

CONTINUING TO STAY SAFE ON CAMPUS

SAMANTHA SMITH

As the semester passes the halfway point, students may waver in following all guidelines for COVID-19. Youngstown State University has tried to ensure safety by putting out QR codes in all buildings for students to scan, launching the COVID-19 dashboard and having areas with cleaning supplies for students to use.

With the number of cases still increasing nationwide, students are asked to not forget to continue to scan the QR codes, wear face masks properly and disinfect any surface they use.

Joy Polkabila Byers, executive director of campus recreation and student well-being, explained how, through one week in the recreation center, students are showing a decrease in QR scans on the YSU app. She said scans drop even more at the end of the week.

"I would probably say there is a drop off in the consistency of it," she said. "I start to see Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, there's a lot more adoption of it and then Thursday and Friday. Now are there less classes? Are there less people around campus? That I may not know."

There may be explanations for the lack of consistency, such as fewer people going into campus buildings at the end

of the week. Sally Frederick, a junior in an individualized curriculum program, said from what she has seen, a lot of students are not following the set guidelines when going to or sitting in or class. For example, students not fully wearing their masks.

"The issue I see a lot of, is everyone is wearing the mask out here, right below the nose. Then I'm in the hallways, I see them below their lips or just hanging off their ear," Frederick said. "I have students who I've reached out to them and I'm like, 'Could you pull your mask up over your face?' And they have responded anywhere from apathy to hostility."

Frederick did provide a possible solution for this problem. She said that the university could have someone go around to make sure all students are properly wearing their masks because it is a student conduct issue.

Information about COVID-19 and where to call if someone has come into contact with an infected person, is on the YSU website and has been sent out in emails to students.

Chet Cooper, professor and chair of the academic senate, said students should pay more attention to emails and messages from the college because it could answer their questions about COVID-19.

"I just think everybody's stressed out and so you miss these



Joy Polkabila Byers, executive director of campus recreation and student wellbeing, reports a gradual decrease in the number of students signing in using QR codes. Photo by **Kamron Meyers/The Jambar**

messages, or you're not paying close attention to them," he said. "It's not to talk harshly about students, because so-called adults like me miss them, too. We need to pay a little bit closer attention to the messages from the authorities who are in charge of keeping us safe."

For more information about COVID-19 on campus, go to ysu.edu/coronavirus-information

BOARD REJECTS FACT-FINDERS REPORT; NEGOTIATIONS STALL AGAIN

ABIGAIL CLOUTIER

Youngstown State University's board of trustees voted to reject the fact-finder's report on faculty contract negotiations Monday night. An impartial judge put the report together after contract negotiations between YSU's faculty union and the university administration stalled this summer. Among other things, the report called for a 6% pay increase for faculty in 2% increments for several years. The report also rejected a "Force Majeure" provision. Traditionally, this "Act of God" clause would free the university of liability or obligation towards fulfilling the contract if a circumstance beyond their control were to occur.

In a news release Monday, the board rejected the report, stating the suggested pay increase "shows a lack of appreciation and understanding of the extremely difficult and tenuous financial circumstances facing the university and all of higher education." The university cited state funding cuts of over one million and a loss of revenue from tuition at approximately three million. The university also cited recommendations in the report as "unclear, ambiguous and confusing and lack any significant analysis or explanation," ultimately leading to their rejection.

Less than a week beforehand, YSU's chapter of the Ohio

Education Association voted overwhelmingly to accept the report. Union spokesperson and professor Mark Vopat released a statement following the rejection.

"The YSU-OEA is troubled that the BoT has chosen not to accept the fair and unbiased proposal by the independent fact-finder, and has instead chosen to prolong negotiations and add uncertainty during a difficult period," he said. "We hope that we are able to go back to the table and negotiate a fair and reasonable contract. We remain confident in the findings of the report and are eager to support our membership in the upcoming negotiations."

In an email from President Tressel on Monday, he reassured the student body negotiations would move forward without disruption.

"The administration, faculty and staff believe we can resolve the contract without any disruption to university operations. We will keep you posted on any updates," he said. "Most importantly, we want you to know that all of us are committed to ensuring a successful completion of the fall semester."

A negotiations meeting between the union and board occurred Oct. 7. After the meeting, YSU-OEA released a statement stating contract negotiations stalled yet again.

"This is tantamount to turning back the clock, scuttling

months of negotiations and returning us to the very impasse that fact finding was meant to overcome," Vopat said.

The union brought new proposals to the meeting that, according to the release, were rejected. The union plans on releasing evidence presented during fact-finding today. This includes the university's budget.

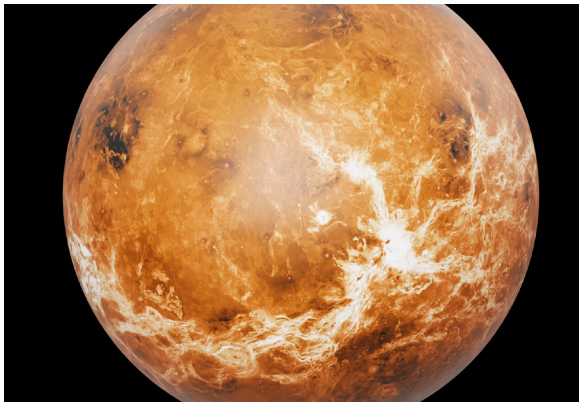
"The parties exchanged proposals but were too far apart to make meaningful progress," the release said.

Last Thursday, the faculty union submitted a procedural strike notification contingent on both the rejection of the fact-finder's report and the continued stall of negotiations. YSU-OEA would need to vote again to go on strike. If approved, the strike could begin Oct. 12, the first day of fall break. According to the union, the lack of progress in Wednesday's meeting brings them one step closer to a strike.

If a strike is put in place, the university may attempt to utilize other resources such as substitute professors to ensure education is not disrupted. According to Vopat, faculty are not required to accept student work done under a substitute, if faculty are re-hired before the end of the semester in the event of a strike.

The board of trustees did not respond to the Jambar's request for comment.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



NEWS

- 3 The Writing Center
- 4 HHM Personal Meanings
- 5 Virtual Career Fair
- 6 Venus Show Discovery
- 7 Fall Literary Festival

STUDENT LIFE / OPINION

- 8 Noble Creature
- 9 COVID-19 Affects Art Museum
- 10 Drive-Ins
- 11 Virtual Game Night
- 12 COVID-19 Dashboard / Editorial
- 13 Column / Blackboard

SPORTS

- 14 YSU Sports History
- 15 Soccer / Goalie Profile
- 16 Doug Phillips

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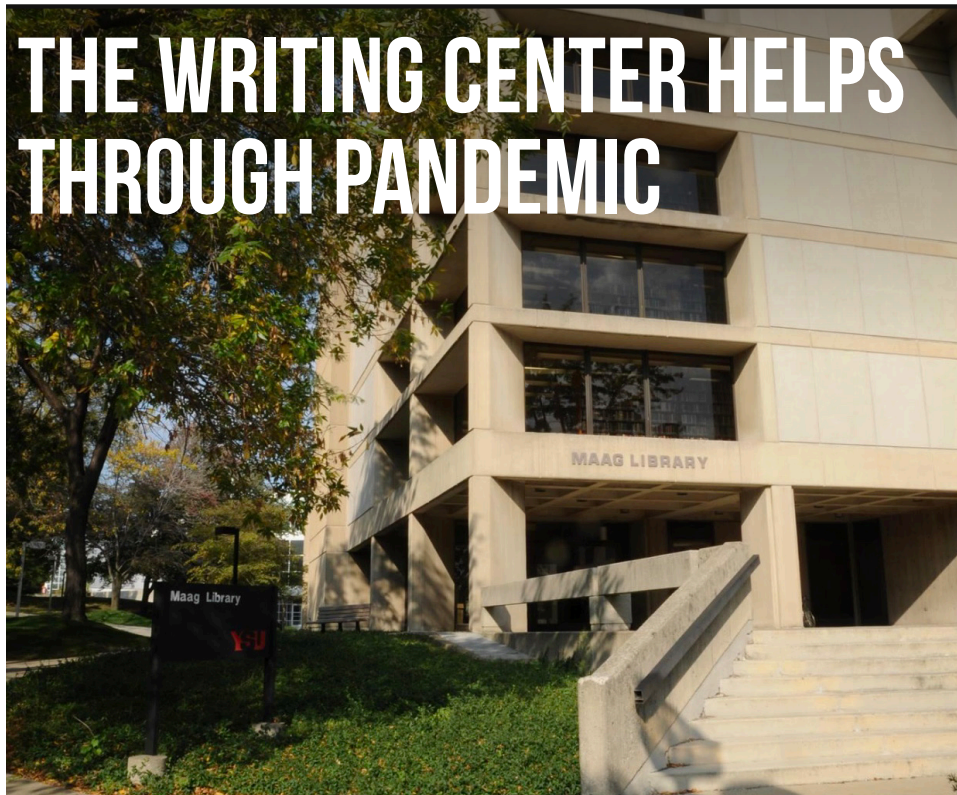
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THE WRITING CENTER HELPS THROUGH PANDEMIC



Writing Center staff members share their selfies, vocabulary words of the day and helpful pieces of advice for students struggling with writing. Photo by **Kierston Richardson**

KIERSTON RICHARDSON JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

From essays to papers, the Writing Center is a resource Youngstown State University offers to help students succeed.

Angela Messenger has been YSU's Writing Center coordinator for 13 years.

"It offers any type of assistance for students, staff and faculty. It doesn't have to be tied to a particular assignment. We can help them with any type of writing assignment and at any stage of the writing process," Messenger said.

She said the pandemic hasn't affected students ability to use the Writing Center. Staff added cleaning products, made available to students and tutors.

Anne Vallas, a graduate assistant at the Writing Center, said because of COVID-19, the center adjusted its offerings to meet the needs of all clients.

"The Writing Center doesn't subscribe to a one-size-fits-all style," Vallas said.

Lauren Carr, senior early childhood education major and tutor for the Writing Center, said it successfully helps many students become better writers.

"On average, 4,000 students come to the Writing Center in a normal school year," Carr said.

Carr said the center's main goal is to give students the skills they need to become successful writers.

"I've had clients come in for Writing 1, and I don't see them as much for Writing 2, because they've gained different writing and editing skills," Carr said. "Students become more confident in their writing abilities."

McKayla Rockwell, a graduate student in the English program, said a YSU writing resource is Quill, a creative writing group. Rockwell also is the current organizer of the group.

"Anybody can join Quill. You don't have to be in a specific major or a student. It's open to the public as well," Rockwell said.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings are no longer in person, Rockwell said.

"We send out a piece to be critiqued every week through Google Docs and ask that everyone leaves comments by Friday. We also have a virtual write-in every Friday from 1-2 p.m.," Rockwell said.

"Our main objective is to give each other feedback and improve each other's writing," Rockwell said. "I try to encourage students to publish their work and get involved with the community."

One student participant in Quill published a poetry book, Rockwell said, and other students have been published electronically.

Messenger said tutoring is available both in-person and online, and appointments can be scheduled at mywoconline.com

COVID-19 CASES DECLINE

GABRIELLE OWENS

Due to the Ohio mask mandate and social distancing guidelines, COVID-19 cases have declined in comparison to the beginning of the pandemic, according to Dr. Virginia Banks, infectious disease specialist for Northeast Ohio Infectious Disease Associates.

Banks said the data is clear that wearing a mask has decreased the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths.

"Now, I'm only a little hesitant because we're starting to see a surge in the United States in some states with respect to COVID-19, but I think overall, yes, masks have worked," she said.

According to Banks, wearing a mask, social distancing and hand-washing is leading to a decline in flu cases in the southern hemisphere. She is hoping to see the same results in Mahoning County.

"What I do know is we're hoping there's going to be a decline in the influenza when the influenza season is supposed to spike, because we're doing things right now to mitigate what we call a twindemic with influenza and COVID-19 together," Banks said.

As flu season approaches, Banks encourages everyone to get their flu shot, and advises adults over the age of 65 to receive a higher dose of the flu vaccine.

"First, get your flu shot. Anyone from the age of six months and on should get the influenza vaccine. If you're over the age of 65, there's a quadrivalent vaccine, which is a vaccine that has a higher dose in it that people in this age group should get," she said. "There should be very few reasons why people shouldn't get the influenza vaccine, and you can start getting it now."

Banks said in order to keep the curve down, everyone must stay in compliance with COVID-19 protocols.

"It's simple — wear a mask, social distance and wash your hands," she said.

Nicolette Powe, assistant professor of public health, said YSU put many safety protocols in place for the semester. She said she was a part of different committees over the summer to plan for the reopening of YSU for the fall semester.

"If we were insisting on reopening up for the fall, one of the things I recommended

over the summer was that we had to have a tracking place," Powe said. "If you are on campus you have to check in with a QR code to report that you were in that class. And there is supposed to be assigned seating, so we can monitor if you were in class and know where you were seated and who you might be proximity to in case if there is a positive case in your class or within campus."

Powe said the pandemic shed a light on public health studies and showed how important their roles are during a time of uncertainty.

"It is the fact that there are more people than ever before that have an idea of what public health is, whereas before if a student would say 'I'm majoring in public health' or 'I work in public health,' people would question what their profession was," she said.

In order to have an effective COVID-19 vaccine, she said, researchers must conduct clinical trials, which will allow them to monitor the participants to see how they respond to different types of treatment options. This will ultimately become the vaccine.

"It's very tricky. For example, there was a recent report on someone in the clinical trials who had an adverse effect to one of the treatment options they're using and that's real life," Powe said. "Those are the kind of things that they have to continue to investigate on what might have triggered that, and do we have more people with similar responses? This can take up to years to figure out."

Although wearing a mask may cause acne breakouts or discomfort when breathing, business administration sophomore Nadia Pace is willing to comply with the Ohio mask mandate to help reduce the curve in COVID-19 cases.

"Wearing a mask is a good safety precaution that we can use to keep ourselves and the people around us safe," Pace said.

Samantha Dodson, a sophomore criminal justice major, said she thinks wearing a mask is helping and hopes everyone will stay in compliance.

"If everybody just participates and is able to comply with the rules, we will be able to get through this as one," she said.



FACULTY EXPLORE PERSONAL MEANINGS OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Though usual Hispanic Heritage Month events were canceled due to the pandemic, members of the YSU community reflect on what celebrating Hispanic heritage means to them personally. Photo courtesy of **Paulina Montaldo**

C. AILEEN BLAINE **JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR**

Hispanic Heritage Month means different things to different individuals at Youngstown State University. Many view it as a celebration of their culture and heritage, and others see it as a way to spread knowledge of the many contributions Hispanics have and make to society.

For Diana Palardy, associate professor of Spanish, Hispanic Heritage Month is a time for coming together to celebrate culture.

“It’s a time when people from YSU and the local community can get together to celebrate the cultural heritage of people from a variety of Spanish-speaking countries,” she said.

Palardy said the month is an important time of recognition.

“Is a time to recognize the unique contributions of Hispanics in the Mahoning Valley and the U.S. as a whole,” she said.

Though YSU’s in-person events and celebrations of Hispanic Heritage Month were canceled due to the pandemic, Palardy said in the past she enjoyed the Hispanic Heritage Celebration typically held in Kilcawley Center.

“I enjoy watching the dancing, listening to the music and eating the food,” she said.

To Paulina Montaldo, a part-time professor in the foreign languages department, Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to share the diversity and richness of Hispanic Culture.

“If you think that there are 21 countries that speak Spanish

and that they are located in South and Central America, Europe and Africa, the culture is very diverse,” she said. “Also, it is the opportunity to recognize those Latinos who have excelled through their work in the United States.”

She said she enjoys how the university’s celebratory events give everyone a chance to enjoy the display of culture and to understand the various traditions present within a common language.

“We have the opportunity to taste the food from various countries, to appreciate the art in different expressions,” Montaldo said. “In my case, I like to dance, teach and perform various typical dances from various countries.”

She appreciates YSU’s celebrations because they allow for education about diversity.

“This is very important when trying to create awareness about respect and tolerance towards other communities within our own,” Montaldo said.

Yesarily Sanchez Rivera, a senior majoring in criminal justice, said she is proud of her Puerto Rican heritage. Each summer she travels to Puerto Rico to visit family, and she enjoys the chance to learn more about her culture while there, she said.

“I love the food and conversations when I go to back home. Everyone treats you like family and are willing to help, even if they don’t know you,” Rivera said.

She said Hispanic Heritage Month is important to her and to all Hispanics who fight for what they believe in, and the unity of the community helps them achieve great things.

“It is important to take a moment to appreciate where we

came from and what it took to get there. Where we are from is our foundation, therefore our roots make us who we are,” Rivera said. “Taking this month to reflect on that, is a great opportunity and it feels amazing to know that some people support us and celebrate our month with us.”

Alicia Prieto, an associate professor of mathematics and statistics, said Hispanic Heritage Month is not only a celebration of Latino culture.

“As an immigrant, it’s different than if I was born here. Because I was born in Mexico, for me, this is a time of nostalgia, of missing my home country,” Prieto said.

She said it’s important to think of Hispanic Heritage Month as more than just a celebration of culture, but also a recognition of the many contributions Hispanics have made to science, mathematics and history.

“It’s good that we celebrate the contributions of Hispanics and Latinos during this month, but it would be great if it was just something that was part of normal history curriculum, part of normal American culture, part of the normality, instead of something that is relegated to a month.”

She also enjoys the direction YSU is taking in its celebrations of Hispanic heritage. Upon her arrival to YSU, Prieto said celebrations were performance-based displays of Hispanic culture. Now, she said, the university has transitioned to more acknowledgement of the academic and historical contributions Hispanics and Latinos have made as well.

“It’s nice to see what I’m from, where I’m from, and my culture being celebrated. It’s really nice,” Prieto said.



YSU VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR HELPS CONNECT STUDENTS TO JOBS

The Office of Career and Academic Advising helps connect students with employers by hosting virtual career fairs, available through Handshake. Photo by **Taylor Fronk / The Jambar**

TAYLOR FRONK JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Youngstown State University works to connect students with job and internship opportunities even during the pandemic with virtual career networking. Virtual career fairs and skill-building services are available university-wide, with more specialized services in several colleges, such as the STEM Expo.

Sherri Hrusovski, director of STEM Professional Services, said the expo can help students find a job or an internship and could be an opportunity for networking.

“New employers or different employers will come during different semesters. You never know who you’re going to meet,” she said.

Some employers require a certain class rank, minimum GPA and major for an interview, but many are available to all attending students.

The university held a career fair for all students and majors Sept. 29. The Office of Career and Academic Advising used Handshake to showcase over 5,000 job and internship opportunities.

Justin Edwards, director, said the fair typically brings in around 40-50 employers. This year, the virtual fair featured only 26 employers, but Edwards said students can gain experience by networking and developing their skills — even if they don’t get the job.

Students signed up for individual sessions with potential

employers, group sessions and practiced their elevator pitches. Edwards said the virtual sessions are a lot easier on students.

“They don’t have to worry about waiting in line, but also, it can kind of help break that intimidation barrier with an employer,” he said.

Edwards said it’s a high-quality opportunity for students of all years, especially those who may not understand all the opportunities available in the area.

“Cafaro is known for real estate, but they do a lot more than that,” he said. “They need people to write stuff up for their social media. They need graphic designers. There’s a lot that companies need, but you might not know that if you don’t expose yourself to events like this.”

Shepherd of the Valley was one of the employers participating in the fair. Kelly Kenyhercz, corporate coordinator for recruitment, said it is an important event for the facility, too.

“We usually try to get partnered up with universities to speak with the students, because they’re the next generation of the workforce,” she said. “But, of course, with COVID this past spring, things kind of got derailed a little bit, so I was excited to see there was an opportunity to interact with the students again.”

Ed Goist, coordinator for WYSU-FM, said the station was able to have three interviews during its sessions. He said the YSU career fair is always a great place to offer opportunities and promote the station.

“As a public radio station, it’s incumbent on us to continue

our recruiting efforts to promote diversity in the workplace,” he said. “It also gives us an opportunity to show students the radio station has opportunities and exists. We are a great resource for students, and we have a lot to offer.”

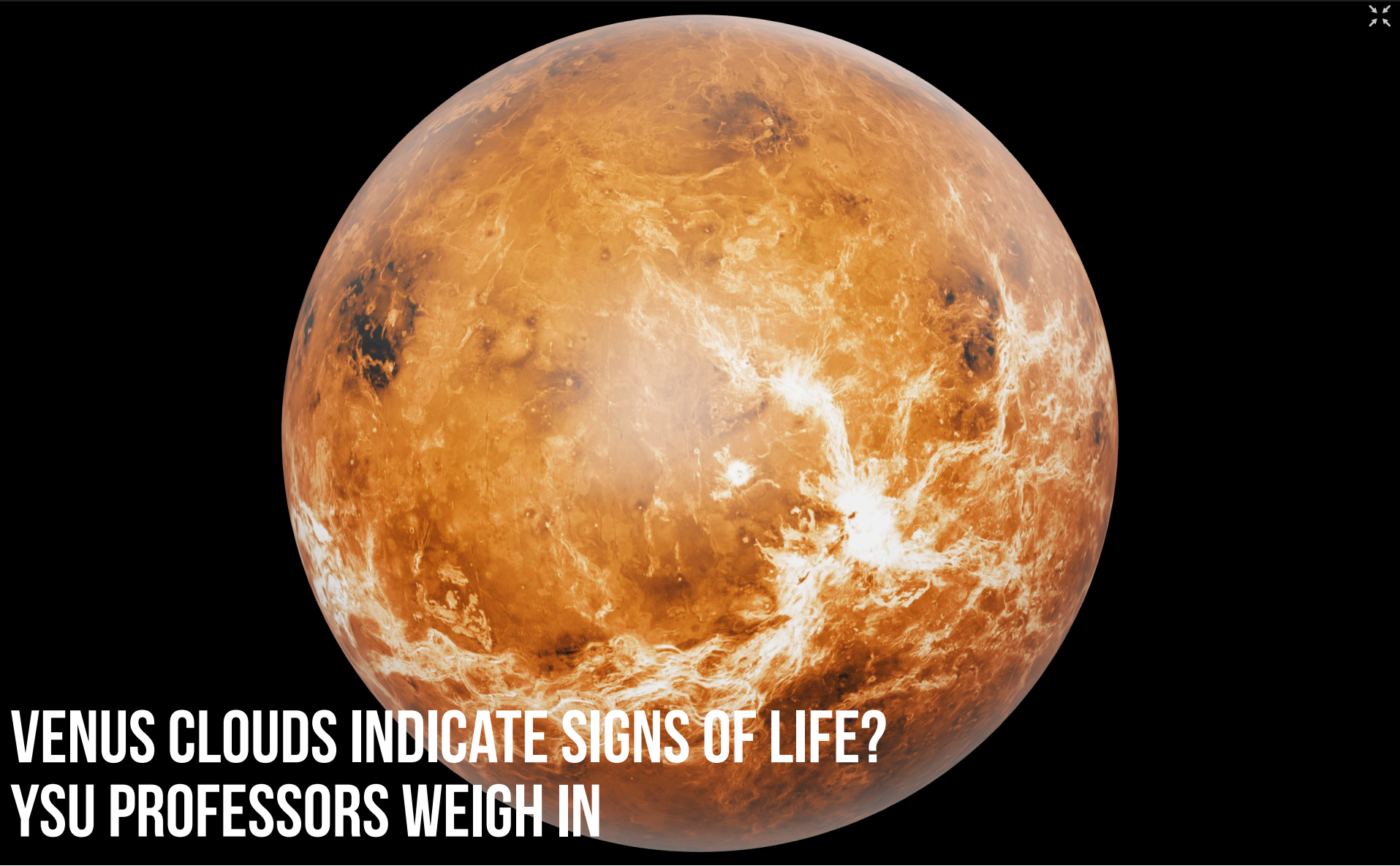
For students who didn’t secure opportunities related to their major or interests, Edwards said tools like Handshake, which regularly updates and hosts over 10,000 job and internship listings and PathwayU, a career assessment tool, are valuable resources for students.

“It helps them learn about their strengths, their interests and can assess their personality and how they can best fit into the world around them,” Edwards said. “A common misconception is that a self-assessment tool tells you what you should or should not do, but that’s not really what we use it for.”

This year’s virtual STEM Expo runs through Oct. 9. Students can register for the career fair via Handshake. Students can visit the virtual rooms set up in the DeBartolo Stadium Club in Stambaugh Stadium. The rooms can be used for one-on-one interviews and group sessions. For assistance, contact qgtan@ysu.edu.

The office of career and academic advising plans to host another Career Day in the spring, though it is unclear if it will be virtual.

Contact the office of career and academic advising by calling 330-941-3515 or emailing careerservices@ysu.edu



VENUS CLOUDS INDICATE SIGNS OF LIFE? YSU PROFESSORS WEIGH IN

Scientists believe the recent discovery of the gas phosphine in the clouds surrounding Venus could indicate signs of life. Curt Spivey, planetarium engineer, said there will be more scientific study of Venus to see what these signs of life could mean for humankind. Photo courtesy of **Ward Beecher Planetarium**

AARON FRANTZ JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

A discovery was announced in September concerning a gas found within the clouds of Venus. The gas phosphine has been detected, and some scientists speculate it could be a sign of life, because life forms produce it on Earth. Others are cautious about the possibility.

Patrick Durrell, a professor of physics and astronomy, as well as an observational astronomer and planetarium director at Youngstown State University, said he is fascinated by this news and curious about what it means for science as a whole.

“Now this is how science progresses—they make a discovery, confirm what they saw was real, and now the doors have opened to everybody,” Durrell said. “This is a great example of trying to repeat the same experiment to see if what they saw was real and indeed, it seems to be real.”

Durrell said the finding is too recent and the evidence is

too scarce to affect the curriculum taught by the physics and astronomy department. However, it’s still important enough to teach students.

“We have already included a brief discussion of the clouds on Venus in our introductory astronomy class,” Durrell said. “I believe that this discovery shows how scientific discoveries should be made and that is what we illustrated in class because it is a great teaching moment.”

Curt Spivey, planetarium engineer, is on high alert when new discoveries are seen in space.

“Venus is now going to get a lot more attention it has not been receiving. This means more telescopes and more missions will be directed to see if we can find more answers,” Spivey said. “For us at the planetarium—this is why we love astronomy: we never know everything that is going on. There is always something new.”

Tiffany Stone Wolbrecht, planetarium lecturer, explained what the most shocking aspect of this discovery is.

“Phosphine can be created with natural processes such as volcanic eruptions and lighting. The key here with this discovery is the amount of phosphine detected in the Venus clouds,” Wolbrecht said. “The amount detected in Venus’ atmosphere is about 10,000 times greater than what was to be expected.”

Durrell, Spivey and Wolbrecht agree this discovery on Venus provides evidence of how the scientific method works. All three want the science community to expand and further the understand of what is happening within the clouds of Venus.

“The team of scientists in their press release even stated, beautifully I might add, that they want other scientists and astronomers to pick this apart, if we missed something, if there is a chemical or geological process that could create this phosphine gas in clouds of Venus, we’re all ears, we could be wrong,” Durrell said. “To me, this is a beautiful example of how science progresses.”



THE BARBARIC YAWP: LIT YOUNGSTOWN'S FIRST ONLINE FALL LITERARY FESTIVAL

Artwork such as "Withdrawal" by Nick Gardner, a Master of Fine Arts student in creative writing at Bowling Green University, was highlighted at the festival. Photo courtesy of **Lit Youngstown**

DOUGLAS M. CAMPBELL

"I sound my barbaric yawp over the roofs of the world," Walt Whitman's famous stanza echoed across the internet landscape as Youngstown State University students and writers from the Youngstown area and beyond gathered for Lit Youngstown's fourth annual Fall Literary Festival.

Karen Schubert, co-founder and director of Lit Youngstown, reflects on this year's festival theme, "In Many Tongues: Constituents of the Barbaric Yawp" and its connection to writing.

"I don't hear just one voice, but I hear the multitudes, a raw, guttural, expressive and beautiful noise. With each sound adding to the commotion," Schubert said.

The festival focused not only on writing but readings, craft talks, workshops and panel discussions on various aspects of the writing process.

Due to COVID-19, this year's festival was held through Zoom from Sept. 24-26, with five concurrent sessions and 40 individual events over the course of two days. Some sessions live-streamed on YouTube.

Student artwork was also highlighted at the festival. The

presenters were asked to submit poems and stories. Those documents were given to art students who were asked to create a visual work in response to the poem.

"I always love it, the visual arts and the literary arts have a beautiful overlap," Schubert said.

Attendance was free for YSU students and \$45 for outside attendees, with a reduced price of \$10 for adjunct faculty and graduate students.

Every Zoom session was run with a few committee members assigned to moderate the session, watch the chat board and admit attendees from the waiting room.

Laura Beadling, associate professor of English, is new to Lit Youngstown's board. She was assigned the role of managing the festival's Zoom meetings.

"I log in early, check that everyone's sound and cameras are working. If someone doesn't know how to work Zoom or their lighting is really bad, I work with them to get everything set up," Beadling said.

Schubert said they wanted to recreate the feeling of physically attending the conference. These efforts included rooms in the Zoom meeting where attendees could talk to each other.

"We want to provide a conference experience. Especially [for

undergraduates who have never been to a conference before," she said.

Highlighted guests included Cynthia Atkins, Quincy Flowers, David Giffels and Janet Wong at this year's festival.

"Almost all of our presenters made it, which we are so grateful for," she said.

Amanda Miller, an adjunct English professor, previously volunteered at the festival but this year read her work to attendees.

"I will be reading from one of my stories. I had it initially published in the 'Penguin Review,' a grad and undergrad publication. It is like a parody of 'Eat, Pray, Love,'" Miller said.

The story is called "Pierogies" and follows Miller and her friends' search through Youngstown's famous fried foods after her friend's divorce.

"We kind of talked about life and everything over the Youngstown staples of food. I read the story to people who asked, 'What are you talking about? Where did you get those foods?' But if you've eaten here, you know what I am talking about," Miller said.

The live-streamed sessions are available to view on Lit Youngstown's YouTube channel.



NOBLE CREATURE APPROACHES 3-YEAR ANNIVERSARY AND FIGHTS RACIAL INJUSTICE

Ira Gerhart, co-founder of Noble Creature Cask House, said his fascination with homebrewing began in college. The scientific reactions and different flavor profiles fascinate him. Photo by **Kelcey Norris/The Jambar**

KELCEY NORRIS

Ira Gerhart co-founded Noble Creature Cask House with his wife Marcie Gerhart, transforming their interest in homebrewing beer into a booming business in December 2017.

This October, they began donating 100% of the sales of their original “Black is Beautiful” beer to the Youngstown Freedom Fund to fight racial injustice.

Gerhart provided an inside look at the history of Noble Creature and how he and his wife transformed a church into a modern bar, with a full-functioning brewery in the basement.

“This place is awesome. It was a challenge, but great to save an old building that would have been otherwise probably gotten torn down,” he said. “We tried to save as much of the original woodwork as we could from the basement. The bar, the tables are all made out of original wood flooring from the basement.”

With 14 original brews on tap, Gerhart declared lagers their specialty. Lagers are popular among beer drinkers, usually a lighter-colored beer fermented and mixed at lower temperatures.

“We like to do a lot of stuff, but really focus on brewing classic lagers, some experimental lagers,” he said. “We’ll always

do some IPAs and some seasonal stouts, stuff like that, but mainly what we like to do is lagers.”

Gerhart’s initial infatuation with brewing beer started in college when he tried a Belgian amber ale, described as a very light lager, smelling slightly of caramel with a heavy yeast taste.

“I was just blown away because it tasted so good,” Gerhart said. “I got hooked on craft beer because I didn’t know beer could taste like that. Then, one of my professors at Edinboro, where I went to school, was really into homebrewing, so I ... was pretty much hooked after that.”

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the staff introduced an outdoor seating area and limited space indoors as well.

Gerhart’s journey to Youngstown began when a mutual friend introduced him to Marcie. They’ve lived here since 2009.

“She was going to school back at YSU. Then I was in a transition, in and out of jobs, looking for something, and we decided to move to Youngstown,” he said. “We always wanted to start a brewery after I got hooked, so we were always kind of shopping around for cool buildings with character.”

Gerhart said the pair was looking for something with unique architecture and a history. After stumbling upon the former Butler Memorial Presbyterian Church, the couple gave

it a new identity.

Gerhart said he takes an experimental approach to brewing, but he isn’t afraid to try the traditional methods.

“My real passion is doing wild ales,” he said. “We’re doing a lot of work with the local flora and capturing, cultivating, wild yeast strains that are more, like, indigenous to this area, kind of creating our own house flavor. It’s pretty experimental; sometimes it doesn’t work out.”

He explained a traditional craft brewing method they recently started incorporating called Lambic style, where Gerhart actually keeps the brew outside to develop and ferment during the winter.

“Then, once it cools down, we send it right inside to barrels we have downstairs to spontaneously ferment. So you’re getting a lot of that flora from whatever’s hanging around outside in the air in the winter time,” Gerhart said.

Gerhart encourages Youngstown State University students of legal drinking age to visit Noble Creature Cask House, open Wednesday through Friday from 4-10 p.m., Saturday 12-10 p.m., and Sunday 12-6 p.m.

“Stop by and check out some cool beers, I’m sure you’ll try some new things,” he said.



COVID-19 AFFECTS REOPENING OF ART MUSEUMS

Visitors to the Butler Institute of American Art will notice some changes inside to comply with COVID-19 safety regulations, like Plexiglas and directional arrows on the floor. The museum is moving online with educational videos with the continued Good Neighbors outreach program. Photo by **Kamron Meyers/The Jambar**

EMILY MCCARTHY
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

With new safety protocols and Gov. Mike DeWine's new guidelines, art museums near campus have faced major changes when reopening this fall. New practices, event alternatives, reduced occupancy and reduced hours have been implemented.

Wendy Swick is the public relations director at Butler Institute of American Art. She said there are many new changes when entering the building. Everyone is required to take their temperature, wear a mask, follow directional arrows on the floor and follow maximum capacity guidelines in each gallery.

Some more unique changes have taken place as well.

"We actually made a change to our air handling system, which makes sure that fresh air is coming in and it's not recycling old air," she said. "Our museum store, we are planning for that to open back up, but it's a small space so that's a challenge there to make it shoppable. We added [Plexiglas] at the desks. At the museum store, there will be [Plexiglas] between the cashier and customers."

Swick said school tours have been a big challenge for them. Since large gatherings are now prohibited, they needed funding for alternative educational outreach.

"[We] have put together an educational program and it's being video recorded, and that will be the continuation of our Good Neighbors outreach program," she said. "Libraries will be able to use those educational videos."

Claudia Berlinski, director of McDonough Museum of Art, said while a lot of the safety protocols for the museum is set up to look like most of the classes on campus, with QR codes and hand-washing stations, there have been some unique changes

as well.

"We typically would have two student employees working at a time, but right now we've limited it to one, and we have them separated away from the entry so they are six feet away from whoever might come in," she said. "We are trying to reach out to the community virtually just so we stay on their minds so they don't forget about us or think we are not open."

One way the museum is doing this, Berlinski said, is by holding small recording sessions with small groups and solo performers. Those videos are then uploaded to YouTube to substitute live events.

The transition is not without challenges. Berlinski said after last semester's virtual exhibition for graduating art students, she is working on a way to get them to be able to do their senior projects back in the museum.

"Last semester, we had to close up the building at the end of March, and so our Bachelor of Fine Arts students couldn't do their exhibition in the museum as they normally would. This semester, we actually are going to have the BFA Exhibition, but again, we can't have an opening," she said. "Those are typically very large openings. I am trying to work out some details so we can have a staggered entry."

It has also been hard to find new artists to fill slots, Berlinski said.

"We were going to have some poetry readings this semester and they felt like they didn't want to do a virtual poetry reading because it is not the same without an audience," she said. "We have had some postponements of shows by artists because they would ... have to travel from a distance to do an installation ... and in one case I know, at least, the person has health issues."

Jessica Trickett, collections manager of the Arms Family

Museum, said one major difference is the museum's limited hours. After reopening in August, instead of being open Tuesday through Sunday, they limited their days to Friday through Sunday.

Masks are also provided upon entry for anyone who may have forgotten theirs, and sanitation stations have been placed at several locations.

"It's been a very slow start to come back in ... we are doing a lot more cleaning at our sites," she said. "After our guests come, we do wipe down our handrails and other access points, restrooms."

With many of the exhibits including fragile antique items that are not easily cleaned, staff members in some cases wear gloves to touch certain items. Although the museum is "no touch," Trickett said if something were accidentally touched, the item would likely be quarantined or covered.

Some of the most popular yearly events have been changed.

"We have had to cancel our Memories of Christmas Past exhibit for this year and we are doing some alternative programs both online and at our Tyler History Center site ... where we can spread out a little bit more," she said. "We have a ballroom there. We are going to do a pop-up christmas gift shop and then a smaller scale history exhibit of our holiday collections down there as well."



DRIVE-INS KEEP CINEMA ALIVE

Drive-ins across the country have been hosting concerts, wedding receptions and graduation ceremonies. Photo by Abigail Cloutier/The Jambar

ZACH MOSCA

In the age of social distancing, going out to see a movie with family and friends presents more challenges than it has in the past. Many traditional movie theaters don't allow for social distancing, and with the lack of new cinematic releases, drive-in theaters provide an incentive to watch a classic movie away from home.

Starting in the summer of 2020, drive-ins such as the Elm Road Triple Drive-In Theatre and Skyway Twin Drive-In, both located in Warren, have allowed families to enjoy an evening of entertainment under the stars from the comfort of their vehicles.

The Elm Road Drive-In is owned by Mark Hocevar and his wife, Sheri. Hocevar described a trip to the drive-in as not just a trip to a movie, but as an experience unlike any other.

"The people that have come and have never been to a drive-in in the last 10 to 15 years were absolutely amazed at the quality of the picture, the audio and, in our case, we are a full-blown restaurant in addition to a movie theater," Hocevar said.

Hocevar also said drive-ins aren't nearly as common today as they were in the 1960s. This means that for a drive-in to stay

open, the staff needs to adapt to new trends and give patrons what they want and then some.

"We've transformed the business into an entertainment destination. It's not just a movie and off you go. It's an evening of entertainment. Unlike regular theaters, we have a personal and customized setting of your own vehicle, which allows our patrons to watch movies ... however they choose underneath the stars," Hocevar said.

In light of COVID-19, drive-ins have become more than just a destination for movies. Across the country, drive-ins host concerts, wedding receptions and graduation ceremonies. This allows for social distancing while still letting people make memories with family and friends.

Kelly Frazier, a first-year journalism major at Youngstown State University, had her high school graduation ceremony at the Elm Road Triple Drive-In. Frazier said she actually preferred this method to a traditional ceremony.

"I feel like it was much better than how we normally would have done it. It felt more satisfying being in a more casual setting with your friends and stuff while still being socially distanced," Frazier said.

Frazier also said she hopes drive-ins will continue to host graduations even after the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I just felt like students enjoyed it more than the typical graduation, though I can't speak for everyone. But it's much more laid back and entertaining," Frazier said.

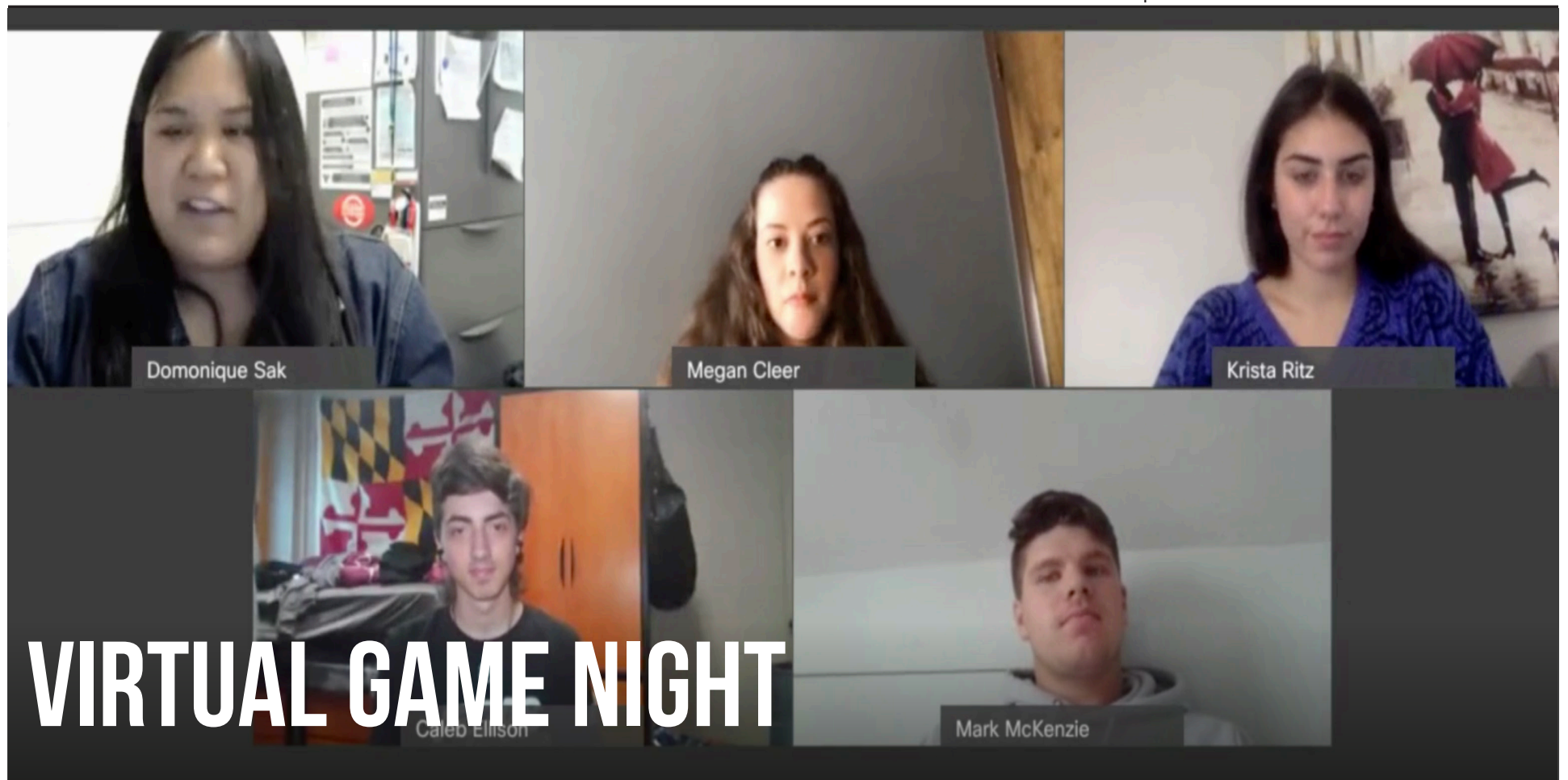
According to Skyway Twin Drive-In owner Brain DeCiancio, another aspect making drive-ins stick out from traditional movie theaters is the food. There are many more items to pick from.

"We have what we call a Super Sampler, with several different appetizers on there. We have chicken, we have pizza, Philly cheesesteaks, mozzarella sticks, mac-and-cheese bites, plenty of different options," DeCiancio said.

COVID-19 restrictions are in place, such as Skyway's newly implemented, modified concession stand.

"Customers cannot come inside the concession stand. They put in an order at a pickup window so they can remain outside the building," DeCiancio said.

Both the Elm Road Triple and Skyway Twin Drive-Ins have showings every weekend. Details and weekly schedules can be found on the theaters' respective websites.



Jambar reporter Krista Ritz discussed campus rec's virtual game night with coordinator Domonique Sak and various student participants, where they played games like Cards Against Humanity. Photo by Krista Ritz/The Jambar

KRISTA RITZ

Youngstown State University's recreation center hosted a virtual game night and other virtual activities for YSU students.

Domonique Sak, coordinator of Club Sports and Summer Camps for campus recreation, plans multiple virtual get-togethers for students to take part in during the pandemic. Participants enjoyed rounds of Cards Against Humanity during the most recent game night.

Last year, campus activities included Puppy Palooza and Llamageddon, bringing a parade of furry friends like cats, dogs and llamas to campus. The rec continues to provide events to bring students together again this school year, albeit in a different manner.

"We [campus rec] like to call ourselves the 'Disney World of campus,'" Sak said. "You come here because you want to, not because you have to, and that was our motivation: allowing students to still be involved, engaged and happy."

Sak uses social media and the TVs inside the rec center to promote these virtual events.

"We want something for students to look forward to. We want them to still have fun, have a sense of belonging and community on campus," Sak said.

Along with virtual game night, campus rec staff planned a virtual "This or That" debate and a talent show where students can sing, play an instrument or display different talents on a virtual platform.

Samantha Johnson, a first-year grad assistant, creates ideas for the rec center and markets activities on social media platforms. Although it's difficult to compare this year's virtual events to last year's, Johnson said there will be a good turnout if it is marketed well.

"[Virtual activities are] important because there's not a lot of engagement on campus right now, especially for that freshman class who are looking to get college experience," Johnson said. "There's not a lot of opportunities for them to make friends outside of their classes, and it's just a different way to get the students involved and to do something fun."

Johnson is optimistic about these virtual games; however, she is still concerned about students being virtually "burnt out."

"I know a lot of people are tired from staring at a computer screen all day, so my concern is that a lot of students aren't going to want to be on the computer longer than they have to be just to participate in an event," Johnson said.

She said the more classes students have in person, the more they wouldn't mind virtual programming.

Caleb Ellison, a freshman telecommunications major, participated in Virtual Game Night and said it's a great way to get to know people on campus, even virtually.

When Ellison feels virtual learning can be too much, he sees Game Night as a relief. But he still prefers in-person game night to the online version.

"Sometimes I definitely feel virtually burnt out, especially if I have a ton of Webex meetings lined up, but I feel like with virtual game night, it's a refresher. These virtual tools can be used for fun too and not just constant studying," he said.

DIGGING BEHIND THE DASHBOARD: COVID-19 UPDATE

ABIGAIL CLOUTIER

Every Monday, Youngstown State University updates their COVID-19 dashboard with the latest number of cases. This week, the university reported three additional off-campus cases, and no employee or on-campus cases. However, what exactly this data means can be confusing for many.

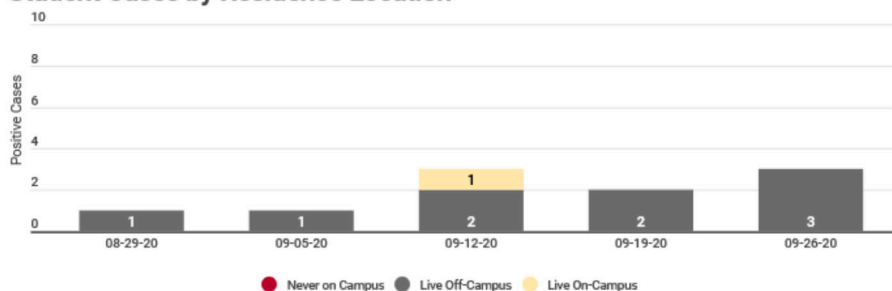
Currently, the dashboard only posts cases confirmed by testing.

“I think when people look at any kind of statistics related to COVID, it’s important that they understand the big picture,” the director of Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety, Julie Gentile, said. “There’s going to be cases that happen that aren’t reported timely ... But at this point, the dashboard is confirmed cases, which means they have to have a positive test. So there are some diagnosed cases, that [are] based on symptoms and stuff like that, that people may choose not to go get tested, those would not be part of those numbers. So again, it’s just the confirmed positive tested cases that are being reported.”

Behind the Data: Student Cases

According to the university, on-campus cases are classified as only those in residence halls — students living in Kilcawley,

Student Cases by Residence Location



Lyden and Cafaro houses. To date, YSU has reported only one case of COVID-19 in one of these residence halls since August.

Off-campus cases cover students who commute from neighboring counties or across the Pennsylvania state line. According to Gentile, the off-campus designation also covers students who live in apartment complexes immediately surrounding campus. This includes the University Courtyards on Wick Oval, just behind Bliss Hall and President Tressel’s house, as well as the Campus Lofts and YSU Enclave on Wick Avenue, and the University Edge apartments on Lincoln Avenue. The women-only dormitory located across from Kilcawley Center, Buechner Hall, is also considered off-campus. All of these apartment complexes are student-only housing.

At this time, the university elected to not make a distinction on where students who tested positive for COVID-19 live for privacy reasons. “We don’t want to provide that information at that detail that would allow people to figure out who the person was. So, we’ve intentionally been very vague on positive cases, students, faculty, staff on-campus, off-campus, just to make sure that we ensure the privacy of everybody,” Gentile said. So far, there have been 17 off-campus cases.

Behind the Data: Employee Testing

YSU reported three employee cases of COVID-19 since August. In the dashboard, there is no distinction between faculty, administrative employees and other employees, such as food service employees. Everyone who has been in contact with an infected person would be notified through contact tracing efforts. Yet, those efforts could deteriorate if students or employees fail to scan-in to classrooms and university spaces with the YSU app.

Contact Tracing and Analysis

“Let’s suppose that I’m a student, I didn’t check in, I don’t have symptoms, I sit next to you [and] you get symptoms. You get checked and you are diagnosed with COVID, right? Then people think that you are ‘Patient Zero,’ and they’re ignoring me,” Alicia Prieto, professor of mathematics and statistics, said. Prieto completed her doctorate in mathematical biology and contributed to epidemiological agent-based modeling of the Zika virus.

Some larger institutions such as The Ohio State University report the number of isolation and quarantine beds being used and available, as well as positivity rates among students. Though Weller House is currently reserved for COVID-19 isolation, the number of students (if any) that is or has quarantined in the space is also not being disclosed. YSU struggles to report positivity rates in part because of the lack of surveillance testing, which would test a random portion of students periodically to help identify clusters of cases. The university hopes to roll out surveillance testing by the end of fall semester, but does not yet have a confirmed timeline.

“I think there’s going to be some collaboration with the health department, obviously with Mercy [Health], because that’s our primary group that we would go to anyways,” Nicole Kent-Strollo, Director of Student Outreach and Support, said. “And then working with the same offices that are already on-board on campus.”

Currently, walk-up and drive-up testing is available for free at locations near campus every Thursday. Testing is also available at Mercy Health Wick Primary Care for a fee or with insurance.

Visit the YSU coronavirus dashboard every Monday for updated cases. If you or another student have COVID-19 symptoms, test positive, or have health concerns related to COVID-19, reach out to the Office of Student Outreach and Support online.

FACULTY STRIKE

THE JAMBAR
— EDITORIAL —

Full-time faculty members may go on strike Monday, due to Youngstown State University board of trustees’ rejection of the fact-finders report last Monday night. The report was created by an impartial mediator after contract negotiations stalled this summer. The fact-finder suggested the faculty receive a 6% pay raise over several years, and rejected an “Act of God” clause that would allow the university to cancel the contract under circumstances beyond their control—such as a pandemic. Contract negotiations resumed Wednesday, so discussions aren’t over yet.

Though both parties stated they don’t want the strike to disrupt our education, one of two things will occur. Either the university will bring in substitute teachers—which seems unlikely, given there are 340 unionized full-time faculty members on campus. Or, classes will stop. During this time, on-strike faculty members will lose all access to their YSU

emails and offices. Courses taught by adjunct and part-time faculty members will not be officially disrupted.

Under the control of content a professor has over their classroom, they are not required to accept work done under a substitute teacher once re-hired. However, not attending class or ignoring homework is a risky game. Some professors may choose to let the work stand. If, unthinkably, faculty are not re-hired by the end of the semester, all work done under a substitute will stand. Will we even be able to learn without the teachers we’ve gotten to know? A lot of problems arise from the strike. One thing we shouldn’t do is blame the teachers for fighting for what they want or for what they are entitled to.

While a strike would be nice to give us a break from the exhausting experience of Blackboard, Webex and Zoom, we hope both sides come together and resolve their differences. This year has been confusing enough.

BUILDING THE NEST

MAC POMEROY

I don't say it enough, but my mom is one of my biggest supporters. All throughout my life, she has been one of the people to push me the furthest. She is the first person to listen to my concerns and the first to tell me to go for it.

She has always been there to stand up for me. She will tell me when I am letting fear hold me back, and when I need to reach further. Even with tough love, she is there for me. Truthfully, I don't think I would have applied for this job if not for my mom telling me to give it a shot.

The reason I say this is because as I have gotten older and more into my college career, I find myself wanting to be more independent. I still live at home, I don't drive, I just have my small jobs and small life. And it's absolutely fine. But sometimes I get impatient, and I want to move onto the next big thing.

It's normal. Eventually a bird will feel the wind and want to fly away from the nest. But it is also important to acknowledge the people who helped us along the way. For me, it is the woman who built the nest.

We don't become who we are on our own. Many of us here at Youngstown State University are trying to earn our degrees so we can take off to whatever comes next in life. Sometimes, however, we can become rather consumed with moving forward. We don't stop and look around at who pushed us towards our goals.

For some people, this may be one of their parents. For others,

it may be a teacher, or a friend, or a different relative. But regardless of who those people are, it's important to always take a step back and appreciate them.

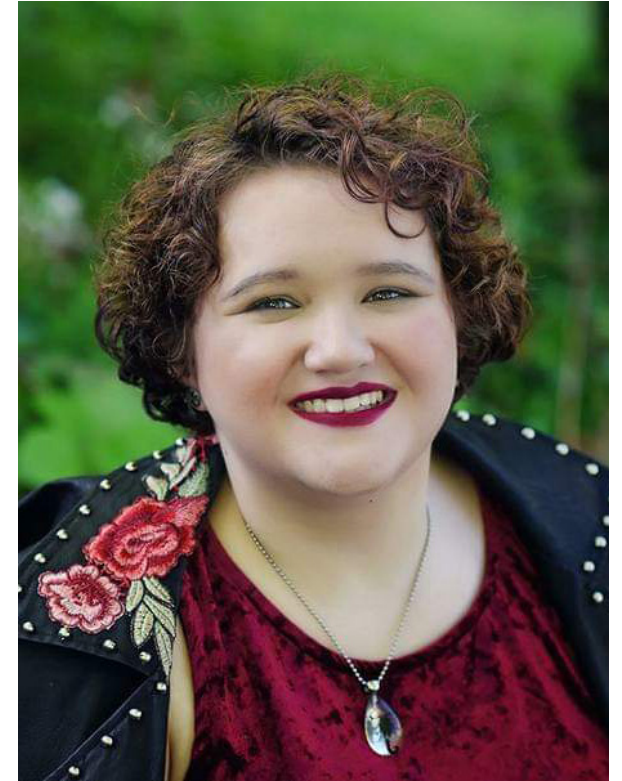
Without my mom, I would not have gotten anywhere close to as far as I have today: physically, mentally or educationally. I know a lot of people would have given up on me much sooner, but not her. Every day since I was born, she has worked her rear off to make sure I could overcome any obstacle that came my way.

She has had to argue with doctors, teachers, everyone, to make it known how much she believed in me, and what she knew I was capable of. She did not let anyone give up on me or put limits on my life. She's been my ally since day one.

I'm sure many of you have someone who you can say has also been your backup. Someone who believes in you and just wants you to be happy and successful, whatever it means for you. As you approach closer to your degree and to your goals, take a moment. Stop. Think about who that person is. What they have done for you.

Say thank you to them. To your own allies in life. I know for my mom, she never expects a thank you, but I try to say it as often as possible. However, for these people, there will be enough appreciation for what they have done.

My mom has worked hard everyday since I was born, and even now, she works hard to make sure I can go even further. I will never be able to thank her enough.



MAKING SENSE OF BLACKBOARD

C. AILEEN BLAINE

Courses typically delivered in-person had to undergo reconfigurations to become compatible with online platforms, such as Blackboard, Webex and Zoom. However, this presents challenges to both students and faculty, especially to those who are unfamiliar with navigating the system.

Tiffany Knight, a senior public health major, said prior to the pandemic, she only once experienced a mild issue with uploading an assignment to Blackboard. Now, it's different.

"Out of four of my classes, only one teacher is using the calendar," Knight said. "Also, I have had problems in locating assignments and now with the teachers who are not using the calendar. It seems so disorganized."

Knight said there are too many options for where homework assignments might be found, as well.

"Assignments may be in modules, assignments, discussions, tools," she said.

Rosalyn Donaldson, manager of the IT Service Desk, said the desk typically receives two types of tickets regarding Blackboard: service requests and incident reports. Service reports indicate maintenance is needed, whereas incident reports state something isn't working correctly.

"We try to identify recurring issues and make that something

we can just check off so that we know that this is something that people are asking about," Donaldson said.

Donaldson acknowledged Blackboard Collaborate, the platform's video conferencing tool, frequently experiences issues. She said it's likely due to bandwidth shortages on Blackboard's servers. The issues with Collaborate led to a partnership with Webex and, most recently, Zoom for video conference needs. Common issues with Respondus Lockdown Browser, an academic integrity browser, are also often due to software limitations of an individuals' equipment. Though infrequent, Donaldson said there are times when Blackboard experiences an outage YSU is unable to control.

Jessica Chill is the director of the cyberlearning department. She said most of the complaints the department receives stem from a lack of understanding of how to use Blackboard. However, the occasional technical complaints are resolved quickly.

"Sometimes, it's a Blackboard issue," Chill said. "Sometimes, it's a hardware issue with what either the student or instructor is using, and sometimes it's an actual issue for the software."

Many issues within Blackboard are due to a lack of organization by instructors. Often, instructors fail to make an assignment visible to students, causing them to think the issue lies within Blackboard and its services. Other times, a student wishes to see a course before they're permitted access, Chill said.

Chill and her department work with both students and faculty to ensure the utilization of Blackboard is as smooth as possible. Instructors receive development instruction for their courses, with a review process to deem the course ready for release. The Department of Cyberlearning provides resources and support to both students and faculty navigating Blackboard. It also offers training for both instructors and students on integrating videoconferences within their courses, as well as structuring and accessing online course materials and resources.

"I would highly recommend having the training, whether you need it or not, just because you might be able to do something in a more efficient way," Chill said.

Donaldson said the service desk is ready to support students or staff experiencing issues.

"People don't necessarily complain to us; they seek support. We don't view it as complaining. We view it as you're having a concern, and we need to help you work through it," Donaldson said.

She said the IT service desk hopes to increase its staff to better accommodate those experiencing issues. The increase will be considered in January.

THIS WEEK IN YSU SPORTS HISTORY: CLIFF STOUDT

BEN LULI

This week in Youngstown State University sports history, we highlight former YSU quarterback Cliff Stoudt. Stoudt was a four-year starter for the Penguins from 1973-1976. He became a campus legend by leading the team to the program's first postseason appearance in 1974. They faced the University of Delaware in the first round of the Division II football playoffs. Stoudt is a member of the YSU Athletic Hall of Fame, inducted in 1987.

He had the seemingly impossible task of replacing Ron Jaworski as the Penguins' signal caller in 1973. Jaworski thrived as YSU's quarterback for four seasons, finishing as the Penguins' all-time leading passer. After graduation, he became the highest draft pick in program history, a second round pick by the Los Angeles Rams. Stoudt filled Jaworski's shoes nicely during his time at YSU. The two quarterbacks are forever connected, whether it's Stoudt being Jaworski's successor or the two quarterbacks occupying slots in the record books near each other.

Stoudt finished his career with 41 total touchdowns, 16 through the air and 25 on the ground. His 25 career rushing touchdowns is the most by a YSU quarterback in school history. At his time of induction into the Athletic Hall of Fame, Stoudt was top 10 in eight offensive categories. He graduated as the program's second leading passer with 4,387 yards and the all-time leader in total offense with 5,459 total yards.

After his time as a Penguin, Stoudt was a fifth round selection by the Pittsburgh Steelers in the 1977 NFL Draft. He spent seven seasons with the Steelers, winning two Super Bowls. During the 1983 season with the Pittsburgh Steelers, Stoudt took over as the team's starting quarterback. He led the Steelers to a 9-2 start and an AFC Central division crown. He finished the season with 12 touchdown passes and 2,553 yards through the air. Stoudt also showcased his dual-threat capability by rushing for 479 yards and adding four scores on the ground.

Following his stint with Pittsburgh, Stoudt joined the Birmingham Stallions of the USFL for two seasons. He led the Stallions to back-to-back divisional championships, compiling a league-best 27 wins in that span. Stoudt amassed nearly 6,500 passing yards to go along with 60 passing touchdowns. He also boasted the second-highest quarterback rating both years, trailing only NFL Hall of Famer Jim Kelly.

Stoudt returned to the NFL after the USFL ceded league operation in 1986. Before the following NFL season, he was traded to the St. Louis Cardinals where he made four starts in three years. Stoudt signed with the Miami Dolphins prior to the 1989 season as a free agent. His last contract in the NFL came with the Dallas Cowboys as an emergency quarterback during week 15 of the 1990 season.

Stoudt's legacy as a Penguin was his dual-threat ability from the quarterback position. He still ranks in the top 20 in passing and rushing touchdowns. Leading YSU to its first postseason appearance is a feather in his proverbial cap.



This week we highlight four-year starter Cliff Stoudt, who played from 1973-1976 and went on to play for the Pittsburgh Steelers in the NFL. Photo courtesy of YSU Sports

WOMEN'S SOCCER

JOSEPH CHAPMAN



View from Farmers Field. Photo by Joseph Chapman/The Jambar

With the fall season suspended, women's soccer is working hard to prepare for the beginning of their upcoming spring season. While it has been hard on the players to go so long without game time, their focus remains razor sharp.

Head coach Brian Shrum discussed the playing style of his squad.

"My philosophy is ... someone who wants to attack and score goals. So the objective score, one more than the opponent, so if we score five and a score for four, we still win. Our goalkeeper doesn't want to hear that she would rather make clean sheets," he said. "But we are going to be a team that will come after people and not sit in. We're going to go after to score goals, hopefully, and play a lot further away from our goal than the other team."

As a freshman, forward Marcella Sizer, an education major, led the team in total points and goals as well as contributing three assists. Now, as a sophomore, she hopes to have an even greater impact.

"I just want to get more shots on goals for more goals, get more assists, assist others to score goals, we just need to score more goals in general, to get wins and make it to the tournament," she said.

Freshman midfielder Abby Knight, a forensic science major, discussed how Shrum has been helping her find her place in the team.

"When it comes to practices and stuff, I was super nervous; like, the first week just because it's a big transition, like high school soccer to college soccer," she said. "And then the more, like, comfortable I got, because with me like comfortability,

when, like, I get comfortable, I start to gain confidence on the field too. So it's nice to finally get back into the groove of things."

During quarantine, the players said they kept busy by watching shows like "The Vampire Diaries" and "Grey's Anatomy" on Netflix. However, they said the coaching staff left them a thorough workout plan to ensure they were ready as soon as fall arrived, if the NCAA allowed the season to continue as normal. Senior goalie Kate McEachern, a criminal justice major, said she had a wonderful workout partner in her dog, Finn, and the extended summer break allowed her to have the time to put the work in.

"I would say I've gotten in more shape just because we've had a lot more time to be on our own and do what we wanted to do. And it made me motivate more to get in shape for whatever season is going to be."

Sizer talked about her reaction to the decision of her season being delayed.

"I kind of thought it was going to happen. So I kind of was preparing myself for it. But I was still really devastated because I like playing soccer. Like, playing games, that's how you get in shape. That's the most fun part. So hearing that just kind of broke my heart. But I knew we could still get to practice and hang out with our teammates. So it's still fun to just practice."

The players said that the team's favorite moment last season was their conference win against Cleveland State. They hope to find even more success in the Horizon League this year.

GOALIE KATE MCEACHERN PREPARES FOR HER YET-TO-BE-DETERMINED SENIOR SEASON

MONICA KURJAN

Senior soccer player Kate McEachern is ready to reclaim her spot as the Youngstown State Penguins goalkeeper. Like the rest of the Horizon League's fall sports, the soccer season was postponed. This altered McEachern's plans a bit, but she will be back for another season.

"Technically, I was supposed to graduate in December," McEachern said, "so now I'm postponing that until spring. It is an opportunity to stay in college another semester."

The criminal justice major from Troy, Michigan finished last season with 94 saves, 2.01 goals against average, .752 save percentage and three shutouts. McEachern led the entire Horizon League in saves.

McEachern used her time at home the past couple months to get in the best shape of her life. She went on runs, walks and did hill workouts with her dog Finn.

"Physically, I have gotten in more shape, as we have had a lot more time to be on our own," she said. "It made me more motivated to get in shape for whenever our season is going to be."

McEachern transferred to Youngstown State after spending her first two years at University of Pittsburgh. In her years spent playing for the Penguins, McEachern has tallied up a lot of amazing memories on and off the field. She said her favorite memory was the day where the Women's Soccer team beat Cleveland State last season, the team's first Horizon League win since 2016.

"When we beat Cleveland State, that was an awesome time, beating them 1-0. That was fun, beating our rivals," McEachern said.

Whatever the future holds for the soccer team's season, expect to see McEachern leading the team in front of the net and behind the scenes.



Senior goalkeeper Kate McEachern hopes to continue her success this upcoming season. Photo courtesy of YSU Sports



UNEXPECTED FIRST YEAR FOR DOUG PHILLIPS

Doug Phillips prepares for spring season. Photo courtesy of YSU Sports Information

JORDAN BOITNOTT

New head football coach Doug Phillips looks to make a positive impact in his first year as the man in charge. Phillips began his path to head coach as a graduate assistant in 1991 and 1992 under Youngstown State President Jim Tressel.

Tressel said he remembers Phillips' dedication to the team and the sport early on.

"He just started hanging around and all of a sudden decided he wanted to go into coaching. You could just tell he was a worker. Early on, he was just popping popcorn and selling it at the games to make ends meet," he said. "Just seeing his work ethic when he was young, he did a great job attaching himself with the coaches saying, 'Hey I want to learn, I want to be good at this.'"

After the New Middletown native finished his role as a graduate assistant at YSU, he held various positions at universities like Bowling Green, Ohio State, Cincinnati and Iowa State. In addition to his college experience, he coached

high school football at Springfield Local and Salem, according to YSU Sports.

Tressel said every football program Phillips has been involved with developed a winning culture.

"As a head high school coach, his teams were very successful," he said. "At Iowa State, they were doing some great things. Cincinnati obviously had some great teams. He was around excellence at Ohio State."

It's not a coincidence Phillips' contributions help his teams do well, Tressel said.

Danny O'Connell, director of support services at YSU and former assistant football coach, said with Phillips' past coaching experiences and his familiarity with Youngstown, he will bring a new dynamic to the team.

"His experience is exactly what we needed. Doug knows Youngstown State inside and out. He knows the community inside and out," he said. "More importantly, as a superintendent of schools and a former high school coach and a former teacher, he understands what the parents are looking

for, along with what the athletes really need. I thought we needed that type of recruiter for Youngstown State to get things going."

O'Connell said he likes to "play detective" and ask the players what they think of Phillips.

"Whenever I run into a player, they don't know who I am. They just know I'm some guy who works at the university. I always ask them, 'How's the new football coach?' and I don't tell them he's my buddy. Hearing the players talk, I'm even more convinced that Doug is the person we needed right now."

Phillips said he is making the best of the situation considering the current circumstances.

"We got to really build relationships with our players. We got to work with them not only academically, but on the football field," he said. "I'm proud to be Youngstown State's head football coach no matter what. Even if it's in a pandemic."