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'THE SAME WAY THE HOLOCAUST STARTED'



Photo by Abigail Cloutier / The Jambar

Students stand in front of Tod Hall as part of a protest organized in response to the union's call of the vaccine mandate.

Students protest vaccine mandate

By Abigail Cloutier
The Jambar

Just over a dozen students and faculty gathered on campus Monday, Sept. 27 to protest the possibility of a vaccine mandate on campus. The protest was organized in response to the union's call for a vaccine mandate on campus by a faculty member who left the union after the announcement.

"It comes down to having a choice. If we take away the basic rights and freedoms of being able to choose whether we put a vaccine in our body, that is the beginning stages of taking away so many more freedoms. I view it as this is the same way the Holocaust started. I mean, I know that's putting it into very blunt terms, but this is the exact same way — it didn't all happen at once — it was slowly by slowly. He took things away and

this is exactly what they're trying to do to us," senior mechanical engineering technology major Cassandra Dean said.

She said she didn't agree with other universities' choice to mandate the vaccine. Students marched with signs reading "Vaccine mandates are unconstitutional," "No vax mandate," and "My

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Students march for climate change action

By Jessica Stamp
The Jambar

On Friday, Sept. 24, Youngstown State University Legacy Forests took part in a global march for climate change action on campus. The event is meant to bring awareness to YSU's investment portfolio in fossil fuels and to get students interested in making a change for better sustainability.

"We're here in a gathering of students to demand that YSU works to help resolve the climate change issue as well as invest in

sustainable portfolios because it's a bit of uneasiness where they invest," Katherine Donnachie, senior environmental science and geography major and member of Legacy Forests, said.

Donnachie said Legacy Forests are attempting to bring recognition to students in regard to what YSU is investing in. The organization is trying to get the university to behave in a more sustainable direction.

"Whether it be more green infrastructure on campus, introducing more

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renewable services especially energy, waste and transportation — there is a lot more YSU can be doing,” Donnachie said.

Legacy Forests wants to educate students on sustainable techniques that they can research and then apply to YSU. Student sustainable involvement can also help YSU’s status as a Tree Campus USA by the Harper Foundation.

Tree Campus USA is a program that honors universities for their effective campus forest management.

“We, the students, advise YSU that if we were to spend

our money here as customers, then the school institution, they should follow what we actually learn here, which is climate change is real,” Donnachie said. “We need climate action, social, political and economic change in that direction to have a greener future and to have a healthy planet for all, especially for our grandchildren.”

Colleen McLean, associate professor in physics, astronomy, geology and environmental science, helped establish Legacy Forests along with other professors in 2019. In fall 2020, the group was able to plant over 600 trees in one day in Youngstown. This year,

the group wants to expand its outreach and educate the student body more about climate activism.

“I’m really happy the students are participating. It’s their future, so for them to take an active role and being part of a global initiative is really special, and I’m really proud of it,” McLean said.

Abby Shoenfelt, junior environmental science major, joined the protest and wanted to have her voice heard about climate change.

“We’re destroying our Earth and if we don’t do something drastic in the next seven years, we will reach a point of no return and that’s really im-

portant,” Shoenfelt said.

Shoenfelt believes everyone should be getting involved in climate change action.

The march started in Moser Hall’s lobby, where recycled material was used to make signs advertising for a better future. Next, the group painted the Rock outside of Kilcawley Center to express what fossil fuel investments mean to them. The group then marched around campus to Tod Hall to spread the message of climate change action.

Those who are interested in learning more about the Legacy Forests can find the group on Instagram at YSULegacyForests.



Photo by Jessica Stamp / The Jambar

Legacy Forests members and volunteers protesting for climate change action.

Mask Protest

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head hurts b/c you didnt [sic] take aspirin [sic].”

Dean said she trusted other vaccines like the measles vaccine because they have been around a long time, but expressed concern about the FDA’s speed of approval of the COVID-19 vaccines.

“I’d want it to be around and through its testing stages for at least 15-20 years,” Dean said. “They’re still trying to get us to take an experimental drug and I’m not OK with that.”

Mike Costarell, a mechanical engineering technology professor who helped organize the protest, said he just wants people to be able to make their own choices.

“My personal opinion is the campus should be politically neutral. And we have students in the classes — we

shouldn’t lead them left or lead them right, here. So, if somebody has a political bias, I don’t think they should bring that into the classroom — for any of the issues on the left or for the right should just be about the content,” Costarell said.

When asked when a public health issue became political, he said, “When the union had to protest, that’s when I got involved on campus ... when it comes to health care, that should be an individual choice.”

The protest was advertised on campus as part of the YSU College Conservatives.

Sophomore STEM majors Andrea Klembay and Korey Kihm walked past the protest and declined to sign the petition against the mandate.

“We take classes, we’re both going into a further field of science, we’ve had talks about how [vaccines] have worked, how they’ve almost abolished polio, smallpox.

There are people still saying it doesn’t work, and they’re covering it up as a choice, but really, why should you have a choice whether or not you should spread something that can kill people?” Kihm said.

They as STEM majors think public understanding of science and trust of science needs to improve.

“SGA does have a current campaign going on, ‘Know the facts, get the vax,’ so the big thing is to just get people to actually know the facts of what is happening so they actually see the real evidence rather than like, ‘Oh, I heard this,’” Kihm said.

“It’s just a lot of rumor-mongering, people just keep spreading misinformation, they keep buying into it — it’s really unfortunate,” Klembay said.



YSU police respond to a call from the university courtyards on Sept. 11.

Photo by Mia Albaugh / The Jambar

YSU student arrested

Mia Albaugh
The Jambar

A Youngstown State University student was arrested Sept. 13 on charges of groping a female student.

Bryce Clay Hickman, 19, of Cincinnati, was arrested by YSU police on charges of disorderly conduct, gross sexual imposition, criminal damaging and burglary.

"It's probably been a while where we've had somebody breaking into a room trying to commit a serious crime," YSU police Chief Shawn Varso said.

Reports said police were called at 11:12 p.m. Sept. 11 to the University Courtyard Apartments for a disruptive male refusing to leave.

A female student at the University Courtyard Apartments, located on campus at 91 Wick Oval Street, accused Hickman of keeping her in a room against her will and groping her, according to police reports.

Hickman's preliminary hearing was set for 10 a.m. Nov. 1 at his virtual arraignment Sept. 15.

At the preliminary hearing, the prosecution will call witnesses and introduce evidence, and the defense can cross-examine witnesses. If the judge believes there is probable cause to think the crime

was committed by the defendant, a trial will be scheduled.

Reports initially stated that Hickman was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct and criminal damaging. After police reviewed statements by witnesses and residents, prosecutors decided more charges were warranted. Felony charges of burglary and gross sexual imposition were added.

Varso said Hickman arrived for his court appearance, was arrested on the two felony charges and taken to Mahoning County Jail.

Reports said his bail was set at \$5,000, which he posted, and he was released. He is currently back in Cincinnati with family.

Varso said Hickman has been suspended from YSU.

Hickman has no prior criminal record.

Varso said he recommends students keep the YSU police department phone number saved in their phones.

"Call us immediately as soon as this happens. Our officers are trained and can come down there, find out what the situation is, especially if it is something severe of this nature," he said.

Sometimes students do not want to involve police in crimes regarding sexual misconduct and Title IX violations. To

speaking with someone about reporting a Title IX violation, visit the Title IX Office in Tod Hall, suite 31, or call the office at 330-941-4629 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Immediate methods of contacting someone regarding Title IX can be found on the YSU website under the Title IX page.

Under the YSU Title IX sexual harassment policy, sexual harassment, including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking is strictly prohibited by this policy. Retaliation against those who report sexual harassment or participate in the process outlined in this policy is prohibited.

YSU also provides mental health resources through its Student Counseling Services office. According to the YSU website, the YSU Student Counseling Services has an after-hours phone line. Students can speak with a mental health professional who can assist with immediate support, crisis intervention and stabilization.

The number for the YSU Student Counseling Services is 330-941-3737. After the message press "1" to be connected to a mental health professional. It is available to all YSU students or anyone concerned about a YSU student.

Cases of COVID-19 drop

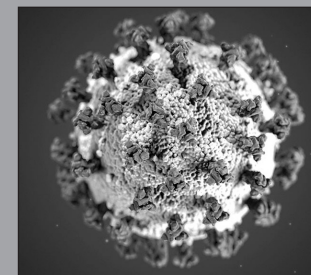


Photo courtesy of Pexels.com

Abigail Cloutier
The Jambar

For the week of Sept. 19, Youngstown State University reported 33 new cases of COVID-19, a drop from the week before.

Those numbers included two employees, 30 students living off campus and one student living on campus.

YSU tested 23 students through its voluntary surveillance test. None of those tests came back positive.

The university has reported 138 cases of COVID-19 since the school year began the week of Aug. 22.

YSU's COVID-19 dashboard is updated every Monday based on confirmed data from the week before. Students who have tested positive should report their case through the online form.

On Wednesday, YSU sent out an email stating that free surgical face masks and KF94 face masks are available at no charge to students. They can be picked up at the library, Kilcawley Center room 2075 and any of the university residence halls and apartments.

N95 respirators are also available to employees who qualify. Individuals must complete a health questionnaire at ysu.edu/request-n95-0

Any questions about masks and respirators can be answered by Tim Styranec at tmstyranec@ysu.edu

TOMORROW IS HERE



Photo by C. Aileen Blaine / The Jambar

YSU Foundation's We See Tomorrow campaign concluded as one of the largest philanthropic events in the Mahoning Valley.

We See Tomorrow witness record donations in the Valley

By C. Aileen Blaine
The Jambar

On Sept. 23, Youngstown State University's We See Tomorrow campaign concluded, raising a record \$126 million with over 32,000 gifts from donors across the Mahoning Valley. A ceremony took place at Melnick Hall to celebrate.

With the help of 40 donations of at least \$1 million each and more than 60 gifts of \$100,000 or more, the campaign surpassed the initial goal of \$100 million. This has been the largest-ever fundraising campaign in the university's history and is thought to be one of the largest philanthropic efforts in the Valley.

In a press release, campaign chair Jocelyne Kollay Linsalata said the generosity of the Mahoning Valley, YSU alumni and friends was overwhelming.

"We saw tomorrow, and now, tomorrow is here," she said.

Led by the YSU Foundation, the campaign started in 2014. Over the seven-year period, some of the goals and objectives shifted to meet more immediate needs of the campus. The initial goal was adjusted to \$125 million when the original was met in early 2020.

Paul McFadden, president of the YSU Foundation, said it was university President Jim Tressel's idea to adjust the benchmark amount.

"We planned a seven-year campaign, and we hit the \$100 million mark a year and a half early," McFadden said. "I was thinking we were done, but President Tressel said, 'No, we're going to continue on and increase our goal by \$25 million.'"

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the campaign still raised over \$32 million between the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

"It was quite a challenge, because most of our close friends had already made gifts," McFadden said. "That last \$25 million was quite a bit of work, but fortunately, our donors stepped up, and we were able to reach that goal."

The funds will go toward several areas of campus improvement. Funds will also be used for campus beautification. This includes adding more student scholarships and work opportunities, increasing the number of endowed faculty chairs and professorships and improving campus technology to create "classrooms of the future." Almost \$11 million will go to the Paula and Anthony Rich Center for Autism and the Kohli Hall Excellence

Training Center.

"Our donors want to impact our students, but they also want to impact the university," McFadden said.

According to the YSU Foundation's website, in 1966, former president of Youngstown College Howard Jones sought out a way to convert the then-private college to a public university while also maintaining private endowments. Since its official start in 1983, the YSU Foundation remains autonomous and independent from the university while still supporting the campus and its community.

A ceremony closed the campaign, celebrating its success. A coffee-table book was passed out to attendees and donors.

"We wanted to do something to recognize the end of the campaign," McFadden said. "We created this book to highlight and celebrate the university and to celebrate the success of the campaign."

As for future fundraising campaigns, We See Tomorrow serves as a catalyst for the next, and there's a focus on building and broadening the donor base.

"Success is shared. In this case, it certainly is shared," McFadden said. "It had many, many faces in leadership, and that's why it succeeded."

A RUNNING COMEBACK



Photo by Amanda Joerndt / Jambar archives

This photo from 2018 shows participants preparing for the Panerathon.

Panerathon makes a return to Youngstown after a year

By Sydney Stalnecker
The Jambar

The Panerathon is back in Youngstown after a one-year hiatus due to COVID-19, just in time for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The event, which supports the Joanie Abdu Comprehensive Breast Care Center, will take place Oct. 3.

Phoebe Breckenridge, the director of marketing for JAC Live and JAC Management Group, has been involved with Panerathon since 2017, when she interned with Mercy Health while attending Youngstown State University. While she was an intern, she organized sponsors and volunteers for the event.

“This will be the 12th annual Panerathon,” Breckenridge said. “We’re just so happy to build on the momentum from the last eleven years.”

As in previous years, all profits from the Panerathon will go to the Mercy Health Foundation of Mahoning Valley and JACBCC in Youngstown.

“When Panerathon started, it was actually part of the fund that helped build the Joanie Abdu. It was through a partnership with iHeart Media and their relationship with Dr. Abdu that sort of birthed this cause,” Breckenridge said. “There are Panerathons other places, this

is just the cause we choose in this area because of the relationship with Dr. Abdu and Mercy Health.”

According to the Panerathon’s website, Joanie Abdu died 15 months after being diagnosed with Breast Cancer on June 2, 1994. Before her death, her husband promised to make “a world class breast care center in her honor.” Less than 20 years later, the JACBCC opened in 2011 and has won many awards locally and nationally.

“This center provides this service to all kinds of people including women who may not be able to afford it, which really breaks down the barrier of access to mammograms and other treatment that are so important for women to have access to,” Breckenridge said.

In previous years, the race has been held in August, but due to COVID-19 it has been pushed to October.

“Oct. 3 is kind of a happy coincidence because of things getting shifted around with COVID,” Breckenridge said. “We’re so excited to be tied in with Breast Cancer Awareness Month.”

A 10K and 2-mile race will be held the day of the event. Both races start at the Covelli Center. The 2-mile race goes through YSU while the 10K runs through downtown and Mill Creek Park.

“There is a 10K fun run/walk, we emphasize that

while the 10K is timed, there are competitive runners of course, but everyone’s welcome and they’re welcome to walk the course as well,” Breckenridge said.

Participation in the Panerathon is expected to decrease this year due to the number of those still hesitant to involve themselves in public events with the ongoing pandemic.

“We hope to have between 5-7,000 [participants]. Typically, we get up to 10,000, but we know some people are a little hesitant still with COVID,” Breckenridge said. “We will be taking every precaution to keep the event safe.”

There will be no virtual option for participants — the event is in-person only. YSU students are encouraged to get involved by running solo, joining a team or volunteering. The 10K and 2-mile races cost \$25 for individuals and \$20 for teams. There is a slight increase in price for sign-up on the day of the race.

“We love to have YSU students out. There is always a YSU megateam,” Breckenridge said. “We also accept volunteers. We have many different volunteer opportunities.”

Panerathon race registration and volunteer sign-up form is available at panerathon.org

Anti-abortion group shows graphic images on campus

By Abigail Cloutier
The Jambar

While students protested vaccine mandates across campus, an anti-abortion group took up residence near DeBartolo Hall on Monday, Sept. 27. Created Equal is an anti-abortion religious organization based in Columbus that routinely travels to college campuses to protest abortion rights.

The group had a sign that read “Abortion victim photos ahead” and showed graphic images and depictions of abortion.

“Graphic imagery has been very effective in past human injustice. We believe that is very effective as well, to change the public’s view on abortion,” said Created Equal spokesperson Eva Frank.

The group also had signs for a “confidential post-abortion helpline.”

“We are not directly connected to those, but they can probably find counseling options near them,” Frank said.

Frank also said the group wanted more restrictive abortion laws than the law recently passed in Texas, which is one of the most restrictive abortion laws in the country. The group does not believe there should be exceptions for medical issues, sexual assault or incest.

“If we could pass legislation that would completely ban elective abortion, we would support that,” Frank said.

Many students passing by refused pamphlets and refused to speak to the organization.

“I think it’s ridiculous. I think that we should all have

a right to our own bodies and the fact that we’re just having a man tell us what to do, it’s kind of ridiculous,” sophomore biology major Aryss Lindsey said.

When asked about the Texas abortion laws, she said, “I didn’t even think it was possible for someone to do that. I think it’s pure evil and pretty cruel.”

Lindsey said she didn’t like that the group was on campus or the graphic images they were showing, but acknowledged the free speech rights that allowed them to be there.

“I feel like if they’re trying to scare us, it’s not going to scare anyone. We still know what we want to do with our bodies, and they’re trying to give away their flyers. That’s ridiculous because no one wants their flyers, and we all know what we’re doing with our bodies and your pictures aren’t going to scare us,” Lindsey said.



Anti-abortion protestors share their message.

Photo by Abigail Cloutier / The Jambar

READY FOR TAKE OFF



Photo by Austin Caroline / Jambar contributor

Mitchell Kolacz, Thomas Saunders and Taylor DeProfio show off rocket models with plans to complete in the Space America Cup.

YSU Rocket Club soars to new heights with no plans to stop

By Austin Caroline
Jambar contributor

Dedication, hard work and a love of rockets: that's what brought Mitchell Kolacz, Thomas Saunders and Taylor DeProfio together to create the Youngstown State University Rocket Club.

The three senior mechanical engineering students initially had the plan to build a rocket for their senior capstone project, but a year ago they decided to take it one step further and officially created the YSU Rocket Club.

The trio doesn't plan on stopping with their capstone project. They're planning on competing in the Spaceport America Cup in New Mexico in June of 2022.

"For the Spaceport America Cup we will need to build a rocket and get it to launch as close to 10,000 feet in the air, and we have to try our best to not go over that height," Saunders said. "The rocket will also need to in-

clude an additional payload of 8.8 pounds. By the time we are done building the rocket, we are expecting it to weigh between 20 to 30 pounds."

Kolacz, Saunders, and DeProfio said they're constantly testing their rocket to make sure it meets their standards.

"We just launched our latest model this past Sunday [Sept. 19], and we had one of our best launches. The rocket reached a height of 3,000 feet, and it ended up landing around 500 feet away from us. It's a good thing that we planned ahead and installed a GPS into the rocket so that we can track it when it lands," Kolacz said. "The rocket also clocked in at a top speed of 500 miles an hour or approximately .64 Mach."

Mach 1 is equivalent to the speed of sound, around 761 mph, meaning their rocket achieved just over half the speed of sound on the flight.

"When we want to do a test launch, we have to go to certain cities to make sure that we have air clearance.

We typically launch in Grove City in Pennsylvania or we'll go down to Dayton," Saunders said. "We'll go to Grove City if the rocket won't top 5,000 feet, but if we expect it to go over that, then we'll have to go to Dayton."

Before they can get the rockets in the air, the team needs to make sure that they have everything planned, laid out and ready.

"To make sure that we have everything calculated correctly, we use a software called OpenRocket," DeProfio said. "It allows us to simulate our rocket's launch, its trajectory, and it also allows us to change factors just in case we believe something might change mid-flight."

The team also was awarded a grant by the Ohio Space Grant Consortium, a subsidiary of NASA, which allows them to continue building and testing their rockets so that they participate in the Spaceport America Cup.

To learn more about the Spaceport America Cup, visit spaceportamericacup.com

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR MUSIC STUDENTS



Photos by Kaitlyn McCarthy / The Jambar

Dana School of Music students practice for a classical performance featuring performances by vocalist Jeanie Darnell and pianist Michael Baron.

Music students get the chance to perform with special guests

By Kaitlyn McCarthy
The Jambar

Youngstown State University welcomed special guests Jeanie Darnell and Michael Baron to the stage for a classical music performance Friday, Sept. 24. Students from Dana School of Music got the chance to practice and perform with the guests.

Darnell is a soprano vocalist who has performed across the world and is currently the head of the vocal studies program at Florida Gulf Coast University. Baron is an award-winning pianist who performs in dozens of concerts each year and works with Darnell as the head of the keyboard studies program at FGCU. Both of their talents were included in the performance.

“The two of us, for the music that is voice and piano, get together and we rehearse, and we work out our own interpretations,” Baron said.

Both Darnell and Baron worked with Dana School of Music students prior to the show. During rehearsal, Baron would play piano with the students to teach them tricks on how to make their music sound better.

“It’s fun to work with the students here and to experience a new landscape for a while,” Darnell said.

The recital was meant to exemplify the talent of the students from Dana School of Music and the skills taught by Baron and Darnell during practices. The performance consisted mostly of classical music.

“We are doing mostly pieces from the very rich, romantic era. And it’s music full of passion, beauty and

excitement,” Baron said.

Darnell wanted people to see this recital as a relaxing place for audience members. She sang the songs as Baron played the piano.

“Our society today is always so busy, they’re traveling from one place to the next or working. It’s nice to go to a concert where you can sit down for an hour and just focus on what’s happening in the concert. Forget about your problems,” Darnell said.

Both guests talked about their excitement to perform at YSU ahead of the concert.

“I’m excited to perform for the Youngstown audience tonight with my friend Michael Baron. We’ve done a lot of concerts together and it’s always a pleasure to work with him,” Darnell said.

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE WITH TALENTED ARTISTS

Baron and Darnell have performed in Youngstown prior to Friday's recital and both have contributed to past shows.

"It's always a pleasure to come to Youngstown with the very appreciative public," Baron said.

Misook Yun, professor of voice at YSU, hoped the audience shared the same excitement that she had for the recital.

"I hope people are not afraid of classical music and enjoy it," she said.

Like many other events, the performance schedule was changed by COVID-19. Both performers were supposed to perform in 2020, but came a year later to ensure safety and to follow protocols.

"We actually set up the dates, but COVID happened and we had to cancel and reschedule," Yun said.

The performance took months of preparation from Darnell and Baron. Each worked individually and brought their ideas together to create the performance.

"We have to learn our notes, work out an interpretation, we have to think very carefully," Baron said.

Though many attended, if you missed out, don't worry — this likely won't be the last time YSU will welcome Darnell and Baron to its stage.

"It's always a pleasure to come to Youngstown with the very appreciative public."

— Michael Baron, pianist



Students showed off the new skills learned from Jeanie Darnell and Michael Baron.

STRUGGLING TO STAY



Photo by Elizabeth Coss / Jambar contributor

YSU student organizations have a hard time maintaining student numbers and recruiting more members.

Student organizations decline in numbers due to pandemic

By Elizabeth Coss
Jambar contributor

Youngstown State University has a variety of organizations for students to join. However, the number of groups at YSU has decreased since the start of the pandemic and many have struggled to stay afloat and maintain members, causing minority organizations to fade away.

Contrary to YSU's website, which states that there are 13 Cultural Student Organizations, there are only six actively registered with Student Activities. Two more clubs are reportedly in the process of registering.

Brenda Scott, coordinator of transitioning and mentoring programs at the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, said there is a desire for people to become involved again.

"I think people want to get more involved socially because they haven't been around people for so long, and also just trying to find a sense of belonging on our campus," Scott said. "Whether it's a marginalized student, underrepresented student of color — they just want to find that representation that they can go to, to feel

comfortable."

Scott also said that in terms of representative groups, the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion feels the lack of presence for the LGBTQ community at YSU.

When classes shifted online, organizations struggled to find new recruits and hold a set amount of members.

Organizations are key to keeping students feeling represented properly in the community. Clubs, organizations and groups are established through YSU's Student Activities.

Caleb Queen, coordinator of student involvement, helps register student organizations to be recognized by the university in order to found a group.

"Baseline requirements are five members, a constitution, a 2.0 GPA for all officers and then a full-time advisor or a part-time advisor who is co-advising with the full-time," said Queen.

Organizations struggling to maintain members are encouraged to host events and recruit as much as possible by creating social media accounts and keeping up a presence on campus.

"As long as you are recognized on campus, you can host an event," Queen said. "If you are not currently rec-

ognized but you're trying to recruit, and things like that, the Office of Student Activities can sponsor up to three events for you so that you can get back on your feet and get the amount of members you need to be recognized."

Some of the most prominent student organizations on campus are groups that promote inclusivity. The International Student Organization is one of the most involved. It hosts cultural events throughout the year and provides a home for students from near and far.

Bishal Lamichhane is the president of the International Student Organization and said the organization is open to anyone on campus who is interested in learning about different cultures.

"We don't have any fixed requirements, I would say just be open to different cultures and be open to making new friends from different backgrounds," Lamichhane said.

In regards to students who are unsure about joining an organization, Lamichhane said, "You have to start somewhere, whether [it's] ISO or any other student organization."

WALKING THROUGH THE DECADES

Academic sorority offers unique recruitment experience

By Emily McCarthy
The Jambar

Phi Sigma Rho, an academic sorority for majors in science, technology, engineering and math, had a unique take on rush this semester. Its theme was “Walking Through the Decades,” and each day included themed events from a different decade.

Jade Sweitzer, president of Phi Sigma Rho and senior biology major, said the group chose the event themes based on some of the activities it collectively wanted to do for the week.

“We do events during our recruitment week every semester. This year we have decided to do more fun things, following the last year and a half of virtual events,” she said. “This time we wanted to go skating, so we found a theme that could do that! Also, Bob Ross painting is almost a tradition for recruitment week.”

Brooke Keller, vice president of recruitment, said it

is unique to other campus sororities for a few different reasons. The organization works to best accommodate those involved.

“Because we are an academic sorority, we only accept majors in STEM. Therefore, we are not a part of Greek Life,” she said. “Our sorority is unique because we are much more affordable than other sororities, our meeting times change every semester to accommodate our sisters and joining Phi Rho means getting to know other women with similar passions and being able to ask them for support wherever it is needed.”

Avery Jones, director of fundraising, said she joined to network with students in similar majors and in her classes. She said the group does a lot of fundraising in addition to supporting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

“I am the fundraising chair of the sorority, so we just raise money in any way we can so we can do events,” she said. “We went ice skating last year. We also went to a

hockey game before.”

Jones said due to the complicated nature of STEM majors’ schedules, members try to organize events in the best interest of other members. One of the goals of the sorority is to unite people with common majors and classes.

“We just did things here and there so it just won’t overwhelm us with being in a sorority and being a STEM major,” she said. “It’s already kind of overwhelming. It’s just ... enough to help you network.”

For interested students, rush events started the week of Sept. 27, and included a favorite decade costume contest, planting and flower pot decorating, roller blading and Bob Ross painting. Those interested had to attend at least two of the four events.

For more information, students can contact Brooke Keller at phirhoaa.recruitment@gmail.com



Photo by Emily McCarthy / The Jambar

STEM sorority Phi Sigma Rho takes a new approach to rush events this semester.



Photo by Kayla Duley / Jambar contributor

University Theatre marks its new season with the play 'Almost, Maine.'

University Theatre reopening for live audiences and 58th season

By Kayla Duley
Jambar contributor

The University Theatre is marking its 58th season by bringing back live audiences. Last season's performances could only be viewed online because of the pandemic.

YSU COVID-19 protocols are still in place, with masks required upon entry of the building and throughout the show. However, attendance at the theater is at a 25% decrease in capacity to maintain social distancing.

Stephanie Smith, chair of the department of visual and dramatic arts, said additional cleaning procedures are in place as well.

"Our incredible colleagues in Janitorial Services will be cleaning surfaces between each performance," she said.

Matthew Mazuroski, associate professor of acting and directing, is directing the play "Almost, Maine." He said everyone he's spoken to is excited about the theater reopening and having a live audience again.

"This is like a little gift — a little early Valentine's Day

gift, if you will — for our audience. Saying welcome back to live theater," he said.

Mazuroski said "Almost, Maine," which is being performed in Bliss Hall's Spotlight Theater at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 1 and 2 and at 2 p.m. Oct. 3, is about exploring the many complexities of love. He believes this play will inspire love, something he said the country needs right now.

"If you've ever been in a relationship before, you may see situations that feel similarly," Mazuroski said. "The play at its core has a message about what happens when we're open to love and what happens when we're closed off from that."

Hannah Rosser is a senior musical theater major, and plays the roles of Sandrine, Marci and Rhonda.

"Every scene revolves around love in some way, shape or form — falling into it, falling out of it or somewhere in between. What's really cool is that while each scene only has two or three characters in it, there are mentions of other characters in the show, because in a small town like [this] almost everybody knows each other. At its

base, 'Almost, Maine' is about love and the many ways people experience it," Rosser said.

Being able to offer performances is beneficial to the campus community, Smith said.

"The season that we offer provides incredible value to both our patrons and to our students who are preparing for professional careers in the theater industry," she said.

The theater season continues with:

- "Little Shop of Horrors": Oct. 29-31, Nov. 5-7
- "The Music Man" (Concert Version): Feb. 25-27
- "Puffs, or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic": April 1-3, 8-10.

All of the shows are located at the Ford Theater in Bliss Hall.

YSU students can attend for free with their school ID. YSU faculty/staff tickets are \$8. General admission tickets are \$16. Tickets can be purchased at ysu.tix.com. Tickets can be picked up at the Box Office in Bliss Hall.

The Jambar Editorial

This week has been particularly trying for some, if not for the fact that mid-terms are rapidly approaching and the pandemic bears no end in sight, then because of the chaos on Youngstown State University's campus.

On Monday and Tuesday, protesters stood outside various heavily trafficked areas of campus with signs promoting hate, damnation and ignorance. An anti-abortion group gaurded signs bearing grisly images of dismembered fetuses, proffering a group protesting vaccine mandates across camps that compared mask requirements to tyranny and coercion and expressing concerns about unknown consequences. A group stood near the beloved campus Rock, declaring that women should be submissive and that homosexuality is an ultimate sin.

Everyone is entitled to their own opinions, as this is what makes everyone unique and contributes to greater discussions. But no one is entitled to harm oth-

ers with their opinions by way of graphic images, denial of scientific facts or discriminatory rhetoric.

Students come to YSU to learn and grow, expand their horizons and open their eyes to the world around them. They come to learn about events, perspectives and experiences beyond their own so that they may learn how to improve the world. They don't come to argue their newfound understanding of the world with individuals who may never change their minds. They don't come to have graphic images imprinted on their minds, their health put at risk or their very existence discriminated against.

In a brief glimpse of companionship in these heated times, between the debates, numerous Penguins took to the Youngstown Campus App warning others that these atrocities were occurring and to avoid campus that day if it would cause them emotional trauma. They warned those who had to face the tough

decision of an abortion to avoid the signs that would shove the guilt right in their face. Others took to posting photos of their animals in an attempt to bring just a little happiness to those who are struggling. Many shared information regarding Women's March, offering group support for those who had to witness late events and providing them with a way of voicing their own opinions on the matter.

While we at The Jambar are all strong supporters of freedom of speech, it begs the question of where the line should be drawn when speech is harmful to others.

There's no easy answer when it comes to dealing with these kinds of situations. The best we can do is hold true to ourselves and what we know to be fair and right, and we can hope that someday our antagonizers will come to a new understanding.

The Jambar Column

Recently, I messed up. In one of my classes, a professor announced something important regarding an assignment, and I didn't hear them. I didn't even realize what happened until the day before it was due.

This isn't the first time my hearing has gotten me in trouble. Even with hearing aids, audio has never come naturally to me. Annunciation, accents, pace — there are so many aspects that catch me off guard. When I realized what happened, I approached my professor and prepared to do a lot of explaining in hopes of getting an extension.

What I wasn't prepared for, however, was for my professor to immediately understand. Within the first few sentences, I was stopped and reassured it was okay. I was told



Mac Pomeroy

my hearing isn't my fault and granted the extension.

Maybe this small, everyday situation doesn't seem sur-

prising to most people, but it isn't uncommon for people to respond negatively toward these mistakes.

When it comes to disabilities, too often do people claim to understand but not realize what having these issues really implies. While the physical issues do suck, the worst part is really the stigma that surrounds disabilities.

I was so grateful to have my professor truly listen to me

and understand my issues, but just as easily could he have called me careless and said I should be trying harder to overcome my problems.

The idea that someone can simply overcome medical obstacles by sheer willpower alone is extremely misguided. Yes, there are usually steps that can be taken to help lift some of the difficulties, but that is for the individual to be concerned about.

Never make an assumption of what someone is physically capable of, or tell them they aren't trying hard enough.

If someone has trouble with their legs, don't tell them they haven't tried to walk enough. If someone has a neurodivergent disorder, don't tell them they haven't tried to socialize enough. If someone has any sort of condition, don't

discredit the effort they put into their lives just because you feel they could be trying harder.

When my professor heard what happened, he could have said I should have tried harder, but he didn't. He could have talked down to me and acted as though my condition meant that I was stupid, but he didn't.

I was treated like a human, and forgiven for my mistake. It was clear that not a second thought was given, the interaction only took a few minutes.

Perhaps next time you encounter someone having trouble, or making a mistake, you can take a moment and think. What is happening, and how can you provide basic human decency and respect?

THE JAMBAR POLICY

Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Press Collegiate Press honors. The Jambar is published weekly in the spring and fall semesters. The Jambar is free for YSU students and faculty.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The editorial board consists of the editor-in-chief, managing editor, news editor, arts and entertainment editor and head copy editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles and do not reflect the opinions of any individual staff member. The Jambar's business manager, multimedia journalists and non-writing staff do not contribute to editorials, and the adviser does not have final approval.

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The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Submissions are welcome at thejambar@gmail.com. Letters should concern a campus issue, must be typed and must not exceed 400 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification, along with the writer's city of residence for publication. The Jambar does not withhold the names of guest commentators. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. Letters will not be rejected based on the views expressed in them. The editorial board reserves the right to reject commentaries and letters if they are not relevant to our readers, seek free publicity, fail to defend opinion with facts from reliable sources or if the editorial staff has decided that the subject has been sufficiently aired. The editorial board will request a rewrite from the submitted writer based on these requirements. The Jambar will not print letters that are libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. The views and opinions expressed in letters and commentaries on the opinion page do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the faculty, staff or administration of YSU.

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ATTACKING FOR POINTS



Photo courtesy of YSU Sports Information

YSU volleyball team celebrates a point during a match despite losing to both Oakland University and Cleveland State University.

Volleyball loses in league play

By Kyle Wills
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University volleyball team lost its first two matches of Horizon League play this past weekend at the Beeghly Center. The team took on Oakland University and Cleveland State University.

The women fell in straight sets to Oakland to start league play on Friday. Freshman Paula Gursching reached double figures in kills for the 12th straight match with 13, and she also added four aces. Freshman Cheyenne Hlady assisted on all of the team's six blocks, and junior Reilly Seagroves had 16 digs.

On Monday, head coach Aline Scott said the team started the week by reviewing game tape to help the women bounce back.

"We just spent the day watching videos and really going through what fell apart this past weekend and just analyzing and getting better at those skills this week for the next week," she said.

In the opening set, Gursching and Oakland's Jamie Walling both had seven kills, but the Golden Grizzlies had an 18-12 edge collectively and scored 10 of the final 15 points of the set. Oakland then went on a 10-1 run in the second set on its way to a 25-16 win.

In the third set, the Penguins responded by taking an 11-6 advantage. The Golden Grizzlies tied the score at 14 as YSU had four straight attack errors. The Penguins saved three match points before a kill by Oakland's Jessica Riedl, and an ace from Walling ended the match.

On Saturday, the volleyball team fell 3-0 to CSU falling to 0-2 in league play. Junior outside hitter Ellie Cox had a career-high 10 kills, and she led the Penguins with a .320 attack percentage. Seagroves had 11 digs, and Gursching and junior Josi Borum added six kills apiece. It was the first time in her career that Gursching failed to reach double-digit kills.

The Vikings went on big runs in all three sets as they improved to 2-0 in Horizon League play. CSU scored six straight points as part of an 11-3 run to end the first set

after the score was tied at 14.

The Viking run in the third set came when the Penguins held an 18-13 advantage. After a break in play because of a challenge, CSU scored seven straight points as part of a 12-2 run to end the match.

On Monday, Scott discussed how the primary focus for this week will be attacking.

"We need to, offensively, produce at a much higher percentage. I think that was the biggest difference between us and our opponent. We dug well when we served well, but we couldn't produce offensively. Today, the whole focus of practice was attacking and we're going to continue to do that the whole week," Scott said.

The Penguins will continue their season with two more contests at the Beeghly Center this weekend. YSU will host Purdue University Fort Wayne at 4 p.m. Saturday and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis at 2 p.m. Sunday.

PLAYING AGAINST THE CHALLENGES



Photo by Sydney Stalneckner / The Jambar

Youngstown State University Penguins line up to make a play against Western Illinois University Leathernecks.

YSU Penguins upset by Western Illinois in first conference game

Yousof Hamza
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University football team fell to the Western Illinois University Leathernecks 38-35 despite leading 35-7 in the second quarter and was leading 35-14 at the half.

WIU scored 31 straight points to win the game. The first of those points came off a pass from senior WIU quarterback Connor Sampson, with 7 seconds left in the first half. YSU went scoreless during the second half.

"[The] hardest thing is, once you lose that momentum, how do you get it back?" head coach Doug Phillips said.

Junior tailback Jaleel McLaughlin led the YSU offense with 136 yards of rush-

ing and three rushing touchdowns. Red-shirt freshman quarterback Demeatric Crenshaw had 134 yards on the ground and two rushing touchdowns.

Crenshaw also went 13-22 passing with 76 yards and an interception. Several of his passes were tipped at the line in the second half.

Both Crenshaw and McLaughlin had over 100 yards rushing in the first half and the two combined for fewer than 100 yards in YSU's scoreless second half.

Phillips is now 2-8 as head coach and stressed and emphasized that the young staff is still learning and developing.

WIU went into this game winless through three games, and YSU held a record of 1-1.

YSU heads to Cedar Falls, Iowa, to take

on the University of Northern Iowa Panthers at the UNI-Dome Saturday, Oct. 2. YSU has not won at UNI since 1999. UNI currently holds a record of 2-1 and is ranked 17th among FCS teams.

One point of concern going to the UNI-Dome is the unique turf.

"Everytime we go up there, everybody kind of freaks out about the playing surface because its different, its astroturf I guess... to us, its kind of like carpet," Senior offensive lineman Dan Becker said.

An important focus going into the games is ensuring every individual player does their best.

"We need to learn to manage success. In the first half of last game we had a loss of success, we were real hot, we lost track of who we were, and that was the

outcome of last game," sophomore defensive back Troy Jakubec said.

Several players have felt good about their practice and are excited to take field with more focus.

"We need to stress discipline, we had too many penalties. We got to do the little things right on and off the field because when you go into the environment in which we are going into-a very good opponent-YSU hasn't been successful there since 1999," Phillips said.

"We have to be mature and go in there and not think it's too big for us," Becker said.

Phillips said the team is feeling optimistic despite going up against a stronger defensive team that has been historically good.