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THE STUDENT VOICE OF YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY SINCE 1931

#JAMBAR

A vibrant collage of student activities. In the top left, a woman rappels down a red rope. In the center, a woman with red hair and sunglasses wears a blue 'ON CLOUD Y' t-shirt. To her right, another woman in a blue t-shirt holds a microphone. In the bottom left, a man wears a 'FUELEDXFAIT' t-shirt. In the bottom center, a man wears a grey t-shirt and a black Adidas cap. In the bottom right, a cheerleader in a red 'PEER LEAD' t-shirt is visible. A large black and white cow mascot is on the right side. The background is a bright blue sky.

SLIPPIN', SLIDIN' AND DANCIN'
INTO THE NEW SEMESTER

FEATURES



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Photo by **Tanner Mondok/The Jambai**

BREATHE WITH CAUTION

JOHN STRAN

Air quality, a sometimes invisible influence on everyday society, can create healthy outdoor conditions as easily as it can take them away.

The end of summertime could result in air that is less-than-satisfactory.

Eric Wilhelm, meteorologist for WFMJ, said the end of summer months generally means poorer air quality.

“July and August are the months we have not only our hottest weather, but our most stagnant weather,” Wilhelm said.

If the temperature is stagnant, meaning there’s no change in air mass for a few days, pollutants in the air increase.

Though even in midst of the poorest air quality of the year, Wilhelm said there’s rarely any health risks for people who typically do not suffer any types of breathing issues in the Mahoning Valley.

Youngstown’s geographical location could be a factor in air quality that poses a threat.

“Our city can sometimes make for poor air quality because we’re between fairly industrial cities — Cleveland and Pittsburgh,” Wilhelm said.

He said weather patterns often show that quality can drastically improve in a day.

The cautionary statement on Mahoning Valley Air’s website states when the air is deemed unhealthy, active children, adults and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should avoid prolonged outdoor exposure.

One way to prevent air pollution is to carpool.

Justin Mondok, environmental planner for Eastgate Regional Council of Governments and Mahoning Valley Air, has focused on trying to shift the culture of how people in the Mahoning Valley commute.

While Mondok’s goal is commendable, he said it’s difficult to get people in the Valley to drive less and carpool, ride a bike or use public transportation.

“There’s not a real traffic congestion issue in the area,” Mondok said. “In bigger cities where traffic is a contentious problem, it’s easier to get someone to think of another way to go.”

Mondok said visible haze in the sky has negative health impacts.

“Sometimes the effects of poor air quality are immediate such as itchy eyes or burning nose or throat,” He said. “But sometimes damage may not be known until later.”

Tamara Kerr-Sahli, geological and environmental sciences instructor, teaches a class on air quality at Youngstown State University that focuses on air pollution and how it affects human health and the environment.

As for location, Kerr-Sahli said pollutants from neighboring states can have an effect on our air quality.

“Several years ago, fires in West Virginia were causing issues in the Mahoning Valley,” she said. “You could smell the smoke and I experienced eye irritation when I went outside.”

The number to determine air quality ranges

from zero to 500 and is called the air quality index (AQI). Zero on the scale represents the gold standard. Anything over 100 is considered unhealthy.

Kerr-Sahli said AQI calculates four major air pollutants regulated by the Clean Air Act: ground level ozone, particle pollution, carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide.

“AQI tells you how clean or unhealthy your air is and what associated health effects might be of concern,” Kerr-Sahli said. “The AQI focuses on health affects you may experience within a few hours or days after breathing unhealthy air.”

If precautions are not taken during an extended period of unhealthy air, hospitalization or death could occur.

According to Mahoning Valley Air, the last time an unhealthy air day was recorded in the region was August, 2012 in Trumbull County.

Daily updates of local air quality can be found at <http://mahoningvalleyair.org/>.



Photo by Tyler Rothbauer/The Jambor

AMANDA JOERNDT

More than 11,000 walkers and runners participated in the Panerathon, an event whose purpose is to raise funds for the Breast Care Center at St. Elizabeth Hospital, hosted by the Covelli Centre on Sunday.

Panerathon's goal is to give all women access to the center's services regardless of their financial situations.

Joanie Abdu was a nurse at St. Elizabeth for over 20 years. In 1993, she was diagnosed with a severe form of breast cancer and died 15 months later.

Her husband, Dr. Rashid Abdu, started planning for the Joanie Abdu Comprehensive Breast Cancer Center (JACBCC) to give all women a place to have screening tests and mammograms done with a shortened wait time.

All proceeds from Panerathon support the Joanie's Promise Fund to help the center expand their work.

Breast cancer survivor, Sheila Kroll-Dickinson, said she walks in the Panerathon every year to show her support and help raise money for JACBCC.

"Coming to the Panerathon every year and seeing all of these

wonderful people here pulling together for us, it gives you the desire and will to fight and keep fighting every day," Kroll-Dickinson said.

Candace Madden, Mercy Health Foundation employee, said millions of dollars have been raised for JACBCC and the number increases with each Panerathon.

"We broke the two-million-dollar mark last year with all the money that's been raised through the Panerathon and we have raised about \$500,000 this year," Madden said.

Participants were able to run in the 10K or walk and run the 2-mile race. There was also a quarter mile PNC Kids Run, where children received a goodie bag and T-shirt.

The Panerathon teams consisted of different companies, families of breast cancer survivors, schools and athletic teams.

The YSU teams have participated in the event for the past nine years. This year, YSU made one large team called Mega Team.

Mega Team consisted of 12 different teams that came together from multiple organizations at YSU. A total of 388 people represented the YSU Mega Team consisting of students, faculty and alumni.

Carrie Clyde, wellness coordinator at YSU, elaborated on how the idea of the Mega Team became a reality.

"In the past, YSU was represented with smaller group participation from different areas on campus," Clyde said. "This year, the Wellness Champions Committee at YSU came together to host one big team called the Mega Team. Individuals who want to participate through YSU now have a chance to be a part of the fundraiser."

Clyde said she hopes the students and faculty at YSU gained a sense of community, culture and a sense of coming together for something bigger than the norm.

Panerathon's sponsors banded together to make the event a success.

Ashlee Mauti, director of marketing for Covelli Enterprises, said all the companies participating in the races compete to be in the number one spot for the largest team each year.

"Our platinum sponsors range from PNC Bank, the DeBartolo Foundation, Huntington Bank, Rossi Insurance, Sweeney Chevrolet and many more," she said. "They battle each year for the number one positions for the largest team. Youngstown State University, Sweeney and Team Peacock are some of the largest teams."

CODING TO BE OFFERED TO VOLNEY ROGERS STUDENTS

Youngstown State University's College of STEM, Beeghly College of Education and the Ohio Youth Entrepreneurship Program are partnering with the Youngstown City School District to offer a program called Youngstown-Coding 4 Entrepreneurship (Y-C4E).

Y-C4E is an innovative computer coding and entrepreneurship program that will be integrated in seventh and eighth grade math classes at the Volney Rogers Junior High School this year.

It will introduce students to computational thinking and the entrepreneurial mindset, skills and attitudes that are critical to students as they pursue their education and explore career options.

Y-C4E has three main objectives. The first objective is to teach a block-based, simple coding curriculum which will be used with a robotic application. Students will use these technical skills as they learn the fundamentals of entrepreneurship while developing their own business ideas.

The second objective is to research the effectiveness of Y-C4E by assessing students' progress in improving their computational thinking and entrepreneurial mindset with tests, interviews, product analyses and eye trackers.

The third objective is to positively impact students' in-school performance including academics, attendance, discipline and engagement.

An overarching goal of Y-C4E is to influence students' understanding and fluency in computer science and appreciation of entrepreneurship.

The following YSU faculty members are involved in Y-C4E: Abdu Arslanyilmaz, Coskun Bayrak, Greg Dillon and Julie Smith.

John LaPlante, chief information officer of Youngstown City Schools, Kelly Weeks, principal of Volney Rogers, Tracy Pinter of Volney Rogers Junior High School and Tiffany Trella, technology integration supervisor for the Youngstown City School District, are also involved with the program.

REAL ESTATE LICENSE CLASSES TO BEGIN SEPT. 24

Students who are interested in earning a license as an Ohio Real Estate Salesperson can begin coursework Sept. 24 in the Williamson College of Business Administration at Youngstown State University. Through the successful completion of four courses — Real Estate Law, Real Estate Principles & Practices, Real Estate Finance and Real Estate Appraisal — students will be able to take the Ohio licensure examination. Classes are offered from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in Williamson Hall. For more information about the YSU Real Estate classes, contact Christine Shelton at (330) 941-3068 or cgshelton@ysu.edu.



INTERNATIONAL LOUNGE OPENS IN JONES HALL

Photo by Nami Nagaoka / The Jambor

NAMI NAGAOKA

The International Programs Office (IPO) announced the opening of an international student lounge, The Lariccia Cultural Collaboratory, on the first floor of Jones Hall.

Nathan Myers, associate provost of IPO, said the idea of having a space for cultural programming had been discussed for a few years among himself and other faculty, including former Vice President of Multicultural Affairs Sylvia Imler.

Myers explained the needs of a space for cultural events such as International Coffee Hour, club meetings and other gatherings. The

lounge will be open during the office hours of IPO.

"This is totally a game changer for our international students," Myers said.

Karim Mohamed, a graduate electrical engineering student from Egypt, said the lounge makes it easier to access cultural programming events because it's on campus.

Mohamed said he is excited about bringing more community members and international students together by having an open cultural space.

"A lot of [community members] like to help the international students and attend the events," he said.

Mohamed said international students will

benefit from having friends from the community to help with resources such as jobs and advice.

Marilyn Johnson said she has been actively involved in YSU cultural events for four years.

She said she is involved with coffee hour and is happy to hear it will be hosted in the international lounge.

Rachel Mientkiewicz, a senior majoring in biology and psychology, is the chair of iPals at YSU.

She said she is excited about the new lounge.

"[The lounge will be] a great space for just hanging out and it'll give international students and organizations a central location to operate from," she said.

Mientkiewicz said she believes moving coffee

hour will positively impact students.

"Since Jones Hall is where the International Programs Office is at, I think it'll help bring the international student together with domestic students, just by having increased traffic through there," she said.

Mientkiewicz pointed the importance of thinking globally.

"Knowing about other cultures adds color to your life and your experiences," she said.

The first event at the lounge will be Sept. 2, which will be open to community members and students.

NEW FACULTY ADDS CULTURE TO CAMPUS

JOHN STRAN

Professors from various regions of the United States and around the world have recently claimed Youngstown State University as their teaching grounds.

According to the YSU News Center, the fresh faculty come from areas including Iran, India and South Korea. Some of the classes they will be teaching include chemistry, sports science, engineering and communications.

They will be an addition to the roughly 900 member faculty currently on campus.

One of the new professors is Ronald Fields. In the English department, Fields teaches business writing and American literature.

Fields hails from Tennessee, but has lived in Akron for a little over a decade. He earned his

bachelor's degree from Middle Tennessee State University followed by a master's in American literature at the University of Akron.

Deepa Iyer was born and raised in India but has lived in Northeast Ohio for the last five years. Prior to becoming a YSU faculty member, she taught at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

Her position at YSU is her first tenured position. Iyer said thus far, she enjoys the cultural diversity and global environment that YSU offers.

"There's something to learn from every culture," Iyer said. "Especially as the job market becomes more globalized."

Ron Cole, public information officer at YSU, said the new additions will help compliment current faculty which he described as "one of the university's greatest assets."

"Our faculty, including this new group, comes to Youngstown and to YSU from all over the world," Cole said. "It speaks to the quality of YSU that we are able to attract so many very highly-qualified scholars and teachers."

Fields noticed this range in culture during the two days of orientation in mid-August saying there was only a handful of new faculty from this area.

But noticing the backgrounds of the different faculty and students was not what stuck out to Fields initially, rather it was the size of the student body.

"Enrollment is going up and at the same time, Youngstown's population is decreasing," he said. "So somebody is doing something right."

According to YSU's website, currently 12,756 students are enrolled. The 2018-2019 academic year had reportedly received the highest amount

of applicants in the college's history with 10,207.

Cole said the new faculty will contribute to help the growing student body to find success both in and out of the classroom.

Iyer said she wants to accomplish during her time at YSU is to turn this belief into fruition by building a smoother transition for students when beginning their preferred job saying that there's often a gap between the two that's sometimes difficult to overcome.

For Field's, he said he hopes to continue to meet friendly faces in the English department and beyond. He said YSU is a place he could see himself retiring from.

The full list of new faculty can be found at <https://ysu.edu/news/30-new-faculty-around-globe-join-ysu-2018-19-academic-year>.



THE HUB WELCOMES TÚ TACOS

KATLYN KRITZ

Tú Tacos is a new counter service Mexican-style restaurant on campus located in The Hub next to Dunkin' Donuts in Kilcawley Center. The restaurant serves street style build-your-own tacos and nachos, as well as a variety of sides.

Customers can choose from a variety of combinations including vegetarian options such as veggie and tofu tacos.

Tom Totterdale, director of Chartwells campus dining services at Youngstown State University, said Tú Tacos has a permanent place in The Hub.

"We are always trying to stay fresh and change with the times," Totterdale said. "We tried a similar concept last spring to see if the

students would like it and we got very good feedback."

Tú Tacos is receiving mixed reviews from the campus community. While some students are excited to have a more diverse food option, some feel the new counter service restaurant could use some improvement.

Maddy Ewing, junior biology major, said she feels improvements could be made to the queso and chicken.

Taylor Phillips, sophomore, said Tú Tacos was okay, but she prefers Mondo Subs. She said she disliked that her taco shells were cold as well as the sour cream.

"I've had more disappointing tacos in my life," Phillips said. "I was expecting more."

Jayde Faustino, junior graphic design major, said she enjoys the food.

"I've been here for God knows how long and I actually like the food at school for once," she said.

Katie Jones, graphic design senior, said she enjoyed the portion sizes.

"It's a decent amount of food for the price," she said. "I like the variety that it offers instead of just sandwiches or pizza. It's something different."

However, students need not be distressed over the absence of Mondo Subs. Popular menu items have been moved to the food court and can be found at 2.Mato and Chop'd & Wrap'd.

Totterdale said there are new dining concepts coming to campus this fall as well. One of these concepts being Hissho, a sushi restaurant.

"The chef will roll sushi fresh every day," he said. "We will also ship it to a number of

Photo by **Tanner Mondok/The Jambor**

locations."

Hissho will be located in The Cove and is scheduled to open at the end of September. Totterdale said their team is constantly listening to suggestions and trying to find ways to improve.

Ewing mentioned that she's excited to hear that there will soon be a sushi restaurant in the works.

Hissho will now be a fresh, healthy option for students. She said it's hard for her to keep up with her diet on campus.

Ewing said YSU needs to have healthy options for students on campus.

To provide feedback on food and other dining services go to: <https://www.dineoncampus.com/ysu/feedback>.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

BRIAN BRENNAN

One of the lesser-known oddities in Youngstown State University's history involves the evolution of its name. At one point, the institution was known by three names — all at once.

Eventually, a single moniker was agreed upon, one that was based upon common usage rather than any other intellectual or political considerations.

Our university has its origins with the Youngstown chapter of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA, or simply, the "Y"). In addition to the promotion of physical fitness, the YMCA also promoted mental fitness chiefly through various class offerings designed mostly for self-improvement.

Dale Carnegie, whose famous book, "How to Win Friends and Influence People," (the grand-

daddy of all modern self-help books) got his start by teaching his method at the YMCA in Chicago.

Locally, the "Y" taught English to immigrants and provided classes on automobile mechanics, office skills and other types of courses. In 1908, the YMCA offered a course in commercial law, its first on the college level. This is considered to be the actual beginning of Youngstown State University.

By 1916, both college and high school courses were taught, and the institution was designated as the Youngstown Association School of the YMCA. Eventually, demand for college-level courses increased. More space was needed. To meet the demand, two mansions along Wick Avenue were leased by the "Y."

In 1921, the YMCA Board of Trustees renamed the school the Youngstown Institute of Technology, a name favored by trustee James Wick — a graduate of the Massachusetts

Institute of Technology (MIT). Even so, confusion reigned.

Those in the know referred to it as "The Institute," while others never ceased calling it the Youngstown Association School (or YMCA School). The vast majority incorrectly called it "The College" or "Youngstown College."

To make matters worse, the liberal arts section became known as "Youngstown College," while the Youngstown Institute designation was applied to the others (including the Law School).

By 1931, the students had had enough. At any given time, three different names appeared on official letterhead and other business transactions. This made actions like the transfer of credits difficult or even impossible. A petition was drawn up and submitted to the Institute's director, Homer L. Nearpass, demanding the standardization of the institution's name.

Later that year, the YMCA Board of

Trustees bowed to both popular usage and student demand. The Institute was renamed Youngstown College. The students would come to refer to it affectionately as "YoCo."

The YMCA's connection to Youngstown College would be severed in 1944, when separation was required before the school could become a fully accredited institution. By 1955, the college grew to the point where it was a university in all but name, so it was renamed The Youngstown University.

In 1967, YU joined the system of state-supported institutions of higher learning in Ohio and became Youngstown State University.

For further information, visit YSU's Archives & Special Collections in Maag Library. Also recommended is Alvin Skardon's book, "SteelValley University: The Origins of Youngstown State" (Maag Library Call No. LD6373.S53).

FROM DUSK TO DAWN: OVERNIGHT PERMITS AT YSU

Photo by Tanner Mondok/The Jambalaya

COURTNEY HIBLER

Overnight parking permits are becoming crucial for Youngstown State University, due to the increase of non-university run campus housing.

Students who enrolled prior to the summer 2018 semester received the overnight permits for the fall semester.

Danny O'Connell, director of support services, said parking permits are becoming optional due to the new tuition promise through YSU. With this promise, each incoming class will receive a different tuition and fee structure.

"New students had the option of choosing either a daytime or overnight permit," O'Connell said. "In doing this, the cost of parking moving forward is based on use."

There is only one fee for those needing to park on campus during the day, while there is a higher expense for those who need to park on campus 24 hours a day. O'Connell said this

structure is consistent with most of Ohio's state institutions.

O'Connell said he was involved in the process to change the permits as a parking representative and said many others from the university were involved as well.

"Our goal is to have the best operation possible and keep traffic congestion to a minimum," O'Connell said.

Caitlyn Wilkes, junior telecommunications major, said she has no reason to be on campus beyond the original parking times already implemented.

"My classes end in the afternoon," Wilkes said. "These new passes won't affect me, but I feel like it will be beneficial for others and myself in the future if there are nighttime events being held."

Some students said they don't see the overnight permits as beneficial.

Mary Bittler, senior early childhood education major, said she would feel safe during

a major event, such as a football game, but has safety concerns after hours on campus because she noticed not many campus police officers patrol the area.

"If some of those students don't feel safe then maybe YSU campus police could come up with an idea to implement more security measures," Wilkes said.

The YSU Student Security Service, sponsored by the Youngstown State University Police, provides a free escort to students and employees walking from one campus location to another.

As YSU gains more students each semester, changes to the many parking areas on campus will begin to take place.

"In the next month, we will see an increase of approximately 100 new spaces in the M-61 overnight permit lot on Rayen Avenue," O'Connell said. "These spaces will serve the residents of the Edge and any students with an overnight permit."

O'Connell said it's important to have multiple

commuter lots in the Lincoln Avenue and Fifth Avenue areas to prevent traffic backup.

Designated overnight parking garages and lots can also be found around the YSU campus. M-30 and M-60 allow overnight parking with a valid permit.

Lots R-3, R-4, R2-3, M-61 and M-2 allow only overnight permits. Any permit is valid from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. in lots M-2, M-24, M-32, M-34, M-3 (west side only) and M-90.

"Anyone parking on campus is responsible to know the rules and regulations," O'Connell said.

More information on YSU parking services can be found at <https://ysu.edu/parking-services>.

To request a campus escort, call (330) 941-1515. An escort will be sent immediately or can be requested on a standby basis by arranging a schedule with the escort supervisor.

MULTICULTURAL MONDAY MAKES DEBUT

ALYSSA WESTON

Youngstown State University's Diversity Program debuted a new hour-long monthly program called Multicultural Mondays.

The first Multicultural Monday was held in Kilcawley Center on Aug. 27. Students who attended the program put stickers into columns on a poster board to answer questions that best represented how they identified while they enjoyed cookies and refreshments.

One goal of the program was to think of ways to move stickers on the board next semester by filling out a pledge card.

Ani Solomon, assistant director of diversity programs, said she plans to revamp what was formerly the Student Diversity Council.

Solomon said she wants the new Student Diversity Council to be similar to a smaller-

scale Penguin Productions.

"It'll be a group of students who help plan and coordinate diversity-related events on campus," she said. "[The events] could be social, maybe a little bit educational and my hope is that [the Student Diversity Council] will also be excited about running the Multicultural Mondays."

Each Multicultural Monday is scheduled for an hour, so students can stop by between classes.

"It's a quick stop-in program where folks can get a quick snack and maybe learn a little something, say hi to someone new, celebrate and recognize a culture or an identity different from their own," Solomon said.

She said she expects a different crowd every month and wants to get students excited about the opportunities on campus.

"Diversity is everything that makes us different. I thought these monthly events would be a good way to hit on some of the identities that I can't focus a whole month or a giant event

on," Solomon said.

She said on Multicultural Mondays, her goal is to get students to think about who they are, the identities they hold and how other people's circumstances vary from their own.

"I want my Student Diversity Council, once it's formed, to pick what other events will happen on Mondays."

Solomon said she wants the Student Diversity Council to help with some larger events as well, such as Hispanic Heritage Month and National Coming Out Day in October.

Curtis Beukeman, a sophomore student in civil engineering, said he went to the program during some free time between classes.

Beukeman said he plans to attend more Multicultural Mondays in the future and wants to move his sticker by interacting with more strangers in public.

"I believe this event can help people be more open about different cultures and it's a way to

interact," he said.

Amanda Paynter, junior human resource management major, said she attended the program because she wants to help bring together the diverse student organizations at YSU.

"I think we need to continue spreading the word about the event and make it bigger," she said.

Paynter said she wants to move her sticker by attending more events where the majority of the people attending are not like herself.

"I hope to broaden my horizons and interact with more people who are different than me," she said.

Multicultural Mondays will be held on the last Monday of every month in varying rooms in Kilcawley Center.

YSU Alumni Pay Tribute to



The Honorable Ed J. DeBartolo, J. Phillip Riechley, left, a Cafaro Co. vice president, presents Edward J. DeBartolo with an oil portrait to be hung in the alumni office at Youngstown State University. The portrait was part of a tribute to DeBartolo, chairman and chief executive officer of the Edward J. DeBartolo Corp., at Mr. Anthony's Friday by the Alumni Association and others for his loyalty to the community. The association also presented him its Distinguished Citizen Award.



Admirer the Distinguished Citizen plaque are, left to right, Thomas M. MacInnes (left), president and chief executive officer of Allied Stores Corp., who was principal speaker; William M. Cafaro, chairman of the Cafaro Co., and chairman for the tribute event; DeBartolo, Riechley and Edward J. DeBartolo Jr.

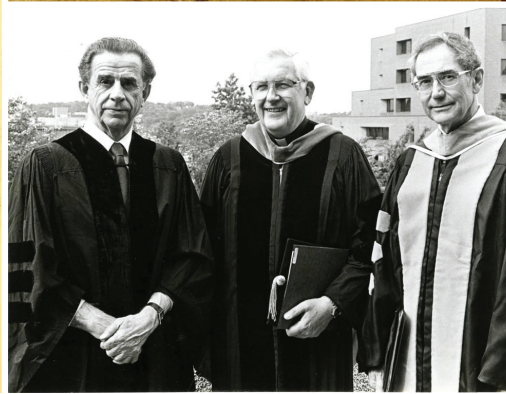


Photo courtesy of **Brian Brennan/YSU Archives**

THE HISTORY OF TWO BIG NAMES WITH BIG DREAMS

MARAH J. MORRISON

With the desire to create shopping malls, two families have made an impact on the local area.

Between the DeBartolos and the Cafaros, dreams were chased, goals were accomplished and history was made.

Joe Bell, the communications director for the Cafaro Company, said William M. Cafaro began his career during the Great Depression when he was only a teenager. He said he was hired at Republic Steel and eventually became a shift foreman there.

"He saved his money and had a desire to own a business of his own," Bell said. "He opened a place called the Ritz Bar and Supper Club and it became a very popular place."

Bell said although the restaurant Cafaro opened was successful, he had bigger dreams in mind.

He said in the 1940s, Cafaro began to buy and sell properties on Youngstown's north side. He said Cafaro used the proceeds from property sales to buy a car dealership in Warren, Ohio.

"He didn't stay in that business too long," Bell said. "He decided he wanted to develop real estate for retail outlets, so back in 1949, he started developing a strip mall in Sharon, Pa."

Bell said from there, Cafaro continued his history and legacy over the years. He said by the 1960s, Cafaro had opened his first shopping mall located in Lima, Ohio. By 1969, Cafaro had built the Eastwood Mall located in Niles, Ohio.

"He continued to build this little empire of shopping centers across the country," Bell said. "Eventually, his sons followed into the business."

Bell said the Cafaro Company has continued to be a family-owned business. He said they could have easily moved their corporate operations anywhere else in the country, but they feel very strongly about the people they know in the Youngstown area.

"It's kind of interesting. People have taken to know the fact of how unusual it is that two of the nation's pioneers in shopping mall development are actually based here in the Youngstown area — the DeBartolos and Cafaros," Bell said. "They were friendly competitors for many years."

Bell said when the Southern Park Mall was built, it was a joint venture between the Cafaros and the DeBartolos. He said these families have the same relationship with other business companies in the area as well.

Bill Lawson, the executive director of the Mahoning Valley Historical Society, said Edward J. DeBartolo Sr. started working at his father's construction company. He said this led to the

DeBartolo Corporation and the development of shopping malls.

"They started their companies here, their banking here, attorneys and people who helped them along the way were here," Lawson said. "It's part of their roots, which they kind of continue with the way their businesses have evolved over the years."

He said the two families participated in some of the same clubs and organizations in the local area. He said they also were members of the same church.

Denise DeBartolo York, the chair and president of the Edward J. DeBartolo Corporation, and the co-chair and owner of the San Francisco 49ers, said they loved Youngstown, Ohio.

"We came from wonderful, caring and loving families," she said. "Our fathers were very bright and had wonderful foresight."

York said when her father came back from the war in 1946, he returned to Youngstown and started construction in the Brier Hill area. She said Youngstown is a unique and unusual town.

"Anybody that comes here to visit, there is congeniality and cohesiveness," she said. "It's a very friendly town."

York said there's something about Youngstown that is compelling. She said there are lot of strides that the downtown area is making and that there is a young, core of bright men and women who want to expand and improve the area.



Photo by J. Harvard Feldhouse/The Jambor

SONGFEST BRINGS INTIMATE VIBE TO DOWNTOWN YOUNGSTOWN

VICTORIA REMLEY

The audience experienced an intimate vibe at JD's Summer Songfest on Aug. 25 outside of the Soap Gallery. The band lineup included Ken Block and Drew Copeland of Sister Hazel, The Vindys, Steve Everett, The Labra Brothers and JD Eicher and the Goodnights.

Block and Copeland of Sister Hazel, a group that won a Grammy and sold millions of records, headlined an acoustic show in downtown Youngstown.

JD Eicher, a singer-songwriter and the event coordinator, set out with his band to create a family-friendly music festival.

Eicher said there are several great music events in the area, but not a songwriter and acoustic event.

"We fill a void," he said. "It allows for an event that focuses on the storytelling side of music."

Eicher said the goal of Songfest is for the audience to enjoy music and the personalities of the performer, rather than having a loud, shoulder-to-shoulder music festival.

He said he prepared for Songfest with his partner Michael McGiffin, the Youngstown events coordinator. The duo worked on logistical jobs the last couple weeks before the show.

David Labra, vocalist, guitarist and saxophonist in The Labra Brothers and junior electrical engineering major at Youngstown State University, said the band has participated in the Songfest for four years and it has been wonderful to see the event grow and develop.

"Playing in it from the beginning to now has been a really cool experience," he said.

Labra said the energy keeps getting better at Songfest every year and has grown incredibly.

"The crowd that is brought to [the Songfest]

is just so appreciative," he said. "They're very intently listeners, so they love every detail of the set, which is something you don't really come by too often."

The Labra Brothers are originally from the Youngstown area, and David said local people supporting his band is what it's all about.

"I think [Eicher] has that kind of mindset too. He's been a huge help to us," Labra said.

Daniel Rauschenbach, co-owner of the Soap Gallery, said those who attended the event were exposed to Youngstown culture.

"I think Youngstown has so much to offer and so many different genres such as music, art, performance art," Rauschenbach said.

He said he thinks having events like Songfest creates a yearly event that people look forward to.

Steve Everett, a musician from Nashville, Tenn., is friends with Eicher and helped him prepare for the event by promoting it. He said he's familiar with how events like this one go.

"We made some graphics and shared those around," Everett said. "We made silly graphics on the internet."

The Soap Gallery remained open during Songfest and yard games took place beside the gallery, which added to the intimate feel of the concert.

Quaker Steak and Lube, the Boys and Girls Club of Youngstown, Penguin Productions and many more organizations sponsored the event. The Boys and Girls Club profited from the beer tent. Local radio stations also supported Songfest.

"The Summit radio station is supporting the event as well as others," Eicher said. "They help get the word out and spread the news about the event."

Labra said it is important local businesses participate and sponsor local events like the Songfest because it brings a sense of community.

GAMING GIVES CAMPUS LIFE A 1UP

FRANCES CLAUSE

Finding an organization relating to a student's interests can be simple on a large and diverse campus. Aaron Stiner, junior exercise science major, saw this as an opportunity to bring a popular hobby to Youngstown State University.

Stiner said he revived the Video Entertainment Gaming Association (VEGA) three years ago and became the organization's president. He said gaming draws many students together.

"VEGA is a judgment-free zone for all types of personalities," he said. "I see new faces every time the group meets and they immediately fit in."

The games and gaming systems used for VEGA are provided by its members, including Xbox, Nintendo and PlayStation. The systems are connected to televisions and the games are projected onto one big screen.

"We play a lot of classic video games people grew up loving," Stiner said. "Super Smash Bros, Mario Kart and Mario Party are ones that create a bond between people very quickly."

Kendra Walters, a junior dietetics major and incoming VEGA member, agreed with Stiner.

"Gaming is a good way to bond with other people because many enjoy it and have grown up playing the same games," she said. "That means most of us have a lot in common already."

Walters said there are also many positive outcomes of gaming for students.

"It's great stress relief, especially since the semester can be overwhelming at times," she said. "It refreshes the brain and takes students' minds off classes for a while."

Other than gaming, VEGA has also hosted other events open to all YSU students.

"VEGA hosted a Halloween Party a couple of years ago and we plan on holding similar events in the future," said Taylor Valerio, a junior graphic design major. "There was food, dancing, Mario Kart and plenty of costumes."

Valerio said Stiner recruited her for VEGA and she later became vice president.

"I've been into gaming ever since I was a child," she said. "I was really happy when I found out there was a group on campus I could join and just have fun doing what has always been a big part of my life."

Stiner said gaming has also been an important presence in his life and is currently creating a video game with the help of some VEGA members.

"It's something I've been working on for eight years and is a lot easier now that I have people helping me," he said.

Stiner named his game "Layla" and it is being developed with the program RPG Maker XP.

"Layla" is a light-hearted adventure game that also becomes very serious at times," he said. "It has an old school look, but the sprites are bright and colorful."

The game shares similarities with the original "Final Fantasy," "Legend of Zelda" and "Pokémon" with 30 playable characters.

"Thankfully, I have members of VEGA helping me with the sprites, scenery, music and some of the storyline," Stiner said. "None of this would be possible without them."

VEGA meets Tuesdays from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the James Gallery in Kilcawley Center. Join the public group, YSU VEGA, on Facebook for updates.



Photo by Tanner Mondok/The Jambor

MARIO'S MOVIES: DIRECTOR'S FOCUS: MY FAVORITE FILMMAKER MICHAEL BAY

MARIO RICCIARDI

So, I'm sorry, but I intentionally made that headline clickbait.

WAIT! Before you vow to never read my column again on account of a broken bond of trust, lend me your attention for one more sentence. Michael Bay is not my favorite filmmaker; Michael Bay is "one" of my favorite filmmakers. I'm very serious about this.

WAIT! Before you vow to never read my column again on account of my taste in movies, read just one more sentence. Michael Bay does not put his stories on screen for critics; he does it for himself and his audience and does a good job, too.

Personally, I can't think of a better definition of what a true filmmaker or true artist does. Now, just to clarify, I am referring to big time Hollywood director Michael Bay — the only man more associated with explosions than teenagers the day before the Fourth of July and the military combined. He is the reason this world has an entire saga of live action Transformers movies, and not to mention the

only A-list director whose name is compounded into what he does best — Bayhem.

For those who don't know, Bay's biggest hits include films such as "Bad Boys," "The Rock," "Armageddon," "Transformers," "Pain & Gain" and "13 Hours." These are all expensive movies, with big action, big stars and even bigger payouts. Lots of style and little substance according to most. Bay's movies are almost unanimously disliked by critics and not many prestigious film schools are filling up lecture halls dissecting his work.

Now let me reiterate. Michael Bay is one of my favorite filmmakers. I'm not even talking top 10. I'm talking top five. First and foremost, Michael Bay gets to do something most professional filmmakers don't get to do: retain full autonomy of his work. Bay gets to make whatever movie he wants without anyone telling him no. If Bay wants to make a movie about cool cars becoming even cooler robots, he can. If he wants to make five of them and a spinoff, he can do that too.

The goal of any filmmaker/artist is to be able to create what truly appeals to them regardless of the opinions of others. If people don't like a movie Bay makes, he turns around and makes

another one. In fact, on the Rotten Tomatoes website, Bay only has four rated Fresh out of 34 movies.

History's greatest artworks cause reaction, often negative reactions. The artist who then rises to the same level of greatness as said work is he or she who puts their heads down and middle fingers up to make more work just like it.

Many correlate Bay's lack of critical appeal with lazy directing. That's lazy critiquing. In reality, Bay is one of Hollywood's foremost visionaries. He visualizes different worlds, alien-robots and giant action scenes all while intertwining live actors. He combines the awesome with the everyday by balancing the vision in his head with meticulous communication to actors and digital artists. Apart from James Cameron and George Lucas, few directors can mix fantasy and reality with drama's ageless methods and cutting-edge technology.

Michael Bay is also one of the biggest reasons our 3-D and IMAX movies are so advanced. Bay's internal motivation as a director to create the best visual experience possible has led him to become a fountainhead for some of film's greatest technological achievements. More often

than not, advancements in film technologies are due to a Michael Bay film.

These are all desirable qualities of any director, but what impresses me most about Bay is his tenacity. Bay is often the subject of loud negative feedback yet he continues to persist on. He doesn't let naysayers change his style, not to mention he makes a paycheck that does its fair share of disproving the haters (he currently sits at a net worth of 450 million dollars). He makes the system work for him. Bay seems to know exactly what he loves, became the best at it and gets to make a great living off of it too.

Yes, Michael Bay films are notorious for gaudy cars, explosions and attractive women, but that's what he likes. Any critic can come up with their reasons for why these are bad things, but I can't find anything but personal respect for a man who gets to do what he loves, answer to few but himself and make a comfortable living all at the same time.

So, yeah, in this reviewer's opinion, Michael Bay is one of the greatest directors of our time.

That's what I have to say, but I'd love to hear your thoughts. Shoot me an email: mjricciardi@student.ysu.edu.

BRINGING A NEW FORM OF ART TO THE COMMUNITY

AMANDA JOERDNT

A Youngstown State University graduate and Kent State students brought the latest production of "(IN)Dependent: The Heroin Project" to the Youngstown Playhouse to put a new perspective on and powerful message about the opioid epidemic.

"(IN)Dependent: The Heroin Project" was performed at the Youngstown Playhouse Aug. 9 through 11 for the Youngstown community to watch and learn about a serious epidemic.

YSU graduate Sarah Demetruk, and Kent State students Emelia Sherin and Zach Manthey came together to tell tragic stories.

Demetruk said the audience is exposed to 50 true stories about the opioid epidemic in the area.

"Emelia, co-writer, lived in the Howland area where a lot of people close to home had

overdosed," Demetruk said. "She collected 50 interviews of addicts, current users, family members and policemen, and took their stories and compiled them into a script and plot."

The show was performed at the Akron Civic Center for the first time in 2017. After people started following the show, media outlets such as The New York Times began buzzing about the show and the powerful message behind it.

The play follows the two lives of Emily and Ryan who are both struggling with heroin addiction. The only difference between the two characters is that Ryan has a loving and compassionate support system from his mother whom he relies on for help while Emily does not.

Emily is new to the area and has no family or friends to help her get through the difficult times. The show follows their two journeys. Their outcomes are completely different.

Brian Suchora, who plays the stepfather, said he wants the audience to understand how this

show can open the eyes of many individuals.

"It's obviously a problem and we need to quit being so [politically correct]," Suchora said. "Let's start a good conversation about it and take the labels off. Let's stop the judgment."

The play not only shows how having a support system is essential for addicts, but also how ending the discrimination of the judgment and labels towards addicts can have a huge impact on helping them make a change in their life.

Demetruk said there's more to addiction than people realize. She said people are too closed off to look at the person instead of the actual presence when stigmas and stereotypes aren't surrounding them.

Liz Conrad, the cast member who plays Ryan's mother, said she believes people should lift up those who are struggling and that people need to know they have options for recovery. She said she hopes there is a future and a chance for everyone struggling with addiction.

"There's a support system out there and all you have to do is ask, and you will be surrounded by it," Conrad said. "It's never too dark, and it's never the end and there is always hope."

Fifty percent of the proceeds will go to Help Network of Northeast Ohio to help them supply addicts with the right tools they need to overcome their addiction. The other 50 percent will go to the Youngstown Playhouse to help bring more shows like "(IN)Dependent: The Heroin Project" that have a positive and encouraging impact to the community.

Demetruk said the epidemic is not just about facts and statistics, but the people facing the struggle daily. She said she wants the show to give people an open mind about the addiction and how our community can come together to become more educated on the epidemic.

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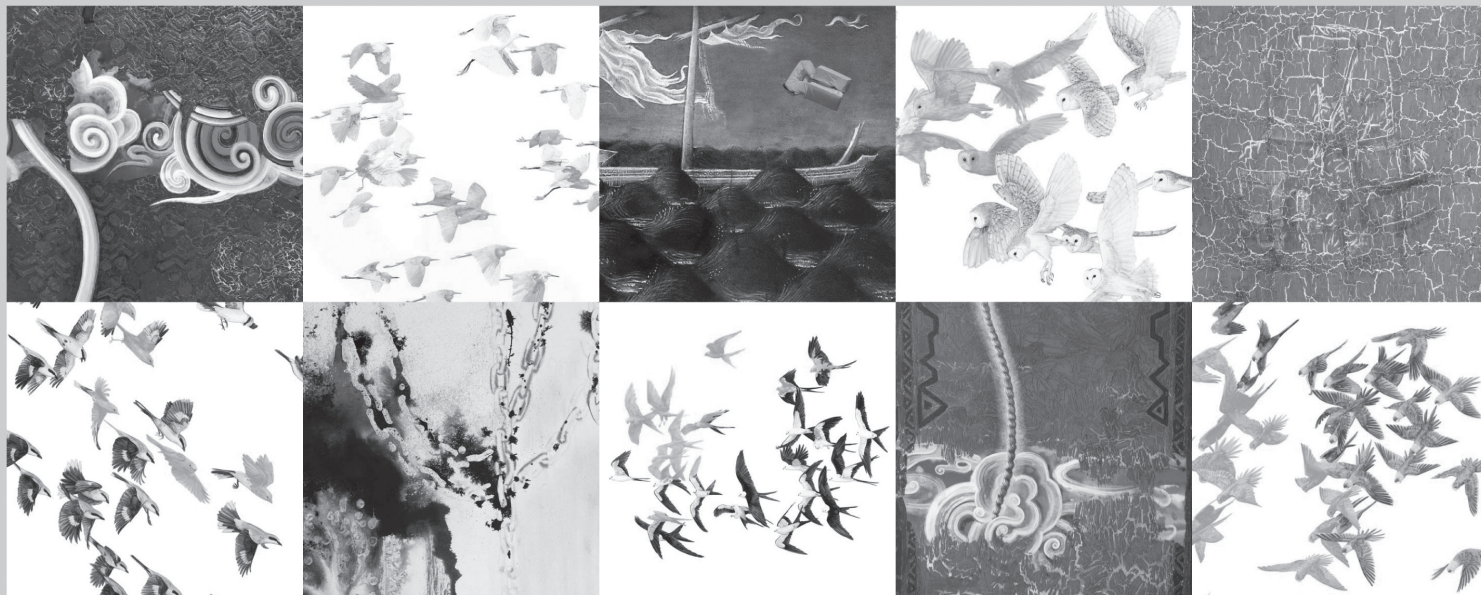


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Exhibitions & Events | September 7 – October 26

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Sanctuary

John Guy Petruzzi explores issues of climate change, declining biodiversity and habitat loss through a series of intense watercolors.

- **Sanctuary Gallery Talk** September 19, 5:10pm
 - **John Guy Petruzzi, Bird Walk at Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary** September 22, 9am
- Guided bird walk at the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary. Register at 330.740.7107
- **Panel Discussion: The Fate of Birds** October 3, 11am | Dr. Brian Bonhomme, Dr. Ian Renne and John Guy Petruzzi

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Photo by **Tanner Mondok/The Jambar**

Andrew Morro, a junior music recording major, sat outside of Kilcawley Center Friday, August 24 with a sign reading “Water Is Wet Change My Mind.”

Morro said he brought the sign with the purpose of debating students and faculty.

“It’s exciting,” he said. “I got bored and I have nothing to do and my class start at one.”

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THE JAMBAR

— EDITORIALS —

The Ohio State University Buckeyes’ football head coach, Urban Meyer, is under scrutiny after being accused of knowing about the abusive behaviors of assistant coach, Zach Smith. Smith was fired for a string of domestic violence allegations against his ex-wife. This episode has once again brought up the concept of coaches being held accountable.

This isn’t the first time accountability has been brought up in football. Ray Rice, Michael Vick and countless others have assaulted, used and boozed their way into the news — attracting negative attention to themselves and their teams.

The real concern, however, was whether or not they were disciplined for their actions. Rice was suspended for the rest of the season and the Baltimore Ravens voided his contract. Vick was suspended indefinitely and was released from the Atlanta

Falcons (though the Philadelphia Eagles signed him later that year). Even Johnny Manziel caused more trouble than he was worth for the Cleveland Browns and was dropped from the team.

While the coaches are not committing the offenses, it is their responsibility to run their teams respectively. With that being said, there is a difference between college and professional football. While professional football coaches play multiple roles in the lives of their players, college football coaches fall under the obligation to serve not only as a coach and friend, but as a mentor and positive influence to their student athletes.

Anyone who was part of any high school extracurricular activities, especially sports, learned that representation of your school team, or organization was of utmost importance. For example, drug and alcohol use or failing grades could get you

suspended or even expelled. But the worst act of irresponsibility and scandal is a coach, teacher or leader who puts the well-being of their students at risk.

If Meyer did indeed know of Smith’s abusive behavior, it would have been in his and his team’s best interest to report it. Protecting Smith would not only put his students and team in jeopardy, but condone acts of domestic violence, setting a dangerous example for students, athletes and coaches. While Meyer’s investigation is still pending, the conversation about accountability of coaches and players continues to be a subject of heated debate.



PENGUINS FOOTBALL PROGRAM READY FOR WEEK ONE: PREVIEW VS. BUTLER

Photo courtesy of *YSU Sports Information*

JOSHUA FITCH AND BRIAN YAUGER

After a disappointing 2017 campaign, the Youngstown State University football team begins its 2018 season with a game against the Butler University Bulldogs.

The Penguins have won 23 straight home openers. Along with that, the Penguins have won 20 straight home games in September.

YSU won the last matchup with Butler, 44-13, during the 2014 season.

Overall, YSU is coming off of a 6-5 season. That was a letdown following a trip to the National Championship the year prior.

The Bulldogs also finished with a record of 6-5 in 2017. They return starting quarterback, Will Marty, to the offense.

Butler is just 1-5 in season openers since 2011, respectively. Penguins head coach Bo Pelini thinks the team is ready to face true competition.

"Our guys are sick of hitting each other," Pelini said. "It's time. I think we've had a good fall camp, now it's time to put it out there and see where we are. We aren't the finished product yet, nobody is, but I think we've made significant progress. Now it's

time to get more game-plan oriented against an opponent and see where we are."

Brian Crist, new offensive coordinator for the Penguins, is taking over after former coordinator Shane Montgomery left the program for the University North Carolina at Charlotte.

With a new coordinator comes a new quarterback, graduate transfer Montgomery VanGorder. VanGorder is looking forward to leading the Penguins offense.

"When you get into the game, you can't really replicate that in practice," VanGorder said. "I think we have a pretty good feel of where we are and how we're going to come out and play. I'm just excited."

VanGorder spent the previous four seasons with the University of Notre Dame.

"He's confident. He's a leader," Pelini said. "He's decisive in what he does. He can do anything you ask a quarterback to do. He's going to go out and do his job, I know that."

Pelini is also confident in his offensive unit as a whole, citing the depth at every position.

"I like our offense," Pelini said. "I think we have depth, I think we have weapons at every position. I feel really good about where we are. Our pass protection has gotten better through camp.

Now you can kind of zero in on an opponent and really get into a game-plan mode."

While the offense is expected to take another step in the right direction, the defense is where the Penguins will continue to shine. The Penguins defense ranked No. 1 in the country, allowing just 143 passing yards per game last year.

"I like the way we set goals every day at camp for turnovers," senior defensive end Johnson Louigene said.

Louigene started 12 career games for the Penguins, and started all 11 games last season.

"They're going to be crucial when it comes to game time," Louigene said. "Last year taught us not to be complacent and not to live in our success. We're not going to let that happen again."

VanGorder believes having a home field advantage is key, but he understands the team needs to prove themselves first.

"When you think about the success that this program has had that's what you dream of," he said. "I'd love to have a packed house this weekend. We have to put a product out there, that people are going to want to come watch us play."

YSU faces Butler on Sept. 1 at 2 p.m. at Stambaugh Stadium.



NEW-LOOK PENGUIN GOLFERS AIM TO SHINE

Photo courtesy of *YSU Sports Information*

BRIAN YAUGER

Golf season is in full swing for the Youngstown State University women's golf team with the opening invitational just days away. The Penguins are looking to rebound from an injury-riddled season last year that sunk the team during conference play.

"We definitely struggled with some injuries throughout the season," Penguins Head Coach Nate Miklos said. "I thought the team for the most part did a pretty good job all spring, working hard and coming together. Unfortunately, we just didn't play very well at conference. We're really excited about this year. A good group of returners, an awesome group of freshmen. The last couple years we just haven't had the depth. I think we have the depth this year, and I think we have a group that's ready to

compete at a really high level."

The Penguins have a new look this season with five freshmen added to the roster. With over half of the roster being freshmen, challenges are bound to happen. Miklos isn't worried about the youth due to a solid leadership core.

"Having a young team is exciting," Miklos said. "It's going to be a learning experience for everyone. It's going to take a little bit of patience. But I think we have a good group of returners that will set a great example for them as to how we do things here, and I think we're going to see some big things from them. The leadership of our returners especially senior Megan Creager and junior Katlyn Shutt will be one of the keys to helping bring the team together."

One of the more experienced golfers, junior Katlyn Shutt is still adjusting to being one of the older golfers on the team and embracing a leadership role but is ready to take on that role.

"It is a very different feeling being a part of such a young team," Shutt said. "The competitive level is different, your patience and compassion are forced to change for the better, because we seem to forget that we were once in their position. Walking into a new team not knowing how things worked, the rules, and how this team ran. I am excited for our future for my last remaining years."

Penguins captain Megan Creager is excited by the opportunity to lead a young team, despite being an intimidating challenge.

"I've never been more ready to lead this team," Creager said. "I have gained so much knowledge and experience from being a player and watching the other leaders before me. It's a little intimidating being the captain of such a large and fresh team but I'm up for the challenge. Not that I have an office or anything, but my metaphorical door is always open.

My team should be able to come to me with anything and I will gladly help in any way I can. I just want to make a positive impact and help them succeed at YSU. I know it's going to be the best year yet."

The Penguins golf team opens up their season at the fifth annual Roseann Schwartz Invitational at the North Course at Mill Creek Golf Course in Boardman on Sept. 3 and 4. A few schools the team will be facing include University of Purdue-Fort Wayne, Marshall University, Niagara University and Cleveland State University.

"My hopes for this season is to be the best possible team we could be, and that starts now," Shutt said. "It starts by taking care of the small things such as, giving 100 percent at each workout and practice, making sure we are caught up with our school work, and putting the team first."

THE CAVALIERS NEED TO START OVER AGAIN

DAVID FORD

On June 19, 2016, the Cleveland Cavaliers broke a 52-year championship drought for the city. The curse was over. LeBron James returned to Cleveland and helped deliver on his promise.

Two years later, he left ... again.

When James announced his decision to sign with the Los Angeles Lakers, it sent repercussions around the NBA. The Western Conference became even more loaded than before, while the Eastern Conference became arguably much weaker than it already was. The Indiana Pacers now look like legitimate title contenders.

The NBA will undoubtedly contain a gaggle of storylines to follow. Kawhi Leonard with the Toronto Raptors, LeBron James and the Lakers (obviously), just to name a few, plus the question on every sports fans' mind right now: is there anyone who can stop the Golden State Warriors? The answer is probably not, but that's not what I'm here to argue.

Since James left Cleveland, the first instinct of the Cavaliers would be to completely rebuild.

They should completely rebuild.

For the record, Kevin Love has been my favorite Cavalier of all time. He dealt with trade rumors and injuries during tenure and accepted a reduced role to accommodate James and Kyrie Irving.

"The Stop" against Stephen Curry will forever be iconic in basketball history, next to "The Block" and "The Shot," of course. In my opinion, he never gets enough credit for his role in the Cavaliers' defeat of Golden State in the 2016 finals (greatest day of my life). On July 24, 2018, the Cavs announced a four-year, \$120 million extension for Cleveland, a reward for his service and loyalty to Cleveland.

For someone who seemed like the odd man out of "The Big Three," he's the last one left.

While Love is an all-time favorite of mine, he's no player to build a franchise around, especially since he'll turn 30 before the next season starts. They could've coaxed some contenders into giving up a combination of young talent and future draft selections (both desperate needs for Cleveland right now).

I know some fans wouldn't care for me to

recommend tanking, a hugely popular system of play, which is utilized frequently with teams like the Sacramento Kings and the Philadelphia 76ers, among others. What other choice do some of these teams have? Heck, the Cavs tanked the 2002-2003 season to draft James himself. While the actual basketball looks horrendous to watch, high draft picks are the reward.

According to "Basketball Insiders," the Cavaliers have \$110.7 million in guaranteed salary, and as it stands right now, they're a No. 7 or No. 8 seed at best in the East. In Major League Baseball, anyone can beat anyone in the postseason. Same with the NHL (the No. 6-seeded Los Angeles Kings won the Stanley Cup in 2014). The NFL playoffs can be a bit unpredictable at times as well, but hardly ever in the NBA are low-seeded teams even considered contenders and are usually bounced out in the first round.

On ESPN's 2019 NBA draft preview, the Cavaliers only have a top-10 protected first-round pick. If they perform better than the 10 worst teams in the NBA, the pick goes to the Atlanta Hawks as part of the Kyle Korver trade

a few years back.

Essentially, in all this rambling, I'm suggesting the Cavaliers gut the majority of their entire roster (George Hill, J.R. Smith, Jordan Clarkson, Tristan Thompson, Kyle Korver, and sadly Kevin Love) to shed salary, but more importantly to acquire much younger players and draft picks.

In the 2018 NBA Draft, the Cavaliers selected University of Alabama point guard Collin Sexton, which could be a great player to build around. While a roster filled with Sexton, Sam Dekker, Billy Preston, Ante Zizic, Cedi Osman (the G.O.A.T.), David Nwaba, Rodney Hood (if he re-signs), Larry Nance Jr., won't excite the fanbase, it doesn't need to. The franchise needs a fresh start, but it currently doesn't look they'll go that route.

No matter what, the Cavaliers will always be my team. Another season without James should be interesting, especially with Channing Frye returning to Cleveland.



MEET ALINE SCOTT: HEAD COACH OF YOUNGSTOWN STATE VOLLEYBALL

Photo courtesy of *YSU Sports Information*

JOSHUA FITCH

In January, the Youngstown State University volleyball team introduced its tenth head coach in the program's history, Aline Scott.

Scott comes to Youngstown from a very successful career in volleyball as both a player and coach.

Prior to YSU, Scott spent five years as an assistant coach for the University of Akron to start her collegiate coaching career. Then she moved to her first head coaching position at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

After two years at IUP, she moved on as the head coach of Hiram College's volleyball program for three seasons before taking over at YSU.

Before she went on to have success in her coaching career, Scott fell in love with the game at a very young age.

"I started when I was nine," Scott said. "I'm originally from Brazil. In Brazil, you play within a club until you're 18, then you become a professional within that club."

Midway through her senior year of high school in Brazil, Scott joined an exchange program that sent her to Brookfield, Conn. As of 2016 Brookfield's population was just over 17,000 people.

Despite such a culture change at only 18 years old, Scott went on to play college volleyball at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York, which had a lasting effect.

"After being in college here, I knew I wanted to stay," Scott said.

Though she wanted to live here, Scott didn't know if volleyball would continue to be a part of her life after college was over. A conversation with her mother made Scott realize volleyball was destined to be with her forever.

"Part of me thought that volleyball was over when school was over," Scott said. "[My mother] She said to me, 'volleyball has been a part of your life for a long time, why are you trying to get out of it now?'"

With that, Scott took her first coaching position after college at Staples High School in Connecticut. Under Scott, the girls' volleyball team finished fourth in the state and the boys' volleyball team won the state title.

After coaching at Staples High School, Scott went on to be a graduate assistant coach at Central Michigan University for two years before starting her tenure with the Akron Zips.

Scott, now 35 years old, found out about an opening at YSU from former coach Mark Hardaway, whom she'd been close with.

Living in the Youngstown area for a few years, Scott was familiar with YSU.

"I was close to the staff here before," Scott said. "I was here every summer and I knew Mark from our MAC (Mid-American Conference) days when he was an assistant at Bowling Green, I was an assistant at Akron."

Being a part of the YSU volleyball program is something Aline Scott isn't taking for granted especially with the resources for her new team.

"We're fortunate enough to have different people who handle different things, that was not the case the last three years," she said. "This is a nice break."

Resources aren't the only reason Scott is excited to be at YSU. While at Hiram, Scott was commuting an hour each way everyday from her home in Poland. Now being only 15 minutes away, she's spending more time than ever with her family.

"On an everyday basis I'm closer, so it makes life a little bit easier," Scott said.

She has a 3-year-old son named Matheus, and is excited that he can be more involved in her work life too.

"He can be a part of this," she said. "He can be in the gym, he can have lunch with me and the girls. It makes me very happy that he gets to see mommy work and be a different person."

With family by her side, Scott now shifts her focus to the season, which is currently underway. Her players, even the newcomers, have responded well to the culture change, and she hopes it will continue throughout the season.

"I think they're doing really well, as expected from freshman, they're just surviving and trying to figure out where they belong," said Scott.

Her players also feel the change that has come with Scott running the show.

"The overall feel is unity. We're not playing for ourselves, we're all playing for each other," Morgan Tippie, a fifth-year senior middle blocker, said.

Alexia Byrnes, Tippie's teammate and redshirt freshman, added, "I'm really happy with everyone coach brought in and the players that we've had here already."

A career that started with as a 9-year-old playing volleyball in Brazil has come full circle in downtown Youngstown.

"I've gone from playing to assisting at every level. I've kind of seen it all, that's how I feel. Hopefully we'll make this program a success," Scott said.

She is well on her way in accomplishing just that, as the Penguins have started the 2018 season with a 3-1 record.

The next match for the Penguins is scheduled for Friday, Aug. 31 against the University of Nevada-Las Vegas at the Duquesne Invitational held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.