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IMPLEMENTING NUCLEAR STUDIES

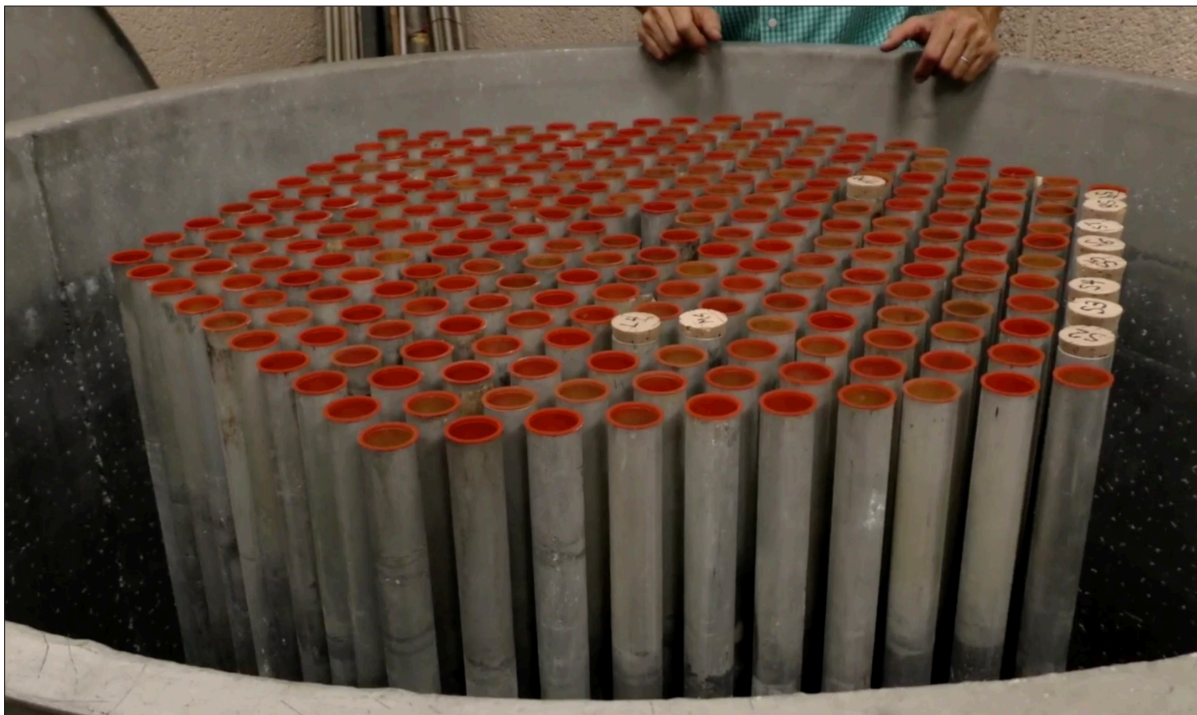


Photo by Yousof Hamza / The Jambar

Located in Ward Beecher Hall, the nuclear reactor is a metal cylinder about 6.5 feet tall and 5 feet in diameter. It contains 272 tubes, each with five pellets of natural uranium.

Ward Beecher holds nuclear reactor

By Yousof Hamza
Jambar contributor

Youngstown State University is one of only two colleges in Ohio home to a nuclear reactor.

Located in Ward Beecher Hall, the reactor is a metal cylinder about 6.5 feet tall and 5 feet in diameter. It contains 272 tubes, each with five pellets of natural

uranium. YSU's subcritical nuclear reactor is occasionally used by students for experiments.

Gregg Sturuss, acting chair of the physics, astronomy, geology and environmental sciences department, said the reactor was built to supplement YSU's previously offered nuclear engineering minor.

"The idea was, back in the '60s,

you know nuclear power's going to be the wave of the future, so let's train some people," Sturuss said.

The reactor was first used in 1962, and the uranium was provided on loan by the Atomic Energy Commission, according to Jambar articles written in November 1961 and May 1962.

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COVID-19 update

15 new cases on campus, Johnson & Johnson vaccine clinics canceled

By C. Aileen Blaine and Abigail Cloutier
The Jambar

Youngstown State University reported 15 new COVID-19 cases for the week of April 4. Two were students living on campus and 13 were students living off campus. YSU also tested 138 students, faculty and staff through its voluntary testing program, with four coming back positive. For the week of March 28, there were 13 new cases. All were students living off-campus.

YSU canceled two vaccination clinics intended to administer the Johnson & Johnson single-dose vaccine early Tuesday morning when the Food and Drug Administration released a statement regarding concerns for potential side effects. The clinics were scheduled for April 13 and 20.

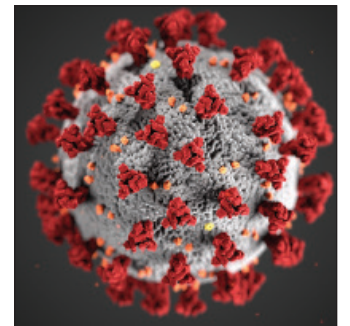


Photo courtesy of Pexels.com

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COVID-19

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The Youngstown City Health Department notified Youngstown State University Tuesday morning of the decision to cancel the clinics due to the uncertainty regarding the vaccine.

Shannon Tirone, associate vice president of University Relations, said the office called students scheduled for the April 13 clinic to alert them of the cancellation. Many were grateful for the notification.

“We are going to try and reach out and see if we can get a third clinic here on campus, with either Pfizer or Moderna,” Tirone said. “We’re hopeful that we might be able to offer that.”

Tirone acknowledged that there is not enough time to offer students additional clinics with the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines before the semester is over.

“The good thing is that a majority of our students live in the local area,” Tirone said. “Whether it’s us bringing a vaccination clinic here on campus or working with other entities to make sure that the vaccine is available when students are in sessions ... we’re going to do everything we can to be able to open up those possibilities for them.”

According to the FDA, 6.8 million Americans have already received the J&J vaccine as of April 12, but dose administrations across the nation are on hold until more information is available.

The FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said they’re reviewing data concerning six reported cases of a rare and serious type of blood clot, called cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST), in J&J vaccine recipients. This particular type of blood clot requires treatment different from

what might typically be administered. In typical blood clot cases, the anticoagulant drug heparin is used, but in the case of CVST, the low levels of blood platelets can make this treatment dangerous.

Of the cases under study, six women between the ages of 18 and 48 experienced symptoms six to 13 days after receiving their vaccinations. According to the New York Times, one of these women has died and another is hospitalized. In the statement, the FDA said, “Right now, these adverse events appear to be extremely rare.”

Gov. Mike DeWine and the Ohio Department of Health advised all Ohio vaccine providers to cease J&J doses, and the ODH will continue to follow further developments.

Nuclear

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The nuclear engineering minor was eventually dropped due to retiring faculty and a lack of interest in nuclear power after the Three Mile Island accident in 1979.

There was a partial meltdown at the nuclear reactor in Londonderry, Pennsylvania, which released radiation into the environment. It is the worst nuclear accident in U.S. history.

While Sturrus said he doesn’t believe the nuclear engineering minor will be reinstated, he wants students to think about the future of nuclear energy.

He said with the rise in electric vehicles, there needs to be enough electricity produced to drive the world’s transportation.

“Maybe it’s hard to say, because it’s politically not very favorable -- [but] nuclear energy will once again be the way to go. I don’t know,” Sturrus said.

While nuclear energy may be controversial, there’s no possibility of a radiation accident on campus, Sturrus said, because the reactor is unable to sustain a nuclear chain reaction.

“So, someone’s going to give you a lawn mower, but doesn’t give you any gas.

That’s what we got,” Sturrus said. “We’ve got the lawn mower sitting there with no gas. No possibility of gas. So there is no possibility of that thing blowing up, unless somebody dropped the bomb on it and the bomb blew up. It just can’t go critical.”

Sturrus said the reactor is used by the Modern Physics Lab and it’s been about 10 years since they used the reactor. This has been influenced by safety concerns for female students.

University radiation safety officer Tim Styranec said for best practice, the university errs on the side of caution.

“Any time you deal with radiation — or even chemicals — we always make sure we let the female students know about the issues,” Styranec said. “Because if a woman is possibly pregnant, it could affect the embryo in an adverse way.”

Remote learning options are available for female students if necessary, Sturrus said.

Styranec said for everyone, the term ALARA — as low as reasonably achievable — is important when experiencing exposure to radiation. Time, distance and shielding are all important factors.

Still, he said, the reactor is a valuable and interesting tool for the department and is used to look at reactor design and

neutron distribution.

Styranec said there are multiple layers of security in place.

“I just want people to know it’s safe and secure. It’s alarmed, we have cameras on it 24 hours a day,” he said. “We’re following policy. We keep it secure.”

The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission initially provided the license, Sturrus and Styranec said. Now, the Ohio Department of Health is responsible for enforcement.

“We’ve got the lawn mower sitting there with no gas. No possibility of gas. So there is no possibility of that thing blowing up, unless somebody dropped the bomb on it and the bomb blew up. It just can’t go critical.”

— **Gregg Sturrus**, acting chair of the physics, astronomy, geology and environmental sciences department



Photo by Emily McCarthy / The Jambar
NAMI president Gianna Pupino and vice president Morgan Fisher are both junior psychology majors.

National Alliance on Mental Illness adjusts

Campus group supports students

By Emily McCarthy
 The Jambar

The National Alliance on Mental Illness at Youngstown State University has been working behind the scenes since the start of the pandemic. Between the stress of being stuck inside with little in-person contact and COVID-19 related health fears, more people are reaching out for support when it's increasingly challenging to do so.

Gianna Pupino, a junior psychology major, is the president of NAMI. This is her second year as president of the organization and she joined NAMI as a freshman. Since the start of the pandemic, she said there are some notable differences in community participation.

"I definitely noticed more people reaching out for help during the pandemic because they didn't know what to do," she said. "We have around 10 people join a meeting on Zoom. In person, we had more."

Aside from in-person meetings, NAMI also held several different activities such as walks and support tables. Since almost everything was moved online, Pupino said these types of things have been hard to do.

"We can't really meet in person, especially when [the pandemic] first started. We used to have all of our meetings in person, we used to have activities that we'd do, but with everything going on, everything is on Zoom," Pupino said.

NAMI continues to help students through its support and Zoom meetings. Participants discuss topics unique to the pandemic, such as "how to handle it when someone doesn't believe COVID is real." Self-care is central to NAMI's mission, especially during stressful or traumatic events.

Morgan Fisher, the vice president of NAMI, is a junior psychology major. She aspires to be a clinical mental health

"NAMI is about fighting to end the stigma that surrounds mental illness and encouraging individuals to share their own experience and plight with mental health, perhaps inspiring others and reminding them they are not alone. It is especially important given the circumstances of this past year."

— **Gianna Pupino**, junior psychology major and president of NAMI

counselor and was able to become a certified mental health aid through the organization. She said the events in the past year make the focus on mental health even more important.

"NAMI is about fighting to end the stigma that surrounds mental illness and encouraging individuals to share their own experience and plight with mental health, perhaps inspiring others and reminding them they are not alone. It is especially important given the circumstances of this past year," she said. "I want to encourage individuals who are struggling to talk to a trusted person, or reach out to Counseling Services here at YSU. Mental health is just as important as physical health."

Pupino wants students to know it is important to take care of their mental health, and NAMI is available for assistance and support. Students can contact the group through its Twitter and Instagram pages or at Pupino's student email.

Commencement to be at Ice Castle

By C. Aileen Blaine
The Jambar

There will be no “Pomp and Circumstance” echoing through Beeghly Center this May. Instead, Stambaugh Stadium will host Youngstown State University’s spring 2021 commencement ceremonies in person Friday, May 7 and Saturday, May 8.

As COVID-19 cases decrease and more individuals receive their vaccinations, campus community members are enthusiastic to turn over a new leaf in the pandemic. With renewed excitement, the Ice Castle prepares for YSU graduates.

At 6 p.m. Friday, all spring, summer and fall 2020 graduates are invited to return for a chance to participate in an in-person commencement ceremony. Ron Shaklee, professor and former chair of the geography department, will serve as the guest speaker.

“It’s very humbling, and it’s indeed an honor to be asked to share that stage —

not just the stage — but share that moment with people,” Shaklee said. “It’s really important to me that I’m able to show up and hopefully represent the university well, and the students well.”

Saturday’s ceremony will be divided into two parts in order to maintain COVID-19 safety. At 9 a.m., successful jazz musician and Dana School of Music alumnus Harold Danko will deliver a speech. The university will award him an honorary degree for his achievements in his 50-year career as a musician.

Local educator and YSU alumna Kristin Fox — who lost all four limbs last year due to a sepsis infection — will speak at 3 p.m. during the second part of the ceremony.

To ensure the safety of graduates and families, multiple pandemic precautions are in place. Caps and gowns were mailed to students and graduates were asked to provide the number of guests who will be in attendance though tickets are not required. Social distancing, masks and individual health assessments will take

place at the ceremony itself.

Jackie LeViseur, director of Alumni and Events, said the overwhelming responses to an in-person ceremony are positive.

“People are very excited to have the opportunity to safely get together and recognize the amazing accomplishments of our graduates and students,” she said.

Bringing back spring, summer and fall 2020 graduates is important to the university, and those involved in the event said they believe it to be a morale booster.

“It means that — as a YSU community — we are a family and stick together through challenging times and also get together in happy times,” LeViseur said. “Commencement is the happiest moment in our students’ academic journey — and it means everything that we can all gather and celebrate their success.”

YSU Provost Brien Smith said he hopes graduates will take advantage of a ceremony celebrating two academic years. He also said he wants students to

use the hardships of the last year to grow stronger as individuals.

“A part of our confidence to be successful in life is looking back at what hardships we’ve been through — what we’ve accomplished — and taking strength from that,” Smith said.

Smith offered advice for graduates as they move on to the next chapter in their lives.

“Students that are graduating this term should really borrow from that strength more than the students that came before,” Smith said. “They should reflect, ‘Yes, it was hard. And yes, I had some mental health issues, but I made it. I made it through and I’m walking across that stage, and I think that’s quite an accomplishment.’”

Commencement ceremonies will take place at 6 p.m. Friday, May 7; 9 a.m. Saturday, May 8; and 3 p.m. Saturday, May 8. The rain date is set for May 9. For more information, visit the spring 2021 commencement information page on YSU’s website.

Raising awareness of drinking responsibly

By Samantha Smith
The Jambar

Youngstown State University hosted an alcohol screening event for students to discuss and learn about substance and alcohol abuse. As an incentive to attend, the first 30 participants received a free T-shirt, and the first 200 participants got free ice cream.

The YSU Counseling Program sponsored the event with the partnership of YSU Counseling Services and the YSU Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center April 8 in the Ohio room of Kilcawley Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Amy Williams, assistant professor in the counseling program, said National Alcohol Screening Day is a way to raise awareness about safe and healthy consumption of alcohol as well as drinking guidelines.

“National Alcohol Screening Day is a day where everyone who wants to, is invited to participate in a brief screen, have a conversation with someone about the results of that screen and ways to reduce high-risk alcohol use,” she said.

Participants were not required to provide identification. Once the participant completed the screening provided by the volunteers at the event, they had a chance to meet with a group intervention for 10 to 15 minutes to discuss ways they could reduce the risks of alcohol abuse.

Williams explained what the screening process entailed for those who participated in the event.

“We’re using the alcohol use disorders identification test during the audit. It’s a handful of questions about frequency and quantity of alcohol use and consequences of alcohol use,” she said. “It is an evidence-based instrument used for screening brief intervention and referral to treatment. It is not a diagnostic tool; it’s really just a way to take a snapshot of current alcohol use patterns and have conversations around ways to reduce risk associated if someone is drinking outside of the healthy alcohol use outline.”

There are different healthy alcohol guidelines for men and women. Women metabolize alcohol slower than men. This sets the guidelines of consumption for women to be one day a week and no more than three drinks

in one sitting while men can drink two days a week with no more than four drinks in one sitting. Breaking these guidelines meets the criteria for binge alcohol use, stated Williams.

If someone exceeds the daily guidelines for alcohol consumption, the risk for potential health consequences can increase. This includes damage to the heart, liver and immune system.

If a participant felt they may need help after the event, there was a list of referral resources provided including Meridian Healthcare, Travco and Flying High. Williams said a great first step to seeking help if someone does not know who to talk to is to reach out to YSU’s Student Counseling. They will help anyone find a referral that best fits them.

Williams said this is an event they plan to continue in the future to further help students.

“I want to say thank you to all of our campus partners, all the supporters, all the people who’ve wanted to talk to Dr. Bruns and I,” she said. “If you come out, you’ll see how amazing and phenomenal it is and we are really really grateful for everyone’s support.”

New chief prioritizes safety at YSU

Wants to maintain good relationship with the campus

By **Richie Juliano**
Jambar contributor

The new Youngstown police chief, Carl Davis, is a veteran member of the Youngstown Police Department. There is much he'd like to accomplish, especially maintaining a good relationship with Youngstown State University.

"We share a lot of the same areas and territories with the campus being on the north side," Davis said. "I want to make sure we maintain a good relationship with the YSU Police Department."

On Jan. 15, Youngstown mayor Jmael "Tito" Brown appointed Davis as the police chief. Davis was officially sworn in as the chief Jan. 29.

Davis has worked closely with YSU's police department since his first job back in 1986. Davis is familiar with the areas surrounding the campus. He said visibility is a key safety measure to keep the campus protected.

"We want to make sure we have police officers visible on campus," Davis said. "We want patrol cars around Fifth Avenue, Wick Avenue and Lincoln Avenue."

The Youngstown Police Department is considering bringing back a bicycle patrol. Davis thinks this will help with more visibility on campus as well as surrounding areas in Youngstown.

"We presently have bikes, but we



Photo courtesy of Kelly Koenig / Youngstown Police Department
Newly appointed Chief Carl Davis of the Youngstown Police Department said one of his biggest priorities is maintaining a good relationship with Youngstown State University.

just don't have the unit in place," Davis said. "The bicycle patrol is a key piece in addressing crime in the Youngstown and YSU area."

Davis is also working on obtaining body cameras for officers in the Youngstown Police Department. Davis thinks they will be implemented in the near future.

"We have met with several different vendors, and one particular vendor has several features that we are keenly interested in," Davis said. "It's going through a process right now, but we'll be rolling that out shortly."

Davis was a criminal justice major at YSU in the early 1980s. As a former Penguin, he offered advice to current students looking to start a career in the criminal justice field.

"I would encourage anyone who has an interest in criminal justice to pursue it because it gives you an opportunity to make a change," Davis said. "We need the students now more than ever."

The job as a chief of police can be very demanding and stressful. To help

"I put an aquarium in the detective division about 20 years ago because sometimes we would have children up there, and it was a great conversation piece and helped the kids learn about how to take care of the fish. The fish tank is very relaxing and this job can be very stressful, so that does help."

— **Carl Davis,**
Youngstown police chief

with the stress of the job, Davis has a giant fish tank in his office. He said the aquarium is a great stress reliever but also provides some educational value.

"I put an aquarium in the detective division about 20 years ago because sometimes we would have children up there, and it was a great conversation piece and helped the kids learn about how to take care of the fish," Davis said. "The fish tank is very relaxing and this job can be very stressful, so that does help."

Davis has worked in many different units during his time with the YPD, but he started as a patrol officer back in 1986.

"I worked afternoons and midnights at the time, and worked very closely with YSU," Davis said. "We made sure we provided a safe environment for the students and the citizens of Youngstown."

"We share a lot of the same areas and territories with the campus being on the north side. I want to make sure we maintain a good relationship with the YSU Police Department."

— **Carl Davis,** Youngstown police chief

Greeks clean up the streets

What it's like to be in Greek Life

By Kelcey Norris
The Jambar

Members of sororities and fraternities on campus participated in a major clean-up called Greeks in the Streets March 26, sprucing up streets and highway exit ramps around the university.

Philanthropy is a major focus of Youngstown State University Greek Life, which consists of five active fraternities and six active sororities.

Carrie Anderson, associate director of Student Activities, oversees the 11 active chapters of YSU Greek Life.

“Groundskeeping, of course, keeps our campus so nice on the inside, but as you’re driving in, some of those areas that don’t get covered by our groundskeepers, there’s areas that could be cleaned up,” Anderson said.

Galatiani Lopuchovsky, a sophomore majoring in biology, organized the Greeks in the Streets event. Members of Greek Life donned reflective vests, grabbed garbage bags and spent their weekend picking up litter around campus.

“Greek life members take on leadership opportunities throughout the campus community,” Anderson said. “They’re signing up as orientation leaders for IGNITE and other campus opportunities. When there is something that comes up last minute, or there’s a need in the com-



Photo by Kelcey Norris / The Jambar

Members of Greek Life donned reflective vests, grabbed garbage bags and spent their weekend picking up litter around campus.

munity, usually you can come right back to this group and get people to drop whatever they’re doing and get involved.”

There are four Panhellenic Association sororities on campus, including Alpha Omicron Pi, Alpha Xi Delta, Delta Zeta and Zeta Tau Alpha.

In addition to these, there are two National Panhellenic Council sororities, Alpha Kappa Alpha and Delta Sigma Theta.

All five of the fraternities report to the North American Interfraternity Council, including Alpha Phi Delta, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Chi, Sigma Tau Gamma and Theta Chi.

One of the major differences between the sororities and fraternities at YSU is housing opportunities. While four of the five fraternities have official dedicated houses, sororities on campus do not have shared housing.

“Each of our sororities and fraternities have a rich history on campus,” Anderson

said. “Fraternities govern things a little differently than our sororities ... None of the [fraternities’] houses are owned by campus — we don’t own it or rent it to them. We’re not a campus that has those opportunities.”

Four of the five fraternities live in official housing rented to them by previous alumni.

“It’s essentially up to them and their alumni associations,” Anderson said. “Each of these chapters are different. Most of these organizations are renting from someone who lives here on the north side.”

There are regulations on what is and is not qualified as a fraternity or sorority house.

“They have to go through their procedures and process to be able to have a house denoted as a fraternity house. Right now, we only have four chapters of fraternities that have a house. The fifth one

— yes it’s brothers who live together, but it’s not an official fraternity house because their national headquarters doesn’t designate it as such,” Anderson said.

Multiple factors impact the disparity between sororities and fraternities housing, including national chapter regulations, cost and lack of availability of residences. It’s up to the National Panhellenic Council to set housing standards for all the sororities.

Zeta Tau Alpha was the last sorority to have housing back in the early 2000s.

“Since then, the National Panhellenic Conference — which is the conference our sororities report to — they have lists of regulations they’ve unanimously agreed upon that they follow. Now, one of them is housing,” Anderson said. “Every few years there’s new rules that their president signs ... Basically, what they want is housing for all four chapters currently on the campus, or nobody has a house.”

She said although they don’t have the opportunity for realistic communal housing for everyone now, the sororities are hopeful it can happen one day.

“There are hopes and dreams of someday having housing, so each of our chapters has a housing fund that pays a little towards it,” Anderson said.

For more information on YSU Greek Life, visit its website.

“They’re signing up as orientation leaders for IGNITE and other campus opportunities. When there is something that comes up last-minute, or there’s a need in the community, usually you can come right back to this group and get people to drop whatever they’re doing and get involved.”

— Carrie Anderson, associate director of Student Activities

RESEARCHING RACE AND RELIGION



Photo by Sydney A. Stalnecker / The Jambar

YSU professor Paul Gordiejew is researching the racial and religious differences present on each side of Midlothian Boulevard, Youngstown's city limits.

Crossing Midlothian Boulevard with YSU professor

By **Sydney A. Stalnecker**
Jambar contributor

Midlothian Boulevard is only 12 minutes from Youngstown State University, but it abruptly marks the end of Youngstown's city limits. On the other side is Boardman Township, but the name change is not the only observable difference between the two locations. A YSU professor is looking into the racial and religious differences between the city and suburbs.

Paul Gordiejew, an anthropology professor, began his research for the project "Crossing Midlothian" shortly after he and his wife Amy moved to Youngstown from Iowa in 2002.

He received a sabbatical year from the university to delve into his research, but he couldn't accept the sabbatical after being diagnosed with two types of cancer. Now that he's recovered, he lost the sabbatical year, but his research continues.

"There is a study here, there is something waiting to be done," he said. "I'm part of this, it's part of my world. It's not just something distant from me that I'll leave."

Gordiejew perceives Midlothian Boulevard, a political boundary, as the dividing line to decipher the differences between the areas. Passersby can observe "Welcome to Youngstown" and "Welcome to Boardman" signs along the edges of the road.

"Midlothian Boulevard is not just a physical street,"

Gordiejew said. "It's a boundary. It's a border, and it separates the city from the suburbs."

Throughout the many pockets of division, he narrowed his research down to two topics: race and religion.

"It's also a racial border. It divides people by social race — not perfectly — and if you go down Midlothian the demographics change," he said.

After moving, Gordiejew and his wife noticed racism is present in the city. Gordiejew believes Youngstown's history of "redlining" and "white flight" left after-effects on the minds of some people in the city and surrounding areas that exist today.

"There was something called redlining in the United States and it was particularly bad in Youngstown," he said. "Whites began to move out of the city and they could get loans from banks, but the banks wouldn't loan to African Americans."

According to Britannica, redlining is a discriminatory practice prohibiting minority groups from receiving loans and restricting access to different types of insurance. The term redlining was created from the practice of loan corporations using red ink to mark African American or mixed-race communities.

"These streets are also part of a moral geography. I call it a moral geography," he said. "People on each side make moral judgements. They describe the people on the other side as somehow different, even inferior."

"They don't look the way we do, they act differently,

they're not like us. These are our moral judgments, I mean, people from here carry this map inside their head."

He found religion as both a conservative and progressive force.

"It's helped buttress support, maintain the status quo in places," he said. "It's been a conservative force, you know, 'Let's keep things the way they are.'"

However, he said religion also serves to promote social change. Gordiejew considers both sides when observing religion in Youngstown.

"I ask myself, 'How does religion work here? Is it working in ways to keep that Midlothian border in place? Or is it chipping away at it — helping to dismantle that wall and create more integration between the city and the suburbs, African Americans and white Americans?'"

Gordiejew gathered much of his research through personal, anecdotal experience and the experiences of longtime residents of both communities.

"As a part of my research, I went to a commemoration in the steel museum, now part of the campus," he said. "Four people had been invited to serve on the panel that could go back to when the steel mill closed."

"During the question and answer period, this tall, state-ly, African American man holding an oxygen tank stood up and said, 'Why aren't there any African Americans on the panel? I mean, we were there too. We were in the mills. We have our stories to tell. Why aren't we represented to-night?'" Gordiejew said.

THEATER DEPARTMENT ENTERS THE SHAKES-SPHERE



Photo by Douglas M. Campbell / The Jambar

Matthew Mazuroski passionately directs a scene in “Measure for Measure” where Isabella meets with Claudio.

Theater department retells Shakespeare: “Billy Shakes”

By Douglas M. Campbell
The Jambar

Director Matthew Mazuroski and students in the Youngstown State University Department of Theatre and Dance seek to demystify William Shakespeare’s work and bring it to a whole new level with their new show “An Evening with Billy Shakes.”

Each scene selected in “Billy Shakes” is from a different Shakespeare show set in a different time period from when it was written.

“‘Billy Shakes’ is my sort of take on it because we rarify Shakespeare so much. We think of hifalutin language and other sort of crap and I feel it destroys the immediacy of it,” Mazuroski said.

Mazuroski feels Shakespeare’s work is genius but should be performed — instead of read — in a classroom-like setting.

“More people have been turned off to live theater by ‘bad’ Shakespeare than any other thing out there. So, what we wanted to try to do was bring these characters — this language — to life so it’s accessible to audiences,” Mazuroski said.

The production practices followed performing arts COVID-19 guidelines set by Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine. According to Mazuroski, the pandemic restrictions were a “blessing in disguise” for students’ schedules and work on the show.

“We had a couple of people get sick, not from this production, but from outside jobs they had but nothing too major. What was nice about this is because the biggest scene had four characters and the other scenes had two characters ... what was nice about that is I could work with each actor individually or in pairs,” Mazuroski said.

Katie Gennaro, a senior telecommunications major,

was the assistant director of the show. She assisted actors in line memorization and helped Mazuroski with tasks such as ordering shirts for the show.

Gennaro said for a while the pandemic challenged her role in the production of the show, with the beginning of the production held online. Eventually, as practices were performed in-person, her role became more demanding.

“When working with the actors, it’s just finding the right way of describing what I or the director are looking for in terms of feelings for the characters,” Gennaro said.

Gennaro enjoyed the different approach to theater in filming the monologues and scenes while viewing the actors’ performances and all aspects of production merged together.

Monologues were filmed with two cameras in the Ford Theater from March 20-21, while scenes with multiple actors were filmed on March 27-28.

Meganne Evans, a sophomore Bachelor of Fine Arts major, plays Emilia in “Othello” and Jaques in “As You Like It.” When the show was first presented to students, she focused on the goal to make Shakespeare’s work more accessible.

“I love Shakespeare, but I did not always. There were times definitely I was reading plays in English class and it was like, ‘I can’t follow this. I don’t know what’s happening.’ I looked words up using the ‘Don’t Fear Shakespeare [website],” Evans said.

It wasn’t until she performed “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” as a senior in high school she learned to love Shakespeare. Her approach to both roles in “Billy Shakes” was to honor Shakespeare’s text.

According to Evans, her character in “Othello” will be translated from a handmaiden to more of a secretari-

al-type position.

“It was also interesting to see how much of it overlapped, especially with domestic abuse and how women were treated from Shakesperian times ... ‘How did that change? ... How did that not change?’” Evans said.

Adam Dominick, a junior Bachelor of Fine Arts major, plays Claudio in “Measure for Measure” and Brutus in “Julius Caesar.”

Dominick filmed his role as Claudio on Saturday March 27, with a full head of hair and facial hair. The following day, Dominick had his hair trimmed on set for his role as Brutus.

“We did ‘Julius Caesar’ the next day,” Dominick said. “A Roman general can’t go walking around with shaggy long hair. So Wendy, our props master and shop supervisor, brought in a pair of clippers and did it herself,” Dominick said.

Dominick considers himself a stage actor and struggled to adapt to acting with more subtle emotions and expressions in this filmed performance.

“I don’t really do film very often, so a lot of rehearsals were spent with Matthew going like, ‘Adam ... pull back ... let us see it in your eyes. You don’t need to show it with your body. We need to see it in your eyes,’” Dominick said.

Mazuroski feels like audiences can connect with the wide variety of Shakespeare’s work through the chosen scenes.

“Each audience member brings part of themselves into these pieces and it’s going to hit them differently,” Mazuroski said.

“Billy Shakes” will continue to stream this weekend April 16-18. Tickets can be purchased through ShowTix4U.



Photo by Douglas M. Campbell / The Jambar

Samantha Gard as Beatrice (left) and Mitchell Sharp as Benedick (right) share a kiss in "Much Ado About Nothing."



Photo courtesy of James Oakry

Meganne Evans as Emilia (left) and Elise Vargo as Desdemona (right) are in a 1950s themed "Othello."



Photo courtesy of James Oakry

Machiah Davis as Helena (left), Kyle Hudson as Demetrius (middle) and Nic Wix as Lyssander (right) play college students on spring break trapped in the forest in a modern rendition of "A Midsummer Night's Dream."



Photo by Douglas M. Campbell / The Jambar

Nate Montgomery as Macbeth looks down in horror at the blood on his hands in a post-apocalyptic "Macbeth."



Photo courtesy of James Oakry

Tommy DeLuca as Cassius (left) and Adam Dominick as Brutus (right) share a scene in "Julius Caesar."

GET A KICK OUT OF THIS



Photo by Joseph Chapman / The Jambar

Youngstown Kicks n' Thrifts brought local vendors and buyers out to the large event hosted by Wedgewood Ramps.

Vintage culture grows in Youngstown

By Joseph Chapman
The Jambar

Youngstown has a growing vintage clothing culture. Wedgewood Ramps in Austintown hosted the area's first flea market-style vintage event, called Youngstown Kicks n' Thrifts, March 27.

Event organizers and Vintage of 330 owners David Meadows and Michael Jones spoke about how they brought the event into existence.

"It kind of came about because other bigger cities have a sneaker con, a comic con, a thrift con, but our little town doesn't have anything. So it's just like we wanted to bless the community," Meadows said.

Jones also mentioned the growing community of thrifters and vintage lovers in Youngstown.

"[The community] is not even as little as people say ... it was a pretty packed day. It showed some potential that Youngstown has. We're happy to see people come out like this and leave with a smile," Jones said.

Tristan Kendall, owner of Meraki Vintage Shop, discussed the differences between selling in person at the event compared to his usual all online business.

"It's completely different. It's hard when you're selling online. Your prices ought to be a little higher with shipping and stuff so [today] I was able to get the deals

[and] sell some stuff at reasonable prices which made it easier for my business. I got my name out there giving out some business cards. Everything was great," Kendall said.

Canyon Cabrera, co-owner of Keystone Clothing in Pennsylvania, compared Youngstown Kicks n' Thrifts to other vintage events out of state.

"We actually do the event in Pittsburgh called Pittsburgh Pickers. We've been doing that for two years now, out of the three years it's been going. What we like to do is bring up a 'fill a bag' and people just love it because you can get good deals. But today, it's been great. It's been nonstop business pretty much just — meeting people, networking people," Cabrera said.

As Vintage of 330 grows, so does its relationships with other vintage sellers. From part-time entrepreneurs to complete businesses, Vintage of 330 has a chain of vendors to gather clothes from. This allows Meadows and Jones to focus on more aspects of their business than just curation. Meadows spoke about the selling community and the platform Vintage of 330 has access to.

"It makes life easier, that I can say. To be able to have more of a community that we can connect with and get better prices — just expand [more] rather than having to thrift, to having to go to these places in search for clothes," Meadows said. "Now that we have this plat-

form, it's in our fingertips, all these guys that are in there. We're looking at two guys right now that I buy off all the time. I bought off both of them today. It's just a big collective of us all scratching each other's back."

Meadows also discussed patrons' hesitancy to bring in their own clothes to trade with Vintage of 330 and the other vendors in attendance.

"You don't have to be scared. I've had so many people today be like, 'Should I bring my stuff in? Should I show him? Should I do this? Should I do that?'" Meadows said. "This is the most welcoming [community] that you can think of in the world. Everyone's here to buy, sell and trade constantly. It's just love the second you walk in the doors."

Jones spoke about the great pride he feels in the work he does and how much he enjoyed having a big crowd for Vintage of 330's first-ever event.

"The more and more we get bigger, the more and more our dreams come true. They just get better and better every day. Every day, we get to do something like this and we call it work. We never take it for granted," Jones said. "[We get to provide] somewhere cool for people to come in and hang out and just do stuff like this. I mean, I didn't even know personally that there were this many kids in our area or even just people, period, that are into shoes and clothing, and I'm mind blown."

Alumnus discusses documentary with students

By Zach Mosca
The Jambar

Youngstown State University alumnus Nick Geidner visited campus virtually April 7 to discuss his documentary, “The Library That Dolly Built.” Attendees could meet Geidner and get to know him beyond his work on various documentaries.

Geidner is the director of Land Grant Films which operates within the University of Tennessee. The film — produced and written with the help of UT students. It’s an in-depth look at singer Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library non-profit program, which provides free books to children from birth until age 5.

“It’s a program that started in Sevier County, Tennessee — her hometown — about 25 years ago, and it’s grown to be one of the largest childrens’ literacy programs in the country,” Geidner said.

The documentary was supposed to premiere last April in select movie theaters across the country, including Regal Boulevard Centre 14 in Niles, but the COVID-19 pandemic prevented the theatrical premiere from happening. Instead, the film premiered Dec. 9, 2020 in the form of a Facebook Live screening for

“We were young and didn’t know what we were doing, and it never came together into a really solid final product, but it was an amazing learning experience and it showed that I could do this.”

— Nick Geidner
Youngstown State University alumnus
and film director

over one million viewers, much to Geidner’s delight.

“I think the more impactful number is that as part of this Facebook premiere, a lot of local affiliates of the Imagination Library and the Imagination Library nationally ran a fundraising campaign tied to the film and through that campaign during that window, we were able to raise a quarter million dollars for the Imagination Library,” Geidner said.

Geidner began his journey at YSU in 1999 and eventually majored in telecommunications, when he became interested in creating documentaries.

“Me and a buddy of mine, who actually went to Kent State, got in with Congressman Tim Ryan really early before he was a congressman and he was in the State Senate and we followed his first run for Congress,” Geidner said. “We were young and didn’t know what we were doing, and it never came together into a really solid final product, but it was an amazing learning experience and it showed that I could do this,” he said.

In addition to directing Land Grant Films at UT, Geidner is also a journalism professor at the university.

“I teach documentary journalism and documentary video production,” Geidner said. “In that class, students create short [documentaries] with a group of two to three other students.”

“What we do is try to work with non-profits to provide them video access that they can use to raise awareness and funds and we do that while providing students with real world documentary experience,” Geidner said.

Anyone interested in watching “The Library That Dolly Built” can find the documentary for free on the Imagination Library’s website. The documentary will be on select streaming services this summer, and Geidner hopes to arrange theatrical screenings of the film once the pandemic is over.



Photo courtesy of Nick Geidner
“The Library That Dolly Built” tells the story of Dolly Parton’s philanthropy, directed by YSU alumnus Nick Geidner.

“It’s a program that started in Sevier County, Tennessee — her hometown — about 25 years ago, and it’s grown to be one of the largest childrens’ literacy programs in the country,”

— Nick Geidner
Youngstown State University alumnus and film director

The Jambar Editorial

YSU follows federal advice, pauses J&J vaccine clinics

Students jumped at the chance to get vaccinated at the Youngstown State University vaccine clinics, which began in April. We brought friends to tag along for moral support and family members to get in line for our first Moderna jabs, too.

The Youngstown City Health Department had to make the difficult, but ethical, decision to shut down the Johnson & Johnson vaccine clinic scheduled for April 13 and 20. The clinics at YSU, Southern Park Mall and Covelli Centre were canceled. The city of Youngstown and the university responded quickly when the Food and Drug Administration released a statement regarding concerns for potential side effects, like blood clots.

A lot of people are wondering what they should do if they already received the Johnson & Johnson dose. After 185 million doses of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines have been administered in the nation, there have been no reports of blood clots.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a statement Tuesday stating over 6.8 million doses had been administered in the country. Six cases have been reported in the nation where individuals

developed a rare blood clot (CVST) after receiving the vaccine. The CDC said these cases are extremely rare, but they acted quickly “out of an abundance of caution” and recommended pausing administration of the vaccine nationwide. The FDA is investigating the six cases and their significance to others.

The European Union and Africa also paused administration of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. According to the BBC, Africa was the first nation to administer it. In South Africa, 300,000 health workers received the vaccine. These and other nations seem to be following the United States’ lead on what to do next.

Johnson & Johnson released the following statement, saying it shared “all adverse event reports” with the health officials.

“We are aware that thromboembolic events, including those with thrombocytopenia have been reported with Covid-19 vaccines. At present, no clear causal relationship has been established between these rare events and the Janssen (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine.”

Young women are at a higher risk for blood clots, according to an article by Business Insider, because of the use of hormonal birth control. Women between the

ages of 18 and 48 who are on “the pill” or who are pregnant are automatically at a higher risk due to estrogen levels. However, there have been no efforts to regulate birth control, even though it also has these negative risks. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration “estimates that between 3 and 9 out of 10,000 women who take certain birth control pills will develop a blood clot each year,” according to Business Insider reporters.

YSU’s organization throughout the COVID-19 pandemic has been cohesive, as seen through the effectiveness of the recent first vaccine clinic. Making an appointment only took a few minutes. Participants were kept a safe distance away from each other in Beeghly Center, which was a convenient location to get the free vaccine without any hassle. They kept participants in the gym for 15 minutes after the vaccination so anyone who had a bad immediate reaction could be helped.

In two weeks, the students and family members who received their first dose of Moderna will get their final shot. It’ll take time for the CDC and the FDA to review the cases of CVST, but hopefully the science prevails and the plan to get as many people safely vaccinated as possible will still be an attainable goal.

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.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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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The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Submissions are welcome at thejambar@gmail.com. Letters should concern a campus issue, must be typed and must not exceed 400 words. Submissions must include the writer’s name and telephone number for verification, along with the writer’s city of residence for publication. The Jambar does not withhold the names of guest commentators. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. Letters will not be rejected based on the views expressed in them. The editorial board reserves the right to reject commentaries and letters if they are not relevant to our readers, seek free publicity, fail to defend opinion with facts from reliable sources or if the editorial staff has decided that the subject has been sufficiently aired. The editorial board will request a rewrite from the submitted writer based on these requirements. The Jambar will not print letters that are libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. The views and opinions expressed in letters and commentaries on the opinion page do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the faculty, staff or administration of YSU.

The Jambar Column

Self-doubt in the face of graduation

It isn't too much longer until I graduate with my English degree. Don't get me wrong — this is definitely not my last semester — but I am no longer the baby freshman I once was.

It seems like just yesterday I decided to pursue writing over political science and going to law school. It was a difficult choice, given I always thought I would be an attorney, but I think it was for the best. I don't have the serious personality needed to handle the courtroom.

However, lately I have once again been questioning what I am doing. Don't get me wrong, I love writing. It is where I feel I can best communicate with others. I know I want to write, I



Mac Pomeroy

just don't know what path I want to take.

Before the pandemic, I was on a straight path, zipping from A to B with no stops. Because of it there have been new events and struggles that made me realize how unsure I truly am.

What career options are available for me after this? What kind of writer do I want to be? Am I as good at writing as I think I am?

I am sure I am not the only person

who is currently stuck feeling this way. While we may have felt so sure of what we were doing before, this time has allowed us to get into our heads. Suddenly, all of the thinking and anxiety may pile up, causing doubts.

It feels as though you crawled your way through a dangerous cave, only to be greeted by fire on the other side.

If you find yourself feeling this way, wondering if you have spent years on a hopeless path, take a deep breath. These feelings are valid.

When you spend so much time really focused on the task ahead, it is only natural to notice anything bad or wrong. You don't have the support or reinforce-

ment of those around you to help clarify what you are doing. While teachers and peers are still making posts and comments on Blackboard, it is a wordless interaction. You can't stop the teacher after class when you are struggling, nor can you talk to your peers for help.

Many people I know have taken steps in their lives due to these feelings. Some have left college temporarily, some have left for good, but more have changed their majors. As for me, I probably won't do anything. My major is something that fits me, regardless of my current anxiety. While action is good, feelings can be nothing more than feelings.



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NEWS BRIEF

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Youngstown State University Women Retirees Scholarship was awarded to three women this year.

Julia Carson of Niles, Ohio. She is a psychology major who hopes to work on a graduate degree in clinical counseling.

Alyssa Osman of Lowellville, Ohio. She is a communication studies major hoping to work in job recruiting.

Katie Stomski of Boardman, Ohio. She is a biology major who plans to pursue a degree to become a physician's assistant.

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Tennis teams discuss new facility

By Hailey Rogenski
Jambar contributor

The men's and women's tennis teams at Youngstown State University consist entirely of international students. These students come from many different cultures. This gives the coaches and other players of the teams an opportunity to communicate interculturally among such an ethnically diverse group.

Ulises Hernandez, the men's tennis coach, said working with the international players is a unique experience for him and the team.

"It's been very different at first," Hernandez said. "Then I adapted to it and to different cultures and to everything that each of them bring to the table. One might bring a certain cultural norm and the others might adopt it as well as myself."

Mickael Sopel, head coach for the women's team, said he doesn't see any differences between himself and his students, despite their cultural differences.

"What I have learned is that in the end we are all the same, [despite] our cultural differences and our ways of living, we are very similar," Sopel said. "We are human beings and we have the same goals and the same objectives."

The students also share their cultures and experiences with their teammates. Vasilis Vardakis, captain of the men's tennis team and a senior marketing major, said it has impacted him greatly.

"That was the biggest impact I've had in my college career because I've had the ability to meet people from all over the world and to create and build the culture of this team," Vardakis said. "It's incredible to work with only internationals because every one of them brings something different and we're trying to build the same thing in YSU altogether."

The tennis team began playing in its new indoor practice facility last July, and it's been helpful for both teams, according to the coaches and athletes. The facility is located behind YSU's baseball field and was completed last March; however, due to the teams having no active season at that time due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it couldn't be used until this past summer.

According to Vardakis, having the facility on campus and indoors has had a huge impact on the team.

"Whenever we want to come out and practice or work on specific things individually, we can do it whenever we want to," he said. "It's always open for us, and it's always great to see that tennis is getting bigger for us in Youngstown and in the Ohio area."

Both tennis teams are competing in conference matches right now, and the teams are doing well so far. The men's Horizon League record stands at 4-2 and the women's stands at 7-1.

The tournament consists of teams from Cleveland State University, the University of Illinois at Chicago, Oakland University, Milwaukee University, Northern Kentucky University and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

Tamara Teufl, captain of the women's tennis team and a senior criminal justice major, discussed the conference tournament in more detail.

"We are looking to win the Horizon League's conference tournament," Teufl said.

The men's and women's tennis teams play invitationals in the fall from September to November, and they return to play dual matches during the months of January through April. Teufl said the conference tournaments only take place in the spring. They begin in March and end in May.

"We are practicing basically through the whole fall, and we don't have as many matches and in the spring when we come back we start immediately to practice. Our first match is usually a week into the semester," she said.



Vasilis Vardakis, the men's tennis team captain and a senior marketing major, practices in the YSU Tennis Center.

Photo courtesy of YSU Sports

MISDEMEANOR AND MISCONDUCT



Photo by Yousof Hamza / The Jambar

No. 8 junior Jaleel McLaughin breaks through Missouri State defenders line during last weekend's game. During the days after the game, two Youngstown State University football players were removed from the team.

YSU football kicks two players off team

By **Jordan Boitnott**
The Jambar

Last week, Youngstown State University football removed two players from the team. The players are sophomore defensive back Jaelin Madison and freshman wide receiver Kristof Bryndum.

Madison was removed after an incident at the University Edge apartment complex at 1:52 a.m. April 3. According to the police report, Madison was arrested on misdemeanor charges of assault and unlawful restraint. The report states that Madison allegedly held one of the female residents of the apartment in her room against her will.

Bryndum was removed from the team due to a conduct issue, according to athletics.

The YSU football team issued a statement to The Jambar on both individuals.

"[Madison] is no longer with us. The team leadership group came to him and we removed him. The other is

dealing with a University Conduct issue, so we can't comment on it," the statement said.

Madison played all 12 games in the 2019-2020 season, along with three this season. In his YSU career, he was credited with 28 tackles, 22 assists and two sacks (YSUSports). He was a first-team 7A All-Region defensive back in his home state of Georgia. Madison is a sophomore telecommunications major.

Bryndum, a criminal justice major from Australia, received no play time as a freshman this season.

The Penguins lost their last road game to Missouri State 21-10 last Saturday.

The team was without their starting quarterback freshman Mark Waid, who was out with an upper body injury. Junior Joe Craycraft filled the role and threw for 100 yards with a touchdown. Junior running back Jaleel McLaughin had another 100 yard rushing game, he ran for 100 yards on 20 carries.

The Penguins took a 3-0 lead in the second quarter and lost it right before halftime and would never see

it again. Craycraft threw a 4-yard touchdown pass to sophomore running back Dra Rushton for his first career touchdown.

The Penguins were scheduled to play their last game of the spring season at 12:00 p.m. this Saturday at home against North Dakota. Instead, they ended the season early with a 1-6 record and canceled the last game.

"The efforts by our team and staff throughout this entire year have been incredible," head coach Doug Phillips said on ysusports.com. "To play seven games this spring says a lot about their passion for football and commitment to our program. We look forward to finishing off this semester strong academically and will continue to work hard to be ready to go when fall camp starts in just three months."

The team will return to the field September 2 to compete against Incarnate World at Stambaugh Stadium.

This is a developing story. The Jambar is following up with YSU football.