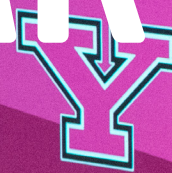


THE STUDENT VOICE OF YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY SINCE

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NANCY GRACE AND DAN ABRAMS VISIT YOUNGSTOWN FOR SKEGGS LECTURE SERIES

Photo by *Tanner Mondok/The Jambar*

ALYSSA WESTON

The Youngstown State University Skeggs Lecture Series hosted legal analysts Dan Abrams and Nancy Grace at Stambaugh Auditorium on Tuesday. Before the lecture, Abrams and Grace hosted a private Q&A session for Youngstown State University students.

Abrams is most commonly known as the host of A&E Network's "LivePD" and "The Dan Abrams Show: Where Politics Meets the Law" on SiriusXM's P.O.T.U.S. He is the chief legal affairs anchor for ABC News, a best-selling author, former anchor of "Nightline," chief legal correspondent and previously worked as an analyst for NBC News and general manager of MSNBC. In addition, Abrams is the founder of the "Abrams Media Network."

Grace notably hosted "Nancy Grace" on HLN and Court TV's "Closing Arguments." In addition, Grace is a best-selling author, former prosecutor in a local district attorney's office in Atlanta and previous contestant on "Dancing with the Stars."

Although in the same line of business now, Abrams and Grace had very different paths to success.

Abrams was in his second year of law school when Court TV began. He then made the decision to not practice law, but to take a leap of faith and become a legal commentator. Grace, however, was on track to become an English professor when her fiancé, Keith, was

murdered. Since then, Grace has devoted her life to representing and helping victims.

Abrams and Grace often debate high-profile crime cases publically and agreed that it's easier to argue with someone a person is comfortable with on a regular basis.

"[I] can go and debate someone [I] don't like once or twice, but then [after that some people] are going to get offended," Abrams said.

Abrams told students the most impactful case he has worked on was the Florida Bar v. Abrams.

"It was 30-some days nonstop, new legal issues coming up that were monumental. This was going to decide the presidency of the United States and every legal fight had everything on the line at each level," he said.

Grace poked fun at Abrams' involvement with politics and said all politicians, regardless of party affiliation, are liars.

"I'd rather try a serial killer than get involved in the Mueller investigation," she said. "At the end of anything politics, I feel like [people involved] have thrashed around. It's like wrestling with a pig. You get dirty and the pig likes it."

Grace told audience members working on the Casey Anthony trial was highly impactful and she wants to make a difference in victim's lives.

"I like to feel that I've done something good for somebody, and I felt that way as a prosecutor because at the end of the trial I knew I had one bad guy put away," she said.

Abrams and Grace touched on the importance of humanizing victims in the courtroom and the difficulties of removing themselves from emotional cases.

Abrams said as a reporter he makes an effort to detach himself from harder stories, but it's impossible.

"No matter if you think the defendant is guilty or not guilty there's still a victim's family and no matter who did it, they suffer," he said.

Grace responded, "I do not even try to detach myself from the case because I believe very firmly that a jury, really anyone, can hear and detect detachment and if [I] don't care about it, why should they care?"

Jaietta Jackson, a communication professor at YSU, brought her 11-year-old son Jibril Jackson, an aspiring reporter, to the session. Jibril Jackson asked Abrams and Grace what their advice is for young children who want to follow in their footsteps.

"I may not be the prettiest, I may not be the smartest ... but I can work the hardest and that's been my theory," Grace said.

Abrams encouraged the 11-year-old to start his journalism career now.

"People are interested in different kinds of issues in the perspective of an 11, 12 or 13 years old," he said. "There may be issues that come up in your community which impact kids."

Audience members asked Abrams about his involvement hosting "LivePD," and he told the crowd that "LivePD" could possibly come to Youngstown because the show is always

looking for new police departments, but that the decision is up to the local sheriff or mayor's office.

Abrams described "LivePD" as an extension of the work he's done in the courtroom and said the show aims to give viewers a realistic idea of what law enforcement does.

"I think it's showing America what it is like to be a police officer," he said. "It's more of the day to day encounters both annoying, inspiring, heroic and boring sometimes."

During the Skeggs Lecture, Abrams and Grace debated and discussed popular legal issues in the media such as the 2019 college admissions bribery scandal allegedly involving actresses Lori Loughlin and Felicity Huffman.

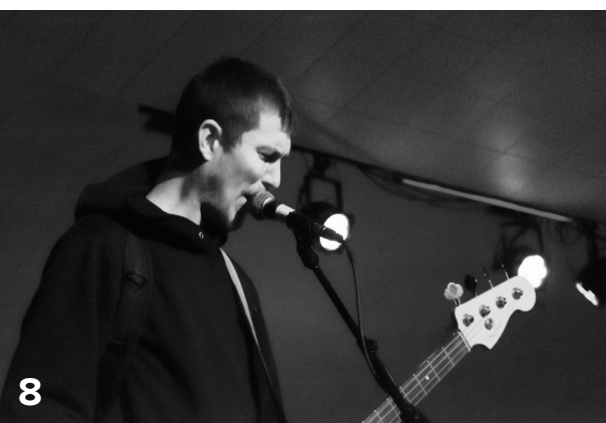
"It's an attack on an institution. This is the education system in our great country," Grace said.

Abrams said he believes the story resonates with so many people because it represents cutting corners and the rich having access to the things they don't deserve.

The duo also agreed on the guilt of rap musician Robert Sylvester Kelly, known as R. Kelly, and Michael Jackson in recent child molestation and sexual abuse allegations and reflected on past cases such as the O.J. Simpson murder case and the Casey Anthony trial.

All of the Skeggs Lectures are tickets are free to Youngstown students and community members and tickets are sold on a first come, first serve basis. Visit <https://ysu.edu/lecture-series> to learn upcoming lectures.

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Photo by *Frances Clause/The Jambar*

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: THE BOLD, BRAVE AND FEARLESS

FRANCES CLAUSE

Youngstown State University celebrates Women's History Month with featured speakers, discussions and awareness on women's issues and the slogan "Rise Up" throughout March.

The scheduled events range from sexual harassment discussions to lectures on the representation of gender, sexuality, race and ethnicity in television and movies.

Ahjah Johnson, associate professor at YSU, said students not enrolled in a women's studies course can benefit from these events by being introduced to similar topics taught in the course.

"I have covered my [women's studies] course to introduce many topics such as gender violence, intersectionality, environmental feminism and more," she said. "I think in today's society, this course could not be more relevant to what is going on in the world today."

Jordan Grantonic, a senior music performance major, believes it is crucial for male students to attend the women's month events to better understand the issues women face every day.

"It's impossible to truly understand what another person is

going through — in this case, women — if you aren't completely open to creating a dialogue with them," she said. "The only way gender equality has any hope of advancing is if everyone fights back."

Grantonic said she is lucky she has not been subject to any injustices in her music career, but other women in the industry are not so lucky.

"There seems to be countless stories about older, male teachers taking advantage of their female students, as well as musicians in comparable positions in a top orchestra receiving massive pay differences, seemingly because of their gender," she said.

"Not just men in the music industry, but men in general, need to stand up and say something when a female colleague or friend is being discriminated against," Grantonic added.

Staff Sgt. Rachel Minto, a fifer in the United States Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, said she also has not experienced injustices as a female musician, but acknowledges that many women in military ensembles before her faced significant discrimination.

"Orchestras and military ensembles use to be all male. The first female in the Old Guard, the infantry regiment to which

I am assigned, was a fifer, like me," she said. "I am humbled by the work previous generations of women did so that I may feel confident as a female soldier musician."

Minto earned her bachelor's degree from YSU in 2014 and a master's degree in flute performance at Arizona State University. She is one of seven women being recognized for her personal and professional accomplishments through YSU's "Penguin Women on the Move."

"I had many wonderful peers at the Dana School of Music who constantly supported and encouraged me," she said. "All of my flute teachers have been women, and they all have been very inspiring."

"Penguin Women on the Move," sponsored by the Office of Alumni Engagement and the Department of Women and Gender Studies, will honor Minto and the other alumni at a luncheon March 22 at noon in the James Gallery of Kilcawley Center.

For a list of more upcoming Women's History Month events, go to: <https://wgs.ysu.edu/category/events/womens-history-month-2018/>

YSU WELCOMES NEW PENGUIN POLICE OFFICERS

COURTNEY HIBLER

“Being a police officer means being there at the most vulnerable moments and offering a helping hand for people,” Officer Deanna Jordan said. “We make a difference, know things most people do not and help shape the brotherhood that we, as police officers, have.”

Jordan, along with Rendin Fellows and Robert Cranmer, were sworn in as Youngstown State University police officers during a ceremony on March 1. The trio were welcomed to the university in the ceremony put together by the YSU Division of University Relations.

Prior to being hired as a full-time officer, Jordan was an officer at the Lowellville Police Department for three years and worked as an intermittent officer for YSU in 2016. She was also an officer for New Middletown Police Department from May to August 2017 and has been serving in the Ohio Army National Guard for over five years.

Jordan said her main goal as a YSU police officer is to continue keeping YSU the safest campus in the state. She doesn't have any long term goals set with the department, but would like to eventually make a difference in some way.

In her opinion, the brotherhood helps in bringing great pride and joy into doing the job.

“Being able to make a difference in someone's life or allowing a turning point is something you will always cherish,” she said.

Fellows was a part-time police officer in Beaver Township,

Ohio, for four years and looks forward to creating a safe environment for students on campus.

“I was a student here and attended the YSU Police Academy,” he said. “I know what it's like to want to feel safe and when I attended the academy, I knew right away I wanted to become a police officer for YSU.”

He said he looks forward to a long career, protecting the community and meeting new people each day as a YSU police officer.

Cranmer's prior law enforcement experience includes eight years as a part-time officer with Coitsville Township Police Department in Lowellville and a full-time officer at the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction.

“While working for ODRC, I served on many specialized teams such as crisis response, special response and honor guard,” he said.

In his opinion, being a police officer means having the opportunity to provide hope and bring positive change to those they interact with daily.

“I was very lucky to grow up with all my heroes as cops,” he said. “My grandfather and three uncles were police officers, and they taught me about life with things they had seen or been involved in.”

Cranmer said becoming a police officer was his calling, and he couldn't ignore it because he wanted to be in a position that helped those who are less fortunate.

“This world needs more positivity and as an officer I have that

chance,” he said. “YSU is the best place for me to show it.”

He is looking forward to protecting the campus community and said the department's success is paramount for the success of surrounding communities.

The campus community, as well as the family of each officer attended the swearing-in ceremony.



Photo courtesy of YSU Police

AN UNLIKELY CONNECTION

MORGAN PETRONELLI

It's been nearly a year and a half since Major Hurricane Maria made landfall on the island of Puerto Rico.

According to a report by the National Weather Service, prior to making landfall, the tropical storm-turned-hurricane was lowered from a category 5 with 175 mph winds to a category 4 hurricane. Once the storm reached the island, it tore through the city of Yabucoa with sustained winds of 155 mph.

“As the center of the storm moved west-northwestward over southeastern Puerto Rico into the interior and northwestern Puerto Rico, widespread hurricane force winds spread all over mainland Puerto Rico along with extremely heavy rainfall that produced major to catastrophic flooding and flash flooding, especially across the northern half of Puerto Rico,” the National Weather Service said.

The storm was strong because of a number of factors. Bill Buckler, associate professor in the department of geography, said the storm originated over very warm waters (over 80 degrees) due to global warming.

“A hurricane's energy is actually derived from

energy that's released during cloud formation, because the energy that goes into evaporating water gets tied up in the water as a hidden form of energy called latent heat,” he said. “And if you change that water vapor back to a liquid or solid, that energy is released to the environment ... and the more water vapor you have the more potential energy that you have for these hurricanes.”

Buckler said a rise in global temperatures each year leads to more potential energy, which leads to a great potential for powerful hurricanes to form more frequently, which is what essentially led to the transition of Maria from a tropical storm to a category 5 hurricane.

Puerto Rico and Youngstown seem like worlds away, but this city has an unlikely connection with Hurricane Maria.

Angelica Diaz, a junior journalism major at Youngstown State University, was a native of Campbell, Ohio, before moving to Salinas, Puerto Rico, in 2010 with her family.

For seven years she lived on the island she described as “a very dry and beautiful place” that was filled with a plethora of greenery and plenty of banana trees.

When Diaz and her family found out a strong hurricane was making its way toward the

island, they began storing water and food, and prepared their home for the worst.

“I remember telling my husband this is just going to destroy Puerto Rico ... you could just feel it. I had never been through a hurricane in my life before I was raised here, maybe a blizzard or snowstorm, but never a hurricane. I didn't know what to expect,” Diaz said.

She said her family was lucky — their home was safer than others because their house and most of their roof was made of cement. Only a small portion of their roof was made of tin, unlike other homes whose roofs are primarily constructed of tin, which is easily destructible.

Diaz said her husband had to drill their door shut to prevent it from ripping open due to high winds.

“It was scary ... We were all together and hunkered down and waited for it to be all over. Thank God our home was safe ... We were fortunate while some other people lost their homes,” she said.

Diaz cited the only damage done to their property was when their 40-foot high tamarind tree fell on one of their cars. A few other trees were knocked down.

While minimum damage was done to her family's property, some other residents weren't

so fortunate.

The devastating aftermath of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico led to a frenzy of both public opinion and media reports criticizing the Trump Administration's handling of the disaster. One of the most notable and outspoken against the government's response was San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulín Cruz.

“I believe the U.S. government did a very poor job in the aftermath of the hurricane in Puerto Rico. U.S. citizens were without electricity and water for months, and in some places of the island more than a year. The Puerto Rican people went through so much,” Diaz said.

Diaz lived in Puerto Rico for two months after the hurricane before returning to Ohio with her family to pursue a degree at YSU.

“My community was in bad shape, but the entire island was destroyed. There was destruction everywhere, some more than others. The destruction was immense — a lot of people lost everything,” Diaz said. “Puerto Rico is a beautiful island, but Hurricane Maria left the island unrecognizable. The island is getting back to normal but there's a lot to be done.”

MEDICAL MARIJUANA BLAZING NEW CAREER PATHS IN THE VALLEY



J. HARVARD FELDHOUSE

Youngstown is revolutionizing the budding medical marijuana industry in Ohio. This revolution could have a positive economic impact on students at Youngstown State University and workers in the job-hungry Mahoning Valley.

Medical marijuana use in Ohio was legalized in 2016 with House Bill 523 by the Ohio Legislature. Since then, hundreds of companies applied for cultivation, processing, testing and dispensary licenses from the Ohio Medical Marijuana Control Program.

Currently, there are 29 cultivation facilities, 38 processing facilities, five testing facilities and nine dispensaries licensed in the state of Ohio. More companies are expected to apply as the program grows.

U.S. Congressman Tim Ryan, D-OH, is

a staunch supporter of medical marijuana legalization and is pushing to legalize it federally. He believes medical marijuana will have a large economic impact in Northeast Ohio.

“[Medical marijuana] is going to be a job creator in the state, and people are going to want to be in on that,” Ryan said. “It’s a very sophisticated process. They’re growing plants to treat very specific diseases, and it requires more knowledge than people think. The growers are some of the smartest people you meet.”

Daniel Kessler, CEO of Riviera Creek Holdings LLC, a Youngstown-based cultivation facility for medical marijuana, said he believes Youngstown can become a “mini epicenter” of where the industry is headed.

“Ohio is a very big market medically, and we are so ahead of this,” Kessler said. “The type of science and technology we do is leading, cutting edge and dedicated to science and innovation.

There’s no reason why that can’t extend into careers in this industry and area.”

Kessler said Riviera Creek plans to have future internship opportunities with YSU students as the company continues to expand in the next few years.

“In the future, definitely yes,” Kessler said. “We’re still establishing our human resources protocol, but there will be an intern program. Along with general office management, we will be looking for students in biology, plant biology, cultivation and fields like that.”

FarmaceuticalRX LLC is another local medical marijuana company with eyes on developing an internship program and creating jobs in the Mahoning Valley.

FRX, based in Farrell, Pennsylvania, has a cultivation facility and processing center in Farrell, as well as a processing center and dispensary, registered as FRX Health, in East

Liverpool, Ohio.

Joe Jeffries, pharmacy director at FRX, said he thinks medical marijuana will bring a lot of jobs to the Ohio and the Mahoning Valley. The biggest demand will be in horticulture and chemical engineering for cultivation, chemistry and genetics for processing and pharmacy for dispensaries.

“From an economic standpoint, [the medical marijuana industry] can only be good,” Jeffries said. “There are many jobs in this industry, especially in cultivation and processing. With the taxes involved, the potential is fantastic for Ohio, being a highly populated state.”

Current and future YSU students that want to break through in the industry should visit the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and Bitonte College of Health and Human Services for the appropriate majors.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA PRESCRIPTIONS PROHIBITED ON CAMPUS

J. HARVARD FELDHOUSE

The Ohio Legislature legalized medical marijuana in 2016. Yet, Youngstown State University and many universities nationwide continue to prohibit it in any capacity. How will YSU’s policy affect students as medical marijuana becomes more widespread?

There are 21 medical conditions that marijuana can be prescribed for in Ohio, including HIV/AIDS, cancer, epilepsy and post-traumatic stress disorder. Ohio expects around 200,000 to 300,000 people will apply for a medical marijuana card, but around 3.5 million Ohioans qualify, according to a July 2018 Cincinnati Enquirer article by Anne Saker.

Daniel Kessler, CEO of Youngstown-based marijuana cultivation facility Riviera Creek Holdings LLC, cited that around 20,000 people are currently registered in Ohio, as of a few weeks ago.

“Of that, 44 percent are 40 to 59 years old, 21 percent are 30 to 39 and less than 1 percent are under 18,” Kessler said.

The remaining 34 percent consists of 19- to 29-year-olds and those older than 60. Only a small portion of those registered are the “average college student,” but as time goes on, more Ohioans

will register.

However, marijuana is still federally illegal. Erin Hungerman, associate director for student conduct, said YSU plays it safe by following federal law for its medical marijuana policy.

“Our institutional policy regarding marijuana isn’t changing, despite issuance of medical marijuana cards,” Hungerman said. “Since we receive federal funding as an institution, and almost all schools do, we are required to follow federal drug laws, regardless of state laws.”

Hungerman also said that YSU’s smoke-free initiative could come in conflict with active marijuana use on campus.

The Controlled Substances Act federally criminalizes any type of marijuana, medical or otherwise. According to the Drug Enforcement Agency, marijuana is a schedule one drug, which means it has “no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse.”

U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan, D-OH, disagrees with CSA and is pushing for federal decriminalization of marijuana, especially for medical purposes as an alternative to opioids. He said marijuana can provide a lot of relief for patients and should be utilized to its full medical potential.

College students suffer largely from anxiety and depression, 41.6 percent and 36.4 percent respectively, according to the American Psychological Association. Ohio is currently researching how marijuana affects anxiety and depression sufferers, according to a Jan. 9 Cincinnati Enquirer article by Saker.

Should Ohio find anxiety and depression treatable by marijuana, YSU and other Ohio universities with strict medical marijuana policies could have a conflict between federal mandate and the well-being and success of their student body.

“A lot of college students have medical issues they struggle with, and access to medical marijuana will give them a quality of life to help pursue studies,” Ryan said.

Until federal law changes in regards to medical marijuana, YSU and other colleges will likely not change its policy. In the meantime, students will have to find alternate treatment or change when and where they use their medical marijuana.

“There’s a stigma around marijuana that people believe — that it’s a gateway drug, that it can kill people — but it doesn’t,” Ryan said. “Legalization is only a matter of time as these issues continue to be presented to the American public.”

YSU'S SEARCH FOR PROVOST: SUSAN STAPLETON

MORGAN PETRONELLI

The search is on to find Youngstown State University's next provost and vice president of academic affairs.

The roles and duties of the second-highest ranking university official stretch far and wide. Most notably, the provost is responsible for leading the Division of Academic Affairs and working with the university president to improve the institution academically.

The Provost Search Committee has narrowed down the competition to four prospective candidates for the position. The current interim provost is Joseph Mosca who filled in for previous Provost Martin Abraham.

Finalists were required to visit the university and hold two open forum sessions to introduce themselves and their perspective plans for the university.

The first of the finalists to participate in the open forums beginning Feb. 25 was Susan Stapleton.

Stapleton, the former interim provost at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan, has held a number of positions at her previous institution including professor of chemistry, biochemistry and biological sciences, associate dean of the College

of Arts and Sciences and dean of the Graduate College at WMU.

In her expression of interest letter to the search committee, she cited she aided in the increased freshman retention rate at WMU, which resulted in a 2 percent increase from fall 2017 to fall 2018 and the highest rate in five years from fall 2017 to spring 2018 data.

She noted some of her accomplishments as interim provost at WMU included implementing a "Freshman 15 Program" where incoming freshmen were encouraged to register for 15 or more credit hours per semester, and starting a plan to help students nearing graduation who are in financial need and have used up all of their financial aid, to which she said led to "nearly 100 percent graduation success of all students."

During the open forum, Stapleton took questions from students, faculty and other members of the YSU community.

She said despite the hit the community took with the loss of the General Motors Co. Lordstown Plant, YSU is an "economic hub for development" in the area.

"In particular, with the full closing of the Lordstown plant, people will be

looking to [YSU] for new ideas, new ways to generate business and draw individuals into the region," Stapleton said. "You have the opportunity to be a driver. You've already started with your emphasis in the advanced manufacturing area ... People will come and investigate and look at YSU as not only a leader in that particular arena from scientific development to patents and inquiry, but also a leader in terms of community and civic engagement."

She said the community should be proud to have an economically strong institution such as YSU, but noted the university needed someone to lead that initiative.

"[YSU] is developing a new strategic plan that will provide the road map on the future of this institution and the future of this region," Stapleton said. "It's a really wonderful time to be a part the Youngstown community and this university, and I would be proud to be your provost and help with leading that discussion."

Read about the rest of the candidates online at thejambar.com and to watch the open forums visit <https://youtu.be/OfnESwRgJ2w>.



Photo by **Tanner Mondok/The Jambar**

YSU STUDENT INITIATES DIABETIC CHAPTER ON CAMPUS

**COURTNEY CINA
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR**

Juggling classes and life's responsibilities is difficult for most Youngstown State University students. For Haley Drennen, a freshman biology major, living with diabetes especially complicates her life.

"The insulin cost has gone up over 300 percent in the last 10 years. It's also very hard to apply for assistance as a college student if you are not on your parents' insurance," Drennen said.

The process to receive insulin is to either pick it up at a pharmacy or have it shipped to a person's residence.

Because of the nature of the medication, insulin has to be refrigerated. Drennen cannot have it shipped to campus because of the difficulties of keeping it cold.

"I have it mailed to my house and it is left in a refrigerated package. My parents [wait for] the package due to the seriousness of my medication," Drennen said.

Drennen said patients can spend up to \$45,000 a year on medication and equipment.

"Every day, the role of insulin is very important although there are some that can't afford it. It becomes life or death for patients on this medication," Cynthia Johnson, a pharmacist at Walmart in Boardman, said.

As a health care professional, Johnson regularly witnesses the conflict and says she only wishes that health care providers would offer some type of financial assistance to diabetic patients.

Despite the complications resulting from juggling classes and monitoring everything required for her health, Drennen believes it's important to be involved in community

outreach regarding diabetes.

To raise awareness of this drug becoming so expensive, Drennen established a chapter of the College Diabetes Network on campus.

The College Diabetes Network supports a community of students, peers and staff to provide understanding of diabetes.

Drennen speaks about health care reform and continues to educate and help those who need it through CDN.

Joseph Mistovich, professor and chair of the health professions department, is the advisor for the YSU CDN chapter and welcomes Drennen's help to inform his emergency medical services students about diabetic emergencies.

"In class, Drennen would come in and educate my students on diabetes and diabetic emergencies and what happens while responding to this situation," Mistovich said.

He said the information that students obtain

from Drennen is vital knowledge on how to address life-threatening situations when a diabetic's blood sugar is either too low or too high.

Mistovich is very passionate about delivering emergency services to those who are diabetic, and he said it's one of the more serious situations EMTs encounter.

CDN is a chapter that promotes awareness of diabetes, helps others through the hardships of this disease and creates an advocacy for the chapter and diabetes.

If you are a student on campus who cannot afford to fill their insulin, go to <http://beyonddiabetes.org/get-insulin/>. This is a project that help students get the supplies and discounts they need for their specific situation.

To get involved or more information, contact Haley Drennen at youngstown@collegediabetesnetwork.org.

THE GATES OF EDEN

BRIAN BRENNAN

These days, the phrase “coffee shop” conjures up an image of Starbucks, with customers quietly talking with each other, reading books or working with electronic devices while sipping their favorite (and pricey) blends.

Yet, coffee shops were not always like this. Originally, they were establishments where one could conduct business or engage in raucous conversation and debate. Philosophical and political ideas were hammered out over strong caffeinated brew.

In the 1950s, the Beat Generation transformed coffee shops into locales where music, poetry and the meaning of life were heavily debated. It was in this vein that a new coffee shop opened its doors to the YSU community in 1968; however, its sponsorship came from a surprising source.

The Gates of Eden coffee shop was located on North Phelps Street (across the street from where the Williamson College of Business now exists). It was operated by a non-profit corporation called the Student Coffee House Ministry, a group of local clergymen.

The prime movers and shakers in this endeavor were the Rev. Burton Cantrell, a Methodist minister and YSU’s Protestant chaplain, and Father Raymond DeBlasio, the director of the Newman Center and the university’s Catholic chaplain. Both men were social activists.

Rev. Cantrell promoted various peace movements. Father DeBlasio provided counseling to draft-age men as the war in Indochina consumed increasing amounts of troops and treasure.

Though sponsored by men of the cloth, the Gates of Eden was not a church. The actual day-to-day operations were in the hands of a 12-member student board.

Together with their clergy partners, they created a place where students could hang out and talk without worry — an early “safe zone.” To encourage this atmosphere, alcohol and profanity were banned.

Open weekdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and later on weekends, students were encouraged to bring their lunches. Beverages available for purchase included coffee, cider, hot chocolate, soft drinks and various flavors of tea. Pastries and ice cream were also on the bill of fare.

However, students usually dropped by the Gates for something more substantial than the menu: intellectual food. This took the form of lectures by YSU faculty, local activists and the university chaplains.

Free and open discussion followed, with audience participation. There were also musical performances, with students encouraged to participate with their own instruments.

On Saturday nights, Father DeBlasio and the

Newman Club screened “underground” movies (independently produced films, usually of an artistically experimental or socially controversial nature).

In June 1970, Rev. Cantrell resigned a Protestant chaplain to become the regional director of SANE, an anti-nuclear peace organization.

Four months later, the Gates of Eden closed; its landlord banished the students out of Eden by not renewing the coffee shop’s lease. Other attempts were made to re-create the Gates experience (with Father DeBlasio’s help), but none lasted very long. Times were changing.

In 1972, Father DeBlasio left the Roman Catholic priesthood for Ohio State to pursue a doctoral degree in educational research and development.

Like its biblical namesake, the Gates of Eden were closed for good.

COMBATING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC WITH LOCAL RESOURCES

AMANDA JOERNDT

Networking allows people to meet others and learn about resources that will direct them toward a brighter future. The Trumbull County area uses its networking abilities to create prevention programs and outside resources directed toward the heroin epidemic.

The Trumbull County Mental Health and Recovery Board is funding projects in the area to help people battling the heroin epidemic take steps in the right direction.

Lana Hennings, program coordinator at the Trumbull County board, works closely with the owners and residence of the recovery houses.

Forty-eight thousand dollars in grant money was given to the board from the Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services, which was divided among the recovery houses to help the owners run top-quality programs.

Hennings said the recovery houses are required to have the Ohio Recovery Housing certificate to work with the board.

“We only contract with people who go out and do the extra step to get certified so we know that they’re running a good quality home,” she said. “We help fund the recovery houses and offer rent stipends for individuals who are in need of recovery housing that can’t afford the rent.”

Hennings said the recovery houses give those with substance abuse disorders a chance to create a new life for themselves with the assistance of the owners and the Trumbull County board.

“Some may have burned bridges with their families because of the addiction, so a lot of them come in with nothing,” she said. “We

offer them four months rent after five months, we can pay half of the rent. It’s really helpful for individuals to get back on their feet and to start looking for employment.”

Hennings said bringing in outside resources such as behavioral health and workforce development services allows the owners and residents to learn about different soft skills and how to start looking for jobs.

“I would go out and invite people to come to the meeting and give them an opportunity to share their services. I’ve networked with people so it’s really helped me get to know the resources in Trumbull County,” she said. “There’s things you find out everyday to help the residences and the owners.”

A First-Hand Experience with Recovery Homes

Lyndsey Handel lived in recovery houses, which helped her overcome her long-term addiction. She has been in a total of 23 treatment centers since the age of 14.

With 14 months of sobriety, Handel said her time living at the houses made her stronger and ready to take on the next chapter in her life. Handel, a Warren, Ohio, resident, said in January 2018 she surrendered to making a new life for herself.

“I lost a lot and caused a lot of pain, and I had nothing to lose anymore before I went into treatment and the houses,” she said. “I lost custody of my son and the guilt of everything I had created was keeping me out there. I was scared to go into treatment because I always ended up failing, but I couldn’t even worry about that.”

Handel said she started at a First Step Recovery house but then transferred to The

Ruthie B House a couple of months later.

“We had a morning meditation at 8 a.m. and we would go around and talk. I was also in an outpatient treatment and I would go to counseling three days a week,” she said. “We had a curfew, drug testing and we each had a chore to do. Everyone was super welcoming, but at the same time, everyone had their own thing going on.”

Handel said communicating with her family was a tough transition after successfully ending her time at the recovery houses.

“At first, the only person I was speaking to was my mother and everyone had written me off at that point,” she said. “I wasn’t allowed to talk to my son Caleb, and I think I spoke to my sister the second week I was out of the house.”

Handel said she feels happy now, and has let go of all of her guilt and shame.

“A positive mindset and attitude is everything to just keep moving forward,” she said.

Combating Addiction Through Prevention Programs

While recovery houses in Trumbull County are growing more each year, prevention programs are helping substance abusers and their families now more than ever.

Lauren Thorp, director of recovery and youth programs at the Trumbull County Mental Health and Recovery Board, directs the ASAP: Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition.

Thorp said once the coalition started focusing more on the epidemic, the program started to grow immensely in the community.

“We usually have some type of presentation and work on plans at the meetings,” she said. “We break into work groups and figure out

what we need to do in our plan this year. We talk about some events and what we can create so we’re always just evaluating with what’s currently going on in the community.”

She said about 30 to 40 members attend each meeting and there are 300 people on the statewide email list keeping them informed on the coalition.

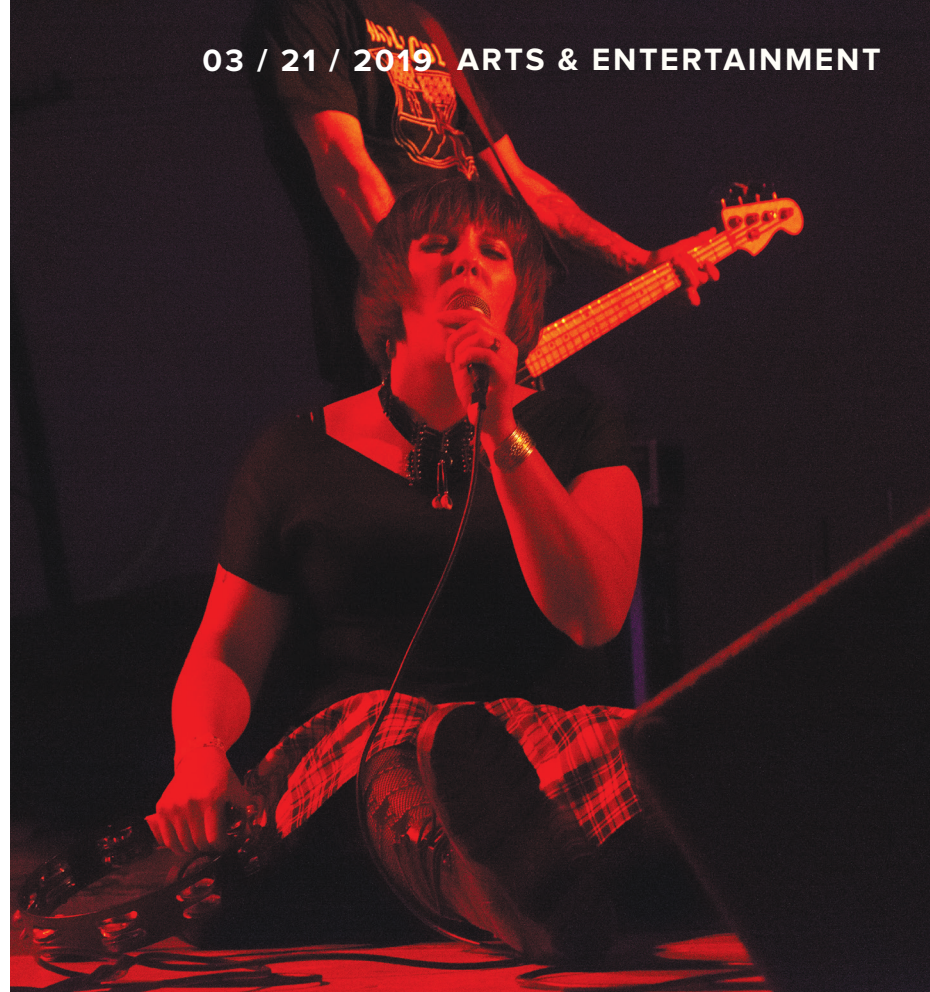
“All people are around the same problem but they’re seeing it in very different ways. I really want them to come to the meetings so they can share with me what they’re seeing and how it’s influencing their lives,” she said. “Without their information, we can’t come up with programs that are needed.”

Thorp said one focus the coalition has for prevention toward the epidemic is safe disposal of medications within people’s homes.

“We host two events each year with the sheriff’s office. People can come and drop off medications for safe [disposal],” she said. “It’s huge because so many people say when they get medications to abuse, they are receiving them right in the home. It’s all about decreasing accessibility and cleaning out the medicine cabinet.”

Thorp said ending the opioid epidemic needs to be an effort from the whole community to help combat the addiction.

“I do think it will decrease this year but not necessarily for the reasons I think a lot of people are turning to,” she said. “We’re seeing a lot more people going into treatment and more lives are being saved. This isn’t just an opioid problem at this point, it’s an addiction problem in our community.”

Photos by **Tanner Mondok/The Jambor**

BROOKLYN BAND PERFORMED AT WESTSIDE BOWL'S ANNIVERSARY PARTY

**VICTORIA REMLEY &
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR
ZACH MOSCA**

Westside Bowl's one year anniversary party, which took place March 15 and 16 in Youngstown, featured 22 rocking acts over the two-day extravaganza including Shlomi Lavie, Mumble King, Van Goose and more.

Shlomi Lavie, the vocalist and drummer in Van Goose from Brooklyn, said their performance refreshed Youngstown locals because not many bands in the area play electropop music. The band's shows are interactive, encourage dancing and are habitually fun.

"It's a bit out there, our shows. It's slightly weird, so I think it will be interesting for people to watch," Lavie said.

Westside Bowl was a stop on Van Goose's tour for their new album, "Habitual Eater," released March 1.

"It seems like a super awesome venue and we're playing on the anniversary, so we're super excited about that," Lavie said.

Van Goose started as a solo project. Lavie, a studio drummer at the time, wanted to do his own thing. He decided to play live shows, created a studio album and started touring with his musician friends.

Alex Myers, the Mumble King solo artist from Liberty Township, did not see why people would not come to the event.

"Why not? It's a big a** party. It's 12 bands for two days," he said.

Myers said the owners of Westside Bowl, Nathan and Jami Offerdahl, do a wonderful job running the venue. He said they treat the artists right and pay the artists for their time.

"They're very hospitable and engaged," he said. "It's a cool spot. I [was] happy to be playing at it."

Myers started writing music at eight years old. Words started falling together in his head, so he wrote them down. His raps use wordplay and remain very honest, upfront and dark.

"I'm singing my feelings. I'm not trying to make anybody want to like it," he said.

Nick Gregg, the guitarist and drummer of SexyPigDivas from Kent, Ohio, was honored to be able to perform at the anniversary party.

"We're super stoked. Nate, the owner, is a great dude and is really supportive of everyone," he said.

SexyPigDivas consists of Gregg and his girlfriend Katie. When the duo plays live, they switch instruments in the middle of songs.

"It makes it a little more interesting and sets us apart from other bands," Gregg said.

Trevor Mastran, the Vvilderness solo artist from Canfield, Ohio, met Nathan Offerdahl when Westside Bowl opened.

"It's a great venue that puts on great shows. They treat their artists really well, which is not something that you get a lot around here," Mastran said.

Youngstown underwent a wild experimental electronic act at the anniversary party. Mastran said every scene was relatively filled out except for these little niche areas including the

electronic scene.

Trevor Richards, from Pittsburgh and guitarist in the band The Long Hunt, said a smaller scene like Youngstown almost has more going on in a way because it is consolidated into one to three venues rather than 15 venues.

"When you come to a place like Youngstown, you still have a percentage of the population that's gonna come out to a show, but there's less venues, so there's more eyeballs watching you play," he said.

Richards said through friends and word of mouth, the Westside Bowl was discovered. He said when he finally checked it out and booked a show, he was very impressed.

Matt Hawout, a frequent Westside Bowl visitor, came to the event to see both shows and bowl. He said he loves seeing metal shows. He said the staff are personable people and good at putting out information so people can attend their shows easily.

"I usually have to go to Cleveland or Pittsburgh to see one, so to be able to see one like this in Youngstown where Rebreather is playing, and they're a Youngstown metal classic, so I definitely want to be there for that," he said.

Nathan Offerdahl, co-owner of Westside Bowl, threw the anniversary party to celebrate their first year in business. They hope to keep Westside Bowl's ball rolling.

"There's no way we could have gotten to where we have gotten without the help of our friends and our family and all the folks that work for us," he said. "So, it's a chance for us to really say thank you and to have one hell of a party over two days."

Photo courtesy of **Bill Lewis**

STILL DOING THE IRISH FOLK MUSIC THING

MARAH J. MORRISON

The local County Mayo Irish Band has been engaging in lively performances and pleasing their audiences for over 30 years. The band, formed in the early 1980s, entertains at festivals, Irish weddings and pubs.

Ted Miller, a singer and one of the founders of the band, said he was born to sing Irish songs. He studies Irish history and language in order to understand each song better.

Miller said he knows a substantial number of Irish ballads more than anyone else in the area, and one of the biggest fulfillments he gets out of being a part of this band is performing at large venues.

“Visiting Irish pubs in different places in the world is a lot of fun,” he said. “I’ve been to Irish pubs in Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Slovakia, Poland, Costa Rica and Iceland.”

Miller said he enjoys working with other Irish musicians and each of the band members have performed in Ireland separately. He said when the band performed at the pub at Youngstown

State University years ago, they had a jam session with a YSU alumnus.

“I’m going to be 70, and 20 years from now I’m probably not going to be playing Irish music,” he said. “I’d like to get other people interested in learning the songs and maybe set up some kind of jam session at YSU.”

Miller said there are not a lot of people in the area that play Irish music full time, and if anyone wants to get a flavor of the band, he recommends coming out to see them perform.

Bill Lewis, who plays banjo, guitar, mandolin, fiddle and concertina in the band, said the band has played at numerous shows this year so far. He said last summer, the band played at a number of festivals as well.

“A lot of our shows and a lot of our engagements are private functions,” he said. “People hire us for family reunions and weddings. We do a lot of things like that.”

Lewis said the Irish folk music works best for the band and the phone keeps ringing for them.

“People still seem to like it,” he said. “We’ve been together for 36 years now and why it’s gone on all of these years, I don’t

know. I think it’s a good mix of people and we all have fun when we get together.”

Lewis said there are people who came to see the band a long time ago who are now bringing their kids to their performances, and it makes him feel a little bit old, but it’s a neat thing to see.

“It’s a nice thing, it really is, and this music seems to have an appeal to not just older folks but young people, too,” he said. “Irish folk music is a lot of fun.”

Brad Campbell, vocalist who also plays the keyboard, harmonica and percussion in the band, said the best part about playing Irish music is that no matter where they play, whether it’s 10 a.m. or 10 p.m., there are always people out there having a good time.

“It’s kind of different from some of the other bands I play with because a lot of times when you’re a band and you’re in a bar it just seems like you’re background music,” he said. “With the Irish stuff, you get more audience interaction.”

To learn more about the County Mayo Irish Band, visit their website at <http://www.countymayoirishband.com>.

MARIO'S MOVIES: 'CAPTAIN MARVEL'

MARIO RICCIARDI

Okay, so here's a quick etymology lesson that you didn't know you needed. Marvel in the name Captain Marvel is actually pronounced "Mar-vel." Not like Marvel Comics who created her. Additionally, Marvel Comics "Captain Marvel" is not to be confused with the Captain Marvel owned by DC Comics. That Captain Marvel is a totally different superhero, and his name is pronounced like Marvel comics. His movie is coming out in April under the title "Shazam."

Not as confusing anymore, right? Well if you found this lesson insightful, sign up today for Etymology Stone with Mario. In four small payments of \$39.95, you can learn how to speak fluent nerd. Order within the next half hour and we'll throw in our "Keepin Klingon Kwik" DVD.

For "Captain Marvel" to give its full effect, I would recommend that one simply lets go. Sit back, throw any preconceived notions of what a superhero movie should be out the window and relax. I'm not saying this because the superhero in question is female; if that's something you're still stuck on, consider getting over it.

The notions that need to be dismissed deal with the structure of the movie. "Captain Marvel" boldly infuses the origin story formula with dreams, fractured memories and plot twists on top of plot twists. The movie is a mixture of Marvel superhero blockbuster, any '90s independent film shot in California and "Top Gun" meets 1950s sci-fi.

The movie has a lot going on, but if you embrace the cool visuals and charismatic actors when things get confusing, you can rest assured that everything will explain itself shortly. "Captain Marvel" is about the extraterrestrial Kree warrior Vers and her quest to save an entire civilization. Having fallen to earth, she must figure out not only who she can trust, but if she can trust herself.

With a narrative stringing together fractured and implanted memories along with a civilization of shape-shifting aliens, "Captain Marvel" is not too far from being neo-noir. But where most neo-noir is dark and gritty, "Captain Marvel" has the bright and beautiful locations and epic kaleidoscopic visuals to keep things fun — not to mention Brie Larson lights up the screen, literally and figuratively.

Serving as a symbol for both hope and inspiration, Brie Larson surpasses everything our 2013 Superman should have been. She's just as powerful, has just as much at risk and radiates empowerment instead of keeping it to herself. The supporting cast puts in the work too, with just about everyone in the movie having one of those faces you just want to look at.

Also, special props to all the actors who played a Skrull alien. Not only were they effective in their performance, but they were so caked under layers of makeup.

Overall, "Captain Marvel" is a bright look for the MCU that takes risks to shake up the origin story formula. Despite the fact that the film suffers from a weak first act, can be difficult to follow and doesn't completely rise to the epicness of Wonder Woman, "Captain Marvel" is still a pretty cool movie.

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— EDITORIAL —

AMERICA ADDICTED ITSELF?

The news media has been high on the opioid epidemic for the past few years. The oversaturation of reporting has caused the epidemic to lose the impact of how serious it is.

Article after article showcases people suffering from substance abuse, their ongoing recovery and how the community is attempting to combat opioid abuse; yet, the media forgets to explain how the epidemic truly started.

The FDA allowed American pharmaceutical companies to deceive the U.S. by promising their pain medications were not highly addictive — and, boy, did Big Pharma make America look like a fool.

From oxycodone to fentanyl and morphine, Big Pharma was retailing these drugs under different trade names, including Percocet and OxyContin, and ensuring the public there was no risk of becoming addicted to the prescriptions.

Little did the public know they were developing addictions to these drugs, and for some, it led to a darker path involving harder drugs like heroin. Thus, the heroin and opioid epidemic began.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, 21 to 29 percent of patients prescribed opioids for chronic pain misuse them and “80 percent of people who use heroin first misused prescription opioids.”

Those who choose treatment, whether it’s court-ordered or personal, are given limited options. Whether it’s check themselves into rehab, be referred to a methadone clinic or attend a recovery group, opioid abusers are limited to what they can do to turn themselves around.

Often opioids abusers are referred to methadone clinics. There, pain management doctors prescribe methadone, a drug that alleviates chronic pain and is routinely used to treat narcotic drug addictions, including relieving withdrawal symptoms.

This epidemic hasn’t just sprung up within the past few years; rather, this battle has been going on for nearly a decade.

“[Nearly] 245,000 people were admitted into opiate treatment programs in 2010. More than half of those admitted required maintenance and detoxification services ... Methadone was the primary medication given to those in treatment; the survey reported nearly 270,000 people receiving methadone in March 2011,” a 2011 survey by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration said.

One can only imagine how the opioid epidemic and all of its components have drastically increased since the survey was conducted.

Big Pharma is only adding fuel to the fire of our capitalist economy by trying sell a solution to the problem they created.

“Purdue [Pharmaceuticals] explored acquiring drugs to treat addiction, calling it ‘an attractive market,’ ... Purdue executives

discussed promoting the overdose reversal drug Narcan to the same doctors that prescribe the most opioids,” a report by NBC News said.

So, not only are corporate pharmaceutical companies urging doctors to prescribe their branded opioids, but they are also further addicting America by marketing their own addiction reversal drugs to opioid abusers suffering from withdrawal symptoms.

How could we have let this disaster slip through our fingers? How could have the FDA overlooked Big Pharma’s actions? Most importantly, how did we let corporate America kill us?

According to NIDA, in 2017, over 47,000 people in the U.S. died from an opioid overdose, which includes illegally manufactured Fentanyl, heroin and prescription opioids. NIDA also reported nearly 1.7 million people in the US suffered from prescription opioid use disorders in the same year.

Because of Big Pharma’s corporate greed, innocent and vulnerable members of society are dying. From mothers to fathers, sisters, brothers and friends, this epidemic doesn’t possess a specific face — it can affect anyone and everyone.

Since the FDA won’t put a stop to this never-ending cycle of addiction, it’s up to the people the epidemic affects the most to step up against the monstrous corporate machine that is Big Pharma in order to put a stop our loved ones from losing their lives to opioid addictions.

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Photo courtesy of *YSU Sports Information*

GET TO KNOW KATLYN SHUTT: A PENGUIN LEADER AND PERFORMER

JOSHUA FITCH

Team is the name of the game when it comes to sports — for the most part. Generally, plays are drawn-up, schemes are discussed and weaknesses of the other team are called upon. In golf, much of that changes and it's about the player's performance.

Even in one of the most individual-based sports that Youngstown State University has to offer, Katlyn Shutt, a third-year golfer with YSU, continues to put the team first and has become an unquestioned leader of the program.

"I just want to lead the way I want my teammates to act," Shutt said. "I want to set the example for them, writing notes and sticking it in their lockers just so they experience a sense of leadership and kindness."

Shutt, a junior pre-pharmacy major from Dover, Ohio, has made a name for herself since starting as a freshman in 2016. In her freshman season, Shutt posted a score of 217 (73-71-73), taking home medal honors at the Horizon League Championship tournaments.

During the fall of this season, Shutt earned multiple top-five finishes while maintaining a

74.2 strokes per round, a team best. She also broke the YSU record for lowest individual round after shooting a 64, eight-under-par. The record-breaking performance featured five birdies and two eagles, while leading the Penguins to victory as a team.

While Shutt aims to improve her own game every day, her focus immediately shifted back to her teammates, continuously developing that leadership role.

"Even though we're out there playing individually all the time, it is a team sport," Shutt said. "You want to lift your teammates up, even if someone didn't play well. We're always going to be there to pick each other up."

Though there's no doubt of her leadership now, it was something Shutt had to adjust to.

"At first, it was kind of a big jump, because this is the first time I've been in this position," Shutt said. "My sister used to play so she was always the one that was setting the example. So now, it was something that I felt I had to step into."

Courtney Shutt, Katlyn's sister, was also a member of the YSU golfing family from 2014-2018.

Being a leader is difficult and something Shutt had to adjust to. One person who doesn't

take it for granted is Nate Miklos, coach of the women's golf team. Miklos is now in his sixth season as the Penguins' head coach and counts on Shutt's leadership on a daily basis.

"She does a great job just setting the example with her work ethic and obviously her performance on the course," Miklos said. "But it's all the little things that she can pass along, that knowledge to the younger players [for example], and it's made a huge difference."

A difference that has had its ripple effects throughout the team. Shutt gives a lot of credit to Megan Creager, the lone senior on the women's golf team. Because of Creager's example throughout her four years at YSU, Shutt believes her role can grow even more next year.

"Right now, it's still kind of new, and I'm still looking up to Megan, but next year everybody's going to be looking to me for guidance, and I think it's a good experience now to not have all the pressure on me just yet," Shutt said.

Shutt fell in love with the game at a young age like most collegiate athletes do, but her game really elevated in high school. At Dover, Shutt was named the Eastern District Player of the Year after averaging 75.1 strokes per round. She also won a state championship during

her sophomore year and was a four-year letter winner.

For Shutt, high school was a place where her competitiveness began to flourish, much like it does today.

"Just the feeling of playing well or winning a tournament. That competitive side never dies down, you always want to be the person that the other team has to watch out for," Shutt said. "When you step onto the green or you step on the course, for people to know me and to know that I'm the competition [they have to face], I want to feel that way forever."

"Just the improvement she's shown, even from her freshman year from the fall to the spring was unbelievable," Miklos added. "I couldn't be more excited to have her back for another year. She's really played some great golf all year for us."

Shutt tells us that she believes coaching is in her future and attributes it to Miklos and his staff and developing personal relationships with each player. Shutt says to be able to do that someday with others who respect the game as much as she does would be a great opportunity.

However, with one more year left Shutt's focus will continue to be out on the course, and of course on her team.



Photo by Robert Hayes/The Jambar

PENGUINS HEAD TO CINCY FOR WNIT

BRIAN YAUGER

After falling short of the Horizon League tournament championship, the Youngstown State University women's basketball team gets one more chance to shine in the Women's National Invitation Tournament.

"We are extremely excited to be invited to participate in the WNIT," YSU coach John Barnes said in a press release on Monday. "The team has worked very hard to earn this opportunity to play against some of the best teams in the country. Sarah Cash, Alison Smolinski and Melinda Trimmer, our three seniors, have done an outstanding job leading us to this postseason berth, and I couldn't be happier for them to get another opportunity to represent YSU in this national tournament."

Just like the NIT in men's basketball, the WNIT is the second largest tournament in women's college basketball.

Despite the "second banana" nature of the tournament, that doesn't mean the team isn't highly motivated to go out and win.

"If you can't get fired up to play them, then you're in it for the wrong reasons or you shouldn't be in it," Barnes said. "We'll definitely be fired up, ready to go and ready to compete."

The "lesser" stigma of both of the NITs has sort of gone away anyway as college basketball has gotten more and more talented.

"The WNIT is definitely a more prestigious tournament at this time," Barnes said the last time the Penguins qualified. "There's Big Ten schools, ACC schools, SEC schools, so we knew whoever we drew was going to be a challenge, but we're excited about the challenge."

Up first for the Penguins is a trip down to the University of Cincinnati to take on the Bearcats.

With such a quick turnaround in the little bit of time Barnes has had scouting Cincinnati, he compared them to another team Penguin fans may know of.

"They have a really good post player who is shooting 50 percent from the field in league play and several guards that are tough," Barnes said. "They remind me of Wright State [University] really. They're that kind of team."

Leading the Bearcats in scoring was Ilmar'l Thomas. Thomas averaged 13.4 points-per-game on the year and led the team with 226 rebounds.

The key for YSU is to shut down Thomas. Luckily for the Penguins, they have a stout defensive group. Namely McKenah Peters, who

Barnes gave some very high praise towards.

"We would not be where we are without her," Barnes said. "She revels guarding the other team's best perimeter player and does everything she can to stop them."

There will be some familiar faces in the tournament with two other Horizon League teams in the field. Wright State made the NCAA Tournament after winning the conference tournament.

Joining YSU in the tournament are the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

Tipoff for the game is Thursday, March 21 at 7 p.m. at Fifth Third Arena in Cincinnati. The winner of the game moves on to face the winner of the game between the University of Minnesota and the University of Northern Iowa.



Photo by **Robert Hayes/The Jambar**

PENGUINS PICK UP WIN OVER SPRING BREAK

ROBERT HAYES

While many students went on vacation during spring break, the Youngstown State University baseball team hit the road to play five games in three different cities and returned to class with their first win of the season.

The Penguins took down the University of Pittsburgh Panthers by a final score of 4-2 on a brisk afternoon at Charles L. Cost Field, thanks to some great pitching by YSU's bullpen.

Multiple pitchers were used: Brandon Matthews pitched four stellar innings, only allowing one run on three base hits after Joel Hake and Dalton Earich pitched a shutout inning each. Brett Souder would come in to relieve Matthews and pitched one shutout inning.

Greg Dunham entered the game after Souder and gave up the

Panthers' (7-11) second run. Marco DeFalco was placed into the game, and pitched two shutout innings to record the first save of his career. On the offensive side Dylan Swarmer, Trevor Wiersma, Drew Dickerson and Lucas Nasonti each recorded an RBI during the ballgame.

Matthews recorded the first win of his career.

YSU made the short trip to Kent State University on Tuesday and fell in a 10-5 contest to the Golden Flashes (7-10) by a final score of 10-5. Blaze Glenn had three RBIs, and Wiersma blasted a solo home run.

The Penguins once again hit the road and traveled down to Northern Kentucky University over the weekend to play a three game series to open Horizon League play. The Norse (4-12, 3-0) would go on to sweep the Penguins (1-17, 0-3) to end spring break.

NKU used great hitting to charge past YSU by a final score of

13-5 in the first game of the series. Tanner Montgomery, Phillip Glasser, Jeff Wehler and Wiersma each had an RBI in the contest.

Game two was a back and forth affair and several lead changes led to a 7-6 NKU walk-off win against YSU. Zach Lopatka, Steven D'Eusanio, Nasonti, Wiersma, Swarmer and Wehler each had an RBI, with Wehler's RBI coming from a solo home run in the third inning.

The final game in the series was a pitcher's duel, as Jon Snyder pitched four innings of no-hit baseball in a 2-1 loss. YSU's lone run was scored by Glasser due to a fielding error by the Norse in the fifth inning, NKU would later plate two runs in the bottom of the eighth off of Matthews, with that being the deciding factor in the third game of the series.

The Penguins will host the Oakland Golden Grizzlies (0-17, 0-3) in their home opener at Eastwood Field on Friday to kickoff a three game series. First pitch is set for 3 p.m.