

FREE COVID-19 TESTING: FIRST-PERSON PERSPECTIVE



A health care professional tested Jambar reporter Douglas Campbell during a free COVID-19 testing event Thursday at the Union Baptist Church. Photo by James Potts/The Jambar

DOUGLAS M. CAMPBELL

A crisp autumn day dawned upon Union Baptist Church as nurses from the Youngstown City Health District set up tables in the parking lot for flu shots and coronavirus testing sign-ins. James Potts, a senior telecommunications student, and I exited his vehicle as we scoped the scene and planned how to cover the event.

Julie Gentile, director of the environmental and occupational health and safety department, collaborated with Gov. Mike DeWine, the City of Youngstown and the National Guard to provide free coronavirus tests and flu shots to Youngstown State University students and the community.

“One of the recommendations was to involve YSU students for a few reasons, to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus in the community and on campus, but also because it’s free. It’s a really nice service for our campus community and it gets us involved with the activities of our city,” Gentile said.

She said the intent was to focus on areas in the city where people could easily access these services while also being within walking distance from the YSU campus.

Potts and I filmed the Guard setting up their station and nurses discussing matters among each other. Before either of us knew it, cars began to line up around the block.

I began the application process for my test. My form was completed by a nurse who asked for my name, date of birth, email and phone number. There weren’t many students who applied by walk-up appointments at the clinic.

She handed me a small pamphlet and informed me I could discover my results faster if I texted “MAKO” to 66349. After being escorted past the line of cars, I was led to the Guard.

Potts stood behind me, filming as I approached the men and women in camouflaged suits with lab coats over their uniforms. I was nervous — I’d never received a coronavirus test before and didn’t know what to expect. My only frame of reference came

from videos on YouTube and Instagram of people receiving the tests and crying in agony.

A man unwrapped a cotton swab and warned that the swab’s entry into my nostrils would feel unpleasant. I looked over at Potts, who continued to roll the camera while signaling a thumbs-up.

The swab entered my left nostril and an odd sensation occurred between my upper nostril and cartilage. Tears formed in my eyes as the swab was held in for five seconds. It was removed from my nose, and I discovered the sensation wasn’t as bad as various videos on social media had led me to anticipate.

The swab entered my right nostril and was more difficult to insert. I opened my mouth, and the swab entered easier. The swab was held in for five more seconds and was then removed. My nose continued to have a subtly unpleasant sensation as I left the corner of the parking lot. Overall, the experience wasn’t as bad as I originally conceived it to be.

A few days passed, and I texted “MAKO” to the number on the pamphlet. I received a message, and after replying and filling out my information on the website, I discovered my test came back negative for COVID-19.

Other students had a different reaction to receiving a coronavirus test. Allyson Greco, a freshman psychology major, described her experience receiving the test as uncomfortable but not what she expected.

“The way I can describe it is that you take a cotton swab and put it a little too far in your ear. I got a weird sensation but in

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PENGUIN NIGHTS GO VIRTUAL

KIERSTON RICHARDSON JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Penguin Nights serves as a chance for students to build new relationships and enjoy their time as Youngstown State University Penguins. Past themes include “Winter Wonderland,” “Roaring Twenties” and “Blast from the Past,” but due to the pandemic, Penguin Nights looks different this year.

Carrie Anderson, associate director of student activities, said there’s a need for Penguin Nights.

“There’s a need to do some different programming with different groups of people and to just enjoy time with each other,” Anderson said.

Vaughn Myers, associate director of Kilcawley Center, said students can benefit from Penguin Nights.

“It’s about inclusion and engagement. Students can meet new people, get more involved and have an overall better experience

at YSU,” Myers said.

Kathy Leeper, also an associate director of Kilcawley Center, said any student with a valid YSU ID is able to attend Penguin Nights.

“We keep Penguin Nights exclusive for students only,” Leeper said.

Leeper said a committee of people from student activities and Kilcawley Center come up with a theme for Penguin Nights.

“We share some ideas and decide on one, and we try to program around the holidays,” Leeper said.

Leeper said there are numerous activities for students to enjoy during Penguin Nights.

“We always have a theme, and we do activities based on that theme. One time it was Las Vegas themed, so we had professionals come in and teach students how to gamble for prizes,” Leeper said. “We have live dancing and music. We had a beach theme, and we had a mechanical surfboard. We always

have bingo, and sometimes we have live performers.”

Myers said Penguin Nights are different this year due to COVID-19.

“We are doing virtual bingo. We will have students sign up online to fill the spots. Students can pick up pumpkins to paint and decorate them at home,” he said. “There will be a virtual caricature artist, and the caricature artist will draw students online.”

Myers said they have seen a growth in numbers since they first started Penguin Nights five years ago.

“When we first started, we usually had 400 people attend. So, it’s grown exponentially over the years,” he said. “Now, we have about 700 students attend penguin nights every time. We’ve had 850 students attend one time.”

The first of fall semester’s Penguin Nights is Oct. 30 from 8-10 p.m.

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STUDENTS SHARE COVID-19 EXPERIENCES - NOT GERMS

Health care professionals fill out forms and prepare to test for COVID-19 at a free drive-up event. Photo by **James Potts/The Jambar**

C. AILEEN BLAINE

As COVID-19 case numbers increase, students at Youngstown State University are asked to be on alert for the signs and symptoms of the disease. Several students at YSU share their experiences, ranging from symptoms to testing to quarantine.

For Conor Murphy, a sophomore in hospitality management, symptoms began with a headache. Within a few days, his fever reached 101.4 degrees, and he was so dizzy he had trouble standing. At the suggestion of his parents, he went to the Mercy Health clinic on Wick Avenue to get tested.

“Honestly, I went in nervous,” Murphy said. “When I actually did [the test], it didn’t really feel that bad. Like, it was over real quick, and it didn’t really hurt.”

It took five days for his results to come back, and he quarantined during the wait. When his results came back positive, he and his parents were forced to quarantine for nearly two weeks. He passed the time watching sports games and thinking about seeing his friends again.

Murphy said the experience “sucked,” and he currently sees

the nonchalant attitude some individuals take toward the severity of the virus.

“You can’t make people do something they don’t want to do,” Murphy said. “I don’t know — I’m not a scientist — but if the scientists say the mask works, then I’ll wear it, because I’d rather be wrong about the cloth over my mouth than not wear it and be wrong and get other people sick.”

Sabrina Wallace, a senior in social work, works in an emergency room around children. When she began experiencing chest tightness, she decided to get tested for COVID-19 as a precautionary measure. Despite her negative test result, she had to quarantine for a week as a safety measure. She spent the time alone in her apartment, completing homework assignments and watching television.

“The first two days weren’t so bad, but by the end of the week, I was ready to be out,” Wallace said.

Ali Alaryan is an international student from Kuwait and a chemical engineering senior. After the spring semester, the Kuwait government sent students home on rapid flights because of the United States’ position as a hot spot in COVID-19 cases. Upon arrival in Kuwait, he tested negative, but was still required to quarantine for 28 days to ensure

there was no delayed onset of symptoms.

“When we got to Kuwait, we got tested, and they put a bracelet to track our location and be sure that we don’t get out of the home quarantine,” Alaryan said. “If we get out of the circle location, it will notify the police and they will be there, in a minute or two.”

Before his arrival home, the government required every family with a returning student to prepare a separate room with all necessities inside. Meals were placed in plastic containers to be thrown out rather than cleaned. Alaryan spent the time exercising, playing video games and watching the street from his bedroom window.

“The first week or five days, they’re the hardest just to get in, and preparing for mentally to be in that room for 28 days,” he said. “But that wasn’t really bad. I didn’t expect that it would be not that bad.”

Alaryan offered advice for those who may currently be in quarantine.

“There are a lot of things to do at home for fun, so you don’t have to go out,” he said. “Don’t be selfish ... Don’t even think about yourself. Think about someone that you love.”



SUNSETTING THE DANCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Members of the YSU Dance Ensemble perform *Eunoia*, choreographed by Rachel Schmidt. Photo by **William Lewis**

KELCEY NORRIS

Erica Hays, a senior dance management major, described the day she and her friends in the program found out the sad news that their degree was being discontinued at Youngstown State University.

“It was a very emotional day for all of us,” Hays said. “We all kind of knew that it was coming, but at the same time, it hurt. This was because so many people had been watching this program since they were little kids in the area, they would always go to the dance concerts and everything like that.”

Hays is the president of the YSU Dance Ensemble, and she has danced since the age of nine. Her track has been minimally affected by the sunsetting of her program.

Stephanie Smith, acting co-director of the school of performing arts, said the dance management program’s end will not affect current students’ graduation track.

“Essentially, we’ll be teaching out all of the students that are currently in the program and making sure that they get the same experiences,” Smith said. “We don’t want those who are at the end of the program to have their education suffer in any way.”

According to Smith, the inability to grow resources contributed to the sunsetting of the dance management degree.

“In order to have a degree that focuses on dance, you really need to have both physical facility resources and the faculty

resources,” Smith said. “We don’t have, currently, enough resources to support all of our programs sufficiently. We’re down faculty from where the department once was.”

Smith said the dance studio, located in Beeghly Center, has a “fairly low ceiling, it’s smallish in size and it’s really not sufficient.”

“A dance studio is a very specific kind of studio,” Smith said. “They require a raised floor and special flooring, Marley, that overlays on that floor. This is so students don’t get injured. So, putting in those floors is very expensive. Sufficient ceiling height and size is also important.”

As an advocate for dance, Smith said she is hopeful a proper studio can be built in Bliss Hall one day.

“Perhaps people think that getting rid of dance means ... that we somehow don’t value dance,” she said. “It’s actually just the opposite. We value dance so highly that we need to make sure we’re serving dance properly and serving our students properly. And if we can’t provide programs of excellence, then we really need to think about what we’re doing.”

Despite challenges and lack of key resources, Smith said the faculty in the dance program are dedicated to providing quality educational experiences for the students during the teach-out.

“We have been doing our best, and, I think, providing students with necessary rigor and value. But as we move forward, we need to make sure that we continue to be able to do that. And with the growth in other programs, it’s going to

become increasingly difficult,” she said.

Smith explained the importance of dance to other students in the Cliffe College of Creative Arts.

“Dance is an integral part of the other programs as well, like the BFA in Theatre ... and the BA in Theatre Studies,” Smith said. “Movement is really crucial. We can’t survive without continuing to have dance classes. That’s not going to go away just because the degree has been sunsetted.”

The students perform to showcase new skills and choreography, but with COVID-19, Smith is unsure of what this year’s performance will look like, although there will be a dance concert in the spring semester.

“We’ve always planned to have [our spring dance concert]. I don’t know exactly what form it is going to take,” Smith said. “We’re working on figuring out how to maintain protocols and give the students the opportunity to perform. Performance is an important part of dance curriculum.”

Changes are coming for the dance program.

“If we know that we’re getting to a point where we’re not going to be able moving forward to service a program, the way we want to and need to, then we have to rethink those programs,” Smith said.

In the meantime, all students currently in the program will be kept on track to graduate with the degree.



PROBLEMATIC WI-FI GETS AN UPGRADE

Newly installed Wi-Fi routers on campus will make the internet on campus faster and have increased coverage. Photo by *Jessica Stamp/The Jambar*

JESSICA STAMP JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Wi-Fi problems will no longer be an issue for students at Youngstown State University. This semester, the Wi-Fi will be enhanced to amplify the connection.

Ryan Geilhard, IT Infrastructure Service director, and his team have been working across campus replacing the old and sporadic Wi-Fi with faster and better access coverage.

Geilhard said this project is meant to improve Wi-Fi coverage so students can attend classes virtually, as well as bring Wi-Fi stability and better serve newer mobile devices.

“There were new devices like phones and laptops and newer antennas that were less compatible for the environment,” he said. “The wireless didn’t have adequate coverage in certain buildings, it didn’t allow as many devices to have access to better coverage.”

Rosalyn Donaldson, IT Service Desk and Technology training manager, said she received technology-related complaints and seeks to ensure there is adequate coverage throughout campus.

Over the summer and early fall, IT Service Desk checked several Wi-Fi sites around campus for stability, access points, where the hot spots are and what kind of devices are used more than others.

“One thing that people might not understand is that wireless has limited capability; it’s not unlimited,” she said. “If you’re in a place where there is a cluster of people, there’s a likelihood that you might run into less of a connection because you’re having to share the connectivity. You have a lot of people in the same spot fighting for a connection.”

Students on campus struggle to get a stable connection and find other ways to get Wi-Fi. Kenneth Vigorito, sophomore civil engineering major, said he has found some difficult spots with the Wi-Fi in the Maag Library.

“The Wi-Fi kind of gets stuck and when that happens, I can just connect to my own hot spot, so I don’t have to move,” he said.

Geilhard and his team were able to receive funding for the Wi-Fi upgrade project which cost \$585,028 from CARES Act, Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.

“There wasn’t any YSU funding. It was all through the federal

government,” he said. “It was something we were going to do anyway, so this allowed us to do it sooner and not have to go about spending YSU funds.”

The funding gave them a chance to upgrade about 600 Wi-Fi access points in 23 buildings as of now with more to follow, covering a little more than half of campus, with academic and student-centered areas like Kilcawley Center being prioritized.

By the end of December, Geilhard and his team hope to complete the Wi-Fi enhancement. They have partnered with Zenith Systems, a Bedford Heights electrical business, to help install the wireless upgrades faster.

“The work is being performed concurrently to many other projects and daily operations so that YSU faculty, staff and students can realize the benefits of improved Wi-Fi more quickly,” he said.

By the spring, Geilhard and his team will install a wireless coverage enhancement in the fountain area outside of Kilcawley Center.

“It was something that we have been wanting to do for a very long time based on student requests,” he said.



CAMPUS RECREATION HOLDS VIRTUAL TALENT SHOW

YSU campus rec hosts a virtual talent show where winners will receive a T-shirt and a select prize. Photo courtesy of YSU Campus Recreation

GABRIELLE OWENS JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

For students looking for an opportunity to show off their talents, the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center is hosting a virtual talent show, which organizers say will allow students to gain the full college experience during the fall semester.

Domonique Sak, coordinator of club sports and summer camps, said whether students can sing, play an instrument or solve a Rubik's cube — this event is for them.

"The virtual talent show is an event to show off their talents, as if it was an in-person talent show. We recognize the many walks of life on campus and we wanted to give them an opportunity to present that in the form of a friendly competition," she said.

Virtual talent shows will be recurring throughout the semester, Sak said, in hopes to get students involved in the event.

"Our first event was Sept. 8 at 5 p.m., but we only had one person sign up. Since then, we plan on pushing the day and time of our event in hopes of getting more people to participate," she said.

Sak said Samantha Johnson, graduate assistant of club sports and summer camp, and the staff at the rec center collaborated to create an event for students to show off their talents.

"It was different from the typical virtual programming offerings that we had been promoting, so I thought it was a brilliant idea from Samantha," she said.

Johnson said they wanted to create a fun virtual event for students to interact with each other. Also, they wanted to give freshmen an opportunity to receive the full college experience.

"Right now, with all the precautions, we created the virtual talent show because it gives students something to do during the semester," she said.

The winner of the talent show will receive a T-shirt and a

campus rec prize.

Olivia Saxey, a freshman forensic science major, said she plans to showcase her talent of piano playing for the virtual talent show.

"I picked this talent because out of all the instruments I play, this is the only one where I completely taught myself, and I am very proud of my abilities," she said. "I wanted to apply for the virtual talent show because I like to find different ways to get involved around school and have the opportunity to share my gifts and talents with other people."

Saxey said she recommends students apply for the virtual talent show, which will give them the opportunity to interact with other students.

"This is a fun way to get to know other people you go to school with and connect with those who may like the same things you do."

For students interested in watching or being a part of the event, apply in-person at the rec center or visit the rec center store online and search the virtual talent show.



MECHANICAL ENGINEERING RENAISSANCE IN MAHONING VALLEY

Center Street Technologies is an additive manufacturing company in the Youngstown area offering mechanical engineering opportunities to students. Photo courtesy of **Matthew Heffinger**

JOSEPH CHAPMAN

Youngstown State University will receive millions of dollars in federal defense funding included in the recently passed fiscal year 2021 defense spending bill. The \$10 million in funds will sponsor research in new, advanced manufacturing techniques for building hypersonic weapons. These weapons travel at five times the speed of light. \$5 million was allocated to research and develop new hybrid manufacturing techniques for rapid tooling and high-temperature materials. This is part of an ongoing collaboration between Oak Ridge National Labs and YSU.

Youngstown is home to the federal government's center for additive manufacturing known as America Makes. In support of its growth, \$37 million has been acquired for the research and development funding of large scale additive manufacturing equipment and training programs.

Recently a plan was announced for two research labs from the University of Texas at El Paso to expand here at YSU as a part of America Makes. Eric MacDonald, adjunct professor at YSU, discussed how he recently took on another position as a mechanical engineering professor at UTEP, and while he was not directly involved in making this collaboration happen, said he is excited to see what comes of it.

"It's just strange — of the two places I could have come

and gone to, are so closely engaged, but I think there's a really promising future for that partnership between the cities and between the Congress, people and between the universities," he said. "There's going to be a lot of people in Youngstown that are going to be coming to learn about the technology here [at UTEP]. So that we are both helping each other. It's a great collaboration. ... This new money is going to lead to a renaissance in the Mahoning Valley."

The expansion of additive manufacturing led to local opportunities for YSU's STEM students, such as the additive manufacturing facility Center Street Technologies in Youngstown. Alexander Fitzgerald, who graduated from YSU with a degree in mechanical engineering in 2018, recruited Matthew Heffinger as an intern after working with him in YSU's additive manufacturing department. Now, both work as additive engineers for the company.

Fitzgerald discussed the aforementioned renaissance in manufacturing in Youngstown.

"I would say that all the business here in Youngstown, we're looking to not only create cutting-edge technology here, but we're also trying our very best to figure out how we equip that workforce. So we're going to create futuristic technology. But we also want to create a lot of job opportunities in this area," he said. "We're not only doing this, to just say that we did it, we're doing this so that we can bring [Youngstown] back to

the manufacturing powerhouse that it once was."

Heffinger made sure to emphasize the importance of getting involved in the job search while still in school.

"When I was [at YSU], I would always kind of imagine myself having to kind of move away from the area to get to be involved in something cutting-edge or something really interesting," he said. "And, by just getting involved on campus, and looking for research opportunities and stuff like that, I was able to kind of stumble upon this opportunity that is here but you kind of just don't really realize it as a student ... I think they'd be surprised how close [the opportunities] are to Youngstown."

Pedro Cortes, assistant professor in the materials science and engineering program, said the students are the ones who stand to benefit the most from all the different initiatives YSU is pursuing, such as competitions with the NFL to make safer helmets to 3D printing ceramics on the International Space Station.

"The most important thing we just want to mention is that we're bringing the students. So those are the one that actually have the real benefit. So the students are exposed to these options and they can go outside and they can talk about what they're doing and YSU. ... That's the payoff at the end of the day," he said.



LOCAL COMIC SHOP MAKES CHANGES

All American Cards and Comics in Warren and Boardman sells comic books and hosts the annual Youngstown Comic Con every summer. Photo by Ethan Synder/The Jambar

ETHAN SYNDER JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

For decades, comic book stores have been a great way to bring superheroes to life in the hands of fans, and All American Cards and Comics is a popular shop for fantasy culture in the Mahoning Valley.

Greg Bartholomew first opened All American in March of 1993 and has been serving the Valley for almost 28 years.

“We’ve been in Warren and also Boardman for years,” Bartholomew said. “We’re the Valley’s No. 1 source for comics, card games, role playing games and pop culture.”

Bartholomew has been a fan of comics since he was a child. His favorite series are “The Uncanny X-Men” by John Byrne and Chris Claremont, and “Daredevil” by Frank Miller and Klaus Janson. His all-time favorite superhero is the Incredible Hulk.

“I’ve always loved the Hulk,” Bartholomew said. “He’s been my favorite since I was nine years old! He’s my guy!”

Aside from selling comics, All American also orchestrates the annual Youngstown Comic Con.

Every summer, All American fills the Covelli Centre with hundreds of vendors and thousands of visitors. Everyone there shares a mutual love for comic books and superhero pop culture.

But, due to COVID-19, All American canceled the 2020 convention.

“We draw 5,000 people over the weekend for the show. We don’t want to risk anyone’s safety for something that can be looked forward to in the future,” Bartholomew said. “We wanted to put on the best possible show as we could and at this time, we just can’t.”

Youngstown Comic Con is held in either late June or early July of every year, and it’s still unknown if All American will organize it for next year.

“I am still 50-50 on it,” Bartholomew said. “Right now, we would usually be lining up guests and putting together all the small things to get rolling again. I haven’t started putting things together because there doesn’t seem to be any relief from the pandemic. Before I put any money down on the Covelli Centre or deposit on a guest, I’ve got to see what happens.”

As a way of compensating for the loss of the convention this year, All American added different opportunities for anyone buying comic books.

“For the two months we were closed, from March to May, I basically just took my business to eBay,” Bartholomew said. “We were strictly online for eight or nine weeks.”

The online sales made less money than in-person sales, but All American wasn’t spending money to receive new inventory.

“The only thing we had to pay for was rent, utilities and employee expenses,” Bartholomew said. “On average, each week we spend roughly \$5,000 or \$6,000 on new inventory, and we didn’t have those expenses for a while. Sales were down, but they were still enough to pay everything with no problem whatsoever.”

The All American Cards and Comics stores are located on West Market Street in Warren and Boardman-Canfield Road in Boardman. Both stores are open from 12-7 p.m. Monday through Friday, 12-5 p.m. on Saturdays and 12-3 p.m. on Sundays.



STUDENTS PAINT MURAL ON ANDREWS AVENUE

Art professor Dragana Crnjak oversees progress of the mural commemorating Youngstown history located on Andrews Avenue. Photo by **Zach Mosca/The Jambar**

ZACH MOSCA

Lit Youngstown teamed up with Youngstown State University this semester to offer a class where students paint a commemorative mural on Andrews Avenue. This mural is dedicated to the city's history and the memories of its residents.

Art professor Dragana Crnjak is in charge of the mural and site-specific painting class, and she oversees the project. Crnjak said she got ideas from many different local organizations and lifelong Youngstown city residents.

"It's truly a community project. Students really worked with a lot of different community members," Crnjak said.

One unique aspect of this mural is the major influence the people of Youngstown have on it. Rather than simply going with the history of the town itself, business owners and residents are encouraged to submit their stories to make the mural truly a reflection of the residents.

Karen Schubert of Lit Youngstown said this mural captures all generations of Youngstown, offering a wide variety of memories and perspectives on the city.

"We wanted to hear from all generations: those who

remember a thriving, bustling downtown and those who grew up during the emptying out. Part of the idea is that we are disconnected from a mythic past and are struggling to conceptualize a future, and memory is a critical element in this identity," Schubert said.

According to junior interdisciplinary arts major, Lauren Linger, one notable memory submitted for the mural was of the Strouss building, an old department store chain from Youngstown which operated from 1875-1986.

"We had a lot of people who wrote about how they enjoyed going to the Strouss building to meet people and to talk, and I think that was just one of the really big memories," Linger said.

Another student working on the mural, senior media communications major Chloe Miklos, said she's glad to help create this mural for the community and have the opportunity to be involved with such a big project.

"I've always wanted to be part of a big mural installation, so it's kind of just awesome to get to work on something that the community can enjoy," Miklos said.

Crnjak said she's very impressed with the hard work and dedication of her students. Some even worked after-hours without complaints.

"Sometimes we would have long days and get really tired or frustrated with something that's not going as planned. But just getting energy from students back, and their enthusiasm and readiness to work over the class time ... has been really, really fulfilling," Crnjak said.

This project will not be complete in just one semester. Crnjak said she plans to continue to offer this class to fill in the gaps in the mural unable to be completed this semester. She also said students are proposing ideas for future murals as well.

"Students are now starting to develop their own individual proposals for murals. They're learning all the steps to develop and build professional, meaningful proposals," Crnjak said.

With the community submitting so many memories for this mural, this project will bring the past and present generations of Youngstown together.



YSU'S "AMONG US" GAME NIGHT

YSU students face off virtually in a game of "Among Us." Photo by **Douglas Campbell/The Jambar**

DOUGLAS M. CAMPBELL

A vessel flew through space as six students faced off virtually in a council. One of them was a suspected murderer. Campus recreation held a virtual game night Monday, Oct. 19, where students faced off playing the newest trending game "Among Us."

Domonique Sak, coordinator of club sports and summer camps, organized the virtual event.

"At first it was a debate, and then we converted it to a game night because there's this new game 'Among Us' that is really trending right now, and we want to follow that trend," Sak said.

"Among Us" is a game where participants play as crewmembers on a spaceship, while one participant is an imposter who sabotages the rest of the players. At the end

of each round, the participants have to vote someone off the ship.

Samantha Johnson, assistant of club sports and summer camps, commended Sak's idea for student engagement.

"I've only played it once — from my understanding it's kind of like a game of 'Clue.' It's the new hype, I guess. I didn't really understand it, but we are getting some good feedback from students," Johnson said.

The event was held on the video conferencing platform Webex, where students could discuss face-to-face who the possible suspect could be.

Mark McKenzie, a senior physics major, said there was a key difference playing the game through Webex compared to on his phone.

"Having a couple of cameras on and being able to see and hear people's tones and reactions made the game a little bit

easier. I think it's a bit harder playing on the phone where you are in a random room communicating through a chat board," McKenzie said.

Jenna DeLuca, a junior information technology major, found herself often as a crewmember but had a strategy when playing as an imposter.

"I made sure to find a person alone and that there was no one around so I could kill them and move on," DeLuca said.

Six people participated in campus recreation's "Among Us" game on Webex.

"I thought the whole night was pretty fun, just being able to take my mind off of school and laugh and chat with everyone," McKenzie said.



DOWNTOWN YOUNGSTOWN: NICHE RESTAURANTS, VARIETY OF ART

Space Kat Barbecue is one of many dining options downtown for students to check out. Photo by **Taylor Fronk/The Jambar**

TAYLOR FRONK **JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR**

Not far from Youngstown State University is a plentiful supply of locations for viewing art, enjoying live entertainment and feasting on a variety of local foods. Owners of these locations encourage YSU students to join in on and enjoy what there is to be experienced.

Space Kat Barbecue on Federal Street offers authentic Texas barbecue. Owner Jack Zizzo said his restaurant has something to offer students no other place in Youngstown can.

“We’re in Draught House, Youngstown’s oldest bar. The drinks are cheap, the environment is really cool and it’s only like, a five-minute walk from campus,” he said.

Zizzo said Youngstown has always featured good food, and each restaurant has something different for everyone.

“It’s important for students who do go to Youngstown State to support their community,” he said. “I know there’s a lot of chain restaurants on campus, but down here we have good, local businesses.”

In the entertainment realm, students can learn about

Youngstown history at the Tyler Mahoning Valley History Center, walk on the new paths at Wean Park or check out upcoming events at the Youngstown Foundation Amphitheatre.

Nikki Pesteroli, director of community planning and economic development for the city of Youngstown, said the downtown has something for everyone, and the office is still working on providing more.

“The Phelps Street Project will soon offer a walkable, safe space to enjoy local restaurants and attractions,” she said. “The main library on Wick Avenue is expanding and redeveloping outdoor space for events. We have improvement projects in the pipeline for walking and biking as well as a plan for pop-out expanded seating for the restaurants.”

For those more interested in art, and a good photo-op, Youngstown has many murals and its own “Youngstown” sign in Wean Park.

Organizations like CityScape, in association with The Youngstown Foundation, and the Raymond John Wean Foundation have funded different murals and continue to provide funds to artists to work on several more murals

throughout the city.

Crissi Jenkins, program coordinator at The Youngstown Foundation, said it’s vital for the foundation to donate to organizations like CityScape.

“It’s important that we support the arts and beautification of our neighborhoods,” she said. “We want our grants to strengthen our city, particularly our downtown, and just make it a better place for everybody.”

The Soap Gallery on Champion Street is a full-time fine art gallery. It offers a new show the first Friday of each month. Currently, it’s featuring the artwork of YSU alumnus Mark Lysowski. The exhibit will be on display throughout October.

The DeYor Performing Arts Center is preparing for its first show since the pandemic began. Easy Street Productions and the Youngstown Symphony will perform “Beauty and the Beast” Oct. 30, 2020 and Nov. 1, 2020. Tickets can be purchased at the box office Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. or by calling 330-744-0264.

COVID-19 UPDATE

ABIGAIL CLOUTIER

Monday, Youngstown State University updated its COVID-19 dashboard to show 16 cases were reported for the week of Oct. 17. Fifteen of these cases are students, and one is an employee of the university. Only one of these students lives in a residence hall on campus, and all other 14 students live in university apartments or are commuters. This is the second week YSU is in the double digits for coronavirus cases. Previously, the university reported 13 cases for the week of Oct. 10.

YSU does not share information such as names or where students who test positive reside on campus. The Jambar reported that YSU plans to implement randomized, preventative testing on a portion of the campus population by the end of the fall semester. As of now, YSU, in partnership with the National Guard, offers free testing to students every Thursday morning at locations in Youngstown. For the latest updates, visit YSU's COVID-19 dashboard.

In Mahoning County, there have been 77 new cases since Oct. 21, an average of 11 new cases per day. Mahoning County is in the "red zone," which the Ohio Department of Health classifies as a Level 3 public emergency. According to the Ohio Public Health advisory system, this is "very high exposure and spread" and residents should "limit activities as much as possible." Though it is one step away from a "purple zone" and a potential lockdown, Mahoning County does not yet have the amount of emergency department visits, hospital admissions and COVID-19 intensive care unit occupancies to turn the county purple. For the most up-to-date information, visit the Ohio Department of Health's website.

PAGE 1 CONT: TESTING

the nose. It was uncomfortable, not pleasant. I never wanted to do it, but it's what needed to be done," Greco said.

She opted to get a flu shot and drove through to the nurses' station, where she received the shot before receiving the coronavirus test.

"I pull up, fill out some reports and got my insurance card. The Ohio National Guard was there and some nurses, too. I gave them my information and waited. I drove around the church in a U-shape and would stop at different locations where I would do what I needed to do. The last stop was the coronavirus test, and after I got the test, I left." Greco said.

Free coronavirus testing and flu shots will continue on campus every Thursday throughout the month of October from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

VOICES CONNECT

GABRIELLE OWENS

Students may be feeling isolated or discouraged during the COVID-19 pandemic. Youngstown State University's upcoming organization, Voices Connect, created an outreach group to encourage students during times of uncertainty.

Chaste Chapman, founder of Voices Connect, said the group offers an outlet for students in need of advice and support during the semester.

"We're just a bunch of students getting together to support each other through everything college related, because a lot of students come to college and they're nervous and they're scared. We wanted to make sure that they have a comfortable environment to continue to learn," she said.

Chapman said she created the student-run group during the spring 2020 semester, as a project for her Masters of Science in education counseling at YSU.

"We're not an organization yet, we are actually in the process of creating this to be an official organization," she said. "So, my goal was to get that strong first, before we could decide on whether or not we wanted to make this an official organization."

According to Chapman, the objective of Voices Connect is to challenge every student to value their own integrity, while also creating a safe place for them to freely express themselves.

Chapman and her executive team reach out to students by posting encouraging words and quotes around campus to spread positivity and awareness.

"We wanted students to know that they still matter and are being thought of, because a lot of students are having a hard time through this process. So, we just wanted to make sure that they're not forgotten, especially our international students because they are so far away from home," she said.

Malini Rajasekaran, a senior social work major, said she became an executive member of Voices Connect to make a positive impact at YSU.

"My position as an executive is to attend executive and general meetings. I also bring up new discussion topics for our meetings and create ideas on how we can best

utilize our Instagram to get more students involved in our group," she said.

Rajasekaran said the COVID-19 pandemic made it more difficult to connect with students in-person.

"I would say my experience has been both enjoyable and frustrating due to the pandemic, but we have started doing general meetings over Webex and, so far, that has been working out quite well for us," she said.

Gabrielle Chapman, a senior psychology major, said she recommends students attend their biweekly group meetings Mondays at 8:30 p.m.

"We need you as much as you need us, and we're all going to get through this time together. Only if we lean and depend on each other, we'll not only come out stronger, but more inspired," she said.

Students interested in being a part of Voices Connect can visit their Instagram page @voices_connect or email Chaste Chapman at cmchapman@student.ysu.edu.



Chaste Chapman, founder of Voices Connect. Photo courtesy of Chaste Chapman

VOICE YOUR VOTE

For many, attending college is the first time being away from home. Here we get our first taste of freedom, have the space to work out who we really are and find our voice. We may use this voice in a variety of ways: joining a club or organization we feel passionate about, supporting our faculty during a strike or taking part in a town hall meeting. But, one of the most important ways we can use our voice is in regards to politics, specifically voting. Every one of us has the ability to change the fate of the country, if only we decide to exercise it.

As our world is constantly evolving around us in many ways, from riots and revolutions, economic and environmental turmoil, to pandemics and politics, it is important we involve ourselves and take a stance. The ability to vote is the ability to impact; to prevent, preserve, secure or provoke certain agendas and ideologies.

The Democratic system of the American government is a privilege which not all countries and societies have. As American citizens, we have the power to influence what happens in our home: what we want and do not want for ourselves and everyone

else. Against or for gun control? Pro-life or pro-choice? Have certain strong feelings about taxation or health care? You can advocate for these beliefs through your vote.

While being educated in politics is important, you do not have to know everything that is going on and have a stance on every issue to vote. You may not even agree with absolutely every aspect of a certain politician, but it is primarily about what someone stands for, and if it's in accordance with your concerns.

Take advantage of the opportunity to support your morals and principles. Educate yourself — don't just listen to what your parents say or get all of your information from a single source. Once you've educated yourself vote for YOUR candidate and don't let anyone make you feel out of place or wrong for your beliefs.

Whether it be in-person or via mail, be sure to make your voice heard, Guins!

THE JAMBAR EDITORIAL

GOODBYE, FRIEND

MAC POMEROY

Despite having experienced death before in my life, nothing prepared me for this. All of the deaths I had prior experience with had been somewhat expected — they were either elderly or known to have bad health. I was not prepared, however, to walk into the living room Thursday and be informed that someone who was like an uncle to me was suddenly found deceased.

The news hit me slowly. For a moment, I sat and tried to process what had just been said. Then the emotions hit me all at once and tears began to pour down my cheeks. My parents, who had informed me of his passing, would never lie to me. It was true.

Larry was gone.

Biologically, we weren't related. But I loved him like family, so it felt like someone just grabbed my lungs and ripped them from my body. I went to my room and sobbed.

When I was a young child, I didn't have many friends. I never got along with other children, so most of the friends I did have were adults, including Larry. He worked at Golden Corral in Boardman as the kitchen manager, and I remember how going there for breakfast and seeing him was the best part of my week.

He was the definition of chaotic good and loved to get into some mischief.

We would talk about the most random things and just insult one another with the strangest names. We would take the Sharpies he carried with him and draw faces on the fruit. He even broke the rules and let me go into the bakery and operate

the doughnut maker.

Of course, Larry also got along with my parents and sister, so it didn't take long before he was family to us.

Throughout the years, he remained a part of our lives. He would make a point to come to a school performance or our graduation parties just to be present. Even if the time spent apart increased, nothing else ever changed.

He was still like my uncle, and I loved him. I looked forward to seeing him.

In July of 2019, we met Larry for lunch in Cleveland. It was my sister, my mom and I. It had been a year since I last saw him at my graduation party, but you wouldn't have known it. There was never a quiet moment; the air was filled with laughter and catching up.

At the end, I gave him a big hug goodbye. I told him I would miss him. He laughed and hugged me back. He promised I would see him again.

During the next school year, I didn't hear from him. We are all busy people, so it didn't seem weird. But as time went on, we still didn't hear from him. Less and less people heard from him, though they kept trying.

I am not going to get into details, other than to say it turns out he was ill. But, next time we heard of him, he was gone.

The man who drew on fruit with me was gone.

It is so hard to write about this. My typing is slow, and I am still fighting back tears. However, I want to share this with you.

Whether or not he was biologically related to me, I loved him like family. Right now, many of us are separated from our



Mac Pomeroy (right) pictured with her late "uncle," Larry (left). Photo courtesy of Mac Pomeroy

families due to the current circumstances. It could be your aunt or uncle, grandparents or even your parents.

Don't let distance stop you. Check in with those you love. Ask them if they are okay, pay attention to if they disappear.

Cherish every moment you have with them. Tell them how much they mean to you. You never know when a simple lunch with someone may be the last. Hold onto the good moments as much as you can.

With that is my goodbye to Mr. Larry, the most amazing chef, and greatest fruit artist, to ever exist. I'll miss you.

THIS WEEK IN YSU SPORTS HISTORY: TOP FIVE HALLOWEEN-THEMED TEAM NICKNAMES

BEN LULI

This week in sports history is a special Halloween-themed edition. Today we look at the top five Halloween-themed nicknames in sports history. Ranging from mysterious creatures to sweet-sounding names, this list has something for every Halloween fanatic.

#5 - Red Grange: The Galloping Ghost

Grange was a three-time consensus All-American halfback at the University of Illinois, leading the Illini to a national championship in 1923. In 2008 Grange was named the best college football player of all time by ESPN, and in 2011 he was named “Greatest Big Ten Icon” by the Big Ten Network. Shortly after his final college game in 1925, he joined the Chicago Bears of the NFL. Grange played six years with the Bears, winning two NFL championships and being named to the 1920s All Decades team along the way. Grange is a charter member of both the College and Pro Football Halls of Fame. “The Galloping Ghost” got his nickname from his elusive running style.

#4 - Gary “Bones” Bromley

Bromley was a professional ice hockey goaltender from 1971 to 1982. He played in the National Hockey League (NHL) for the Buffalo Sabres and Vancouver Canucks. He also played in the World Hockey Association (WHA) with the Calgary Cowboys and Winnipeg Jets. Bromley played 136 games in the NHL, amassing a record of 54-44-28. He is best remembered for his “skull” mask which he wore during his years with the Canucks. The idea for the design came from his nickname.

#3 - Derek “The Boogeyman” Boogaard

Boogaard played left wing in the NHL from 2005 to 2011. He was a member of the Minnesota Wild for five seasons and a New York Ranger for his last season.

Boogaard was an intimidating presence on the ice, standing at 6 feet 7 inches tall. His combination of size and physical play led to the creation of his nickname, “The Boogeyman.” Boogaard wasn’t the most skilled player on the ice, but his work ethic and determination to improve his craft made him a solid NHL player.

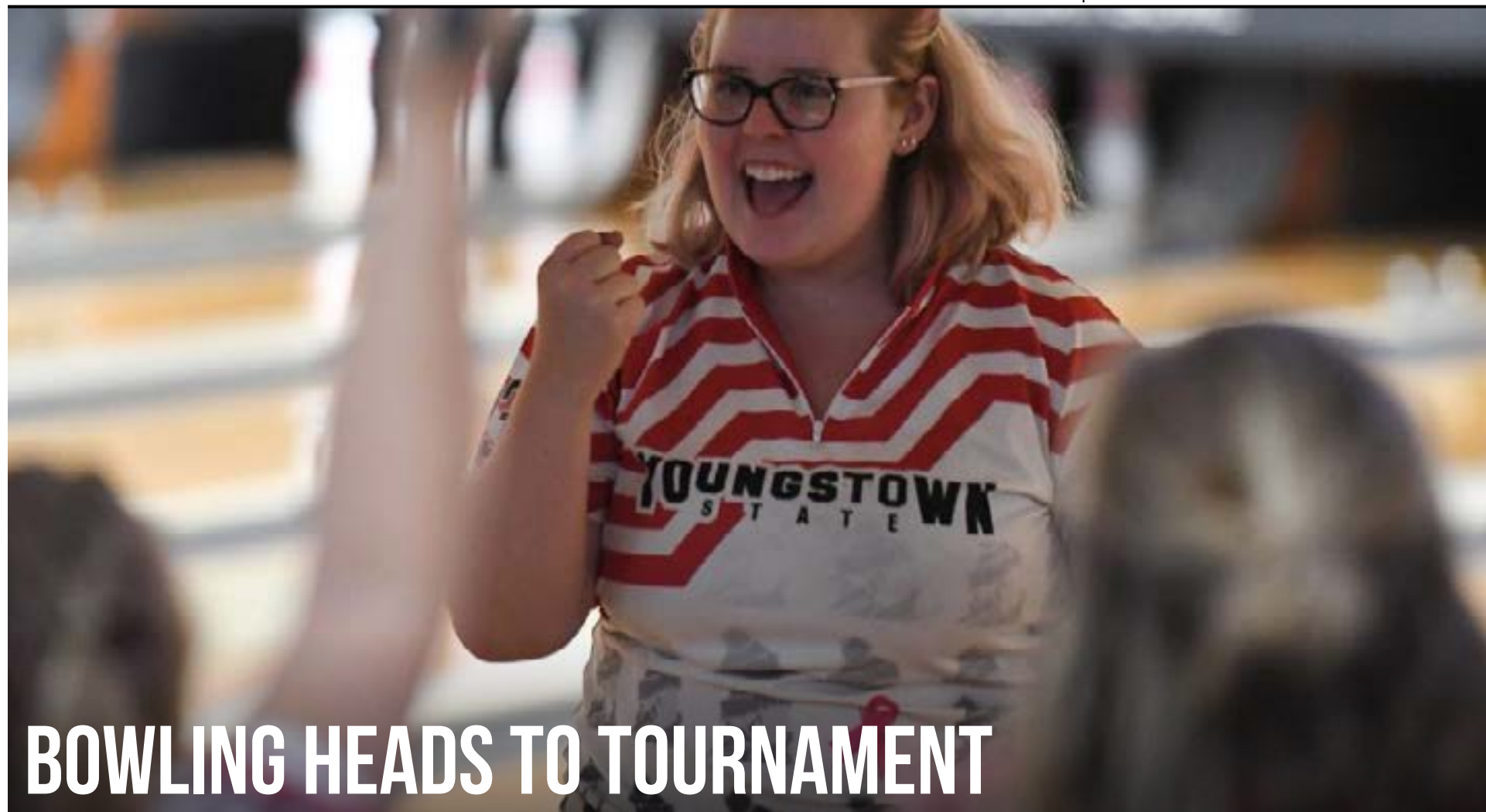


#2 - Kevin Durant: The Slim Reaper

Probably the most well-known athlete on this list, Durant has cemented an outstanding career in the National Basketball Association (NBA). He is a 10-time All Star, six-time All-NBA first team selection, and arguably the best scorer of his era. Durant was drafted second overall by the Seattle SuperSonics in the 2007 NBA Draft. After Seattle moved to Oklahoma City and rebranded as the Thunder, Durant became the face of the franchise and the league’s Most Valuable Player in 2014. After joining the Golden State Warriors in 2016, he became a two-time NBA champion and Finals MVP. He now plays for the Brooklyn Nets and is currently recovering from an Achilles tendon injury he suffered in the 2019 NBA Finals. “The Slim Reaper” nickname originated from a user on Reddit, and comments on his thin frame and his elite scoring ability.

#1 - John Candelaria: The Candy Man

The number one Halloween themed nickname references the best part of Halloween — candy. Candelaria’s nickname is a play on his last name. He was a major league pitcher for 19 years, playing for eight different teams. His best years came as a Pittsburgh Pirate where he pitched a no-hitter in 1976, was an All-Star in 1977 and a world champion in 1979. Candelaria also played for the California Angels, New York Mets, New York Yankees, Montreal Expos, Toronto Blue Jays and Los Angeles Dodgers.



BOWLING HEADS TO TOURNAMENT

Emma Dockery celebrates after her turn in last weekend's tournament. Photo courtesy of YSU Sports

KYLE WILLS

Youngstown State University women's bowling team competed in the Bearcat Hammer Open this past weekend in Fairview Heights, Illinois. The women's impressive performances in the first two days gave the Penguins an opportunity to win the tournament on the final day, but ultimately finished as the runner-up.

The bowling team became the first YSU team to compete since collegiate sports were canceled in March. Head coach Doug Kuberski said he is excited to finally be able to get their season started.

"It feels great. We're really honored to be the first team at YSU to get back and compete. We just had a lot of fun out there," he said. "It felt normal again to get out there with the ladies and coaches and with our bowling family. It felt really great and we're really grateful to be able to [compete]."

On day one of the Bearcat Hammer Open, the women went 3-2 in head-to-head Baker matches. They also posted the second-highest Baker game in program history with a score of 265 with the lineup of Madyson Marx, Alexis Sullivan, Kirsten Moore, Emma Dockery and Emma Wrenn.

After beating Valparaiso 809-753 in their first match, the Penguins improved in each of their next three matches as they settled their lineup. YSU lost 1,030-909 to No. 7 Stephen F. Austin and fell 963-914 to No. 1 McKendree. The Penguins then had a 1,066-897 victory over Lewis and in their final match were victorious 833-818 over Upper Iowa.

On day two of the tournament, the women again went 3-2 in their traditional matches. The Penguins lost their opening match 875-837 to Drury, but they won their next three matches.

They had a 938-923 win over No. 18 Maryville where Kirsten Moore and Emma Dockery both doubled in the 10th frame. YSU then topped Upper Iowa 987-799 behind three 200 games, and the Penguins beat Lewis 975-860 to improve to 3-1. Sarah Florence delivered the highest game of the day by a Penguin with a 233 versus the Flyers. Youngstown State threatened No. 1 McKendree in the 10th frame in the final match of the day, but ultimately lost 980-959.

On the final day, the bowling team secured a top-four seed for bracket play when they beat Maryville 859-850 in the final match of qualifying. They then upset top-ranked

McKendree and made a push in the final game of the championship match before settling for a second place finish by two pins.

The Penguins finished the weekend with an 8-5 overall record in head-to-head matches, and they were 3-4 against ranked teams. This performance did not come as a surprise for Kuberski.

"We really felt confident and we knew we were going to be there in the end with a chance to win," he said. "Obviously, our focus was on the process and my goal was to get the ladies some experience and in pressure situations. It gets the chemistry tested out in competition and we've been working on it a lot in practice, obviously with some team bonding but it's always different when the lights are on."

YSU will continue on with their season next weekend at the Crusader Classic Oct. 30-Nov. 1. in Merrillville, Indiana.



THE BATTLE OF RECRUITING DURING A PANDEMIC

Coaches think of new ways to recruit during COVID-19. Photo by **Jordan Boitnott/The Jambar**

JORDAN BOITNOTT

Every sport has to adapt to the new reality the virus has created. Some handle the recruiting process differently than others.

Youngstown State University baseball coach Dan Bertolini accurately summarized the consensus view, according to the other coaches.

“It is a massive, massive problem. I mean, it has dramatically affected recruiting,” he said.

Every sport struggles to make contact with new, incoming talent. Doug Phillips, YSU’s head football coach, said it’s been hard to build relationships with incoming players.

“We aren’t on the road. We have commits right now, we have recruits right now that we haven’t been able to get into their schools and they haven’t been able to get on campus so it’s just different,” he said. “The dead period extended to Jan. 1. The signing class is usually in December and February. You’re not even going to have official visits in a normal year, so it’s definitely different. We have to be very patient in making sure we know the young men that we are bringing onto our campus and school.”

Roster management is an issue as well. While Phillips said the NCAA hasn’t decided the roster numbers for football, Bertolini said managing the baseball roster could be a bit of a “headache.”

“We have all of our returning players. All seniors received an extra year of eligibility. So you have a freshman class that came in this year as well as a class that got here a year back,” he said. “So now we have two freshman classes essentially, and your seniors don’t count against you. So essentially you have no seniors now. It’s definitely backed us up a bit.”

High school players, according to Phillips, have difficulties being recognized by recruiters.

“Without camps, that’s probably the most difficult thing for high school players. They usually use the summer to go to camps and get recognized. I think there are a lot of good football players right now who may not have that opportunity to earn a scholarship and that’s something we have to be patient with,” Phillips said. “Wait until January, February to see where kids have signed, and be able to pick up some great players.”

While it’s a hard time for players to get their name out there, Bertolini thinks it could be a good time to recruit players from

outside of the local area.

“Typically we recruit in Western Pennsylvania and Ohio, but for us I think it’s actually a better opportunity for guys that live far away to get recruited by schools that aren’t close to them because everyone is dealing with the video situation,” he said.

Bertolini said the best way for high school athletes to showcase their talent is to make videos and highlight tapes to take advantage of the technology that is out there.

“Making tapes, YouTube links and sharing — all that helps. There is a lot of recruiting services out there that will share live video if you’re playing in a tournament. That’s the best way for these kids to get exposed right now,” he said.

YSU women’s basketball coach, John Barnes, said while games aren’t going on, the team will keep an eye on things athletes do off the court.

“We look at their GPA, SAT scores, things like that. While that’s not the bottom line, it is a factor. When we sign smart players, they tend to pick up things quicker that way we don’t have to go over things again and again,” he said.

Even with the recruiting complications, ideally, YSU’s teams can continue to acquire top tier talent.