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The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

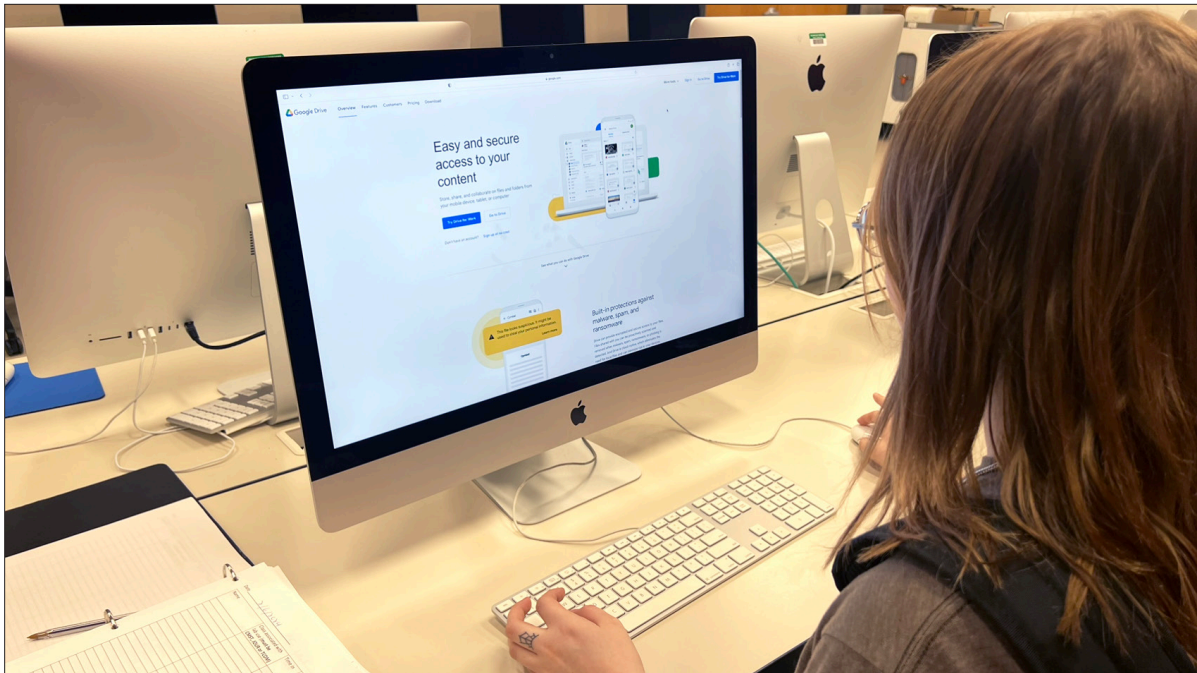
 YSU\_JAMBAR

Thursday, February 8, 2024

 THEJAMBAR.COM



## STRENGTHENING CYBERSECURITY



A student using Google Drive on a computer lab in Meshel Hall.

Photo by Molly Burke / The Jambar

# Goodbye to Google

By Molly Burke  
The Jambar

Youngstown State University will no longer allow access to Gmail or Google Drive on university-owned devices starting in fall 2024.

The new policy was introduced by Jim Yukech, associate vice president and chief information officer, and Brien Smith, special assistant to the president and former provost.

According to Yukech, the university has seen an increase in cybersecurity attacks over the past 12 to 18 months, especially through Gmail.

"Seeing that 96% of our cybersecurity attacks originate from email, that's a real threat we need to

block," Yukech said. "One of the things that's really been coming up is Gmail. Gmail is used extensively across campus by faculty, students and even staff."

The policy's purpose is to balance risk mitigation with the impact it has on campus.

"We're always looking at ways to improve our security posture without dramatically impacting the educational process," Yukech said. "With everything, there's risk and then how much of an impact is that going to make on campus."

Yukech said the policy was also created to adhere to university policies and improve network performance.

Google, Page 2

## Student center loses funding — what now?

By Matt Sotlar  
The Jambar

Bruce Zoldan, the founder and CEO of Phantom Fireworks, has pulled all funding toward Youngstown State University — including a \$5 million donation for a new student center.

On Feb. 1, Zoldan announced to media outlets that he would retract the \$5 million he offered to the university unless the board of trustees retracts its hiring of Bill Johnson as YSU's president.

"I couldn't believe that [YSU] would even consider hiring somebody like Bill Johnson," Zoldan said. "If Bill Johnson's listening, it's not because I'm putting Johnson down. He's purely not qualified to be the president of the university."

Zoldan pledged the donation to YSU in January 2023 to build the Zoldan Family Center, which would have replaced Kilcawley Center. Zoldan said he intended to give back to the Youngstown community and YSU.

"It would be nice to give back to the community, to the university. It's a very important part of our community," Zoldan said. "We grew up in this town. It provided us the opportunity to build a successful business that is now a national business — the leading fireworks company in America. What's greater than to give back to the students?"

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**Google**

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“We have compliance requirements. There’s data integrity, there’s network performance, there’s standardization of support issues, organizational policies like acceptable use — which is a board policy,” Yukech said.

Gmail and Google Drive will still be accessible through personal devices on university WiFi.

“It’s really restricted to Gmail and Google Drive because those are the software products that hold software on the device, which — if it’s malicious software — it can cause problems,” Yukech said. “If you have a personal laptop, it’s not blocked there. You’re taking on that personal risk that Gmail represents on your device.”

Anyone borrowing a device through a loaner program will still be able to access the services.

“We’re going to get some higher-end software which is less expensive than protecting the network. We can protect those laptops with a mobile iron or something like that [to] handle those viruses and infections,” Yukech said.

Yukech said Google products such as Google Documents and Google Slides will still be accessible on university-owned devices, but users will have to save their files outside of Google Drive.

“If you’re using those Google apps, a lot of those store to Google Drive. So, you would want to store that output, that file on OneDrive,” Yukech said.

Exceptions can be made for faculty and staff who require the services to complete work. Yukech said anyone can make a business case for an exemption, which will likely go through the provost’s office.

“It’ll be some type of go online, hit this link, fill out this exception, it’ll go to somebody in the provost’s office who will make a determination if that’s a valid exception. What we think will happen is it’ll be an annual exception,” Yukech said.

While exemptions can be made, Yukech said university work is supposed to be done on Microsoft products.

“We have an enterprise agreement with Microsoft and we have layers of security on top of [Office 365] and OneDrive and Outlook. So, we have layers that we’ve

invested hundreds of thousands of dollars to protect that,” Yukech said. “We have a board approved policy from a year ago [in] June that says all YSU business is conducted in [Office 365] and Outlook”.

Yukech encourages those who want an exemption to adapt to Micro-

soft products. He said Rosalyn Donaldson, director of Information Technology Training Services, can help.

“I would urge anybody who’s thinking about an exception to contact Rosalyn Donaldson in the technology training group, and they do consultations,” Yukech said. “They will come into your department and say, ‘let me show you how we can do that in OneDrive and [Office 365].’”

Yukech said the policy will not require an approval process because cybersecurity risks are significant.

“We typically use shared governance for a lot of things, but when it comes to cybersecurity, those are things that need a little more push,” Yukech said.



Photo by Molly Burke / The Jambar

Jim Yukech is the associate vice president and chief information officer.

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**7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST**

Thu. Fri. Sat. Sun. Mon. Tue. Wed.

High: 57°F	High: 60°F	High: 54°F	High: 45°F	High: 43°F	High: 37°F	High: 37°F
Low: 47°F	Low: 48°F	Low: 31°F	Low: 28°F	Low: 31°F	Low: 29°F	Low: 30°F
Chance of precip: 1%	Chance of precip: 80%	Chance of precip: 83%	Chance of precip: 11%	Chance of precip: 21%	Chance of precip: 25%	Chance of precip: 4%



A Few Clouds



Rain



Rain



A Few Clouds



Partly Cloudy



Partly Cloudy



Partly Cloudy

Information courtesy of accuweather.com



## A DECADE OF DISCUSSING HISTORY



Last year's HATH conference in the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor.



Photos courtesy of Amy Fluker

# Putting a new spin on history

By **Nicholas Bianco**  
Jambar Contributor

An annual conference coming to Youngstown State University offers a new way to look at historical events, some with a science-fiction twist.

The 10th History Across the Humanities Conference is scheduled for Feb. 22 through 24 at the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor. The event is free and open to the public.

Amy Fluker, an associate professor of history studies, said all YSU students are encouraged to attend the student-led conference, not just those majoring or minoring in history.

Laura Beadling, an associate professor of English and film studies, said attendees can learn about scientific history and invention.

"There's going to be a lot about science fiction as a genre in movies, TV and literature," Beadling said.

YSU students and faculty will present on a variety of topics, such as gaming and leisure, pop culture and identity, and re-evaluating historical disasters. Students from other universities will present as well.

Fluker said attending the HATH conference is beneficial for any college student.

"This is the only conference in our region and one of the only few in the country that's open to undergraduate students of any discipline from any school," Fluker said. "This is an opportunity that doesn't exist at other universities."

Associate professor of history studies Kyle Starkey said HATH provides a valuable opportunity for students to earn experience presenting at a conference.

"Our goal is to provide a space not only for students to feel comfortable presenting, but to include workshops where students can find opportunities in terms of internships or employment opportunities with humanities degrees," Starkey said.

The conference originated in 2014 when Starkey was a YSU graduate student. According to the event's website, the HATH conference was the idea of Valerie Waksmunski-Starr, a graduate student in YSU's History Program whose thesis focused on Ancient China. She died of cancer after completing her thesis, and the HATH Conference is named in her honor.

Fluker chose science fiction as this year's theme.

"We are partnering with the English and World Languages Department this year as well as with the Trumbull County Historical Society to highlight this year's science fiction theme," Fluker said.

According to Fluker, the science fiction theme supports the Trumbull County Historical Center because the center is developing a science fiction museum in Warren.

"As they are building that museum and sort of preparing to launch it, we thought this conference would be a great opportunity to put our students in the way of this amazing opportunity that's coming to the Valley," Fluker said.

New York Times bestselling author John Scalzi will speak at the HATH conference. Scalzi has won many awards for his science fiction books.

"We're hoping he will bring in more people from outside campus than ever before," Fluker said.

Scalzi will speak at 7 p.m. on Feb. 22 in the DeBartolo Hall auditorium. Beadling said the event is free thanks to funding from the Grace Ruth Endowment.

**Student center**

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Johnson and his wife LeeAnn Johnson pledged to donate \$100,000 to the university to aid in the construction of the student center.

Despite Zoldan's retraction, plans to update the student center are underway with construction set to begin in 2025.

The university has been fundraising for the center and will continue its efforts, according to Joy Polkabra Byers, associate vice president of Student Experience.

"Fundraising initiatives are still continuing at this time, and we are proceeding with the original timeline of starting construction in May of 2025. There will be upcoming open forums for the campus community to hear updates and give feedback this semester," Byers stated.

Byers stated the cost of renovations will be "roughly \$41 million" and that planning began several years ago.

"We did a feasibility assessment about two and a half years ago to really see what campus wanted, where the location was [and] what types of programs and services were going to be involved in the student center," Byers said.

YSU is working with several architects to begin renovating Kilcawley Center. Byers said there will be a new

center without Zoldan's donation.

"We need to do something with our student center, so we're still moving forward with the project. Our architect, WTW, which is an architectural firm out of Pittsburgh ... they're on campus once or twice a month," Byers said.

While collecting input from students and faculty, an updated design for the student center is in the works. R.J. Markowitz, associate director for Operations and Events, said that natural light is a common student request.

"There's [a] lot of big themes that we've been seeing. I feel like we don't have one meeting that doesn't go by without the phrase natural light coming into play. So, a lot of students are saying that they want more windows, more glass, more visibility from the outside," Markowitz said.

Another common request is a communal eating area. Markowitz said the university is working on creating a central area for food options in Kilcawley Center.

"Being a tenant in [Kilcawley Center], we tend to eat in the building a

lot. So, on my staff, someone might want to go to Chick-fil-A, and somebody else might want to go to the food court," Markowitz said. "We either eat separately or one person has to come to the other, and I feel like a lot of students feel that way as well."

The student center is expected to be completed by fall 2027.



Photo by Matt Sotlar / The Jambar

**Bruce Zoldan is the founder and CEO of Phantom Fireworks.**

# News Brief

## Financial aid results delayed

Youngstown State University will not receive FAFSA application results until the first half March, according to an email sent Feb. 5 from the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships.

The email states the Department of Education has delayed its distribution of FAFSA results "to make inflationary adjustments to the formula that impact the accuracy of the Student Aid Index (SAI) used to determine financial need."

Once YSU has received FAFSA results, students can complete YSU's need-based Housing Grant Application.

Students will receive financial aid offers after the university has processed FAFSA results.





Sandel's Loan Inc. President Rick Fine (left) catalogs 100-year old coins. Valuable necklaces, watches and rings line display cases.

Photos by Brandon Cantwell / Jambar Contributor

# Treasures of a local pawn shop

By Brandon Cantwell  
Jambar Contributor

Firearms, jewelry and guitars are just some of the treasures bringing visitors to one of downtown Youngstown's oldest businesses.

Sandel's Loan Inc. on West Federal Street has been open since 1948, with its ownership spanning multiple generations.

Youngstown State University alumnus Brett Fine is the vice president for Sandel's. Brett is the great-grandson of the shop's founder Ben Fine, and he joined the business in 1990.

According to Brett, customers typically pawn items when they need money to pay bills and debts, but only about 65% come back for their items.

During the pandemic, pawn shops stayed open because they were considered essential businesses. Brett said top sellers such as firearms, jewelry and gold were some of the most pawned items throughout that time.

"Gold and silver have always been a mainstay in pawn

shops, and diamonds. You know, firearms have grown over the past 15 to 20 years," Brett said. "We were in more of the electronics business for basically the mid to late 80s, with televisions and VCRs and CD players."

According to Ohio Revised Code, when people sell items, the shop isn't allowed to sell them for two weeks to give police time to check if any were reported stolen. However, Brett said stolen items rarely come through anymore.

"The pawn shops in general have been good with working with the police departments and we have a good rapport," Brett said. "People that steal merchandise — they're really not going to come to us because we do take identification."

Brett added most cases with stolen items involve family members, who typically don't press charges.

Sandel's is roughly a 10-minute walk from YSU. Brett said YSU students seldom visit the shop, but when they do, they look rather than sell.

"I get some frequently who pop in to look [rather] than to bring merchandise in here — more browsing

and looking around," Brett said.

Large diamonds, tennis necklaces and bracelets are some of the most expensive items Brett has seen in his 34 years with Sandel's. He said the shop is always buying items but has a preference toward gold and diamonds as they're easily movable.

"We'll pretty much buy anything because people ask for a loan value and a buy value. But generally, it comes to gold and diamonds. I prefer to buy that because it's just a quicker flip as far as gold," Brett said. "Generally, [gold is] scraped out. So, if you buy it and it's something you can't sell, you can scrap it out. Or if it's a diamond, I can sell it to a diamond wholesaler that we deal with."

Longtime employee Jay Skinner has been with the shop for 43 years. Skinner said January is one of the shop's busier months.

"Usually the winter months we're busier because people have to pay higher gas bills, entertainment," Skinner said. "Whereas summer months, we're slower because people can go to the park. They can do more stuff that costs less money."



# It's Greek to meet you

By Sydney Fairbanks  
Jambar Contributor

Greek Life at Youngstown State University allows students to get involved with campus events and meet new people while making a difference in the community.

Carrie Anderson, associate director of student activities, said service is a large part of the experience in Greek Life.

“What these organizations do is give back to the local community as well as the national philanthropy that they raise money for. A lot of those activities and different things are a great experience for students to help make their experience more well rounded,” Anderson said.

Anderson said another integral part of Greek Life is helping students feel accepted and get involved on campus.

“One of the main things that we try to do is make sure that we're helping our students find a sense of belonging on campus. Something so that they're not just going to classes and running back home,” Anderson said.

According to Anderson, Greek Life offers leadership opportunities with positions in committees, chapter executive councils and more. Students can also find outlets to improve academically, such as study tables and connecting with students in similar majors.

“[Greek Life is] going to help them build their resume further and assist them just in working with other peo-

ple, meeting other people — and a lot of those skills are found in student organizations,” Anderson said.

Alyssa Weyand, sophomore human resource management major, acts as the Panhellenic president and the treasurer for Zeta Tau Alpha. She said Greek Life helped her become more social.

“I definitely am not the same shy, quiet person that I was when I joined,” Weyand said. “It does a lot for your character development.”

Greek Life also provides students with a means for service. Weyand said service benefits the community and Greek Life members.

“I wouldn't be the person that I am today without joining Greek Life and also without getting involved,” Weyand said.

Anderson said Greek Life applicants must be full time students, in good standing with the university, and meet the chapter's academic standards.

“One of the biggest things, bottom line, is to have a certain GPA. So, the minimum across the board is a 2.5 or higher cumulative GPA, but chapters can require [a] higher GPA,” Anderson said.

Five fraternities and four sororities are active on campus.

While formal recruitment opportunities are at the beginning of the fall semester, the organizations are always looking for ways to grow.

“You're going to see different recruitment events or activities depending on which semester you're joining,”

Anderson said. “They might have some smaller events where it's more like sit-down coffee or maybe video game nights.”

Meet the Greeks Recruitment Night was hosted Jan. 17. The event gave each fraternity and sorority a table to discuss their chapter with attendees.

Students who missed recruitment nights can still join the chapters that have not filled all of their openings. This is called continuous open bidding and is open all spring semester.

Greek Life on the YSU campus also fights the stereotype that fraternities and sororities are not diverse. Weyand said the groups aim to be more inclusive.

“Everyone knows the stereotypes that Greek Life has and I don't believe that those exist in YSU's Greek Life at all. From what I've seen in my past two years in [the] chapter, everyone is very inclusive and welcoming,” Weyand said.

Nick Allen is a junior civil engineer major and a member of Sigma Chi fraternity. He is also the president of the Interfraternity council.

Allen said joining a fraternity was nothing like what he's seen in movies.

“I know coming here, I thought it was going to be more of a stereotypical movie type of life, but it's really not. It more or less just came down to meeting people with common interests and sharing it with them and getting to do fun things,” Allen said. “It just brings people closer together.”



Greek Life members participate in community service (left and middle) and an organization fair (right).

Photos courtesy of Carrie Anderson



# Spreading love around the world

By Tala Alsharif  
Jambar Contributor

Valentine's Day is a holiday rooted in Christian and ancient Roman traditions, and it's largely celebrated in western countries such as the United States.

Despite the holiday's western origins, Valentine's Day has become popular among non-western communities, including international students at Youngstown State University.

According to history.com, the origins of Valentine's Day and its saint remain mysterious, as the Catholic Church recognizes various St. Valentines.

One legend suggests a priest named Valentine defied Emperor Claudius II's marriage ban, leading to his execution. Another legend suggests Valentine aided Christians' escape from Roman prisons, where he may have fallen in love and sent the first "valentine."

These contributed to his image as a sympathetic and romantic figure, making him popular in medieval England and France, but celebrated across many non-western countries.

Priyanka Silwal is a sophomore nursing major at YSU. Silwal said Valentine's Day is celebrated in many parts of the world, including her home country, Nepal.

"Love is love. Love is universal. It's just a different language," Silwal said. "[In Nepal] we celebrate love."

Silwal said she gave valentines to friends in Nepal, and she believes everyone should participate in the holiday's traditions.

"I don't think it particularly needs to be between lovers," Silwal said. "We can [all] give each other roses [and] chocolates. That's what I did with my friends."

Freshman computer science major, Ankit Kharga, moved from Nepal five months ago and said he's excited to see how Valentine's Day is celebrated in the U.S.

Kharga usually celebrates Valentine's Day with his girlfriend in Nepal. He plans to take part in the holiday despite the distance.

"I will definitely send her some gifts from here, I will try to celebrate Valentine's Day with her," Kharga said.

The International Programs Office hosts International Coffee Hour at Jones Hall every other Friday, where international and domestic students get together in the

Lariccia Room over coffee and snacks.

In spring 2023, the IPO gave students Valentine's Day cards to write notes on and pass to each other, according to Nicholas DuBos, coordinator for International Student Services.

"You have like a little card you give someone at that event," DuBos said. "We also had a lot of candy and stickers for people to give each other."

DuBos said there are over 1,000 international students at YSU, with approximately 70 countries represented in the international study body.

"Most of our students are from two countries, Nepal and India," DuBos said. "We have a fair number of students from ... Bangladesh, South Korea [and] Vietnam."

DuBos said a goal of the IPO office is to be inclusive to international students and help integrate them into the university's community.

"Our goal is when our students come here ... we immerse them into the community and give them opportunities to do things," DuBos said.



The International Programs Office is located in Jones Hall. Photo by Dylan Lux / The Jambar

## Valentine's Day Events

### Student Art Association Valentine's Day Sale

- Feb. 9, 12-14
- Bliss Hall Lobby
- 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

### Valentine's Day Specials at Pete's Treats and More

- Monday through Friday
- 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



# Honoring Black art, accommodating all

By Christopher Gillett  
Jambar Contributor

The Butler Institute of American Art displays artworks from diverse communities and accommodates visitors of different backgrounds.

To commemorate Black History Month, the Butler has displayed *Greatness Revealed: The Art of African Americans*, which runs Feb. 4 to March 24 and showcases the work of lesser-known African American artists.

Among the 31 artists featured are Charles Sallée, the first African American graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art, and designer of the Renaissance Hotel in Cleveland.

Another artist featured in the exhibition is Robert Gwathway. Although Gwathway is a white artist, his work focuses on African Americans' lives and social change.

Other African American artists in the collection include Jacob Lawrence, Romare Bearden, Horace Pippin, Maple Turner III, Al Bright, and Bill Dotson.

Alongside the pieces in *Greatness Revealed*, the Butler's art collection spans from 1719 to the present. The collection features various mediums, such as paintings, photography and sculptures.

Director of Education Joyce Mistovich said the museum has too many pieces of art to display all at once.

"The Butler has about 22,000 works in

our collection. We can never have those all on display at one time," Joyce said. "Many of the artists [in *Greatness Revealed*] are artists that are no longer living today, but have played great impact in American art history."

Louis Zona, executive director of the Butler Museum, said adding to the Butler's collection is his favorite part of the job.

"My favorite part of working at the Butler is working with the paintings, working with the art and adding to the collection," Zona said. "While there are many collectors around here, we have solicited the works from collectors around the country, and we've been fairly successful."

In addition to diversifying the artists it showcases, the museum also works to create an inclusive experience for people with disabilities.

Joy Mistovich shares her mother's love for art as the education department assistant and digital UX accessibility specialist. Joy's work focuses on accommodating visitors with disabilities.

"I'm deeply passionate about accessibility and assistive technology and assisting the disability community and non-disability community with art appreciation and museum education," Joy said.

Joy incorporated an app — Aira, or access to information remote assistance — to connect low-vision and blind visitors

to highly-trained and remotely-located visual interpreters, allowing people with sight limitations to experience the artwork.

Joy said her experience being legally blind has informed her work to make the Butler more accessible.

"I always liked to visit museums, but I also considered the arts as somewhat of a mystery. I couldn't always decipher challenging smaller details and artistic elements in each work until I started using ... Aira," Joy said.

The Butler also hosts Sensory Sundays on the first Sunday of every month. The museum opens an hour early for people with autism spectrum disorder or other cognitive disabilities to browse the museum without crowds. The Butler also offers amplifiers for people who are hard of hearing.

According to Joyce, the Butler acts as a safe space for travelers, too.

"When you travel somewhere — and let's just say you're traveling alone, you're attending a conference or workshop, or visiting a family member, or you're [just] alone — going to a museum offers a space where you can just relax and become engaged in looking at the works of art," Joyce said.

Joyce also said art can speak to its audience.

"If you really look at works of art, and you listen, there's something that they have to say to you," Joyce said.



Works featured in *Greatness Revealed: The Art of African Americans*.



Photos by Christopher Gillett / Jambar Contributor



## SURF-ROCK ON THE INDIE BLOCK

# Surf's up with Coastal Club

By John Ostapowicz  
The Jambar

With hints of surf rock and indie pop, the band Coastal Club has outgrown its Cincinnati roots and expanded globally.

Coastal Club has garnered over 100,000 monthly listeners on Spotify, and its track "Honey" has over 10.8 million streams.

Lead singer and guitarist Alexandre Hirlinger changed the band's name from Local Waves to Coastal Club in 2017 after adding bassist Avery Benter and drummer David McGuire.

Although the band is hundreds of miles away from the coast, the names Coastal Club and Local Waves were inspired by the surf rock genre. For Hirlinger, he wanted a name that felt like summer and being on a beach.

"We are landlocked in the middle of the country, but [Coastal Club] is trying to have a sound that is yearning for the coast," Hirlinger said.

Coastal Club has blossomed from a small band to an international success, with fans in New York City, Los Angeles, Seattle and Sydney, Australia.

The band's discography features

two EPs, a hit single and a track on the compilation album "That Summer, Vol. 1."

As the band grew musically, Coastal Club drew inspiration from indie rock, pop and alternative artists, such as COIN, Young the Giant and Hippo Campus. Hirlinger said he credits the band's unique style of music to these influences.

"There are elements of our music that hints or alludes to the surf rock origins that inspired our music, but I don't think it's as prevalent as it used to be," Hirlinger said.

Hirlinger said he fell in love with music at a young age because of his guitar teacher Ryan Morgan, who played in the band Seabird. Morgan taught Hirlinger how to learn songs by ear, which contributed to his creative writing and musical performances.

A major stepping stone for Hirlinger was the opportunity to play guitar at his local church, which he credits for his musical ability.

"I had ample opportunity, and that was one of the biggest [moments] for me as you are learning new songs every single week," Hirlinger said. "I owe a lot of my musical ability

to playing in churches when I was younger."

Although Hirlinger and Benter have moved from Ohio to Nashville, their love for Cincinnati will forever be a part of Coastal Club's identity.

"That is where we are from, and we want to identify as a Cincinnati band," Hirlinger said. "We have stayed with that nomenclature as a Cincinnati band."

After a three-year musical hiatus, Coastal Club has singles planned for March, which will be a part of a waterfall release leading up to a new EP.

"After this release, I don't think it will be nearly as long before the next one," Hirlinger said. "We are really excited about it. We have seven songs that are nearly done."

2024 is shaping up to be a big year for the band, with shows planned in Commerce, Texas at Texas A&M University-Commerce and Indianapolis at the Hoosier Dome as well as performances across Ohio.

Coastal Club will perform in Cleveland at 8 p.m. on April 5 with Jordan Dean and Liam Brock at the Beachland Ballroom and Tavern. Tickets can be purchased in advance at [wearecostalclub.com](http://wearecostalclub.com).



The Cincinnati-based band Coastal Club will perform in Cleveland on April 5.

Photos courtesy of Zayne Isom





Students rehearse for "It's a Small World (Or the Robot Play)." Opening night is Feb. 16.



Photos by Molly Burke / The Jambar

# Coming of age — the robot way

By Molly Burke  
The Jambar

University Theatre will put on its third show for the 2023-2024 season Feb. 16 through 18 and Feb. 23 through 25 in the Spotlight Theater of Bliss Hall.

The play, "It's a Small World (Or the Robot Play)," was written by Amber Palmer, a Youngstown State University alumna. The play's story follows Cyrus, a coffee-maker-turned robot, and Anne, an engineer. Anne takes Cyrus on a road trip to return him to his creator in Disney World.

Palmer described the play's themes and what the audience can take away from the storyline.

"Both the characters are kind of going through a coming of age journey just in very different ways. I think the play ends up being about sort of how you build the life you want to live," Palmer said. "What I hope pretty much anybody takes away from any of my plays is a greater sense of empathy or compassion for people that they might not think are like them."

The play's director is Todd Dicken, a professor in the Department of Theater and Dance and the Dana School of Music. Dicken said it's rare to work with a playwright,

but the collaboration allows him to better understand Palmer's vision.

"It's rare that students get the opportunity to do something where they can actually meet the playwright," Dicken said. "I think [Palmer is] nervously excited to see what influences I might bring into it."

Auditions for "It's a Small World (Or the Robot Play)" were held before winter break, and rehearsal began at the start of the spring semester.

While the audience will only see the performers on stage, Dicken said it takes a team to put on a play.

"You've got the performers. Then you've got the designers that are involved in this. You have the crew that are going to be helping run it — from stage management to backstage crew — the wardrobe people, the lighting, the sound. There's a lot of people that get involved," Dicken said.

The play's costume designer is Katherine Garlick, associate professor of costume design and technology. Garlick said while most of the cast will wear modern clothes, Cyrus's costume requires many unconventional materials.

"There's a lot of trying to figure out, 'how do we make a human look like a robot and also a coffee maker?'"

Garlick said. "We've been having fun playing with LEDs and battery packs."

Cyrus is played by Aidan Holderfield, a fifth-year senior theater and psychology major. Holderfield said Cyrus gains sentience throughout the play, requiring an understanding of the character's journey when bringing it to life.

"The first thing I did ... was look up AI voices. I looked up when Google Translate talks, what does that sound like; Siri, the voices in TikTok," Holderfield said. "Then I had to learn how to make that sound less robotic so that I could sound more human as the show goes on ... it's a lot of that and trying to figure out where that sentience is at any point in the show."

Palmer will attend the show's opening night and teach a playwriting workshop from 1 to 2:30 p.m. on Feb. 17 in room 122 of Bliss Hall. Anyone who wants to sign up can email Garlick at [kngarlick@ysu.edu](mailto:kngarlick@ysu.edu).

"It's a Small World (Or the Robot Play)" will begin at 7:30 p.m. on its Friday and Saturday showings and 2 p.m. on its Sunday showings. Tickets can be purchased at [ysu.tix.com](http://ysu.tix.com) or at the Box Office in Bliss Hall. Tickets are free for students and discounted for faculty and staff.





# The Jambar Column

## Super Sunday madness

Super Bowl LVIII will take place Sunday Feb. 11, and for those who do not read Roman numerals, that's Super Bowl 58. That's right, the 58th Super Bowl. This game has been around since before man was on the moon.

The Kansas City Chiefs will go up against the San Francisco 49ers. Let's analyze the game closely.

First off, let me put on my tinfoil hat and drop my conspiracy theory. There is no way this game is not set up to highlight Taylor Swift in some way. She's dating the Chiefs' tight end, Travis Kelce. How many of you knew what position he played before he was dating Swift? Don't lie.

Alright, with the tinfoil hat off and the inspector cap on, how's the game looking? If Kelce is out there playing like his life depends on it for Swift, then there's a chance the Chiefs will return to Missouri with another dub. Although the Chief's quarterback Patrick Mahomes is good, he isn't TB12 good.

Wikipedia says the 49ers are favored to win by two points, and it's never wrong. My high school history teacher used to work for the 49ers, so I'm rooting for them to win. Shoutout to Mr. Doc, hands down the goat of the 49ers and 8th-period U.S. History. Brock Purdy, who?

Then, there's the commercials. I stopped watching the commercials after they stopped being funny. Last year, it was like watching TV at the dentist's office. It's not terrible, but you really just want it to be over.

Of course, you can't talk about the Super Bowl without the halftime show. Who's the headliner this year? Is it Zach Bryan? Pantera? Barry Manilow? Wrong, it's Usher. I was hoping it'd be Olivia Ro-



Matthew Sotlar

drigo, to be honest.

I think having Swift perform would have been the biggest money grab in history. Nielsen ratings would be so high that their servers might catch fire.

Who knows, maybe Kelce will propose to her if the Chiefs win. I can't imagine busting out the ring after losing the biggest game of the year would end well.

They always pick the most random people to do the coin toss. I remember when they brought George H. W. Bush out for Super Bowl 51. I remember thinking, "Wow, they'll bring anyone on to do this, huh?" I haven't been brought on yet. Maybe the invitation got lost in the mail.

I hope the game doesn't air too late. Nothing is worse than staying up until midnight on Sunday and waking up early on Monday with insurmountable regret and an empty bank account. Boy, if I had a nickel for every time that happened, I'd probably have to give it to my bookie.

Sports betting isn't my thing. I prefer betting on how many times Andy Reid smiles during the game. It's zero, even if the Chiefs win. I've got my entire college fund riding on whether or not the camera shows Swift more than five times in the first quarter. The NFL can't let me down again.

Overall, it doesn't matter to me how the game goes. It'll end the same way — with me turning it off in the fourth quarter to watch "Curb Your Enthusiasm." The show is in its final season, and I highly recommend watching it.

# The Jambar Editorial

## Classic country is punk

The mid 1900s were a period of unrest and disdain for establishments within society, politics and culture. Through these rising tensions came new music genres and societal ideologies.

Classic country found its roots in telling stories of working-class people and the growing distrust of the government. Artists like Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Patsy Cline, and Loretta Lynn found their voices in this style.

The punk movement of the 70s and 80s grew in the same environment classic country did. Although punk rock took on a heavier sound, it screamed the same message of distrust and anger.

Both saw the struggles of a typical American family and rejected the path laid out for them by society. Punk took a harsher approach through music and protests, while country appealed to an older generation with a softer-spoken version of rebellion.

Punk didn't end with music — as the genre grew, so did the ideology. Punk became a state of mind and a way of living. The younger generations demanded change and resented the status quo.

"Folsom Prison Blues" by Johnny Cash is a prime example of this merger. The song, based on the film "Inside the Walls of Folsom Prison," was written by Cash while he served in the Air Force.

"Folsom Prison Blues" details the story of an inmate at Folsom Prison who watches a train pass and dreams of catching that train to San Antonio. This song and its success inspired Cash to perform his music in prisons.

Cash was punk for not only performing in prisons, but for sharing his music with an often ostracized group of people who were discriminated against in society.

Punk itself defies definition. No two

people have the same perception of what punk is, and that in turn is punk. Monika Sklar wrote in her book "Punk Style" that punk was for the people who felt "disenfranchised by society."

Classic country is largely based on feeling disenfranchised. Many artists found fame by recounting living in poverty.

One of Loretta Lynn's top songs, "Coal Miner's Daughter," tells the story of growing up with a coal miner as a dad and the love her family shared despite living in poverty.

Lynn sings, "He shoveled coal to make a poor man's dollar ... In the summertime, we didn't have shoes to wear, but in the wintertime, we'd all get a brand new pair"

This sentiment is also described in Dolly Parton's hit song "9 to 5." Parton sings, "What a way to make a livin.' Barely gettin' by, it's all takin' and no givin'."

While Parton wrote the song for the movie by the same name, its root inspiration is in how she grew up in poverty in Sevierville, Tennessee.

In an interview with USA Today, Parton said "the mountain people didn't have any way to pay [a doctor] with money, so you paid [the doctors] with whatever you had, your canned goods or some ham or some whatever."

Punk and classic country crossed lines in the late 70s with the creation of a new genre of music called Cowpunk. Emerging punk artists found inspiration in country music and used it as inspiration to fuel their own creations.

Two genres that arguably wouldn't touch the other with a ten-foot pole today once blurred the lines of music and society to create a fresh take on anti-status quo music. Now that's punk.



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# Men's basketball raids Wright State



Ziggy Reid attempts a layup against Northern Kentucky University.



Immanuel Zorngol goes to finish an alley-oop at home.

Photos by Dylan Lux / The Jambar

By Marissa Masano  
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team traveled to Dayton and Fort Wayne, Indiana to compete in two Horizon League matchups on the road.

The Penguins traveled to Wright State University on Feb. 1 for a nationally-televised contest on ESPNU. YSU won the game, 88-77, and improved to 17-6 overall and 9-3 in the Horizon League.

Five Penguins found themselves in double figures. Fifth-year senior DJ Burns recorded his 13th double-double of the season, with 17 points and 12 rebounds.

Senior Bryson Langdon tied a career-high five 3-pointers and posted 17 points. Fifth-year seniors Ziggy Reid and Brett Thompson recorded 14 points. Fifth-year senior Brandon Rush added 10 points.

YSU led in rebounds against Wright State, 38-26. Alongside Burns's 12 rebounds, sophomore Imanuel Zorngol was another leader on the defense with seven rebounds and six defensive boards.

The game saw 15 ties and 16 lead changes, but Youngstown State held the lead for 23 minutes and 37 seconds throughout the contest.

Wright State held a one-point advantage over the Penguins heading into halftime. Throughout the second half, the Raiders only led for a minute and five seconds, with their largest point lead being two points.

With 16 minutes left, the Penguin offensive took control. The team never trailed again as it went on a 13-4 scoring run, resulting in a 12-point Penguin lead.

The Penguins stayed on the road and were defeated by Purdue University Fort Wayne, 82-78, on Feb. 4. The loss capped the Penguins' win streak at four games, bringing them to 17-7 overall in the season and 9-4 in Horizon League play.

Burns posted his sixth straight double-double with 15 points and a career-high 17 rebounds. With 14 double-doubles this season, the forward ranks fourth in the NCAA for dou-

ble-doubles as of Feb. 5.

Junior EJ Farmer led the scoring effort against Fort Wayne with a team-high 19 points. Rush had 14 points, and Reid added 12 points.

The Penguins began the game's scoring in the first half and led for nearly 13 minutes, but went into halftime with only a three-point advantage.

"To me, the best defense is a good offense. If you score the ball, you can set your defense up."

— Jerrod Calhoun  
Head coach

The Mastodons opened the second half, scoring 16 of the first 21 points and gaining an eight-point lead.

Within a span of four minutes, the Penguins failed to score and Fort Wayne went on a 12-2 scoring run. This extended Fort Wayne's lead to a game-high 14 points with 11 minutes remaining.

For head coach Jerrod Calhoun, the Mastodons ability to score in the second half came from a lack of Penguin's offense.

"We had 13 turnovers. They scored 20 points off of our turnovers," Calhoun said. "To me, the best defense is a good offense. If you score the ball, you can set your defense up."

Farmer led an offensive response by the Penguins, delivering a 12-2 run to cut the deficit to four with 7:32 minutes remaining.

The teams went back and forth, but Youngstown State's comeback efforts stalled as the 'Guins couldn't get within four points of the Mastodons.

In the second half, the Penguins' biggest lead was one point.

YSU will return home to Beeghly Center on Feb. 8 to play the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Tipoff is set for 6:30 p.m. The game is the start of a three-game homestand for the Penguins.



# Softball swings into 2024 season

By Madeline Hippeard

The Jambar

Over the course of its 2024 season, the Youngstown State University softball team will compete in 56 games, including four five-game tournaments and 20 home games at the YSU Softball Complex.

The 'Guins will begin their season on the road Feb. 9 through 11 in Boiling Springs, North Carolina in a five-game tournament hosted by Gardner-Webb University.

After that, the Penguins will travel south to participate in tournaments hosted by Presbyterian College from Feb. 16 to 18, East Carolina University from March 1 to 3 and Norfolk State University on March 8 and 9.

The team's home opener is set for March 12 against Akron University, followed by the team's Horizon League opener March 15 and 16, with a three-game home series against University of Detroit Mercy.

The Penguins finished their 2023 season with an appearance in the Horizon League Softball Championship tournament. Youngstown State fought elimination three times in the tournament before losing to Oakland University in the semifinals.

Graduate student Sara Fessler said the Penguins' experience in last year's Horizon League Championship made her excited for another shot at the championship this season.

"Conference play is going to be insane, especially because — in tournament play, we were in the loser's bracket. Basically, we made the loser's bracket our bracket as Youngstown State, and people were worried to play us. So, I think this year, being that team in the tournament is going to make us that much more scarier and intimidating come conference play," Fessler said.

To prepare for the season, the 'Guins hosted a short fall ball season Sept. 15 to Oct. 13, 2023.

During the fall ball season, the team practiced two days a week and played a game each Friday to get a feel for game-like environments before the full spring season started.

Throughout the fall season, the Penguins focused heavily on the defensive side before heading indoors to focus on hitting during the winter.

With the work the 'Guins put into preparing for the 2024 season, head coach Brian Campbell noticed improvements in the team's speed and power.

"This year we have a lot more speed. We've been able to do a lot more stealing, base running and different things, taking extra bases and those things. It's something we've concentrated on, and we've also sprinkled in some power from some of our players too. It's

a good mixture this year. It's one of the first years I think we've had a good mixture as far as power and speed," Campbell said.

Campbell also noticed the uptick of energy the incoming freshman have sparked within the team.

"They're coming away from high school ball, a lot of the freshmen," Campbell said. "I always love it because just the energy they bring, it helps our upperclassmen to just adjust and have fun."

To view the full roster and schedule for the softball team this season, visit [ysusports.com](http://ysusports.com).



Photo by Dylan Lux / The Jambar

Jillian Jakse catches a ball at first base against Robert Morris University.

# Men's tennis faces off in Cornhusker State

By Cameron Niemi

The Jambar

The Youngstown State University men's tennis team hit the road for the first time this season and traveled to Nebraska for matches against Creighton University and the University of Omaha Nebraska.

The Penguins started their 2024 season off by winning three straight games inside the YSU Indoor Tennis Center.

The Penguins faced off against Creighton and saw their first loss of the season, Feb. 2. The Blue Jays secured a 5-2 win in their matches.

Juniors Nathan Favier and William Rassat captured victories in their singles matches. In the No. 1 singles match, Fa-

vier won in two sets, and Rassat won in three sets.

The Penguins were swept, 6-0 and 6-4, in doubles matches No. 1 and No. 2. The third doubles match was unfinished as the Blue Jays won the doubles point with a sweep.

Youngstown State looked to bounce back Feb. 3 as they took on Omaha. The Penguins lost their second straight match of the year to the Mavericks, 4-2.

YSU won two of its three doubles matches, which gave the team the doubles point and an early lead. The duo of Favier and Rassat won their match, 6-1. Senior David Alvarez Moreno and junior Harry Fouzas secured a 6-4 win.

Favier won, 6-3, 6-0, in his singles match, which gave the Penguins a 2-0 match lead. Despite the lead, Omaha won

four singles matchups, giving the Mavericks a point advantage over the Penguins.

Fouzas spoke about the road loss and what the team learned from it, as some players battled injuries.

"Great matches and great opportunity for us, especially the guys that play lower in the lineup, to play against some really tough opponents," Fouzas said. "It was really unfortunate that we couldn't have our best players ... in those two matches, but the other guys, we did our best."

Youngstown State moves to 3-2 overall on the season, with eight non-conference games remaining — five of which will be on the road. The team will start Horizon League play in late March.

The men's tennis team will wrap up its road trip with two more matches as the Penguins travel to Virginia and Maryland

before returning to the YSU Indoor Tennis Center.

Fouzas spoke about tough opponents coming up on the road and his confidence in the team.

"Two really good teams," Fouzas said. "We are a really good team this year, we improved from last year. We got a new coach that really cares, and he's really good. Everyone's going to give 100% and we'll have a big shot of winning both."

The team will face off against the College of William & Mary at 5 p.m. on Feb. 9. Then, the 'Guins will head north to take on the Naval Academy at 1:30 p.m. on Feb. 10. To watch the matches against the Griffins, visit [web.playsight.com](http://web.playsight.com).



# WHEN IN DOUBT – PINK OUT

## Penguins get revenge on Milwaukee

By Dylan Lux

The Jambar

In its previous matchup against the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee on Jan. 13, the Youngstown State University women's basketball team lost in a 66-58 effort on the road. On Feb. 3, the Penguins bounced back and knocked off the Panthers in Beehly Center.

Fifth-year guard Dena Jarrells highlighted the matchup, scoring her 1,000th career point for YSU.

Jarrells said the talented teammates she's had through the years helped her achieve the scoring total and that hitting the mark was fulfilling.

"It's pretty exciting. I feel like this is one time where I can really say that I'm proud of myself," Jarrells said. "I couldn't do it without my teammates ... Having good players around you gives you opportunities to shoot the ball as well. So, I couldn't do it without any of those girls."

After being deadlocked at 15 points apiece through quarter one, the Penguins shot 57% from the field in the second while also making two 3-pointers on two attempts. Despite the shooting percentages, the Penguins went into the locker room down, 37-35, at halftime.

The Penguins didn't cool off after the break, as they shot 50% from the field, including 50% from 3-point range.

The Penguin offense wasn't the only thing firing on all cylinders, as the defense held Milwaukee to 31% shooting from the field in the third quarter. YSU also held the Panthers to 29% shooting from beyond the arc.

Senior guard Malia Magestro took over in the third quarter, scoring 10 of the team's 22 points in the period.

The strong third quarter helped get the Penguins to a 57-54 lead

heading to the final quarter of play.

With 3:20 to go in the fourth, Milwaukee tied the score at 66 with a layup, but after forcing misses for the rest of the contest, Youngstown State prevailed in a 73-66 win.

"We didn't let No. 23 score ... and she [bested] us last game."

— Malia Magestro  
Senior guard

Magestro finished as the game's leading scorer with 23 points, while also tallying two steals. She averages 19 points per game over her last three contests.

Magestro was one of four Penguins to finish in double-digit points. Junior guard Hailey Thierry had 13 points, and fifth-year seniors Emily Saunders and Shay-Lee Kirby each scored 10.

Saunders added her 10 points in only the second half and corralled 10 rebounds in the game to post her third double-double of the year.

Magestro commented after the game, crediting the defensive adjustments the Penguins made to help them secure the victory.

"We kept their leading scorers from the last time we played them to low points," Magestro said. "We didn't let No. 23 score ... and she [bested] us last game. We really knew our scout this time around, and I think that really showed."

The Penguins return to the court at 7 p.m. on Feb. 8 in Rochester, Michigan for a matchup against the Oakland University Golden Grizzlies.

To watch the game live, go to ESPN+ or listen to the matchup at 1390 WNIO.



Malia Magestro drives to the basket. Photo by Dylan Lux / The Jambar