Faculty Senate vote = No grading scale change
BGSU computer science program to celebrate 50 years

Hunter Huffman
Campus Editor

For its 50th anniversary, past and present in BGSU computer science program faculty are celebrating its evolution and preparing for its future. The celebrations will be happening on Nov. 7 and 8.

The program was founded in 1969 out of BGSU’s math and science department by a group of four faculty members, including David Fulton, who served as chair of the program for 10 years. It was the first computer science program in Ohio and has undergone several changes according to Jong Kwan “Jake” Lee, the current chair of the program.

“Starting from the old days, when the department was created, we were very different,” Lee said. “Since then, hardware has been evolved rapidly from 1969 up to the early ’90s.”

With advancements in technology, Lee said computer science has become more diverse, expanding from basic programming to multiple fields.

“Nowadays, we’ve got cybersecurity, we got software engineering, we have high performance computing, we have graphics, visualization … Throughout the years, this field has been growing really fast,” he said. “It is everywhere.”

Of these fields, Lee said software engineering has become a dominant factor of computer science, and, currently, jobs within the field are expanding.

“There’s so much need in it … 70% to 80% of our students will get a job in software engineering domains, because it became so complex. It’s not like two, three people write with computers in a cubicle and make software. That won’t happen anymore,” he said. “BGSU computer science is heavily focused on software development.”

In addition, Lee said cybersecurity and digital forensics — a specialization in the program — is becoming increasingly crucial with the advent of new technology.

“People are using cellphones everyday; they don’t know how dangerous it is to use it in (a) certain way. It’s very, very risky these days,” he said.

Another field, data science, works with the statistics of computer science, according to Lee. He said these concepts are continuously applied to modern computer science.

“It’s become so, so interdisciplinary where these technologies can be applied to everywhere these days,” he said. “In the old days, we just need a computer program to do one thing, but nowadays, it’s evolved in a very different way.”

To recognize these changes over the past 50 years, current students and alumni will converge at the Bowen-Thompson Student Union for a two-day event, including a speech by Alex Aiken, a 1983 graduate and current Stanford University professor in computer science. He is also a former chair of the Stanford computer science program.

Another speech will be done by Fulton, who co-founded Fox Software, a database software provider; served as vice president of Microsoft’s database products and has performed as a violinist since at BGSU.

Lee said both will present their perspectives on the past, present and future of computer science, and specifically, the direction BGSU’s program is going. Lee anticipates Aiken’s speech will present a distinct perspective on current computer science.

“Being a faculty member (at Stanford), he will have his own insight on different things. It’s great for students,” Lee said. Aiken will be able to teach students about the future of computer science, whereas in class students typically just learn how to solve problems.

Lee expects that AI-related technologies will become a greater focus of computer science curriculum.

“We’re not gonna have a Terminator thing, but still, but it will be an important part of our programming,” he said.

However, as technology continues to evolve, he believes computer science as a whole will see slower advancements.

“We’re almost at the limit … It’ll still improve, but it’s not the same pace as before,” he said.
Plus/minus policy vote a huge win for USG, students

Alexander Chiarelott
Guest Columnist

The Undergraduate Student Government is immensely proud of the decision to vote down the plus/minus grade proposal at the Faculty Senate meeting on Nov. 5.

A USG senator presented at the meeting to provide the definitive and unambiguous student voice regarding the plus/minus policy. The decision faculty senators made to side with the student voice was a tremendous win for shared governance between USG and the Faculty Senate.

USG has been working at addressing this policy for two years now, and it is finally concluded. The student body will rejoice knowing the BGSU faculty and staff heard their concerns and voted for the benefit of nearly all of our fellow falcons.

Additionally, the core beliefs of BGSU were upheld in today’s vote, including our “Stand Out” tagline. We stand out from our fellow universities and made student and faculty feedback the top priority.

The Wall Street Journal reported in a 2019 study that BGSU was the No. 1 university in Ohio for student satisfaction, and this vote was a massive indicator as to why. BGSU cares about their student community and are always looking for ways to further engage and encourage us. We hope to challenge our fellow institutions to redefine their own student success and find ways to engage their student community without hurting their GPA or adding to their stressful daily lives.

The plus/minus policy was opposed by a vast majority of students, and we have worked to ensure that was well known to all faculty senators. Hopefully more policies will gather important widespread student feedback before they reach the final stages, so important issues can be addressed long before the policy is up for a vote. USG is encouraged by the work done by all members of the BGSU community and would like to thank them for their help in addressing the plus/minus policy in a definitive and final way.

Alexander Chiarelott is a USG senator and spoke in opposition of the plus/minus policy during the Faculty Senate meeting where the policy was considered.

Why I don’t try to eat healthy

Andrew Bailey
Pulse Editor

I just had Arby’s, and it was absolutely amazing. I got a small Beef N’ Cheddar combo with a Coke Zero and a side of mozzarella sticks. It cost me less than $10, and I was fed for the night.

Why do I and many other college students eat it? Well, there’s a few reasons why:

It’s convenient.
Cooking a full meal takes time, let alone making it balanced. Turning on the oven, taking foods out of packages and making sure nothing gets burnt is a process that I just don’t have the energy for. Driving down the road to the various restaurants in town and placing my order at the drive-thru takes significantly less time. And, the food is made for you!

It’s cheap.
The 4 for $4 meal at Wendy’s is one of the greatest trade deals in history.
You get your choice of sandwich, a small french fry, a four-piece nugget and small drink all for $4. Other restaurants often have similar deals, so you can have an entire meal for a relatively low price.

Read the rest at bgfalconmedia.com.
Why unions are still important in 2019

Brian Geyer
Social Media Editor

General Motors and the United Auto Workers reached a deal on Oct. 25 after six weeks of being on strike, making it the longest auto workers strike in 50 years.

The strike started on Sept. 16 following the expiration of the contract with GM.

James Neu, a UAW union member, said the strike had to do away the tier wages and time it takes to max out in pay.

“Right now, there are workers working next to each other doing the same job but getting different pay. Those are legacy workers with more than 15 years making top pay and the new hires with less than five years making about $10 an hour,” Neu said. “One of the founding principles of unions is equal pay for equal work. The path for full pay is too long."

The closing of the UAW strike came with workers with small wins and losses.

They are guaranteed a 3% raise and 4% lump sum increase between alternating years. Factories once set to be abandoned are being invested in, like the Detroit-Hamtramck factory. GM will now build electric vehicles there. According to a Vox article, “that is a $3 billion investment in 2,225 jobs.”

Newer hires will be able to earn full pay in four years, compared to eight and the top rate was elevated from $30 to $32 per hour. Health care costs stay the same. The wins are progress, but fall short of what union members were originally hoping for.

Why are unions so important? Why should college students care?

James Neu said union workers are the backbone and structure to society.

Many factory workers, including auto workers, are not college educated.

This does not mean union auto industry members do not support a college education. Auto union members may be supporting their children. Without union auto workers, many college students would not have made their way to higher education.

Unions set the basis for equal and civil rights. They have helped paved the way for safe working conditions and equal opportunities, regardless of gender or race. Most union contracts have protections in place that national laws do not.

Unions set standards for work conditions, allowing for pay to be elevated. Union wages are often higher than un-negotiated pay.

Communicate how you feel to others!

Mary Ross
Forum Editor

Emotions are a funny thing. They have the power to drive everything in your life and most likely influence everything in your life in some way.

I’m someone who has always prided myself on being able to feel emotions so deeply and understand myself well enough to understand why I feel the way I do and how to proceed forward with life feeling how I do.

Which being said, how I feel influences all those around me, sometimes for the worse. When I’m going through something and I’m upset in some capacity, my energy in lower, I don’t smile as much if at all and it can be like pulling teeth to get me to do any work. But one of the most important lessons I have learned through this is just how important it is to communicate how you feel with important people in your life. Here are some reasons why:

1) They can help you through your emotions.

Like I’ve already said, I’m someone who feels emotions really deeply, so when I start to feel a certain way, it can consume me sometimes. Now, for me, that’s not entirely a bad thing, but it can be debilitating. By talking to those closest to me, whether it’s my closest friends or a family member, I am able to keep afloat and keep plugging ahead. Many times, my friends and family give me awesome advice or words of encouragement I need to feel better.

This could be true for many other people too.

2) They know to respect your space.

When I get really upset, whether extremely sad or angry—which happens occasionally—I need to be by myself because I just need to cry or go for a run in order to not feel so bad. By communicating I am angry or extremely sad, my friends and family are able to give me the space I need to bring myself back to a state I can function in. Plus, by communicating my emotions with them, they are able to understand when I am not in the best mental state to be able to help them with something they may be going through.

3) They understand you better.

By communicating how you feel with those around you, you can begin to understand what makes you tick, in both good ways and bad ways. Those closest to me know that I get really fiery and sassy to the point of being mean if I’m overly exhausted. They know I’m also the same way if I’m hungry. They also know that when I start crying and I only give one reason, there’s other things behind that reason I don’t want to talk about. But because they know that’s how I function, it has made our bond stronger.

There’s nothing wrong with feeling. But communicating how you feel to those around you is essential to having healthy relationships and building trust. It can be scary at first, especially if you’re not used to communicating how you feel to others, but the rewards in the end are much worth it.
Faculty Senate rejects plus/minus grading policy

Hunter Huffman
Campus Editor

After nearly two years of deliberation and revision, the proposed plus/minus grading policy did not pass after a final vote among the Faculty Senate. The policy would have applied to both undergraduate and graduate students at BGSU.

With 21 senators in support, 47 opposed and one abstained at Tuesday’s assembly, the policy — which has been a controversial topic among students and staff — will not be initiated by the university and will not be sent to President Rodney Rogers’ cabinet.

If the policy was passed, it would have given professors the option to apply revised GPA values to students’ grades. According to the policy proposal, a B+ would count as a 3.3 GPA but a B- would be a 2.7. Additionally, an A- in a course would count as a 3.7 GPA, not a 4.0.

Prior to the final vote, Peter Blass, a professor of chemistry, proposed that an A+ should be added to the plus/minus scale. A vote for the amendment did not pass.

In an opening statement, Undergraduate Student Government Senator Alex Chiarello spoke in opposition of the policy.

“This optional policy will unbalance the playing field for GPA and scholarships and put some students at an advantage based on what scale their professors they’re grading by … (It) will enable and encourage student confusion,” he said.

He referenced two surveys USG conducted in the past, including one presented at a public forum on the issue last month.

“Both surveys indicated 85% of students do not support the plus/minus grading scale … We were the number one public university in Ohio for student satisfaction. Do we want to pass a policy 85% of students disagree with?” Chiarello said.

In deliberation, Allen Rogel, a professor in the department of physics and astronomy, stated that he, as well as his department, supported the policy.
5 songs to get you through the week

Jorja Smith - ‘Wandering Romance’
Jorja Smith released her debut studio album “Lost & Found” in 2018 to a much smaller fanfare than one would’ve believed for an artist who was featured on Drake’s “More Life” project a mere two years earlier. That doesn’t mean “Lost & Found” is a bad record though. In fact, it’s one of the more underrated albums of that year. While many people got into Jorja because of “Blue Lights,” one of the more interesting songs from the album is “Wandering Romance.” Detailing an unstable relationship, the track features some of the most interesting and well polished production Jorja has ever sung over.

Bonus Points: “Lost & Found” is her only full-length LP as of this writing, and it’s damn enjoyable.

Pendulum - ‘Propane Nightmares’
What starts off as an upbeat trumpet ends up as one of the best dubstep style songs you’ll ever hear. Technically considered part of the drum and bass genre, Pendulum’s 2008 single “Propane Nightmares” is a banger among bangers and one of the best songs you could ever listen to to get hyped up for an event or the gym.

Bonus Point: If you’re looking for dubstep influenced music that isn’t quite dubstep, check out Danny Brown’s “Smokin’ & Drinkin.”

A joke above the rest: The best Joker performances

Aubreyonna Van Hoose
Pulse Reporter

There are several actors who have portrayed the iconic role of the Joker. Each actor brings a unique trait to the beloved, horrific character many fans can appreciate. Here are some of the most noteworthy performances of the character:

Cesar Romero (the Clown Joker)
Cesar Romero performed as the Joker in the Batman television series in the mid-1960s. Many say his Joker is most similar to an actual clown. In a way, similar to the beginning development of Joaquin Phoenix’s Joker, Romero made the villain more of a comedian. He was like any typical villain you would see in a movie at the time period, yet he had more of a funny personality. There was never deep character development to understand the Joker’s background, the common arch of this character’s motives were focused around the urge to destroy Batman. There are already several differences in time periods that we can see this Joker was a typical villain, but did nothing too violent. However, in the 2000s, Heath Ledger’s Joker becomes very violent in ways that were never explored within Romero’s version of the character.

Jack Nicholson (the Gangster Joker)
Jack Nicholson’s version of the famous villain is similar to a gangster type of character. In his debut to the screen in 1989, everyone enjoyed his portrayal of the gritty character. His character is most similar to the comic origin story like the ACE chemicals when he fell into a pit of acid and transformed to the pale faced - green haired persona we know. The Joker began to shape into a violent, scary villain in the sense of his brutal actions spoke for his character.

Mark Hamill (the Animated Joker)
Mark Hamill has acted in several shows, games and movies as the Joker. He started with the “Batman: the Animated Series”, and also appeared in the Batman Arkham Series. As he is labelled as the animated Joker, his vocal performance varies between many versions of the Joker, such as homicidal maniac or the laughing stock. Arguably, Hamill is one of the best Jokers because of his flexibility to perform a plethora of personalities. However, he is sometimes overlooked for his vocal performance because he does not carry the same screen attention as every other actor’s Joker. While Hamill may still impress fans with his wicked Joker laugh, hopefully he will get more attention or credit in his role. Even though his performance is transformed into an animated fixture, the character still manages to come to life.

Heath Ledger (the Anarchist Joker)
Heath Ledger is arguably the world’s favorite Joker. Ledger played the anarchist Joker out to - not only defeat Batman - but cause terror to the Gotham citizens. As stated in the movie, he is “an agent of chaos”. Ledger took various measures to perform his role, such as locking himself in a hotel room for six weeks to practice his role and review the comics. Many fans believe he did the best portrayal of the Joker; however, critics feel that people believe this because he passed away a few months after the film finished shooting. As this may be a factor into his Joker being the preferred character, fans still continue to put his performance as the number one Joker.

Jared Leto (the Joker in Love)
Jared Leto’s portrayal left fans enraged. His entrance into Suicide Squad made the personality of the Joker seem over-the-top with the amount of tattoos covering his body, and outrageous bling and luxury. In Ledger’s portrayal he burned a pile of money, but Leto’s persona would buy a new Lamborghini. His only relevancy in the film was having a relationship with Harley Quinn, which is why Leto’s Joker is the Joker in love.
Bulls back on parade

What to make of Rage Against The Machine's reunion

RC
Pulse Reporter

What is a My Chemical Romance, anyways? The real headline reunion announced last week was of Rage Against The Machine. One of the most pivotal bands of the '90s, Zack de la Rocha and company announced their return, and subsequent ending of Prophets of Rage, on their social media. Having not played together since 2011’s L.A. Rising, the band is slated to headline both weekends of the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in 2020. For those of you who happen to be uneducated on what the band really is, this article will take you through what makes Rage such an important band in the lexicon of popular music.

Rage Against The Machine — composed of guitarist Tom Morello, bassist Tim Commerford, drummer Brad Wilk and the aforementioned lead vocalist Zack de la Rocha — formed in 1991 and signed with Epic Records off the strength of their demo tape. That demo tape eventually became “Rage Against The Machine,” the band's self-titled debut studio album, in 1992. With loud instrumentation, de la Rocha's delivery and radical political statements, the band quickly gained an immense following. Songs like "Killing in the Name" took off especially well, with the F-bomb being screamed 17 times total in the songs climax. Tom Morello's unorthodox guitar playing also struck a major chord with audiences. The album is still highly regarded by both critics and fans alike, and is generally considered the band's finest offering.

From there, the band would release 1996's "Evil Empire." The album further cemented the sound of the band, and singles like "Down Rodeo" and "Bulls on Parade" are still considered some of the bands best. In 1999, the band released their final album of strictly original material with "The Battle of Los Angeles." The album has a noticeably more polished and upbeat sound to it than their first record, but is another solid effort from the group. The bands final project together — other than live albums like 1998's "Live & Rare" or 2003's "Live at the Grand Olympic Auditorium" — was 2000's “Renegades.” This is not an album by modern album standards, however, since the bulk of it is made up entirely of covers.

After nine years together, the group called it a day in 2000, aside from a few one-offs here and there such as their performance at Coachella in 2007. Now, 13 years after that same headline spot, the band is back to play Coachella all over again in 2020. So, what can we expect from the crew? Well, nothing right now really. All that we know is that the band has announced a few tour dates and no album. And that’s fine. With a new administration in the White House, it’ll just feel good to have a new machine for them to rage against.

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My Chemical Romance returns

The emo superheroes announced reunion with a tweet, scene kids rejoice

Penny Rae Hawkins
Pulse Reporter

They said a reunion would never happen — hell, Frank Iero savagely roasted Joe Jonas for merely suggesting it four months ago. But, against all odds, these post-punk killjoys have risen from the dead like phantoms forever.

It’s not a stretch to say My Chemical Romance was one of the biggest bands to lead the emo movement of the early aughts.

Alongside bands like Fall Out Boy, MCR quickly established a dedicated fanbase of moepey teens with broken dreams over the course of their 12-year career, including myself. Songs like “I’m Not Okay (I Promise),” “Famous Last Words” and “Welcome to the Black Parade” resonated with these fans and continue to do so over a decade later. Even with the relative underperformance of their album “Danger Days: The True Lives of the Fabulous Killjoys,” they remained the undisputed kings of emo.

Then, heartbreak: on March 22, 2013, the band announced their breakup in a blog post. I’m not ashamed to admit I was devastated. Like many other fans, I felt sad, confused and abandoned by a band who made me feel understood for the first time in my life. Some demanded an immediate reunion, or at least one last album or performance. Fans got a compilation album called “May Death Never Stop You” and the final song “Fake Your Death,” as well as a lengthy note from Gerard Way. The vigil on birds and glass as it was called promised that MCR, though over, would never die...” because it is not a band – it is an idea.”

As one reunion rumor after the next was squashed, each member pursued other projects. Gerard Way released a solo album before working on comic books and a Netflix adaptation of his series “The Umbrella Academy”. Ray Toro released a solo album and pursued studio work while fellow guitarist Frank Iero started a new band with a rotating name. Mikey Way went to rehab before releasing his first album with his new band Electric Century. Over the next six years, both the band and its fans seemed to move on.

On Oct. 31, just in time for Halloween, My Chemical Romance returned in the only way they ever could: coming back from the dead and breaking the internet with nothing but a Tweet. Tickets were on sale for a reunion show in Los Angeles, Calif. and sold out in less than an hour. After the shock wore off, it finally felt like the missing pieces of my heart returned to
Lake Erie Photography Exhibition enlightens audience on water crisis

Aubreyonna Van Hoose
Reporter

BGSU continues to express the importance of the water supply in Bowling Green, and bringing attention to the water crisis happening at Lake Erie. The Lake Erie Photography Exhibition shows the progression of the work being done to Lake Erie to ensure its water quality remains in good condition.

The Lake Erie Photography Exhibition features two separate shows: Linda Butler's "Lake Erie: On the Edge," and Frank Gohlke and Lynn Whitney's "The Great Lake Erie." Butler's photos will be on display at the Wankelman Gallery, while Gohlke and Whitney's are showcased at the Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery in the lobby cases and the back of the gallery.

The exhibition focuses on bringing awareness to Lake Erie while supporting BGSU's organization, the Great Lakes Center for Fresh Waters and Human Health, which studies the algal blooms contaminating the water and prevents further plagues. The exhibition will continue to display the artwork open to the public and students through Nov. 24.

"Every exhibition stands out in ways unique to the artist presenting. This one stands out because of the urgency of the issue presented," Whitney explained. "The issues are implicit in the work, asking viewers to notice, to pay attention and consider the consequences of not knowing."

Because the event was planned to coincide with this year's common read, Butler's work was scheduled over a year in advance. However, Whitney was approached near the end of spring by the Gallery Director, Jacqui Nathan, to show her work. Because she agreed to show work only with the collaboration of Gohlke — an influential figure to her — time was an obstacle for this exhibition. Whitney gave a special thanks to Tim Walker and Clayton Peterson, who are technicians in the School of Art that helped with the exhibition.

The three photographers offer different perspectives as they have their own aesthetic. Each artist brings a unique style into their photographs, regarding framing, angles and the use of color. Butler focuses on large aerial color photographs of the lake. Gohlke and Whitney's are in black-and-white with an 8 x 10-inch frame. Furthermore, the pictures show a 12-year difference. It allows anyone to see the clear depictions of the comparisons and contrasts within Lake Erie's algal bloom. Whitney mentions the need to show this depiction through imagery.

"Annual reports are notoriously dull reading. It was through this insight that the annual report's designer, Mark Schwartz, commissioned fine art photographers to make work focused on the particular entity most helped by the Foundation in a given year," Whitney said.

The Lake Erie Photography Exhibition provides a visual element to further show the effects within the lake's algal bloom.

As Butler, Gohlke and Whitney offer their photographs and interpretations to challenge attendees' understanding of the issue at Lake Erie, the main idea is to no longer avoid the problem. As more counties plan to provide clean water to their citizens, scientists face the challenge of overcoming the algal blooms in Lake Erie. The first step in solving an issue is to acknowledge it, which the artists and
It's a new year for the BGSU men's basketball team, and it is shaping up to be a very exciting one. Not only were the Falcons picked to win the MAC East as well as the MAC Tournament this season, they also have the favorite to win the MAC Player of the Year in Justin Turner returning this season. That should spell a lot of good things for the Falcons leading into this season.

Led by head coach Michael Huger last season, BGSU was picked to finish last in the MAC East but surprised everyone finishing second behind Buffalo and going all the way to the MAC Tournament final. No one expected BGSU to take that big of a step that fast, but they did. Now this year's expectations are through the roof.

The high expectations aren't only because of the pure success they had last season, but also because the Falcons return with a plethora of players that meant so much to the team.

Turner is the most obvious one. He averaged a team leading 18.2 points last season and led the Falcons through some tough MAC wins. The redshirt sophomore also averaged 3.7 assists on the season, proving his worth in getting his teammates in positions to succeed. The offense is going to run through him, much similar to the way that it did last year, and that means great things for the Falcons.

Along with Turner come some more key returners in 12.8 points - per - game scorer Dylan Frye, athletic freak Daeqwon Plowden and sophomore point guard Caleb Fields. The fact of the matter is that BGSU just got older, but that's not to say they didn't lose anybody of importance.

Demajeo Wiggins was one of the best rebounders that BGSU basketball has ever seen. He averaged 10.6 rebounds a season and was the 11th best rebounder in the country. Because of that, the Falcons were eighth in the nation in total rebounds in the country and second in the MAC only behind Buffalo. There is no one that the Falcons have that can directly replace the loss of production on the boards brought by Wiggins, so it is going to have to be a team effort.

Plowden and a few other returners such as Taylor Mattos and Marlon Sierra are going to be key in making sure that the Falcons continue to win game on the boards, a key element to their success last year.

When it all comes down to it though, the Falcons overall just need to focus on winning games. Let's take a look at what their schedule has in store for them this season.

There are a lot of winnable games in the non-conference for the Falcons this season and it starts with a season opener against Tiffin. The only teams that I see this BGSU team losing to in non-conference play are LSU, Western Kentucky, Oakland and possibly one more in the Paradise Jam which includes teams like Cincinnati, Louisville and Baylor.

In conference, the Falcons start off pretty tough getting two tough opponents in Kent State and Miami at home. Then traveling to play a couple of weaker opponents. Their first huge test should come against Toledo away, and it's one that I think they lose in a close game. That starts a rough stretch where the Falcons have to play Buffalo on the road a few weeks later. All in all I think the Falcons should live up to the hype this season and compete for a MAC Championship despite all eyes being on them.
Divison I hockey teams in the NCAA use the USCHO.com poll for their weekly rankings. Unlike college football’s media poll, it seems as if not enough time and effort go into each pick the various media members make. “It’s the kind of thing you fill out on a Sunday evening between the 4:15 NFL games and Sunday Night Football by seeing who won over the past few days and, maybe, who they beat,” columnist Ryan Lambert shared on College Hockey News in October.

Being around the college hockey world for the past four years, this is something I have been fully aware of. To change that, I thought I would start sharing a list of the best college hockey teams right now, from my point of view.

1. Massachusetts (Hockey East)
The Minutemen took a step back in their quest to get back to the Frozen Four when they fell to Northeastern early in the season, but they responded with a vengeance this past weekend. A rematch series against the Huskies brought back the dominance we had gotten used to last year from UMass, including a game one 6-3 victory that saw five consecutive goals from UMass.

2. Minnesota State (WCHA)
Bowling Green fans saw first-hand the damage Minnesota State-Mankato can do over the weekend. The Mavericks did drop game one in overtime for their first loss of the season, but responded strong the following night in a 5-1 win.

The latter half of that weekend series was a clear indication of how far ahead Mankato is compared to the rest of the WCHA at this time. The Falcons gave it their all on Friday, but just couldn’t keep up on Saturday. Junior defenseman Connor Mackey basically confirmed his NHL potential with some of the plays he made. He’s a game-changer on their blueline that could be part of a large scheduled departure from the Mavericks graduating class.

3. Denver (NCHC)
Granted, Alaska-Fairbanks is showing they have improved this year, but when looking at how the previous season turned out for the Pioneers, their opening series against the Nanooks was as unimpressive as a sweep could be. Denver is on its way back to the top, not as the USCHO poll would have you believe. A powerful sweep against a somewhat overrated Boston College team is a step in the right direction.

Freshman Bobby Brink, a Philadelphia Flyers prospect, has put on a show for them. His four goals in eight games leads the team.

4. Ohio State (Big Ten)
The IceBreaker Tournament champion, Ohio State Buckeyes, have proven themselves thus far to be a strong defensive team. They have yet to give up more than two goals in a single game and are holding on to a 6-1-1 record. After a season-opening game against Western Michigan where they were heavily outshot, the Buckeyes have turned things around which makes the performance of Tommy Nappier in net credible and, quite possibly, sustainable.

He has only faced 215 shots up to this point, but his 1.64 GAA and 0.940 SV% are out-of-this-world good. The problem will be whenever the regression comes. Nappier will come back down to earth in time, but will his offense be available to support him?

5. Minnesota Duluth (NCHC)
The defending national champions have been off to an inconsistent start this year, when compared to last year’s eight-game win streak in their first 10 games. They certainly lost their footing when they ran into Cole Caufield and the Wisconsin Badgers on Oct. 18 and 19, when they allowed nine total goals on the weekend. They’ll face an even tougher test when they welcome Denver for their next series.

6. Notre Dame (Big Ten)
Competition has not been strong enough for the Fighting Irish to determine if their ranking is justified. They have been able to easily handle teams they’re expected to win against, which is an underrated quality in college hockey given the variables that could change on a night-to-night basis.

Their next stint in their schedule will be the real barometer for their success this year. Wisconsin, Ohio State and Bowling Green are all on the horizon for Notre Dame. Each opponent brings a different style of game they’ll have to adjust to in a short period of time.

7. UMass-Lowell (Hockey East)
Matt Brown, Carl Berglund, Andre Lee and Zach Kaiser make up a stellar freshman group for the River Hawks. The foursome has combined for 13 goals and 31 points, which contribute to the highest-scoring freshman group in the nation.

Between the pipes, Tyler Wall has been an intimidating presence. Playing in all but one game so far this year, Wall has stacked his pads and held his posts strong—arguably winning his team a game against Minnesota-Duluth.

8. Cornell (ECAC)
It may be too early to tell if the hype surrounding Cornell is justified, but they are off to a good start. A sweep of Michigan State showed they are capable of domination when needed, or better yet, expected.

9. Penn State (Big Ten)
A shutout loss to Alaska-Fairbanks is a huge blemish for them considering the conference they are in, but the Nittany Lions shutdown a high-powered Wisconsin offense and limited the freshman phenom Caufield to only one goal on the weekend.

Cole Hults has been a stellar blueliner who continues to push the play at the quarterback position in the offensive zone.

10. North Dakota (NCHC)
Almost beating Mankato, the Fighting Hawks were the biggest test to the Mavericks before Bowling Green came around. Jacob Bernard-Docker, who had a four point night against Canisius, creates so much offense for NoDak on the back end. He looks like he could be a stellar draft pick for the Ottawa Senators.

11. Clarkson (ECAC)
They’ve been outplayed at times, and outshot for the most part, but the Golden Knights are a team that could hang with any team in college hockey. The depth of their roster and defensive scheme make for aggressive play which cashes in when their opponents make a mistake.

12. Harvard (ECAC)
Adam Fox and John Marino may have left for the NHL, but the Crimson are tapped to be a quality hockey team this year. It will certainly be interesting to see how long Harvard can last without the aforementioned standouts, but defensemen Jack Rathbone and Henry Thrun are more than capable of starting a scoring chance from their own zone on a breakout.

13. Western Michigan (NCHC)
The Broncos have really stumbled out of the gate, but there is still so much quality to their roster that is hard to overlook. They were by far the best team that the 2019 IceBreaker Tournament and have the potential to be a fast-paced, high-octane offense. Hugh McGing, Wade Allison and Dawson DiPietro are three guys that can cycle the puck around the opposition until their heads spin.

Freshman defenseman Ronnie Attard is a force as well, showing that he can collect points at the collegiate level. The record here (3-3-2), in my opinion, is not indicative of how good the team is.
Faculty Senate rejects plus/minus grading policy continued from page 5

“Over the physics department faculty, it was viewed as a net positive for students … The refined grading scale allows us to more accurately represent the ability of the student than does the current system,” he said. “An 81(%) to an 89(%) is a considerable different performance range to know 80% of the material versus 90% of the material, and there’s no way to differentiate that in the current system.”

Carol Heckman, a professor in biological sciences, stated that the policy would create an additional grading concern for students. “Some students are already obsessed with grades rather than learning,” she said.

Following the vote, Rogel addressed his concern regarding the policy’s absence of an “ATN” grade, which a student would receive if they did not attend class or turn in school work during the semester.

“My concern is that information about the ATN grade, which is required by federal law for financial aid purposes, seems to be lacking,” he said.

There was no further vote to amend Rogel’s concern.

After the assembly, USG President Marcus Goolsby expressed relief on the outcome of the policy. “This has been a process that’s taken multiple years throughout my time in USG, and I’m just glad to see it resolved one way or the other before I graduate,” he said. “I’m also really happy that the body took the undergraduate student voice very seriously in their vote.”
BGSU to host Special Olympics

Shaelee Haaf  
City Editor

Normally held in Columbus, Special Olympics Ohio’s 2020 State Winter Games will be taking place at BGSU on Feb. 21-23.

In a press release from Special Olympics Ohio, President and CEO Jessica Stewart said, “Special Olympics Ohio is committed to providing the highest quality sports training and competition opportunities for our athletes ... and we are thrilled to partner Bowling Green State University to provide our athletes with exceptional competition venues.”

The city will be welcoming around 1,500 athletes from across the state to compete in three indoor events: basketball, swimming and competitive cheer. Alpine skiing, snowboarding and exhibition snowshoeing will be held at Brandywine Ski Resort in Northfield, Ohio, the week prior.

Members of the public including students, faculty and staff, families and residents of the city are welcome and encouraged to attend the games free of charge. Competition locations and schedule information will be available later when the start of the three-day event comes closer.

Interested in volunteering? visit sooh.org/volunteer-interest.

Sponsors must submit a completed interest form to rduvall@sooh.org.

Read the rest at bgfalconmedia.com.

THE BG NEWS SUDOKU

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To play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and every 3 x 3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. There is no guessing or math involved. Just use logic to solve.