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TAKING ON A NEW ROLE



Photo by Elizabeth Coss / The Jambar

Kelly Wilkinson, dean of Williamson College of Business Administration, talks about finding ways to improve student success.

New dean meets and greets faculty

By Elizabeth Coss
The Jambar

Dean of the Williamson College of Business Administration Kelly Wilkinson held a meet-and-greet event for faculty and staff Feb. 11 following her employment at Youngstown State University.

The event started with Wilkinson speaking to the crowd about her background and led into her addressing ideas for student success.

“We all are working toward one goal: it’s student success,” Wilkinson said. “I think everybody understands that and everybody understands their role and I think that’s the beauty of it all.”

Wilkinson also spoke on the importance of improvement and how the college can better serve everyone who attends and works there.

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History in the Valley

By Sydney Stalnecker
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University history department and the Phi Alpha Theta history honors society will host V.W. Starr’s History Across the Humanities Conference for another year with 23 student presentations under the theme of “Memory, Identity and Community.”

Amy Fluker, assistant professor of history, has been organizing the conference since 2019. The conference was started by, and is now named after, Valerie Waks-munski-Starr, a former graduate student at YSU who died from breast cancer in 2015.

“We hold the conference now in her honor every year,” Fluker said.

The HATH conference will consist of 23 student and about 10 professor presentations covering a range of topics from rebuilding Wellsville, Ohio to local synagogue Ohev Beth Sholom, formerly known as Rodef Sholom, which is creating an archive.

Fluker said she is excited for the presentation related to an episode of the history department’s monthly speaker series, History Happened Here, about the Wilson Bruce Evans Home Historical Society. The speaker series is a part of the Robert W. Reeder endowment, which was presented to the history department.

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

Thurs.



High: 56°F
Low: 21°F

Chance of precipitation:
100% showers

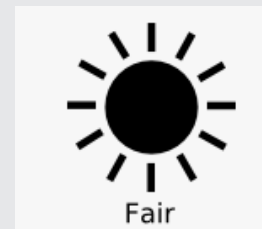
Fri.



High: 29°F
Low: 20°F

Chance of precipitation:
40% snow showers

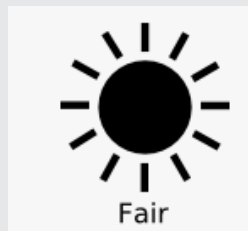
Sat.



High: 31°F
Low: 18°F

Chance of precipitation:
0% mostly clear

Sun.



High: 50°F
Low: 34°F

Chance of precipitation:
0% mostly clear

Mon.



High: 53°F
Low: 38°F

Chance of precipitation: 60%
mostly cloudy, chance of
showers

Information courtesy of National Weather Service

Dean

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“Let’s not let good get in the way of better,” Wilkinson said. “Let’s ask why. Let’s ask why or why not, because this is an opportunity.”

At the end of the event, Wilkinson opened the floor. The largest discussion was the drop in enrollment YSU has recently faced.

“We have to be mindful of our budget, and we’re good stewards of that,” Wilkinson said. “Doing nothing gets nothing done. And it doesn’t help the students

and it doesn’t help facilitate anything we do.”

Shelley Blundell, associate professor of journalism and communication, believes the decline in enrollment isn’t something unique to the university and has spent time researching at-risk students.

“A lot of our academically adverse students are first generation students or students who come from minority populations that are historically disadvantaged, and I believe YSU needs to do a better job of providing support and assistance for those students in particular,” she said.

Blundell also expressed her thoughts on Wilkinson tackling enrollment.

“Dr. Wilkinson has a mammoth task ahead of her — as does the entire university. It’s no surprise that we are all facing the enrollment cliff,” Blundell said.

John Rossi, a senior lecturer in the marketing and management department, thought the openness Wilkinson offered through the event for faculty was important.

“She was open to listening to questions, some of those were of concern because many people haven’t met her since she arrived on Feb. 1,” Rossi said. “It was a great opportunity to have her introduce herself collectively to the entire faculty at the business school.”

History

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“As a part of that speaker series, we invited the Wilson Bruce Evans Home Historical Society to come and speak,” Fluker said. “They’re a group that’s involved in an effort to preserve a historic home in Oberlin.”

Fluker said this is an important local story but is often overlooked.

“[Bruce Evans] was an African American abolitionist, and he and his family were extremely active in local efforts to defy slavery,” Fluker said. “They assisted fugitives on the underground railroad, and were involved in some major political controversies that built up to the Civil War.”

Each presentation will relate in some way to this year’s theme of memory, identity and community.

“What we were looking for is

work that ... students are doing that connects the past to the present,” Fluker said. “Show how and why history is still relevant in our daily lives.”

Attendees will also have the option to explore internships and careers in the history field at professionalized roundtables. The event, while based in history, is open to people from all specializations.

“We also invite professionals from humanities career paths to come and speak to students about what they do and things they can do to sort of help position themselves for jobs,” Fluker said.

At the event, YSU will welcome back former faculty member Carla A. Simonini as HATH’s keynote speaker. According to HATH’s press release, Simonini is the Rubino professor and director of Italian American studies at Loyola University in Chicago.

“She’s giving a keynote ad-

dress on Thursday evening at 5 o’clock Feb. 24 on Christopher Columbus, and how interpretations of Christopher Columbus have changed over time,” Fluker said. “Simonini is going to speak about how Italian Americans have identified with Columbus and his history and his legacy.”

The HATH conference will take place on Feb. 24-25 at the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor. Guests will have the option to attend in-person or online. The conference is free for everyone.


The conference will begin at 8:30 a.m. Thursday with an introduction by Phi Theta Alpha’s President, Brooke Bobovnyick, and finish after Simonini’s presentation at 5 p.m. The Friday conference will begin at 9:30 a.m.

For more information on the schedule, visit the HATH website.

V.W. STARR'S

HISTORY ACROSS THE HUMANITIES

MEMORY, IDENTITY, AND COMMUNITY



SCAN CODE TO VIEW PROGRAM

COVID-19 update

By Elizabeth Coss
The Jambar

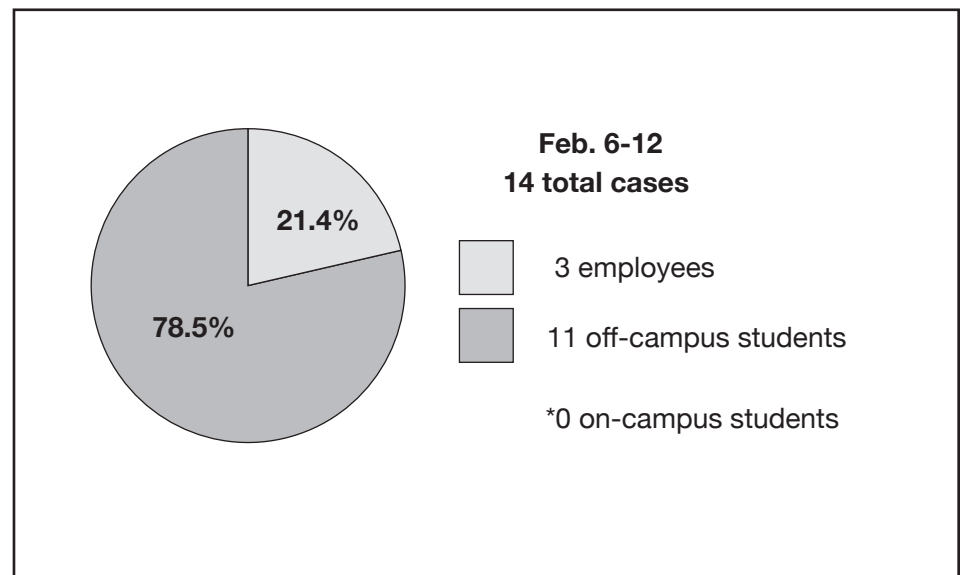
COVID-19 cases hit a new low for this academic year in terms of recorded cases for students and employees combined at Youngstown State University.

This is the fourth week in a row this semester where the university has noted a decrease in cases from both students and employees. YSU reported 14 total positive cases, down three cases from last week.

Of those cases, three were employees and 11 were students who live off campus. There were no cases reported from students who live on campus.

Despite the number of cases dropping, the number of students who were tested at the university increased from 16 to 17 people through YSU’s asymptomatic voluntary testing program. Zero tests came back positive, and this is the second week in a row where only negative tests were recorded.

Stay safe, Penguins!



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Competing with YSU's engineers

By **Samantha Smith**
The Jambar

Youngstown State University's William Rayen School of Engineering will be hosting Engineers Week from Feb. 21-25 in honor of National Engineers Week.

Jason Hess, a sophomore majoring in mechanical engineering, explained what Engineers Week is.

"Engineers Week is something we're doing with the whole Rayen School of Engineering," Hess said. "We're basically holding an engineering Olympics where students can participate in social events, competitions and in industry forums to see who wins."

Students will be split into divisions based on their major. The five divisions include chemical, civil, electrical, industrial and mechanical engineering.

Hess said this is the first time since 2015 that YSU has participated in National Engineers Week and the first time the university is making it a big event.

Madison Wigley, a sophomore majoring in electrical engineering, explained some of the competitions that

will be held throughout the week.

"The first day is chemical day — we're doing a duct tape wall," Wigley said. "For Tuesday, we have our civil event, which is building a retaining wall. Wednesday is our electrical event. We're going to have a drone obstacle [course], so you'll have to control the drone to fly it through Hula-Hoops and have the penguin dropped in a bucket and it's timed. Thursday is our industrial engineering day and we have our loadmaster simulation. On Friday, it's our mechanical day and we're going to have an airplane competition to see who can build the best airplane."

During the competition, students who place first can earn 25 points toward their division for the Engineering Olympics. In addition to daily competitions, there will be social events for students. Hess explained more about those events.

"This is going to be held in the morning where students can come grab a doughnut and sign in and make sure they have their participation points," Hess said. "On Tuesday, the order of the engineer organization

is hosting a dinner in Williamson Hall with a guest speaker from the military. Wednesday is our industry forum in Kilcawley Center. Thursday, that's the day of the STEM expo. And Friday, our last social event is the awards party from 4-5."

The industry forum will be one of the biggest events to occur during Engineers Week, according to Hess. Students will be able to learn about internships and co-ops from practicing engineers. Each student at the event will be given 10 points toward their division for the Engineering Olympics, a T-shirt and a free lunch.

Hess explained individual prizes are only for competition days and are not individually cumulative. The first place prize for competitions is a Nike sweatshirt of the winner's choosing from the YSU bookstore. All points though will go to their respective division throughout the week and the division who gets the most points will receive a trophy.

For more information on Engineers Week and the William Rayen School of Engineering, visit its website.

YSU sets records in recycling

By **Christopher Gillett**
The Jambar

For the last decade, Youngstown State University has held the rank of "top recycling campus in Ohio." It has easily defended its top state spot this year and is setting records with fifth in the nation for university recycling.

This resulted from the hard work of Daniel J. Kuzma, the head of the YSU recycling program, and all the employees of the recycling program who work behind the scenes.

Kuzma first became involved in the recycling program during his time as a YSU student. He continued to work with the program after graduation.

"It definitely was linked to it because I was an environmental studies major, so dealing with the environment, picking up recycling, working with the recycling program on various different projects — everything fit together," Kuzma said.

He worked to promote YSU into one of the best performing schools in recycling materials. He explained how this is measured.

"We get some actual weights in that regard, and we also use volume to weight estimates [which] are formulas which are provided by the Environmental Protection Agency, so they're universal. They're used by all colleges, universities and other institutions [that recycle]," Kuzma said.

Among those happy with the results was YSU President Jim Tressel who, in an interview with Mahoning Matters, stated: "Our students and employees have consistently led the way across the state and nation when it comes to reducing, reusing and recycling waste. We look forward to another top-tier finish in this year's competition, retaining our reputation as one of the most recycle-friendly university campuses in the country."

YSU students seem to be generally unaware of this success.

Anton Donghia, a sophomore mechanical engineering major, expressed his happiness with the success, even though he was a relative bystander in it all. Donghia was also surprised he had not heard about the recycling program's success, stating the university should advertise the program more.

"I think I'm a bit over-cautious [with recycling], where sometimes I'll think that something might not be able to be recycled and I just throw things in the trash that maybe they can be recycled but I'm really not sure," Donghia said.

He lives in a student apartment and is unsure of the recycling situation there.

"A lot of times, I'm going through some of my old notes and stuff and I'm ready to recycle it ... and I have to go out of my way to recycle it," Donghia said. "I'm just not knowledgeable enough about it, but I don't know if they do or not."

Kuzma explained that the YSU recycling program could not provide services to private locations such as the student apartments.

"The apartments are separate because they are private entities. Even if the university owns the property, it's still a private residence, and based off of our grant funding, we're not permitted to provide free services to private organizations," Kuzma said. "However, I have been in touch with the managers of all of the apartment complexes, over time periods, just to provide them information with how they can get recycling services."

As well as working to boost recycling, Kuzma has been working to spread the message about the recycling program through social media. He dealt with challenges such as misinformation around recycling.

According to Kuzma, students can become involved by applying at the Student Employment Office online. This can be found through a general search for it on any search engine. YSU Recycling will post when it's looking to hire.

Kuzma said he hopes to bring YSU Recycling to record highs. The recycling competition continues for another six to seven weeks. Across the nation, many other colleges are also competing. Kuzma's goal this year is to make YSU the top recycler in the state again and fifth in the nation.

RISING CONCERNS

What to know about inflation

By Jillian McIntosh
The Jambar

On Feb. 10, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that consumer prices rose 7% in December, the highest inflation increase since 1982.

Albert Sumell, economics professor at Youngstown State University, said inflation is a general increase of the price of goods and services, which reduces the purchasing power of a dollar.

“If inflation is 7%, which it was most recently, the value of a dollar has declined by 7%,” Sumell said. “Over the past 30 years, it’s never exceeded even 5%.”

Sumell also said inflation is judged relatively on the amount of goods and services produced and the collective income increase of individuals.

“You can have high inflation and most people won’t be worse off if their income is increasing by more than that inflation,” he said. “If you see that inflation is 7%

but your income is increasing by 10%, you’re actually still better off than that.”

The pandemic is a key reason for high inflation.

Senior lecturer of economics Sarah Jenyk said inflation is caused by either supply disruptions or increases in demand for goods and services.

“We are seeing both as a result of COVID-19. As the economy is opening back up, consumers are eager to get out and spend,” she said. “Simultaneously, supply chain disruptions are causing shortages for many businesses, which also puts upward pressure on price.”

The greatest annual increase of inflation are the prices of gasoline and used car sales. These spending categories impact college students who commute or are interested in buying a vehicle.

College students can budget and adjust their spending and savings accordingly.

“It is important to reevaluate your budget, given the new price constraints,” Jenyk said. “If you need to have

more money set aside each month for gas and groceries, you may need to cut spending in other areas.”

Investing in certain assets such as stocks or real estate is a way to sustain or outpace long-term inflation.

Economics junior Jakob Peters said the cost of rent and tuition have also been affected.

“Over the past few decades or so, the cost of both have risen dramatically,” he said. “It’s not really unreasonable to think that rent and tuition can be increased more, just so the university and landlords can keep up with that [inflation].”

According to Jenyk, the Federal Reserve may raise interest rates in the future to accommodate the high levels of inflation.

“Analysts are projecting that inflation will return to more typical levels by 2023,” she said.

Borrowing money for consumers and businesses will become more expensive and will cause investors to become more likely to make saving opportunities.

News Brief

WOMEN’S RETIREES OF YSU TO OFFER SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship committee of the Women Retirees of Youngstown State is accepting applications through March 1, 2022, for the 2022-2023 academic year. The scholarship is awarded to a full-time, junior female student who has a minimum of a 3.0 GPA. The recipient must be a U.S. citizen and be enrolled in a degree-seeking program. Information about the scholarship is available at ysu.edu/finaid/scholarships. Application forms may be printed from the website or picked up at the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships located on the second floor of Meshel Hall at YSU.

Want to see an event covered by The Jambar?

Contact The Jambar by email at
jambarnewspaper@gmail.com

Just keep spinning at YSU

By McCartney Walsh
Jambar contributor

Group X classes offered at Youngstown State University provide a space for students to learn about the significance of exercise and how it impacts overall well-being.

When people think of exercise, they often think only of it as bettering their physical well-being, senior biology major and Group X instructor Brooke Crissman said. In reality, she said, they intertwine to positively impact a person mentally, socially and academically.

These factors are applied and built upon during exercise, such as in Crissman’s yoga class, and she said a lack in one could lead to disadvantages in another.

“Yoga is about physical benefits and difficult poses, but it is not yoga if you don’t give attention to the mental aspects of the body as well,” Crissman said. “You cannot have a healthy body without having a healthy mind, and yoga can be a tool used to strive for both.”

The variety of Group X classes offered also implement this tactic. Interworking the mind and body during a workout gives students a chance to let go of stress or worry they accumulated throughout the week.

Dina Fabry, fitness and wellness coordinator, is an alumna of YSU with a bachelor’s degree in exercise sci-

ence, where she learned about the psychological factors that allow for stress relief to happen.

“When you exercise you experience endorphins. You get a little break from whatever you’re thinking about, whatever you’re stressing about,” Fabry said. “You get time where you can just turn your brain off, focus in on what the instructor is doing. Get sweat out, get stress out.”

According to a study done by Sal Sanders, the dean of graduate studies and Group X spinning instructor, and two other colleagues, exercise is a common stress relief tactic. In the study, 66.6% of the 596 participants said they implemented exercise solely to release stress.

Sanders said exercising through his Group X class has positively impacted his life.

“There is no way I can ride for 45 minutes with wonderful people while listening to excellent music and remain stressed. Because of these benefits, my world is better when I exercise,” Sanders said. “Spinning has become a big part of what I do to make my world better and for me to feel my best.”

When both the mind and body are working together, they begin to impact other aspects of life as well. Sanders commented that being surrounded by other people and feeding off of their positive energy improves the social aspect of well-being, which is equally as important,

but commonly overlooked.

“You can feel the energy in the room,” Sanders said. “Even when I might not feel quite like working out — once the class starts, the energy of the group is so positive. I notice mental changes by my tendency to smile and laugh more after a workout.”

When those factors begin to develop a good sense of self, Fabry explained, it affects reactions to the outside world.

“If you’re stressed and going through something, there is the potential for you to not be completely invested in whatever you may be doing,” Fabry said. “Whether it be in your academics or listening to a lecture or in a conversation with someone, you might not be as fully invested because your mind is elsewhere.”

Everyone deserves to improve their overall well-being, which is why Fabry encourages anyone and everyone to join in on the fun.

“All fitness levels are welcome, all of our instructors are trained to provide modifications to make sure you’re comfortable in your workout,” Fabry said.

Information and registration for Group X can be found on the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center website. The class calendar is listed below and an updated schedule will be posted to the rec center website March 4.

Group X Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		February 1 Relaxation Yoga: 7:15 a.m.-8:15 a.m. Wellness Yoga: 4 p.m.-5 p.m. Fit Camp: 5:15 p.m.-5:45 p.m. Spinning: 6:15 p.m.-7:15 p.m.	2. Power Yoga: 7:15 a.m.- 8:15 a.m. TRX:12:30 p.m.- 1 p.m. Fit Camp: 5:15 p.m.-5:45 p.m. Spinning: 6:15 p.m.-7:15 p.m.	3. Relaxation Yoga: 7:15 a.m.-8:15 a.m. Butts & Guts: 12:15p.m.-12:45pm Xpress Zumba: 4:30 p.m.-5 p.m.	4. Relaxation Yoga: 7:15 a.m.-8:15 a.m. Full Body Fitness: 12:15 p.m.-12:45 p.m.	5. Spinning: 12 p.m.-1 p.m.
6. Spinning: 12 p.m.-1 p.m.	7. Fit Camp: 3:15 p.m.-3:45 p.m. Traveling Yoga: 5:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m. Butts & Guts: 5:30 p.m.-6 p.m. Spinning: 6:15 p.m.-7:15 p.m.	8. Relaxation Yoga: 7:15 a.m.-8:15 a.m. Wellness Yoga: 4 p.m.-5 p.m. Fit Camp: 5:15 p.m.-5:45 p.m. Spinning: 6:15 p.m.-7:15 p.m.	9. Power Yoga: 7:15 a.m.- 8:15 a.m. TRX: 12:30 p.m.- 1 p.m. Fit Camp: 5:15 p.m.-5:45 p.m. Spinning: 6:15 p.m.-7:15 p.m.	10. Relaxation Yoga: 7:15 a.m.-8:15 a.m. Butts & Guts: 12:15 p.m.-12:45 p.m. Xpress Zumba: 4:30 p.m.-5 p.m.	11. Relaxation Yoga: 7:15 a.m.-8:15 a.m. Full Body Fitness: 12:15 p.m.-12:45 p.m.	12. Spinning: 12 p.m.-1 p.m.
13. Spinning: 12 p.m.-1 p.m.	14. Fit Camp: 3:15 p.m.-3:45 p.m. Traveling Yoga: 5:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m. Butts & Guts: 5:30 p.m.-6 p.m. Spinning: 6:15 p.m.-7:15 p.m.	15. Relaxation Yoga: 7:15 a.m.-8:15 a.m. Wellness Yoga: 4 p.m.-5 p.m. Fit Camp: 5:15 p.m.-5:45 p.m. Spinning: 6:15 p.m.-7:15 p.m.	16. Power Yoga: 7:15 a.m.- 8:15 a.m. TRX: 12:30 p.m.- 1 p.m. Fit Camp: 5:15 p.m.-5:45 p.m. Spinning: 6:15 p.m.-7:15 p.m.	17. Relaxation Yoga: 7:15 a.m.-8:15 a.m. Butts & Guts: 12:15 p.m.-12:45 p.m. Xpress Zumba: 4:30 p.m.-5 p.m.	18. Relaxation Yoga: 7:15 a.m.-8:15 a.m. Full Body Fitness: 12:15 p.m.-12:45 p.m.	19. Spinning :12 p.m.-1 p.m.
20. Spinning :12 p.m.-1 p.m.	21. Fit Camp: 3:15 p.m.-3:45 p.m. Traveling Yoga: 5:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m. Butts & Guts: 5:30 p.m.-6 p.m. Spinning: 6:15 p.m.-7:15 p.m.	22. Relaxation Yoga: 7:15 a.m.-8:15 a.m. Wellness Yoga: 4 p.m.-5 p.m. Fit Camp: 5:15 p.m.-5:45 p.m. Spinning: 6:15 p.m.-7:15 p.m.	23. Power Yoga: 7:15 a.m.- 8:15 a.m. TRX: 12:30 p.m.- 1 p.m. Fit Camp: 5:15 p.m.-5:45 p.m. Spinning: 6:15 p.m.-7:15 p.m.	24. Relaxation Yoga: 7:15 a.m.-8:15 a.m. Butts & Guts: 12:15 p.m.-12:45 p.m. Xpress Zumba: 4:30 p.m.-5 p.m.	25. Relaxation Yoga: 7:15 a.m.-8:15 a.m. Full Body Fitness: 12:15 p.m.-12:45 p.m.	26. Spinning: 12 p.m.-1 p.m.
27. Spinning: 12 p.m.-1 p.m.	28. Fit Camp: 3:15 p.m.-3:45 p.m. Traveling Yoga: 5:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m. Butts & Guts: 5:30 p.m.-6 p.m. Spinning: 6:15 p.m.-7:15 p.m.	March 1 Relaxation Yoga: 7:15 a.m.-8:15 a.m. Wellness Yoga: 4 p.m.-5 p.m. Fit Camp: 5:15 p.m.-5:45 p.m. Spinning: 6:15 p.m.-7:15 p.m.	2. Power Yoga: 7:15 a.m.- 8:15 a.m. TRX: 12:30 p.m.- 1 p.m. Fit Camp: 5:15 p.m.-5:45 p.m. Spining: 6:15 p.m.-7:15 p.m.	3. Relaxation Yoga: 7:15 a.m.-8:15 a.m. Butts & Guts: 12:15 p.m.-12:45 p.m. Xpress Zumba: 4:30 p.m.-5 p.m. Murph Challenge: 4 p.m.-6 p.m.	4. Relaxation Yoga: 7:15 a.m.-8:15 a.m. Full Body Fitness: 12:15 p.m.-12:45 p.m.	

PAWS ON DUTY

Please mind the dogs with jobs

By Henry Shorr
The Jambar

Service dogs on campus may be adorable, but it is important to remember that they are here for a reason, and it's not to be petted or admired by strangers.

There is a big difference between a service animal and an emotional support animal. Service dogs have been trained to complete a specific task for the person they work for while an emotional support animal is more for comfort or to make someone feel better.

Gina McGranahan, associate director in the Resch Academic Success Center in charge of Accessibility Services, helps students and faculty with the process of navigating Youngstown State University with service animals. She wants people to know how important it is to not distract service animals while they are on duty.

"A service dog performs a task for the person. If the dog is on duty — which, when they are on campus, nine times out of 10 they are on duty — they are working," McGranahan said. "If you go up to pet the service animal or if you try to play with it, feed it — all those kinds of things — you are making it so the dog is not working."

Service animals need to stay focused to ensure the safety of their owner.

"If the student needs the animal — if it alerts it for something — it might not do what it's supposed to do because you are distracting the animal from its duty. And that could cause a problem for the student," McGranahan said.

Sally Frederick, a senior majoring in advocacy and community management, brings her service dog to school with her. Ripley, who is 5 years old, has been working with Frederick since the dog was 6 months old.

Frederick said she fends off admirers of Ripley all the time when they are on campus together.

"Everyone wants to pet her. If ever I say, 'No, please don't pet my dog,' it's just because you are probably the 50th person to ask today and it does get stressful," Frederick said.

McGranahan reinforced Frederick's point about not touching a service animal without permission.

"They have every right to say no. That'd be just like somebody asking if they can touch you. No means no," McGranahan said.

Frederick's policy to follow if you see a service dog on campus — or anywhere — is to ignore them. They have a job to do.

Have something to say to The Jambar?

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Email jambarnewspaper@gmail.com



Photo courtesy of the Office of Community Engagement and Events
A concert version of the classic “The Music Man” opens at Ford Theater for one weekend only. Pictured (clockwise): Kyle Hudson, Adam Dominick, Sam Law, John Bears and Haley Tura.

‘The Music Man’ comes marching to Ford Theater for one weekend

By C. Aileen Blaine
The Jambar

With the dreamy sounds of “Till There Was You” and the triumphant horns of “76 Trombones,” the Youngstown State University production of “The Music Man” is set to march to Ford Theater next weekend.

The production, performed by the YSU Musical Theater Ensemble, will feature the collaboration of Dana School of Music musicians, musical conductor Kent Engelhardt and vocal director Maria Fenty Denison.

Engelhardt, who has been teaching at YSU for almost three decades, said the excitement each show brings him has yet to wear off.

“I’m passionate about all of these things that I do. This is just one, and I still get excited every day,” he said. “The students are who get me excited, because we do something together.”

Though the production doesn’t feature actors or elaborate onstage scenery, there will be spoken lead-in lines to lend context to songs and small dance performances. The ensemble, consisting of over a dozen musicians —

including Engelhardt himself — will also be onstage.

“Our concert version has retained a bit of plot, some staging and a few dashes of choreography just to spice things up,” Fenty Denison said in a press release.

The production has been in the works since May 2021, and those involved are excited to bring it all together on stage next week.

“Usually what takes the most time is to be able to take all of the elements that are separate right now and bring them all together into one,” Engelhardt said. “But that’s the fun of it, too. That’s where all the energy comes from.”

Fenty Denison is excited to showcase the musical theater classic.

“I am happy to share this bit of Golden Age musical theater with our own greater Youngstown community,” she said in a press release.

As a professor of jazz studies and a passionate musician, Engelhardt said “The Music Man” holds a special place in his heart. The original musical, which debuted in 1957 and follows a conman attempting to bamboozle a small Midwestern town, was a favorite of his mother-

in-law.

“Her favorite song was always ‘Till There was You,’” he said. “Whenever we play it, I think of her. I kind of have a soft spot for that.”

If nothing else, Engelhardt hopes the show will give performance musician majors a taste of potential careers on and off Broadway. The recent Broadway revival of “The Music Man” just goes to confirm his point, he said.

“The whole idea of musical theater is huge in the United States still, and there are opportunities for people to play if they learn to really do it well,” Engelhardt said. “Students who are performance-type majors — they need to learn to do this so that they can play these shows and get paid in the real world to do it.”

Performance times are as follows:

- Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 27 at 2 p.m.

Student admission is free with a valid student ID. For tickets, call the University Theater box office at 330-941-3105 or visit www.ysu.tix.com

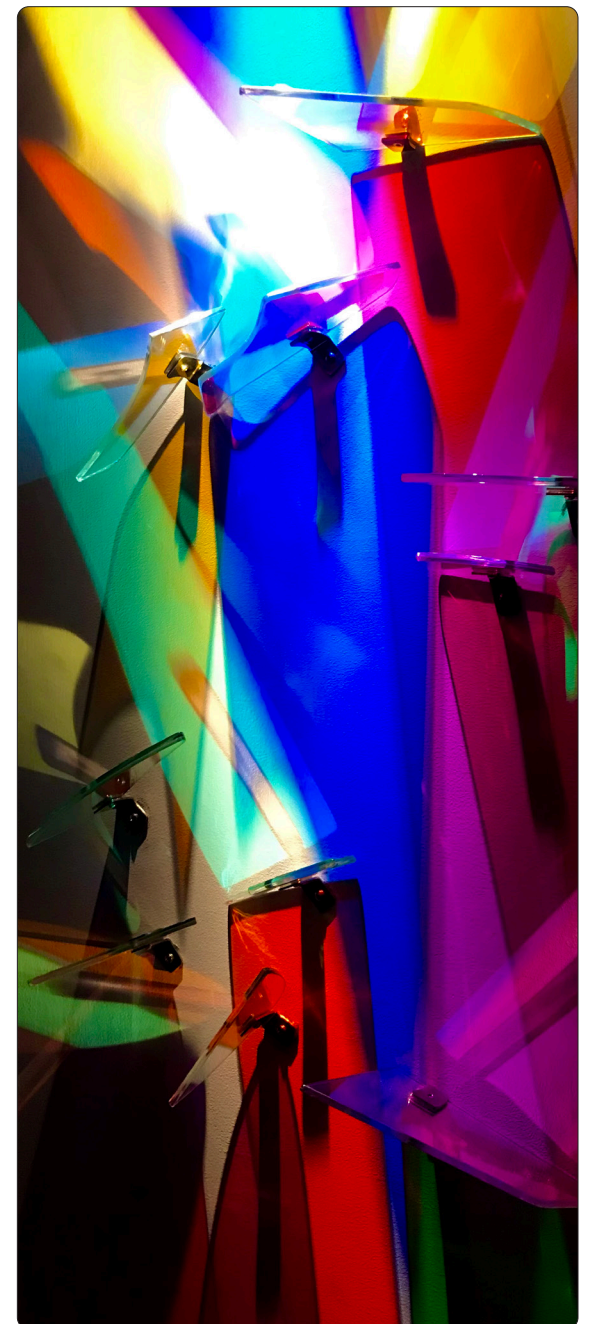


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All current YSU students and faculty: send your photos to jambarnewspaper@gmail.com for your chance to be featured!

Photos by Jambar Staff



HOMEMADE GIFTS OF LOVE

Local businesses spread the love

By Jessica Stamp
The Jambar

Love is in the air at The Youngstown Flea market as it kicked off its seventh season “MadeWithLove” on Saturday, Feb. 12. The theme of the event was focused on finding the perfect Valentine’s Day gift for loved ones.

Local business owners of Sweet Sally’s Creations Rachel Colatruglio and Becca Moliterno enjoy going to the event because they find it to be a lot of fun to participate.

“We have a lot of fun doing The Youngstown Flea,” Colatruglio said. “We wouldn’t do it if it wasn’t a lot of fun and it’s just great to be in a community with other like-minded individuals.”

Sweet Sally’s Creations sells crocheted products that are handmade by Colatruglio and Moliterno.

“We do toys, decor ... all kinds of gift items and accessories,” Colatruglio said.

Sweet Sally’s Creations makes the effort to have a variety of crocheted items so everyone can find something they like.

“We try to bring something for everyone,” Moliterno said. “Maybe someone’s not into cute unicorns, and they’re into plants.”

Colatruglio and Moliterno hope any customer who shops at their business can find a crocheted product

they enjoy.

Tucked in one of the corners at The Youngstown Flea is another local business called Jason’s Marvelous Popcorn, which focuses on high-end, gourmet popcorn.

“It’s about starting with natural ingredients — nothing artificial in them — and just making them from scratch from my own recipes,” Jason Yohman, owner of Jason’s Marvelous Popcorn, said.

Yohman likes attending The Youngstown Flea because it allows him to make connections with other local businesses and show the community what local business is about.

“It’s a place for makers to gather, for us to be able to share ideas with each other, to be able to be passionate about what we do, ... about the stuff we make,” Yohman said.

The Youngstown Flea offers an opportunity for businesses in the area to participate and see what works and what might not for their business.

“It’s kind of like ground level for up-and-coming businesses in the Valley,” Yohman said. “This is a place for people who are looking to get a foothold into the business community to be able to come in and just maybe test some things out.”

Yohman said he also likes to come to The Youngstown Flea because it allows him to test out unconventional popcorn flavors and see what people like the most.

For those interested in checking out Jason’s Marvelous Popcorn, Yohman suggests trying the salted caramel — which is the most popular at the moment — or cheddar, the second bestseller and most requested item.

Right across from Jason’s Marvelous Popcorn is Scented Essentials, owned by Shauna Burton.

Scented Essentials is a “one-stop-shop” for home fragrance, and it sells products from candles to car fresheners. Burton was able to work full-time with Scented Essentials about a year ago, and gives credit to the local community and The Youngstown Flea for making it possible.

“Without the local community, I would not have been able to do that, and their support means the absolute world to me and I know to all the other vendors as well,” she said.

Burton’s favorite part of The Youngstown Flea is seeing new and returning customers because it helps her business and brings her joy to see people enjoying what she likes to do.

“Thank you to everybody that has shopped and supported myself and other vendors at the Flea because without them, we can’t do our passion or continue doing ... what we love to do,” Burton said.

Check out the next Youngstown Flea market event March 12.

YSU talent show coming soon

By Faith Marscio
The Jambar

Student Activities is hosting a talent show Tuesday, Feb. 22, from 7–9 p.m. in The Hub in Kilcawley Center.

The idea for the talent show originated from student interest, according to Sophie Hecht, Student Activities graduate associate.

“We thought it would be a fun way to experience new things together, and students miss having live events,” Hecht said.

According to the assistant director of programming for Student Activities, Carolyn Jesko, the idea originated from a proposed open mic night before the

pandemic began.

A popular student organization on campus, Penguin Productions, will have some of its members serving as judges at the show. Destiny Magee, a member of Penguin Productions, had the original idea for the talent show. While Penguin Productions and Student Activities are not known for talent show-style events, they are excited to venture into this new type of programming.

“In the past, we haven’t necessarily done a talent show through the Student Activities office because the marketing student organization put on a talent show in the past, so we did not want to step on their toes,” Jesko said.

In years prior to the COVID-19 pan-

demic, Student Activities has hosted musical events, such as an open mic night, which served as inspiration for this upcoming event.

“Prior to the pandemic ... we had an open mic night as a part of Welcome Week,” Jesko said.

There will be Youngstown State University prize packs for first, second and third places that will include a tailgate chair, blankets and a Build-A-Penguin. The show is open to anyone, participating or not. As of Feb. 16, 11 slots remain open.

Penguin Productions is actively looking for all different types of talent. Students will receive an email through the Student Events Digest — formerly The

Pulse — or on the Student Activities Instagram.

Pen Pro talent lead Ryan Flemming, a junior, said he is “excited for a special new event to be held on campus.”

In addition to the talent show, Student Activities has a number of events returning to campus, including a trip to a Cavaliers game where \$10 buys a ticket to the game and transportation to and from Cleveland. There will also be another Adulthood 101 session Wednesday, Feb. 23 from 2-3 p.m. in the Pollack Room.



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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 Jambar Editorial

Are we easing up too soon?

We're a little over a month into the semester, and while COVID-19 protocols are still firmly in place, there seems to be a relaxing of the efforts of some students and faculty to remain masked and socially distanced.

A professor may express that it's harder to form connections with students while they are wearing masks and others may lament that spaces on campus like The Cove are not as exciting as they were before March 2020. But this is the world we live in right now — we would all get through it faster if everybody took these small steps to keep others safe.

Cases at Youngstown State University have dropped significantly in the past couple of weeks, going all the way down to 14 cases the last time numbers were reported. Whether that's due to fewer people actually being sick or less testing remains to be seen. Regard-

less of the cause, it has led to more people easing their efforts to keep other Penguins safe.

Who hasn't, in the past month, seen a student walk into class without a mask only to put one on once they are firmly in their seat? Who hasn't had a teacher or classmate come increasingly close to you, only to have to be reminded to stay six feet away?

Yes, there are schools around the country relaxing their COVID-19 restrictions. However, these schools are in states like Massachusetts and Vermont — states which lead our country in vaccination rates.

This has been the pattern for the last two years — cases rise, regulations go in place, cases fall, regulations are relaxed, and then cases rise again. Maybe it's time to take the guidelines in place seriously even past the time cases start to drop.

This isn't to say masks aren't inconvenient or that it isn't sad that campus events are not what they were before the pandemic. However, a mask is less inconvenient than going back to virtual class and life because we eased up too quickly.

Ultimately, at this point in the COVID-19 timeline, it's up to each of us to do what we can for everybody here at YSU. Whether that means simply wearing your mask or calling out others for not following guidelines, you have to do what you are comfortable doing — if that means not wearing a mask or relaxing your own guidelines, just hope that you aren't putting any of your fellow Penguins in danger by doing so.

Quote of the week

“Even while they teach, men learn.”

-Seneca, Letters

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Reigning regular season Horizon League champions back for more

By Mikayla Mustard
Jambar contributor

The Youngstown State University softball team is readying for another stellar season of Horizon League play.

Last spring, the team had one of its most successful seasons in school history, and the women are looking to make another run for a ring. These defending regular season Horizon League champs, with a record of 36-15 and a conference record of 28-8, look to do even better than they did last spring, head coach Brian Campbell said.

“Last year, we were able to come together as a team and looked at it as each player had to do their job, whether it was to get on base, get a player over to score a run [or improve] our defense,” Campbell said.

The Penguins have a challenging 54-game schedule in a season that runs February to May. Conference play kicks off the second weekend of March.

The Lady 'Guins are projected to finish second in Horizon League play this season, with five first-place votes in the pre-season conference poll.

YSU maintained almost all of its 2021 roster, only bringing in three new players and keeping four fifth-year players who took their extra year of eligibility: Elle Buffenbarger, Nikki Saibene, Milena Lacatena and Yazmine Romero.

Buffenbarger, Horizon-League Pitcher of the Year from the 2021 season, carried a total of 212 strikeouts and an earned run average of 2.16. The 212th strikeout for her was the second-most in a single season for YSU. She also owns a career record of 22-19 with 308 total career strikeouts and ranks fifth all-time in this category.

As for Saibene, she carried the team with 25 home runs and 109 runs batted in for her career. She's ranked fourth in career home runs and is tied for seventh in career RBIs.

She also shared the program's single-game records for most hits, RBIs and doubles along with sharing the single-season RBI record of 49.

This past season, she was named to the National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-Midwest Region First-Team and earned All-Horizon League First-Team honors. She also appeared and started in all 51 games for the Penguins.

When asked to take her fifth year, Saibene did not hesitate.

“Deciding to take my fifth year was an easy decision for me. I love this team and this program so much that I would take up any opportunity I am given to stay and help out in any way I can,” Saibene said.

Campbell is in his 14th season in this position and said he's continuously raised the bar for the success of this team. He has his mind set to turn the Penguin softball

program into one of the Horizon League's elite programs.

“We led the conference last year in our defensive percentage and that really helped out with our pitchers,” Campbell said.

He looks forward to getting things rolling to show the Horizon League what the team can do.

Senior infielder Alex DeLeon said she cannot wait to get back out on the diamond. In her 2021 standout season, she was named All-Horizon League Second-Team and appeared and started in all 51 games. She said she's out to prove herself and her team even more this year.

“As we remember our successful season, we strive to be the better version of last year's team. We have been working hard in practice to improve in each aspect of the game,” DeLeon said.

Softball schedule preview

Feb. 18 @ Winthrop (@ Winthrop Tournament) - 3 p.m.
 Feb. 18 vs. Western Carolina (@ Winthrop Tournament) - 5:30 p.m.
 Feb. 19 vs. Albany (@ Winthrop Tournament) - 10 a.m.
 Feb. 19 vs. Towson (@ Winthrop Tournament) - 12:30 p.m.
 Feb. 25 @ Hampton (@ Hampton Tournament) - 10 a.m.
 Feb. 25 vs. Penn (@ Hampton Tournament) - 2 p.m.
 Feb. 26 vs. Norfolk State (@ Hampton Tournament) - 10 a.m.
 Feb. 26 vs. Penn (@ Hampton Tournament) - 12 p.m.
 March 05 vs. Saint Peter's (@ 2022 Scotsman Invitational) - 10 a.m.
 March 05 @ Presbyterian (@ 2022 Scotsman Invitational) - 2:30 p.m.
 March 06 vs. Saint Peter's (@ 2022 Scotsman Invitational) - 10 a.m.
 March 06 @ Presbyterian (@ 2022 Scotsman Invitational) - 12:15 p.m.
 March 08 @ South Carolina - 1 p.m.
 March 11 vs. Detroit Mercy - 3 p.m.
 March 12 vs. Detroit Mercy - 1 p.m.
 March 12 vs. Detroit Mercy - 3 p.m.
 March 15 @ Akron - 3 p.m.
 March 15 @ Akron - 5 p.m.
 March 18 @ UIC - 4:30 p.m.
 March 19 @ UIC - 1 p.m.
 March 19 @ UIC - 3 p.m.
 March 22 vs. St. Bonaventure - 3 p.m.
 March 22 vs. St. Bonaventure - 5 p.m.
 March 25 @ Oakland - 3 p.m.
 March 26 @ Oakland - 1 p.m.
 March 26 @ Oakland - 3 p.m.

“As we remember our successful season, we strive to be the better version of last year's team. We have been working hard in practice to improve in each aspect of the game.”

— Alex DeLeon,
Senior infielder

Women's basketball raids Vikings

By Kyle Wills
The Jambar

The women's basketball team carried the momentum from Wisconsin over to this weekend's trip as the Penguins took both games on the road.

The women once again started the weekend with an overtime matchup. However, this time they were able to come out on the better end as they beat Cleveland State University 77-69.

The Penguins were outscored in nearly every quarter, but a 17-8 second quarter run kept the team in the game. In the extra period, the team overpowered the Vikings with a 16-8 run.

Multiple players were involved in the offense as four Penguins scored at least 10 points. Senior Chelsea Olson led the offense with 21 points while fellow senior Lilly Ritz dominated on both sides of the ball with 17 points and 18 rebounds.

Junior Mady Aulbach was also efficient

from the field as she scored 14 points on 4-of-7 shooting, and sophomore Malia Magestro finished with 11 points.

As a team, the women came out hot, shooting near 50% in the first half. However, in the second half, they only shot 30%. The offense ignited once again in overtime as it shot 80% from the field and 5-for-6 from the free-throw line.

The women kept their winning ways against Purdue University Fort Wayne and also avoided the extra period as they defeated the Mastodons 69-55. The Penguins went into the half down 30-25, but outscored Purdue Fort Wayne 44-25 in the second half.

Senior Megan Callahan silenced the Mastodon crowd by scoring 11 of the Penguins' 20 fourth-quarter points and finished the game leading the team in points with 19. Ritz wasn't far behind with 18 while Olson and Magestro were also again in double figures with 12 and 10, respectively.

For Magestro, this marks her eighth time in the last 10 games scoring at least 10 points.

Callahan had been struggling lately as she's shot at least 40% in only three games since the start of the new year. Head coach John Barnes was impressed with her performance against the Mastodons and how her play has been improving.

"Megan's put together two, three good games, so that consistency is what we need. The Purdue Fort Wayne game was huge. We needed someone to step up. She made some defensive plays, made two [3-pointers] in a row. That really took the air out of them," Barnes said.

For the weekend, Ritz averaged a double-double of 17.5 points and 13.5 rebounds per game. Her performance garnered her Nike Horizon League Player of the Week. It marks her third time earning the honor and her second time in the last four weeks.

The team was great offensively as it shot over 44% from the field while converting 17 of its 21 attempts from the charity stripe.

As the season dwindles, multiple teams are in contention to finish with the top spot in the Horizon League. With only two weeks left in the regular season, Barnes emphasized that the team needs to use these last few games to bring out its best basketball.

"We're just trying to take every game in itself and try to improve as the last four games happen, so we can be playing our best basketball once tournament time hits," Barnes said.

The women will play their final two games at Beeghly Center this weekend as they host Northern Kentucky University at 7 p.m. Feb. 18, and Wright State University at 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 20. Those interested can watch or listen on ESPN+ or 570 WKBN.

Women's lacrosse burns out against Duke

By John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

On Friday, Feb. 11, the Youngstown State University's women's lacrosse team took on St. Bonaventure University at the Watson and Tressel Training Site. The team opened its program's first non-conference game with a win over the Bonnies 18-7.

The Penguins offensive pursuit was led by sophomore midfielder Lauren Ottensmeyer, who netted a game-high four goals on six shots attempted. Ottensmeyer was sensational last season in her freshman year and was able to record 16 goals, 18 total points, nine free position goals and Mid-American Conference Offensive Player of the Week on March 17, 2021.

Besides Ottensmeyer, sophomore midfielder Aryss Lindsey found the back of the net three times. In Lindsey's freshman season, she finished third on the team in goals with 13 and tied for fourth in points with 14.

Freshman attacker Sydney Bumstead started her first game as a Penguin scoring three goals. Another player making her debut was freshman attacker Natalie Calandra-Ryan, who scored two goals.

A notable player in the game was sophomore attacker Erin Clark, who not only scored two goals, but also added a career-best five assists to post seven total points.

She was recognized for her contribution in the win by receiving MAC Offensive Player of the Week.

Clark is the second player in program history to receive the award and was very adamant about getting Youngstown State the recognition it deserves.

"[What was] going through my mind was ... putting Youngstown on the map and being known nationally," Clark said.

During the offseason, Clark tried to push herself to be the best possible player she could be on and off the field. She attributes her success to playing her position at the highest level.

"In the offseason, I really wanted to become a more versatile player and figure out what more I could bring to my game," Clark said.

Graduate student midfielder Ali Korin and sophomore midfielder Jordan Miller also scored two goals to contribute to the Penguins' victory.

Coming through the transfer portal this year was St. Bonaventure's graduate student Savannah Clarke, who played goalie and was with the university for four seasons. In her time at St. Bonaventure, she ranked fifth in program history in overall starts with 29, as well as sixth in total saves with 290.

Clarke's career doesn't stop there as she tallied a ca-

reer-high 19 saves against Duquesne University just a year ago. As a sophomore, she made the NCAA leaderboard for most minutes played in 2019 with 1,020.

Clarke didn't disappoint as she logged a game-best of 13 saves on 20 shots attempted by the Bonnies. Nine of those saves came in the first half of the game alone.

Monday, Feb. 14 was a big day for the women's lacrosse team as it headed to Pittsburgh to take on Duquesne. The team's fourth period comeback effort was not enough as it fell 19-15.

The Penguins started out the game cold until Bumstead scored the first goal to put the team on the board. She also scored two other goals, which put her season total to six.

Going into halftime, the Penguins were down 13-6 and looking to make a comeback. Calandra-Ryan did just that by scoring a career-high six goals and two assists.

She was fundamental in trying to stage an upset over the Dukes, as five of her goals came in the third and fourth periods. Her two assisted goals also helped the score stay close in the final minutes.

The Penguins look to bounce back as they return to the WATTS tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 18, to take on Saint Francis University at 1 p.m.

Men's basketball falls short of tying school record

By Cameron Stubbs
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team has been on a tear as of late. Winners of six games in a row, the team was finally taken down by Robert Morris University ending its hot streak.

Recapping the latest wins from last week, starting with Oakland University, Youngstown State rolled right against the Golden Grizzlies as they secured the victory 78-71. This game extended the winning streak to five games.

The team was led by junior Dwayne Cohill with 24 points and senior Tevin Olison, who contributed 19 points.

The bench mob played a big role in this game as freshman guard Luke Chicone was a huge playmaker, dishing seven assists off the bench. Sophomore Myles Hunter also had 12 points off the bench, playing 29 minutes.

A 44.1 shooting percentage as a team, as well as lots of ball movement, with 20 total assists, carried the Penguins past the Golden Grizzlies.

The next game against University of Detroit Mercy was a high scoring one as the Penguins scored 40-plus points in each of the halves, resulting in an 82-69 win.

Senior Michael Akuchie took over the game and scored a career-high 34 points, with 20 of those points coming in the first half.

Cohill and Olison were also major contributors to the winning effort as they posted 16 and 15 points, respectively.

Knocking down the threes is what shot Youngstown State past the 80-point mark, as each starter shot 50% or better from 3-point range.

This win extended the streak to six for Youngstown State. A shot to tie the longest winning streak in program history of seven straight games came on Super Bowl Sunday versus Robert Morris University.

Cohill led Youngstown State in scoring again with 18 points, followed by a season-high 14 points by Hunter, who knocked down two threes.

Olison and Akuchie also scored in double figures with 11 and 12 points. Akuchie also posted a double-double with 11 rebounds.

Being outscored by 10 in the second half was a killer for Youngstown State.

Junior Shemar Rathan-Mayes went down with a knee injury with 5:56 left to play in the first half, but he returned in the second half.

In the post-game conference, head coach Jerrod Calhoun said he felt the injury affected the team as a whole.

"He [Rathan-Mayes] banged knees, and he was not the same. Shemar is not the biggest framed guy, and you start getting nicked up and you start playing so many minutes, that hurt us today down the stretch. He was not the same player today, at all," Calhoun said.

The game ended 73-68 in Robert Morris University's favor. YSU's winning streak was snapped at six games, and the Horizon League season is coming to a fast close.

This loss was a deeply rooted one for Calhoun as he was looking to accomplish what only former head Youngstown State coach Dan Peters had.

"We had a chance today to tie a good friend of mine, coach Peters and that 97-98 team, and fell short by one game of the school's longest record [for] consecutive wins and I thought about him all day," Calhoun said. "He was a mentor of mine, and I know he would be proud of this group, how hard they have worked, and trying to change a program and trying to get more fans at games and trying to have winning season, and I guarantee he is looking down on this basketball team and he's proud of them."

Today, the Penguins take on the University of Illinois Chicago. Scores and stats from that game will be posted on ysusports.com

The season is still far from over as Youngstown State continues to fight for the playoffs. There is one last home game versus Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis on Saturday, Feb. 19. Following that matchup, two away games remain: one versus Northern Kentucky University and one versus Wright State University.

The streak has been broken, but the war is not over.



Penguins huddle up after YSU foul.

Photo by Elizabeth Coss / The Jambar