

THE JAMBAR

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

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Thursday, March 31, 2022



YOUR VOICE MATTERS



Photo by Jessica Stamp / The Jambar

Left to right: Faith Marscio and Gianna Battaglia, Alexa Kurimski and Jeremy DeMarco, Niko Mastorides and Maguire Franko. Candidates get ready to discuss their initiatives if elected as SGA president and executive vice president for 2022.

Students listen in on SGA presidential debate

By Jessica Stamp
The Jambar

Students had an opportunity to hear Student Government Association presidential and executive vice president candidates discuss their plans of administration and initiatives for Youngstown State University.

The event took place March 24 in the Schwebel

Lounge located in Kilcawley Center. SGA held a presidential debate for candidates: Gianna Battaglia and Faith Marscio; Niko Mastorides and Maguire Franko; and Jeremy DeMarco and Alexa Kurimski. The pairs of candidates took turns debating how they hope to impact students and YSU's campus.

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Professors contextualize Russian invasion of Ukraine

By Christopher Gillett
The Jambar

The ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine began over a month ago. Youngstown State University academics provided context to the expansion of a conflict occurring since 2014 that has deep historical roots.

Brian Bonhomme, a history professor at YSU, specializes in environmental and Russian history. He explained much of the history behind the conflict between the countries and articulated the inaccuracies in many of Russia's justifications.

Among Russia's justifications for the invasion is the claim that Ukraine does not have a history and is appropriating Russian history. While both countries' histories originate with the Medieval Kievan Rus, a Slavic-Viking kingdom which converted to Orthodox Christianity, Ukraine is not appropriating Russian history, Bonhomme explained.

"Over many centuries, [Ukraine has] been a part of

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7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

Thurs.



Rain

High: 66°F
Low: 35°F

Chance of precipitation:
85% rain

Fri.



Rain

High: 40°F
Low: 27°F

Chance of precipitation:
85% rain and snow

Sat.



Mostly Cloudy

High: 51°F
Low: 36°F

Chance of precipitation:
5% sunny

Sun.



Rain

High: 49°F
Low: 34°F

Chance of precipitation:
70% rain

Mon.



Rain

High: 53°F
Low: 37°F

Chance of precipitation:
76% rain

Tues.



Partly Cloudy

High: 56°F
Low: 44°F

Chance of precipitation:
25% cloudy

Wed.



Rain

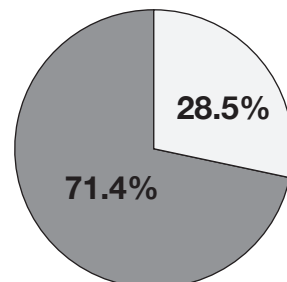
High: 64°F
Low: 39°F

Chance of precipitation:
69% showers possible

Information courtesy of accuweather.com

COVID-19 cases

March 20-26
7 total cases



- 2 employees
- 0 on-campus students
- 5 off-campus students

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Debate

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Battaglia and Marscio joined together largely due to the friendship they've formed over the years.

"We've worked together and had a great progress throughout the last few years, so I think it was natural," Marscio said.

Battaglia and Marscio's campaign is based on their experiences in SGA and being able to accomplish tasks at hand in their current SGA positions as executive vice president and vice president for public relations.

Marscio said they already have established relationships — with administrators and the student body — that help them accomplish their goals.

Battaglia and Marscio hope to accomplish a better connection with First Year Student Services to encourage and get more student involvement in organizations.

"One of the things that we'd like to do with that is get our representatives closer with first year services, so that when students are coming to YSU, they already have an understanding of not only what student government is, but other organizations as well," Battaglia said.

Mastorides and Franko's campaign surrounds their motto "Make it Happen," which gives the student body

an opportunity to be directly involved with their platform.

"We would probably describe our platform as giving students a voice. We have a 'Make it Happen' initiative that directly implements the student voice into our campaign and that's really our main focus," Franko said.

Mastorides and Franko partnered together because of their passion and similar views when it comes to wanting a change for YSU.

"I personally felt like I could incite beneficial change on campus through my initiatives that I had developed and I wanted to find someone who was just as passionate about these initiatives as I was," Mastorides said. "Maguire definitely stepped up to the plate. ... He showed a lot of ambition."

Mastorides and Franko aim to bring transparency with their administration and put the student voice at the forefront of everything they do.

DeMarco and Kurimski decided to start working on their initiatives at the beginning of the school year before campaigning officially began March 14.

"I believe that a big cause of student apathy on campus is students making their voices heard and seeing these transparency programs and seeing things go downhill

anyways," DeMarco said. "That's something we want to change and not just talk about."

DeMarco and Kurimski teamed up because of their friendship and shared vision.

"I thought, 'Who was going to best align with my ideals and what I want to achieve?' and [Kurimski] was the obvious choice," DeMarco said. "I've been friends with her for over a year, and there's nobody I'd rather [have] sitting next to me."

Initiatives DeMarco and Kurimski plan to focus on include partnering with Intel Corporation to open a satellite facility and outreach program on campus while also teaming up with Tampax and the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics at YSU to bring more cost friendly dispensers and menstrual products.

SGA election polls open at 8 a.m. April 5 and close April 6 at 8 p.m.

Visit the candidates' platforms for more information:

- Battaglia and Marscio's website at <https://www.giannaandfaith2022.org>
- Mastorides and Franko's website at <https://nikoandmaguire2022.com>
- DeMarco and Kurimski's website at <https://www.jna4sga.com/our-team>

University attempts to boost enrollment: YSU student enrollment continues to decline, result of many influences and challenges

By **Sydney Stalnecker and Elizabeth Coss**
The Jambar

Youngstown State University has dealt with falling enrollment rates for three years in a row due to several factors. Demographic changes have largely impacted students coming into college all across the country according to Brien Smith, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

"Many areas of the United States — and the Midwest in particular — are undergoing demographic changes. A number of years ago there were fewer babies born, and so we're seeing fewer graduating from high school locally, and that trend continues downward," Smith said.

In addition to demographics, large graduating classes of high school students enrolling with college credit contribute to YSU's enrollment decline.

Elaine Ruse, associate vice president for Student Enrollment and Business Services, explained how students achieving college credit in high school affects enrollment for colleges and universities.

"You have a lot of high school students taking college courses through the College Credit Plus program, so they're entering college with a lot of credits behind them, which basically means they have the potential to graduate faster," Ruse said. "That's a great thing for the students entering college and graduating perhaps in less than four years, or quickly, but that adds to the enrollment challenge that we face."

With the ever-changing learning environment, Ruse said students are reconsidering everything which contributes to the decrease.

"A lot of things have changed in the last couple years especially with the online learning that had to occur during COVID,

"Many areas of the United States — and the Midwest in particular — are undergoing demographic changes. A number of years ago there were fewer babies born, and so we're seeing fewer graduating from high school locally, and that trend continues downward."

— **Brien Smith**,
provost and vice president for Academic Affairs

and I think it has created an environment where students are really looking at all of their options," Ruse said.

Although the 2019-2020 graduating class was larger than the 2018-2019 class, this was likely the last growth in class size for the foreseeable future.

Mike Sherman, vice president for Institutional Effectiveness and Board of

Trustees member, said how the university looks and how it's marketed helps combat the enrollment slope.

"We think about entering classes as individuals who are college-going or college-interested, and an opportunity we have is to better articulate the value and the quality of a YSU education at a very affordable price," Sherman said.

According to Sherman, the university has prided itself on offering scholarship opportunities for students and aims to continue to fund those who enroll. Campaigns like We See Tomorrow help provide students with scholarships.

"Of the \$126 million that's been raised through the We See Tomorrow campaign, about \$70 million of that is scholarships," Sherman said. "That is outstanding and astronomical and really unheard of in terms of that percentage of a campaign."

Invasion

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Austria, Poland, [Poland-Lithuania, and] Russia. It's one of these areas that's struggled for a long time to create and articulate a national identity. It's had a national identity for a long time. It clearly is a state. It clearly is a nation, but it's only been an independent state for about 30 years," he said.

During the First World War and the Russian Civil War, Ukraine had a brief independence but was brought into the Soviet Union, as Bonhomme put it, "kicking and screaming." Under the Soviets, Ukraine dealt with a government-manufactured famine, which was known in the Ukrainian language as the Holodomor, translated as "famine-death." According to Bonhomme, the U.S. Senate recognized the famine as a genocide in 2018. Both the Russian Empire and Soviet Union left bad memories for Ukraine.

Russia has also justified the invasion with the claim of "denazification." Bonhomme explained the historical context.

"When the Nazis invaded the Soviet Union in 1941, they came through Ukraine in many places, and some Ukrainians cooperated with the Nazis when they came in, seeing the Nazis as potential liberators from the horrors of the Stalinist Soviet Union that they were living under. That alliance didn't go very far and didn't last very long, but there is a clear tendency in Russia to see those Ukrainians who collaborated with the Nazis in an extraordinarily negative light, and I think a lot of conflation of modern Ukrainian nationalism with that World War II-era Nazism," he said.

Like many countries today, Ukraine has Neo-Nazi

groups. Azov Battalion is one of the largest Neo-Nazi groups in Ukraine, and, according to The New York Times, is currently fighting in Mariupol against Russia.

Before 2014, many former communist countries were joining NATO, which made Russia nervous. When Ukrainians overthrew the pro-Russian president Viktor Yanukovich in 2014, this was enough pretext to go to war.

"From the point of [view of] Russia, [NATO's expansion] has always looked like a creeping invasion," Bonhomme said. "This isn't something where Putin got up in a bad mood one morning and decided to invade Ukraine. This has been coming for a long time."

Paul Sracic, a professor of politics and international relations who focuses on East Asia, expanded on this and gave his thoughts on Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

"I think that Zelenskyy has done a very good job using the media to gain sympathy for Ukraine, and this has helped to unify the West against Russia. Zelenskyy and NATO can perhaps be criticized for pushing too hard on making Ukraine a part of NATO, something that Russia felt was very threatening," he said.

YSU history professor David Simonelli specializes in contemporary and European history. His study has given him an understanding of the current conflict. He explained his worry around tactical nuclear weapons. According to Simonelli, these are atomic bombs of similar caliber to those dropped on Japan, which can now be carried in a backpack with some difficulty.

"[Russia] may lose their patience and use one, and the use of one nuclear weapon is enough to bring dramatic climate change to this planet that could have an impact on Youngstown — or frankly just the entire world — in

throwing up dust, ash, everything else into the atmosphere. It may come back to your life, if an atomic bomb is dropped there," he said. "The chances of it happening are slim, but slim is not good enough. It has to be zero percent, and we have not been vigilant about this the same way we were during the Cold War."

He also explained how the invasion is affecting Germany and NATO.

"Germany is rebuilding its army for the first time since the Second World War began, beginning to take itself seriously as a military power — which, of course all ought to be a little bit concerned about considering the Prussian past — but also, at least in terms of the German future, could and likely will be a boom to the United States in that Germany will begin pulling its weight a lot more in NATO than it has been in the past," he said.

He also highlighted the similarities between Putin and Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany before World War I.

"Whenever I am talking [with a class] about the First World War and we discuss Kaiser Wilhelm II as a personality, I always tell them that if they really want to know what he was like to take a look at the way that Putin operates in the world. [Putin has a] very similar desire to project himself as being overly masculine. [He is] determined that Russia be consulted in whatever diplomatic issue is going on because they're Russian. A good example of that is our issues in Syria," he said.

For readers interested in keeping up with the war, Sracic recommended The Financial Times, The New York Times, The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal. For more historical context, Simonelli recommended the book "Lenin's Tomb" by David Remnick, which details the fall of the Soviet Union.

Have something to say to

The Jambar?

Send a Letter to the Editor.

Email thejambar@gmail.com

League of Women Voters establishes YSU chapter

By Mikayla Mustard
Jambar contributor

The League of Women Voters of Greater Youngstown is establishing a new chapter at Youngstown State University.

The nonpartisan, grassroots nonprofit organization is dedicated to empowering both men and women who participate in a democracy. The YSU chapter is looking for students from all backgrounds to join.

Sophomore Elise Bush is working with the League of Women's Voters to get this new on-campus chapter started.

As a political science major, she said she's taking the reins of spreading her knowledge to women and getting a headstart on what she wants to do in her future.

"After getting an internship with them and discussing it with the league, we both thought it would be a great addition to get people at YSU to join to get more participation from college students in politics around the area," Bush said.

The organization encourages people to actively partic-

ipate in government and works to increase understanding of major public policies by providing education and advocacy, according to an LWV spokesperson.

"One thing we want everyone to get out of this is to be involved in politics and to be an active person in policy making because it affects all of us," Bush said. "It is important we are all involved and we all know who we are voting for and what decisions will be made for our future."

The LWVGY has been encouraging her to get the campus edition started.

LWVGY President Leah Sakacs said she's very excited to work with Bush and has wanted to reach the student community of YSU for a while now.

"When Elise came to us and was willing to take this on, we were very excited," Sakacs said. "For it to be successful on campus, you need to have a student willing to take an initiative and to take leadership on this."

Founded in 1920, the league was created by the merging of the National Council of Women Voters and the National American Women's Suffrage Association and developed a way to help women exercise their right

to vote.

There are active leagues in all 50 states and more than 750 leagues across the country. The LWV engages in advocacy, education, litigation and organizing to protect every American citizen's freedom to vote.

In its first year, the YSU group is looking to get as many members as possible with limited meetings as the chapter gets started. With not many signees thus far, it's always looking for more to get involved, Bush said.

Vice president of the YSU chapter Julia Csernyik is a sophomore criminal justice major who recently joined the LWV on campus.

"The benefits of having an organization on campus allows for students to get registered to vote who aren't already registered and to be informed in a bipartisan manner on the different policies of the different political parties in the area locally and nationally," Csernyik said.

For more information on the League of Women Voters YSU Chapter, visit its Instagram @lwv_ysu

News Brief

The Women Retirees of YSU are proud to announce the two recipients of its scholarship for the 2022-23 academic year. The scholarship is supported and funded solely by its members.

They are Autumn Hanek of Bristolville, Ohio, and Natalie Ray of Youngstown, Ohio. Hanek is a junior majoring in biology with a minor in chemistry and criminal justice. She plans to attend medical school and pursue a career in forensic pathology.



Autumn Hanek, a junior majoring in biology, plans to have a career in forensic pathology.

Ray is also a junior who is majoring in respiratory therapy with the goal of becoming a pediatric specialist.

The recipients will be invited to attend the May luncheon of the group to be held at Stonebridge Grille and Tavern.

**** Editor's note: This story was submitted by Patricia D Taylor, chair of Women Retirees of YSU, and edited for AP Style.**



Natalie Ray, a junior majoring in respiratory therapy, hopes to become a pediatric specialist.

Campus provides resources for Sexual Assault Awareness Month

By C. Aileen Blaine
The Jambar

April 1 may be known as Fool's Day, but as the start of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, it's no laughing matter. Several Youngstown State University departments are joining forces to spread awareness and provide resources to individuals of all genders within the campus community.

Jacob Haskins, case manager at the Division of Student Affairs, said the university is trying to call more attention to a nationwide problem.

"It's important to realize that we are trying to improve and call attention to problems that are happening nationally," he said. "This is not a YSU-specific thing."

Sexual assault can be defined as — but is not limited to — any intentional, nonconsensual and/or coerced sexual contact. Physical resistance doesn't have to occur to meet the definition, according to the university's sexual misconduct policy. Furthermore, sexual misconduct encompasses a broad range of behaviors, including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, voyeurism and other types of conduct that is nonconsensual or is carried out through force, threat, intimidation or coercion.

Charisse Schmidt, graduate associate for Student Advocacy and Support, said her working experience at a domestic violence shelter — as well as being a survivor

herself — makes spreading awareness that much more important to her.

"I want to help, I want to be supportive," she said. "I want to highlight our services, since a lot of people don't know we have [resources] here for domestic violence and rape crisis. I want to get that [information] out there so that people don't struggle by themselves."

Approximately every 98 seconds, a form of sexual assault occurs in the United States, according to data from the National Crime Victimization Survey. While females are statistically more likely to become victims, members of minority groups such as the LGBT community are at an increased risk.

Haskins said it's not the responsibility of an assault survivor to educate other individuals on what sexual assault is or the impacts it has, as this can be triggering for the survivor. Education is just the first step to serving as a better ally.

"You should be seeking out information on your own, and you should be looking for events and community programs you can attend," he said. "If you have questions, talk to people in our office who do this work, rather than relying on someone who may not be comfortable talking about their experience yet."

Haskins and Schmidt also stress the importance of remaining inclusive and intersectional when discussing topics relating to sexual assault. Not all victims are college-aged females, and it's important to keep in mind

other groups as well. In a display titled "What Were You Wearing," survivors' accounts accompany a variety of outfits that go against the stereotypical associations of assault.

"In the 'What Were You Wearing' display, it's not just 18- to 25-year-old women's clothing," Haskins said. "We're making sure that we're highlighting stories of people who are not the typical standard that you're thinking."

Of the many events running on campus this month, Haskins said the screening of the documentary "The Hunting Ground" is a demonstrative way to lend insight to the implications of sexual assault.

"The Hunting Ground' is eye-opening. Whenever I first saw it, it was a game changer," he said.

The university will provide clinical mental health professionals and resources at all in-person events, helping survivors to debrief or to assist in the reporting process. Additionally, those interested in sharing personal accounts can do so anonymously via a QR code emailed by the Office of the Dean of Students on March 23.

The National Sexual Assault Hotline is available at 1-800-656-4673. Individuals are also welcome to contact the after-hours hotline through Student Counseling Services. Additional resources and guidance are available through the university's Title IX FAQ page at ysu.edu/title-ix/faq

Upcoming events are as follows:

- The Do's and Donuts of Dating Table: 11 a.m.–12 p.m. April 5, upstairs lobby of Kilcawley Center
- One Love Workshop: 11 a.m.–1 p.m. April 11, Rossi Room in Kilcawley Center
- Let's Talk Consent Table: 11 a.m.–2 p.m. April 12, upstairs lobby of Kilcawley Center
- "The Hunting Ground" documentary screening: 7 p.m. April 15, Cafaro Multipurpose Room
- Active Bystander Table: 11 a.m.–2 p.m. April 19, upstairs lobby of Kilcawley Center
- Take Back the Night Poster-Making: 11 a.m.–2 p.m. April 26, upstairs lobby of Kilcawley Center

- Take Back the Night: 6–8 p.m. April 29, Rossi Room in Kilcawley Center

All-day or ongoing events include:

- Denim Day: April 27
 - Teal Tuesdays
- What Were You Wearing?
 - Survivor Stories
- The Clothesline Project: April 18–23

Strikes and gutters, coffee and beer

By Henry Shorr
The Jambar

Birdfish Beer will be hosting its Big LeBREWski Festival, complete with specially-brewed Birdfish beer, screenings of “The Big Lebowski,” live music and other events throughout the weekend.

Events will take place at Westside Bowl on April 1 and at Birdfish Brewing Co. and both Havana House locations April 2. Nate Offerdahl, the owner of Westside Bowl, is glad to be a part of Birdfish Beer’s LeBREWski Festivals.

“This is the second or third year that we’ve been involved. We’ve carried Birdfish Beer since the first year that we opened, and Josh and the gang are friends of mine and it’s really their festival — we’re just a partner and we also host a part of it,” Offerdahl said.

Look around Westside Bowl carefully and it’s easy to see subtle references to “The Big Lebowski” all over. Little tokens and quotes show the influence the movie had on the bar and on Offerdahl.

“It was an easy partnership for us. You know, we use some of that imagery here. If you look at our front counter, there’s a quote from the movie right on the front of it, but we have not gone overboard — some places do,” Offerdahl said. “But in the right sort of little spots, we kind

of pay homage to it. It’s, first of all, a fantastic movie on its face. And I’ve always loved bowling, so that adds an element to it.”

Birdfish brewed two beers to tie the festival together. The first, called Walter Sobczechs, is a Czech-style pilsner, and The Dude is a white Russian imperial stout with vanilla beans. Both will be on tap at Westside Bowl. Co-owner of Birdfish Beer Josh Dunn is ready to tap The Dude again after the annual festival was put on hold for a couple of years due to COVID-19. He talked about the idea behind the beer and why The Dude abides by the rules of white imperial stouts.

“In 2017, a friend of ours said, ‘Hey, you guys should do a beer. Make it a white Russian-style beer.’ At the time, we were drinking a lot of white stouts, or albino stouts. It was a new style,” Dunn said. “He was like, ‘Hey, you guys should do an imperial version of it — of a white stout and add vanilla bean and coffee.’ Well, obviously white stout has coffee — so we added vanilla bean and called it The Dude.”

Along with the tapping of the beers, there will be a costume contest, a screening of “The Big Lebowski” and plenty of bowling. Larry Elefante will also be playing the main stage at 7 p.m. Offerdahl said he is most excited about the screening of the movie at the bar.

“There’s bowling all night, including when the movie

is being screened. We have a 16 foot by nine foot screen that you can see from [the bar], so it’ll be movie theater quality. We’re going to play the sound through the PA, so it’s going to be a lot of fun,” he said.

The event will continue April 2 starting at Birdfish Brewing in Columbiana. Birdfish will offer its special LeBREWski beers as well as Youngstown Coffee Company’s The Dude 2.0 roast. There will also be live music at Birdfish. Swap Meet, the Conkle Brothers and Punk Willie will be taking the stage throughout the day.

Havana House in Boardman and Niles will also have the beers and coffee on tap through the weekend.

There will also be two screenings of “The Big Lebowski” April 2 at Columbiana Culture Collective at Main Street Theater. Dunn is glad to be partnering with Columbiana Culture Collective for these showings. He explained that because it is a nonprofit, the theater was able to get a festival permit to serve beer during the screening. Not only will people be able to walk from the bar on Park Street to the theater with their beer, but they will also be able to buy it from their seats in the theater.

Events kick off at 5 p.m. April 1 at Westside Bowl. To find more info on the event, head to birdfishbrew.com



Photo courtesy of Josh Dunn

The community can enjoy beer and entertainment April 1 at the Big LeBREWski festival.



Photo courtesy of Josh Dunn

Birdfish Brewing Co. created two types of beer called Walter Sobczec and The Dude.

Sigma Chi's Roquacade raises funds and the roof

By Henry Shorr
The Jambar

Youngstown State University students and other Youngstown fans got to enjoy the sounds of Where's Winona Now?, The Broken Relics, and the Labra Brothers at Sigma Chi's Roquacade fundraiser concert. The event, which took place at the Lemon Grove on March 25, was held to raise money for The Huntsman Cancer Institute.

Alex Papa, a junior history major and Roquacade chair at Sigma Chi, said this was possibly the most successful fundraiser the fraternity had, raising \$6,000 for cancer research.

"This is one of the biggest groups we've ever had for sure. I think it went really well — I think this may be the most money we've ever raised," Papa said.

Where's Winona Now? kicked off the show. It played high-energy music to a receptive crowd. Singer Lucy Sawyer said she's glad to be back playing shows now that COVID-19 restrictions are easing up.

"It's a really good feeling, and we are playing so many shows — like an overwhelming amount of shows right now — but it's been good. I'm happy that we're back," Sawyer said. "I thought the turnout was pretty good. We were kind of surprised, we weren't sure how it was going to be."



Photo by Henry Shorr / The Jambar

Where's Winona Now? warmed up the crowd at the start of the fundraiser.

Guitarist Dom DiVencenzo was glad for the turnout, noting it can be hit-or-miss with university-based shows. This is one of the first shows this iteration of the band has played. Chris Ferrick, formerly the band's drum tech, is now playing drums, and Tyler Torporcer is back with Where's Winona Now? on guitar.

The Broken Relics followed up with another high-energy set. It brought the biggest crowd to the show as this band has strong ties to YSU. Alex Jakovina, the band's bassist, spoke about their connection to the school, including the fact Bryce Warmouth, singer and guitarist for The Broken Relics, is a YSU alumnus.

"Bryce graduated from YSU, and we grew up going to YSU games and all that — tailgating with our parents and all that — so I mean, we're very familiar with the downtown campus area," Jakovina said.

The band claims both Youngstown and Columbus, as half the band lives here and half lives in the state capital. Jakovina said coming back to Youngstown to play a show was meaningful to him and the rest of the band. He expressed how grateful he is for a hometown crowd.

"[Coming back to Youngstown] is always such a good time. I think what I enjoy most about it — and I probably speak for a lot of the other guys in the band — is it's our hometown. So when we're playing, I feel like the crowds are just very engaged because it's all friends and family

and the other bands," Jakovina said. "It's so fun to just get everyone together, a lot of people we haven't seen in a long time just from COVID. We want to come back and get a room full of people and all that. It's just a lot of fun."

The Labra Brothers closed the show out with a funky set that was full of life. The band is composed of the four Labra brothers as well as Matt Hayes on drums and Danny Svenson on keys. The brothers belted out a steady mix of eclectic music, complete with brother David Labra switching between saxophone and guitar and the youngest brother, Antonio Labra, rounding out the sound by not only singing backup but playing percussion instruments as well.

Papa was proud of the work Sigma Chi put into this event and, in his eyes, the work paid off. He was glad it could facilitate not only a large donation to St. Jude's but also a good experience for everyone involved.

"We're raising money for cancer for St. Jude's, so it's a very worthy cause, but it's really just to have fun. We're here to get to know everyone better or get to have the college experience the best we possibly can," he said. "It's so much fun because you're doing something good while you're doing that too."

If interested in donating to The Huntsman Cancer Institute, visit its website.

Federal Frenzy back in town

By Samantha Smith
The Jambar

Youngstown State University's Penguin Productions is hosting Federal Frenzy on Saturday, April 23. The free event will be held from 2-11 p.m. in Downtown Youngstown.

Federal Frenzy is an annual event that showcases a variety of entertainment including food trucks, interactive activities and musical performances throughout the evening.

Penguin Productions has organized and hosted the event for the past eight years.

Destiny Magee, activities lead for Penguin Productions and junior dance management major, explained what Federal

Frenzy is.

"It's an art and music festival that takes over Downtown Youngstown," she said. "This year, we'll have multiple bands. It's going to be bigger than we normally do it because we're back in person this year."

Magee detailed what food options will be provided at Federal Frenzy.

"We have a whole food truck strip of vendors," she said. "Then we also partner with local businesses along the strip, like The Federal, Suzie's, things like that."

Jordan Record, events lead for Penguin Productions and senior communications major, also detailed what will be at the event.

"We will have vendors, so people in the area that want to come and sell their

products [can]," she said. "For activities, student organizations and even some businesses will just put on interactive activities that are free and open to the public."

Federal Frenzy takes an extensive amount of time to plan and set up, according to Magee. She explained the timeline for Penguin Productions' event preparations.

"It's all year-round. Honestly, we start as we're doing Fall Fire Fest," she said. "Come spring semester, we really lock down, so I'll say we start over winter break and really just start focusing on Federal Frenzy, but it is [year-round] work as far as looking for bands and things like that."

Magee explained why she enjoys Feder-

al Frenzy and what it means to the community.

"It's an all-inclusive event," she said. "I love many aspects of Youngstown, it's more than just the bands. We try to bring everyone from the community together and give everyone something to do."

For more information on Federal Frenzy or Penguin Productions, visit its website.

"I really hope [students] take out what we're getting from [Federal Frenzy]," Magee said. "Just being back in person and joining the community, coming back together."

Connect through similarities and embrace differences with MSA

By McCartney Walsh
Jambar contributor

The Muslim Student Association at Youngstown State University strives to connect and provide support for Muslim students while educating non-Muslim students on Islam.

The MSA is a relatively new organization, brought to campus at the end of 2020 with the goal of creating a welcoming environment for Muslim students on campus, according to MSA's creator and president, sophomore biology pre-med major Layali Kusuni.

"We wanted to have a group here on campus that allows Muslims to meet and connect with each other," Kusuni said. "Being a Muslim college student comes with many experiences, so having this organization creates an open environment allowing you to connect with people that are sharing the same similarities as you."

MSA's advisor is fashion and interior merchandise treasurer and YSU professor Taci Turel. She said Muslim students are a very diverse group of people, many often coming from different backgrounds, countries and different cultural experiences.

"MSA is an organization that helps these students navigate in Youngstown as a minority group who share the same faith," Turel said. "They also learn from each

other's perspectives and cultures."

Being able to provide Muslim students with the opportunity to connect with other students they can relate to enhances their college experience, making them feel more supported and represented, Turel said.

"The organization helps students create a support network and tackle issues they may experience due to rising levels of misunderstanding and lack of knowledge regarding Muslims in the U.S.," Turel said.

Another goal of the association is to educate, involve and welcome non-Muslim students to the MSA.

"We highly encourage and appreciate non-Muslims being involved in MSA and attending events, religious and nonreligious," Kusuni said. "This allows non-Muslims to learn more about Islam, as well as spread awareness."

Sophomore biology BaccMed major Julianna Sandine isn't a member of the Muslim community but joined the group in order to support her friends and fellow students and learn new things about the religion.

"I soon learned all about the culture and religion," Sandine said. "I found this to be super insightful, especially coming from someone who knew little to nothing about the religion."

By breaking the barriers between different religions, students on campus are able to teach and learn more

about each other, creating a more harmonious environment for all students at YSU, Kusuni said.

"There are a lot of misconceptions about Islam," Kusuni said. "So connecting with others on campus creates a peaceful and safe environment here on campus for Muslims."

According to Turel, with so many different, unique people in the world, it is important that people learn about, respect and embrace those who are different from them. She also emphasized how important it is to have diverse organizations on campus.

"It's important for our students to understand other cultures, religions and international communities, because they will more than likely be working in very diverse environments when they graduate from YSU," Turel said.

Such insight and understanding offers both personal and professional benefits, according to Sandine.

"I want to become a doctor, knowing not all of my patients are going to be the same religion or sex as me, makes it so important to try to expose myself to all cultures," she said. "It is important because it allows us to understand each other as humans better, it allows us to have empathy and become better humans ourselves."

For more information on getting involved with or joining the MSA, find the group on Instagram at @ysu.msa or contact Kusuni at lkusuni@student.yosu.edu



Sara Khan (left) and Yara Habo (right) stand outside at the Student Organization Fair to promote the Muslim Student Association.

Photo courtesy of Muslim Student Association

Penguins waddle through off-campus job opportunities

By Kara Boerio
Jambar contributor

Students don't have to limit gaining hands-on experience to on-campus opportunities. They can get involved off campus to expand the knowledge and skills learned and apply them in the professional community.

Kelly Hammonds, manager of strategic partnership and crew development for Program Productions Inc., offers job opportunities for students. They can be hired as Utilities, production assistants, runners and parabolic mic operators for entry-level positions.

She finds students to hire through media or communications instructors and said an instructor is a student's best connection to the professional community, as they often have connections a student may not be aware of.

"Start by looking for opportunities at school and take advantage of them," Hammonds said. "Instructors are the ones who are going to provide a reference, make an impact on campus and then look for opportunities when you have built a solid foundation of skills."

Hammonds starts the hiring process by asking instructors for recommendations.

"If an instructor sees someone who is succeeding on campus and taking advantage of opportunities locally, then they will recommend them for additional experiences that come along," she said.

Hammonds said it's an eye-opening experience and a chance to see different career paths, and anything learned in the field can be brought back and applied to the school's program. Her company will continue to hire students who are getting hands-on experience on campus.

Felicia Hatcher Brown, lead Skilled Utility for Hammonds' company, works in professional and college sports. A Utility is an entry-level position in the technical field of production and is a good position for someone to start in, she said.

"A good Utility is worth a million dollars to a production, especially one that follows directions [and] they know how to do all the technical cable runs and plug-ins," she said. "I hope anybody that works with me will

understand how to run a cable, they know the male end from the female end and they know how to wrap a cable."

College students benefit by working in production because what they learn can help them secure jobs after graduation, she said.

"It's a good opportunity because it will give work experience, something to put on [student's] resume, help [to] get other jobs and to network with people," Brown said.

Paul Ditchey, a lecturer at YSU in the communications department, said if students take advantage of entry-level job opportunities and work hard, it can lead to future employment.

"It could lead to a full-time job, which is why I would assume everybody is in college, plus [it pays] pretty good even while [students are] in college to do those jobs," Ditchey said.

Off-campus opportunities benefit students because they teach them what they need to do to secure employment in their chosen career fields, he said.



Photo by Kara Boerio / The Jambar

Students can take jobs off campus as a way to learn the professional environment.



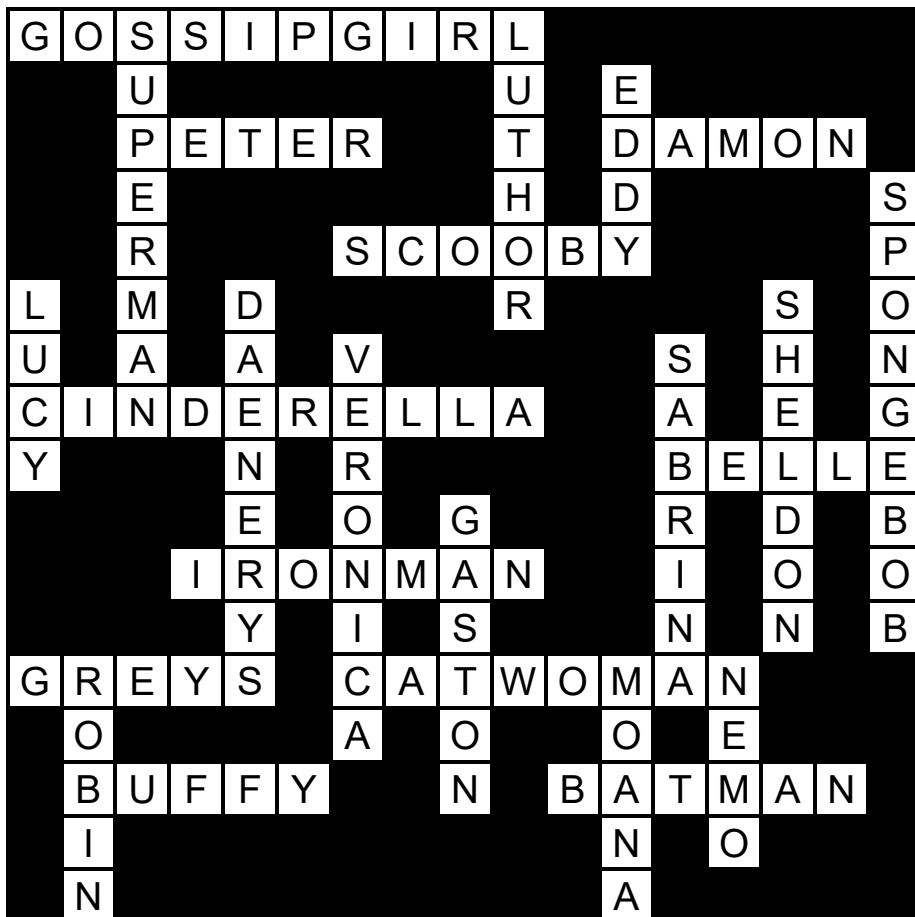
Photo by Kara Boerio / The Jambar

Working in a professional setting gives students a chance to secure a job after graduation.

Answer key for 03-24-22 edition

Crossword Puzzle

Media Madness



Sudoku



3	1	8	2	7	4	5	9	6
5	2	4	6	9	1	8	7	3
6	7	9	5	3	8	2	4	1
9	8	7	1	4	5	3	6	2
1	5	6	7	2	3	4	8	9
2	4	3	9	8	6	1	5	7
4	3	1	8	6	7	9	2	5
7	9	5	4	1	2	6	3	8
8	6	2	3	5	9	7	1	4

THE JAMBAR POLICY

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

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The editorial board consists of the editor-in-chief, managing editor, news editor, sports 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 Editorial

Gas going up fast

Gas prices rose quickly in March — so quickly, in fact, that the national average surpassed the record of \$4.11 per gallon set in July 2008, according to the Energy Information Administration.

AAA's national gas price statistics reported that the new record cost for one gallon of regular gas was set on March 11 and is now \$4.33. However, it has gone down very slightly to the current national average of \$4.24.

Locally, Youngstown is setting records, too. The record, set March 29, shows that the Youngstown-Warren area hit an average of \$4.10.

Many Americans expressed dissatisfaction with the rising gas prices, especially when some can remember gas costing 99

cents per gallon at the beginning of the pandemic.

Several people want to know the cause behind the increase. It seems the rise in gas prices is Russian President Vladimir Putin's fault, not U.S. President Joe Biden's. The sanctions placed on Russia have crippled its ability to export crude oil, according to a release from GasBuddy on March 5.

The student body of Youngstown State University consists mainly of commuters, and the rise in gas prices adds to the financial burden many students have.

At the current average rate of \$4.09 per gallon in the Youngstown area, it would cost \$59.31 to completely fill a 14.5 gallon tank in a quite small 2005 Hyundai

Elantra.

One year ago, at the average rate of \$2.87 per gallon, it would cost \$41.62 to fill up the same size tank. Overall, this change resulted in an almost \$20 increase.

With a half-hour commute to and from the school, many students fill their tanks every 1-2 weeks.

At this point, we've limited ourselves to filling our tanks with however much gas \$20 can buy — regardless of how much our cars actually need for a full tank — as an attempt to trick our minds into thinking we aren't spending the obscene amounts of money that we actually are.

The Jambar Column

That slap, though



Henry Shorr

I shamelessly love the Oscars. As a cinephile, Oscars night has always been a guilty pleasure for me. Growing up, I would watch the red carpet pre-show with my mom and we would comment on who had great outfits and who had not-so-great outfits. The latter was always more fun.

As I got older and more into movies, the technical Oscars became more interesting to me and also led to me taking in movies with a keener eye for how the movie is made and not just who is in it.

Now, as an adult, I realize the Oscars ceremony is, for the most part, rich people patting other rich people on the back so they can potentially make more money next year, but I still watch them every year. I always remind myself that all those people are good union workers.

This year's Oscars ceremony was, for the most part,

fantastic. "CODA" and "Dune" won big, we got a weird 30-year reunion for "White Men Can't Jump" and Daniel Kaluuya gave us a "long live chairman Fred" before announcing the winner for best supporting actress. But then the thing happened.

I really don't even want to talk about it, because at this point, what is left to be said? But I feel like — even if it is just so I can stop thinking about it — I have to.

Chris Rock made an ad-libbed, tasteless joke about Jada Pinkett Smith's alopecia. Not exactly punching up with that joke, Chris. Will Smith started to laugh but then looked at Pinkett Smith, who was rolling her eyes, and be-

fore anybody knew what was happening, Smith was onstage with an open palm ready for Rock's cheek.

I was absolutely shocked watching the feed go in and out. Future viewings of the international broadcasts, which were uncut, filled in the blanks.

Later in the evening, after Smith's acceptance speech for the Oscar for best actor, the crowd gave him a standing ovation. It was at that moment that I remembered how many times the same room of people had clapped for and thanked Harvey Weinstein.

I truly, honestly couldn't care less about this slap. Again, a rich guy slapped another rich guy in front of a bunch of rich people. Who cares? Yes, it sets a bad precedent, and yes, if it had not been a rich guy slapping another rich guy, he would have been escorted out.

I am more upset about the other great moments that were

overshadowed. John Leguizamo spoke about how the Oscar statue was modeled after Emilio "El Indio" Fernández, a Mexican filmmaker and actor. He then went on to make the best joke of the night. Google it if you have to.

Finally, at the end of the show, my favorite moment happened. Lady Gaga and Liza Minelli came out to announce the Oscar for best motion picture. It was clear that Minelli was having some difficulty and Gaga turns to her and says, "I got you." Minelli turns to her with a simple response: "I know."

Coming from a family touched by dementia, this moment hit me so hard. I was reminded of Gaga's friendship with Tony Bennett, whose Alzheimers has kept him from touring. After everything that happened that night, for better or worse, this is the moment I'm holding onto.

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Photo courtesy of Robert Hayes

Cole Peterson named youngest director of Football Operations and Player Personnel in the country.

Peterson makes history with Penguins

By Mikayla Mustard
Jambar contributor

Cole Peterson has been named director of Football Operations and Player Personnel, making him the youngest person in the country to fill this role at the Division I level.

“I am beyond thankful to coach Phillips for his belief in me, for this opportunity to help lead Youngstown State football with him and our staff,” Peterson said. “I’ve been able to be around a lot of great mentors at a young age to put me in the position I am today.”

As son of previous Penguins’ assistant football coach John Peterson, he looks to follow in his father’s footsteps.

“My father is the reason I’m in the position I am today,” Peterson said. “I truly started working in the football office at age 9, going to work with him any chance I could, and fell in love with the game and wanted to be just like him.”

John Peterson was a decorated coach at the collegiate

level with 30 years of experience. His background includes spending time with former Youngstown State University head coach and current university President Jim Tressel at The Ohio State University.

Cole Peterson has a lot of experience as well. Prior to being a member of YSU staff, he volunteered for football teams at the University of Akron, University of Pittsburgh and the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

At these schools, he worked as a football assistant from 2014-2017. In 2017, he became an assistant coach and a director of basketball operations at his high school alma mater, Pine-Richland.

In 2018, he took over football operations and recruiting at YSU. This ultimately led him to the position he is in now.

Having graduated in December 2021 from YSU with a bachelor’s degree in communications, Peterson said he is now prepared to tackle a new role with the Penguins.

C.J. Charleston, a junior standout wide receiver, worked with Peterson on the sidelines through his entirety at YSU so far.

“Cole brings a ton of energy that most older coaches do not bring, along with relatability between culture and areas in players lives that require someone who is around the same age to be there to reel us in and realize what is always at stake,” Charleston said.

Among other players, sophomore linebacker Michael Voitus has developed a personal relationship with Peterson.

“The fact that he is in our age group plays an effect with the impact he brings to the table because he can relate to what the players are going through and seeing on a daily basis through social media and music,” Voitus said. “In doing this, he can relate to players and create a bond most staff personnel can’t.”

Peterson said he is honored to be such a big part of the team.

“It is an honor to be on the sidelines with the team. I learn so much from those guys on a daily basis and try to be a sponge and soak up as much knowledge as I can,” Peterson said. “Those guys make it fun to get up every day and head into work.”

Throwback Thursday: This season's rankings in YSU history

By Kyle Wills
The Jambar

Both the Youngstown State University men's and women's basketball teams concluded their seasons this month, but the women's campaign as a whole ranks well in Youngstown State history.

The women's basketball team finished the 2021-22 season with an overall record of 24-7. This marks the sixth-best record in program history. The five other teams were led by Hall of Fame head coaches Ed DiGregorio and Joyce Ramsey. Ramsey was the first women's basketball head coach in program history.

The women's 24 wins under head coach John Barnes marked the 11th time in history it reached the 20-win plateau and the first time since the 2018-19 season.

With the team's performance this year, Barnes was able to garner Horizon League Coach of the Year. He became the second Youngstown State coach to take home

the Horizon League award.

However, Barnes is the third coach to win coach of the year as DiGregorio took home Mid-Continent Conference Coach of the Year on two occasions.

This year, the women were co-regular season Horizon League champions for the first time in program history since joining prior to the 2001-02 season.

The last time Youngstown State claimed that title came during the 1997-98 season when it went 15-1 in the Mid-Continental Conference.

That year, the team earned a school-best 28-3 record and made its way into the Mid-Continent Championship where it defeated Valparaiso University 78-69. With the win, the Penguins punched their ticket into the NCAA Tournament.

The women earned the No. 12 seed in the tournament and were paired against No. 5 seed Memphis. They managed to pull off the 91-80 upset to collect their first NCAA Tournament win in YSU history.

The team's last NCAA Tournament bid came during the 1999-2000 season.

In the 1999-2000 campaign featuring 22 wins, the Penguins would reach the NCAA Tournament for the third time in five years. It also marked the final winning season of DiGregorio's YSU career.

The team's next winning season came in 2012-13 under head coach Bob Bolden. The gap of over a decade included a 0-30 campaign during the 2009-10.

Inside this year's 24-7 season was the team's 18-4 record in Horizon League play. Its 18 wins marks the most conference wins in program history. The previous mark was 15 wins from the 1997-98 campaign.

This season, the women had two players named to the All-Defensive Team in senior Lilly Ritz and junior Mady Aulbach. Only one other Penguin had been named to the team prior, that being Lauren Branson during the 2007-08 circuit.

Penguins unable to top Mountaineers

By John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

This past weekend, the Youngstown State University men's baseball team traveled to the Monongalia County Ballpark in Granville, West Virginia, to take on West Virginia University.

The men's baseball team looked to ride its momentum from a two game winning streak into a three-day series against the Mountaineers slated for March 25-27.

The inclement weather that was expected to hit the area caused the games to move to Thursday, March 24 and a doubleheader on Friday, March 25.

Despite the setback of the game changes, Youngstown State started its first game of the series in a thrilling fashion only to fizzle out by allowing five straight runs by the Mountaineers. The Penguins fell 6-4 to West Virginia, breaking their winning streak.

Down 1-0 in the second inning, the men's baseball team went to work scoring the next four runs to take a three-run lead in the top of the third. West Virginia came back in the fifth inning to even the score 4-4 and eventually got the job done in the eighth and ninth innings to secure the Mountaineer victory.

The loss showed sparks of a great team as senior outfielder Dominick Bucko, junior infielder Braeden

O'Shaughnessy and senior infielder Steven D'Eusanio each had two hits, out-hitting the Mountaineers 8-5.

Junior outfielder Andre Good had a two-run triple and scored a run to keep the game within striking distance.

On the mound for the Penguins, redshirt pitcher senior Jon Synder allowed four runs on five hits and struck out six batters over four innings. Redshirt junior Alex Cardona came in for an inning of relief and walked three batters.

For the doubleheader March 25, Youngstown State was unable to get it done, losing both games to the Mountaineers. The Penguins dropped the first game 9-3 before falling apart 13-2 in game two.

Head coach Dan Bertolini expressed that the changes of the games, as well as being on the road against Penn State, had an effect on the players and overall preparation of the game.

"It was difficult; not an excuse — we have to find ways to execute. We were not as fresh on the mound as we would have liked to be, especially when you're playing a good team like that and it had an impact," Bertolini said.

In game one of the doubleheader, West Virginia scored seven runs over its final four at-bats to overwhelm the Penguins.

Senior pitcher Chad Coles tried his best to hold off the Mountaineers but took the loss after allowing seven runs on seven hits. However, he had four strikeouts and walked five batters over six innings.

Senior outfielder Lucas Nasonti went 2-for-3 with a double and a home run to get Youngstown State on the board. He also scored all three of the Penguins runs and was a fundamental part of the game.

In game two, the Penguins allowed six runs in the first three innings which helped the Mountaineers to a 6-0 lead. Youngstown State fired back with a two-run sixth inning before West Virginia answered with seven runs in the bottom.

With the series loss, the Penguins fall to 9-14 on the season but have high hopes that with rest and preparation they will be able to win down the stretch.

"In the second game they just beat us. We didn't play well — we had five errors — you're not going to win too many games like that," Bertolini said.

The men's baseball team played Michigan State University on Wednesday, March 30. For more information on the game check out ysusports.com.

The Penguins are back in action April 1-3 as they face a three-game Horizon League series against Oakland University.

Bowling team picks up spare with national tournament bid

Cameron Stubbs
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University bowling team flew south to compete in the Southland Bowling League Championship in Harahan, Louisiana, this past weekend.

The Penguins were ranked No. 4 in the pre-tournament rankings and were set to face off against No. 5 ranked Louisiana Tech University.

The tournament was formatted as mega matches which include five Baker matches and one standard game.

Against the Lady Techsters, the Penguins took a 2-1 win and advanced to the next round. The Penguins had lost all four matchups this season versus Louisi-

ana Tech, but the pins fell in Youngstown State's favor this time.

Due to splitting the Baker matches and the traditional game, a best-of-seven game was held.

After losing the first of the best-of-seven matchups, the Penguins rallied back to win four-straight games to continue in the tournament.

Senior Emma Wrenn had a 245 game, the highest ever for a Penguin at the conference tournament. Wrenn then topped this with a 248 game as well. Fellow senior Emma Dockery also had a 247 game during the big day for the Penguins.

Moving onto the next round, the Penguins faced off against Sam Houston University. The Penguins won the traditional match but lost all of the Baker

matches. The best-of-seven was a sweep as Wrenn and sophomore Kirsten Moore led the way.

On Day Two, the Penguins lost to Vanderbilt University 2-1. Splitting the Baker matches and the traditional match, this also came down to a best-of-seven set.

For the first time in the tournament, the Penguins fell 4-0 in the best-of-seven and faced elimination in their next game.

Day Three for Youngstown State was make-or-break as it faced Louisiana Tech again, defeating the Bulldogs 2-1.

A date with Vanderbilt University for the second time decided the winner of the conference. The Commodores came out on top again to win the championship 2-0.

Despite the loss, Wrenn and Dockery

were named to the all-tournament team, the first Penguins to ever be named to this at the conference level.

With this honor, Wrenn is still all about the team and the tournament, as she stated in an interview.

"I think we made our mark last year," Wrenn said. "Marks are made to be broken — we're trying to beat how we finished last year."

The successful season is not over as the NCAA Regionals will take place this weekend when the Penguins take on Arkansas State University in the Lancing Regional.

Stay up to date on scores and stats on ysusports.com



Women's bowling places second in Southland Bowling League Championship.

Photo by Cameron Stubbs / The Jambar