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LACK OF FUNDS AND ENROLLMENT



The history master's program allows students to work in a museum setting.

Photo by Jessica Stamp / The Jambar

YSU's history master's program sunsets

By Jessica Stamp
The Jambar

The history master's program at Youngstown State University will no longer be offered to students after this semester. The decision was made during fall 2022 to sunset the program because of low enrollment and lack of financial funds.

Charles Howell, dean of Beeghly College of Liberal Arts, Social Science and Education, said there was a high demand for the program but with few students and funds — the decision to cut the program was made from a financial viewpoint.

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Women advance in barred fields

By Madison Fessler
Jambar Contributor

The world is allowing women more opportunities than what was granted in the past. Women can advance in careers based on their passions and ambitions compared to when they were previously barred from male-dominated occupations, like science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The ratio of men to women in undergraduate programs in the college of STEM at Youngstown State University has increased by 6.74% since 2017. In 2017, the ratio of men to women in the STEM college was 2,391 to 1,050. In 2021, the ratio was 1,597 to 948.

Despite the increase of women in STEM, the overall number of students enrolled in STEM decreased by 920 from 2017 to 2021.

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History

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“We’re faced with making hard decisions,” Howell said. “[We] have a climate in which we’d have declining student enrollment and that’s a challenge to make ends meet.”

According to Howell, the decision to end the program was made by department chairs, including Brien Smith, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs.

Smith said a decision to sunset any program goes through a process called program review where a program is reviewed under different criteria, primarily financial stability and longevity.

“Sunset programs are ones that there’s financial difficulty in keeping the program open,” Smith said. “If you look at data, you’ll notice that for some [master’s] programs we lose thousands of dollars every time we teach it, some of it tens of thousands.”

Howell said the department’s priority moving forward is to create multiple education opportunities for undergraduate students such as internships, studying abroad, research with faculty and traveling to conferences.

“Undergraduate programs are now going to have two practicum courses which gives students the opportunity to go into the steel museum and develop exhibits,” Howell said. “That is an opportunity that they did not have under the old configuration of programs.”

Sabrina Krause, a history student in the

master’s program, decided to come back to YSU to get her master’s degree. Krause found out through email the program was ending.

“They didn’t clarify as to what’s going to happen to us, especially the ones working in the museums like, ‘Are we going to get pulled from the museums?’” Krause said. “My focus is on museum work and it would be kind of a waste for me to be sitting behind a desk and grading papers for professors.”

Howell said students already in the program will be able to complete it but no new students can be accepted.

The Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor museum and Ohio History Connection have a partnership with the history master’s program to help graduate students learn how to give tours, work a front desk, provide research material for exhibits and run the archives.

David Simonelli, a history professor, said he was against the sunsetting of the history master’s program because it would limit exhibit material for the museum and students’ ability to learn highly marketable skills.

“Last semester, we had three graduate students, maybe four, working on three different projects all of which were presented at the museum, so [sunsetting the program] reduces just the sheer flow of projects going through the museum exhibits,” Simonelli said.

Simonelli said the master’s program also allows high school teachers to teach history College Credit Plus classes in local

schools.

“By having the graduate program, we can have them take the necessary coursework for essentially what they call a MAT, a master’s specializing in teaching of social studies, to allow them to go out and teach out courses in local schools,” Simonelli said.

With the program gone, Brian Bonhomme, a history coordinator and professor, said the department is trying to come up with an alternative solution to continue working with the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor museum and Ohio History Connection.

“We’ve made some alternative propositions to [the Ohio History Connections], which particularly focuses on emphasizing undergraduate education and moving some undergraduate classes to the museum,” Bonhomme said. “The termination of the history program ... has definitely had a negative impact on our student’s ability to serve the community, and our ability to provide quality teachers for social studies, history and political science.”

Gabriella Vass-Gal, a junior history major, said sunsetting the master’s program has impacted the number of classes she can pick because her applied history minor was a part of the program.

“There are a lot less classes to choose from when it comes time to pick classes to register for,” Vass-Gal said. “The professors are always super super helpful about trying to get things to work out but it just kind of sucks because we don’t really have a choice in what classes we have to take.”

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7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed

High: 71°F	High: 32°F	High: 42°F	High: 49°F	High: 55°F	High: 43°F	High: 43°F
Low: 28°F	Low: 19°F	Low: 28°F	Low: 27°F	Low: 35°F	Low: 25°F	Low: 32°F
Chance of precip: 55%	Chance of precip: 4%	Chance of precip: 25%	Chance of precip: 65%	Chance of precip: 74%	Chance of precip: 75%	Chance of precip: 0%



Rain



Partly Cloudy



Partly Cloudy



Rain



Rain



Rain



Partly Cloudy

Information courtesy of accuweather.com

MASCOT MARKETING



Photo courtesy of Matt McClure

Youngstown Clothing Co. has released YSU-themed collections at Southern Park Mall.

Buying and selling Pete

By Lindsey Linard
Jambar Contributor

Pete the Penguin, the symbol and mascot of Youngstown State University, has the university and businesses capitalizing on his image.

YSU logos such as Pete the Penguin and the block “Y” can be licensed to vendors. Robb Schmidt, assistant director of athletic marketing and promotions, said in order to use these images, businesses apply to be a licensed vendor of these logos.

Schmidt also said businesses go through a vetting process of their brand and products, and once approved, retailers can put the Pete and other YSU logos on merchandise for commercial use.

“If you’re going to have your logo on it, you want it to be a respectable brand or respectable product,” Schmidt said.

YSU has worked with the licensing company, Collegiate Licensing Company, to help with this process since around 2004. Tim Klaasen, CLC partnerships manager, explained what CLC does and how they help YSU in this process.

“CLC is a full-service trademark licensing agency. We partner with about 700 or so schools across the country to provide licensing services as far as the schools agency for granting permissions for manufacturers to produce and sell branded merchandise out into the market,” Klaasen said.

Schmidt explained that for businesses to use their logos, YSU charges a 12% royalty fee. A percentage of this money goes to CLC and the rest goes back to the Athletic Department’s general athletic scholarship fund to help student-athletes. In

2022, YSU took home \$69,641.62 in royalties.

YSU products can be found in several large retail outlets, such as Amazon, Walmart, JCPenney and Dick’s Sporting Goods.

Many local businesses also take advantage of the use of Pete, such as Youngstown Clothing Co., Trumbull Country Club and Touchdown Gifts.

Youngstown Clothing Co. is owned by Matt McClure, and is a YSU alumnus. The company obtained its license to Pete in 2018 and started printing him on items like T-shirts and stickers.

The business has since released YSU-themed collections in its store, which has garnered new customers and increased revenue, McClure said.

“It’s helped us immensely. We’ve seen growth every year since we’ve started doing the collection,” McClure said.

Schmidt said that as many companies utilize the Pete logo on a variety of products, the university is still trying to grow the brand visibility of YSU.

“We’ve always been of the mindset at the university that we want that mark out there as much as possible,” Schmidt said.

Pete the Penguin continues to be a prominent figure around the community as he recently turned 90 years old. The in-person Pete mascot regularly attends YSU football and basketball games, is seen around campus and makes appearances at local events.

“He’s as important here as the history of this Valley,” Schmidt said. “Whether everybody thinks about steel mills or hardworking individuals. I think Pete ties into that.”

Women

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Emilie Brown, coordinator of STEM outreach and scholarships, stated the college holds many events to attract prospective students, especially women.

She stated the college of STEM does outreach to the community through STEM festivals, college fairs and speaking to K-12 classes about STEM careers.

Since women have historically been barred from STEM programs, it's important to reach out to them in order to close the gender gap in these fields of study according to professor of mathematics, Alicia Prieto Langarica.

Langarica said that women need to be in male-dominated careers to offer new perspectives.

"When things are created, when things are done, when there's no women in the room — men only have one perspective," Langarica said.

She said when women are in the room where decisions are made, different ideas are presented. Langarica said it breaks down barriers where formerly women and children were not previously considered.

The college holds weekly STEM visits that target high school students. Brown also stated that she travels to schools to

promote one of the college's many scholarships.

"I specifically go out to the schools to promote our Choose Ohio First Scholarship, which has as one of its many missions, to increase the number of females in STEM," Brown stated.

Brown stated the college received a grant from the Howmet Aerospace Foundation for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. This grant focuses on recruiting and retaining female and minority students in STEM.

Only five high school seniors were accepted into the 2022-2023 cohort and four of these students were female. The grant provided these students with opportunities to prepare them for college.

"We are working to get them connected and supported on campus as well as increasing their math readiness so they have the best chance of success once they start their college courses," Brown stated.

Once the requirements for the Howmet Aerospace Foundation grant are completed, these students are provided a Choose Ohio First Scholarship to support them once they're on campus.

Brown explained opportunities the college of STEM has for current and incoming female students. The college has set up scholarships and is implementing

many opportunities geared toward women in STEM.

"For 25 years, YSU has hosted Women in STEM Career Day specifically to promote STEM fields to young women through panels and hands-on demos and activities. We had to take this year off due to staffing changes, but that [Women in STEM Career Day] event will return next spring," Brown stated.

The college also offers specific organizations like The Society for Women Engineers, which advocates for women in engineering and technology. The society also assists in networking and career-oriented attributes.

The Association for Women in Mathematics, where Langarica is the faculty advisor, encourages women to study and have active careers in mathematical sciences. The association also promotes equal opportunity and treatment of women in math.

STEM is not the only field where men dominate the population. Campus programs like Reserve Officers' Training Corps have also been historically male dominated.

The U.S. Army said women entered the Army ROTC Program in September 1972. The first female cadets graduated May 1, 1976.

Ellie Maurice, a sophomore marketing

major, stated she was happy to see a female cadet when she joined the program and feels fortunate in how she has been treated by commanders and sergeants in ROTC.

Maurice stated her former cadet battalion commander was a great role model and helped her learn that she could be accepted in a primarily male-dominated field.

"In full transparency, I went into the program with an air of caution, expecting there to be some difference in the way I was treated, but I have been pretty lucky," Maurice stated.

For more information on STEM outreach and scholarships, visit ysu.edu. For more information about ROTC, visit YSU's ROTC program website.

"For 25 years, YSU has hosted Women in STEM Career Day specifically to promote STEM fields to young women through panels and hands-on demos and activities."

— Emilie Brown,
Coordinator of STEM outreach and
scholarships

Speaker Series with the Youngstown Press Club

By Samantha Smith
The Jambar

The Youngstown Press Club will be hosting an event called the Speaker Series from 12 to 1:30 p.m. on March 7 at Concept Studio. The club will have a guest speaker to discuss subjects like the Free Press Clause of the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment.

Jacob Shriner-Briggs, the guest speaker and a Yale Press Clause Fellow, said he will talk about the decline of news and the First Amendment during his speech.

"I will be trying to connect the effects that the decline in the news, especially local news, has on basic democratic functions. The press is necessary for democracy and I think the fact that it is struggling economically and politically is bad for democracy," Shriner-Briggs said. "I'll talk about what the First Amendment can do to address those issues and maybe some of the limitations on what the First Amendment can do."

Shriner-Briggs said he chose to speak about this topic because it goes along with the work he currently does.

"It speaks to the heart of what I'm doing for work," Shriner-Briggs said. "On top of the constitutional issues that this project that I'm working on is exploring, I have this particular interest in how those constitutional questions relate to questions of democracy more broadly. So, it made sense to talk about this, the same things that I'm working on."

George Nelson, president of the Youngstown Press Club, said the club exists to help those in communication professions to network.

"Basically, [the club is] just a group to provide a forum for communications professionals to meet, learn [and] socialize. We hold education events, seminars. We also hold social events," Nelson said.

The press club originally formed in the '80s and early '90s, but the new, current version of the club was formed in 2018, Nelson said. The club currently has 70 members and is always open to more people joining.

Nelson said the event is to help bridge the gap fake news has created between the press and the general public.

"You have people talking about the whole concept of fake news and trying to apply that to anything that they don't necessarily agree with, whether it is fake or not. Part of what we do is try to get the message out, these are dedicated professionals, these people are working hard and working in good conscience to try to bring you information in the best and most responsible way possible," Nelson said.

Shriner-Briggs said it's a privilege to be asked to speak at the event and his connection to journalists from his previous job.

"It's an honor. It's really an honor," Shriner-Briggs said. "I am in this current job, but before that, I worked as a media lawyer, so I represented journalists and helped them access information and defend it against defamation lawsuits."

Reservations are required to attend the event. The cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for nonmembers. To become a member of the Youngstown Press Club, and find more information about the club, visit its website.

Tackling hazing and underage drinking

By Raeghan Hilton
Jambar Contributor

Hazing and underage drinking are stigmas that follow Greek Life. However, Youngstown State University is continuing to take action against these issues.

There are legal consequences to underage drinking and hazing. With hazing, the charges can vary depending on the severity of the act. More severe incidents can include alcohol or drugs.

Shawn Varso, the chief of police at YSU, explained the legal consequences of hazing.

“It is a second-degree misdemeanor. However, there are extenuating circumstances such as using alcohol, drugs or that, and it kind of enhances it to a felony status. So, if any part of that entails in the hazing it becomes a felony,” Varso said.

Hazing is described on the YSU website as coercing another to do actions of initiation into any student or other organization, or any act to continue membership, that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing men-

tal or physical harm.

Caleb Queen, coordinator of Student Involvement and Greek Life advisor, said all YSU organizations are required to complete the Hazing Prevention Module.

The Hazing Prevention Module is provided to educate students about the severity of hazing. It also includes tips on how to recognize signs of hazing.

Greek Life hosts a Hazing Prevention Week in September to raise awareness. This is organized by Greek Campus Life to raise awareness during the primary recruitment period.

Varso said he does not see a difference between the levels of underage drinking at Greek Life parties as compared to parties hosted in YSU apartments. Greek organizations at YSU hire outside security to be proactive about such issues and avoid legal consequences, he said.

“If you are in possession of an alcoholic beverage or if you are under the influence of an alcoholic beverage while you are under 21 years old it is considered a first-degree misdemeanor,” Varso said.

Since it is a first-degree misdemeanor, it is punishable

by up to 6 months in jail. However, Varso said that there are situations where the charge is reduced if the individual pleads guilty and enters an educational alcohol program.

The YSU Police often deal with underage drinking, Varso said, although it’s no more of a problem here than on other college campuses.

Another concern is excessive alcohol consumption among students. In cases where an individual has had an excessive amount of alcohol, the YSU Police are ready to respond.

“In those cases, our first thing that we do is get them medical attention. Anything else, criminal charges, anything like that, is a second thought,” Varso said.

When it comes to underage drinking Varso said he encourages safe drinking habits to individuals who do participate. Especially drinking in moderation and being aware of where your drink is at all times.

Editor’s Note: Raeghan Hilton is the current president of the Delta Zeta sorority.



Clingan-Waddell Hall is the home of YSU Police, which often handles underage and excessive drinking concerns.

Photo by Raeghan Hilton / Jambar Contributor

YSU to host OCCJE conference

By Natalie Lasky
The Jambar

Youngstown State University Criminal Justice Club is preparing for the Ohio Council of Criminal Justice Education research conference on April 28.

The conference's purpose is to provide students, faculty, practitioners and the public the opportunity to present research for knowledge and policy-building.

John Hazy, professor and chair of the Department of Criminal Justice and Consumer Sciences and the host and coordinator for the OCCJE, said there will be multiple types of presentations throughout Kilcawley Center, offering individuals a variety of styles of presentations.

"OCCJE will take place throughout Kilcawley. Registration and lunch with the keynote speaker and awards will be in the Chestnut Room. Presentations will be in various rooms throughout Kilcawley like it is for YSU's Quest. We'll have poster presentations and "normal" slide presentations too," Hazy said.

Monica Merrill, assistant professor and Criminal Justice Club advisor, said there are opportunities offered through events such as the OCCJE.

"As far as the club specifically, students who want to participate can expect to find a whole bunch of opportunities to engage in research if they want," Merrill said. "YSU has a strong tradition of leadership in the crime and justice education field."

Merrill said it has been ten years since the conference was last held at YSU. Since the pandemic, this year will be the first that club members can participate in the OCCJE.

"It's pretty exciting because YSU will be hosting it here for the first time in about 10 years, and it brings together students, [and] faculty and kind of gives everybody an opportunity to showcase their research," Merrill said.

Irene Denney is a graduate student at YSU focusing on criminal justice with a homeland security tract. Denney's currently a graduate research assistant in the Department of Criminal Justice and Consumer Sciences.

Denney is also a student representative for the OCCJE board of trustees and said there is significance in internships for criminal justice majors.

"[Internships are] a crucial component in a successful transition from graduation to achieving that full-time career," Denney said.

Nino Shubitidze, an international graduate assistant for the YSU criminal justice department, said the club is not just about research but also about policing the community through volunteering and working within the district and networking.

"One of the most important aspects in criminal justice is networking, and for that purpose, our club plans to invite some guest speakers," Shubitidze said. "We plan to bring in guest speakers from the FBI and [big agencies] like that."

Merrill also said the OCCJE is only one of the various events that the Criminal Justice Club has done in the past and that the club tailors trips and events to the interests of the club members.

"We've gone and visited local prisons, we've taken a trip to Quantico, things like that. And it's really driven by student interests. So whatever this group of students kind of expresses the most interest in if it's research, if it's going places, if it's bringing in speakers about specific things," Merrill said.

For more information, visit the OCCJE website, and for more information regarding the Criminal Justice Club, contact Monica Merrill at mmmerrill@ysu.edu.

"[Internships are] a crucial component in a successful transition from graduation to achieving that full-time career."

— Irene Denney,
Graduate criminal justice student

TEDxYoungstown in the spotlight

By Natalie Lasky
The Jambar

Youngstown State University is gearing up for the Technology Education Design x Youngstown event, which starts at 10 a.m. and will take place all day March 10 in Cliffe College of Creative Arts' Spotlight Arena Theater.

TEDxYoungstown will bring in a variety of speakers to hold presentations and speeches to educate the audience.

According to the TEDxYoungstown website, the theme of this year's TEDxYoungstown event is "Life Happens."

Greg Smith, a TEDxYoungstown license holder and communications professor, said TEDxYoungstown wants

everyone attending to express what they believe with passion.

"We like [the location] because everybody feels like everybody [is] on top, and then they're really able to express themselves and their passions and what they believe in," Smith said. "You have to actually have some evidence and some track time on what you're saying or what you're giving to the universe."

Jaietta Jackson, TEDxYoungstown event organizer and communications lecturer, said information about each speaker will be on TEDxYoungstown's social media pages.

"I can't reveal the keynote speakers. They are slowly but surely being released on our social media, Facebook and Instagram, and we do a kind of like

teaser, where we have a shadow of their faces and some of their information," Jackson said.

The speakers announced so far include Adiel Gorel, Chris Kent, Christina Matteucci, Jason Flakes, Dr. Corinne Devin, Dr. Karen Federici, Judge Molly K. Johnson and Olive Persimmon, with more announced each week leading up to the event.

Each speaker is assigned a TEDx coach to work with them to ensure they are ready for their presentation in the Spotlight Theatre.

Adam Earnheardt, a TEDxYoungstown co-license holder and former keynote speaker, said the preparation of giving a talk is grueling but refreshing.

"You know, it was a little weird to be

coached by somebody, especially because I've been teaching speech now for 20-some years ... It's tough to hear that sometimes but it was actually in some ways — it was kind of refreshing," Earnheardt said.

The 2024 speaker positions will be open for applications during the summer of 2023. Applications to become future speakers are located on the TEDx website and must deliver a video on the topic within one minute.

Tickets for the event are on sale and can be purchased on Eventbrite website. For the keynote speaker teasers, go to the TEDx Youngstown website, Instagram and Facebook profiles.

Teaching cybersecurity

By Christopher Gillett
The Jambar

IT Services will be releasing a series of educational videos over the next few months to raise awareness of online safety and internet scams.

The videos will be made by IT Services as short snippets that will teach viewers how to notice and deal with scams and cybersecurity, which will be shared on the Youngstown State University app and posted to the IT Services YouTube channel.

Each video will focus on a particular cybersecurity issue, with the first video about TikTok coming out before the end of the month.

Rosalyn Donaldson, the director of IT Services, said that students should be aware of how social media apps — especially TikTok — harvest and sell users' data.

"We find that TikTok has a wide scope of things that it's asking you for, even things not related to video recording and sharing with your followers," Donaldson said. "Data is harvested and it becomes a commodity, so when you visit websites ... all of the sudden the ads that you see are related to things that you have visited recently."

Another video will cover the importance of multi-factor authentication, where users are asked to give another piece of validation when signing into an account, such as a texted code. Alongside that, a video will be dedicated to email phishing scams.

Aaron Merlino, the security engineer for IT Security Services, who watches for phishing scams and suspicious logins, said many scams are trying to gain money or accounts.

"A large majority of the scams are job scams and credential phishing," Merlino

said. "They're trying to steal money from our students, and credential phishing — trying to take over their accounts, so that way they can go ahead and hit at a larger platform or possibly spread malware through malicious messages."

The department has been working with Sandra Estok, the CEO of Way2Protect, who went into cybersecurity consulting after her identity was stolen and used to smuggle women into the United States, causing her to be detained by Homeland Security at an airport.

Estok connected to IT Services through her neighbor, former YSU President Jim Tressel, and gave a TEDx Talk on the issue at the university in 2022.

Alongside consulting on the videos, Estok will speak in them too. Estok said people don't think about cybersecurity until it affects them.

"Cybersafety, it's one of those things that we sometimes don't think about, until we are forced to think about [it], because our identity is stolen ... our safety's been compromised," Estok said.

Estok also said people should develop simple habits to notice potential scams.

"There's so many things we can do. We don't have to feel [like] a victim. There are so many things that every single day we can make progress and we can incorporate simple practices," Estok said. "You have that choice. You don't have to answer. You don't have to click. You don't have to be that victim. You can choose."

Some simple habits Estok mentioned include silencing unknown phone calls, updating applications and remembering who has your personal information.

For any questions for IT Security Services on online safety, email security@ysu.edu. Sandra Estok can be found through her website, sandraestok.com, or her Twitter [@Way2Protect](https://twitter.com/Way2Protect).



Photo by Christopher Gillett / The Jambar

IT Services is located on the fourth floor of Meshel Hall.

DINNER AND DANCING



The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion hosted a gala to raise money for the Enrichment Scholastic Summer Institute.

Photo by Molly Burke / The Jambar

Fundraising at an evening of elegance

By Molly Burke
The Jambar

Guests from all over the Youngstown area gathered at Mr. Anthony's Banquet Center for the first Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Gala on Feb. 11.

A \$50 ticket allowed attendees to have dinner, dance in the decorated banquet hall, participate in a basket raffle and listen to music provided by the Michael Austin Project. The proceeds from the event went to the Youngstown State University Enrichment Scholastic Summer Institute.

The YESS Institute is a three-week program for first generation, low-income, marginalized and underrepresented students who are transitioning from high-school to college. The program was founded three years ago to give students a better understanding of the resources available to them at YSU.

Penny Wells, executive director of the Mahoning Valley Sojourn to the Past, said the YESS Institute helps acclimate students to YSU.

"[The program is] basically to expose students to life on campus. They live on campus for several weeks, but they also are exposed to the different departments,"

Wells said. "[The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion] is willing to embrace and provide that safety net for students if they're willing to be a part of it."

Assistant Director of the Office of DEI, Susan Moor-er, said the YESS program also provides a cultural-ly-enriching education to students.

"We have another bus trip coming up in March during spring break, and we're going to take the students to Cincinnati to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and also to the Holocaust Museum," Moor-er said.

Carol Bennett, assistant provost for the Office of DEI, said the YESS Institute will be more affordable thanks to scholarship money raised by the gala.

"We understand higher education is getting less and less funding, so we want to ensure the students coming through the YESS program ... are awarded scholarships," Bennett said.

The gala took over a year of preparation to be planned, but there were many resources that helped make the fundraiser possible.

"We initially got sponsors to cover our costs," Bennett said. "We've also had individuals and companies that provide donations. So, I'm hoping that we can

raise \$20,000 to \$30,000."

Bennett said she wanted the gala to bridge the gap between YSU and the Youngstown community.

"I really am hoping that we can make a connection to the Youngstown community through this also, so we can get more sponsors from the city, and more students that are interested in Youngstown State University and have them understand that they will have a great support system once they're on campus," Bennett said.

Senior general studies major Brittany Bailey was on the planning committee for the gala. She said having the gala was important for spreading awareness about the Office of DEI.

"I think it's important that people know that, not only are we on campus, but we want you to be a part of us. We're more than just an office. We're more of a community. Diversity is in our name. We want everyone from different backgrounds," Bailey said. "If you want to find some comfort somewhere, you can come to us."

For more information on the Office of DEI, check out its website. To apply for the YESS Institute, head to its website.

Visions of history and culture

By **Jazelle Artman**
The Jambar

The Judith Rae Solomon Gallery, located in Bliss Hall, is currently showing two exhibitions to commemorate Black History Month as well as Women's History Month.

The 16th annual African American History exhibition is on display until Feb. 23 within the gallery.

Samuel Adu-Poku, a Youngstown State University art professor, has been curating the annual exhibition for the past fifteen years. Adu-Poku said the artwork is unique because it's a wooden collection from an ethnic group called The Makonde.

"The Makonde is an ethnic group that resides in the South Eastern part of Africa. The Makonde sculptures are distinct from the other sculptures from the western part of Africa," Adu-Poku said. "This is the first time we excavated artifacts that are solely wood carvings from Africa ... These artifacts are traditional. They're very indigenous, some of them have been used for rituals and ceremonies."

In past years, Adu-Poku picked national artists to be

featured. However, Adu-Poku said a member within the Youngstown community named Tazim Jaffer has donated these artifacts to the university.

"She [and her husband] have recently retired. When they retired, they felt that Youngstown had been so kind to them that they [wanted to] donate these artifacts to Youngstown State University," Adu-Poku said.

Adu-Poku said Jaffer has shed light on the importance and value of the Makonde sculptures.

"This show has opened our eyes. They have made these sculptures beyond just the tourist aspect of it," Adu-Poku said.

A new exhibition will soon be on display from Feb. 27 to March 30 featuring artist Carolina Alamilla to celebrate Women's History Month.

Claudia Berlinski, director of the McDonough Museum of Art, said she wanted to curate a fun and silly exhibition to brighten up the winter months.

"I now have the opportunity to schedule where there [have been] holes in the calendar and I thought, 'We have done Black History Month, we've done Hispanic Heritage Month, and why not do a Women's History Month exhibition?'" Berlinski said.

Berlinski said Alamilla uses nostalgia from her life in order to create her artwork.

"This exhibition will feature some sculptural pieces that imitate a poolside area and fun photos of her wearing bathing caps. Just sort of silliness," Berlinski said. "Alamilla deals a little bit with fantasy. She sort of takes nostalgia from her life, events that have happened, objects and she renders them useless. There's a little bit of fantasy and fun."

Berlinski said she discovered Alamilla by reading local, daily newsletters.

"I get a newsletter from Pittsburgh city paper, which has a lot of articles about artists. There was a little story there about how she was projecting a video onto her apartment window ... so people could see this artwork from the street as they're walking by it at night. I thought that was really fun and interesting," Berlinski said.

The Judith Rae Solomon Gallery is available for viewing Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the first floor of Bliss Hall.



The collection of Makonde sculptures was donated by Tazim and Dr. Nazim Jaffer.

Photo by Jazelle Artman / The Jambar



Wick Primary Care is located at 330 Wick Ave.

Photo by Cassandra Lucyk / Jambar Contributor

Campus enters flu season

By Cassandra Lucyk
Jambar Contributor

With the constant change of weather and stress this time of year, Youngstown State University students are often more susceptible to illness.

Dr. Nancy Wagner, director of the Centofanti School of Nursing, said illnesses are common on campus this time of year.

“For our students, in addition to COVID, which we still see somewhat off and on, we see the flu,” Wagner said. “We’re seeing viruses, we’ve seen a fair amount of gastrointestinal illnesses, sometimes just due to viruses and also anxiety.”

YSU offers on-campus services for students to utilize when they’re feeling unwell.

Joy Polkabra Byers, the associate vice president of Student Experience, said several resources are offered for students dealing with health issues.

“We have an assessed student’s healthcare fee that provides access to the student health clinic, Mercy at Wick,” Byers said. “As a student, they have access to

see primary care physicians or they can walk in off the street to see a doctor.”

The student healthcare fee is included in tuition. It is \$34 per semester, which reduces students out-of-pocket costs. It allows students the opportunity to be seen without a co-pay.

YSU also offers free vaccinations and testing to students. Byers explained when those are offered and to look out for it.

“We will have different time periods throughout the semester from the COVID to flu shots, I know we’ve done HIV testing before. So, I encourage [students] to continue to look at social media or websites for the health clinic, Student Experience or for campus to see when they’re available,” Byers said.

YSU works closely with the Youngstown City Health Department. There are often free clinics offered off campus, but close enough that students can take advantage when they need a vaccine or testing.

Wagner said there are preventive measures students can take to stay healthy.

“All of the regular things we encourage our students,

faculty and staff to do. Wash your hands, wear a mask if you have a cough, try to stay away from people who are sick, don’t come to campus if you’re sick,” Wagner said. “The simple things really do keep people healthy.”

Staying healthy prevents students from having to use the health services offered on campus, and allows them to perform better in their classes.

Nicole Kent-Strollo, the dean of students and ombudsperson, said what students should do when they feel sick on campus.

“It depends on how sick or unhealthy, but if they’re in need of healthcare definitely see someone at Wick Primary Care to see what’s going on,” Kent-Strollo said. “Otherwise, just practice using common sense. You know if you have a fever, you’re not feeling well or you’re coughing a whole lot. Make sure you’re not spreading that around to anyone else. But you could always just ask us.”

To receive treatment on a possible illness, visit Wick Primary Care at 330 Wick Ave., on the corner of Wick and Lincoln Ave. Students can call the center at (330) 747-4660.

Sudoku

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THE 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, sports 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, multimedia journalists and non-writing staff do not contribute to editorials, and the adviser does not have final approval.

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The Jambar Column

Read and find out

I've been revisiting some of my favorite books lately. It's always comforting to return to stories I love, and I tend to discover things I missed during previous read-throughs. One author I always go back to is Brandon Sanderson and his Cosmere books.

Sanderson had already released two novels in his universe called the Cosmere before he was tasked to finish the "Wheel of Time" series for Robert Jordan after his death.

Sanderson tied a nice little bow on a series that some thought Jordan would never be able to bring to a close. Since then — on top of other projects — he has released 15 novels, a graphic novel and a collection of short stories all set in the Cosmere.

Many fiction authors are good at world-building. It's my favorite part of the genre; jumping into a new world with rules that make sense is so satisfying. Sanderson took it to the next level — he wrote a universe creation story.

In his "Cosmere," which is the name of the universe in which his stories take place, a group of 17 people conspired to kill god. They succeeded, splintered him into 16 pieces, and all but one of the conspirators picked up these shards of divinity and became gods in their own right. They then went off to different solar systems in the Cosmere to do what gods do: play around with people.

Sanderson has written different series set on different worlds within the Cosmere. Each series is self-contained, but they all tie into and give hints to the larger, Cosmere-wide story that spans all the books. What's more, different stories provide different in-genre opportunities for the readers.

Do you fancy a heist story about a class struggle where people ingest metal to use magic powers? The "Mistborn" series is for you. Want to read a story set in the most foreign, fantasy world covered with crabs? Pick up "The Stormlight Archive." Need some good romance? I can suggest "Warbreaker."

Sanderson uses a relatively standard point-of-view style of writing for most of his books. He writes in the third person, with



Henry Shorr

each chapter coming from various characters' points of view. That is until the action starts and point-of-view characters start to switch mid-chapter. Fans call this a "Sand-erlanche."

He also makes a point to write about very real problems in his fantasy setting. The "Mistborn" series is a very class-conscious book that shows the problems of population control and extreme wealth inequality. "The Stormlight Archive" is a story that centers around mental health and the problems of religious hegemony rewriting history.

What I love most about Sanderson is he delivers.

He has a plan outlined for the Cosmere that will take more than 30 books to finish and I believe he can do it. Visiting his website, you will see a literal progress bar on his homepage letting you know how far into each project he is.

He updates his YouTube channel weekly and regularly answers his fans' Cosmere-related questions ... unless they are too on the nose and then he will tell people to "read and find out," or RAFO, as it's affectionately abbreviated by Sanderson.

The true beauty of Sanderson's Cosmere is there are so many different points to jump in. Any of the first books in his various Cosmere series — "The Final Empire," "The Way of Kings," "Elantris" and "Warbreaker" — are great starting spots.

Finally, if you wondered why I said there were 17 people who conspired to kill god but only 16 of them took up a shard, be on the lookout for Hoid. He pops up in every Cosmere book at some point. Sometimes for one line and sometimes as a main character.

If you are curious about the Cosmere, find me on campus. It's the one thing I love talking about more than any other literary topic. Or you can RAFO.

The Jambar Editorial

Prioritizing safety

The recent train derailment and chemical spill in East Palestine, Ohio has left the country questioning its railways, infrastructure and safety.

Norfolk Southern, the rail company responsible for the train cars which spilled vinyl chloride into the town and surrounding area, has come under heavy fire for its lack of safety regulations.

Since then, videos of train derailments around the country have spread like wildfire, with many of the derailments coming from the same culprit — Norfolk Southern. These accidents come just months after the company lobbied against safety regulations, which included a requirement to have a minimum of two crew workers on trains.

After the derailment, Norfolk Southern performed a controlled release — or burning — of the vinyl chloride to avoid any other potential accidents. This created a massive cloud of black smoke above East Palestine, which was visible for miles.

In fact, this is far from the first time that an incident like this has happened. Since 2015, at least 20 Norfolk Southern trains have derailed and had chemical releases. These releases, especially the one in East Palestine, have caused concern for the local people and environment.

Vinyl chloride is carcinogenic, so can you really blame people for being worried about thousands of gallons of it being burned in their general area, let alone their backyard? Luckily, no illnesses have been directly linked to the chemical

release yet, but who knows what could be discovered in the future?

With an accident like this happening so close by, it's especially important for us as a local community to ask questions about how this affects people and the environment, and what caused this derailment to occur. More than 1,000 train derailments happen across the country every year, and rail companies need to be held accountable.

Accidents like this affect people. The citizens of East Palestine had to evacuate their homes and move back under uncertain conditions. A lot of people and supplies move along our country's rail lines and derailments are a threat to both our safety and the economy.

It seems like the government is starting to recognize the responsibility that companies like Norfolk Southern have in derailments. The EPA has moved into East Palestine to clean up the mess left by the rail company and is making Norfolk Southern pay the bill.

If Norfolk Southern does not assist in the cleanup, the EPA threatens to charge triple the cost of what it takes to remove what's left of the chemicals. This is a step in the right direction and will hopefully push rail companies to hold to higher safety standards.

In the end, only time will tell if this disaster teaches rail companies to not cut costs and put safety as the highest priority. Until then, we can only hope something like this doesn't happen again.

Quote of the week

"There is scarcely a single man sufficiently aware to know all the evil he does."

— Duc de La Rochefoucauld
French moralist

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Have something to say to The Jambar?

Write a Letter to the Editor!

Email The Jambar at
thejambar@gmail.com

Game changers on campus

By Haley Thierry
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University Intramural Sports provide non-varsity sport opportunities for the campus community. The sports are open to not only students, but faculty, staff and alumni of YSU.

Kiah Powell, graduate assistant of competitive sports and summer camps, said intramural sports allow the community to compete in sports they're passionate about.

"I love being able to actively play your sport after high school. Lots of people go through that weird transition where if you were a high school athlete, and it was like all you ever did, your whole identity kind of goes away," Powell said.

The intramural sports at YSU include 20 basketball teams, six volleyball teams, nine short-field soccer teams and a spring version of seven versus seven outdoor soccer. Unlike club sports, intramural sports don't meet to practice.

Fiona Lally, captain of the soccer team the International FC, said the sports allows people to do something outside of

the classroom, regardless of experience.

"I've also played with just my friends and some of them have never played in their life, but it's just so fun to, you know, get everybody together to play a sport like that," said Lally.

Kelly Rockow, captain of the volleyball team — You've already lost — said the sport provides an outlet and place to be out with friends and stay active.

"It's just something extra to do during the week to just get your mind off school, especially volleyball. It's just a sport that I enjoy playing a lot," Rockow said.

Powell also said intramural sports are a good way to relax and are great for the new students coming out of high school who don't want to play at the college level.

"I like to have that outlet ... I think it's a great destresser. I think it's a great way for students to feel like a part of a YSU community. You feel connected, you feel like you are a part of the YSU community," Powell said.

According to Lally, playing intramural sports provide a place to have fun and be active, but it also gives you space away

from the classroom.

"Having that one night a week I think gives people you know, an outlet when they've got school work and stuff, but it's not too much of a commitment," Lally said.

Members at YSU have the choice of creating a team or requesting to join a pre-existing team. Once a team is made, each player must pay to play. Players can pay either \$5 to participate in one league or a \$12 all-access fee, which will grant them access to all sports leagues and tournaments.

Powell said that anyone who wants to join a league should visit the website IM-leagues.com. The player must create an account, sign a waiver, verify their age and that they're a part of the YSU community.

Anyone interested must be a member at the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center. Once a player has created an account, they will then have access to teams and game schedules.

Registration is closed until fall semester. YSU members can sign up during the first three weeks of school.



Intramural sports offer a variety of sports including two types of soccer.

Photo by Haley Thierry / Jambar Contributor

Intramural sports schedule:

Short-field Soccer - Watts @6 to 10 p.m.

Basketball - Rec @10 to 4 p.m.

Volleyball - Rec @6 to 10 p.m.

Full-field 7 v 7 Outdoor Soccer - After spring break

The Phoenix and Panthers scratch up the Penguins

By Cameron Niemi
The Jambar

The Youngstown State women's basketball team continued its four-game homestand versus the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee on Feb. 19. The Penguins were defeated by a final score of 75-54.

Sixth-year senior Megan Callahan led the Penguins in scoring with 18 points and four assists. Fifth-year senior Lilly Ritz recorded her 15th double-double of the season, with 12 points and 10 rebounds.

Milwaukee's sophomore Angie Cera was the top scorer, as she led the way with 20 points and was 6-of-7 from 3-point range. The Panthers shot 58.3% from beyond the arc, the bench scored 26 points and the team had nine steals. The Panthers are at the bottom of the Horizon League only averaging 58.7 points per game.

The team started off hot going on a 13-2 run early in the first quarter. In the second quarter, the Penguins biggest lead was 10 points. Milwaukee fought back and tied the game at 39 heading into halftime.

Coming out of the locker room, the Panthers outscored the Penguins 16-4. Milwaukee also played well defensively coming out of halftime and took a 12 point lead heading into the fourth.

By the fourth quarter, the Penguins attempted to make a comeback, but they only got the game within

10. The Panthers went on to secure the 21 point victory. Youngstown fell to 12-5 in the Horizon League.

Head coach John Barnes spoke about the loss and what the team needs to do to stay locked in.

"It's fast and furious right now. There's no feeling sorry for ourselves, we gotta figure it out and gotta play better. Play better defense, take care of it better, [got to] rebound better. We just got to get it done," Barnes said.

On Feb. 19, top-ranked University of Wisconsin-Green Bay came to Youngstown on Senior day. The Penguins lost their second game in a row, 67-54.

Despite shooting 6-of-23 from 3-point range, the Phoenix played well defensively against the Penguins. Youngstown was held to 5-of-29 from beyond the arc. Green Bay's bench outscored the women by 11 points.

Ritz recorded her third-straight double-double, she scored 20 points and 14 rebounds. Senior Dena Jarrells scored 11 points, and Callahan scored nine with four rebounds.

In the first quarter, the Penguins were held to just six points. The Phoenix went on a 12-0 run at the end of the quarter. At the beginning of the second quarter, the 'Guins cut Green Bay's lead to just seven. Going into halftime, Green Bay led 36-21.

The Phoenix jumped out to a 25 point lead in the third. Youngstown climbed back within 17 heading into the fourth.

In the fourth the Phoenix maintained the lead, allowing the Penguins to cut the lead down to just 10 points. However, Green Bay went on to secure the 13-point victory.

The Penguins lost their second straight game at home. Despite dropping to 12-6 in the Horizon

League, the team still sits in third place with just two games remaining.

Ritz spoke about the importance of the last two games of the season before the start of the Horizon League tournament.

"We just can't afford to lose another one, we just have to go out there, play hard and get a win," Ritz said.

The last two games are crucial for the Penguins, as they first go to take on the Jaguars who currently sit 11-7 in fourth place in the Horizon League. Youngstown State is already locked in for a bye week and will host the quarterfinals matchup at 5:30 p.m on March 2nd .

The Penguins will go on the road to end the season at 7 p.m. Feb. 21, as they travel to Indianapolis, Indiana to take on Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

Then at 3 p.m. Feb. 25, they head to Pittsburgh to play Robert Morris University. Both games can be listened to on 570 WKBN or watched on ESPN+.



Malia Magestro is a court facilitator in the game against University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Photo by Cameron Niemi / The Jambar

Penguins crowned kings of Beeghly Center

By John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team dominated 13 teams throughout the 2022-23 season, inside Beeghly Center. Accompanied by two losses, the team's 13-2 home record ties the Division I school record for most home wins.

The Penguins rounded out their last two home games of the season, Feb. 16 and Feb. 18, against the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

In both games, Youngstown State toppled the opponents by nearly 30 points. Against the Panthers on Feb. 16, the Penguins controlled their destiny in the battle of the Horizon League.

The men got off to a hot start early and ended the night by beating Milwaukee, 87-58. Graduate student Adrian Nelson had a momentous game, as he recorded his 1,000th career point and nabbed his 1,000th career rebound.

In response to his historic achievement, Nelson is appreciative of his play-making abilities.

"It means a lot to me knowing what my God-given abilities are and making sure I excel in those areas," Nelson.

Nelson continued to shine by slamming down three dunks, to go along with 19 points and eight rebounds.

The offense showed its star power as three other Penguins scored in double figures. Seniors Dwayne Cohill and Bryce McBride scored 18 and 16 points respectively. Graduate student Malek Green followed suit, with 12 points and a game-high 10 rebounds.

Against the Panthers, Cohill recorded his 1,000th career point as a Penguin, becoming the 42nd player in YSU history to reach the milestone.

Despite shooting 43.8% from the field, the men won by 29 points. However, the Penguins had a competitive edge off of turnovers, going 32-6 off of 17 mistakes by the Panthers.

The men's basketball team completed its final home game of the season against Green Bay on Feb. 18. The

Penguins outscored the Phoenix in the second half by 23 points en route to a 95-65 victory.

Youngstown State honored its six seniors before the game, four of which scored in double figures. McBride and Green shared game-high honors with 17 points each.

To round out the day, Nelson scored 14 points and Cohill finished with 13. Sixth-year senior Garret Covington recorded seven points and senior Chris Shelton scored three points.

With the win, head coach Jerrod Calhoun spoke after the game about the graduating class of 2023 and the work they have done for the program.

"I can't thank them enough, I think it's arguably one of the best classes the school has ever had," Calhoun said.

As the season draws to a close, the Beeghly Center has been packed this season averaging 2,815 fans per game. In total, 42,226 people have packed the seats at home court to watch the Penguins' dominant performances.

"A big part of that is the city, our marketing team and everybody who does their part to make this thing happen," Calhoun said.

With hopes of clinching the division, Youngstown State traveled to Moon Township, Pennsylvania on Feb. 21 to face off against Robert Morris University. The Penguins led 36-32 at the half but fell short, 83-64.

With one game left in the regular season, Youngstown State improves to 22-8 overall and 14-5 in Horizon League play. The men's basketball team remains in first place within the conference standings, maintaining sole possession of the number one seed.

As of Feb. 22, Youngstown State is ranked eighth in the NCAA offensive scoring standings, averaging 83.1 ppg.

The men's basketball team is back in action Feb. 25, for the final regular season game against Indiana University Purdue-University Indianapolis. To watch the game check out ESPN+ or tune in to 570 WKBN.



Adrian Nelson records both his 1,000th career point and rebound during the game against University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Photo by John Ostapowicz / The Jambar