SKATING WITH SPIRIT

North and South Korea join together at Olympics
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International enrollment numbers fall
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Hockey faces Alaska Anchorage
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PHOTO BY LUIS ROYO ROMERO

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Spirit cheer on ice

By Adam Gretsingr
Copy Chief

Ice skaters who perform during breaks and non-play sessions of Falcon hockey games are planning to cement their place on campus as an organization.

The team of performers, who call themselves the Spirit Skaters, look for recognition as a University-approved organization within the next year, expecting the process to be completed during the Fall 2018 semester.

Precious Jackson, one of the budding organization’s co-presidents, said one of the main reasons for this wanted recognition is more support from students, audience members and staff.

“It’s because of the hard work,” Calli Ragotzy, the other co-president, also said about the group’s desire for official approval. “Each and every one of us puts in a lot of work.” She explained she and others in the group wanted recognition for such efforts.

“A lot of people don’t know … what (our) name is,” Ragotzy, a junior exercise science major who has skated since the age of six, added. She said that, to many audience members, the Spirit Skaters were just “those girls” who skated during games.

While emotional recognition is a matter of emphasis for the group, an even greater matter of importance was the possibility of official University support.

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There are many noble causes out there that need support, so here is a list of ways that you can support your cause and do activism in Bowling Green and the surrounding area.

1. **Volunteer your time**
Volunteering is an incredibly important part of activism because nothing will be changed without hard work. There are many volunteer opportunities available in Bowling Green. Here are some places you can give your time:
- The Cocoon - a domestic violence shelter in Bowling Green, they also take donations of toiletries and other necessary items
- URGE - a reproductive rights group that works to provide sex education and safe abortions
- Wood County Humane Society - help out animals who are looking for a home
- Food Pantries - located in various churches around Bowling Green, pick what looks right to you!
- Not In Our Town - a group based in Bowling Green whose goal is to end hate

If these don't appeal to you, Google something you are passionate about!

2. **Go on an Alternative Break**
The University offers the chance to travel to different places around the country during school breaks, like Fall or Spring Break, and give to that community. Here are the opportunities for this spring break:
- Living off the grid (Boone, NC): Woodland Harvest Mountain Farm is a permaculture farm that is self-sustaining. This aims to teach about “community building and environmental stewardship,” according to the University's website.
- Refugee resettlement (Richmond, VA): Students will help the International Rescue committee resettle, educate, integrate and employ refugees in America
- Conserving Carolina (Hendersonville, NC): This trip is to “help conserve the lands and natural resources of the Carolina Mountains,” according to the University’s website.

3. **Donate your money**
As important as giving your time is, when it comes to supporting a cause, money might be even more important. Money gets things done and gives people more opportunities, so consider donating to a cause you support. Here are some places you can donate:
- Everything mentioned in this article!
- Harvey House in Northwest Ohio: Harvey House, named after Harvey Milk, is a drop-in or community center for LGBTQ+ youth, and it is the only one in Northwest Ohio.
- Family House: They provide safe housing and social services to homeless families in Northwest Ohio.
- Social Services for the Arab Community (SSFAC): They help the Arab community, either immigrants or refugees, in Northwest Ohio empower themselves.

If you don’t have a lot of money to give, but have time, you can raise money through a bake sale or online crowdfunding site for your cause.

4. **Educate yourself and others**
The most important thing about being an activist is being educated about what you care about. Education about your cause will help you better to understand what needs to be done. Also, take time to educate yourself on something you don’t know a lot about. Here are a few causes you may not know about:
- Learn about the prison-industrial complex and how it is affecting many poor Americans and Americans of color. The Prison Activist Resource Center is an activist group that fights against it. The NCAAP in Toledo has a prison branch that aims to eliminate the “cycle of incarceration,” according to PARC.
- We all know about climate change, but do we really know what it is and how to stop it? Ohio Citizen Action mobilizes people to advocate for public interests, including supporting clean energy and educating the community.
- Gerrymandering is a tactic used by politicians when redrawing legislative district boundaries, so they have the most seats in the next election. Fair Districts Ohio is an organization that wants to stop gerrymandering in Ohio.

Ignorance is the cause of a lot of the problems in the world, so educate yourself and then, in turn, educate those around you.

5. **Tell the University what you want**
The University cares what students want; we are the ones paying the bills, so if you approach the University with what you want with support from your fellow students, it can be done. The multicultural and LGBTQ+ resource center was moved into the Union because students pushed the University to put it there. It took many students, many years and staff support, but it got done.

If you see a problem you can use the See It. Hear It. Report It. function. If you have a specific program or problem fixed on campus, you can email Rodney Rogers, interim president, or Thomas Gibson at Student Affairs.

6. **Get involved in politics**
An important part of making a change also comes in legislation and politics. Start going to city council meetings and even volunteer with the campaign or the office of one of the people on city council.

Getting to know how the law works and how legislation can benefit your cause is instrumental in making a change.

7. **Go to groups on campus**
There are plenty of student organizations on campus that are great tools for social activism. There are many important social groups that work to lift up voices of marginalized identities. Here are some groups on campus:
- Black Student Union
- Latino Student Union
- Queer/Trans Student Union
- Feminist Organization Raising Consciousness and Empowerment
  - National Alliance on Mental Illness

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**How much did you spend on Valentine’s Day?**

**“Five dollars, but on myself.”**

**MEGAN MEMENTOWSKI**
Junior, Biology

**“About twenty-three dollars.”**

**SYKIRA DUREN**
Senior, Biology

**“Nothing.”**

**STEPHEN SCHNURBUSCH**
Freshman, Criminal Justice

**“Three dollars on coffee at Dunkin’ Donuts.”**

**KAYLE KETO**
Junior, Neuroscience
Thoughts on N. Korean sports

By Chase Bachman
Columnist

Kim Jong-un is a dangerously powerful human being in charge of a government that is equally crazy. That’s not embellishing even a little bit.

The nation with one political party is one of the few in the world that has established a cult of personality around the Kim family. The country is also characterized by elections with one candidate, scientists that claim to have seen unicorns and state-run media that claims Kim has been able to drive a car since he was 3.

Kim scares me. The North Korean leader has his finger on the button that could end millions of lives in an instant, and he answers to no one. He seemingly believes that he and his country (that suffers from extreme poverty and starvation) are the greatest in world history.

And that belief extends into everything, including sports. Soccer matches are rarely ever broadcast in North Korea in case a loss occurs, which is quite often. Following their 2010 World Cup loss, the team was subjected to a public scolding by the North Korean sports minister. Losing players and coaches have even been reportedly sent to prison camps following losses. When it comes to his national sports teams, Kim is anything but sportsman-like.

For one instance, Kim Jong-un has arguably shown great respect, compassion and, most importantly, unity. The notoriously reclusive country agreed before this year’s Olympic Winter Games (in Pyeongchang, South Korea, no less) that they would merge their women’s national ice hockey team with the South Korean squad to form a unified Korean team.

There are generally two ways to interpret North Korea’s actions. Is it a real exhibition of unity between the countries still technically locked in a cease-fire since 1953? Or is it merely a public relations stunt to help improve the world’s already cautious view of the militaristic country? In all likelihood, it’s sadly the latter.

The unity of the team, however, is still a symbol of what sports has failed to live up to in recent years.

Earnest intentions to work together or not, the merging of the teams is a great show of unity and cooperation, if only temporary. It is one bright spot in a turbulent political climate where people fear for their lives, and a sports world that is arguably as divisive as it has ever been.

President Trump has gone to Twitter and dared Kim to pull the trigger. That’s just a part of the large political division in America. With the left and right, trust is low and emotions run high.

Concurrently, the sports world is experiencing its own division. Players like Colin Kaepernick have raised the question “at what point does politics intersect with sports?” People are either very much for or against bringing certain issues to the field.

But in the middle of all this, there is the Olympics, the purpose of which is to demonstrate togetherness among the peoples of the world. In Pyeongchang, on the forefront of a war waiting to happen, individuals like Shaun White and Chloe Kim have captivated the globe. When it comes to the Korean women’s national ice hockey team, they are a mark of uniformity.

Ironically, the two countries waiting to kill one another have agreed to work in unison. It shows the world that if peace can exist on the ice, it is possible anywhere. It is what sports and politics should be: two people with fierce differences that can still work together. It is what sports and politics should return to in America. Even if this is a PR move by Kim, the lessons it teaches are indescribably important.

“The unity of the team, however, is still a symbol of what sports has failed to live up to in recent years.”

— Chase Bachman —
Columnist
The University has seen a decline in graduate students. However, it may be from a decrease in international graduate students deciding to study in America altogether.

The international graduate student enrollment for 2016 was 170 students, according to the 15-day enrollment report given by the University. The new enrollment for the same group dropped 24.7 percent to 128 students, according to Keith Ramsdell, director of student enrollment in the graduate college.

Conversely, domestic new graduate enrollment is up from 773 students in 2016 to 797 in 2017.

Ramsdell considers political conditions to be a “perfect storm for international students,” because there are now many factors that encourage them to look to countries other than the United States to find a graduate school.

Marcia Salazar-Valentine, the executive director for International Programs and Partnerships, also attributes this decrease to many factors: “economic impacts both local and globally, changing trends in the educational arena such as improvements in higher education overseas, getting visas.”

Ramsdell also points to President Trump's discussion on making the H1B Visa, or work visa, much more difficult to get. “This hasn’t happened, but still fewer students from India are interested,” he said. “They want to continue working here after they graduate.” If there are changes made to the H1B Visa, they may not be able to do that.

Ramsdell also mentioned a shooting that occurred in Kansas in February 2017. A man shot two Indian men outside of a bar, and it was ruled a hate crime. “This gained a lot of attention in the Indian media,” Ramsdell said. He thinks students remember this incident and are becoming more cautious about where they want to study, despite Indian students “feeling completely safe on our campus.”

Many students from India are looking to study abroad, so the University spends their time recruiting there. Chinese students are also a major contributor to the population on the University campus. The University does most of their international recruiting online. Engineering, mathematics and computer science are the most common fields of study for these students.

A decrease in international students is a nation-wide trend. According to an International Graduate Application and Enrollment packet written by the Council of Graduate Schools in January 2018, fall 2017 was “the first time in more than a decade (that) both international graduate applications and first-time enrollment at U.S. institutions declined.”

According to a New York Times article, this nationwide decrease is causing tough financial choices in these schools. Schools in the Midwest have been hit the hardest.

Ramsdell said the University will have to “diversify” to make up for this loss in international graduate students, to “not depend on India and China. We will have to look domestically and at other countries.”

International enrollment down

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“... still fewer students from India are interested. They want to continue working here after they graduate.”

— Keith Ramsdell —
Director of Graduate Student Enrollment

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Baseball looks to start new season

By Zane Miller
Sports Editor

The Falcon baseball team will kick off their new season on Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoon against the University of Alabama-Birmingham Blazers, as the team looks to improve from their 15-34 overall record last season.

“We want to get off to a good start,” Falcons head coach Danny Schmitz said. “It just seems like every year the past few years we’ve gotten off to slow starts and we’re always trying to play catch-up,”

Danny Schmitz
Falcons Head Coach

With inclement weather forcing the team to hold most of its practices inside at the Perry Field House, the team has had little opportunity to get practice outside.

“With playing outside, we’ve had about a half of a practice,” Schmitz said. “We went out for our first official day of practice out on the football field for about an hour, and we’ve been out in the parking lot a couple times to catch pop ups and fly balls. But that’s about it, so it’s been a while.”

The team is also looking forward to seeing their players in action this season, some of whom will get playing time in the Alabama-Birmingham series.

“We have a lot of new faces this year,” Schmitz said. “We probably have 12 first-year guys between freshmen and junior college transfers, so that’s going to take some time to figure out all the pieces of the puzzle... They’re a very talented group of young players. They’re going to get opportunities; I don’t know exactly when, but they need to be ready and they’ve been working their tails off. They’re not in awe, not intimidated at all. They’re just going about their business and doing a great job.”

One of those freshman players is infielder/outfielder Adam Furnas, who grew up in Bowling Green and played at Bowling Green High School.

“Living in BG your entire life, you become a Falcon fan by heart,” Furnas said. “So it’s just awesome to be able to suit up in Falcon gear right now and be able to play for them.”

Furnas also said that the team is ready for the challenge against Alabama-Birmingham.

“I think we’re ready as a team and I feel like I’m ready as well individually.”

Adam Furnas
Infielder/Outfielder

Men’s basketball defeats W. Michigan

By Jamison Terbrack
Sports Reporter

The comeback kids were at it once again on Tuesday night as the Falcon men’s basketball team took this one from the Western Michigan Broncos by a score of 83-81.

“Great game to be a part of, Western is a great opponent playing really well,” Falcons head coach Michael Huger said, “Wilder is a heck of a player, a lot of fun. My team is showing a lot of fight I would say. Hopefully, we will figure it out that we have to fight for two halves and not just one, but it’s always fun to come out on top of a game like this.”

The Falcons trailed by 11 at the half in this one only to quickly dwindle their deficit down to one in the second half. The Broncos would not give up the fight though as they battled back to a 10-point lead.

“You can call us what you want as long as we win. I wouldn’t say we are a second-half team, I just think that is when we are at our best it seems, in the second half. I want to be at our best from the start to finish and not just one half. We have been playing a bit of the first half and then the whole second half and that not going to cut it,” Huger said.

With four seconds left, the Falcons trailed by one when junior guard Antwon Lillard rose up for a three pointer only to be hacked on the arm. In this game the refereeing was very inconsistent, and it was unclear if Lillard would get the call at first, but he did.

The 6’5” guard made all three free throws, and the Falcons defended a last shot Hail Mary attempt from the Broncos to put this one in the win column.

This was a game in which Coach Huger showed more emotion than ever before as the inconsistency of the referees and both teams getting chippy made this game one to remember on both sides.

“I know it hurt me (giving so much emotion on the sideline) so I’m going to kind of lay back a little bit, but I think it helped. It helped the team; they understood where I was coming from. They respond to me and how I coach them, and they did a great job of responding to that,” he said. “It’s tough to do that for a whole game... I can keep it up for the second half, but we need that intensity. It should not need to be me bringing that intensity to them. They should want to do that on their own, and they do it in the second half.”

The Falcons play next on Friday on the road about the Buffalo Bulls.
Hockey takes on Alaska Anchorage

By Zane Miller  
Sports Editor

The Falcon hockey team will face the Alaska-Anchorage Seawolves on Thursday and Friday night, as the Falcons are coming off of a short break. They recently had a five game winning streak before falling in their most recent game against the Michigan Tech Huskies 4-0 on Feb. 3.

“We’ve had weeks off before,” Falcons head coach Chris Bergeron said. “Especially this time of year, the first thought was rest, and then you go back to preparation. Even the timing, and it’s no one’s fault. It was pretty hard, but they have some guys that scored. And although (goaltender) Olivier Mantha didn’t face the Seawolves earlier in the season on Jan. 19 and 20, sweeping them 6-2 and 3-2 respectively. However, the team did see some areas where Alaska-Anchorage played well during that series.

“They’re capable of scoring,” Bergeron said. “Their overall stats say that they don’t score a whole lot, but they have some guys that scored. And although (goaltender) Olivier Mantha didn’t play great in the Friday game, we looked at Saturday’s game as a better game for us. We had to come back and score late to win it, and he’s capable of stealing games himself.”

The team also believes that they have been able to use the week off to their advantage by resting some players who had accumulated minor injuries during the most recent stretch of games.

“From an injury perspective, we’ve been pretty healthy,” Bergeron said. “Anybody who had bumps and bruises, I think those are all healed up, and everybody’s feeling pretty good.”

Chris Bergeron  
Falcons Head Coach

Lake Superior’s senior night, we went up 3-0 after the first period. So we’ve been through some of these senior nights before, whether it’s ours or someone else’s. I’m expecting a team that’s got nothing to lose, but it’s their last two home games and they’re going to treat it as such.”

The team faced the Seawolves earlier in the season on Jan. 19 and 20, sweeping them 6-2 and 3-2 respectively. We didn’t do very well on our senior night, and at Lake Superior’s senior night, we went up 3-0 after the first period. So we’ve been through some of these senior nights before, whether it’s ours or someone else’s. I’m expecting a team that’s got nothing to lose, but it’s their last two home games and they’re going to treat it as such.”

Despite taking a rare plane trip to face one of their road opponents, the team is expecting the 3,000-plus mile journey to be a taxing one.

“It’s a long day; that’s the first thing that comes to mind,” Bergeron said. “We don’t have ten different flights to choose from, you’ve only got a couple. There’s a bunch from Detroit to Seattle, but it’s the connector from Seattle to Anchorage that you have to get specific with and match up… It is a long day, but they sleep a lot on the plane or in the airport.”

The team is also looking to start off Thursday’s game with a lot of energy, as it has been a tough spot for them in past trips to Alaska.

“The first night historically has been difficult,” Bergeron said. “We obviously want to avoid that. We’ve got no room for error right now, and the second night you’re a little more used to the Alaska time.”
Freshmen tuition guaranteed

By Adam Gretsinger
Copy Chief

College expenses often come under criticism from students and the possibility of changing prices is a source of worry for many students, but for the University’s upcoming undergraduate students, those potential fluctuations may no longer cause headaches.

Approved at the school’s trustee board meeting at the end of last semester, the Falcon Tuition Guarantee aims to establish that “what (students) pay as freshmen will be what they continue to pay as seniors,” according to former University president Mary Ellen Mazey.

The plan looks to primarily address students who will enroll starting in the 2018 fall semester, with ongoing and current students not eligible for inclusion in the program.

The first group will be placed in a “cohort” for the 2019 academic year. The cohort, and all future academic years’ cohorts, will lock the rates for tuition, housing and dining, as well as special purpose fees and standard-level course expenses, for students within it. Students are guaranteed these rates 12 consecutive semesters.

Dave Kielmeyer, the University’s chief marketing and communications officer, also talked about the program, saying an incoming freshman should be able to look at their 12-semester college career plan (including summer semesters) and say, “this is my cost.”

While the program can help with student state-of-mind issues, one of the school’s main reasons for creating it is to generate more revenue. Kielmeyer said expenses for employee wages, lighting, energy and other necessities have increased, but state subsidies have not risen to meet such increases.

Sharon Schwartz, the University’s director of budgeting, said state standards would allow the University to shift tuition from 1.3 to 1.5 percent between cohorts.

The school’s Information Technology Services has already started making changes to digital systems to accommodate the program. John Ellinger, chief information officer for the school, said the Campus Solutions student system was ready to sort incoming freshmen into cohorts.

Though the system can sort students effectively into cohorts, the capability for students to review their cohorts will come later.

“We are in the process of making a change to dynamic billing in student portal so that students can see which cohort they are in,” Ellinger said. “This will be done by the April 30 date for the incoming freshmen.”

Read the full story at bgfalconmedia.com