

THE STUDENT VOICE OF YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY SINCE 1931

THE JAMBAR



YSU WINS 11 EVENTS DURING INVITATIONAL

Photo by *Robert Hayes/The Jambar*

BRIAN YAUGER

The Youngstown State University men and women's track and field teams put up strong performances over the weekend at the YSU Mid-Major Invitational held at the Watson and Tressel Training Site winning 11 events.

The Penguins had big performances from their Horizon League Runners of the Week junior Jaliyah Elliott and senior Chad Zallow. Zallow received the honor for his third week in a row.

Elliott is the big winner of the weekend, capturing victories in her two events, the 60-meter and the 200-meter. In the 60-meter,

Elliott set a YSU National Mid-Major Invitational record with a time of 7.38 seconds

Zallow continues his dominant senior year, registering a time of 21.37 seconds in the 200-meter on his way to a first place finish. His time is now also a record for the YSU Mid-Major Invitational.

"There's nobody who's ever come through our program like him. From a team perspective, he alone puts us in the top five or ten in the nation," YSU track and field coach Brian Gorby said. "He's definitely the best track and field athlete in our program's history."

That's high praise coming from Gorby, who has been involved with the program for 29 years.

Senior Nicolette Kratsoulas, sophomore Pierlus Stewart and freshman Olivia Jones each picked up wins on the first day of the event.

Kratsoulas won the weight throw with a toss of 16.95 meters on her first throw. Stewart won the 500-meter with a time of 1 minute, 5.84 seconds, and Jones won the pentathlon with 3,410 points, the third highest score in school history. Jones earned 871 points in the 60-meter hurdles, 783 points in the high jump, 536 points in the shot put, 617 points in the long jump, and 603 points in the 800-meter.

Winning events on the second day for the Penguins were Abby Jones with the high jump, Kaitlyn Merwin and Dom Westbay each with the shot put, Daiquain Watson doing the triple

jump and Dylan Latone with the pole vault.

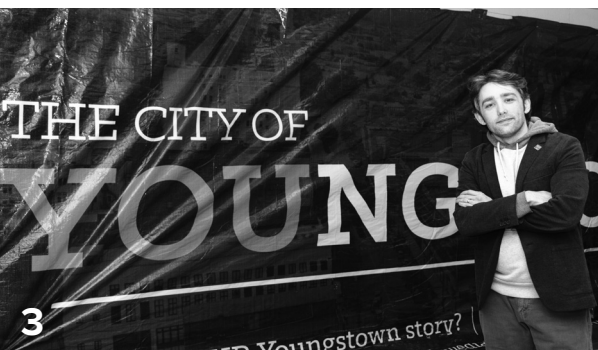
Jones won the high jump on her first attempt clearing a height of 1.69 meters.

Merwin was the winner of the shot put with a personal best throw of 14.15 meters on her fifth attempt of the afternoon.

Westbay captured a first place finish in the shot put with a 17.33-meter throw on his final toss of the evening. Watson won the triple jump with 14.20-meter jump on his final leap of the day. Latone won the pole vault after clearing a 4.61-meter mark on his first attempt.

Next up for the Penguins is the Kent State Doug Raymond Invitational on Friday and Saturday. The Horizon League tournament is slated for the end of the month.

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THE CITY OF YOUNG

YSU PROFESSOR WINS GOVERNOR'S AWARD



Photo by **Tanner Mondok/The Jambar**

AMANDA JOERNDT

RJ Thompson has been awarded the Governor's Award through the state of Ohio for his development of the "City of You" project.

The Governor's Award is given to an individual or organization who develops interactive art participation to bring the community together.

Thompson, assistant professor of graphic and interactive design at Youngstown State University, was one of 66 applicants for the Governor's Award and was chosen for his work in Youngstown.

In 2016, Thompson had an idea to bring the Youngstown area together by advertising the area in a creative way.

He started the organization "City of You" as part of his mission to make the Youngstown area a more diverse community, which he said provides an outlet for residents to share their stories in the form of about 200 podcasts that show the diversity within the area.

"It is a platform through which all members of the community can be empowered to share the stories of the living, working, playing, learning and thriving in Youngstown — be it as a student, recent transplant, entrepreneur or lifelong resident," he said.

He said other projects have spiraled from the "City of You" project to help the area and certain issues that are happening.

"Within 'City of You,' I've been able to hold several exhibitions featuring artwork inspired by members of the communities, live public storytelling and podcasting events," he said. "Right now I'm in the last phase of the 'Social Cause Poster Project,' which is a poster project that shines a light on all the social issues found in Youngstown."

Thompson said he felt honored to be nominated for an award at this level.

"I was totally stunned. Deeply grateful, honored and humbled by being chosen and by being nominated by members of the Youngstown community," he said. "This recognition is a great motivator to keep doing the work that I am doing and level it up as far and as fast as I can."

According to Thompson, he was one of the only nominees to represent northeastern Ohio and wants to inspire his students to better themselves through their work.

"It is imperative to me that my students see, understand and are inspired by the impact that their work can create when you're designing for the community or people you care about," Thompson said. "I wouldn't have been able to get this far without caring about the people of Youngstown, their lived experiences

and more."

He said he hopes to spread his work and success to other areas of the country.

"I am inspired to take what I've done in Youngstown and continue to enhance the work locally, but also take the models into other communities across the United States," he said. "This project helped me find my calling, and I believe that my students can find theirs too through this type of work."

Andrea Minotti, a junior graphic design major, has had Thompson in a graphic design class at YSU.

"[Thompson] is truly a great professor who always has the best interest in his students in helping them succeed and grow as designers," she said.

Minotti said the award was well deserved.

"He truly cares about the growth and accompaniments of only only himself, but his students," she said.

Michelle Gabriel, a senior graphic design major, has had Thompson for various classes and said the passionate he has for his work transfers into the classroom.

"I'm so happy for him for winning the Governor's Award, I think he's really earned it," she said.

For more information on the "City of You" project, visit www.cityofyou.org.

WHAT TO CONSIDER WHEN CONSIDERING GRADUATE SCHOOL

JOHN STRAN

When four years or so is up and an undergraduate degree is finished, a decision must be made. Is it time to enter the job market, go to graduate school and pursue a master's degree or even a combination of the two?

Students choosing a path involving graduate school must take the time to weigh the effects of their decision.

Erik Engartner, senior touring and event manager major at Youngstown State University, recently received an acceptance letter from graduate admissions at The Ohio State University where he will study city and regional planning.

Engartner, who created his major at YSU, described it as a combination of geography, hospitality management and business administration. This led to some difficulties when searching for jobs.

"I had a hard time finding jobs with my unique undergraduate degree, and I wanted to pivot to a different field of study," he said. "Graduate school provides me with the opportunity to advance my education, which should hopefully result in better job prospects and open more doors than just having a bachelor's degree."

Engartner was pushed toward graduate school because there is a lack of jobs pertaining to his undergraduate degree, but this is not the only reason a student decides to pursue graduate school.

He decided to start his graduate program next fall because he felt there was no point in waiting when job opportunities were currently scarce for him.

Bridgid Cassin is a graduate assistant in her final semester in the Northeast Ohio Master of Fine Arts program. In Cassin's opinion, the main reason someone should consider any graduate program is a passion for knowledge.

"It's important to be genuinely interested and engaged in your education, or you will struggle with longer classes and more difficult coursework than most undergraduate degrees require," she said.

Cassin said if a student plans on going to a more expensive school, choosing to take time off school and getting a job between the undergraduate and graduate level may help pay off undergraduate school debt and begin to earn savings.

Ashley Leonelli, coordinator of graduate admissions at YSU, said some programs may require a few years of work experience in order to be admitted, whereas some can be started right after your undergraduate degree.

In terms of who should attend graduate school, Leonelli said there are not any majors who should avoid it; each person should just make sure to pursue a program they would be invested in.

But if every student pursues a master's degree or something equivalent to it, does that make them any less useful in putting someone ahead in the job market?

"The workforce is only getting more and more competitive," Leonelli said. "I don't know that a master's degree is the new bachelor's degree, but what I do know is it will set you apart from those fellow individuals you are competing for a job against."

For those who are starting the grad school application process, Sal Sanders, dean of graduate studies, has a few words of advice.

He said to be familiar with the requirements for the program

of interest and ask for reference letters from those who will reply in a timely manner.

Sanders added students should be aware of deadlines to apply, how often the program accepts students and to submit all required material well in advance of the deadline.

His final bit of advice is to ask about scholarship or assistantship opportunities and how to apply for them and if you have or are currently serving in the military, ask about any benefits that may be available.

Students interested in graduate programs at YSU can contact the College of Graduate Studies at gradcollege@ysu.edu.



Photo by Tyler Rothbauer/The Jambar

FROM CANADA TO THE US: YSU PROFESSORS EARN CITIZENSHIP

FRANCES CLAUSE

After 18 years of living in the United States, two Youngstown State University professors and Canada natives earned their U.S. citizenship on Jan. 24.

Patrick Durrell, professor of astronomy and Katherine Durrell, professor of physics, arrived in the U.S. in 2000 from Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Patrick Durrell said work opportunities determined the couple's decision to come to the U.S.

"At the time I was looking for tenure-track jobs, there just seemed to be more opportunities for me in the U.S. simply due to population," he said. "There are many more colleges and universities in the U.S. than there are in Canada."

Patrick Durrell was offered a position as a postdoctoral researcher at Penn State, and after four years, he earned a tenure track faculty position at YSU. He is originally from the province of British Columbia, where he was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of British

Columbia, and Katherine Durrell is from the province of New Brunswick.

After nine years of permanent resident status in the U.S., the professors decided to apply for naturalization.

"The process involves getting biometrics, including photographs and fingerprints and a personal interview, including a test of our knowledge of U.S. history and command of the English language," Patrick Durrell said.

He said the most challenging aspect of the thorough naturalization process was the application itself.

"Becoming a citizen involves a very detailed application, so being sure we included all of the correct information took a while," he said. "Before that, the application for a green card was even more detailed."

Patrick Durrell said he believes one of the most important abilities granted with U.S. citizenship is the right to vote.

"We wanted to be able to have our say at all levels of government," he said. "Having been regular voters when we lived in Canada, we wanted to do so in the U.S."

Anthony Nakley, a junior finance major, said Patrick and Katherine Durrell are important to the community and was happy to hear the news of their U.S. citizenship.

"Earning their citizenships strengthens the bond and commitment to YSU and the country," he said.

Nakley is a member of the fencing team at YSU, where Katherine Durrell is the adviser.

"Coach Kathy is one of those individuals who cares about YSU and the student body, and it shows," he said. "She has been extremely busy with other activities on campus, but has given her support and expertise on fencing, as well."

Mykaela Wagner, a graduate student, agreed both professors care about the student body and was enrolled in their astronomy and physics courses.

"I know it's a long and complicated process, so actually achieving [citizenship] is something to be really proud of," she said. "I always enjoyed both of their little anecdotes about Canada."

Although the professors miss Canada, Patrick Durrell said they both look forward to the many good years ahead of them at YSU.

"For many years, I lived on Vancouver Island, very close to the ocean, so I certainly miss that," he said. "But having a career at a place where I can teach, do exciting research and be a part of a phenomenal planetarium — can't really put a price on that."



Photo courtesy of YSU Physics and Astronomy

PELLA PENGUINS PERFORM LOCALLY, EYE NATIONAL COMPETITION

**NATHANAEL HAWTHORNE
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR**

Four years ago, Youngstown State University students wanted to find a way to use their musical talents without joining a campus chorus. From that desire, the Pella Penguins took form.

The Pella Penguins are a coed a cappella group, but were initially an all-female group until spring 2017.

“When I joined in the fall of 2016 we were an all-female group. In the spring we auditioned men, thus making us coed, which was a big step for us,” Kortney Squibbs, a senior nursing major said.

As former president, Squibbs felt the group was missing something. After conferring with her fellow officers, they thought it was best to audition men for the group.

“Once we got a few men, that low bass sound really added a new dynamic to the group. Adding guys has also made us a more tight-knit group,” Squibbs said.

The group is very close, much like any other student group on campus.

“We’re like a family. Our practices are a lot of fun,” Caitlin Correia, a freshman early childhood education major said. “Our performances are usually pretty energetic and we spend about every day together outside of pella due to making such great friendships.”

The ultimate goal of any collegiate a cappella group is to make it to the International Collegiate Competition of a cappella, the same competition shown in the popular a cappella movie “Pitch Perfect.”

“What you see in the movies is real life and that’s what we’re

trying to strive to,” Taylor Phillips, a sophomore early childhood education major and president of the Pella Penguins, said. “Being that we only started four years ago, it kind of has been hard to build ourselves up.”

Making it to the ICCA involves a strict audition process.

“There’s an online application first, then you have to send a video. It’s almost like an ‘American Idol’ kind of style. So, you’ll go through that process online and they’ll select you from online and then you’ll be selected from there and then you’ll actually go on the show,” Phillips said.

The road to the ICCA is a hard one, but Squibbs believes the group will get there.

“Will it be super hard? Yes, but I have no doubt in my mind that we will reach that goal within a few years,” she said.

The Pella Penguins currently have 18 members, which is ideal because the ICCA only allows each group to have 18 members performing at once. The largest the group has been is close to 30 members.

While the ICCA’s are difficult to get into as a new group, the Pella Penguins put on roughly 20 performances annually.

The group has performed at Guinathon, Relay for Life and Federal Frenzy, among many others. They have been approached by Nuance, an all-male a cappella group from the University of Akron, about opening up for one of their recitals which will be the Pella Penguins biggest performance.

The music arrangements the group uses are mostly songs that play on the radio, but with a little twist. Two group members, Max Franco and Alex Kluchar, compose original pieces from popular songs.

The group is also trying to incorporate music for older and younger audiences. For the older audiences the group is looking

to perform songs by Billy Joel and Freddie Mercury, while for the younger audiences they are trying to perform a mix of early 2000s songs.

Each performance is backed by many hours of practice and rehearsals. From song selection to practices to performances, each performance has many different roles that need to be executed perfectly. One small break in the performance can throw off an entire set. Even being in a new area can be extremely difficult.

“When you’re somewhere you’ve never been, you don’t know the acoustics of the room. It’s really difficult,” Phillips said.

As with any type of performance, there are bound to be nerves before performances.

We are usually able to read each other and calm each other down and catch each other’s mistakes and fix them,” Correia said.

“After our performances, there is a lot of adrenaline rushes and just a lot of support going around and a lot of pride in one another. Usually all laughs and smiles looking back at the performance we just had.”

Regardless of these possible hardships, they fight through the adversity and make all of YSU proud.

To be part of the group, they hold tryouts every semester. While the auditions have already passed, everyone can be a supporter of the group.

The Pella Penguins also have a recital scheduled for April 5. They will perform in the Chestnut Room in Kilcawley Center beginning at 6:30 p.m.

They have merchandise available online at <http://ysu.ignite.co.com/pellapenguins>. The group can also be followed on all platforms of social media. Twitter: [pella_penguins](https://twitter.com/pella_penguins), Instagram: [yuspellapenguins](https://www.instagram.com/yuspellapenguins) and Facebook: The PellaPenguins.

A LITTLE BIT OF ENGLAND

BRIAN BRENNAN

She was a poet, a teacher and an administrator. She was a well-traveled intellectual, a respected lecturer and a published author. The students at Youngstown College saw her as a “little mother” to whom they could address their problems and concerns.

Scholarly and professional, Eleanor B. North was both an English instructor and the dean of women at Youngstown College from 1929 to 1937. She was one of our institution’s most interesting personalities.

North was born in Mercer, Pennsylvania, and she earned both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in English from the Pennsylvania State University. Later, North was awarded graduate scholarships by Cambridge and Oxford universities in England and by Harvard University. Prior to coming to Youngstown, North taught Shakespeare and poetry at Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

While at Youngstown College, North instilled within her students a love of English literature and poetry, while also

sponsoring “literary pilgrimages” to Britain. North was a founding member of the Youngstown chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society, and usually spent her summers in England, lecturing and pursuing further study.

During one of these trips, North obtained some ivy cuttings from Pembroke College at the University of Cambridge, and soon thereafter replanted them in front of Jones Hall. The vines grew over the years, giving the front towers an elegant, Old World appearance.

As dean of women, North was a source of wise counsel. She encouraged mentorship and urged students to never underestimate their abilities. Her office was poetically referred to as “Friendship Village” where she hosted “friendship circles” serving up “a little bit of England” through tea and conversation.

In her day, North was a bit of an oddity; she was a “free spirit” with an Oxbridge view of the world. Sadly, this romantic outlook may have clashed with the more conservative, pragmatic views of the YoCo administration. Smokey Youngstown was not idyllic Cambridge.

During its meeting in April 1937, the Youngstown College

Board of Governors was informed by President Howard Jones that North had been terminated. The reason given was that the College was “contemplating the hiring of a man or woman holding the Ph.D. degree” for the English Department.

Soon thereafter, Karl Dykema was selected to replace North, despite the fact that his doctoral work remained incomplete at the time. Later, he would become dean of YSU’s College of Arts & Sciences. Catherine Semans, already an instructor at YoCo, succeeded North as dean of women.

Fortunately, there was life after YoCo. North landed a position with the English department at Berry College in Georgia, from which she would later retire. She taught, lectured and established various scholarships. Just prior to her death in 1982, North was awarded a research grant and continued to submit poems to various publications. Her legacy lives on today through her poetry and the “Eleanor B. North Scholarship” offered by Sigma Tau Delta.

Regrettably, the ivy North planted no longer graces Jones Hall. It was removed a few years ago during one of the building’s many renovations.

SUPER BOWL PREGAME SHOW ORCHESTRATED BY YSU MUSICIANS

Photo courtesy of **YSU News Center**

ALYSSA WESTON

Super Bowl LIII had major Youngstown roots. In addition to two alumni on the New England Patriots, the orchestration for “America the Beautiful,” sung by Chloe x Halle during the pregame ceremony, was provided by Youngstown State University’s Dana School of Music.

Derek Dixie, a YSU alumnus and music director for Beyoncé, co-arranged and orchestrated “America the Beautiful” and asked the Dana School of Music to record a full session of the song on Jan. 11.

For the song, Dixie included a Los Angeles horn and string ensemble and nearly 30 Youngstown musicians including Dana alumni,

students and staff.

Dixie, who is a former Dana student, reached out to YSU to lower the cost of the employing many musicians.

On his Facebook page, Dixie said although this was the third Super Bowl he arranged music for, this one had a special meaning to him.

“I am proud that I was able to put such an important task in the hands of my hometown,” he said. “When you hear the arrangement, I hope you will feel that every note, chord and rhythm in the orchestration means something.”

Stephen Gage, professor of conducting and director of bands and orchestra, said after contacting the performers, two rehearsals and recording sessions were arranged at Stambaugh Auditorium.

Overall, Gage was thrilled and said it was a

great experience.

“[Recording the music] was a big Youngstown event, and we’re talking about the most watched television show in the world. It’s the pre-national anthem sequence in the Super Bowl, so people were watching,” he said.

Gage thought it was a great opportunity for the Dana School of Music and Youngstown as a whole, and there was hardly any pressure or stress because everybody involved as so thrilled by the opportunity.

Herbie Hunkele, a senior musical performance major, played the trumpet for the pregame show recording.

Hunkele said initially Gage reached out to him for the recording session, but didn’t tell him what it was for. He was floored when he found out he would be working with Dixie and

playing a part in the recording for “America the Beautiful”

In Hunkele’s opinion, this opportunity is great for the recruitment of future Dana students and just another thing that makes YSU stand out.

While watching the Super Bowl pregame, Hunkele described the experience as surreal.

“Being able to hear myself was crazy,” he said.

Although Hunkele was nervous at first, he said Dixie’s kind-hearted and genuine demeanor dissolved the initial pressure, and he gave the performance his all. Hunkele praised Dixie for choosing Youngstown to perform the music.

“He trusted in his own town to produce spectacular music,” he said.

BOOKS FROM THE PAST AT MAAG LIBRARY

COURTNEY HIBLER

Youngstown State University showcased historic books from the 16th and 17th centuries in Maag Library last month.

The library holds seven books that were printed in the 16th century and more than 30 printed in the 17th century. The oldest books available are from the years 1548, 1560, 1567 and 1570.

Cassie Nespor, curator of the university archives and Melnick Medical Museum, said the idea to display these books started with a program she was overseeing for a Girl Scout troop.

“I found these books for Girl Scouts who wanted to earn a book artist badge,” she said. “That event went so well, and we decided the books should stay out and be publicized for others who might be interested.”

Nespor said the books displayed were from London, Paris, Madrid, Barcelona and the

United States with publications throughout Europe and Great Britain. Languages ranging from Latin, French, German, English, Spanish and Dutch are also included.

The subjects of the books range in topics such as philosophy, religion, history of people and cities, plays, scientific studies, health and medicine, music, encyclopedias and poems.

“Another interesting thing is these books were all made by hand,” Nespor said. “From the sewn paper to the bindings, many of these books are works of art with detailed engravings and decorated vellum or leather covers.”

The books were either purchased or donated by alumnus, local collectors or faculty members, and even though the showcase has ended, the books are currently located in the Special Collections area on the fifth floor of Maag Library.

Nespor said the books are not available for check-out, but can be used for research and study.

Brianna Stitt, a sophomore history major, said she didn’t get a chance to visit the exhibit, but it would have been interesting to check out.

In her opinion, it’s important for students to be more interested in history because time often repeats itself.

“Learning gives us a great importance as to who we are today, seeing how people lived in the past and how far civilization has come as a whole,” she said. “History has different areas to it and there is something for everyone to enjoy.”

Justin Madura, a freshman history major, said the exhibit Maag Library showcased was an interesting way for historical pieces to be presented to others in an open way.

“Those who are interested and have a general understanding of history are available for more productive discussions,” he said. “The library offered a better understanding to history and I believe that’s a great way to reach out to people.”

Nespor said the exhibit was a great opportunity to spread the word about these

wonderful resources available in our library.

Students and faculty interested in looking more into the archived collections can visit Maag Library on the fifth floor.



Photo by **J. Harvard Felthouse/The Jambar**



THE SKY IS FOR EVERYONE

Woman tries to find stars in Youngstown's night sky.

Photo by *J. Harvard Feldhouse/The Jambal*

J. HARVARD FELDHOUSE

Astronomy can be both daunting and fascinating for the average person to explore outside of the classroom. With complicated expensive equipment and billions of stars in the galaxy, aspiring astronomers often don't know where to start.

John Feldmeier, interim director of the Ward Beecher Planetarium and astronomy professor at Youngstown State University, and Curt Spivey, planetarium engineer, have a few tips for getting started with astronomy: learn the sky, use phone applications, buy binoculars, join an astronomy club and visit a planetarium.

Learning the sky and constellations is Feldmeier and Spivey's first step to successful stargazing. Feldmeier suggests every new astronomer should have a copy of "The Stars" by H. A. Rey, a hand drawn constellation book. Spivey suggests going outside and getting used to looking at the sky with the eyes rather than a telescope.

"It's like moving to a new town for the first time," Spivey said. "You don't know where the grocery store is. You explore and learn the landmarks. It's the same with the night sky. Get familiar with some basic patterns, like the Big Dipper. Then you can use

them to move around and find other things in the sky."

Feldmeier and Spivey encourage the use of phone applications to learn the night sky. There are several free and inexpensive apps such as "Sky Guide" and "Night Sky" that use augmented reality to show where constellations, planets and other space objects are in the sky in real time.

"It takes your GPS and it puts up a map. When it loads, it'll actually move around the sky and match the direction you're facing. If a satellite is going over, it'll tell you which satellite," Spivey said.

After learning where objects are with the eyes, both Feldmeier and Spivey suggest new astronomers should buy a pair of binoculars rather than a telescope. Their wide angle lenses show more of the sky than a telescope.

"Binoculars basically are a small telescope," Feldmeier said. "They aren't very hard to use. You can use them for other things and they're cheaper. If you're not sure you want to get into this, but you don't want to spend a lot of money, buying binoculars is actually better than buying a telescope."

New astronomers can join astronomy clubs to meet other hobbyist astronomers and look at the stars together at "star parties." Ashley Lemasters, senior astronomy and physics major, joined the Mahoning Valley Astronomical Society because of the

community and the opportunities the club provides.

"MVAS has expertise on the best way to view the night sky," Lemasters said. "You get to have a myriad of experiences from speakers to public outreach to star parties. The people are beyond kind, want to learn and discover and share my passion for astronomy."

The last way new astronomers can learn more about astronomy is by visiting a planetarium. The Ward Beecher Planetarium schedules free educational programs every season. "So You Got A Telescope" is a workshop with MVAS that teaches new telescope owners how to use their equipment.

"Often people buy a telescope over the holidays, but they don't quite know what to do with it," Feldmeier said. "The MVAS people will help them get their telescopes operational, show how to make them work and what sort of things to look out for."

"So You Got A Telescope" is scheduled for Feb. 16 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Ward Beecher Planetarium. Even those without telescopes are encouraged to come learn more about stargazing and to make new connections with MVAS members.

"The great thing about astronomy as a hobby is that you can dip your toe into it, and you get something out of it," Feldmeier said. "It's a very approachable science even though it's abstract."

NEWS BRIEF

ENROLLMENT UP AT YSU, AGAIN

Youngstown State University's enrollment has increased for the seventh consecutive semester. "Headcount enrollment of 11,900 is up 0.24 percent over last spring, while full-time equivalent enrollment is up 0.79 percent," according to a YSU press release.

There is also a 25-student increase in international student enrollment this semester, which

equates to 5.8 percent.

"Among the countries with the largest number of students at YSU are Saudi Arabia (114), Nepal (75), Kuwait (54) and India (34)," the press release stated.



Photos by *Tanner Mondok/The Jambor*

BANDS COMPETE FOR THE FRENZY

VICTORIA REMLEY

Local music blasted at Westside Bowl on Feb. 1 when Penguin Productions hosted the Federal Frenzy Face Off. JULIET won the inaugural competition and secured a spot to perform at Youngstown State University's Federal Frenzy in April.

The event took place at the Westside Bowl in Youngstown where eight bands each performed a 20-minute set on a stage over bowling lanes.

The bands included JULIET, along with Fifth & Aurora, the HR Department, Black Wolf and the Thief, Spy Convention, Mediocre at Best and the Super Babes.

At the event, the audience members voted for what band they wanted to hear at Federal Frenzy — JULIET came out victorious.

Lou Rivera, lead vocalist in Fifth & Aurora and senior telecommunications major, said it was a blessing to play in the first Federal Frenzy Face Off as the opener. Although the band booked a show at Suzie's Dogs & Drafts that day, they wanted to be a part of the show.

"We did whatever it took to make it happen," Rivera said. "It is amazing how Federal Frenzy attracts such a wonderful demographic, who come for the sole purpose to listen and

support local music. As musicians, that is the best thing we could ask for; is for people to just listen."

He said events like this are so important to the Youngstown community.

"Music brings people together already and events like this feeds Youngstown's soul. The Youngstown music scene is ridiculous and insanely talented artists walk around the streets everyday," Rivera said. "Federal Frenzy is the one event that showcases the amazing music people bring to the city and also brings in just as amazing people who support it."

Ashlee Cook, a YSU junior communications major and Penguin Productions operations lead, said the event had a lot of talented student bands, which was a nice way to get exposure for them.

Cook said through the Face Off, audience members got a preview of Federal Frenzy.

"If you've never been to the event, it's a good way to see kind of what you're getting into, at least the music side of it ... [and] a nice preview to which bands will be playing," she said.

Federal Frenzy Face Off also had the ability to bring people together through music. Allison Marado, the event lead, said she thought bringing people together would be better with faculty and students through listening to music by local and alumni

bands.

She said Westside Bowl is a good spot to bring the community of Youngstown together through a battle of the bands competition.

"It's something new and something different," Marado said. "I personally have never been to a battle of the bands."

Cook said a benefit of the event was that it was cheap, which is something college students love.

Marado contacted the bands to see if they wanted to participate in the event. Her duties included helping the bands with sound check, making up the schedule and answering any questions the bands had.

Cook received the band's sound system requests from Marado and sent them to Penguin Production's sound techs. She also requested the drum set for the event and other production needs and worked on the event's planning timeline and the staffing schedule.

Oceanna Newman, a senior respiratory care major from Canton, Ohio, said she was excited to come to Federal Frenzy Face Off.

"I think it's a cool way for us to get involved to help pick the bands that are going to be at Federal Frenzy," she said.

Photos by *Tanner Mondok/The Jambar*

MCDONOUGH WELCOMES ALUMNI IN ART EXHIBITION

BRIANNA GLEGHORN

Youngstown State University graduates got to revisit their alma mater on Jan. 26 for an opening reception at the McDonough 2019 Alumni Art Exhibition. The exhibits included works of art created by YSU alumnus.

Over 200 pieces were entered for the exhibition, and 88 pieces made by 86 different artists were accepted. During the reception, Noble Creature Cask House also had a craft beer tasting.

Rosemary Connelly-Prample graduated in 2007 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in sculpture, ceramic, and said the last time her work hung in the Butler was during her senior show.

"I was looking forward to this show. I enjoyed my time at YSU," she said.

Connelly-Prample calls herself a conceptual artist and loves to introduce her work to new people. She said each piece she has

created is a complete story, yet they are all linked together within her personal journey.

"Words are thought provoking to me," she said. "I look for adjectives and adverbs, and give them a visual. My choice of two mediums are drawings and ceramics."

When creating her entered piece, Connelly-Prample said she used charcoal because she prefers the void of color, so the viewer can focus on the movement, flow and depth of the piece. She said the drawing took one year from concept to paper.

"When you look at this piece hanging on the wall, you see [a] beautiful bunch of roses and then the title makes you question why did she name it that," she said. "America is beautiful, shine like a coin, flip it over and you will expose ugly, tarnish side."

Crystal Beiersdorfer said coming back to Youngstown and seeing her undergrad professors and peers at the opening was a nice reminder to keep going. She graduated in 2015 with a Bachelor's of Mathematics and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree

with an emphasis in photography.

"It was great to catch up with everyone and talk about how YSU has helped us obtain our creative goals," she said.

Beiersdorfer is a video artist and moved to Chicago three years ago to attend the University of Chicago for graduate school for visual art. She said the piece she chose to show is a 10-minute, single-channel digital video of flowers.

"The piece was inspired by women in digital culture and how our bodies are constantly being critiqued and manipulated online," Beiersdorfer said.

Louis Zona, executive director and chief curator of the Butler Institute of American Art, was the juror of the exhibition.

"It's a way for the university to salute past alum who have succeeded in the visual art," Zona said.

The exhibition will be open until March 7. The McDonough Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

MARIO'S MOVIES: FLASHBACK FILMS- 'ARMAGEDDON' (1998)

MARIO RICCIARDI

“Armageddon” — the movie where NASA sends Bruce Willis, Ben Affleck and a ragtag group of oil drillers into space to save the world. Their mission? Drill a hole deep enough into an asteroid so that explosives can knock it off course from hitting Earth. The movie can easily be summed up in my all-time favorite question: “Wouldn't it have been easier to train astronauts to be oil drillers than to train oil drillers to be astronauts?”

Well, I'm neither a rocket scientist nor a petroleum engineer, so what do I know about that? I am a film critic, though. So, what I do know is that I think “Armageddon” is a really fun movie and that right about now is when I usually have to start blocking out haters. Not to dwell on high school, but my high school astronomy teacher was number one on that list. The best thing about Mrs. Smith's relationship with “Armageddon” is that she dislikes it so much as a movie that she doesn't even bother starting on how inaccurate the space stuff is.

Issue number one on her list — the hit Aerosmith song “I

Don't Want to Miss a Thing,” performed by Steven Tyler. The scene where it is used in the movie? When Steven Tyler's daughter, actress Liv Tyler, is about to consummate her relationship with Ben Affleck's character. So technically, her dad is serenading her during it.

This is the only issue I agree with Mrs. Smith on. It's very weird and very shortsighted. It makes me very uncomfortable thinking about it.

Issue number two — the film is blatant propaganda for the uncompromising approval of tenacious capitalism.

I completely understand why this is a valid complaint. The saviors of the world in this film are oil drillers, after all. Plus, there are, like, 40-some American flags in the film.

That said, Hollywood is pretty persistent in its liberalism, so from my perspective, why can't a movie promote the other side? I feel like that's fair and completely warranted. That's both representation and diversity all in one movie.

Issue number three — Michael Bay.

I really respect Bay for what he does. In fact, I enjoy everything he made before “Transformers 2.” The man gets to do what he

loves for a living, make bank and has no one telling him no. I can't argue with someone who has that kind of life.

Issue number four and the king of all her complaints — the film is absurdly irrational.

The reason why this movie is so fun is because it's irrational. I don't remember the science from “Apollo 11.” I remember being on the edge of my seat. I don't remember what HAL stands for in “2001, Space Odyssey.” I remember the trippy fever dream that takes up the last half hour.

What don't I remember about “Armageddon”? Nothing at all. I remember the entire movie. It's wild. Needless to say, I'm a big fan of the movie and it was a healthy dose of color during last week's arctic apocalypse.

Logic is great, but sometimes an experience is allowed to be about emotions. “Armageddon” is exciting, visually stylish and full of heart (even if that heart is pumping adrenaline instead of blood).

🐧🐧🐧🐧 4/5 Penguins

GOODBYE SWEETHEART CANDIES?

MARAH J. MORRISON

Questions, voices and eyebrows have been raised about the Sweetheart candies this year. The heart-shaped candies may not be saying goodbye forever, but for now, they will remain scarce or unavailable.

According to the National Public Radio, the heart-shaped candies with messages such as “Be Mine,” “Kiss Me” and “Be Happy” will not be on the shelves this year because of the demise of the New England Confectionery Company, Necco.

Those who are looking to find these candies will find either another brand such as Brach's or candies from last year's batch. According to the New York Times, Necco was producing billions of Sweethearts every year before they closed.

Jimmy Sutman, the owner of Touch the Moon Candy Saloon in Youngstown, said he can understand the economics of Necco and why they were struggling, but he doesn't understand why someone else didn't quickly pick up this candy.

“It's a unique product,” he said. “Brach's is the only other one that I know of that makes a similar product. That's what we had to purchase this year.”

Sutman said he noticed some of the bigger companies are producing candies similar to the Sweethearts in similar boxes, and there are now Sour Patch Hearts and Sweet Tart Hearts because the bigger companies are anticipating the shortage or complete lack of the Sweethearts.

“I think ‘outraged’ would be a strong word, but I'm upset,” he said. “[These are] candies that have been around for such a long

time and there's people my age and older [that this candy] has been a part of their Valentine's Day their whole lives.”

Sutman said people always associate candy with their youth, and it's upsetting to him and to his customers who come in and ask what happened and why they don't have them anymore.

Mary Ann Yerge, the purchasing manager at Gorant Chocolatier in Youngstown has worked for Gorant's for nearly 25 years and said Gorant's carried the Sweetheart candies for a while, but since they were readily available elsewhere, they haven't carried them.

Yerge said this is a novelty item, especially for Valentine's Day to have that sentiment, and she thinks other brands that are selling the Sweetheart candies will be successful, even with the shortage of the Necco brand.

“We actually have a taffy that we are selling this year that has sentiments printed on the wrapper,” she said. “Same idea, but not exactly the actual conversation heart.”

Jon Prince, the president of Candy Favorites, a company Sutman has utilized, said that only one emotion comes to mind: sadness.

Prince said people may ask themselves what they have in common with their parents and their grandparents, and there are not many things because every generation has its own interest.

“There are certain retro candies that have been around for an eternity,” he said. “What do you have in common with your mom, dad and their grandparents? A candy that's passed through generations.”

Prince said the issue with the Sweetheart candies was money and the property Necco had in Massachusetts was worth more

than the business.

“We're talking about an American icon disappearing,” he said. “It's sad because we might lose these products forever.”

Prince said people are losing a sense history and connection and this is hard to avoid because of common changes and decisions.

According to CBS New York, Kirk Vashaw, the CEO of the Spangler Candy Company, who bought the rights to the candy, wants to make sure the Sweetheart candies meet customer expectations when they return for Valentine's Day in 2020.



Photo courtesy of **Jimmy Sutman**

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NEWS BRIEF

TRESSEL ATTENDS STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

One familiar face from Youngstown State University was in the crowd during President Donald Trump's State of the Union Address on Tuesday night.

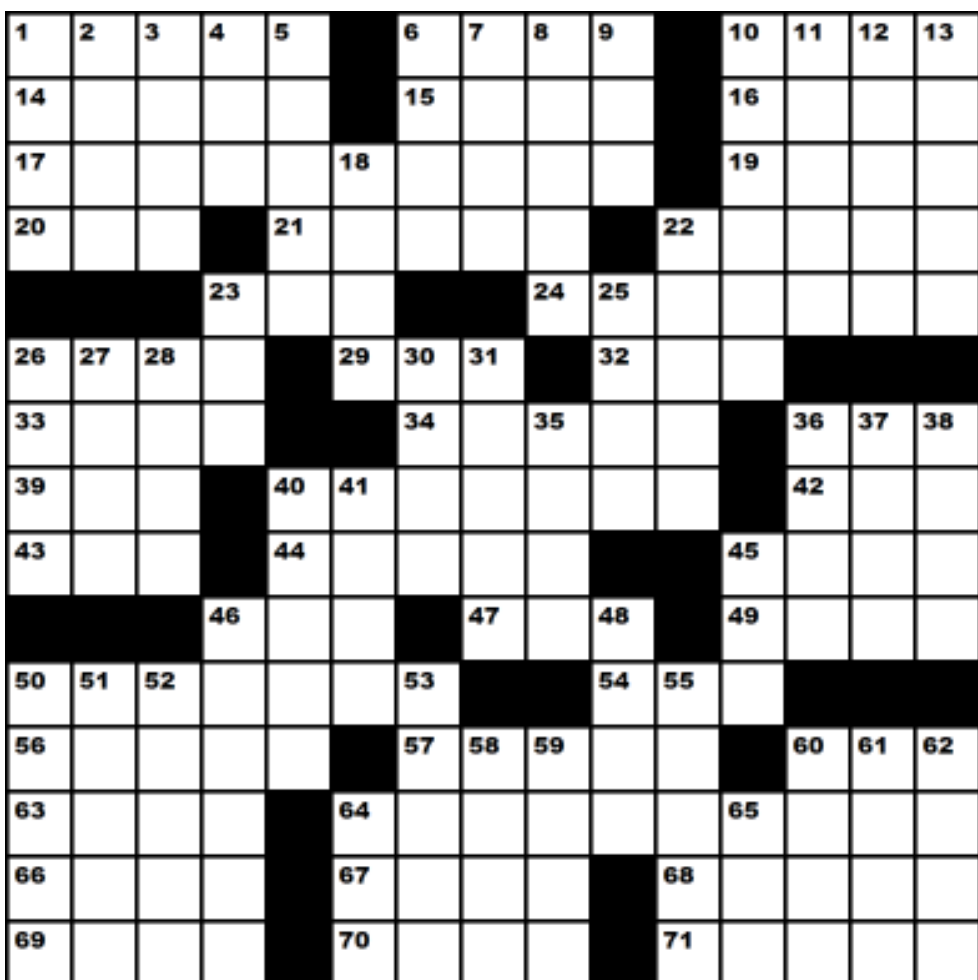
YSU President Jim Tressel attended the address as U.S. Rep. Anthony Gonzalez's guest and said he had a wonderful "once in a lifetime" experience.

Gonzalez, elected in November, was a former wide receiver at The Ohio State University under

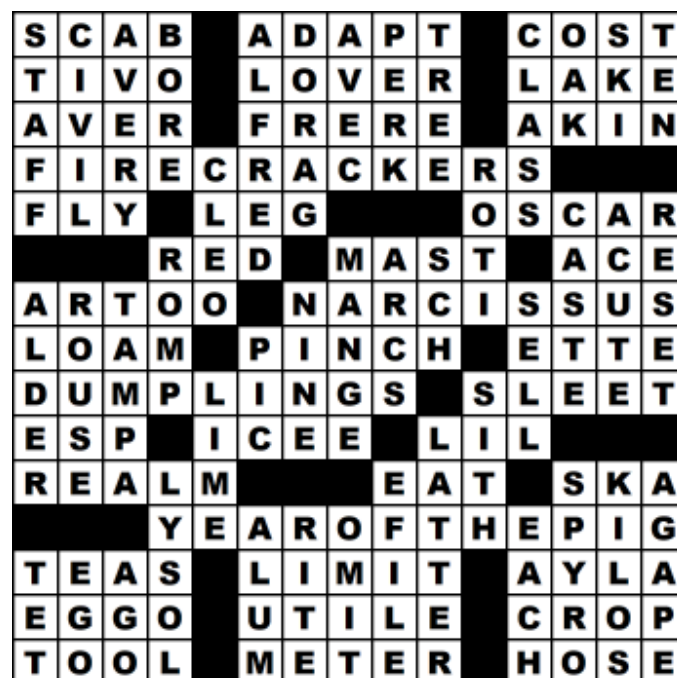
Tressel's reign as the football coach.

"[It was] truly an honor to have one of my former students invite me to be at his first State of the Union Address as a U.S. Congressman representing Ohio," Tressel said.

The invitation comes after Tressel urged Gonzalez to consider public office, according to the Columbus Dispatch.



SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



FIND THE SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE ONLINE.

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Across

1. Inflatable boats
6. “_! Who goes there?”
10. Keister or caboose
14. Like new matches
15. Longoria and Mendes
16. Words in a guesstimate (2 wds.)
17. Traditional dance company that will perform in the Chestnut Room on Feb. 12 (2 wds.)
19. Not fooled by
20. Capital of Tibet?
21. “Duck, duck, _”
22. Friends in French class
23. _ Royal Highness
24. Artist Winfred whose carved leatherwork is on display at the Butler until Feb. 17
26. Playing it _
29. New socialite, for short
32. Tyron Woodley's sport (Abbr.)
33. “It's Not Right But It's _” (Whitney Houston song)
34. Pack animal in an Anna Dewdney book
36. BBQ offering

39. Rihanna's “Take a _”
40. Artist Justin whose sculpture is on display in Bliss Hall until Feb. 28
42. Get a perfect score
43. Raggedy doll
44. Revival cries
45. Black cat or rainbow, to some
46. Crash site?
47. “_ (Death of Auto-Tune)” (Jay-Z song)
49. Columnist's page (Hyph.)
50. Author whose book, “I Am Not Your Negro,” will be featured at the library on Feb. 23
54. Skippy rival
56. Knee protector
57. Dam across the Nile
60. Farm animal
63. Film award named for a Spanish artist
64. Ali who stars in “Green Book,” which will be screened in Carafo House on Feb. 21
66. Tech Desk customer
67. Odafin Tutuola portrayer (Hyph.)
68. Art supporter?
69. Con attendee
70. Smartphone software

71. Spell-checkers catch them

Down

1. _ Belt
2. Feed the kitty?
3. Hightail it
4. Server's reward
5. Theatre area
6. “We Don't Need Another _” (Tina Turner song from “Thunderdome”)
7. Hertz rival
8. LeBron James, as of July 9, 2018
9. Airport agency Rod worked for in “Get Out” (Abbr.)
10. Cleaner created by iRobot
11. Bert's roommate
12. Phoenix of “Yu-Gi-Oh!”
13. Bird's perch
18. Harrison _
22. Capital of Jordan
23. “_ Ya!” (OutKast hit)
25. Stone or Watson
26. Buckwheat noodles
27. “Smack That” Senegalese-American rapper
28. Baby deer
30. Fanning or MacPherson
31. Mixture
35. “Are not!” clapback (2 wds.)
36. Freeway exit
37. Slushy drink brand
38. Relax, as rules
40. Lenny Kravitz's “_ Find a Reason” (2 wds.)
41. Where the Hawks used to play
45. “That's rough, buddy!”
46. Your “Y-number” is on the back of it (2 wds.)
48. Cracked open
50. Ralphie wanted one in “A Christmas Story” (2 wds.)
51. Stopped lying?
52. Seven-_ dip
53. Org. co-founded by W. E. B. Du Bois (Abbr.)
55. Map within a map
58. Pet elephant in “George of the Jungle”
59. Shoots with a Super Soaker
60. Padlock fastener
61. Butterine
62. What a cowpoke might call women
64. CNN contributor Ludmya Love's nickname
65. Money, slangily

THE JAMBAR

— EDITORIAL —

INVOLUNTARY CELIBACY: HOW MALADJUSTMENT BECAME A MOVEMENT

Recently, Christopher Wayne Cleary of Denver, Colorado, was arrested on a terrorism charge after he posted a threat on social media, stating his intention to carry out a mass shooting against women.

“All I wanted was a girlfriend, not 1000 not a bunch of hoes not money none of that,” he wrote. “All I wanted was to be loved, yet no one cares about me I’m 27 years old and I’ve never had a girlfriend before and I’m still a virgin, this is why I’m planning on shooting up a public place soon and being the next mass shooter cause I’m ready to die and all the girls the turned me down is going to make it right by killing as many girls as I see.”

Concerned about several upcoming women’s marches in the area, local and authorities located Cleary in Provo, Utah, and

apprehended him.

The incident has sparked a conversation about the dangers of misogyny and male entitlement, and the embodiment of such ideals are held in a rising hate group known as involuntary celibates or “incels.”

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, incels represent a male supremacy ideology, and incels have been added to their list of hate groups tracked, “because of the way these groups consistently denigrate and dehumanize women, often including advocating physical and sexual violence against them.”

“To an incel, sex is a basic human right for all men,” the article continues. “So the women who deny them that right are committing a heinous — and punishable — crime.”

But Cleary’s is not the first incident involving a male supremacist. In 2014, Elliot Rodger killed six people and wounded 13 others less than 24 hours after posting a seven-

minute video to social media documenting his rage against women for rejecting him.

In 2018, Alek Minassian drove his van onto a Toronto sidewalk, killing 10 people and wounding more than a dozen others after praising Rodger on social media and declaring, “The Incel Rebellion has already begun!”

While the concept of male supremacy is not new, the reality of a group carrying out the so-called punishments of the ideology is horrifying, and eradicating these groups should be of utmost importance, though no monumental movements or outcries against these incel groups have been made.

Lives have been lost and destroyed over these violent beliefs, and the fact that these groups are on the rise and attacks are more frequent indicates that this is just the beginning. While there has been increased awareness of the incel movement, a solution to combat these groups has yet to come.

THREE MUST-SEE CONCERTS IN FEBRUARY

ZACH MOSCA JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Winter is in full swing in Youngstown, but so is the live music scene. These three concerts coming up just might do the trick in helping you stay warm this February.

If you’re looking to rock hard, local rock band Where’s Winona Now has you covered. The band will be coming to Westside Bowl on Feb. 16 at 9 p.m.

Lead guitarist Dom DiVencenzo describes the band as hard rock with some punk influences in their sound.

“The roots originated with pop-punk rock, but we’re trying to evolve into a heavier sound while still trying to keep our punk rock roots,” DiVencenzo said.

He said the band tries to appeal to fans of all subgenres of rock to attract a variety of groups to their shows.

“We try to offer a little bit of everything and everyone has their own personal tastes, like some people like a few songs and then there will be another group that likes a certain set of different songs. So, we try to bring multiple groups in to blend it all together,” DiVencenzo said.

The band cites bands like Metallica, Nirvana and Avenged Sevenfold as their influences, so fans of those bands might enjoy

Where’s Winona Now.

If you’re looking for a more low key, calm experience, Suzie’s Dogs & Drafts also has a show going on Feb. 16 featuring Akron-based folk artist, Ben Gage. Music starts at 9 p.m.

Gage grew up in the Rust Belt of Ohio in a blue-collar family. He describes his music as a way to tell stories about what he and others around him go through in that life.

“It’s a lot of life experiences that I myself go through or that I see my friends or family go through. Just anything to make you think,” he said.

Gage cites Bob Dylan, Doc Watson, the Wood Brothers and the Avett Brothers as his influences.

“I listen to a lot of old folk musicians now. A lot of guys who were just poor, traveling around and writing about the things that they saw,” he said.

Gage writes his music to give his audience insight into his life, and possibly connect with others in the audience who are going through the same situations he is. So, if you want a more relaxed experience with some musical storytelling, Gage has you covered.

In terms of big-name musicians coming to the Valley, popular country singer Kane Brown will be at the Covelli Centre Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. This is a big event, as tickets are sold out at the box

office, but some tickets are up for resale on sites like Ticketmaster.

Kane Brown fuses country music with other genres such as hip-hop and pop. Covelli Centre marketing and sales assistant Phoebe Breckenridge compares his sound to artists like Florida Georgia Line and Maren Morris.

“Kane Brown’s music combines the youthful energy of pop and hip hop with country music. His music is similar to that of Florida Georgia Line, who are also country artists that have dabbled into the pop music genre,” Breckenridge said.

She said this show will be a great opportunity to attract new visitors to the Covelli Centre and aims to get them to come back for future events.

“When guests come here to see a national artist like Kane Brown, it gives us an opportunity to demonstrate our exceptional operations, productions, and customer service abilities to a larger audience that we hope will encourage a crowd of this size, as the show is sold out to continue to look to us for entertainment,” Breckenridge said.

Brown will be supported by Granger Smith and Jimmie Allen, so this is a must-see for fans of country music.

With so many shows and venues to choose from, there’s something for all music fans to enjoy this month. So fight the cold and have some fun jamming out to some live music.

BEST STRETCH FOR MEN'S BASKETBALL AT CRUCIAL POINT IN THE SEASON

JOSHUA FITCH

"It's amazing what a week can do in college basketball, but we have to handle success, too. We have to build on what we just did."

Those are the words of Penguins coach Jerrod Calhoun following his team's back-to-back, nail-biting road victories over Oakland University, 75-74, and the University of Detroit Mercy, 72-70.

The two-game winning streak ties the longest of the season for the Penguins and comes at a very critical time, as wins are a necessity more than ever to get into the Horizon League Tournament beginning in March.

The Penguins have five out of the next seven games at the Beeghly Center, including the next four straight, something Calhoun and his team desperately need to take

advantage of.

"We got to win at home. We have to do this for the city of Youngstown, for our fans," Calhoun said. "We need to give them something to cheer for. Be loud, be supportive of our guys and we have to feed off these crowds."

While a two-game winning streak isn't a monumental feat, it's how the Penguins won that shows growth from earlier in the season. YSU's young team matchups, some in the Horizon League due to key mistakes down the stretch of close games. This time, it was different.

"We finally caught a break. We lost a couple games down the stretch, even some conference games not being able to close games out," said Devin Morgan, junior guard for the Penguins. "It just shows maturity. We've been there before and we've been able to execute, get stops down the stretch

and win the game."

Morgan scored 11 points in the Penguins' most recent victory against Detroit Mercy, but none were more important than the 3-pointer he nailed with just under 14 seconds remaining in the game, to give YSU the lead.

"Just learning the situation. Knowing what shot to take, what play to call and when to foul. Just having faith in our coaching staff and our team. It was just a great win," Morgan said.

Freshman guard Darius Quisenberry scored 14 points against Detroit and has made a name for himself in his first year with the Penguins. This week he's been recognized for his play, earning Horizon League Freshman of the Week after averaging nearly 19 points per game and nearly four assists per game.

Calhoun said Quisenberry has

gotten better every week.

"He's so deserving of getting the freshman of the week, I'm glad he got it. Multiple guys have stepped up and I think the belief is there," he said.

The ever-important home stand begins Feb. 7 against the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Panthers. With an up and down schedule, the Penguins are thankful this homestand is coming when some home cooking is needed the most.

"Getting two games on the road gave our team a lot of confidence, especially coming back home for four games. Basically, it gives us a way to control our own destiny," Morgan said.

Calhoun said it's a critical time to take advantage of that confidence as the Penguins fight to stay in the hunt for a spot in the Horizon League Tournament.



Photo courtesy of YSU Sports Information

GOLF SEASON TO TEE OFF SOONER THAN LATER PART I: THE MEN'S TEAM

JOSHUA FITCH

While Youngstown State University athletics is in the midst of basketball, bowling and track and field, along with the start of baseball and softball, golf isn't too far behind.

Tony Joy, now in his 25th season as coach of the men's golf team, said his team can't wait to get outside, and the drive to take a swing at the ball is higher than ever.

"Well, we're getting pretty bored practicing indoors," Joy said. "Hopefully, we'll get some decent weather and we can sneak out at times. The kids have really been into it."

The first tournament for the men will take place Friday, March 8 at the Jackrabbitt Invitational hosted in Boulder City, Nevada.

Sophomore C.J. Hughes said he is excited about the upcoming opportunity that the Penguins have and achieving the only thing that matters; a Horizon League Championship.

"With the added competition as a team, this will push us all to be better. The morale of indoor practice has been great, and I know everyone is eager to get outside and hopefully win some

tournaments this spring," Hughes said. "The final goal is for a conference championship which myself and the whole team believe we have a great shot at claiming."

The added competition Hughes is referring to is Zach Ford, a transfer from East Tennessee State University, one of the well-known golfing colleges across the country. In addition to the leadership returning in the spring, there's a good sense of competition, as well as confidence.

"The kids have really been into it," Joy said. "It seems like everybody's working hard and I think the fact that we brought in a transfer. I think that's caused a little more competitiveness between the guys."

Like in any sport, competitiveness builds team chemistry and improves every member of the roster. One of the key ways to score in the sport is in the short game, something that the Penguins have been working to improve from the fall season.

"I think they've been doing a lot of work and at the end of the season they started to work on, especially putting and chipping," Joy said. "When it comes down to teams that win and lose, it comes to the short game. At the end of

the day, if you're putting well, you're going to do well."

Youngstown weather in February can be unforgiving at times, making it difficult to get outside for practice, especially finding a putting green. That's why the Watson and Tressel Training Site is crucial to success at YSU and a priceless asset.

"We are so fortunate to have a great facility like the Watson and Tressel Center to practice indoors," Hughes said. "We've been having team meetings and practice everyday as well as an open putting green we can use at anytime."

Hughes added that confidence and expectations are at an all-time high this season. One the team is very much looking forward to.

"The leadership coming from our seniors Jason McQuown and Evan Standohar has been great. They motivate us and push us to be the best we can be," Hughes said. "Coach Joy also is there anytime we need help with anything ranging from our swings to our studies. He always reminds us of the talent we have. It is clear that he has high ambitions for this team the remainder of the year."



Photo courtesy of Jason McQuown

LOCAL DRAG RACERS BRING TITLE TO YOUNGSTOWN

DOM JOSEPH

Youngstown has produced multiple champions: the Youngstown State University football team won four championships in the nineties, and Ray “Boom Boom” Mancini and Kelly “The Ghost” Pavlik won championships in the boxing ring. On Oct. 20, 2018, the Martino Motorsports top dragster team claimed the National Drag Racing Association championship.

Martino Motorsports is a two-man racing organization from Youngstown. The duo who produced the National Hot Rod Association title is Tom and Ryan Martino, a father-son effort. Ryan is a graduate of YSU and a former punter for the football team. He has been at his father’s side throughout his career.

“My father, when he turned sixteen, had to get a car,” Ryan Martino said. “There were local drag strips around here that he did well at.”

After bringing home multiple trophies on local drag strips, Tom Martino began to travel along the National Hot Rod Circuit.

The NHRA has become the pinnacle of drag racing in the United States, but the Martinos continued to find success as well as sponsorship.

“It was very tough back then to even have a name on your car,” Ryan Martino said. “Coors Brewing Company, when we came to the East Coast, were the first to jump on board.”

Martino Motorsports was running well in the NHRA, but the team decided that the Professional Drag Racers Association was the better league to run in financially.

“We pick our best strategy throughout the season, what’s going to give our sponsors the best look, the best chance for our fans to see us race, and the best chance for us to win,” Ryan Martino said.

Along with the financial side, another trait of the PDRA that affected the decision was the atmosphere of the league, along with eighth-mile strips, compared to the traditional longer quarter-mile strip.

“PDRA racing is a family-oriented organization,” Ryan Martino said. “It’s appealing to us because it saves wear and tear on the race car and the motor.”

As the Martino Motorsports crew travels nationwide, they bring the traditions of Youngstown with them.

“We’re proud of where we’re from and its past,” Ryan Martino said. “We bring Youngstown food on our road trips, and there’s people lined up for miles. Whether it’s DiRusso’s Sausage or Uptown Pizza, we throw it on the grill, and before you know it we’re out of food.”

At Virginia Motorsports Park in Petersburg, Virginia, Martino

Motorsports captured the 2018 PDRA world championship.

“That championship was won in Youngstown fashion,” Ryan Martino said. “We had to get up and fight for it, just like how Boom Boom won his title and Pavlik won his titles.”

Martino Motorsports has joined the club of champions of Youngstown. They’re now seeking to leave a lasting legacy in the Mahoning Valley.

“We want to go down in the history of Youngstown as being a positive role model in the community, someone that puts Youngstown on the next level,” Ryan Martino said. “Youngstown produces champions — it doesn’t matter if you’re an athlete or not.”

Tom Martino, the father of Ryan, does the driving for the team. A 40-plus-year veteran of the drag strip, captured the title for the team.

“This world championship is the perfect ending to an incredible season,” Tom Martino said. “I relied on my 40-plus years of experience, focused on winning each round as they came and never looked back.”

Martino Motorsports will begin their title defense in the PDRA on April 4 at the Galot Motorsports Park in Benson, North Carolina. The team will return to Ohio on July 18, at Dragway 42 in West Salem.

OLIVIA JONES WINS PENTATHLON, CLAIMS WOMEN’S ATHLETE OF THE WEEK TITLE

ROBERT HAYES

The Youngstown State University indoor track and field team competed in the YSU National Mid-Major Invitational at the Watson and Tressel Training Site on Feb. 1 and 2, and freshman Olivia Jones from Gloucestershire, England, was awarded the title of the Nike Women’s Field Athlete of the Week in the Horizon League.

Jones competed in the women’s pentathlon, a series of five events over the course of the track meet against fifteen other athletes. She showed sheer dominance by taking first in both the high jump and long jump. She also tacked on two second-place finishes in the 60-meter hurdle and the shot-put.

A fifth-place finish in the 800-meter run was enough to guide her to first place overall, which gave her total score of 3410 points, a total that ranks third in all-time YSU history.

Her score also currently occupies the top spot in the Women’s Pentathlon standings

for the Horizon League.

Jones also posted personal best marks for both the 60-meter hurdle and 800-meter run with times of 9.19 seconds and 2:37.44, respectively. She finished with a distance of 5.21 meters on the long jump, 10.10 meters on the shot-put and a height of 1.64 meters on the high jump.

Two other athletes competed in the pentathlon for YSU, with freshman Hailey Puckett finishing fifth overall and sophomore Coreen Crosby finishing in ninth place for the Penguins.

There have been three Penguins awarded weekly honors so far this season for the women’s track and field team: Chontel Fils, Jaliyah Elliott and now Jones. On the men’s side, Chad Zallow has won weekly honors three times so far this season.

The Penguins’ next home meet is on Feb. 23 and 24, when YSU hosts the Horizon League Indoor Track and Field Championship.



Photo by Robert Hayes/The Jambar



PENGUINS HIT THE ROAD FOR TWO-GAME TRIP

Photo by **Robert Hayes/The Jambar**

BRIAN YAUGER

With their five-game homestand over, the Youngstown State University women's basketball team takes to the road for two important Horizon League games.

"It's been a nice, long homestretch. We've enjoyed it, and the team has played well," Penguins coach John Barnes said. "In order to finish top of the league we need to get it done on the road too, and we're looking forward to these games."

The Penguins travel to Indiana and Illinois for their next two matchups, taking on Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis and the University of Illinois-Chicago.

YSU took down UIC 81-29 and beat IUPUI 70-52 in their prior matchups, but that doesn't

mean they have two free wins on the schedule. Road games are a much different atmosphere.

"We're going to have to play really well to beat IUPUI on their floor," Barnes said. "Super talented team, very well-coached team, very high-scoring offense — it's going to take an all-around great effort to win there."

In their most recent contest against the University of Detroit Mercy, the Penguins shot 60.7 percent from the field, their highest shooting percentage since 1998. That was aided by a red hot start by senior guard Alison Smolinski, who nailed her first five 3-point attempts in the first four minutes of their game.

Smolinski was held scoreless in the game against Oakland University, but rebounded and rebounded hard, scoring 17 points in the first quarter against Detroit Mercy.

"It felt pretty good seeing that first one go

down. It's always a good feeling," Smolinski said after the win. "It gives you confidence, and my teammates did a good job of finding me too."

In that game against Detroit Mercy, the team got off to a fast start opening with a 19-0 run. Barnes hopes to keep that train rolling against the Jaguars.

"We had a real slow start earlier in the year against IUPUI — I think we were down 9-0 — so obviously we'd love to have a fast start," Barnes said. "Sometimes it happens. I think our team showed some toughness in the games that we haven't had a fast start in, but against Detroit we started really quick and we were able to maintain that, and it would be great if we could do that on the road."

One of the unsung heroes in the homestand was Amara Chikwe. She was outstanding on defense, bringing down 17 rebounds in the final

two homestretch games.

"I've always loved playing defense and just getting rebounds and the charges and the stops," Chikwe said. "Overall our team is a good defensive team, and I feel like that helps us get some wins too."

Despite going on the road, Chikwe's mindset is staying the same.

"It's away, but we still have to have the same mindset, still have to execute our gameplan, play for each other and just do our thing," Chikwe said.

With the season winding down, the Horizon League tournament is on the horizon. The Penguins sit second in the conference with a 17-5 overall record and a 9-2 conference record, and this road test is coming at just the right time.