

#### LARGE DONATION FOR A NEW STUDENT CENTER



YSU President Jim Tressel about to announce the \$5 million donation.

Photo by Elizabeth Coss / The Jambar

## A new center for YSU

By Elizabeth Coss The Jambar

During the nationally-broadcasted men's basketball game Jan. 27, Youngstown State University President Jim Tressel stepped onto the court and delivered the announcement that YSU will build a new student center to replace Kilcawley Center.

Replacing or renovating the center has been talk-

ed about by the board of trustees and president for several years, but because of a \$5 million donation kickstarter from the Zoldan Family, the new building will become a reality.

Tressel said the new center was one of the last steps he wanted to finalize while president.

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# Tressel bids YSU adieu

By Molly Burke The Jambar

Before Jim Tressel's last days as president of Youngstown State University, students, staff, alumni, friends and family gathered to say farewell at a celebration in Kilcawley Center on Jan. 25.

At the event, refreshments were available and music played as guests took photos with Tressel. Speeches were presented by YSU Interim President Helen K. Lafferty, board of trustees Chair John R. Jakubek, Student Government Association's President Nickiforos Mastorides and Vice President Maguire Franko.

Tressel reflected on his time at YSU, while looking ahead at the future. He said he hoped people remember how much he loved the university.

"I really wanted to make sure I could make a difference for every student, every employee, in every way I could," Tressel said. "I think [my greatest accomplishment] was creating good relationships with students, faculty, staff [and] the community."

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#### THE JAMBAR

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#### Donation

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"I've kind of felt that this was the last one that we had to get going," Tressel said. "I'm hoping it only takes a year or 18 months to raise what we need and we're going to begin the planning and so forth then, hopefully in three or four years, [events] will be in a brand new Zoldan Family Center."

Tressel also said that as time moves forward, there will always be changes to the university.

"I think back to all the fun times we've had [in Kilcawley Center] and the great service that this building has given us, but there's a time for new. There's a time for a new president and there's a time for a new student center, and I'm proud to be a part of it," Tressel said.

According to YSU's News Center, the donation is equivalent to the largest gift given to the university in its history.

The Zoldan Family, the founders and owners of Phantom Fireworks, have donated to the university before. According to YSU's News Center, the family previously donated a \$1 million gift in 2020 to establish scholarship opportunities for students.

Joy Polkabla-Byers, associate vice president of Student Experience, explained what the donation means for the university moving forward.

"This is a donation that will be the naming rights of the facility," Byers said. "[The building] will be the Zoldan Center



The new center will be named after the Zoldan Family. Photo by Elizabeth Coss / The Jambar

and at this point we're moving forward with setting the plans in place and looking at architects and continuing to raise funds for the rest of the building."

Byers said the new center is estimated at being a \$40 million project, but construction will not affect the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center or Kilcawley House.

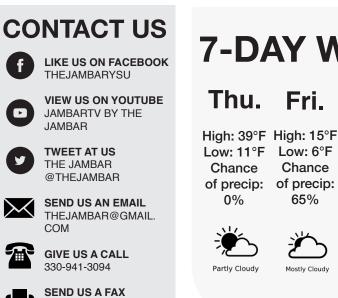
Byers also said she was excited to see the heart of campus grow stronger with a new center, but it won't be an end for Tressel's contributions to the university.

"[Tressel's] not done yet. I guarantee

he's going to be involved in this project from start to finish," Byers said. "There's still lots of opportunities to figure out what we need and I think it's really important that we're still thinking about the future."

The university will be working with the YSU Foundation in terms of fundraising and garnering more funds to build the new center.

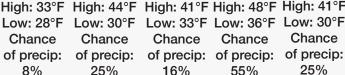
No date has been given as to when construction could begin, but Byers said it may take 10 and a half years total to see a final product.

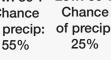


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#### **7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST** Fri. Sat. Sun. Mon. Tue. Wed. Thu. High: 39°F High: 15°F High: 33°F High: 44°F High: 41°F High: 48°F High: 41°F Low: 11°F Low: 6°F Low: 28°F Low: 30°F Low: 33°F Low: 36°F Low: 30°F Chance Chance Chance

Chance 8%







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Information courtesy of accuweather.com

# Celebrating history and hardships

#### By Jessica Stamp The Jambar

Throughout the month of February, Black History Month celebrates, recognizes and honors the African American people's past challenges of unequal opportunity and their contributions to culture and history.

Carol Bennett, assistant provost for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, said Black History Month used to last only a week before Carter G. Woodsen, founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, petitioned for a month of celebration.

According to the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, it believed it was significant to have the month of February be observed for African Americans and Black history.

"ASALH, however, sought recognition from the federal government, in the belief that it was important for our nation to set aside the month of February in official observance of African Americans' contributions to the history of the United States and world," ASALH stated.

Bennett said this month celebrates African or Black people and allows people to further understand events as well as gain new information.

"It is a celebratory of people who identify as African and or Black, but it's also an unearthing some of the challenges that people have had and overcome and is [about] learning new things and possibly relearning some things," Bennett said.

Bennett also said February is important because it acknowledges the diversity of people and described the U.S. as a melting pot filled with groups of people that made the country great.

"Regarding the foundation of the United States and the people, and you'll find that Africans were here in the 1500's. We owe certain agricultural products to them," Bennett said. "We owe how sometimes we design our homes, especially in places like Louisiana."

Della Toliver, a sophomore nursing major, said she wishes people took the time to learn more about Black History Month and Black culture.

"It's important for all communities, regardless of your own ethnic background, cultural background, to take an opportunity to learn about someone else that's different than you," Toliver said. "It's our human obligation to learn about them and just how to communicate with them and connect with them on a different level."

Black History Month can bring up uneasy and hard conversations but Toliver said it's okay to have these types of conversations because it challenges people to be better.

"Listen to individuals talk about certain issues, talk

about certain topics and expect that maybe some things that are brought up will make you feel a little bit uncomfortable and that is okay. Feeling a little bit uncomfortable only challenges you to grow even more," Toliver said.

Toliver said Black History Month can help people grow by engaging with the culture and history.

"Not all history is easy but it's history that people need to hear," Toliver said.

Bennett said students can take part in the event like the African Marketplace which will happen from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Feb. 4 in the Kilcawley Center's Chestnut Room. Food, dancing and vendors will be available for those attending.

"It's a multiple layered way of connecting with the culture," Bennett said.

Bennett and Toliver said there is more to Black culture than what is portrayed on social media and taught in schools.

"Definitely taking the time and energy to learn about [Black] culture and read about the community ... Black history is more than just what you learned about in grade school," Toliver said.

If interested in learning more about Black culture and history, reach out to the DEI office or visit Jones Hall room 1004.



Women's basketball team greeting each other.

Photo by Elizabeth Coss / The Jambar

Want to see how women's basketball played? Check out the story on page 15.

#### Goodbye

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During Tressel's time as president, YSU achieved many goals including increased graduation rates. He said these achievements were part of a team effort.

"Eight years ago, our graduation rate was 33%. Yesterday, we sent in our graduation rate at 49%," Tressel said. "Everyone had a part in that. Everyone made a difference. That's what's fun about being on a team that cares about the students and cares about the university and cares about the community."

Tressel said he felt confident that YSU will continue to be loved and increase its excellence.

"I think any time you're getting ready to make a turn in life, you want to feel confident that all of the love you put into it will continue." Tressel said. "I'm excited by Dr. Lafferty and her love for this university, so I have every confidence we're going to keep rolling,"

Lafferty worked closely with Tressel while serving on the board of trustees. She said every memory she has of Tressel is a fond one. "You only get one Jim Tressel, and we were lucky to have him for as long as we did. He is a really great example of a person who says what he means and acts on it. He is just an incredible human being who is trusted, respected, loved," Lafferty said.

David Janofa, associate vice president of the division of workforce, education and innovation was on Tressel's first football team he coached. He said he had many special memories of Tressel, as both a YSU student and employee.

"One of my favorite memories is when I was a superintendent at a local district and we were here with some students, and there were about 500 students in [the Chestnut Room]," Janofa said. "A few days later [Tressel] came to me and he addressed some specific students that were here, by name, by grade and what their interests were."

Catholic Penguins development director, Jacob Sebest, and campus minister, Bernadette Sartor, came to the celebration to represent the Newman Center. Sebest said Tressel left a strong legacy at YSU.

"When he first started, they switched

"You only get one Jim Tressel, and we were lucky to have him for as long as we did. He is a really great example of a person who says what he means and acts on it."

Helen K. Lafferty,
Interim President of YSU

over the Y and Proud marketing logo, and I thought it was really good," Sebest said. "It made me even more proud to be from Youngstown."

Although Sartor didn't graduate from YSU, she said she felt welcomed by Tressel when they first met.

"I didn't go to YSU unfortunately, but I've only lived here six months maybe, and when I first met President Tressel he was really welcoming to me as someone not from Youngstown," Sartor said. "That left a big impression on me being new to the area."

The farewell celebration ended after SGA members gifted Tressel with Build-A-Penguin stuffed with thank-you notes written by students.

# Hall of fame and legacy

#### By Elizabeth Coss The Jambar

Athletes and contributors filled the Chestnut Room in Kilcawley Center for the 38th Annual Youngstown State Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Jan. 28.

Kicking off with formalities and a breakfast, the ceremony highlighted the athletic contributions of seven inductees who've represented Youngstown State on and off the field.

Inductees varied across sports, including golf, softball, baseball and football. Ken Conatser was the assistant football coach for Youngstown State from 1986 to 2000 under then-head coach Jim Tressel. Conatser returned in 2003 under the same position.

Conatser, nicknamed "K Dog," helped lead the Penguins to 10 playoff appearances and won four championships. He said the community, players and university meant the world to him.

"This community ... I've spent 36 years in this town. I've never lived anywhere else in my life for more than five years," Conatser said. "The support from the people on this campus is incredible."

Conatser touched on his life experiences stemming from his time at Youngstown State and said it was an honor to have built up the football program with Tressel.

Tressel attended the event and said the hall of fame was special because of how many past football faces the event brought together.

"One of my former coaches, Ken Conatser, who spent 15 years with me here, is being honored and all of those guys from that era are coming back — we get to see so many of our former student-athletes," Tressel said.

Tressel also said the event offers an opportunity to reminisce on stories and memories players and coaches share.

"[The hall of fame] gives you a chance to sit back and reflect on the great teams and the outstanding performers, and as these guys are getting around one another, they're telling stories about, 'Remember this,' and 'Remember that,' and it's just a great time. It's a reunion as much as it is a banquet," Tressel said. Some of this year's inductees were women's golfer Gina Abruzzino, football player Jamaine Cook, and softball players Jordan Ingalls and Haley Thomas. There were also two same-season baseball players from YSU who went on to play Major League Baseball.

Aaron Swenson, who played for YSU from 2007 to 2010, went on to sign with the Baltimore Orioles after graduation. Jacke Healey, who played in 2009 and 2010, was drafted by the Houston Astros in 2011.

The two reunited at the event, and Healey said he was surprised to see his teammate and fellow MLB player at the event.

"Coming back here from New York City in the Pocono Mountains, it's an unbelievable experience to come back here to a place that meant so much to me for two years," Healey said. "The coolest part to me was to be inducted with a teammate like Aaron Swenson. For two years here, he treated me like a brother and was a great pitcher, a great teammate and he's a great friend."

For more information on all hall of fame members, visit ysusports.com.

#### SUPPORTING STEM



Students in STEM received money to assist them in research projects.

Photo by Shianna Gibbons / The Jambar

# \$900k for Choose Ohio First

#### By Shianna Gibbons The Jambar

The Ohio Department of Higher Education awarded \$896,000 to Youngstown State University's Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program.

The Choose Ohio First program is a state-funded scholarship program that supports students in STEM fields. Its focuses include economics, engineering, computer science, mathematics, biology, chemistry and health sciences. In order to apply, students must have a declared major in those fields, be an Ohio resident and have a math placement score that allows them to start directly in their major.

Emilie Brown, the coordinator for STEM Outreach and Scholarships, said the Choose Ohio First program has different tracks for students.

"Our first two we call the research track, and students that are accepted into one of those programs, are required to do a research project every year with a faculty member or a member of the community that is an expert in the field," Brown said. "[Then there] is our work-based learning track. [For] students in that program, we are expecting them to do at least one transcribed corporate internship throughout their time at YSU — and they can also do the research — but we're not coordinating that for them."

With the newly-awarded money, Brown said the program can support more undergraduate STEM students and create a graduate assistant track for the next fall semester.

"We wanted to extend what we've been doing more into the graduate level work, which wasn't previously an option with Choose Ohio First. We kind of modeled what we were doing with the undergraduates, " Brown said. "We're looking to add about 10 graduate students to the program starting in [the] fall, plus our current programs will each take in an additional cohort of students."

Each year, the Ohio Department of Higher Education calls for grant proposals from Ohio colleges and universities for the Choose Ohio First program.

Thomas Wakefield, an endowed professor of actuarial science and department chair of mathematics and statistics at YSU, stated he applied for the grant and was pleased with the amount awarded.

"The maximum we could request was \$1.2 million. We requested \$1.1 million," Wakefield stated. "I was pleasantly surprised that we received that large an amount given the number of schools and the requests for proposals that were submitted."

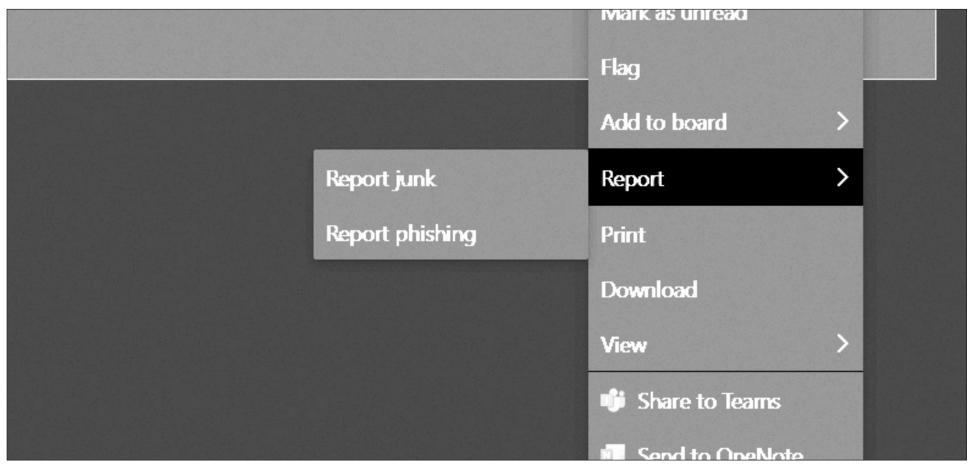
Wakefield stated that Ohio sets parameters for the program, but universities have some flexibility.

"Each institution has flexibility in deciding how much funding to request, how to administer and design the program to best serve students, and how to choose students to participate," Wakefield stated.

Nathanael Warren, a senior chemical engineering major, said he's been in the Choose Ohio First program for five years and has worked on various research projects with YSU faculty, including research on fiberglass bulletproof vests and National Football League helmets.

"For my side of the Choose Ohio First program, we work with professors to do research that most students wouldn't have the chance to do," Warren said. "You get to work closely with professors ... If you're a hard worker, you can get other research opportunities — it could be paid research. You also get a chance to share your work with employers. It helped me get a job."

For more information about the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program at YSU, go to its website.



Phishing can be reported through the 'more actions' menu of Outlook.

Photos by Christopher Gillett / The Jambar

## Email phishing scams intense at YSU

#### By Christopher Gillett The Jambar

Youngstown State University emails have received increasing amounts of attempted phishing scams. Especially over winter break, Information Technology Security Services dealt with more scam attempts than usual.

Phishing scams are a type of cyberattack in which victims are baited into giving personal information such as passwords or Social Security numbers. These scams can appear as fake job offers or fake messages from official institutions.

Justin Bettura, the deputy chief information and security officer for IT Security Services, said the best thing to do when unsure about an email is to call the organization it purports to be from.

"The number one thing I always tell [people] is that, 'If you aren't sure [about an email], then pick up the phone and verify.' That's the number one way to protect yourself," Bettura said. "Call them and say 'Hey did you send me this email asking for this information?' Nine times out of 10 they're going to say no and then they're going to tell us, and that gives [Security Services] an opportunity to see what happened."

IT Security Services have dealt with many kinds of fake emails in the past, including a fake dog-walking job offer that claimed to pay \$500 a week. Beturra said phishing emails will use extraordinary job offers to lure victims.

"If it sounds too good to be true then it's probably too good to be true. You're not going to get emails about dog-walking campaigns that are gonna pay you \$500 a week," Bettura said.

Brandon Scott, a freshman integrated social studies major, received a scam email claiming to be the World Health Organization looking to pay \$500 a week for work. Scott caught the issue before he lost money, as he changed his passwords and informed his bank. Scott said people should watch for emails making idealed offers without communicating reasonably.

"If they're asking you for all this information via email and stuff, odds are it's probably not [truthful]," Scott said. "Places of employment that care — that want to get you [to work] — they'll follow up with more realistic means to get your information."

Alongside that, students will never be asked for per-

sonal information, like passwords, Social Security numbers or birth dates, over email by departments such as financial aid or the Bursar's Office. Suspicious emails can be reported on Outlook.

If accessing Outlook through a search engine, click the fish-hook symbol in the top-right corner of the suspicious email. It is the third symbol from the top center. This can also be done by clicking the three dots in the right corner, clicking "Report" and then clicking "Report Phish."

If accessing the Outlook app, click the three dots in the home bar and "Report Phish" will be at the bottom. The "Report Phish" button can also be found by expanding the home ribbon.

The email will be sent to Proofpoint, a private company, which runs an automated service used by YSU and many other companies to analyze emails for potential danger. If it finds an email to be suspicious, the email will be pulled from all YSU email accounts by the company. If Proofpoint finds the email to be fine, IT Security Services will still manually look at the email.

IT Security Services will release an educational series in a few weeks on how to stay safe online.

#### YOUNGSTOWN DRIVING TAKES A WRONG TURN

# Slow down Youngstown

#### By Samantha Smith The Jambar

Traffic cameras will be placed around Youngstown to combat speeding near schools. The reason - as stated in a pamphlet by the Youngstown Police Department is to ensure the safety of students from people driving by.

The list of schools where traffic cameras will be placed are Chaney High School, Kirkmere Elementary School, Rayen Early College Middle School, St. Christine School, Volney Rogers Elementary School, East High School, Woodrow Wilson, Stambaugh Charter and Vallev Christian.

Warnings issued by the traffic cameras began Jan. 17. Violations and enforcement from the cameras will begin Feb. 17. During these reduced speed times, the driver will be cited at 6 mph and over the speed limit. Outside of the reduced times, the person will be cited at 11 mph I believe people will change their driving habits because and over the speed limit.

Mike Pecchia, president of Valley Christian Schools, said the cameras will provide safety for students who go to those schools.

"We have so many kids hanging around, especially during the dismissal and arrival. [A] lot of traffic. So, I think from a safety standpoint, it helps a lot," Pecchia said. "People don't pay attention to signs all the time, especially school zones. It's really important when you go by school zones to go slow ... kids are crossing the streets, cars are pulling in and out, so safety is a big issue."

Pecchia also said the traffic cameras have changed his driving habits and will force others to change their driving habits as well.

"I can speak personally, yes, those things have changed my driving habits. I believe those do work and

of it," Pecchia said.

Wade Warner, dean of students at Kirkmere Elementary School, said the safety of students is a top priority for Kirkmere, and that drivers are starting to slow down.

"It's good. Safety, we always talk about in the building, the number one priority for us is the safety of our students," Warner said. "I noticed how much slower cars were going [by the school]."

Pecchia said if people don't follow the speed limit, they will have to pay the price.

"Get ready to pay fines," Pecchia said. "I think most people - I think for 90% or higher - will slow down knowing that their cars are going to be ticketed."

Violations can range from \$100 to \$150, depending on the speed the person was cited at. To pay for any violations, visit the violation payment website.

# Don't drive while distracted

#### By Samantha Smith The Jambar

A student was hit by a vehicle while crossing Wick Avenue on Jan. 26. According to the incident report, the driver failed to yield when turning onto Lincoln Avenue as the student was crossing.

Emergency Medical Services responded to the accident and the student who was hit was uninjured and did not require medical attention.

Danny O'Connell, director of support services, said there are many distractions students, or anyone, can have while driving.

"Even though you're on campus where you know it's safe, you're not going to see a vehicle," O'Connell said. "When you have your head in the phone and you're walking, you could walk into somebody else, you could walk into a scooter, you can accidentally step in front of somebody. So, I just think today there's more artificial stimulants that affect our concentration when we're driving."

O'Connell also said there are times of the year where students may be more distracted than usual around campus.

"I do believe that [students] need to be more careful," O'Connell said. "I also think there's some times of the year that we're naturally distracted. Early in the semester, we're thinking about - especially freshman - you know, you remember your first week on campus. 'Where do I park?' 'Where do I go?' 'I'm going to be late.' And then all of a sudden it's exam week."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nine people in the United States are killed because of distracted driving every day. The CDC said anything that may take your attention away from driving is a distraction. Three types of distractions include visual, manual and cognitive.

The CDC also said during a 2019 study, the highest percentage of drivers in fatal crashes that year were between the ages of 15 to 20-years-old. Of those crashes, 9% were because of distracted drivers.

O'Connell said he believes drivers tend to become more distracted when driving alone, and that all students should always be aware of what they are doing on campus.

"I think [distractions] happen more often when somebody's alone in the car," O'Connell said. "I would always say for anyone, the moment you come onto campus, you should try and be ultra sensitive to what's around you."

For more information about distractions when driving and how to prevent it, visit the CDC's webpage on distracted driving.



Drivers need be aware on the road. Photo by Samantha Smith / The Jambar

# A tale of two lovebirds

#### By Jazelle Artman The Jambar

University Theatre kicks off the spring semester with its first show of the semester called "The Last Five Years."

"The Last Five Years" was written by James Robert Brown and premiered in 2001 at Chicago's Northlight Theatre.

The musical will feature two Youngstown State University students. Sophomore musical theatre major, Lauren Ladd as Cathy Hyatt — a struggling actress — and senior theatre major, Mitchell Sharp as Jamie Wellerstein — a novelist. Ladd said the musical is a story about a five-year relationship that dives into struggles and obstacles that real-life couples may face.

"The Last Five Years' is a story of two lovebirds who go in way too fast and develop this very toxic attachment to each other. Throughout the course of the musical, Cathy goes backwards in the timeline and Jamie goes forwards in the timeline, explaining how the relationship came to be and how it ended," Ladd said.

Sharp said the musical allows anyone that has been

in a relationship to relate to the characters' stories and songs.

"It has to do with falling in and out of love, cheating, the struggles of getting married, having that temptation of other women around you and past emotions," Sharp said.

YSU's Department of Theater and Dance's faculty determines what the theater will show each semester. Matthew Mazuroski, an associate professor of acting and directing, was selected by his colleagues to direct the musical.

"They asked me to direct because it's very nuanced [and] intricate. It's not like your standard musical. When you think of musicals you think of Disney and that kind of thing," Mazuroski said. "This is very much a psychological journey. They wanted to make sure that someone could help the students unlock the potential of the material that was at the helm."

Mazuroski said that the musical reminds us that not all relationships are meant to be and that some breakups can be a good thing.

"Everyone who is watching this has had a relationship that has gone south. But, it starts out with such promise, such hope and such possibility. But ultimately, you may find out that you're just not compatible. You're just not on the same path," Mazuroski said.

Although Ladd and Sharp have performed in previous shows at YSU, both said they were ecstatic to receive their roles.

"It's definitely a challenging role, both acting and vocally. It's always nice to have a challenge and it's an amazing part to be able to portray and sing through. I definitely love this show. It leans more into the realistic side of emotions," Sharp said.

The role of Cathy Hyatt has been eagerly anticipated for Ladd. Ladd said this has been a dream role for as long as she can remember.

"Honestly, I couldn't believe it when I found out for the first time that I was casted as Kathy, but I am so incredibly excited and I just cannot wait," Ladd said.

"The Last Five Years" will be showing at Spotlight Arena Theater from Feb. 16 to Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 19 at 2 p.m. Tickets can be purchased on tix.com or at the door. For more information, call (330) 727-7514.



Spotlight Arena Theater will show "The Last Five Years" in February.

Photo by Jazelle Artman / The Jambar

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The Rose Melnick Medical Museum has a variety of historical medical equipment on display.



Photos by Elizabeth Coss / The Jambar

# Putting medicine on the map

By Elizabeth Coss The Jambar

The Rose Melnick Medical Museum found a home for its collection that looks under the microscope of history's medical developments in Youngstown State University's Cushwa Hall last September.

The museum is no stranger to bouncing around locations as it was previously located within the Northeast Ohio Medical University in Rootstown, Ohio and Melnick Hall on Wick Avenue.

Cassie Nespor, the curator for the university's archives and medical museum, has been tending to the collection since 2009 and said the museum was brought to YSU in 2001, but was closed for almost 9 years.

"In 2013, the university decided to remodel [Melnick Hall] to put WYSU and the YSU Foundation in there. The collection of the museum went into storage," Nespor said. "When the exhibit space closed on Wick Avenue, I really had to be creative about how I was going to keep fulfilling the mission of the museum."

Nespor said she developed presentations, illustrations and classroom-usable modules for both high school and college students to keep medical history alive in Youngstown.

Dr. John Melnick, the founder of the museum and a radiologist in Youngstown, started the collection in his retirement and named the museum after his mother in the 1980s. Nespor said Melnick was interested in learning and sharing history.

Melnick collected a variety of medical items that interested him and as such, the museum displays several X-ray machines, including one used by a Dr. Erhard Weltman in Youngstown from 1941.

"The other cool thing about [the X-ray] machine is that it was brought to Youngstown and it's one of the ones we know was used here in Youngstown," Nespor said. "Dr. Erhard Weltman was fleeing the Nazis in Germany and brought this machine. [He] took it apart, packed it up in crates and brought it with him on a ship to the United States when he immigrated."

Medicinal developments put Youngstown on the world map in the 1960s when it was the first community in the country to use an oral vaccine against the polio virus. Prior to the oral vaccine, which used a live virus and was more effective, the vaccine was originally inserted into a patient's bloodstream with a dead virus.

"The vaccines were made in Pittsburgh and in Cincinnati, so I think those two cities take the bulk of the credit for eradicating polio," Nespor said. "I don't think a lot [of people] in Youngstown know that [the city's] medical society was the first one to use the oral vaccine."

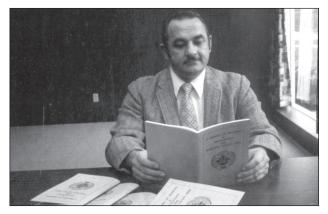
The museum showcases real and replica versions of iron lungs highlighting Youngstown in fighting polio.

Tilisia Williams, a junior psychology major, works as

an assistant for the museum and said working at the museum taught her about medical history, including Youngstown's.

"When I look at this stuff ... I like to think about how [the iron lungs] were used and what it could have been like for not only the doctors to use but also the people," Williams said. "The idea that this whole machine helped somebody breathe and stay alive is interesting to me."

The museum is free and open to the public Tuesdays through Fridays from noon until 3 p.m. in Room B241, Cushwa Hall. To book a field trip or visit, check out its website.



Founder John Melnick.

Photo courtesy of Cassie Nespor

#### SLASH AND POKE



Fencing Club members practice their discipline in foil.

Photo by Shianna Gibbons / The Jambar

# Lunging into the Fencing Club

#### By Shianna Gibbons The Jambar

Students that want to pick up a new hobby or join a student organization can take a stab at the Fencing Club.

The Fencing Club is open to all Youngstown State University students, regardless of prior experience. The club teaches students everything from proper footwork to the different forms of fencing.

Jasper Sharpless, the club president and a senior anthropology major, said the club does not participate in fencing tournaments, but builds proper techniques through practices with the week.

"The first thing that they have to nail is footwork. It's the most important part. We have them do a bunch of drills and stuff ... Once they've got footwork like relatively down — we give them a sword — which is the part that everybody is excited for," Sharpless said.

The Fencing Club uses two disciplines of fencing: foil

and saber. Sharpless said after being cleared for footwork, first-year members move to foil and then move to saber. Foil is focused on poking or jabbing rather than swinging and lunging.

"Foil is like a good foundational sword, although some people prefer to start on saber, but we tend to see it's always been like club protocol. Saber [is] very like swinging at each other whereas foil is like poking," Sharpless said. "We have them start on foil [because] I think that foil also teaches like control [and] good form."

Sharpless said everyone is welcome to join the club regardless of athleticism.

"It's okay if you're not super athletic, like, I'm not athletic. I've literally been out for a month and a half now because it was my knee and then my back, but even if you end up not being super athletic or even if you're not the best fencer on the team, we have a really good community in the club," Sharpless said.

Jaime Beesley, a freshman studio art major, joined

the Fencing Club at the beginning of the academic year because of her interest in weaponry and the club's fun environment.

"We do a lot of actually like team building activities [aside from] sparring with each other. To do [fencing] you have to actually trust the people that are stabbing and attempting to assault you," Beesley said. "We did an event where we just decided to wash [our uniforms,] watch some movies in the meantime and hang out and get to know each other."

Dominic Dimailo, a freshman Information Technology major, said he'd recommend new members to join.

"I would say it's definitely worth trying. It's a really fun experience. It's something new that a lot of people haven't tried. I didn't think I would like it, and I'm definitely going to be doing it again," Dimailo said.

For those interested in joining, reach out to Youngstown State Fencing on Instagram.

# **Tressel Word Search**

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Buckeyes Celebration Coach Columbus Eight Ellen Football Fundraising Goodbye Leader Legacy Ohio Penguins Philanthropy

Players President Quarterback Tortellini Tressel University Youngstown

### 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 Column

## The Jambar **Editorial**

## Thanks, Coach

Jim Tressel ended his tenure as president of Youngstown State University this week. He has been a constant source of positive energy for most of my life, and I'm sad to see him go.

I grew up in Columbus, and I was eight vears old when Tressel took over for John Cooper as head coach of THE Ohio State Buckeyes. One year later, he took us all the way to a national championship.

After that, it was sweater-vest city in central Ohio. There were t-shirts with his face and name everywhere. There are probably pictures somewhere of me as a kid in a sweater vest on Halloween.

He was truly beloved.

He showed results, too. Coach Tressel only lost to University of Michigan one time, and that's what we cared about. Some of my best memories happened in the Horseshoe during Tressel's time as coach.

I will never forget OSU's 2004 win against Marshall, in which Mike Nugent kicked a last-second, 55-yard field goal to win the game. At the beginning of the fourth quarter, my friend said, "if Marshall is still winning, let's leave with five minutes to go." I'm so glad we didn't.

I had friends on the Ohio State football team when I went to school there who played for Coach Tressel. They would always talk about how he led the team with love and trust and that always shone through.

Whenever I would get to see him, he was always kind. He always remembered

my name and asked how my mom was doing.

gotten close to the Tressels when was in high school through some mutual friends and a few boards she sat on.

Youngstown connection in Columbus, which is important outside of the Valley.

I was so glad to see him head back to Youngstown as president, knowing he was going home to a town and school he loved and was passionate about. That passion pervaded everything he did as president.

When I decided to come to Youngstown and enroll at YSU, I got a call from a phone number with a Youngstown area code. It was Coach Tressel welcoming me to the Mahoning Valley.

Now, whenever we talk, I still say "hey, coach," and he still asks how my mom is doing.

To me, he'll always be Coach Tressel. It exemplifies who he is. He wants to bring out the best in his team, whether it's the Buckeyes, the Penguins or whoever he finds himself surrounded by.

Coach, I hope you and Ellen find success and happiness in your future endeavors, and I know that you will continue to spread kindness wherever you go.

### Quote of the Week

"Language is the dress of thought."

- Samuel Johnson, English writer

#### especially since the industrial revolution, My mom had which altered global economics, politics, society and the natural environment. Technology's advancement mostly Ι happened, not through popular consensus, but through economic factors, political considerations and individual inge-

They also had the

with the changes technology could bring. ChatGPT, a chatbot which can generate seamless copies of human writing

through analyzing previous forms of writing, took the internet's attention by storm after its launch in November 2022. According to The Washington Post, some people pointed out its design could

be easily used for cheating, which it already likely has. According to CBS News, ChatGPT, with its mimicry, could automate writing jobs including copywriting, legal writing, programming and potentially - according to The New Yorker journalism. According to Independent, AI has created similar worries for the visual art world.

The advancement of technology has

been a defining part of human history,

nuity. Because of this, one did not need

to be a Luddite or Futurist to be unsettled

Outside of creation, institutions and individuals are debating AI and automation, whether they be AI lawyers, robot police dogs and even AI dating. We may look lonely, but AI dates cannot fix alienation.

There is a tendency to see AI as more objective than a person, but these new technologies are neither objective judges of character nor tortured artists. ChatGPT and AI Art cannot create anvthing because they can only plagiarize from existing media, and machines are only as objective as their programmers' input.

According to The Guardian in 2016, an AI was used to determine the winners of

A false idol

a women's beauty contest. The program's creators fed the machine examples of who they considered beautiful women so it had perspective on who to pick. However, most of the photos they gave were white women, so the machine reflected that prejudice when picking the contest's winners.

With this one example, it's hard not to imagine the potential consequences of similar prejudices taught to more influential technologies. Of course, with the rise of social media algorithms, we don't have to imagine it.

During the 2010s, Myannmar's military targeted the Rohingya people for genocide, killing and expelling many of them. According to Amnesty International, support for genocide from segments of the country was possible because Meta's - then Facebook's - algorithms amplifed anti-Rohnigya hate and propaganda to the Burmese people. Now, many Rohingya refugees are suing Meta over its culpability.

Meta's algorithms have still been used to propagandize in Myanmar, and also in Ethiopia. American law enforcement have also been adopting AIs, including the infamous robot dogs, but also predictive policing algorithms which have been shown to operate through racial biases.

ChatGPT also absorbs the biases of what it plagiarizes. According to The Intercept, when given prompts on national security issues, it recommended targeting Muslims and torturing people of certain nationalities.

If robots are forced into every facet of our lives and society - which they may be - we should remember that they are not objective soothsavers. They should not be put on a pedestal, looked up to as a mentor or coveted as a false idol.



Henry Shorr

## News Brief

### Lit Youngstown plans Winter Gala

Lit Youngstown will host Just Desserts: a Lit Winter Gala on Feb. 11, in the Great Hall at St. John's Episcopal Church.

Ticket information is available at Lit Youngstown's website. Doors open at 6:45 p.m.

The gala will include readings by creative nonfiction writer David Giffels of Akron, author of "The Hard Way on Purpose" and "Barnstorming Ohio" and poet Philip Brady of Youngstown, author of "The Elsewhere: Poems; Poetics and To Banquet With the Ethiopians."

Craig and Christine Duster, owners of POP! Art Books Culture bookstore in Boardman, Ohio, will award prizes in this year's book title themed costume contest. There will also be music performed by Andrew Karkoziak's jazz trio.

Desserts, hors d'ouevres and cocktails donated by community members will include literary-inspired dishes such as butter-beer cupcakes inspired by "Harry Potter," Turkish Delights inspired by "The Chronicles of Narnia" and a huge chocolate cake inspired by "Matilda."

Artworks by Liz Testa, Linda Vasconi, Daniel Rauschenbach, Maryann Limmer and Elayne Bozick will be auctioned off and guests may take a chance on a Willy Wonka-inspired golden ticket raffle.

Proceeds from the gala will support Lit Youngstown's 2023 programming. More information is available at LitYoungstown.org.

### Advertise with The Jambar

### Contact Mary Dota for more information at **mfdota@ysu.edu**





### **Check out JTV**

Jambar TV by The Jambar

### Tennis falls short on the court

By John Ostapowicz The Jambar

The Youngstown State University men and women's tennis team's dropped hard-fought decisions to The University of Toledo on Jan. 27.

The women's team started the spring semester with a 5-2 defeat to Toledo at the YSU Indoor Tennis Center.

To start the day in doubles matches, junior Eliska Masarikova and sophomore Elisa Rigazio cruised to a 6-2 win at No. 1. and No. 2, graduate student Cecilia Rosas and junior Maria Olivera tried to secure the win, but fell short to the Rockets, 6-3.

At No.3, graduate student Moka Ito and sophomore Lili Minich battled it out against graduate student Mariona Perez and junior Shalini Tallamraju in a marathon match. The Penguins had four match points before the Rockets fought back, forcing a tiebreaker.

Youngstown State earned the win, 10-8 in the tiebreaker, securing the doubles point.

In singles matches, senior Jessica Stanmore picked up the lone victory at No. 5, defeating junior Julia Kuszynski 6-3 in both sets.

With the loss, the women's team bounced

back against Carnegie Mellon University on Jan. 29, picking up a 5-2 win over the Tartans.

To start the day, the Penguins won the doubles point at No. 1 and No. 2, 6-1 on both courts.

In singles play, Youngstown State earned four wins at No. 2, No. 3, No. 4 and No.5. Minich, Masarkiva, Rosas and Stanmore led the way for a Penguins victory.

While the women's team battled at home, the men's team traveled to Toledo, Ohio, falling to the Rockets, 7-0.

The only set win of the day came from senior Javi Pla at No. 6 singles in hopes of starting a comeback, but fell short.

The men's team is back in action on Feb. 3, when it returns home to face St. Francis College- Brooklyn and Duquesne University inside the YSU Indoor Tennis Center. First serve is set for 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The women's tennis team is back in action, Feb. 3 to 5, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Over the three-day span, the Penguins will face off against the University of the Pacific, Weber State University and The University of Nevada, Las Vegas. First serve is set for 1 p.m for all three days.



Eliska Masarikova led the way to a Penguin win over Carnegie Mellon University.

## Track & field takes leaps and bounds

#### By John Ostapowicz The Jambar

The Youngstown State University men and women's track & field teams went to work over two days of competition at the YSU Mid-Major Invitation presented by Southwoods Health and at the Boston University John Thomas Terrier Classic in Boston, Jan. 27 and 28

Over the two-day span, the Penguins accumulated 13 event victories, three school records and a top 20 spot in the NCAA leaderboards.

At the John Thomas Terrier Classic, junior Hunter Christopher went the distance, shattering the school record in the 5,000-meter run, Jan. 26. Christopher surpassed the previous best time in the 5k, with a time of 13:50.04.

The previous record was held by former Penguin Kiplangat Tisia in 2009 of 14:15.10.

Junior Ryan Meadows also surpassed the old mark with a time of 14:13.31, as senior Chase Easterling and senior Tyler Clark recorded personal-best times.

For the women's team, senior Morgan Cole finished

sixth in the 5k with a time of 16:46.75, making her the third fastest collegiate runner in the race and marking an indoor personal best by 15 seconds.

The record-breaking day continued at the YSU Mid-Major inside the Watson and Tressel Training Site.

Senior Wyatt Lefker moved into the all-time spot in the pole vault in school history and ranks 12th in the NCAA standings. On Lefker's third attempt, he cleared the bar for 5.15-meters.

To continue the dominant afternoon Jan. 28, senior Jahniya Bowers broke the school and WATTS record by winning the 200-meter with a time of 23.57 seconds. The previous best mark was 23.66 seconds, set on March 1, 2020.

In the long jump and triple jump, junior Esther Solarin walked away with two event victories. In the long jump, she recorded a leap of 5.61-meters and in the triple jump a leap of 11.98-meters.

The women's pole vault featured senior Erin Bogard, winning the event by clearing the bar at 4.00-meters.

In the weight throw, junior Lauren Sheehan secured the event win with a heave of 16.59-meters, winning by over a meter. In the men's shot put, senior Dominic Perry posted a throw of 18.12-meters, taking first by half a meter.

In the 5,000-meter race, senior Ashley Ventimiglia won the event by five seconds, securing the top spot with a time of 18:31. In the 400-meter dash, sophomore Ryan Laird rallied for a late victory.

In hurdles, the Penguins swept the title in both the men and women's event. Sophomore Luke Laubacher led the way for the men, with a time of 8.01 seconds, while junior Madison Murry took first with 8.87 seconds for the women.

In the final event of the day, junior Lonnie Harper won the high jump with a leap of 2.02-meters.

On Jan. 30, Christopher, Solarin and Bowers were named Nike Horizon League Track & Field Athletes of the Week.

The men and women's track & field teams return to action this week in split squads at the Scarlet Knights Open, the Notre Dame Meyo Invitational and the Ashland Jud Logan Light Giver Open, Feb. 3-4.

## Free throws make the difference

By John Ostapowicz The Jambar

The Youngstown State University women's basketball team completed its two-game homestand at Beeghly Center and holds a five game win streak, Jan. 26 through 28.

The Penguins began their homestand against Wright State University on Jan. 26. Four Penguins scored in double digits, which led to a compelling 76-60 victory over the Raiders.

For the offense, senior Lilly Ritz recorded her 12th double-double of the season with 23 points and 19 rebounds. Junior Malia Magestro added to the total with 17 points.

Youngstown State had an impressive showing from beyond the arc, led by senior Dena Jarrells draining two 3-pointers, while senior Paige Shy shot 4-of-5 from the 3-point line.

The assists numbers were aided by sixth-year Megan Callahan, who had a career-high of seven assists. Senior Mady Aulbach also contributed to the assist total with five.

With the win, the Penguins stayed at home to take on Northern Kentucky University on Jan. 28. The game came down to the final two seconds, with Shy draining two clutch free throws in regulation to seal the deal, 52-51.

In response to the last-second score, Shy said that the nerves were high heading to the line but it was the team that helped her mentally focus on that moment.

"[I have to] go in confident, because if I'm not confident then there is no chance it would have went in," Shy said.

The Norse held the lead in the final minutes of the game but a foul by Northern Kentucky's senior Ivy Turner in the fourth quarter would propel the Penguins for a chance to win.

Coming off the bench, senior Emily Saunders scored 11 points in the paint and went to work in the post, recording a season-high six rebounds.

The combination of Ritz and Saunders overwhelmed the Northern Kentucky offense that has been averaging 69.5 ppg. The adaptability in the post and the resilience of the duo made a difference.

"Communication is the biggest factor in our defense, I feel like they got us a couple of times and we learned from it," Saunders said.

Both offensively and defensively, Ritz has been the difference maker for the Penguins, as she is top five in four different categories within the Horizon League.

As of Jan. 30, with 22 games played, Ritz ranks first

in rebounding with 10.7, first in field goal percentage at 62%, second in points per game at 17.2, and fifth in blocked shots averaging 1.1 blocks a game.

With the win over North Kentucky and Wright State, the Penguins improve to 16-5 overall and 10-2 in the Horizon League.

With eight games left in the season, Youngstown State is currently tied for the number one seed with Cleveland State University and the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay

Head coach John Barnes knows that down the stretch, every game matters in a competitive Horizon League conference.

"Our league is really good, I've been saying it since the beginning of the year, there are 7-8 teams that can win the regular season or the tournament," Barnes said.

The women's basketball team is also ranked fifth in team offense, averaging 68.3 ppg and second in team defense, allowing only 55.7 ppg.

The battle for the Horizon League continues, as the women's basketball team is back in action tonight, Feb. 2 in Fort Wayne, Indiana to face off against Purdue University Fort Wayne.

To watch the game, check out ESPN+ or listen to the game on 1390 WNIO.



Lilly Ritz continues to push the Penguins both at home and away.

Photo by Elizabeth Coss / The Jambar

#### **THE JAMBAR**

### YSU men's shine on national TV

#### By Cameron Niemi The Jambar

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team hosted Oakland University on Jan. 27. The game was nationally broadcasted on ESPN2 in front of a full crowd at the Beeghly Center.

It has been 13 years since the team hosted a game on ESPN, the last time being 2010.

The Penguins came out on top with a final score of 77-73. The team picked up its eighth conference win of the season. The men had four starters score in double-figures. The team shot 52.8% from the field.

Senior Dwayne Cohill led the way with 25 points, six assists, five rebounds and three steals. Cohill scored 23 points in the second half for the Penguins. Senior Brandon Rush scored 12 points and had two rebounds. Graduate student Adrian Nelson had 11 points and led the team in rebounds with nine.

In the first half, there were eight lead changes. Youngstown State eventually led by eight points late in the half. The Golden Grizzlies would cut the lead down, just before half. The Penguins went into halftime up 38-37.

In the second half, the Penguins jumped back out to an early eight point lead, led by Cohill who scored seven points in just three minutes. The Grizzlies would climb back and tie the game with under seven minutes to play.

The 'Guins would then go on a 11-2 run with a little over two minutes to go. Oakland would try to make a comeback, pulling within three and only 40 seconds to go. The Penguins would go on to secure the four point victory on ESPN2 and improve to 16-6 overall.

Head coach Jerrod Calhoun spoke highly about his team. He also sent a message to the fans after the big win, and how they motivated the team.

"This team is a great team, this team is an unselfish team, this team knows how to play. I think we are really dangerous and I would just say if you like what you saw, come back," Calhoun said. "These kids feed off the energy and if you want to build a basketball power you want to build a team that can win a league title, you need fan support, that's as good as an environment that you'll see in the country."

The Penguins hosted The University of Detroit Mercy on Jan. 29. The men picked up their second

win in a row with a score of 73-63, in front of another packed crowd. The team improved to 17-6 overall and captured its 9th conference win.

Three players for the Penguins scored in double figures. Cohill led the way, scoring 20 points, seven rebounds and five assists.

Nelson recorded his ninth double-double of the season, scoring 18 points and 11 rebounds. He also shot a career-high 3-of-4 from beyond the arc.

Senior Bryce McBride scored 14 points, five assists and two steals. Junior Myles Hunter came off the bench and scored six points, three assists and two rebounds.

The Penguins shot the ball well, as they shot 45% from the field and an impressive 55% from three-point range. The 'Guins also played well defensively — as a team it had seven steals and four blocked shots.

Youngstown State held the NCAA leading scorer Antoine Davis to just 15 points. Davis also averages the most three-pointers made at 4.6 per game. The 'Guins shut him down to just 2-of-12 from beyond the arc.

The Penguins got off to a slow start in the first half. They had the lead for just 14 seconds in the first half. The Titans led by halftime, 33-25.

Youngstown State came out in the second half with a vengeance, scoring 48 points. The team took the lead with under 12 minutes to play left. The men went on an 18-3 run for the next eight minutes. The Penguins held on to the lead for the rest of the game and won by 10.

Nelson spoke after the game about the team's second half defensive performance and what it needs to focus on with just eight games remaining.

"We knew we had to pick it up because we came out a little lackadaisical in the first half. Second half that press really got us going and we knew what we had to do to win that game," Nelson said.

The men will continue a two-game home stand tonight, Feb. 2 hosting the Raiders. Then on Feb. 4 hosting Northern Kentucky University. Both games are set for 7 p.m., and can be listened to on 570 WKBN or watched on ESPN+.





YSU men's basketball game. INSET: Men's basketball team demolishes Oakland Golden Bears on january 27th.

Photos by Elizabeth Coss / The Jambar