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THURSDAY 02 • 15 • 2018



## YSU GUINATHON EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

Photo Courtesy of JOANNA BELL

MELISSA TUROSİK

Youngstown State University's Guinathon raised \$45,073.94 for Akron Children's Hospital Mahoning Valley Children's Miracle Network on Saturday, exceeding their goal by over \$15,000.

Guinathon participants clapped, cheered and high-fived the miracle families when they were introduced during the opening ceremony by walking down a red carpet.

Every hour, a miracle family shared their personal stories about their kids and experiences at Akron Children's Hospital.

To keep the Guinathon participants going throughout the eight-hour dance marathon, there were lip sync battles, dance offs, competitions, "Minute to Win It" challenges, in-event fundraising, lunch, dinner and free giveaways.

Jenna Roesch, Guinathon's executive director, said she knew from the beginning that the team was capable of their success.

"We couldn't have reached our goal or surpassed it without each of them and the support of our entire campus community," she said. "We knew that we were capable of making history 'For The Kids' and honoring the battles kids in our local communities are fighting by nev-

er giving up."

Francine Hazy, public relations and social media co-manager of Guinathon, said the overall goal is to celebrate the lives of the miracle kids and give them a place to be their energetic and fun-loving selves.

"These courageous families told their stories, making us cry happy tears and joined us for all of the fun," Hazy said.

JoAnn Stock, senior director of development at Akron Children's Hospital Mahoning Valley, said the event is completely run by the Guinathon student organization at YSU.

"Last year they raised over \$18,000 for our local programs and services," she said.

Stock said they wanted a dance marathon to begin in the Youngstown area for a while.

"We were thrilled when this group of students from YSU stepped up and took the lead and have done an amazing job," Stock said.

Guinathon members entertained the audience and danced to raise money for the kids to different kinds of music.

Hazy said they volunteer, plan and fundraise year-round, all leading up to their main event, the eight-hour dance marathon.

Rayann Atway, president of the student government association at YSU, and Natalie Halavick, a senior math-

ematics major, donated their hair to raise money.

Katie Stanwood, external director of Guinathon, said people should donate because all the money goes back to the children of the families in the valley.

"It's impacting those who need it close to home," Stanwood said.

Stanwood said it's nice to see the kids smiling.

"They're always happy so it's good to know what we're doing is impactful," Stanwood said.

Hazy said they had other fundraisers throughout the year.

"We also put together bake sales, an '80s throwback bash, welcome week events, paint-a-pumpkin and a kick-ball tournament," Hazy said.

All funding earned by Guinathon will benefit the Akron Children's Hospital Mahoning Valley to fund new programs, equipment and keep the promise that no child will be turned away.

Roesch said one manager, one director and two Guinathon advisors were the only people aware of the amount raised going into the main event on Saturday.

"To the rest of us, the final number was a complete surprise. It made the moment at the end all that more special," she said. "It really goes to show how much our campus can accomplish when we leave our differences at the door and come together for something bigger than ourselves."



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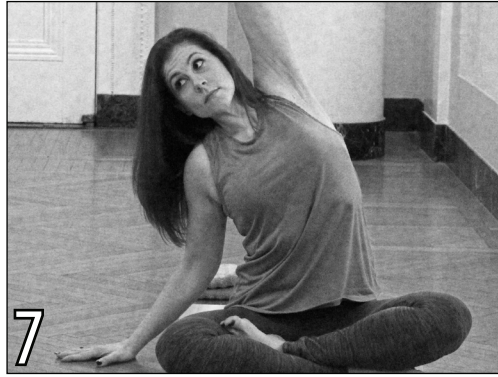


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Photo by JORDAN UNGER/THE JAMBAR

# MAINTAINING CAMPUS FACILITIES

JORDAN UNGER

Youngstown State University will be continuing major renovations to Ward Beecher Hall this summer, a project that began with the north side of the building last May.

The university will be modernizing the restrooms, lights and flooring on the south side of the building.

Among the changes will be the remodeling of the third-floor biology suite. Biology professor Chet Cooper said the labs are styled from the mid-'60s or '70s, so they are certainly in need of an update.

"The infrastructure is old and outdated and inefficient for some of the things the group of us want to do research-wise," he said. "In order to train undergraduate and some graduate students in modern biology, we need a modern laboratory."

Cooper said he was pleased to hear that the lab space would be getting its overdue update.

Rich White, director of planning and construction at YSU, said they plan to open up the space by lining the corridor with windows. He said people who walk by will be able to see the activities going on in the lab.

"When you walk down the corridor, it's [going to have] windows in it and you can see what's going on, you can see the activities."

This is one of several major projects the university plans to tackle before the fall semester.

One of the top-priority projects is a \$1.7 million update to the Beeghly Center Natatorium. White said the deck surrounding the pool has started to rot away due to moisture and the coating is wearing off from the bottom. He said they also plan to replace the filter and add a surge tank to the outside of the pool.

Ryan Purdy, YSU women's swimming and diving head coach, said it means a lot that the university is working to make their program and facilities as good as they can be.

"They're adding some upgrades that people won't necessarily be able to see, but it will make it a more efficient pool, a cleaner pool, a little bit more updated and we couldn't be happier," Purdy said.

White said not every problem at YSU can be fixed immediately due to deferred maintenance restraints.

"Deferred maintenance is something that needs to be fixed or needs to be taken care of that you either don't have the money or don't have the time to do, so you put it off," White said.

He said there is about \$220 million in deferred maintenance at YSU. The university typically receives about \$11 million to work with every two years, so it is impossible to fix every problem on campus at once.

"You can only spend a little bit of money on each thing to try to take care of it and you're essentially fighting fires," White said. "When you have as many buildings as we have and so much needs to be done, the amount seems to grow bigger than smaller."

John Hyden, associate vice president of facilities maintenance at YSU, said while the amount seems high, it is common for universities of its size.

"All universities experience [deferred maintenance] and most of them probably to a bigger degree than we are," Hyden said.

The university received \$10.5 million for two years to cover deferred maintenance. As the university runs on these funds, White said they need to find a balance between what needs to be done to stay operational and what makes facilities more aesthetically pleasing.

Hyden said this pushes certain projects back that are planned for the future, such as the Moser basement. He said they would like to make it more appealing, but it is functional.

"We might leave some of that flooring because you have some of your heavy labs on those first two floors, so how much machinery do you want to be dragging out of those labs tearing up nice tile floors? It needs to be a little bit more of an industrial setting," he said.

Summer renovations will also be done to the lower levels of Lincoln Building and Jones Hall. Records will be moving to the second floor of Meshel Hall to provide more space for international students in Jones Hall.

The university also plans to make repairs to the parking decks and removing utility lines along the east side of Wick Avenue.

# YSU RESPONDS TO DISCRIMINATION LAWSUIT

JORDAN UNGER AND  
RACHEL GOBEP

UPDATE: Youngstown State University filed a response to complaints by a former employee on Feb. 7, denying the claim that he was fired for being Muslim.

Mohammad Jadun filed a lawsuit in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio on Jan. 23. He alleged that his supervisor, Becky Varian, discriminated against him due to his religion, which caused him to lose his job.

The lawsuit states on Dec. 2, 2015, a Muslim man committed an act of terrorism, killing and injuring multiple people and alleges that on Dec. 9, 2015, Varian asked Jadun to come to a meeting in her office.

He alleged that while in her office she said, "You Muslims are terrorists and are

killing Christians and Jews."

YSU denied this claim in their response. Jadun alleged that Varian forwarded an article to him via email titled, "Why do People Join Isis? Here's what they say when you ask them."

In their response, YSU admitted that Varian sent the email.

A performance review was conducted by Varian in January 2016. According to Jadun's lawsuit, the review included "unsatisfactory findings for job knowledge, planning, administration, communication and professional development."

The case stated that he was required to comply with a performance plan between June and August 2016 which Varian developed.

Jadun alleged that he did not receive complaints from YSU or Varian in 2015 and that students had positive reviews for

him in 2015 and 2016.

He also claimed he was unfairly assigned to work all of the time slots at a YSU student resource fair without a second coordinator.

The lawsuit states that in the summer of 2016, students were contacted by Varian about Jadun's performance. No other coordinator's students were contacted.

Jadun alleged that the claims made by Michael Reagle, the former Associate Vice President for Student Services, and Varian brought unwarranted complaints to the YSU Human Resources Department.

He was then placed on leave and terminated from his position at the CSP, according to the lawsuit.

The university denied these claims in their response.

According to Jadun's YSU evaluation conducted in July 2014 by Varian, he re-

ceived six 'needs improvement' and one 'satisfactory' ratings. In January 2015, he received one 'excellent' and six 'satisfactory' ratings. In February 2016, he received two 'satisfactory' and five 'unsatisfactory' ratings.

Jadun did not file the lawsuit with a lawyer and asked for a trial by jury.

He asked for compensation for damages, payment in the form of back pay with interest and to be awarded punitive damages.

Jadun also asked to be granted reasonable attorney fees and costs by the university.

YSU asked Judge Benita Y. Pearson to dismiss the complaint. The university also asked to be reimbursed for costs and attorney fees.

## POWER COUPLES ON CAMPUS

JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR  
ALYSSA WESTON

In light of Valentine's Day, the Jambar spoke to several power couples at Youngstown State University. They shared how they navigate being both couples and colleagues.

Patrick Durrell, instructor in astronomy, and Katherine Durrell, instructor in physics and astronomy, kinesiology and sport science, said they met at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, before working at YSU.

The couple said they view the opportunity to work together as a benefit to both their careers.

"It can be difficult to find work for both spouses when they have similar interests and backgrounds," Patrick Durrell said. "YSU made it work."

Because they both teach such different classes, Katherine Durrell said there isn't much overlap in material, but it's helpful in discerning better teaching methods.

"We teach different classes, so it is helpful to discuss the different methods we may use in helping students un-

derstand the material," Patrick Durrell said.

Katherine Durrell said together they strive to stay involved in other things outside of work.

"I train and compete with our two miniature schnauzers in dog agility," she said. "I take horseback riding lessons and show in hunter classes on the local horse show circuit and I try to get some fencing practice in as well."

Ronald Strollo, executive director of intercollegiate athletics, and Nicole Kent-Strollo, director of student outreach and support and assistant track coach, said they met at YSU when they were both students.

After graduation, Nicole Kent-Strollo was hired by the university as an assistant track coach and athletic-academic advisor. Ronald Strollo worked at a local accounting firm for four years, but later accepted a position at YSU as the athletic business manager.

Each has an independent role on campus, and for them, the key to success is to treat each other as any other colleague while on campus.

Nicole Kent-Strollo said because they both spend so much time on campus, they see greater dedication to their work while at home.

"To be honest, I don't know if there's anything we'd

rather be doing or anyplace else we'd rather be," she said. "This is not 'work' to either of us and we are both incredibly lucky to be able to say that."

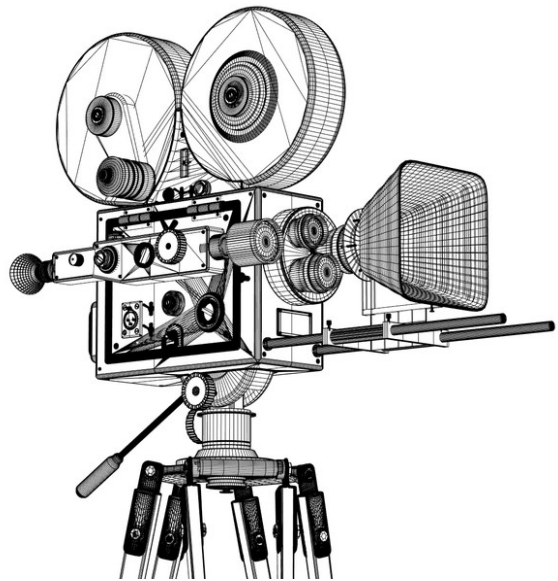
Adam Earnhardt, chair and instructor of communications, and Mary Beth Earnhardt, a journalism professor, met at Clarion University in Pennsylvania before working at YSU.

Mary Beth Earnhardt said she makes it clear that she is her own person professionally.

"I'm not afraid to disagree or treat Adam as if he were any other colleague," she said.

Adam Earnhardt said they help each other at work, but no more than other colleagues. However, he said they try to keep work at work and keep that boundary in place as much as possible.

"Telling couples who work in the same place to keep work and home separate almost sounds cliché at this point. It's nearly impossible. But you should still strive for that," he said. "What it comes down to is this: listen to your partner. If she or he says, 'Hey, I don't really want to talk about work right now,' honor that and everyone will be happier for it."



# YOUNG HOLLYWOOD

DAVID FORD

Fred D'Amico said he wanted to become an actor. In 1996, D'Amico traded Youngstown for Hollywood, in hopes of one day bringing the film industry back home.

But what would a guy from Ohio know about the film industry? The answer, he said, is absolutely nothing.

D'Amico said he wanted to learn because this was his dream. He traveled to Hollywood and shortly after, his fortunes changed.

"I had an audition with Alec Baldwin and Anthony Hopkins within three months of being there," he said.

D'Amico, who serves as the executive director and president of the Youngstown Regional Film Commission, has worked with an abundance of Hollywood stars including Mark Hamill, Madonna, Snoop Dogg, Dr. Dre, Beyoncé, Courtney Cox and Tony Danza.

"I saw Angelina Jolie in a store the other day, and I went up and talked to her for a minute," D'Amico said. "We work with people in this industry that after a while, you get desensitized to it and its work. It's just another star."

Dennis Hopper, a childhood hero of D'Amico, was one of his favorite actors to work with.

D'Amico produced his own movie, "The Power of Few," shot in Louisiana in 2010. The film, released in 2013, starred Christopher Walken, Christian Slater, Anthony Anderson and Larry King.

He created an initiative to turn Youngstown into Hollywood and Hollywood on to Youngstown called Project Young Hollywood.

D'Amico started the Youngstown Regional Film Commission in 2013; however, people were initially hesitant.

"I wanted to bring movies home ... I was met with resistance from many, many

people," D'Amico said. "What I had to tell them was this, 'Unfortunately, I have to tell you two things now. Number one, nobody kills my dreams but me. And two, you're going to have a film commission here whether you like it or not.'"

Before the film commission, Youngstown already had people connected to Hollywood.

Ed O'Neill, a Youngstown State University graduate, played Al Bundy on "Married with Children," and the Warner Brothers lived and worked in Youngstown.

In homage to Mobtown USA, director Martin Scorsese featured the city's newspaper, the Vindicator, in the final scene of "Goodfellas" (1990).

Despite the Hollywood connection, these people never filmed in Youngstown.

"We saw Pittsburgh and Cleveland enjoying the benefits of this industry and thought this is a perfect industry to bring to our town, where so many resources and talented people are," D'Amico said.

He said his dreams were slowly becoming reality.

"We brought over \$800,000 into the region in the past three years," D'Amico said. "We've created jobs locally; we've affected businesses locally. Restaurants were used, hotels were used, car rentals were used, so we set up a database on our website."

D'Amico said he encourages those interested in film to list themselves on their website database if they want to be a part of the cast or crew or if they know of potential film locations.

"We can put you directly in front of producers when they come," D'Amico said. "That's what getting listed in our database is all about. It lets producers find out who you are."

According to D'Amico, the database allows production companies to contact those interested and the film commission encourages as much volunteer work as possible.

"We'd love to see the talent of Youngstown list themselves with us," he said. "Whether you're a hairdresser, a make-up artist, a set painter, anything ... These companies might need you."

He said he always looks for help at the film commission level. It's volunteer work, but these volunteers have benefited and some were able to get jobs on the last movie, according to D'Amico.

"We just had a movie shot here that was with Gerard Butler's company called 'Them That Follow,'" he said.

"Them That Follow," starring Walton Goggins and Jim Gaffigan, tells the story of an Appalachian community, snakes and God.

According to D'Amico, the Youngstown City Council voted on another project called "Roadkill McGillicutty," which is looking to be filmed in September.

In addition to the upcoming project, D'Amico said the city has another five or so movies lined up to shoot.

## Youngstown State Connection

According to a June 2017 article by the Vindicator, YSU has commercial equipment representing seven methods of 3-D printing, believed to be the first such technological milestone in the eastern United States.

D'Amico said he wants to involve YSU and the 3-D printer with the Hollywood film industry.

"For instance, if you have an alien movie, and you need some sort of alien gun, a space helmet, or a suit, there's no reason why we couldn't hook up the printer to a crane and build anything, of any size," he said. "If you want to build an entire spaceship, we can build it out of Youngstown with this technology."

D'Amico said the film commission sat down with YSU representatives to discuss possible training programs, but is not sure that a partnership will occur. He said he just wants to give people the chance to start learning how to work on film sets, in

any way they can.

In order to educate those interested, he said the film commission will conduct seminars.

"We're going to be having introduction to film seminars. We'll be bringing in hairdressers, actors, we even have a guy that just moved back home that did all the leather for 'Pirates of the Caribbean,' and this is the guy that's doing other movies now," D'Amico said.

The seminars will offer film enthusiasts background information on directing, production management and writing among other areas, according to D'Amico. They will take place in March.

He said the commission has been successful in helping YSU students attain jobs in the past, on sets of "Them That Follow" and "Bar Rescue," which documented the makeover of the Royal Oaks and the Federal.

"I told my mom, when I left, was that I'm going to go be in Hollywood, produce some movies, I'll be back one day," D'Amico said. "It's a reality, not a reality show, what we've done. Project Young Hollywood has come to fruition."

Miles Garrett, a YSU junior majoring in theater, with a focus on film and video, said if the opportunity presents itself to work on productions in Youngstown, he would do it.

According to Garrett, films are a portal to another world.

"It's the idea that you can visually tell a story," Garrett said. "It's a lot different from theatre in that you can show exactly what you want your audience to look at."

Garrett said he wants to work on upcoming volunteer projects in Youngstown through behind-the-scenes, whether it's helping the crew or working in video production.

For more information, visit their website at [youngstownfilmcommission.com](http://youngstownfilmcommission.com), or find their Facebook page, Youngstown Regional Film Commission.



# DNA STUDIO NOW OFFERING BELLY DANCING

**NAMI NAGAOKA**

DNA Studios not only offers tattoos, piercings and showcases an art gallery on YSU's campus, but now there is an opportunity to attend a belly dancing class in their new belly dancing studio.

Introduction to the Dance of the Core: Bellidance, is hosted by Jennifer Neal and the Tribe of Eos.

Through the class, participants should expect to learn muscular isolations, travel patterns, rhythms and the fun that belly dancing is all about, according to the Bellidance flyer.

Neal said she has been teaching belly dancing for about 10 years.

"With belly dancing, it doesn't matter how old you are [or] what shape you are," she said. "Everyone can fit in and find a spot."

She said belly dancing is a loose term and her class style is very inclusive.

"Do not be intimidated especially our style of belly



*Photos by TANNER MONDOK/THE JAMBAR*

dance," Neal said. "My philosophy is no judgment."

She said her classes are open for mainly women, but she is willing to work with men who are interested in the class.

Neal said the classes are always fun and people have built friendships and connections through belly dancing. She said she is excited to be able to teach YSU students.

"It's almost like a support group," she said. "They are open-minded and trying to learn."

Brigitte Flick, a YSU alumni, said she has been belly dancing for a year and a half with Neal. She said she had never participated in sports until she started belly dancing.

"There is a lot of layering and different movement at one time," she said.

She said it was hard for her to put herself out and move in front of other people at first, but Flick said she feels much more comfortable now and it is a good workout.

"Everybody is very open and accepting of who you are," she said. "The class itself is fun. You are definitely learning a lot of new things you would not be doing anywhere else."

Flick said belly dancing has helped her open up as a person and Neal is like her mentor.

"[Neal] changed my life," she said.

Emily Stran, a YSU freshman, said she has been belly dancing for almost three years and it helps her relieve stress.

She said she had never danced before she started belly dancing because she was struggling with self-consciousness.

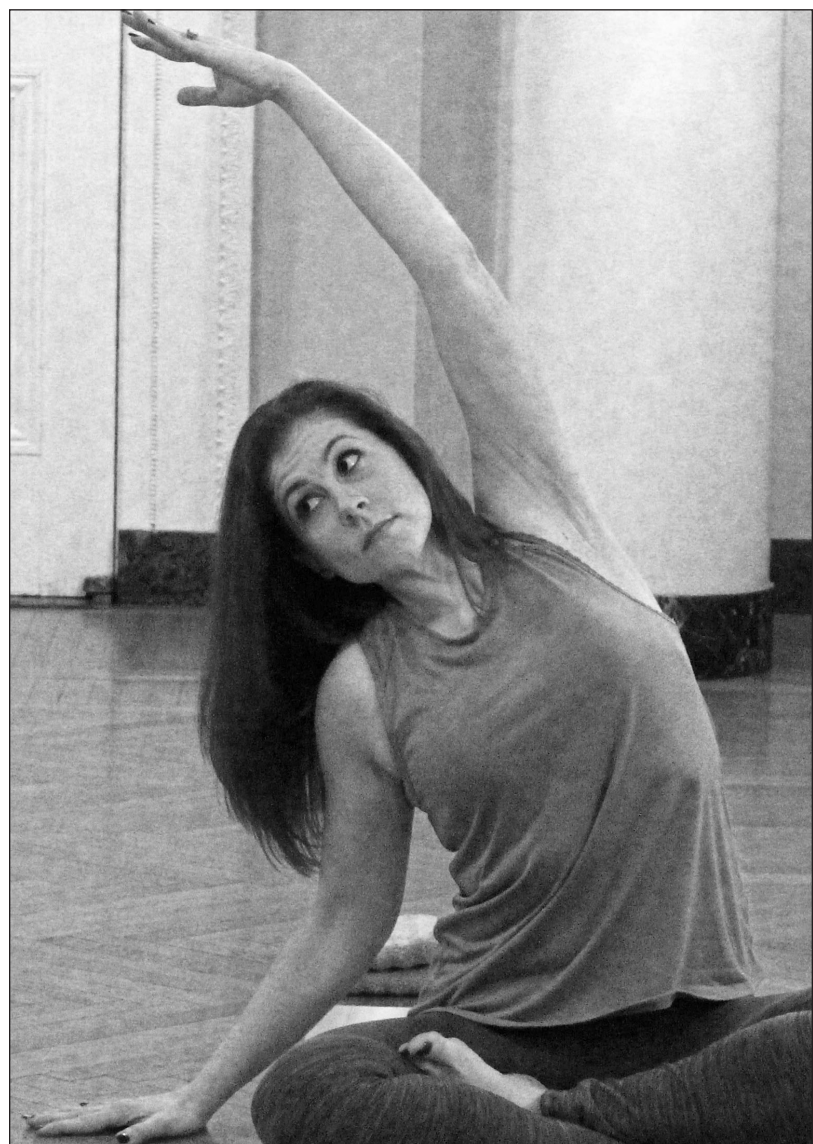
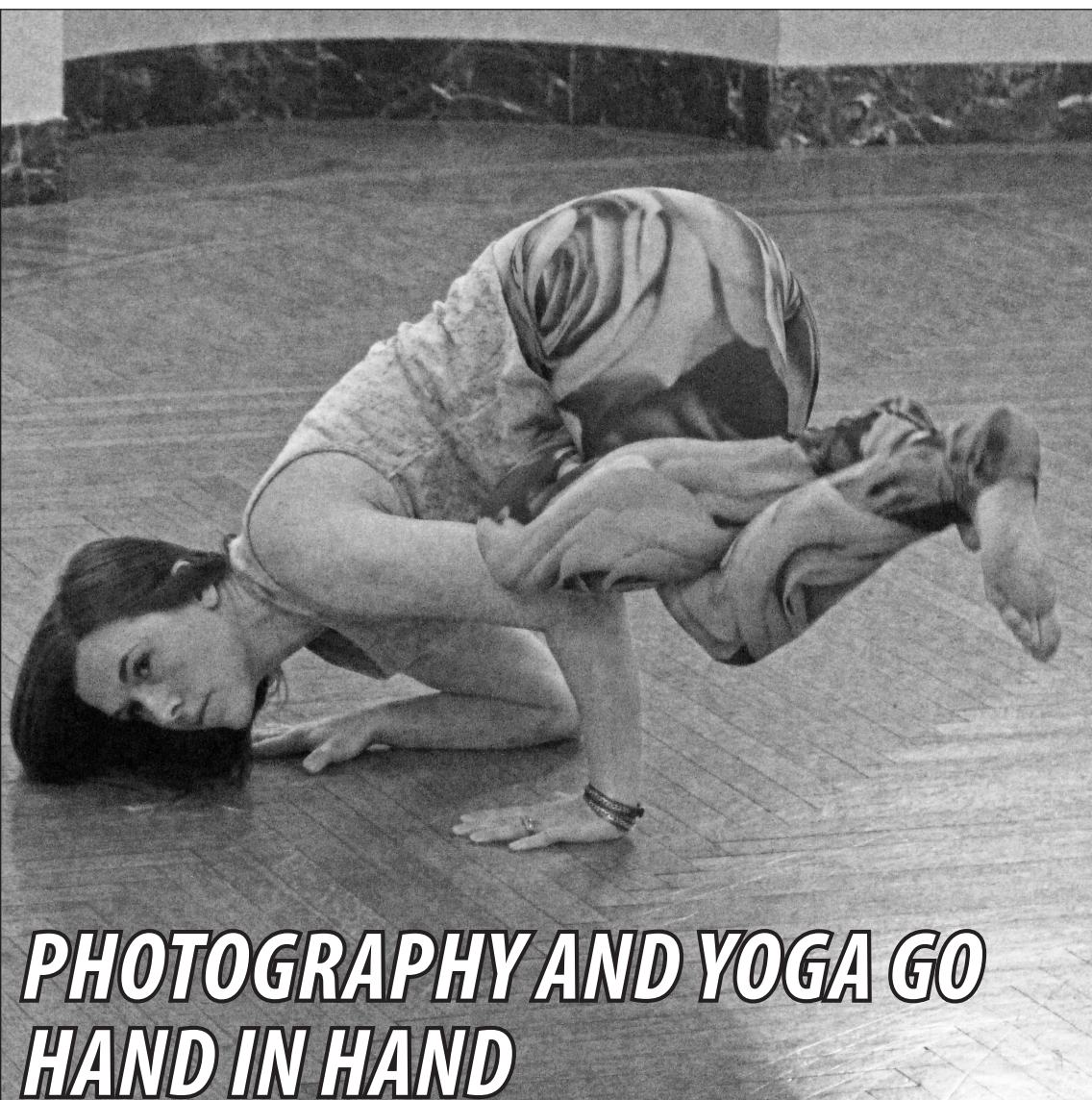
Stran said she became comfortable dancing in front of people quickly and the members are like family.

She said belly dancing is fun, but it is challenging and she is always learning.

Neal said her belly dancing class incorporates a lot of various songs from pop to cultural and traditional songs.

The classes are held every Tuesday from 7:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. and Sunday from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and are run in four-week sessions based on interest and participation.

There is a \$12 drop-in fee for community members and a \$10 drop-in fee for YSU students with a student ID.



## PHOTOGRAPHY AND YOGA GO HAND IN HAND

**MARAH J. MORRISON**

Josh Lewis Photography hosted an individual and group yoga portrait and video event at Stambaugh Auditorium on Feb. 6. The event provided professional photographs for the yoga instructor and enthusiastic participants for their portfolios.

Lewis, who studied graphic design at Youngstown State University, said the event was the first of many collaborations he wants to do, which involves mixing photography with a different medium.

“Not only do I admire the health benefits, spirit and mind, all the good things it does for you,” Lewis said. “In a way, being creative and doing photography does the same things to me.”

Lewis said he wants to mix different things with photography that people would find therapeutic, such as dance, cooking or food. He said this is something in his bones and he likes to be creative.

“I’ve always been artistic,” Lewis said. “It’s what gives me passion in life, it’s what keeps me sane.”

Lewis said for the past several years, he has done a lot

of family portraits and industrial photography portraits in abandoned areas. He said he wants to get more people involved in the arts and the creative side of things.

“Yoga is becoming more and more popular especially in the Youngstown area,” Lewis said. “I want to introduce people to photography as well.”

Lewis said one thing he likes to do with his photographs is tell his clients to portray themselves as a story and how they want to present themselves to the world through an image. He said he wants to get more people interested and said will always help his clients get there.

“No matter your skill level, it’s all beneficial,” Lewis said. “Whether it’s for health reasons, whether it’s for your mind and soul, if it helps you reduce stress, yoga offers a lot of benefits, so whether you’re new or seasoned, it’s helpful to everybody.”

Lewis said if people are interested in yoga and photography to just try it and dive right in. He said people should also acquaint themselves with other yoga instructors, photography students or professionals.

“Practice makes perfect, and when you put yourself into those shoes and just do it every day, it’ll grow,” Lewis said.

*Photo by MARAH J. MORRISON/THE JAMBAR*

Lewis said five of the participants were yoga instructors, some seasoned and some new, and the other participant was a yoga enthusiast.

Jessica Conard, a participant at the event, said she first started coming to yoga with a friend just for exercise. She said she did not expect to get what she got out of it in terms of exercise and the mind.

“It’s such a beautiful practice,” Conard said. “I decided to keep going and become a yoga instructor.”

Conard said she enjoys doing arm balances in yoga and came out to the event wanting to build more connections. She said she has never been to Stambaugh Auditorium and found it very beautiful.

“To have the privilege of doing yoga in a place like this is kind of magical,” Conard said.

Kalli Caras, another participant, said she got into yoga because of two car accidents eight years ago. She said this started her yoga journey in need of wanting to do something more holistic rather than use medication.

“I found yoga as a physical thing, then it turned into a mental thing as well,” Caras said.

Caras said there is nothing she dislikes about yoga and that it saved her life.



# "MR. WHEELER'S" ROLLS IN FOR A YOUNGSTOWN DEBUT

JOHN STRAN

"Mr. Wheeler's," a play about Youngstown, will have its premiere at the Spotlight Theatre in Bliss Hall Friday at 7:30 p.m. The play portrays a group of young adults who work at Mr. Wheeler's restaurant in Youngstown.

On one life-changing breakfast shift, the group of workers find a bag of money. As skepticism and time grow, the group then finds a second bag of money, and eventually a third and fourth.

Rob Zellers wrote the play. His previous works include "Harry's Friendly Service," a play also in the setting of Youngstown, and "The Chief," the most successful play in Pittsburgh public theater history.

Zellers said the characters aren't based on anyone in particular, but Mr. Wheeler's restaurant was once an actual fixture in Youngstown. Prior to becoming a playwright at age 60, Zellers was a high school teacher, which is where some of his ideas for the play came from.



Photos by JOHN STRAN/THE JAMBAR

"I taught in what would be a non-affluent school and I noticed that most of my students had jobs," Zellers said. "I was fascinated by their process of managing work and school, and also upset because they weren't doing their homework."

Zellers chose Youngstown as the backdrop for the play because it's where he was raised. He said it's a good backdrop for himself because it's the language he speaks — a Youngstown language.

"The story could have easily taken place in some other small industrial city," Zellers said.

The play speaks on the changes Youngstown has witnessed going from such prosperity to such degradation, and then figuring out how to turn it all around, Zellers said.

The director of "Mr. Wheeler's," Matthew Mazuroski, said the play will appeal to a broad audience because many will be able to relate to the struggles these characters go through. He said the cast adds an authenticity to their roles and to the play as a whole.

Daniel Navabi is an understudy for the role of Dougie. The character, Dougie, suffers from a mental disability and is what Navabi describes as the heart of the play that keeps everyone together.

Navabi said the part has its difficulties; the character doesn't have many lines, but is a constant in the play making it a more physical character to portray. Comparing it to a group-led "The Breakfast Club," Navabi said there isn't a true lead role in the play.

"The play really relies on the chemistry between characters," Navabi said.

Mazuroski said he feels people will react positively towards the play. He said people will like seeing how scrappy and tenacious these 20 somethings are.

"No matter what happens, they always seem to find a way to solve the problem," Mazuroski said.

Tickets for the play are \$16 for general admission and \$8 for YSU faculty and staff. Admission is free for YSU students.



# HELP NEEDED

## THE MYSTERIOUSLY UNSOLVABLE DISAPPEARANCE OF ARTHUR WESTON

Week 3/8

Quinn Weston

Welcome to week three, detectives. It is I, Quinn Weston. My uncle, Arthur Weston, has mysteriously disappeared and I'm in need of your returning help. This eight-part case is a series full of riddles and mysteries waiting to be solved. If you missed the last two issues and would like to join in, stop by The Jambar offices. At the end of the eight weeks, further instructions on what to do with your answers will be unveiled. Successful entrants will have their names entered into a drawing for \$150 cash.

As previously noted, my uncle was a brilliant accountant. He worked hard to get where he was, but his work ethic was only out of a desperate need to assuage an appetite for unsolvable problems. His high-key profile as the man to go to for seemingly unsolvable challenges got him hired at Washington, D.C.'s most respected accounting firm.

As Uncle Arthur rose through the ranks, he began working alongside even the FBI to help solve cases. He never said much about his work, but one way or another it became known that part of his job was working with the IRS accounting for illegal immigrants. This, along with a foundation he started to assist immigrants gain their citizenship, helped me make a fuller profile of the man.

This information is relevant because of the latest note I received in my mailbox early this morning: a business correspondence written by him to him. As per usual, there appears to be a word hidden in the letter, and a location to go and find in the closing. Take a crack at it, chaps. See what you can find!

Dear Arthur,

First and foremost, thank you for taking time out of your busy day to read this. I have barely been able to make time to write this to you myself. Certain unfortunate circumstances have mounted toward immediate danger causing me to take action. As the old adage goes, blood is thicker than water, and you are currently working in an ocean.

Let me reiterate. The very people you spent the last thirty-five years working alongside cannot be trusted. This said, I highly recommend that you still take in a protegee to assist you; it appears you have hit a brick wall in the case. If you are to search for an ally, look no further than the closest members of your family. Bad things could happen to you if you don't take the appropriate precautions.

Ever since things went south with Agent Palmer, the landscape around you has changed. Trust no one but your family. Only go out at night. Do not drink your tap water. Continue working on Project Rennie in secret. I have included a copy of your notes in the manilla package this was delivered in. 8

Best regards,  
Arthur weston

P.S. in 2001, I played volleyball on the lake shore, next to adam west's sidekick. !!

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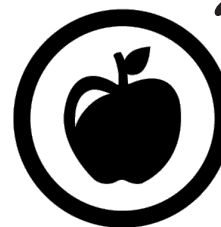
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*Photo by TANNER MONDOK/THE JAMBAR*

Shaun McCune, junior music performance major, played guitar in the Maag Library lobby on Feb. 8. His main focus for his major is classical guitar. McCune said he works at the Reference Center in Maag and plays before he goes to work. He is preparing for his junior recital.



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# AN UNDERRATED HOLIDAY

SAMANTHA ALLAN

Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday, is marked as a day of binging and partying before the time of reflection and fasting in the Lenten season. People from all over don their best beads and intricate masks for a night of fun.

Unlike many other holidays, there are no expectations of gifts or specific signs of affection. Mardi Gras is a time to celebrate with friends and family. Large parties, festivals and parades are available in spades for a single night. Costumes, games and more food than a single person could ever need are sure to light up many homes.

The fact it is on a Tuesday never seems to slow anyone wishing to go out and have a good time. However, many visitors to

New Orleans actually begin the festivities the weekend before and continue into the late weekday hours.

History.com notes that from the very beginning, Mardi Gras was a lavish affair. Dating back thousands of years, Mardi Gras began as a pagan celebration of fertility and the oncoming spring. Mardi Gras, as we know it today, was later incorporated into Christianity as the day it signaled the beginning of Lent.

While the intent behind the holiday may have changed over time, the grandeur never did. Purple, green and yellow decorations litter the streets and halls in which the parties take place. While the beads are a signature staple of any Mardi Gras party, the masks are definitely the most interesting.

Masks give us the opportunity to be

someone else, if only for a night or two. Crowds of people are given the opportunity to dress in intricate costumes and remain completely anonymous. The romantic ideal that's associated with an air of mystery is one of the aspects of Mardi Gras that makes it so unique.

While Halloween also presents the opportunity for costumes, it largely focuses around candy and children. Halloween parties also usually contain an underlying threat of the scary or supernatural. Mardi Gras does not have this type of theme. It gives you the chance to dress in your fanciest clothes and feel as though you have stepped back in time.

Anyone can feel like an aristocrat for a day as they celebrate. There are balls, king and queen prizes and other types of celebration not a part of everyday society any

longer.

The final great aspect of this holiday is the rich food and drinks filling various styles of tables. If you are celebrating in the best way, much of this food reflects the southern classics of New Orleans cuisine. Seafood, grits, rice, chicken, king cakes and many more options give the party that extra air of authenticity.

When all of the great food and decorations come together, the New Orleans experience is easily transferred to any city. Mardi Gras is an often underrated holiday. With so many other major holidays, many do not celebrate it at all.

Hopefully, you will reconsider this coming year and celebrate this rare and wonderful holiday. Enjoy the chance to be a New Orleans aristocrat for a day and keep this long-standing tradition going strong.

## A JAMBAR EDITORIAL:

### YET ANOTHER DON'T TEXT AND DRIVE PSA

Have you ever just turned the radio on, set your car to a comfortable temperature and just cruised to your destination without a care in the world? Have you ever had to slam on your brakes because someone else was distracted?

In a 2016 article by the Huffington Post, Liz Marks, a 17-year-old, picked up her phone for just a second while driving. The resulting crash meant she had to relearn how to speak, walk, read and write.

The article said she was lucky to be alive. What was the text message she received that reshaped her life? "OK."

"I thought I was invincible," Marks said in the article. "But obviously, I was completely wrong."

Youngstown State University is still largely a commut-

er school, and people tell plenty of stories about how they almost got into an accident or how they unfortunately did have a collision. Usually, the excuse is they or the other driver were not paying attention while they were driving.

We're taught that driving is easy -- that it's the other people you need to watch out for -- but that's not always necessarily true. When you have a driver's license long enough to get comfortable on the road, you have to be careful not to get too comfortable and complacent.

When your phone is lighting up with texts, emails, snapchats and more, it's important to remember that it's a serious distraction and should be left until you get to your destination. If it's that important, something to be answered right away, find a place to pull over. Looking

at a phone while driving puts everyone's lives in danger.

According to the DMV, 26 percent of all car crashes in 2014 involved cell phones. At least nine people are killed daily because of distracted driving, while more than 1,000 people are injured.

It's not only drivers that cause accidents. People on foot who aren't paying attention may step off a curb without looking, which forces a car to either swerve, slam on the brakes or hit the pedestrian if they are too close.

There are many campaigns that bring awareness to texting and driving, but with technology always at our fingertips all we can do is attempt to pay attention when others aren't.

# GET APP HOPES TO EASE MEAL PLAN TROUBLES

JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

IAN FRANTZ

An application that helps students keep track of all funds related to their meal plan at Youngstown State University was introduced in the fall 2017 semester.

GET was created by The CBORD Group, which is a company that focuses on housing, access and card services for senior living, higher education and business campuses.

Michael Cardwell, assistant director of retail management at YSU, said he spent the summer trying to get the system up and running in time for fall.

"I worked with Youngstown State University's IT department and coordinated with CBORD's IT and made sure that it could recognize the student IDs," Cardwell said.

The purpose of the GET app is to allow students to check their balance on Pete's Points and Flex Dollars and add more funds.

According to Cardwell, YSU had access to GET for

some time but hasn't had time to set it up until recently.

"We just took a while getting to it. We have the Odyssey System to help track block meals used in the meal plan and use Micros to run the registers, so we wanted to make sure everything was going to work," Cardwell said.

Sarah Rodgers, sophomore education major, said she was on the meal plan before moving out of the dorms and before the app was released at YSU.

"I had real trouble checking my balance and actually ran out of funds a couple times, so something like this would have really helped me out," Rodgers said.

Cardwell said checking a balance before the app was a hassle for both the customer and the employee at the register.

"When you buy something with either Pete's Points or Flex Dollars, you could see the balance at the bottom of the receipt, but this would only show the balance of the currency used and it would only work if you bought something," Cardwell said.

Ian Tanner, associate director of housing and residence life, said he is incorporating information from the app into future training sessions for staff.

"We dedicated a small section to the app in our August RA training back in the fall and we are planning on doing the same thing in our next orientation for students next semester," Tanner said.

He said the app could provide an opportunity for students living by themselves for the first time to learn valuable lessons for later in life.

"In a weird way it's teaching students how to balance a checkbook and can help students learn a practical skill that will be helpful in the real world," Tanner said.

Cardwell said his office hopes for the app to grow and provide more services in the future.

"The app is able to show you the location of all places that accept Pete's Point or Flex Dollars and uses GPS to show you how to get there," Cardwell said.

Tanner said he thinks the app is having a positive reaction with students already.

"The students who use it like it a lot and are willing to let us know when something doesn't work. It shows the students that we're listening and want to give them a better experience," he said.

# ASL AND HEARING IMPAIRMENT

JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

KATLYN KRITZ AND

LAURA MCDONOUGH

For students with deafness and other hearing impairments, communication can be difficult.

Kristin Melanson, sophomore in biology pre-med at Youngstown State University, said she has been studying American Sign Language for the past four years.

She said since she started learning ASL she's come into contact with numerous hearing-impaired people.

"I work at an optometrist office, and we had a little boy come in with only one implant," Melanson said. "I signed to him and he was very happy. After that he could pick out the glasses he wanted."

She said no one else at her workplace knew how to sign and that it's important people know the basics.

"I personally think all medical staff should have to learn ASL as a job requirement," Melanson said.

This may prove to be difficult for YSU students, as ASL is not offered as a major

or minor, and not many sections are offered to fulfill the language requirement for some majors.

Rich Magazzine, YSU ASL instructor, said he has been trying to get an ASL minor for the past year.

"The school would greatly benefit from having an ASL minor," Magazzine said. "It could offer more opportunity for deaf students to be involved on campus."

He said it would be beneficial for pre-med students to take ASL classes as it would make them more versatile.

"I would love to teach more ASL classes," Magazzine said. "Deaf culture classes would be a good class."

He said YSU would benefit from having an interpreter and hearing-impaired student center.

Gina McGranahan, assistant director of the Office of Disability Services, said her office is equipped to assist students with various levels of hearing impairment.

She said what Disability Services can do for students depends on their level of impairment, the class setting and if they are able to use ASL effectively.

They can get note takers, interpreters or access to a service where someone will type a summary of what is said in the class or a real-time word-for-word transcription.

McGranahan said she didn't know the exact number of students with a hearing-impairment at YSU because some don't need to use Disability Services.

"There's such a fluctuation in hearing impairments, and it depends on what kind of classroom you're in, if you need services or not," McGranahan said. "In small quarters a lot of students don't need [help], but if you're in one of those big lecture halls, some students need more than others."

She said whether a student needs extra help may also be determined by how well they can read lips.

Deaf and hard of hearing students, such as Rachel Jones, a senior communications major, have struggled with navigation on campus.

Jones said the school would benefit from making certain changes such as having a more efficient way of sending sched-

ules to the disability office.

Jones said she wants her schedule sent directly to the disability office after creating it, instead of having to worry about her emails getting to them.

"I would've majored in ASL if YSU offered it," Jones said. "I would love to see more people taking ASL classes."

She said she wishes there were more things like ASL meetings and deaf culture classes.

Jones said deaf people spend a lot of time accommodating people that are not hearing impaired.

"If more people could sign we wouldn't have to work so hard to read lips or carry around a pen and paper," she said. "It's nice finding hearing people who will at least meet me halfway."

Jones said if a student doesn't know how to talk to someone who is deaf or hard of hearing to simply ask them about it.

"A wave or a tap on the shoulder will tell us you're there," she said. "ASL is more than English with hands. It's a language like any spoken language."



Andrew Kendrick (#21) looks to get a good pitch as he lifts his leg in an intra-squad scrimmage in September of 2017.

Photo Courtesy of YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

## FIRST PITCH BREAKFAST SIGNALS START OF SEASON FOR YSU

MARC WEEMS

For the eighth year in a row, the Youngstown State University baseball team started its year with the First Pitch Breakfast held at The Embassy in Youngstown.

"I've always considered this my home and it means a lot to me. Youngstown State means a lot to me," former YSU standout pitcher Steve Bartolin said about his reasoning for speaking at the event. "I don't think I would've graduated if it weren't for playing baseball here."

"When I got released from the [Detroit] Tigers, I wasn't real serious about anything. To be able to give back and provide others an opportunity to enjoy college baseball, it's a good thing to do."

Bartolin played baseball from 1969-72 and was inducted into the YSU Athletics Hall of Fame in 1987. He was drafted by the Detroit Tigers in 1972 and played professionally until 1975. He helped lead YSU

to an overall record of 89-48 in his time with the Penguins.

Bartolin wasn't the only speaker at the event, as the main guest speaker was former Boston Red Sox great Bill Buckner.

Buckner played 22 years in Major League Baseball and was at the time just the 18th player in MLB history to do so. There are now 29 such players.

Buckner played for the Boston Red Sox, Chicago Cubs, California Angels, Kansas City Royals and Los Angeles Dodgers. Buckner amassed more than 2,700 hits during his career. He won the National League batting title with the Cubs in 1980 and was selected to the MLB All-Star Game in 1981.

Of course, he'll always be remembered for letting a ball get between his legs at first base against the New York Mets in the 1986 World Series.

"I really wanted to come support the program here and be a part of the push of helping YSU's baseball team. I think that is important to have support for college

baseball," Buckner said.

YSU coach Dan Bertolini is now in his second season as the head coach and takes great pride in this event.

"I feel like we finally got our bearings and got to do what we wanted. I thought the event went very smoothly today. Last year, it was hectic because I was getting ready for the season and putting this together," Bertolini said. "I think our coaches have an idea of what we were doing this time around."

Beyond just the breakfast, YSU is ready to get after it on the diamond.

"A lot of hard work has gone into getting to this point. I think our guys are chomping at the bit," Bertolini said. "I know our guys are ready to see some fly balls and get outside to play. Hopefully, we'll be ready for this weekend."

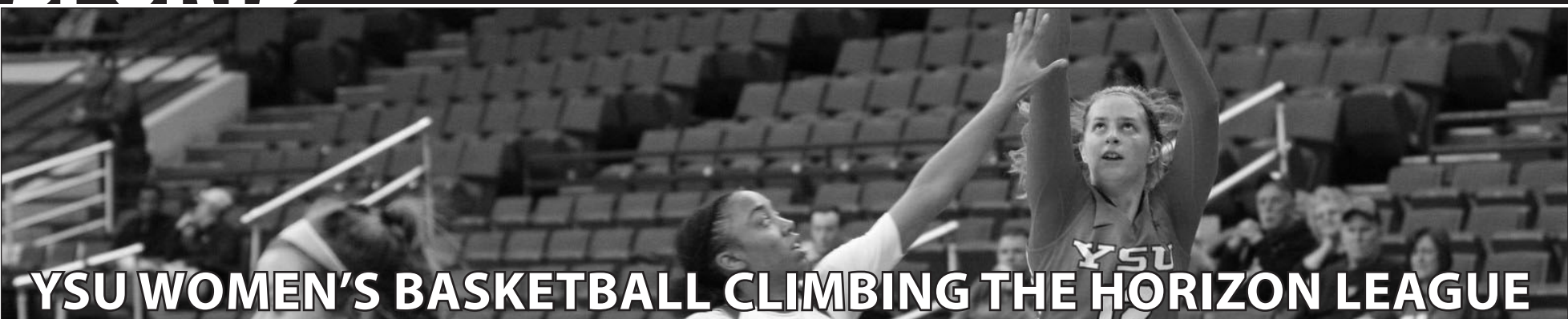
YSU starts the year down South as it always does to start the year. This time, YSU starts with a three-game series against Belmont University on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

"We have a lot of new faces. With 23 new faces with 13 freshmen, we are going to have some freshmen moments for some of these guys," Bertolini said.

Last year was the year of the home run as the Penguins drilled 50 dingers. The Penguins hit 60 in 2010 which was the top year for home runs. First baseman Andrew Kendrick broke the school record of 13 with 17 homers.

"Division I baseball is hard. You're not going to walk in and have success right away. It's going to be a journey," Kendrick said about being a team leader. "We played really well in the middle part of our season with those wins over Georgia Tech and Kent State. Our consistency wasn't where we wanted it to be so we need to work on and this team is ready to have a big year."

YSU went just 15-40 last year but won nine Horizon League games which was an improvement over the five.



Chelsea Olson (#12) shoots over the top of Jade Ely (#21) in a game back on Jan. 20.

Photo Courtesy of YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

## MARC WEEMS

Just two weeks ago, the Youngstown State University women's basketball team sat in eighth place with an 8-13 record overall and a 4-6 Horizon League record. It seemed doomed to prove the pre-season voters right with a near seventh-place finish.

Now two weeks later, YSU (12-13, 8-6) swept its four-game road trip and has rebounded nicely against opponents it should be beating with the talent on the team. It has now won six of the last seven games.

It started the trip with a win over Oakland University, 86-76, behind Mary Dunn's 24 points and eight rebounds, Indiya Benjamin's 13 points with 10 assists and Chelsea Olson's 13 points, nine rebounds and five assists.

The team went to face the University of Detroit Mercy where the Penguins got the 72-52 win. Benjamin had 14 points with eight assists.

"The last four games have been really fun and I'm happy we could get those wins," senior forward Kelley Wright said. "I hope that I can play the way I know I can and help the team get more wins."

Wright has been an unsung hero in the last four wins for YSU. She is averaging 9.8 points per game on 62 per-

cent shooting all off the bench. She has done this all while shooting 6 of 12 from the 3-point line.

The Penguins faced Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. YSU upset the Jaguars, 70-67. Benjamin became the all-time assist leader as she broke Danielle Carson's record of 573 in the game she now sits at 581 career.

Only Terry Moore, of the guys, has more with 619. It is possible she breaks that record soon.

The last game of the road trip was against the University of Illinois-Chicago. YSU defeated the Flames (7-17, 0-13), 71-52, as Chelsea Olson had 17 points, 12 rebounds, eight assists and four blocks.

She earned her fourth-consecutive Horizon League Freshman-of-the-Week honors while adding College Sports Madness' Horizon League player of the week.

"Chelsea has really come a long way. She has become really confident and continues to figure out the pace of play at this level," YSU head coach John Barnes said. "She is not afraid to take the big shots or take over when she needs to."

Barnes said her best quality is not getting to high nor too low.

One of the big keys to YSU's success, other than out-

scoring opponents, was the rebounding margin. The Penguins were only outrebounded once in four games and outrebounded teams on an average of 5.5 per game.

Besides rebounding, bench scoring was the biggest difference in the wins as the Penguins outscored opposing benches 112-45 in the four-game win streak.

"I think we've really focused on toughness and physical play. We haven't changed a lot practice-wise or anything. We are starting to get healthier," Barnes said. "When we lost Alison [Smolinski], she was a big part of our offense and defense. I think all the things that come with a major injury have ironed themselves out."

Now YSU looks ahead to four teams that it has played well in the conference.

It faces the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (17-8, 8-5) who is just a half game above YSU and they face each other tonight at 7 p.m.

After that, YSU gets the 19th-ranked University of Wisconsin-Green Bay on Saturday.

YSU lost to Milwaukee, 62-61, on a buzzer-beater and it lost, 65-56, to Green Bay which were both great signs of how good the team could play.

YSU faces Milwaukee tonight at 7 p.m. at the Beeghly Center.

# PRESS BOX PERSPECTIVE: THE SLOW APPROACH TO MARCH

## SETH RIVELLO

The men's NCAA basketball season is winding down and the team rankings are fluctuating every week. Teams that are normally in the top-10, like the Kentucky Wildcats and Kansas Jayhawks, are being replaced by teams like the Cincinnati Bearcats and Xavier Musketeers.

Rolling into a fresh week, the Virginia Cavaliers hold the top spot in the rankings. The offense isn't highly explosive but it wins with defense and efficient shooting. Virginia leads the nation in points allowed, only giving up 52 per game. There are only two players who score in double digits on this team. Kyle Guy is a sophomore guard and Devon Hall is a senior guard. Guy shoots the ball 40 percent while Hall shoots 46 percent from the field and that same percent from behind the arc.

Virginia usually makes a nice run in

the tournament but it usually has more shooters than this year. Another downfall to this team is the lack of big men. Someone will have to grab rebounds when the guards start missing their shots, if not, other teams not playing small ball can feast on the boards. The Cavaliers might have the best defense but you need to match that with offense.

Cincinnati, sitting at fifth in the nation, is somewhat similar to Virginia. The Bearcats hold their opponents to only 55 points per game. They have four double-digit scorers, and have big men incorporated in the offense. Cincinnati has an impressive 23-2 record but the two losses show a lot. Its back-to-back losses came from at the time 21st-ranked Xavier and the fifth-ranked Florida Gators.

The record may look nice and the team is built well but none of that matters when the only two ranked teams you've played all season beat you. With six games left, the 19th-ranked Wichita State Shock-

ers will take on the Bearcats twice in the next two weeks. Two big wins can prove a lot for the Bearcats, even one will prove something.

The team that is first in the nation in scoring, averaging 88 points per game, is the Oklahoma Sooners. Freshman guard Trae Young, who is leading all players in points per game with 29.5 is pretty much all the Sooners have. He's had nine games where he's scored over 30 points and four where he put up over 40. Young is Oklahoma's offense which is mainly why it sits at a record of 16-9 and ranked nationally at 23rd. The Sooners have six wins against ranked opponents and only two losses.

Fans love watching Young play and fill up the stat sheet but I would shy away from picking Oklahoma to go far in your March Madness bracket. One high scoring player can't carry a team through six rounds of big time basketball. If you don't believe me look at the past with Jimmer Fredette, Doug McDermott and D'Angelo

Russell.

As much as I love fourth-ranked Xavier and big-time playmaker Trevon Bluiett, you can't pick against the Duke Blue Devils. At the moment, ranked twelfth in the nation at 20-5, it's big wins get overlooked by losses. An early 11-game win streak that included beating two top-10 opponents at the time (Michigan State, Florida) was ended by unranked Boston College, plus losses to Virginia, North Carolina, NC State, and St. John's.

Coach K and his main platoon Marvin Bagley III, Grayson Allen, Gary Trent Jr., Trevon Duval, and Wendell Carter Jr. have this offense scoring 88 points per game (second in the nation), grabbing 42 rebounds per game (second in the nation), and averaging around 18 assists per game (fifth in the nation). It's last championship came in 2015; this team is primed for a run.



# ARNALDO MORALES TRUSTS THE PROCESS

Arnaldo Morales has come quite a long way from being a high school high jumper at Struthers High School to his career as a Penguin.

*Photo Courtesy of YSU SPORTS INFORMATION*

## CHRIS MCBRIDE

Youngstown State University senior Arnaldo Morales is an exercise science major and a star high jumper. Coming from humble beginnings, he started off his athletic career playing football for Struthers High School.

Looking to stay in shape outside of the football season, Morales initially saw track and field as an opportunity to stay conditioned in the off-season.

“Originally I was a sprinter but then I saw a buddy of mine high jumping,” Morales said. “I said to myself ‘that looks fun, I could hang on the rim in eighth grade; let me give it a try.’ From there, I stuck with high jump.”

Without much coaching, Morales was raw talent trying to put everything together.

In a sport where coming out of high school coaches are looking for the athletes clearing 6’8”, Morales was still finding a rhythm clearing 6’4”.

“I didn’t have any technique or any form. I just muscled everything,” Morales said of his earlier years training pre-YSU in the WATTS facilities.

It was there where he’d eventually attain the curiosity of YSU High Jumps Coach Katrina Brumfield.

Brumfield is a former athlete turned coach out of Morrisville and Utica Colleges.

“He wanted to walk on at Akron and I wasn’t letting that happen,” Brumfield said

In her time as a coach, she was on the front lines of building up a track program before YSU.

“Every time I see him at a meet I put the buzz in his head that he needs to come to Youngstown,” Brumfield said. “He had the intangibles, he had a lot of pop but no technique so we hoped with his buy-in we could get him where he is now.”

Since coming to YSU, the two have built a kinship that has fostered a formidable coach and player bond.

“It’s been awesome to see someone that

buys into the program and trusts the process. That’s all you can ask for as a coach is a kid that wants to come in and work hard. He’s not a kid that’s gonna complain; he’s gonna lead the group.”

After the initial struggles of the 6’4” high jumps and a few Horizon League High Jump Championships later, Morales now stands as a leader among his teammates clearing 7’.

After having already walked at his graduation, Morales has his eyes set on finishing out his season at YSU on a high.

“It was good to see the looks on the faces of the people that I love, the people that helped me get to where I am now,” Morales said in regards to walking for graduation.

Once the dust settles on his season, Morales will be stepping into a coaching gig of his own at Gulf Coast Prep Sports Academy in Alabama.

There he will serve as a strength and conditioning coach.

Mirroring the career trajectory of Brumfield, Morales sees the opportunity as a way to bring a culture to GCPA. The

school is still in its youth with only a football program as the lone sport.

The school’s mission will be to help younger kids who may not excel at academics develop and show them they can strive for something greater than they imagined. After a year or two, the goal will be to boost the kids’ GPAs and help them attract attention from colleges.

“We wanna show people that you may not be someone now, but with time and dedication you will become someone. That will be an awesome accomplishment to see,” Morales said.

No matter where he goes in life, YSU will always follow close to the hip for Morales.

“Being a Penguin is unmatchedable to me,” Morales said. “Yeah, you have Ohio State, LSU, Alabama and Oregon, which is like the dream school for every athlete. Being able to come to a small school like YSU, you see you don’t have to be a big time school to enjoy yourself. Every time you see this ‘Y’ on my chest you know who it is.”