstown Foundation Amphitheatre.

Starting Saturday, Sept. 19, the amphitheatre will host live music events every Saturday. Youngstown Mayor Jamael “Tito” Brown permitted the amphitheatre to open after Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine allowed for outdoor entertainment to continue.

“The governor and his team made an announcement that they would allow us to do entertainment at outside venues,” Brown said. “So we’ve been following and waiting for the governor’s guidelines on this and they recently gave us a green light on what that would look like for large, outdoor venues.”

According to Phoebe Breckenridge, the marketing manager of JAC Management Group, the amphitheatre staff is going

to have special guidelines to comply with social distancing. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own chairs to the events and will be asked to social distance and wear a mask at all times.

In addition to performers, local food trucks will be present with a limited menu, allowing lines to move quickly.

“We’re going to have expedited concession lines at the food trucks ... so there won’t be any congregating in line. We’ll have stuff set up for that, marking it off on the ground, as well as a smaller menu to make less choice,” Breckenridge said.

The amphitheatre is kicking off its first weekend ok with a performance from Cleveland disco band, Disco Inferno. Lead singer and guitarist David “Sonny” Maffei is excited to be able to perform to a live audience again.

Maffei enjoys seeing audiences give live feedback to the music by dancing or cheering, and the feeling can’t be replicated via alternatives such as live streaming or drive-in concerts.

“It’s great that you can play, but it’s not the same even

from a musician’s point of view,” Maffei said. “We’re playing to a camera as opposed to playing in front of live people and getting a response and seeing people smiling or singing along or dancing. You can’t replace that.”

Aside from Disco Inferno’s performance, the amphitheatre has events every Saturday starting at 7:30 p.m. This includes the Jazz in the Park series, a local hip-hop artist showcase powered by local radio station Loud 102.3 and a performance from The Vindys.

Mayor Brown hopes the reopening can pave the way for reopening indoor venues like the Covelli Centre.

“As anything else, we start slow, and then we kind of expand that and we’re hoping that if maybe we’re at a certain point between now and the end of this season for the amphitheatre, we can focus on next year’s events and then we can talk about indoor events,” Brown said.



DANA SCHOOL OF MUSIC HOSTS VIRTUAL CONCERTS

YSU alumni Caitlin Hedge (pictured) and Sean Baran are scheduled to perform for the Dana School of Music virtual recital series. Photo courtesy of **Caitlin Hedge and Sean Baran**

KRISTA RITZ

This year, the Dana School of Music can't fill auditoriums with people. Instead, audiences watch student and faculty performances from home.

According to Randall Goldberg, director of Dana School of Music, the school will pre-record all recitals, and the school will host only three to four recitals throughout the entire semester.

"We have two series that are going to run through the McDonough Museum. The first is an alumni series that will feature some recent alums from the Dana School of Music and theatre and dance," Goldberg said.

The virtual performances will be recorded in the Butler Art Museum and the McDonough Museum, and possibly use the Stambaugh Auditorium.

"We will be doing a few 'Music at Noon' concerts through the Butler Institute of American Art," Goldberg said. "We've had that series going for many years. Every Wednesday during

the semester, we provide a concert in the main atrium of the museum. We can't do [the concerts] but we have some select dates where we have some ensembles that will be there pre-recording music that we can then broadcast."

Although in-person recitals still aren't a possibility, returning audiences can look forward to the Alumni Virtual Concert Series.

Sean Baran, who graduated from YSU in 2011, is among those performing this year in the alumni series. Baran is proficient in piano and organ and is excited to perform in his program that he calls "Turbulence and Transcendence."

Baran wants to express the feeling of lockdown with his newest piece.

"This past spring, the lockdown was very challenging for the mental health of many. The music I selected is meant to be an aural expression of the journey one might undergo when overcoming such conditions as depression and anxiety," he said.

He expects performing virtually will come with a different set

of challenges than the live performances he's used to.

"I hope that YSU students, as well as the whole community, will support these online performances. This is a first glimpse into the future of reaching our audiences as musician, and into the future of what it looks like to support the arts in our worldwide community," Baran said.

Baran's virtual performance will be available for audiences to stream Oct. 3 at 7 p.m.

Caitlin Hedge graduated from the Dana School of Music with her bachelor's degree in violin performance in 2017. She performed in the virtual series uploaded Sept. 12.

"I am doing a recital at the McDonough Museum of art and it's with myself and a local guitarist named Dave Lynn," Hedge said.

The performance consists of traditional Celtic folk music and original compositions by Hedge. Her performance is currently available to watch virtually on YouTube.

SITTING DOWN WITH GALENA LUPOCHOVSKY

ABIGAIL CLOUTIER

I sat down with Galatiani “Galena” Lopuchovsky, a sophomore business major and recently appointed student trustee. We discussed her new position and what she wants to accomplish as a member of the board of trustees. For the full interview, watch JambarTV on YouTube Friday at noon.

What impacted your desire to become a student trustee?

This area has given so much to my family, I mean, my grandpa was able to find employment here. My dad’s side, the family has a [local] business, my mom was able to - [she’s] a woman as an engineering field, so she’s [a] minority in this field - she was able to bring our family from, where my grandpa was into what we have now. My whole thought process was, “I want to give back to the community that brought my family up.” So I figured this would be the perfect opportunity to do so, and I’m just so grateful for everything that YSU has given me so far.

How does that impact your goals as a trustee?

Whenever you think of a board, you think of these high up distant people, and the students feel very out of touch. So, I’ve been working with the student body President Justin Shaughnessy and executive vice president of SGA Avery Howard, and I’ve been meeting with them every two weeks. We’re just discussing ‘What’s going on with student government? What’s going on with the board?’ Collaborating with ideas, you know, talking about the initiatives going on with student government right now. We just met last week, and I told them, ‘This is what was happening at the board meetings.’ And we’re really trying to just bridge that gap of, ‘Hey, these university officials, they’re here to support us. I’m not here to be against us or to implement policies that are, you know, going to bring us down as students, they want us to succeed as much as we want each other to succeed.’

What was it like to participate in the first on-campus board of trustees meeting this September?

It was super, super special to have that connection. It was real. I’ve known that I’ve had the position for a few months. But just because of COVID, and there [weren’t] any meetings and nothing was going on, I never had the opportunity to - until the beginning September - to actually fulfill the position. And it was great to just realize how many things are going on in the university, you don’t realize that there’s all these different committees to ensure the success of students and ensure the success of the university. It’s not just forecasting what’s going to happen next year, but what’s going to happen in the next five years with the university. So it was really just a surreal experience, something that I’m so grateful that me, as a student, as a sophomore engineering major here at YSU, I’m able to have that type of role and that type of experience.



Galena Lopuchovsky, a sophomore engineering major, was sworn in as a student trustee Sept. 3. Photo courtesy of YSU

SIMPLIFY IT: STRUGGLES OF ONLINE CLASSES AND SOLUTIONS

KELCEY NORRIS

I'll be completely honest with you guys: these first few weeks have been difficult. I've missed assignments already, and gotten poorer scores than anticipated on simple discussion posts whose deadlines slipped my mind. I've scheduled a few late night homework sessions, leaving me grumpy and groggy the next morning for class. I've been feeling discouraged, tempted to give up on this fully scheduled semester.

But one night, I sat down and really looked at how I've been taking care of myself; how the environment around me might be affecting my concentration and success in class. I took a step back and asked myself how can I do online school-work better? It's tough to stay on top of all the online class work, as well as feel motivated to attend classes and virtual lectures, but hopefully these few tricks can help! Here's my advice for managing stress and getting things done in the hybrid classroom world.

1. Revamp Your Work Environment:

If you've been trying to study in your bedroom unsuccessfully, try taking your homework to the kitchen. Evaluate how much light you're getting when you're trying to read a textbook or type on a Word document. Are you squinting, causing extra exertion and strain on your already exhausted eyes? I realized I wasn't allowing enough light into my bedroom while I was doing homework. Personally, I switched to working at my desk in my apartment with a lamp providing much better visibility,

and I've cleared distractions and clutter from the desk while I'm working. I'll sometimes settle down at a desk in the library. Posture has a direct impact on productivity. Try not to put strain on your back and neck by hunching in front of the computer.

2. Take Small Breaks:

While you're working, it's important to take frequent breaks to stretch or walk around a bit. For every hour of work, experts recommend you take a 10 minute break. It might sound unnecessary and childish, but stand up and touch your toes. Let the blood flow and your muscles stretch a bit. All of the tension builds up in my shoulders and neck whenever I've had a long week, so stretching out my triceps and biceps every so often helps. Grab your elbow behind your head and slowly pull it back. Yoga poses, like the child's pose, help relieve soreness in arm, leg and back muscles.

3. Follow a List:

Make and stick to a weekly to-do list. Focus on starting and completing one task at a time. I've always been quick to jot down the day's tasks and make a quick list, but I've found the list got too large to handle. Categorizing my tasks into multiple lists helps. Break a large task down into smaller steps. Before starting another thing on your to-do list, finish what you've already started. I had a brilliant epiphany to make a specific checklist for my most difficult, time-consuming class, which I recommend everyone does.

4. Put Away the Distractions:

Eliminate excessive noise while you're trying to concentrate, like the latest episode of Family Guy. Assess the noise and distractions you are allowing into your work space. Are they more harmful or helpful to your progress? I've had to leave my phone at the other corner of the room in order to focus on assignments. I had to remove the device in order to resist the urge to scroll through social media or text. I found myself obsessed with true crime podcasts this summer, but had to stop listening to them while I did my homework because I found droning voices too distracting.

5. Take Care of Yourself:

Check in with yourself from time to time. Ask yourself: have I eaten enough today? Have I had enough water? Am I fatigued? Take care of yourself and your body before putting strain on your brain. If you're having trouble focusing or feel a wave of Blackboard-induced anxiety coming on, take a few moments to relax. Make yourself a hydrating cup of herbal tea, sit back in a bubble bath or grab a quick snack to re-energize and refuel.

I'm adjustments, but I'm learning from mistakes I've made previously. There's only room for improvement!



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YOUNGSTOWN STATE BASEBALL ALUMNI GOLF OUTING

Former and current baseball players at Youngstown State University reconnect at a golf outing hosted at Youngstown Country Club. Photo courtesy of **YSU Sports**

KYLE WILLS

The Youngstown State University baseball team will be hosting the 2020 Youngstown State Baseball Alumni Golf Outing Saturday, Sept. 26 at 1 p.m. at the Youngstown Country Club.

This will be the sixth annual golf outing for the program, and it will be an opportunity for alumni to reconnect, as well as meet current players and coaches. The cost will be \$300 for a group of four or \$75 per golfer, and will include a round of golf, lunch and drinks.

Youngstown State alumni have played a big role in why this event has been successful. Two alumni started the event, and it has steadily grown over the years. With continuous support

from the alumni and the community, the baseball team hopes to have another great outcome from the golf outing.

“Since I got here, we really wanted to reach out to our alumni and get them involved in our program. It took off from year one. We had a couple of alums, Philip Lapari and Armani Johnson, they were the ones that really started the outing a year before we got here,” head coach Dan Bertolini said. “We’ve been able to roll with it and have a great time. We’ve had a large response from our alumni, supporting our program and it’s just good to talk to the guys that played here and enjoy being around each other.

While this outing will be a great opportunity to raise money for the baseball program, it will also allow the alumni

to reconnect with old coaches and players, as well as members from the current team.

“It’s a great opportunity to talk to former players,” Bertolini said. “They’re definitely heavily invested in our program, watching our games, keeping up with current players. They’re just proud alumni. They’re proud to be a part of Youngstown State.”

Reservations can be returned by mail (Youngstown State Baseball, One University Plaza, Youngstown, OH 44555), email (dabertolini@ysu.edu) or fax (330-941-2733). Make checks payable to YSU Penguin Club.

For more information, contact Bertolini at dabertolini@ysu.edu or (330) 502-2187.



Photo courtesy of *YSU Sports*

BEN LULI

This week in sports history showed both some national and Youngstown State University successes. On the national scene, Mets' catcher Mike Piazza hit a go-ahead home run in New York City's first professional game since 9/11. Back at home, the Penguins started play in their new conference. Sept. 21, 2001 was a day of new beginnings and memorable sports moments for the Penguins.

This week in YSU sports history, we highlight the volleyball team playing the first Horizon League game in school history. YSU traveled to Dayton to face Wright State with identical seven and one records. The Penguins would lose in straight sets to the Raiders: 30-23, 30-27, 30-27. YSU had 43 winners in the contest, with Colleen Royer and Rebecca Sylak leading the team with nine apiece. The Penguins finished the game

with a .165 hitting percentage. YSU volleyball would win their Horizon League home opener Sept. 29 against Cleveland State three sets to one.

Youngstown State's road to the Horizon League began after the 2000-2001 academic year. The Penguins participated in the Mid-Continent Conference for nine seasons before joining the Midwestern Collegiate Conference May 22. Less than two weeks later, the league rebranded as the Horizon League to emphasize a more student-centered athletics program. The move allowed the university to have more exposure to cities throughout the Great Lakes region. The conference's affiliation with ESPN and other broadcast partners was also a contributing factor to YSU's decision. Youngstown State became the ninth member of the conference.

Since YSU's arrival in 2001, the Horizon League has added

six schools and lost three. After being charter members of the conference in 1979, Butler and Loyola-Chicago left in 2012 and 2013, respectively. Valparaiso joined the league in 2007 and left for the Missouri Valley Conference in 2017. The current members who joined after YSU are: Oakland University (2013), Northern Kentucky (2015), IUPUI (2017) and the two newest members, Purdue University Fort Wayne and Robert Morris in 2020.

YSU's 20 years of membership in the Horizon League is the school's longest tenure in a non-football conference. YSU football has been a member of the same conference since 1997. The Penguins joined the Gateway Football Conference in 1997, which changed its name to the Missouri Valley Football Conference after the 2007 season.



YSU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL BOASTS SECOND-HIGHEST GPA IN DIVISION I

The women's basketball team at Youngstown State University practices this semester in Beeghly Center while wearing masks. Last year, the team had the second-highest GPA in division I. Photo by Jordan Boitnott/The Jambar

JORDAN BOITNOTT

Last semester, Youngstown State University's women's basketball team posted the second-highest team GPA in division I at a 3.782. YSU women's basketball coach John Barnes said he is ecstatic about how his team performed in the classroom during the spring semester.

"My staff's done a great job making sure they are on task and keeping their assignments getting turned in," he said. "We have a great academic advisor that works with them closely, but the bottom line comes down to them wanting to work hard and sticking to their work ethic, getting their homework turned in and study time. Again, [I'm] extremely proud of them."

Mady Aulbach, a sophomore marketing major, said a few of the girls on the team are tutors through the academic athletic center, so they can really help each other if they need to.

"Within our team, there are so many intelligent girls who really do well in school, that are almost all able to just tutor each other. The athletic academic center, they have specific athletic tutors," she said.

Jennifer Wendler, sophomore exercise science major, said grades are something the team focuses on heavily when they are recruiting players out of high school.

"I thought it was a really big point while being recruited, and especially for my major because Youngstown is really good for exercise science going into physical therapy school," she said. "I knew what I wanted my major to be when I came on my first tour. They made it a big emphasis for me to talk to that department and just emphasize how good our grades are and how good the academics are here."

Even while she was still being recruited, Aulbach said, coaches would check in on her grades and have her provide them with updates.

"They would always ask, 'How are you doing in school, not basketball, but academically?' I would always tell them my grades, and they were always expecting them to be higher, as they should be. So, I think they kind of made it known, way before I actually came here, that academics were a big culture here," she said.

Aulbach said it can be easy to fall behind, so players have to

figure out how to manage their time efficiently.

"With study tables on top of practice, and especially once the season starts, you're almost forced to learn [time] management. You can't really procrastinate because you need to get those hours before Friday at 4 p.m.," Aulbach said. "So, knowing that in the back of your head, a practice schedule, and we have a team meal with all these other things, you're kind of forced to be super responsible your freshman year. Which sets you up for academic success in the following years."

Wendler said the team's academic coaches do a great job helping players study and stay focused.

"Everyone on the team is assigned an academic coach. They do a really good job of helping us stay on track. They check in with us each week, so I think that's been a really big part of it," she said. "They've been keeping us on task, while we keep each other on task, too. I think that is a huge key to our academic success."

The team will try to keep up the success on the court and in the classroom during the fall semester.