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A MOMENT OF ACHIEVEMENT



Graduates will gather in Stambaugh Stadium for spring commencement.

Photo by Elizabeth Coss / The Jambar

Graduating to another chapter

By **Jessica Stamp**
The Jambar

Spring commencement will begin at 1 p.m. May 6 at Stambaugh Stadium at Youngstown State University with over 1,500 students graduating. The event will have free parking for family and friends.

The event will feature keynote speaker Ellen

Tressel, retired first lady and wife to former YSU President Jim Tressel.

She gave a speech in December 2022 during her husband's tenure celebration as YSU's president. Then in February, Ellen was asked to be a keynote speaker.

Graduation, Page 2

Professors retire from YSU

By **Christopher Gillett**
The Jambar

Before retiring, professors at Youngstown State University touch the lives of everyone around them through teaching, working with faculty, organizing events or designing whole programs.

This semester, a total of 17 faculty are retiring.

Guang-Hwa Andy Chang has been a professor of mathematics and statistics at YSU since 1993. Chang said he went into mathematics to take care of his family.

"My major in undergraduate [studies] was navigation. I liked to go to see the world, but then I thought about family. I have to take care of [my] family. If I travel around the world I can't take care of my family," Chang said. "Believe it or not, math was my worst subject when I was in high school and college."

After attending graduate school for math, Chang decided to go into academia, and ended up at YSU. Before Chang came to YSU, the university didn't have a data science and statistics program. During the 1990s, Chang built the program, writing the proposals for all the courses.

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Graduation

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“In the middle of December, there was a celebration of my husband’s tenure at Youngstown State as president ... I gave a speech that night, which apparently a lot of people like,” Ellen said. “From there my name must have come up in the discussions beyond that, and they called me — probably, it was February — and asked if I would be the speaker for commencement as the retired first lady, so I said yes.”

Ellen said it can be daunting to talk in front of a crowd but she will always give her best.

“It’s always nerve-racking to speak in front of the crowd and it’s not an easy thing to do but I’m gonna put a lot of thought into it, a lot of prayer and give it my best shot and hopefully, it’ll be well received,” Ellen said.

Ellen said she plans on talking about her experience with YSU, her family history and giving the graduates a message to take with them as they move forward with their journey past YSU.

“[I’ll] probably talk a little bit about my experience with Youngstown State and my family history there,” Ellen said. “Then, probably the message will be to the graduate as to a little bit about their future and what it might be going forward for them and how to make an impact and make a difference in their lives and to those around them.”

Ellen said commencement is a mo-

“Commencement is probably one of the greatest days of their lives because it shows a lot of hard work, a lot of dedication, a lot of persistence, a lot of grit, that they have put into their education to get to that point and they can be very proud of that.”

— Ellen Tressel,

Retired first lady and wife to former YSU President Jim Tressel

ment for graduates to reflect on all their hard effort and commitment.

“Commencement is probably one of the greatest days of their lives because it shows a lot of hard work, a lot of dedication, a lot of persistence, a lot of grit, that they have put into their education to get to that point and they can be very proud of that,” Ellen said.

Elizabeth Brassell, a senior social work major, will be the student speaker at commencement.

Brassell explained that she was offered the role of speaker by not one, but two people from the university.

“I was nominated by the chair of the social work department, Dana Davis, and then I got an email from Joe Morgan, who is Lakeland’s representative for YSU,” Brassell said. “He reached out to me and asking if I would interview for

this role and I said yes.”

Brassell said her speech is going to be about success in both the workplace and in life.

“It’s based on determination,” Brassell said. “Don’t be afraid to fail, it’s a part of learning.”

Brassell said some advice she would give to graduating students is to never give up despite how hard life can get.

“Never give up even if it’s one small setback. It’s just a bump in the road, you’ll eventually get to your end goal,” Brassell said.

Both Ellen and Brassell will be speaking at commencement for about seven to nine minutes congratulating students on their achievements and successes.

In the case of severe weather, commencement will be rescheduled for the following day, May 7.

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7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed

High: 66°F	High: 61°F	High: 65°F	High: 61°F	High: 49°F	High: 51°F	High: 54°F
Low: 51°F	Low: 51°F	Low: 44°F	Low: 38°F	Low: 36°F	Low: 37°F	Low: 36°F
Chance of precip: 1%	Chance of precip: 97%	Chance of precip: 85%	Chance of precip: 98%	Chance of precip: 70%	Chance of precip: 55%	Chance of precip: 55%



Partly Cloudy



Rain



Scattered Showers



Scattered Showers



Rain



Scattered Showers



Rain

Information courtesy of accuweather.com

Generating potential trouble: AI on campus

By John Cox
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University students have been caught and penalized for using generative artificial intelligence to complete assignments.

Certain programs, such as ChatGPT, pose a concern for instructors. With the wealth of data the AI is trained on, a detailed prompt can write a student's assignment for them, to varying degrees of success.

YSU staff is learning more about these programs, what they do, how their data is collected and what to do to combat them if used in an academically-dishonest way.

Mark Vopat, head of the YSU-OEA faculty union and a philosophy professor, attended a meeting with the founder of GPTZero, which is an AI that can detect when a text is created by another AI.

"A grad student at Princeton had written a program called GPTZero. He came up with an incredibly accurate detector of AI," Vopat said. "He's already formed a company with some of his fellow grad students and they're offering his program along with an [application programming interface] that can be used for other programs."

Blackboard currently supports SafeAssign, a plagiarism detection program. Rosalyn Donaldson, director of IT Training Services, said generative AI doesn't cite work, so it could bypass the program.

"Generative AI does not necessarily cite information that is found on the web. It's difficult to determine whether or not it's plagiarized," Donaldson said. "It's up to the student in their sense of due diligence to do work [and] to not use those tools, but we have tools in place already to find issues of plagiarism."

Assistant Dean of Students Erin Hungerman said the use of AI by students violates academic integrity rules regarding plagiarism and use of outside sources. Students caught can be penalized by their professor if they confess to the charges.

"If students admit to the charge, the professor is able to work with them to come up with whatever type of penalty would be appropriate," Hungerman said.

Hungerman also said if students deny the charge, the matter is taken to an academic integrity hearing, where a panel of faculty members and students determine the likelihood of the offense and if found guilty, are punished appropriately.

All students who've been found to violate academic honesty by using AI software go through the Dean of Students Office. Hungerman said she's already dealt with violations.

"We've had a handful of cases that've been routed to our office where faculty members have been able to determine and students have eventually admitted to using AI for at least a portion of the writing assignments," Hungerman said.

Donaldson said students should be cognizant that the process of completing assignments is important to the learning process.

"When you write a thesis or dissertation, the research you're reading is that of others, but you're assimilating that information into knowledge and using critical thinking in order to formulate an idea," Donaldson said. "If you're using generative AI, you don't know if the information is correct or from a reputable source."

Vopat said he agrees that assignments aren't only about the finished product.

"If I assign a paper in one of my courses, is it the paper that I'm concerned about or should I be concerned with the entire process?" Vopat said. "I want my students to take an idea, research that idea, outline, draft a paper and revise that draft."

According to Vopat, students using ChatGPT to cheat and bypass the learning process are cheating themselves out of the higher education they're paying for.

"Parents say to 'Go to a university to get a good job.' That's not the only reason you go. It's not just about a job — or a grade on a paper — it's about learning to get to that end," Vopat said.



Photo by John Cox / Jambar Contributor

Students have been caught using AI on assignments.

Retirement

Page 1

Chang said he enjoyed his time at YSU helping students and researching statistics.

“I really enjoyed every moment here — I have lots of freedom to do what I like to do, and YSU supports us ... There’s a lot of good research activity going on. [It] really enriched my life too. I really enjoyed every moment — working with faculty, teaching students. I can’t have anything better than this,” Chang said.

Richard Goldthwait, an assistant professor of math, specifically geometry and differential equations, was a mechanical engineer whose work became focused on mathematics, coming to YSU in 1988.

Goldthwait said he loved working with his colleagues whether he’s at the university or at academic conferences.

“I’ve always enjoyed working with my colleagues in the math department here. It’s been truly awesome,” Goldthwait said. “Some of my best memories date back to the ‘90s when I was a young untenured professor. I remember going to conferences with a colleague from this department presenting research papers at other institutions.”

Dr. Nancy Wagner, the director of the Centofanti School of Nursing and a nursing professor, has been working at YSU for over 30 years. Before coming to YSU, she worked as a nurse at the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital.

Wagner said she put love into the education

she provided to thousands of nurses.

“I hope that because I’ve loved what I’ve done for over 40 years, I hope that I’ve given those students and graduates that same feeling. I want them to love what they do,” Wagner said. “I’m really passionate about our community, and we’ve added to the nursing workforce. We have been a major player in that here at YSU.”

Dr. Kim Ballone, a nursing professor, has been working at YSU for 33 years. Ballone got into nursing through the influence of her mother who worked in healthcare.

She attended YSU, then worked as a nurse before coming back to teach nursing. Ballone said her legacy is reflected in all the students she helped grow.

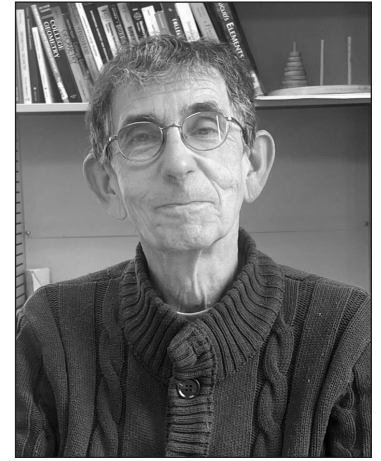
“My biggest legacy is the lives that I’ve touched and come to encounter [realizing] that they’re going to make big differences in other people who are vulnerable, who are sick, who need help, who need some education [and] who need to know what direction to turn to,” Ballone said.

“I feel like I’ve touched so many lives, and I’ve really enjoyed being an educator.”

Other professors retiring are health and rehabilitation professor James Benedict, nursing professors Dr. Susan Lisko and Molly Roche, math professors Stephen Rodabaugh and Neil Flowers, computer science professor Theodore Bosela, English professor Philip Brady, psychology professor Stephen Flora, anthropology professor Paul Gordiejew and engineering professor Hojjat Mehri.



Guang-Hwa Andy Chang



Richard Goldthwait



Nancy Wagner



Kim Ballone

Photos by Christopher Gillett / The Jambar

One-stop tech shop in Kilcawley Center

By Hannah Werle
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University’s Guin’s Gadgets sells branded technology accessories, such as laptop sleeves, headphones and wireless chargers in conjunction with the IT Service Desk in Kilcawley Center.

Sharyn Zembower, associate director of IT Customer Services, oversees the service desk and its programs, such as Guin’s Gadgets and the Penguin Plug-In stations and loaner program.

“Guin’s Gadgets — that is our newest venture out of the service desk — [it’s] an area that’s designed to [provide] students with YSU branded tech items,” Zembower said. “[It’s] a place that they can get tech accessories that they need pretty quickly.”

Zembower said she began working on Guin’s Gadgets in November 2022, but it was always a desire to offer electronic accessories for students.

“The ultimate goal [is] to be able to provide the students with a place that is almost one-stop shopping,

meaning they could come into the kiosk, order a device [and] have it sent here. We can help them set it up and then be able to assist them when they need help with it,” Zembower said.

The IT Service Desk also offers rental computers through the Penguin Plug-In Loaner Program. The program began in 2020 because of the pandemic and virtual learning requirements.

Students and part-time faculty may use a loaned device for free for two semesters and then for \$50 each subsequent semester.

Megan Blank, a technology support technician at the service desk, worked alongside Zembower to develop the loaning program and Guin’s Gadgets.

“[Zembower] really wanted to make technology available for students, so being able to have different accessories that are pretty much essential for your education,” Blank said.

Blank said Guin’s Gadgets provides a range of prices, so students can find the items they need at a reasonable cost.

“Utilize the programs. They’re here to help you through education, through teaching, anything like that,” Blank said. “It’s definitely a cheaper option than having to outright either buy a computer or buy different accessories.”

Vince Krasinski, student store manager of Guin’s Gadgets, said he believes the IT Service Desk and Guin’s Gadgets are helpful in part because of their centralized location in Kilcawley Center.

“It’s nice that the service desk is here in Kilcawley because we get a lot of foot traffic and we’re kind of in the center of campus,” Krasinski said. “It’s nice that we are here, in a centralized location, so [customers] can get their tech help in a place where they’d be for other things.”

The IT Service Desk provides software support for all devices, whether personal or loaned. While it cannot assist with hardware issues, the service desk can recommend outside sources for repairs.

Wind down at Maag

By Molly Burke
The Jambar

Students can relax with therapy dogs, play games and study during extended hours at the William F. Maag, Jr. Library during finals week.

The library's hours will be extended from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. April 28, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. April 29, 1 p.m. to midnight April 30 and 7:30 a.m. to midnight May 1 through 3.

Ana Torres, a co-director at Maag Library, said the extended hours are for students preparing for finals.

"Most of the students — what they need is the space to be able to study and finalize their projects — so we extend our hours," Torres said. "We want the students to be successful and we want to provide ... the various sources that they need to be successful and relax a little bit."

Torres said Dogsmartz Unleashed in Poland will be providing therapy dogs in the library's lobby from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. April 30, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. May 1 and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. May 2.

"We brought [the service dogs] last semester through Dogsmartz Unleashed. They provide therapy dogs with their owners and it was a wonderful experience and the students very much appreciated that," Torres said.

Archives specialist and record management specialist, Lisa Garofali, said there are small activities for students who want to decompress while they study.

"We also have some small activities like coloring for mindfulness, and we have some origami and puzzles and we have games if students are stressed out and just need to take a break," Garofali said.

Maag has offered resources for students during finals week in years past. Garofali said she always wants to support

students.

"For years we've always offered some relaxation activities, we've had extended hours for as long as I can remember if students really need it," Garofali said. "We've always been there to support the students and help them any way we can."

Cassie Nespore, curator of University Archives and Melnick Medical Museum, said there will be a stress relief paper shredder for students who want to alleviate stress.

"We put out paper that students can write on if they want. You can write down what you're stressed about, or the final that just happened," Nespore said. "You put it through that shredder and it's gone. It just kind of helps you relieve and just let go of whatever that was that was stressing you out."

Nespore said the library is always incorporating new services to keep up with the needs of students.

"We have charging cords for your phone or laptop. Those are things that we just saw students needed and we bought them," Nespore said. "The medical models was something we saw students need ... We do a lot of that stuff throughout the year as we see the needs of students evolving."

Silent study areas are available throughout Maag. Nespore said she encourages students to take advantage of the quiet space and explained where students can find them.

"I think the library is a great place to study for finals," Nespore said. "My personal favorite is the quiet floors on 5, 5A, 6 and 6A where I need complete silence to read and really focus on what I'm doing. There are nice views here so if you need to get off of your screen for a bit."

For more information about Maag Library and its services, check out its website.



Maag library will extend its hours for finals week.

Photo by Molly Burke / The Jambar

Extended Maag Hours:

April 28 – 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

April 29 – 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

April 30 – 1 p.m. to midnight

May 1-3 – 7:30 a.m. to midnight

Therapy Dogs Hours:

April 30 – 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

May 1 – 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

May 2 – 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Carrying the torch: In law and gelato

By **Aleksa Radenovic**
Jambar Contributor

Alexander Papa wears many hats including being the newly-elected Youngstown State University's Student Government Association president and entrepreneur.

Papa said being extremely busy is normal for him and that being a full-time student, a member of multiple student organizations and owning a business isn't an easy job.

"On the night of my junior prom, as my date was getting ready, I was in my prom suit laying the flooring for the kitchen in the shop," Papa said.

Papa comes from a family of lawyers. Before his father decided to take the first steps into the legal world, he opened a small gelato business in 2000 called East

Street Parlor, which was attached to his father's office.

"It was a patio-garage kind of deal," Papa said. "When he left for law school, he shut it down."

Then came Papa Galeteria. What started as an idea to make extra pocket money turned into a very successful business in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania. Papa said gelato made perfect sense since his family is Italian and the business continues his father's vision.

"I was a junior in high school and I thought, 'It would be a cool idea to bring the business back and make extra money,'" Papa said.

Owning a business while being a full-time college student has taught Papa many things. These include thorough understanding of the inner workings of corporations, business operations, human

resources and general management.

"The stuff I learned is what they teach in business schools, so I basically did it backward," Papa said. "It gives me a huge bump on my resume."

Papa Galeteria is relocating from Pennsylvania to Ohio. Papa said his team has already started setting up freezers at Penguin City, and gelato will be ready to serve May 6 — in time for spring graduation.

"I sold my shop in New Wilmington, [Pennsylvania], and we will have a new freezer at Penguin City," Papa said.

Leadership has always been a big part of Papa's life. That's why he decided to run for president of the Student Government Association.

"Being a leader for me means being in the trenches with my peers and doing the work with them," Papa said. "I'm a big

believer in delegating my responsibilities as a leader."

Papa started off in public relations for SGA, and soon after progressed to becoming a vice president of that committee. Papa said this position shaped him and taught him what it takes to become president one day.

"It's equally important to promote the changes we are making for students, so they are aware of what we're doing for them," Papa said. "It's one of those things that wasn't utilized before, so this will be a new perspective."

Papa is a soon-to-be graduate with a double major in history and political science. Beginning fall 2023, he'll start his master's of business administration studies and his position as SGA president.

Helping hands: Courtesy of an alumna

By **Raeghan Hilton**
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University alumna Lena Esmail is using her education to expand healthcare services, to create jobs in the Mahoning Valley and surrounding areas.

There are currently 20 Quick Meds in northeast Ohio — 10 stand-alone clinics and 10 school-based clinics. These clinics have around 170 employees that see over 100,000 patients a year.

When starting Quick Med, Esmail said her and her silent partner found private funding, but as the company grew, it turned to the community. Thanks to successful events and the community's buy-in, the company was able to continue privately funding.

Quick Med offers services related to urgent care, primary care and at the Austintown location — women's health. Esmail said services can differ depending on the specific needs of the community.

"We go above and beyond the typical walk-in clinic model of urgent care. We are able to offer blood work as we have a centralized lab," Esmail said. "We also are able to do things like IV fluid injections, shots for those that need it and we have some specialty services as well that urgent cares typically don't venture into and that includes primary care services."

Esmail said her patients appreciate the convenience

and affordability at Quick Med.

All Quick Med stand-alone locations are open seven days a week, including evening and weekend hours. Appointments aren't necessary so patients can walk in at any point during the Quick Med hours and when telehealth visits are offered.

Esmail also explained how Quick Med is affordable because there isn't the same level of overhead costs as a hospital. Therefore, patients get the same services for a smaller price.

"For example, if you come in for a cut or a laceration that needs stitches you will get the exact same service that you would in the emergency department for on average 3/4 less cost," Esmail said.

Another route Esmail has taken with Quick Med is the You Care Clinics, which are Quick Med's school-based clinics. Esmail said the four walk-in clinics function uniquely as they offer dental services and mental health services. Quick Med is looking to offer ophthalmology and audiology services to students in the near future.

Just recently, a new Quick Med opened on Glenwood Avenue in Youngstown.

"It is the first urgent care within the city limits of Youngstown. It also offers primary care and is strategically placed on the south side of Youngstown because we knew going into it there was a need there, it was a healthcare desert," Esmail said.

Moving forward, Esmail said a stand-alone Quick Med will be opening in Salem this summer which will work alongside the already established school-based clinic.

Esmail has earned a total of five degrees. She received her first two degrees from YSU, a bachelor of science and nursing and a bachelor of arts and biology degree.

Esmail then went to Ursuline College where she earned a masters of science in nursing followed by a doctor of nursing practice which she received from Kent State University.

She returned to YSU for her post-master's degree in adult critical care for nurse practitioners.

Prior to developing the Quick Med Clinics, Esmail said she had several years of experience working as a nurse practitioner in the emergency and inpatient departments in hospitals.

Besides Esmail's work with the Quick Med Clinics, she also serves the community through serving on boards and committees. She sits on the board of trustees at the YMCA in downtown Youngstown and the Youngstown Business Incubator.

Additionally, Esmail continues her ties with YSU as a member of the Equity Committee for the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services.

For more information on the Quick Med Clinics, visit its website.

Celebrating nurses' work

By Christopher Gillett
The Jambar

For the first time, the Centofanti School of Nursing is celebrating Nurses Week April 24 to 28 with a series of events for nursing students.

Dr. Nancy Wagner, the director of the Centofanti School of Nursing and a nursing professor, organized the celebration and events. Wagner said nurses play a role in both medically and emotionally caring for patients.

"[Nurses] have to have the knowledge to understand what is wrong with the patient. So caring is very important, safety is very important. And beyond that, they certainly need to be a part of the healthcare team," Wagner said.

Conner Crogan, a senior nursing major at Youngstown State University, said Nurses Week celebrates the commitment nurses like him give.

"Nursing is not an easy job, and it's a lot of time and commitment, and I think [Nurses Week is] just a week to celebrate all the care and love [nurses] give to their patients," Crogan said.

Carly Huber, a junior nursing major, also said Nurses

Week pays respect to nurses' hard work.

"It's just a celebration of all the hard work that we do," Huber said. "A lot of us have additional jobs where we work in the hospitals, so it's just the way we are appreciated, and then also to appreciate the faculty too and all the hard work they do."

Alongside working jobs while at YSU, Wagner said nurses deal with being overworked and underpaid.

"Staffing and pay and just scheduling is an issue, and nurses are really overworked, but a lot of them still love what they do," Wagner said.

While many students are learning about the hard work that comes with nursing, passion is pushing some forward. Paris Bumgardner, a senior nursing major, said his passions brought him into nursing.

"I just have a passion for taking care of people — I'm a people person — and I just have a passion for just healthcare and anatomy," Bumgardner said. "Combining the two put me into the position of nursing."

When COVID-19 vaccines were rolling out, many nursing students were given the opportunity to vaccinate people at the campus vaccine clinics. Sterling Roberts, a senior nursing major, said giving COVID-19 vaccines allowed him to use what he learned in the

classroom.

"I wasn't giving many vaccinations at the time and I think it helped me to hone in all my skills to do that, and it was a very different experience because we haven't dealt with COVID before. So, it's a whole new thing for us and I felt like I learned a lot," Roberts said.

Among the Nurses Week events was a social in Cushman Hall on April 24 where nursing majors could converse and enjoy food.

There will also be a celebration for the almost 100 graduating nursing majors April 27 where they will be given gold and red-ribboned medalions to wear at graduation. A banquet will be held for graduating students April 28.

YSU's celebration of Nurses Week is earlier than the official National Nurses Week, which lasts from May 6 to 12 this year, so nursing students can celebrate Nurses Week before the semester ends.

During Nurses Week is also International Nurses Day on May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. Nurses Month is also honored throughout the month of May.



Outside of the Centofanti School of Nursing is an interactive board where anyone can learn about previous YSU nursing students.

Photo by Christopher Gillett / The Jambar

YESS: To helping the Earth

By **Samantha Smith**
The Jambar

In preparation for Earth Day on April 22, Youngstown Environmental Sustainability Society hosted an Earth Day event and presentation April 18 at The Cove in Kilcawley Center.

This event is held every year by YESS to educate students about the importance of improving the environment.

Adriana Devitt, a senior environmental science and environmental engineering major, said YESS teaches students how they can live more sustainably and participate in local environmental organizations.

“We just want to try and educate the students about what is going on locally that they can contribute and participate [in]. It doesn’t take much out of their day to like, just drop off the recycling to the Green Team dumpsters,” Devitt said. “We want people to have a better understanding and better appreciation of where these things are coming from.”

Companies and organizations like the Green Team, the Mahoning Valley Sanitary District, Plant Ahead Ohio and Wild You had tables set up at the event to show

students different ways to protect the environment.

Lola Lewis, president of Plant Ahead Ohio, explained how the organization contributes to sustainability efforts in the Mahoning Valley.

“We work with communities to plant trees in order to help with decreasing carbon dioxide in the air,” Lewis said. “We help in organizing planting events throughout the Mahoning Valley.”

Lewis also said it’s important to collaborate with others when making a difference for the environment.

“[Plant Ahead Ohio wants students to know] how important collaboration is. To also understand that, one of the best things to do is to put back. To be good stewards of the land and to man it, and to remember if we work together and collaborate, we can truly make a difference. That’s very important,” Lewis said.

Julie Bartolone, founder of Wild You, said her organization offers different programs and lets people reconnect with the outdoors.

“We offer all kinds of programming, our most popular is our nature school and nature preschool program,” Bartolone said. “We focus on nature-based education, getting people outdoors, reconnecting with nature.”

Lynn Anderson, a volunteer for Treez Please and paid

staffer for SOBE Concerned Citizens, said Treez Please is another organization that plants trees with a special twist.

“It’s an urban, reforestation program in Youngstown. We plant trees now that are primarily memorial trees and we have a collaboration with [Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation]. We’re going to plant some TreeCorp trees in the fall,” Anderson said.

Anderson also said the table had information about SOBE Concerned Citizens with phones for students to call companies like the Ohio EPA and take action against gasification businesses.

“We wanted the students to get active — so what we had is an action. An action today to stop SOBE — [Students] have been calling the Ohio EPA, and they’re demanding they stop issuing permits to gasification and pyrolysis businesses because they aren’t what we want,” Anderson said.

After students interacted with each table, a presentation from guest speaker Ben Price, a community organizer for Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, was held in the Bresnahan Suite of Kilcawley.

For more information about YESS and its future events, visit its website.



Youngstown Environmental Sustainability Society hosted an Earth Day event in The Cove April 18.

Photos by Samantha Smith / The Jambar



Wee Care Day Care and Learning Centre offers drop-off appointment for parents at YSU.

Photo by Jessica Stamp / The Jambar

A place for the wee ones

By Jessica Stamp
The Jambar

Wee Care Day Care and Learning Centre, located in Fedor Hall at Youngstown State University, has been in business for almost 35 years and cares for YSU faculty, staff and students' children while they attend class or work.

Donna McGrath-Rooney, owner and founder of Wee Care Day Care and Learning Centre, said having a child daycare on campus allows parents to feel reassured their children are safely taken care of on campus.

"They are worry free while they're either in class or at work. It gives them the opportunity to have studying time and still know that their child is being cared for and being educated in a preschool program," McGrath-Rooney said.

McGrath-Rooney explained most of the workers are student employees and the daycare collaborates mostly with education majors.

"We also employ students while they are on campus, so we're always looking for individuals who are in the field of education who are looking for a part time job,"

McGrath-Rooney said. "We hopefully are able to provide them a career opportunity once they've graduated."

McGrath-Rooney said the daycare hopes to work with the early childhood education program, an associate program that allows students the opportunity to receive higher pay.

"We like to put you on board through that program from the minute you step into it. Our hope is when a student graduates in two years that they become full-time employee with us either as a lead preschool teacher [or] a lead toddler teacher," McGrath-Rooney said.

The daycare also partners with the Office of Student Experience to help students who are looking for a job or scholarships.

Joy Polkabila Byers, associate vice president for Student Experience, said the office offers two student scholarships to cover childcare costs.

Applications open in April and are based on the needs of students, grades and those who previously received the scholarship. The scholarship is open to all students.

"Typically every April we put out a call for applicants and there is a committee that reviews the applicants and then they usually pick the top two and it is based off of a

variety of things, such as need, grades, [if] they received this scholarship in the past," Byers said.

Byers said there is another scholarship called the Day Care Assistance Scholarship that offers students the chance to get reimbursed for their childcare costs.

"There's an opportunity that students can get reimbursed for their child care costs. It can be used at Wee Care Day Care, it can be used at other facilities as well and they apply for that at the beginning of every semester," Byers said. "They would show their receipts of payments and they can get reimbursed for these specific amounts."

Students can also use Wee Care Day Care through a drop-off appointment for any occasion where they need their child to be looked after.

"If you were a student that maybe did not use Wee Care Day Care throughout the semester but you needed some additional support for studying or your exam schedule that they will do drop off," Byers said. "You need to sign up in advance but you have the ability to do that."

To schedule a drop-off appointment, head to Wee Care Day Care's website for more information.

The recording studio that shaped the Valley

By John Ostapowicz
Jambar Contributor

For over 50 years, Peppermint Productions on the southside of Youngstown has helped local musicians jump-start their music careers.

From aerobic dance to classic rock, the studio has dabbled in different genres over the years and has produced five Grammy Award winning albums for the “Best Polka Album.”

Peppermint has worked with local bands Red Wanting Blue, The Vindy’s, Left End and The Human Beinz who have recorded singles, albums and music videos inside the studio.

The studio released “Peppermint Presents ... RAT RACE!” May 13, 2022, a compilation of unreleased tracks from Phil Keaggy, Glass Harp, Blue Ash, Iron Knowledge and many more.

Gary Rhamy, who’s owned and operated the studio since 1971, has new music in the works and no plans of slowing down.

Rhamy grew up in Wooster and graduated from Ohio University with a bachelor’s degree in broadcasting.

Before starting Peppermint Productions, Rhamy worked in the recording industry at United Audio in 1967, formally Wham Records. Wham was known for its recording label that was primarily polka artists.

“Wham was really the beginning of it all in the family tree,” Rhamy said. “I still have some of the old equipment that was in the Wham studios.”

With the hopes of growing into a bigger studio, the company struggled financially, which prompted Rhamy to join a business partnership to acquire the studio.

“In an effort to still do recordings in the Youngstown area because of all the talent that was here, I found a fellow that went into partnership with me,” Rhamy said.

With the acquisition of the building and its equipment, Peppermint Productions absorbed the previous studios’ clients, which allowed the studio to grow quickly.

“When Peppermint got going, we updated the equipment and became a much better studio technically,” Rhamy said. “We brought along a lot of clients that were recording with Untied Audio.”

With the introduction of multitrack recording, Peppermint Productions instantly became a favorite with

local musicians. The ability for Rhamy to mix and work with different styles of music prompted the popularity of the studio.

“At that point we were trying to become a production company,” Rhamy said. “We had a couple bands that were signed to Peppermint at the time.”

With the idea of becoming a production company, Peppermint Productions successfully got Blue Ash signed with Mercury Records. From there, the band released its debut album in 1973 “No More, No Less,” with the help of Rhamy.

Peppermint Productions was also responsible for Left Ends’ debut single, “Sunshine Girl”

which topped the charts on local radio stations. Rhamy later recorded the band’s live album “Live, Living and Breathing,” in 1989 at the Park Inn.

Another track Rhamy recorded for Left End, “Bad Talkin’ Lady,” made it on to the band’s debut album, “Spoiled Rotten.”

Drummer Patsy Palombo remembers going to Peppermint Productions and recording Left Ends’ first track.

“We took the tape of [Sunshine Girl] to record it at Peppermint studios on the southside of Youngstown on Indianola,” Palombo said.

After Left End, Rhamy went from rock music to polka bands, which brought the recording studio its first Grammy with the introduction of the “Best Polka Album” category in 1986.

The ability to use multitrack recording on big bands introduced a new way to record polka music by not having to re-record several parts over again.

“We took the techniques that we were applying to pop and rock music and we took those techniques and applied them to the polka sessions,” Rhamy said. “All of the sudden there was more that the bands could do.”

From there, Rhamy worked with Steve Popovich, who founded Cleveland International Records and worked on Meat Loaf’s 1977 album “Bat Out Of Hell.”

The friendship led to the recording of Frank Yankovic’s “70 Years of Hits,” which was the first polka album to ever receive a Grammy.

Peppermint Productions went on to win three consecutive Grammys with Walter Ostanek and his band from 1993 through 1995.

In the 2000s, Rhamy earned two more Grammy Awards with Brave Combo with its album’s “Polka Sonic” in 2000 and “Let’s Kiss: 25th Anniversary Album” in 2005.

Throughout Rhamy’s career, he worked with singer-songwriter Jackie Popovec, and helped start her professional music career by offering her a gig to headline for Angelo Babbaro The Voice of Sinatra Singer at Stambaugh Auditorium.

Popovec went on to create The Vindy’s with guitarists Rick Deak and John Anthony, which led to songs being recorded at Peppermint Productions.

Growing up, Popovec remembers working with Rhamy and the songs she recorded at Peppermint Productions.

“I look fondly back at Peppermint Records in a way that it opened my eyes,” Popovec said “It is just so full of history and I had no clue going into it as a teenager that it was something that was in town.”

The studio is located on 803 East Indianola Ave. and can be contacted at (330) 783-2222.

The compilation album is available on Spotify and bandcamp.com.



Peppermint Productions on 803 East Indianola Ave. Photo by John Ostapowicz / Jambar Contributor

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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

What a long, strange trip it's been

I have been told my taste in music is very eclectic. On any given day, I may be listening to the Wu-Tang Clan, Oasis, Nora Jones, Fall Out Boy, Keri Hilson or any other number of bands and artists I have fallen for through the years.

The Grateful Dead is the one band that has pervaded everything else in my life and has stuck with me through it all.

The Grateful Dead is mostly known for their live shows, hour-long jams, over two-minute songs and the music history they have created. Jerry Garcia, Bob Weir and friends have written songs that, even if you've never sought out their music, I'm sure you've heard.

I first heard the Dead when I was at a Jewish summer camp in Indiana. My counselors were Deadheads and we would listen to their music while we cleaned the cabin every morning. I will never forget the first time I heard the lyric, "Bertha, don't you come around here anymore."

It started me on a lifelong path of great music, good vibes and wonderful people.

Committing to the Dead is on a higher plane than following any other band.

There are die-hard fans who never miss a show in their city or even follow the band around the country. There are fans who catch a show when they can but are content to listen to them in the car or at home.

Some people are fans because their parents loved them, some are fans because their parents hated them but everyone who has created a place for the Grateful Dead in their hearts shares a bond that transcends generations and genres.

One beautiful thing about the Dead's music is they never boxed themselves in. If you asked me what genre the band falls into, I wouldn't be able to answer that question.

From their groovy beginnings in the late '60s to their disco era in the '70s, all



Henry Shorr

the way to the straighter rock and roll they played in the '80s onward, they kept moving with music trends.

Their concerts are a wholly unique experience. They're usually all-day affairs, starting with rows of vendors that follow the band and set up in the parking lot to sell their merch, hoping to score enough cash for gas and maybe a ticket to the show. These "Shakedown Streets," create an economic ecosystem around the band and shows.

Once the music starts at these shows, it's truly an experience. No two shows are alike, as even shows with the same setlists have different jams or transitions from one song to the next. It's a huge reason why fans keep coming back for more.

If I had to recommend some jumping-off points, I would offer "Europe '72" as my favorite live album and "Terrapin Station" as my favorite studio album, but you can't go wrong with any of them.

They're playing their last tour with John Mayer filling Jerry Garcia's shoes this summer and there is a show in Burregettstown, Pennsylvania, where you'll find me.

As this is my last column of the semester, I'll leave you all with my favorite Grateful Dead lyric and I hope all of you Penguins have a fantastic summer.

"Fare you well, fare you well, I love you more than words can tell; listen to the river sing sweet songs to rock my soul."

The Jambar Editorial

More than space on a page

I'm not graduating — unlike my colleagues who also wrote — I'm stepping down from my position as editor-in-chief and will return to a less intensive position.

I've known for a while — a complex mix of stress, health issues and the assurance that someone as equally deserving of leading such a wonderful organization would have the opportunity.

The odd poeticism of this year has never failed to surprise me. From Jim Tressel resigning when I first started as EIC, to a fire on the first day of spring semester — I'm honored to have been there documenting the history of Youngstown State University — including The Jambar's.

There is more to a paper and show than the content it runs. To be more than a byline has always been an internal struggle for me. To feel as though my purpose was beyond information to an audience who doesn't care about my name was a painful self-journey I struggled with.

But, it was always the people who made it worth pushing through. The people always made me love working at The Jambar and the people will always make The Jambar special.

From the moment you walked in, I knew it would be you, Shianna Gibbons.

I could imagine your name etched on the plaque outside the office, memorialized in history. Within one semester as a managing editor, you have always held your head high and I've admired you for it daily.

To my graduating editors, thank you for keeping me grounded.

No one in this office has surprised me more than Michael Sheehan. For both of us having worked here as long as we have, nothing made me happier this semester than when you mentioned wanting to report.

I wish I could've explained the joy it brought me to include you into a process I love so dearly.

You being the last person I trained while being in charge will always stick with me, and I'm extremely appreciative you trusted me in doing so — despite the fact my teaching strategy is equivalent to a trial by fire.

I'll miss discussing color schemes, headlines, grammar details and texting you the pointless office drama. Thank you, for always being the voice of reason.

My platonic soulmate and the best friend I could have asked for, Samantha Smith — the late night calls, memes and drama talks after production nights have held me together for the past year.

You've been there with me through it all. We've grown up from being confused reporters to being trusted with raising the next generation of reporters.

From medical crises to downtown Youngstown adventures, you're the person who made working at The Jambar beyond memorable for me.

I'm struggling to imagine it without you. You made every day that was hard, easier.

The support I have received from the staff this year, especially Sam, Michael and Shianna, alongside my former managing editor and close friend Kyle Wills, has been beyond belief.

To The Family as a whole — thank you for being the family I needed — the family I've always wanted.

You've always been worth my time. You've always been worth my energy and you're more than content.

Reporting for The Jambar, I've been Eli Coss.

Quote of the week

I have a long journey to take, and must bid the company farewell

— Sir Walter Raleigh,
Edward Thompson, ch. 26

The Jambar Editorials

Goodbye's going forward

I started at The Jambar at an odd time in my life. It was the first school year genuinely “back” from COVID-19. I also was looking to expand my horizons and try new things after more than a year of lockdown.

Deciding to work at The Jambar has probably been the best outcome from me wanting to meet new people. Besides all of that, I just wanted to thank some people.

It did take a little convincing from the head copy editor at the time, Laurel Stone, who taught me almost everything I know about the often-frustrating AP style that journalists use. She was never afraid to answer any questions I had, and has been a great friend.

Current editor-in-chief Elizabeth Coss has done an outstanding job for The Jambar. Always happy to lend a helping hand, laugh at one of my jokes or even guide me into my first venture as a reporter, I will be forever thankful for all of it.

Soon-to-be executive producer for JambarTV, Dylan Lux has always light-

ened the mood in the office. I have fond memories from the Wordles we've solved to the dumb NBA memes we've shared, so thank you.

To our columnist, Henry Shorr, I wanted to say thank you for inviting me places and helping to get me out of my shell. Conversations about our favorite movies, TV shows and video games have seen my must-watch list increase substantially.

Former executive producer Kyle Wills and I both learned a lot together about journalism. He also introduced me to the Chipotle Breakfast Burrito in The Den, which has given me energy to power through multiple production nights, thanks for that.

I could go on about the many wonderful people I've met by working at The Jambar for a lot more space than I have, so I'll end on this:

Thank you to everyone who has edited, reported and laughed with me at The Jambar, it's been a good time and I wish you all the best going forward.

—Michael Sheehan

'Thnks fr the mmrs'

While reaching the final days of college, emotions and memories are building up.

I started working for The Jambar in fall 2020. I remember being so nervous about doing interviews and writing stories that others would read. I couldn't imagine doing this all the time, but now it feels natural.

Time really does fly when you're having fun, as cliché as it sounds. I went from not knowing anyone and working from outside the office to staying in the office for hours on end and knowing everyone who walked in.

The Jambar has given me experience for my future career while giving me life-long memories. I interviewed people like the lieutenant governor of Ohio, Jim Tressel and more. I can talk to people more easily than I ever have before, all thanks to this job.

Now to a couple people that I want to shoutout:

Shianna Gibbons, I know you will do great as the new editor-in-chief and trust that you can handle all that is thrown at you. You got this.

Christopher Gillett, or otherwise

known as the last history major in The Jambar, I know you will do great next semester and I will miss the little facts, information and jokes you tell me during production night.

Michael Sheehan: Let me just say, while we might not agree on my headlines sometimes, it has been fun working alongside you. You are an amazing editor, and I was always able to ask you any questions, even if some might have been dumb.

Elizabeth Coss, the best friend I could have ever asked for. From our vending machine runs to the after-production destressors, anything we did could turn into a fun adventure. While I can always come back to campus and stop in to say “hi,” I know it won't be the same as being in the office and goofing around with you practically every day. You truly are the best person I've met.

To the entire Jambar staff, thank you for making my time at The Jambar memorable, rewarding and fun. I will always cherish the time I had here.

Much love, Sam.



Lori Factor, president of Youngstown Press Club visited Jambar staff in February.



Jambar staff celebrating The Jambies award ceremony in March.

Lacrosse earns tournament berth

By John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University lacrosse team secured a conference tournament spot in the Mid-American Conference for the second consecutive season.

The Penguins played inside the Watts and Tressel Training Site April 22, against the University of Detroit Mercy. With a standout offensive effort by the team, it punched its ticket to a tournament berth, with a 20-8 victory.

With the last home game of the season, the team celebrated its senior day with Ali Korin as the lone graduate. Korin got off to a hot start, as she recorded her 100th career goal and compiled three others.

En route to a 20-goal performance, five players re-

corded hat tricks. Junior Jordan Miller and freshman Jade Shearer recorded four goals each in the contest. For Shearer, it marked a career-high in goals and her first career hat trick.

Junior Erin Clark and freshman Ally Garrett were the other two Penguins to deliver on offense with three goals each. Clark also added two assists to acquire five points for the day.

The defense wreaked havoc on the Titans, with junior Tristen Chang scooping up six ground balls, tallying four draw controls and a forced turnover.

Sophomore Aryss Lindsey and sophomore Molly Sheridan each caused two turnovers, while junior Abby Yesko led the team with seven draw controls.

In the cage for the Penguins, redshirt freshman Jacqueline Cornell recorded five saves while junior Mikae-

la Staranko caused two turnovers.

Youngstown State opened the game with six goals before reaching six minutes. Within twenty-seconds after the first whistle, Korin scored her milestone goal, while Garrett found the back of the net a few seconds after.

The team controlled the game with an impressive 43 to 27 shooting margin against the Titans and won the draw control margin, 17-13.

Youngstown State improves to 6-10 overall and 4-3 in MAC play.

With one game left in the regular season, the team will hit the road against Kent State University, April 29, the match is set for 1 p.m.

The final game can be watched on [boxcast.tv](https://www.boxcast.tv).

Softball preps for playoffs

By Cameron Niemi
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University softball team traveled to the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay for a three-game series April 21 to 22.

The Phoenix defeated the Penguins 9-8 in eight innings in the first game. The women were down 5-7 heading into the sixth inning.

The 'Guins tied the game and by the top of the seventh inning, senior Avery Schumacher hit an RBI single, giving the team an 8-7 lead. Green Bay went on to tie the game in the bottom of the seventh. The Phoenix scored the game-winning run in the bottom of the eighth.

In game two of the doubleheader, Youngstown State was defeated 4-3. The Penguins held a 1-0 lead heading into the fourth inning. Senior Conchetta Rinaldi hit a two RBI single, which gave the team a 3-0 lead. In the bottom of the fourth, Green Bay went on and scored two runs.

With a one-run lead by the Penguins, the Phoenix scored two more runs in the bottom of the seventh and held the team scoreless the rest of the game.

In the final game of the series, the Penguins were held scoreless, in a 8-0 loss. The Phoenix played well defensively, especially one the mound, as they held the 'Guins to just two hits.

Youngstown State has an opportunity to bounce back with six games remaining in the regular season, all be-

ing conference games. Three games will be at home — including senior night — then three on the road to end the regular season.

Head coach Brian Campbell spoke about the upcoming series against Cleveland State University, which is currently one game ahead in the standings and the team's game plan.

"Try to play solid defense and good pitching, nothing has changed. When you overthink sometimes that's where it becomes a little bit harder," Campbell said. "Go out and play our game, go out and play individually and as a team. Let it fall where it does and compete."

Despite coming four-straight road losses, the Penguins have an 20-23 overall record and are 8-8 in the conference, and currently sit in 5th place in the Horizon League.

Rinaldi spoke about the season coming to an end and playoffs on the horizon.

"These six games are so crucial as to where we stand and how we move forward. Taking it game by game and doing what we know how to do and getting back to playing YSU softball. There's no better place to do it than the home field, so we're excited," Rinaldi said.

With senior day coming up, senior Sara Fessler spoke about returning home to honor the seniors.

"Throughout my college career I have never loved playing at home more than I do at Youngstown," Fessler said. "I know we're gonna play our best games at home just because we are in front of family and friends and we

always get a lot of support. It's going to be really exciting to play and we'll play our best games for sure."

The Youngstown State softball team will return home for a three-games series to host Cleveland State. The women will play a doubleheader at 2 p.m and 4 p.m. April 27, then at 2:30 p.m. April 29. To view live stats, go to [ysusports.com](https://www.ysusports.com).

"Try to play solid defense and good pitching, nothing has changed. When you overthink sometimes that's where it becomes a little bit harder."

— Brian Campbell,
Softball head coach

WADDLING INTO THE HORSESHOE

YSU goes B1G time

By Andrew Peterson
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University's football team is taking a trip to Columbus this fall. The Penguins play The Ohio State University Buckeyes on Sept. 9.

Athletic Director Ron Strollo said former YSU President Jim Tressel played a role in getting the game scheduled.

"We had become aware that there were going to be some changes to their non-conference schedule," Strollo said. "We had President Tressel reach out to Ohio State, [and] he was kind of the one that opened the door for us once we found out that there was an opportunity for us to make the trip to Columbus this fall."

Tressel is known across the country for the time he spent as the football head coach at Ohio State University.

Tressel finished his tenure at Ohio State with an overall record of 94-22, including six Big Ten Conference titles, a 5-4 bowl record and a 4-3 record in Bowl Championship Series. He has the third most wins as Ohio State coach and led the team to their first undefeated season since 1973.

During Tressel's coaching tenure, he led both Youngstown State and Ohio State to a combined five national championships, becoming the first head coach in Division I college football history to do so.

Strollo said there are many benefits to playing against a school like Ohio State.

"It's a big pay day for us, so financially, it's a big deal for our department and our university," Strollo said.

According to the contract, Ohio State will pay Youngstown State \$800,000.

"The publicity that not only the Athletic Department and our football program will get, but specifically our university, there will be a lot of discussion about our university and President Tressel's connection to Ohio State and to our institution," Strollo said. "It will be a positive day for our institution."

Strollo said the game also benefits Ohio State.

"[Ohio State] gets a home game. They get 100,000 people paying, and who knows how much a ticket [will cost] — \$50, \$60, \$70 dollars a ticket — plus parking [revenue]," Strollo said.

Ohio State will provide 500 free tickets to the visiting team, and 3,000 tickets will be offered for purchase by the visiting team including tickets for the visiting team's

band.

Strollo said Youngstown State's trip to Columbus will not put a financial strain on the school.

"There was no money other than labor put into this game," Strollo said. "We've been doing a lot of work trying to schedule games like this, there's a lot of work that goes behind it, not necessarily any investment in dollars. Now, we'll have to spend some money traveling our team down there, but that's very minimal."

There are different partnerships that come with small

universities like Youngstown State playing a Power Five school like OSU.

"We've always had a great relationship with Ohio State. We've played them in basketball, and we've played them in baseball," Strollo said. "The more communication we have ... will open up for some of our other programs to play their programs."

The last time the Penguins battled the Buckeyes was at the Horseshoe on Aug. 30, 2008, when Tressel was still head coach at OSU.



The Penguins last took on the Buckeyes Aug. 30, 2008.

Photo courtesy of Jambar Archives

Golf putts an end to the season

By Dylan Lux
Jambar Contributor

The Youngstown State University men's and women's golf teams wrapped up three days of competition April 23 to 25, as both the men and women fought for positions in the Horizon League Championships.

Both teams played in Howey-In-The-Hills, Florida, where each team competed against conference opponents.

The men's team finished eighth out of ten Horizon League teams, with a total score of 905. The race was tightly contested, as the point differential between eighth and fourth place was only four strokes.

The highest-placing Penguin was fifth-year senior Bryan Kordupel at three-over par, with a total score of 219. He had a strong final round, finishing with a 70, which put him two-under par on the final day of competition.

The women's team finished fifth out of eight Horizon League teams, with a total score of 941. Senior Puthita Khuanruddee was the highest placing Penguin, as she finished second out of over 40 competitors. She finished with a 227, at seven-over par, just four strokes behind a first-place finish.

The teams competed in multiple invitationals to prepare for the Horizon League Championships, including the YSU Spring Invitational against Cleveland State University and Saint Francis University on April 7.

The team won the invitational with a total score of 307. Junior Titita Loudtragulngam finished with the best score of the match, with a total of 75.

The women's team also finished fifth in the Navy Spring Invitational on April 15 and 16. Junior Madison Smithco was placed highest for Youngstown State, with a score total of 154, finishing ten-over par. The team scored a 633 over the two-day event.

For the men's side, the group finished in eighth place at Northern Kentucky University's The Jewell.

The team finished with a total score of 878, Kordupel placed highest for YSU, as he tied for ninth with a total score of 214 and finished one-over par.

The team also participated in the Wright State Invitational at Heatherwoode Golf Club in Springboro on April 16 and 17.

Out of 11 teams, the men placed sixth with a total score of 921. Junior Dean Austalosh and Kordupel both finished with scores of 224, tying them for fifth overall at the tournament.

Nate Miklos, head coach of the women's golf program, spoke about the team's preparation for the conference championships.

"Throughout the season we've worked really hard, so most of the preparation is already done," Miklos said. "This week has kind of been a balance between giving the players some freedom to work on things they need to, and giving them a little bit of downtime with the travel schedule."

Kordupel explained how the men's side of the team prepared for the long road trip.

"Our coach does a great job of scheduling out the year, and we actually play two events back-to-back before we go to conference, so this'll be three tournaments in the last three weeks," Kordupel said. "It gets a little hectic but you definitely aren't practicing as much and you get more rest in between your tournaments."

Statistics and updates for both teams can be found on ysusports.com

