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Bowling Green State University

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UNMASKED
AT LAST
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U-campus enrollment is on the rise

By Holly Shively
Editor-in-Chief

The University's overall spring enrollment rates continue to rise this semester in large part due to a rise in E Campus students.

While the spring 2017 semester has seven more graduate students enrolled than spring 2016, there are 61 less students on campus. There has also been a 95 count reduction in distance learning - 16-week, online programs including exam week.

Peggy Booth, Dean of the Graduate College, said the decline in distance learning and on-campus students is actually a shift to more E Campus courses.

E Campus sessions were first introduced to University students about two years ago, primarily for working professionals. Instead of 16-week semesters, these E Campus courses take on the same course load in only 8 weeks.

Many of the E Campus programs were originally part of distance learning, so as the E Campus numbers rise, distance learning will decrease. All new online programs will be formatted to fit the E Campus program. There are two of these sessions in both the fall and spring semesters, for a total of four each year in addition to two six week terms in the summer.

Cecilia Castellano, Vice Provost for Strategic Enrollment Planning, said it's more convenient for students to take eight week classes. "You can get two or three classes in eight weeks, and then if you do that twice you've got a full semester completed, which is typically more manageable," she said.

Booth said especially for graduates, many traditional face-to-face classes are moving online or have had online versions created, attributing both the distance and on-campus decline to rising use of the University’s E Campus. "We've got adult professionals who are trying to fit this into their lives, and so those eight-week sessions tend to work really nicely," she said.

The E Campus classes allow students who want to go to graduate schools to start at non-traditional times every eight weeks instead of just at the beginning of each semester.

Undergraduates can also take part in E Campus enrollment is on the rise

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House becomes mock crime scene

By Hannah Finnerty
City Editor

As the criminal justice and forensic science programs continue to attract incoming students with the Bureau of Criminal Investigation office located on campus, the University is investing in two mock crime scene houses to provide additional resources to students in these programs.

The houses, 141 and 145 Troup, will be used to set up simulation crime scenes for students to practice forensic skills needed in their line of work after graduation.

In the houses, instructors can put together a crime scene, complete with fingerprints, blood and biological fluids, footwear impressions and murder weapons. The new spaces will allow for blood spatter pattern simulation and bullet trajectories as well.

141 Troup is also equipped with a sand pit in the backyard where dummies like Headshot Andy, the current dummy, can be buried and then dug up by students.

Jeff Lynn, chief of Forensic Standards and Training at the Center for the Future of Forensic Science, said the houses will be used to simulate a variety of crime scenes, from homicides and suicides to burglaries and vandalism.

“It’s one thing to learn something in a book, and it’s another to learn it in a crime scene,” Lynn said. “We are just now getting the program going, and we are getting a lot of interest. It’s getting bigger and will continue to grow.”

The University already owns one house on Reed Avenue used to conduct mock crime scenes; however, Lynn said about 100 students utilize the house.

Currently, five University classes use the houses:

* Intro to Forensic Science
* Intro to Crime Scene Investigation (3 sections)
* Crime Scene Photography

While other schools in the nation have similar facilities, the University is the only school in Ohio to have Crime Scene

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As many people are aware, Donald Trump became the 45th President on Friday. And, again, as many people are aware, across the country (and around the world), the Women's March took place. Unfortunately, I wasn’t able the march, but I fully support my fellow women who were able to attend the marches.

The day after the march, I was on Facebook and saw that a friend of mine had liked a post that spoke about how thousands of women marched against Trump for women’s rights, and underneath that was the Willy Wonka meme that said “tell me how many women’s rights Trump has taken away in the 24 hours he has been president…”

If emojis could show up in the paper, you would see the side eye emoji, the eye roll emoji and the side eye emoji again. But they don’t show up in paper, you’ll have to use your imagination to picture my facial expressions when I read that post.

The point of the march was to show the Trump administration and those who hold positions of power that this past election was incredibly divisive and to protest the harsh rhetoric that our now-president has used, both during his campaign and during his transition of power. The point of the march was to bring women, and men who support women, together to show that women’s rights are here and that they aren’t going to be silenced.

Which leads me to my next point. The Willy Wonka meme implies that women’s rights haven’t been affected by Trump’s presidency. However, that almost seems to be focusing on women’s rights for white women. That doesn’t include women of color or trans women, who historically have had less power and less rights than white women have. So, while Trump has (yet) to take away women’s rights, the post had an extremely narrow focus of what women’s rights entails.

Last night, when the marches had concluded, I saw a lot of tweets about what could be done now that the march was over. If you go to the Women’s March website, they have a new campaign called 10 Actions for the first 100 Days. While the full campaign hasn’t been released yet, the first step has been revealed. The first step is to write to your senator (here in Ohio, our senators are Rob Portman and Sherrod Brown) and let them know about what matters most to you and that you’re going to continue to fight.

There are also places that are currently taking donations. The day after the election, Jezebel posted a story on their website with a list of pro-immigrant, pro-women, pro-Earth and anti-bigotry organizations that need support and donations, some of which include the American Civil Liberties Union, the Anti-Defamation League, Border Angels, the Council on American-Islam Relations, EMILY’s List, the Native American Rights Fund, the New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault, PEN America, Planned Parenthood and the Sierra Club, among others.

To my fellow women, and to the men who support women and women’s rights, change starts with us. Saturday proved once again that people of all backgrounds can peacefully come together to protest against hatred.

Reply to Lauren at thenews@bgnews.com
Black in a white man’s territory

Sophomore year has been pretty interesting. Time flies because it’s almost over, but it taught me a lot about who I am as an African-American woman in this country.

I’m learning about my identity as a student at a predominantly white institution. The culture shock I’ve faced due to the environment I placed myself in has been a surreal learning experience.

Culture shock has played a huge role in my college experience and young adult life. I went to a predominantly black high school and coming from Detroit, I’ve never been around people who don’t look like me. No one made me uncomfortable because I knew everyone around me, they were family.

This is very important to me and how I am now because it taught me what community is supposed to look like and how important it is to be there for people. All of this taught me how to survive and behave in the area around me.

Coming to Bowling Green State University and realizing I am a minority has shown me a lot about the world we live in. I got to college and realized there are white people who do care about me, but they are outnumbered by the white people who see me as just another stereotype.

This was very different for me because I didn’t know everyone like how I did at home. This university and environment has helped me understand that there are some people who don’t like me, think they are better than me and don’t want to see me succeed because I’m black.

As an African-American, there are a lot of social problems I face like cultural appropriation. I didn’t know much about cultural appropriation until I got to school. There are some things that are just meant for black people, because they are part of our culture. Culture spreads so we don’t mind sharing the wealth. The problem comes when white people start taking other people’s cultures, and claiming them as their own. When there are some things that the world won’t allow black people to do, that get praised when white people do it.

For example, if an African-American wears dreads, they would be deemed as a “thug or criminal”. But when a white person wears them, they’re hip, cool, and it’s the next best thing. One of my friends went to a Catholic high school and had to cut his dreads off in order to be admitted into the institution.

There are many cases where black people can’t wear their hair in a style that best fits them, so I don’t understand what makes white people think it’s okay to wear it.

The presidential election was a wake-up call. The Wednesday after Donald Trump won, I was in the Union grabbing lunch with my friends, like I always do. Two elderly, white men walked and sat next to us at a table in their Make America Great Again paraphernalia. The recent viewing of the members of the KKK in one of the buildings on campus has put me at a state of discomfort and more shock.

This changed my whole view on white people because I can’t tell if you’re a racist or if you care about anything but yourself. I am definitely working on this because being prejudice is not a good way to live. Being nice to those who all those around me is a skill I’m trying to master. I can’t add to the revolution with hate in my heart. I remind myself to never let this world change the person I am.

Angelica Euseary
Guest Columnist

GROUPS Continued from Page 4

when everything is due. Put it in the Doc. This way everyone is held accountable in some way. No one can claim they forgot or weren’t sure what to do if it’s clearly explained in an easily accessible sheet. If you have a person that’s willing to lead the group, have them check-in every once in a while to make sure everyone is on track.

Every part of the project should be due a week or so before the project is actually due so that it can be edited, and then rehearsed, since most group projects have an oral component. You might think that your part doesn’t need editing and you’ll be fine practicing on your own, but that’s a sure-fire way to stress out your group members. Because you’re working in a group, you have to be courteous. You know how you work and you have been in school long enough to know what kind of work earns you the grade you want. But this just doesn’t apply to a group project. First, at least one person in your group is aiming for an A, so don’t do deliberately mediocre work to mess that up.

Second, even if your part is A worthy, your group members don’t know that and probably want to read it over. Understand that you’re working in a group, which should go without saying, but too many people aren’t concerned enough with their group members.

Lastly, don’t stress too much. Professors understand how group projects work, and your entire grade won’t depend on a group project. Your professors want you to succeed, and so if you communicate with them as well as your group members, it’ll all work out at the end of the semester.

Reply to Meredith at thenews@bgsu.edu

SUBMISSION POLICY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:
Letters are to be fewer than 300 words. They should be in response to current issues on campus or in the Bowling Green area.

GUEST COLUMNS:
Guest Columns are generally longer pieces between 400 and 700 words. Two submissions per month maximum.

POLICIES:
Letters to the Editor and Guest Columns are printed as space on the Forum page permits. Additional Letters or Guest Columns may be published online. Name, year and phone number should be included for verification purposes. Personal attacks, unverified information or anonymous submissions will not be printed.

E-MAIL SUBMISSIONS:
Send submissions as an attachment to thenews@bgsu.edu with the subject line marked “Letter to the Editor” or “Guest Column.” All submissions are subject to review and editing for length and clarity before printing.
Broadway comes to BG with benefit

By Megan Wimsatt

A revolution has come to the University. Broadway Cares BG once again graced the Wolfe Center with their show “Broadway: A Revolution” on Jan. 21 and 22. The Eva Marie Saint Theatre was filled with the sound of students performing songs that were revolutionary to Broadway.

“This year our theme generated almost 100 songs that could be tied or described as Revolutionary,” said Alex Lenzo, music director and co-director of the show.

“Following that, the production team then had to sit down and discuss whether or not we felt the song could be performed with the expected cast we would have.”

“Broadway: A Revolution” featured songs from musicals like “Hamilton,” “Cabaret,” “Mama Mia” and “Pippin.” Preparation for the show also takes quite a bit of time, according to the show crew members.

“Normally between four to six weeks it takes for us to put it up,” said Braeden Tuttle, choreographer for the show. “With (winter) break giving us the time to learn the music on our own and the choreography or whatever else we’ve learned prior.”

To make preparation for this year’s show even more complicated, performers had to learn American Sign Language for the songs pulled from the DeafWest version of “Spring Awakening.”

“Adam Rawlings (the show's producer and co-director) is very well adept at ASL, so he was the one who taught us all the American Sign Language,” Tuttle said.

There was also a silent auction with Broadway items for people to place bids on.

These included signed show posters for “Something Rotten,” “The Lion King,” “The Book of Mormon,” “Fiddler on the Roof,” a snow globe and playbills.

“In the past we’ve had baseball caps, snow globes and different posters from the previous Broadway season, posters that have been autographed by the cast, sometimes there’s been calendars,” Rawlings said. “They also send wristbands that we can pass out to the audience and the cast members and Broadway Cares ribbons.”

Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS was brought to the University seven years ago. During those years, event emcee Geoff Stephenson said over $65,000 was raised. BC/EFA itself has raised over $250 million to help provide aid to those struggling with AIDS and other illnesses in the U.S.

“Broadway Cares awards annual grants to more than 450 AIDS and family service organizations nationwide,” Stephenson said.

BC/EFA also supports the Actors Fund, which has social service programs such as the HIV/AIDS Initiative, the Phyllis Newman Women’s Health Initiative and the Al Hirschfeld Free Health Clinic.

Rawlings hopes those who attended Broadway Cares were inspired to donate.

“It is such a great cause and they give to so many organizations and give out grants,” he said.
New game re-imagines “Half-Life”

By Avery Porco
Pulse Reporter

Valve has been in the video game industry for over 20 years, ever since its founder and president, Gabe Newell, worked with Bill Gates to make Windows video game friendly. Since then they went on to release many historic games and created the largest digital distribution/social network for PC gaming: Steam. Many know of their historic 1998 game “Half-Life” that revolutionized how first person games told stories. However, not as many know of the fanmade HD remake titled “Black Mesa.” The fan-made title came to life a couple years ago as an idea several aspiring developers had: What would “Half-Life” look like almost 20 years later, on Valve’s newest engine?

The fan-led team began work on the game, calling themselves Crowbar Collective. Before long, Valve noticed and sung their praises, prompting Crowbar Collective to offer their project on Steam. You can purchase the Early-Access version of the game, for $19.99. I wholeheartedly believe this price is worth it, as this game is more than just an HD remake: this game is an HD reimagining.

The game expands upon what the original had going for it, and makes several choices that I found quite refreshing. To start off, many of the levels and maps are at least partially redesigned

The game itself is based on the way the game’s story is told. In 1998, most first-person games told their story with cutscenes or walls of text that broke the action. Then “Half-Life” came out, and told the game’s story while it was played, with characters speaking and plot devices occurring without a break in the action. While this may seem standard or trivial now, it was revolutionary when the original released. This idea is continued in “Black Mesa,” but with newly recorded voice acting, many new lines of dialogue, and the addition of female scientists (which I found to be a nice touch). Although a chunk of the game had been streamlined, the game is still at least three hours longer than the original, with the final chapter of the game yet to come.

All things considered, you would be paying $19.99 for an HD remake of a 20-year-old game. However, the amount of detail, love, care and effort that has gone into this game and the reverence clearly held for the source material makes this game worth every penny.

Preparation underway for feminist play

By Courtney Brown
Pulse Reporter

“The Vagina Monologues” hits the stage in February, coming to the University once again to celebrate womanhood.

The play, while blunt in its frank discussion of female sexuality, could definitely have women and men thinking outside the box.

“We came up to us every year. I’ve had people say ‘wow, I’ve never thought of it that way before,’” the production’s creative director Elle Fullencamp said.

One of Vagina Monologues’ actresses agreed with her.

“It sounds taboo,” sophomore Riley Powers said. “When I talk to my friends about it, it’s completely weird. It shouldn’t be a weird thing to talk about.

Award-winning Eve Ensler created “The Vagina Monologues” back in 1996, and since then it’s been a national hit.

Students, for $8, and community members, for $10, can watch the play Friday and Saturday, Feb. 24-25 at 8 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 26 at 3 p.m., in Olscamp 101. The doors open a half hour early each night.

Although FORCE, the feminist organization in charge of the play this year, doesn’t currently have tickets up for sale, it plans to announce when tickets are available over social media, including the play’s Facebook page.

The Vagina Monologues’ Co-Director, Senior Kendall Lake had nothing but good things to say about her experience.

“It has such a legacy behind it. It shows people why women are important,” Lake said. Even though the play has previously had a higher female turnout each year, Lake said it was important for men to watch the performance as well.

“My own Dad refuses to come to the show,” she said, laughing a little. “He’s put off by the name.”

If men choose to brave the female-dominated play, the co-director said they’ll be able to better understand their mothers, sisters, and partners.

“They’ll also understand why women’s health care is so important,” Lake said, with a nod to America’s bipartisan debate over universal health care.

Though a major point of the play is to get people comfortable with talking about vaginas, but there is more to it than just that.

It nitpicks and analyzes pain, discrimination, romance, sex and periods. The monologues, from women of all ages and backgrounds, can either be playful and funny, or depressing and serious.

“You don’t see it, you don’t think about it, it’s just there,” an actress said during rehearsal, reading a line of the script.
Freddie, Frieda unmasked in annual event

How did you feel about being unmasked?
“it’s an unreal experience, it was incredible, it has been such a good journey, it’s been a lot of memories made along the way and i’m just glad to share it with the community because that’s what we do it for to begin with is the community.”

What does it mean to you to be Freddie Falcon?
“It means so much to me, there’s been 177 before us to have the opportunity to do this out of the thousands and thousands of students since 1950 who have set foot on campus, so to be selected to carry on this tradition and this role has been unreal.”

How did you feel about being unmasked?
“I don’t even know how to feel, i’m very overwhelmed and it has been the craziest almost year of my life. I’m just really appreciative of how many people showed up and how much fun it was and how much I love my sibs and it has been a great day a great year. I love BC.”

What does it mean to you to be Frieda Falcon?
“I love BGSU and I love the opportunities that it’s given me and I’m glad people have trusted me to be Frieda Falcon.”

How did you feel about being unmasked?
“It was a lot of nerves, excitement but it was really just awesome to celebrate a great tradition that has been going on for 67 years and really to, share that with friends, family and the BGSU community it’s just such an honor to be a part of being Freddie and the birds and the tradition.

What does it mean to you to be Frieda Falcon?
“it’s a really big commitment, but at the same time whenever you’re out there in suit at a basketball game, a hockey game, even around the community you know how much of an impact you’re making and how many people are loving what Freddie and Frieda are and it’s so worth it.”

PHOTOS BY ISAIAH VAZQUEZ, IAN CAMBELL, AND KEVIN MENSAH
GSS supports sanctuary campus

By Keefe Watson
Campus Editor

The Graduate Student Senate voted in support of the sanctuary campus petition after a visit from the petition’s creator, professor Michaela Walsh.

Walsh, an ethnic studies professor, addressed President Mary Ellen Mazey’s denial of the sanctuary campus petition during the meeting.

“Contrary, actually, to the rhetoric that President Mazey put forth,” Walsh said, “…everything that is in the sanctuary petition that we’ve been advocating for is within the law.”

The petition, written by Walsh, calls for the University to “support and protect all of BGSU’s students and workers, regardless of their citizenship status, religion, ethnicity, or national origin,” not cooperate with federal ICE authorities regarding deportations or immigration raids, and protect personal information of all staff and students.

The electronic petition, which currently has 579 signatures, also offers additional protections for immigrants currently protected under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival policy.

According to Mazey, there are 11 DACA students - students protected under the DACA policy – at the University.

“I think that she released that number because it’s not a very high number, so strategically people might wonder why should we be mobilized to get behind 11 students, which is beside the point,” Walsh said.

The Graduate Student Senate voted in support of the sanctuary campus petition after President Mazey put forth,” Walsh said, “…everything that is in the sanctuary petition that we’ve been advocating for is within the law.”

The 11 number, according to Walsh, does not address the number of undocumented students enrolled at the University who would also benefit from a sanctuary campus status.

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“Young people who were brought to this country, whether they are international students or not, that affects ethnic, religious [and] sexual minorities,” GSS President Amira Hassnaoui said after the Friday meeting.

“The support from the GSS body contrasts Mazey’s stance on the issue.

“As a public university, we must, and are required to, follow all laws,” she said on Tuesday. “And therefore we will work within the federal laws, and I will not support the petition to become a sanctuary campus.”

For Walsh, Mazey’s reasoning is not sufficient.

“Her argument that it is outside of the law is inaccurate,” Walsh said.

In lieu of her support of the sanctuary campus status, Mazey has put her support behind the BRIDGE Act currently on the floor of the U.S. Senate. According to Mazey, the Bridge Act offers many of the same protections that DACA currently offers.

But, according to Walsh, Mazey’s blanket alternative of the BRIDGE Act ignores other policies that the petition calls for, including supporting other vulnerable minorities.

Despite a similar risk of losing federal funding, over 100 universities nationally have taken on a sanctuary campus status, Walsh said.

“One fear that I think that President Mazey has, which is a legitimate fear, is that federal funding would be withdrawn,” Walsh said. “Now this has nothing to do with her legality argument. As far as I know, Kasich has said nothing in terms of making a move to withdraw federal funding.”

According to Walsh, as with anything bureaucratic, it would take time for funding to be withdrawn, and notice would be given.

“If identifying as a sanctuary campus makes us vulnerable, there’s no reason why President Mazey or this University cannot enact all of the policies that we’re asking for…and she can call it whatever she wants,” Walsh said.

Walsh doesn’t care what the protection is called, “so long as the vulnerable in our community are protected,” she said.

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The 11 number, according to Walsh, does not address the number of undocumented students enrolled at the University who would also benefit from a sanctuary campus status.

“We’re not trying to go off the laws or break any laws, or affect any federal budget. We absolutely understand Dr. Mazey’s point, but it’s a simple act of support and then we will see what’s going to be next,” Hassnaoui said.
Falcons split weekend series

By Zane Miller
Assistant Sports Editor

The Falcons hockey team split their home series against the Alaska Nanooks, falling 3-2 in Friday’s game before winning 2-1 in overtime on Saturday.

“Unfortunately, it was up and down,” said Falcons head coach Chris Bergeron about the series. “I think that’s what we’ve been too much over the course of the season. We got pushed (Friday) night down 2-0 and fought and scratched and clawed to get ourselves back and fell short and then (Saturday) we’re pushed again to the brink.”

Friday’s game began with Alaska getting on the board with a goal at the 7:15 mark of the first period. They followed it up late in the period, getting a goal with one second remaining in the first period to take a 2-0 lead going into the second period.

The Falcons responded in the second period, taking advantage of a power play chance with junior forward Mitch McLain scoring to make it a 2-1 game. However, Alaska regained their two goal lead going into the third with a goal at 16:40.

The Falcons were able to cut the lead in half once again, with sophomore forward John Schilling scoring with just under four minutes remaining. However, that would be all the offense for the Falcons as Alaska held on for the 3-2 victory.

“I want to give full credit to Alaska, they’ve been on the road for two weeks,” Bergeron said. “For our group, it’s disappointing, but all too familiar.”

On Saturday, the Falcons again started from behind after Alaska scored the first goal of the game midway through the second period. The Falcons then scored on a five minute power play chance at the 5:46 mark of the third period to tie the game up, eventually sending it into overtime at the end of regulation.

In the overtime period, junior forward Brett D’Andrea scored the game winning goal for the Falcons with just over a minute left to give the team the 2-1 victory.

“I am happy with the way we played in the second and third,” Bergeron said. “We gave up a total of seven shots through the second and third combined and then one in overtime, so I am happy about that.”

However, the team feels that they still have things to improve on.

“I can’t say I was unhappy with our work from start to finish,” Bergeron said. “I didn’t like the way we were around the other team’s net, I think we could have done a better job around the other team’s net, but ultimately, again, I think we were up and down.”

The team will next play on the road Friday and Saturday night against the Ferris State Bulldogs.
THE BG NEWS PICKS OF THE WEEK

Womens basketball drops fourth straight

By Jacob Poverman
Sports Reporter

The Ball State Cardinals traveled to Bowling Green to play the Falcons Saturday afternoon in the first game of a women's and men's double header. The Falcons dropped their fourth straight game after being defeated by the Cardinals 75-53. The University is still searching for their first season.

The Falcons did have a hard time scoring the ball, shooting 17 of 65 from the field with 11 of 32 shooting from three. The scoring troubles continued in the fourth after going scoreless for the first four minutes and twenty-two seconds of the quarter.

Bowling Green started the first quarter with strong defense, only allowing 12 points on 5 of 15 shooting, but could not seem to stop the Cardinals after getting outscored in the final 3 quarters 63-37. After holding Cardinals, forward Moriah Monaco scored three points in the first and scored 12 points the rest of the game with 5-9 shooting from three.

Points in the paint also haunted the Falcons, being outscored 38-10. Twenty-two of those inside points came from the 6 foot 5 Cardinals center Renee Bennett. Bennett also led the game in rebounds with 12. Turnovers also seemed to be an issue for the Falcons, losing the battle 17-10, with allowing 23 points off turnovers, compared to only scoring 6 of theirs.

Despite losing, the Falcons successfully outrebounded the Cardinals 43-41 with 17 offensive rebounds, which allowed for 16 second chance points. Ten different Falcons managed to get at least one rebound in the defeat. Rebounding has been something the Falcons have prided themselves in, outrebounding teams 7 of their last 9 games.

“We're more motivated than ever, we know we have the potential and we're continuing to get better,” said junior guard Haley Puk, who contributed 10 points, 3 rebounds, and 2 assists, “We're a little frustrated, but that's going to motivate us even more. We're ready to show the fans and show the MAC what we got.”

Puk and the Falcons hope to snap their losing streak when they travel to Eastern Michigan to play the Eagles Wednesday at 7.
USG discusses sustainability, elects chair

By Keefe Watson  
Campus Editor

The Undergraduate Student Government elected a new chair of academic affairs, heard University updates and talked sustainability during its weekly meeting on Monday.

Senator Kirsten Herman was elected to USG Academic Affairs chair on Monday. Herman was already serving on the academic affairs committee.

“Academics is something that I’ve always been very passionate about,” Herman said.

The position of Academic Affairs Chair became vacant upon now Speaker Hannah Barnes’ election two weeks ago.

President Amanda Dortch addressed concerns about a tweet from a University student here at Bowling Green State University with a video of a sighting that resembled the hat of a member of the Ku Klux Klan,” Dortch said.

At that time, the video turned out to actually be a large white microscope in the window of Overman Hall.

Dortch is also asking USG members for suggestions about how to improve parking services at the University.

“On Sunday there was a tweet that was sent out from a student here at Bowling Green State University with a video of a sighting that resembled the hat of a member of the Ku Klux Klan,” Dortch said.

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Six new senators were sworn in on Monday, but according to Speaker Barnes, USG currently has about 15 vacant senator positions.

“President (Mazey) has made the determination that sustainability is a goal for the University... because it’s been determined to be the right thing to do,” Nick Hennessy, Director of Sustainability

“The average participation rate in [the fee] is almost 90 percent,” Hennessy said. “We take that money and invest it in green projects for the campus that students suggest.”

About $530,000 has been raised and invested into sustainability projects from this fund.

One of the office’s most aggressive goals, which is shared by the university at large, is to become carbon neutral by the year 2040.

To achieve this goal the University will have to look into alternative and renewable energy sources as well as implementing more programs such as composting.

Recyclemania, an annual recycling contest held among the residence halls, begins on February 5. Details of the contest will come via campus update as the fifth approaches.

“President (Mazey) has made the determination that sustainability is a goal for the University... because it’s been determined to be the right thing to do,” Hennessy said. “I’m glad that she feels that way, and I’m glad that the Board of Trustees feels that way.”
Environment is focus of Pelini lab

By Quentin Ison
Reporter

In recent years, climate change studies have played a vital role in helping experts understand ongoing environmental changes. Since coming to Bowling Green State University five years ago, Dr. Shannon Pelini has put a premium on debunking myths and searching for answers on various elements of global change.

At the University, the Pelini Lab examines the effects of climate change, micronutrient availability and disturbance, like fire. The lab has recently examined the cause and effect of the Lake Erie algal blooms toxic to the Great Lake's water, as well as disturbance of National landmarks like forests occurring in the Northwestern Ohio region.

Pelini believes there are plenty of clues and hints available through the close examination of insects and their interaction in soil and other naturally occurring nutrients.

"Bugs and insects respond quickly to global climate change and interact with several other organisms such as plants, soil and other bugs. I want to know if it is possible to make predictions about the impact of environmental changes through the study of their interactions and life cycle," said Pelini.

Despite the lab's remote location in Northwest Ohio, Dr. Pelini and her student assistants have traveled to places as far west as Hawaii and into the Upper Peninsula of Michigan searching for answers and a greater understanding on climate change and factors.

"While in Hawaii, my team and I worked in a Hawaiian forest examining the decomposition of leaf litter," Pelini said. She described leaf litter as dead plant material that had fallen to ground, often rich in soil fertility and predicting regional nutrient cycling.

Pelini's time spent in Michigan has been spent looking for more in-depth answers regarding an endangered butterfly species.

"I have been looking at the Karner butterfly with assistance from the Toledo Zoo. Currently, there is an effort to repopulate despite the disturbance to their natural habitat. Through research we have found the Allegheny ants capable of protecting the Karner caterpillar, which I believe could make reintroduction a distinct possibility," said Pelini.

Along with the research being performed in Northwest Ohio and other locations, the Pelini Lab aims to reach out to the surrounding community in order to spread awareness and enlighten others. Outreach efforts range from annual events and workshops to podcasts focusing on scientific subjects.

"One of our biggest outreach events is 'Girl Power,' an event we hold yearly at the Imagination Station in Toledo. The program is designed to add a hands-on experience to young girls interested in the science field and show them they can do the dirty work too," said Graduate Student Cari Ritzenthaler.

Pelini's students are also interested in science communication. Two students recently started a science podcast titled "Bugs and Stuff," a monthly SoundCloud production.

"Our show focuses around different issues in sciences. Our last episode dealt with eco-friendly goals and tips for the new year in order to make our planet a better place to live," said Ritzenthaler. "We talk about things people often don't hear or even think about."

The Pelini lab is constantly working on new projects and research to help further understand the changing world while also trying to educate and encourage others to learn more. For more information, visit the lab at 312 C in the Life Sciences Building.
Enrollment continued from Page 2

Campus and have. Undergraduate E Campus numbers rose to 154 students from 21 last spring for a 633.3 percent increase. There was also an increase in undergraduates using traditional courses.

Undergraduate enrollment has seen a 3.5 percent increase on the Bowling Green Campus including the increase in traditional courses, increase in E Campus courses and decline in distance learning, making a total undergraduate and graduate enrollment increase of 2.9 percent at the Bowling Green campus.

However, Firelands, the University’s branch in Huron, has seen about an 11.5 percent decrease from last spring.

While the economy tends to be better, the branch campuses tend to be a little bit lower in enrollment, according to Castellano.

Between the two campuses, including undergrad and graduate, the University’s enrollment numbers are up roughly 1.2 percent.

Castellano also reported a continued increase in College Credit Plus programs, with a 27 percent rise this year at both the Bowling Green and Firelands campuses.

The University has also formed partnerships with high schools to offer dual enrollment courses, which are University courses taught by qualified teachers within high schools.

Some high schools only want to offer these dual enrollment courses by trimester or in the spring semester, so numbers may vary by semester.

“It’s all about what works for the school district,” Castellano said.

She said going forward the goal is to keep high school students taking University courses at the University. She doesn’t see it affecting enrollment, but it will change what courses may look like for incoming freshmen.

“It changes what your traditional freshman would need for their first or second semester,” she said. “This past fall we saw an increase in students bringing credit hours in...and we think that trend will continue up.”

Booth also said it changes the end of a freshman’s college career. New accelerated graduate programs are helping students continue a four year college experience despite finishing undergraduate requirements early by allowing students to start on a masters degree during their senior years.

This year’s freshman cohort also shows a persistence rate of roughly 91 percent from fall to spring semester. The University will evaluate retention next fall after a full year.
Investigation homes, according to Lynn. He said the field experience the students gain from conducting investigations in the houses is invaluable to their forensic education.

“It’s critical for us that they understand what they need to collect, how they need to collect it and how they need to get it to us,” Lynn said.

However, completion of the renovations is still a semester away, according to Brett Pogan, senior capital planner for the University. He said 141 Troup should be ready for class use by fall 2017.

Converting a former residential house into a state facility with a lab is a challenging process, said Pogan. The houses have to undergo several inspections.

In order to obtain permission to use the house as an academic facility, Pogan estimates the renovations needed for 141 Troup will cost the University $62,000.

The criminal justice and forensic science programs will have the 141 Troup house available in fall 2017.
Outdoor Program offers hikes, clean-ups

By Brendan Battle
Reporter

Since it was founded in 1999, the Outdoor Program, managed by the University’s Department of Recreation and Wellness, has been hosting outdoors trips for University students, faculty and community members.

The program is open to anyone over 18 years old, and trips include places around BG as well as other locations in Ohio and Michigan.

In addition to giving students the opportunity to visit a natural setting and to connect with one another, these trips give students an opportunity to learn a variety of outdoor skills such as rock climbing, kayaking and snowshoeing.

The program is also dedicated to promoting environmental conservation and developing leadership and team-building skills for students.

The Outdoor Program also promotes preservation of the environment and sponsors clean-ups of parks and wildlife areas in conjunction with the University’s Office of Campus Sustainability and the Leave No Trace program.

The program’s next clean-up trip will be to a local river on April 8.

The program won the David J. Webb Excellence Award, a national award for outstanding non-profit outdoor programs from the Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education, in December 2016.

Both students and University staff are involved in managing the Outdoor Program. Thad Long, the associate director of the Department of Recreation and Wellness, assists in the planning and direction of Outdoor Program events.

“What I like best about the Outdoor Program is being able to connect to the students and see them connect with each other. It’s also great to get people interested in the outdoors,” he said.

Mikayla Mueller, a second-year University student, has been a supervisor of program outings since 2015.

She first became involved with the program after the Freshman Wilderness Experience, a week-long summer backpacking or canoeing trip that gives academic credit to incoming freshmen.

She helped administer last summer’s Wilderness Experience.

After graduation, she plans to continue her interest in nature fostered by the program by studying psychology with an interest in incorporating the outdoors into psychiatric therapy.

Participating in these trips requires registration and payment through the program’s website.

Several upcoming events hosted by the program are a hiking trip at Hocking Hills State Park on January 28, ice climbing in Fenton, Michigan on February 11 and a trip to the Ohio Caverns park on March 25.

All equipment will be provided by the program, and no experience is required for most of the activities. More information on the activities and sign-up deadlines is available on their website.