

POLICE ACADEMY READY FOR ANYTHING

C. AILEEN BLAINE

During the last few months, tensions between the public and law enforcement agencies have been heightened. However, the criminal justice department is confident its cadets will be prepared to pursue successful careers in law enforcement.

Non-traditional criminal justice senior Anthony Garrett said obtaining his degree is a personal goal of his. Currently a retired correctional officer from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, he's trained in law enforcement tactics such as unarmed self-defense, first aid, firearms.

"In corrections, I dealt with a lot of different personalities, but one thing about it, I was firm, fair and consistent in what I did," Garrett said. "I'm not one to use excessive force nor was I going to assume you were guilty. Remaining peaceful makes all the situations better."

He said aspects of his adolescence shaped how he approaches situations now.

"As a Black man, we approach situations a lot different than what is shown today in the media," Garrett said. "I grew up in the inner city, so I know how to approach someone who looks like me and diffuse a situation."

When it comes to using the current events regarding law enforcement agencies as a teaching opportunity, Garrett said he thinks instructors should take advantage of the current situation. He said he doesn't mind "ruffling feathers" when it

comes to online discussion boards for class.

Also, Garrett said he's in the field to make a difference.

"[I'm in the field] to make sure that everyone is getting their due process as granted by the United States Constitution," he said.

Criminal justice senior Jonathan Nolan said the future in law enforcement is uncertain.

"[Law enforcement] is a scary thing to get into, there are a lot of changes," he said. "There's a big disconnect between people; that needs changed."

Youngstown State University Police Academy commander Edward J. Villone said he feels sure his cadets are in the police academy for the right reasons.

"It's a lot of work. In order to do all that, you have to be pretty dedicated, and you have to want to help people and have to have that compassionate type personality," Villone said. "You wouldn't do all this if you didn't have that. You don't go into this kind of field for the wrong reasons."

In addition to the standard tactical and physical training, cadets receive training in various disciplines such as race relations and mental health issues.

"We have proper protocols to monitor demonstrations, to actively engage in a situation where we would need to maybe protect other citizens or move a crowd, place someone under arrest," Villone said.

He said anyone with questions about the methods and types of training the cadets undergo should ask.

"One of the main things we talk about is how no matter who you're dealing with or how you're feeling that day, these people have feelings, have concerns just like we do," Villone said. "If you can strike some kind of middle ground and talk to them ... then you can kind of understand a little bit more about the person."



YSU Police Academy Commander Edward Villone said training in the academy is constantly evolving to meet the needs of current times. Photo by **C. Aileen Blaine/The Jambar**

NEWS IN BRIEF: YSU MOURNS STUDENTS DEATHS SEPT. 25

KELCEY NORRIS

Students and faculty mourn the deaths of two Youngstown State University international students, Muctar B. Kamara and Nekian F. Sesay, who lost their lives in a fatal single-car crash Sept. 25.

Kamara, the driver, was taken to University Hospitals Portage but did not survive. A backseat passenger, 19-year-old Sesay, succumbed to her injuries on the scene near milepost 50 on Interstate 76.

Two other passengers who were YSU students survived the accident. Imran Sawaneh, a 19-year-old pre-information technology major, was flown to Akron City Hospital where his injuries are being treated. Aicha A. Sawaneh, a 20-year-old political science major, is also recovering from her injuries at University Hospitals Portage.

All four of the passengers involved in the accident riding in the 2003 Honda Accord were originally from Freetown, Sierra Leone, located in West Africa.

YSU President Jim Tressel released a statement in response to the tragedy.

"Our International Programs Office has notified the families of the students, as well as friends and fellow international students," he said. "Counseling is available to students and others seeking assistance."

"On behalf of the entire Penguin family, we express our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of the two deceased students, and lift up our prayers and hopes for the two injured students," Tressel continued.

Mark Vopat, YSU's division of Ohio Education Association spokesperson, also released a statement concerning the tragedy.

"We are incredibly saddened by the loss of our students and extend our deepest sympathies to their friends and family here and abroad," Vopat said. "We also extend our condolences to the two surviving students and hope they are able to find some solace during this incredibly difficult time."

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



NEWS

- 3 Dave Grohl Alley
- 4 Pi Sigma Alpha
- 5 Penguin Service Center
- 6 Steel Museum
- 7 Student Patent

STUDENT LIFE / OPINION

- 8 Valley Politicians
- 9 Fifth Avenue Update
- 10 COVID-19 Update
- 11 Column/Editorial
- 12 "The Glass Menagerie"
- 13 State of Live Entertainment
- 14 Dating During COVID-19
- 15 Sitting Down with Aujenay Cianciola

SPORTS

- 16 Football Spring Schedule

JAMBAR STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Kelcey Norris

MANAGING EDITOR

Abigail Cloutier

NEWS EDITOR

C. Aileen Blaine

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Jordan Boitnott

COPY EDITOR

Laurel Stone

ASSISTANT COPY EDITORS

Brianna Bell

Sydney Stalneckner

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Joseph Chapman

Gabby Owens

Krista Ritz

Samantha Smith

Kyle Wills

Zach Mosca

COLUMNISTS

Mac Pomeroy

Ben Luli

PHOTOGRAPHER

Kamron Meyers

HEAD DESIGNER

Douglas M. Campbell

ASSISTANT DESIGNER

J. Harvard Feldhouse

HEAD OF VIDEO PRODUCTION

Dominique Stevenson

ASSISTANT VIDEO PRODUCTION

Thomas Ellsworth

SOCIAL MEDIA CURATOR

James Potts

WEB MANAGER

John Galvin

ASSISTANT WEB MANAGER

Jenna DeLuca

CONTACT US



thejambar@gmail.com



330.941.1991



330.941.2322

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LIGHTING UP DAVID GROHL ALLEY

Chromaticity and BRITE Energy innovators installed LED lights to light up David Grohl Alley in Warren. Photo courtesy of **John Galvin**

SAMANTHA SMITH

David Grohl Alley in Warren has been revamped to become a more welcoming and safe atmosphere for those walking and driving through. Chromaticity co-founders John Galvin and Andrew Boyer have been working on this project since July and completed it Tuesday, Sept. 29.

The alley is named after Foo Fighters frontman David Grohl, who was born in the area. The attraction was officially opened as David Grohl Alley in 2009. While the alley was filled with artwork dedicated to the singer, it was dimly lit and not very welcoming for those walking by at night. The city of Warren sought to make the alley a more welcoming place.

With the idea of lighting up the alley in mind, Galvin went to BRITE Energy Innovators to bring everything to life. After talking with the CEO of BRITE, Rick Stockburger, the plan for construction was underway.

Daniel Sylak, marketing and events specialist at BRITE Energy Innovators, said brightening up the alley would not only be a great way to show Warren's support for Grohl, but it could also bring a sense of safety for people walking through, especially at night.

"It's all about creating something for the community that they can enjoy," he said. "Aside from the super fun aspects of it, it's supposed to make the alley safer for people to walk ... so that there is less worry walking through a dark alley."

With a lot of projects, though, come challenges. One challenge while working on the alley, Sylak said, was the finding fundraising necessary to make the project happen.

"Between the time John pitched the idea to the CEO Rick Stockburger and working on it, we had about a month to do fundraising. So a lot of the fundraising came from community partners," he said.

Another challenge facing the alley was the height of the beams holding the LED lights, Galvin said. This caused them

to fall a day behind in the installation of the lights.

"The height requirement was a big thing we tried to focus on," he said. "It ended up not working out the first time ... A garbage truck came and hit the first beam and that was a whole day behind. We had to raise the entire structure up nine inches just to get it within the height of the garbage truck."

In the end, Galvin wants to see how people react to what the finished product of the alley looks like.

"I just want to see people's faces light up when they see it," he said. "Yesterday, actually, I think we had four or five people come through and take photos of the lights already ... So it's getting a lot of attention and it's like half done, so I think that's really cool that just to see half of it is what people are already enjoying it."

For more information on Chromaticity and its work, go to chromaffects.com, as well as brite.org for more information on BRITE Energy Innovators.



PI SIGMA ALPHA: FIVE YEARS AS 'BEST CHAPTER'

Kassandra Seabolt, Pi Sigma Alpha president and political science major, and advisor Adam Fuller, a political science professor, pose in front of the Pi Sigma Alpha banner. Photo by **Kelcey Norris/The Jambar**

KELCEY NORRIS

Pi Sigma Alpha, chapter Alpha Alpha Rho, is Youngstown State University's branch of the National Political Science Honors Society. They claimed the coveted national Best Chapter award for the fifth consecutive year.

Kassandra Seabolt, a senior political science major, serves as this year's president of Pi Sigma Alpha. Her organization, she explained, has a mission to "recognize scholastic ability in political science at YSU."

"[This award is] only given to 16 out of 700 organizations, so it's really prestigious and a really awesome award for us," Seabolt said. "This is for the 2019-2020 year, so our former president and the executive board, those members, are the ones who worked so hard to get the award."

Seabolt said the chapter was recognized for all of the events organized by Pi Sigma Alpha's president last year, Moataz Abdelrasoul, which included film screenings and study sessions.

"We also did our induction dinner where we had Judge Carla Baldwin inducted as an honorary member," Seabolt said. "That was a really awesome opportunity to hear her speak. We also did LSAT study sessions, writing contests and unfortunately we were planning some other things, such as a conference, but they got cut short due to COVID."

This year, Seabolt hopes to continue the legacy of the Pi Sigma Alpha presidents before her.

"Nothing is set in stone yet, but one of our most exciting

things this year is we're going to do a law school talk. We're going to try to contract that as a national event, so it won't only be open to YSU students, but students all around the United States as well," she said.

YSU alumni with law backgrounds will discuss the admissions process, LSAT exams and answer general frequently asked questions.

"We normally get a really good turnout for things about law school, so we're really excited about that," Seabolt said. "We also might do some kind of talk about the upcoming election, since I know there's a lot of confusion in terms of voting and how to register."

Seabolt is currently applying to law school with dreams of becoming an attorney one day.

"It's really nice being surrounded by a community of people who are like me, who are in my major," she said. "A lot of them have the same goal as me, so it's really cool to make those connections and learn from other people. A lot of the stuff I've learned about the LSAT and the admissions process have been from former members, so it's been really helpful."

William Goodwin, a senior pre-law major, serves as the vice president for Pi Sigma Alpha.

"It's really a great opportunity to network with political science or pre-law majors from other universities in Ohio, and we have tons of national events in Washington D.C. where we can network with other like minded individuals," Goodwin said.

Like Seabolt, Goodwin credits the executive board of last year

with organizing great events for the community.

"Ever since I joined the political science department, I knew this program existed and every year we seem to do more and more activities," Goodwin said. "Hopefully we can keep that up."

Adam Fuller, professor of political science, has been advising Pi Sigma Alpha for five years since the chapter was rebooted.

"The chapter was defunct for quite a long time," Fuller said. "It was ignited in the early 2000s and then went into a long hiatus. In 2015, we revived it."

Fuller said each year he's beyond impressed with the students' ability to plan unique events.

"For example, two years ago the students did an all-day event at the Canfield Fair in the YSU tent. It was an all-day political trivia game that had a lot of people coming through and playing, which was a lot of fun," Fuller said.

Pi Sigma Alpha also participates in community outreach, making it a goal to give back, beginning with the 2015 Pete for Paris event.

"We raised money for the victims of the Paris bombing that year," he said. "And every year since then, we've tried to do at least one big service project, if not more. We did a Pete for Texas charity event the year of Hurricane Harvey for the victims of the hurricane ... It goes to show that that's what we do around here in Youngstown, get involved."



REMOTE PENGUIN SERVICE CENTER DOESN'T LEAVE STUDENTS OUT IN COLD

Elizabeth Williams, a freshman engineering major, and Emily Vero, a journalism major, live on campus in Cafaro House for their first year. Photo by **Kelcey Norris/The Jambar**

JESSICA STAMP JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Youngstown State University's Penguin Service Center saw some changes this semester, including the addition of remote work opportunities for employees. By working remotely in addition to meeting people in person, the center's workers are helping students receive essential information, find guidance and resolve enrollment related concerns in the areas of financial aid, records, registration and student billing.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Penguin Service Center found working remotely to be no different than usual, with the exception of on-campus interactions.

Tysa Egleton, director at the Penguin Service Center, said transitioning to remote work was easy.

"We were already used to helping people on the phone and via email. So when it got intensified, that it was the only way we were going to be able to help people, we were already built for that," she said.

The Penguin Service Center's phone system filters calls to the next available person. The center is prepared to assist students with any questions or issues. Phone calls are the most popular means of contact due to the busy schedules of students.

"Students call for assistance in between classes or their two jobs," Egleton said. "We were always doing more phone calls than we were [meeting] them in person."

Egleton said students are not the only people her office helps. "Faculty and staff use us a lot to help navigate through different issues that they need assistance with, and alumni actually use us as a resource for ordering transcripts and things like that," she said.

The center's system of contacting and helping individuals has not changed, Maura McGiffin, assistant director at the Penguin Service Center, said. Certain guidelines for interacting with people have, however.

"Coming back to campus has been nice to interact with the students, even though we are following the social distancing guidelines, wearing masks, having plexiglass up," she said.



STEEL MUSEUM OFFERS RESOURCES FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS

The interior of the Youngstown History Center of Industry and Labor. Photo by **Taylor Frong**

TAYLOR FRONG **JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR**

The Youngstown History Center of Industry and Labor offers more to students than just history about the area.

Site manager Marcelle Wilson said students of all majors can find something at the museum worthwhile for their studies. Students can learn about a variety of issues, such as women's history and that of people of color.

"Women were not always doing the Rosie the Riveter work in the steel mills like we were taught. They were nurses and secretaries, too," Wilson said.

Resources about Youngstown history can be found in the archives center on the second floor of the building. The archives are home to old newspapers, local films, photographs and anything related to the history of the steel industry in the city. Students also can access the archives catalog via the museum's website.

Wilson said the museum is important for engaging with and educating the community about Youngstown because it helps people understand the past and appreciate the future.

"It's important to preserve our history so people understand

where we came from," Wilson said. "Why do we have the architecture? Why do we have the different surnames in the area? Why do we have different neighborhoods? Why do we have different people living in those areas?"

Mikaela Hibbs, third-year physical and health education major, said she finds a lot of enrichment in the museum.

"My grandpa worked for Youngstown Sheet and Tube and my dad worked for Vallourec Steel," she said. "Growing up in Youngstown, you're not always shown what it is to be proud of where you're from. This place gives me something to be proud of."

As an aspiring teacher, she said it's important to educate the next generation of students and remove the old stigma she grew up with. She said it starts with somewhere like the steel museum.

"Many people in and outside of Youngstown see the area as weak and opportunity deficient because of the mills closing, GM closed, the murder rate was the highest in the country," she said. "We are more than our past."

According to staff member Sarah Wiscott, the staff began working remotely when the museum was shut down in March as a result of the pandemic. Although they couldn't welcome

guests inside, they were still able to reach them online.

The facility offered #MuseumFromHome posts weekly on social media where it showcased different artifacts from the steel mills.

"I'm happy to be back. It's definitely nicer to interact with actual people than your computer screen," Wiscott said.

Staff members Brooke Bobovnyk and Hannah Klacik also created a virtual walking tour for the architecture in downtown Youngstown in place of their annual group affair.

Marcell Wilson, site manager, said the in-person walking tours are very popular in the community every year, and the virtual tours were popular as well. Those interested can go online for a guided audio and picture tour on its YouTube channel.

Youngstown State University students get free admission to the museum, which includes access to the archives and tours. The facility is open Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (hours for at risk patrons are 9-10 a.m.) and Saturday from 12-4 p.m. (hours for at risk patrons are 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.).



FIRST UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDED PATENT AT YSU

The Genna Research Lab on campus. Photo by **Joseph Chapman/The Jambar**

JOSEPH CHAPMAN

Mariah DeFuria, a physical therapy doctorate student, became the first undergraduate student in Youngstown State University history to co-author a United States patent. Patent No. 10,450,205 was awarded to DeFuria and associate professor of chemistry, Douglas Genna, for their work on YCM-101 (Youngstown Crystalline Material), which removes pharmaceutical contaminants from drinking water.

Genna explained the process of patenting a new discovery.

“So the patent process is, I mean, it’s simple and complicated all at the same time. So what happens is, we have this discovery, Mariah had this discovery. And I have to make a decision at that point,” he said. “Do we simply just publish it out in the scientific literature? Or do we try to protect it first through a patent and then publish it in the scientific literature, right? Because once you publish, the scientific literature becomes part of the public domain and yours no longer. It’s no longer a secret or whatever.”

Genna had nothing but praise for his former student. He said he finds her work impressive.

“[She is] a very impressive student person. And, you know.... she could have gone to, like, basically any grad

chemistry program she wanted to, but ultimately didn’t want to, and is doing great as a P.T. student, and I think she’ll be a great physical therapist,” he said.

DeFuria discussed her contribution to the patent process.

“So the first thing we had to do, we were also trying to write a manuscript for an article. So when you publish, like, a science-based paper, you have to publish your method,” she said. “So I had to write up exactly, like, the amounts I used of each material, in what order, and then all the steps of the process. So that was my contribution to the paper manuscript, and that also got published in the patent.”

DeFuria spoke fondly of her experiences as an undergraduate researcher at the Genna Lab. She said YSU offers instrumentation for undergraduate students to access when working for professors as research students.

“YSU has a lot of great instrumentation that undergraduate students have access to if they work for professors as research students. And a lot of other universities and colleges only allow their graduate students to learn and train on these equipment,” she said. “So I feel like it’s a really good idea to get involved with research at YSU. I gained a great mentor, I learned a lot of new skills [and] became a better scientist through the process.”

Timothy Wagner, acting chair of the department of chemical and biological sciences, praised the hard work of the Genna Lab which led them to receive this award.

“Just the fact that the Genna group is competing so well nationally, if not internationally, I think says a lot for their work. I mean, as I mentioned, and it’s difficult to get National Science Foundation funding anyway, these days. But, you know, in an area like that, where there’s so much going on, I think it’s even more impressive.”

Wagner said the unprecedented accomplishment gives faculty the feeling that there are no limits to what can be accomplished by the students.

“I now, you know, tell people about [this] new possibility of possibly patenting work as an undergraduate. It’s just the ultimate example of what we try to do for our students with the experiences we try to offer for them,” he said.

VALLEY POLITICIANS VIE FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE POSITION

ETHAN J. SNYDER
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

The 59th District seat in the Ohio House is up for grabs in November, and both candidates have deep ties to the Valley.

The incumbent, Rep. Alessandro “Al” Cutrona, a Republican from Canfield, is a Youngstown State University alumnus serving his first term as state representative of the 59th Ohio House District, which covers most of Mahoning and parts of Columbiana counties.

Cutrona graduated from YSU with a bachelor’s degree in political science and history. After graduation, he attended law school and earned his juris doctorate from Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

Following the unexpected death of Rep. Don Manning, who died of an apparent heart attack, Cutrona was among several who applied to the Ohio House Republican Caucus to fill the position. The Mahoning Valley native was sworn into office May 28.

Cutrona says his top priorities are keeping and creating jobs, as well as improving the state of healthcare in the Valley.

He said reversing safety regulations, which were put in place due to the pandemic, will help the community. July 31, the Ohio Liquor Control Commission implemented an



Canfield resident Chris Stanley is running against Cutrona for the 59th District Seat. Photo courtesy of **Chris Stanley**

emergency rule due to COVID-19, banning restaurants and bars from selling alcohol after 10 p.m.

He recently introduced legislation that, if passed, would reinstate original operating hours for bars and restaurants.

“These businesses right now are struggling, it is a very difficult time,” Cutrona said. “As long as people are following the proper guidelines, it’s important we get a sense of normalcy and give these businesses the opportunity to thrive and survive during this pandemic.”

In regard to healthcare, Cutrona is a joint sponsor of a bill along with Rep. Diane Grendell, a Republican from Chesterland, that would negate regulations put in place for physicians.

This comes after the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy banned sales of the drug hydroxychloroquine to treat COVID-19 in July.

“What that meant was a pharmacy board would then be able to essentially determine what a physician could prescribe and couldn’t prescribe,” Cutrona said. “That should be up to the physician, the person that’s skilled and well-versed in that area, and that’s between the physician and the patient.”

Cutrona also is the chief operating officer for an infectious disease medical practice serving Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana counties.

“We’re the only infectious disease medical office so we’re really handling the pandemic,” said Cutrona. “I can’t speak highly enough of those healthcare workers.”

Cutrona also voted for the bipartisan Broadband Bill, a priority piece of legislation intended to provide grants to underwrite construction costs and facilitate the expansion of high-speed internet and broadband services to at least one million people in Ohio.

“This is really essential for business, it’s essential for education and even more so now with things going on with the pandemic,” Cutrona said.

His challenger, Chris Stanley, a Democrat from Canfield, is running against him Nov. 3.

Stanley is a seventh and eighth grade social studies teacher for Youngstown City Schools, an experience he said is rewarding.

“To me, there isn’t a more important and necessary work than preparing our students for citizenship and to become lifelong learners,” Stanley said. “It’s a wonderful career and one I’m blessed to be a part of.”

Stanley graduated from Ohio Dominican University in Columbus with a Bachelor of Arts in integrated social studies education and a Master of Arts in liberal studies. He said he decided to run for state representative because of his educational background.

“Being in and around the history profession, politics sort of goes hand-in-hand,” Stanley said. “I was tired of looking around wishing that someone would do something to fix the direction our state has been heading for the last decade and a



Alessandro Cutrona, incumbent for the 59th District seat. Photo courtesy of **Alessandro Cutrona**

half, and I thought, maybe I’m the person who can step up and get some good done.”

Stanley is also a writer and publisher. He said he and his lifelong friend, Alexander LeVasseur, founded their own children’s book publishing company Jump Splash Books.

“Writing has always been an interest of mine, and I dabbled quite a bit,” Stanley said.

Should he be elected state representative, Stanley said his three main priorities are: education, economic development and jobs. With regard to education, he said he will promote a new funding formula that will reduce the reliance on local property taxes and ban for-profit charters.

“Doing so will enable us to invest in academic success by strengthening our primary and secondary schools, providing teachers with the resources they need including state-of-the-art technology, delivering wrap-around services that strengthen families and communities and making college and advanced training accessible and affordable for all Ohioans,” Stanley said.

He said he has several plans for economic development, which include facilitating a community culture and where government officials and community leaders are supportive.

“That means devoting more state dollars to public primary, secondary and higher education, restoring support for our cities, townships and villages, and building infrastructure that will help us attract business and good-paying jobs,” Stanley said.



FIFTH AVENUE CONSTRUCTION WILL COMPLETE NEXT SUMMER

Construction continues along Fifth Avenue. Photo by **Krista Ritz**

KRISTA RITZ **JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR**

Construction on Fifth Avenue continues after beginning in August, and the M60 parking deck remains partially closed.

Deputy Director of Public Works, Charles Shasho, said the project will transform Youngstown.

“The Fifth Avenue project is a part of a larger project going to be done in a few phases. It is called the Smart2 Network,” Shasho said.

The project will take about a year and is slated for completion by June or July of 2021. This will be a comprehensive complete street concept for six specific streets in and around the downtown area and Youngstown State University.

Similar to Fifth Avenue, Shasho said Lincoln Avenue’s construction was a “pretty big inconvenience,” but transformative nonetheless. He said he hopes the Fifth Avenue construction will bring the same positive change to the community.

Currently, the M60 parking deck is partially closed and only

half of the parking deck is available to students.

Shasho said they aren’t yet ready to reopen the deck. As the percentage of students driving to school decreases, the deck still has more than enough room available for students attending class on campus while parking services keeps half of the deck closed.

“We’re not very far behind schedule,” Shasho said, “I’m pleased with the progress so far; things are running smoothly.”

Lari Spahr, a third-year creative writing major, commutes to campus every day. While she doesn’t take Fifth Avenue to get to campus, she does park in the M60 deck and has noticed slight inconveniences due to its closure.

Spahr explained not being able to use the upper levels of the deck makes finding available parking spaces difficult.

“I’d probably just end up going to Wick and walking,” Spahr said.

Danny O’Connell, director of support services, said the partial closure of the deck has been due to a combination of the

construction as well as the weather.

“We’ve had some unbelievably heavy rain and what happens when you have a construction site is the water moves some of the dirt and the silt and so we did have an issue with all of that on the entrance way to the deck,” O’Connell said.

Now, there is silt protection in the parking deck. This keeps the mud out of the sewers when it rains. According to O’Connell, even with M60 being partially closed, overcrowding has not been an issue to many students within the deck.

“It’s a very unfortunate time that we have so many people not on campus [due to COVID-19], but for what we’re doing with this construction, it really is a fortunate time because we haven’t filled up either of the parking lots along Fifth Avenue,” O’Connell said.

Parking may be an issue in the M60 deck, according to Spahr. Students can also utilize the lots by McDonald’s and Taco Bell, as well as the new 81 and 82 lots behind the east side stands.

COVID-19 UPDATE



Photo courtesy of *cottonbro*

ABIGAIL CLOUTIER

Youngstown State University reported two additional COVID-19 cases Monday. Both cases are students who live off-campus. Apartments such as University Courtyards, the Edge and the Enclave are considered off-campus. As of Monday, the university has not reported any additional cases in residence halls or among staff members. Check the university's COVID-19 dashboard every Monday for updates.

In Mahoning County, there have been 2,945 confirmed cases since the pandemic began. This is an increase of 43 cases since Sept. 23. There were 64 additional hospitalizations and one additional death since this date.

In Trumbull County, there have been 1,920 cases since the pandemic began, an increase of 20 cases since Sept. 23. There were three additional hospitalizations and no additional deaths

since this date. In Columbiana County, there were a total of 1,932 cases, an increase of 13 cases since Sept. 23. There were two additional hospitalizations and no additional deaths since this date.

For more information, visit the Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 dashboard.

A YEAR OF MOURNING

The year 2020 seems to be a trial of our mortality. We've seen the deaths of Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Kobe Bryant, Chadwick Boseman and Breonna Taylor. We've seen deadly natural disasters like wildfires and hurricanes. We've seen a virus sweep across the globe in just a few months, with no certain end in sight. We've seen the economy crash to numbers so low even our great- and grandparents would be appalled. We've seen the people who are supposed to be our protectors fail to do the very thing we ask of them. We've seen our political state regress to a condition of which generations before us fought hard to overcome. And now, we've seen a tragedy hit very close to home and to our hearts.

In Palmyra, Ohio, not more than 30 minutes from campus, Muchtar Kamara and Nekian Sesay were killed in a car crash Friday, Sept. 25. They were international students from Sierra Leone, here to pursue careers. Here to pursue goals. Here to make a change, here to make a difference.

All of these major events have been in the foreground of everyone's minds. It's hard to remember something as seemingly insignificant as wearing a seatbelt can matter a whole lot, too.

THE JAMBAR

— EDITORIAL —

Our international students have been dealt a number of blows as of late. They've been unable to travel home or come back to Youngstown. Many of them were without jobs for a majority of the lockdown. They've been unable to receive money from their relatives back home. And now, they've lost two members of their campus family.

There isn't much we can do, as mortal beings, after something like this has happened. We can't answer why this has happened, or how, or at what cost. At most, we can only offer our humble condolences, our shared feelings of sorrow and grief. We can only hope the families of these students know how sorry we are this has happened, how we wish we were able to alter the events of Friday so this had never happened. We can only express how grateful we are the two other passengers in the car, Imran Sawaneh and Aicha Sawaneh, survived. We can only show our love and

support to these two survivors.

It's okay to not have answers, or to feel overwhelmed right now. It's acceptable to feel angry, or sad, or numb, at the state of things. It's reasonable to wonder if things will ever get better, to question whether there really is a light at the end of this dark, murky tunnel of misfortune.

There have been so many things to comprehend and make sense of since January, it's hard to keep them straight. It might be hard for some of us to find the good in all of this. But we don't have to go through it alone, because we're a campus that's over 12,000 strong. And while we may not be able to link arms in solidarity right now, and while we may have to stay six feet apart, we will always be together at heart.

CONFIDENCE IN CLOTHING

MAC POMEROY

When I was younger, fashion and style were some of the last things I thought about in regards to picking clothes. My main priority, given I have always struggled with my weight, was finding well-fitting clothes. Often, these clothes ended up being quite girly, covered in frills, dainty patterns and being cut in bizarre ways.

Regardless of how these clothes made me feel, I wore them anyway. It seemed like my only option for my size. Besides, the clothes fit my mother's sense of style, so I figured they must be nice.

Thankfully, as years went on, plus-size clothing became much easier to find. Rather than having to take what I could get, I was able to look for pieces more my style and learn what my style actually is.

As it turns out, I am rather eccentric with the way I dress. I'm either extremely bright and resemble a clown, or I am in all black and trying to relive my nonexistent edgy teen days.

Either way, I don't blend in. I'm not sure if it is the fanny packs, or the earrings that look like I grabbed the nearest object and put it on a hook, or the blue hair, but I tend to stand out like a sore thumb. It's quite the opposite of what I wore before.

This is the part of my style I actually really enjoy. To be fair, I never blended in to begin with, so it's nice to stand out because of something I like. However, I know my wardrobe is definitely not everyone's cup of tea.

For example, my mom says my "Worm on a String" earrings are absolutely hideous. I adore those earrings.

When it comes to finding your style and what makes you feel confident, you need to follow your gut and be yourself. For some people, this may mean dressing like you are about to go to Mars. For others, it could simply be plain sneakers and a T-shirt.

Clothes can be a huge thing when it comes to being confident. Regardless of whether or not you are someone who actually cares about fashion, it still can greatly impact one's self-esteem when they wear something they genuinely don't feel good in.

The reason I discuss this is because I recently cleaned out my closet, again. I got rid of a huge bag of old clothes, all of which were from the time when I had no other options. Each of the items was very nice, and I know they will be getting new owners who will appreciate them more than I ever did.

I had no hesitation getting rid of it all. Even the things I used to think were my favorites, I just knew they no longer made me feel my best. I have changed since then and developed my own style.





“THE GLASS MENAGERIE”: PERSPECTIVES OF A VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE

Nat Montgomery (left) Molly Galano (middle) and Elise Vargo (right) practice a scene from “The Glass Menagerie.” Photo courtesy of **Lori Factor/YSU**

DOUGLAS M. CAMPBELL

Television and laptop screens glow as “The Glass Menagerie” enters its second weekend, not in the theater, but in the homes of paying customers and Youngstown State University students.

Matthew Mazuroski, director of “The Glass Menagerie,” sought to perform Tennessee Williams’ semi-autobiographical American classic last year.

“We actually started having conversations on the show last academic year and the design discussions at the end of the spring semester,” Mazuroski said.

The casting process was completed at the end of the spring semester. Rehearsals, script reads and discussion of character-work began Aug. 17.

“A lot of that early work was done via Webex because we didn’t have guidance from the state or from the university yet to rehearse in person,” he said.

Practices were conducted safely through performing arts COVID-19 guidelines set by Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine. These guidelines presented a challenge to Mazuroski and the actors.

Nate Montgomery, a senior Bachelor of Fine Arts major, portrays the leading character Tom Wingfield, who is a stand-

in for Tennessee Williams. He was excited but felt different performing under the guidelines.

“It has been a bit of a different experience; I’ve never had a performance or rehearsal process like this,” Montgomery said. “It is a bit difficult as an actor to be truthful in those moments.”

Mitchel Sharp, a sophomore Bachelor of Fine Arts major, portrays the character Jim O’Connor, a gentleman caller.

“There’s the face-shield with the lights where you can see your reflection back at yourself as you’re acting, which is a wild experience,” Sharp said.

Elise Vargo, a sophomore Bachelor of Fine Arts major, portrays Tom’s sister, Laura Wingfield. She felt acting through Webex wasn’t as effective but is thankful for the experience.

“It’s not ideal, but I would rather be doing it in-person in some way than to not be in-person at all. I was grateful that we got to be here at all,” Vargo said.

Mazuroski has mixed feelings streaming “The Glass Menagerie.” Having never directed a video show before, he said he always looked forward to the challenges of filming. However, he said he feels the synergy between the audience and the performer is slightly lost in this medium.

The show was recorded with Canon XA50 and Canon XA55

4K cameras. Both camera positions were planned for each scene to showcase the performance of the actors.

The benefit of performing close to the cameras, according to Mazuroski, is how the camera can tell when an actor isn’t being “truthful.”

“If the impulses are real and they are coming from a motivated place, then they will read real,” Mazuroski said.

Montgomery agrees with Mazuroski’s approach to truthfulness in performing.

“Because that camera is there and can pick everything up, we need to be very truthful and we can’t wander off,” Montgomery said.

The show was shot the weekend of Sept. 19, with the recording of the show carefully scheduled so the actors could film without their masks on.

“We got to see the raw footage, and it looks good. I am confident that this is the best performance I’ve ever given,” Montgomery said.

The show will continue to stream Oct. 2, 3 and 4. More information is available at www.showtix4u.com



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT CHANGES DRASTICALLY

Westside Bowl hosts online music events during the pandemic. Photo by **Zach Mosca/The Jambar**

ZACH MOSCA

With the COVID-19 pandemic causing large events to be canceled worldwide, the world of concerts and live entertainment has been turned upside down. Venues are making little to no revenue and bands need to find new ways to perform.

In order to keep themselves afloat in the age of social distancing and quarantining, venues must adapt to this new way of life. This is no easy feat, but one local venue was able to pull it off.

When the lockdown started, Westside Bowl owner Nathan Offerdahl was very nervous about the fate of his business. The venue continued to function as a carryout restaurant, but business was slow.

However, things began looking up when local band Rebreather decided to buy 10 pizzas for the next 10 callers.

“We posted a video on Facebook with two of the guys from the band, and about 10 minutes later, we had another local band called Daggrs who called in and wanted to do the next 10,” Offerdahl said.

From there, bands and supporters of the venue stepped up to

the plate and continued paying for pizzas for customers.

“Quite frankly, that first four or five months, that’s what sustained us,” Offerdahl said.

Venues aren’t the only party struggling, though. For many musicians, playing shows and touring are their livelihood, and because they can’t play shows, their incomes have come to a halt.

Avid concertgoers, such as Jennel Benson, have been buying a lot of band merchandise and supporting bands in any way they can.

“Bands had their merch for their tours and what I did was I bought some of their merch so I could make sure I was still supporting them,” Benson said.

Benson also said she’s been watching more live streams of bands performing on websites such as Facebook and YouTube. Venues like Westside Bowl are using these live streams to allow bands to still perform under social distancing guidelines.

“It’s a way for us to stay relevant as far as live music is concerned. It’s also a way to interact with the folks who like to come here and see bands play,” Offerdahl said.

According to Carolyn Jesko, assistant director of programming for Youngstown State University’s Student Activities, YSU’s

Penguin Productions has also done live streaming events to make up for the inability to plan in-person concerts. Youngstown’s annual local music festival Federal Frenzy was live-streamed on Penguin Productions’ social media pages.

“The students still wanted to plan a virtual event that celebrated the spirit of Federal Frenzy. Our students were able to showcase local artists and highlight a lot of the partners that traditionally help us pull off such a large-scale event,” Jesko said.

While live streaming is working for now, many concertgoers long to go out and see their favorite bands in person again. Benson said this feeling cannot be replicated anywhere else.

“At concerts you’re in an environment of people who like the same thing you do, but you also have so many stories, whether it’s your favorite band making eye contact with you, or talking to the person next to you about a new band,” Benson said.



DATING DURING COVID-19

Dating at a distance can be difficult for couples used to spending a lot of time together. Photo by **Abigail Cloutier/The Jambar**

KRISTA RITZ **JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR**

Intimate relationships aren't quite the same this year as a result of COVID-19. While many students continue to go out on dates, some choose not to due to health concerns.

Karen Giorgetti, an associate professor of psychology, believes the more time some people spend alone, the more their mental health suffers as a result.

"People have been lonelier and that has actually made their depression levels rise," Giorgetti said. "People feel more depressed because they are alone. They are isolated. They don't have the same social contacts that they used to have so if they don't get to see their friends in class. They don't get to hang out."

Many people feel like they lack a connection with others as a result of the pandemic. She said coming back to school is a positive experience for many who felt isolated during the summer.

"People are really lonely and craving that social interaction," Giorgetti said. "As college students, you're seeking intimate relationships and you don't have the same level of interaction with your friends, let alone with a romantic partner."

Face-to-face dates were not an option for many, and online or virtual dating saw a larger increase for those who want to stay socially distanced.

"I understand why people are choosing to date during the pandemic, but even dating has changed where, now, people have Zoom meetings or Zoom dates. That really changes the dynamics because you don't have that same level of physical intimacy," Giorgetti said.

Although eating dinner or watching movies is not the same when done virtually, Giorgetti said they are still safe options.

Nicolette Powe, an assistant professor in the department of public health professions, serves as a program director for the undergraduate public health program. Powe said she's noticed many groups of people, including couples, walking

on campus who took the necessary precautions to interact.

"There are, obviously, more students on campus now than there were over the summer and some were closer to each other than others," she said. "For the most part, most people have their mask on and they're attempting to keep that six feet away from each other. They're attempting to do that so that's promising."

Senior Rashawna Douglas-Watson said she feels she is more concerned with her health than the people she dates. She brings with her protective equipment and sanitizer when she goes out.

"[I] definitely bring extra masks, a bottle of hand sanitizer and gloves," Douglas-Watson said.

In a pre-pandemic time, Douglas-Watson enjoyed on-campus dating. Now, she is looking at alternative locations for dates, such as movie theaters and the outdoors.

She said phone conversations, bike rides and walks are also safe ways to interact with a significant other.

SITTING DOWN WITH AUJENAY CIANCIOLA

ABIGAIL CLOUTIER

This week, I sat down with Aujenay Cianciola, a senior telecommunications major. She owns and operates an accessory business "Elese Luxuries." For the full interview, tune in to JambarTV Friday at noon on thejambar.com or YouTube.

What inspired you to start your business?

I wanted to start my own business because I honestly just wanted to be my own boss. I wanted to show my brothers that they could do their own thing, and I wanted to take a risk and see how we go. I feel like when ... you add accessories, it completes the outfit. It's like we're making a sandwich. Okay, you have peanut butter and jelly. No one wants the dry peanut butter sandwich. The jelly is very important. So I feel like accessories are the same way. I just wanted to get into something that I really love, which was fashion.

What was it like getting that business off the ground while you're still in school? How do you do it all?

I've only had a business for about two months now. So it's still hard. It's honestly trying and you know, it's difficult. But every day, I'm motivated to get up and try more. So I mean, it's difficult, but it's something that I'm ready to see what it's going to turn out like. [It's] time management, organization and more time management. I have a planner that I write in every single day. I start my week off, which is Sunday ... where I plan everything. So I'll write down every class, every meeting, every study session. If I have to ship out packages, I write it all down in detail, so I won't miss out on anything.

How does having your own business make you feel?

Empowering. You know, I wanted to start Elesé Luxuries, so that, you know, the people that feel invincible in this country, you know, I want it to showcase like, look, you don't have to fit in a box to enjoy the luxuries of life. So I created this for those people. So it feels empowering to know that, you know, people support me and people want to shop with my business. So that's what it means for me.



Cianciola features several of her products on set. **Photo by Abigail Cloutier/The Jambar**

Do you have any advice for students looking to start their own business?

I would tell them to do it. Just start you know, I'm a perfectionist. Basically, I want to say for a year I wrote down everything. I didn't do anything for like a year and a half. So take your time, plan, but just do it because if you don't start then what's the point.



FOOTBALL RETURNS TO YSU

The football team practices in preparation for spring. Photo courtesy of *YSU Sports Information*

JORDAN BOITNOTT KELCEY NORRIS

Youngstown State University football fans — there's light at the end of the tunnel. The Penguins might be back to play in Stambaugh Stadium sooner rather than later. The Missouri Valley Football Conference has announced the 2021 spring football season, beginning in February.

YSU Head Coach, Doug Phillips, said even with extra time to prepare, getting the team ready is going to be extremely difficult.

"They haven't played football, we are in day six and you can see our young men haven't played in over a year. You play more than five plays and you see the fatigue," he said. "Not playing football isn't a good thing. We have to be ready to play a national championship team game one with no lead up games. Everything we do right now is to be better than yesterday, and everything we do today is to be better than

yesterday. Everything we do Thursday will be to be better than we are today, leading us into camp in January."

YSU is scheduled to play eight games, four at home and four away, against the teams they'd initially been scheduled to play against. The team will travel to North Dakota State University Feb. 21.

The Bisons make a beast of a first opponent; they ranked first in the MVFC last year, with a 16-0 record overall, 8-0 in the conference.

March 6, the Guins return home to take on Southern Illinois, beginning a back-to-back Saturday schedule. The university has yet to announce any safety protocols for fans in the stands, like social distancing or decreased maximum capacity.

March 13, one week later, they'll hit the road again to take on South Dakota State. Then the team will compete in two home games in a row: March 20 against Indiana State and March 27 against the Northern Iowa Panthers.

As April showers pour, Youngstown will take a trip to Western Illinois April 3. Then they're scheduled to be back at Stambaugh April 10 to compete against North Dakota. Finally, to wrap up the regular fall season, YSU travels to Missouri State to play April 17.

Coach Phillips said every game is going to matter even more this season due to the reduced size of the playoff bracket.

"They are going to cut teams down [for the playoffs]. It's only going to be a 16 team playoff. They are taking it from 24 to 16. League champions will have an automatic birth so you aren't going to see a lot of teams with that opportunity. Every game matters even more," he said.

Tune in to JambarTV this week for more on the spring season. Jambar sports reporter Kyle Wills gets the fans' reactions and expectations for this upcoming season.