

## THE JAMBAR: WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The Jambar student newspaper celebrates its 90th anniversary today, continuing to bring the news to the student body since 1931. Photo by Abigail Cloutier

### LEONARD GLENN CRIST, FORMER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

*Previously published in 2006, former editor-in-chief Leonard Glenn Crist details the history of our name, The Jambar. This article first appeared in the 75th anniversary edition of the paper.*

There is a simple answer to the question, "What's a jambar?"

A jambar was a tool used in the mills during the production of steel and iron, literally a bar that jams molten lava.

We have one displayed in our office in the basement of Fedor Hall, [now located in Kilcawley Center] donated by Burke Lyden, the man who founded The Jambar in January 1931.

But there is a much deeper answer that gets at the heart of what this paper stands for, an answer perhaps put into perspective the paper's longstanding editorial slant to the left.

Before my time at the paper, Lyden would regularly visit The Jambar, checking up on the staff, offering advice and wisdom and recounting how he founded the paper.

Lyden passed away in 2001 at the age of 91, but his impact is still being felt and likely won't soon be forgotten.

90 years ago, Lyden was a student at then Youngstown College,

active in fencing and the president of a pre-med fraternity. He noticed the college didn't have a student newspaper, so he assembled a staff of volunteers and started one.

A good sense of history and a healthy distrust of authority are qualities all good journalists should exhibit, and Lyden's choice of the name "The Jambar" for his new publication indicates he had both.

You see, a jambar wasn't just a tool of the working people of the Mahoning Valley standing up and expressing outrage at the lack of respect they felt the industrial magnates of the 1800s and early 1900s showed their employees.

The steel mills that put Youngstown on the map were hot, dangerous places and the men who toiled in them were hardworking and proud. But when the descendant of John Young, Youngstown's founder, decided to move back east, abandoning the town he founded, many residents were bitter.

With no more Youngs in the town that bore its name, a number of residents took to calling the city Jambar, an organic people's revolt honoring the mill workers instead of the callous founding family.

The name was never legally changed though, and as the resentment subsided over the year, Jambar as nickname for Youngstown began to lose popularity.

But it wasn't forgotten.

When Burke Lyden got his notion to start his student newspaper in 1931, his sister suggested naming it The Jambar. A quick glance at Lyden's surroundings in Depression-era Youngstown would reveal vast inequalities. While mansions stood tall, the Great Depression was forcing people into the soup kitchen lines on Elm Street. To add insult to injury, the air was filthy with coal dust spewed from the mills.

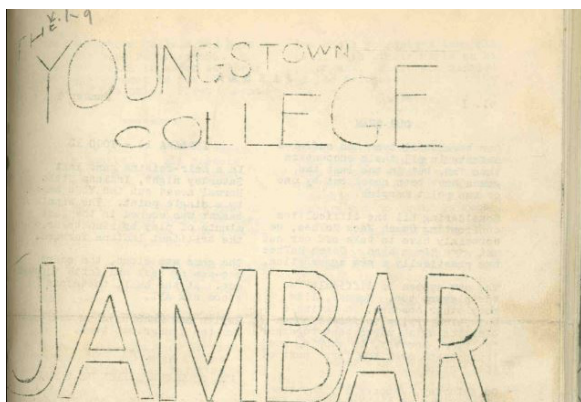
So for Lyden, the name The Jambar seemed appropriate. It was a subtle commentary on his surroundings, a slightly antiquated revolt against authority.

Lyden and his group of student volunteers printed those first editions of The Jambar on a mimeograph machine. The paper cost 2 cents and included an editorial, student news, humor and gossip.

Over the years, of course, technology improved. Today, The Jambar's newsroom rivals that of many professional newspapers. Hopefully the long tradition of The Jambar, which extends before the birth of this student newspaper 90 years ago, will continue far into the future.

Burke Lyden, we thank you.

# FEATURES



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## 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

### GENERAL ASSIGNMENT REPORTERS

Douglas M. Campbell

Joseph Chapman

Gabby Owens

Samantha Smith

Kyle Wills

Zach Mosca

### COLUMNISTS

Mac Pomeroy

Ben Luli

### PHOTOGRAPHER

Kamron Meyers

### HEAD DESIGNER

Douglas M. Campbell

ASSISTANT DESIGNER

Sydney Stalneckner

HEAD OF VIDEO PRODUCTION

Dominique Stevenson

ASSISTANT VIDEO PRODUCTION

Thomas Ellsworth

SOCIAL MEDIA CURATOR

James Potts

WEB MANAGER

Jenna DeLuca

## CONTACT US



thejambar@gmail.com



330.941.3094



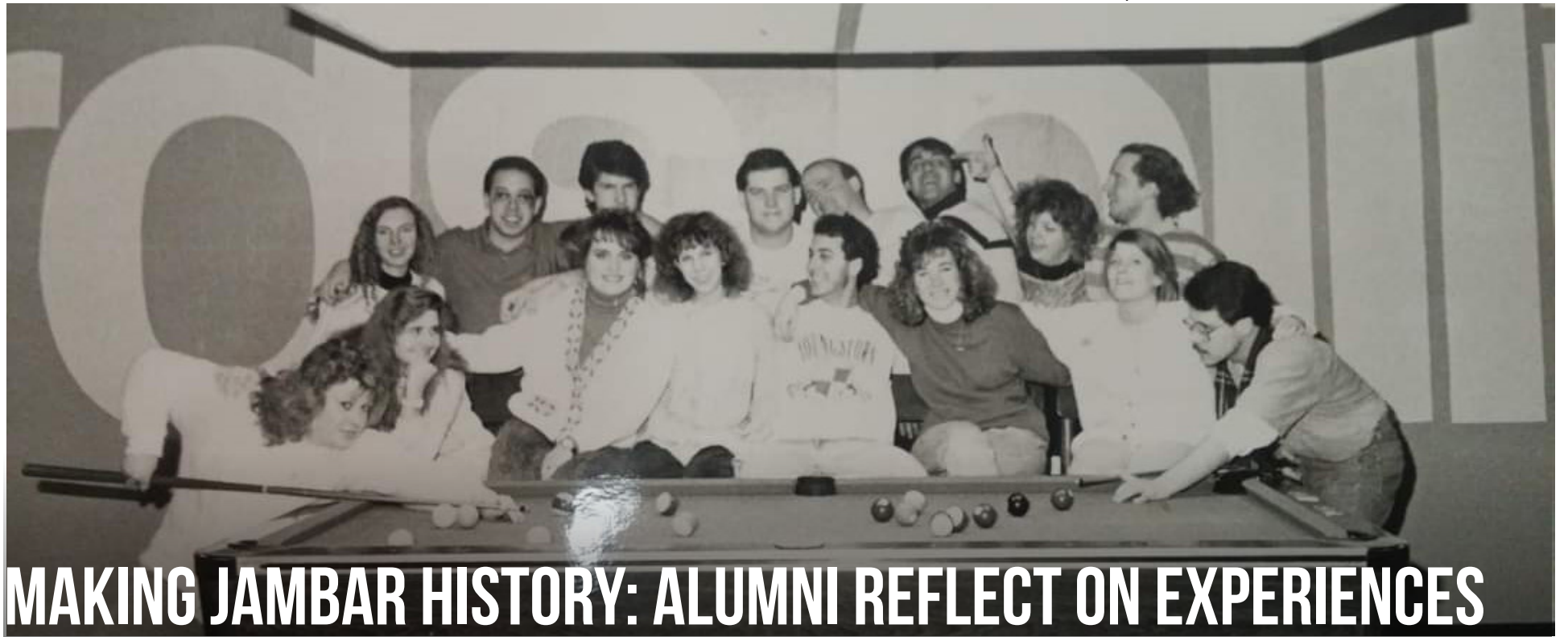
330.941.2322

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## MAKING JAMBAR HISTORY: ALUMNI REFLECT ON EXPERIENCES

Former editor-in-chief Debora Flora Shaulis and other Jambar staff members pose in the Kilcawley Center West office, 1988-1989. Photo courtesy of **Debora Flora Shaulis**

### C. AILEEN BLAINE

Despite being a small publication, Youngstown State University's student-run newspaper *The Jambar* has many years of history under its Rust Belt heritage. Three YSU alumni reflect on their experiences and memories with the publication.

Justin Wier spent two and a half years with *The Jambar*, starting as a news reporter in 2015. During his time spent with the paper, he progressed to the position of managing editor.

While Wier served as news editor, *The Jambar* ran themed issues dealing with topics such as the 2016 political race and the Black experience at YSU. Several issues were nominated for collegiate awards in journalism.

In his coverage of President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence's attendance at the 2016 Canfield Fair, Wier had the opportunity to interact with other reporters from noteworthy news organizations such as NPR and CNN.

"It was just a unique experience and I got some really good clips out of it," Wier said. "I still have my press pass."

Aside from working as a reporter, Wier recalled other fond memories of his experience at *The Jambar*. He said there were many Fridays spent with the staff playing *Super Smash Bros.* in the office's Fedor Hall basement location.

"I feel like there was some really good friendships, and just the whole experience of just working together, trying to break stories and come up with things — it's unique," he said. "I think you feel more connected to the university than [other] people, because you're talking to people in the administration and you develop relationships with professors outside of your major's area."

For Brian J. Macala, his two-and-a-half years experience with *The Jambar* in the late 1980s began accidentally. He began as a backup for a sports editor who quit unexpectedly in November 1986, but by graduation Macala became the managing editor.

In his time as sports reporter and editor, he fondly recalled *The Jambar's* sponsorship of YSU's football game against the University of Akron in 1987. The paper hosted "Red-White Day" to raise campus spirit for the "blizzard bowl" game, including office decorating contests, pep rallies and a contest to find the best use of a red and white food.

"My best friend ... and I ran into a place that was tossing out radishes, which we thought was one of the most unique red and white foods that we had seen," Macala said.

*The Jambar* played a role in the 1988 celebration of YSU's 80th anniversary. The issue explored the origin of the penguin mascot and the story behind *The Jambar's* name. The paper staff hosted events such as the "Rock on the Roof" at the parking deck on Wick Avenue.

It was also, in part, a commentary piece written in 1988 by Macala that led to the naming of Fedor Hall, after he did research on the Campbell, Ohio educators who made a large donation to the university's unnamed school of education. After consideration by the board of trustees, the building was named Fedor Hall.

"It was personal to me, it was something that still stays with me," Macala said. "I have the articles that remind me that it was a unique position."

Debora Flora Shaulis spent the years 1985-1989 with *The Jambar*, moving up from staff reporter to editor-in-

chief. Despite her original track as a medical technology major, with the encouragement of a professor, then-faculty adviser Carolyn Martindayle, Flora Shaulis began attending production nights and writing small bylines.

Her time spent at *The Jambar* led her to the "epiphany" she wanted to work in news media. After graduation, she would go on to write for a variety of local publications, such as *The Vindicator* and *The Catholic Exponent*.

Of her favorite memories, Flora Shaulis recalled paper production nights fondly. She described the experience as difficult due to the technological limitations of the day, such as developing photos from film in a darkroom and pasting copy onto layout boards. However, she said the long nights provided her with the opportunity to make lasting friendships with other staff members.

"As reporters, we documented history and made some history of our own," Flora Shaulis said.

*The Jambar* covered several notable events in Flora Shaulis' time, such as Jim Tressel's rising notoriety as head coach of YSU's football team and the controversial results of the 1989 Student Government election.

*The Jambar* was recognized as an American Collegiate Press All-American Paper for the 1988-89 school year, with Flora Shaulis acting as managing editor.

"I've stayed in touch with many of my colleagues," Flora Shaulis said. "I will always be grateful for the friendships that grew during my *Jambar* years."



## STEPPING INTO BROADCAST: JAMBARTV

Rachel Gobep (left) and Alyssa Weston (right) are among the first students to sit at JambarTV's desk as news anchors. Photo Courtesy of YSU

### ABIGAIL CLOUTIER

The Jambar has evolved since its 1931 inception and two-cent, pocket-sized first edition, to the 16-page weekly print with a website and social media. In the years since, student media expanded to introduce students to the rapidly evolving world of multimedia journalism. Student media houses a range of media, including YO Magazine, Rookery Radio and Penguin Rundown.

After years of thought and conception, The Jambar launched JambarTV in 2019 as its first-ever news show. Then editor-in-chief Morgan Petronelli worked with advisers to launch the show and later hired staff member Alyssa Weston as the first executive producer.

Before JambarTV, editors created Facebook Live videos and uploaded interviews on social media and The Jambar's website.

"Every year that I was at The Jambar, we looked back to the year prior and tried to top ourselves," Weston said. "We knew that where the industry was going, [we] needed to be that all-in-one, full-package reporter where you could do it all from, you know, video to print and everything."

Even after the executive producer, video editors and studio

crew were hired, creating a show didn't happen overnight.

"I didn't really understand it would be this huge undertaking," she said. "Just starting to talk about the little nitty gritty things, like what's our logo going to look like graphics, music, walking down to the TV studio for the first time with Ryan [Donchess] and looking at how it's all laid out ... In that moment, it really felt real."

As part of her executive producer role and to get some experience on-camera, Weston hosted weekly interviews with community members and leaders, from Hollywood writer Vera Herbert, to Youngstown City councilmen to our very own president, Jim Tressel.

"Just having those moments on camera that were genuine, that you don't necessarily get to translate through paper ... not necessarily just like a reporter telling you in front of the camera, or an anchor telling you at the desk, hearing it from them, is just something that I think is really special," she said.

Weston, who graduated in spring 2020, said the hands-on experience gave her practical skills she uses when she creates multimedia content for her communications job at an insurance agency.

"There's absolutely no way I would have the job I have now without the skills I've learned at JambarTV. I initially went into it [thinking], 'This will be a good thing to have on my resume,' and now it's like, 'Wow, I really couldn't do what I'm doing now without these skills.'"

Though this is only JambarTV's second year, Weston is excited to see where the show goes.

"When we initially started doing JambarTV, the idea was that, you know, sink or swim, we were going to create a foundation that hopefully could be built on and every team after that could take it to the next level and only get better and better," she said. "The second year of JambarTV was a whole new set of challenges and adversity."

Weston also shared advice for future executive producers: "Keep connections, network. The people that you interview or you know, send them the story afterwards. Someone you interview on camera, send them the video clip. Those connections will take you far. People will remember you, especially people in the industry. I think it was just an overall great experience. I'm glad I was able to take part in it."

# COVID-19 SHAPES 2020 FALL BFA EXHIBITION

**EMILY MCCARTHY**  
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

The 2020 Fall Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) Exhibition looked a bit different last year. Although there were stricter capacity limits in the galleries and no reception, students made the best of the exhibition last semester.

Claudia Berlinski, director of McDonough Museum of Art, said the museum tried to make arrangements for staggered entry for students to bring their families and friends. Due to new guidelines, however, they were unable to last semester.

“When our county went back to the red COVID level, all unnecessary events were canceled,” she said. “In a normal year, we would have ... a big reception with food and we would have all the students who are in the show invite all of their friends and their family ... we could have up to 150 people sometimes.”

Berlinski said she sympathizes with all students graduating this year.

“It is sad for the students because this is such a huge event for the culmination of their time here at the university,” she said. “If people could come in and see the show while we’re open ... it would make the students feel good that people are coming in.”

Lexi Chismar, a graphic and interactive design student who

graduated in the fall, said the 2020 lockdown partially inspired her work, including some pieces featured in the fall exhibition. The extra time also allowed her to explore new mediums, including digital art.

“The positivity stickers were illustrations I did during the shutdown and they were really branded to bring myself some inspiration and positivity as well as practice hand lettering,” she said. “I thought, ‘Everyone is probably feeling the way I am during these troubling times,’ so I made them into stickers to be handed out to bring people some positivity.”

Chismar brought her coffee-themed stickers to the exhibition, inspired by her daily morning cup of coffee.

She said she planned to start her career locally in package design and illustration. Eventually, she wants to move to a bigger city. For now, she sells her work on her Etsy account.

Taylor Valerio, another graphic and interactive design student who graduated in the fall, said some of her work in the exhibition was inspired by the pandemic and her desire to help others. She created a line of stickers after the popular Baltimore therapy rottweiler Loki, which will all be donated to Maryland

hospitals.

“I wanted this to be some method of how I could help patients,” she said. “When COVID hit in March, I didn’t have the sewing skills to help make masks, so I figured I could use the design skills and assets I have to make these designs.”

Valerio’s project called the “Revolution: Speed Energy Packaging Series,” was also featured in the exhibition. The project is a line of energy drink bottles designed to reflect her family’s experience with the sport of drag racing. She plans on taking after her father and grandfather by starting drag racing in a few years.

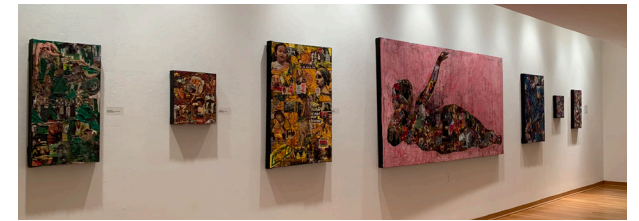


Exhibit from Fall Bachelor of Fine Arts.  
Photo by *Emily McCarthy/The Jambar*

# CHOOSE OHIO FIRST AND YSU BACCMED PROGRAMS OFFERED TO STEM STUDENTS

**GABRIELLE OWENS**

The Youngstown State University Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program and YSU BaccMed Program offer incoming and current students pursuing a major in science, technology, mathematics or medicine the opportunity to receive hands-on experience before entering the workforce.

Emilie Brown, coordinator of STEM and outreach scholarships, said the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program (COFSP) supports and prepares students for a career in the STEM fields.

“Basically, we are recruiting more students into STEM fields and supporting them through their time in college to make sure they graduate and also encourage them to stay in Ohio to work,” she said.

Brown said Lt. Gov. Jon Husted was a part of writing the legislation that created the COFSP, which started to support students at YSU in 2008.

The funding for the COFSP is provided by the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

“Ohio universities compete every four to five years for a portion of the money that the state appropriates, and YSU has been receiving the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program since fall 2008,” she said.

In order for students to apply for the scholarship program, they must be an Ohio resident majoring in STEM, nursing or integrated math and science education. Also, they must obtain a

3.0 GPA and be active in program activities.

“Students can receive funding for four to five years of their undergraduate education as long as they meet the scholarship criteria,” Brown said.

According to Brown, the COFSP has a 90% graduation rate for students participating in the program.

“The main goal of the program is to help students get through academically and to provide them with everything they need. So, when they graduate, they can get into the graduate school of their choice or the job they want,” she said.

Students accepted in the COFSP receive a \$4,000 scholarship each year, which can be renewable up to four years.

The YSU BaccMed Program is an accelerated premedical program for students pursuing a major in biochemistry or biology and seeking a career as a primary care physician. It offers early assurance attachment with both Northeast Ohio Medical University and The Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.

YSU has partnered with NEOMED since the 1970s and recently partnered with LECOM in 2018, which allows students the opportunity to choose between both medical programs, according to Brett Kengor, YSU BaccMed admissions coordinator.

“Our main draw for students is the accelerated possibilities with both our partners. So if a student already knows if they want to attend LECOM or NEOMED, they can have their saved early assurance seat before they come on campus as a

freshman,” she said.

Kengor said since 2008, the YSU BaccMed program improved students’ graduation and acceptance rates into medical school.

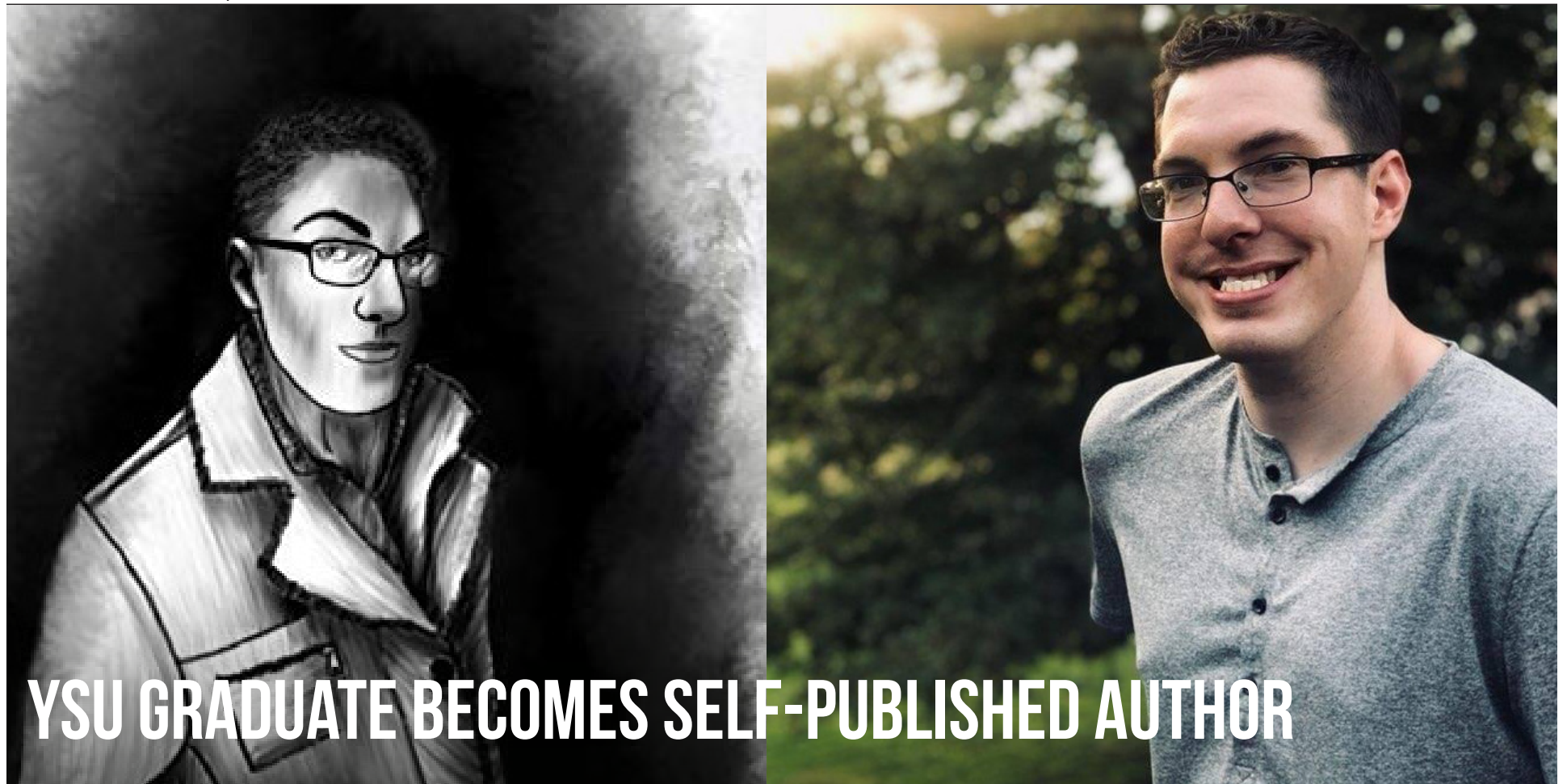
“Dr. Stephen Rodabaugh and Dr. Diana Fagan—who are the liaison officer and the faculty coordinator—changed the curriculum and since then the matriculation has increased from 50% range to the 80-90% range for students that complete their degree and move on into medical school,” she said.

In order to apply to the YSU BaccMed program, students must major in biology or biochemistry, obtain a 3.5 GPA and have an interest in medicine.

Kengor said she advises prospective students to apply for general admission before submitting an application to the specialty program. She also advises students to visit both LECOM and NEOMED so they can choose which college is a good fit for their career path.

“We do require references and we prefer two math or science teachers to talk about their preparation in academics,” she said. “Also, we like to see students either shadowed a physician or have a total of their community service hours so we can make sure they are involved in their community and are academically prepared for a rigorous accelerated curriculum.”

Students interested in applying for the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program can contact Emilie Brown at [egbrown02@ysu.edu](mailto:egbrown02@ysu.edu). Those interested in applying for the YSU BaccMed program can contact Brett Kengor at [bakengor@ysu.edu](mailto:bakengor@ysu.edu).



## YSU GRADUATE BECOMES SELF-PUBLISHED AUTHOR

*William Clark, a 2019 graduate from the communications department, recently published his own collection of original poetry. Photos courtesy of William Clark*

### KELCEY NORRIS

William Clark, a 2019 graduate of Youngstown State University, dedicates his time to advocating for individuals with disabilities. He recently published his own collection of poetry in a book titled “The Ever So Accurate Tales of a Not So Average Man: The Testament of a Modern Disabled Man.”

Clark sold 500 copies in the first six months after its release. His poems detail how cerebral palsy affects his life physically and emotionally. YSU recently purchased a copy of the poetry collection for Maag Library.

“There’s a lot of social stigma around being disabled,” Clark said. “What I hope to do with this collection of poems is provide a first-person perspective on what it’s like being disabled. I wanted to give a really candid view of not only the physical aspect, but also the mental health aspect, because that is an area that’s really not touched upon.”

After some of his friends read his poem about a breakup, they encouraged Clark to combine his passion for writing with his advocacy. Clark, who graduated with a degree in communication studies, dreamed of his first published piece of work since the beginning of elementary school.

“There’s a little book I wrote in kindergarten out of construction paper that says, ‘I want to be an author,’” he said. “It’s always been my goal to become a published author, so when I got the opportunity, it really became a dream come

true.”

Clark found himself unemployed when the pandemic began. He turned to his poetry as a source of meditation and compensation, and published the first half of the book in the online edition of YO Magazine at YSU.

“I was just sitting there with a bunch of poems, unemployed, just graduated and wanted something to do to entertain myself. So I decided I’d hire my own people and use some of my media connections from my time in politics, so let’s just promote this,” Clark said.

He hired a small team based in Youngstown to get his book out there, including an editor and an artist to design the front page. Clark officially became a self-published author in June 2020.

“I have a philosophy in life to jump into things and ask questions later,” Clark said. “When you’re disabled, with the social stigma, you are put into this box and people don’t expect much from you. If you play your cards right, that can work to your advantage ... I was bored one day and said, ‘Well, I don’t know how to publish a book, but let’s try it out.’”

He described the feedback so far as positive, receiving short notes from readers about how inspired his words made them feel.

“A lot of disabled people suffer in silence; it’s a universal

thing but they think it’s just themselves,” Clark said. “I wanted to be as raw as possible and pull back the curtain to say, ‘No, I suffer from this thing as well,’ and just be as honest about my feelings and who I am.”

“Everything we do has an effect on someone else,” Clark continued. “I’ve gotten heartfelt messages from members of not only the disabled community, but also from my friends in the LGBTQ community. People from all sorts of backgrounds have read it and gotten a sense of empowerment to have a conversation with their parents about what it’s like to be a minority.”

Clark saw the real-life ripple effect his poems have on the community.

“It’s very emotional for me as well because you know that your ‘suffering’ for a lack of a better word has a very real purpose and a very positive impact on the world. That’s the most beautiful thing about it, really,” he said. “Just because you were dealt a certain set of cards doesn’t mean that’s your sentence.”

The future looks bright for this young author and advocate, with his sights set on putting more work onto the shelves soon. He hopes his advocacy encourages individuals to set realistic goals for themselves to make their own dreams come true, too.



## AT HOME WITH HANNI EVENT

Michael Hanni, coordinator of student housing, explains how to cook ramen chicken stir fry during the At Home With Hanni event. Photo by **Gabrielle Owens/The Jambar**

### GABRIELLE OWENS

Students living on campus learned how to cook healthy meals with the At Home With Hanni events, hosted by Youngstown State University's Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center last semester.

Ryan McNicholas, associate director of the rec center, said he and Michael Hanni, coordinator for student conduct, worked together to create the virtual cooking event for students.

"It is a cooking event to show students how to make some dishes in their residence hall or apartments that they can do very easily in a fast, easy and safe manner," he said.

Hanni has been cooking since he was 15 years old, and attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania to receive a certification in culinary arts. This allows him to give students professional cooking tips, aiding in their meal preparation.

"I actually have been a chef since 2011. My dad grew up cooking, so it kind of just has been in the family, of being chefs and cooks. I have been doing it all my life, so it's kind of a love for it," he said.

In order to comply with COVID-19 protocols, many in-person events were moved online, which gave Hanni and McNicholas the idea to create a cooking event to help round out students' college experience.

"We wanted to change things up, especially with having to do a lot of things virtually, and we thought, 'Why not do something cooking-wise?' So that's where the idea comes from. This allowed me to use my culinary degree and be able to cook some delicious meals for campus," Hanni said.

Hanni said each cooking event consisted of 20 to 30 minutes of content for students to follow, which will give

them a chance to recreate the monthly featured dish with ingredients accessible in residence halls.

"We will have one recipe per video, and we're hoping to do it once a month for the rest of the school year," he said.

McNicholas encourages students to be creative and have fun while cooking with the recipes. He also advises students to use resources on campus if needed. For students interested in entering the culinary arts field, Hanni advises them to not give up and to pursue their dream jobs.

"If that is something you want to do and want to take into, it's definitely an art form. So it's being able to express an artistic side of food," Hanni said.

Students interested can view the latest cooking episodes on the YSU rec center YouTube page or on its website.

## COVID-19 UPDATE

### ABIGAIL CLOUTIER

Just before the fall semester ended, Youngstown State University reported a high of 67 COVID-19 cases on its dashboard for Dec. 5. Last week, it reported 33 cases, including eight students who live on campus, three employees and 22 off-campus students.

Well before YSU's spring 2021 semester began Jan. 11, university officials were well into rolling out COVID-19 regulations and precautions, including sending out safety kits with masks and hand sanitizer to students.

#### Campus Living

University officials required students living on campus in

student housing to get a COVID-19 test before moving into the dorms. Students living in campus apartments were not part of this requirement. The university also required anyone traveling back to campus from an Ohio Travel Advisory state, including nearby states Pennsylvania and Kentucky, to quarantine for 14 days upon return.

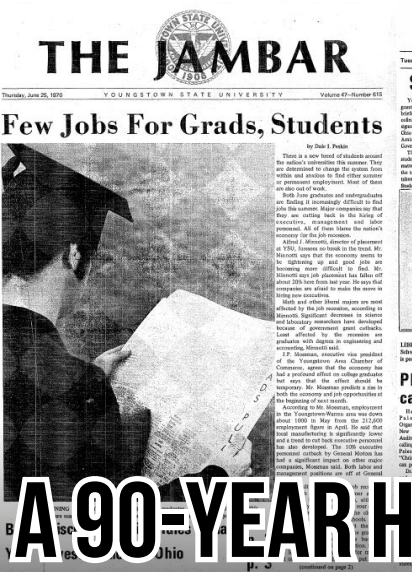
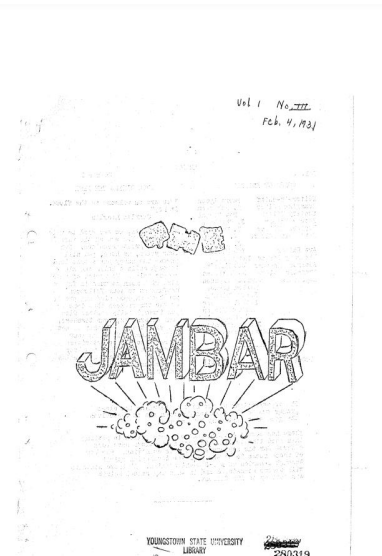
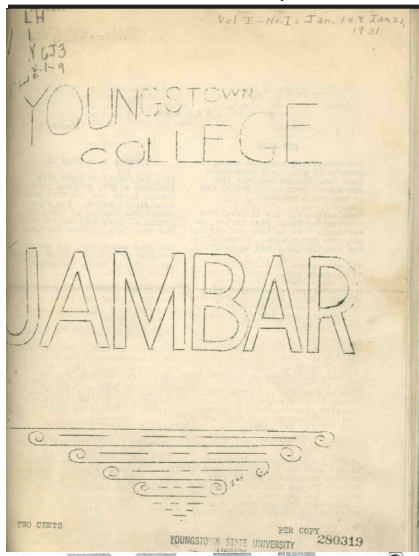
#### Coronavirus Testing

YSU will select a pool of 360 students, faculty and staff for a voluntary COVID-19 test every week as part of preventative "surveillance" testing. Those selected will be contacted on a Friday and can make a free rapid testing appointment at CVS the following week. The notice, sent to campus Jan. 13 from

the office of environmental and occupational health and safety, said, "The randomly selected group will be comprised of those studying, working and living on campus. Participation is not required but is highly encouraged. [Individuals] who are tested will receive the results electronically within 1-2 hours of testing."

#### Class Modalities

Like last semester, classes for spring will be held with a variety of modalities, including online-live, hybrid and traditional classes.



# THE JAMBAR'S EVOLUTION OF DESIGN: A 90-YEAR HISTORY

The Jambar's front page designs from 1931-2010. Photo courtesy of Maag's digital archives website

## DOUGLAS M. CAMPBELL

On Wednesday, Jan. 14, 1931, students of Youngstown College released a pamphlet called "The Jambar" that 90 years later remains a staple of the university. A pamphlet whose appearance continuously changes.

In design, according to Robin Williams, graphic designer and educator, there are four principles to keep in mind under the CRAP model: contrast, repetition, alignment and proximity.

Adam Rogers, a managing editor of innovation at The Villages Daily Sun, was a design editor who became a head designer, writer and editor-in-chief at The Jambar from 2006-2010.

"It seems like every new regime that came in, the new editor-in-chief and different folks ... and when they hired new designers, everyone wants to put their own mark on it," Rogers said.

Rogers graduated from YSU in spring 2010 and moved down to Florida where he became a designer for The Villages Daily Sun.

"I kind of really owe my experiences at The Jambar and

learning the basics of journalism to that program. I don't think I would be where I am without that experience," Rogers said.

**The 1930s to 1940s:**

In the early 1930s, The Jambar's design was simple. The first issues were six-page pamphlets with two columns on each page. The headlines or titles of stories were all capitalized and the same size as the main text.

Folios, or page numbers, were centered at the top of each page. All pages beyond the staff page were spaced out with campus updates and little-to-no photographs. Important design elements such as alignment of news bulletins and visual repetition and contrast of design occurred rarely.

The paper shortly gained attributes of a newspaper, changing from a pamphlet to a broadsheet format. The masthead, or name of the paper, was bolder, more defined and integrated with front page stories. Folios were placed on the left or right side of the pages.

Pages expanded to include four to five columns per page. Cutlines or captions beneath photographs were included in the

paper's design.

Alignment and repetition of stories and photography placement were improved, but the proximity or spacing of stories was much closer and cluttered to each other compared to today's Jambar issues.

Continuing into the 1940s, as The Jambar evolved and designers changed, students experimented with the design. To mixed results, students would alter the CRAP principles with the placement and size of the masthead, photography and number of columns.

**The 1950s to 1970s:**

Into the 1950s, imagery would begin to be included more in The Jambar's design.

Photographs and advertisements alignment and repetition were mixed. The proximity between visuals and stories continuously clashed with rare unions of clarity between the two.

By the 1960s, advertisements expanded to take up to 40 to 60% of some pages.







# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: MARISSA FARRIS

## KYLE WILLS

Marissa Farris, a Youngstown State University graduate, reminisces her time at Youngstown State and The Jambar. A 2016 graduate, she was a part of The Jambar from 2010 to 2013 where she was an arts and entertainment editor.

Farris has many fond memories of The Jambar office when it was previously located in the basement of Fedor Hall.

“We had the basement of Fedor Hall where not only we worked, but a lot of us in between classes would go and hang out there. I got to have so many really cool experiences while I worked there and then it’s just so cool to look back on,” she said. “I was reading some of my old stories just to remember what I had written about and it’s like, ‘Oh wow, I did that,’ and sometimes I’m like, ‘Oh no, I didn’t phrase that correctly,’ or ‘Oh, there’s a grammatical error right there.’ I really look back on those years very fondly.”

One of her favorite memories occurred in 2012, when she had the opportunity to write a story about one of her favorite topics.

“We were putting together an issue of the YO Magazine,” Farris said. “It was really cool because in 2012, I got to write

a story of the Titanic 100 years later and its connections to Youngstown. I got to speak with the great grandson of someone who was on the Titanic. It was a really cool, as far as stories that I’ve written. That was hands down my favorite.”

In addition to the memories she made, Farris was also able to create relationships with many people during her time at YSU. She stated she tries to stay in touch with some of those same people today.

“Even if we’re not able to get together physically, we can just kind of keep up with each other through social media. It’s just so cool to see everybody go from being a struggling college student to thriving in their careers and some of them have families now,” she said. “Mary Beth and Adam [Earnhardt] were such huge influences not only for me, but for a lot of people. It’s so cool that they were such huge supporters of us.”

Currently, Farris works for Target Corp., where she is a human resources executive. Even though it is not a journalism position, she still uses what she learned at The Jambar every day.

“The Jambar definitely taught me how to talk to people, how to approach people and how to not be afraid to ask the tough questions,” she said. “It’s sort of right there in my job every single day. I have to know how to talk to people every single

day, I have to know how to give direction to my team, I have to be able to talk to my team and I have to be able to ask the hard questions, too.”

Farris advised college students to take the advice they’re given with a grain of salt. “Don’t feel bad if you follow your own road essentially in college because nobody else is ever going to have your experience except for you.”



Marissa Farris and a Jambar staffer pose in the office. Photo Courtesy of **Marissa Farris**



## “SHADOE RYDER”: THE JAMBAR’S LONGEST RUNNING CARTOON

Barko Jr.’s run of “Shadoe Ryder” lasted two years. Photo Courtesy of **Bob Barko Jr.**

## ZACH MOSCA

Bob Barko Jr. is known today for his murals honoring Youngstown’s history and painting the Pete the Penguin fire hydrants at Youngstown State University. But before those projects, he was a cartoonist for The Jambar.

From 1990-1992, Barko worked with The Jambar to produce a serialized comic strip that ran for 90 issues titled “Shadoe Ryder,” a detective-style story set on a college campus following the titular character and a vampire.

“[Shadoe Ryder] is a detective and he actually gets hired by a vampire to find the vampire’s coffin, and as you can imagine, all kinds of craziness ensues,” Barko said.

Barko got the inspiration to create the series while looking at a demolished building on campus. While he passed by the demolition of an old church building at YSU, he noticed something peculiar when passing by.

“There was a big hole in the basement of the church, and I remember driving by, and you could see the foundation kind of opened up, and there was this green tile wall and there was just this door that kind of went into the earth, and for some reason that kind of inspired me. Like, ‘What’s in there? What could that be hiding?’” Barko said.

In addition to this, Barko cited his strong interest in detective stories, including the 1941 film “The Maltese Falcon” and classic “Dracula,” as influences for this series.

Barko said he has fond memories of bringing his artwork to The Jambar staff and watching it get published each week.

“I remember bringing a little half sheet of 8 1/2 by 11 [inches] of the inked-in drawing to [The Jambar staff] and they did their magic, shot it on camera and put it into the paper,” Barko said.

He recalled the sense of accomplishment he felt when he saw his cartoons in print and said there were plenty of students who

approached him itching to know where the story would go next.

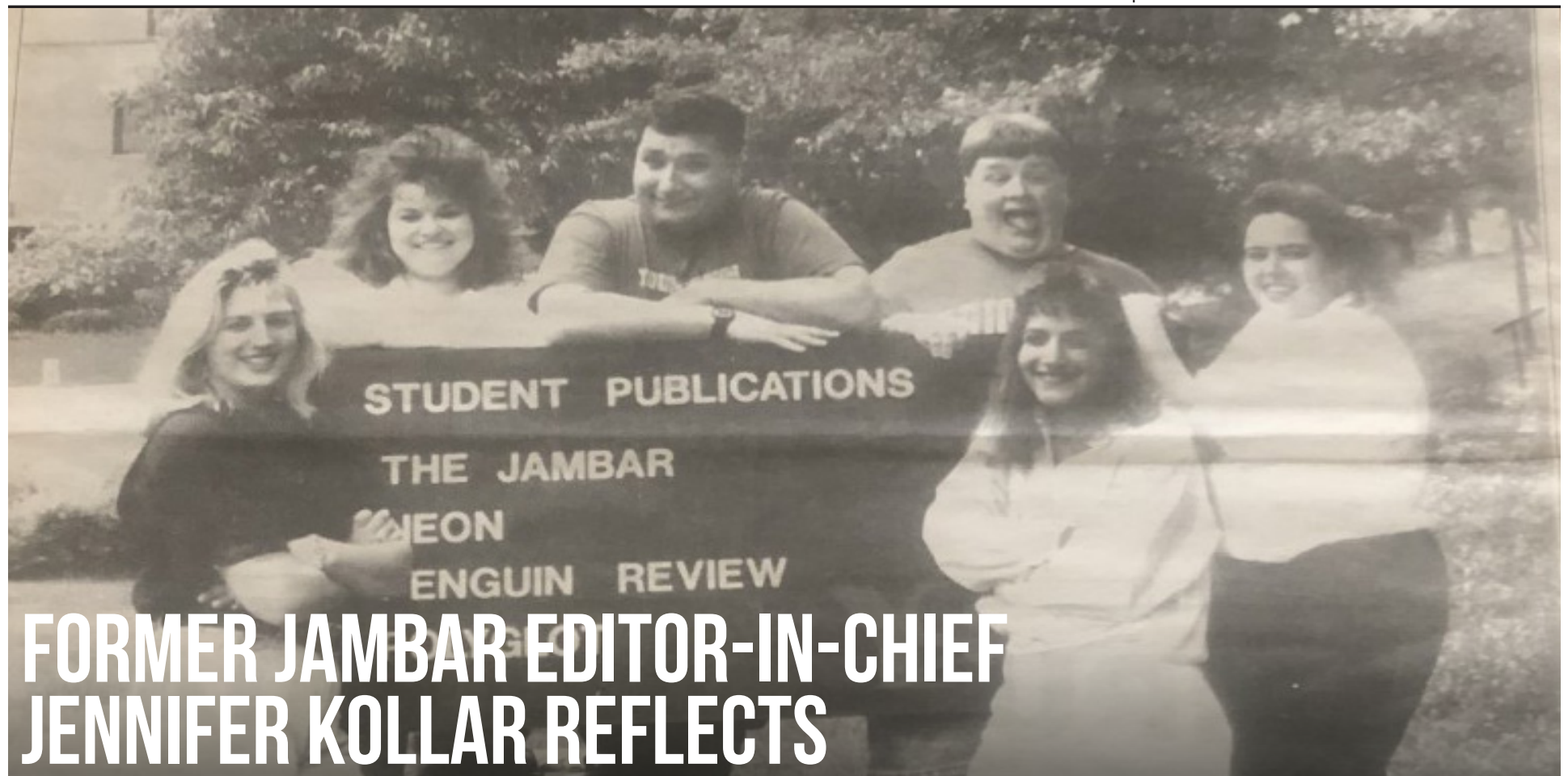
“If folks didn’t enjoy my work, I probably wouldn’t still be doing it, but it’s pretty cool to give other people enjoyment, and in this case it’s through my artwork and this story that I told for almost two years in The Jambar,” he said.

In the beginning, Barko was the only one drawing cartoons for The Jambar.

“But by the time I was done with my issue, there were three or four others, so it’s kind of cool to also inspire other folks to jump on board and say, ‘Hey, I can do that, and I want to do that,’” he said.

Barko is thrilled to see The Jambar alive and well going into 2021.

“It was part of the foundation of who I became as a professional artist. I look back on it fondly, and I wouldn’t trade it for the world,” Barko said.



## FORMER JAMBAR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF JENNIFER KOLLAR REFLECTS

Jennifer Kollar and other student media staff pose for a picture. Photo Courtesy of **Jennifer Kollar**

### JOSEPH CHAPMAN

The Jambar is an ever-expanding family of journalists. On our 90th birthday, Jennifer Kollar, Jambar editor-in-chief during 1993, looks back at her time at Youngstown State University. She arrived on campus in the fall of 1989 to begin her journey as a Penguin. Like many students, she was unsure of what she wanted to do, but after receiving some advice from her father, a professor at YSU at the time, she chose to pursue the newly created major, a Bachelor of Arts in professional writing and editing.

Kollar knew she wanted to get involved in extracurriculars, which led her to becoming a reporter for The Jambar. She discussed meeting the editor at the time, Rick George, and her first assignment.

“He interviewed me and he’s like ‘Here’s your first story.’ And my first story was they had this big penguin statue that somebody had created, an artist on campus. He’s like, ‘Go get the details on this. Put together this story,’” she said. “‘Here’s your deadline.’ I did it. I returned it on time. And he’s like, ‘Oh, okay. Do you want to do another one?’ So for that whole year ... whatever they needed, I would go do feature stories, news stories.”

Each year she continued to forge her legacy, first becoming assistant editor, then news editor and finally, the editor-in-chief.

“During the years I was involved in the newspaper, Youngstown State was winning football and was bringing on

the national championships. So there was an excitement on campus. So I went to a lot of the games as a student ... The ‘90s were good times,” she said. “I knew people that were, like, in the National Guard that were students at Youngstown State. They were being shipped overseas. There were some protests on campus at the time at the big rock. There were a lot of budget cuts when I was an editor, too. So there was a lot of different things, good stuff, bad stuff.”

She also discussed how much has changed in the field since she graduated.

“I mean, just from going to interviews, we use the little reporter notebooks. And I remember sitting down with the budget director and taking notes nonstop [saying], ‘What did you say? Can I repeat that? Can you repeat that?’ So it was just a lot of paper, a lot of typing, a lot of composition. There was no layout design, like how you guys can lay out a page and see it. Everything was typeset on this huge computer called Compugraphic. I think he’d shoot and it would lay out your stories. And then you actually had to use wax and cut and paste and we had big light boards.”

She reminisced on how different working with photos was back in her day.

“We would take pictures on The Jambar camera or we would send [Charlie Deitch] out. And then he would bring that stuff and we had a bona fide working darkroom right in our office

space. And he would do the pictures and then we would pick and choose what pictures made it into the paper. All black and white,” she said.

After graduating, Kollar found a career in public relations after a difficult job search where she worked as a freelance writer for different local publications including Tribune Chronicle and The Vindicator. She said many of her skills from being an editor were transferrable. Her first job was the director of communications and development at the YWCA of Youngstown. That led her to her current job with Mahoning Valley Children Services.

“Everything that I learned at Youngstown State and at The Jambar I have incorporated into my job. I write newsletters, I design newsletters, I copywrite, copyedit, proofread, I concept, I buy media, I design ads, billboards, publications — I still develop publications,” she said. “I talk to the media now so I’m the main media spokesperson for children’s services. So anytime the media calls, I’m the one that will field the phone call and make that statement or provide the facts and the information that they need for the story that they might be doing.”

Kollar said The Jambar and YSU played a large role in helping her to transition easily into a successful future.

“It really did prepare me for where I’m at today and gave me the confidence and the skills. Having a great communications background and the ability to write ... [and] design you’re going to do well in this field,” Kollar said.

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# THE JAMBAR

## EDITORIAL

We're so excited to celebrate The Jambar's 90th birthday with this special edition of the paper dedicated to our history. To be transparent, last year was tough. We were challenged at every winding turn of 2020. In the last year, we've all been part of the stressful world of politics, economic struggles and public health concerns. But this issue of the paper exponentially helped brighten our moods by allowing us to tap into the expansive history and evolution of a student newspaper. Recounting these stories of The Jambar allowed us to appreciate its long history while realizing we now have a place in that story too. We've enjoyed compiling this record of our predecessors' time at The Jambar and their successes after. First published in 1931, things have certainly evolved for The Jambar in 90 years, but we have always been the dedicated voice of the students at Youngstown State University. Thank you for reading our story!

Today, students will receive an email with a link to the first-ever publication of The Jambar from 1931. Take a look at the news coverage, basketball team coverage and even an exam schedule. A columnist and director of the early Jambar

production, H.L. Nearpass, addressed the student body best in the first issue:

"Once again Youngstown College moves forward. Not content with the necessarily limited space allotted to the college in the Spotlight, a few interested students have launched this new paper for your approval. Its Success Will Depend upon you. If you cooperate by handing in news and other contributions it may be possible to issue the 'JAMBAR' in regular printed form in the near future. Success to the new venture."

Ninety years later, The Jambar is still running strong, and Youngstown State University continues to move forward. So, we would like to say "thank you" to the students, staff and readers that have kept us in print.

## NEWS IN BRIEF: WOMEN RETIREES OF YSU TO OFFER SCHOLARSHIP

*COURTESY: PATRICIA TAYLOR*

The scholarship committee of the Women Retirees of Youngstown State University is accepting applications through March 1, 2021. The scholarship is awarded to a full-time, junior female student who maintains a 3.0 grade point average. The recipient must be a U.S. Citizen and be enrolled in a degree-seeking program. Information about the scholarship is available at [ysu.edu](http://ysu.edu). Application forms may be printed from the website or picked up at the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarship located on the second floor of Meshel Hall at YSU.

# IT'S OKAY TO ASK FOR HELP

## MAC POMEROY

In a weird way, something I tend to be known for is not being afraid to ask for help. It is a learned habit. Beyond needing help for my physical struggles, I try to not hold back on admitting something is beyond what I can achieve on my own.

Despite this, I am still stubborn as a bull and can occasionally not realize I need help until it is too late. This has been a recurring theme for me throughout our current way of education.

I am sure it is true for many students when I say classes no longer feel the same. Logging on to a Zoom call, posting to discussion boards, I don't feel like a college student.

Maybe this is extra difficult for me, given I was online schooled during my last two years of high school and already knew I disliked it. The monotony of staring at the screen, the clicking of the keys on one's type board filling the air. It never felt real. Deadlines seem both miles away and tomorrow. Teachers seem like they hardly exist.

This feels absolutely nothing like college.

Of course, we are doing this for a reason. We all need to play

our part to stay safe during these troubling times. However, if you are like me, it might be time to reach out for help.

One of the worst parts about online classes is how isolating they feel. During Zoom calls it seems as though I am nothing more than a face on the screen. It becomes difficult to connect with peers and reach out to one another. But, it is important to make an effort.

It may seem far more awkward now, but try to message a classmate. Before all this, I found studying with a peer for classes always helped immensely, and the same goes now. It is just much more difficult to achieve.

Reach out to someone from your class who seems approachable. Say hi, ask them if they would mind studying together for the class. From what I have experienced trying this, usually they will be glad to make a friend in the class as well.

If you feel upset and lonely during these times, remember your friends are still there for you. Yes, you should not go to the bar right now and catch up with them, but they are just a phone call or a text message away.

However, if you do struggle with the idea of messaging an unknown student, or you are unsure about reaching out to a

friend, Youngstown State University still offers help for their students. Counseling still exists, along with tutoring. You can always reach out to those departments and get help with classes or emotional support.

As much as I wish to be back on campus, sitting in a classroom and listening to the professor drone on and on about classical literature, we are still in this. We are still facing a global pandemic. It requires all of us to take the right steps to stay safe. Things are looking up — my mother recently got the vaccine and is doing quite well — but we have a bit more to go.

Good luck, Penguins. Welcome to spring 2021.



Boardman Steel manufactured nine steel Block Y's around Youngstown State University's campus, each measuring 7-feet tall. Photo by **Kelcey Norris**



## ALUMNI SPORTS REPORTERS REFLECT

YSU Women's basketball compete in the WNIT. Photo courtesy of **YSU Sports Information**

### **JORDAN BOITNOTT**

With January marking The Jambar's 90th anniversary, we sat down with some past sports editors and looked at some of the more exciting events the sports section of The Jambar has covered over the past 90 years.

Former sports writer and columnist Andrew Zuhosky worked at The Jambar from 2013-2017. He said during his time at The Jambar, he wrote many enjoyable stories.

"My favorite stories and events were anytime I got to cover a home football game at Stambaugh Stadium. I enjoyed that tremendously and got to witness a playoff run firsthand," he said. "I even got to interview ESPN's Heather Dinich regarding the College Football Playoff after its first staging in 2015."

Zuhosky's favorite story he covered was about mixed

martial arts, which helped him obtain the job he has today.

"I defended MMA as being a sport and not sports entertainment, like AEW or WWE. My editor, Dan Hiner, pushed me to take a stance for or against, with me taking the 'for' stance," he said. "That story in particular helped me because I was able to parlay that into my current job as MMA writer for Armchair Media Network, where I supply event previews and reviews after MMA fights in addition to opinion pieces about the sport."

Brian Yauger, a former sports editor who graduated in 2019, said his favorite part of working at The Jambar was writing stories that required him to travel.

"I got to watch women's basketball the year they went to the WNIT [Women's National Invitation Tournament].

That's probably the biggest event I covered with YSU women's basketball at Cincinnati. It was awesome," he said. "Being down on the floor at a major Division I school, same with when I went to Louisville for YSU basketball, men's. It's really cool being down on the floor seeing a different side of things."

Yauger said he wanted to make sure he gave credit to the people who helped him along the way at The Jambar.

"I wouldn't be anywhere near what I am now without the people here. I need to say that quite a few times," he said. "Mary Beth [Earnhardt], and Dave [Davis] and pretty much everybody that was ever here, kind of molded me into who I am," he said.

# THIS WEEK IN YSU SPORTS HISTORY

**BEN LULI**

Youngstown State University's nickname and its origin story are very unique. On the surface, "Penguins" is a strange nickname for a university in northeast Ohio. All wild penguins live in the Southern Hemisphere and they spend up to 80% of their lives in the ocean. Similar to how the idea of a penguin in the Northern Hemisphere is unique, so is Youngstown State's nickname. The university is the only NCAA Division I school with a penguin mascot and the nickname of "Penguins."

According to the NCAA, there are two origin stories of how YSU got its nickname. Both involve a men's basketball game against West Liberty State Teachers College on a cold night in 1933. One story claims the West Liberty State head coach commented that Youngstown State players "stomped on the

floor and swung their arms" in a way similar to penguins. According to a Jambar article from 2017 the players were acting in this way because there was no heating on the bus ride to the game and no heating in the locker room at the game.

The second account cited by the NCAA also happened during Youngstown State's game against West Liberty State. The town of West Liberty, West Virginia reportedly received between one to two feet of snow on game day, and during the snowy drive to the game, some fans were discussing potential nicknames for the team. Someone suggested "Penguins" and it was reportedly well-received by the occupants in the car. Once the car arrived at West Liberty, its occupants suggested it to others in the gym, where it also received support.

The first use of "Penguins" was in the Dec. 15, 1933 edition of The Jambar, after the school had played Slippery Rock in men's basketball. However, the nickname did not become official until the university got a football program in 1938. This did not matter to students who embraced the nickname. The mascot of Youngstown State changed throughout the school's history. The first mascot was a live penguin that came from Antarctica in 1939 — his name was Pete. There were three live mascots in total before the university switched to a costumed penguin in 1965.

The story of Youngstown State's nickname is as unique as the nickname itself. The name is one of a kind and so is the story that goes along with it. Some might say it's bizarre, but a penguin scowling at the competition is a pretty cool mascot.

## THE JAMBAR QUESTION: STUDENTS ANSWER YSU HISTORY QUESTIONS

**KYLE WILLS**

Youngstown State University has developed a rich history since it was founded in 1908, when it was only known as Youngstown College. With each semester and year, more history is created at YSU.

Since Youngstown State's founding over 120 years ago, its history includes memories like the football team winning the I-AA Championship Game in 1997 with Jim Tressel as head coach. In 2016, they made it to the FCS National Championship.

The Jambar was introduced in 1931, which has created many opportunities for the 90 years it has been around.

Recently, several current YSU students were asked five multiple-choice questions on the history of Youngstown State. Those students were sophomore civil engineering major Pat Lorelli, junior finance major Dean DeSanto and senior accounting major Dylan Todd.

Q: What record did the 2019 YSU football team finish with? A. 4-8, B. 6-6, C. 8-4, D. 5-7

LORELLI: B., 6-6.

DESANTO: B., 6-6.

TODD: 5-7?

The correct answer is B., 6-6.

Q: What year did Youngstown State get nicknamed "the Penguins"? A. 1933, B. 1939, C. 1944, D. 1951

LORELLI: I'm going to have to go with A., 1933.

DESANTO: I'm going to go with B., 1939.

TODD: I'm going C.

The correct answer is A, 1933.

Q: What year did Pete the Penguin make his first appearance as YSU's mascot? A. 1930, B. 1939, C. 1944, D. 1951

LORELLI: C, 1944.

DESANTO: I'm going to go with 1939 again.

TODD: Is it B., '39?

The correct answer is B., 1939.

Q: What year did Jim Tressel become president of Youngstown State? A. 2008, B. 2012, C. 2014, D. 2017.

LORELLI: I'm going to have to go with C., 2014.

DESANTO: It's one of the last two, I think. I'm going to

go [with] 2014.

TODD: '14, C.

The correct answer is C., 2014.

Q: What conference do the majority of YSU sports play in?" A. Missouri Valley, B. Ohio Valley, C. Pac-12, D. Horizon.

LORELLI: D., the Horizon

DESANTO: I think that's the Horizon.

TODD: The Horizon.

The correct answer was D., Horizon.



Kyle Wills questions students on YSU History. Photo courtesy of **Kyle Wills**



## YSU BASKETBALL UPDATE

The men's basketball team started the year with a 6-win and 4-loss record, led by junior Darius Quisenberry. Photo courtesy of **YSU Sports Information**

### JORDAN BOITNOTT

Over the holiday break, Youngstown State University men's and women's basketball teams began the 2020-2021 seasons. However, the women started their season late. According to YSU Sports website, "a member of the team's Tier 1 bubble tested positive for COVID-19 on Dec. 10."

As a result, the team paused all activities and pushed their season start back to Jan. 1. The men's season began on schedule Dec. 9.

The men started off hot, winning their first three games against Point Park, Binghamton and West Virginia Tech. They won all three games by at least 14 points.

They then began league play against Northern Kentucky and split the two-game series, losing the first game 79-64 and winning the second 70-60.

After the first two-game series in Kentucky, the team traveled to Cleveland State for another two-game series where

they would get swept losing 87-69 and 81-74.

After a tough weekend in Cleveland, the team returned home to face Green Bay where they split the series winning the first game 84-77 and losing the second 79-69

Last weekend led to the most exciting game of the year. On the road at Wright State, with the game tied and the clock running down, senior forward Naz Bohannon found senior guard Garret Covington on a backdoor cut for a game winning layup as time expired. The buzzer beater was the deciding factor in YSU's 74-72 victory. This seemed to give them momentum into Saturday night where they won in a blowout 93-55.

The men will enter this weekend's series against Oakland with a 6-6 record. They won three of their last four games, so this could be a key series in giving them momentum for the rest of the season.

The women have only played four games up to this point.

They had two, two-game series canceled against Northern Kentucky and Green Bay in December. They opened up the season on New Year's Day, losing to Wright State in a nail biter 57-53 and also lost the second leg of the series 54-39.

The team was able to get their first win of the season against Oakland. After losing the first game 71-61 they came out and won the second half of the series 72-57. Senior guard Chelsea Olson was the leading scorer with 24 points. The star of the night was freshman forward Nneka Obiazor who showed out with a double-double scoring 22 points and grabbing 11 rebounds. This outstanding performance led to the Horizon League awarding her with the Freshman of the Week Award.

The women's team will travel to UIC this weekend for a two-game series. This could be a big series for the team -- if they can sweep they could get back to the .500 mark. Due to missing four games in an already shortened season, every game matters even more from here on out.