President plans for future of the University

Stepha Poulin
Editor-in-Chief

President Rodney Rogers gave his first State of the University Address on Wednesday. Unlike past addresses, Rogers focused on the future of the University rather than its current state.

“That is what a 21st-century university does,” Rogers said more than five times, emphasizing the University's updated strategic plan.

But Rogers still highlighted current success at the University, noting its ranking from Business Insider as Ohio’s No. 1 university for quality and affordability and other achievements such as the Lake Erie Center for Freshwater Research.

He also noted two club sports, men's rugby and women's bowling, which recently won national championships.

Rogers' strategic plan stems from projections that the University's long-standing, top demographic is declining across the state and the Midwest.

According to a report from Ruffalo Noel Levitz, “Nationally, the total number of high school seniors is expected to increase by 3.0 percent in five years and by 7.9 percent in 10 years.” However, this expectation changes when applied to the state level. The number of 18-to-24-year-old high school graduates is projected to decline in several states including Ohio.

“Today, we live in the most challenging time that higher education has ever seen,” Rogers said. “I fear higher education has lost the trust of a large percentage of the public.”

Citing the increasing cost of college and student debt, he said the public doesn’t “see the impact of our (the University’s) research. They wonder if college is even worth it.”

Yet Rogers said the University can “achieve new and higher levels of success” by embracing challenges and implementing its updated strategic plan.

“Now more than ever, we must not be timid,” he said.

Read the rest online @ bgfalconmedia.com.
6 ways to fill your time over J-term

Meredith Siegel
Forum Editor

This winter break, we have way more time than usual between semesters. Most people will fill that time with work, some will take classes and some both. But, we should try to fill that extra time with something different than what we do during the semester. Use your time wisely, and do some things you actually want to do. Here are a few suggestions:

1. Challenge yourself to learn a skill.
   Is there something you’ve always wanted to learn but never actually took the initiative to do it? Now you can! Try to learn to play a new instrument, learn to sew, learn to cook, whatever! Maybe this even means learning how to do your own laundry. Whatever it is, enrich yourself with a new skill.

2. Cross an item off your bucket list.
   Like learning a new skill, doing something you’ve always wanted to do in general can be daunting, just because we’re so busy all the time. But I think you should take some of winter break to cross some items off your list, whether they be something wild like skydiving or simple like cooking something new.

3. Travel to a new, exciting location.
   Winter break is also a time you can travel and expand your horizons. You don’t have to fly to Europe, but that would be very cool, you can just take a day trip to Ann Arbor, Columbus or Cincinnati. Make time to get away from home and see something cool somewhere else.

4. Volunteer for a worthy cause.
   We have, like, a lot of time over the break. I’m sure there are places you could volunteer for the several weeks we have off. Try out your local dog shelter, food banks or something closer to what you’re interested in. It’s the season of giving, so give your time to an organization that’s doing good in the world. I promise this is much more fulfilling than the retail job you have.

5. Binge watch your favorite shows.
   While it’s important to use your time wisely, sometimes using your time wisely includes watching something for a few hours. I love getting into a new show and it’s definitely worth it to relax for a while. Ask your friends for recommendations so you can watch them together or discuss while you watch.

6. Sleep as much as you want.
   I know this is what everyone is looking forward to doing over the break. But don’t feel like you have to do so much stuff that you’re not sleeping as much as you want. As busy people, we usually don’t get to sleep in as much as we want to. Take a few days and really sleep in this break.

Correction: In Monday's paper on page 12, an article titled “Students split on Tobacco Free Initiative” had an incorrect byline. The correct reporter is April Leygraaf.
Activism is important especially today

Kyle Thompson
Guest Columnist

Activism. It is that complex word that exists within the mouths of many folks of today. It manifests itself in the present day conversations of resistance as well as the wave of unified resistance that has existed amongst the tyranny of the Trump administration.

I write this op-ed in solidarity with the suffering people around the world and from a declaration of a frustrated college student. The humanity of many men, women and nonbinary individuals are under attack on a regular basis. As I write this, migrant children are being shot by rubber bullets and brutalized by militarized police. The conflicts on the border today represent a national scale of frustration with the status quo and the fight against the imperialism of our nation. In the Midwest, families in Flint, Michigan still go weeks without clean drinking water. Women in Ohio may have their livelihood stripped away with them just by simply having an abortion; all the while, Trump seeks to reduce the little rights existing that protect trans and nonbinary individuals. Combine this with ecological disaster, and the future for our generation looks grim.

I frame this narrative in nothing but truth; everything I said is wholly true in its totality. This large-scale struggle within America is not new. As long as colonialism has reigned, there has been a constant struggle of values vs. belief, logic vs. reason, free speech vs. censorship and suppression.

It is our duty as young adults within an institution of higher learning to challenge ourselves both in and out of the classroom. We must be willing to engage in conversations leading to action that raises awareness, shifts consciousness and changes policy. This is a moral duty that exists within each and every one of us, and it does not start or end with education or conversations. There comes a time when having the right opinions and saying “I support this” means nothing next to taking action. There must always be members of the community reminding us of the utmost importance of understanding who you are and where you are. In college, it is easy to get sucked into a bubble. When performing the day-to-day responsibilities, we sometimes forget the large scale connections our suffering has with modern society.

I move then to reinforcing the urgency of organization and activism. So far, of all the things aforementioned in this paper, there has been absolutely no widespread involvement on campus to address the problems occurring in this nation. That is not to say that the organizations on campus are not involved or engaged; quite the opposite is true. However, I do see a missing mobilization of values of moral importance rather than an effort to protest the yearly bigoted Bible thumpers on campus. When the dust settles, so do the mobilized bodies. No longer are the streets and walkways crowded with the bodies of young minds irate over Kavanaugh or frustrated with the latest Black body that fell at the hands of police violence.

Instead, these issues are relegated only to discussion and education, but not public tension or open communication. This is not to say that every issue requires a protest, but there does need to be more visibility in the mainstream issues of today that are granted the same action or behavior that is seen within the students who see frustration with the bigotry of religious intolerance. This is important because our lives are connected in mutuality of society. Everything that occurs outside the walls of this campus somehow makes its way into the minds of the students of today and of the future.

We must create a culture that encourages discourse and encourages civic engagement. There is more to social and civic engagement than conversations and education, there must be people on the ground having and pushing conversations.

From trees to stockings, Christmas decorations have a weird history

Keralynne Frederick
Columnist

December screams the holidays at our faces, whether we like it or not. I always love this time of year because everything seems a little colorful and happy. However, it was not until this year that I started to see how weird and symbolic Christmas is.

How weird is it that people who celebrate Christmas go out and spend tons of money to decorate their homes, their cars and even themselves on symbolic holiday merchandise? Some of the symbols certain decorations represent do not even make sense. For example, our good friend, the stocking. I am just assuming that one day, someone told some kids, “Hey, hang these socks next to the chimney, and tonight, a man will come to the house and put stuff in them.”

However, I would like to believe that there is a more reasonable meaning behind that tradition. According to the Smithsonian Magazine, the stockings originated when a father was unable to provide for his daughters, so the man himself, St. Nick, climbed down their chimney and put gold coins in the daughters’ stockings. So, clearly, the symbolism is still weird.

Nowadays, we hang up sock-looking bags that are two to three times bigger than socks, in order to fit bigger items in them. Being humble is old news and no longer an option. We are moving onto bigger and better stockings.

Speaking of moving on, I would like to re-introduce the Christmas tree. I can not get over how uncomfortably weird it is that some people store a fake plant in their home for years. Then, once a year, people take this fake plant out to build it and decorate it with small objects and lights. It is not just any fake plant though; it is specifically a humongous tree.

Why do we not have a more space-saving fake plant to take out and decorate, like a cactus or maybe a sunflower?

Buying a giant tree is not the most budget-friendly item, either. I moved into a new apartment this year and suddenly I feel the need to purchase my own giant tree, but I may have to settle for a fake Christmas fern. Some people actually purchase real trees to keep in a corner of their house. According to History Cooperative, putting trees in homes originated with the Romans. The Romans thought that the green in the trees reminded them of spring during the harsh winters, so they decided that trees were clearly the most reasonable things to put in their homes. Eventually, the Christians adopted the idea and tweaked it, by adding lights and ornaments for other symbols. Thanks, Romans.

Overall, I have learned that decorations are weird, and the symbols are just as weird. We have the Romans to thank for storing large trees in our homes for years. We also have a helpless father to thank for hanging up oversized sock-looking bags. Let’s keep the holidays weird.
USG learns about Tobacco Free Initiative

April Leygraaf
Reporter

Faith DeNardo, director of wellness and Title IX deputy coordinator, explained the revised Tobacco Free Initiative and its changes from the current policy to Undergraduate Student Government Monday.

The Clean Air Policy has been in effect since January and prohibits smoking cigarettes in most areas on campus, with only a few areas exempted.

However, the new policy would completely prohibit on-campus use of any tobacco product, including smokeless tobacco or e-cigarettes. In addition, the initiative would remove the areas where smoking is allowed.

Currently, the University is one of two public universities in Ohio that have not yet adopted a tobacco-free policy. DeNardo said the goal of the initiative is to foster a healthy student body and campus environment for everyone.

A survey by the National College Health Assessment showed that while cigarette use among incoming college students has gone down since 2016, e-cigarette usage has nearly doubled. The survey also indicated that 20 percent of freshmen students use e-cigarettes.

A few senators expressed concern that the initiative was more focused on making people quit than helping people deal with their addiction. However, DeNardo said resources to help people with their addiction are also a prominent part of the initiative. The Counseling Center has drug and alcohol specialists to help people deal with their addictions. In addition, the Falcon Health Center offers many cessation resources.

“The key is the implementation piece and how BG goes about rolling that out,” DeNardo said.

DeNardo said the implementation will utilize community enforcement. This will involve students educating their peers on the policy and approaching the other students if they see someone violating the policy.

Read the rest online @ bgfalconmedia.com.

INTRODUCING
Kerry Pearson, D.O.

Dr. Pearson provides physician services at Falcon Health Center.

Dr. Kerry Pearson has joined the patient care team at Falcon Health Center. She has a background in osteopathic medicine and has a special interest in women’s health and the impact of nutrition on a patient’s overall health. Dr. Pearson provides primary and urgent care services and is also accepting appointments.

For an appointment with Dr. Pearson, call (419) 728-0601.

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“ You have chosen BGSU for your academic journey. We look forward to joining you on your spiritual journey. ”
Getting to know new BG football coaches

Jason Knavel
Assistant Athletic Director for Athletic Communications

Even Hayes
Pulse Editor

Newly hired Bowling Green head football coach Scot Loeffler is taking over a program that has seen its fair share of turmoil over the past three seasons.

From player departures to coaching changes this past season and at the end of 2017, leadership has struggled to build consistency within the program. Loeffler acknowledged in his opening press conference this need to bring in the right voices to the locker room and made big promises related to his staff.

“One of the most important aspects of my job is bringing in the right people. Our plan is simply this,” Loeffler said during his introductory press conference last Thursday. “We’re going to create and we’re going to build and hire one of the best coaching staffs in this program’s history.”

On Monday morning, he made the first of what will likely be a series of changes to the program, hiring seven on-field assistant coaches and a strength and conditioning coach. Loeffler has added five new on-field offensive assistant coaches and a new strength coach to the program, while retaining three members of the 2018 coaching staff on the defensive side of the ball.

Combined, the seven assistant coaches and Loeffler have 181 years of coaching experience, with 137 years coming at the college level. Of those 137 years 63 were spent at Power 5 schools, while 32 years come from the Mid-American Conference, lending credence to the idea that this will be the most experienced coaching staff in Bowling Green football history. More importantly, six of those eight assistants have coached in Ohio and two have coached in Michigan, giving the staff a knowledge of the area and recruiting opportunities.

For more information about Loeffler and his coaching experience, look here.

Carl Pelini: Defensive Coordinator

Pelini is returning to the program as defensive coordinator after serving in the same position this past season. He also served as the interim head coach following the firing of Mike Jinks, earning the first two wins in program history by an interim head coach. His previous coaching positions include head coach of Florida Atlantic, defensive coordinator at Youngstown State, Nebraska and Minnesota State Mankato, as well as defensive line coach at Ohio University.

Pelini was largely responsible for the defensive turnaround the Falcons made late in the season, guiding a defense that allowed at least 35 points and 400 yards through its first eight games to just 18 points and 256 yards in late season contests against Kent State, Central Michigan and Akron. He also notably garnered support from many of the players in the locker room.

Jacob Schoonover: Linebackers Coach

Schoonover will also be returning to the program in 2018, serving in the same position: linebackers coach. The former Missouri Western State linebacker and safety arrived at Bowling Green in March of 2018 after serving as the linebackers coach and special teams coordinator at Illinois State for six years. Prior to his time at Illinois State he served as the defensive backs coach at Illinois Wesleyan in 2010 and was also an offensive graduate assistant at Illinois State and a defensive assistant coach at Missouri Western State.

LaMarcus Hicks: Secondary Coach

Hicks will be the third coach returning to the program in 2019 after serving this past season as the secondary coach. In his first season with the program Bowling Green’s passing defense allowed just 167.6 passing yards per game (3rd in MAC) and a 52.7 percent completion rate by opposing quarterbacks (2nd in MAC).

He first began his coaching career as the wide receivers coach at Rhodes College in 2010, then moving on to Truman High School in Michigan from 2011-2012 as the defensive coordinator and defensive backs coach. Hicks spent 2013 at Concordia University as the defensive backs coach before moving to the University of North Texas to serve in the same position from 2014-2015. He then coached defensive backs at Jackson State from 2016-2017 before coming to Bowling Green.

Hicks played collegiately at Iowa State as a safety, being named First Team All-Big 12 in 2006 as a senior. After going undrafted, Hicks played defensive back for the Detroit Lions from 2007-2008.

Terry Malone: Offensive Coordinator/Offensive Line Coach

Terry Malone is returning to Bowling Green for his second stint on the coaching staff, bringing more than 30 years of coaching experience at both the college and professional levels. He most recently coached at Western Michigan as the running backs coach in this past season and served as the director of player development there in 2017.

Malone served in a variety of coaching roles at Bowling Green from 1986-1995 under former coaches Moe Ankney and Gary Blackney, including offensive line coach, tight ends coach, offensive coordinator and recruiting coordinator. He then served as offensive line coach at Boston College in 1996 before moving to the University of Michigan, where he was the offensive line coach (1997-2005) and offensive coordinator (2001-05).

His time at Michigan included a National Championship title in 1997, as well as five Big Ten championships and eight New Year’s Day bowl games.

He then spent nine seasons in the NFL as the tight ends coach for the New Orleans Saints, helping the team win the Super Bowl in 2009. Malone returned to the college level in 2015, serving as the offensive coordinator and tight ends coach at Purdue University from 2015-2016, after which he moved on to Western Michigan.

Chris Hedden: Running backs Coach

Hedden is returning to the Mid-American Conference after serving as offensive coordinator and running backs coach for three years at Trine University and brings more than 20 years of coaching experience across the high school and collegiate ranks. His coaching career has also included almost a decade within the MAC, with stops at Toledo, Akron and Northern Iowa.

Before his time at Trine, Hedden spent three years as the head coach at St. Francis de Sales School in Toledo, leading the Knights to a playoff berth in 2013. He also spent a year as an assistant coach at Tiffin Calvert High School.

From 2001-2008, Hedden was on the Toledo coaching staff, helping the Rockets win two MAC championships. He served as the tight ends coach, offensive line coach and wide receivers coach, as well as the running game coordinator and offensive coordinator, helping the Rockets to three Motor City Bowl appearances and a GMAC Bowl appearance. Following his time at Toledo he served as the tight ends coach at Akron for the 2009 season.

Prior to his time at Toledo, Hedden was the offensive coordinator and running backs coach at Northern Iowa from 1997-2000. He was also a graduate assistant at Toledo in 1996 and the offensive coordinator and offensive line coach at Tiffin University in 1995.

Erik Campbell: Wide Receivers Coach

Campbell arrives at Bowling Green after coaching the last two seasons at the University of Delaware where he served as the passing game coordinator and wide receivers coach. He brings 30 years of coaching experience to the program with three years of coaching in the Mid-American Conference, two years in the Canadian Football League and more than 15 years of coaching tenure in the Big Ten.

He began his coaching career as the running backs coach at Navy from 1989-1990. He then served in the same role at Ball State from 1991-1993 and at Syracuse in 1994. Campbell then returned to his alma mater, Michigan, as the wide receivers coach (1995-2002) and assistant head coach (2003-2007). During his time at Michigan, Campbell was a part of the 1997 national championship team with Malone.

Read the rest online @ bgfalconmedia.com
Hockey brings father and son together

Jamison Terbrack
Sports Reporter

Following in their father's footsteps is a goal many sons share, but what about following in their fathers blade-tracks? This is what sophomore Justin Wells is doing as a second-generation Falcon hockey player.

Justin's father, Jeff Wells, started not on a rink but on the frozen St. Lawrence River in Brockville, Ontario. Jeff's uncle, a scout for the NHL's Hartford Whalers, lived in a house on the river. His uncle had a profound impact on his hockey career.

"He encouraged me to play college hockey," Jeff said. "The opportunity to get a college education and play a high level of hockey was difficult to pass up."

In 1990, Jeff decided to enroll at the University rather than play junior hockey. This is where he would develop as a hockey player, get a college degree and meet his future wife, Julie.

"I had a great four years at BG. BG gave me everything in my life," he said.

During his time as a Falcon, Jeff was a standout defenseman, earning All-American honors as a senior in 1993-94.

"Jeff was unbelievable," AJ Plaskey, a teammate of Wells at Bowling Green from 1990 to 1994 said. "A great leader and player but even a better person. Obviously, a very solid 'D' man that did a lot of great things for the team and program. Very sound in our own end but could jump in the offensive play to create a spark offensively. Very impressive player that deserved the All-American honors that he received."

This success parlayed into a 13-year professional career in the American Hockey League, ECHL, International Hockey League and Canadian Hockey League.

Eventually, Jeff hung up the skates and had two sons with Julie: Justin and Andrew.

While the two boys were growing up, the parents brought them around their alma mater, but they did not pressure them to choose Bowling Green themselves.

"They didn't pressure me at all; they really left it up to me," Justin said. "They came to the other visits with me to see. They just said, make your choice when you want to make it."

Little did Jeff know, almost 30 years after he laced up for the Falcons, his son Justin would decide to play hockey for the University.

"In my heart, yes..." Jeff admitted preferring his son choose the Falcons, "but Julie and I never pressured him. We had our experience at BG, and we wanted to make sure that he was comfortable wherever he went. BG is a special place," he said.

The trips from North Canton, where the family lives, to Bowling Green when Justin was young made a lasting impression on him.

"We'd come to about a game a year," Justin said. "We'd always go to Mr. Spots to get a cheesesteak and waffle fries. It was a big thing when I came here. It was exciting to be with the band and the college atmosphere."

It was spending time where his father was once a player that made Justin want to be a Falcon one day, too.

Once he grew up, Justin had the task of visiting colleges on his own. He visited a few east coast schools, namely Cornell and Boston College, along with Bowling Green.

In an article by Patricia Faulhaber for The Suburbanite, she said, "Justin's long-term goals include getting a hockey scholarship to go to college and then later getting drafted into the NHL. He is already being pursued by a number of colleges such as Cornell, Harvard, Bowling Green, Miami and Boston."

There was a connection at Boston College for Justin, as current BC coach Jerry York coached Jeff at Bowling Green in the '90s, but it didn't compare to the chance to be a Falcon like his dad.

"I was 17 when I committed. It was pretty easy once I saw everything, talked to the coaches, talked about what they saw in me and what I could become. Then seeing the facilities and growing up around the campus, it fit well for me."

"My dad played in the same arena and got dressed in the same locker room. I think it's a pretty cool thing that I'm able to play where he played back in the '90's," Justin said about his decision. With Justin following in his father's footsteps, he didn't feel pressure trying to follow up the All-American.

"Sometimes it's hard, especially with my dad. He was really offensive and put up a lot of numbers here. He was a really good player. It's a unique thing: I don't think a lot of people can say they played where their dad played. I don't feel pressure because I'm a different player than my dad," Justin said.

Jeff made sure his son knew he was his own player and had his own career path. He did not have to play like his father and had his own style. While Jeff was more of an offensive defenseman, Justin is more of a power, stay-at-home defenseman.

"Justin's a good teammate and motivates the other guys. He has good vision on the ice and makes good passes," sophomore forward Brandon Kruse said.

Jeff was a proud father as his son was given the opportunity to be a collegiate athlete.

"We were excited because this is something that he worked very hard for. He, like all players, gave up a lot while playing travel hockey. To be rewarded and have the opportunity to be a student-athlete is special. His grandfather is a BG alum, and he was probably more excited," Jeff said.

Jeff is not just a fan of Falcon hockey for the time at school but also for the years after.

"You play with so many people during your time at BG," Jeff said. "I made some lifelong friendships because of it. It is fun to get together with many of them and share stories of our time at the rink and away from the rink. ... With such a strong alumni group, I have been able to make friends with fellow hockey players from different eras. Being a part of Falcon hockey is special."

Justin agrees Falcon hockey is special, and he is at the place he is meant to be.

"I love playing for the fans, playing in the awesome arena and being near the students and the community. Everyone supports us and cheers for us, so it's just an awesome atmosphere," Justin said.

This does not mean Jeff's Bowling Green hockey experience is the same as Justin's.

"The old CCHA was great for a student-athlete. It was a true bus league. Everyone was close. It was fun to play Michigan, Michigan State, Ohio State, Miami, Western, Notre Dame year after year. Those were some big names, and when they visited the Madhouse, the building was packed," Jeff said.

Bringing major schools to Bowling Green tends to deliver more fans, which was evident when Ohio State visited Bowling Green for hockey this season.

Justin agreed if there was one thing he could change, it would be playing in the conference his father did, the Central Collegiate Hockey Association.

While it is not possible for Jeff and Julie to make the drive from North Canton to watch every game, especially with Justin's younger brother still playing travel hockey, the family is still able to watch online.

"We try and get to as many home games as our schedule allows us to," Jeff said. "It is an experience to be at the Madhouse on Friday and Saturday nights. Thanks to technology we are able to watch the Falcons on the road and at home when needed. ... The community is so important along with the fan base. The University and athletic department provide so much support, and as a parents first, my wife and I feel very comfortable with Justin at BG."

While Justin is currently majoring in business, Jeff majored in teacher education.

"Like he did when he was in a uniform, Jeff was also a great leader off the ice. His degree in education is an obvious statement that he took his job as a student-athlete very seriously," Plaskey said.

Jeff credits the University's great program and still uses his degree today as a principal at Green Middle School in Uniontown, Ohio.

It's evident that both father and son are happy with their decisions to become Falcons. When other viable options were available, Bowling Green's hockey and academics stood out.

"I'm really happy," Justin said. "It's been an unbelievable experience so far. The fans, the games, the school part, the social life, it's all been fun so far and I don't regret it at all."
Student Veterans of America president leads with help of service dog

Shaeele Haaf
Reporter

As Daniel Camper, veteran student studying construction management, makes his way around campus, many people are astounded by the 207-pound service English Mastiff named Harvey.

Camper served in the Army for 19 years and four months. He achieved the rank of first sergeant before being medically retired in March 2015. The duo met in 2016 and came to campus that same year.

“For the first two terms he was going to school, he didn’t have a lot of participation with the military students here, but as he started realizing some of the different programs we had could use some guidance, he went from being just a regular student to taking on some leadership roles,” said Eric Buetikofer, Military and Academic Advisor for nontraditional and military students.

Camper joined the University’s Student Veterans of America organization in 2016, and in August 2018, he became the president.

SVA supports a network of over 1,500 schools and over 700,000 student veterans. At the individual level, we empower veterans to be informed consumers of higher education and make the most of the transition to civilian life. In addition to educational support and benefits, SVA also provides a safe community for like-minded military personnel to build relationships.

When Camper first joined SVA, he noticed the president at the time had “overworked himself, so the organization was misguided, stretched thin and SVA was left hanging.”

Buetikofer, who is the University’s SVA organization advisor, said previous presidents “took on the position out of necessity, since we didn’t have a lot of volunteers, but Daniel was one of the first students who wanted to take on that role because he saw the potential of what the SVA could be.”

Around 650 military-affiliated students are enrolled at the University. Since Camper has become president, there has been an increase in registration for SVA through OrgSync, as well as increased attendance at weekly meetings, Buetikofer said. Camper has also suggested opening up meetings and membership to dependents as well.

“The only goal I set for myself during my time in office was to get more awareness of the SVA on campus,” Camper said. Members of the SVA have recognized the impact Camper has had within their organization, as well as their personal lives.

Buetikofer said, “Coming out of active duty, the transition from a military culture system to a civilian culture system is often times a very rapid adjustment, and Daniel is particularly helpful with our incoming military students who have transitional issues.”

Bonnie Bailey, veteran student studying human development and family studies, is the treasurer for SVA and works closely with Camper. When the two first met, they found out they had been stationed at Fort Lewis during the same time and “really hit it off,” Bailey said.

She added, “Daniel has become my closest friend here; we have a lot of the same history. I understand him, and I’ve had the opportunity to get to know him closer. He has been a blessing in my life. He gives me confidence in myself when I don’t have it.”

Courtney Storey, junior studying broadcast journalism, works in the Non-traditional and Military Student Services as a peer advisor for student veterans. Although she is not an active military member herself, both of her parents have served. She attends SVA meetings on a regular basis.

“Daniel took me under his wing. I was the only female dependent showing up to the meetings. He befriended me because he saw I was quiet and the only one who hadn’t served in the military, even though I’m military affiliated. He reached out to me and made me feel more comfortable; he’s kind of like a dad to me,” Storey said.

Additionally, Camper, along with others, has been working to prepare a trip to the 2019 SVA National Convention, which is commonly referred to as NatCon. It is the largest annual gathering of student veterans and advocates in the country. The three-day event is about empowering veteran voices on college campuses and being a driving force to make change for veterans on college campuses. It also gives student veterans opportunities to network. Buetikofer said, more and more students are going to NatCon, and he attributes much of the work to Camper.

SVA is sending 10 students to NatCon in Orlando, Florida, which is the most they’ve ever sent before.

“Since August, him and I have been working together planning the trip. We have had to jump through so many hoops; it’s just been a whirlwind trying to keep everything organized and situated, but no matter what has come across, he’s right there fixing it,” Bailey said.

Between the months of September and October, SVA held a fundraiser to help support some of the trip’s finances. Tickets were sold in the Union for one dollar each, and people voted on the costume they wanted Harvey to wear for Halloween. The organization raised $151 for the trip and people around campus got to enjoy seeing Harvey dressed up as President Rodney Rodgers.

“SVA has a different dynamic than other student organizations. We don’t connect so well with the traditional student, and a way to connect with them is through my loveable pup,” Camper said.

Seeing people’s reactions to Harvey is one of Bailey’s favorite things in the world, especially because there aren’t many service dogs around campus that come close to his size. She said, “Daniel’s kindness comes through, and his care for others. He lets people touch Harvey and lets him go up to people. He understands that Harvey is there for him, but he’s okay with letting Harvey give comfort to other people.”

Not only has Camper been involved with the SVA at the University, but SVA organizations on other college campuses have also had the chance to experience his leadership.

A few SVA members from the University of Toledo attended one of the meetings in Bowling Green. Veronica Mora, public relations officer of SVA organization at UT, said, “One of the reasons we went to BGSU, is that we’ve heard nothing but great things come out of it, and one of our goals is to implement some of BGSU’s practices here at UT.” She described the atmosphere at the University as “veteran-friendly.”

Brandon Kalbflesch, the president of the SVA at UT, said their organization wanted to make a trip to NatCon this year to network to see how they could improve their university for the veterans on a day to day basis. They had never been to NatCon before, so they didn’t know where to begin.

Camper said, “I invited them to one of our meetings to see how we work, and to see how we were preparing for the upcoming Student Veterans of America National Convention.” He helped them put together a proposal for their university in order to receive the support they needed. The SVA organization at UT was able to get the whole trip funded.

“I feel strongly that if it hadn’t been for BGSU’s insight, we would not be going to NatCon this year. Daniel’s leadership skills have extended from his military career to his student career. He was a leader in the military and he’s very much a leader now,” Mora said. “There’s no rivalry here. We’re all part of the military, and it’s like an extension of the family.”

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Defiance College is another school that has been impacted by the SVA at the University. Their organization has been around since 2017 but was nationally recognized in October 2018.

“We are mentoring Defiance College’s newly formed SVA through their first few years,” Camper said. The president and vice president have attended meetings on campus, and the vice president is going to accompany the University’s SVA on their trip to NatCon.

According to Buetikofer, student veteran organizations on college campuses are hard to start. He said, “We’re fortunate here compared to peer institutions. We have a very good core group of students. Having someone dynamic like Daniel to drive the organization is really helpful.”

On Nov. 16, Camper and Harvey performed the ceremonial puck drop together as the Guests of Honor at the hockey game during Heroes Weekend, when the University honored military, police officers, firefighters, and emergency responders. Nate Glusich, the person in charge of deciding the Guest of Honor at each game, asked Buetikofer for the names of two veterans he thought should do the puck drop.

“When we honor our military students on the football field, basketball court, or ice arena, we always try to find students who exemplify our military student population, and students who will raise a certain awareness of our military population. Having Daniel and Harvey there definitely raises recognition and awareness,” Buetikofer said.

Camper had been encouraged by Buetikofer previously to partake in opportunities similar to the puck drop, but had turned them down, because Camper said he doesn’t like being the center of attention.

“He is extremely humble, and does not see himself as the rest of us see him,” Bailey said.

Since coming to Bowling Green, many people say Camper has been an influential figure within the military student population among the University, with Harvey by his side.

“If it wasn’t for the SVA and the individuals that work in the Non-traditional Military Student Services office, I would have left BGSU a long time ago,” Camper said. Others say he has gone above and beyond to reach out and influence non-traditional and military students from other schools as well.

“Daniel has elevated our organization to be a leader in Northwest Ohio,” Buetikofer said.
Cyber security experts explain online dangers

Mohammad Ashour
Reporter

There will be 200 billion connected devices to the internet by 2020, according to Caesar Cerrudo in a Jan. 17, 2017, article in Forbes. As more of these devices find their ways into more aspects of daily life, a disruption to these devices and services by virus attacks and hackers becomes increasingly common.

“If I did not like somebody, I could hack into it (smart fridge) and order me you know, a couple thousand dollars’ worth of groceries and bill it to their credit card,” said Travis Sheaffer, instructor at the University, currently teaching classes on computer science and internet security.

Sheaffer said computer security is not at the forefront of many people’s minds, and it needs to be taken more seriously. He attributed it to the number of internet-connected devices in people’s homes, as well as their increased variety. Updating and ensuring they have the latest security installed is a challenge.

“The companies are going to have to put out more education on how the updates are available,” Sheaffer said.

Sheaffer gave an example of a 2016 security breach where a Henry County employee opened an email that contained a virus. It spread throughout their network due to a lack of security measures to prevent a virus from spreading. The measure to protect their network was network segmentation, which kept an infected network from moving to another.

He said this virus spread through the county’s computer systems and got into the network for the Board of Elections. The virus began creating additional vulnerabilities in their computers.

The virus was contained, but the county had to send out letters to every registered voter in the county. The County also included free credit monitoring for a year to prevent fraud from potentially hitting registered voters who were on the affected systems.

However, the damage was not limited to the Henry County Board of Elections. The virus found its way to the county engineer’s office, and it wiped out all the data they had stored on their machines. It took two days of downtime to recover data from a backup.

“I mean, you are talking about how much did the LifeLock subscription for the 29,000 people in the county cost? How much did it cost to get these machines repaired, whether they outsourced it or did it internally, it still took time, which equals to money. How will they prevent those in the future? Those are real expenses that you are having, and this is just one example,” Sheaffer said.