

# CAMPUS PARKING: CONCERN OR COMMONALITY?

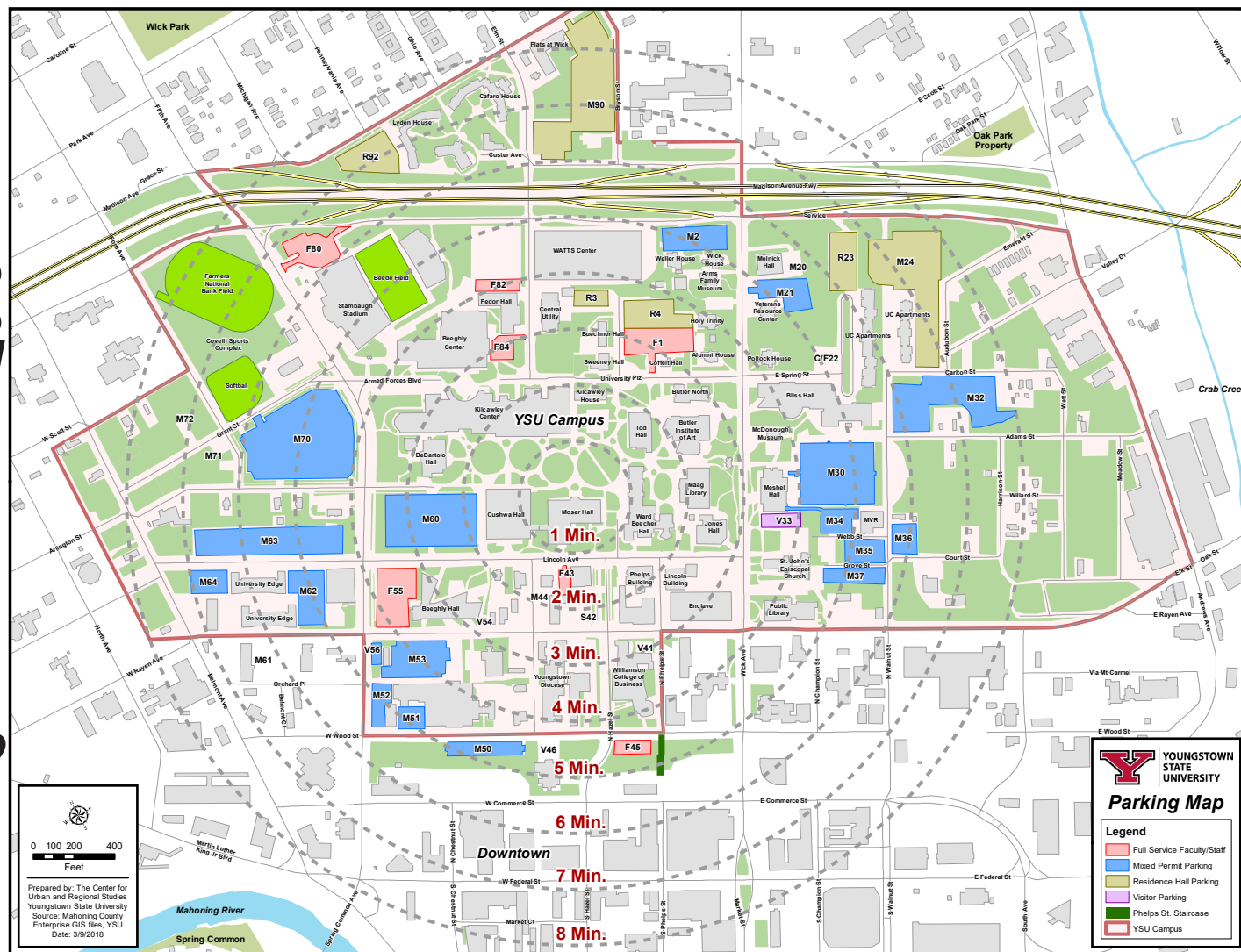


Photo courtesy of **DANNY O'CONNELL**

**JORDAN UNGER**

A recent survey was conducted at Youngstown State University to determine which concerns were the most prominent for students. Over 900 students were surveyed, and the most common issue shared among them was parking on campus.

Rachel Evans, junior psychology major, said parking at YSU has been an issue for her. One of these issues is walking from one of the parking lots across Fifth Avenue to her classes in Williamson College of Business Administration.

“In the winter, it’s a hard walk. It really is,” Evans said. “I used to get sick all of the time last semester when it was cold out [while walking to class].”

Zack Scochera, senior political science major, said he wishes the streets around

campus would have more parking meters available, particularly after some were removed with road updates. He said street parking is more convenient for him because the spaces are closer to his classes.

“I’ve driven around campus for 15 minutes at a time looking for street parking,” Scochera said. “The parking lots are reasonable, but we can probably use more of them. I personally don’t park in [parking decks] because I know people who have had parts of concrete fall on their car.”

Victoria Mathia, sophomore nursing major, said she’s faced problems with parking as well.

“The first couple of weeks of the semester are always hard to find a place to park and I’m usually late for class, even if I give myself 20 minutes to find a parking space,” Mathia said. “It just never seems

to be enough.”

Details behind the complaints seem to vary, but many students consistently view parking in a negative light.

Danny O’Connell, director of parking services, said when people come to YSU from other universities, they cannot believe that students have an issue with parking distances.

He said YSU has one of best parking situations among universities in Ohio.

“When we hear somebody at [University Edge] say the parking deck is too far, it’s surprising,” he said. “We suffer from too much enclosed parking. You’ve got 1,268 spots in the Fifth Avenue parking deck right next to two of our major class halls. That’s unheard of in Ohio.”

Two weeks ago, a pair of students from Parking Services were asked to record

how long it took to walk to various locations across campus from a central point, in front of Moser Hall. After every minute, they marked their location and the data was used to create a map of the campus.

According to the map, their longest walk took about eight minutes.

Mike Notar, a YSU student from Parking Services, was one of the students involved. He said he did not expect the distances to be as short as they were.

“I always give a rough estimate to myself that [it’ll take] five to 10 minutes to walk to class, but seeing that it was consistently somewhere between four and six minutes, it kind of took me by surprise,” he said.

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	Students	Parking Spaces	Spaces/Students
OSU	30,000	6,400	0.21
Cleveland	17,000	4,300	0.25
KSU	28,000	11,300	0.40
MU	16,000	8,000	0.50
U Akron	22,000	11,971	0.54
YSU	12,644	6,999	0.55

Table by **ROBIN STEARS/THE JAMBAR**

**CAMPUS PARKING FRONT**

O’Connell compared the walking distance on campus to other Ohio universities, and he said YSU is one of the best.

“The second best one, in my mind, was the University of Akron ... Their [points of interest] are within a 12-minute walk,” he said. “When you get to all of the rest of the schools, you can’t park within 10 minutes of a classroom, and freshmen and sophomores often can’t park anywhere on campus.”

Miami University, for example, does not allow freshmen to have cars unless special needs require it.

Notar transferred to YSU from Kent State University, where he said parking and walking distances are much less convenient. He said all freshmen are limited to parking at Dix Stadium, which runs a bus system every five to 10 minutes.

“If you’re in a rush to go somewhere or you want to go off campus to get something to eat or you need to be back in time, it’s hard to pair it with your lectures and other things you have throughout the day,” Notar said.

He said most of the lots outside of dorms there are designated for faculty or residents. His roommate at KSU would walk 20 minutes from the freshmen dorm to his classes, which he said is more than double the longest walk on YSU’s campus.

“When I came over and [O’Connell] said that parking has been a big complaint, I was kind of surprised because I think YSU does a good job at cutting down the walk-

ing time,” Notar said. “If there’s a lot full, we have plenty of lots as long as you buy a parking pass and even if you don’t, it’s only \$5 for a temporary pass.”

The YSU Student Government Association President Rayann Atway said SGA has heard that students are increasingly frustrated by parking on campus.

“Parking lots have been torn down to make room for other infrastructure,” Atway said. “We understand that we may not have to walk as far to our classes as students from other universities do, but that doesn’t mean the concerns aren’t legitimate. It seems from my standpoint, students are under the impression there is not adequate parking for the amount of vehicles.”

Mathia said she especially has issues parking during events.

“When the concert was going on, they blocked off for people attending that, but they don’t take into consideration where we’re going to park,” Mathia said.

YSU has 6,999 parking spaces, with a student body of 12,644 people. Although this only accommodates for slightly over half of the campus population, the number is comparable to other universities in Ohio.

KSU has 11,300 spaces for its 28,000 students, the University of Akron has 11,971 spaces for its 22,000 students, MU has 8,000 spaces for its 16,000 students, Cleveland State University has 4,300 spaces for its 17,000 students and Ohio State University has 6,400 spaces for its 30,000 students.

To make up for lost parking at YSU,

O’Connell said the university plans to add several new surface lots around the campus. For example, he said there are plans for more than 260 spaces to be added between Stambaugh Stadium and the Watson and Tressel Training Site by fall 2019.

Parking spaces aside, O’Connell said YSU has one of the most affordable transportation fees, charging \$115 per semester. UA charges \$175 per semester and KSU charges \$105 per semester plus additional fees.

MU charges \$100 to \$150 per semester, and garage overnight parking is \$520. CSU charges \$180 to \$240 per semester plus a \$100 surcharge for overnight parking. OU charges \$135 for commuters, \$350 for a guaranteed resident permit and \$175 for a non-guaranteed permit.

Some students are also discouraged by parking maintenance at YSU. Jeremy Coler, a senior general studies major with a focus in political science and military science, said this is the case with the parking deck on Fifth Avenue.

“It needs more renovation so it’s not so treacherous,” Coler said. “In the winter, we had all of that snow on the top of the deck and they don’t let anyone know ahead of time ... that it’s blocked off. Sending out a text through the systems they already have would be beneficial so commuters know [they cannot park there].”

Coler said he’s seen people cycle through the deck when the top is blocked off, unable to find a space.

“They need more spaces and to be more sensible about how they manage those spaces. Clearing the snow from the top of

the decks should be a number one priority,” Coler said.

O’Connell said the university does not plow the top level of the decks after a heavy snow because of their design.

“When we pile [the snow] up in certain areas, it isn’t good for the decks,” he said. “When we are able to get time to plow it, we have to dump the snow over the edge and we can’t do that when people are around.”

He said this makes the roofs of the parking decks take longer to plow than the surface lots, so they block off the top levels and focus on the lots first. Within a day or two, he said they will plow the rooftops.

“That’s a combination of safety and efficiency to open up the most number of parking spots quickly as we can,” O’Connell said.

Additionally, an \$800,000 deck repair project is expected to be done over this summer. He said consultants visited the parking decks over spring break to help determine repair work that needs done.

“Northeastern Ohio is very tough on our roads and bridges, and the same goes with our parking decks,” he said.

Although the university is working to address some of these issues, Notar said he hopes information such as the map will put things into perspective for concerned students.

“As you put these things into comparison and educate the student body on those different subjects, [we hope] it brings over a realization to them,” he said.

# HOMELESS AND HUNGRY ON CAMPUS

RACHEL GOBEP

Students sometimes joke about surviving on ramen noodles and barely getting by, but there is a larger problem among universities across the nation: student homelessness. This is an issue that may go unheard of, but it occurs right under the noses of the community at Youngstown State University.

According to results published by researchers at the Wisconsin HOPE Lab at the University of Wisconsin in March 2017, 14 percent of community college students are homeless and one-third go hungry.

The rate of student homeless has increased since their last study in 2015, where 4,000 community college students in 10 states were surveyed — showing 13 percent of community college students as homeless and one-fifth did not have satisfactory nutrition.

The 2017 study surveyed community colleges on a larger scale, with 70 community college and about 33,000 students in 24 states participating in the research.

According to a New York Times article in 2017, 32,000 college applicants were identified as “unaccompanied homeless youth” on federal student aid forms in 2015–16, which is considered to be a low count.

Susan Laird, instructor in the department of sociology, anthropology and gerontology and director of the Northeast Ohio Coalition Against Human Trafficking, said she became aware of student homelessness at YSU in the spring 2017 semester and prior to this had no idea that there were homeless students attending the university.

She said she had a confidential discussion with a student, who said he was homeless, after seeing him quickly eat his lunch. This led her to coming in contact with other homeless students on campus.

“These are kids that come to YSU and somehow they are either on scholarships or loans for their tuition, but they don’t get any of the housing or extra perks because they can’t afford it,” Laird said. “A lot of them have also been told to leave their home ... at 18 and figure it out.”

She said the students discussed the fact that they needed hygiene items such as shampoo, razors and feminine products. Laird said she was able to bring products

in to her office to help them.

Additionally, she said two of the homeless students at YSU were victims of human trafficking and had been out on the streets for quite a while.

Laird said the homeless students that she has spoken to are “good students” by all accounts, are not damaging property and do not do drugs.

She said the students have bank accounts, driver’s licenses and will use the clinic at YSU if they need medical care.

“I never want folks to think that these kids are drug addicts, trying to screw the system. They aren’t,” she said. “They’re serious about their education, but just can’t afford what it takes to live on campus or any of the housing near campus.”

She said she believes that homeless students are successful academically because they do not have anything else to do.

“Their academic world is their world. You’re not going to find them hanging out at Dunkin’ Donuts or in Kilcawley because they don’t want to be seen,” Laird said.

She said the students have a network on campus and look out for one another.

Laird said that most of the students were homeless during winter break and did not have a place to stay, which “broke her heart.”

“That’s my knowledge of the population and I’m guessing [the homeless student population] may be bigger than what I’m aware of,” she said.

Laird said she does not know what the university could do to help the homeless student population, unless it converted a house on campus into a low-income, no-income dormitory.

“I would love to see faculty reach out to these students ... Maybe there is something faculty can do to be more aware in their classrooms,” she said.

Nicole Kent-Strollo, director of Student Outreach & Support, said she believes student homelessness at YSU is a bigger issue than the students she directly works with.

She said occasionally it will be brought to her attention through various means. For example, a student may not have an address listed on their application or someone is aware of student that is homeless.

Kent-Strollo said that although she does reach out to homeless students that she is aware of, she has to be respectful of what the students want and they some-

times do not want to accept help.

She said student homelessness can be a result of a number of variables, but it can be related to mental illness or untreated mental illness.

## Resources to Utilize on Campus

The Career Closet, the Student Government Association Student Food Pantry and Student Counseling Services are three resources available to students, all located in Kilcawley Center. Students also have access to the Mercy Health Student Health Center in Kilcawley House.

The Career Closet is co-operated by Student Outreach & Support, the YSU SGA and students studying fashion and interior design.

According to Kent-Strollo, who is currently supervising the Career Closet, it provides formal attire such as suits, dress shoes and ties. It also has professional clothing like nursing scrubs and lab coats on loan, which is free to students that are in need of such items.

Kent-Strollo said she also plans to incorporate winter coats, gloves and hats into the Career Closet. She said some students are not aware of how cold it is in the Youngstown area until there is a cold snap and some may not be able to afford warm clothing.

According to a Jambar article in 2016, the idea of the SGA Student Food Pantry surfaced after survey results came in from the Student Union, which showed that every person who took the survey either had problems acquiring food or knew someone that did.

President of the SGA Rayann Atway said the association aims to help students that are facing food insecurity by providing them with nutritionally balanced meals and other items.

The SGA and Atway recognize the importance of anonymity and their goal is to meet the needs of students in a private and comfortable space.

Students can also take advantage of the free counseling services on campus.

Another resource, the Mercy Health Student Health Center can be used by all students with a valid YSU ID and have the ability to schedule an appointment with a family nurse practitioner or physician. It is a limited service facility and may refer a student to an immediate care facility, a family physician or an Emergency Center for medical care. These services are free to students.

Students are also encouraged by YSU

to reach out to the Help Network of Northeast Ohio, which provides 24/7 crisis intervention, suicide intervention and prevention, referrals, support services and counseling services, according to the help network website.

Additionally, the network provides a Cold Weather Emergency Shelter Program for homeless persons in Mahoning County from December 1 to March 31.

According to the network’s website, there are posters bearing the words, “There is a Warm Place to Sleep,” throughout the city of Youngstown in locations frequented by homeless persons.

The website also states that there is a Homeless Outreach Program, which provides outreach in both Mahoning and Trumbull Counties to those experiencing homelessness. This program attempts to link homeless people to resources and stable housing.

The Career Closet is currently located on the second-floor of Kilcawley Center, in the space that Rookery Radio used to occupy. Requests for clothing or donations to the Career Closet can be directed to Nicole Kent-Strollo at [nkentstrollo@ysu.edu](mailto:nkentstrollo@ysu.edu).

The SGA will accept food and monetary donations for the food pantry at any time and donations can be dropped off in the SGA office on the second-floor of Kilcawley Center. Any questions about the food pantry can be directed to Rayann Atway, at [ratway@student.ysu.edu](mailto:ratway@student.ysu.edu) or 330-941-3583.

The food pantry is open Mondays from 10 a.m. to noon and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The office of Student Counseling Services is located on the Second Floor of Kilcawley Center. It can be contacted at 330-941-3737. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Mercy Health Student Health Center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the academic year with registered nurses. The hours vary during the summer and break weeks. Licensed physicians are available by appointment only during the academic year.

The health center can be contacted at 330-941-3489 or [japavalko@ysu.edu](mailto:japavalko@ysu.edu) and is located on the first-floor of Kilcawley House.

The Help Network of Northeast Ohio can be contacted at 330-747-2696 for members of Mahoning and Trumbull Counties.

# YSU STUDENT PLANS TO IMPLEMENT ANTI-BULLYING PROGRAM INTO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

ALYSSA WESTON

Bailee Wolanzyk, sophomore accounting and advertising/public relations major, is currently working with faculty at Howland Local School District to implement a new anti-bullying program called Stand Up.

Wolanzyk, a Howland graduate, said she was inspired to create Stand Up by a recent bullying situation at the school.

“The situation was so out of control and not being handled properly and I knew something had to be done,” she said.

Wolanzyk said the business ethics class she is taking this semester has played a role in the creation of the program.

“The class has shown me a different way of looking at and handle certain situations in business. This also inspired me to research how students could find a different way to look at and handle bullying situations,” she said.

Wolanzyk said Stand Up is a program that begins with the high school students and trickles down to the middle

and elementary level schools.

“The high school students plan, organize and partake in different events and activities that teaches younger grades proper SEL skills. SEL skills, or social and emotional learning, are basic skills that include recognizing and managing emotions, caring for others, establishing positive relationships, making responsible decisions and solving problems,” she said.

Wolanzyk said SEL skills help students to calm themselves, make friends, resolve conflicts respectfully and make ethical and safe choices.

“The high school students will learn themselves the five goals of SEL (self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making), then they will use their findings to set an example for the younger grades,” she said. “Ultimately, with the proper installation of SEL skills in younger students, they will go through school learning how to respect others and handle a bullying situation when it occurs.”

Wolanzyk said Howland is farthest along with implementing the program, but she knows students in other local schools such as Niles, Hubbard, Board-

man, Canfield, and Youngstown who are interested in expanding the program to their schools. Dr. Ken Jones, president of the Howland Board of Education, said he recognizes Bailee’s passion for anti-bullying and that he is always very proud of alumni that succeed and follow their passion.

Dr. Jones said Howland’s anti-bullying policy has several layers.

“The first part is a system of punishment that is very standardized. When the schools are made aware of a situation it can be efficiently handled. This is where [we need] ‘see something, say something.’ The school cannot assist if people are not notified,” he said. “The second part is a multi-tiered prevention program that is age specific.”

Dr. Jones said he doesn’t think that any one program is better than others, and that multiple levels gets to the heart of the issue. Wolanzyk said starting Stand Up is important to her because she believes it will not only minimize the acts of bullying, but ultimately it will minimize the widespread tragedies that are created from bullying such as suicide and school shootings.

# YSU BASS FISHING CLUB CONTINUES TO REEL IN SUCCESS

DAVID FORD

Over the past few years, Youngstown State University’s Bass Fishing Club has achieved a great deal of success.

The members said they view themselves more as a team. The team has not only qualified for nationals, but has made some noise while doing so.

Jonathan Creed, YSU student and team member, said choosing his best experience was tough.

“Being surrounded by such an awesome group of people who share the same interests as me makes for a lot of opportunities to create great memories,” Creed said. “If I had to pick, the number one experience for me would be qualifying for the national championship last year at Chautauqua Lake in New York. Standing on stage, holding up my trophy is a memory I will never forget.”

He said over the past several years, the team has continued to improve upon its past performances.

“Our club continues to expand every year as we gain more recognition,” Creed said. “As a result, we draw in more anglers and are able to build more successful teams to represent YSU.”

Despite continued success, the competitions in which YSU’s team participates can get fierce.

“College level competitions are very intense. Our team is considered a club sport. For many of the schools we compete against, this is not the case,” Creed said. “Although our student government helps us out immensely with funding, we are often fishing against teams who compete out of boats purchased by their schools.”

Jared Latone, team president, said he joined three years ago to expand knowledge of the sport and be with people who share an interest in fishing.

“The best part of the club is being able to travel and meet new people,” he said. “I’ve created many good friendships through it thus far, and we’ve performed exceptionally well in the last few years, qualifying for nationals and also placing top 30 in many events.”

In preparation for competition, Latone said the team practices one week ahead and, depending on the size of the venue or tournament, adjusts to these conditions.

Along with the practice schedule comes the countless hours of mental and physical training, according to Creed.

“The most challenging aspect of bass fishing is the long hours,” Creed said. “That means before every tournament we are on the water as the sun is coming up and don’t leave the lake until dark. Being able to overcome the mental and physical strain and focus on making every cast and every bite a success is certainly the most

challenging aspect.”

Creed compared bass fishing to contact sports, since hours of practice and repetition to nail the perfect shot are comparable to that of making the perfect cast to wear a fish down and to catch it.

For the fisherman, the countless hours are more than worth it.

Last year, Mike Soots, YSU team member, said he qualified for the national tournament with teammate Jonathan Creed.

Soots described the conditions for the tournament, and said all the work and preparation paid off.

“Jon and I were a little worried about our spot being taken because we only had two spots on the entire lake we caught fish on,” Soots said. “Once we got our spot, nobody was around ... Walking up on that stage and finding out we were just shy of 15 pounds took a lot of stress off our shoulders. We definitely worked hard all week for those five fish on tournament day.”

Stan Miketa, YSU student and team member, said he first started fishing as a kid alongside his father, uncle and grandfather. The time on the water instilled an interest in bass fishing, which he has carried to college with him.

When Miketa was 17, he won \$500 in a tournament with his father. He said it was the first time he made money fishing and attributes that to what started his addiction to the sport.

“When I was a senior in high school, in 2013, I was able to get in contact with the two guys that started the club that year and my journey started,” Miketa said. “For the first couple of sessions, there was only about four of us. When word got out and everyone learned more about how club sports worked, we’ve grown immensely each year.”

After college, Miketa said he hopes to turn professional.

“Fishing professionally would be a dream come true,” Miketa said. “It’s not easy when you factor in the competition and the financial obligations ... With that being said, you never know what the future may hold and I’m excited to see where it goes.”

Along with Miketa, Creed said he has similar goals.

“Personally, I would love to make a career out of bass fishing,” Creed. “The college circuit is a great doorway to the professional level ... The competition is extremely tough when the professionals only consist of a few hundred of the best anglers in the world ... As I continue to grow in the sport and hone my own skills, I hope to one day be on that level.”

Anyone who is interested in becoming a part of the Bass Fishing Club can contact Jared Latone at 330-397-5695 or [jmlatone@student.yzu.edu](mailto:jmlatone@student.yzu.edu).



## AFRICAN STUDENT UNION PRESENTS AFRICAN NIGHT

Photos by NAMI NAGAOKA/THE JAMBAR

NAMI NAGAOKA

The Youngstown State University African Student Union hosted an event celebrating their African heritage, which featured several activities that showcased the many aspects of African culture and tradition on Saturday.

There was a spoken word event, drum performances, dances, a fashion show and a catered meal featuring many African dishes.

YSU students and attendees were also invited to join performers on the stage in the Chestnut Room in Kilcawley Center, where they danced to traditional African music.

“We really wanted to showcase Africa,” said Nancy Afriyie, president of the African Student Union. “When you talk to a lot of people, they just think of Africa as a jungle and animals and stuff. [Africa] is a beautiful place, everything that you can imagine is in it.”

Afriyie said since YSU is becoming a more diverse university, they wanted to invite people to experience their African showcase.

“YSU should accept more people from other countries, like Africans,” she said.

Gelila Kebede, vice president of the African Student Union, said she was unaware of the union’s existence at first. She said since being exposed to the student group, she is now more open minded and included in the campus environment.

She said there is a need to be aware and respectful of the diverse student community at YSU.

Kebede said she wants to encourage students of all racial and ethnic background to join the African Student Union.

She said the group is not just for African students and hopes to see greater diversity within the group.

“We are very inclusive ... Africa is a continent ... there are lighter skin people, darker skin people,” she said.

Rebecca Banks, a graduate student and active member of the group, said she was involved as an undergraduate at YSU.

She said through her participation in the organization and events showcasing African culture, her idea and perspective of Africa has changed.

“[I used to think] Africa is full of beautiful, green, wild, open spaces ... a lot of natural beauties ... different kind of animals,” she said. “After I was educated a little bit, I now see a lot of family values [in their culture] and [they have] big cities,” she said.

Banks also said she was not aware of the beauty and diversity in Africa at first and has even learned about the different kind of fabrics that Africans use.

“Some people such as myself haven’t seen a lot of the beauty of Africa. We were only shown certain things on TV,” she said.

Banks said she appreciates being able to experience aspects of the various cultures through events hosted at YSU.

“I cheer on my international friends and by going to different events here and I have made a lot of friends all over the world,” she said. “YSU is such an international community that helps me meet many people from all over the world.”

Banks said she now has a number of friends from Africa.

“YSU had opened up the world for me,” she said.

## PROFESSOR WINS SECOND FULBRIGHT AWARD

MORGAN PETRONELLI

Youngstown State University professors are no stranger to scholarly achievement. One professor in particular has displayed his academic achievements on a multitude of occasions.

Paul Sracic, professor and chair of the department of politics and international relations, was selected for his second Fulbright award to spend the next year lecturing and teaching in Japan.

“The application makes clear that they prefer candidates who have not received awards in the past. So, I was quite surprised when notified that I would be receiving a second Fulbright award,” Sracic said.

He said in order to be selected, the applicant has to be endorsed by subject level and regional peer review panels. The applicant then has to be accepted by a panel in a specific host country.

The Fulbright Program was created by U.S. Senator James William Fulbright in 1946 in order to encourage the interaction and blending of cultures.

Martin Abraham, provost and vice president of academic affairs, said, “We are thrilled that Paul Sracic was selected for a second Fulbright. Apparently, it is a rare honor for someone to be selected twice. That provides testament to the excellence of our faculty.”

Sracic was selected for his first Fulbright award during the 2009–2010 academic school year to teach in Japan at the

University of Tokyo and Sophia University.

While he lectured undergraduate and graduate students, Sracic said he lived in a small apartment with his wife and two daughters located near the center of Tokyo. He traveled to his job via bullet trains and the subway system due to the lack of a car.

He said the Tokyo Fulbright alumni group is very active. They sponsor and throw events often to bring members and visiting Fulbrights together in order to get to know each other and build friendships. The alumni group consists of individuals such as government officials, CEOs and professors.

“These events allowed me to meet and learn from amazing individuals, and

through the years I have been able to maintain these contacts and friendships,” Sracic said. “The Fulbright award opened many doors for me and resulted, for example, in my being selected a few years later as a Visiting Expert with the Japanese Prime Minister’s office.”

Sracic recommends any YSU professor to apply for the Fulbright award. He urges possible future applicants to look past the difficult application and requirement of outside scholarly references due to the great payout.

“It is almost a cliché to say that a Fulbright is a life-changing experience, but for me that was certainly the case,” Sracic said. “There is simply no academic experience that I have ever had comparable to my year as a Fulbright scholar.”

# CELEBRATING WOMAN AT YSU

MELISSA TUROSİK

In celebration of Woman's History Month, three Youngstown State University female professors gave a glimpse into their education and teaching histories and explained how they came to YSU.

Diana Fagan, professor in biological science and the Women in STEM Career Day director, said she chose the microbiology and immunology field because she was "probably a little brainwashed as a child."

"My mother was a scientist, which is very unusual because my mother just passed away recently at the age of 89," Fagan said. "When she first started college, she was one of only four women in the entirety of STEM at Berkeley University."

Fagan said her mother had a very productive career. She said she helped her work in the lab.

"That helped me [realize] I wanted to do it, because I had that mentor ... That's one of the reasons that I got involved in developing the Women in STEM Career Day, so I could provide mentors to other girls who didn't have that opportunity," Fagan said.

Fagan said she received a medical technology degree. She said she knew she was going to graduate school but

didn't want to do it right out of college.

"I did three years at the University of Texas in Austin and then went to the University of Texas Medical Branch for a year of clinical training before I completed my degree," Fagan said.

Fagan said she worked for four years, saved some money and had fun before she went to graduate school for a Ph.D. in microbiology and immunology at Southwestern Medical School in Dallas.

Michele Farina, part-time faculty in foreign language, said she grew up in Youngstown and her first degree was in elementary education from YSU.

"I had the great fortune of ending up teaching overseas for the Department of Defense Schools on the United States military bases and eventually I was stationed in Italy in Sicily and Naples," Farina said. "While I was in Italy I learned Italian, which had always been something I wanted to do."

Farina said while teaching in Italy after learning Italian, she began to teach Italian immersion at the elementary level. She taught half the day in Italian and half the day in English.

Farina said over the years she earned a degree in the language and teaching certifications for high school and college Italian.

Farina said she lived in Italy for 13 years.

"I lived in many places in Italy," Farina said. "I lived in Sicily, Naples, Rome and Puglia, so all of my experiences there were life changing. It made me realize the world is so much bigger than the world I knew growing up, so everything I have done has been an eye-opening experience."

Dorian Mermer, instructor in the communications department, has been teaching at YSU since 1990.

She said if broadcasting did not work out for her she had numerous supplemental minors to fall back on

"I got my degree from Hiram College, and I had some minors — what we called back then concentrations — in psychology, sociology and business management," she said.

Mermer said she was originally going to go into a business-related field by moving to New York.

"It was an odd series of events that happened," Mermer said. "I never made it there, and then I decided why not get a master's degree. So, I went through and got my master's in oral communication at Kent State University and with teaching I actually answered an ad in The Vindicator for a part-time faculty position and so that's how I ended up [at YSU]."

Women everywhere are making strides, and while these women represent a fraction of successful women at YSU, they continue to accomplish great things.



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# CELEBRATING EASTER: YOUNG AND NOT SO YOUNG



Pictured: Thumper the Easter Bunny Photo by RACHEL GOBEP/THE JAMBAR

**MARAH J. MORRISON**

The way people celebrate Easter may vary as they age. Depending on their traditions when they were young versus what they do now, the holiday celebrations are satisfied every year.

Linda Wittenauer, who works for Chartwells Dining at Youngstown State University, said to celebrate Easter, she and her family always went to Mill Creek Park to the fish pond. She said they would walk around, feed the fish and snack on things they got in their Easter baskets after church.

“I was raised Roman Catholic,” Wittenauer said. “Usually we would do something religious and either get a prayer book or a holy card, a rosary,” Wittenauer said.

Wittenauer said she and her family also got a hard-boiled egg and a marshmallow-wrapped egg from Gorant’s Chocolates, a local company from where she lives.

“We always had three foil eggs and a package of crackers,” Wittenauer said. “That was it.”

Wittenauer said for her family’s main meal, they al-

ways had baked ham, deviled eggs, potato salad, baked green beans and fresh Easter bread. She said she still tries to keep up with the tradition.

“If the weather cooperates, I do try to go to the fish pond with my grandchildren when I can,” Wittenauer said. “I love it because it’s like an awakening of life again and starting anew.”

Kayla Haywood, a graphic and interactive design major at YSU, said when she was little, Easter was a hectic time for her because of being the only girl out of all of her cousins in her family. She said she was always the center of attention.

“I always had the Easter dress and everyone was all excited,” Haywood said. “My family would come over and we would just have a huge feast.”

Haywood said she and her family are Croatian, so cabbage-and-noodles is a staple for every holiday, including Easter. She said her mother also decorates using correlating plates, napkins and Easter cups.

“Two of my uncles would disappear and we’d be like, ‘what’s going on?’” Haywood said. “All of a sudden, we

would look out and there’s eggs everywhere outside.”

Haywood said she and her family would have a huge Easter egg hunt and enjoyed having everyone over. She said it was like her family’s day to be able to show off their home and the food they prepared.

“We keep the same traditions for the most part,” Haywood said. “We don’t really have an egg hunt anymore; there’s no little ones in our family anymore,”

Haywood said she and her family still get together and instead of having an egg hunt, they will play cornhole or something similar.

Lydia Tarleton, also an interactive and graphic design major at YSU, said she and her family would attend a Good Friday service at church and on Easter morning, they would try to find the Easter baskets that her mother had hidden.

“We would go to my grandma’s house and have dinner,” Tarleton said. “Then we would have an Easter egg hunt, and she would fill them with quarters.”

Tarleton said she was the only one out of four kids who liked Peeps, so she got a bunch of those.





Photo Courtesy of CHARLES "DJ CHIP BANKS" COLVIN

# YSU DJ SPINS HIS WAY TO POPULAR MUSIC FESTIVAL

**JOHN STRAN**

The official Youngstown State University disc jockey, Charles "DJ Chip Banks" Colvin, played Friday through Sunday at the South by Southwest Music Festival in Austin, Texas.

The festival is widely considered one of the largest festivals in the world. According to CNN, attendance for last year's music festival was an estimated 167,800.

Colvin expressed his appreciation for his opportunity as well as what landed him there.

**Q:** How did you become a part of the lineup for the SXSW festival?

**A:** Last year I played the unofficial event at SXSW and I got the chance to network with a lot of people. The people I met took

a liking to my style of performing and I got invited back

**Q:** What effect, if any, do you think playing at the festival will have on your career?

**A:** It's going to affect it pretty good. This festival combines different parts of the entertainment business so executives, record label owners, artists from all across the globe and the people there are picking who is going to be the next big thing for years to come.

**Q:** When did you start DJing and what led you to it?

**A:** Probably around 2010. I started making music when I was in the drum corps in high school and then I began to compose music which gained me a little popularity. Then I started hosting events, and one day a DJ for one of the shows had

car trouble and couldn't make it. Everyone looked at me to DJ the show because I had a little experience, so I made a playlist and I really liked the energy of the people so I just kept practicing.

**Q:** Did you expect to gain such popularity in a rather short amount of time?

**A:** Honestly, no. When I started it was just a cool thing I did for fun. Back then I didn't think I'd be doing the things that I'm doing now. As my love grew for the craft, I knew I could reach new heights that I never expected to reach.

**Q:** Was DJing something you were naturally good at?

**A:** Sort of because it went hand in hand with composing music and being a drummer, I already understood how beats per minute worked.

**Q:** What do you think makes a good DJ

or how do you stand out?

**A:** It's the energy that you bring and how you demand the crowd. If you're a good DJ, you know how to blend and bring different music that people may not think go together and make worlds collide. For the shows, I'm using a Frank Sinatra song and blending it with hip hop.

**Q:** Is DJing popular in Youngstown?

**A:** The festival style of performing, I would say no, but I've been trying to help a new generation of DJs from Youngstown explode and with my success, I feel like I've inspired the new generation.

**Q:** What would you be doing if you weren't making music?

**A:** Either promoting/event planning or I would do something with my degree in information technology.

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### Information Session

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Corner of Rayen and Fifth Ave.

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Photo by TANNER MONDOK/THE JAMBAR

Ben White, a Youngstown resident and former Youngstown State University math student, walks his dog Dax, a German shepherd-husky mix, on campus Tuesday, March 20.

White said he walks Dax on campus because she used to be afraid of people. He said she’s much more comfortable around people now as a result of the campus walks and also friendlier.

# the JAMBAR IS HIRING!

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Photo by RACHEL GOBEP/THE JAMBAR

“Someday our girls will wonder why our basic needs come with a paywall.” This graffiti was found in the women’s restroom near Dunkin Donuts in Kilcawley Center at Youngstown State University on March 21. The sign next to the empty personal hygiene products machine was also covered in graffiti from, presumably, the same YSU community member who wrote on the machine.

This appeared about four months after a story by The Jambar titled “For Your Convenience?” by Morgan Petronelli. It appears at least some people still don’t believe it’s convenient.

# A JAMBAR

## EDITORIAL:

### CHECK YOUR PERSPECTIVE

This week we have two very lengthy, very different stories in the paper. One is about parking complaints and the other is about homeless university students.

These topics can put things into perspective when taking a deeper look at them. While some students struggle to find parking on campus, knowing they should have left home earlier, other students are struggling just to survive on the same campus.

When students from Parking Services took a walk and found the furthest points of interest were about eight minutes apart, it surprised them. Other universities have points of interest up to 20 minutes apart or more, and

some don't even allow freshmen and sophomores to have a car on campus.

At the same time, some instructors are noticing other students haven't eaten or they're in need of personal hygiene products. Some have even been victims of human trafficking.

Putting these topics into perspective, is parking really that big of a problem? College age students are going without food, shelter and heat right under our noses. They are hidden because they don't want to be noticed, but this doesn't mean they aren't here. Homeless students even have a network among themselves to look out

for each other.

There are problems with parking on campus, such as the decks that need some maintenance work, but if an able-bodied student's chief complaint is walking more than several minutes to their classroom, it's time to stop and check your perspective.

This isn't to say that people's problems are invalid because others have it worse. This is just another call to action, or at least a call to think. Think about what a problem is versus what's just an inconvenience.

Your peers being homeless is a problem. Finding a close place to park is an inconvenience.

## A WORLD IN COLORS

**SAMANTHA ALLAN**

Reading has the unique ability to open our minds to different perspectives. Many books are available to give us a brief glimpse of different cultures, personas and situations we may not have seen otherwise.

While I always have a long list of book recommendations, recently I reread Wendy Mass's "A Mango Shaped Space." This young adult book is a great example of seeing a completely different perspective. The story introduces readers to the life of a young girl struggling with a new-found identity.

"A Mango Shaped Space" tells the story of thirteen-year-old Mia. She is a special character because she suffers from synes-

thesia, a neurological disorder that makes her see colors with certain words. While there are many different types of this disorder, Mia might hear the word apple and a streak of green might follow it. Names, objects, places and people all register as a different color to her. As Mia works through her daily struggles, readers are given a chance to feel what it is like to see from such a colorful viewpoint.

Mass writes the book in such a way where you can really feel the struggles of the disorder Mia faces each day. Early in the story, Mia hides her perception from everyone in school. As a pretty quiet character, she believes everyone sees colors like she does and simply does not talk about them. However, her reality is soon shifted when an outburst in class reveals

there is something different about her. She becomes ashamed of her condition and does her best to feel as normal as possible. With an introduction like this, Mass makes it clear she is writing through the eyes of a teen girl just trying to fit in.

As Mia tries to hide her disorder, subjects like Spanish become more difficult. It would be very hard to see words like cat as green in one language and orange in another. School becomes a difficult place for her as no one else in her town understands her perspective. After the outburst that had everyone label her as different, Mia does her best to disappear in the crowd.

Relationships between characters is an important dynamic in the text. Mia's relationships with family and friends evolves

as she learns to accept herself. Each relationship, especially with her cat Mango, incorporates a lot of heartfelt emotion and realistic obstacles. After finding out she is so different from her loved ones, Mia struggles to reconnect with everyone. Fellow synesthetic become her only source of communication for a time and Mass does a great job highlighting how important identity is to the text.

If you're looking for a unique story, Wendy Mass's "A Mango Shaped Space" is a great choice. Without Mass's book, I may never have known how hard life can be for a person with synesthesia. Mia sees the world in a literal array of different colors and Mass shares a story allowing us to see it too.

# HELP NEEDED

## THE MYSTERIOUSLY UNSOLVABLE DISAPPEARANCE OF ARTHUR WESTON

Week 5/8

Quinn Weston

So in one of my lesser aware moments last week I was kidnapped by the American Government. Welcome back. Quinn Weston here. Hopefully you're still with us. The last message was definitely a step up, but something tells me it won't get any easier. We only have three more parts to get through so hang tight. Once we get to the final week you will be given an email address to send your answers to. And as always, successful entrants will have their names entered into a drawing for a prize of \$150.

Once the black bag was taken off my head I was introduced to the very same Agent Palmer that my uncle had mentioned in a previous note. His demeanor was not what I had previously expected. Far from the juiced up feds who nabbed me, Palmer was a short man with bad hair, and what I'm pretty sure was acne on a 40-year-old man.

When he explained the situation he struck me as the kind of guy who did not get much respect from his superiors. The type who had spent the last 20 years shoved away in a back closet working on the cases that were either too inferior or too strange for the others.

He wanted my uncle's letters. I wanted to know what Project Rennie was. He wouldn't share his knowledge so I neglected to share mine. Through our negotiating he let slip the phrase "border crossing silvers." It was obvious Palmer did not have the best social skills. I was eventually released and taken out to a nice break-

fast on Hoover's dime, then I was driven home. (Between you and me, if they would have opened with breakfast things would have gone smoother).

When I arrived home to my apartment there was another note waiting for me. I chuckled. Only the FBI would kidnap someone while they slept because they couldn't legally open their mail. Anyway, here is the latest. Looks like you're going to have to fire up those phone cameras.

Cheerio Quinn,

I strongly encourage that you start studying up. Things are about to change ... more so than you can ever predict. Go to the library and educate yourself. Find any books you can on space, time, new dimensions and extraterrestrial life, Knowledge is power.

Signing Off,

A.W.

Sleuths, for this assignment we'll need to combine our resources. Head over to the Maag Library, find a book written about one of the mentioned topics and send a picture of the cover to me at [qweston727@gmail.com](mailto:qweston727@gmail.com). Include your name and major in the email. Godspeed.



The Youngstown State University men's golf team got off to rough start to the year but Coach Tony Joy knows just how to get his guys going.

Photo Courtesy of YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

## YOUNG GROUP READY TO SHINE FOR YSU MEN'S GOLF

MARC WEEMS

After two lackluster performances in the first two tournaments of the year for Youngstown State University, the Penguins are looking to shine with a youthful group.

YSU head coach Tony Joy believes that is just part of the learning curve for young, inexperienced collegiate golfers.

"In both tournaments, there were obviously a lot of top teams at both tournaments," Joy said. "Going to Athens, Ga. with top teams in the country, we wanted to compete a little better than we did. There were a lot of positives. The first tournament in Nevada, the upperclassmen played really well the first day and the underclassmen played well the second day. When we got to Athens, it was unfortunate that the weather was so bad."

The Penguins placed 12th out of 15

teams at the Jackrabbit Invitational in Nevada and placed 18th out of 18 teams at the Southern Intercollegiate Championships.

With a really young roster comes issues. Those issues start with an adjustment to quality of play for sure.

"The freshmen aren't used to those conditions especially with the winter off," Joy said. "They play all summer and all fall. When they get to college, they have to sit indoors and then go back outside. Golf isn't any different than softball or baseball. We compete against teams that play outdoors almost all year."

That adjustment period happens in every sport with all freshmen at this level. Joy said that the freshmen that played in both tournaments, Ken Keller, Kevin Scherr, and Cole Hughes, showed signs of great golf. Keller had a team-low two-day total of 158 in the Southern Intercollegiate.

"A little bit disappointing that we weren't a little more competitive than we were," Joy said. "It seems like the upperclassmen will play as well as they can as long as the freshmen continue to succeed. I think the combination of the two will work out pretty well. We have a mix of two seniors and three freshmen that normally play."

The Penguins will look ahead to their next event which begins on March 25-27 at Kingsmill Intercollegiate hosted by College of William & Mary. YSU had fared well in this tournament before and should again.

"This is a good situation," Joy said. "Both Dom Carano and Justin Hallapy are graduating seniors. They know what is going on with their futures so they are a little more relaxed than most seniors. I wouldn't be surprised to see us get competitive in a hurry."

With just two seniors on the roster, the

Penguins will need to continue to establish who the major contributors outside of Hallapy and Carano will be. For now, it seems that Keller, Hughes and Scherr are those guys at the present but those things can change in an instant.

"Down in Athens, it was raining and windy every day. Some of those young guys go 'What is this?' This is college golf," Joy said through a hearty laugh. "We have a good mix. Evan Standohar and Jason McQuown have both been key. The rest of the spring, those two and JR Stark all have a chance to get into the lineup."

Joy believes that this is some of the best freshmen that he has recruited that have been able to play right away in some time. He also said that's not a knock on other guys just a credit to these current freshmen.

YSU will look to get back on track in Williamsburg, Va. on March 25-27 at the Kingsmill Intercollegiate.

## PRESS BOX PERSPECTIVE: MAKE SUNDAYS GREAT AGAIN

SETH RIVELLO

The most feared man in the golf world seems to be back to his full form. Tiger Woods has been playing at a level he hasn't been at in five years. It's very exciting to see but can also be very disappointing.

Woods dressed in red for the final round Sunday at the Arnold Palmer Invitational and seemed like a real threat, then he fell off. The 42-year-old hung around with the young guys as long as possible until he settled for pars on holes 14 and 15 then bogeyed 16 and 17.

Tiger finished 10-under-par and tied fifth with Henrik Stenson, Justin Rose, Bryson DeChambeau, and Rory McIlroy ahead of him. McIlroy ended his winless drought and brought home a trophy after birdieing five of the last nine holes finishing 18-under.

As much fun as it is to see Tiger smile and enjoy his time on the course, it's almost like he's lost something. When it comes down to the final nine, he chokes. Old

Tiger didn't joke around and laugh. He was always in a competitive mode and wanted to beat you by 100 when he was out on the course. I think he's lost that "I'm going to destroy you today" mindset and if he wants to beat this young generation he needs to find that again.

At the Valspar Championship, Woods finished tied second at nine-under with Patrick Reed behind Paul Casey's 10-under. On Sunday's 18 holes, Tiger finished with only two birdies and a bogey while Casey birdied seven of the final 18, showing again Tiger cannot finish on Sundays like he used to.

Two things that made Tiger really stand out were his competitiveness and his ability to turn par-5s into short par-4s. Players couldn't keep up with Tiger; while they were hitting 7-irons into the green he was hitting a wedge to set up eagle or birdie. Now guys like Justin Thomas, Dustin Johnson, and a handful of other players do this every match. That's hard to do when you're double some of these guys' age and your back is fused together. One wrong twist and Tiger's back can turn into gelatin again.

The first and most prominent of the four majors golf has is less than a month away: The Masters.

Tiger has won The Masters four times with his last win coming in 2005. Right now he has the best odds to win at 9/1 followed by Dustin Johnson (11/1), Jordan Spieth (14/1), and Justin Thomas (15/1).

Seeing Tiger pull out a win would be amazing. That would be his 15th major win and it would leave him three away from the most all-time at 18 held by Jack Nicklaus. Achieving that would put Tiger on an even higher pedestal and if he's not the greatest golfer ever that would put him well over the top.

I think Justin Thomas who looked up to Tiger as a kid steals the glory at The Masters. He's been on fire since the beginning of 2017 including his first major win the PGA Championship. In February, he got his first win of the year at The Honda Classic. Since then he's been laying low and working on his game and ready to get that second major.

# MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS TEAMS COMING ON STRONG BEFORE CONFERENCE PLAY

**MARC WEEMS**

Despite the records each team has, the Youngstown State University Men's and Women's tennis teams have some of the strongest rosters that head coach Mickael Sopol has ever had at the university.

For the guys' team, the Penguins started the year with some tough losses with a 4-3 loss at Duquesne University and a 4-3 loss to DePaul University at home. They got their first win of the year over Alabama State University, 4-0, at Southern Mississippi University.

The Penguins would lose three straight matches after that win.

"We have a difficult schedule every year out of conference," Sopol said. "It's never easy to get extremely good records. We have a team that is quite new compared to last year, We didn't have a lot of adjustment time to get everything together. The last two months we have been playing

better and better. The last match against LaSalle was pretty convincing. I'm excited to see this group go against Green Bay this weekend."

After starting the year with a 1-5 record, YSU recovered tremendously. First, it was a 7-0 victory over Niagara University on Feb. 16 followed by a close loss to Carnegie Mellon University, 4-3. The Penguins then rattled off three dominating victories against Bucknell University, St. Francis and St. Bonaventure University.

That string got the Penguins back on track. They have won five out of their last eight matches as they roll into Horizon League play with a 6-8 record so far.

"It's a matter of getting the team together and getting the dynamic going," Sopol said. "It has been getting better and better with each match. I think the boys are in good shape so far. We have one of the strongest rosters since I've been coaching here. We have a shot of being able to win the conference this year. I think the guys

know that and are ready to get after it."

On the women's side, it has been an eerily similar season so far. The Penguins started out quite rough as they didn't win a match until the second week of February. YSU lost its first seven matches including a 4-3 loss to Colorado State University on Feb. 10 before its first win on Feb. 11 against the University of California Riverside, 4-3.

That win sprung a five-game win streak to end the month.

"When you look at the past five years, we've always struggled in February," Sopol said on the women's start to the season. "This is actually the best year we've had in that month. It's one of the best we've played before having conference matches. Once again, we are playing tough teams. I don't schedule easy. It's a hard schedule before conference. If we stay away from injuries, we will be fine because we have such a good group. This is also one of the best groups I've had. One through six, we

are very strong. There are no spots that are weak and we can win with anyone. That is pretty rare."

YSU won the conference last year which was the fourth straight year that the Penguins won the Horizon League. If this truly is the strongest team coach Sopol has had for a while, the team very well could be in line for a fifth consecutive championship.

"We haven't beaten Akron on the road since 2000 or something," Sopol said. "We beat them 4-3 in a very strong match. It's very exciting. We lost 3-4 to Seton Hall with two important girls injured. We are playing better at this time of year than they have in many other years."

The men begin Horizon League play with a match against the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay on Feb. 25 at home while the women face the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee on Feb. 24 and Green Bay on Feb. 25 at home.



Photo Courtesy of YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

The Youngstown State University women's tennis team has won four straight Horizon League championships and is in line for its fifth.



## FROM EIGHT WINS TO WINNINGEST COACH: BRIAN CAMPBELL STANDS ALONE IN YSU SOFTBALL HISTORY

Brian Campbell high-fives a girl as she rounds third base in a win during last year's season. Campbell has been an integral piece in reviving YSU's softball program when he took over 10 years ago.

*Photo Courtesy of YSU SPORTS INFORMATION*

### MARC WEEMS

When Youngstown State University head softball coach Brian Campbell took over the program 10 years ago, it was in some rough shape.

In 2009, when he took over, the roster was rough and so was the play. The Penguins won just eight games that year to the tune of an 8-42 record but everything eventually got better. The team won 14 games in 2010 and then won 22 games in 2011. At that point, YSU and the program knew the decision to bring him in was the right one.

"We've taken the right steps. Campbell said "We had an opportunity to put a little bit more wins on the left side than the right side as far as wins and losses go," "When you take over, you want to set a plan, have your steps and follow those steps all the way. This has been an opportunity that has gone every way I'd hoped."

YSU posted its first winning season since 2004 during the 2012 season. The Penguins went 29-22-1. Since then the team has posted winning season in 2014, 2016 and

2017 with 30 wins, 30 wins and 31 wins, respectively.

For Campbell, the wins are only a part of a much larger puzzle we all call life. For him, the wins don't mean as much as other more important things.

"I think it's a great step for the young ladies that had an opportunity to play at YSU for me," Campbell said. "Being able to go out and compete and be able to achieve that, it's easy to sit back. It's an honor to be the winningest coach. It's about the players and the assistant coaches that have been along with me. That's the most important part for me."

Besides becoming the all-time winningest coach in YSU history, Campbell has some personal history coming close as he needs six wins to get to 500 career wins.

"Being six away from 500, it makes you reflect back to the young ladies you had the chance to coach," Campbell said. "The ones that have gone out and gotten their degrees that have gone on into their careers. Doctors, teachers and those things. It makes you reflect to one, how old you are. Secondly, of what the young ladies were able to do on the field but more importantly what they

did with their degrees."

With 209 career wins now, Campbell believes that wins don't reflect anything more than how well these ladies have played, practiced and fought to get him those wins. Any good coach will tell you that wins don't mean a thing without hard-working players.

"You come into college to the degree and education, you have an opportunity to do something that you love — the sport" he said. "That's very important. When you walk away, they are walking away representing themselves, the university and the program. It's about excelling here but it's truly about excelling in life," he said.

He said that he wants every girl to go as high as they can in their field.

"I want them to try and get as high up as they can and want to," he said.

Now, Campbell still has a season to focus on as his squad is currently 8-12 before the bulk of the conference schedule begins. The Penguins have won three straight games before their first home weekend series against Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.