#### THE STUDENT VOICE OF YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY SINCE 1931





Photos by MORGAN PETRONELLI/THE JAMBAR gress. attended school board meetings in order to help make a

change.

YOUNGSTOWN: MARCH FOR OUR LIVES

#### MORGAN PETRONELLI

The demanding chants of protesters echoed throughout Wick Park on March 24 as attendees participated in the national March for Our Lives event.

March for Our Lives is a political movement created by student survivors of the mass shooting that took the lives of 17 people on Feb. 14 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas in Parkland, Florida. Some of the student organizers, including as Emma González, Delaney Tarr and David Hogg, have become the faces of the movement.

The march was originally planned to take place solely in Washington D.C., but other cities around the world decided to join in in solidarity.

Youngstown organized its own march, which took place at 11 a.m. Protesters marched around Wick Park before gathering at the pavilion to listen to various speakers talk about the issues of gun violence and gun control.

Speakers led the crowd in rallying cries to boost their morale. Some chants included "Enough is enough," "Remember in November," "Thoughts and prayers are not enough," and "Now is the time to talk about gun control."

The first speaker was Mahoning County Democratic Party Chair David Betras. He called out lobbyists and executives from the National Rifle Association such as Dana Loesch and Wayne LaPierre for using their "blood money" to buy the vote of Congress.

"You are all armed with something at your hands that is far more powerful than an assault rifle and it is your vote," Betras said.

He urged people to vote out politicians who the NRA has influenced via monetary campaign donations.

Amanda Daquelente, a language arts teacher at Howland High School in Warren, Ohio, talked to the crowd of protesters about how equipping teachers with guns can create more problems than it will solve.

"One thing we can take from the Parkland students is that we cannot sit behind our computer screens and our cell phones and simply post about gun violence," Daquelente said. "We need to get involved and take a stand. Use your vote. Use your voice, even if your voice shakes."

She also discussed how privileged members of society have to take a step back in order for African-Americans and Latinx to have a seat at the table and have their voices heard.

Three Canfield High School students spoke at the rally. Eva Lamberson, Taryn Rothbauer and Melissa Dahman discussed how they created the Committee Against Violence in Schools.

Lamberson said they have drafted a safety proposal, held a public forum among students, participated in a walkout, met with their administration almost daily and "I am scared. I look at the faces of my peers and I listen to their concerns, and they are scared. We are scared of this constant looming threat of someone taking our lives or the lives of someone we love, while we are just performing the most basic action of our adolescence — get-

Dahman pleaded that increased safety measures and proposals will not suffice when it comes to achieving the change they desire if gun control is not included in the conversation.

ting an education," Rothbauer said.

"It shouldn't be easier to get a weapon of war than Sudafed in this country," she said.

Carson Markley, a Youngstown State University student, urged that marches and walkouts are not enough. He suggested utilizing the power to vote as a way to enact the change they want to see.

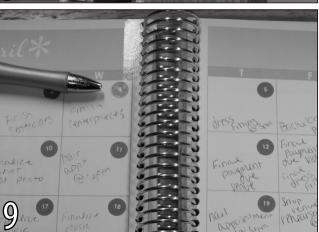
The event also featured a 17-balloon release and moment of silence for the lives lost during the mass shooting in Parkland, which was led by YSU Student Government Association President Rayann Atway and and Executive Vice President Ernie Barkett.

More information about the March for Our Lives can be found at https://marchforourlives.com/ and information about voter registration can be found at https://www.usa.gov/register-to-vote.

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#### **EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:** .....llmcdonough@student.ysu.edu Laura McDonough..... MANAGING EDITOR: Jordan Unger..... .....jaunger@student.ysu.edu ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR: Elizabeth Lebras **NEWS EDITOR:**

Elizabeth Lehman......thejambar@gmail.com **REPORTERS:** 

Alyssa Weston........alweston@student.ysu.edu
David Ford..........drford@student.ysu.edu
Melissa Turosik.......mkturosik@student.ysu.edu
Nami Nagaoka........nnagaoka@student.ysu.edu
Morgan Petronelli........mlpetronelli@student.ysu.edu
PHOTOGRAPHER EDITOR:

Alyssa Kosis.....ampflug@student.ysu.edu
ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR:

Tanner Mondok.....tjmondok@student.ysu.edu SPORTS EDITOR:

Marc Weems......mrweems01@student.ysu.edu

SPORTS REPORTERS:
Chris McBride......cmmcbride@student.ysu.edu
Seth Rivello.....strivello@student.ysu.edu ADS MANAGER:

Alexas Marucci.....ammarucci@student.ysu.edu

HEAD DESIGN EDITOR: Carly Redmond......cmredmond@student.ysu.edu **ASSISTANT DESIGNER:** 

Kristen Best.....knbest@student.ysu.edu

VIDEO EDITORS:

Trevor Mastran......tcmastran@student.ysu.edu
Britany Hickey.....blhickey@student.ysu.edu
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR:

Marah Morrison.....mjmorrison@student.ysu.edu

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTERS:** 

John Stran.....jpstran@student.ysu.edu Mario Ricciardi......mjricciardi@student.ysu.edu

COLUMNIST:

Samantha Allan.....slallan01@student.ysu.edu

HEAD COPY EDITOR:

Samantha Welch.....slwelch01@student.ysu.edu

ASSISTANT COPY EDITORS:

Elizabeth Lehman.....thejambar@gmail.com Robin Stears.....rcstears@student.ysu.edu

SOCIAL MEDIA CURATOR:

Kellie Daley.....kmdaley@student.ysu.edu

WEB MANAGER:

Morgan Petronelli.....mlpetronelli@student.ysu.edu

BUSINESS MANAGER:
Mary Dota.....mfdota@ysu.edu

THEJAMBAR@GMAIL.COM



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### DIVERSITY LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION DINNER: CULTURE OF COMMUNICATION

#### NAMI NAGAOKA

Youngstown State University held the Diversity Leadership Recognition Dinner to honor the continuous efforts and achievements of student and faculty leaders who dedicate their time to promoting diversity and creating an inclusive environment on March 22.

Sylvia J. Imler, associate vice president of Multicultural Affairs, said this year's theme was focused on creating a culture of community within YSU and the surrounding area

Catherine Cooper, YSU graduate student in the department of counseling, school psychology and educational leadership, was presented with the Leader of Tomorrow award at the event. She said winning the award came as a complete shock to her.

"I know that I'm making a powerful impact in regard to the diversity and inclusion on Youngstown State University's campus," she said. "I do what any other students would do if they had to promote diversity inclusion."

This is the first time she received an award in recognition of her efforts to promote diversity and inclusion in

her academic career.

Cooper said she felt appreciative of her instructors, friends and family.

"I feel like this is a shared victory," she said. "I wouldn't be here where I am right now ... It means a lot to me."

Cooper said students need to step out of their comfort zones in order to learn about different cultures, religions and aspects of what diversity means.

She is biracial and a first-generation college student. Cooper said she looks to represent minority students on campus and provide a perspective that acknowledges the multifaceted nature of society.

"I want them to feel that they can have the support system ... in order to become successful regardless of where they are from," she said.

Cooper said she plans to continue her work to represent women, minority groups and international students in the future.

Michael Jerryson, associate professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, received an award for campus leadership.

"It's important to see how far we have to go, but also how much we have accomplished," he said.

Sherri Harper Woods, assistant professor in social work, also received an award for campus leadership.

"Coming from an underrepresented population and being a first generation college student, I've had people who inspired me and worked hard to helped me advance, so it's my give-back," she said.

Additionally, the Diversity Leadership Achievement Award was given to the Office of Assessments (OOA) staff.

Hillary Fuhrman, director of assessment at OOA, said the group is normally behind the scenes working with data, so people don't typically see what they have accomplished.

"It's nice to know that the data has been used to improve campus," she said.

Three recipients, Riley K. Chiu, Araceli Perez and Hadeal M. Yusuf, also received the Diversity Leadership Scholarship at the recognition dinner.

Natalie Nguyen, a freshman and Cochran Scholar from Hanoi, Vietnam, and Emilie Eberth performed at the event with a violin and piano accompaniment.

YSU President Jim Tressel presented recipients with their awards at the dinner.

#### STUDENT HEALTH CENTER FEE TO BE ON SGA BALLOT

RACHEL GOBEP

A new proposed Student Health Center fee of \$34 per semester will be on the Student Government Association election ballot on April 3 and 4. If approved, the center is scheduled to open in the fall 2018 semester.

The Student Health Center fee, if supported, will generate revenue to help outsource the current Mercy Health Student Health Center. It will become a Mercy Health Primary Care Center, which will provide basic health care to primarily students, but also YSU faculty, staff and the community.

Students will not pay an out-of-pocket co-pay for the services provided by the health center and are covered by the fee.

The center will have expanded hours of operation and offer services during breaks and some weekends. The services can also be used during the summer months by students enrolled in summer courses.

The current student health center will be relocated and expanded to a 5,000 square-foot building if the fee is approved. It will also include a pharmacy. The center will be located adjacent to the new Enclave student-housing complex being developed by LRC Realty.

The \$34 fee will be included on the tuition and fees bill, which is distributed to students electronically every semester.

Rayann Atway, president of the Student Government Association, said stu-

dents will be getting their money's worth out of the health fee if they use the center just one time.

'Especially for the students who don't live in the area and don't have the opportunity to drive back home to see their family doctor. This is critical for those students," she said.

Atway said she also sees a benefit for international students that may have trouble finding transportation to a doctor.

The new center would be staffed by a full-time primary care physician and can develop continuity of care, address acute issues, provide walk-in care for non-scheduled visits, manage preventative care and draw labs on site, according to the YSU Health Center Fee website.

There will also be access to psychiatric services, which will be available for two half-days per week and will supplement the mental health, behavioral health and addiction treatment offered by Student Counseling Services, the website states.

Nicole Kent-Strollo, director of student outreach and support, said having access to a psychiatrist on campus is critical.

"There are many students on campus that it's pretty evident that ... medication would be beneficial [for them]," she said.

Although she does not prescribe medication, Kent-Strollo said she can recognize when a student may need medication due to her background.

Kent-Strollo said this resource would be helpful for the university.

student's career here ... It could change them from a failing student to an honors student," she said.

Kent-Strollo said if YSU students do not vote yes for this fee, it will be difficult for them to get access to care.

She said students that need to go to their psychiatric appointments are currently taking Ubers, buses or having other students drive them.

Eddie Howard, vice president of student affairs, said it sometimes takes students three to six months to get an appointment with a psychiatrist. He said although psychiatry is not a main portion of the health fee, it was vital to be added to the fee.

Howard said he thinks it is important for students to vote ves for the fee because the expanded services that will be available to students will be beyond what they have been receiving in the past.

"This is where we need to go," he said. "We have a lot of demands on the current Student Health Center that we have in some ways not been able to meet to our satisfaction."

According to Howard, YSU is the only university in the state of Ohio that does not require a student health fee or mandatory insurance.

For example, Kent State University students pay a \$65 health fee per semester, while students at the University of Cincinnati must have insurance.

The current Mercy Health Student "It can really change the course of a Health Center can be used by all students Mercy Health/YSU Student Health Center Proposed Site: Corner of Wick and Lincoln

Photo Courtesy of **EDDIE HOWARD** 

with a valid YSU ID. Students can schedule an appointment with a family nurse practitioner or physician.

Licensed physicians are available by appointment only during the academic year and the center does not offer walk-in appointments.

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.

The center is currently 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.

For the Student Health Center to be considered, 10 to 15 percent of the YSU student population must vote in the SGA election. Atway said she encourages students to "get to the polls."

If there are any additional questions, refer to the YSU Health Center Fee vote-4health website at:

cms.ysu.edu/administrative-offices/ kilcawley-center-events/vote4health.

### YSU GETTING NETWORK REFRESHER

#### MELISSA TUROSIK

A common complaint among students at Youngstown State University is Wi-Fi connectivity being poor or nonexistent, but the campus has been receiving upgrades for the past 15 months to enhance wireless capabilities.

Ryan Geilhard, director of IT Infrastructure Services at YSU, said there are about 48 buildings that needed up-

"We decided we needed to do a six-year refresh cycle essentially that's eight buildings per year ... about every 90 days," Geilhard said.

He said the refresh cycle replaces network routing and switches components in all YSU buildings including wireless access points.

He said some of the devices in buildings are 10 to 15 years old, so newer devices do not have compatibility.

"Your phone is only going to do so well against devices like the access points that are that old," Geilhard said.

He said after this fiscal year most of the academic buildings and student-focused areas such as Kilcawley will be completed.

"We prioritize those number one," he said. "We're really here for the students."

Geilhard said they also decide what to do based on the age of equipment and the number of help desk tickets that have been logged.

He said if there are a lot of complaints in one area versus others, they know it needs to be prioritized.

Geilhard said there are two ways to measure Wi-Fi: speed and coverage. He said speed is the rate a person can navigate web pages and services, while coverage relates to whether a person has access to Wi-Fi at all.

Geilhard said there are fewer new access points because the antennas are better and cover more area.

Chris Wentz, associate director of network security and information security officer in IT, said he looks at the network security across campus, primarily on the technical side.

"That ranges from anything from internal threats to external threats inbound and outbound," he said.

Wentz said bring-your-own-device issues become a part of their concern as well because they are operating within network walls.

Francine Hazy, a YSU student, said she believes the Wi-Fi and connection on campus is tolerable.

"There is definitely room for improvement. Generally, my phone and laptop connect well. Sometimes, it takes a long time for them to connect," Hazy said.

Hazy said some locations on campus seem to have worse connection than others.

"For example, the other day, when I was in the Kilcawley Annex, my phone and laptop would not connect at all for over an hour," she said.

Hazy said she is a student worker, and some of the websites she needs access to for work take forever to connect.

"Overall, I think the speed and the strength of the Wi-Fi connection should be improved; however, since it is free, I understand why it might not be the best Wi-Fi," Hazy said.

Geilhard said one potential wireless project consists of stronger outdoor wireless connection in the campus core. He said they are also considering public access for events such as in Beeghly Center or Stambaugh Stadium and an improved experience for campus visitors.

#### PROGRESS UPDATE ON YSU WOMEN AND GENDER RESOURCE CENTER

ELIZABETH LEHMAN

In September 2017, The Jambar ran a two-part story about the development of a new campus Women and Gender Resource Initiative at Youngstown State University. This was intended to result in an eventual center on campus

After reaching out to individuals involved with the initiative, The Jambar has discovered the progress has been slow and an assistant director has not been named.

Michael Jerryson, associate professor of philosophy and religious studies, said the committee met in August 2017 and recommended Megan List, assistant professor in teacher education, for the position.

Jerryson said the recommendation for the part-time interim director position was initially someone who was involved with one of the previous attempts at a women's center at YSU.

"She's a counselor who's retiring, didn't need lots of money, she's knowledgeable about YSU and all that was needed because she helped start the first women's center here, and I was very hesitant to put her name in because she also felt like she was taken advantage of last time," Jerryson said.

He said he was concerned with making sure the appropriate support was lined up before trying to secure this individual as director this time around. Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Martin Abraham, gave List the director position, despite the committee's recommendation.

Jerryson said he was enthusiastic with the choice and

was still considering how to fill the assistant director position.

"If you want to switch places, I'm like, 'Do you want the name now of the person for the counselor and the assistant director position?' To which then, Dr. Abraham said, 'From now on you have to go through Megan List for this, not me," Jerryson said.

He said List is untenured, which puts her in an insecure position to fight and advocate for the center as its director, and progress has been slow.

"Since this has taken place, we've seen no movement in terms of a space provided, no assistant director," Jerryson said. "So once again, we have one person being provided meager amounts of funding and support to keep something afloat, and the failure of the administration now to follow through on what was promised, to avoid this very pitfall."

Abraham said this issue comes down to a matter of trust between the faculty and the administration. He said he's hopeful this can be worked through in time, but one concern is if List can find a way to advocate for the center that is effective but not confrontational.

"I think that the next concern, and I think this is where Dr. Jerryson is coming from, is that if she does that effectively, will administration penalize her and hold a grudge?" Abraham said. "That's the fear. I'm hoping we can get to a place where we're better, we're closer to it. In order for her to be successful, there has to be some level of trust that she can advocate effectively for the center and it will not be held against her when we do an evaluation for tenure."

Abraham said, whether or not it's factual, it has been

perceived that, in the past, individuals were penalized for things they did that had nothing to do with their performance, teaching, scholarship and service.

He said if YSU is going to become the great university it has the potential to be, these issues need to be overcome.

"We need to get past what we've done in history, what we've done before; what the faculty perceive administration has done, what administration says faculty have done," Abraham said. "We have to move together, forward together, with the spirit of trying to do the right things for the right reasons, putting history behind us and looking at where we can succeed going forward."

Abraham said he believes establishing a women's center is an important activity on campus and that it is a priority he's enthusiastic about, but it cannot be supported at the level Jerryson, List and the committee may want. He said he encourages continued advocacy for the center from Jerryson, List and the committee.

"If they don't continue to keep it on the radar, if they don't continue to push and advocate for the level of funding that it deserves, it's not going to stay on the list of things that we need to do from an administrative perspective," Abraham said.

A Women and Gender Center Fundraiser dinner is planned for Friday, April 27, from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Kilcawley Center in the Ohio Room and it will cost \$50 a plate.

"Our hope is to raise some community funds to be able to include that support in grant applications so that we can become more seriously funded," List said.

Tickets for the event can be purchased at Women and Gender Resource Initiative webpage, www.ysu.edu/wgri.

### NORMAN FINKELSTEIN VISITS YSU

MORGAN PETRONELLI

Some might call Norman Finkelstein a controversial figure, but he said he would argue otherwise. Finkelstein, a political science professor and activist, visited Youngstown State University on March 15 to speak about his new book, "GAZA: An Inquest into Its Martyrdom."

He was asked to visit YSU as a part of a lecture series presented by the Center for Islamic Studies, the James Dale Ethics Center, the Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies and the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

Finkelstein was born into a family of Jewish Holocaust survivors and later became an assistant professor at multiple institutions such as DePaul University, Brooklyn College, Rutgers University and Hunter College.

He said he first got involved in the Israeli and Palestinian conflict in 1982 after Israel invaded Lebanon.

"Up until then I was involved in other political actions. Israel and Palestine weren't on my radar and then I proceeded to do what I always do, which is read a lot, try to get the facts right and be certain, as certain as one can be," Finkelstein said.

Finkelstein spoke about a multitude of

topics involving the Israeli and Palestinian conflict. One such topic included if he thought the Hamas, the Palestinian-Islamic resistance group, were considered a terrorist group.

"The Hamas have committed terrorist acts, but in the great scheme of things it doesn't amount to very much. It's basically a resistance movement, but with very marginal means of inflicting harm," he said

Finkelstein said the period that caused "the most unjustifiable death," was from September 2000 to 2006 when 1,000 Israelis were killed. He noted while the Hamas attacked the Israelites, 5,000 Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces, a ratio of five to one. Finkelstein also said the vast majority of the casualties on both sides were civilians.

He said during the Israeli assault on Gaza, Operation Protective Edge, over 18,000 Palestinian homes were destroyed, while only one Israeli home was bombed.

"The amount of death actually inflicted by the Hamas was pale in comparison to Israel," Finkelstein said.

He believes he is not the controversial person who some have painted him out to be.

YouTube videos of Finkelstein speaking to broadcast journalists and talk show

hosts defending Palestine and denouncing Israel have put him on the map. Some videos show him arguing with enraged Jewish students at public speaking events at universities.

Finkelstein said when he speaks he adheres to international law as best as he can. He calls it "a very imperfect mechanism," but utilizes language that coincides with international law to reach a broader audience.

"If you consider international law uncontroversial and those who systematically break international law controversial, then it would make Israel and the United States controversial not me," Finkelstein said.

Some believe bringing speakers with varying viewpoints to campus supports academic freedom.

Keith Lepak, associate professor of politics and international relations, said universities are platforms to discuss and debate varying viewpoints on controversial topics.

"If we didn't have controversy, a kind of silent conformism would set in. Finkelstein, born and raised in a Jewish household, is controversial for his outspoken defense of Palestinians in their historical struggle with the state of Israel," Lepak said.



Photo by TANNER MONDOK/THE JAMBAR

Michael Jerryson, associate professor of philosophy and religious studies, said bringing alternative voices to YSU who are not inflammatory or incendiary, but rather data and fact-driven, can be academically beneficial.

"I think it's important to show the different viewpoints for us to learn more about how the world is not simply one perspective," Jerryson said. "In this day and age, where we have our Twitter feeds and Facebook followings, we're not used to having to deal with other alternative voices, but this is a country that has historically allowed us to come together and do wonderful things."





#### DAVID FORD

Greg Dillon's experience includes work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northrop Grumman and Lawrie Technology, but his biggest impact could be at Youngstown State University.

On March 1, Dillon became the associate dean for the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Dillon said he's adapted well to the new environment, thanks to the welcoming people.

"Everyone strikes me as honest, caring, thoughtful and focused on what is right for the college and particularly the students who attend Youngstown State," Dillon said. "I have been especially gratified by the honesty of the faculty as they described the opportunities they foresee as well as the challenges they confront."

Dillon said his first experience with the university was positive.

"I must admit that I was very much taken aback by the warmth of the welcome I received when I arrived," Dillon said. "To me, this speaks volumes for the level of collegiality that exists in the organization, so I would take this opportunity to thank all those who went to such lengths to make me feel welcome. It's easy to form positive working relationships with people who care about the people they work with."

Before his arrival at YSU, Dillon said he had the opportunity work on several innovative projects.

At MIT, Dillon worked as an assistant director of a university-industry consortium, which developed new

process technologies based on in-depth physics analysis.

In addition to MIT research, Dillon spent time with Lawrie Technology, Northrop Grumman and most recently, Pennsylvania State University.

At Northrop Grumman, Dillon served as principal engineer in advanced development, where he helped lead the implementation of an automated forming technology on a fighter aircraft.

Dillion said teaching remained an important role in his career.

"In my 17 years at Penn State, I got involved in a broad spectrum of product and process development projects, ranging from defense platforms to medical devices," Dillon said. "While I have been engaged in the educational mission virtually throughout my career, I've had an intensified focus in that area over the last five years."

Dillion said he couldn't pass up the position at YSU.

"It was the very existence of a STEM college that immediately caught my eye," Dillon said. "As associate dean of STEM, I expect to be engaged in pretty much every element of the functioning of the unit."

He laid out future goals for the program on campus.

"I passionately believe that practical engagement is the future of STEM education and that, in my view, necessarily entails provision of research, internship and cooperative education experiences," Dillon said. "Completing a co-op was nothing short of transformational in my life and I believe it could be the same for many students."

Dillon said he hopes to make an impact on students' education, preparing them more efficiently for the careers ahead of them.

Photo by TANNER MONDOK/THE JAMBAR

"The ultimate goal is to prepare our students for a life and career that is satisfying, fulfilling, prosperous and exciting," he said. "Knowing I have the opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of students pursuing STEM career paths is what gets me out of bed in the morning."

YSU is the perfect place to make the difference, according to Dillon.

Emilie Eberth, the coordinator of STEM outreach and scholarships, said the university is extremely lucky to have Dillon on board.

"In his few short weeks here, he has been enthusiastic and ready to get to know everyone in STEM and learning what we all do and how we do it," Eberth said. "He brings great insight from his past experience and we are looking forward to the future."

Wim Steelant, dean of STEM, said the program's enrollment continues to rise. Dillon's arrival helps the program keep up with stability, innovation and student success.

"Dr. Dillon's terminal degree is in engineering, while mine is not. This means the STEM leadership has terminal degrees representative for the entire college," Steelant said. "Also, with growing enrollment each year, it's nice to have an associate dean because for me alone it was insane to keep up and be innovative at the same time."

According to Steelant, the program held 2800 students in Fall 2014. The number rose to 3500 in Fall 2017.

Steelant said Dillon's arrival adds to the already diverse background of STEM faculty.

# DJ DAVIS: "GAME NIGHT!" PLAYWRIGHT

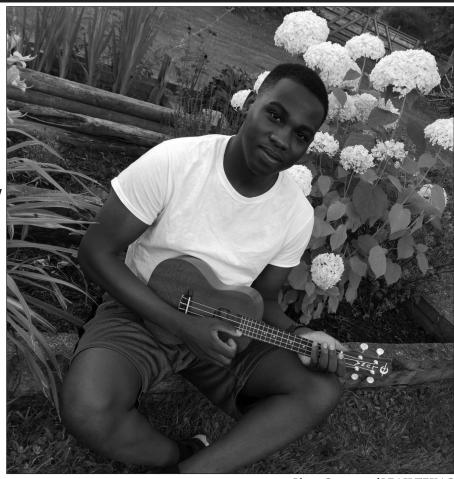


Photo Courtesy of LEAH TEKAC

"People can have different beliefs and still be friends," he said.

Sarah Dubos, sophomore theater studies major, was casted in "Game Night!"

Dubos said the play holds an important and relevant message that she thinks everyone needs to hear.

"DJ is one of the most driven people I know," she said. "It is really inspiring to see how passionate he is with everything he does."

Davis, who is from Pataskala, Ohio, said he first got involved in acting at the age of seven, when his mom put him in a local performance of "A Christmas Carol."

He said he continued to do shows in high school, and created a YouTube channel that generated a lot of positive feedback from his peers.

Davis said he felt it was rewarding that people enjoyed his performances, which is what drove him to pursue a degree in theater studies.

Davis said he planned to go to Columbia College Chicago, but chose YSU based on the affordable tuition and his family's influence as alumni of the university.

Davis said YSU offers a great theater program close to local theaters he has previously worked for such as The Youngstown Playhouse, Hopewell Theatre, Millennial Theatre Company and Millennial Theatre Project.

"There's so much theater here and ways to grow," he said. "Now that I think about it, I'm actually happy that I came here instead of Chicago because it gave me a chance to grow up."

Chris Hill, assistant professor in the department of theater and dance, said he has had "the great joy" of seeing Davis grow for the last two years.

"I've had him in acting classes, theater history classes, and I've worked with him in production several times. Like many theater students, DJ came to us with a great deal of talent, but it's been a particular treat to watch him harness and refine that talent," he said.

Hill said Davis "has something" that cannot be taught. "[He has] a willingness to work tirelessly to get what he

wants — this, in addition to what he's learned at YSU, will take him very far, indeed. He's smart, thoughtful, analytical and ambitious — great qualities in a theater artist," Hill said.

Davis is currently directing a one act show titled "Tone Clusters," based off the murder of a 13- year-old girl who was killed by her neighbor. He also has a professional contract for "Trumpet" in New Philadelphia this summer and will be performing in "Trumpet in the Land" and "Bye Bye Birdie."

#### ALYSSA WESTON

DJ Davis, junior theater studies major at Youngstown State University, is one of five students whose scripts have been chosen to be performed in a 10-minute play put on by Bliss Hall on April 27 and 28.

His 10-minute play, titled "Game Night!" is the story of a group of friends, each with different sets of values and beliefs. The play shows how they put those disparities aside.

"The play is supposed to question whether or not we can see each other as people or see each other as groups of people categorized by what they believe in," Davis said.

Davis said he wrote "Game Night!" because he feels that we live in a society where everyone is calling people out on the things that they believe.

"People are always talking about their opinions and they are always making other people mad, but what we don't see a lot of is tolerance of other ideas and cultures," he said.

Davis said his view on the lack of tolerance among society for people with different viewpoints and his personal connections with friends and family inspired the idea.

#### **NEWS BRIEF**

#### YSUSCAPE TO HOLD TASTE OF YOUNGSTOWN FUNDRAISER

YSUscape will be holding its fourth annual Taste of Youngstown fundraiser at The SOAP Gallery in downtown Youngstown on April 14 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The fundraiser highlights the wide variety of food available throughout Youngstown. Restaurants that plan on sponsoring the event with their food include The Federal, One Hot Cookie, O'Donold's Irish Pub and Grill, Charlie Staples Bar-B-Que and Republic Pizzeria e Pub. The

event will also include baskets and gift cards to be raffled off.

Proceeds from the event will be used to fund the YSU student-led revitalization projects over the next year, including public art instillations and neighborhood improvement efforts around downtown Youngstown.

Tickets for the event are \$15 for general admission and \$10 for students. Tickets can be purchased at https://squareup.com/store/ysuscape/ or at the door during the event.

### DINNER THEATRE REJECTS



Photo by JOHN STRAN/THE JAMBAR

**IOHN STRAN** 

Picture looking down on a crowd, hoping for a positive response. Nothing is on the stage except you and any comical thoughts traveling through your mind.

The nervousness of public performance is suppressed by the goal of enhancing onstage abilities. This is looking through the eyes of valley improvisational actors.

These actors perform in a group called The Dinner Theatre Rejects. The sketch and improv group has been performing in the area for about one year.

Joanna Andrei, a manager and actress, has been with the group for its entirety and said she notices something unique about it.

"The other sketch comedy projects seemed to fade, but I'm really excited by this one because it doesn't seem to be fading," Andrei said.

The group consists of about 12 members, but Andrei said some are strictly writers. She said not all of the members can generally make it to a performance, so there are normally six actors

The group specializes in a variation of rehearsed acts and off-the-cuff scenarios set up by the audience. The jokes, Andrei said, can be considered low-brow or jokes that land on impact. The goal, as they continue, is to incorporate high-brow, drier and wittier content.

The lack of instruments or props on stage may give some immediate stage fright, but as a musician hides behind their instrument on stage, Andrei said actors have their own form of this.

"We're masking ourselves behind a character, and if we can convince our audience that we are that character, then we're proving our strength as actors," Andrei said.

John Morris is another performer in the Theatre Rejects. His performing background comes from musical theater, an art that has some commonality with his current gig.

"They're both over the top and both can involve type casting," Morris said. "I always tend to be the funny fat guy."

Morris has also been with the group from the start, but some performers at Cedars on this Sunday were fairly new to the quick draw style

Roz Blystone was a first timer Sunday night. She said her only experience with improv was within the comfort of a classroom.

"I have experience in drama, but I wanted to explore what I can do as an actress," Blystone said. "It's also a great way to get out of your own

Morris contributes to the group both on stage and off by writing sketches. One of his written works was performed during a recent show at Cedars West End.

The sketch consisted of presidential quotes. With binders in hand, one performer would say the topic the following quotes would pertain to, and the other three performers would pass the mic, saying the quotes.

Morris personally doesn't have a threshold for joke sensitivity, but realizes the audiences he performs for might.

We have a show coming up in Sharon and it's generally more conservative there, so the show may be performed at a PG-13 level," Mor-

Andrei said the group's political views are slightly left, but their goal is not to push an agenda upon anyone. With that said, the jokes may not always lie in the middle ground polit-

"I'm afraid of offending people, but then again I'm not," Andrei said.

The Rejects performed in front of roughly 30 people at Cedars. Sitting in the front row was Ray Beiersdorfer, a geology professor at Youngstown State University.

Beirsdorfer said he believes there is a space for improv in Youngstown and the strong community of the area can help it expand.

The crowd's enjoyment of the show mirrored Beirsdorfer's words, proving there is at least a niche for it in the area.

Andrei said the key to drawing a local audience is attending other local acts.

"We all have to help each other," Andrei said. "If someone comes to our show and they're a local performer, then we'll attend their show and they can come back and bring more people."

Looking beyond Youngstown, Morris said he would love to see the group take its act to larger cities like Cleveland and Pittsburgh.

Morris believes if the jokes remain topical, they will land with any audience no matter where they perform.

Wherever the Dinner Theatre Rejects are performing, their collective thoughts will be heard and performed.

"The group gives us a voice and we're going to utilize it," Andrei said.



AND VOTE FOR T YSU HEALTH CENTER

TUESDAY, APRIL 3 and WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4

#### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

WHY DO I NEED TO PAY THIS HEALTH CENTER FEE IF I'M COVERED BY MY PARENT'S INSURANCE?

Having access to the health center will reduce your out-ofpocket cost associated with your parent's health care plan. Instead of using your parent's plan and paying a co-pay for each medical visit, you can be seen at the Mercy Primary Care Center without a co-pay while you are covered by the Student Health Center Fee. This will alleviate your need to use your parent's plan for routine health care which is provided at the Center.

WHEN CAN I VOTE?

Polls will be open Tuesday, April 3 at 8am through Wednesday, April 4 at 8pm. Vote from your own phone or

computer, or stop by the polling location in the Lariccia Lounge in Kilcawley Center between 10am-2pm either day!

### HOW TO VOTE APRIL 3 @ 8AM THROUGH

APRIL 4@8PM

- Log in to the YSU Portal.
- Under the "e-Service for Students" column click on "Student Organizations."
- A new tab will appear—On the Home screen, scroll down to the "Polls" column (on the right hand side of your screen).
- Follow the instructions to cast your vote and click "SUBMIT." You will only be able to vote once.



#### BE INFORMED

### YSU HEALTH CENTER FEE

TUESDAY, APRIL 3 and WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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#### WHERE WILL THE NEW HEALTH CENTER BE LOCATED?



The center will be located at 23 Lincoln Avenue - adjacent to the Enclave Apartments.

### LEARN MORE AT YSU.EDU/VOTE4HEALTH

For more information, call the Office of Student Experience at 330-941-3533.



Photo by ALYSSA KOSIS/THE JAMBAR

#### MARAH J. MORRISON

The possibilities and options available for a future bride and groom's wedding seem endless but manageable. Depending on what the man in black and the lady in white decide, the choices and end results may vary.

Pat Butto, the owner of The Party People, said she established her business in 1975. She said she has continued to grow and change her business with the fluctuation of the wedding industry.

Butto said when it comes to wedding planning, things have grown through the years and have expanded, especially with the complicity of the wedding itself.

"Before, you had a standard and it was pretty simple," she said. "Now, you have so many choices as a bride and a groom that that's where the expense comes in."

She said the details of a wedding are what make the price. She said weddings that she is involved with are usually between \$25,000 to \$40,000, which is considered to be a middle-market wedding.

"It also depends on how many people you're having," Butto said. "You could have a \$25,000 wedding for five to 10 people, so that all comes into the mix."

Butto said her average weddings are between the \$50,000 to \$60,000 range. She said her over-the-top weddings can range between \$100,000 to \$250,000.

"It's all a matter of where you are sitting in your lifestyle," she said. "Every wedding is important and every wedding usually has the same details."

She suggests keeping the guest list down to a bare minimum if a couple wants to budget for a cheaper wedding. The second thing would be to consider areas where they can do things themselves.

"Your main areas of expense are always geared towards the guest, which is food, beverage and entertainment," Butto said.

She said a couple should plan for a wedding at

least one year in advance. Currently, there has been a throwback to the simpler style of wedding. She said there are a lot of people who are interested in natural farm themes.

"Experience in your wedding planner is very important," Butto said. "When push comes to shove, you really have to know what you're doing because you're managing people's lives."

Butto said a wedding planner should be fulfilling dreams and alleviating stress. In order to do that, she said she has a passionate team who works behind her.

"Our most important philosophy is that we want to keep everyone happy, but especially the bride and groom," Butto said.

Anna Serrano, owner of Your Event, Your Way LLC, has had wedding prices range between \$30,000 to \$40,000. She said if a couple wants to budget for a cheaper wedding, it depends on what they envision.

"Get engaged first, set the date, see where you want to go, the reception," Serrano said. "After that, everything will fall into place."

Serrano said every wedding she does is different and the trend changes to budget-oriented things.

Kristen Delvaux, owner of Delvaux Wedding and Event Planning, said typically she finds couples spending between \$15,000 to \$20,000 in the Youngstown area. She said this depends on guest size and themes.

Delvaux said prioritizing things a couple wants included in a wedding is important. She said a couple should also make sure they are not going into debt planning for a wedding.

"Start with your budget and plan according to that," Delvaux said. "If you have a \$10,000 budget, you need to work backwards and figure out how long that's going to take you to pay off."

She said planning can go as quick or as slow as a couple wants. She said do-it-yourself weddings have been the most common, as well as choosing a live band over a disc jockey.

"The planning process is a really good indicator of how things will start off in your marriage," Delvaux said. "It's all about you and your loved

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#### CLASSIFIEDS

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### **PENGUIN REVIEWS** POSITION OPEN!

**POSITION:** EDITOR

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE ON MONDAY, APRIL 2.

APPLICATIONS CAN BE PICKED UP IN THE ENGLISH COMPLETED APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO JORDAN MCNEIL'S MAILBOX.

### **POWER PLANT** TECHNOLOGY AT YSU

**Information Session** 

Wednesday, April 4, 6:00 p.m. McKay Auditorium in Beeghly School of Ed.

Corner of Rayen and Fifth Ave.

**EXTRAS** 

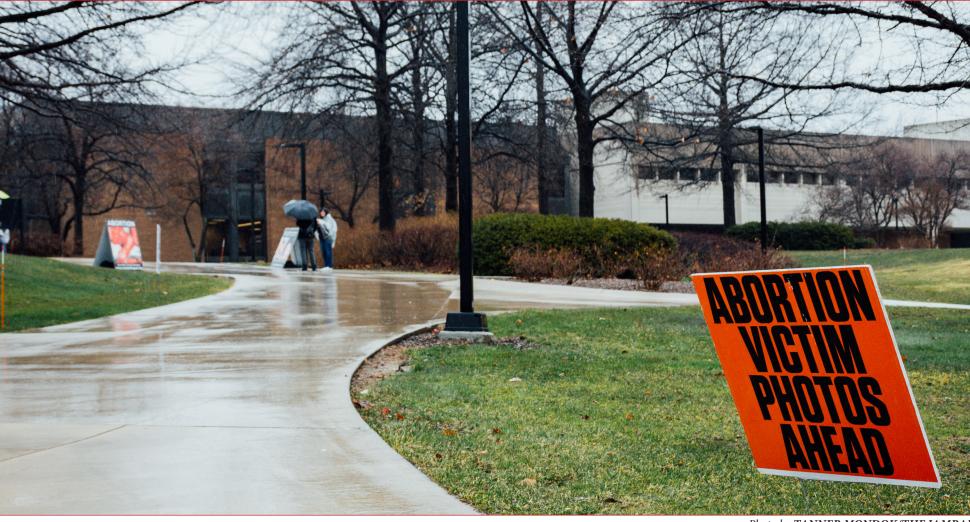


Photo by TANNER MONDOK/THE JAMBAR

Representatives from Created Equal, a Columbus based organization, were on campus Tuesday, near DeBartolo Hall to protest abortion.

Lauren Metz, a gap year intern at Created Equal, said they came to Youngstown State University with the purpose of showing people the reality of abortion.

### IS HIRING!

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### OPINION

### MARIO'S MOVIES: "I CAN ONLY IMAGINE" CARRIES CHRISTIAN MOVIES FORWARD

#### MARIO RICCIARDI

Hollywood is really good at making movies with troubling, sad and complicated endings. Often, we watch a character grow into a person who is worse for wear than who we were first introduced to. It's the core nature of drama. There must be conflict, and conflict always dishes out consequence.

"The Godfather" ends with Michael Corleone rising to power in the underworld and hiring hits to take out his competition. "The Dark Knight" ends with Batman dealing with the realization he can no longer be close to someone in order to fight for justice. "Fight Club" ends with two mentally unstable people blowing up major credit card companies to plunge the world into pre-civilization chaos. All three of these films are tent poles of American culture and all three reveal dark consequences of drama. So what do they have to do with a little Christian film called "I Can Only Imagine"?

"I Can Only Imagine" is a latest entry into the Christian film genre. Much like Hallmark movies, Christian films tend to fall into a predictable and repetitive pattern. Every story can feel like a cookie cutter impression and every ending is a happy one. In a world where movies tend to dilute messages of solidarity, the Christian film genre has a devotion to holding firm to their truth. For this reason, most flop critically yet do fairly well commercially. In their own stand-alone way, Christian productions are like the rebels of the film industry. "I Can Only Imagine" both fits into this and stands apart in its own unique way.

The movie is about Bart Millard, front man of the contemporary Christian band MercyMe, and the creation of their hit song "I Can Only Imagine." They say everyone has their cross to bear and Bart is no different. From an early age he wanted to be a musician and as if chasing an artistic passion isn't difficult enough, he also has to deal with a severely abusive father. His father had previously abandoned his

own dreams and passions, and would use his pain to torment Bart. Dennis Quaid delivers a haunting performance as this broken man.

At 18, Bart finally leaves his father and sets out to chase his dream. Touring the country with his band, Bart realizes there is a certain ceiling he cannot break through, and it is clear to the audience he must return home to make amends with his father to do so. I can assure you the ending is a happy one and of course the hit song "I Can Only Imagine" gets written and produced and makes lots of money. But this is insignificant to the journey there.

Bleak endings definitely have their place in storytelling, but I believe the highs and lows of a journey can translate better with an audience than the ending. Life isn't a two-hour movie (no matter how seamlessly Scorsese fits 30 into that timeframe) and people don't necessarily want something that ends. They want a story they can bring home with them. "I Can Only Imagine" does a wonderful job

inspiring hope in an audience, despite some of its flaws like character development and acting, and gives theater goers something to take home in their hearts.

Before I conclude, I need to mention that if Dennis Quaid, who plays Bart's abusive dad, delivered the performance he did in "I Can Only Imagine" in a more mainstream film, he'd have an Oscar come next March. He did a riveting job displaying a broken man discovering a desire for change. I would say the movie is worth seeing just for his acting.

"I Can Only Imagine" has a lot of standout work in it, not to mention it's a feelgood tear-jerker. It sets a new standard for the Christian film genre and it's always great to see an underdog pull forward. It feels nearly genuine in terms of filmic aspirations, and there is plenty in it for both the casual audience and filmmakers alike. Despite the occasional dip into commonplace tropes "I Can Only Imagine" delivers something exceptional and unique.

**1/3 1/3 1/3** (4/5 Penguins)

### A GROWN-UP SPIN ON EASTER

#### SAMANTHA ALLAN

Easter is upon us and it is finally starting to feel like spring. Candy, eggs and bunny-themed decorations have invaded the stores. Posters and advertisements for Easter eggs hunts have also flooded every possible outlet.

As a child, I remember Easter as this super exciting holiday. After Christmas, there is quite a large gap. Every year, I waited semi-patiently for the time to gather bunnies, candy and a new dress for church. Easter was the official sign that sunshine and flowers had officially arrived. The snow was finally leaving and the days of playing outside were coming. From my perspective, it was a holiday I really looked forward to.

However, I mostly looked forward to the various Easter egg hunts and baskets. Easter egg hunts are crazy events in which kids knock each other down and push for plastic eggs. At the start of the whistle, instant chaos and running ensues. Kids are laughing, screaming and smiling as they clamor for prizes. The craziness of the event was what made it fun. Feeling a bit nostalgic? Well, there is a way to bring these feelings back.

There is a new tradition popping up across social media and news articles. Adult Easter parties and Easter egg hunts are a way to live the nostalgia as an adult. If you're looking to bring back some of the excitement of a child's Easter, this is the best way to do it.

A few different pages and articles suggested making a whole day of it. This new adult Easter is presented similarly to the "Friendsgivings" of November. A dinner can be planned a few days before or after Easter as a new tradition that won't interrupt any times with family. Friends can get together for a nice night of eating and drinking. Unlike the November dinners, spring weather, flowers and eggs can be incorporated for extra fun.

In "How to Host an Easter Egg Hunt for Adults," Debbie Wolfe suggests "a few games you played as a kid. This

is a perfect opportunity for your guests to bring out their inner child without worrying about looking silly. Pin the tail on the bunny, egg toss, freeze tag and Frisbee are some games to get the blood flowing for the big hunt."

After you've had dinner and a few games, an adult Easter egg hunt is the final piece. Similar to the children's hunt, colorful eggs are filled with prizes and hidden around the yard. While candy can go in them, there is also an adult spin for the eggs. Tiny makeup, lotion, spray, gift cards or even liquor can be hidden in the eggs. The entertainment and chaos of the hunt is still present, but the prizes are chosen for adults to get excited about.

If you're looking for a way to get excited about Easter again, I think this is a great way to do it. An adult Easter party with friends offers little stress, but a lot of opportunity for fun. It opens up the chance for a new spin on the holiday many of us loved as kids. Any chance for great food, drinks and friends sounds like the making of a great new tradition.

### OPINION

## AJANBAR-5 EDITORIAL: SHOULD THE CENSUS INCLUDE EVERYONE?

A recent controversial move was made by the Department of Commerce to include a citizenship question for the upcoming census in 2020. Twelve states have threatened that they will sue to block the Trump Administration from making this change.

The lawsuits against the administration argue that the citizenship question will result in a lower census count, according to an article in The New York Times. Among the states was Massachusetts, where Attorney General Maura Healey said this move will contradict the census's purpose of counting everyone.

"This is a blatant and illegal attempt by the Trump administration to undermine that goal, which will result in an undercount of the population and threaten federal funding for our state and cities," Healey said.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders

counter-argued the states' concerns, stating, "This is a question that's been included in every census since 1965, with the exception of 2010, when it was removed."

National Public Radio fact checked Sanders' statement, determining that a question regarding citizenship was not sent to everyone in the United States since 1950.

"In 1970, the Census Bureau began sending around two questionnaires: a short-form questionnaire to gather basic population information and a long form that asked detailed questions," the article said. "Starting in 1970, questions about citizenship were included in the longform questionnaire but not the short form."

According to NPR, only one in six households received the long-form survey.

The addition of this question would no doubt dissuade immigrants in the U.S. from filling out the survey. The

New York Times article stated that this would even be the case for legal immigrants.

"Critics accused the administration of adding the question to reduce the population count in the predominantly Democratic areas where more immigrants reside, in advance of state and national redistricting in 2021," the article said.

Intentions aside, it cannot be denied that this question will impact the census data. The population count in states where immigration is heavy will be inaccurate, which has the potential to affect federal funding and state representation.

With a dozen states, and potentially more, sharing a common concern and threatening with lawsuits, it would be wise to rethink this last minute decision.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR THE HIDDEN FACE OF TECHNOLOGY

Technology is an essential part of our lives today and few can imagine living without. We achieved a lot with the help of technology. For example, we have the possibility to travel, keep in touch with friends on the other side of the earth and cure many illnesses. It means more freedom and choices for people but at the same time we must consider the social imbalance, more specifically, the boundaries where, when, why to stop. If not worse days are ahead of us! Especially with the metamorphic changes taking place and that will continue to take place. Can you imagine living in an environment with semi-conscious devices? Deployed at your leisure but with a cost! That cost is the customized service you receive from those devices. For a device to provide customized service, some information needs to be provided. When you do so, bingo! You

are now vulnerable. Because someone has your information. The growth of that information is proportional to the services you are getting. Who has them? The service providers, such as Google, Yahoo, Facebook, Twitter, Microsoft, Apple ... the list goes on.

Therefore, we need to learn some lessons from the history. There were a number of them, but the first eye-opener was the AOL's release of private data of 20 million customers back in June 2006. The data was big and good enough to track Thelma Arnold, a 62-year-old widow who lives in Lilburn, GA. Although they have changed the identifiable user name to a random number, and analysis to all searches of a single user lead to the additional data of friends which was good enough to put a reliable picture in perspective. AOL could not stand the heat, as a result had to shut

down the research center and fire the CIO. Their initial objective was to benefit from academic researchers. It was seen as an opportunity for better PR. However, they did not realize that they have released a massive amount of unauthorized data without permission. This is the case that underlined the importance of data protection. However, when the benefits are overwhelming it is easy to look other way, similar to the Facebook data breach, which shock up the world.

In 2011-12 an internal request to get the attention of the high-level administrators to the use of end-user data being exposed to the third party developers (11%) was ignored. Similar to AOL, they also treated it as an effective PR and were not concerned about the data once it is taken from servers. Handing the massive amount of data over to Cambridge Analytica under the

scope of Global Science Research to get additional apps to enhance the user platform at the expense of users and their friends did cross the ethical boundaries as well, not to mention the danger associated with it. In addition, there was no auditing to control the exposed data. As a result, more than 10 million end-user profiles floated around the globe.

Now it is time for end users to be internet conscious. Yes, it is necessary for our daily activities but without jeopardizing our safety. As the saying goes "let's not poke out the eyeball, while trying to fix the eyebrow." Make sure to read the fine lines and policies. I am sure the problems we have summarized are not the first ones and will not be the last one.

Coskun Bayrak, PhD.

SPORTS

### YSU WOMEN'S GOLF TEAM CONTINUES TO IMPROVE



Courtney Shutt follows through on a shot back in fall. Shutt led the Penguins to victory at the Marietta Pioneer Classic on Monday. She finished as a medalist.

Photo Courtesy of YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

#### MARC WEEMS

After improving from the first two tournaments, the Youngstown State University women's golf team finished in first place. Senior Courtney Shutt took home medalist honors at the Marietta Pioneer Classic on Monday. All four YSU golfers finished in the top eight of the individual standings

Before this tournament, the Penguins finished in fifth in their first tournament of the year at the Oyster Shuck Match Play. They finished 2-1 on the tournament. They defeated The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina, 3-2 in the fifth place match.

YSU improved on that mark the next week with a third place in the Seminole State Spring Break event. A solid fi-

nal round pushed the Penguins from sixth to third place. They had a 13-stroke improvement to get to third place.

In their most recent tournament, the Marietta Pioneer Classic, the Penguins posted a two-round total of 681 as a team to win by an impressive 42 strokes. YSU shot a 355 in brutal weather conditions in the first round on Sunday before turning in an impressive 326 in the final round on Monday. The team's second-round 326 was the best team score of the event by a staggering 35 strokes.

Shutt took home medalist honors for the first time in her career after shooting a 154 (80-74). The senior shot the lowest individual score in each round to win comfortably by 10 strokes. Her second-round 74 was her third-lowest, single-round score this season.

Shutt has now placed in the top 12 and been YSU's top finisher in four consecutive stroke play events. The first-

place finish is the best by a YSU golfer in 2017-18 and now gives now her three in the top-10 this season.

Freshmen Tori Utrup and Kara Raines each earned the best finishes of their young careers, finishing fifth and sixth, respectively. Utrup posted a 173 (88-85) while Raines turned in a 174 (92-82). Raines' second-round 82 is tied for her second best, single-round score this season.

Megan Creager finished in eighth place after carding a 180 (95-85). The junior has now finished in the top 22 in five of the six stroke play events she has competed in this season. Creager's eighth-place finish is a season-best and her third in the top 20 this season.

YSU will be back in action on April 7 and 8 for the Dolores Black Falcon Invitational at Stone Ridge Golf Club in Bowling Green, Ohio.

#### PRESS BOX PERSPECTIVE: ROUND OF 64 TO FINAL FOUR

#### SETH RIVELLO

The month of March is coming to an end but college basketball is still alive. Only four teams are left in the NCAA tournament: Kansas, Villanova, Michigan, and Loyola-Chicago.

Both games take place Saturday night at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas. The first game of the night will have West Region winner three-seed Michigan taking on South Region winner 11-seed Loyola Chicago followed by a battle of No. 1 seeds Midwest Region winner Kansas and East Region winner Villanova.

Loyola is clearly the Cinderella story of the tournament, a team that was picked over because of seeding and no one really knew about them. They entered the round of 64 and knocked off Miami (FL), then Tennessee, then Nevada, and most recently Kansas State. If you take out the Kansas State game where Loyola won by 16, through the other three games, Loyola has only won by a total of four points.

The only person I can name from this team is Sister Jean. The sad thing is she isn't actually on the team and is a nun. She made a bracket and had them going to the Sweet 16 or something and now she's a mascot, saying that in the most respectful manner as possible.

For Michigan, other than having some struggles against Houston and Florida State, it has been easy. Michigan killed Texas A&M by 27 in the Sweet 16 which showed that it wasn't a fluke team. Michigan seems to do the same thing in every tournament. Enters the tournament with an average seeding and goes on a hot streak and takes everyone out.

I say Michigan beats Loyola by at least ten and puts the Ramblers to sleep. No more Sister Jean and no more Cinderella story. Then on Monday in the championship game, Michigan gets murdered.

The battle of the number one seeds Villanova and Kansas is a great match-up and pretty even all around. I feel Kansas had a tougher run to get here while Villanova coasted through.

West Virginia gave Villanova the most trouble but it ended in a 12-point win.

Kansas took a tough Duke team to overtime after Grayson Allen couldn't get the game winner to fall and end Kansas's season. Seton Hall and Clemson also kept it close but Kansas was able to play as a team because unlike many teams now, they have veterans, lead by seniors Devonte' Graham and Sviatoslav Mykhailiuk, plus an undervalued junior, Lagerald Vick.

Villanova also has experienced players but I don't see them at the same level as Kansas.

Kansas has those veteran guys but also young guys like Malik Newman and Udo-ka Azubuike who can stuff the stat sheet. This game is going to be great and possibly the most exciting of the whole tournament but I do see Kansas pulling out a win to advance into the championship.

In my mind, it's a championship matchup of Michigan and Kansas. Both teams riding a big wave since winning their conferences and making it all the way but I can't pick against Kansas. This team is just too powerful and filled with talent, the only thing lacking is a bench.

Bill Self adds another championship and puts it right next to the one he got ten

### **SPORTS**

### YSU TENNIS TEAMS SERVE THE COMMUNITY



Photo by JORDAN UNGER/THE JAMBAR

**JORDAN UNGER** 

The Youngstown State University men's and women's tennis teams collaborated with United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley to bring tennis lessons to Youngstown Community School K-5 students at the Boardman Tennis Center.

About 25 children come to the practices every Friday of the 10-week program. Bob Hannon, president of United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley, said this is part of the Success After 6 initiative to expose children in Youngstown to new opportunities.

"We bring the kids here to not only teach them tennis, but etiquette [and] how to work together," Hannon said. "You know it's going well when you're in your third week and all the kids are coming back."

According to a United Way press release, Success After 6 adopted tennis as a major activity last summer after receiving a grant from the United States Tennis Association and partnering with the Jewish Community Center.

Volunteer Amy Hendricks is involved with Israel Tennis Centers, a nonprofit agency that brings children together on the court regardless of race, religion or ethnic

background. She said this was something they wanted to try with Youngstown students.

"It was so successful and they love it," Hendricks said. She said last year the program included students from four inner-city schools and the Youngstown Community School. In addition to athletic activities like tennis, basketball and swimming, the students learned about Israeli culture and famous tennis players.

Moving forward, Hendricks wanted to get YSU involved with the initiative.

"We thought it was a good idea to bring YSU in because [the team] is so multicultural," Hendricks said. "For the kids to see college students who are successful athletes and successful students of every shape and size and color, it's a really good example. They can say, 'Hey, I can go to college and I can be an athlete too."

Yossi Dahan, YSU tennis player from Israel, said he grew up with Israel Tennis Centers and even coached children at them before coming to the U.S. in 2015. He said the program feels close to home for him.

"All of the centers were located in underprivileged areas ... we had programs for people to come play tennis who can't afford it," he said.

Hannon said their goal is to do the same thing for

Youngstown Community School children.

"You look at tennis and golf, it's mostly Caucasian [players]," he said. "Our goal is that maybe two to four [students] really like this and they continue. Maybe they'll play tennis in high school. Maybe they'll get a scholarship."

Dahan said if he was able to inspire at least one of the students, it will have been a success for him.

"Some people don't have the opportunities to play tennis. Not everyone can afford it, so I think that it's great and I'm proud to be a part of it," Dahan said.

The YSU Men's Tennis team led the activities on Friday, teaching the students rules of the court and playing games with them. Head coach Mickaël Sopel said it has been a great experience and he hopes the team can continue volunteering with this initiative in the future.

"When you give, it's always a good feeling," Sopel said. "It's nice to have them involved in the community."

Support from the Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Foundation and United Way will allow the program to continue into the summer, according to the press release.

The Success After 6 practices are held from 4 p.m. to 30 p.m.

### YSU BASEBALL FINALLY BREAKING THROUGH

MARC WEEMS

The Youngstown State University baseball team scored four runs in the top of the ninth and survived a scare in the bottom half of the inning to outlast Eastern Michigan University for a 9-7 win on Tuesday.

After starting the year 1-14, the Penguins are now 5-17 and have found a bit of luck as of late.

In what started out as a slugfest with 11 combined runs in the first three innings, the Penguins relied on their bullpen to set the stage for a dramatic ninth inning.

Both starting pitchers were knocked out after two innings.

With the Penguins trailing 7-5 to start the ninth, Nick Massey, Jeff Wehler and Blaze Glenn drew three straight walks to load the bases with one out. Massey scored on a fielder's choice to cut the margin to one. Zach Lopatka's two-out double brought in Glenn with the tying run.

After Drew Dickerson walked to load the bases again, Austin Trace plated pinch-runner Lucas Nasonti with an infield single that proved to be the winning run. Lopatka then raced home on a passed ball to give the Penguins an insurance run and a 9-7 lead.

EMU certainly had a chance in the ninth as it loaded the bases with nobody out. Dalton Earich didn't allow a ball to leave the infield as he retired the next three hitters. Earich struck out Kolton Schenker for the first out, and the freshman reliever then threw out a runner at the plate on a grounder back to the mound from EMU's leadoff batter. Max Schuemann then grounded out to second base on a full-count pitch for the final out of the game.

Glenn, Lopatka and Dickerson each had two hits, and Glenn hit his third home run of the season for the Penguins. YSU's only lead until the ninth was 1-0 after Massey doubled and scored on Glenn's RBI single in the top of the first. The first three Eagles batters all reached in the bottom of the first, and John Rensel Jr.'s home run put EMU ahead 3-1 after there was an out in the inning.

The Penguins had to play from behind the rest of the night, but they kept clawing. YSU quickly tied the score in the top of the second when Dickerson doubled in Lopatka and Cody Dennis singled home Dickerson.

EMU got a pair of RBI singles in the bottom of the inning to go up 5-3, but the Penguins struck right back again as Glenn's two-run home run with one out in the top of the third tied the contest at 5-5. Luke DeVenney's solo homer in the bottom of the inning put the Eagles up 6-5, and they added a run in the sixth on an RBI double by Rensel Jr.

Austin Butler came in to get back-toback strikeouts with two Eagles in scoring position in the sixth to keep the deficit at two, which allowed the Penguins to have their rally in the ninth.

After the Eagles scored five runs in the first two innings, five Penguins relievers limited them to two runs over the final seven frames. Alex Bellardini surrendered one run over the third through fifth innings to slow EMU down, and Butler, Jakob Brustoski and Earich blanked the Eagles over the final 11 outs.

Brustoski was awarded his first career win, and Earich notched his first save.

Youngstown State will host the University of Illinois-Chicago in a three-game Horizon League series on Friday and Saturday at Eastwood Field. The Penguins and Flames will play a double header starting at 1 p.m. on Friday, and they'll finish the series on Saturday at 1 p.m.

SPORTS



Nathan Mays (#7) runs for a first down against the University of South Dakota. Mays figures to be the Week 1 starter at quarterback after a strong spring camp.

Photo Courtesy of YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

#### **CHRIS MCBRIDE**

After a season that saw twenty seniors bear the Y on their chest one last time, the Youngstown State University football team will enter the 2018 season with a new look. As the saying goes with this Penguins group: "Next man up."

With spring practices done and over with, the coaching staff has had time to get an overview of how the teams will look position by position.

Looking at offense, the most debated position of last season without doubt was the quarterback position. Nathan Mays started five games and played in eight last season. In those games, Mays completed 75 of 113 passes for four touchdowns with a lone interception. He also managed to rush for 317 yards on 77 carries resulting in four more TDs.

The starter remains undisclosed but coaches have their sights on Notre Dame graduate transfer Montgomery VanGorder, and redshirt freshmen Joe Craycraft and Conor Collins.

Arguably the deepest position for YSU will be at the tailback position. First-Team All-Missouri Valley Football Conference selection Tevin McCaster will lead the pack this season. McCaster rushed for 1,000+ yards for 13 end zone trips.

Sophomore Christian Turner who turned in an impressive freshman performance returns as well. Junior Joe Alessi, who contributed in crucial plays as a backup and special teamer, will be looking to do more of the same.

Also adding to the depth will be Devon McNutt and London Pearson with redshirt freshmen Jaylen Hewlett and Braxton Chapman.

At tight end, there are big shoes to fill left by Kevin Rader and Shane Kuhn, as senior Chris Durkin is the lone tight end that saw playing time. Joining him will be a pair of redshirt freshmen in Josh Burgett and Miles Joiner along with Ohio State University transfer Kierre Hawkins.

The wide receiver position will see plenty of fresh faces this season. A familiar name returning will be Samuel St. Surin. The only other receiver to see minutes will be Jeremiah Braswell who came to the program in 2016.

The two will take the leadership role in guiding an inexperienced group of receivers.

That group will include Darius Shackleford, Donovan McWilson, Ryan Emans and Zack Torbert all looking to make an quick impact on the team. The Penguins, in 2017, redshirted Colby Cooper, Jake Cummings and Thomas Joffray.

No matter who is taking the snaps next year, the offensive line will be an essential part of keeping the QB safe. The Penguins will have plenty of experience up the middle with left guard Gavin Wiggins and Vitas Hrynkiewicz at center looking to lead the line. Joining the fray will be Connor Sharp and Jacob Zinni.

While many new faces will be integrated into the offense and defense, several players will also be entering their senior year.

On the other side of the ball, the defensive line will feature four seniors, Justus Reed, Savon Smith, Lamont

Ragland and Johnson Louigene. Reed is coming off an impressive year in which he tied the team lead with five sacks in only seven games.

The reserves will feature Shereif Bynum, Ma'lik Richmond, and Wesley Thompson, Tommy McCraw, Justin Metzel, Jason Sims and Steven Pappadakes. The Penguins redshirted James Johnson, Antoine Cook, Donovan Turney and Fred Hicks last season.

Linebackers will be headlined by senior Armand Dellovade, a second-team All-MVFC pick in 2017 with 38 games played in his three-year tenure. He'll have help leading the way with a trio of juniors Christiaan Randall-Posey, Curtis Parks and Cash Mitchell.

YSU will have some returns in the secondary with starting cornerback Bryce Gibson and starting free safety Kyle Hegedus. Hegedus, despite only starting in the final ten games of last season, managed to end the season ranked third on the team with 74 tackles.

At cornerback, DJ Smalls, Crispin Lee, Darius Hall, Will Latham and redshirt freshmen Melvin Jackson.

At safety, Deshon Taylor, Mike Nash, Sam McGuigan, Daniel Kwarteng and redshirt freshmen Nick Freiwald will also be eligible for play.

Rounding out the roster on special teams will be three returning kickers Punter Mark Schuler, placekicker Zak Kennedy and Colin Burdette.

Every side of the ball was said to have had an impressive showing during Spring Drills. The Penguins will begin their 2018 season Sept 1, against Butler University in Stambaugh Stadium.