

# Faculty Vote Authorizes for Potential Strike



photo by **TANNER MONDOK**

In coming weeks, if faculty do not reach an agreement with Youngstown State University, classrooms all around campus will be without students and professors due to strike.

by **JORDAN UNGER**

but hurts lower paid faculty.

The negotiations are currently in fact-finding, which required faculty and administration to present their sides and where they think resources should be distributed. The fact-finder's report will not be decided until early September. If both sides agree with the fact-finder report, this will become the faculty's contract.

Albert Sumell, president of OEA-YSU, said the students should not yet be worried about the possibility of a strike.

"We hope to be able to avoid a strike," Sumell said. "I don't want students to get concerned at this point that a strike is looming or to consider, 'What do I do if the faculty members go on strike?'"

There would be a 10-day strike notice given by the union if one is issued, which Sumell said is a

legal requirement.

"It would not be a surprise," Sumell said. "It would be known by everyone that a strike is pending and possible. If we are able to arrive at an agreement within those ten days, then great. We don't go on strike and it's settled. If we're not, then whatever is ten days after that is issued we would go on strike."

One of the leading issues that faculty want addressed is workload. The current workload is 12 credit hours per semester. The proposed workload by the administration states that 12 hours would only be 80 percent of a full workload.

Chryshanna Jackson-Leftwich, spokesperson for the OEA-YSU, said YSU faculty already have one of the highest course loads in the state of Ohio.

"One of the things we are fighting is to not allow them to

change the language in the contract that would make it so they could have us teach more courses," Jackson-Leftwich said.

If professors have too many courses, Leftwich said this could limit the quality of teaching.

"Do you want quantity or do you want quality?" Leftwich said. "It takes away from student success because you're giving faculty a lot more responsibilities, more classes ... You're not equally compensating them for the work they are doing."

Faculty have already been filling in for absent administrative assistant in certain departments on campus, forcing faculty to balance these responsibilities on top of teaching.

The last official strike took place in 2005, which occurred before the start of the fall semester. If a strike occurs this time, OEA-YSU

spokesperson Linda Strom said a strike during the semester hasn't happened in the 25 years that she has been teaching.

"I would hope that if strike becomes an option, that we can settle things quickly and get back to normal," Strom said. "We want to be in the classroom. That's where I want to be."

Nearly 200 faculty members stood in favor of the authorization vote. Strom said this goes to show that the faculty are united on the issue.

"I know how good [the faculty] are and how dedicated they are to their students, their research and I think that a lot of faculty feel like if this contract went through, it would compromise what they are doing, their time and their ability to do all the wonderful things they do."

# FEATURES



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE NEWS

3 | Solar Eclipse

4 | Frequent Flyers/Wick Avenue

5 | Social Media/App

6 | YSU Welcomes New Bookstore

## A&E ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

7 | All Eyes On Marching Pride

8 | Exposed to Art through People

9 | Y Live Featuring Zac Brown Band Looks to be Historic

## OPINION

12 | A Jambar Review/Tattoos: From Marginal to Mainstream

13 | Jambar Editorial: YSU's Reaction to Richmond Petition

## SPORTS

14 | YSU Running Backs Use Chemistry for the Season

15 | YSU Ready to Serve Up Another Season

16 | YSU Soccer Looks to Bounce Back in Boateng's Second Season

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Photo by RACHEL GOBEP

## THOUSANDS GATHER TO VIEW PARTIAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

RACHEL GOBEP

More than 5,000 people gathered at the Mill Creek MetroParks Farm in Canfield, Ohio to view the partial solar eclipse on Monday.

The Youngstown State University Physics and Astronomy faculty and students worked together with volunteers from the Metroparks Farm for the community to safely view and enjoy the event.

The eclipse was viewable in totality across 12 states from Oregon to South Carolina. The last time an eclipse was visible from coast to coast in the United States was 99 years ago.

Patrick Durrell, physics and astronomy professor and director of the Ward Beecher Planetarium, said that solar eclipses occur in the first place because of luck.

"The sun is 400 times bigger than the moon, but it's also 400 times further away from the Earth than the moon, so the alignment is just right. The moon just covers the entire sun," Durrell said.

The Physics and Astronomy Department provided 1,000 pairs of solar eclipse glasses at the event. They also had

activities such as pinhole projectors, coloring for children and tracing the path of the solar eclipse.

Three telescopes with solar filters were available to view the eclipse, as well as equipment to view live feed of the total solar eclipse.

"Through the glasses, you can see the sun safely, but it's small. But looking through the telescope gives you the ability to see it in more detail. A lot of people were commenting on sun spots," Durrell said.

Arthur and Ray Detwiler of Austintown reached out to the Physics and Astronomy staff before the event because they are telescope enthusiasts. They wanted their telescopes with solar filters to be used at the event for others to see the eclipse.

"Basically, the more telescopes, the better. We are just amateurs and wanted to help with this opportunity," Ray Detwiler said.

Durrell believes it is one thing to look at the NASA feed of a total solar eclipse or to see pictures, but to actually see it live is truly something, even if it is not in totality. He said many

people asked if the solar eclipse is a once in a lifetime event.

"Actually, I can't say that because we will have one in seven years," Durrell said.

Durrell has not seen a total solar eclipse yet himself, but hopes to in 2024 because it will pass through Cleveland.

Although a large turnout was expected at the viewing event, Durrell said there was no way to truly estimate it.

"About a half an hour before we began giving out the glasses, the line was all the way down the parking lot," he said.

Carol Vigorito, recreation and education director of Mill Creek MetroParks Farm, was grateful for what YSU was contributing for this event and thought it went well.

"Everyone was happy with standing in line to wait for their solar glasses or to view the eclipse from the telescope. I think everyone who came was happy with the outcome," Vigorito said.





## WICK AVENUE TO REOPEN THIS FALL

MELISSA TUROSİK

Photo by ALYSSA PFLUG

After a full year of detours and road blocks, there is a light at the end of the tunnel as Wick Avenue is scheduled to reopen to the community in the upcoming months.

According to John McNally, mayor of Youngstown, improvements include newly buried utility lines, sidewalks, water lines, sewer lines and road resurfacing.

The project is on time with its expected completion date scheduled to be finished in the next month or so, he said.

“When we did sort of the ceremonial ground-breaking Sept. 15 of last year, we said it would take about a year to complete and I think we’re pretty much right on schedule for either a mid-September or beginning of October reopening,” McNally said.

Wick Avenue is in the final stages of construction with utility wiring currently going underground, he said.

“Once that work gets done, we can do the final course of asphalt and then reopen the roadway,” McNally said.

McNally believes everyone communicated well together and that it has been a successful project. He said the road work will move on to other locations such as Belmont and Fifth Avenue, so continued communication on alternate routes will be essential.

“Our staff has worked well with the construction folks, with [Youngstown State University] Parking and with the institutions on Wick Avenue to notify everybody of changes as construction moved up and down Wick Avenue,” McNally said. “I think the university community, employees,

teachers, students [and] staff have been very understanding of things.”

Tyrone Peakes II, a YSU student voiced his frustrations of having to use detours to park and get around the road closing.

“Most of my classes are in DeBartolo so that hasn’t really affected me much, but over the summer coming [for] financial aid, I had to drive awhile to get to where I was going,” Peakes said. “I had a meeting ... that I was actually late for because I was trying to find parking, so it’s kind of hard.”

Rebecca Leonard, a YSU graduate student, said she uses the parking deck off of Fifth Avenue, so the construction has not affected her much.

“I’m lucky for that because it would be more difficult,” Leonard said. “I feel for people who have to drive that during the day.”

Charles Shasho, the deputy director of public works of Youngstown, said Fifth Avenue will be getting work done next.

“We have some funding in place for Fifth Avenue; that construction will probably have a water line portion of the project start next summer and then the roadway project will start in the spring of 2019,” Shasho said.

Traffic is expected to be maintained on Fifth Avenue during the construction, Shasho said.

## FREQUENT FLYERS

DAVID FORD

Youngstown State University recently approved revisions to campus posting policies, updating the rules by which students and organizations can advertise for events and meetings.

The posting policy, previously revised in 2012, underwent changes in several areas earlier this summer. Students and organizations must now receive approval before posting their flyer in Kilcawley Center as well as the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center.

Erin Driscoll, the director of student activities at YSU, commented on the changes surrounding the policy and why they took place.

“These changes enable the Division of Student Experience to ensure the purpose of the posting and the requirements for the information on the posting are met,” Driscoll said. “Additionally, the stamping process keeps public posting boards from getting too cluttered and prompts the removal of outdated material.”

In the past, public posting boards such as the one outside Chick-fil-A became overcrowded with material, many of which contained dates of events and meetings that had been expired for several months.

According to Driscoll, students and organizations that hold events and meetings will be required to remove their flyer of advertisement after the conclusion of their event.

David Ottney, drum major for the YSU marching band, expressed the importance of advertising on campus and spreading the word about various musical events throughout the year.

“I think it’s important to get the word out,” Ottney said. “We hope people see any advertisements we put up and attend our shows.”

YSU urges students to get involved around campus, and the flyers and public postings throughout the buildings can notify them of any events they would like to attend.

According to the updated posting policy, Kilcawley Center follows a slightly different set of rules than residence halls and academic or administrative buildings throughout campus.

Each posting throughout YSU buildings must be monitored and approved by a department head or administrative staff member. Postings also must be placed in designated spaces or will otherwise be removed.

According to Driscoll, there haven’t been any real issues with postings that included insensitive material surrounding racism or libel, or promoting the use of alcohol and drug consumption. However, the posting policy indicates that disciplinary action could take place if the rules are violated, depending on the severity of content.

Kelly Beers, the associate director for student conduct, said the university expects all students to follow all policies on campus, but there are steps in place in case a student or an organization isn’t abiding by the rules set forth by YSU’s posting policy.

“We review any material that is deemed racist, libelous or promotes alcohol and drug use,” Beers said. “If it’s racist or deals with drug and alcohol promotion, we would review it along with the police. If it’s libelous, the content would fall under harassment and bullying policies on campus.”

Beers added that YSU doesn’t have any standard suspensions or fines in place. She said they would likely review any sort of insensitive material posted around campus without approval based on the severity of the content.



Photo by ALYSSA PFLUG

## YSU HOSTS SOCIAL MEDIA TRAINING SESSIONS FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

MORGAN PETRONELLI

The Ohio Small Business Development Center at Youngstown State University held its first-of-three training sessions on Friday, focusing on teaching small businesses how to effectively utilize social media for entrepreneurial purposes.

Each training session focuses on a different social media technique, with the first instructing small businesses how to create a foolproof social media strategy. Future sessions include Facebook marketing with paid advertising this Friday and a guide to establishing a blog on Sept. 15.

SBDC partners with the Williamson College of Business and focuses on aiding in the development of small local businesses in the tri-county area. They supply advisement to those businesses through marketing strategies, financial models, business loan proposals and Certified Global Business Professional (CGBP) Training and Certification.

Patricia Veisz, director of SBDC, emphasizes the importance of social media in the modern-day business model for both big and small businesses.

“Social media can be utilized for advertising, customer service, search engine optimization, market research, relationship building and so much more. It can be a very powerful tool,” Veisz said.

The effectiveness of social media relies on the user and business goals, she said.

“That’s why this training opportunity is so important,” Veisz said. There are plenty of ineffective ways to utilize social media and

fewer effective ways.”

Viesz explained that despite its accessibility, it does not necessarily translate that social media is easy to utilize for marketing purposes. She stressed that SBDC wants their clients to understand that by grasping social media effectively, their business can profit.

Small businesses constantly attempt to keep up with big-name businesses and box-store chains. One local example of this is High Octane Coffee Co., a coffee shop that opened up in Austintown in early August.

George Syrianoudis, owner and founder of the business, said he faces difficulties as a small business owner, such as getting the word out about the opening of the new coffee shop.

“I realize building a name and reputation takes time, but it’s still tough to be patient. The thought of investing such a large sum of money without any guarantees can also be quite stressful,” Syrianoudis said.

Syrianoudis currently uses only Facebook for marketing, but he plans to expand his social media outreach to Instagram. He is also interested in attending the YSU SBDC social media training sessions to help improve his online presence.

Dr. Adam Earnhardt, chair of the YSU Department of Communications, said local

businesses can utilize strategies to increase their social media outreach.

“Small business owners need to be on social media everyday and it doesn’t take a whole lot of time to be able to set up and manage an account,” Earnhardt said. “For example, if you wanted to set up a series of posts throughout the day, you could use a platform like Hootsuite or Sprout Social to be able to manage content and time it so that your posts go up throughout the day.”

Social media is on a long-term rise in the modern business model, Earnhardt said. He is interested to see if businesses will continue to connect to customers through new technologies, including virtual reality and artificial intelligence.

The training sessions are instructed by marketing professionals from Pole Position Marketing located in Uniontown, Ohio.

The YSU SBDC is still accepting those interested in registering for the training sessions. Each session costs \$35 and the form can be found at <http://www.ysu.edu/news/ysu-sbdc-holds-social-media-training-series> and completed on the Eventbrite link posted on the site.

## YSU CONNECTS STUDENTS THROUGH MOBILE APP

RACHEL GOBEP

As a new semester begins at Youngstown State University, students will be welcomed by the recent launch of a new mobile app to enhance their student life experience.

“Youngstown State University” launched through a partnership with developer OOHLALA Mobile to aid in connecting students to the campus. The Joy Polkabila Byers, director of Campus Recreation, said app features include syncing work and school schedules to a calendar, a direct line to campus police, a student organizations tab and a deals tab for student discounts.

“[Students] should be proud of being a penguin and the deals aspect of this app shows students all the deals they can get for being one,” Polkabila Byers said.

The Youngstown State University app has been running for two years, but previously only focused on the Center for Student Progress and Student Activities. Polkabila said focus groups were formed in spring 2017 to determine what would make students utilize the app.

Campus recreation worked to add more student appeal, leading 30 different departments on campus to currently take part in it, she said.

The goal is to have it integrated with Blackboard by the end of the fall semester. Polkabila Byers said this will make it easier for students to keep their deadlines in one place.

OOHLALA Mobile has seen an impact across 200 institutions from their individualized apps. Alice Dinu, co-founder of OOHLALA Mobile, said YSU is an institution that puts their students first. She said this app can easily connect the digital generation to campus life.

“Generations are moving at a much faster pace, which creates a challenge for institutions to speak the student language,” Dinu said. “OOHLALA Mobile feels very strongly on creating a place where students can connect with other students and ask questions.”

Tiffany Brown, a YSU student, uses the app to ask questions, which she said are answered quickly.

“There are always people on here that have the answers I need,” Brown said. “I also have gained friends from the app, so I would say it keeps me connected. I am able to know what events are coming up next and where they are located so I can participate.”

Adam Earnhardt, chair of the YSU Department of Communications, hopes that YSU will see this app as an opportunity for students in fields such as communications or computer science to work with OOHLALA to manage the app.

“Anything that connects students with the information they need to be successful and their college career is a step in the right direction,” Earnhardt said. “If we’re providing tools that get [students] the information they need where they’re accessing most of their information throughout the day on their smartphones, [it’s] all the better.”

Another YSU student, Riley Chiu, was skeptical about the app’s usefulness at first.

“When I looked through it entirely, I was so impressed,” Chiu said. “I had no idea how much information was put into it. I wanted to tell everyone I knew to download it too.”

According to Polkabila Byers, 2,200 incoming freshmen

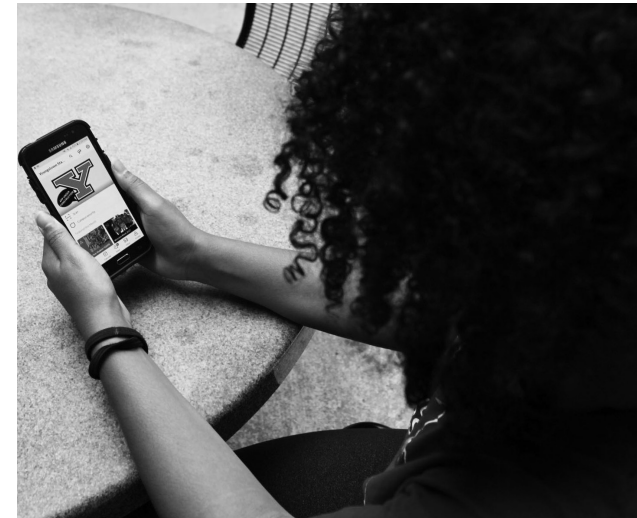


Photo by JORDAN UNGER

students were introduced to the YSU app during IGNITE, an event designed to connect new penguins to the campus and the community. Each student was required to check-in to the event using the app.

Taylor Dressel, YSU student who interned at Ignite, said the app benefitted the incoming freshmen.

“It’s a great way for first-year students to interact and to have their questions answered about YSU,” Dressel said. “A lot of the Ignite leaders and interns go on there and answer their questions.”

Campus connectivity and keeping students involved is important, Polkabila Byers said.

“Just by the click of a finger you can see what’s going on at YSU,” Byers said.



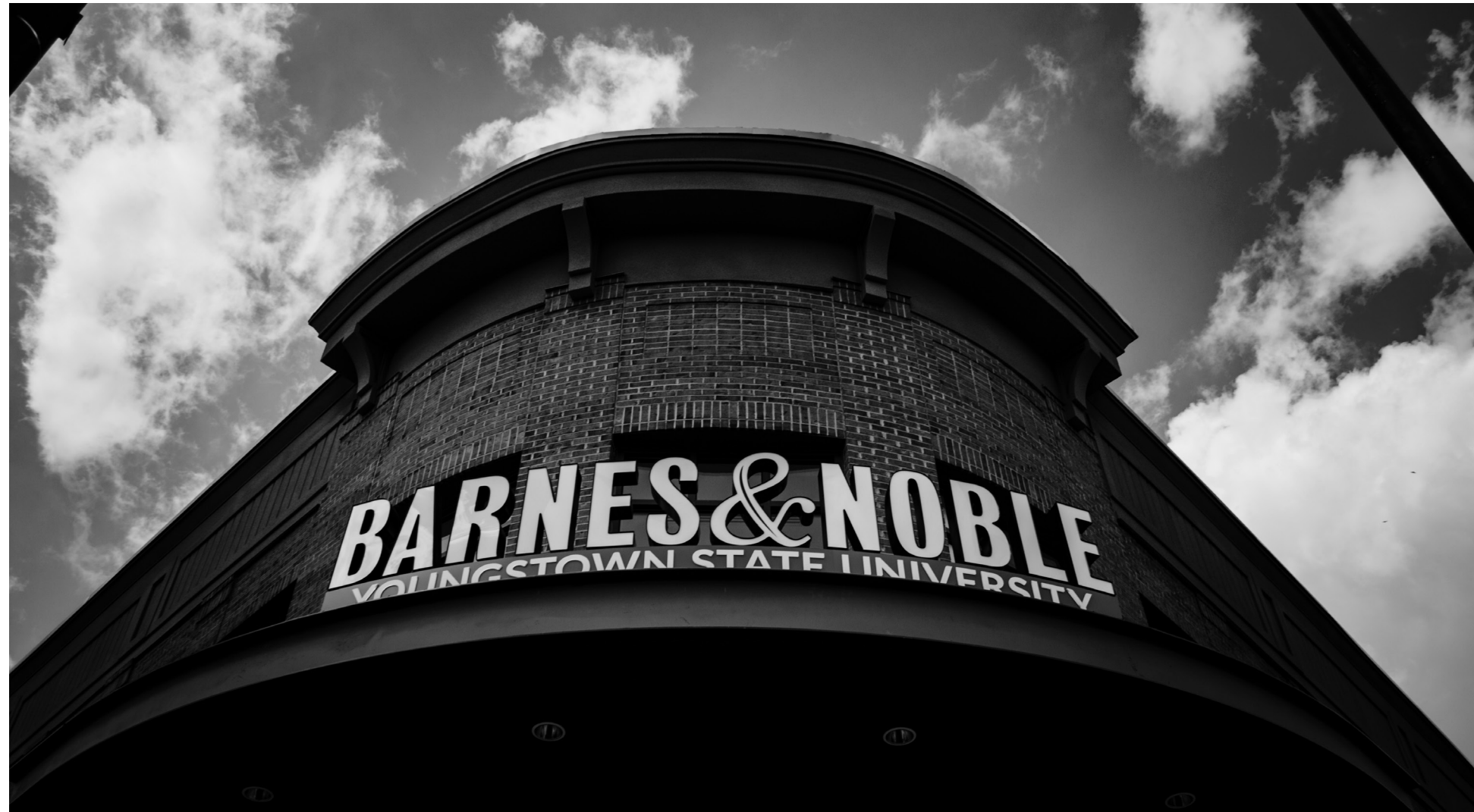


photo by **TANNER MONDOK**

# YSU Welcomes New Bookstore

by **ELIZABETH LEHMAN**

As students and visitors come to campus this fall, there is a brand new bookstore on campus for them to visit.

The new Barnes & Noble bookstore opened its doors on the Youngstown State University Campus for the first time on July 17.

YSU student Arianna Cuevas, a sophomore in Early Childhood Education, said she likes the aesthetic of the new building.

"I like how big and spacious it is," Cuevas said. "I like the coloring, the whiteness. It makes it more bright and lively in here."

Cuevas said she plans to purchase her textbooks at the new bookstore.

The store sells YSU apparel and school and dorm supplies on the bottom floor; the top floor is devoted to textbooks. There is also a Starbucks cafe in the building which serves coffee, bagels, sandwiches and soups.

The campus Barnes & Noble also welcomes the pub-

lic. Located on the corner of Fifth and Lincoln Avenues, store manager Heather White said this bookstore is more accessible for the community.

"This makes it more convenient for everyone to show that they're 'Y and Proud,'" White said.

Christian J. Roberts, a visitor to the cafe from out of town, is a senior at Hiram College with a double major in communications and sociology. She said this was her second trip to the new bookstore.

"Coming here is very nice for meetings," Roberts said. "It's very nice for a meeting spot. You can get coffee and everything like that, and the environment is really nice. I really do like the environment."

Aside from school textbooks, White said there is reading material at YSU Barnes & Noble for everyone.

"We have a great selection of general reading books for our space," White said. "In addition to the reference and campus author sections we already carried, we expanded our general reading area to include graphic novels, bestsellers, young adult and other sections."

To be competitive with other booksellers such as Amazon, Barnes & Noble features a price matching program, White said.

"[It] is just the latest example of our commitment to student success, ensuring that students get the best prices available on their course materials by providing price-matching on textbooks advertised or offered from local brick-and-mortar bookstores or online retailers," White said.

The store is working hard to schedule special events for students and members of the community, she said.

"We've had interest in book signings, course meetings, etc.," White said. "We're also looking at scheduling students to gain experience performing, as well as local area acts to perform for more exposure."

Barnes & Noble had a grand opening event on Saturday. Samples were offered to guests throughout the store, a raffle was held and university President Jim Tressel addressed guests.





photo by ANNA RUSCITTI

# All Eyes On Marching Pride

by **NOAH P. JOHNSON**

The Youngstown State University Marching Pride will begin its season with the Meet the Marching Pride performance at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday at Stambaugh Stadium. This free event is a chance for the public to preview the music the band will play during Penguin football games.

Band camp is an eight-day training course that concluded with Monday's IGNITE concert. This was the first opportunity for members of the band to show how their practices at camp and summer rehearsals have paid off.

The band performed the visual aspect of their show by cleaning up their formations and slowing down the pace of their choreography.

Attendance was free and open to anyone, and free-will donations to support YSU Marching Pride were accepted.

"We're excited to host Penguin fans for 'Meet the Marching Pride' to get a head start on the Penguin football

season opening on September 2," Brandt Payne, the director of Athletic Bands, said.

The Marching Pride will perform during halftime of the season opener in Pittsburgh at Heinz Field. Their halftime show includes renditions of "Bad Romance," "Born This Way" and "Respect."

Payne said performing at a large venue in front of a massive crowd instills a lasting confidence in the members of the band that will aid them both in the classroom and after graduation. Opportunities like this allow the Marching Pride to represent what YSU has to offer in both athletics and the performing arts.

Following a successful football season last year, Payne is looking forward to accompanying the team all the way to Dallas once again.

"The Marching Pride welcomes over 170 members to campus this fall," Payne said.

The director is enthusiastic about his work with the marching band students and they are proud to represent YSU both on campus and in their performances across the country.

The Office of Alumni Engagement and the Penguin Club will host a "Floating Tailgate on the Gateway Clipper" on the day of the season opener from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The event will take place on a docked boat of the Gateway Clipper Fleet before kickoff at 1 p.m. Attendees can enjoy a buffet lunch, cash bar and a dockside performance from members of the marching band.

Catherine Cala, the director of alumni engagement, said the menu at this event will include barbeque chicken, hot-dogs, coleslaw, chips, brownies and more. Reservations for the floating tailgate can be made through the office of Alumni Engagement.

The price is \$35 for YSU Alumni or Penguin Club members and \$40 for the public. The deadline for reservation is Friday. Reservations can be made at [www.yzu.edu/alumni/pitt](http://www.yzu.edu/alumni/pitt) or through calling Alumni Engagement at 330-941-3119.

Tickets for the season opening game against the Pitt Panthers are available from the YSU ticket office at 330-941-1978. Seats are in section 518 of the upper level toward the west side of the stadium.





photo by Marah J. Morrison

by Marah J. Morrison

At the Butler Institute of American Art in Howland, people had the opportunity to meet and enter the world of Merryl Berner Cicourel through her works of art. The “Retrospectively Reimagining Cultural Landscapes” exhibition took place from 1-3 p.m. on Aug. 13.

Cicourel has been in the art industry for many years and worked toward her Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of California, San Diego in the late 70s and early 80s.

The California artist felt very fortunate to be able to exhibit at the Trumbull Branch museum and to have wonderful people to work with, including Louis Zona, the director of the Butler Institute of American Art, and William Mullane, the guest curator and gallery director at Trumbull.

“I’ve always, always been interested in folk art and art in general, very specifically,” Cicourel said. “All my life, I’ve walked past something like a doorway or a structure that appealed to me for some unknown reason and I would draw it.”

Cicourel thinks one benefits from seeing all and any

art. She also believes if you are trying to enter into it, find somebody you have questions for or if you want to talk about it. She pointed out that exhibitions like this are a nice interaction.

“You learn from it and you learn from seeing everything,” Cicourel said. “Your memory comes into play and my memory for everything I do is very important.”

Rose Anne Raphael, who is self-employed in public relations and art, is a friend of the Cicourel family. Raphael has benefited from knowing the Cicourels tremendously in many ways.

“Merryl and her family are warm, interesting people and her teaching ability and knowledge of art has been a constant source of education and interest to me,” Raphael said. “She’s a very hard working artist and I love her work.”

Raphael thinks it is rare to see a wonderful body of work all in one place. The friend of the family was blown away by this particular exhibition.

“It’s spectacular,” Raphael said. “It’s beautiful work

because it’s beautifully presented in a beautiful space and I think it’s a tremendous benefit to the world of art.”

Mullane has been working in the art industry for nearly 40 years and said it has been a pleasure for him to work with an individual artist and group of artists. Mullane also did an exhibit for Cicourel back in 1991.

“The whole process of selection and thinking kind of deeply about the work itself and how it relates to space makes a lot of difference to me,” Mullane said. “And so, that’s what we were able to do here.”

The guest curator thinks the benefits for art majors attending exhibitions like this are being exposed to a body of work and to see, as a student, what it means to be at the end of your career and how the whole body of work comes together over many years.

“That kind of retrospective view is very important because it teaches you about your own history,” Mullane said. “...and as a young artist going into the future, what that history could potentially be so it helps you curate your own work.”

# Exposed to Art through People



**Y LIVE**

**Zac Brown Band**

**\$20 OFF FOR YSU STUDENTS**

**ENTER YOUR STUDENT ID CODE AND GET \$20 OFF TICKETS AT ANY PRICE LEVEL!**

*Courtesy of Rebecca Rose*

by John Stran

Expectations are at an unprecedented high for the Zac Brown Band concert on Friday at Stambaugh Stadium. This show, featuring openers Midland and Darrell Scott, is being called the concert of the summer and a history making event.

Stephanie Hudacek, manager for Darrell Scott, is a veteran musician who has worked behind the scenes writing for such musical acts as Brad Paisley and the Dixie Chicks. Hudacek spoke about Scott's talent by alluding to an interview in which Zac Brown referred to Scott as Yoda and called him one of his favorite musicians in the world.

Hudacek said even though Scott is the opener, the audience shouldn't be surprised to see him on stage past his set playing with the guys in the Zac Brown Band. One of the ripple effects of a concert with this magnitude may be the impact it will have on the entire Youngstown community.

Director of Student Activities, Erin Driscoll, believes the concert has the ability to connect the Youngstown community and show that Youngstown State University can be the glue that mends everyone together.

"Y Live presents a unique opportunity to bring a

cross section of the community together, sharing an experience with a high profile artist right in the heart of campus," Driscoll said. "It will strengthen the collaborative energy of our community and the role that YSU plays in it."

Driscoll and the Student Activities staff have worked closely with the JAC Management Group to offer discount tickets to YSU students.

The president of JAC Management, Eric Ryan, said the idea of this concert had been in the works for a few years but it became a reality in June when the Zac Brown Band approved the show.

"It's always difficult for an artist to play a first time event, especially when you're on the level that the Zac Brown Band is," Ryan said. "But we have a great relationship with the band's team and we're honored that they believed in Youngstown."

Ryan feels the mere presence of the Zac Brown Band can benefit the YSU campus.

"Telling prospective students that we had Zac Brown Band on campus is a win-win for all," Ryan said. If the concert is a success, both Driscoll and Ryan

# Y Live Featuring Zac Brown Band Looks to be Historic

agree that Y Live will not be a one-hit wonder.

"If the event goes according to plan, this will become an annual tradition in our community," Driscoll said. "Successfully hosting the event will provide momentum to attract other artists to Y Live in the future."

Ryan and JAC management are planning to make this an annual event, but Ryan's goal has nothing to do with topping the previous event.

"In our industry, it's not about topping one event over the other, because that is a slippery slope," Ryan said. "Y Live is about a celebration of our university, community and our valley's renaissance, so hopefully it's a huge celebration every time and each event takes on a life of its own."

Before Friday's potentially mind-blowing concert, a tailgate party starts at 2:30 p.m. and doors open at 5:30 p.m. Parking lots that will be closed all day include F80 (Monday through Friday), M70, M71, M72, M63 and M66.

Parking lots that will close at 2 p.m. include M-62, M-61, M-53, M-60, F-55 and M-50.



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## Wick Construction Continued, Before and After



Photos by ALYSSA PFLUG

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## LARGEST INTERNATIONAL CLASS COMES TO YSU

NAMI NAGAOKA

The fall semester will kick off by welcoming the largest class of international students that Youngstown State University has seen to date.

According to Carly Devenburgh, assistant director of International Student and Scholar Services, YSU is welcoming 182 new international students as of Thursday. Prior to this intake, YSU had 269 international students enrolled.

Nate Myers, associate provost of International and Global Initiatives at YSU, visited the Kuwaiti embassy in Washington, D.C. twice last year to speak about the opportunities YSU has to offer. He said Kuwait has a scholarship program in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, so YSU's STEM program was the focus.

He visited Nepal to present YSU programs in the spring as well, which he said was a successful trip.

"The sessions were packed," Myers said. "We had a very good reception there."

He explained that the growing number of international students enrolling at YSU provides better educational opportunities of negotiating different world views.

"Internationalization as a trend is not going to stop and we are only going to become more interconnected," he said.

The International Programs Office handles international students' immigration and advisement needs and international faculty immigration processing. Devenburgh said since the number of students to help will increase, the IPO will have to institute new processes to handle walk-ins and requests.

"While I am always happy to meet with and help students, there is a lot of work to be done," she said. "This is just the beginning. We will continue to grow in the next several years."

IPO also assists new students by offering airport pickups. This semester, Devenburgh said over 80 students were welcomed by YSU representatives at the airport and driven to their place of residence between Aug. 13 and 14.

"It was especially challenging because not only did we need space to transport the students but also their luggage. We had to outsource to a company that had a big enough bus," Devenburgh said.

Bikash Thapa, a freshman from Nepal majoring in computer science and minoring in mathematics, is a Leslie H. Cochran scholar and honors student. He found out about the Honors College, the international community and financial aid availability at YSU through Myers' information session in Nepal last spring.

"I really, really liked the honors program and the close community within it," Thapa said. "I will be focusing most of my time figuring out the ways to deal with the global problems like poverty so that I can make some impact back in my home country."

When asked about the cultural differences between the United States and Nepal, Thapa said that it will take some time to adjust to the new environment. However, he knows that he has people to help him in the meantime.

"I have never felt lonely, even though everything is new all of a sudden," Thapa said.

The next step is to develop relationships with South America, Central America and the Caribbean, Myers said.

"We will keep telling our story to Vietnam and Nepal," Myers said. "The only profit that any of us could ever make is educating the students well and sending them out into the world to do good work."



# A Jambar Review

by Jake Myers

It's no secret that, as college students, we rarely have time to read for enjoyment. Hopefully, whatever summer job you chose allowed for ample free time to dive into some entertaining books.

If not, might I suggest Stephen King's "Joyland"? If you didn't attain that cool summer, at least you can live vicariously through "Joyland's" main character, Dev. At 283 pages, "Joyland" is the perfect length to get you hooked. It could be the book that reminds you why you love to read in the first place.

"Joyland" is about a college student named Devin who changes his summer plans after his girlfriend ditches him for a summer job in Boston, 70 miles away. He takes a job at Joyland, an amusement park on a beach in North Carolina.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading about the sort of "carny" subculture described in "Joyland." This is a Stephen King novel, so expect superb writing, engaging characters, mystery, suspense and... seriously? Were you thinking I was going to spoil the book for you by telling all of the goodies inside? No.

In my humble opinion, Stephen King has hit his stride in the last few years. King's latest novels including "Joyland," remind me of his earliest works such as "Cujo," "Carrie" or "The Dark Half." They are not massive novels that encompass a plethora of characters that start out as separate stories who will eventually meet in a confrontation, such as "The Stand" or "It."

Don't get me wrong, I love that! Just not during a semester. In my opinion, King has gotten back to developing characters that you feel emotionally in-

vested in. Instead of switching perspectives and contemplating which characters to get attached to, the characters are presented in such a way that you can't help but fall in love with them.

You won't want to put this book down. You will want to work at an amusement park next summer, however, so you can meet a kid like Dev, or carnies like Fat Wally and Madame Fortuna. Now, put down The Jambar and head to the nearest bookstore or library.

## FUN FACT FOR YOU:

Originally, Joyland was only available in paperback. King had rejected publishing it as an e-book. According to his official website, [stephenking.com](http://stephenking.com), he wanted his readers to feel the same joy at reading a paperback as he did as a kid.

In spite of that, I know many of you commute to Youngstown State University. Have you considered listening to an audiobook? The audiobook for "Joyland" is phenomenal. The narrator is Michael Kelly, who you may know as Doug Stamper from the Netflix series "House of Cards." The audiobook is 7 hours and 33 minutes long.

## AVAILABILITY:

Joyland is available to borrow at the Mahoning County Library System and the Trumbull County Library System in print and audiobook. The Amazon price in paperback is \$5.43; Kindle \$7.99.

## DROP ME A LINE:

I would love to hear from you, so email [jcmeyers02@student.ysu.edu](mailto:jcmeyers02@student.ysu.edu) if you wish to opine.

# Tattoos: From Marginal to Mainstream

by Nathan Hritz

There are many items people can adorn their bodies within the name of self-expression, such as clothing, jewelry, shoes or a haircut. But few parallel the level of self-expression that comes from a tattoo. From scripture verses to the name of a current or past significant other, tattoos are becoming increasingly popular these days, particularly within our generation. And who can blame us? Tattoos are a beautiful and artistic way of saying something about yourself.

I am sure by now you have figured out I am a proponent of tattoos. I personally sport "Liberty or Death" within the outline of Pennsylvania on my upper left arm. Those words made famous by Patrick Henry 240 years ago speak volumes to me as a freedom lover. Pair that with the outline of my great state where I was born and raised and that will tell you as much about me as I would care for you to know.

There is nothing better than a tattoo with a meaning. That means a good story is entailed. Granted every tattoo has a story, but something that has had honest thought put into it will always turn out better than something spawned out of boredom and spontaneity.

Tattoos are not for everybody. However, if you can bear the sensation of having a needle penetrate your flesh thousands of times a minute, then you are a prime candidate. The needle creates an odd sensation. It does not feel great, but seeing the final product will make the angst of the needle worth it. Most of my tattooed friends

would all agree it is a sensation worth enduring. In fact, most of them return for more.

To me, the experience of getting a tattoo, the culture and history that come along with going to a tattoo parlor and getting inked up is oddly reminiscent of the feeling I have going to my local barber. The faint odor of cigarettes and the artist's preference in music make even the most hardcore-looking tattoo artist just a little more welcoming.

I have been a fan of tattoos for as long as I can remember. I distinctly remember a man with a chief's headdress tattooed on his forearm at the church I attended as a child. I never knew the man, but even as a child I had an unspoken respect for him just because of the tattoo on his aged skin.

Which leads into my next point: older generations threaten us youngsters with the fact that tattoos are permanent. But I have never understood that as a threat. For me, the tattoo I have is a little piece of home I will always carry with me. The permanence of body art is something I find beautiful. It is stoic, immovable and there to stand the trials and tribulations that life brings.

I hope to see the tattoo culture among millennials continue to grow. I love tattoos with a passion; I never hesitate to speak with anybody about them. To me, it seems as if everything I was warned about regarding tattoos is what pushed me head first in to the vast pool of culture that is affiliated with them. I absolutely love it.



# Jambar Editorial

## Youngstown State University's Reaction to Richmond Petition

According to RaINN.org, one in six women will be the victim of sexual assault in her lifetime.

In 2014, 12,551 students were enrolled at YSU; 6,685 were women. Statistically, about 1,114 of those women will or have already experienced some form of sexual assault in their lifetime.

In 2012, two 16-year-old high school football players were found guilty of raping a 16-year-old girl and documenting the assault on social media while all were under the influence of alcohol.

In 2013, Ma'lik Richmond and Trent Mays were tried as juveniles and received a mandated sentence with the possibility of remaining in juvenile detention until age 21.

Richmond was released in January 2014, and Mays was released in January 2015. Neither of them registered as sexual offenders.

Mays is currently playing football for Central State University in Ohio, also causing controversy.

The announcement that Richmond would be playing football for Youngstown State University has caused great controversy, and led to a petition for his removal from the team.

In a matter of hours, the petition had thousands of signatures, and in a matter of days there were

thousands more.

Katelyn Davis, creator of the petition, wrote:

“Does he deserve a second chance? Yes, he does, and he is receiving that second chance by furthering his education on YSU's campus. Does he deserve the privilege of playing on a football team and representing a university? Absolutely not. Education is a right, whereas playing on a sports team is not.”

Much of this controversy stems from Richmond being allowed to play for YSU, not because he is on campus. For the past year, Richmond has been at YSU without incident, but many who signed the petition did not want him representing their school as a division one football player.

YSU responded to the petition, but not in the way the people wanted.

Despite over 10,000 signatures to the petition stating they do not want Richmond on the team, YSU announced he will remain on the team as a practice player and only surrender a year of eligibility.

“YSU does not restrict any student's ability to take part in extracurricular activities as long as they are in good standing with the institution. YSU believes that extracurricular activities assist in a student's ability to succeed,” a state-

ment emailed to the campus community said.

A statement such as this makes it seem like YSU did not take the concerns of the many people who signed the petition seriously, but it seems like they at least tried to meet both sides of the issue halfway.

YSU cannot be held responsible for punishing people for a crime they've already been punished by the state for, but they also cannot ignore an entire community who say otherwise.

The petition to remove him had thousands of signatures, while another petition to keep him had thousands also. There was no way to make a decision that would make everyone happy, so they compromised the best they could by letting him practice but taking away game time for a year.

At the end of the day, YSU probably did the best they could do from an administrative perspective, and although they probably faced backlash from both sides, we should be thankful they at least tried to do something.

With Richmond now a face of the university because of all the media attention, as well as such emphasis placed on athletics, YSU should consider those on campus who have faced sexual assault and do more to address the issue and make people feel like the university cares and they are safe here.

# YSU Running Backs Use Chemistry for the Season



photo courtesy of YSU SPORTS

Running Back Joe Alessi (30) looks to get through a few defenders during practice on Aug. 19.

by **MARC WEEMS**

With football almost back into full swing, the Youngstown State University football team will have some holes to fill. After both Martin Ruiz and Jody Webb graduated, the Penguins are now looking to the next man up.

Returning players, Tevin McCaster and Joe Alessi, combined for 861 yards and 13 touchdowns last season.

“Chemistry is very important. One thing that you see with running backs is that there isn’t a huge core of chemistry because one guy plays 90 percent of the time,” YSU Running Backs Coach Nic McKissic-Luke said. “They are all competing for one spot so they all battle each other. But, they are one

unit. They are very close together and that brings everybody else up. That makes everyone else feel better. They all show support for each other and the rest of the team.”

He also said that having so many options at the position allows some weight to be taken off his shoulders.

McCaster was a huge part of YSU’s road victory at Eastern Washington University in the FCS playoffs. McCaster ran 29 times for 154 yards and three touchdowns.

“We’ve done a lot this summer,” McCaster said. “Me and Joe (Alessi) are coming with our experience. Then you have London Pearson, Christian (Turner), Devon McNutt and even three more freshmen coming in as well. I’m the captain of the group and I work very

hard. I do my best to lead by example and everyone can follow suit.”

Alessi spent much of his time as a special teams player. He had one shining moment when he rushed for 190 yards on just seven carries. He also scored two touchdowns.

“This is awesome. Communication is key,” Alessi said. “The better we communicate, the better we will be. Everything now is practice, practice, practice. It’s all about cutting down on mental errors. We learned quite a lot from Jody and Martin. They did a great job teaching us so we are ready to be playing.”

Last season, Webb and Ruiz combined for 2,495 rushing yards and 19 TD’s. YSU will have to replace both of those styles of play.

“At the end of the day,

somebody [has] got to step up” McKissic-Luke said. “Tevin played a lot last year. Losing Martin and Jody is huge and it’s tough to say how to replace them with all their productivity. With Tevin and Christian, who has that Jody mode? Turner has all the same skills that Jody has. He can run, catch and block. Joe also brings some of that stuff. London will also be important.”

McKissic-Luke also said that versatility at the running back position is super important. He believes that every back should be a complete running back to help a team grow.

With three freshmen running backs on the roster in Braxton Chapman, Christian Turner and Jaylen Hewlett, YSU has a lot to do with that position.

“It’s going to come with experience and getting in the playbooks, which is really good,” McCaster said.

“Getting them into the groove as far as the season, it’s wait and see,” McKissic-Luke said. “We have to make sure that they are picking up on everything. Throughout camp, Turner has made a lot of plays. He’s a guy that’s going to play a lot for us. Braxton Chapman is a guy we are really high on. He came in off a torn ACL and is really now starting to get going. He’s gonna be special because he’s a real downhill back. Hewlett will be like Chapman without the explosiveness. This will be a special group for sure.”

YSU starts the season at the University of Pittsburgh on Sept. 2.





photo by **MATT MILLIGAN/YSU SPORTS**

Heather Splinter yells in excitement after a point against Cleveland State University on Sept. 25, 2016.

by **MARC WEEMS**

Last season, the Youngstown State University volleyball team finished at 8-22 with an 0-9 record at home. YSU came in last place in the Horizon league. It is yet again projected to come in ninth out of nine teams this season.

"It's not a surprise to me. We finished in last place last season," YSU Head Coach Mark Hardaway said. "Our conference was very strong last year. The conference ranked ahead of Conference-USA, the MAC [Mid-American Conference] and the Missouri Valley. Most of those conferences got multiple teams into the tournament last year. We lost an All-Conference center and pretty good middle."

YSU lost both Val Jeffrey and Lori Vanbeek, both of which were its' best players last season. Replacing both of them has been tough for YSU thus far.

"To us, we have to prove that we deserve to be placed somewhere [other] than [where] we are," Hardaway said. "I think the underdog role is a great role. If you come in with a little bit of a chip on your shoulder, there is never anything wrong with that."

YSU has four seniors to lead it into the season. Sam Brown, Paige Saunders, Heather Splinter and Lauren Blanco are all the leading players for this team.

"We are making a lot of new changes. We have two new freshmen who will be making a huge impact on this year's team," Senior Setter Splinter said. "A lot of people stayed over the summer to work and practice. We kind of came into the preseason pretty ready to go."

Splinter set her career-high with 15 kills against Robert Morris University.

"I think Varc [Sarah Varcolla] will take the lead in the middle for us," Splinter said. "I've set my whole three years with Val, so that really helped prepare me for the upcoming season. She was a big help to me and we are going to miss her terribly."

Even projected last, that doesn't stop YSU from competing.

"We've been working very hard this summer. From conditioning to working out, we've been working super hard to get to this point," Outside Hitter Brown said. "I think all of our players have stepped up. A lot of our juniors from last year, seniors now, have already stepped up very well. The summer is the most important thing for us."

# YSU Ready to *Serve Up* Another Season

Unfortunately for YSU, it only gets preseason work from Aug. 8 on.

"If we were picked to finish fourth, we'd be looking to finish in third, second or first," Hardaway said. "Unless you were picked as the top team, you are always working. My first year here, we were picked last and we made the conference tournament. It gives you something to shoot. The conference will be strong again."

He reiterated that being picked last was shocking but it gives the team a lot of motivation moving forward.

"All the teams that finished ahead of us have returned more starters and players. But, we will try and use that ranking as our motivation throughout the season," Hardaway said.

Hardaway believes that its scrimmage against Duquesne University helped see where the team is currently at.

"That ranking will be complete motivation," Splinter said. "When we hear that every coach voted us last ... that is all the more reason to work twice as hard."

YSU will start the year on the road at the Eagle Challenge. It's a two-day run of three matches for YSU at Morehead State University. YSU's first home game will be on Aug. 29 against Robert Morris University.

# YSU Soccer Looks to Bounce Back in Boateng's Second Season



*photo courtesy of YSU SPORTS*

Kyler Lum (24) runs out in the open field against St. Bonaventure University in a 1-0 win on Aug. 21.

by **RICK HENNEMAN**

The Youngstown State University soccer team will begin the 2017 season looking to improve from its 3-12-2 (1-7-1 in conference) record from 2016. Head Coach Fabio Boateng is entering his second season on the sideline for the Penguins and expects better things from his team this year.

"If you look at our record last season, we conceded a lot of goals," Boateng said. "In the preseason, we spent a lot of time with our backline. The goal now is to press teams aggressively and keep the ball in front of us."

Possibly the biggest upside to the 2017 season is the amount of returning talent on the YSU roster. Senior Marissa Martin was named to the Second-Team All-Horizon League in 2016 and All-Freshman team in 2014. Martin ranked second for goals in the Horizon League with six and fifth with 1.33 points per game against league opponents.

Another key player returning to the Penguins is senior defender Sophie McFarland. McFarland contributed to both offense and defense last season by collecting four assists in 2016 while playing in the backline.

Although the Penguins have a lot of talent returning to the team, Boateng has been more impressed with another aspect of his squad.

"The game is funny, talent can only take you so far," Boateng said. "I think our greatest aspect has been the unity in the team. You feel that family environment and they work for each other. When you feel good about yourself and your teammates it translates on the field."

YSU will be starting the season in a 3-5-2 formation with three defenders at the back.

"Our goal is to be very strong in the center of the field," Boateng said about the

change of formation. "We want to keep the ball in the opponent's half of the field and that will take a lot of pressure off of our backline."

Junior Alison Green will look to carry over the momentum from the 2016 season where she had a career-best two goals and two assists. Green said that she is enjoying the role that she plays in the new formation.

"I think that our formation this year is so much better than what we have done previously," Green said. "I didn't know I would be on the outside of mid-field coming into the season and we have so much more space to work with. It is really up to us on the outside."

YSU began their season with matches against Canisius College and St. Bonaventure University.

The Penguins fell on the road to Canisius 1-0 in double overtime on Aug. 19 but bounced back with a 1-0 win over St. Bonaventure at home on Monday night.

Boateng was happy with his team's performance during its home opener.

"This is good for the team's confidence. Last year's record wasn't very good and you start the season with a heartbreaking loss in overtime. It's a big win for the girls to come home and open your home slate with 1-0 win over a team that beat us 6-0 last year."

Senior Kyler Lum scored the game-winning penalty kick goal in the 48th minute against St. Bonaventure.

"I think my goal as well as everyone else's is to just do really well this season," Lum said about improving this season. "This preseason was very rough on us so every time we need to put in 100 percent. It doesn't matter if we win or lose if we just put in hard work."

YSU will continue its season this Friday on the road at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Kickoff is scheduled for 4:00 p.m.