



JOE BIDEN BECOMES 46TH U.S. PRESIDENT

President Joe Biden was inaugurated as the 46th president of the United States Jan. 20, 2021. Former vice president with the Obama administration, Biden visited Youngstown State University's campus. Photo by **Tanner Mondok, The Jambar 2018**

KELCEY NORRIS

In his inaugural speech Wednesday, Jan. 20 at the United States Capitol in Washington D.C., 46th President of the United States Joe Biden celebrated democracy and called the nation to action “to come together in common love that defines us as Americans.”

“Uniting to fight the foes we face: anger, resentment, hatred, extremism, lawlessness, violence, disease, joblessness and hopelessness,” Biden said. “With unity, we can do great things, important things. We can right wrongs. We can put people to work in good jobs. We can teach our children in safe schools. We can overcome the deadly virus.”

Standing to his right, Kamala Harris made history as the first female, first Black and South Asian vice president of the United States.

Biden signed 17 executive orders a few hours after his inauguration, addressing the coronavirus pandemic as well as other issues. Other orders stopped the funding of the border wall in Mexico and started the process to rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement.

“Few people in our nation’s history have been more challenged

or found a time more challenging or difficult than the time we’re in now. A once-in-a-century virus that silently stalks the country. It’s taken as many lives in one year as America lost in all of World War II,” Biden said in his speech. “Millions of jobs have been lost. Hundreds of thousands of businesses closed. A cry for racial justice, some 400 years in the making, moves us. The dream of justice for all will be deferred no longer.”

Cryshanna Jackson Leftwich, a professor in the politics and international relations department at Youngstown State University, said her favorite moment in the inauguration speech was Biden’s emphasis on nationwide unity.

“I really appreciated how President Biden was talking about how he wanted to unify even with the people who did not vote for him. He said he wanted to make policies based on science and data,” she said.

Biden’s first priority seems to be vaccinating the nation against COVID-19.

“I like the fact that he acknowledged the pandemic and that over 400,000 people have died. They need to figure out an effective plan to get the vaccine out,” Jackson said. “There were also some treaties that were undone, like the Paris Climate Agreement, so rejoining some of our allies. That was also part

of his speech, not only reunifying us but also to get us back working with other countries.”

Biden’s administration is also focused on policies surrounding student loan forgiveness and legalization of marijuana at a national level.

“I’ve been telling people to look at the plan closely,” Jackson said. “You won’t get all of your student loan forgiven, but it’ll be about \$10,000 and up to \$50,000 of that, which will be great ... but you’ll still have loans that you’ll have to pay, there’s no way they can just forgive all the loans.”

Harris’ position as the new vice president, according to Jackson, has inspired the slogan “My VP looks like me” in the Black community. Many of Biden’s other administration nominations are making history, like the nomination of Dr. Rachel Levine, who would be the first transgender woman confirmed by the Senate in history.

“Representation matters, and having Kamala Harris as the first African American, the first Pacific-Islander VP, will be great for a lot of young women and African Americans,” Jackson said. “This administration is trying to be a lot more diverse, a lot more representative of the people that they serve.”

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COVID-19 UPDATE

ABIGAIL CLOUTIER

Youngstown State University's COVID-19 dashboard updated Monday with a tally of COVID-19 cases reported for the first week of spring semester. There were 25 positive cases reported Jan. 16. One case was an employee, six cases were students living on campus in residence halls and the remaining 18 cases were students living off campus.

In preparation for the spring semester, the university implemented several new measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The office of environmental and occupational health and safety and the student housing office required all students moving into residence halls to take a COVID-19 test. The university also established weekly surveillance testing measures this semester, though participation is optional.

According to the Ohio Department of Health, the spike of COVID-19 cases in Mahoning County, which peaked Nov. 30 with 420 new cases in a single day, has dropped significantly. The county

reported 506 new cases between Jan. 18-23, an average of 72 new cases a day. Like most of Ohio, Mahoning County remains in the red zone on the Ohio Public Health Advisory System, indicating "very high exposure and spread" of the virus.

For the latest daily information, be sure to visit YSU's COVID-19 dashboard and the Ohio Department of Health's website.

Positive Cases by Week



Graph courtesy of YSU

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READ. RECREATE. REWARD! SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

GABRIELLE OWENS

For students looking for an opportunity to apply for a scholarship, Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center is offering the “Read. RECreate. Reward!” scholarship, which is a semester-long program that will allow students to win a \$1,000 award.

Cameron Adams, assistant director of operations and guest services, worked with his staff to start the scholarship program during the spring 2020 semester to help students create a balance between school and physical activity.

“What it’s meant to do is to get people active because there is a lot of research out there that says if students work out on a regular basis, they can do better in school. Also, we felt it was a good way for them to engage with other students,” he said.

Adams said students participating in the RRR scholarship will have to work out four times a week during the first 10-12 weeks of the semester. Also, they will have to provide a video at the end of the semester to discuss how working out in the program helped improve their overall well-being.

“You can come to the rec center, you can participate in intramurals, club sports, take trips through the adventure rec or do some of our special events,” he said.

In order for the rec center to track students’ participation in the program, participants will have to swipe their Y Card or scan with the YSU APP when entering the facility.

“We have a system software called Fusion that we use and we’re able to track all that information to see how many visits that they have throughout

the semester and we have interns that help us compile the data,” Adams said.

The non-renewable RRR scholarship will be applied to each award recipients’ tuition at the beginning of the academic year of fall 2021.

“We had two winners last spring and we will have two winners this spring, so it’s for \$1,000 for the following year,” he said.

Adams said being able to provide the scholarship for students gives him an awesome feeling and he hopes the program will continue at YSU.

“I think it’s a really important piece of the college experience to build those healthy habits for the rest of your life,” he said. “Get involved, come work out, have fun, there’s no time limits on how long you have to be here.”

Kristi Meenan, a junior biology major, won the RRR scholarship last spring and said she enjoyed the overall experience.

“I was filled with excitement and gratefulness when awarded the scholarship. It has helped me so much with paying off tuition this year and I could not be more thankful,” she said.

Meenan advises students to participate in the scholarship program and encourages them to finish it.

“I would advise this year’s participants to do everything they can to stick with it for the whole semester. It can seem like a lot of work, but it keeps you healthy, active and gives you a chance to blow off stress from school,” Meenan said.

Students interested in joining the program can apply online through the campus rec store.



The Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center is offering the “Read. RECreate. Reward!” scholarship, which is a semester-long program that will allow students to win a \$1,000 award. Photo Courtesy of ysu.edu

STUDENT FEEDBACK ENHANCES MODALITY IMPROVEMENT

C. AILEEN BLAINE

Classrooms at Youngstown State University look different amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Ranging from traditional face-to-face classes to strictly asynchronous online content, student and instructors have a variety of classroom settings from which to choose. However, with these new options come unprecedented challenges.

Before the start of the fall 2020 semester, the Institute for Teaching and Learning worked with the Academic Continuity Team to prepare instructors for teaching through the new course modalities. These modalities include traditional, web-based asynchronous, online-live, agile-hybrid and virtual campus delivery methods.

When it came to developing the modality blueprints, ITL and ACT consulted a variety of academic sources regarding the online learning environment and the most effective practices. The two teams combined efforts to form the Creative Course Delivery Committee and offer various resources through the creative course delivery website. This website includes links to workbooks and tutorials for instructors to use when designing their courses.

Alison Kaufman, interim manager of ITL, said the Creative Course Delivery Committee considered data points taken from a YSU survey regarding the spring 2020 semester, completed by 1,268 students. The responses were:

- 55.4% of student respondents felt they did not learn what was expected from their courses during remote-learning
- 59.2% of student respondents said the experience of emergency remote-learning decreased their desire to take an online course in the future
- Approximately 87% of student respondents did not feel “connected to campus” during spring 2020

“The mission of the Institute for Teaching and Learning is to leverage data and best practices to guide innovative, inclusive and integrative teaching,” Kaufman said. This means using student and faculty feedback to modify and adjust the modalities for maximum effectiveness.

In December, YSU’s Student Government Association sent out an online survey to students, asking them to share thoughts on their learning experiences for the fall 2020 semester. SGA is still collecting and interpreting the data to be used for further course development.

During winter break, instructors were offered several workshops to improve course deliveries and organization. A student panel added the learners’ perspective, offering complaints, critiques and suggestions to make courses more effective.

This semester, freshmen and seniors will receive a national survey of student engagement. ITL will analyze the responses regarding on and off-campus learning experiences and perceptions for future faculty training and support development.

Hillary Fuhrman, interim director of ITL, suggested both students and faculty remain willing to communicate and engage in the online learning experience.

“We were talking with faculty in the fall about how important it is to communicate with students,” Fuhrman said. “Especially right now, because things changed so much, so quickly.”

Cary Wecht, director of faculty development at YSU, said communication between instructors and students is important for success in the online learning environment.

“It’s really important to work on clarity in the online environment. So, setting up a structure that’s easy to navigate, and part of that [includes] regular communication about what’s coming up and what’s due,” Wecht said. “You have to be so much clearer and more transparent.”

Wecht said she anticipates the blend of in-person and online learning environments to continue beyond the pandemic, as students and faculty expressed their approval of the flexibility and centralized location of assignments on Blackboard.

“It seems like people are seeing some benefits of the technology that maybe they weren’t aware of previously,” Wecht said.



Students at Youngstown State University continue to take courses in the five modalities, adjusting to online classes and hybrid. Photo courtesy of [Andrew Neel/pexels.com](https://www.pexels.com)

COMMON GOODS STUDIO: COFFEE AND COMMUNITY CO-OP

DOUGLAS M. CAMPBELL

Something is brewing on the corner of 2000 Canfield Road as a new coffee shop with a twist, Common Goods Studio, finished construction.

Sheri Bodo, the owner of Common Goods Studio, is an entrepreneur who works as an e-commerce specialist at DICK'S Sporting Goods and co-owns two local businesses, The Back Rack and Back Home, with her sister Glenniece Bodo. She credits her mother as an inspiration for her career as an entrepreneur.

"My mom is not only an inspiration, but she is my number one fan. She kind of always let me try new things and see what I was interested in," Bodo said.

Sheri Bodo gained experience by starting her own business at 14 years old, selling T-shirts with graphics on them through Etsy. While gaining corporate experience at American Eagle and Hot Topic, she quit selling shirts online and co-opened The Back Rack in 2018 and Back Home in 2020, which would serve as a foundation for Common Goods Studio.

"My sister and I kind of sat down and we were working in retail at the time [in 2018]. We were just seeing the detriments that fast fashion has on to not only ... human beings but the Earth itself," Sheri Bodo said.

The Back Rack is a shop that specializes in fashion from locally sourced thrift stores. The store also buys clothes from people through an

online program called "Sell to the Back Rack" where clothes are exchanged for cash or store credit.

"We were two people who loved thrifting. We did it forever and we just wanted people to know that you can go to a thrift store and find up-to-date clothing and up-to-date trends without having to buy something at a fast-fashion retailer," Sheri Bodo said.

Bodo is opening Common Goods Studio with two of her friends, Anna Fischer and Kara Detoro, both co-managers.

"I have known Sheri for a while through The Back Rack, and I've been a fan of her company and shopping sustainably and everything, so we became Instagram buddies, and she knew I was a barista at a different coffee shop at the time and it was one of those situations that worked out," Detoro said.

Detoro informed Fischer of the opportunity to run the store and joined their crew.

"I was really excited. Kara and I have worked together for about two years and we became really close friends over that time. It sounded like a really cool opportunity because I did know Sheri in an acquaintance capacity from The Back Rack and I always thought she was super cool," Fischer said.

Common Goods Studio sells vegan products and specialty coffee, including a flash brew, which is a rapidly chilled coffee served over ice.

Another section of the store is dedicated to items sold by local vendors, collaborating with 45 local businesses including MandaBees Headbands.

Amanda Chine, the owner of MandaBees Headbands, thinks the Common Goods Studio co-op with vendors is a brilliant move from Sheri Bodo.

"Youngstown is like ... nobody really sees it like this ... a mecca for small businesses and handmade items. There are so many cool things here, so to have them showcased in one spot — is so ahead of Youngstown's time," Chine said.

Bodo is inviting Youngstown State University students to a soft grand opening today from 12-8 p.m. The store will officially open Feb. 1.

More information on Common Goods Studio is available on its website.



Sisters Sheri and Glenniece Bodo co-own two small businesses in the Mahoning Valley, a coffee shop and a thrift shop. Photos courtesy of **Sheri Bodo**





HOMECOMING PLANNED FOR SPRING

Nominations for Homecoming 2021 are due Jan. 29. Festivities are scheduled for March 18 - 20. Photo courtesy of **Tanner Mondok, The Jambar, 2018**

SAMANTHA SMITH

Youngstown State University missed its homecoming due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the football season projected to start in February, the spring homecoming event may not look like the parade and fanfare-filled event of years past.

Carrie Anderson, associate director of Student Activities, explains some of the changes and challenges they face right now.

“Normally when you’re planning it, you’re planning for parades: figuring out, like, what things will look like the day of, when they’re on the field and with the court and stuff like that,” she said. “So right now, a lot of those questions are still unanswered.”

Anderson said Student Activities will work with their marketing and communications department to figure out creative ways to let students know who is running and give information about homecoming.

Homecoming royalty nominations are open until Jan. 29 for student organizations that have not yet nominated two students. To qualify for nomination, the student must have attended YSU at least two consecutive semesters, is currently a full-time student and is in good student conduct and academic standing.

Anderson said Student Activities are discussing several ways to keep the students and organizations involved, while staying

safe and following COVID-19 protocols.

“We still want to get our student [organizations] involved in some way [to] show their Penguin pride. We’re kicking around ideas like maybe doing a window decorating contest or something like that instead,” she said. “But once again, still some things in the works to see if we can still have the same type of involvement and same people involved, but have it look a lot different,” she said.

“We hope to at least still keep the spirit of what homecoming is and bring us together and still have those opportunities despite what’s going on right now,” she said.



BUTLER ART INSTITUTE INTRODUCES KINETIC ART EXHIBIT

Inspired by a sister museum in Santa Barbara, Calif., The Butler introduced hands-on art displays this semester. Photos by **Kamron Meyers /The Jambar**

ZACH MOSCA

When going to an art museum, patrons are often advised to look with their eyes and not their hands. However, The Butler Institute of American Art is introducing patrons to a form of interactive art known as kinetic art.

According to The Butler's executive director and chief curator, Louis Zona, kinetic art has been around since the 1960s and encourages exhibitors to interact with pieces with their hands. Some pieces even use technology to create effects such as flashing lights or patterns.

Zona said The Butler staff has been interested in acquiring kinetic art pieces for a long time. Just recently, the opportunity arose to add it to the museum's collection, featuring over 100 unique pieces of art from artists such as Marcel Duchamp, Nam June Paik and many more.

"We became good friends with the folks out in Santa Barbara, California, who have created a museum of kinetic art ... The museum decided they were going to part with their collection and they looked to us, and we were so happy to oblige them," Zona said.

While the COVID-19 pandemic could make exhibits like this risky to interact with, The Butler has come up with solutions for patrons to interact with the pieces without touching them. Butler Collections Registrar Alison Begala explained the technology used to make certain pieces work without touching them.

"They have motion sensors so that instead of having to press a button, the viewer will just have to walk in front of a sculpture and then it starts up," Begala said.

However, there are some pieces that had no alternate methods of making them work. As such, these pieces will not be on display right away, but after the pandemic, visitors will have even more kinetic art to discover and even more new ways to interact with it.

Liz Skeels, Butler exhibition registrar, described one of the pieces put on hold due to the pandemic.

"There are some pieces where you would actually be using your hands to drop a metal ball through a maze of wire, and the ball would hit a chime and it will make a song," Skeels said.

Begala recalled how excited she and the staff became when receiving these pieces and seeing how each one worked.

"We've mentioned multiple times that because it was in the middle of December, it felt like opening Christmas presents early because so much of it is exciting and curious to look at," Begala said.

Zona said he is very excited for the public to see everything the kinetic art exhibit has to offer. He added that those who have seen the limited number of pieces on display now express anticipation as well.

"Most people who have had a sneak preview of the collection love it and feel that once it's fully open to the public, it's going to be a wonderful thing for the community, so we're looking forward to that day," Zona said.



Various exhibits and works currently on display in The Butler Museum of Art. Photos by **Kamron Meyers / The Jambar**



AUSTIN STYLE BBQ COMING TO NOBLE CREATURE

Jack Zizzo, owner of Zizzo's BBQ, brings his fine dining experience from across the country to the newly rebranded BBQ. Photo by **Joseph Chapman**

JOSEPH CHAPMAN

Jack Zizzo began cooking and perfecting his craft 14 years ago. Three years ago, he opened Space Kat BBQ in downtown Youngstown. This year, it found a new home in Noble Creature Cask house, just around the corner from campus on East Rayen Avenue.

"If you work hard at it, you can be very successful at it. You just have to want to do it. It takes a little willpower and hard work, and it's no secret to it, which is hard work," Zizzo said

Zizzo worked in the restaurant business in both Austin, Texas and New York City before making his way to Youngstown. Zizzo described New York's fine dining scene as stressful at a minimum, yet very fulfilling.

"I mean you had to really conduct yourself like a professional ... I kind of lied my way into some kitchens just so I could get a job and I learned a lot. It was very humbling," he said. "The cooks were really good, really skilled, they could do a lot of things in a very short amount of time."

Zizzo also took a moment to reflect on his experience in Austin, where he learned how to make barbecue.

"There were a lot of other chefs down there that I wanted to work for, but it was definitely a goal of mine to learn [barbecue] while I was down there," he said. "[There were] a lot of really creative people all like-minded doing the same thing, pushing

each other in the restaurant industry trying to get better. The food scene down there is great. It's one of the best food cities in the country for sure. It was a heck of a lot of fun."

Around the same time Zizzo opened Space Kat downtown, Ira Gerhart was in the process of opening Noble Creature Cask House. The two business owners became friends, and eventually Zizzo rebranded Space Kat to Zizzo's BBQ and entered into the Cask House pairing his barbecue with Gerhart's brew.

He highlighted the differences between working in fine dining and barbecue compared to his restaurant.

"They're very different. Barbecue, you work very hard to perfect a few things, and you try to get better at those every day. Fine dining there's a different menu every week. So it's challenging to adapt quickly and learn something and try to perfect it in a very short amount of time. [Zizzo's BBQ] is a juxtaposition of both. Try to blend what I learned in fine dining and bring it into the barbecue world a little bit."

Zizzo also spoke about his most popular items, as well as beer pairings.

"I think the best selling items are the tri tip, the baby back ribs and we have a homemade hotlink — it's a sausage. Those are probably the three bestselling items," he said.

He recommended their Oud Creature beer to pair with brisket, and Thin Lips brew with the ribs.

Zizzo plans to keep some of the Space Kat branding in his

new venture, such as on his Zizzo's BBQ merch featuring the classic Space Kat logo, and plans on releasing a line of bottled Austin-style sauces. He anticipates the summer to be "pretty crazy" with the added outside space, as well as the hopeful return of live music to Noble Creature.

Zizzo is excited about offering a different, slowed-down experience to Youngstown diners.

"I think when you come here you should expect a different experience than what you're used to in Youngstown, as far as dining out and drinking out. It's very abnormal to Youngstown and we're perfectly fine with that. I know Ira and I have had conversations about it. We're not going to compromise our style of food or drink or service just because it's a little uncomfortable for some people," he said. "If this dining room fills up all at once, you might wait a while for your food. Down in Texas, you have to wait in line for a couple hours before you can even order. So we ask people to be patient. It's a place to hang out and chill and enjoy food and drink. It's not your typical come in, hurry up and eat and leave type of restaurant ... So some people will like that, some people won't ... Come on down!"

YSU GRAD LAMAR SALTER TAKES ON CNN AND GLOBAL ACTIVISM

KELCEY NORRIS

Before landing a job as a producer at CNN, Lamar Salter's adventures in journalism began in the newsroom of Youngstown State University's student newspaper, The Jambar. He started at the weekly publication as a reporter, eventually working his way up to managing editor. After he graduated in 2011 with his degree in journalism, Salter began his career at local broadcast news station WFMJ.

This Youngstown native's roles at the station were as multimedia producer and weekend assignment manager. He was influential in both online and broadcast stories for the television station. Later, he worked for NBC, coding hours of content for "The TODAY Show." He oversaw production of video content at the Business Insider, with notable stories including coverage of Russian President Vladimir Putin's rise to power.

If you fast forward in Salter's career, the next stop is in New York at Global Citizen, an advocacy group "of engaged citizens who are using their collective voice to end extreme poverty by 2030." The platform tells the stories of impoverished nations and those fighting poverty, while also organizing large events to raise awareness. As the senior video producer at Global Citizen for two years, Salter has told the stories of activists like Waleed Khan, who survived a mass shooting. Other stories include the state of California's huge role in agricultural production in spite of its rising numbers of hungry people every year. I was able to sit down virtually with Salter on a Facebook livestream to discuss his career during the Alumni Engagement series Jan. 14.

What was your favorite story you covered while working at The Jambar?

There's a lot of stories I covered that range from different topics, like crime and arts and stuff like that. But I realized my favorite story happened when I was managing editor and I was in the office of The Jambar when it was in Fedor Hall. We were trying to figure out how we were going to plan the news and we were pretty light on content. Then these two professors came in with this giant concrete slab

which they said was debris from the parking deck near DeBartolo. One of them said, "This fell on my car and I don't know, I wanted to come to you guys so you can do something!" At that time there was a lot of discussion about what was going on with the parking deck, I think it was past its date for changing over ... It was very much a campus story that had a big implication ... We weighed the concrete slab on a scale in Meshel and talked to a bunch of people related to campus and in the buildings.

After working at The Jambar and graduating from YSU, you moved on to a few local stations like WFMJ. What'd you do there and what was your experience like?

I'm a kid from the Southside of Youngstown and New York is the [farthest] I've ever been away from Youngstown. I learned so much about this city during my time at WFMJ. At that time growing up and being on campus and everything, now this was a really exciting moment for me. I got to write web stories, help produce segments and work on the desk confirming stories. It felt like a really natural progression from The Jambar, where I had all these great opportunities to cover the campus and city-related events. Local news will always be, to me, one of the most important avenues for journalism.

An audience member asks, "How did your teaching experience help influence your work in the newsroom?"

When I was at Business Insider and became a senior producer, it was one of the first times I was in charge of a big team and I was very overwhelmed. It was something very new to me because I was so focused on making myself better. But it reminded me of when I was a managing editor at The Jambar, like I was in charge of these people I hang out with and it was a bit challenging for me. Teaching was that moment where I felt like I was starting to understand the ways of talking to people without talking at them. I think of Mary Beth



Lamar Salter, a YSU graduate and former Jambar managing editor, currently lives in New York working virtually as a producer for CNN. Photo courtesy of YSU Alumni Engagement and Events

[Earnhardt], who was always someone who never really told me I was wrong unless I was really wrong. She had a way of guiding me as an adviser; she would ask a lot of questions and then I would kind of come to the answer on my own in my head. I really tried to use that in my teaching. And when I was at Global Citizen, and Business Insider now, I started managing

people and my associate producers. I try to keep that focus, that understanding, that these kids are young, ready to learn and get better.

For the full interview, visit the Youngstown State Alumni Engagement page on Facebook.

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THE JAMBAR

— EDITORIAL —

Last week, President Joe Biden officially took office as the 46th President of the United States. His first few weeks in office will reveal a lot about the next four years.

Our new president is no stranger to Youngstown. He visited Youngstown State University's campus in October 2018 while campaigning for Democrats Richard Cordray and Betty Sutton for governor.

His speech on campus nearly three years ago still rings true in 2021: "When have we ever said there was something we couldn't do? So let's lift our heads up ... This is America, there's not a thing we can't do." This closing line is paralleled in his inauguration speech.

While campaigning for president, part of his platform focused on free public college and reducing student loan debt. He spoke of reducing debt by \$10,000 and has already continued to pause student loan payments until September.

But for some students, \$10,000 is a mere fraction of what they'll end up owing after interest or late fees.

Outside of student debt, Biden has many other issues to deal with. He has to develop a plan to roll out COVID-19 vaccines safely and efficiently. One of his

first acts was to shut down operations of the Keystone Pipeline, which received mixed reviews by both his critics and allies. Biden also signed executive orders to undo some things done by the Trump Administration, including rejoining the World Health Organization and re-signing the Paris Climate Agreement. These are just a few problems that Biden has been dealing with in his first week in office.

Regardless of his campaign promises, the country is ultimately looking at Biden's ability to actually execute them rigorously rather than leave them to the wayside. The majority of the public voted-in this experienced political figure because of the vast changes he swears to pursue. These changes, primarily, challenge the attitudes and ideologies of previous-standing Donald Trump. Disappointed with the apathetic and immoral, yet stern, approaches of Trump, the general American public was left feeling disappointed and disregarded. The hope is that, with Biden, he will be able to reestablish new faith, trust and optimism in the relationship between the president and the American people.

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HOOK AND YARN

MAC POMEROY

I look down toward the hook and yarn in my hands. Currently, it is nothing impressive, nothing more than materials. I made the first knot and slipped it on the hook, and began to make a chain.

I have had many hobbies in my life, such as violin, art and video games. I admit I am someone who struggles to commit to an activity. Truthfully, I really dislike being bad at something, and while I always try with everything I do, rarely do I feel like I actually improve. I can be a bit stuck in my ways.

The yarn chain has reached an appropriate length; I curl the hook and begin on my first row. Crochet wasn't exactly an activity I ever pictured myself trying. I mean, I always thought it looked cool, but it was not on my radar. I didn't see myself as having the patience required to learn the skill.

Then, an opportunity arose. I joined a friend group where many other people crochet. All the time online was making my vision worse, so I needed to do something that wasn't online. Plus, I wanted to make a gift for my friend. So, I decided to make a scarf.

I was a bit cocky at first. I thought once I bought the yarn and the hooks, I would be good to go. It was around the end of November, surely I could make a scarf within a month as a Christmas gift. Right around then,

my family had a run in with COVID-19, so I was going to be home for two weeks anyway.

It was not so simple. I felt like I was tangling myself in yarn far more than I was actually making any sort of progress. Every attempt just had to be undone; it had too many flaws. I quickly became frustrated after two weeks, and when a family tragedy hit, I found myself stopping. It seemed like another attempted hobby.

Two weeks ago, inspiration suddenly hit and I went and got more yarn. Once I got home, I sat in my chair and repeated the same motions as prior. Chain by chain, row by row, stitch by stitch, I saw the scarf form. I saw the project come to life.

Suddenly it wasn't the frustrating mess that it was prior, and I was able to just turn on a show and watch time pass. Within three days, I was able to accomplish what I could not in a month. A few days later, I made another scarf for my mom, which took two days. Last night I made yet another; it took one night.

Often I give up on things too quickly, not waiting to see the end results. But seeing the yarn come together, being able to actually hold my progress, made it worth it.



*A section of scarf crocheted by Mac Pomeroy.
Photo by Mac Pomeroy*

JAMBAR POLICY

Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Press Collegiate Press honors. The Jambar is published weekly in the spring and fall semesters. The Jambar is free for YSU students and faculty.

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The editorial board consists of the editor-in-chief, managing editor, news editor, arts and entertainment editor and head copy editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles and do not reflect the opinions of any individual staff member. The Jambar's business manager, multi-media journalists and non-writing staff do not contribute to editorials, and the adviser does not have final approval.

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The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Submissions are welcome at thejambar@gmail.com. Letters should concern a campus issue, must be typed and must not exceed 400 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification, along with the writer's city of residence for publication. The Jambar does not withhold the names of guest commentators. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. Letters will not be rejected based on the views expressed in them. The editorial board reserves the right to reject commentaries and letters if they are not relevant to our readers, seek free publicity, fail to defend opinion with facts from reliable sources or if the editorial staff has decided that the subject has been sufficiently aired. The editorial board will request a rewrite from the submitted writer based on these requirements. The Jambar will not print letters that are libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. The views and opinions expressed in letters and commentaries on the opinion page do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the faculty, staff or administration of YSU.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL LANDS FIRST SEASON WINS

Sophomore guard Mady Aulbach takes her shot. The YSU women's basketball team secured a five-game win streak. Photo courtesy of **YSU Sports Information**

ETHAN J. SNYDER

Following a rocky start to the season, Youngstown State University's women's basketball team secured their first win Jan. 9 against the Oakland Golden Grizzlies in their fourth home game of the season. The final score was 72-57.

By halftime, YSU was leading 31-30 and managed to trounce Oakland 41-27 in the second half making these the two highest-scored quarters of the season.

"I can't understate how important this game was in getting a win for our team," head coach John Barnes said at the weekly press conference. "We put in a lot of work and time — to have it pay off was nice. I thought our energy was good; I thought our effort was good."

The team set season-high stats, earning 72 points, shooting 47.5% from the field, while also accumulating eight steals and 15 assists. They also overcame turnover issues that plagued their first three games by dropping their turnovers down to 12.

Senior Chelsea Olson racked up a game-high 24 points. Olson scored seven points in each of the first three games

before jumping to 24 in the fourth. She needs 19 points to become the 23rd player in YSU women's basketball history to reach 1,000 career points.

Freshman Nneka Obiazor managed to reach a new career high with 11 rebounds and 22 points. Obiazor is currently ranked eighth in the Horizon League in scoring and seventh in rebounds.

"I think we took care of the ball a little better in the first quarter tonight. Our defense has been pretty solid," Barnes said.

After the December competition was canceled, the team played two games against Wright State and two games against Oakland to start the season. Wright State played six games this season prior to facing off against YSU, and Oakland had played nine games. The team won the next five games straight, beating UIC two weekends in a row.

"We're starting to get a little more comfortable with our offense," Barnes said. "We started off here in the league with two really good teams, so I'm happy to get that first win on the board and now we've just got to build on it."

This is following two cancellations of all YSU basketball

athletics, due to positive COVID-19 tests in the program's Tier 1 bubble in late 2020. The Tier 1 bubble is made up of coaches, managers, athletes and support staff. Four non-conference games were canceled, along with the Horizon League postponing their first four games.

"It's been a challenge for everybody. For us, for all of the teams. You just try to do the best that you can," Barnes said. "I'm trying to be a little more understanding with what we're going through, what our families are going through, what neighbors are going through and trying to put it all into perspective."

In the final game against UIC on Jan. 23, the Penguins walked away with a winning score of 71-55. For their next two game series they will travel to Moon Township, Pennsylvania to face Robert Morris for a two game series this weekend.

MEN'S BASKETBALL STARTS THEIR SEASON

KYLE WILLS

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team began their 2020-2021 season Dec. 9, facing off against Point Park University at Beeghly Center.

In their opener, the Penguins defeated the Point Park Pioneers, 72-52. Freshman Shemar Rathan-Mayes led the team and scored a game-high 17 points in the victory.

The men traveled to Binghamton and YSU took on the Bearcats on Dec. 13. The Penguins trailed early before coming back late to win 79-65. In the win, junior Darius Quisenberry became the 38th player to score 1,000 career points.

YSU then returned home, where they hosted West Virginia Tech on Dec. 14. The Penguins went on to win, 80-66, as they outscored the Bearcats, 43-26, in the second half.

The team traveled to Northern Kentucky University to take on the Norse on Dec. 19-20 and would end up splitting the two games. YSU would lose, 79-64, in the first game before going on to win the second, 70-60.

The Penguins hit the road to take on Cleveland State University on Dec. 26-27. They would end up losing both games as the men fell, 87-69, in the first game and 81-74 in the second.

YSU returned home on New Year's Day to take on the Green Bay Phoenix on Jan. 1-2. On Jan. 1, senior Naz Bohannon led the Penguins as he had a career-high 32 points in the 84-77

win. They would lose the second game, 79-69.

On Jan. 4, the men faced Carlow University at Beeghly Center. In the game, six Penguins scored double-digit points as YSU won, 109-56.

The Penguins then traveled to Wright State to take on the Raiders on Jan. 8-9. On Jan. 8, YSU would knock off Wright State in a 74-72 buzzer-beater win. Bohannon would find senior Garrett Covington open by the basket as Covington scored the game-winning bucket for YSU. On Jan. 9, YSU fell, 93-55. In the loss, Bohannon joined Quisenberry in scoring 1,000 career points.

When speaking about the win over Wright State, head coach Jerrod Calhoun said he was impressed by the team effort shown.

"I thought Friday we were very resilient. I thought Naz played very, very possessed. I thought a lot of guys stepped up," he said. "I thought it was a good team effort and I thought we deserved to win. I thought we out-played them for most of the game and sometimes when you do that, things go your way."

In regard to the matchup against Oakland, Calhoun said he believed his team would face a huge challenge in the Golden Grizzlies.

"Those kids are well tested. You know they've played Michigan, Michigan State, Xavier, Oklahoma State. They've



The YSU men's basketball team faced off against UIC on Jan. 23. Senior Michael Akuchie sinks a free shot during the first half. Photo by **Kelcey Norris**

played everybody in the country. This is a team that's played a lot of games, more than anybody in the league, and they are very, very good at home year in and year out."

YSU took on the Golden Grizzlies at Oakland on Jan. 15-16. The men lost both games with the scores 82-65 and 81-74. Freshman Myles Hunter scored a career-high 18 points in both games.

This past weekend, the Penguins were back home at the Beeghly Center to take on UIC on Friday and Saturday. On Friday, the men were defeated by the UIC Flames in a tough loss, 67-66. They managed to turn their weekend around as they defeated UIC on Saturday, 85-77.

The YSU men's basketball team will enter this weekend with an 8-8 record. The Penguins will face Detroit Mercy on Friday and Saturday at the Beeghly Center.



When she's off the court, junior Alexia Byrnes of the YSU women's volleyball team studies psychology. In the first game of the season against IUPUI, she walked away with nine kills and 21 assists. Photo courtesy of **YSU Sports**

ALEXIA BYRNES PLAYER PROFILE

JORDAN BOITNOTT

Alexia Byrnes, a redshirt junior majoring in psychology with a minor in gender communications, is a setter for the women's volleyball team. Byrnes not only thrives on the court, but in the classroom.

Byrnes said she is very organized and that helps her to stay on top of her classes.

"I do my best to stay organized; I'm kind of like an organizational freak. I like to color-code things, I have a date book, like a bunch of that stuff," she said. "It helps me stay on top of things in a sense that I do need to get my life together here soon. So that's one way I start, I guess."

Byrnes is setting her personal goals and the team goals high this season, hoping to surprise everyone in the Horizon League and change the trajectory of YSU volleyball.

"Make Youngstown one of the top

competitors in the Horizon League. We have been voted last season after season since I've been here unfortunately but this year, we have a great group of girls that came in, number one," she said. "Number two, we have a lot of returning players who understand the systems, who understand the plays that we run. So I think we have benefit of the doubt here and we could come out top dog after being under appreciated," she said.

Byrnes said her personal goals are to become a better teammate and a better leader.

"I do feel it's my responsibility to make sure that everybody's taken care of and knows what's going on. So I do feel it's my duty as an upperclassman to take care of the younger ones," she said.

Byrnes said she has been working on her own to try and improve her mental and physical health.

"I've been doing little things here and there,

like pushups before bed, abs before bed or do squats, you know, things like that. Either before I get in the shower or right before I go to bed, just to get my mind right for the next day or, you know, to take care of myself. That way, I'll be able to take care of others."

Byrnes said COVID-19 was kind of good for the team because it allowed them to properly prepare themselves for the season.

"You know, it was kind of a blessing in disguise. At first, only because we were able to take the time to train and lift and get our bodies right. Then, of course, a few of us caught it already, and it was spreading through campus like rapid fire," she said. "But it did give us a lot of time to prepare and work on very specific things, mechanical things that we need to fix before the upcoming season."

Byrnes was able to lead the women to a four-set sweep over IUPUI Monday with nine kills, 21 assists and a .269 percentage.



YSU FOOTBALL SETS SPRING SCHEDULE

The men's basketball team started the year with a 6-win and 4-loss record, led by junior Darius Quisenberry. Photo courtesy of *YSU Sports Information*

JORDAN BOITNOTT

Youngstown State University football announced their schedule for the 2021 season. They will play eight games: four at home and four on the road. The team will open their season on the road against North Dakota State on Feb. 21.

Doug Phillips, YSU football head coach, said the Penguins are in uncharted waters right now.

"We have to go to our first game on the road, in a dome with fans, so we will have to get ready for that," he said. "We are playing two seasons in 10 months. We are also limited to 20 hours a week for camp which really cuts into what we'd normally do."

Josh Burgett, junior tight end, said the team is excited to get back on the field.

"I wouldn't say nervousness, I would say we're more anxious and ambitious to just finally get a game going. Get that feeling back," he said. "You know, a lot of guys haven't played since last fall, so we are missing that feeling. A lot of

young guys haven't seen the field at all so we are just ready to get after it."

Phillips said despite the long offseason and it being his first game at the helm, he and the team are working on what they can control.

"We are just taking things a day at a time. Our goal is to get better every day. Even if that means just one percent better we are just trying to get better every day," he said.

Phillips said he wants the program to achieve similar success to what the Penguins experienced in the past.

"Right now, we are trying to build a culture. We are GritU. GritU is something we want to instill in our guys. Go back and show them some videos on what we are built on," he said.

Antoine Cook, junior defensive lineman, said he loves how competitive the group has become.

"It's a competitive team now, everything is graded now. I enjoy competing out there. Coach Phillips is a real competitive guy. Coach Shaffer is [competitive], the defensive

coordinator, Coach Troy [is competitive] the O.C. [Offensive Coordinator]," he said. "Everyone is just competitive around the room now. It has just become such a competitive team. We work hard on and off the field."

Burgett said he feels ever since Phillips took over as head coach, the team has really come together as a family.

"I feel a lot tighter as a family. He's a player's coach, for sure. He brings us together. He's more of a teacher, you can go have conversations with him," he said. "It doesn't have to be about football, you know whatever's going on in your life you need someone to talk to you can always go talk to him."

Cook said the team is ready to start winning now and turning things around.

"It's just us wanting to win more now. You know, I'm tired of being such a down program. I'm trying to bring it up and change the culture here."

The Penguins will have their home opener at the Ice Castle against Northern Iowa on Feb. 27.