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A TALE OF TWO PROGRAMS

Photo by TANNER MONDOK/THE JAMBAR

ELIZABETH LEHMAN
LAURA MCDONOUGH

Last fall, the communication studies program made its official move into the first floor of Meshel Hall at Youngstown State University. Over the last several years, the proposed move has been a point of contention at the university.

In March 2016, the Jambar and the Vindicator reported that the late former trustee Harry Meshel had walked out of an academic quality and student success committee meeting. His sudden exit was caused by a heated argument about moving communication classrooms into Meshel Hall, which had been named in his honor in 1986.

Meshel had said he perceived a lack of interest in computer science from the university.

"No one has done anything

with that building but invade it," Meshel had said.

Approximately two years ago, a call to action came for people to sign a change.org petition, asking people to "Save YSU Meshel Hall for Computer Research and Education."

As of Jan. 5, the petition has 777 signatures of the requested 1,000 signatures, with many comments.

Despite the obvious discontent from the computer science department, communications still made the move from the basement of Maag Library to Meshel Hall last semester.

Amy Crawford, acting chair of communication since July, said the space is working well for the department's classes, and she has received positive feedback from faculty.

Crawford said the space is needed, especially because of the high volume of students

who take Communications 1545: Foundations of Communication, which is a general education requirement for every student. She said last fall close to 1,500 students were enrolled in the course, and the number is growing all the time.

"There are more students opting to take the traditional face-to-face sections rather than the web-based sections," Crawford said. "It is required of all students at the university as part of the core competencies for the general education requirement. We always do have many sections that are always very highly enrolled."

Crawford said while 1545 was a driving force in the move to Meshel Hall, the space is also being used by telecommunication, journalism and other communication classes.

Crawford said she has not personally received any complaints

about the communication program's presence in Meshel Hall.

"It is always a challenge to try to find the way to share space, so we're just trying to serve our role and the needs of our students and we're also trying to be a good neighbor in that space and I haven't heard otherwise," she said.

There are plans in place which could give computer science students more room to work.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Martin Abraham said the data center on the fourth floor of Meshel Hall will be moving to a shared facility off campus, possibly in Columbus.

He said the process is still in the early planning stages, so the details aren't finalized, but he expects the space to go to computer science students.

"They're moving out a whole bunch of their servers and their activities so that there's some space available and we are going

to access that space for computer science growth, regrowth really, in order to accommodate the needs of the department," Abraham said. "We really are looking at it as an opportunity to expand for the new faculty that we are going to be adding and continuing to add."

Abraham said the computer science faculty has decreased in the last five or six years.

"We felt that it was reasonable to compress their space and then as we added more faculty, we would find the appropriate space to meet those needs as well," he said.

Abraham said the university is on the right path to making good progress for the computer science program.

"We are following through with the plan exactly the way



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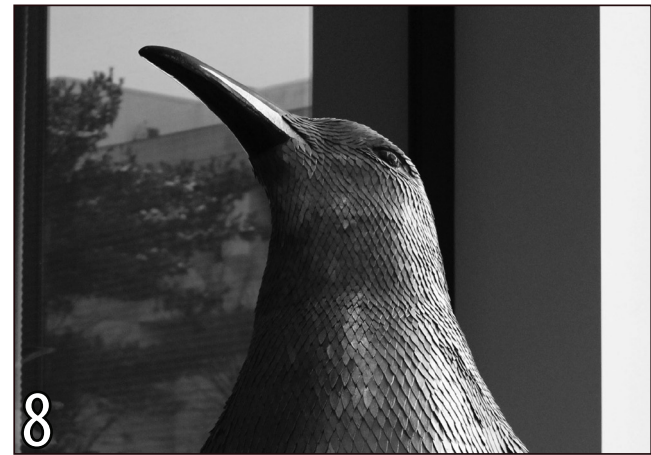


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Photos Courtesy of LUKAS DARLING

YSUSCAPE INSTALLS CROSSWALK BUCKETS AND FLAGS FOR PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

RACHEL GOBEP

YSUscape completed Phase 1 of its Crosswalk Buckets and Flags project, which was created to improve pedestrian safety, on Dec. 18.

YSUscape President Daniel Bancroft said the idea of this project began in spring 2017 from seeing how other cities around the country utilize crosswalk buckets and flags.

“This idea is having a PVC bucket on both sides of a crosswalk and then putting in crosswalk flags in those buckets,” Bancroft said. “Our flags are bright orange, so you can see them in day, at night. People

can carry them across the crosswalk or intersection with them.”

He said the flags can be used by pedestrians to show drivers their intent to cross the road or to make themselves more visible.

“At intersections, we have them at all four corners and at regular crosswalks, we have them at both sides, so a person can put them in the other bucket when they get across the road,” Bancroft said.

According to a YSUscape press release on Dec. 18, there were 221 vehicle crashes, with 15 being fatal, involving pedestrians from 2007 to 2016 on YSU’s campus and in Youngstown. Most of the accidents occurred around YSU and Downtown, as reported by the Eastgate Regional Council

of Governments.

Additionally, the press release stated that according to the Governors Highway Safety Association, 6,000 pedestrians were victims of vehicle collisions in 2015 and they account for 15 percent of traffic deaths in the United States.

“It’s no coincidence that the highest number of incidents are around downtown and the university where the most people are, so we looked at which intersections were the worst,” Bancroft said.

YSUscape Secretary Lukas Darling said in the press release that the goal of the project was to make pedestrians feel safer when they cross the street.

“By doing small projects like this, we can help to increase pedestrian safety and

the quality of life in Youngstown — it’s the little things,” Darling said.

First Ward Councilman Julius Oliver said he is grateful to YSUscape for the accomplishment of this project.

“It gives everybody a chance to look out for their neighbor and cross the street safely,” he said.

The crosswalk buckets and flags are located at six intersections in downtown Youngstown and throughout YSU’s campus. These locations include the intersection of Phelps and Front Streets, where a pedestrian, who was crossing the street, was hit by a vehicle, according to the press release.

Phase 2 of the project will be completed during the spring 2018 semester.

CARLA BALDWIN SHATTERS GLASS CEILING IN YOUNGSTOWN

MELISSA TUROSİK

A part-time instructor in the Criminal Justice & Forensic Sciences Department at Youngstown State University was sworn in as the first African-American female Youngstown Municipal Court Judge.

Magistrate Carla Baldwin said it feels great to make history, not imagining this would happen when she dreamt of becoming a judge at 12 years old.

"It's pretty amazing to know I went down in the history books as breaking barriers and shattering the ceiling and just making all kids believe whatever they want to do is possible," Baldwin said.

Baldwin's goal in the position will be to learn the inner workings of the job, she said.

"[I'm] looking at what we can do to better help those who appear before the

court and looking forward to providing drug treatment and mental health and specialize doctors for the community to get them the help they need in support of the court," Baldwin said.

She said a friend approached her and said that Municipal Court Judge Robert Milich was retiring and said that Baldwin would be good at the job. Baldwin then decided to run as Municipal Court Judge.

Baldwin said she will continue to teach part-time at YSU during her tenure as judge.

Baldwin said that the authority to make decisions that best help people draws her to the bench.

"It comes with a lot of power, comes with prestige and that's not why I do it. It's the opportunity to get a lay of the land, to hear people, to see what they need and apply the law appropriately," Baldwin said.

Baldwin offered some advice for young

people trying to achieve their dreams.

"The number one thing I say is look at your dream, your desire," she said. "You have to have an honest assessment and an honest talk with yourself and ask [if it's] something I'm good at ... Anything worth obtaining is going to be challenging, but it will definitely be worth it," Baldwin said.

Baldwin said her previous experience as a magistrate in the juvenile court helped her prepare for the role.

"Making decisions about people's lives when determining whether or not a child goes home, what's appropriate for an adult or knowing how to utilize and work with our social services agencies definitely was beneficial in understanding how the law and community can come together and perform a whole lot of good," Baldwin said.

Cynthia Little, a friend of Baldwin, said she is a kind, compassionate and intelligent woman.

"We connected as friends so easily and now we call ourselves 'sisters.' Judge Baldwin is very passionate about the well-being of others, especially youth. We share similar visions of helping others," Little said.

Little said she sees Baldwin accomplishing a lot as the new municipal court judge.

"She will educate the public to the operation of the court, and she will ensure effectiveness of the court to stop the revolving door that some individuals have experienced," Little said.

Allison Ware, a friend of Baldwin, said she sees Baldwin breaking barriers in the court room.

"I see her breaking down barriers between citizens and the court system, people knowing that when they go into her court room they aren't just another person she is seeing but an actual human being," Ware said.

THE PENGUIN TUITION PROMISE

DAVID FORD

The Youngstown State University Board of Trustees approved a tuition initiative, which sets up a guaranteed tuition rate for incoming students on Dec. 7.

Known as the Penguin Tuition Promise (PTP), the plan will become effective for first-time students enrolled during summer 2018.

According to a YSU press release on Dec. 7, tuition will remain frozen over four years of a student's enrollment. From summer 2018 until spring 2022, yearly tuition will remain consistent at \$8,899.

YSU President Jim Tressel said in the press release that the tuition plan will allow families to plan their student's education

much more efficiently.

"The Penguin Tuition Promise provides all first time undergraduate students and their families the certainty that tuition will remain the same for four years as they pursue degrees," Tressel said. "It makes the cost more predictable, it helps families better plan financially and encourages students to complete their degrees on time."

Under the PTP, tuition rates will remain the same for four years during students' pursuits of a bachelor's degree.

Neal McNally, vice president of finance and business operations, said tuition guarantee plans, like the PTP, are subject to strict state laws.

"State law requires that tuition guarantee plans last for four years," McNally said. "The law prohibits universities from cre-

ating plans that are shorter or longer than four years."

McNally said the PTP only applies to undergraduate students enrolling for the first time during summer 2018. He also said the PTP should add more incentive for students to complete their undergraduate degree in four years.

"The PTP should incentivize students to complete a baccalaureate program within a four-year period, lest be faced with a tuition increase in year five," McNally said.

The \$8,899 tuition and mandatory fees, room and board will cost around \$9,400 per each academic year. Under the PTP, room and board rates will remain unchanged over the four years, as stated in the press release.

According to the press release,

both these rates remain the lowest among public universities in Ohio, nearly \$1,500 under the state average.

YSU Provost Martin Abraham said the PTP was initially conceived to address any students' financial concerns up front.

"We're hopeful that the assurance of a known price can allow access to some students who might otherwise not be able to consider enrolling," Abraham said. "It helps students who need to work or take loans to better plan their financial challenges and can encourage students to graduate in four years."

Abraham said he believes the plan is a great opportunity for YSU students; an opportunity that could increase enrollment.

"We remain hopeful that the guarantee can provide some benefits that will allow in an in-

creased enrollment," Abraham said. "We're also hopeful the assurance allows for more financial stability and more efficient financial planning."

In addition to the PTP, the university has launched several initiatives to help students graduate in a timely manner.

The additional initiatives include reducing required credit hours for bachelor's degree completion from 124 to 120, as well as the introduction of the Penguin Jump Start program. This program allows incoming students to take up to six credit hours for \$500 courses, increasing the tuition bulk rate by two hours, from 12-16 to 12-18, according to the press release.

The press release states the two-credit-hour bump comes at no additional cost.



Photo by NAMI NAGAOKA

PENGUINS UNITE TO ASSIST INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

NAMI NAGAOKA

As the population of international students at Youngstown State University increases each semester, the International Programs Office (IPO) started the United Penguins, a group dedicated to helping international students transition into life in the United States.

Nathan Myers, the associate provost of the IPO, said he created the concept of the group two months ago.

He said there were a couple problems that the IPO was trying to solve and there have been challenges associated with being an international student in the United States.

"It was valuable for [international students] to be able to secure work experience and some small salary for students from an on-campus job," he said. "By actually paying people to help make the community better and paying people basically to solve the problems that are actively faced by students every day, that might

solve bigger problems not only providing people a job but also giving them experience in helping students in elevating their life while they are here."

He said they face difficulty meeting people, finding a place to eat and having transportation around the area.

Myers said he lived on campus when he came to YSU for the first six months. He said it allowed him to live like a student and become aware of difficulties in living without any transportation.

Myers said he saw a large group of new international students that were trying to walk to Walmart from 5th Avenue last semester.

"No one should feel that there is a problem that cannot be solved, whether it's a social problem or transportation problem," Myers said.

According to Myers, there were more than 90 applications for 15 open positions in United Penguins. United Penguins is divided into four teams: an activity team, a transportation team, a marketing team and a university life team.

Fourteen United Penguins students

were selected by considering their grade, life experiences and other criteria.

He said most of the positions are filled by students from different countries to help represent the perspective of their nationality.

Ahmed Awad, a senior electrical engineering major, is the leader of the transportation team of United Penguins. He said he has been working for IPO since last summer.

"I enjoy being a driver for IPO. It's a good experience because I get to be with a group of people during all the activities," he said. "It made me feel more connected to the new students around YSU."

He said he was not very active prior to being involved in the IPO even though he joined some social events. Meeting more people made him enjoy living in the United States more.

Awad said United Penguins are more focused on international students.

"People want to go where they feel like they belong. We hope international students will join us and we hope we can gather as much as we can so that we can

all have a fun experience and time," he said.

Jiwon Mun, a sophomore biology major, is a member of the housing life team. She said she was looking for a job on campus for a long. She applied for all of the positions that she was qualified for when a job opened at IPO last semester.

"I wanted to get a closer relationship with IPO officers," she said. "It was also for money, but I wanted to know about what is going on [among the international programs]."

Mun started at YSU in the English Language Institute (ELI) in 2016.

"I wanted to get to know new people at YSU ... not just my classmates," Mun said.

She said those experiences from her first years at YSU would help new international students.

She said the United Penguins are friendly and open to everyone. There are team activities, which provides for collaboration within the international community at YSU.



Photo Courtesy of *CAMPUS REC CENTER*

YSU CAMPUS REC ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO BE HEALTHY FOR NEW YEAR

CAMERON GODWIN

As the new year begins, many people ask themselves what they can do to improve their lives. Thus, new year's resolutions are made.

A resolution for a lot of people include staying healthy, active and fit. Going to a gym to work out, playing basketball with friends or doing yoga with colleagues are all considered to lose a little weight.

Sierra Kish, a freshman at Youngstown State University, said people choose to be healthy in the new year because it is a fresh start.

According to the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention, more than one third, or 36.5 percent, of United States adults are obese and 32.3 percent of young adults age 20-39 are considered overweight.

"It is hard for college students because we are surrounded by fast food, and most college students do not come home to a homemade cooked meal," Kish said.

Adventure Recreation Coordinator R.J. Markowitz said students have a lot going on and health may not be the highest priority.

"Little do they know that keeping healthy habits will actually assist in social, emotional and physical health," Markowitz said. "Making time to live healthy will

pay dividends in all aspects of their lives."

Markowitz said here are a lot of ways for students to stay healthy on campus and students should utilize all services the rec offers, including the rock wall.

"People do not realize that climbing our wall can be added to your workout for both strength and cardio," he said. "Our staff is willing and able to show you how."

He also said students should explore parks within walking distance of YSU. Students are able to participate in activities such as walking, hiking and playing tennis at Mill Creek Park or Wick Park.

Additionally, he said the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center has workout equipment, a basketball court

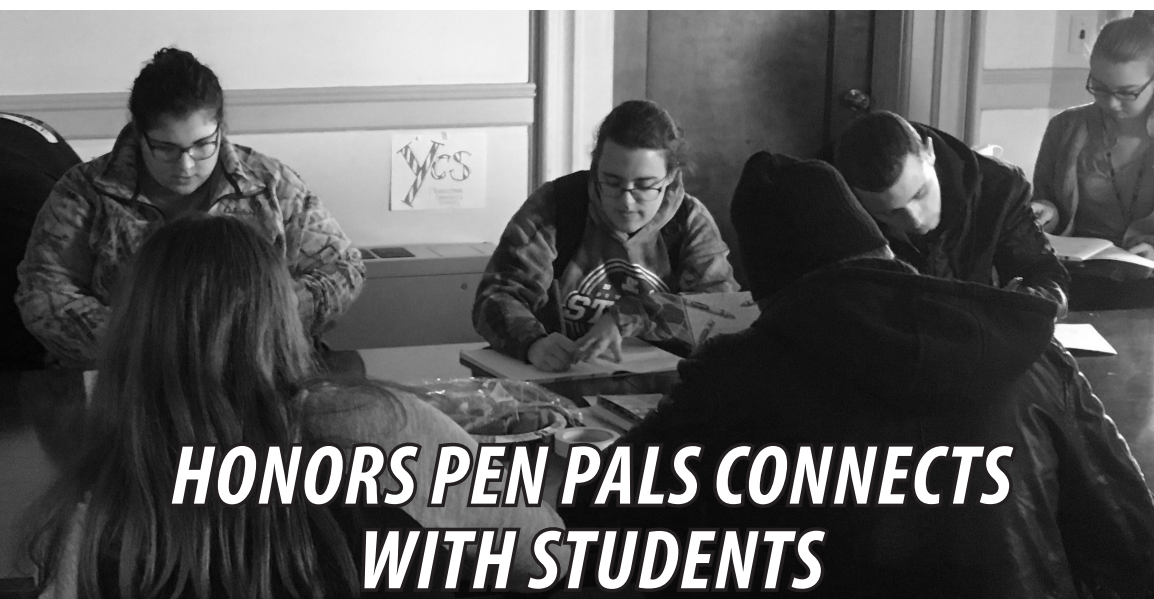
and a track course for runners.

Campus Recreation Director Joy Polkabila Byers said the team tries to develop programs that fit students at YSU, including career and financial wellness.

She said students have access to healthy food options on campus such as salads, lettuce wraps and grilled chicken.

Marah Hamilton, a student supervisor at the Campus Rec, said the rec offers classes such as yoga, sports conditioning and Zumba.

The rec center is located on the YSU campus next to DeBartolo Hall and in walking distance from Kilcawley Center and Stambaugh Stadium. Membership is free for all students.



HONORS PEN PALS CONNECTS WITH STUDENTS

Photo Courtesy of JOEY SCOTT

MELISSA TUROSİK

The Youngstown State University Honors College Honors Pen Pals program involves students in the Honors College writing to a specific elementary student, corresponding with and eventually meeting their pen pals.

Honors College Director Amy Cossentino said she was contacted in 2012 by the Youngstown Board of Education at the request of Dr. Rashid Abdu, a Youngstown surgeon who tutors at Harding Elementary, to start a pen pal program similar to Ohio State University's program.

Cossentino said several members of the Youngstown Board of Education knew that honors students have a volunteer requirement and thought honors students would be interested in spearheading the project.

Cossentino said the first group of pen pals began in the fall of 2012, and the program has grown with more than 500 student volunteers.

"We had a lot of interest from our students with several wanting to engage in the leadership," Cossentino said.

Pen Pal co-coordinator Hannah Crites said the mission of Honors Pen Pals is to provide elementary school students and honors students with a chance to communicate, to learn from and inspire one another.

Crites said honors students will act as positive role models to the students and hopefully leave a lasting impression on their pen pal.

"This program gives elementary students an opportunity to develop writing skills while gaining another perspective in their lives," Crites said. "Also, this is a way YSU can give back to the community."

Crites said the students get excited when their journal is returned, and they cannot wait to read what their pen pal has written.

"They also become excited to share thoughts and ideas, encouraging reading and writing skills in a different way and in some cases the journals

provide positive reinforcement of someone listening to them," Crites said.

Mellicent Costarella, a pen pal participant, said she first got involved with Honors Pen Pals during her freshmen year of college.

"It is an amazing experience connecting with students and getting to know about them and their different experiences growing up," Costarella said. "Writing and communicating with a different age group grants you a new perspective in life."

Costarella said she finds Honors Pen Pals as a rewarding way to volunteer and help the community of Youngstown.

Starting this semester, a new writing program called Writing with Residents will begin.

It will involve Honors Students writing to residents in nursing homes in the surrounding area.

Writing with Residents coordinator Jennie Wensel said the creation of Writing with Residents came from visiting her own great-grandmother in a nursing home before she passed away.

"Before my great grandmother passed away, I spent a lot of time in the nursing home visiting her," Wensel said. "Some of my great-grandmother's friends even told her how lucky she was to have a regular visitor."

Wensel said looking back on the time she had spent there, she realized a lot of elderly people did not have family or friends to socialize with from outside of the nursing home.

Wensel said 140 people have signed up for the program that will involve sending the residents letters.

"Though the majority of the program is letter writing, there is also an option for students to visit if they have time in their schedules," Wensel said. "YSU Honors College students will be writing bi-weekly for the rest of the semester to their residents."

Wensel said when the idea was presented to her, she jumped and took charge.

"I think the idea of special people who have lots of stories and wisdom to share being lonely just kills me inside. The hope that this program will genuinely help residents who feel even slightly lonely has inspired me," Wensel said.

TRESSEL'S CONTRACT EXTENDED THROUGH JUNE 2019

RACHEL GOBEP

The Youngstown State University Board of Trustees and University President Jim Tressel came to an agreement to extend Tressel's contract through June 30, 2019.

Tressel has been president of the university since 2014, when he signed a three-year contract.

According to a press release on Dec. 7, he then signed an agreement in December 2016 to renew his contract through June 2018. The agreement can take effect and extend Tressel's contract until 2021, with three separate one-year renewals.

Tressel said it is positive that he has received the approval of the Board of Trustees, who are his bosses.

"The extension of my contract is exciting because we really have a lot of things that we're in the midst of and a lot of dreams and ideas and to have the opportunity to continue to work on them is a lot of fun," he said.

Leonard Schiavone, chair of the YSU Board of Trustees Committees, said Tressel has made remarkable accomplishments with the visions he has had for YSU's campus in the four years that he has been president.

"We expanded our quasi off-campus living facilities for junior and senior students significantly and we've worked to make the campus more accessible and attractive to students from out of the area who would be living on campus," Schiavone said.

According to the press release, campus housing is at capacity. In addition, one privately-financed student apartment complex has opened and is at capacity and a second is currently under construction.

Schiavone said Tressel has expanded the YSU honors program, stemmed the decline in student enrollment and brought an increase in graduation rates.

Under Tressel, more than half of the \$100 million for the "We See Tomorrow" fundraising campaign has been raised, according to the press release.

"He has certainly been an asset to increasing the YSU foundation funds and his fundraising capacities. He's brought a lot of new and fresh donors into the fold," Schiavone said.

The press release states that under Tressel, freshman enrollment at the university has increased 25 percent, with the incoming freshman class in fall 2017 having the highest grade point averages and standardized test scores in YSU's history.

Ron Cole, YSU's information officer, said Tressel has created a positive atmosphere on campus.

"President Tressel's leadership, influence and endless enthusiasm has helped create an environment on campus and in the community in which excellence is always the top priority," Cole said.

Tressel will not have a pay increase, with his salary remaining at \$300,000, according to the press release.



Photos by MARAH J. MORRISON/THE JAMBAR

THE STORY AND SIGNIFICANCE PENGUIN STATUES

MARAH J. MORRISON

In 2004, penguin statues decorated by local artists were put on display in Youngstown for a fundraiser. By the end of the year, the penguins were auctioned off and the money was donated to charity.

Catherine Cala, assistant director of alumni engagement at Youngstown State University, and in charge of the penguin project, said it was an excellent example of collaboration between the campus and community. She said YSU partnered with the Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley through a private donor, who provided some upfront funding to purchase the 31 plain white 7 foot tall penguins.

"From the moment they arrived in town

— bolted to a flatbed truck that drove in the Homecoming Parade — the project generated unbridled enthusiasm from the campus, artist and valley community," Cala said.

Cala said the 2004 Penguin Parade engaged community members of all ages, and brought them to campus for the finished penguins' debut at the Summer Festival of the Arts. She said the completed penguins truly showcased the depth and incredible talent of our valley artists.

"That was a win-win situation for all involved," Cala said. "Of course, the success of the fundraising auction was a huge thrill as well."

Cala said many of the penguins are still located on campus. There are three in Tod Hall, two in Kilcawley Center, one in Ward Beecher Planetarium, one on University

Plaza, one at OH WOW!, one at SMARTS downtown, one at the Southern Park Mall and more in the community.

Brian Brennan, library operations supervisor at YSU, said the penguins could be decorated however the local artists wanted. He said one penguin was decorated like John Young, founder of Youngstown, and there was another penguin that had an Ohio presidents theme.

"Some of them were beautifully decorative and imaginative," Brennan said. "It spoke highly of the university."

Brennan said the statues served their purpose to raise money for charity, and brought some good in the world through their sale, which says good things about the university. As far as something like this being repeated, he said it would be very unlikely.

"It was a once in a lifetime thing, a major project, but we'll see what happens," Brennan said.

YSU technical services librarian Lisa Garofali said the penguin project was a great way to show the culture of the Mahoning Valley with all of the different organizations and the artists involved.

"I think it was great for YSU to be involved," Garofali said. "Our university is very iconic to the Mahoning Valley, so I think having these penguins as a representative for donations to charity is a great idea to spread the influence of the university."

David Sweet, the president of YSU at the time of the penguin project, said that for a bird that can't fly, these penguins certainly have soared high and they've brought us all along for an inspiring ride.

THIRD CLASS STRIPS DOWN

FEAT. LEE BOYLE

JOHN STRAN

Third Class is a local band who turned into a one-man mission to put smiles on faces through a bare bones musical style.

Lee Boyle is the constant member of Third Class and is the only member in the latest release, "Poem Idea," an album in which Boyle emphasizes the idea of minimalism.

"Other albums have always prominently featured my songwriting, and have had moments of minimalism, but this is the ultimate minimalist album," Boyle said.

Boyle said the solo approach

gives the album a starker sound compared to previous releases. The stripped down tone of "Poem Idea" was influenced by artists such as Randy Newman, The Mountain Goats and Corinne Bailey Rae.

The title track, "Poem Idea," is a ballad about poem or song ideas that slightly shows the thought process Boyle takes when writing music. Boyle's guitar and key playing in the album add a darker tone to his lighthearted lyrics with many of the songs being direct with their message and restrained in length.

The longest song on their album is a little over three minutes and entails a mixture of poetic-pop lyrics and vocals, force-

ful folk guitar and upbeat piano, which took Boyle about an hour and a half to record.

"My end goal with 'Poem Idea' was to make a much happier album than past Third Class albums," Boyle said. "With all my albums, the general end goal is to help listeners through life with music."

Third Class formed in 1999 and has released five albums, "Poem Idea" being the most recent.

The original members, including Boyle, were Boyle's brother, Jack, and Pepe Parish. It's always been the same members until 2017 when Lee Boyle started using different guest musicians and then embarked on a

solo album.

Boyle said he's always been the predominant writer who never had an issue coming up with fresh material, and always feels like things are just getting started.

"I write lots of poetry, and then pull it apart to fit into different melodies I've created, and I often do many variations on the same song," Boyle said. "Inspiration always comes easy to me because every day, there is a miracle to write about."

Boyle's devotion to music has remained with him because he feels the world has a place for his music. His advice to other musicians who are interested in keeping the musical fire burning is to



Photo Courtesy of TIMELESS SHOTS PHOTOGRAPHY

find a happy medium.

"Make sure that you're doing it for others' happiness as well as your own," Boyle said.

The Poem Idea Tour to promote the new release will begin in January, and finish mid-March with two shows in Pittsburgh at Hambone's and Papa D's kitchen and bar.

The next Third Class show will be playing Jan. 12, at the Nova Cellars Winery in Pulaski, PA, and the next local show will be Jan. 19, at the Soap Gallery in downtown Youngstown.

"Poem Idea" is available on CD at Third Class shows and on all digital platforms.

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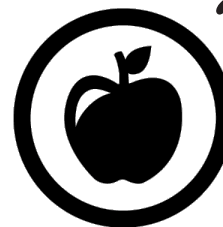
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A TALE
FRONT

that I had envisioned. Maybe I didn't share it or communicate it as effectively as I could have in terms of the broader population," Abraham said. "The chair has a good handle on the things that he's trying to achieve and we're going to create the space we need in order to accommodate their growth."

Coskun Bayrak, chair of computer science and information systems, said the total number of undergraduate computer science students is 453 with 24 set to graduate.

"Currently we have a total of 10 faculty members," he said.

"The student-to-faculty ratio is too high and needs to be reduced. If not, we will have problems during the accreditation process."

Bayrak said in the next four years, the computer science department plans to hire four more faculty members in networking, security, scientific visualization and gaming. He said the plan is to use the fourth-floor space to complement those areas.

"We plan to use the area in fourth floor to establish the following foundations: a virtual reality center, a multimedia room with streaming capability [and] one modeling and simulation lab with streaming capability," Bayrak said.

Bayrak said currently there is almost no sharing of space happening on the first floor of Meshel Hall. He said there are two classrooms on that floor the computer science department might use if they are available, but they are ultimately controlled by communications and can be hard to get into.

"During the programming contest, we wanted to use [room 103] for the opening ceremony in October but we could not get in," Bayrak said. "Even President Tressel called some people to see if we [could] get it open but did not succeed."

He said moving the computer science department to the fourth floor will help to some degree,

but he said he still will not have space for large lectures of 50 or more students.

"Small classrooms are a good learning environment when there are enough resources, such as instructors," Bayrak said. "Now we don't have enough instructors and we end up cancelling some classes. If we have large classrooms, then we can accommodate the needs of students a little better."

He said the computer science departments has requested two large rooms on the second floor to use for conferences and lectures, but they haven't heard back about it yet. Until the fourth-floor space becomes available, Bayrak said for now

the computer science department is limited to available spaces on the third floor.

"After losing the spaces in the first floor we were constrained with the spaces in the third floor," Bayrak said. "We used to have an open computer lab; now we don't have it."

Bayrak said he doesn't expect the fourth floor to be ready until 2019 or 2020. Until then, he said the challenge of finding space for the computer science department remains a problem. "We are working on the issue and hope to find a solution for it," Bayrak said.



The Digital Yo Launch Party

January 12th, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

**The Lariccia Family International
Student Lounge**

Join the writers of the digital Yo Magazine this Friday for cookies and refreshments as they discuss their published works on the city, the university and the people of Youngstown.

STARTING THE SEMESTER ON A POSITIVE NOTE

SAMANTHA ALLAN

The beginning of the spring semester has officially arrived. In a few short blinks, winter break has officially ended and the time for the next round of classes has taken its place.

Heavy class loads, the search for close parking and piles of snow and ice annoy students who are already feeling stressed out and disgruntled. It is very easy to get frustrated with the person honking their horn or with the traffic lights collectively pressing you for time to walk to class.

With so much chaos in the first couple weeks, it is important to make the semester transition as easy as possible. Spreading positivity helps combat the winter blues and overwhelming feelings that often arise in a new situation.

While this may seem like a complex and trying task,

spreading positivity can involve little to no effort at all. A kind word can benefit a person in ways you may not even be aware of.

Giving compliments is the perfect way to get the semester going in the right direction. In order to make a great first impression, many students will enter new classes with their favorite outfits. This might include a new pair of boots or a sweater that gives them an extra boost of confidence.

If you happen to notice that sweater or pair of shoes, try complimenting the person wearing it. Positive comments can brighten the day of someone that may have felt a bit down otherwise, and bring a glimmer of hope the semester is going to be a great one. Telling a fellow classmate or professor you like their outfit can improve their day and yours as well.

While this may seem like an obvious question, when is the last time you complimented someone? Compliments can be a great way to strike up a conversation and make friends with the students you will soon be working with.

Being surrounded by unfamiliar faces can make anyone feel a bit unsure of how the semester will pan out.

An especially difficult course could increase nervous feelings and lead you to scan the room for any sign of familiar faces. A flattering remark may lead you to a future study partner, note taker, fellow group project member or close friend.

Many researchers have devoted much of their time and energy proving compliments have a lot more benefits than you might think. Hara Estroff Marano notes, “compliments amplify positivity; they not only deliver positive effects to others, those effects bounce back on us, ramping up the positive atmosphere we breathe” (“The Art of the Compliment”).

Not only will a positive remark make another person feel great, it will also rebound to benefit the person giving it. I am a firm believer in embracing any opportunity to bring some positivity in my own life.

With good wishes for all, I hope some positivity can get the semester off to a great start.

MARIO'S MOVIES: LADY BIRD *SILENTLY* SOARS

MARIO RICCIARDI

We love movies about high school. Something about a hormonal mess of a time translates well to us on screen. Youth is wasted on the young unless that youth is put on screen. Whether it's the honest portrayal in “The Breakfast Club,” a surreal take in “Heathers,” the alternative version in “Perks of Being a Wallflower,” or a period piece like “Dazed and Confused,” we are willing to live high school over and over again in 24 frames per second.

The indie film “Lady Bird” is our latest addition to the genre. As Christine “Lady Bird” McPherson discovers herself through a turbulent senior year, her mother desperately tries to keep their family together through life's lows. The film takes place between 2002 and 2003,

but uses this time period for ambiance instead of relying upon it.

This allows it to transcend and become just as relevant in 2018. Think Wes Anderson, but without the eccentric zaniness. The film tackles the usual lineup of teen issues including social status, sexual exploration, depression, financial woes and family dynamics. “Lady Bird” shakes things up though.

In “The Breakfast Club,” the gang is chased by the school principal in order to hide Bender's weed in a suspenseful chase that ends in selfless sacrifice. In “Heathers,” Winona Ryder and Christian Slater put their brains together to stop school bullies by colorfully murdering them. “Perks” takes kids you'd find at a speech tournament and processes their inner struggles as fuel for the story. “Lady Bird” does none of this.

As the film moves forward, you hardly

notice the defining moments until they've passed. Don't mistake this for a bad thing. “Lady Bird” unobtrusively moves through the extreme ups and downs of adolescence in a way that gives itself an edgy grace.

It is an entertaining story, but by no means does it allow itself to become embellished; it is a story about honesty – honesty with your friends, honesty with your family and honesty with yourself. This theme comes full circle by also being honest with its audience. Saoirse (pronounced Sur-sha) Ronan plays Lady Bird with such lovable awkwardness that it is impossible to stay mad at her. Her performance is second only to Laurie Metcalf's, who plays Lady Bird's mother.

The rest of the supporting cast does their leading ladies justice by presenting a loving yet insecure best friend, a depressed father struggling to support his family, a closeted boyfriend, a goth sibling

coming to terms with society's view of him and a freshly realistic group of populars.

Ronan grounds the film as these characters enter and exit Lady Bird's life, even when she shakes things up. I would not be surprised if Ronan and/or Metcalf get Oscar noms this awards season. Most movies enchant us with the magic of excess, but “Lady Bird” reminded me of the magic in “an average life.”

And trust me, the drama still finds its way, it just takes a backseat to the bigger more beautiful picture “Lady Bird” paints. The film will speak loudest to its female audience for obvious reasons, but I insist that everyone gives it a view.

“Lady Bird” is an all-inclusive eye opening film about the quiet magic of an “average” life.

★★★★☆ (4/5 Penguins)

WE ARE PENGUINS!

ROBIN STEARS

Across

1. You might see one under a mouse
4. Dude
7. "Twilight" werewolf
12. YSU's Rhodes Scholar Ashley, or the "Catch-22" pilot who repeatedly crashes
13. Cowboys quarterback Tony
15. Petting-zoo animal
16. Official penguin mascot of the Pittsburgh Penguins
18. Santa's penguin pal on "Santa Claus is Comin' to Town"
19. "___ Way You Want It" (Journey single)
20. Sound made when Batman punches
22. Rowboat propeller
23. Penguin baby of Roy and Silo in a banned book
26. Pine-___
27. Penpal of the Koala Brothers who shares a name with Pete the YSU Penguin's friend
29. Prefix meaning green, in a way
30. One-named singer/producer with "So Sick"
31. GPS readings (Abbr.)
32. Pie ___ mode; 2 wds.
33. Former Ant-Man Hank ___
34. Stamp-of-approval abbr.
36. "Happy Feet" penguin who dances his way into Gloria's heart
38. The Ice King's penguin minion on "Adventure Time"
42. Parking Services concern
44. YSU's Lambda Pi ___
45. Gold, in Spanish class
46. "What are you waiting for?": 2 wds.
48. Radar and Klinger, famously (Abbr.)
50. "The dog ate my homework," e.g.
51. Backyardigans penguin who is susceptible to panic attacks
52. ___ Avir
53. Penguin-like Neopets from Terror Mountain
55. Photo ___ (media events)
56. Greaser rival in "The Outsiders"
57. Cool with Green Day
58. "Toy Story 2" penguin with a broken squeaker

61. "Penguins of Madagascar" penguin who gets bossed around by the Skipper
66. "The Vagina Monologues" author Eve
67. Places for pampering
68. "___ the land of the free ..."
69. Varnish ingredient
70. Beast of burden
71. The second S in CSIS (Abbr.)

- Down**
1. Luau bowlful
 2. Trig class subject
 3. Dr. who joined Eminem on stage at the 2011 Grammys
 4. Kirby, Mali or Mars
 5. One of the Gilmore girls
 6. "Srsly?! WTH!!"
 7. Selena portrayer, to her fans
 8. "There's an ___ for that"

9. Stephen Graham's "Boardwalk Empire" role
10. "___ Eleven"
11. President Obama, to his pals
14. "Here we go again!" (2 wds.)
15. Bread machine?
17. "8 Heads in a Duffel ___"
21. Felipe, Jesus, Moises or Matty of baseball
23. YSU Care ___
24. "Because Freedom Can't Protect Itself" org. (Abbr.)
25. Chomsky of linguistics
26. Fall, Spring or Summer at YSU (Abbr.)
27. "The Taming of the Shrew" setting
28. Tampa Bay Rays infielder Longoria
30. Opposite of "da" at the Kremlin
33. Astronomical discovery of 1930 that Neil deGrasse Tyson helped demote
35. Pepper, Preston and Bilko (Abbr.)
37. Get-out-of-jail money
39. Vegan stir fry ingredient
40. McCormack, Bana, Roberts or Stoltz
41. After-bath garment
43. Prefix with mom, coined after historic 2009 births
44. Building annex
46. Redheaded passenger of the Mystery Machine
47. Dwell on
49. Not-very-passionate kisses
51. Computer button
53. Part of the YSU band
54. "Myth, Symbol and Ritual" department (Abbr.)
56. Neighbor of Israel (Abbr.)
57. "___ the night before Christmas ..."
59. ___ Young Band
60. "Your Moment of ___" ("The Daily Show" feature)
62. Exclamation heard at Uncle Nick's Greek Fried Chicken
63. "Help!"
64. Door opener
65. Returns home?

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Solution in next week's Jambar

A JAMBAR EDITORIAL

POLICE QUOTAS: TO PROTECT AND TO SERVE?

Watch your speed; it's the end of the month.

If you've heard this phrase before, you know that it refers to the monthly police quota for traffic tickets. Police quotas, though thought to be beneficial to civilian safety, have had negative effects on both police officers and citizens.

While no one is encouraging reckless driving, it is important to know the consequences quotas can have on our society.

According to npr.com (National Public Radio), NYPD Officer Adhyl Polanco has come forward with allegations of quotas set in place for their department.

"The culture is, you're not working unless you are writing summonses or arresting people," Polanco said.

Polanco stated that their quota is 20 and one — 20 tickets and one arrest.

Determined to expose the alleged quota system, he secretly recorded conversations inside his police station in the Bronx. A man, who Polanco identifies as a sergeant, encouraged officers to get their numbers up, and threatened that the quotas would be even higher if they did not.

"Next week, it could be 25 and one. It could be 35 and one ... Until you decide you're going to quit this job and become a Pizza Hut delivery man, this is what you're going to be doing until then," the man said.

Now, Polanco is suing the NYPD. He is filing one of several lawsuits over alleged quotas at the department.

While arrest and ticket quotas are illegal in some states, like New York, Illinois, California and Florida, former law enforcement will admit they exist.

Chuck Wexler, executive director of

the Police Executive Research Forum, says he strongly believes some of the 18,000 police departments across the country have quotas.

"On the one hand, there is an understandable desire to have productivity from your officers," Wexler said. "But telling them that you want to arrest x number of people, you have to cite x number of people, it just encourages bad performance on the part of officers."

One of the drawbacks of quotas, critics believe, is that some officers view the communities they're policing as a source of revenue. According to the Justice Department, this has happened in Ferguson, MO. The largely white police force there generated millions of dollars in tickets from black residents every year. This, critics say, creates distrust between the public and the police.

In Ohio, police quotas are still technically legal. According to slaterzurz.com, legislative records show that the Ohio House of Representatives passed a bill in June 1999 concerning prohibition of ticket quotas which would have become part of the Ohio Revised Code (Law). The bill, however, failed to pass in the Senate and never became a law in Ohio.

With current issues of police brutality and sexual assault, enough distrust between the people and our police already exists. Setting quotas only encourages more public distrust of law enforcement, bad arrests and the mistreatment of our officers. Arrests should only be made to protect — not to generate revenue — and the quality of arrests should be the only form of evaluation of our officers — not the number of arrests.



Chelsea Olson (#12) took a screen from Sarah Cash (#23) as Macee Williams (#50) and Tamya Sims (#11) look to defend. Photo Courtesy of YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

LONG ROAD TRIP AHEAD FOR YSU WOMEN

MARC WEEMS

The Youngstown State University women's basketball ended its six-game home-stand with a 4-2 record. Now, it has to test its strength on the road with four tough road games coming up.

"I thought we learned a lot about ourselves. We learned where we need to improve and what some of our strengths are," YSU head coach John Barnes said. "Winning four out of our last six is really solid for this group."

YSU (6-9, 2-2 Horizon League) now has to prove that it belongs in the upper echelon of the league with games against Cleveland State, Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Wright State and No. 25-ranked Wisconsin-Green Bay. All will be tough tests for this team.

A continuing missing piece for the Penguins has been sharpshooting guard Alison Smolinski. She has been sidelined for

the past few weeks with a fractured right foot.

"It's going to be a while before she is back. She has a fracture/break so I don't know when she will be back. Each injury and break has its own timetable for recovery. We are hoping as soon as possible," Barnes said.

Barnes said he anticipates Smolinski returning this year, but just no timetable has been set.

Despite that, YSU has played well without her, and now have some tough tests ahead.

The Penguins start the road trip in Green Bay against the Phoenix. Green Bay (12-2, 2-1) is ranked 25th in the country. YSU has lost seven consecutive games to the Phoenix.

"We try and take every opponent the same but they know that Green Bay is going to be good and has won many championships," Barnes said. "We feel like everyone is beating. Northern Kentucky won three games before beating Green Bay.

This is the toughest stretch of the year by far."

Freshman Guard Chelsea Olson has started four games, and played in 15 while averaging 5.3 points per game, 2.7 rebounds and one assists while shooting 39 percent and 38 percent from three.

"I'm feeling more comfortable and confident. It's all a learning experience especially for us freshman," Olson said. "Each game we learn something new and we get more comfortable each day. I think we are doing well."

Olson also gets to play in front of her family for the first time as a collegiate athlete as she is from Wisconsin.

"IUPUI is making a case as the best team in the conference. They haven't played Green Bay yet or Wright State. They are the only undefeated team (in conference) and they've done it on the road. That game was good for us because we had a lot of chances to win that game," Barnes said.

YSU lost to Indiana University-Purdue

University Indianapolis, 65-43. It trailed at halftime, 37-28, but didn't shoot well in the second half.

"We missed a lot of layups and wide-open threes. They (IUPUI) also had a girl go for a career-high. That helped us evaluate where we are and know that we can do some things to get better," Barnes said.

One thing that continues to be an issue is rebounding for the Penguins. YSU has been outrebounded on average of 3.6 per game. YSU has also struggled with second half defense as YSU 528-479 in that half.

"We just have to stick to our plan as much as we can. Things should turn our way if we do that," Olson said. "Just helping us on the court has been key. Everyone talks on the court and they have been here before. We might not talk as much as we should."

YSU faces Green Bay on Jan. 11, Milwaukee on Jan. 13 and then Wright State on Jan. 15 for three games in five days.

PRESS BOX PERSPECTIVE: A DIVISIONAL ROUND THAT LOOKS GOOD ON PAPER

SETH RIVELLO

The NFL playoff wild-card round took a strange turn last weekend. The Kansas City Chiefs blew a halftime lead at home against the Tennessee Titans. The Titans, who are the worst team in the playoffs, killed the Chiefs' defense with the run game. Derrick Henry had 156 yards on the ground. At one point, Titans quarterback Marcus Mariota threw a touchdown to himself. The Chiefs blew a 21-3 halftime lead and lost 22-21.

The Atlanta Falcons went into Los Angeles, and stopped the explosive Rams pairing of Jared Goff and Todd Gurley. Atlanta's win will propel them into the Divisional Round to play the Carson Wentz-less Philadelphia Eagles.

The New Orleans Saints defended its home field by taking down the Carolina Panthers by the score of 31-26. The run

game never got started for either team so Drew Brees was relied on to chuck the ball deep for New Orleans. Cam Newton did his thing throwing for 349 yards and adding 37 on the ground. The other wild-card matchup was brutal as the Jacksonville Jaguars took down the Buffalo Bills 10-3. It was so bad I just don't want to talk about it.

The Divisional matchups should be interesting, but there are a couple snoozers. The Falcons are traveling into Philadelphia. Philadelphia, a team once high powered but taken down a notch because of the huge loss to MVP candidate quarterback Carson Wentz. Wentz suffered an ACL tear in Week 14 that sent him to the injured reserve. I expect Eagles backup veteran Nick Foles to play an average game, with average numbers, and a loss. The Eagles defense is good but not good enough to carry the baggage of Foles. The Falcons offense is slowly heating up, nev-

er sleep on Matt Ryan and Julio Jones.

The Titans are traveling into New England to take on the Patriots that same night. No one expects this to be a game. Expect Tom Brady, Brandin Cooks and Rob Gronkowski to embarrass the Titans lacking secondary with big plays. The playoffs are completely different from the regular season. New England lacks an outstanding defense, but Matt Patricia, the defensive coordinator, always has these guys ready to play ball.

A very interesting matchup is the Jacksonville Jaguars and the Pittsburgh Steelers. This doesn't really look like a great game because the Jaguars offense lacks with Blake Bortles under center, but the defense is outstanding. Calais Campbell has been a force at defensive end this season totaling 14.5 sacks, Telvin Smith is all over the place with 102 tackles and three interceptions. It has a crazy defensive line and not to mention the guys on the out-

side like Jalen Ramsey and A.J. Bouye. Bouye has allowed only 38 catches on 84 targets including six interceptions. On the other side, Ramsey has only allowed 47 catches on 92 targets including four interceptions. Ben Roethlisberger and company need to watch themselves and not get too cocky going into this one; the floor can collapse on them at any time.

In the last matchup, the Saints travel to Minnesota to take on the Vikings. The Saints do have an explosive offense, but the Vikings have a crazy defense. Xavier Rhodes is the definition of lockdown corner, and if you get past him, over the top is safety Harrison Smith who totaled five interceptions this season. The only thing holding the Vikings back is quarterback Case Keenum. He's shown flashes at times, but deep down, he is still an average backup QB. If Minnesota can ride this home field advantage, it will be very hard to take down.

BILL BUCKNER, YSU ALUMNUS STEVE BARTOLIN TO SPEAK AT 2018 FIRST PITCH BREAKFAST

MARC WEEMS

Former Boston Red Sox great Bill Buckner will be the featured speaker at the 2018 Youngstown State Baseball First Pitch Breakfast. The breakfast will be held Saturday, Feb. 10, at The Embassy in Boardman. Buckner will be joined by former YSU standout and successful businessman Steve Bartolin.

The event will also provide fans the opportunity to meet the 2018 Penguins baseball squad, enjoy a breakfast buffet and bid in live and silent auctions on an impressive lineup of Major League Baseball memorabilia, unique baseball experiences and YSU baseball gear.

The breakfast ticket will also provide entrance into a pull raffle, which will be for two different grand prizes. The first prize will be an autographed bat, signed by the 2018 YSU baseball team. The second prize will be four 2018 season tickets for Youngstown State baseball home

games.

General admission tickets are \$25 apiece, and reserved seats are \$35 each. Corporate and family tables are also available for \$550, and include 10 breakfast/raffle tickets, premium seating at the First Pitch Breakfast, sponsor recognition on ysusports.com and two guests to join the speakers and the YSU baseball staff for dinner on Friday, Feb. 9, at Michael Alberini's in Boardman.

Premium Reserved tables are also available for \$350, which will guarantee priority seating for 10 people to hear both speakers share their experiences.

Doors will open at 8:00 a.m. with the buffet beginning at 8:30 and the program commencing at 9:00 a.m.

Buckner played 22 seasons in the MLB for the Boston Red Sox, Chicago Cubs, California Angels, Kansas City Royals and Los Angeles Dodgers. Buckner amassed more than 2,700 hits during his career. He won the National League batting title with the Cubs in 1980 and was select-

ed to the MLB All-Star Game in 1981.

Bartolin played baseball for former head coach Dom Rosselli from 1969-1972, and was inducted into the Youngstown State Athletics Hall of Fame in 1987. He was drafted by the Detroit Tigers in 1972, and played professionally until 1975. Bartolin helped lead YSU to a combined 89-48 overall mark during his four seasons.

Bartolin was honored as the 1999 co-Penguin of the Year, sharing the honor with Rosselli.

Tickets will be on sale at the Beeghly Center merchandise booth during YSU men's and women's basketball games. Other tickets can be arranged and questions can be answered by Youngstown State assistant coach Josh Merrigan at the YSU baseball office. Coach Merrigan can be reached by email at jjmerrigan@ysu.edu or by phone at (605) 366-7627.

The Embassy is located at 5030 Youngstown-Poland Road in Boardman.

NEW YEAR, NEW GUINS AS YOUNGSTOWN STATE HITS THE ROAD

CHRIS MCBRIDE

A new year brings what looks to be a new Youngstown State Men's Basketball team. After closing the year on a nine-game losing skid, it began 2018 winning three straight Horizon League games, which marked a first for the team since joining the league in the 2001-02 season.

This also marks the first time having gone 3-0 in any conference play since 1997-98 when Mid-Continent Conference. Heading into the week, it'll hit the road continuing Horizon League play.

YSU (5-11, 3-0) is coming off an comeback 85-74 win over Green Bay (7-11, 2-3) this past weekend in Beeghly Center.

"I think our team showed a lot of perseverance in that second half. For a young team to get down ten and not hit the panic button, I think that shows our growth as a group," YSU Head Coach Jerrod Calhoun said.

Guard Cameron Morse, named Horizon League player of the week, and forward Braun Hartfield, led the way for the Penguins in the win with 19 and 21 points, respectively.

Other contributors were freshman forward Garrett Covington with 17 points and Tyree Robinson added 11. He continues to perform well in Horizon play averaging 11.3 points on 62 percent shooting.

YSU also managed to win the battle on the boards ac-

cumulating a +14 advantage in rebounds.

Late in the game, Hartfield got hot despite missing all nine of his three-point attempts on the game. He managed 13 points in the second half. Hartfield, alongside Morse, helped lead the Penguins to a 21-point comeback to solidify the win.

The game was a needed test for the fresh-faced Penguins team as they battled back from being down ten early on in the second half.

"We had to lose a few to get where we're at now," Hartfield said. "Our defense kind of got better because we made some changes here and there. We kind of bought in now."

Over the course of their win streak, it seems the Penguins are gelling almost exactly how Calhoun envisioned to begin.

Morse seems to be stepping into the point guard position comfortably having averaged 7.3 assists to go along with 19 points per game over the last three games. He received praise from Calhoun said he's "mastered" the point guard position having assumed that role due to the injured Francisco Santiago.

"Somewhere in December, he realized he can get a lot of assists and still be able to get a lot of points at the same time," Hartfield said. "He's doing a tremendous job at that and it's helping us be successful." The team has faced a daunting set of road tests since December, facing teams such as Butler, Indiana, and Calhoun's former Cleveland State team though Hartfield



Photo Courtesy of YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

Cameron Morse (#24) tries to get past Kamar Baldwin (#3) on Dec. 9.

said it just gave them the experience they needed.

Though whether the trials and errors of the team are behind them remain to be seen but the team is coming into this road stretch a more seasoned group. Hartfield described the upcoming trip as being "Not nothing, but nothing big" as the team begins to regain its confidence.

"We're not fully where we need to be as far as the playing style pressing for 40," Calhoun said. "We had to change to as coaches sometimes you have to adapt to your team and adjust to what you got. We've done a good job of that."

The Penguins now set their sights on Oakland, a team largely considered to be the favorites to win the conference.

"This week is going to tell a lot," Calhoun said. "Oakland is a team that is very, very talented there's a reason they were picked to win this league. They have great players and a great coach in Greg Kampe."

The mission for YSU will be finding how to stop the three-headed scoring monster of Kendrick Nunn, Martez Walker, and Jalen Hayes. Coming off three losses of their own, Calhoun expects to play an angry Oakland team.

"Our DNA is gonna be tested this week. What kind of makeup do we have as people, as a group; how are we gonna handle success and adversity?" Calhoun said.

YSU started a three-game road trip with Oakland University on Jan. 10 at and then the University of Detroit Mercy on Jan. 12.