


**YOUNGSTOWN
PRESS CLUB**
NEWS FLASH
Youngstown Press Club News Briefs

Members' Corner

Quality Journalism Education is More Important Than Ever



As a young journalist, I had the opportunity to hear Associated Press reporter Terry Anderson speak.

In 1985, terrorists abducted Anderson in Beirut, Lebanon, where he had been reporting on the Lebanese Civil War, and held him hostage for nearly seven years. An Ohio native, Anderson, took up residence at Ohio University, my alma mater, after his release and for a time taught journalism courses there.

During his talk that I attended, Anderson issued a cautionary warning based on his life experience: The first indication of when a society is going from free to authoritarian is when they start jailing the journalists.

Anderson died in 2024, but his words streamed through my mind recently when we saw the arrest of two journalists who had been covering the civil unrest in Minnesota, a state under siege by federal forces, where thousands of citizens have taken to the streets to protest.

I cannot think of a time when strong journalism has been more crucial to our society. A quality education to help prepare aspiring journalists is more important now than ever before as we face this pivotal time in our nation's history.

Fortunately, Ohio benefits from the wide availability of excellent journalism education, including Youngstown State University and Kent State University right here in our corner of the state. I am so proud to be part of the Youngstown Press Club, which this year will offer up to four \$4,000 scholarships for journalism students from our five-county region, no matter where they are pursuing their education.

Press club members have already helped support our mission of journalism education by generously donating to our scholarship fund. Now we need your help to make sure students know how to apply for this assistance.

Please take a minute to share this link -- [Youngstown Press Club Scholarship](#) -- with students and journalism educators you may know so we can get the word out for a robust field of applicants by the April 1 deadline. It may seem like a small task, but at this point in our history, it is vitally important.

Lisa Abraham, Scholarship Committee Chair

YPC Board Welcomes New Member



YPC welcomes Paulina Montaldo to its Board of Directors.

Board members selected Paulina, an educator and a journalist, to replace Madison Tromler, the WFMJ anchor who resigned her position and relocated from the area.

She is a broadcast journalism teacher at Ursuline High School and the creator and producer of Somos Youngstown, a Spanish language news feature program on YouTube.

She's a native of Chile and worked as a broadcast journalist there.

Welcome, Paulina!

Support Student Journalism

"Student Journalism: For the Present and the Future" is the theme of the Feb. 25 Student Press Freedom Day at Youngstown State University.

The third annual Youngstown observance will begin at 9 a.m. in the Lariccia Cultural Collaboration Room on the first floor of Jones Hall, Wick and Lincoln avenues.

The gathering is part of a national observance designed to raise awareness of student journalism, the challenges it faces and the contributions it makes to schools and communities.

The program, to be presented by students from *The Jambar* and Jambar TV, is free and open to the public and will last about an hour.

Nicarlyle Hanchard, *Jambar* news editor, will lead the program. *The Jambar* is the student-run newspaper at YSU. Jambar TV is the broadcast channel under

Jambar student media.

Event sponsors are Andrea Wood publisher emeritus of *The Business Journal*, the Anderson Program in Journalism at YSU, WKBN-TV News, Denise and John York and the DeBartolo Corp., *The Jambar*, Jambar TV and the Youngstown Press Club.

Advance registration is not required, but the university will provide free garage parking passes to those who sign up by Feb. 23 at yopressclub.com.

Club Spotlight

Member Profile

Chelsea Simeon, Digital Executive Producer, WKBN

Hometown: Brookfield, Ohio

Your job: I help manage editorial content on WKBN.com, which includes writing and editing stories that appear on our website. Part of my job also includes social media posting and video content. Recently, we launched WKBN+, a free 24/7 TV app, so the digital team also has a hand in creating content for that.

How long have you been a YPC member and how have you benefitted? I have been a Press Club member for a few years now. I have enjoyed the speakers and experts who come in to talk about best practices. It is also nice to network and talk with others in the industry. A big part of Press Club is also our Scholastic Journalism Awards contest, which I have been helping with because I feel that it is important to mentor younger journalists and help them improve their craft.



What's the best career or journalism/communications advice you ever received and from whom? I have had the privilege of working with a lot of great reporters and editors over the years. I think I learned the most through making mistakes on the job. I remember one time in college when I wasn't really prepared for an interview, and the interviewee was not happy with my questioning. I learned to better prepare, but I also learned how to pivot and come away with a different story than was pitched since I didn't have a great interview from it. I was also taught to focus on the important parts of the story; I think the hardest thing for a new journalist is what to leave out of a story, rather than what to keep in. It is important to write in a conversational and easy-to-read way, and focus on the most important aspects of the story. Also, from fellow Press Club member Mary Beth Earnhardt I learned the importance of FOIA – a tool I use frequently!

What's your favorite book? It's too hard to pick just one favorite. I enjoy most books from Jodi Picoult or Kristen Hannah, as well as true crime. The last book

I read -- a book club pick -- was Martha's Vineyard Beach and Book Club by Martha Hall Kelly.

What actor would you want to portray you in a movie about your life? Not just because I like Harry Potter, but I'd say Emma Watson, because I am a fan of hers. Either her or Anna Kendrick.

Coming Up...

We have several more activities in the planning phase — so please be sure to check back.

- Feb. 25: 9 a.m., Student Press Freedom Day and Program at the Lariccia Cultural Collaboratory Room, first floor of Jones Hall at Youngstown State University. Learn more and **sign up**.
 - March 19: 6 p.m. Speaker event with journalist and author Eric Garcia at the Tyler History Center. The main program will be followed by a book signing in which Eric will be signing his book, "We're Not Broken: Changing the Autism Conversation." You may pre-order Eric's book when registering for this event. Books will not be for sale at the event. Sponsored by Potential Development, the Autism Society of Mahoning Valley, the Rich Center for Autism, and Denise and John York and The DeBartolo Corporation. Learn more and [register](#).
 - April 13: 5:30 p.m., Annual Meeting and Dinner, Stambaugh Auditorium Christman Hall.
 - May 3: 12 p.m., World Press Freedom Day, Butler Institute of American Art.
 - June 18: noon, Speaker Event: Lunch with Atty. David Marburger.
 - Aug. 7: Members' Mixer.
 - Sept. 23: 5 p.m., Hall of Fame and Awards Dinner, Stambaugh Auditorium.
 - Oct. 26: Speaker Event with the Committee for Safe and Secure Elections.
-

YPC Mission

The Youngstown Press Club's mission is to support journalists and communicators in the greater Mahoning Valley by:

- Honoring past excellence in journalism and communications through our Hall of Fame, Excellence in Media Award, First Amendment Award and Medal of Merit.
- Supporting working journalists and communicators by championing First Amendment and press freedom causes, and providing speakers and events that help them to hone their craft.
- Investing in the future of journalism and communications by offering scholarships, mentoring and support for student journalists and communicators.

Interested in supporting YPC? Learn about becoming a sponsor or scholarship donor. [Support us](#).

The Youngstown Press Club is proudly supported year-round by our Platinum Sponsors, **Denise and John York** and **The DeBartolo Corporation**.



Founded in 1902 and re-established in 2018, the Youngstown Press Club promotes journalism and related professions in the Mahoning Valley.

www.youngstownpressclub.com

Youngstown Press Club | P.O. Box 2531 | Youngstown, OH 44507 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!