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## LANDSCAPES ON DISPLAY



Van Hoose's paintings are displayed in the President's Gallery.

Photo by Samantha Smith / The Jambar

# Alumni art featured in exclusive exhibition

By **Samantha Smith**  
The Jambar

The President's Gallery in Tod Hall at Youngstown State University is showcasing artwork from local artist and YSU alum, R. Jason Van Hoose.

Van Hoose is a regional landscape artist from Youngstown. His work features landscape paintings, feelings and cultures of the northeastern and western Ohio regions.

Graduating from YSU in 1993 with a bachelor of fine arts degree in painting and ceramics, Van Hoose explained the importance of the display for YSU alumni and said the opportunity pushes him to continue to work with the university.

"This gallery is specifically for YSU alumni and it's a great opportunity. It's a rare opportunity. This is one of those great reasons why I stay around in Youngstown and I still engage with the university because they provide students and alumni with some really great opportunities that other artists don't get," Van Hoose said.

Ten of Van Hoose's paintings are featured in the gallery. He said the exhibition couldn't have happened without Claudia Berlinski, director of McDonough Museum, who saw Van Hooses' artwork at a local event.

**Art, Page 2**

# Wellness in mind at YSU

By **Molly Burke**  
The Jambar

Youngstown State University's Employee Wellness Program, Living Well, offers resources and educational tools to employees aspiring to make positive health and well-being choices.

Learning and Development Administrator, Carrie Clyde, was involved in founding Living Well in 2009. She said the program helps employees work toward their wellness goals at their own time and pace through assistance with mental health, finance, exercise and more.

"With our employee wellness program, we are looking to offer resources, tools, programs — to help employees become the best that they can be," Clyde said. "The program is voluntary ... We focus on the target audience of benefit-eligible employees."

Clyde said employees can access the program and its features through the Living Well Employee Wellness Portal.

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**Art**

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“Last August, I was in a show at the Art House on Elm in Youngstown, just north of campus. The owners invited Claudia Berlinski, the director of the McDonough Museum of Art to the show. She saw my work and asked me to participate in a show that she was hosting at the President’s Gallery at YSU,” Van Hoose said.

While Van Hoose’s paintings are temporarily a part of YSU, they are not easily accessible to the public, including Van Hoose himself. The President’s Gallery is commonly only accessible to a few individuals.

“The President’s Gallery is not open to the public, unless a person has business in the President’s Office,” Van Hoose

said. “I do many public oriented shows in Columbus and the Youngstown area and it’s nice to have a show that’s exclusive.”

Van Hoose said each painting took different amounts of time to complete. Some paintings were done quickly, while others took years to complete.

“Some paintings go quickly. They just flow. Other paintings are very slow and tedious. [With] some of the paintings in the show, I started working on them seven years ago and I just finished them for the show. A few of the other ones, I just sat down and did them in a few sessions,” Van Hoose said.

With a background in agriculture, Van Hoose said he feels ties to landscapes, and that the Mahoning Valley offers great resources for inspiration.

“I had a very close tie with the land and

I love the beauty of it and spiritual power of the land, so that eventually translated into my artwork,” Van Hoose said. “Youngstown’s been great for me because I have the Butler Institute of American Art and it has all these top tier, fantastic quality landscape paintings on display ... I have Mill Creek Park, which is this gorgeous bit of original Ohio landscape.”

Van Hoose also said he is appreciative of the Ohio Arts Council and its support of his career path.

“I would like to thank the Ohio Arts Council for all their support. I could not have gotten as far as I’ve gotten, especially over the past 15 years, without a wide variety of help and support from the Ohio Arts Council,” Van Hoose said.


For more information about Van Hoose and his artwork, visit his website.




Van Hoose’s background in agriculture inspired his artworks.


Photo by Samantha Smith / The Jambar


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Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed

High: 57°F	High: 52°F	High: 37°F	High: 34°F	High: 47°F	High: 48°F	High: 48°F
Low: 44°F	Low: 29°F	Low: 23°F	Low: 20°F	Low: 25°F	Low: 27°F	Low: 31°F
Chance of precip: 1%	Chance of precip: 79%	Chance of precip: 25%	Chance of precip: 13%	Chance of precip: 7%	Chance of precip: 14%	Chance of precip: 67%



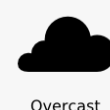
Partly Cloudy



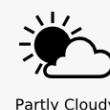
Rain



Rain



Overcast



Partly Cloudy



Fair



Rain

Information courtesy of accuweather.com

# Protecting against mass shootings at YSU

By Scott Chittock II  
Jambar Contributor

There have been over 100 mass shootings in the U.S. so far this year, according to data from Gun Violence Archive. One of them occurred at a college campus last month.

After the Feb. 13 mass shooting at Michigan State University, universities across the country were reminded gun violence can happen anywhere. Three MSU students were killed in the shooting, five others were injured.

Shawn Varso, chief of police for the Youngstown State University Police Department, said there are policies in place to prevent mass shootings, and to keep the YSU community safe if one does occur.

Varso said YSU Police Department officers are trained and ready to respond to active shooter situations.

“Officers receive training in how to handle those specific incidences,” Varso said. “Our first thing is — whoever gets there first goes in to try to take a handle of the situation.”

Varso explained officers can quickly respond to an incident anywhere on campus.

“Our officers are not that far away from any particular part of campus at one time,” Varso said. “Each officer is assigned to a geographical area of campus, so response time is very quick when it comes to our campus.”

Varso also said the YSU Police Department can call upon law enforcement from across Mahoning County.

“A few years back the university made an investment in our radio system, now every officer that has a handheld radio

that they carry with them. They have instantaneous communication with all law enforcement agencies in Mahoning County,” Varso said. “We could rally those resources to wherever we need to.”

Although the YSU Police Department is prepared to respond to an active shooting on campus, students have mixed feelings about safety in such a situation.

Santajah Douglass, a junior psychology major, said she feels safe most of the time, but that improvements can always be made.

“I feel like [YSU] definitely would feel better with more professional, adult security,” Douglass said.

Ernest Johnson, a freshman undecided major, said he has conflicting feelings about campus safety.

“Not that I know of that many things happen on campus, but knowing the area that we’re in and growing up in Youngstown I know it can be very dangerous overall,” Johnson said.

Logan Kaminski, a freshman undecided major, said he always feels safe.

“I absolutely feel safe,” Kaminski said. “I love to walk around this campus. I think it’s a gorgeous campus, and there’s not one instance where I’ve felt unsafe.”

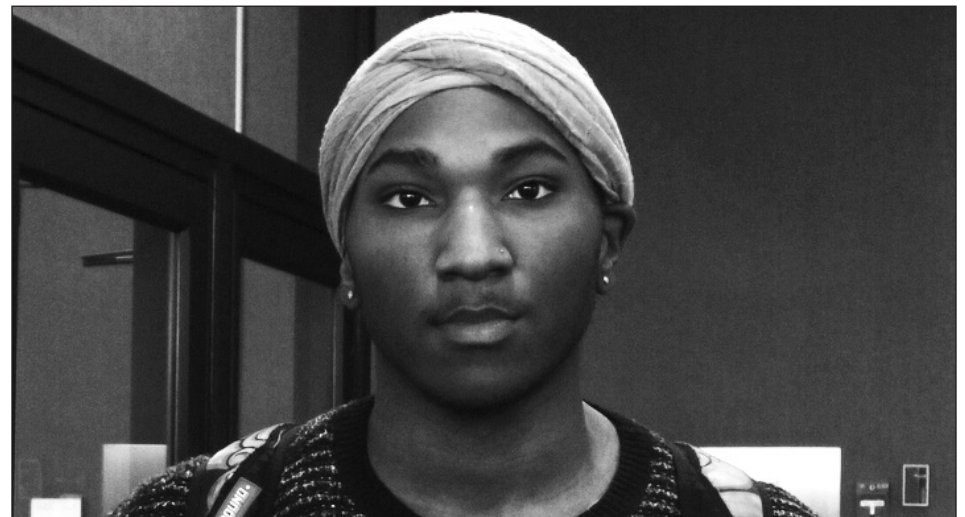
Varso said the university offers active shooter safety training to students, staff and faculty through open sessions, as well as more individualized sessions that he can set up for specific campus groups.

“As long as I’m open that date, whatever date that they want to use, or whatever group wants to do the training, I can set it up for anyone,” Varso said.

Those interested in mass shooting safety training sessions can contact Varso at [svvarso@ysu.edu](mailto:svvarso@ysu.edu) or at (330) 941-3525.



Logan Kaminski, a freshman undecided major.



Ernest Johnson, a freshman undecided major.



Santajah Douglass, a junior psychology major.

## Wellness

Page 1

“The portal is kind of the place to go, the dashboard [is] where people can go to see a whole host of all of the different things we have to offer,” Clyde said. “We also try to promote what we have available through our healthcare provider Medical Mutual. They have things like we get a discount through Weight Watchers. We have chronic disease management tools.”

Additionally, the portal offers challenges to motivate employees to get involved. Clyde said participants can earn points by completing the challenges, and at the end of the year, those points can be turned into cash.

“We have \$100, [that] is the base level, up to \$250. So, there’s four different levels in there depending on the amount of points that people can earn,” Clyde said. “Then that goes out into their first paycheck in Decem-

ber.”

Crystal Bannon, assistant director for the Office of Career Exploration and Development, has been participating in the program since it started 14 years ago. She said her favorite part of the program is the Walk Your Way to Wellness Challenge.

“It’s nice because it gives us the opportunity [during] our lunch breaks or our meeting times during the summer, to say, ‘Alright let’s go ahead and get some steps in,’” Bannon said. “Not only does [Clyde] provide the tracker ... for participants if they don’t have an Apple Watch or a Fitbit of their own, but then there’s also different types of drawings throughout the program.”

Faun Williams, business operation specialist for Housing and Residence Life, frequently uses Living Well. She said the program allows her to be a part of the wellness community.

“I feel better being a part of the wellness community.

I love that we go in every year and do our assessment,” Williams said. “There’s no reason that we should be on this campus and not be somewhat healthy, or have the information that we need to be healthy.”

Shawntae Burton, outreach coordinator for the Assured Digital Microelectronics Education and Training Ecosystem program, said the program has been beneficial to her.

“[Living Well] has given me information that has taught me how to make my office more workspace friendly. It has given me information to help with all types of things, including stress,” Burton said. “The greatest benefit is that they have offered these learning modules and experiences in so many modalities, that anyone can access this information at any time.”

Employees seeking more information on Living Well can visit the Living Well Employee Wellness Program Portal on its website.



The Living Well Employee Wellness Portal helps YSU employees look after their health.

Photo by Molly Burke / The Jambar

# Corporate sponsors bring in big bucks for YSU athletics

By **Lindsey Linard**  
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University's athletic marketing team works with local businesses to become corporate sponsors of YSU athletics, providing important funding for sports programs.

According to Athletic Director Ron Strollo, YSU's corporate sponsors bring the Athletic Department over \$1 million every year, which is used to support many day-to-day aspects of YSU athletics.

"They're really local business owners that want to support our student-athletes, want to support our university," Strollo said. "We're fortunate because we can provide so many different avenues for a return on investment for them."

Ysusports.com describes the Corporate Partner Program as "providing sponsors an 'effective and fun' alternative to reach fans, consumers and clients at a very affordable investment."

According to Robb Schmidt, assistant director of Athletic Marketing and Promotions, there are various levels of corporate sponsorship, usually starting at a minimum

of \$10,000. The businesses then work with the athletic marketing staff to develop signage, print, radio and TV advertising, as well as other events or promotions.

Advertising can be seen around campus in Stambaugh Stadium, Beehly Center and game programs for YSU sporting events. YSU's sponsors represent a variety of industries, from healthcare to restaurants.

Belleria Pizza & Italian Restaurant has been a supporter of YSU for over 20 years. It provides food for various YSU athletic teams and sponsors t-shirt and gift card giveaways, radio interviews and timeout activities during basketball games, as well as providing pepperoni rolls at game concessions.

Frank Frattaroli, owner of Belleria Pizza in Struthers, said that corporate sponsorship tremendously helped his business.

"It got so many people in the door," Frattaroli said. "It was quite beneficial, customer wise, financially wise."

Frattaroli said the continued partnership is more than just a business expense. He has created many relationships with YSU student-athletes and fans from the community.

"For me, that's why I've been doing it for 20-some

years, the friendships I have made and the contacts I have made," Frattaroli said. "We've had so many people say 'thank you for sponsoring sports at YSU.'"

Thom Duma Fine Jewelers has been a sponsor of YSU athletics since 2016. The business is a full-service jewelry store located in Warren and holds the title of "The official Jeweler of the YSU Penguins."

Thom Duma, president and CEO of Thom Duma Fine Jewelers, said he believes his company's partnership is mutually beneficial.

"I believe that it is a natural fit that a jewelry store is built around love and milestones," Duma said. "Here we have a large student population that are going to fall in love and then need an engagement ring, or graduate which is a milestone, and then perhaps put a Rolex timepiece on their wrist as a celebration of that milestone."

In addition to advertising, Thom Duma also sponsors the Thom Duma Fine Jewelers half-court shot at men's and women's basketball games, where a YSU student has the chance to win a \$5,000 shopping spree.

"It's an honor to be able to support the program, to be part of the community," Duma said. "Sometimes you need your money to show support."



Corporate sponsor advertisements can be seen around the basketball court in Beehly Center.



Photo by Lindsey Linard / Jambar Contributor

# LGBTQ resources for YSU students

By Jessica Stamp  
The Jambar

The Office of the Dean of Students offers many resources for students at Youngstown State University. One of those resources is for students in the LGBTQ community who may face discrimination or struggle obtaining necessities to be themselves.

Nicole Kent-Strollo, dean of students and ombudsperson, said the LGBTQ resources the office offers help to students who might be struggling with their identity and don't have the means to support themselves because of their family not accepting them.

"Some of the things that we focus on are really issues where a student is struggling because of the identity ... it might be that they came out to their family and they're not being accepted and they don't have a place to live so we are going to be here to assist with that process," Kent-Strollo said.

The LGBTQ+ Emergency Fund was created two years ago and focuses on helping individuals who end up in a situation where they need housing because they are no longer welcomed by their family or friends.

If this was to occur, Kent-Strollo said the student can be placed in either a residence hall or hotel but it varies from person to person and their situation.

"That would definitely be something that we can assist them with regard to this fund," Kent-Strollo said. "It happens in lots of different ways because we have to consider the entire student [and their situation]."

Another way the Office of the Dean of Students can help LGBTQ students is through the Penguin Pantry, which offers clothes to any students in need.

Two forms students can fill out if they have an issue they want to talk about are the Penguin of Concern Referral Form and Student Complaint Form. The Penguin of Concern Referral form can be sub-

mitted by themselves or for another individual. The individual can also schedule a meeting to discuss what is happening in their lives and receive guidance.

"It might be that the student just wants to submit a Penguin of Concern form for themselves or for someone else, just letting us know what's going on [in their lives]," Kent-Strollo said.

The Student Complaint Form can be used for many reasons such as if a student is being discriminated against by a professor, faculty or peers. The form would go through the Office of Equal Opportunity because it is more of an employment issue with a professor involved.

"We all collaborate," Kent-Strollo said. "No matter what the issue is, if they're working on the probably more the employment legal side of not being permitted to do something like that, we are offering the support on the other side."

For more information about LGBTQ resources, visit the Office of Dean of Students website.

"Some of the things that we focus on are really issues where a student is struggling because of the identity ... it might be that they came out to their family and they're not being accepted and they don't have a place to live so we are going to be here to assist with that process."

— Nicole Kent-Strollo,  
Dean of students and ombudsperson

# Penguin Pantry reopens at new location

By Jessica Stamp  
The Jambar

The Penguin Pantry had a grand reopening March 1 at its new location in room 1405 in Cushwa Hall.

The reopening showcased shelves of pantry items which any student can take after scanning a QR code at the desk. The pantry also has shoes and business clothes such as suits and ties for students in need.

With the new location, a refrigerator and freezer which are filled with perishable items was also added.

Ali Adler, case manager for the Office of the Dean of Students, said relocating the Penguin Pantry opens its services up for more students.

"In Kilcawley Center, it kind of was like back in a corner so moving it down here, it's more right in the first floor of Cushwa Hall so that students can kind of come in, they can see what we have," Adler said. "It's a little more open so we can get more traffic."

Adler said it was not hard to find a new location because of a collaboration between Jeffery Allen, dean of Bionte College of Health and Human Sciences, and

Nicole Kent-Strollo, dean of students and ombudsperson.

"Nicole Kent-Strollo met with Dean Allen who's the dean of the Bionte College of Health and Human Sciences and they came to the agreement that [Cushwa Hall] was a good location for [the Penguin Pantry]," Adler said.

The Office of the Dean of Students took over ownership of the Penguin Pantry around the fall of 2022 from the Student Government Association because they felt students have enough to handle with their everyday schedules.

Stephanie Baker, a case manager for the Office of the Dean of Students, said it would be easier on students if the Office of the Dean of Students took over the Penguin Pantry.

"Along with Student Government, we felt that it would be better to be housed in the Office of the Dean of Students just because we're an office that is staffed by professionals [and] we're more readily accessible to help students when they need it rather than relying on other students who have busy lives and busy sched-

ules," Baker said.

Baker said being in the new location and partnership has allowed the pantry to work with dietetic and possibly nursing students to provide more education on nutrition and food.

"We talked about fashion merchandise, we've worked with the dietetic students already and maybe working with the nursing just to bring more options and more education to students as well when it comes to the food that they're eating," Baker said.

The two main ways students can get involved with the Penguin Pantry are through volunteering and donating items. Many students volunteer at the Penguin Pantry, especially students in the Honors College.

Taylor Dean, an undergraduate intern with the Office of the Dean of Students, said volunteering is a rewarding experience.

"We get to see how we can help students here and how we can give them resources that will be successful outside of the university," Dean said.

The Penguin Pantry is open Monday through Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

# Speakers provide personal and professional insights at TEDx

By **Natalie Lasky**  
The Jambar

Technology Education and Design x Youngstown featured an array of 17 speakers March 10. The event's theme, "Life Happens," centered on how individuals can take a step toward success by implementing change in their personal and professional lives.

TEDx Youngstown is a platform for speakers from different backgrounds to share information. According to the event coordinators, the majority of the TEDx audience comes from social media platforms, sometimes reaching over six million views per video.

The event covered a variety of topics, including personal growth, business strategies and the power of embracing uniqueness. According to the TEDx web-

site, each speaker brings perspectives and insights, inspiring the audience to think differently and challenge the status quo.

Jeet Kune Do instructor Chris Kent said his talk provided a platform for personal development through martial arts training with Jeet Kune Do masters Dan Inosanto and Bruce Lee.

"Personal growth requires a deliberate effort towards self-improvement, intentional learning and your consistent action," Kent said. "While I was impressed with Bruce initially, physically, the more I got on the hold, the more I saw there was the mind behind the fighting machine that made him."

Kent said the audience should embrace discomfort, take risks, learn from failures and seek liberation through knowledge.

"The more that I trained the [more] I started seeing that it had this, this phenomenal underlying philosophical foundation, which the central theme was personal liberation of, you know, self liberation ... through self knowledge," Kent said.

When radio talk show host Joe Danyi started off in his business career, he said most of his mentors were older and wanted to inspire younger generations to pursue similar careers.

"When I first started in business, a lot of my peers were in their sixties, right? There wasn't anybody my age getting into business," Danyi said. "We go on the radio and talk about business and we try to inspire younger kids to think of that as some kinda tract."

Danyi said he uses his challenges to inspire younger generations to not let

hurdles get in the way of pursuing goals.

Leah Tekac, digital media specialist for White Glove Payroll attended the event and said she was moved to take the lessons she learned and apply them to life.

"My favorite, I guess work related one was probably ... a CEO for a day and really just talking about how it's so important to empower employees to be decision makers," Tekac said.

Other speakers at the event included Dr. Corinne Devin, Dr. Philippe Bouisso, Dr. Kelly Casperson, Dr. Karen Federici, Dr. Yasmine Sheik, Jason Flakes, Carol Bennett, Christina Matteucci, Olive Persimmon, Adiel Gorel, William Adams, Quinton Zondervan, Carmella M. Williams and Ville Houttu.

For more information about TEDx Youngstown, go to the TEDx Youngstown website.

# New era of diversity, equity and inclusion

By **Aleksa Radenovic**  
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University's community is comprised of many, diverse communities. The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion on campus is working to grow its impact of making students feel accepted and included, respectful and aware.

The mission of the DEI office is bringing together and celebrating different cultural communities. Susan Moorer, assistant director for Multicultural and Outreach Services at the DEI office, said it wants to bring together the separated YSU and Youngstown communities and events.

"YSU has their events and the [Youngstown] community has their own, but I really want to form a synergistic approach to both," Moorer said.

Moorer said the Office of DEI is designed to represent students of different ages, ethnicities, languages, religions, gender and cultures on campus.

"It's a safe place for everyone," Moorer said. "We provide training, events and mentoring programs for

students at YSU."

Donquail Mims, coordinator for transitioning and mentoring programs at the DEI office, said he sees the difference the office is making in comparison to his time as student at YSU.

"Not only are you having a grand time meeting new people from diverse backgrounds, we are also promoting a sense of belonging here on campus, and that's something I felt was lacking when I was an undergrad," Mims said.

Mims has been working on advertisements for new activities and outreach for the office. He also said the goal of student engagement is even more important than the planning itself.

"We recently took students to see [Black Panther:] Wakanda Forever. For spring break, we took the students to the Holocaust Museum and the Freedom Center in Cincinnati, and we also have our Women's History Month events coming up," said Mims.

Even from an athletics perspective, DEI plays an integral role at the university.

Jaysen Spencer, the director of Athletic Academic

Services and minority administrator, said the DEI office has incorporated diversity, equity and inclusion in many ways on campus. This includes recruiting highly diverse people.

"Everything we do needs to be done through a DEI lens," said Spencer, "Whether it's hiring more diverse coaches, recruiting a more diverse student-athlete population and hiring diverse medical staff."

Spencer said he believes YSU lacks a sense of community, and his goal is to change that by creating multiple programs to bring student-athletes closer together and educate them about what inclusivity means and what it stands for.

"We can't have a homogeneous society, we need a dissimilar society," Spencer said. "We had formed a Black Indigenous People of Color Community because we have subcultures within the athletics that don't know each."

For more information and upcoming events, visit the office of DEI's website.



Pictured left to right: Danielle Fedak, Zach Gorrell, Dan Allen, Morgan Davidson.

Photo by John Cox / Jambar Contributor

# A community for students with autism

By John Cox  
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University's Autism Social Group began in the spring 2022 semester, facilitated by Accessibility Services. Gatherings are meant to serve as an easy, noncommittal way to meet with others on the spectrum.

The group allows students on the autism spectrum to connect and have a safe space to interact while on campus.

Graduate Assistant Intern Morgan Davidson oversees meetings for the first 30 minutes, until she gives the students the space to run the meeting as they choose. She said Accessibility Services wishes to bring more visibility to the group and recently began utilizing the YSU App.

"This is the first semester that I started using the student feed. We're allowing people to use a QR code to check in, and it also gives them the option to provide feedback," Davidson said.

Davidson said feedback from students has been positive, because they find connecting with similar people a great way to foster a community.

"[Students] really liked it. They just really like the opportunity to socialize and meet other people like them who get it. It's a safe space with less pressure," Davidson said.

Gina McGranahan, assistant director of Accessibility Services, said she receives feedback from parents on how they feel about the group.

"I get a lot of feedback from parents who like it. They like the opportunity for their students to meet other students," McGranahan said.

The group's activities are all decided by the members, McGranahan said, giving them the freedom to use the meeting time however they choose.

"Whatever the students choose to do, it's their group, they decide. Sometimes they play cards, sometimes they sit around and talk, it's a social group, it's to do social activities," McGranahan said. "We're offering them things like painting the rock or to do different kinds of

things, but it's up to them ultimately if that's what they want to do."

According to Davidson, group turnout is smaller this semester, with four regular members down from the five prior, but they appreciate the space.

Zach Gorrell, a public health major, said he enjoys having people around that understand what it's like to struggle with autism.

"It's nice to be able to have a community available to talk about the struggles because no one else gets it. They're so hyper-specific to having autism that it's hard to have anyone else to relate to," Gorrell said. "I have a fiancé and I talk to her about my problems, but she does not understand my autistic problems that I have at all, and the community here really does."

The meetings are held from 2 to 5 p.m. Mondays in Jones Meeting Room 2017 in Kilcawley Center. Registration with Accessibility Services is not mandatory for participation.



# Youngstown gets funky

By John Ostapowicz  
Jambar Contributor

In the Mahoning Valley, jazz is making a resurgence with the help of bassist Dante Basista and multi-instrumentalist Danny Svenson. Professionally known as Unc D and Thin Thicket respectively, the pair has worked with numerous musicians to create new sounds.

The formation of Unc D led to the creation of “mumble jazz,” a mixture of Auto-Tune hip-hop and jazz influences. Basista achieved the original sound by using an Auto-Tune pedal on his vocals.

The idea originated from a jam band known as Goose, whose lead singer Rick Mitarotonda uses an Auto-Tune pedal on his vocals.

“Mumble jazz came about in a weird way,” Basista said. “Before the Auto-Tune pedal even arrived, mumble jazz popped in my head.”

Unc D’s groovy bass solos and Thin Thickets use a variety of different musicians from across the globe and have grabbed the attention of listeners. As of March 2023, Unc D has accumulated over 78,000 monthly listeners on Spotify.

Unc D utilizes the jam session formula with the ability to have musicians join together inside Svenson’s house, which serves as an in-house recording studio. Basista also features the musicians’ names in the tagline in all music he releases. This allows smaller musicians to start a profile on Spotify and earn revenue from the track.

“Whatever we get is what it is and that has helped us a lot,” Basista said. “There are no expectations and whoever we can get in the room, we’re going to make

something good.”

The list of people the duo has worked with is extensive, including trumpet player E-SWERVE, saxophonist Nathan Paul, Switzerland producer Lo-fi Riderz and, most recently, Atlanta rapper 645AR.

Cleveland-based trumpet player Ethan Farris known as E-SWERVE, has partnered with the duo several times and was featured on two hits, “2 Funky” and “I Love Black Women.” Both songs have been streamed over 100,000 times and landed on the “Best Jazz Songs of 2022,” a playlist hand-picked by Spotify.

“I enjoy those projects because all three of us [Unc D and Nathan Paul] have our own ideal on progressive jazz,” Farris said. “I feel like the tracks we make together are fun.”

Unc D’s discography contains over 700 minutes of music and over one million streams collectively. Basista and Svenson’s music was also featured on National Public Radio’s, “New Music Friday” and “Jazz Night In America,” playlists.

On March 24, Unc D and Thin Thicket will perform at the Beachland Ballroom and Tavern in Cleveland and tickets can be purchased in advance at [beachlandballroom.com](http://beachlandballroom.com)

The pair releases new music every Friday and have two new albums in the works, and will release “MMBLJZZ:SPKNG N TXNCS” May 5 and “F’Uncstown” June 2.

Born in Lowellville, Basista grew up playing with bands and fell in love with music at a young age. He graduated from Youngstown State University with a Master of Arts in history.

“I was in a bunch of rock bands when I was younger,” Basista said. “I eventually came to jazz and funk, and that’s where Unc D emerged.”

Leading up to the duo’s creative efforts, Basista and Svenson met at a jam session at Suzie’s Dogs & Drafts. Since then, the pair has worked on numerous projects together.

“We ended up on a ton of gigs together for various things,” Svenson said. “We played a lot together back then, but didn’t necessarily work together creatively.”

Svenson was born in Youngstown and over the years has worked with local bands, such as The Labra Brothers and Spirit of the Bear, writing songs and playing with the groups.

“I’ve been blessed to have so many amazing people around me to do stuff with,” Svenson said. “Finding myself in a lot of positions to say yes.”

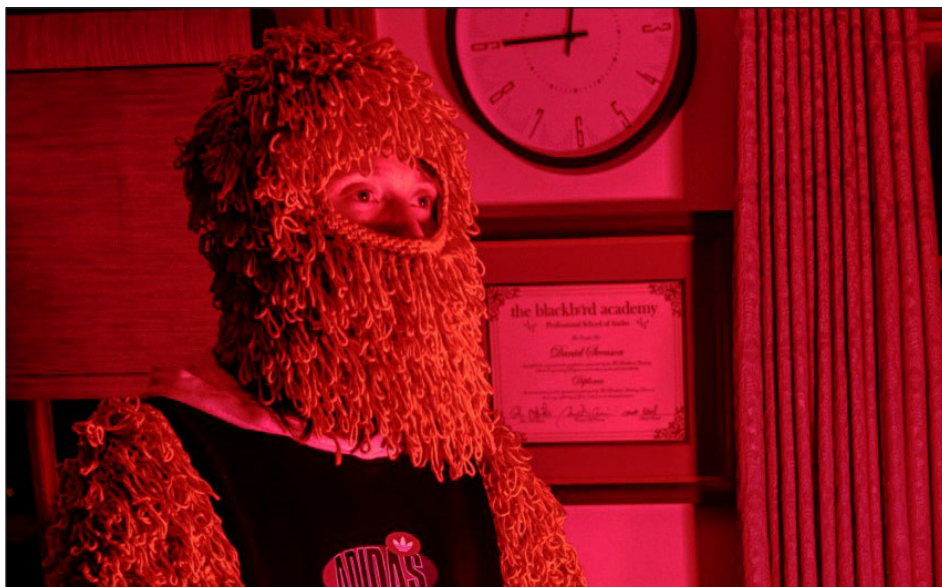
With the creation of Unc D in 2019, the pair started working together on new music with Svenson serving as co-producer alongside Basista. The partnership catapulted a new wave of music that has changed the genre of jazz.

The duo will be back in the Mahoning Valley on May 13 at Modern Methods Brewing Co. in Warren.

Every Wednesday at Noble Creature Cask House, the duo hosts a jam night for local musicians to come out and jam with the group.

Unc D’s new single, “Youngstown 1” featuring Pittsburgh-based saxophonist Winston Bell is now streaming on Spotify.

All artists can be listened to on [Spotify.com](https://www.spotify.com) or [Apple Music](https://www.apple.com/music).



Thin Thicket (left) and Unc D (right) performing.

Photos courtesy of Justin Stellmar



The woman's club soccer team practices twice a week.

Photo by Haley Thierry / Jambar Contributor

# Club sports get active on campus

By Haley Thierry  
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University club sports offer competitive sport opportunities for all students.

Kiah Powell, graduate assistant of competitive sports and summer camps, said club sports are available for any undergraduate and graduate full-time students.

"That sports community is incredible like, you gain friendships, you learn how to go through adversity, time management, like there's so many skills you learn through sports," Powell said.

Club sports at YSU include men's and women's soccer and volleyball, men's lacrosse, men's baseball, men's golf and women's rugby. Coed sports include bowling, clay target, equestrian, archery, fencing, gymnastics, bass fishing, barbel, hip-hop dance, tennis and ultimate frisbee.

Club sports are working to get a women's softball club and men's basketball club running for the fall semester. Unlike intramural sports, club sports practice weekly.

Each club sport is a part of a league called National Governing Bodies. Each league creates a schedule for the teams in the sport and plays through that schedule, usually on weekends.

Fiona Lally, vice president of the Club Sports Exec-

utive Board and treasurer of the women's soccer club, said club sports are a step between intramurals and the varsity level.

"We're able to travel and have those same experiences while also not having a huge commitment and practice three times a week," Lally said.

The women's club sport soccer team competes against bigger universities such as University of Cincinnati, Cleveland State University, University of Pittsburgh and The Ohio State University.

Jacob Stack, president of the Club Sports Executive Board and vice president of the baseball club, said club sports give students the opportunity to play the sport they like at a higher level than recreational and intramural.

"It's still competitive. It's still everybody going and doing what they want to do. But it gives us the freedom to kind of, more so run it as students and play other schools," Stack said.

According to Powell, club sports offer a club housing experience scholarship for 30 freshmen or sophomores who live on campus.

Students must be an active participant of a club and complete five community service hours with Campus Recreation to qualify. The scholarship offers \$1000 per semester for housing needs, and applications are ac-

cepted each December.

Powell said she loves club sports because she can meet new people and gain a lot of skills while being a part of the sports community.

"As an alumni you can be a coach for that specific club. So say we had a senior in a club and they graduated, and became an alumni, they could coach that club but they could no longer participate as a player," Powell said.

Lally said they've met their closest friends through club sports and built a good connection with their team.

"I've made some of the greatest relationships, and I think it's a great place to keep playing soccer, but also meet people you wouldn't meet otherwise," Lally said.

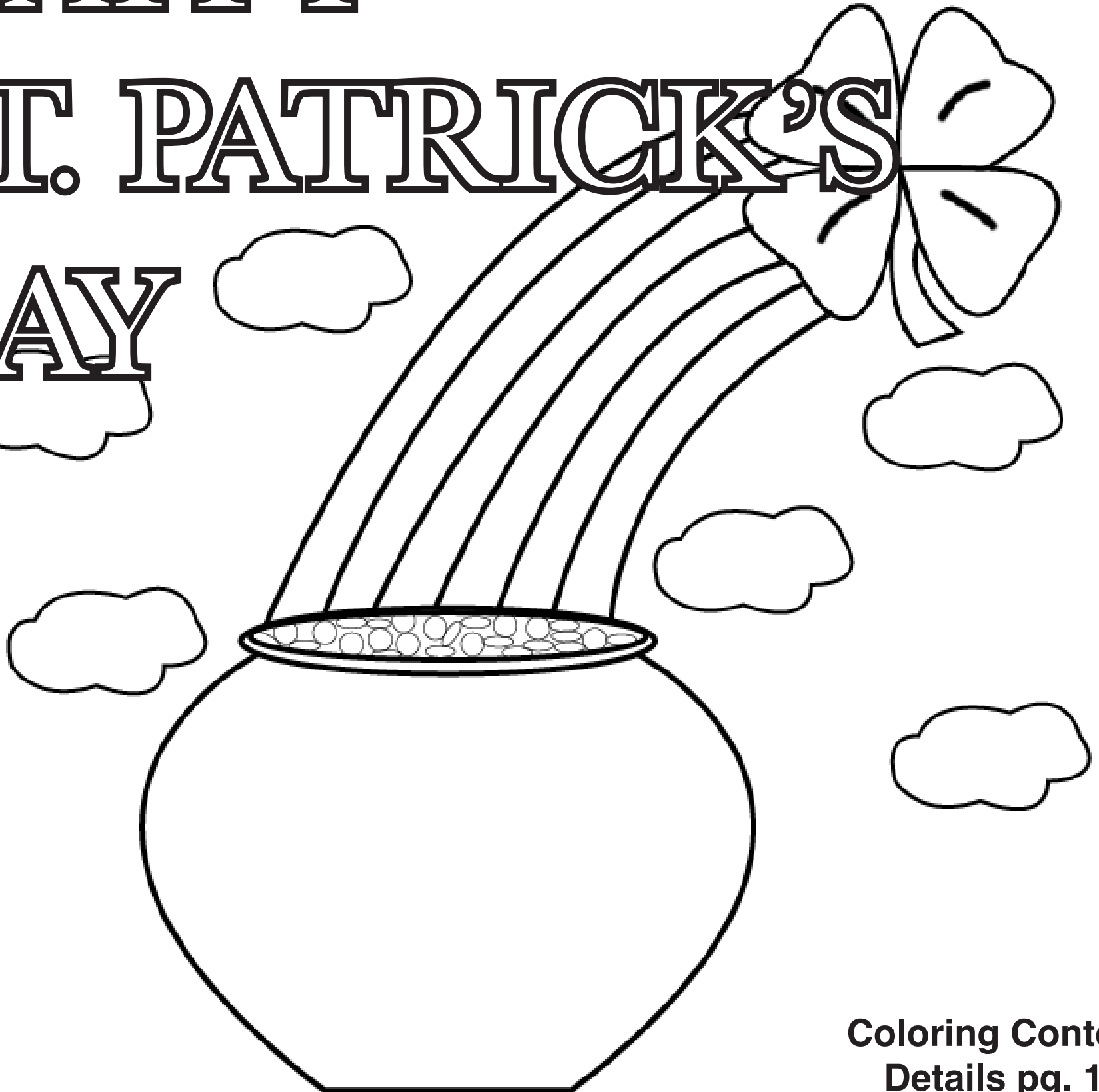
Stack explained how he built strong bonds with the friends he made through his club sport and that it's brought people with different backgrounds together.

"My favorite part about club sports is just the fact that I got to meet all these guys. It's people I probably wouldn't have met at YSU if it weren't for club baseball," Stack said.

Students interested in joining a club sport, can contact and meet with the president or vice president of those clubs, and learn if they have an opening on the roster. For more information, contact Powell or visit the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center website.

COLOR ME!!

# HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



Coloring Contest!  
Details pg. 13

# The Jambar Column

## What, no slap?

Another year, another Oscars ceremony. I tuned in, patiently waiting for another scandal and to my surprise, the biggest controversy seemed to be the change in the color of the carpet.

Yes, for some reason the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences decided to change the ubiquitous red carpet to a “champagne” carpet. Apparently, the change was made so that the orange tent set up for potential weather changes didn’t clash with the red carpet.

I just wish someone had told the nominees’ stylists.

So many people wore beige, cream, saffron and champagne-colored outfits; it was like watching heads and arms float to interviewers. Stars including Dwayne Johnson, Michelle Yeoh, Florence Pugh and many others seemed to, unfortunately, blend into their surroundings. Jamie Lee Curtis had the best tweet of the night about the situation.

Once the ceremony began, the evening seemed to run a bit smoother. Jimmy Kimmel’s opening monologue heavily touched on the antics of the previous year’s event.

“If anyone in this theater commits an act of violence at any point during the show, you will be awarded the Oscar for best actor and permitted to give a 19-minute-long speech,” Kimmel said.

Honestly, it was a great monologue. He was reverent and cutting in the best ways.

Ke Huy Quan and Brendan Fraser, two actors from a classic movie from my childhood, “Encino Man,” both won Oscars. That is a sentence I never thought I would get to write.

“Everything Everywhere All at Once” was the big winner of the night. The movie won 7 awards, including Best Actress, Best Directing and Best Picture.

It also swept the Best Supporting Actor/Actress categories, in which Jamie Lee Curtis FINALLY won a statue (even if Stephanie Hsu carried EVERY scene she was in for that movie).



Henry Shorr

I saw some people online upset about Kimmel, asking Malala Yousafzai if she thought Harry Styles really spit on Chris Pine, but come on. She’s at the Oscars, what did she expect out of someone like Kimmel in that situation? Her answer was perfect, though. Yousafzai said, “I only talk about peace.” Which, in a cheeky way, may have actually been an answer to Kimmel’s question.

My biggest gripe of the night is my perennial gripe: Why don’t women, and women of color more specifically, get nods for anything besides acting? The biggest non-protected category win for a woman was Sarah Polley (who also directed the movie) for Best Adapted Screenplay for writing “Women Talking.”

There were so many great movies directed by women last year — my two favorites being “The Woman King” and “Till.” For none to get a Best Director nod, and the fact that this is a perennial issue, will continue to be a soapbox I stand on.

The biggest issue with this, to me, is while the Oscars may just seem to the outsider like a night where Hollywood pats itself on the back (which it is), it has serious career implications for those involved.

Industry members who are nominated and win get huge boosts to their standings in the movie business, and the fact that the academy continues to prop up men can only be seen by me as a way to keep the cycle of men in power in the movie business.

All in all, the presenters did a great job, the speeches were not too long, and even still the show ran for three and a half hours. I think the world is happier when there is less drama at the Oscars.

# The Jambar Editorial

## Betting madness

A 2018 U.S. Supreme Court decision paved the way for states across the country to legalize and regulate sports betting. Now sports betting is legalized in 33 states with varying degrees of regulation and close to unlimited access.

With March Madness tournaments starting this week, the American Gaming Association predicts 68 million Americans could participate and wager about \$15.5 billion. A survey found that about 18 million more Americans will participate compared to February’s Super Bowl.

A large amount of participation and wagers can be traced to how accessible sports betting is for anyone over the age of 21. Apps like FanDuel, Sportsbook and DraftKings allow close to 24/7 access to a multitude of different games for people to place bets right on their phones.

However, this ease of access and increased participation has caused some public health concerns regarding the dangers of irresponsible gaming and gambling addictions. While creating brackets and placing bets for March Madness may be fun, the National Council on Problem Gambling has dubbed March as Problem Gambling Awareness Month.

The National Council on Problem Gambling stated that international data shows about 1% of people who gamble will develop a serious gambling problem. However, online or electronic sports betting exacerbates this problem.

“A national online gambling survey conducted in the U.S. in late 2018 included additional questions for those who reported sports betting in the prior year. Sports bettors [5%-7%] endorsed the ‘many times’ response option for each of the four problem gambling items at approximately twice the rate of nonsports bettors [2%-3%],” according to the National Council on Problem Gambling.

The National Council on Problem Gambling attributes quite a few reasons why online or electronic sports betting might be more dangerous. The first is the demographic it draws in — young, single men. The second is that it is catered to a specific

interest that people believe they have expert knowledge in — sports.

According to MAYO Clinic, compulsive gambling or gambling disorder can have detrimental impacts on an individual’s health and livelihood.

It also stated gambling disorders may look like an excessive amount of bets and an increasing amount of money placed, the compulsive need to make up lost wagers, hiding your gambling and the willingness to risk work or personal relationships for gambling.

However, the different types of wagers are expanding, and people can place or change wagers midgame. The Atlantic wrote that these different changes and expansion of bets could lead to even more problem gambling.

Another growing concern for sports betting is the harassment against student-athletes. This has existed prior to sports betting, but now there are new, higher stakes for student-athletes and losing games.

A 24-year-old Florida man was sentenced to 36 months of probation after pleading guilty to harassing and threatening collegiate and professional-level players after losing bets he placed.

States and sports betting sites are trying to counteract this by encouraging responsible play and blacklisting any bettors who harass athletes.

On the other hand, there are some benefits to legalized sports betting. In Ohio, about 98% of the total tax profits is going back into the funding for public and private K-12 Ohio education.

The Ohio Legislative Service Commission estimated that revenue from sports betting in the state is expected to total about \$3.35 billion per year.

There is responsible sports betting and gambling. However, individuals should be aware of the potential to develop gambling problems and the risk of excessive gambling. For gambling addiction resources, go to the National Council on Problem Gambling website or call 1-800-522-4700.

## 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.

### EDITORIAL POLICY

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.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Submissions are welcome at [thejambar@gmail.com](mailto: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.

# WORK WITH US!

The student media committee is accepting applications for YSU Student Media positions.

News Editor*	Head of Video Production*
Assistant News Editor*	Assistant Video Production
Student Life Editor*	Line Producer
Sports Editor*	TV Director**
General News Multimedia Journalist	Technical Director**
Student Life Multimedia Journalist	Floor Director**
Sports Multimedia Journalist	TV Crew**
Columnist	Teleprompter Operator**
Web Manager*	Designer*
Assistant Web Manager*	Copy Editor*
Social Media Manager	Assistant Copy Editor*
Advertising Producer	Assistant Rookery Radio Manager
Assistant Advertising Producer	
Photographer / Videographer	

\*must be available Wednesday evenings

\*\*must be available Thursday evenings

\*\*\*must be available Wednesday and Thursday evenings

Apply online at [thejambar.com](http://thejambar.com). Deadline for applications are April 16.  
For questions, contact Mary Dota at [mfdota@ysu.edu](mailto:mfdota@ysu.edu) or call 330-941-3094

## The Jambar Coloring Book Contest

Color in page 11 for the chance to win prizes, such as Jambar Swag!

Send us your submissions and YSU email address over Instagram @ysu\_jambar

Winner will be decided March 21.  
One entry per person.

Check out  
JambarTV on  
YouTube and  
stay up to  
date with all  
campus news.

# Swimming & diving makes waves in championships

By Dylan Lux  
Jambar Contributor

The Youngstown State University swimming & diving teams had their best finish in program history at the Horizon League championships from Feb. 15 through 18.

The team also had two individual conference championships this season. Sophomore Aleksa Radenovic finished first in the 200 fly and junior Gavin Webb finished in the top spot in the 1650 in back-to-back years.

The Penguins both finished fourth overall at the Horizon League Championships, as the men finished with 431 points, and the women finished with 426.

Brad Smith, head coach of the swimming & diving teams, explained the positive impact of Radenovic and Webb winning individual conference championships.

“It’s another step in the right direction for our program, one of our goals is to win conference championships ... for [Webb] to be a repeat means the world. He’s worked really hard for this,” Smith said. “We knew the potential that [Radenovic] had, and it was great to see

Alex emerge this year.”

Smith spoke on how the team prepared for the championship meets.

“For the NCAAs and NICs, after conference championships we give them a week off, and kind of build them back in slowly,” Smith said. “We get to peak volume for about half of a week, then we kind of taper them back down for this.”

At the CSCAA National Invitational, from March 8 through 11, the Penguins delivered impressive performances, which included podiums from Webb in the 1650, including a school record time and Radenovic in the 200 fly.

Three other Penguins finished in the top 30 in competition. Senior Karan Raju placed 19th in the 200 fly event. Juniors Soma Albert finished 23rd in the 200 back, while Gavin Redden took home 29th in the 100 free.

The swimming & diving team will compete in the NCAA Championships from March 22 to March 25. Keep up-to-date with the team at [ysusports.com](http://ysusports.com)

“It’s another step in the right direction for our program, one of our goals is to win conference championships.”

— Brad Smith,  
Swimming & diving head coach

## Lacrosse moves to 2-5 in season

By Dylan Lux  
Jambar Contributor

The women’s lacrosse team started the season with a win against Butler University at home Feb. 12. Since then, the Penguins have struggled as they lost the following five games.

Sophomore Natalie Calandra-Ryan came away with Offensive Player of the Week honors for the Mid-American Conference after her performances against Niagara University and No. 3 Northwestern University.

Calandra-Ryan scored three goals against Niagara to complete her fourth hat trick of the season. She also tallied four draw controls against the Purple Eagles, but it wasn’t enough for the Penguins, as they lost 18-11.

Against No. 3 Northwestern, Calandra-Ryan netted five draw controls, the most of any player. She also grabbed two

ground balls in the matchup, which ended 24-3.

The lacrosse team returned to action against Gardner-Webb University at home March 14, where they took home the victory, 21-18. Calandra-Ryan, fresh off her Player of the Week performances, led the Penguins with 7 goals, and 5 assists.

Halle Kotulock, who has been assistant coach since January, has assumed the role as head coach of the lacrosse team, taking over from Kendyl Clarkson who will no longer be working with the team.

Kotulock will be the head coach for the remainder of the 2022-2023 season, a decision made March 15. It will be up to Kotulock if she decides to bring on an assistant coach.

The lacrosse team will return to the field March 19, to face off against Canisius University in Buffalo, New York.

## Tennis competes on the road

By Dylan Lux  
Jambar Contributor

The Youngstown State women’s tennis team is having its fair share of struggles this season, with a 2-8 record through 10 games. Its most recent matchups involved a trip to California to take on Long Beach State University and California State University Northridge.

In both matchups, the Penguins lost 5-2, which brought their losing streak to five. Their March 17 matchup against Duquesne University concludes their road stint, as conference play will begin against Cleveland State University on April 1 at the YSU Indoor Tennis Center.

The men’s tennis team has seen some success this season, winning five of 12 games, along with honoring Laurentiu Mandocescu and Nathan Favier, as two

Horizon League Singles Players of the Week.

In their most recent matchups, the Penguins traveled to Birmingham, Alabama to take on the University of Alabama Birmingham and Samford University.

The Penguins fell in both matchups, as they lost 6-1 in the first matchup against the Blazers, and dropped their second match 4-3 against the Bulldogs.

Mandocescu and Favier were honored with Horizon League Singles Players of the Week this season.

Men’s tennis will see the court again March 17, when it travels to Wilmington, North Carolina for a two-day event. The Penguins will then face Illinois State and North Carolina Wilmington on March 17, and they will see DePaul University on March 18.



Photo by Dylan Lux / The Jambar

Dena Jarrells attempts game-winning shot against Northern Kentucky University.

# Women's basketball season ends

By Cameron Niemi  
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University women's basketball team were defeated in a heartbreaker at home by Northern Kentucky University in the quarterfinals of the Horizon League tournament with a final 59-58.

The Penguins lost a close game despite making a big comeback in the fourth quarter. The Beeghly Center was packed for the doubleheader tournament games.

Fifth-year senior Lilly Ritz finished off her collegiate career recording her 19th double-double of the season, as she scored 17 points with a season-high 21 rebounds, which is also a new Horizon League Tournament record. She scored 15 points in the second half and 10 in the fourth quarter.

Senior Dena Jarrells scored 15 points and had four assists. Junior Malia Magestro scored 10 points and had two rebounds. The Penguins bench scored just seven points.

The Norse had three players that scored in double-figures. Kailee Davis and Lindsey Duvall both recorded a double-double.

Despite the loss, Youngstown State played well defensively as it held Northern Kentucky to 33.9% from the field and 12.5% from beyond the arch. The Penguins did not play their best game offensively, they shot 37% from the field and went 6-of-27 from 3-point range.

Youngstown jumped out to an early 14-12 lead in the first quarter. In the second quarter the Norse slowed down the Penguins offense, they held them to just eight points and outscored them by 10.

In the third quarter, Northern Kentucky added to their lead. It led by as many as 16 points. The Penguins hit a 3-pointer to end the quarter and cut the Norse lead down to 12.

The Norse went into the fourth quarter leading Youngstown 52-40. The Penguins continued to fight back as they cut Northern Kentucky's lead to just five points with under three minutes to play.

Sixth-year senior Megan Callahan scored a layup with just eight seconds left to give the Penguins their first lead since the second quarter.

Coming out of a timeout, Northern Kentucky's Duvall made a driving layup with just three seconds remaining to put the Norse up by one point. The Penguins attempted to hit a game-winning shot, but it did not land.

Despite the one-point loss, the Penguins showed great effort in their comeback. They held Northern Kentucky to just seven points and were just one play away from advancing to the semifinals in Indianapolis.

Magestro spoke after the game about the team's performance and the comeback in the fourth down 14 points.

"I think it definitely says a lot about us as people and as players, we would do anything to win. It didn't happen today, but we definitely can say we gave it our all," Magestro said.

The Penguins finished the 2022-23 season with a 19-11 overall record and finished fourth in the Horizon League. Despite the quarter finals loss at home, Youngstown State will have high expectations for next season as it will bring back a majority of its players.

# Penguins fall in “The Capital City”

By John Ostapowicz

The Jambar

The number one seeded Youngstown State University men's basketball team secured a spot in the Barbasol Horizon League Men's Basketball Championship Semifinals for the first time since the 2016-17 season.

The Penguins accomplished the feat with an impressive win over The University of Detroit Mercy at Beeghly Center on March 2. Youngstown State held the Titans to zero field goals for the final four minutes of the second half, rounding out a 71-66 victory.

Beeghly Center was packed with 5,584 attendees to watch the high-scoring Penguins offense. The crowd was the largest since 2013.

The Youngstown State offense was fueled by graduate student Adrian Nelson with 20 points, while senior Dwayne Cohill added 17 to the scoring total.

“From experience, I know what it takes to get to the final four and win a championship,” Nelson said. “I had to make sure I picked up my level of play and I knew everyone else would follow.”

For Detroit Mercy, senior Antoine Davis finished the game 3 points shy of Pete Maravich's NCAA career scoring record and now ranks second all-time with 3,665 points.

With the win, the men's basketball team traveled to Indianapolis to the Indiana Farmers Coliseum. The Penguins played the first game of the final four against the University of Northern Kentucky on March 6.

In the last semifinals appearance for the Penguins in the 2016-17 season, they lost to Northern Kentucky, 74-84.

In a *deja vu* moment, Youngstown State

fell to the Norse, 63-75. The team tried to recuperate with a second-half effort but came up short.

The Penguins' scoring effort was led by Nelson with 17 points and 13 rebounds, as he recorded another double-double. Cohill followed suit with a 16-point effort before fouling out with 5:40 remaining in regulation.

In response to his performance, Cohill said he could have done more for the team and could have helped facilitate a victory.

“I don't think we made enough plays,” Cohill said. “We were stagnant in the first half.”

Trailing by 22 points in the second half, Youngstown State fired back and got within four points at the 4:44 mark. The four-point margin was the closest the Penguins came to securing a lead.

After the game, head coach Jerrod Calhoun commented on how the team fell short but was pleased with how far the team has come.

“These guys, you have nothing to be ashamed of. You accomplished a lot and won a regular season title,” Calhoun said.

For the season, the Penguins fell to 24-9 overall, tying the most wins in program history.

Despite the loss, Youngstown State will earn an automatic bid to the National Invitational Tournament for the first time in program history by claiming the program's first regular-season Horizon League regular season title.

The men's basketball team played in the NIT on March 15 against Oklahoma State University inside Beeghly Center.

For more information on the game, check out [ysusports.com](http://ysusports.com)



Bryce McBride and Brandon Rush talk before tip-off.

Photo by Dylan Lux / The Jambar