

THE STUDENT VOICE OF YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY SINCE 1931

THE JAMBAR

YOUNGSTOWN MAYOR HAS HIGH HOPES FOR THE FUTURE OF THE CITY

Photo by *Tanner Mondok/The Jambar*

MORGAN PETRONELLI

It's no secret Youngstown has suffered through some hard times. Whether it's fiscal emergencies, job loss, corruption or crime, this city is no stranger to adversity.

One year after taking office, Youngstown Mayor Jamael Tito Brown held a State of the City address on March 28 at DeYor Performing Arts Center in the Ford Family Recital Hall.

The public event was hosted by the City Club of the Mahoning Valley.

Brown discussed a wide variety of topics from loss of jobs to the revitalization of both downtown and neighborhoods, but he repeatedly asked the audience the same question, "Why not Youngstown?"

"I want to tell you, Youngstown's open for business. You don't have to know anyone, be related to anyone or pay anyone if you want to do business in the city," Brown said. "The only criterion for doing business with this administration is that you must be willing to improve the quality of life of the citizens of Youngstown."

Brown mentioned the city is in a time of

financial uncertainty with the closing of the General Motors Co. Lordstown plant and Northside Hospital, but also addressed the recent fiscal circumstance the city has found itself in.

The Ohio state auditor investigated the city of Youngstown and found over \$10 million in misappropriated water, wastewater and sanitation funds that were used in revitalization projects around the city since 2010, according to an article by *The Vindicator*.

The state auditor's office is requesting Youngstown to repay the state \$4.5 million in misused funds that was spent in 2017 from the city's general fund, which was before Brown took office.

In February, the city's finance department hired Mike Abouserhal, former deputy state auditor and executive director of the Ohio Lottery Commission, to help find a way to get Youngstown out of a possible fiscal emergency.

"We hired Mike Abouserhal to assist turning around a plan to get Youngstown back on track and moving in the right direction. We realized the turnaround won't happen overnight, but we have been working every day, and we continue to work at it every day," Brown said.

He mentioned his administration put together a five-year forecast that puts the focus on how the city's government operates.

"Youngstown has a rich history of being a city of resilience and toughness to survive in hard times," Brown said. "Now, the financial challenges when I took over as mayor — the city was faced with a \$2.3 million deficit in 2018, which required some drastic cuts and a new mindset of doing city business. The cuts had to be immediate and direct."

Brown said they plan on reducing staff through attrition by combining and eliminating positions in every department as well as cross training employees to curb the need for extra, unneeded positions.

He also thanked the Youngstown City Council for passing the city budget.

"We can focus on cutting fat but not the muscle of city government and learn to improve services with fewer dollars. I always say, do more with less," Brown said.

Aside from the city's fiscal situation, Brown's address also touched on how Youngstown has improved over the last year.

"Crime in Youngstown remains a focus point on a daily basis. Although we have seen

some drops in statistical numbers, I still remain committed to fighting and reducing the rate of gun violence in our streets," Brown said.

He said in 2018, the Youngstown Police Department removed 186 guns from the streets of Youngstown and responded to over 69,500 calls.

Brown mentioned how under his administration, some improvement projects have taken place around the city, like an increased number and wattage of street lights, cracking down on illegal dump sites and removing unwanted shrubbery and weeds to improve the overall look of the city.

The mayor also applauded the new businesses that have decided to plant themselves in Youngstown to help improve economic development.

The address ended with Brown stating he has high hopes for Youngstown, but improving the city is a team effort and not solely up to the government.

"The vision and civic engagement will take all of us in this room to come together, moving in the same direction and getting involved in order for Youngstown to continue to define ourselves," Brown said.

FEATURES



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

NEWS

- 3 YSU United Panel
- 4 Differing Viewpoints / Tressel and Oliver
- 5 Professors Push Back on Blackboard
- 6 Religion-Based Crime
- 7 Businesses Going Green / History Column

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT / OPINION

- 8 Candace Campana
- 9 Opera Western Reserve / Mario's Movies
- 10 Comedian's Struggle / Flute Festival

OPINION

- 13 Editorial

SPORTS

- 14 Baseball / Women's Bowling
- 15 Women's Basketball / Track and Field
- 16 Danylo Veremeichuk Feature

JAMBAR STAFF

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MANAGING EDITOR

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CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tanner Mondok

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WEB MANAGER

Brady Sklenar

ASSISTANT WEB MANAGER

Ryan Peplowski

BUSINESS MANAGER

Mary Dota (mfdota@ysu.edu)

CONTACT US



thejambar@gmail.com



330.941.1991



330.941.2322

ADVERTISING



thejambarad@gmail.com



330.941.1990



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YSU STUDENTS UNITED PANELISTS BREAK THROUGH SOCIETAL BARRIERS

Photo by *Tanner Mondok/The Jambar*

AMANDA JOERNDT

Youngstown State University Students United is not only a university effort, but an effort to bring the student body together through student panels to discuss that even though people are different, they are also alike and bring diversity throughout campus.

The new student organization allows students, professors and community members to have uncomfortable conversations about topics such as religion, race and gender and break the societal barriers that come along with those topics.

Noor Khalayeh, a junior psychology major, has been working closely with fellow YSU students, Sarah Elisabeth Odidika and Marta Hergenrother, to get YSU Students United up and running.

Khalayeh said her encouragement for the panels came from YSU President Jim Tressel.

“[Tressel] wanted us to come up with an event where we could talk to each other in a safe area and discuss our differences and understand that while we are different, we are more alike because of our differences,” she said.

Khalayeh said YSU Students United consists of seven student panelists discussing predetermined, audience and social media based questions.

“It’s just to understand YSU students and how they come together in unity. Future events will involve discussions on topics such as race, gender and socioeconomic background,” she said.

Khalayeh said she hopes the YSU Student United panels will help students break barriers within their everyday lives.

“Some people stick in their own group and the people that they know, but with YSU Students United, they are inspired to step out of that group and learn different backgrounds,” she said. “Our campus is diverse and we hope to express that through these events.”

Student Panelists Focus on Religion

The first YSU Students United panel discussion was held on March 28 from 4:00-5:30 p.m. in the Chestnut Room in Kilcawley Center.

The panel consisted of seven student panelist with the first hot

topic focusing on religion. The following students were chosen to represent their religion based on their personal experiences:

- Rana Abu-Hashim, Islam
- Caroline Smith, Agnosticism
- Hunter Thomas, Judaism
- Guraarashjot Multani, Sikhism
- Sreya Brahmandam, Hinduism
- Sunny (Hien) Do, Buddhism
- Jasmine Smyles, Christianity

The student panelist shared their stories and personal beliefs with the audience and discussed the similarities and differences within the religions.

Hunter Thomas, a senior early childhood education major, represented Judaism and is in the process of converting to the religion.

Thomas said he was looking forward to educating the audience on his experience with Judaism.

“Judaism is very social justice-oriented, and that speaks to me a lot because I like to think that I try my best with making the world a better place,” he said. “I love the idea that the whole point of our faith is to make the world better.”

In Thomas’ opinion, talking about an uncomfortable topic can help our campus become more diverse.

“The first step for all of us to be able to understand each other more and respect each other more is to hear different points of view,” he said. “A lot of times we stick in our friend or religious groups or societal groups so we don’t get to meet other people who are unlike us.”

Thomas said being a student panelist educated him on new religions and belief systems within our society and university.

“I was learning new things as a panelist, so I think it’s really awesome that people showed up and were willing to listen to our stories and to get to know our faith system and the way we are living our lives,” he said.

One point of discussion among the panelists and audience was the generational differences in society today versus their parents perspectives on the religion.

Sreya Brahmandam, a senior biology major, represented Hinduism in the panel and shared with the audience her experience in the generational gap within her family.

Brahmandam said her parents passed down her religious beliefs and hopes to do the same for her family.

“I was fortunate enough where both my parents are very religious. They taught me that with every holiday. They’ll go into the temple, and I’ll ask my parents, ‘Why we are doing this,’ and that’s how we learn,” she said. “I can teach my kids one day and it’s important to teach it from the beginning to end.”

Bringing Unity to the University

While every religion has their differences, they all have a strong united front and bring unity within the diverse religions.

According to Khalayeh, at the end of every panel, the student panelists will talk about how their differences make them unite.

“We’ll start out the event pointing out those differences because we don’t want to disregard those, and our differences is what make us unique,” she said. “However, we like to end out every event with the theme of unity and to understand that we are more alike than different.”

Khalayeh said the goal of each panel is to bring students together with breaking through the societal barriers around the conversation.

“What we want students to understand is that we should respect each other, love each other and spread positivity through these type of conversations that make us uncomfortable so the abnormal will start to seem normal,” she said.

Brahmandam said bringing unity to campus is important for students to learn more about one another and come together from their differences.

“I think all the religions here are a basic foundation that peace, love and strength is the foundation that we’re all built on,” she said. “It’s really sad to see that bad people in the world are targeting different religions. Just because they are different doesn’t mean we need to hate on them.”

Thomas said the first step to overcoming judgement within different religions is to understand other perspectives and be united with all religious outlooks.

“To me, a lot of where that speaks is we’re united against hate, and as people of faith or people who chose not to believe in any certain God,” he said. “The idea of standing up for people who are only like us needs to go away and we need to be understanding of other people. That is how I think we can stay united together.”



DIFFERING VIEWPOINTS, SAME GOALS FOR AMERICAN SOCIETY

Photo by *Frances Clause/The Jambar*

FRANCES CLAUSE

The Youngstown State University community experienced intellectual civil discourse with a discussion on the question, “Was the 1960s Counterculture good for America?” in the Bresnahan Suite of Kilcawley Center.

Adam Fuller, assistant professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations, and Michael Jerryson, professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, led the first installment of this dialogue series March 27.

“Jerryson approached me about starting a dialogue series so that we can discuss our political differences, while at the same time, show students how decent people can disagree and still remain civil to one another,” Fuller said.

Both professors shared selected readings to argue their views during the hour-long discussion. Fuller’s excerpt, “The Sensibility of the Sixties,” was about the normative changes that occurred in America as expressed through art and literature, and Jerryson’s excerpt, “Reflections on Racial Patterns in America,” focused on civil rights.

“Conservatives and liberals look to the 1960s in different ways, but they both impute value on the countercultural revolution,” Jerryson said. “This is the decade of the Immigration Act, Civil Rights Act and Voting Act, which completely changed our demographics and political system.”

Fuller and Jerryson agreed it is disheartening to see how angry everyone becomes with one another when discussing politics, especially over Facebook and other social media platforms.

“People should strive to not block or friend people on Facebook or follow people on Twitter that are simply like-minded,” Jerryson said. “More importantly, we need to work on listening to each other.”

“When people are fearful, listening to them reduces their fears. Arguing and dismissing only intensifies fear, and this leads to anger,” he added.

Fuller hopes students will learn to become more open-minded to differing perspectives and civil with those they disagree with through these discussions.

“People need to stop screaming at each other across the room and instead, sit down together at the same table and hear each

other out,” he said. “When we do that, we see that we don’t necessarily disagree with each other as much as we thought. We all want what’s best for our country, even if we disagree about how to get there.”

Jacob Labendz, assistant professor of Judaic and Holocaust studies, said he left the discussion inspired.

“My main takeaway from the discussion had less to do with its content than with the event itself,” he said. “I think YSU students are hungry for opportunities like this. Our students tend to be very busy just like our faculty members, yet we all made time to sit, learn and think together.”

Labendz said he found the discussion of advantage, disadvantage and privilege to be important because of living in a society mired in racism and inequity, despite all the wonderful aspects that may also be true of it.

“It can even be hard for people with privilege to notice how racialized and class hierarchies function in our society,” he said. “Events like these help students to pause and reconsider their assumptions without dictating to them what conclusions they must draw. That’s the purpose of a college education.”

TRESSEL, FIRST WARD COUNCILMAN OLIVER REFLECT ON CHANGES AT YSU

RACHEL GOBEP

Jim Tressel has seen numerous changes at Youngstown State University since he began his tenure as president of the university in July 2014, and said once he no longer is in the position, he hopes the university has made an impact on the area and continues to flourish.

“I would really like it to feel as if we’ve got that strategic plan, physically, but also programmatically, collaboratively. That we have totally connected with the region and make an impact in the region, most especially the city, but beyond,” Tressel said.

He said he wants to feel as if everything is in place, but the progress of the university will have to be executed over time.

“When I left the university in 2000 and came back in 2014 there was a lot of changes. I’d like to [leave and come back] to the reunions ... and say, ‘Wow, look at this,’” Tressel said.

Youngstown First Ward Councilman Julius Oliver reflected with Tressel about the progress that the university has brought to Youngstown, and said he believes Tressel will leave a living legacy in the area.

“The things [Tressel] has done since [he’s] been here have echoed throughout the community and basically changed Youngstown,” he said.

Some of those advancements to the university include the

renovation of Wick and Lincoln Avenue, the addition of off-campus housing through the University Edge and The Enclave, Wick Primary Care and much more.

There is currently continued development for the Mahoning Valley Innovation and Commercialization Center. The projected construction start date is in August 2019, with the completion being in Fall 2020. Mike Hripko, associate vice president for External Affairs, Government Relations and Economic Development, updated the Board of Trustees on the center at their meeting in early March.

He said the current focus is maintaining partnerships, ensuring sustainability, establishing operations and constructing the building itself.

The board also approved a resolution for Interfund Transfers at the university, which moved \$412,800 for the North Central Parking Lot to the indoor tennis center project. This project is expected to be completed by the end of 2019. Additionally, \$950,000 from the North Central Parking Lot to the Cafaro Field project.

The Cafaro Field will be used for intramural sports, club teams, special events and various campus activities. It will also act as a face of attraction for opposing teams for recruitment purposes. The Cafaro family donated \$1.5 million for the field.

With these changes, some may be worried about parking on

campus, but Tressel said the university plans on adding more parking.

The Don Constantini Multimedia Center at Stambaugh Stadium is projected to be completed by the first week of September.

Don Constantini, a YSU alumnus, helped to fund the project with a \$1 million gift to the university. The center will be similar to a press box and will house a classroom, space for the sports broadcasting program and football radio booths.

Additionally, a \$10.8 million federal infrastructure grant, SMART2, was given to the university in December through the U.S. Department of Transportation, which will completely renovate Fifth, Rayen and Park Avenues and Federal, Front, Boardman and Commerce Streets.

Tressel said the farther the university extends to downtown and toward Belmont Avenue, the better off it will be.

Oliver said he is enthusiastic to continue and enhance the collaboration of YSU and downtown because it can give Youngstown a more inclusive feel.

He also said he would like to see Youngstown become a university town.

“I think it gives an even greater identity to the city. When people think about Youngstown State University, they’re not thinking about the past, what was or bad things,” Oliver said.

Photo by *Tanner Mondok/The Jambor*

PROFESSORS PUSH BACK ON BLACKBOARD

BRIANNA GLEGHORN

The Blackboard Adoption Survey conducted by Youngstown State University's Student Government Association shows students want their professors to use Blackboard, but many professors still are apprehensive about using the website.

In the survey, 96.8% of the 401 responses agreed that it would be helpful for all of their classes to post grades and syllabuses onto blackboard. When asked if their educational experience would have improved if Blackboard had been used, 77.3% said yes.

Ernie Barkett, president of SGA, and Caroline Smith, executive vice president of SGA, presented the results and their research to professors in the Academic Senate on March 6. The feedback they received from members of the Academic Senate and professors were negative and against the use of Blackboard.

Some professors have been rejecting the use of Blackboard because grades are given back to the student, so they can calculate the grade themselves or they use their own Learning Management System. Technological issues have also been a problem professors have with Blackboard.

The Noel Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory and the National Survey of Student Engagement data are also in support of Blackboard adoption.

"I think the issue we're dealing with this perception issue that we stand in front of a faculty senate, that 99% of them, based on the statistics think I'm doing what I'm supposed to be doing, why are they having the issue," Barkett said. "But, when you talk to the students themselves, they see that there's need for improvement, and our graduation rates and retention rate show that, too."

The inconsistencies in student and professor perception of performance greatly affect abilities for students to learn

and professors to teach effectively. Smith said the Noel Levitz Inventory is happening again, and thinks that is one of the avenues through which the SGA can continue pushing for the initiative.

"The surveys have said it time and time again, and they're probably going to say it again, this time, this is really something we need to work on," she said.

The previous Noel Levitz Inventory noted that "from 2013 to 2018, there has been a decrease in the effective teaching practices indicator, which includes the items — students perceiving instructors to clearly explain goals, teaching core sessions in an organized way, using examples or illustrations to explain difficult points, providing feedback on the draft a work in progress and providing prompt and detailed feedback on tests and completed assignments."

While not all professors are against Blackboard, there is a large push against requiring professors to use it.

"While it might not go through Academic Senate in the way that it has this year because it's been largely ineffective and not received in the way we wanted it to, I definitely think that we can still push for it by just talking to more professors getting the data out there and kind of maybe doing more footwork in the coming years," Smith said.

A.J. Sumell, YSU Ohio Education Association Union president and economics professor, uses Blackboard. He said he thinks there is a compromised position in terms of professors who don't use Blackboard.

"In particular, to me, what students want is not exclusively Blackboard, but they want access to the materials and they want to know where they stand in their class," he said.

Sumell believes that if professors can use a service other than Blackboard, but still meet those needs then that would be a

compromise for both parties.

Guy Harrison, assistant professor of telecommunication studies, doesn't agree that pushing for more use of Blackboard is the best solution, and he fully supports posting course syllabuses on Blackboard, but he thinks the use of Blackboard for anything else should be up to the professor's discretion.

"I think the use of Blackboard for anything else, posting overall course grades and individual assignment grades, should be left up to the instructor's discretion, mostly because Blackboard isn't the most user-friendly and because I don't believe it to be necessary," he said.

Some professors agree that Blackboard is not "user-friendly." They also bring about the problem of students who are not academically motivated. Harrison said he feels, along with colleagues, that Blackboard is not the way to address what is a very important issue.

"It's kind of like the issue of student retention and success is a leak under a kitchen sink, something that must be addressed, but by suggesting Blackboard as a solution, we're pointing the flashlight at the ceiling instead of under the sink," he said.

Harrison said students can meet with professors at required office hours if there is a problem or if the student wants to know their status in the class. He said it takes additional time, effort and stress to enter items on Blackboard, partly because of its challenges.

"I think many people will see that explanation as prioritizing what's best for faculty over doing what's best for students, but I don't think those two priorities are mutually exclusive," he said. "Making things easier for faculty or keeping them simple will improve our ability to better serve our students."

SGA presented a proposal at the Academic Senate meeting on April 3. More on that meeting can be read in next week's Jambor.



A DISCUSSION ON RELIGION-BASED CRIME

Photo by *John Stran/The Jambar*

JOHN STRAN

Mark Juergensmeyer, professor of global studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, believes there is no goal for those who commit religious acts of violence.

“We think terrorism is supposed to lead to something. No,” he said.

Juergensmeyer discussed this and other beliefs dealing with cultural violence at the Dr. Thomas and Albert Shipka Speaker Series titled, “The Global Rise of Religious Violence,” held March 28, in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center at Youngstown State University.

He is the director of the Global and International Studies Program and the Orfaela Center for Global and International Studies at UC, Santa Barbara. Juergensmeyer has written 20 books, most notably, “Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence.”

“Dr. Juergensmeyer has traveled extensively around the world,” Michael Jerryson, professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, said. “He is always somewhere really important, interviewing people and seeing what is happening there.”

During one of his trips Juergensmeyer formulated his idea of goalless terrorism, after speaking with Mahmud Abouhalima, a culprit of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing that killed six people and injured more than 1,000.

Juergensmeyer described Abouhalima as a friendly guy until they began discussing religion and politics.

“He said, ‘You people need to be shaken awake, so you can open your eyes and see what is happening,’” Juergensmeyer said, describing Abouhalima’s view of U.S. citizens.

“Then I asked him, ‘Is that why people bomb buildings?’” he said.

Juergensmeyer said a smile came across Abouhalima’s face, then replying, “Well, now you know.”

“[Abouhalima] wanted us to feel what it’s like to be at war,” Juergensmeyer said. “He wanted you to feel how he felt.”

According to Juergensmeyer, there has been an apparent increase of religion- or terrorist-based attacks such as the one committed by Abouhalima, as a result of religions or cultures who share different views that no longer want to discuss their differences and settle issues verbally or with treaties.

Aaron Bonilla, senior religious studies major, decided to attend after reading some of Juergensmeyer’s work. Though he enjoyed the lecture, he wished there would have been more of a discussion

on local terrorism.

“I wish he would have spoken more about the KKK or other groups that have this tie [to religious violence] and maybe connecting the dots to these Muslim groups because I feel like there is this dissociation,” Bonilla said.

In Bonilla’s opinion, the dissociation he believes exists, for example, when person of color commits a violent act, they are a terrorist, but when a Caucasian person commits the same act, they are described as mentally disturbed.

Jerryson said one of the goals of the lecture was to bring awareness to the overall study of religion and belief.

He referenced a PEW Research study that found most faculty and students across the country who attend a college with a religious studies department “do not have a clue” as to what is specifically studied within the department.

“Due to this continued confusion over my discipline, I feel compelled to explain a little bit about what we do,” he said. “The goal is to examine religion and its relevance in economics, politics, psychology and society at large.”

“Whichever way we turn,” Jerryson continued. “Religion has had quite an impact.”

YOUNGSTOWN BUSINESSES GOING GREEN

Photo by *Tanner Mondok/The Jambar*

COURTNEY HIBLER

Earth Day is right around the corner, and Youngstown businesses are starting to show their support for the environment by making efforts to go green.

Using paper straws, discontinuing the use of napkins, making carry out containers compostable and providing recycle bins are just a few ways local restaurants are starting to recognize the going green concept.

Kristina Urick, an employee at Firebirds Wood Fired Grill, said the restaurant has eliminated beverage napkins and now uses boxes and straws made from plants.

“These items are now compostable,” she said. “We also ask guests if they would like a straw, and this helps eliminate their carbon footprint one step at a time.”

According to the Firebirds website, the company goes even further and uses sustainably harvested wood, recycles their fryer oil and fat drippings from chicken, chicken wings and ribs, uses carpeting from repurposed materials and recycles crayons and wine corks.

Dan Kuzma, manager of the Youngstown State University Recycling Program, said eliminating waste at the source, or choosing products made from sustainable resources helps reduce unnecessary waste being generated.

“Recycling markets have been rough for the past few years,” he said. “It got worse as contamination became a bigger problem in the Mahoning County, and I believe these businesses are taking a step in the right direction.”

In Kuzma’s opinion, Ely’s To Go, a vegan restaurant located in Boardman, is one of the best “green” businesses in the area.

He said Ely’s has source reduction strategies in place, offer containers and packaging made from sustainable resources, offer incentives to customers to reduce waste by bringing reusable containers and they recycle compost.

“Ely’s also provides plant-based food and use much of their produce from local farmers,” he said.

Cultivate: A Co-op Café in Youngstown has been utilizing green products for quite some time.

Susan Payton, manager of Cultivate and part-time human ecology faculty member at YSU, said the café does the best it can when it comes to utilizing green products.

“Our smoothie cups and carry out containers are compostable,” she said. “We also compost our vegetable trimmings, and we have a local farmer who will be managing the compost pile

for use on their farm.”

Jessica Neral, a junior hospitality management major, said she has been to Cultivate and believes the café is providing an important stance other businesses should follow.

“Far too often we see a good amount of recyclables being thrown away or not taken care of properly,” she said. “Seeing these restaurants use compostable items and eliminating straws is refreshing to see because the use of plastic is becoming a problem.”

As far as YSU recycling goes, Kuzma said it has improved over the years, but contamination is still an issue.

“Most people know what can and cannot be recycled, but there are always waste items out there that seem like they can be recycled but can’t be,” he said. “A targeted education is the best solution when it comes to recycling.”

FORGOTTEN TRADITIONS

BRIAN BRENNAN

Like all college campuses, Youngstown State University has hosted many traditions. Some are still observed such as Homecoming, Greek Sing and the painting of the rock. Others were either short-lived or slowly died out. The following five traditions lasted for more than a decade before passing from the scene.

The Bare Brunch began in 1928 when psychology instructor John W. Bare prescribed an outing at Mill Creek Park as a treatment for “spring fever.” During the years in which the brunch was served, students would enjoy a late outdoor breakfast. Games such as baseball and dancing would follow. This tradition continued until student apathy and accusations of vandalism led to its permanent cancellation in 1959.

Sadie Hawkins Day was first sponsored in 1939 by the Phi Kappa Delta fraternity. The inspiration came from “Li’l Abner,” a popular comic strip about the residents of the fictional

Appalachian community of Dogpatch. During the festivities, a race was held where the girls chased after the guys who were given a head start. The resulting couples — attired in homemade Dogpatch costumes — were then wed (for the day) by a local city or county official posing as “Marryin’ Sam.” A dance followed. As the comic strip declined in popularity, so did this tradition, which faded out as the 1960s drew to a close.

In 1946, the first Mardi Gras dance was held at Youngstown College. Sponsored by the Newman Club, the Catholic student organization, a Mardi Gras queen was elected by the male members of the club. In 1947, it was decided to make this semi-formal dance an annual event. Mardi Gras continued to be celebrated and supported by the Newman Club until the early 1970s, when it was discontinued.

The annual Ugly Man competition was held by the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity. Starting in 1954, the contest was open to all fraternities, clubs, and unaffiliated students. Each entrant would submit an 8-by-10 inch photograph of himself wearing the most

hideous and outlandish makeup possible. Students would then choose the ugliest image with each vote costing one penny. The contestant garnering the most money won, with the proceeds going to charity. This competition ended in 1970.

Surf’s Up began in 1984 as a beach-themed dance, usually held in February or March when it was snowing outside. A year later, it became a week-long event and continued to grow in popularity. Movies such as “Beach Blanket Bingo” were screened. The Pub served a special pizza with a pineapple topping. Offices in Kilcawley Center were decorated with tropical décor. The highpoint was a dance held at the end of the week in the Chestnut Room, which was transformed into a seaside paradise. It was the perfect antidote to the winter blues; however, the rowdiness of the 1994 event, along with a physical altercation during the festivities, led to the end of the party forever.

As long as there are students at YSU, new customs reflecting the times will emerge, sometimes supplanting the old. Of this, one can be sure.

Photos courtesy of **Candace Campana**

TAKING HER SINGING TO NEW HEIGHTS

MARAH J. MORRISON

Candace Campana is climbing the ladder in her singing career. This year, the Youngstown State University alumna was asked to sing the National Anthem for the Cleveland Indians and at the Equine Affaire show in Columbus.

Candace Campana said the Equine Affaire show celebrates the horse, and hundreds of thousands of people attend. She said a lot of quarter horses are featured in the show, horses are for sale and different exhibits are on display.

"It's a huge celebration of the horse and the Fantasia show takes place in the evening. And that's a ton of trick riders [and] light shows," she said. "It's really fun."

Candace Campana said the event is something that she has always gone to, but she never thought that she would be asked to perform at it, which is a huge deal to her.

"About 10 years ago, my brother got a horse, and he kept telling me to come to the barn with him," she said. "I went with him and directly next to his horse, was a really skinny, scrawny, pathetic looking animal and I felt really sad for him."

Candace Campana said she kept going to the barn specifically to see this horse and found out more about him, and his owner had starved him, he was abused and passed along from home to home.

"I completely fell in love with him, and he was really bad and really misbehaved," she said. "I took it upon myself to save him and to make him into what he is now. Ever since then, my drive in the equestrian world has been unreal."

In regard to her upcoming performance of the National Anthem for the Indians, Candace Campana said she loves representing YSU. She said last year, YSU President Jim Tressel threw the first pitch when she got the opportunity to sing for the Indians.

"We're making a name for ourselves," she said. "When I'm at that arena and I'm singing, everybody is forced to listen. I love the fact that that arena holds like 40,000 people, so [I've] always wondered who [is there]."

Candace Campana said the hope of someone hearing her sing for the Indians and deciding that she needs a record is always on her mind. She said celebrities can be in attendance, and she never knows who is going to hear her sing.

"I've always sang [the National Anthem] the way it's supposed to be sung," she said. "I don't like to hear it changed. That is the biggest compliment I ever get when I'm done singing, usually by veterans that tell me that."

Candace Campana said she wants to take her singing career as far as she can go, and she is always looking for people to perform with.

"I want to go to the stars," she said. "God put me here for this. I can't stop."

Candace Campana submitted to sing at the Pittsburgh Pride festival in June. She said they have been writing back with her, and they seem very positive that she will be getting a time slot.

Dalton Campana, Candace Campana's brother, said she has always been passionate about singing ever since she was young, and he has always followed her career path.

He said it's always been entertainment, singing, modeling and acting for his sister.

"She's never changed with that," he said. "I know how much it means to her, and she's very talented. I'm very proud of her."

Dalton Campana said he is supportive of anything his sister does, and he will do anything in his power to help her.

LLAMA PAJAMAS AND SPIDERS

VICTORIA REMLEY

“Goldie B. Locks and the Three Singing Bears,” performed by the Opera Western Reserve, introduced children to rhymes, positive messages and soup that was just right on March 31. Along with super gargantuan problems, the comedy also included a spider in llama pajamas.

David Vosburgh, the production director of Opera Western Reserve, said the production introduced students to live theatre, opera music and the sound of the operatic voice. It also gave students the experience of coming to the theatre.

“The experience of coming into a piece of architecture like [the Stambaugh Auditorium] is not usual,” he said. “There was a period of time where every bank looked like this. Now, they don’t. They look like bus stations.”

The vocalists in the production got a quality experience with professionals. They worked with music that required them to use their vocal techniques.

“You’re not learning crappy music. You’re learning good major opera music, like major composers,” Vosburgh said.

Rebecca Enlow, a music theory and composition graduate student who played Goldie B. Locks, said performing for a live audience is different than practicing music. She said she could feed off their laughter and reactions.

“Young kids [are not] afraid to shout things out and have fun,” she said.

“Goldie B. Locks and the Three Singing Bears” introduced opera positively. Enlow said it was a good way to get children involved and interested in classical music. She has worked with Opera Western Reserve for five years, and enjoys working with kids and likes to see the joy on their faces.

“I’m so glad that we have this tradition at Opera Western Reserve every year to have a fun way to expose the kids in the Youngstown area to classical music,” Vosburgh said.

Emilio Santiago, a senior vocal performance major who played the Baby Bear named Peak, said the Opera Western Reserve gives the Youngstown community the opportunity to see operas.

“It’s a good way to get into opera and hear some good classical music from local musicians,” he said.

The production gave Santiago a quality opportunity to perform in his career path.

“The faces on all the kids and giving autographs and stuff, that was really rewarding,” he said.

Performers often build up singing for a live audience in their head because they think about it frequently. Santiago said once someone starts doing this, it is not like they can just stop because they are too scared.

“You have to keep going, and that energy you build up is what drives you through to the end,” he said.

Mary Ann Infante from Austintown, Ohio, said the production was wonderful.

“I enjoyed the kids as much as I did what was on the stage and the music and everything. The voices I thought were wonderful. They were very, very good,” she said.

MARIO’S MOVIES: ‘DUMBO’ (2019)

MARIO RICCIARDI

They say Tim Burton hasn’t made a good movie since 2003’s “Big Fish.” I’m here to finally say that’s true. I watched his live action remake of “Dumbo” the other night and let me tell you — there’s very little good about it. The one good thing it planted in me was the desire to rewatch “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.” Now, there’s a good movie and it came out in 2005, two years after “Big Fish.”

Including Burton’s quirky style, the other thing I like most about “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” is the comprehensive guide it provides to the world where the story takes place. It fills in the gaps that the original left open. I think that’s ultimately what most remakes should provide: a sense of completion that honors the original source material.

What do I mean by that? Well, the “Dumbo” remake is the perfect antithesis to that idea. “Dumbo” is the story of a baby circus elephant who learns to use his publicly declared deformity as the wonderful gift that it is. Where the original cartoon

provides a colorful circus backdrop to this tale, Tim Burton’s remake accomplishes little more than having a team of animators recreate those colors in a computer.

Burton builds a broader world around the tale of the little (and insanely cute) elephant that could but neglects to actually enhance the original story he was working with. In fact, his additions don’t do much more than weigh the story down. Ironic for a movie about an elephant who learns to fly; magic animal burn anyone?

“Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” used its time to flush out Wonka’s motive, and provide a clearer (and more relatable) backstory for Charlie Bucket and his family. Not to mention indulging our curiosities about what happened to the kids who didn’t listen after exiting the factory. “Dumbo” does everything from adding characters and adding locations to adding new progressive lessons, but none of it does the story any justice because the film neglects what the original story already accomplished.

It’s as if Tim Burton had a baby elephant fill up a tub with water from its trunk, went to give a baby a bath in the tub, then

threw the baby out with most of the bathwater. If one tropey pun isn’t enough, it’s like we lived in a world without wheels where flying baby elephants were our main source of transportation and everyone got along fine transporting on the elephants, but Tim Burton went ahead and tried reinventing the flying baby elephant.

Okay, enough of that. I’d actually feel pretty bad if Tim Burton ever read that paragraph one day. Ultimately, “Dumbo” does not work because it attempts to tell a whole new story around only a small kernel of what the original “Dumbo” was all about, minus all that racist junk they had in the 1941 version.

The film misses the heart of the new characters, the heart of the old characters and ultimately the heart of the lesson. There are some great thrills, and Michael Keaton and Alan Arkin shoot bolts of lighting into an otherwise humdrum circus.

With all its amazing visuals, it’s hard to believe it rings true, but “Dumbo” fails to soar, falling nearly on its own face.

THE COMEDIAN'S STRUGGLE FOR LAUGHTER

MARY RODACK
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Two young comedians, Joe Anastasia and Tim Wolfe, are trying to find their voice within the comedy industry.

Social media makes it easier to reach the audience a comedian already has, but makes it harder for a comedian to break through the saturated market.

According to Washington Post writer Elahe Izadi, the golden age of comedy reigns supreme with streaming services like Netflix and Hulu. Social media platforms allow anyone to become a comedian, according to the article.

Dave Robich, owner of the Funny Farm Comedy Club in Youngstown, said he remembers when comedians such as Steve Harvey would perform at his comedy club for only \$250. He loves that he is able to see the progression of comedians going from unknown to the world stage.

Anastasia, a senior organizational communication major at Youngstown State University, actively started pursuing comedy in 2017. He started doing open mic events, eventually began performing at small venues in Pittsburgh, Youngstown, Erie and New Castle.

"I've always enjoyed stand-up comedy since a young age," he

said.

His interest began at a young age with the popular "Saturday Night Live" shows. Cast members like Chris Farley, Adam Sandler and David Spade caught his eye. Anastasia said he would do impressions of characters for his sisters who would find him hilarious.

Anastasia learned comedy from his family. He has two brothers and two sisters who helped him learn about humour and good chemistry.

"It's such an amazing thing that one person can make a whole audience crack up laughing," he said.

When received a positive response from his family, Anastasia said he thought about comedy as something he could possibly pursue.

He said he should be doing more with his comedy career than he is at the moment. As a full-time student with two jobs, finding time to devote to his passion is limited. After graduating from YSU this spring, Anastasia plans to move to Los Angeles to follow his passion for comedy.

Wolfe, 32, officially started comedy in 2012.

"A co-worker of mine who was a comedian signed me up for an open mic without telling me," he said. "I showed up with only a few jokes and nothing much to say, but I got enough laughs that I decided to keep doing it."

Wolfe said sometimes stand-up can be difficult because many times comedy can be self-deprecating focused on weaknesses rather than strength.

"It gets laughs and it can be cathartic, but eventually it can take a toll on your mental health," he said.

Robich said many people do not understand the work many comedians put into their craft to get people to laugh.

"Things like music and film are collaborative mediums where you can rely on the talents of many people, whereas stand-up comedians are solely responsible for the writing, performing, and marketing of their own act," Wolfe said.

Anastasia said he wishes people knew comedians work and practice their skills constantly. He describes his stand-up as a performance and not just telling jokes.

"Comedy [is] really specific," Anastasia said. "Everything written has a reason. Every movement is there for a reason."

Robich suggests new comics perform as much as possible to practice their jokes and skits.

Wolfe said new comics should record every performance to understand why a certain joke might not work and to not be afraid of failure.

"So keep writing, keep performing and don't get discouraged," he said.

26TH ANNUAL YSU FLUTE FESTIVAL

ZACH MOSCA
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Flutists got their time to shine last weekend as the Dana School of Music hosted the 26th Annual Flute Festival March 30 in Bliss Hall. The event consisted of numerous activities and opportunities for young flutists in the Mahoning Valley.

There was a performance and masterclass from Lorna McGhee, the principal flutist in the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. She has also played with many other symphonies from around the world.

Kathryn Umble, associate flute professor for the Dana School of Music and piccolo player in the Youngstown Symphony Orchestra, said she views McGhee's appearance at this festival as an opportunity for flutists.

"It's just an opportunity for YSU students to hear her play and to participate in a master class with her teaching. That's really the

heart of what the festival is," she said.

Umble has been teaching flute at YSU for 18 years and has been organizing the flute festival ever since. She said the main reason she keeps doing it is for students to grow and form a deeper connection with the flute world.

"It's a great opportunity for students to play for internationally known flutists, and also form some connections with the larger flute world. We learn by hearing the music and also by being taught," Umble said.

She also conducted a workshop of her own in which guests can learn more about different aspects of playing the flute.

"This year, I'm going to be talking about the relationship between rhythm and phrasing and direction in the musical line," Umble said.

Andrew Kovalski, a graduate assistant, also helped out with the event. He is a saxophonist, but also helped with the saxophone section and Umble.

"Half of my assistantship is with the saxophone studio, but

the other half is with Umble planning this flute festival," he said.

In addition to the performances and classes, there were also vendors at the festival selling various flutes and flute accessories for flutists to purchase.

"There will be vendors bringing flute supplies, flutes and flute accessories. All the good stuff you'd need if you play the flute," Kovalski said.

There was also a flute choir performance featuring the YSU Flute Society along with many other flute ensembles from around the Mahoning Valley. Senior YSU flutist Morgan Frederick performed. She said she's been playing the flute since the fifth grade and she's loved it ever since.

"I was in fifth grade and I went to an instrument fitting at my school. I picked flute that night, and it just kinda happened," she said.

Frederick also said she believes the festival is a great way to get younger flutists in the area motivated to play more professionally and learn from world-renowned flutists.



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THE JAMBAR

— EDITORIAL —

SMOLLETT'S HATE CRIME HOAX IS DISHEARTENING

What happens when a Hollywood star cries wolf? Well, apparently nothing with the exception of some cash being thrown at the problem.

“Empire” actor and singer Jussie Smollett was the head of recent controversy in January when he claimed two men yelled racial and homophobic slurs and physically attacked him in Chicago.

The actor said the men attacked him outside of a Subway restaurant at 2 a.m. and told police the men wrapped a rope around his neck and poured an “unknown substance” on him.

While detectives investigated the alleged hate crime, police found inconsistencies with Smollett’s story and the actor was

accused of faking a hate crime.

Smollett’s embarrassing cry for attention, attempt for a Hollywood raise or whatever the motive was for the hoax only harms societal views on hate crimes.

There are people who are victims of discrimination. They do not have the audience Smollett does, but their stories matter. They do not ring a false alarm.

The FBI publishes a national analysis on hate crimes based on police reports each year. This analysis concludes the number of hate crimes in the U.S. has risen 17% since 2017 with an average of 20 hate crimes a day.

Although Smollett was arrested and charged with 16 counts of falsely reporting an offense, all charges against the actor were dropped March 26.

Joseph Magats, first assistant state’s attorney of Illinois, said in a statement that although he dropped the charges, he still believes Smollett lied to Chicago police.

Chicago is asking Smollett to pay \$130,000 to cover the cost of the police investigation.

Smollett’s ability to get off scot-free is a disappointing reflection of the inconsistencies in the justice system.

Where is the accountability? Will Felicity Huffman and Lori Loughlin receive the same treatment?

Without an apology or ownership Smollett expects Americans to move on, expects us to forget.

His idiotic hoax should not erase the efforts to help people who actually suffer hate crimes, and if Smollett won’t apologize to Chicago, he should at least apologize to them.

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YSU BASEBALL SHOWS SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT

BRIAN YAUGER

It's been a rocky start for the Youngstown State University baseball team, but the team is showing signs of a turnaround after two wins in its last four games.

The first win for the Penguins came in a walk-off single from Phillip Glasser in the bottom of the 10th inning to beat the University of Pittsburgh 3-2. Two of YSU's four wins so far have come against the Panthers.

YSU then opened a three-game series against fellow Horizon League school, Wright State University. YSU got one win in the series, taking down the second-place Raiders 10-8, a season high in runs for the team.

Eight different Penguins had a hit in that game with Jeff Wehler, Steven D'Eusanio and Dylan Swarmer each getting two. Wehler stole a career-high four bases and Glasser drove in two runners.

The win snapped a 10-game losing streak against the Raiders.

They dropped the other two games by a

combined 16 runs, falling 7-1 and 18-8.

"This is a game that doesn't let you feel too sorry for yourself for too long," Penguins coach John Bertolini said after the loss to Oakland University. "You have to get back out and play."

Wehler's on pace for history if he keeps stealing bases at this rate. The sophomore outfielder is seventh all-time in stolen bases and with his next, will be the seventh player in school history to reach 40 career stolen bases.

Wehler is also ranked second in the Horizon League and 36th nationally in stolen bases.

One of the steadiest pitchers for the Penguins as of late is senior and Beloit native, Kip DeShields. DeShields has made contributions to the last two wins, pitching a perfect 10th inning to help set up the walk-off against Pitt. DeShields also registered the final out of the eighth inning against their win against Wright State.

In his 12 appearances on the season, DeShields has struck out 10 batters.

Another pitcher making waves for the Penguins is freshman LHP Marco DeFalco. Over his last seven appearances, the Niles

McKinley High School graduate has allowed only five earned runs on 13 hits over 18 innings registering a 2.41 ERA. He entered in the eighth inning at Pitt on March 13 and allowed no runs on two hits over two innings to earn his first career save.

Up next for the Penguins is a three-game series with the University of Illinois-Chicago. The Flames lead the Horizon League with a 6-2 conference record and 10-11 overall.

The Flames have some strong hitters as freshman catcher Ryan Hampe leads the Horizon League with a .429 batting average and ranks second with a .500 on-base percentage.

Senior outfielder Scott Ota, who was named Horizon League Batter of the Week on Monday, ranks in the top 10 of the league in seven different categories. Ota is batting .342 and slugging .633 with a conference-best six home runs and team-best 15 RBIs.

YSU and UIC split the 2018 season series with each team sweeping a three-game series on its home field. In doing so, the Penguins swept a Horizon League opponent for the first time since 2012.

The schedule may not be getting any easier, but if the Penguins can keep the improvement going, there's still a shot for YSU to make some noise in the season.

Note: At the time of publication, YSU will have played Kent State University, it's omitted from the story.



Photo by Robert Hayes/The Jambar

YOUNGSTOWN STATE WOMEN'S BOWLING ENDS AT CHAMPIONSHIP WEEKEND

JOSHUA FITCH AND BRANDON TERLECKY JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

The Youngstown State University bowling team saw their best season in seven years come to an end as they lost their matches in the Southland Bowling League Competition during USA Bowl.

YSU lost their first conference tournament with the sixth-seed Penguins losing in their match to Arkansas State University (2-0). They then later fell in their bracket where they would also lose to Louisiana Tech University (2-0), who was the seventh-seed going into the tournament.

Despite their struggles, Penguins coach Doug Kuberski was pleased with what he saw.

"I'm proud of our work, proud of our girls," Kuberski said. "We fought and despite a couple of downfalls. We handled it well and were overall proud of our performance."

The tournament featured big matches where teams would have to win two out of three to advance. That includes a Baker match and a best of seven Baker match.

The team would fall 960-917 in their traditional match. Nikki Mendez posted a score of 202 and the Penguins would fall in the Baker match with 260.

"Our energy could have been better, for sure," Mendez said. "We just need to kick it up, overall we were okay."

Junior Rachel Darrow finished six spots back in 52nd with a score of 975. She said along with energy, focus is something they

need to work on going forward.

"Focus is everything," Darrow said. "We competed and were pleased, but things could've went better if we had a sharp focus on everything, you learn from it."

Four of YSU's players bowled over 180 this past weekend against Louisiana Tech, and Dietz lead the pack with a score of 205. They would go on to lose the traditional match 988-931, and they dropped their Baker match 925-891 which would completely take them out of the tournament.

Kuberski in his first season at the helm for the Penguins added that through the season didn't end the way the team wanted, the upcoming offseason will be an important one to recalibrate.

"It's nice to have a little time off to kind of touch home, touch base and recalibrate for next year," Kuberski said. "Part of me wants to bowl next week, another part is also happy we have a few months to kind of get ready too. We'll work a lot, get ready to be an elite team."

The women are looking forward with only losing two seniors and expecting more improvements and sharper focus. Nikki Mendez and Darrow entering their senior year will have a huge impact.

The Penguins also announced three new recruits to the program March 29, true freshman Megan Grams, redshirt sophomore Emma Wrenn and true freshman Alicia Yacono.

Megan Grams has been an all-conference honoree four times as well as a three-time selection on the All-Northwest Region team as a part of her high school Michigan City, located in Northern Indiana.

Emma Wrenn transferred from Saint Francis University, where as a freshman she was named to the All-Rookie Team and most valuable player of the Northeast Conference Tournament. Wrenn was also named Freshman Female Athlete of the Year at SFU.

Alicia Yacono will graduate from Massillon Jackson High School in the spring of 2019 before attending YSU. During her tenure at Massillon, she was named First-Team-All-Ohio as a junior.

"It's for sure exciting, not only in general but specifically with those three," Kuberski said. "We got a bit of a local flavor and we have some Indiana and Illinois flavor and a nice national, regional mix. They're all going to be great players."

Graduating senior Rachel Ellis started with the bowling program while it was still a club sport, before officially entering the NCAA three years ago. Now that her time as a Penguin is coming to close, she wants to leave behind a winning and hard-working attitude.

"I want to get them to work as hard as we do now," Ellis said, "There's definitely a few on the team that work the hardest out of anyone and I hope that they'll just want to work just as hard and not just go through the motions. I want them to come in wanting to bowl and wanting to put the effort into it. They don't just want to be good, they want to be great."

It is safe to say the program will have plenty of leadership and will be looking to not only get back to where they were last season, but go even further in 2019.

Bios and stats courtesy of YSU Sports Information.

PARTING WAYS

MICHAEL EVANKO
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Talk about a season to remember. The Youngstown State University women's basketball program just achieved one of the best seasons in school history.

Finishing the season 22-10 and 13-5 in Horizon League play, the Penguins were led by three key seniors, Sarah Cash, Alison Smolinski and Melinda Trimmer.

The three seniors played a huge role in guiding the Penguins to the Horizon League and Women's National Invitation Tournament this year. The trio all averaged over 23 minutes per game and ranked first, second and fifth on the team in total points.

Smolinski is currently ranked eighth in the NCAA in three pointers made and Trimmer currently ranks top 40 in the NCAA in turnover to assist ratio.

The Penguins' season was a wake up call to not only the city of Youngstown, but to seniors Cash and Smolinski.

"I expected us to have a successful season and be competitive every game, but I didn't think we would have been as good as we were after losing the players we did from last year's team," Cash said.

The Penguins finished the season with a record of 22-10. This is the first time they have finished with positive record since the 2015-2016 season where coincidentally Cash, Smolinski and Trimmer were important role players, all playing in 30 or more games in their early careers.

"I can honestly say I didn't think we were going to be this successful and have such a memorable

and historic season like we did," Smolinski said. "I think after beating Pitt and that huge Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis win made us realize that we had something special to bring this year."

Fast forward to this past season, the trio averaged over 23 minutes per game. Their role on the team being magnified as they went from new recruits to veteran seniors. Even with being on the team for four years, the women are as humble as they come.

"I feel like I played well," Cash said. "There were definitely some games that I feel like I could have played better, but overall, I am happy with how I finished my career."

Smolinski missed most of last season with an injury, and she came into this season with a nothing to lose attitude.

"I told myself over and over in the summer that this was it for me," Smolinski said. "It was my last season ever as a Penguin. I didn't want to have any regrets, especially coming off that injury from my junior year, I was hungry to get out there and give everything I had left in me for this YSU program. However the main goal of winning that league title was not achieved, I still can say this was the most memorable and exciting season I've ever had at YSU."

Trimmer, who saw a significant boost in playing time from the last three seasons, emerged as one of the best guards in the Horizon League.

"I think I gave this season every ounce of energy I had, and I am pleased with how my efforts came together on the court," Trimmer said.

Reflecting on the marvelous careers of the seniors, it doesn't take long to find an achievement from a long list that is both meaningful and noteworthy. Cash and Trimmer

both referred to beating Green Bay this past season.

"My biggest achievement was breaking the school record for career field goal percentage, but beating Green Bay at home and going to the WNIT twice is also at the top," Cash said.

Smolinski, who hardly acknowledged her personal achievements during the season, finally reflected on one of her many milestones.

"I'm not one for personal achievements, but I'd say my biggest achievement was getting to the 1000-point mark," Smolinski said.

When talking about what is the one thing that they will each miss most about playing for YSU a common phrase was used between them, "family." It goes to show you that these seniors were not just at YSU to play basketball, but to be part of something bigger.

"Although I will obviously miss the sport, I will miss more so that family part of being on a team and getting to play the sport I love with my teammates that became sisters right beside me," Smolinski said. "Basketball has given me forever friends, and the memories I have made with those amazing girls will have a special place in my heart forever."

Although their presence on the basketball court was impactful, their future life plans may affect the world on a bigger scale.

Cash is pursuing a career in the engineering field, but wants to coach elementary-aged girls sometime in her future. Smolinski, majoring in special education, still has another year to go at YSU.

"I actually have one more year of school next year," Smolinski said. "I could not do student teaching in season so that is the reasoning for that. However, I'm beyond grateful for YSU giving me a fifth-year aid for these

circumstances and will surely be at some games next year supporting my girls."

Trimmer is currently waiting to hear back about her acceptance into various medical schools.

It's safe to say if the trio attacks their futures much like they did their basketball careers, then their impact at Beeghly Center won't amount to the impact they leave off the court.



Photo courtesy of YSU Sports Information

YSU TO HOST THE NORTHEAST OHIO QUAD

ROBERT HAYES

After a successful 2019 indoor season, the Youngstown State University track and field team is ready to host its first meet of the outdoor season on Friday.

Both the men's and women's teams claimed Horizon League titles earlier this year in the Horizon League Indoor Track and Field Championships, and the women's team is entering this outdoor season as the defending outdoor champions.

For coach Brian Gorby, being able to host a meet this early in the outdoor season is huge for the development of his teams.

"It gives opportunities for all of our kids to run, with not having to travel. And of course it's a great opportunity for all of our fans and spectators," Gorby said.

The Northeast Ohio Quad was originally supposed to be held at the University of Akron, but issues with tree roots growing

under their track caused them to have to move all of their home meets for the season. Akron reached out to YSU and is able to host the meet using YSU's facilities.

Many of the events will be held at the Covelli Sports Complex, although the Watson and Tressel Training Site will be available if weather becomes a factor. Pole vault and long jump times are eligible for national records if they have to be held in the WATTS, but none of the other events would count for national rankings.

The throwing events will still be held at Akron on Saturday.

"I know our kids are definitely going to be excited to be able to run in front of the home fans on the outdoor track," Gorby said.

A few Penguins started their season a week earlier than the rest of the team, as YSU sent athletes to the University of Texas at Austin, Texas State University and North Carolina State over the weekend to compete in various events.

Highlights of these events include Chad Zallow's time of

13.70 seconds in the 110-meter hurdle, which was good enough for fifth place overall at the Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays in the event.

Jalayah Elliott took home eighth place overall in the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.57 seconds. The Texas Relays brought in more than 2,400 athletes from 210 universities.

Suerethia Henderson ran a time of 24.01 seconds in the 220-meter dash in the Texas State Bobcat Invitational, which gave her a sixth place finish overall.

Down at the Raleigh Relays, Joe Pfeffer threw of personal best distance of 51.74 meters in the hammer throw. Caitlyn Trebella posted a height of 33.35 meters in the pole vault.

"We probably had 15 to 20 personal bests. It's kinda tough to personal best right out the gate because its your first meet. A lot these other teams down south, kinda like baseball in a sense that they have 2-3 meets under their belt," Gorby said.



VEREMEICHUK LEADS PENGUINS ON, OFF COURT

Photo courtesy of *YSU Sports Information*

MICHAEL EVANKO JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Danylo Veremeichuk is a name that may not be known to followers of Youngstown State University athletics, but he's certainly accomplishing enough to change that.

Originally from Odessa, Ukraine, Veremeichuk came to America when he was 20 years old. He came to YSU in 2016 and transferred from the University of Physical Education and Sport in Ukraine. Now spending his early 20s in the United States, he has been trying to adjust to American culture.

"The one really good thing about American culture is that this country is the most international country in the world," Veremeichuk said. "It's pretty flexible. There are no judges based on religion, ethnicity or beliefs. It's way easier to approach an American person than it is with someone from my home country."

With the challenge of adapting to a new lifestyle, Veremeichuk also has to communicate with his teammates who range over multiple countries across the globe, and none of whom are from the Ukraine or even the U.S.

"We have one of the most international teams in the entire country because we don't have any Americans on our team. It's ten people and no Americans," Veremeichuk said. "We're all here internationally. We're a big family. Since day one we have felt a

spirit with our team,"

Penguins coach Ulises Hernandez is in his first season as coach of the Penguins and embraces the different cultures and background of his players.

"It's been very easy. I was used to the environment of people from different places, but some countries I've never dealt with until I arrived here. There's really no difference. They are players just from different cultures," Hernandez said.

Veremeichuk started playing tennis when he was just 7 years old. He started out playing soccer, tennis and basketball like many American kids who play multiple sports, but ultimately fell in love with tennis.

In his sophomore season at YSU, Veremeichuk was selected to Second Team All-Horizon League. He finished the season with a 13-3 record in dual match play and came up big in Horizon League play where he finished 5-2.

In his junior season, the standout sophomore traded in his Second Team All-Horizon League title for a First Team All-Horizon League title this past season. Finishing the season with a record of 22-12 and 21-9 in doubles play.

This season, the men's team has gotten more than just a great player. The senior has stepped up and become a role model for the future of the YSU tennis program.

"Without him, we wouldn't have the foundation we have right now. But unfortunately we know we have to move on as he graduates. But he's done everything he's had to do to help

everyone and is more of a team player than he has ever been in his career," Hernandez said.

With a little less than a month left in the season, the men will need the leadership of Veremeichuk to stay focused for their five remaining matches against inner conference teams.

"Our goal for the rest of the season is to finish number one in the conference and win the Horizon League for the men. We have the team to do it. We just need to make it happen," Hernandez said.

Veremeichuk is as humble as they come, which is a perfect characteristic for a leader. After winning Horizon player of the week, he was not one to boast and brag about his accomplishment.

"I really don't think I was one of the best. But according to the opinion of coaches from different teams, they said I was the best. So obviously I will take this compliment, but it's not like it gives me a big ego," Veremeichuk said.

With Veremeichuk's YSU career ending in a few weeks, he has plans of continuing his tennis career at the pro level.

"I want to play tennis professionally. I will try to earn money with tennis," Veremeichuk said.

Hernandez sees the potential for another future for him.

"His goal is to try to play pro, but at the same time he's very enthusiastic about helping others with the game. So his path could go playing pro for two years or so, then become a coach at some point," Hernandez said.