



## THE SUN SETS ON MAYS' FOOTBALL CAREER

As the sun sets, YSU quarterback Nathan Mays holds the American flag before injuring his left ankle against North Dakota State University on Nov. 2. Photo by **Brent Bigelow/The Jambar**

### BRIAN YAUGER

After Youngstown State University quarterback Nathan Mays suffered a season-ending ankle injury against the North Dakota State University Bison, it seemed he would join the list of athletes that would have their career cut short.

It seemed.

In the final game of the season against Illinois State University, Mays did the unthinkable. He put on his uniform, strapped on his helmet and stepped onto the field one last time.

The Penguins needed one more snap to seal their 21-3 upset victory over the sixth-ranked team in the Football Championship Subdivision. Mays, who was just on a knee scooter minutes prior, walked out onto the field with assistance from his offensive linemen for the final play.

He went down on one knee and the clock hit zero.

Mays, who suited up in 34 games across five seasons with the Penguins, got to do what so few had done. He ended his football career on his own terms.

At the time of the injury against the Bison, he said he was done — his career was over.

“As soon as I looked down, I saw my foot facing sideways,” Mays said. “A lot of people thought I fainted, but really I was just so angry. That kind of fell back, and I was just contemplating that I was done. I knew that I would never put pads on again; that was kind of just it for me.”

In that moment, Mays reminisced on his football career.

“A lot of sad thoughts ... just in the few short moments before our trainers even got there to kind of help me out,” Mays said as he reflected, the moment gave him clarity.

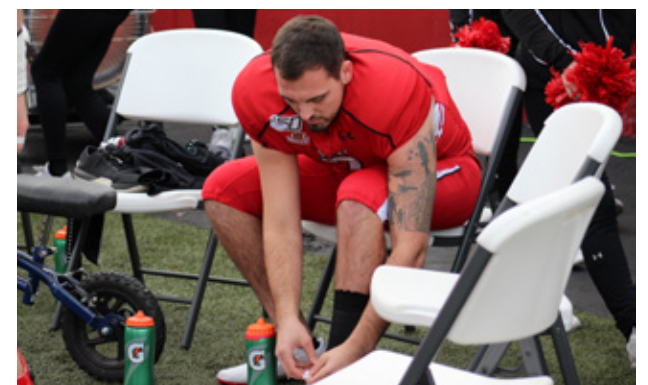
“It made me kind of toughen up and realize this stuff was coming to an end quicker than I would have liked it to,” he said.

This wasn’t the first injury Mays suffered during the season. Earlier in the year against the University of Northern Iowa, he was swarmed by UNI defenders and suffered a leg injury.

He was listed as day-to-day, but with Mays in crutches on the sideline against Northern Iowa, there were plenty of doubts.

But not in Mays’ mind.

Before the game against the third-ranked South Dakota State University Jackrabbits, Mays was on the field warming up as if nothing happened.

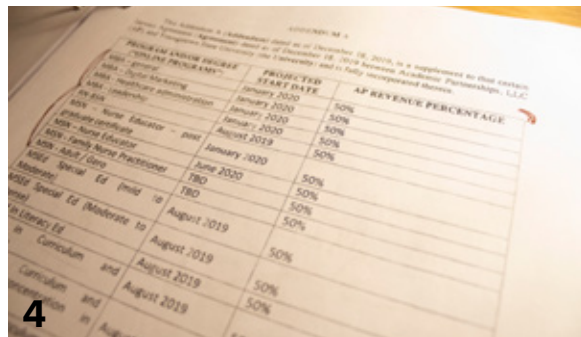


Nathan Mays laces up his cleats for the last time at the Ice Castle against Illinois State University on Nov. 23.

Photo by **Brent Bigelow/The Jambar**

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# YSU GREEK LIFE WELCOMES ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY BACK TO CAMPUS

The seven newly initiated members of Alpha Kappa Alpha pose by the rock in the campus core outside of Kilcawley Center. Photo by **J. Harvard Feldhouse/The Jambar**

## AMANDA JOERNDT

The Alpha Kappa Alpha Inc. sorority Delta Delta chapter is making a comeback at Youngstown State University after being inactive for two years.

Deanna Brown, the graduate adviser to the undergraduate Delta Delta chapter at YSU, said this is AKA's third attempt at being an active Greek life member.

"It's not because of any fault of the girls who attempted to be a part of the process, but we do have to follow university guidelines, which means you have to have at least five candidates before you can do a process if you don't have any members," she said.

AKA returned to campus on Nov. 25 by initiating seven members through a probate performance among the student body, AKA alumnae and Youngstown community.

Eddie Howard, vice president for student affairs, said a probate performance gives the YSU community an opportunity to introduce new members to campus.

"It's supposed to be a transformation of you joining the organization, learning the history of the organization and presenting yourself as a new person to the campus as part of this body that is supposed to bring this sisterhood and brotherhood," Howard said.

With AKA being an African American sorority, Brown said she hopes the members can engage with other sororities on campus.

"I think at the end of the day, we're all service organizations and we all have similar missions," she said. "I think collaborating and educating other sororities with what Alpha Kappa Alpha is all about with just a general understanding that we really have

more similarities than we do differences."

The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System reports that as of fall 2018, the student population at YSU is 75% white and 9% African American or black.

Brown said YSU is a predominantly white institution and hopes the university can see what women of color are doing worldwide.

"We are an international organization. ... We have over 300,000 members and 80,000 who are financial active members," Brown said.

Nylauna Petty, a junior nursing major, said the sorority will work to bring service to YSU's campus and the Youngstown area.

"Our purpose is to cultivate and encourage high scholastic standards, so everyone who's in our sorority, we just have high standards and be constantly involved in campus and around our community," she said.

According to Petty, the members "constantly hit it hard" from day one of the initiation process through meeting at a Greek night and staying in touch with each other.

"[We] said, 'OK, this is definitely time for us to bring AKA back to campus and reactivate and bring life to campus again,'" Petty said.

She said the members plan to represent the sorority on campus by now being able to wear AKA apparel.

"When people see us and our faces, we want them to know that we go to Youngstown State University, and this is what we stand for," Petty said.

According to Howard, he hopes students on campus will begin to "see what AKA is all about."

"We hope as the organization becomes stronger, the sorority will begin to show campus some of the things that they're all about," Howard said.

Carrie Anderson, associate director of student activities, oversees the active fraternities and sororities and works to keep Greek life an engaging organization at YSU.

Anderson said adding another National Pan-Hellenic Council to the Greek life community will help expand the organization.

"I think it's a great opportunity for the Greek system to continue to expand and also to bring an active NPHC chapter back onto campus," Anderson said.

She said being an active chapter will allow the members to practice their "values and initiatives."

"It's really nice to be able to bring a piece of that Greek life culture back into our Youngstown State University community," Anderson said.



New member Alyssa Crump performs in the probate performance on Nov. 25 in Kilcawley Center. Photo by **J. Harvard Feldhouse/The Jambar**





# ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS: HAS YSU SIGNED A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL?

Academic Partnerships receives 50% of tuition and fees from YSU's online degree programs. Photo by J. Harvard Feldhouse/The Jambar

## J. HARVARD FELDHOUSE

Youngstown State University launched new online degree programs this semester in collaboration with Academic Partnerships LLC, but the university may have overlooked AP's notorious history targeting universities with predatory contracts.

AP is a for-profit online program manager, or OPM. OPMs are education tech companies that contract with schools to help them offer online programs. OPMs have grown increasingly prevalent in colleges, universities and even some grade schools. The more popular ones include AP, 2U, Pearson, Bisk, Wiley and Blackboard.

AP offers universities like YSU a platform for online degree programs, assistance developing curriculum for the programs and marketing and recruiting services in exchange for a portion of the revenue.

The programs offered this semester include a program for registered nurses to earn their bachelor's in nursing and various master's in education programs, with several more programs to come for the spring and summer 2020 semesters.

To universities such as YSU that are looking to diversify their education and increase enrollment, AP offers a deal like no other. But there are legal and ethical concerns in the fine print of APs contracts.

The Century Foundation, a nonprofit think tank, investigated dozens of OPM contracts between 2017 and 2019 and released a report in September with a list of five red flags universities should look out for in OPM contracts.

The red flags are "Don't buy bundled services," "Don't bypass

your own faculty," "Don't sign lengthy, unbreakable contracts," "Don't share your tuition revenue" and "Don't facilitate aggressive recruiting."

The Jambar analyzed YSU's AP contract with help from Taela Dudley, higher education policy associate at The Century Foundation and a researcher for the OPM contract project.

Analysis showed YSU's contract contains most of the red flags. The biggest red flag is the revenue-sharing clause.

### Revenue Sharing

According to the AP payment clause in the YSU contract, AP will receive 50% of all revenue from the online courses, defined to mean "all tuition and Online Program related fees charged to Students enrolled in the Online Programs."

"When it's a nonprofit school, the mission is academic-driven because it's a nonprofit," Dudley said. "They can't do anything with extra funds; it has to go back into the school, but as soon as a for-profit entity is involved, profits are going into pockets."

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, about 85% of tuition in the U.S. is paid for by financial aid, which comes from taxpayer dollars.

This means potentially a gross 50% of taxpayer dollars used for this online program are going to a for-profit company instead of YSU.

Neal McNally, vice president for finance and business operations at YSU, said though he was concerned at first about the revenue-sharing, the university accepted the clause after consulting other universities.

"YSU consulted with a number of other universities that had

already contracted with AP," McNally said. "As a result of this due diligence, we came to view the revenue-sharing model as acceptable, especially since it effectively saves YSU from having to incur substantial startup costs, including marketing the programs and recruiting students."

While YSU would be saving money on startup costs, the university would have to enroll two online students to earn the same amount of revenue as one on-campus student. With YSU's \$8.9 million deficit due to a decrease in on-campus enrollment, this cost-saving venture could prove to have adverse effects.

### Bundled Services

Marketing and recruiting are where legal dilemmas become more apparent. Many AP contracts, like YSU's contract, bundle the online program management and development services with marketing and recruiting services.

However, the dynamic of incentivizing third-party assistance in student recruitment violates the Higher Education Act, according to an October article by Robert Shireman for Inside Higher Ed.

"In citing the law, the inspector general [of the U.S. Department of Education] boldfaced the keywords of the Higher Education Act: 'The HEA prohibition on incentive payments is clear: 'The Institution will not provide any commission, bonus, or other incentive payment based directly or indirectly on success in securing enrollments or financial aid to any persons or entities engaged in any student recruiting,'" Shireman wrote.

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# THE IT SERVICE DESK IS CHANGING ALONG WITH TECHNOLOGY

Students and faculty can find a tech support help button on any computer screen at Youngstown State University that will link them to where they can put in a ticket for help if they are experiencing technological issues. Photo by **Tanner Mondok/Jambar Archive**

## BRIANNA GLEGHORN

The world of technology comes with complex issues, and at Youngstown State University the IT Service Desk is the first line of defense when problems arise.

Technology can be a determining factor in a students' academic education, along with faculty, who work to provide an educational environment for students.

Jim Yukech, associate vice president and chief information officer, said YSU is in the second year of a five-year refresh of technology on campus.

"We've gotten a lot of the oldest technology out of there. You should see a lot of experience in a lot of these classrooms with the newer technology," he said.

Yukech said several issues contribute to classroom technology not working and requiring help from the IT Service Desk.

"[The classroom has] one of those multimedia units that haven't been refreshed yet, and it's old and the workstation is seven years old. If it's old, it's just bothersome," he said.

According to Yukech, another issue is when technology on campus malfunctions, causing the IT Service Desk to respond quickly and efficiently.

"We consider classroom technology issues a severity level one, meaning it's our most important thing because that means a faculty member is sitting in their classroom and can't use the technology," he said.

Yukech said having technicians around campus is still a learning process.

Dan McCormick, a desktop technician with IT Customer Services, said when an issue cannot be resolved through the IT Service Desk, it's passed to him.

"Any kind of classroom issue is elevated top priority because we don't want to lose any class time," he said. "We will rush to that room, talk to the professor, see what the issue is and if it's within our ability to fix it or at least fix it for the time being."

According to McCormick, big projects such as replacing lab computers or refreshing them are scheduled for break times due to less people coming to campus.

"The preventative maintenance we do during downtime or four hours in a day or we also have been replacing classroom

equipment," McCormick said. "Some classrooms have way older equipment than is standard now, so if we have enough time to swoop in there and replace as fast as we can."

Even with the help of the IT Service Desk, the first semester of designated zones for field technicians is still in the works and issues still arise in classrooms across campus.

Cryshanna Jackson Leftwich, associate professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations, said she has had several issues with technology on campus.

"I might take an hour and a half, two hours to look at the information, put the PowerPoint together and then I can't even show it in my classroom," Jackson Leftwich said.

She said she had an issue with a projector in one of her classrooms at the beginning of the fall semester.

"So when I called they were like, 'Oh, that's an old projector.' Why is an old projector in the classroom? They came in and fixed it. ... And the projector [screen] in our classroom is ripped," Jackson Leftwich said.

She said she had an internet connection problem at the beginning of a class this semester, and after calling the IT Service Desk, it took 40 minutes for a technician to come.

"They came out during the class time, which is better than normal," she said.

Rosalyn Donaldson, manager of the IT Service Desk and training, said starting this semester, technicians are assigned to zones that usually encompass two or more buildings.

"The IT Service Desk is the first point of contact for any technology-related issues that students, faculty and staff might have with their phones, computers, desktops," Donaldson said.

She said the Service Desk has taken a new approach to sending technicians out when an issue surfaces.

"We have representatives throughout campus in nearly every building," Donaldson said. "We actually have 10 people, but they cover a variety of locations, and so it's helped us be a little quicker, getting to our faculty whenever they're having trouble with their classrooms."

In Donaldson's opinion, the first semester of this approach has been a continued improvement.

"The IT department continues to look at our services and

try to serve our campus better and better each semester," she said. "We think that our customer service has improved tremendously."

Tasha Wells, manager of campus technology support, said the IT Customer Service has several different projects and initiatives to ensure classrooms and buildings have the newest technology in place.

"That's part of our project plan where we're flipping those classrooms and getting newer technology, which will help reduce the incidents in the long run," she said.

Wells said they're working to improve response time to better help faculty teach in classrooms with older technology.

"We're putting new communication plans in place to respond more rapidly to those and make sure that they're not waiting 40 minutes," she said. "But, we're also working hand in hand with the Service Desk ... to make some improvements with communication between the Service Desk and technicians as well."

According to Wells, the university is divided into five zones. Each zone has a few buildings with two technicians per zone.

"So they're close to proximity; they're in these buildings and they can get there more quickly, where before they were in [Meshel or Maag Library]. So some faraway points on campus could have taken 10 minutes before they could respond," she said.

According to Wells, if an issue arises and IT support is needed, students and faculty can find a tech support help button on any computer screen that will take them directly to where they can put in a ticket for help.

Wells said that after receiving feedback, issues will be fine-tuned to ensure the process runs more smoothly.

Rebecca Goterba, a sophomore nursing major, said she mainly has issues with the printers and Wi-Fi on campus.

"It's just always something," she said.

Goterba said she uses the Wi-Fi in Cushwa Hall every day, but there are days when it won't connect.

"It's not perfect yet, but it's a model that will get better over time," Yukech said.





## PAC BRIDGES GAP FOR FIRST-GEN STUDENTS

Brenda Scott works closely with first-generation students to create a smooth transition to university life. Photo by **Tina Kalenits/Jambar Contributor**

### **BRANDON BROWN** **JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR**

Starting college can be difficult for any incoming freshman student at Youngstown State University, but being a first-generation student of color can be particularly difficult.

That's where the Penguin Ally Collective steps in.

PAC links first-generation students of color with mentors during their freshman year.

First-generation students are students whose parents have not attended college. Mentors stay in touch with the new students for the entire year to guide them on the track to success.

Brenda Scott, coordinator of the transition and mentoring program in First Year Student Services, works to ensure students' transition to university life goes smoothly.

"As soon as first-generation students of color come in, we want to get them the support of being connected with a mentor, and having that support on campus is crucial to their success," Scott said.

Monthly ally circle meetings give these students an opportunity to gather and listen to guest speakers who give insight and information about how to be a successful student while they are in college.

The monthly meetings also offer a common group of people to connect with.

Briana Poindexter, freshman political science major, is a new member of PAC.

"It's such a big support system, especially being far from home. It's so easy to get discouraged and doubt yourself as a first-year student, so Brenda and PAC definitely help so much," Poindexter said.

Scott said first-year students and particularly first-generation students could find tasks such as going to office hours, making advising appointments and talking with faculty challenging.

With mentors and support through the collective, students learn how to do these important tasks.

Another program offered to first-generation students of color is the Navarro Executive Fellows Program.

This program pairs freshman students of color with executive and administrative leaders so they can gain experience working in a professional environment.

Jorge Vega Santos, a senior early childhood education major, is a member of the Navarro Executive Fellows Program.

Santos said professional mentors were critical to his

success at YSU and helped him use campus resources and meet people.

The Summer Bridge Program introduces students and parents to the new atmosphere of a college campus before the fall semester starts.

The program explains housing, food plans, tutoring, scheduling, admissions and purchasing books.

Scott hopes these programs continue to attract first-generation students of color and gain more support across campus.

"This isn't strictly a first-year student issue; it's an issue across campus. So collaboration with all departments across campus is crucial," Scott said. "All departments are on board with helping these students succeed."

Scott hopes the program continues to grow and can move outside the Office of First Year Experience into its own center.

Scott thinks a physical site for the program would grow student involvement.

For more information on PAC or programs for first-generation students of color, visit Scott in the Office of First Year Student Services in Jones Hall or contact her by email at [bjscott01@ysu.edu](mailto:bjscott01@ysu.edu).

# POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR REFLECTS ON FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR AWARD

**RACHEL GOBEP**

The chair of the Department of Politics and International Relations is believed to be the first professor at Youngstown State University to earn two Fulbright awards. This accolade has been a life-changing experience for him.

Paul Sracic was granted his second Fulbright award to lecture in Japan between September 2018 and July 2019. He first earned Fulbright honors in 2009.

The Fulbright Program was created by U.S. Senator James William Fulbright in 1946 to encourage the interaction and blending of cultures.

Sracic taught American trade politics at Waseda University in Tokyo, which is much larger than YSU with an enrollment of over 50,000 students. He also lectured at Yokohama National University in Yokohama.

Sracic said the opening slides in his first lecture were about Youngstown.

“Sort of showing them pictures of this area. ... Black Monday, the closing of the mills and then showing them clips of Trump rallies here to give them a sense of the politics of the Midwest,” he said.

Sracic said one student approached him after learning about Youngstown and said, “Now I understand why some Americans were intrigued by the idea of ‘Make America Great Again.’ I never understood what that phrase meant.”

He said it’s important that he was given the opportunity to teach at Waseda because the school can produce the world’s next leaders. It has already produced six prime ministers.

Through having a Fulbright, Sracic has had the ability to get YSU’s name out there, and it’s given him opportunities that he wouldn’t have had otherwise.

“The Fulbright changed everything. I had really never traveled abroad,” he said.

Since 2009, he has visited at least eight countries and given more than 50 international lectures in places such as Tokyo, Beijing and Rome. He was invited to Japan in 2012 as a part of the Japanese Prime Minister’s Office Visiting Experts Program.

Sracic was also a part of the U.S. State Department’s election night program in 2016, and he answered questions from embassies around the world about the United States electoral system.

While in Japan for his latest Fulbright, he took his election night political analysis to Japanese television. He appeared on NHK World Japan in Tokyo on Nov. 6, 2018, as an on-air political analyst to provide commentary on the U.S. midterm elections.

NHK, Japan’s public broadcasting organization, delivers news and other programming in English 24 hours a day to 160 different countries and regions in the world.

Sracic said Japan is like a different world compared to the U.S. “The dress of the students is oftentimes so much more formal. People don’t wear sweatpants to class. It’s just the overall sense of formality of properness — it’s so different than it is in the United States,” he said. “That’s what hits you when you get off the plane.

Nobody’s in a uniform here or very few people. Everyone’s in a uniform in Japan.”

Nathan Myers, associate provost for international initiatives at YSU, said receiving a Fulbright is a “real professional recognition.”

“What’s rare is that someone would actually get two Fulbrights to the same country because the Fulbright Commission actually prioritizes people who haven’t been there before,” he said.

Myers said the intellectual resources Sracic can bring to YSU through his time in Japan are an incredible opportunity for his students, colleagues and the academic community.

Sracic recommends YSU professors apply for a Fulbright award. “There is simply no academic experience that I have ever had comparable to my year as a Fulbright scholar,” Sracic said in a 2018 Jambar article.



*Paul Sracic, chair of the Department of Politics and International Relations, pictured alongside an NHK World Japan news anchor. Photo courtesy of Paul Sracic*

## NEWS BRIEF

### FIFTH AVENUE CONSTRUCTION PUSHED BACK TO FALL 2020

An August Jambar article reported the Fifth Avenue construction would be complete by spring 2020, but according to Wednesday’s Board of Trustees meeting, these plans have changed.

John Hyden, associate vice president of facilities maintenance, said the design is in its final stages.

“They anticipate that it’s going to bid probably early spring and start late spring,” Hyden said. “It will be a full construction season

project.”

According to Hyden, “there’s no chance of it being done at the start of school” in the spring 2020 semester.

“[The construction] will probably be done late late fall of next year,” he said.

The construction process should be better than Wick Avenue, according to Hyden.

“There’s no deep work and it’s all basically on the surface,” he said. “It’ll be dusty, inconvenient, hopefully not quite as confusing.”

Hyden said he spoke with Facilities Maintenance and Support Services to ensure traffic control will run smoothly.

“It’s not going to be a fun summer over on the west side of campus,” he said.





## SKATEBOARDING AND ART COLLIDE: THE NEED FOR A SKATE PARK IN YOUNGSTOWN

Skateboard decks designed by Bliss Kids Collective lined a hall in Ward Bakery Market, where visitors could contribute to a fundraiser for a skate park in Youngstown. Photo by **Frances Clause/The Jambar**

### FRANCES CLAUSE

Over 50 artists from Bliss Kids Collective used skateboard decks as their canvas to prove “Youngstown Wants to Skate,” an initiative to build a skate park where the Youngstown BMX community can ride, grind and railslide safely.

According to Heather Seno, a Youngstown State University alumna and co-founder of the group, Bliss Kids Collective is a unique coalition of Youngstown-affiliated artists participating in exhibition-driven challenges.

“Upon graduation, a group of our classmates realized that art life without project structures and critiques left us very lost. [Co-founder Steph Blair] and I gathered some of our friends to create a house show on the North Side,” she said.

After that opening, Seno and Blair wanted to continue this concept, and they began to develop Bliss Kids Collective.

“Each show has a new prompt or challenge to ensure we are all creating new work, and due to the many modes and aesthetics of working, we use these prompts to unite the show visually,” Seno said.

The group travels to different venues to highlight alternative art spaces in the community and encourages people to view those spaces in a new way.

The skateboard decks were displayed and sold at Coy Cornelius Studios in October and Ward Bakery Market in

November. Proceeds were donated to the skate park project, where \$1,000 has been raised so far.

“We teamed up with one of our group’s active artists, Dakota Jackson, to build this fundraiser around the show,” Seno said.

The group also worked with area shops, including Stuck in Ohio Productions, The Shop Streetwear and Desired Designs, and it had a sponsorship with Penguin City Brewing Company.

“Over the year of doing these shows for our collective, each show has grown in popularity,” Seno said. “This show was amplified due to the sponsorships and combining forces of two communities: skate kids and art kids.”

In Seno’s opinion, the university is thriving, but downtown Youngstown lacks alternative activities to bars and food.

“We have friends in this community who skate, and now some of them have kids who skate,” she said. “The addition of a nice skate park could add to the community in many ways for recreation and competitions, potentially bringing another tourism factor and could grow student activities.”

Michelle Gabriel, a senior graphic design major, said she believes Bliss Kids Collective is an important group to the community.

“I think having something like this in a community brings

people together in a way that nothing else can,” she said. “It’s definitely nice to go to concerts and other local events, but it’s so much more amazing to have a big group of people all be able to create something and then see all their individual work together.”

Gabriel used paints for her skateboard deck and wrote motivational messages, aiming to do something lighthearted and fun.

“I definitely want to keep creating work for the Bliss Kids Collective. It pushes me in a lot of different ways to be a better designer and illustrator, which is something that you can’t really get from just working alone or from clients and school projects,” she said.

Anastasia Truby, a YSU alumna, said she joined Bliss Kids Collective to get more involved in the Youngstown art community, and she sees “Youngstown Wants to Skate” as essential to the city.

“[The skate park] is a good idea because people can have fun and meet each other in a safe place and share a hobby that they all enjoy,” she said.

A possible location being discussed for the skate park is between the Market Street Bridge and the Covelli Centre. For more information about Bliss Kids Collective’s upcoming shows, email [blisskidscollective@gmail.com](mailto:blisskidscollective@gmail.com).





## VIERA'S VISION: A SPOTLIGHT ON WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Six women pose for an empowering photoshoot done by Jessica Morales of Viera's Vision. Photo courtesy of **Jessica Morales**.

### CAILEY BARNHART

Jessica Morales, owner of the photography studio Viera's Vision, held an empowering photoshoot on Nov. 17.

"I just noticed that I take pictures of everything, but I never thought to do photography as a job. My grandma noticed and complained that I'm always on my phone, but really it's because I like to capture moments and look back," Morales said about what got her into photography.

It was her birthday the year that her grandmother bought Morales her first professional camera.

Morales is self-taught and has gained clientele by improving her portfolio as she learns, and this inspired her to open her studio.

A trip to Puerto Rico with the women in her family inspired Morales to hold the empowerment photoshoot.

"I spent some time with a cousin of mine. He's a lawyer [in Puerto Rico], and he just talked to me a lot about women's power and the fact that if we embraced our power more that we would see things change in the world," Morales said.

When Morales got home, she asked for volunteers and was overwhelmed by the amount of responses she received, many involving women telling their stories of words tearing them down. Morales used these stories to shape her shoot.

The shoot featured six diverse women with insulting and

empowering phrases painted on their bodies. The women posed together and individually, highlighting both sides of the words and stressing unity among women.

The tag on the album, posted on Viera's Vision's Facebook page, says, "Behind every woman is a tribe of women who have her back. Each time a woman stands up for herself without knowing it, possibly without claiming it, she stands up for all women."

The photoshoot went viral, reaching news sources across Ohio. This was something Morales was not expecting.

"I really just wanted to boost any woman around here's confidence and show them that beyond makeup, beyond what people think of you, you can really find a power within yourself. You can really find love for yourself. The more that we embrace imperfections, the more we will find happiness and joy in our lives," she said.

"It is important for us to fight for our rights and show men that we are not inferior. They are not superior because they are men. We are just as capable. We are just as beautiful on the outside as we are on the inside," Morales added.

She feels it is important for women to come together and share their stories to lift one another up.

"It's important to show each other that you are not alone. There's another woman going through the same thing as you, if not worse. It's a beautiful experience and I believe that the

more we do this, the better off we will see our community," she said.

Nichole Tarr, a Youngstown resident, said after local media outlets shared the photoshoot online, the positive response was overwhelming.

"Thank you to everyone for all the positive texts, comments and messages. ... I truly feel the love," Tarr said.

She said it was an uplifting experience being able to "share the love" through the photoshoot.

"This was so amazing. ... I can't get over the response," Tarr said.

Morales next wants to tackle the subject of human trafficking, especially with the high risk associated with Youngstown.

The studio is partnering with local professionals to discuss what to do if people find themselves in risky scenarios and ways they can be avoided.

She plans to hold a photoshoot with the children and adults that attend the event and encourages men and children, not just women, to come and be educated.

Viera's Vision is located at 2528 Mahoning Ave. and appointments can be set up through Facebook.

The human trafficking awareness and photoshoot event will take place Dec. 15 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the studio.

# HOMELESSNESS: AN UNSEEN ISSUE FACING YSU STUDENTS

## ABIGAIL CLOUTIER

One sophomore pre-nursing major at Youngstown State University found herself in a position that most people would never think possible.

In October 2018, she became homeless. She spoke to The Jambar about this anonymously.

“Last year, I was living with my fiance and my daughter in a very nice house, a beautiful house, and I knew exactly where I was going to be sleeping every night,” she said. “I didn’t have to worry about anything, everything was great, until my fiance attacked me.”

After an incident that almost took her life, she took her five-year-old daughter, her pets and two baskets of laundry, and left her home.

“For a period of two weeks, I was completely homeless,” she said.

Although her parents were able to take her daughter, they didn’t have room for her. She slept on the couch at her workplace in a therapist’s office and showered in the homes of friends and her parents.

Fourteen percent of college students reported homelessness nationally, and nearly 50% of students experienced housing insecurity, according to the National #RealCollege Survey conducted by The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice in April 2019.

The Hope Center is a nonprofit research center that studies issues related to higher education. It defines housing insecurity as including a “broad set of challenges such as the inability to pay rent or utilities, or the need to move frequently.”

Though the pre-nursing major knew if she did not continue her education in order to better her life, the lack of support services sometimes made her want to give up.

“An education is very important to me because I realized that if I don’t get through schooling to become a nurse, my situation will never change,” she said. “I’ll likely always be living paycheck to paycheck. ... It’s a lot of stress.”

After she found stable living conditions, she connected with YSU’s director of student outreach and support, Nicole Kent-Strollo.

Kent-Strollo often deals with students that experience transient homelessness or are facing housing insecurity. She also maintains relationships with community resources because they are critical.

There are several resources in Youngstown for shelter security, including the Rescue Mission of Mahoning Valley, the Dorothy Day House and the Beatitude House.

The Salvation Army and the Student Government Association food pantry on campus and at St. John’s Episcopal Church also offer resources.

According to Kent-Strollo, there are many factors that put someone at risk for homelessness, including those faced by the pre-nursing student, such as her combination of being a nontraditional student, working full time and having a family on top of school.

Kent-Strollo identified other factors that play a role in student homelessness. These include domestic abuse and being a part of the LGBTQ+ community.

Susan Laird, part-time faculty in the sociology department, first became aware of homelessness on campus when one of her students faced the issue.

She said she taught a class in the Williamson College of Business Administration and noticed a “very disheveled, unkempt” student.

“I walked up to him and I had a tray of food, and he kept looking at the food,” Laird said. “And I said, ‘Can I buy you lunch?’ We started talking a little bit and he was brave enough to tell me that he was homeless as a student here on campus.”

The pre-nursing major said homelessness doesn’t have a certain look.

“I’m walking in with my Victoria’s Secret bag, wearing the latest PINK clothing. I have a Michael Kors bag, whatever the case may be. People wouldn’t know that was my struggle,” she said.

Laird said she would ideally like to see some type of emergency student housing on campus.

Gayle Catinella, the reverend at St. John’s Episcopal Church, echoed that sentiment.

“That new housing for students with money is great, but it only solves part of the problem,” Catinella said. “When I went to school, I stayed on campus. And you know, it was great, it mattered to me, it made my experience better. But we have to provide secure affordable housing so that everyone can take advantage of that experience.”

Though St. John’s Church works to provide meals and some other assistance, the university cannot officially provide any kind of material assistance, such as gas or gift cards, because doing so impacts the individual students’ aid.

“Charitable gifts should not count against student aid, but until we figure that out, in the meantime, there’s no good way,” Catinella said.

*Editor’s Note: The sophomore pre-nursing major was not named due to safety concerns. According to the Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics, “Reserve anonymity for sources who may face danger, retribution or other harm, and have information that cannot be obtained elsewhere.”*



A sophomore pre-nursing major experienced homelessness for two weeks after being attacked by her fiance. Photo by **Heather Newsome/The Jambar**

## NEWS BRIEF

### YSU FACULTY AND STUDENTS DISCUSS FUNDING CONCERNS IN ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING

Youngstown State University faculty members and students voiced concerns that losing technology and laboratory fees will greatly affect their departments.

An Academic Senate meeting was held Wednesday to express these future “in-classroom concerns” with YSU administration.

The YSU website states the laboratory fee is designed to “partially offset expenses associated with courses that make use of supplies, equipment or personnel support beyond that associated with typical lecture courses.”

YSU Provost Brien Smith assured the senate members that if their budget is not open to their needs, they can meet with their dean, who then would meet with Smith.

Several faculty members expressed their disappointment and frustration with having to go through these extra steps to provide necessary resources during class time.

According to Joseph Mistovich, chair of the Department of Health Professions, the greatest issue is in programs that rely on technology for academic use.

Without the technology and laboratory fees, facilities such as the Dental Hygiene Clinic would not be able to remain open.

Johnathan Farris, an assistant professor of art history, proposed a resolution “to request better communication, transparency and coordination immediately effective for [the] instructional budgets this year” with YSU President Jim Tressel.

This comes after Smith said in a Nov. 21 Jambar article that deans of colleges and department chairs were not involved in the decision to withhold fees — it was an administrative decision. The YSU Board of Trustees passed the Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget in its June meeting.

The operating budget went into effect on July 1, 2019, and made it possible for the university administration to develop a “process to allocate strategic investment funding,” in hopes of ensuring the responsible use of financial resources, according to Page 4 of the budget.



# ADDRESSING THE FREEDOM TO PETITION ON YSU GROUNDS

**KELCEY NORRIS**

Some would argue the daily routines of Youngstown State University students have been disrupted by an influx of petitioners. To others, this is simply an expression of their First Amendment rights and is causing no harm.

However, petition circulators on YSU's campus have become a rising concern for some students and community members throughout the semester.

Students and faculty have been asked to sign petitions to support or oppose local issues related to the use of nuclear power plants in Ohio, while others exercising this right are engaging students about religious beliefs.

The YSU Police Department noticed an increase in phone calls and complaints in November from the community about the petitioners' rights to solicit on YSU property.

"We have a policy through the university that states that university campus grounds can be used for expressive activity, political speech and petitioning being one of those activities," police Chief Shawn Varso said.

He said students and faculty should think carefully about sharing personal information, which exceeds to what is necessary for the petition signature.

"If you do want to sign the petition, you are required by law to include your name and your address [and county] where you are registered to vote. You are not required to include a phone number or anything like that," Varso said. "If they solicit phone numbers, they are not a legitimate petitioner, so walk away."

Although the institution allows petitioners to solicit on campus, there are restrictions.

Varso said the petitioners' presence should not interfere with the flow of vehicular traffic.

"Petitioners can be on any open area on the outside areas of campus, with the exception being parking lots and parking decks. Anywhere else like the sidewalks they can go and solicit signatures," Varso said.

Although no formal complaints have been filed, Varso said community members took notice of the increase in solicitation in certain areas of campus throughout their daily routines.

"We did receive complaints that [petitioners] were being a bit too aggressive," Varso said. "They were following people, and even after the person said no, they still wanted the students to sign the petition."

Individuals who have been "pushy," according to Varso, have been removed from employment by their organization.

Ron Slipski, a lecturer in the Department of Politics and International Relations, explained the importance of students' education on public campuses as it relates to the freedom of speech.

This right, as defined in the First Amendment, allows individuals to express their opinions without fear of censorship.

"There are places on a university campus that are not public forums," he said. "The court has recognized that even though it's public property, that the university has to have some degree of control. Otherwise you couldn't have a

classroom."

Slipski said the freedom to gather and petition is just as important as a students' rights to education and comfort on campus.

"[Petitioners] can't impede the students' freedom of movement. They can talk to you, walk alongside you and jabber at you," Slipski said. "But, they can't stop you from moving about. They can't stop you from ignoring them."

Additionally, Slipski said that understanding the petition is crucial.

"Lots of times people that are circulating petitions are just trying to get something on the ballot," he said. "I know a lot of people who will just sign ... who may totally disagree with what they're trying to put on the ballot but agree that they should have the right to put it on the ballot."

Community member Tom Carlisle is a different type of petitioner on campus.

He visited YSU for the first time with one goal: engaging with students to discuss religious salvation.

Carlisle passes out pamphlets on YSU's campus, explaining his story and the impact Christianity has on the lives close to him.

"I'm hoping to talk to students about what the Lord did for my [father] and share the story of how he almost died but got another chance to trust Christ," Carlisle said. "I want to ask them if they have trusted Christ as their savior."

During his first time speaking with students on YSU campus, Carlisle said he was able to spread some joy.

# THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS PROVIDE STARVING CHILDREN WITH MEALS

**BRIANNA GLEGHORN**

A group of Youngstown State University students, with the help of a local health official, raised \$6,074 for the nonprofit Feed My Starving Children.

At 24 cents per meal the funds raised could feed over 25,000 children one meal or 68 children for a year.

Dr. Christian Yeasted, a family medicine physician for Mercy Health St. Elizabeth Hospital, reached out to YSU to form the committee and found many students wanted to get involved.

According to Yeasted, after \$27,000 is raised, the organization will send a truck of goods for the community to come together and package the meals.

"It's a really big event," he said. "People compete with each other to see which team can package more and start talking to each other back and forth and this is a lot of good fun."

Yeasted said he first heard about Feed My Starving Children while completing his residency training in Chicago.

When he moved to Youngstown, Yeasted wanted to bring the program to the area and encourage others to participate.

A Halloween 5K Fun Run on Oct. 19 was held at YSU to benefit the organization and was sponsored by Pressed Coffee Bar and Eatery and the American Medical Student Association, where a great number of members volunteered.

"They stuck through it for a long time, many months of planning to make that 5K," he said. "They're extremely influential in acting like a lightning rod for people to come to YSU and become aware of certain world problems like starving children or even more local problems."

The Minnesota-based organization started when businessman Richard Proudfit went to Honduras to feed starving children only to learn malnourished children need specifically formulated meals to thrive.

After working with scientists in the United States, Proudfit returned to Honduras and was able to develop a nutritious and effective formula to better help starving children.

"They have a huge presence out there in the Midwest," Yeasted said. "I started and it's just blossomed all over the country, but there are some places that it has not come yet."

Christopher Economus, senior biology pre-med major and president of YSU's American Medical Student Association, said he heard about the committee and wanted his association to be involved.

"It is just so good ... providing meals to children who don't have access to those meals," he said.

According to Economus, the committee was composed of YSU students, along with Yeasted, who worked to gain sponsors, recruit volunteers and obtain approval from the university.

Economus said the message of Feed My Starving Children is powerful.

Brandon Shiflet, freshman biochemistry major and member of the American Medical Student Association, said he was involved in community service events before coming to YSU and wanted to continue that into college.

"Prior to coming into college, I planned maybe 10 community service events," Shiflet said. "So, I was ready for whatever was going to come at me."

Shiflet said he heard about the committee planning the 5K in an American Medical Student Association meeting and was eager to get involved.

"I know it's not just important to get good grades, but it's also important to become a well-rounded individual," he said. "I was just seeking opportunities to get involved in the community."

In Shiflet's opinion, this fundraiser was a way to make a difference in the community and bring awareness of issues not just in the area, but the world.

"We're probably the closest group of people that can make a difference in regards to children because we're getting [a] college education," he said. "We're using what power we have as college students and experiences that we have to draw attention to those important issues."

# ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS

Continued from Page 4

A few years later, the Department of Education created a memorandum for a loophole for bundled-service OPMs like AP to continue recruiting as long as the contracted university controls the enrollment levels. Detailed in the YSU contract and backed up by McNally, YSU controls admissions, legally allowing AP's services.

Tuition sharing for recruitment services is still illegal under the Higher Education Act, but essentially, the Department of Education only enforces it under very narrow circumstances.

"When you're working with a for-profit company, their bottom line is to profit at the end of the day," Dudley said. "They're going to be incentivized to jack up enrollment as high as they can to increase their access to tuition and possibly cut corners in other places."

## Aggressive Recruiting

In YSU's contract with AP, there are two sections that work together in AP's recruiting process: the section that details the roles and tasks of AP in the recruiting process and the license grant section allowing AP to use YSU's intellectual property to recruit.

AP designs a website using a YSU domain and facilitates recruiting from that website. Enrollment specialist representatives are AP recruiters who serve as the primary contacts for prospective students interested in YSU's online program.

The website, [online.ysu.edu](http://online.ysu.edu), provides some basic information about expected cost, accreditation and application requirements; it doesn't go into detail. The only way students can get details is by entering their name and contact information. From there, the representatives contact those students frequently, using phone calls, texts and emails to keep in touch.

The website is designed to look like YSU's real website. There are no links to the real site and none of the phone numbers are YSU numbers, with the exception of the financial aid office.

Also, it is not indicated on the site that AP is the one operating it. Someone who doesn't know better could easily think this is solely organized and operated by YSU.

The Jambar entered contact information into the request box. Immediately, we received a text message saying that they will call soon and received an email from an enrollment specialist representative seemingly posing as a YSU employee. The next morning, a representative called twice and left a voicemail.

A quick search in the directory found no employee with the representative's name.

"When the OPM is essentially running a whole program under the guise of the school's name, the marketing [at] some for-profit colleges will pay per click on Google," Dudley said. "So, if a student types in 'master's in nursing,' the same for-profit college will pop up at the very top of the list and make that student think that is, like, one of the biggest colleges for nursing or something."

It is detailed in YSU's contract that AP is allowed to utilize denied applicants' information to promote programs at other universities. The Century Foundation recognized this problem in a 2017 article by Margaret Mattes titled "The Private Side of Public Higher Education."

"Either implicitly or explicitly granting these contractors the ability to use leads to steer students toward programs other than those they originally indicated interest expands the risks presented by these entities to consumers," Mattes said.

"Operating on behalf of a public institution, these companies may be able to earn the trust of, and therefore collect and utilize more information from, potential students than would otherwise be possible," Mattes said.

Dudley said because the contract language surrounding contact information is vague, AP could be selling applicants' information to marketers.

"A lot of these contracts really only mentioned data in the context of FERPA records. But other aspects of student data, like contact information, often that's less vague and you don't know what they're doing with that information," Dudley said. "That information is very valuable, and it's what makes a lot of these tech companies their money."

## Moving Forward

In the coming years, it will be enlightening to see how this contract with AP will affect YSU's goal to reduce the university's deficit and make up for lost enrollment this academic year.

While YSU's contract with AP raises many red flags, McNally said the university entered into this contract with careful consideration.

"YSU did not enter into this agreement with AP lightly," McNally said. "To the contrary, YSU took a measured and prolonged approach, debating the pros and cons of the AP model extensively, and consulting with a number of other universities who had already contracted with AP."

"The decision for YSU to enter into this agreement signifies that YSU is unwilling to be left behind in the digital age," McNally added. "Our relationship with AP is evidence that YSU recognizes the need to adapt to the changing higher education landscape."

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### OTHER

#### NEED BIRTH CONTROL, PAP SMEAR, STD TEST? PREGNANT?

Dr. Hill, 1350 Fifth Ave., near YSU campus, all insurances, walk-ins. Mon-Sat - 330-746-7007, [askthedoctor@aivhealth.com](mailto:askthedoctor@aivhealth.com), answered confidentially.



## END OF SEMESTER BRINGS NEW BEGINNINGS

MAC POMEROY

People often say how time flies when you are having fun, but I don't think this is the full truth.

Really, I think that time flies when you are busy. It seems like just yesterday I was new to this paper, typing my first article. Now, it's the end of the semester. Classes are finishing, and this is our last paper of 2019.

Of course, I have other articles coming after the new year. But I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the past 16 weeks and talk about how this column has been a new and great experience.

For those of you that don't know, my name is Mac Pomeroy. I am a second-year English major with a minor in creative writing. I intend to get my doctorate and become a creative writing professor one day. Before coming to Youngstown State University, I never considered working for a newspaper.

But after meeting some people and becoming more involved on campus,

I applied to write for the Jambar. As you can see, I got in, and I'm glad I did. It has been one of the most challenging yet encouraging things in my writing career.

We all come to college to pursue a goal. Perhaps you want to become a doctor, a teacher or a dancer. These goals are great, but they should never be a reason to limit ourselves. Just because we enjoy doing something and it's what we want to do for a career, that doesn't mean we should do only that.

I may love writing, but before college, all I ever wrote was stories and scripts. Other than essays I was forced to write for school, I never tried anything else. I never considered what else I could do.

And that's what happens. Suddenly life presents opportunities that you never considered. No matter how odd these options are, unless they are illegal or invasive, they should be considered.

When we pick our majors, we aren't signing

our lives away. Whatever is on our degree will not be the only thing we are capable of doing. Even if it won't be something you'll do in the long run, it's not any less valuable.

Doing things simply because you like to is also really important. Gaining new skills is valuable. For me, this column has helped me gain so many new skills as a writer. I have learned to be more confident with the words that I say, and I have become more comfortable with letting people see my writing.

Yes, I didn't plan to be a columnist. But I am grateful to have this opportunity.

Sometimes, we need to get out of our comfort zones in order to improve upon what we already know.

Thank you all very much for a great semester. I look forward to returning in January with more articles and new stories to tell. Have a safe and happy holiday and stay warm. Till next time.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

An Open Letter to the Provost's Office,

I am a professor who teaches a crime scene investigation (CSI) lab as well as several other forensic labs that need the instructional fees you have abruptly withheld without any notice to professors, chairs or deans. In your 2020 budget, signed by the Board of Trustees in June (months before you determined we were operating in a \$9 million deficit), you wrote of your plans to "hold back distributions pending demonstrated accomplishments aligned with University Priorities."

Regarding your plan, I have several questions:

The forensic science program has doubled in enrollment in the past few years, with 145 current student majors. Our program is currently in the top 25 best universities to obtain a forensic science degree, according to collegechoice.net rankings. **Please explain why these demonstrated accomplishments are not being recognized by your office, and you have chosen to withhold our instructional fees.**

Our CJFS 3714 students pay \$100 extra in laboratory fees for a CSI laboratory. The crime scene condo in Cushwa Hall, which is where we teach the laboratory for this course, was put together with a budget of ZERO dollars. Everything inside the space was either donated or salvaged from a dumpster. Meanwhile, your office projected a budget using a flat student enrollment (odd, considering the well-known fact that there are fewer high school aged students than in past generations). **Please explain how our fiscally conservative purchases are being scrutinized, while your office produced a plan that is 8.9 million dollars over budget.**

I am a former CSI hired in 2010 to assist with growing the forensic science program at YSU. The provost, Brien Smith, has a background in marketing and business. Vice President Mike Sherman and Associate Provost Jennifer Pintar both have degrees and experience in exercise science. Vice President Neal McNally is a public administrator and business financier. **Please explain how your administrative**

**members know more about what our forensic students need for my CSI laboratory than I do.**

Respectfully,  
Susan Clutter  
Associate Professor  
Criminal Justice and  
Forensic Science Department

## THE JAMBAR'S TOP TIPS TO SURVIVE FINALS WEEK

Finals week is creeping up on us. Youngstown State University students are preparing to take their exams and finishing final projects. Here are the Jambar's tips to (maybe) surviving finals week.

1. Double- and triple-check the time of your final. *For some reason, YSU uses military time. We still don't know why they do this.*

2. Don't forget to take care of yourself. *Take a study break with a cup of coffee, take a bubble bath and get back to studying with a clear mind.*

3. Keep yourself motivated by listening to music. *Studying for finals can be stressful, and music is calming.*

4. Dress for success. *When you dress nice, you feel good.*

*You don't have to show up in a suit and tie, but don't wear last night's pajamas.*

5. Attend review sessions. *This is actually important! Sometimes professors give hints to what's on your final exam.*

6. Meet with a study group. *Quiz each other, review the study guide and bounce ideas off your classmates. After all, you're in this together!*

7. Don't procrastinate. *We all do it, but we shouldn't. Pushing it back won't help you, it'll just hurt you.*

8. Create a study guide. *Highlight important information to help you better understand the material.*

9. Know your limits. *It's OK to call it a night and take*

*a break.*

10. Overall, don't die. *Sometimes people take themselves and finals too seriously.*

Winter break and graduation are on the horizon, so hang in there for one more week.

**THE JAMBAR**  
— EDITORIAL —

# NATHAN MAYS

Continued from Page 1

“They had kind of geared me towards maybe taking it slow, maybe sitting that game out. But in my head, I was never going to try and sit out a game,” Mays said. “They knew that there was a lot of season left, but for me in my last season I wasn’t ready to take one snap off.”

Against the Jackrabbits, Mays threw for 176 yards and achieved a touchdown pass. He also rushed for two more.

Fast forward to senior night: the final game at Stambaugh Stadium, the final game of the season and the last time Mays would be on the YSU sideline.

With everything set in motion, Mays’ hope of taking the final snap for the Penguins season and his career came to fruition.

“With about six minutes left, [Illinois State] had the ball, and we were looking like we’re easily going to win the game, and I was kind of shocked,” Mays said. “Not shocked that we were winning, shocked that this kind of scenario was playing out picture perfect.”

Mays asked Penguins coach Bo Pelini if he could take the final snap, and he was thrilled. But Mays still had to convince the trainers, who weren’t willing to clear it right away.

“They didn’t really think it was a great idea, hobbling out there five days after surgery, or whatever it was, but sure enough I convinced them to do it,” he said. “I wasn’t really letting them tell me no.”

With 10 seconds to go on the clock, Pelini called a timeout.

Seniors Matt Jones and Myles Douglas helped Mays onto the field for their final collegiate play at Stambaugh Stadium. Ironically, a cold and dreary day with a handful of people in the crowd made the experience more meaningful to Mays.

“Honestly, the thing that kind of describes it best is how few people were at that game,” Mays said. “It was cold. It was raining. The game didn’t mean much. Then the noise of how loud those few people got for me just to recognize

that moment was for me. It really hit home, and I shed a few tears.”

Mays wasn’t the only one in tears.

“I had family up there crying, but the looks that I was getting from the opposing team’s head coach and the other players showed how special it was,” he said. “People that didn’t even know me recognized what it meant. It was one of the most memorable things that I’ll have the rest of my life.”

After the kneel down, video of the play spread across the internet and was trending on Twitter.

“That night around 8 o’clock, I think, was the first time I saw anything,” he said. “It was a tweet from ESPN. When I saw that my name was on there and the full minute-and-a-half-long video was already at a hundred thousand views or something.”

A 2015 graduate of Urbana High School in Champaign County, Ohio, Mays spent his first season as a Penguin redshirted.

Injuries ended his 2017 season. In 2018, Mays was replaced by transfer quarterback Montgomery VanGorder, but he found himself back as the starter before the season was through.

This past season, Mays set career highs in all categories.

In his 10 games, Mays had a 61.3 completion percentage, threw for 2,619 yards and had a quarterback rating of 157.1.

With the season over, two questions are left: What’s next for the Penguins at quarterback, and what’s next for Mays?

As for the quarterback position, Mays thinks the team is in good hands. As a senior, Mays mentored sophomore Joe Craycraft and freshman Mark Waid, but he didn’t expect that job to come so easy.

“They’re both smart kids,” Mays said. “I didn’t really have to do as much as you might think. They’re picking things up quickly, and they’ll be just fine without me.”

As for Mays, some may think that someone as dedicated to football as he is would dive right into coaching, but as of now, that’s not the plan.

“That’s kind of in the air right now,” Mays said. “A lot of people want me to try and give coaching a try. I don’t know if I’m all in on that one. I know I’ll be sticking around the area for a little bit working. I would like to get involved in some local businesses around here.”

He will graduate with his master’s degree in professional communication in the spring and plans to “hit the ground running.”

In a season that birthed the name “Grit U,” the player that best embodies that mantra rides off into the sunset in the way he deserves.



Senior linemen Matt Jones and Myles Douglas helped Nathan Mays onto the field to take his final snap of his college football career. Photo courtesy of **YSU Sports Information**

## SPORTS BRIEF

## YSU MEN’S AND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL RECAP

Youngstown State University’s women’s basketball team is getting through the year bumped and bruised but still finding ways to win.

The Penguins sit at 4-3 with wins over Canisius College, Eastern Michigan University, Wagner University and now Eastern Kentucky University.

Ny’Dajah Jackson scored 14 of her 19 points in the second half to fuel the Penguins in their road trip victory over Eastern Kentucky for the team’s first game after Thanksgiving break.

Taylor Petit scored 15 points with nine rebounds and Chelsea Olson added 13 points and six rebounds.

Missing from the lineup are Mary Dunn and Emma VanZanten. The two are sidelined due to lower body injuries and are out for the

foreseeable future.

The injuries are no stranger to coach John Barnes, however. YSU ran a nine-player lineup last season, so this adversity isn’t affecting him like it may affect another coach.

The Penguin women continue their three-game road trip in Pennsylvania against Saint Francis University, then on the following Sunday they travel to Indiana University to take on the Hoosiers.

On the other side of the coin, the men’s team sits at 4-4 at the time of publication.

The men’s team played Robert Morris University during publication, so the result has been omitted.

The Penguins are coming off a three-game stretch with two wins

and a loss.

YSU traveled to South Carolina to take on the University of South Carolina Upstate, beating the Spartans 66-61.

On the day before Thanksgiving, they returned home to face Westminster College and stuffed the baskets for a 93-67 victory.

Lastly, YSU went to Central Michigan University, and despite a season-high 10 3-pointers, the Penguins fell 88-72.

After the game against Robert Morris, YSU makes the trip to Michigan once again, this time facing Western Michigan University.





## PENGUINS WRAP UP SEASON, SIX EARN ALL-CONFERENCE HONORS

YSU wide receivers C.J. Charleston (right) and Jermiah Braswell leap in the air to try and make a touchdown reception. Photo courtesy of YSU Sports Information

### NATHANAEL HAWTHORNE

The 2019 Youngstown State University football season is officially in the books. The Penguins finished with a 6-6 overall record and a record of 2-6 in the Missouri Valley Football Conference.

While YSU missed the playoffs for the third consecutive season, there are accomplishments and improvements within the program.

The most notable improvement was the defensive output. During the 2018 season, the defense forced nine turnovers. This season, however, the Penguins forced 20 total turnovers, with 11 of them being interceptions.

The defense also allowed less points per game (26.8) and less yards per game (339.1).

The offense also had a statistically better season. While the team didn't earn as many total yards per game as last season, it improved in rushing yards per game (187.4) and passing yards per game (203).

At one point early in the season, the team lead the Football Championship Subdivision in rushing yards.

Penguins coach Bo Pelini also had a career milestone during the last game of the season, clinching his 100th career win as coach, ending the 2019 season on a high note by

beating the sixth-ranked Illinois State University.

According to senior tailback Joe Alessi, clinching Pelini's 100th win was a proper senior send-off.

"I'll remember this game for the rest of my life," Alessi said. "To end my career at Youngstown State and have [Pelini] get his 100th career win is just awesome."

The 2019 season also marked the emergence of quarterback Nathan Mays, who was sidelined with an ankle injury with only three games left in the season.

Before the injury, Mays posted a 61.1% pass completion rate for 1287 yards in the air. He also had six rushing touchdowns, which is the most on the team.

The game against Illinois State garnered national coverage during the final play. Mays, who had surgery on his injured ankle two weeks prior, was assisted onto the field by teammates to take the final snap of not only the season but of his career as well.

Additionally, six Penguins also earned All-MVFC honors for their efforts on the field.

Junior defensive end Justus Reed earned first-team honors, and junior punt returner Jake Coates and senior defensive end Ma'lik Richmond were both selected for second-team honors. Coates' selection marks the first time since 2001

a Penguin punt returner was named to either the first or second team.

Senior wide receiver Jermiah Braswell, sophomore offensive tackle Dan Becker and sophomore tight end Miles Joiner were listed as honorable mentions as well.

Richmond and Reed were among the top performers on the defense with 47 and 42 tackles, respectively. Richmond tallied 10.5 tackles for losses with nine of them being sacks. Reed had 19 tackles for losses with 13 being sacks.

YSU started off hot by posting a 4-0 record against non-conference teams. The last time the Penguins started with such a record was in 2012.

The team suffered three straight losses once conference play started. After some redemption with a win at home against Western Illinois University, the Penguins gave up back-to-back 56-point losses, a first in program history.

Last season, the Penguins finished with a 5-7 record. After finishing with a .500 record this season, Pelini knows what changes need to be made.

"[I] have a pretty good idea to get some things fixed. We've got to make some changes here and there," Pelini said.





## TAYLOR PETIT AND MADDIE SCHIRES: FROM WISCONSIN TO YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

Taylor Petit, redshirt freshman guard on the Youngstown State University women's basketball team. RIGHT PHOTO: Maddie Schires, freshman guard for YSU. Photo by **Brent Bigelow/The Jambar**

### CHRISTINA SAINOVICH JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

A total of 4 miles separate Schofield, Wisconsin, from the neighboring town Wausau.

Schofield is the home of Taylor Petit, redshirt freshman guard on the Youngstown State University women's basketball team.

Maddie Schires, freshman guard for YSU, hails from Wausau.

The duo grew up playing together, beginning in elementary school and then continuing in Amateur Athletic Union teams. Petit said they began their careers on a team coached by both of their dads.

"I started playing competitive basketball in about second grade. My dad and Maddie Schires' dad coached a little elementary school team. We played all the other elementary schools in the area, so that's when it all started to come together," Petit said.

After elementary school, Schires and Petit played AAU ball throughout high school. Head coach of the women's basketball team John Barnes said there was no pressure to offer both of the athletes scholarships rather than just one.

"They're both obviously from the same area, but we had

been recruiting that AAU program for a lot of years. So just both of them we thought were very good players and could help the program. Fortunately enough, we were able to land them," Barnes said.

Other than playing in AAU teams, Schires and Petit attended rival high schools. Schires was a student-athlete at Wausau West and Petit at D.C. Everest. Petit said her favorite memories with Schires are from their high school days.

"As much as I love her, probably my favorite memories are from playing against her. We played for rival high schools, so there was always good games. ... It was always fun going against each other and knowing that we can go at each other on the court but still be really good friends off the court as well," Petit said.

Schires is one year younger than Petit and has learned a lot from her in their time together.

"I've learned a lot from Taylor. Just her grittiness on the court and her leadership, definitely. She's always been so confident in me and anything that I do," Schires said.

Petit has bragging rights when it comes to the win/loss record from high school.

"I do as of now. I don't think she'll one up me anymore now that we're on the same college team," Petit said.

Schires said nobody expected that she and Petit would

play together at the collegiate level, but they received a lot of support and excitement when they both committed to YSU.

"It's extremely cool. Obviously, no one really expected it growing up at a young age. Playing with each other and against each other, and then all of a sudden we both committed to Youngstown State, and I think a lot of people were really excited for us," Schires said.

Barnes said both Petit and Schires have had a strong impact on the team even though it's still early in their careers as Penguins.

"As freshman, they've actually taken on a big role. Taylor was named the Horizon League Freshman of the Week the first week of play. So to be able to have a freshman step in and play that big of a role was huge. Maddie Schires has been lights-out from the three-point range. ... And that puts a lot of pressure on opposing teams' defenses," Barnes said.

Schires also said that playing together previously gives her and Petit an edge on the court. They have instant chemistry that many players do not develop until later in their careers.

"Playing with her all the way up to college has really helped. I know there are some times during AAU ball that we would do stuff on defense or offense. We wouldn't even have to talk or look at each other. We just move so well off of each other," Schires said.