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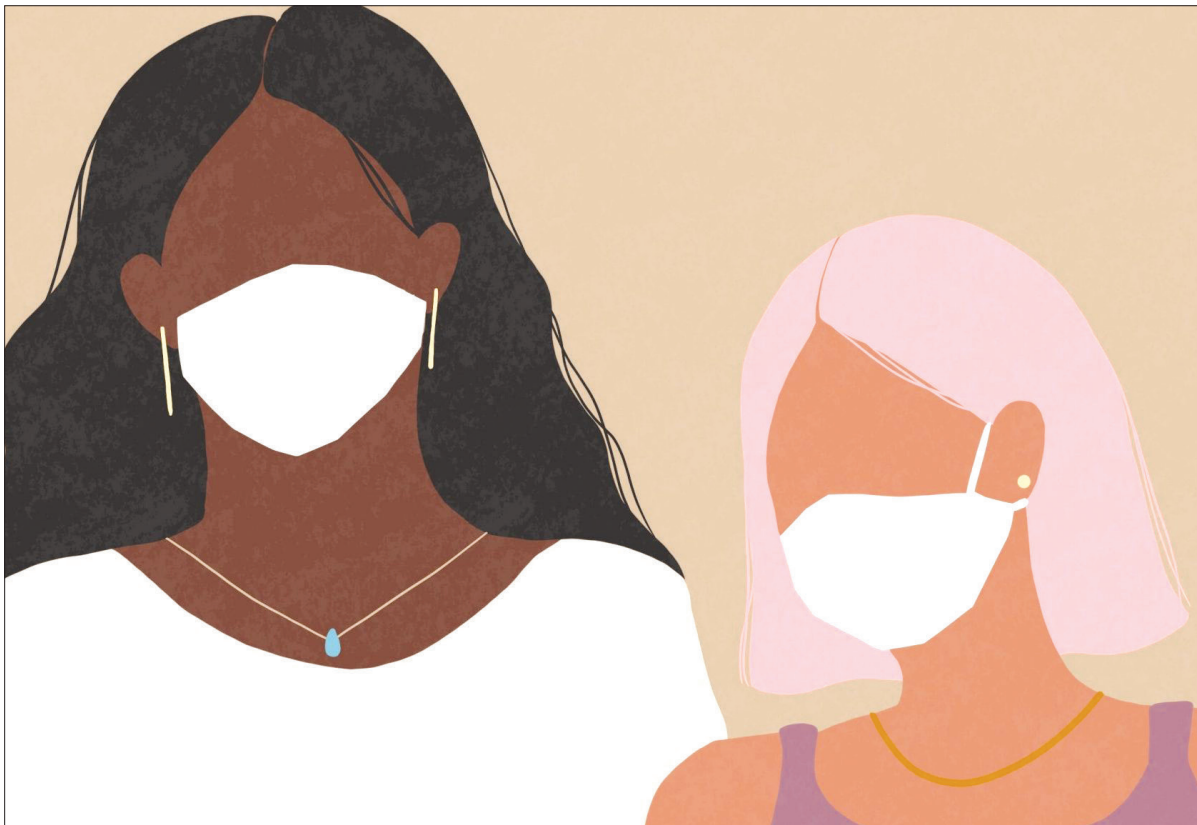
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Thursday, March 25, 2021

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YSU RECOGNIZES FEMALES THROUGHOUT MARCH



Graphic courtesy of Ada daSilva / iStocks.com

A major theme of this year's Women's History Month virtual events centered around COVID-19's impact on women.

Celebrating Women's History Month

By Kelcey Norris
The Jambar

Youngstown State University celebrates Women's History Month throughout March with virtual events. A multitude of these events include speaker sessions involving audience interaction and placed an emphasis on the current working woman during the COVID-19 pan-

demic.

Cryshanna Jackson Leftwich, associate professor and director of the women's and gender studies program at YSU, explained the main focus of their most recent events.

"This economic crisis has really impacted women of color and women in the workforce," Jackson said. "When the COVID-19 crisis hit, a lot of women had to drop out

of the workforce to start staying at home with children."

According to a survey by Brookings Research, one in four women had to quit their job to care for children who were sent home from school during the coronavirus pandemic.

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COVID-19 UPDATE YSU to host two vaccine clinics

By Abigail Cloutier
The Jambar

Youngstown State University announced in an email to the campus Wednesday that it will hold two vaccination clinics in Beeghly Center on March 3 and April 6. There are 800 slots each day from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and appointments are available to students, faculty, staff and family members. Appointments are required, and the registration link is available immediately through the email or on ysu-covid.com.

All slots for March 30 were filled Wednesday. Julie Gentile, director of the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety, said many students may have already received their doses elsewhere, but will adjust availability if demand increases.

Gentile worked with the Youngstown City Health Department to offer the vaccines.

"With the high demand and low supply that we've had in the state, it's been kind of difficult on our end to [acquire] the vaccine. So, it all happened honestly, really quickly," Gentile said. "About the time when Gov. DeWine came to the health district's vaccine clinic here, there was mention that the city health department would partner with [YSU]. So that was fantastic."

Currently, YSU is only offering the Moderna vaccine, which is only approved for those aged 18 and older. Gentile hopes the city will acquire Pfizer doses in the near future, which are approved for those 16 and older, to offer to YSU students currently under 18.

"Unfortunately, there may be a small subgroup of students who aren't 18 yet that might not qualify for this. So just pay attention to that. We're working on getting the Pfizer available at a later date just for that other population," Gentile said.

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"There was not enough childcare, so women had to quit jobs. The impact on women has just been monumental on families," Jackson said. "There's also disproportionate [responsibilities] when it comes to housework and chores, as well as stereotyping and things like that."

The first session, moderated by psychologist Ashley Gilmore, encouraged discussion among women of minority backgrounds about mental health.

"Healing Black Girls' Pain: Stereotyping, Microaggressions and Biases that Affect Black Girls and Women" was a collaboration between Jackson's department and the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

To begin her discussion, Gilmore introduced the viewers to a Black college student named Rachel. Like many other students across the country, she experienced microaggression while studying to become a lawyer, when she was only recognized by her professor for her athletic ability on the basketball team, not aspirations for her career.

"This white woman only thought I was there because of my athletic ability, not because of my intellectual abilities," Ra-

"This white woman only thought I was there because of my athletic ability, not because of my intellectual abilities. That was the start of my imposter syndrome, when I started to feel like I had something to prove."

- Rachel (Anonymous)

chel said. "That was the start of my imposter syndrome, when I started to feel like I had something to prove."

During the hour-long session, participants volunteered their stories of experiencing mental health issues like imposter syndrome, which involves doubting one's abilities to accomplish a goal.

Everyone was nodding in agreement to examples of stereotypes and microinvalidations at school and at work that they'd all experienced or heard about before.

"Microinvalidations are comments that subtly excuse the thoughts and experiences of a person of color," Gilmore said. "All-time favorite example of this is the phrase 'I don't see color.' This is an invalidation because if you don't see my color, then you don't truly see me as a person. What you do is you see my experience, hear about who I am, but you

don't see me. It's a microinvalidation to who I am as a person."

To wrap up Women's History Month, the women's and gender studies program hosted a virtual spoken word and poetry event March 23-25.

"This will be a really fun event to let people listen to poetry and gather together, and it will also be a writing clinic on top of that to help people looking to write and improve their poems," Jackson said. "We're trying to do something different, since it's been a lot of speakers and lectures going on."

YSU collaborated with John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City, led by professors Crystal Endsley and Tony Keith Jr. for the three-day workshop.

Finally to close the festivities commemorating women's history, the League of Women Voters of Youngstown will air a virtual Hall of Fame ceremony.

"Nine women will be inducted into the league's hall of fame, and they'll also announce the winner of the Tessier writing contest on March 25," Jackson said.

For registration and links to virtual meetings, visit the women's and gender studies website.

"There was not enough childcare, so women had to quit jobs. The impact on women has just been monumental on families. There's also disproportionate [responsibilities] when it comes to housework and chores, as well as stereotyping and things like that."

— Cryshanna Jackson Leftwich, associate professor and director of the women's and gender studies program at YSU

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On Monday, YSU reported just two new cases on its dashboard for the week of March 14-20. The count included one student living on campus and one student

living off campus. The week fell just after a long weekend that began with two Wellness Days: Thursday, March 11 and Friday, March 12.

The university also tested 90 students, staff and faculty through its voluntary surveillance testing

program. Two of those who volunteered tested positive. YSU has tested 676 people through the program since it was implemented the week of Jan. 31 through Feb. 6. Of those, just 19 participants (or 2.8%) tested positive.

YSU has reported a total of 583 positive COVID-19 cases since it first began tracking cases Aug. 1, 2020. Of those cases, 528 (or 90%) were students living on or off campus, while the remaining 55 were faculty and staff.



Check out JTV JambarTV

EveryBODY goes outside

Fashion show moves to the amphitheater

By Douglas M. Campbell
The Jambar

In Cushwa Hall down the corridor in room 3336, an adjunct merchandising fashion and interiors instructor, Jennifer Frank, and fashion students are making plans for a bigger, better and more fabulous 2021 EveryBODY fashion show.

The show will occur at 6 p.m on April 28. Frank is returning for her third non-consecutive year in charge of the show which is moving from the Chestnut room in Kilcawley Center to the Youngstown Foundation Amphitheatre.

“We’ve had several conversations with President Tressel about whether we would be able to have a show and we are very blessed that he is on-board with an outdoor location,” Frank said.

The show promotes inclusivity for all ages, sexualities and body-types. The show is dedicated to Danielle Peters, a former merchandising fashion and interiors student of Youngstown State University. Peters died due to complications from bulimia in the summer of 2012.

The production for this year’s show began in October 2020.

“We definitely had to do a big pivot and switch to an outdoor venue so that everyone can feel safe in attending and participating and we’ve been really fortunate that everything has been coming together,” Frank said.

Nursing students at the amphitheater entrance will ensure guests will follow Ohio Department of Health [ODH] guidelines. They will take the temperatures of guests, enforce masks to be worn for the show and assign seating.

Frank said challenges for the show this semester included adjusting communication to some models and guest speakers afraid to return due to the pandemic.

Gabriele Coggins, a senior accounting student, works double-duty as a hair and makeup artist and model. She was a student for the canceled 2020 fashion show and said the virus has made some people hesitant.

“As far as I know, I think that it’s only just getting



Photo courtesy of YSU Fashions and Interiors

The EveryBODY Fashion show, a staple of the YSU spring events, will be held outside this year.

people comfortable with a mass gathering even though there’s going to be a lot of social distancing and people being outside and everyone will have masks on, the idea that everything we have been going through and recovering our numbers from the COVID,” Coggins said.

Sarah Ketchum, a senior fashion merchandising major, works as a co-producer for the show and her duties include organizing the show and preparing invitations. This is her second non-consecutive year involved with the show. She was going to be a model for the 2020 show and has since moved behind the scenes.

“I really like the production of fashion shows, seeing behind the scenes and really getting to see what goes into a fashion show and what it takes,” Ketchum said.

Ketchum feels they will be able to advertise the show better due to the larger outdoor venue which is expected to draw in a bigger crowd.

To cater refreshments, Frank recruited Travon Eley and Anthony Petrovich, as they aspire to [get into] the food truck industry. For the show, they will serve mozzarella sticks, fried risotto balls and fried vegetables.

The show has recruited around 100 models and is now in the collaboration process of assembling outfits together with the help of T.J. Maxx in Boardman.

Devon Biggs, a junior communications major, has modeled for the EveryBODY fashion show for three years. He believes confidence is key when it comes to modeling.

“It’s a confidence thing,” Biggs said. “You just have to prepare yourself to be confident and know people are there to see you and want to see you at your best, so you just have to prepare yourself. Make sure you are walking at the right speed, that you are doing what you need to do and that you come out confident and as your best self.”

Gavin Haus, a 7-year-old model, has been modeling for the EveryBODY fashion show for three years. He got involved with the show because his father served as a model. He believes practice is the best way to prepare to model.

“We can practice some of the moves that I am going to do when I walk out. I can slick my hair or put my hands on my hips or do something,” Haus said.

Models will walk the runway one at a time and will have to wear a mask until it is their turn to walk.

Frank encourages people to come out to the show on April 28 and have a good time.

“Please don’t feel like you can’t come out and have a safe time. We are going to have a safe, fun event for everyone,” Frank said.

Steven Reese: Teaching and writing poetry

By Zach Mosca
The Jambar

While college professors are primarily seen as mentors and role models for students, there is often more to them than meets the eye. A shining example of this is Youngstown State University English professor Steven Reese.

Reese is a poet and has written poems since junior high school when he wrote a book for a project. Ever since then, he's taken an interest in poetry. Reese said he enjoys writing poems because of how unique the writing style is and how creative he can get with it.

"I like the sound of the language when it's rhythmically arranged and when it rhymes sometimes," Reese said. "I like how much could get said in such a small space."

Reese's work spans multiple decades and has seen many different moods and styles covering many different themes.

"My first two books of poems had a number of pieces about family. I have a couple of sons, so there's poems about them, but then it ranges to a lot of different concerns. Some of them quasi-political maybe, some are about language, some are about poetry itself, so it varies," Reese said.

Reese has cited many different poets as influences and inspiration to him, including Walt Whitman, Emily

"I like the sound of the language when it's rhythmically arranged and when it rhymes sometimes. I like how much could get said in such a small space."

— Steven Reese, Youngstown State University
English professor

Dickinson and Wallace Stevens.

When it comes to style, Reese said his poetry has matured a lot over the years with him taking more risks with structure and word choice.

"I think my first poems were sort of restrained a little bit in terms of word choices, tone and things like that. I think it's grown in being a little more adventurous about my style and form and also embracing larger subject matter," Reese said.

Reese attended Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, majoring in English, and earned his doctorate at the University of Delaware. From there, he was hired as a professor of English literature.

"There aren't jobs-a-plenty [in Delaware] in this line of work. So really, I had two choices given to me and [YSU] was by far the more preferable," Reese said.

Reese also chose to come to YSU because his father grew up in Youngstown, so the city has sentimental value to him.

Reese and his work left an impact on YSU students and faculty alike. English professor and author Christopher Barzak had Reese as a professor while a student at YSU, and now experiences a new dynamic with him as a fellow faculty member.

"Steve is laid-back and charming, and he always makes me laugh. Always a problem solver and calm presence. It's been a pleasure to be his student years ago and to work with him this last decade-and-a-half," Barzak said.

Reese said he is grateful for all the opportunities YSU provides him as both a poet and a professor.

"One of the real joys of working at YSU is having the ability to have [poetry] as my work in addition to teaching literature which I love to do as well," Reese said.

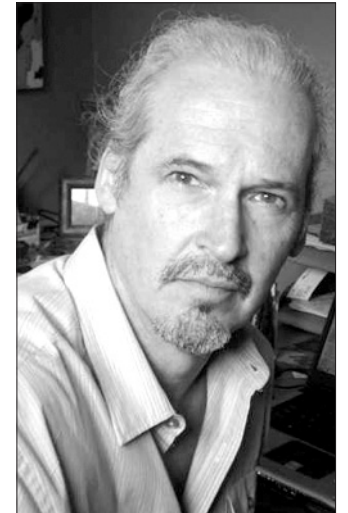


Photo courtesy of YSU
Steven Reese teaches English literature at YSU.

Curation 2 course's methods of cokemaking exhibit

By Samantha Smith
The Jambar

Youngstown State University professor Thomas Leary is partnering with the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor to research through the curation 2 art course the cokemaking process within steel mills. The final project will be presented in an online exhibit through the YHCIL website at the end of the semester.

Coke is the product of heating coal in reduced oxygen conditions. It's traditionally used for smelting iron ore, as fuel for blacksmithing and more. The curation course requires the students to learn about and research this process with the eventual goal to teach others about cokemaking in the steel industry.

Brooke Bobovnyk, second-semester grad student majoring in history, explains what will be in the exhibit.

"It basically talks about two past methods [of cokemaking]. We talk about beehive coke ovens, what they are, how they were constructed and then we give some examples ... then for byproduct, we talk about what the byproduct coke plants are, why they were used and how they're different."

— Brooke Bobovnyk, second-semester graduate student majoring in history

"It basically talks about two past methods [of cokemaking]," Bobovnyk said. "We talk about beehive coke ovens, what they are, how they were constructed and then we give some examples ... then for by-product, we talk about what the by-product coke plants are, why they were used and how they're different."

Each student has their own part in the project, such as researching past workers and collecting site documentation,

archived video and more.

Thomas Leary, professor of the course, explains the pros of the virtual exhibit.

"The virtual exhibit that the class is putting together will be able to present — to a wider audience than just people who visit the museum here — a topic in a format that I think more and more people are becoming familiar with," he said.

Jacob Harver, second-semester graduate student in the American studies

program, talked about the historical importance of the project, especially for the city of Youngstown.

"You can really trace the history of Youngstown as a city and industrial center through the fuel for iron blast furnaces," Harver said. "It started off with charcoal and then coal — especially Brier Hill coal, which was renowned for being such a pure source of fuel — and then it led into cokemaking. You're really tracing the city of Youngstown through that as well and the dominance of the steel industry here. It was a big part of that story and so we're hoping to document it."

Brooke Bobovnyk, Jacob Harver, Hannah Klacik and Brian Pete are the students involved in the project.

For more information about the upcoming exhibit, visit the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor's website under exhibits and projects.

VOLUNTEERS PREPARE RETURNS



Photo by Kelcey Norris / The Jambar

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program at Youngstown State University helps to alleviate some of those tax fears, especially those of international students.

Tax help for international students

By C. Aileen Blaine
The Jambar

Appointments still available Saturday and April 3

As the end of tax season lurks around the corner, first-time filers may find themselves uncertain or nervous of how to correctly approach the process. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program at Youngstown State University helps to alleviate some of those fears, especially those of international students.

VITA is a national program under the Internal Revenue Service, and it provides tax assistance to individuals who qualify. According to the VITA webpage hosted by the IRS, those who qualify for help in tax return preparation include “people who generally make \$54,000 or less, persons with disabilities, the elderly and limited English-speaking taxpayers.” At the university, volunteers assist with income tax preparation and electronic filing.

Ray Shaffer is the coordinator of YSU’s VITA site in Williamson Hall. He said volunteers at the university are certified and know how to complete nonresident tax forms for international students, such as Form 8843.

“Our students who prepared the taxes go through extensive training and are certified by the IRS to prepare tax returns,” Shaffer said. “Paid preparers who are not [certified public accountants] or enrolled agents do not

even have that type of requirement.”

Currently, there are 30 registered student volunteers, including five Master of Accountancy students. The participants earn 3 credit hours toward the semester, similar to an internship.

“They get an opportunity to do real taxes for real people, something you can’t do in a textbook or class; they improve communication skills by talking directly with taxpayers to prepare the returns — and taxpayers get their taxes done for free,” Shaffer said. “Everybody wins!”

Judith Guerrero Huerta, senior accounting major, first volunteered with the program last year, but operations were shut down midway due to the pandemic.

“We ended up coming up with a self-serve kind of thing — like TurboTax, but just for foreign students,” Guerrero Huerta said. “But [there’s] training that you need in order to complete these forms, they’re so confusing. I can’t even imagine how that turned out.”

This year, to maintain COVID-19 safety, the program uses a drop-off and pickup service, where tax filers leave their materials for volunteers to prepare and return to

approve the e-filing of the return.

However, Shaffer said, “It takes much longer and is more challenging because we must call taxpayers with questions and results, and many taxpayers do not answer.”

Guerrero Huerta said the program helped her learn through hands-on experience and provided her with the opportunity to meet new and interesting people.

“You’re able to learn a whole lot of history,” she said. “You’re able to see different perspectives. There’s a lot of different types of people out there that have lived all over the world that have all these amazing stories.”

For those who may have qualms about filing taxes, Shaffer offered encouraging words.

“It is not a scary thing — we just follow the tax laws and prepare the tax returns,” he said.

Appointments remain for international students only on Saturday, March 27 and Saturday, April 3. To schedule an appointment, call 330-941-2507. For concerns regarding needed materials, contact Nancy O’Hara at 330-971-3084.

STUDY UNIQUE AND INTERESTING AREAS



Photo by Kelcey Norris / The Jambar

Diversity forms a critical part of the curriculum, especially in the Beeghly College of Liberal Arts, Social Sciences and Education.

Beeghly College thrives on diversity

By Yousof Hamza
Jambar contributor

While studying at Youngstown State University, students can expect a diverse range of educational materials. Diversity forms a critical part of the curriculum, especially in the Beeghly College of Liberal Arts, Social Sciences and Education.

The chair of the humanities department, Alan Tomhave, said using material from various periods and cultures is important. The history program does a lot of work throughout the Mahoning Valley.

“History actually goes out into the community and looks at buildings to look at the history of architecture,” he said.

The steel industry is important to the material in the history program, he said. The industry shaped the geography of the region and influenced its philosophy and

ethics.

Tomhave said Beeghly College engages in team teaching to integrate other fields of study into the programs, but it still needs to do more to integrate the programs.

The philosophy department has taken measures to increase representation in its material. Tomhave said the field of philosophy is historically dominated by men, and female students should know there are important female philosophers.

“We made a commitment in philosophy many years ago to try and start working in more women philosophers into our reading lists,” Tomhave said.

Director of anthropology Matt O’Mansky said his program is limited in what it can cover as it only has four professors.

Each professor has a geographic specialty on which they primarily focus.

O’Mansky specializes in Mayan culture and primarily teaches on Central and South American culture. While they can’t cover everything, classes touch upon core concepts that apply globally.

Anthropology benefits from other disciplines. O’Mansky said professors collaborate with other departments to increase breadth and offer cross-listed courses.

“For example, in biological anthropology, Dr. Lease works with the biology department ... dealing generally with the human body,” O’Mansky said.

Joseph Palardy, coordinator of general studies, said YSU offers diversity in the general education requirements.

“Providing a diverse set of educational experiences that imparts broad knowledge, is a fundamental goal of YSU’s general education program,” he said. “The

diversity of YSU’s course offerings sets it apart from smaller schools and provides students with [the] opportunity to study unique and interesting areas.”

With the increase in human knowledge comes the demand from students to know more, Palardy said.

“However, educational breadth comes at the cost of specialization, and it is often difficult to determine the correct balance,” he said.

Palardy said the use of material from various disciplines makes students more flexible.

“Each different discipline brings its own unique knowledge, skills and ways of thinking that will affect a student’s education,” he said. “It is not always easy to specify what that affect will be considering all the different permutations of courses could take.”

Health majors tackle COVID-19

Pandemic complicates internships

By **Emily McCarthy**
The Jambar

Health care-related majors study everything from nursing, dentistry and long-term care administration at Youngstown State University. Many of these majors spend time off campus learning to work in the field before they graduate. For those students, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought on new and challenging experiences.

Katie Hansen, a senior nursing student, said she was able to get her first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in December and the second in January. Hansen said although adjusting to online learning has been difficult and working in the hospital has become more complicated, in some aspects, things are looking up.

“We are lucky to still be able to do our precepting ... which is where we follow a nurse one-on-one in the hospital for 120 hours,” she said. “We originally weren’t allowed to [care for] COVID patients, but they changed the rules slightly and if you were precepting in an area that would commonly see COVID patients, they are now allowing you to care for them.”

Hansen said the nursing program also covered the cost of getting everyone fit-tested for N95 masks. Nursing students aren’t the only students seeing changes to their learning process in the past year.

Daniel Van Dussen, director of long-term care and gerontology at YSU, said there were some initial, notable changes with his students when the pandemic hit, especially when it came to working

and learning online.

“[Senior students] are allowed to do a lot more online distance learning for certain parts of their administrative training they weren’t allowed to before, so [there are] some more virtual types of things. Others are having to do more virtual work, especially the home-community-based services ... they can’t be in offices since most of those people are working virtually themselves,” he said. “They do a 1,000 clock-work hour internship in long-term care, so it’s a full school year.”

Jeffery Allen, dean of Bitonte College of Health and Human Services, said while there have been a lot of difficulties throughout the learning experience during the pandemic, there are some positive effects, too.

“When you talk about the clinical side of so much of our training in both health care and human service fields, that has been more of a challenge for students,” he said. “In some way, the challenge of the pandemic has left an educational gift for them ... you are getting all the same sort of didactic and clinical instruction that you would have two years ago before this happened, but now, you are also learning to be more nimble in the face of a public health crisis.”

Allen said while nurses are typically seen as the heroes of public health, respiratory care workers also play a big role, especially with COVID-19. One of the positive surprises he said he noticed was how this public health crisis seemed to increase awareness for these other disciplines and engage more students interested in these fields.

“They do a 1,000 clock-work hour internship in long-term care, so it’s a full school year.”

— **Daniel Van Dussen**, director of long-term care and gerontology at Youngstown State University



Photo courtesy of Carly Berlon
Carly Berlon graduated in May 2019 and works in the COVID-19 intensive care unit at the Cleveland Clinic.

PENGUINS DOMINATE HOMECOMING GAME



Red-shirt freshman Mark Waid, Coach Doug Phillips and teammates celebrate after the game.

Photo by Yousof Hamza / The Jambar

YSU football team gets its first win

By Jordan Boitnott
The Jambar

After a rocky 0-4 start to the season, the Youngstown State University football team was able to finally get its first win against the University of South Dakota in the Ice Castle on homecoming weekend. The Penguins were able to dominate on both sides of the ball in a 28-10 victory. Last Saturday was the first game of the season the Penguins played a non-ranked opponent.

Doug Phillips, YSU's head coach, said he was very happy and proud of his team after its first win. In his postgame press conference Saturday, he said the team overcame all the obstacles along the way.

"I'm just happy for the kids, to go through the year we went through and when you get victory it's usually, you think of the journey and to know where we came from through the pandemic, through the quarantines, being shut down," Phillips said. "To be able to go out and get a win for our kids, get a win for

"Playing football, man, rush and coverage work together. I know any defensive coordinator always says that. If the pass rush is working then the coverage is working. If you're doing both, one in the same, you'll come out with sacks or turnovers."

— Zaire Jones, senior defensive back

Youngstown, get a win for the fans that were in the stands who were incredible, you could hear them. I mean that's what we work for and I'm just so proud of our kids."

According to YSU Sports, the defense took control of the game with five sacks and forced three turnovers. Zaire Jones, senior defensive back, said the defense is doing a great job of playing together in his post-game press conference.

"Playing football, man, rush and coverage work together. I know any defen-

sive coordinator always says that. If the pass rush is working, then the coverage is working. If you're doing both, one in the same, you'll come out with sacks or turnovers," he said.

The offense was just as dominant, especially on the ground racking up 303 rushing yards. Running back Jaleel McLaughlin led the way with 166 yards. McLaughlin has impressed in his last three games rushing for at least 122 yards a game. Freshman quarterback Mark Waid had 74 yards and a touchdown on the

ground.

Sophomore kicker Colten McFadden made two field goals, his longest clocking in at 41 yards. Phillips said one of the keys to winning was the improvement of the special teams unit.

"That 41 yarder is the longest I think Colten has had here at the Ice Castle, so for him to be able to do that. We haven't been consistent there and to be able to see us be 100% in our conversions and our field goals was great. That part of football depends on a lot of variables," he said. "It depends on the seven to eight guys protecting up front, great center snap, to the hold, getting the laces you know there is a lot things going, but I thought he had a great week of practice, seeing him go in the game -- we were very happy for Colt."

The Penguins will play their last home game this Saturday at 12 p.m. against No. 6 ranked University of North Dakota. This will be the first time the teams have faced off since 1962 when the Penguins lost 20-7.



Photo courtesy of Avery Howard

Seniors Avery Howard and Brooke Schaefers, both biology majors, were crowned the 2021 Homecoming King and Queen.



Photo courtesy of Christina Wood

Juniors Angela Pell and Christina Wood posing in the stands of Stambaugh Stadium.

King and queen crowned

Howard, Schaefers rule homecoming

By Abigail Cloutier
The Jambar

Youngstown State University's one and only spring homecoming crowned a king and queen on the field of Stambaugh Stadium last Saturday. Homecoming king Avery Howard is a senior biology major and the vice president of the Student Government Association. He was nominated for homecoming court by SGA. Homecoming queen went to Brooke Schaefers, a senior biology major, who was nominated by the Dana Tube Euphonium Society.

"I think it was a little surreal for me. Everyone on homecoming court deserved it, they worked very hard for it. It was very validating for me that I was able to touch so many people that felt like I deserved it," Howard said.

Howard and Schaefers have known each other since freshman year.

"Having all my friends in the stands, and my mom and my brother — it was so surreal. In that moment, I just got that feeling that through my entire four years here at YSU [that] we've made an impact in people's lives. Now that I'm going to be graduating, it means a lot to me that I was able to touch so many people because they've [all] touched my life in so many ways," Schaefers said.

As out-of-state students, both want to be remembered for their leadership and involvement on campus.

"You don't need to generate your college experience on your entire major. Holding leadership roles helped me know who I was and find my own voice. No matter where you go in college, you're there to gain new experiences and follow different paths. Doing that, I became the person I am now, which I think is slightly different from the person who I was when I started this whole experience," Howard said.

They encouraged other students to put effort into creating their desired college experiences.

"You can open so many doors and so many opportunities that are outside your major, that are even outside of like the university [and] in the community. It's just really how you take those opportunities and how you put 100% effort into everything you do," Schaefers said.

After graduation, Howard plans to attend graduate school and become a genetic counselor, while Schaefers is attending graduate school for marine mammal science.

"Having all my friends in the stands, and my mom and my brother, it was so surreal. In that moment, I just got that feeling that through my entire four years here at YSU [that] we've made an impact in people's lives. Now that I'm going to be graduating, it means a lot to me that I was able to touch so many people because they've [all] touched my lives in so many ways."

— Brooke Schaefers, senior biology major

The pandemic affects peer tutoring

By Jessica Stamp
The Jambar

The peer tutoring programs at Youngstown State University have changed how they help students with their courses. The Center for Student Progress, as well as the Writing Center and Language Learning Resource Center, transitioned almost completely to remote tutoring.

Michael Greco, assistant director for student tutorial services in the Center for Student Progress, lost many tutors when switching to online.

“I had 85 student tutors on the staff, and when the pandemic began [during] the switch to remote instruction, I immediately lost 20 tutors on my staff,” Greco said.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the CSP only offered face-to-face tutoring. Now, it provides both in-person and online tutoring for over 200 courses.

The CSP collaborated with faculty and department chairs to assess the needs of YSU students and the faculty. After the adjustment to remote learning, the program saw the number of tutors increase again.

“Now that everyone’s kind of adjusted to Webex, being online, it’s really become the norm and everyone’s developed a comfort level,” Greco said.

The CSP is now more flexible and lenient with students on attendance or session cancellations than it was before the pandemic.

“Sometimes students just have a con-

“Sometimes students just have a connection issue. There’s something wrong with their computer that’s outside of their control. Sometimes the technology won’t cooperate and that’s really not the student’s fault.”

— Michael Greco, assistant director for students tutorial services in the Center for Student Progress



Photo by Jessica Stamp / The Jambar

Jenna DeLuca, junior Italian and information technology double major, with another peer tutor discussing techniques to help students.

nection issue. There’s something wrong with their computer that’s outside of their control,” Greco said. “Sometimes the technology won’t cooperate and that’s really not the student’s fault.”

The process to become a peer tutor at the CSP has not changed, but there is more of an emphasis on recommendations from faculty members and students describing their capabilities with technology like Webex and Zoom.

“That is something I added to the interview questions,” Greco said. “To describe their experience with technology, with Webex and other forms of technology that we use, so it’s something that we’d look for [but] it’s not a requirement in the position.”

Angela Messenger, the coordinator for the Writing Center, said she had no problems switching the center to online tutoring.

“The Writing Center has always offered online appointments, so it was not

“The Writing Center has always offered online appointments so it was not that complicated for us to make adjustments.”

— Angela Messenger, coordinator for the Writing Center

that complicated for us to make adjustments,” Messenger said.

Recently, the WC merged with the LLRC. On the WC website, students can schedule an appointment at both facilities and choose between online synchronous and asynchronous appointments.

“Once students are registered on the website, they can schedule appointments at either center,” Messenger said.

Messenger said the WC has also partnered with ConneX, a communications tutoring lab on campus, and offers its services through the same scheduling system.

Some tutors, like Jenna DeLuca, junior Italian and information technology double major, like in-person tutoring

better than remote.

“For me, I need that in-person connection ... I like to connect with people when I’m teaching them. I like to have a physical whiteboard, I like to have them in the tutoring room with me,” DeLuca said. “I feel like it’s a better environment,”

DeLuca said she is used to the online tutoring conditions by now and understands if students prefer it that way.

CSP has tutor position openings, and students can sign up anytime. Students interested in scheduling an appointment or becoming a peer tutor with the CSP, WC or LLRC can visit their pages on the YSU website for more information.



Photo by Hailey Rogenski / The Jambar
Students and fans of YSU can purchase spiritwear from the exclusive gear supplier on campus, Barnes & Noble.

Spiritwear, sports make comeback

Sales increase with return of games

By Hailey Rogenski
Jambar Contributor

After delayed and canceled sports seasons, Youngstown State University spiritwear is making a comeback among students. The pandemic caused a decrease of sales at local sportswear companies.

According to Diane Jones, her store, Jones & Associates in Austintown, saw a decline in sportswear sales after seasons were canceled. Her online store helped her keep some of her income.

“At first, all of the teams we normally work with in the spring canceled all of their orders because they weren’t allowed to play. I decided to concentrate our efforts on the upcoming football season,” Jones said. “Our online stores kept us thriving during that time.”

Sportswear sales have picked up since games have returned, Jones said.

“We’ve seen an uptick and teams are better able to plan this year because they’re fairly certain that they will have a good season,” Jones said. “We’ve gotten a lot more teams coming in to order uniforms.”

Jones said her store has been in business for 32 years. It makes YSU spiritwear in many different styles, such as hoodies, T-shirts, baseball caps, sweatpants and leggings.

“We specialize in glitter and rhinestone designs which are very popular. T-shirts start at \$18, long sleeve tees are about \$25 depending on what you want on it. Hoodies run \$30 and golf shirts run between \$35 and \$50,” Jones said.

YSU’s Barnes & Noble bookstore is another popular destination for YSU spiritwear and other school spirit-themed merchandise. Although Heather White, the manager of the YSU bookstore, stated she isn’t allowed to disclose sales information about the store, she agrees it has been

a difficult year for all of YSU with the pandemic.

“Because there are less people on campus, or less people spending the same amount of time on campus than they usually would have, there have of course been less people physically in the store,” she said.

White said purchases made through Barnes & Noble’s online site helped during the period with the absence of sports.

“Fortunately, no matter where our students and fans are, we offer all of our products on our website, which is ysubookstore.com,” White said.

The bookstore sells a variety of merchandise including some name-brand items.

“We have items that are cotton, performance wear like Under Armour and Nike, and my personal favorite is tri-blend,” White said.

The bookstore opened July 7, 2017, White said. She hopes to see more faces appear in the store in the future.

“We are eager to see our store return to its role as a social hub once we are past the pandemic,” she said.

Select Sportswear in Niles is another local store selling YSU spiritwear. Mary McCarty, president of the company, and Mary Bennett, operations manager of the store, said the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting lack of athletic games took away from their sales as well.

“Nobody was buying any product because there were no sports to attend and very few people could go to the games,” Bennett said.

Select Sportswear has been open for about 25 years. It sells items such as hats, hoodies and pants. Prices range from \$5-100 depending if the merchandise is name brand. McCarty said sales have escalated slightly, but the company hopes to see more in the future.

“Everybody wants an increase in sales,” McCarty said.

The Jambar Editorial

Stimulus checks and college students

In early March, President Joe Biden signed a \$1.9 trillion federal COVID-19 relief package bill, known as the American Rescue Plan, into law. Included in this bill is a third round of \$1,400 stimulus checks for all qualifying Americans.

One key difference in this round of checks compared to previous ones is that adult dependents now qualify, which includes many college students.

However, this causes us to ask ourselves: Why did it take so long for adult dependents to qualify in the first place? A great chunk of adult dependents are

college students who have plenty of expenses of their own, including tuition costs and textbooks in addition to essential needs such as rent, food and gas. This makes it all the more puzzling why previous stimulus checks did not take these expenses into account.

While some students may still live at home, our parents only have so much money themselves, so they can't afford to cover all of our expenses, nor should they be expected to. When stimulus checks go out to independents only, not much of that would go toward the common col-

lege student's expenses, if any at all.

However, whatever the reasoning is for many of us being ignored before, it's good to know adult dependents are now being recognized. While this sole stimulus check won't cover all of our current expenses nor repay the entirety of previous debt, when combined with more consistent paychecks in this slowly-reopening world, it is a great help for us. If more stimulus checks need to be sent out in the future, we can only hope that adult dependents will qualify for them once again.

THE JAMBAR POLICY

Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Press Collegiate Press honors. The Jambar is published weekly in the spring and fall semesters. The Jambar is free for YSU students and faculty.

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The editorial board consists of the editor-in-chief, managing editor, news editor, arts and entertainment editor and head copy editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles and do not reflect the opinions of any individual staff member. The Jambar's business manager, multimedia journalists and non-writing staff do not contribute to editorials, and the adviser does not have final approval.

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“Everybody is going to have an opinion on you; not everyone is going to like you. You can't live your life based on other people's opinions of you or let that change what you do or how you feel about yourself, because then you're not living.”

— Rumer Willis

The Sidebar

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TheJambarYSU

The Madness of March resumes

The COVID-19 pandemic swept across the nation just over a year ago and canceled many endeavours across all forms of entertainment. The first major sports championships canceled were the men's and women's NCAA basketball tournaments. Admittedly, "March Madness," as it is often referenced to, is my favorite event during the sports calendar and I was very sad when it was called off last year. However, this year the madness resumes with the men's and women's brackets revealed last Sunday and Monday, respectively. Neither Youngstown State University squad made its respective tournaments this year, but during the 1990s the women's team went on a historic run never seen before or since.

According to the YSU women's basketball record book, Hall of Fame head coach Ed DiGregorio led the women's team to three NCAA tournaments in a five-year span. For a program of YSU's size, this was quite a feat. The Penguins' first trip to "The Dance" came in 1996 after winning the Mid-Con Conference regular season and tournament titles. It was the team's second consecutive conference regular season title, and the first outright



Ben Luli

YSU was selected as a 15-seed and was matched up with 2-seed Penn State University in the first round. The team held its own against the Nittany Lions for 25 minutes, trailing by only one point. However, YSU's hopes of pulling the upset faded away after a 19-0 run by Penn State, eventually falling 94-71. YSU ended the season 20-9 overall including a 14-4 mark in the Mid-Con Conference. Junior Liz Hauger was named first-team all-conference and led the Penguins in scoring with 16.4 points per game.

After missing the tournament in 1998, YSU was hungry for a return trip to "The Dance." The Penguins won its fourth consecutive Mid-Con Conference regular season title and stormed through the

title in program history. The Penguins cruised through the Mid-Con tournament by defeating Western Illinois, Troy, and Buffalo, all by double figures, to earn its first trip to the NCAA tournament.

conference tournament defeating Chicago State, Southern Utah and Valparaiso, to earn its second automatic bid into the NCAA tournament. After an impressive 27-2 campaign, YSU earned a 12-seed and drew 5-seed Memphis in the first round. The Penguins pulled off the upset, 91-80, for the program's first NCAA tournament victory. YSU did not fare as well against 4-seed North Carolina State in the second round losing 88-61.

The Penguins finished the season with a program-record 28 wins, with a 15-1 mark in the conference and a 16-game winning streak. Four of YSU's five starters earned all-conference accolades, as Mid-Con Player of the Year Shannon Beach and Ann Marie Martin were named to the first team. Martin led the team with 16.3 points per game while Beach averaged 13.8 points and shot better than 40% from behind the arc. Beach graduated from the same high school I did, so it's only right I unapologetically plug Waterloo High School of Atwater, Ohio.

The last trip to the NCAA tournament came in 2000, capping off an impressive run by the women's program. YSU's streak of five consecutive Mid-Con regu-

lar season championships ended but they battled back in the conference tournament. YSU defeated Southern Utah and Western Illinois before meeting Valparaiso in the final, winning 73-57 and punching their ticket to the NCAA tournament. Just like in 1996, YSU was selected as a 15-seed and faced Penn State in the first round. The Nittany Lions defeated the Penguins 83-63, but YSU did etch themselves into the record books by draining a record 12 3-pointers in the loss. YSU finished 22-9 for the season, earning its fifth straight 20-win season. Brianne Kenneally was named the Mid-Con Player of the Year and tournament MVP, leading the Penguins with 18.7 points per game. Three-point specialist Leslie Majewski earned second team all-conference honors after sinking 70 triples.

The 1990s were a golden age of women's basketball for the university. During the decade, YSU won 196 games, including six 20-win seasons, five of which came in the second half of the decade. They made three NCAA tournaments and won the Mid-Con Conference regular season title five straight times, from 1996 to 2000.



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Several YSU athletes enter the NCAA Transfer Portal

By Kyle Willis
The Jambar

Several Youngstown State University athletes have entered the NCAA Transfer Portal over the last few weeks. Notable names include senior Mary Dunn and freshman standout Nneka Obiazor from the women's basketball team and junior Darius Quisenberry from the men's basketball team. Antoine Cook, junior defensive end, also entered the transfer portal from the football team.

Last fall, the NCAA proposed a one-time transfer rule to give all Division I student-athletes the ability to transfer and compete immediately once during their collegiate career without suffering the penalty of sitting out. The rule has since been approved.

In order to be eligible to transfer, athletes must leave their previous school academically eligible. Athletes are prohibited from playing in the same academic season at two different schools. An athlete's previous school does not have any ability to object to the transfer.

Obiazor turned in one of the best seasons from a freshman in the history of the women's basketball program. The freshman averaged 15.3 points per game shooting 48.9% from the field and 42.5% from behind the arc. She also contributed on the glass averaging 8.1 rebounds per game.

Obiazor's 15.3 points per game ranks her third all-time by freshmen. During the season, Obiazor was named Horizon League Freshman of the Week four times, and her season performance was strong enough to earn her the title Freshman of the Year, as well as All-Horizon League Third Team.

Dunn, who received a medical redshirt following a knee injury last season, was a force in the paint, averaging 16.4 points per game, shooting 51.6% while averaging 5.9 rebounds. She earned All-Horizon League Second Team and is entering the portal with one year left of eligibility.

Following the conclusion of the men's basketball season last year, Quisenberry declared for the NBA Draft

before withdrawing and returning to YSU for this past season. This season, the junior averaged 14.9 points per game with 3.1 assists while shooting 35.6% from the field.

Cook was a leader on YSU's defensive front. He had 17 tackles with 3.5 sacks this season. Cook also spent a lot of time on the field last year as well.

During the weekly press conference this past Tuesday, head football coach Doug Phillips talked about his view on the transfer portal and why student-athletes are choosing to jump in.

"I try to focus on what I can control. I can't control that," he said. "I know the portal has benefited us and I'm sure every program can say it has benefited. For coaches, it's a double-edged sword. Some kids choose to jump in the portal because maybe they cannot get on the field and they want to play and they want to play where they can get more reps. It's the lifestyle we're living in right now."

The Jambar will continue to provide updates on YSU student-athletes entering the transfer portal.

Past Penguin recognizes, fills local need for indoor golf facility

By Joseph Chapman
The Jambar

The Mahoning Valley will soon be home to a premiere golf entertainment and training center. Youngstown State University alumnus Jonah Karzmer has been involved in the local golf scene since his graduation from YSU in 2004, and he recognized a need for an indoor golf facility. When the Southern Park Mall in Boardman announced a plan for redevelopment, Karzmer began investing in the location that will now become The Bunker.

The Bunker is a large space, containing a 6,000 square foot outdoor patio, the Youngstown Hall of Fame bar, the family dining room, a members dining area, the simulator space and the backroom learning center known as the Ben Curtis Academy.

The patio will be one of the largest outdoor entertainment spaces in the area. It will be home to a dining area, a large bar and fire pits. Karzmer is also hopeful it will have a cigar area — a popular treat among golfers.

The Bunker will have the option for memberships in addition to daily passes for golfers of all ages. These memberships will allow for discounted simulator use, access to members only dining events, access to the Ben Curtis Academy train-

ing facility and lessons and the ability to charge food and beverage to a membership account. The latter will allow parents to send their children to The Bunker without the worry of them losing cash.

Karzmer also discussed the wide range of functions offered by the simulators.

"I've wanted the space to be of value to golfers of all skill levels and nongolfers. I mean, I went to TopGolf last year. It was amazing, like 75% of people there would never go to a golf course but they were loving it," Karzmer said. "You can come out and play the same type of games that you play at Topgolf. Closest to the pin and points. They [also] have a pig game on the driving range ... You can play 18 holes at Pebble Beach and they're very accurate and guys who I golf with, where we want to bet and be serious. It'll serve a purpose for us [too]."

Each simulator bay will fit eight people and house a high top bar as well as a couch and dining area. A dedicated server will allow patrons to order food and drink from Bogey's while playing.

The Ben Curtis Academy training facility allows for practice with actual balls. It features a putting green, driving range, a short game area, a classroom and a snack shack which will house "made-to-order" stations where customers can order food. This area will be made available to YSU men's and women's golf teams, as well as

local high school teams at a small cost. Fundraising options will be made available to these programs to offset the cost.

Karzmer spoke about their mentality when constructing this area.

"I looked at it [like] what I wish I had when I was 14. If I had the opportunity to come in and practice, putt with my buddies, do some math homework or food. Do some more practicing," Karzmer said. "Hopefully, it'll be a welcoming space for juniors to be able to come spend a lot of time and feel safe. For the parents, not have to carry cash and have to be in a bar."

Karzmer also discussed how his former college teammate, PGA Tour major champion and business partner Ben Curtis, sets himself apart as an instructor.

"I'm a big fan of the PGA of America, and I respect the heck out of PGA golfers. I think there's a different experience between being a teaching pro and playing on the PGA Tour. So, you know, obviously his experience in the game is going to be different than what most teachers have."

Since Curtis began instructing, he has been passionate about giving back to the communities that he serves. The Ben Curtis Family Foundation previously served in and around the Kent area.

"They do a lot of fundraising to fight child hunger. So they collect donations. They buy a ton of food. They have like 50 volunteers weekly — they put together

these birdie bags and they deliver them. They feed, like, 2,600 families a week," Karzmer said.

This inspired The Bunker's "social good component."

"We added a feature to our software — which has been built out right now — called the 'Round Up' option. So, anytime you pay for anything throughout the place, you'll have the option to round up to the nearest dollar and we'll collect that money. That money will go half to the Ben Curtis Foundation and half to the YSU men's and women's golf teams," Karzmer said.

Karzmer is collaborating with local restaurateur Melvin McKee, the operator of Bogey's Bar and Grille out of Lowellville, for all of The Bunker's food. They will offer everything from casual bar food to high-end specials such as steaks and seafoods. They call it "American with an Italian grandma flair." Although the name is a coincidence it is fitting to belong to the restaurant of the golf-themed locale.

"There's a lot to [The Bunker] and hopefully we do a nice job of making people aware of [it]. If your family wants to come in for a nice dinner, we've got something for you. If you're a 12-year-old that's interested in golf, we've got something for you. If you're a 40-year-old scratch golfer who wants to play more golf in the winter-time, we've got something for you."

THE MIDWAY POINT



The women's soccer team faced off against IUPUI Wednesday.

Photo by Joseph Chapman / The Jambar

Women's soccer changes approach

By Joseph Chapman
The Jambar

Although the team didn't get the chance to play until February, Youngstown State University's women's soccer has been fighting for results. The team has a young core of players developing at a steady pace.

Sophomore forward Marcella Sizer has already scored three goals in six games, working toward her total of five goals in her freshman season. She spoke about how far the team has come since last season.

"Last year, we were freshmen and didn't have the experience, but now we have a year down and we're just doing a lot better with connecting with each other," Sizer said.

The Penguins are a tactically flexible side who are capable of playing multiple formations depending mainly on player availability. Their preferred system, 4-3-3, allows Sizer to play at the head of an attacking trident as the #9 with sophomore forwards Regan LaVigna and Abriana Rondin taking up positions on the flanks.

Sizer spoke about how she has grown as a striker moving into her second season.

"I have more ideas and tools I can use now that I'm a sophomore. I like coming to the ball more like last year. I was just kind of looking for through balls and balls thrown on but I like coming into the midfield and getting the ball and being able to turn to play [Rondin] and [Pampus into the final third]," she said.

Rondin tied the YSU women's soccer freshman single-season assist record last year with four assists, and

she already has two more to add to the tally. She spoke about her success playing as a winger this season.

"Playing on the wing again has definitely helped my creativity and getting the ball to [Marcella]. Most of the time it's been to her head, which she did get to score on the season, which was really exciting," Rondin said. "Just being able to use my speed and going end line and trying to get a cross off with my right foot, which is my dominant foot. Our team has seen a lot of success with it and we just keep growing with that too."

Rondin also spoke about the influence of former professional player John Ball on her game. Ball served as Rondin's coach from ages 10 to 13.

"He was the person that really brought me out of my shell and forced me to use all the moves that I worked on in my backyard and kind of inspired me to actually use them in the game," she said. "That's come out more this season."

The Penguins also enjoy the 3-4-3 system as it allows the team to play with an extra midfielder while maintaining its front three. Rondin talked about playing in a 4-4-2 in a recent match.

"Marcella and I split up top, and it was definitely a change. But we work really well together, complementing each other on the field. We have pretty good communication where wherever [Sizer] makes a run, I'll make the opposite and vice versa. That's worked out pretty well for us," she said.

Rondin has also been used as one of two creators in the 4-4-2's central double pivot. In this formation, the Penguins prefer using defenders in the wide positions to

enable a more consistent press.

Senior captain and defender Lexi Neal spoke about the team goal of possessing the ball longer in the opponent's half and the destructiveness of counter attacks.

"Something we've been focusing on a lot in practice is sustaining the ball on the opponent's half. That's definitely something that we have improved on, I would say immensely, this year," Neal said. "As for the conceding of the goals, I think when we lose the ball on transition. I feel like that's when we're conceding most of our goals ... Usually, when we go down a goal in the past, we haven't been able to come back, but this year we've been able to answer a lot."

This season, Neal enjoys the freedoms of changing positions. Although in the past she has been deployed mainly as a center-half, she now favors the fullback role where she has the liberty to move into advanced wide positions. From there, she can support the wingers and take one-vs.-ones against the opposing fullback.

Neal also discussed how coach Brian Shrum has shifted the entire mentality of the program.

"He's brought a great change to this team," Neal said. "From my freshman year to now, we've improved immensely. It's a totally different team and the program is going in a good direction. I feel lucky to have been a part of it, even if the results are to come."

This past Wednesday, the Penguins played IUPUI. The fixture ended in a 0-0 draw. Look out for women's soccer's next result at Wright State University next Tuesday, March 30, and be sure to catch the last home game Monday, April 5 against Robert Morris University.