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Campus compression will continue

By Amber Jones
Reporter

Constructions plans are set for the Family & Consumer Sciences building, West Hall and Hanna Hall to compress campus and advance a progressive campus image.

“We are looking to compress the campus and shift things around,” Assistant Vice President Bob Waddle said. “So, the question becomes, what would it cost to renovate and what would it cost to take it down? Do we have space where we can shift the operations into other places? That was essentially the decision points.”

These decision points lead to the demolition of Family & Consumer Sciences and West Hall in the summer of 2017. Rooms in each building will be cleared out and asbestos treatment will be put down this spring.

“Each building had enough deferred maintenance, so we decided to shift the features of the buildings into newly renovated ones that have the same core of learning,” Waddle said.

Most of the features that were in the Family & Consumer Sciences and West Hall was shifted over to the newly renovated Health and Human Services and the Kuhlin Center, featuring a Food and Nutrition laboratory and other features to further enhance functions and resources on campus.

With demolitions plans for Family & Consumer Sciences and West Hall are underway, Hanna Hall is looking at a renovation and expansion of the building with the College of Business moving in.

“Roughly right now we are looking at a total project cost right around 42 million dollars,” Waddle said.

According to Waddle, the money that is covering the cost of renovations comes from bond sales, which then is a part of student fees which pays off for the next 30 years or so. There are also development dollars that are donated to the project.

With production funds, students can hope to see new features in Hanna Hall and the college of business.

“In terms of Hanna Hall, right now, is to design the building to support the curriculum that is truly designed for collaboration,” Waddle said.

The features Waddle and Capital Planning are considering is the installation of laboratories that are flexible for big groups and small groups and allow faculty and students to mold it into what they want it to be to collaborate.

“With organizations, such as Vision, Force and the Women’s Center, having an expansion of spaces for collaborations is great in allowing more people to get involve,” alumni Cieara Little said.

With all the renovations going on in old campus, students, faculty and staff will still get the view and feel of old campus.

“The addition to the building will probably be on the east side of Hanna Hall. When you look at Hanna Hall the front will still look the same but the addition will be on the back so you will still have that look and view of the original building,” Waddle said.

With the collaboration of Hanna Hall and the College of Business, there is no news on a name change for Hanna Hall. One difference is the moving of the Gish Theatre to the University’s Student Union.

“We want to move a lot of the memorabilia and recognition of all the donors in the theatre in the Student Union on campus. The Gish sisters will still be recognized in that way,” Waddle said.

Clearing out of Hanna Hall will the begin in the summer of 2018 with renovations following in the fall.

With the idea of compressing campus, discussions have been in motion on taking Anderson Arena down.

“In the overall discussion about compressing campus, People believed that it was a nice site for a residence hall because it is a little closer to the academic buildings, it is kind of in the middle of things,” Waddle said.

While there have been discussions on the possibility of a new residence hall, Waddle and Capital Planning are also looking to go through a residence life plan before any decisions are made.
Every year people have to make the decision between real or fake Christmas trees. Real trees fill your home with a wonderful smell, but you have to remove them from forests yearly. On the other hand, artificial trees can be reused, but are made of plastic and travel long distances. With both having their pros and cons, which is truly the most earth-friendly choice?

According to The Nature Conservancy, there are 350K acres of Christmas tree farms in the United States. That's a lot of evergreen carbon storage! Each year these acres are replanted creating habitats, reducing soil erosion and absorption of carbon dioxide, which results in the release of oxygen. Even though it may seem more detrimental to chop down forests of trees each year, remember they're all being replaced to grow again. Provided the farm is cultivated correctly, real Christmas trees cause a smaller environmental impact.

Despite this, there are some real Christmas trees that are better than others. As a general rule in purchasing any plant related product, the less it has to travel to get to you, the better. In most temperate regions local Christmas tree farms are incredibly common. They're also more fun for families because many allow buyers to pick and chop down their own tree. If this isn't an option for you, there are still some precautions to take when buying a precut tree. Most importantly, know where your tree is coming from. If it's traveling from far away, the carbon emissions may be worse than buying an artificial tree. Additionally, you run the risk of carrying an invasive species into your neighborhood.

There are a number of reasons to purchase a fake Christmas tree instead. For example, they can be cheaper and some people are allergic to real trees. Artificial trees can be used year after year, which does help the environment. However, fake trees are made of plastic, which releases greenhouse gases. Additionally, many of those trees are built overseas from companies who run on burning coal, thus releasing an enormous amount of carbon into the atmosphere. However, there is evidence that reusing your artificial tree for 10-20 years does even the playing field between real and fake trees.

Unfortunately, there is still the problem of disposing either type of tree. There is no proper way to recycle artificial Christmas trees. As for real trees, there are a few options depending on where you live. Some cities place left over Christmas trees on the beach to help prevent beach erosion. Others will sink them into ponds to create underwater habitats. Most will simply chip the trees and use them for mulch or compost. In terms of recycling, it is very clear which type of tree is best for the environment.

In my opinion, the choice is your own, but with the scientific facts presented here, you can make a more informed decision. By thinking more and learning the facts before making purchases on anything, we can create a better Earth for our future generations. Buy local where you can and know where it's coming from when you can't.

Reply to Cari at thenews@bgnews.com
The Nexus pipeline debate

Climate change is happening: the annual mean temperature is rising, extreme climate events are becoming more common, sea ice is decreasing and sea levels are rising. By allowing the construction of yet another natural gas pipeline, we are throwing more money into infrastructure that will result in the continued release of greenhouse gases (e.g. carbon dioxide, methane). Opponents of green energy often cite low efficiency and inadequate infrastructure for the various technologies. However, existing solar panels and windmills are just one example of green technologies we already use. How can we support the NEXUS pipeline, which will cost $1.5 to 2 billion dollars, and still claim that we are not ready for green technology? Why not instead demand continued research and development of already usable and promising technology?

TheNEXUSwebsite, nexusgastransmission.com, suggests many reasons that residents should support the pipeline. They claim it will provide $390 million in local tax revenues in Ohio alone, and that $116 million of those revenues will go to local school districts. However, this revenue is based on property taxes, they would not provide more tax revenue than other types of infrastructure put in place.

NEXUS refers to natural gas as “clean-burning.” This is unsurprising since natural gas is often touted as “clean energy,” but truly it is far from clean. While natural gas does release less carbon dioxide (CO2) than coal when used for electricity, it is mostly composed of methane, which is a greenhouse gas even more powerful than CO2. Studies by Cornell researcher Dr. Robert Howarth have shown that leaks of methane from natural gas are a significant source of greenhouse gases. In fact, when both the carbon dioxide emissions and methane leaks are taken into consideration, natural gas may hardly be a better choice than coal.

The environment is further impacted by the source of the natural gas that will be pumped through the NEXUS pipeline. This particular natural gas is called shale gas, and we obtain it through fracking. After all this pumping, you are left with a lot of wastewater solution that is then stored underground. According to United States Geological Survey (USGS), fracking itself rarely causes earthquakes, but the process for storing the wastewater can, and has, induced earthquakes in areas where they would not normally occur. In fact, the average occurrence of 3 magnitude earthquakes per year has gone from 21 to 99 since fracking began.

Construction of the pipeline will also have negative impacts by loosening soil, increasing emissions from machinery, ripping up vegetation and going through wetlands, state forests, farms and residential property. Even after construction, the pipeline itself can be a danger; there have been over 100 overall incidents, and at least 10 major explosions at other pipelines in even just the last 10 years. This, taken along with environmental damage from construction, greenhouse gas emissions and fracking makes the NEXUS pipeline a bad choice for Ohio and for the world as a whole. We must focus our money and energy towards energy sources that do not release greenhouse gases and move towards a better, and cleaner future.

Weekly prompt: be assertive

A few weeks ago, I covered the International Dinner for The BG News. At one point, I was talking to one of our photographers and he asked me if there were certain photos of the event that needed taken. I started talking about wanting as many of the photos from the event as possible. Halfway through my mini-spiel about what I wanted I stopped and apologized, saying I sounded bossy and that I didn’t want to come off that way.

At the time, my rationale was that I have no clue how to take decent photos, especially when there’s some bad lighting. But, if I’m being completely honest with myself, I didn’t want to come off as sounding too bossy because that’s not how I want to present myself.

Which really got me thinking about why it’s a bad thing to call someone bossy, which led me to wonder why it’s considered a bad thing for women to take control of a situation and let others know what they want.

One of the biggest culprits, of course, is society. It’s traditionally accepted that men are able to take charge in a situation and tell people what they want, they’re applauded for it. But when women try to take control of a situation in the same manner as men would, they’re criticized and told that they’re power-hungry.

So, this week, I’m going to do a little social experiment. I’m going to be more assertive when I’m talking to people. This is something that’s totally different for me because I try to be a people pleaser and usually only tell people what they want to hear. But I’m also looking forward to doing it and to see what people say about my change in personality for the week.

Since it’s almost the end of 2016, I looked back at some of my goals for the year and realized that I let myself down in one way. I told myself I was going to tell more people “no” if there was something I really didn’t want to do. At the start of the year, I was doing just fine at telling people. But then I started to get complacent and started to slip back to my old ways of being a “yes girl.”

I’m going to work on that for the week as part of being more assertive.

Who knows, if it goes well for me, maybe I’ll try and incorporate it into my life more often and make it a permanent part of who I am.

I’m also going to hold my ground when I’m walking around campus. When I’m walking around, either to different classes or to get food, I’m not going to move out of the way of anyone, regardless of who the person is, if they’re walking in the opposite direction but are still in my path.

I encourage anyone else who wants to challenge themselves to do it as well.

Submit your article to: thenews@bgnews.com
Charity, hockey team up to raise funds

By Elias Faneuff
Reporter

The organization Grace Speaks kicked off their charity hockey event between their team and Detroit Red Wings alumni at the University Ice Arena on Saturday.

The event was founded by Nicole and Todd Leslie in 2013. Grace Speaks has teamed up with the University’s Speech and Hearing Department and have some of the department’s master’s students as clinicians in their office.

The clinicians are able to receive clinical hours toward their degree and offer their families affordable one-on-one 50-minute speech therapy sessions. For this charity event, they look to outperform what they made last year.

“Last year we raised approximately $20,000,” Nicole Leslie said. “This year, our hopes would be $25,000 ... I definitely think it’s attainable considering how many came here last year for not only great entertainment, but a great experience for fans to greet Detroit Red Wing Alumni.”

Beforehand, fans were welcome to take photos and chat with the players before the game started. Some were there for the enjoyment of watching Red Wing hockey and some were there for the cause. Providing the entertainment were ice skaters dressed as characters from the movie Frozen, and one dressed as Spiderman. The event also provided a raffle for an autographed team picture from the Detroit Red Wings. The hockey players took the ice in what would be a high scoring event between Grace Speaks and the Detroit Red Wings alumni.

Nolan Baker, a huge hockey fan and father of two children who play hockey, attended the event because of his admiration for Grace Speaks for the people in need of speech therapy.

“I’m a huge hockey guy,” Baker said. “I’m not just here for the game, but to support my two sons in the program and getting to see how much it really means to others.”

Afterwards, all players gathered to take a group picture down in the center of the ice arena. Following that was an afterparty with food, entertainment and drinks for VIP members. Theresa Schumacher, one of the VIP members, knows the Leslie’s personally and likes coming to these events for the fun and entertainment.

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Community wins fight against pipeline

Hannah Finnerty
City Editor

Through an open window in council chambers, the cheers and chants of overflow Bowling Green citizens and University students emanated up to council members as council unanimously voted against city ordinance 8544. The ordinance would have granted an easement to Nexus Gas Transmission, LLC to construct a gas transmission pipeline on city land.

Attendance at city council was high. Police and Fire presence managed the number of people allowed in council chambers and in the building. Under fire code, the capacity for council chambers is 66. After chambers were full, the hallway on the third floor sat 20, and the second floor held 30. More stood outside in the parking lot.

Councilmember Mike Aspacher cited the high numbers of attendance as a reason for conducting council business out of order. Instead of waiting until after lobby visitation where citizens can stand and address council on the record as usual, council voted on ordinance 8544 before visitation.

Several attendants were upset by the change in agenda and asked that they be allowed to speak. Joe DeMare, Green Party candidate for the 2016 United States Senate race, was escorted from the premises by law enforcement.

All members of council individually explained why they voted against the easement, but thanks and praise for community engagement and response to the ordinance were expressed themes by many council members.

Councilmember Daniel Gordon said while he had always been critical and skeptical of the easement, community voices reinforced his opinion. He challenged citizens to continue the high level of participation in city matters.

“Remember that this is how you change things. You show up and you fight for what you think is right.”

Daniel Gordon
Councilmember

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The proposed pipeline would start in Washtenaw County, MI and end in Columbiana County, OH.
The Falcons men’s rugby team fell in the Division I-AA Fall Championship game in Greenville, S.C. on Sunday morning, losing to the Notre Dame Falcons 39-17.

“We just made way too many mistakes early,” Falcons head coach Tony Mazzarella said. “We didn’t capitalize off a couple of push fours and it was tough sledding after that point.”

The game began with Notre Dame scoring the first try of the game in the first half at the 7:00 mark, however, their conversion attempt was no good, as they led 5-0 early. Less than four minutes later they were able to score another try, where the conversion attempt was missed again. At 15:15, Notre Dame increased their lead with another try, this time scoring on the conversion attempt to go up 17-0. They added another try and conversion at the 24:00 mark, but the Falcons were able to get on the board before the end of the half as senior fly-half Nick Ross scored on a penalty kick, making it a 24-3 game at halftime.

In the second half, Notre Dame countered with a penalty kick of their own for a 27-3 advantage at 54:22, then getting another try and conversion at 60:38. The Falcons scored their first try of the game from sophomore hooker Philip Bryant, with Ross putting through the conversion to make it a 34-10 game. However, Notre Dame would get another try at 73:10, but missed on the conversion for a 39-10 lead. The Falcons were able to get one more score with 44 seconds remaining in the game as sophomore fly-half Chris Labadie scored a try with Ross getting the conversion, but that would be all the Falcons could get as Notre Dame took the 39-17 win.

“We gave up two quick tries just off of mishandled balls,” Mazzarella said. “Then we allowed them to play in our end for quite an extended period of time and they were able to capitalize once again. They capitalized on just about every mistake that we made, especially in the first half and we weren’t ready for it or weren’t as ready as we should have been.”

The team felt that the mistakes they made, particularly early on, was where they were hurt the most.

“They just made a lot less mistakes than we did,” Mazzarella said. “Our forwards actually played pretty well against them, we had some pretty good scrums, but we had way too many mistakes and they capitalized on it.”

The team will play next in their rugby sevens season in March 2017.
Falcons snap three game win streak

By Elias Faneuff
Sports Reporter

Following a promising first quarter, the BG women's basketball team fell to the University of Virginia at home by a score of 67-47 on Sunday afternoon after the Cavaliers opened the second quarter on an 11-0 run. This loss snapped a three game winning streak heading into Sunday's game.

Junior guard Haley Puk led the Falcons in scoring with 10 points. Also, sophomore guard Carly Santoro and junior guard Rachel Myers each added eight points apiece. Puk would be the only starter in double digits as the rest of the starters combined to produce 16 points the rest of the game.

For the Falcons quickly jumped out to an 8-2 lead in the first three minutes of the game. The Cavaliers would cut the deficit to nine points in the second as they went into the half trailing Virginia by a score of 31-25.

“I think we just got a little timid and were not aggressive enough in the second,” Puk said. “Coach Roos emphasized the shot takes and bounce pass because they’re long and athletic, but they were able to take advantage of our mistakes.”

The mistakes continued in the third quarter as the Falcons turned the ball over eight times. This resulted in many fast break points for Virginia as they outscored BG in points off turnovers by a margin of 8-2. The Falcons were held to nine points in the third and trailed by heavy deficit by a score of 52-34.

The fourth quarter began with each team trading baskets with six minutes left in the game where Virginia dominated in getting layups off fast breaks. The Falcons went 2-13 in the fourth quarter and couldn't overcome the deficit. Virginia would secure the victory and BG's women's basketball head coach Jennifer Roos credited Virginia on their superb play throughout.

“We knew we'd be outsized in every position,” Roos said. “I thought we had our chances today and we knew they would get a lot of points in the paint which they did. UVA did a nice job of neutralizing our post game, so they forced us to take a lot of threes. We need to take care of the ball going forward and credit them there man-to-man defense was great. Proud of the effort and we'll adjust going forward.”

The Falcons will look to get back on track as they will take on Ohio Valley University on Wednesday at the Stroh Center beginning at 7 p.m.

Hockey splits series against Lakers

By Zane Miller
Assistant Sports Reporter

The Falcons hockey team took one of two from their road series against the Lake Superior State Lakers over the weekend, losing the first game on Friday night 4-2, but coming back on Saturday night to win 5-2.

“I thought we played well in the series overall,” Falcons head coach Chris Bergeron said. “We deserved to get a win and played well enough to win a game and we give ourselves two opportunities to win the road, chances are you’ll walk away with at least one and we did that. That was a good series for us against a good team.”

Friday’s game began well for the Falcons, as senior defenseman Sean Walker put the Falcons up 1-0 at the 18:53 mark of the first period. Both teams went scoreless throughout the second period, but Lake Superior State broke through at 4:19 with their first goal of the game to tie it up. Lake Superior State then took the lead at 8:09, then scored an insurance goal at 15:23 to go up 3-1. The Falcons were able to make it a one goal game yet again with freshman forward Frederic Letourneau scoring at 17:44, but Lake Superior State put the game away with an empty net goal late to win 4-2.

“I thought it was a real close game the scoreboard didn't lie about that,” Bergeron said. “It was a good play by us in the offensive zone to score 1-0, I thought it was pretty tight checking both ways, I thought we had some pretty decent opportunities to score and get that second goal and increase the lead especially in the second period, but we weren't able to do that and ultimately it cost us.”

Saturday’s game started again with the Falcons scoring the first goal of the game, with junior forward Mitch McLain giving the Falcons the lead at the 13:14 mark of the first period. Lake Superior State responded early in the second with a goal at 3:24 to tie it up, but McLain took advantage of a power play chance two minutes later to give the Falcons 2-1 lead. Lake Superior State came back at 12:23 to make it a 2-2 game going into the third.

The third period was all Falcons, as freshman forward Lukas Craggs gave the team the lead at 5:44 on a shorthanded tally. Senior forward Kevin Dufour doubled the lead at the 11:56 mark and McLain completed his second hat trick of the season on another shorthanded goal to seal the 5-2 win for the Falcons.

“I thought we stuck with it,” Bergeron said. “I don't think we were great, especially through two periods, I thought we stuck with it and it seemed like the mental engagement on the bench was good.”

The team will next play at home on Friday and Saturday nights against the Michigan Tech Huskies.

John Schilling controls the puck in the BG Ice Arena.
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you sit back, it may not happen and others will shape the world, including your little corner of it here in Bowling Green instead of you,” Gordon said.

Councilmembers were also impressed by University student engagement with this ordinance and hope to see this participation continue.

“We frequently have discussed how important it is for us to include university students in the life of our community, and I think this is a great example of the type of thing that can happen when we work together and we include the students in the dealings of our community,” Councilmember Mike Aspacher said.

Andrew Smith, Lorain County resident, said that although the easement was denied by council, Nexus still has the opportunity to be granted eminent domain, which would allow them to build the pipeline on city land without the city’s permission. Smith then urged citizens to continue the fight against the pipeline.

“You are not the only ones fighting this,” Smith said. Washtenaw County stands with you. Lenawee County stands with you. Monroe County stands with you. Monroe County stands with you.” Those three Michigan counties have already opposed the pipeline.

Smith then continued by listing off 13 other counties from Ohio that opposed the pipeline.

“I just ask everyone in this room tonight going forward to know that this battle does not stop here. This is just one city along a 225-mile stretch of land that we must clear and take back for the people,” Smith said.
USG wishes to improve communication

By Keefe Watson
Campus Editor

The Undergraduate Student Government passed a resolution with hopes of increasing communication between USG and school administrators and discussed the possible renaming of Hanna Hall.

The body held discussion and passed Senate Resolution 2016/2017 – 05. This resolution aims to increase the communication between University administrators and USG by asking administrators to seek input from USG “when making decisions that concern student safety, financials and the student experience.”

Members of USG had mixed feelings about the resolution, as some felt that it didn't address the problem in a productive manner.

“I get that major departments should reach out to us...but sometimes it can be inefficient,” Senator Del-Marcus Goolsby said. “There’s a bigger problem.”

Goolsby was referring to the lack of a clear path for improving communication in the resolution presentation.

“We can't set a clear path...we can't do more unless we're in the know,” one senator responded. “We need to be included in these decisions... the University needs to be made aware of that.”

One decision this senator referred to specifically was the recent housing decision to close Harshman Hall and lease off-campus apartments.

“It's extremely critical to not only us as current students, but the students who come after us.” Senator Bryce Davis said. “I've personally experienced a variety of departments that have decided to change programming or the direction of their office in ways that have critically injured the student experience.”

Davis and many other senators hope that the passage of this resolution will open more communication between students and administration.

Senate Resolution 2016/2017 – 06 was also discussed on Monday evening. The proposed resolution requested that “the Board of Trustees consider major accomplishments over donations when deciding a name for newly built or renovated buildings” and “opposes the renaming of Hanna Hall.”

Some members of the body said that the practicality of the board's decision to name buildings based upon donations outweighs the sentiment of the proposed resolution.

“We need to seek alternative forms of revenue other than tuition,” Senator Joseph Tansey said. “If we don’t find new ways of fundraising, then it's coming out of students, and I can't, in good conscience, vote for something that would increasingly put higher education out of reach for lower income families.”

Some members suggested a compromise of sorts that could keep the Hanna name but use donations as a way to name future buildings and buildings without people's names, such as East Hall.

The resolution was tabled indefinitely to be brought up in discussion at a future USG meeting.

The topic of hall names will be discussed, but not voted on, by the Board of Trustees at its next meeting on Friday, Dec. 9 at 1:30 p.m. in the Student Union Room 308. All are welcome to attend and observe all meetings of the University governing bodies.

Vice President Richard Racette gave housing announcements, mainly pertaining to upperclassmen desiring to live on-campus next school year. Students who completed the lottery system created by Residence Life have been approved to live on-campus next year, Racette said.

Students, including current first-years, interested in living in the apartments that will be leased by the University beginning in August 2018 will have a separate application process. Interested students should use MyBGSU or contact Residence Life with any questions.

Senator Kennedy McMillen ran against Senator Del-Marcus Goolsby to be elected to internal affairs chair Monday night.

President Amanda Dortch reminded USG members about their roles as representatives.

“When you come into this room you are no longer just speaking for yourself,” Dortch said. “You're speaking for the student body, the people who you serve.”
SMART advisor uses experience to educate

By Angelica Euseary
Guest Writer

Ayanna Byers is the Graduate Advisor for Students of Color Mentoring, Aiding, Retaining and Teaching (SMART). Her willingness to help those around her and her passion for social justice makes her an easy fit for the position.

"I'm tired of hearing about issues I can't help with," Byers said. "It's not that I don't want to help; we just don't know how to help. It hurts me as a marginalized person to feel the effects of it; to see my students' breakdown. I hate not being able to guarantee safety to my students because a lot of people are frustrated."

Byers made a choice to use her experience in Student Affairs to see what the University had to offer her. The New Castle, Pa. native is a Slippery Rock University graduate and is new to BGSU.

Along with being the advisor for the SMART program, Byers is also a graduate student in the College Student Personnel (CSP)/Higher Education in Student Affairs program. Since she is a student, she can relate to the students she works with.

"I have my course work, classes on Monday, Fridays once a month and stats, my online class," Byers said. "My internship, SMART, I'm the treasurer of Black Graduate Student Organization, I'm working to get a practicum in conduct. A big part of being a person of color on campus who works with students of color is about visibility, supporting them."

As the Graduate Advisor for the SMART Program, Byers engages with all students as a person here to help and be a resource to those around her. She is vocal in meetings and lets students know that she is a friend, but knows when it's time to get to business.

"She is cool, but when it's time to get serious, she is not for the nonsense," SMART mentee William Flood said. "Like at the meetings, if we're doing something and someone is talking, she puts a stop to it immediately."

This is Byers' first year at the University, so this experience has been an adjustment, but staff liked her from the start.

"I liked her immediately," Coordinator for Diversity and Retention Initiatives and SMART Program Director Ana Brown said. "She showed a level of understanding and maturity that not a lot of folks do when coming out of an undergraduate program. When selecting staff we go through two different rounds of interviews of folks, so we have two sets of first and second round interviews. She was a part of the first round interviews. She was among my top three of the 15-20 people I interviewed for this assistantship."

Byers replaced the program's former Graduate Advisor, Mike Jones, so students in the program were a little skeptical about her in the position at first.

"I think she is doing a good job so far," SMART mentor Alisa Sledge said. "She seems to be a good fit for the position. To me, she's very approachable and can relate well to the student staff."

Some students weren't sure about her, but Byers' transition into this position has been comfortable and her efforts to better the program aren't going unnoticed.

"With those who were on staff last year, and mentees who got close to us as program administration, losing Mike Jones was a hard transition for them," Brown said. "Mike is so personable, and relatable. And many people were really hesitant about a different person coming in as the 'New Mike'. Ayanna is really genuine and student centered. She's fun, goofy and laid back, but always really real. I think that that has helped smooth the transition to the new graduate assistant."

Some students and staff notice Byers' genuine intentions with every interaction she makes in the program.

"Ayanna is really purposeful and passionate about social justice, and I think that that has also comforted our students who work with

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SMART who might have been concerned that we would lose that when Mike left,” Brown said.

It seems there is a plethora of people in the program that agree Byers is a great addition because of her different perspective.

“She’s very organized and detail-oriented,” Brown said. “She asks a lot of really good questions. This has forced me to question a lot of processes we have, how we do what we do. And if the answers aren’t good enough for me, I question them which in turn makes the program better.”

Byers is making her mark on the University’s campus. To her, student affairs isn’t just a title, it’s a lifestyle.

“I have influence but that means I have the opportunity to help students make the program better,” Byers said. “I help students so they can benefit the program. My degree says student affairs, it’s for the students. What the students need is a lot of different things. The best I can do is give them the tools they need so they can do so.”

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“I know the Leslie’s very well personally, and it’s truly an honor to support kids with speech issues,” Schumacher said. “I also like the alumni coming in here during their time and it just feels great on how much they really care its special.”

While it is not confirmed how much money the event made, it appeared to make the people that attended happy and provided memories for all in attendance. Appointments with Grace Speaks can be made for their location at 124 W. Front St. #201 in Findlay, Ohio. Their website at www.Grace-Speaks.org can be reached for more information.

The BG News

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3 bed; 1.5 bath-Large house close to campus. W/D incl. Full kitchen, att. garage; Call 419-601-0045; $1200/mo

Furnished room w/freedom of house, to clean & responsible male grad student. $300/month w/100 deposit, all utilities included. Call 419-354-6117

4 BDRM house for rent Jan-June 2017. Great house, close to campus. 419.346.4798 for details.

Help Wanted

Misc help needed. Work around schedule paint/yards, etc. call 419-353-0325

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