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If trends continue, women won’t earn equal pay until 2059. | PAGE 2

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Women still earn less, wage gap remains

By Tessa Phillips
Reporter

The year is 2017 and women are still earning notably less than men, despite occupying almost half of the workforce and earning more college and graduate degrees than their male counterparts.

According to a report conducted by the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR), women who worked full-time in 2015 made 80 cents for every dollar earned by men, signifying a gender wage gap of 20 percent.

This problem exists despite the passage of the Equal Pay Act in 1963, which made it illegal for employers to pay workers different amounts for the same job based on sex.

“The wage gap is due to structural sexism and racism,” said Jessica Birch, professor of ethnic studies and women's, gender, and sexuality studies at the University. “When we talk about the wage gap, it's important to remember that race and gender are both contributing factors.”

Jessica Birch
University Professor

Also contributing to the gender wage gap is the fact that many women work in different and lesser-paying occupations and sectors than men, according to the Pathway for Equity Initiative website, a project created by the IWPR to improve women's access to middle-skill jobs and to increase their economic security.

According to the Initiative website, there are far less women than men in expanding middle-skill jobs paying $35,000 a year that generally do not require a bachelor's degree. Employers will need to fill more than 2 million of these jobs by 2024, which currently only have 11 percent female workers.

Some of the key growth sectors include advanced manufacturing, information technology, and transportation, distribution and logistics.

Many women are qualified for these positions and would benefit from the higher wages, which would in turn help decrease the wage gap, according to the Initiative website.

If progress for women continues to be made at the same rate it has been, women will experience pay equality in 2059, or 44 years from now, according to research carried out by the IWPR.

Brittany Horner, a first-year AYA Education World Language student, spoke about wanting to initiate change regarding the gender wage gap. “It's time to use our frustration and use it to fuel our dedication

Continues on Page 11
Improving your mental health

Whether the recent election has your mind spinning, the spring semester is just taking a toll on your mental wellbeing or something much larger is taking place in your life, it’s important to find ways to cope with stress.

Stress is a common feeling that we all experience at one point or another. Lately I have been experiencing waves of stress that I’ve needed to cope with. Here are some of the ways that I’ve dealt with these feelings.

The greatest thing that has helped me is limiting my social media time. Social media has always had an element of stress involved with it, but after this last election it seems that there are a lot of negative things happening in the world.

Whether or not you are for or against the current administration, social media can be filled with arguments, especially if you spend too long hanging out in the comments section of posts.

Often the things that are happening seem to be out of our control. Limiting the time spent on social media, even eliminating one platform, can help you curb some of the negative influences in your life.

Working out can also help you clear your mind. Exercise is known to release chemicals in your brain that make you feel better. Additionally, exercise can be a good way to forget about the stress that you have going on. After all it is difficult to think about much else when you are concentrated on getting through forty burpees or lifting a particularly difficult weight.

If schoolwork is something that is stressing you out, you may need to find a way to make your workload more manageable. Making lists can be a good way to get through a week that seems too much to handle. Creating a list first thing in the morning of the things you need to accomplish that day can make your day easier. You may also find that lists will help you forget fewer things eliminating the stress involved in being late to a meeting or forgetting an assignment.

My biggest piece of advice is to take some downtime. Often we feel that every second of the day must be filled with activity. Being busy is something that our society finds important but you need to decide if being busy all the time is healthy for you.

Take a day or a weekend to yourself. Learn a new hobby, go for a walk outside, or just sit on the couch reading a book or playing a video game. Let your mind relax because if stress and anxiety are consuming you how are you going to do well in school or at work?

Additionally, I want to add that if you are in any way feeling that your mental health is impeding on your life or it is too difficult for you to handle, please take advantage of the services at the counseling center, even graduate students. If you pay for these services, then you are entitled to see a counselor. They can help you find ways to manage your stress that works for you.

Cari Ritzenthaler
Columnist

Reply to Caitlin at thenews@bgnews.com
View the world with a new sense of childlike wonder

Have you ever thought about the creativity of a child? Each child is thoroughly creative and thoughtful, and generally eager and joyful about life.

Being an education major and master of understanding children (for the most part) I have noticed that time and time again, children aren’t afraid of failure. Last year I had the privilege of observing a class of third graders.

They had an overwhelming sense of confidence and fearlessness. Each child would brainstorm the most incredible ideas, but just roll with it to see what they came up with. They weren’t always practical, realistic or serious, but they had a sense of creativity that we just don’t see in grown ups.

So why is that? Somewhere along the lines we seem to lose that childlike wonder. In between tests, quizzes, projects and years up on years of school our creative gene just seems to fade into the background.

I personally believe that it is beaten out of us. At a certain point thinking of the box goes from cute to annoying, and we are criticized for having our heads in the clouds and thinking ridiculous thoughts.

And slowly, little by little, we stop being creative. We stop being excited to learn, and treat it like it is a chore. We refuse to think extraordinary thoughts, and we are submissive to logic and only things that seem realistic or practical. And we deem this effective.

But I have seen the other side. I have watched a child’s face, seen the way it lights up when they come up with an original idea. I have seen children think outside the box and brainstorm nonsensical ideas. They are fun. They are energetic. They love to learn and are excited for every new day and possibility that arises in their world

So this is my proposal. We need to resist the urge to hate our classes or become excessively bored about class, and instead view the world through childlike wonder. We need to stop being afraid of failure, and constantly stressed about whether or not something makes sense or is realistic.

It is unfortunate that many of us have lost our urge to be creative and excited, but life is much more fun when we take the time to really think about anything.

When we refuse to think outside the box and be creative, we are only thinking inside the box; meaning we can only expand our horizons so far. We can only come up with new great ideas until we have reached the limit of our box. If the box isn’t there, just imagine how far we can go.

So remove your box, and begin viewing the world for what it truly is: full of infinite possibilities, realistic and not.

Do not be afraid to let your mind wander and picture the world with childlike wonder. You never know what great idea may originate in the process.

Take opportunities to grow

College is a place to grow as person, whether it be to gain the knowledge you need for a career or to develop who you are. The people around you make a huge impact on how you behave and what you believe.

Your friends in college help shape you into the person you’ll be when you become completely independent. We want our friends to believe similar things and have similar interests to ourselves. But to be fully rounded human beings, we need friends that challenge our beliefs and are fundamentally different than ourselves. We never grow if our beliefs are never challenged.

According to a study done by the Journal of Consumer Research, your friends greatly influence your choices. If a group of your friends does something, you are extremely likely to do it too. This can be a not so great thing, but if you have friends that differ from yourself and make good choices, you can be influenced to do better. But, they will not only influence your behavior, but will also influence the way you think and what you believe.

I grew up in a relatively liberal, non-religious household, but two of my closest friends grew up in conservative, extremely religious homes. One of those friends is now far-left leaning and spiritual but not religious, and the other is a moderate with strong religious beliefs. Our home experiences have shaped how we think and what we believe, but after moving to college, those original beliefs have been challenged, and sometimes even let go.

I am not the same person I was in high school, and a lot of that is thanks to my friends.
By Stepha Poulin

The Office of Multicultural Affairs has hired Katie Stygles as the new coordinator of LGBT programs for the LGBT Resource Center.

Stygles has been involved in the University community in multiple ways. She originally came to campus to conduct several HIV prevention programs. Stygles recently completed her doctorate in the University’s Higher Education Administration program. She completed her undergraduate degree at Xavier University in Cincinnati.

“I had specifically waited for this spot, this position, to be open. I’m very happy to be here,” Stygles said. “Being part of the community here, I had an understanding of the ways things work, and I’ve been able to participate in some of the programs that the Office of Multicultural Affairs has done in the past.”

The Higher Education Administration program offers specific topics for graduate students to focus on. Stygles decided to focus on social justice issues in higher education throughout her studies.

This position was previously known as the LGBT Resource Director, but Stygles still has the same duties. She oversees events like Coming Out Day and Gender Awareness Week, serves on multicultural committees and acts as a staff and faculty consultant. Stygles also advises Vision, a student-run organization for the LGBTQ+ community.

“For me, a position like this is like being a professional activist, and to really make sure our students are connected to all of the services that they need,” Stygles said.

The LGBTQ Resource Center began in 2007. Its creation led to new activities and programs that involve the LGBTQ community, such as the Big Gay Picnic, Right to Marry Day and Coming Out Support Group. Stygles hopes to continue the growth of these events in her new position.

“One of the things I really love about this position as well is the opportunity to build up the Safe Zone program and to make sure that our LGBTQ+ students are supported by a network of allies,” Stygles said.

Stygles also hopes to get a better understanding of LGBTQ+ students’ needs.

“I’d love to be able to do a student need assessment,” Stygles said. “The real mission of a position like this is supporting students and making sure that our University is embracing diversity and being inclusive.”

Certain changes have already been made to LGBTQ Resource Center services. Previously, the support groups offered by the LGBTQ+ Resource Center have been open group models. Stygles recently contacted the University counseling center and opted for a closed group discussion.

“In the past, they had been more of a discussion group model. You would see advertisement on campus and it had the location of the group,” Stygles said. “Now people who are interested in participating have to contact the LGBTQ Resource Center or the counseling center.”

Stygles hopes that this will create a more inclusive environment for those who have not come out or are questioning.
The Falcons mens basketball team lost their second straight game on Tuesday to the Western Michigan Broncos.

The team set a season high for fouls committed with 30 for the game, which is the second most committed in a Mid-American Conference game this season.

The Falcons had three players foul out in the game, which got physical early and led to a lot of delays.

“"It was extremely difficult to get into any sort of rhythm with all of the stoppages in the game,” said head coach Michael Huger. "We gave ourselves a chance at the end of the game, but we didn’t play our best, either. They beat us badly on the boards, and we had more turnovers than assists. There’s nothing we can do now except get completely locked in for our game against Ohio on Saturday.”

The Falcons had 13 assists in the game, along with 15 turnovers. Western Michigan had a similar stat line with 11 total assists in the game next to their 16 turnovers.

However, Bowling Green’s fouling was responsible for a big part of the Western Michigan offense. The Broncos scored over a third of their points from the free throw line; going a season high 31 for 37 at the stripe. The makes were more than the Falcons attempted, with Bowling Green going 17 for 25 at the line.

Freshman guard Rodrick Caldwell led the Falcons in the game with 15 points. Caldwell fouled out of the game after 24 minutes of playing time. The freshman also added three assists and two rebounds, and hit three field goals from behind the arc.

Senior guard Wes Alcegaire played for 17 minutes before fouling out of the contest. The senior scored 11 points in the game and added two assists.

For Western Michigan, junior guard Thomas Wilder was seemingly unstoppable in the game. Wilder went 11 for 17 on the floor and a perfect 15 of 15 at the free throw line. Wilder finished with 38 points, three assists, two blocks and one steal.

With this game, senior Zack Denny is now just six points short of scoring 1,000 in his career. He only needs six more steals to move to 10th all time in program history. Assuming Denny scores another six points this season, he will become the 44th Falcon to score 1000 points.

Denny and the Falcons will return to action on Saturday when they travel to Athens to play the Ohio Bobcats. The Falcons have already lost to the Bobcats this season 72-96 in January.

The game is set to tip off at 2 p.m.
Womens basketball loses to W. Michigan

By Elias Faneuf
Sports Reporter

Too many turnovers throughout the night doomed the Falcons womens basketball team as they fell to the Western Michigan Broncos by a score of 74-53 on Wednesday night at the Stroh Center. The Falcons overall record stands at 6-19, and are 2-11 against Mid-American Conference opponents.

Leading the Falcons was sophomore Carly Santoro with 11 points and seven rebounds. Also chipping in was senior Ashley Tunstall with 10 points and three rebounds. Tunstall and Santoro were the lone double-digit scorers of the night.

"Offensively they were hitting their shots," Santoro said. "They were really locked down on defense, which led to their offense; got into foul trouble, and we couldn't really get it going. We weren't getting what we wanted as far as open looks."

The team finished last in the Mid-American Conference

Baseball faces off with Texas A&M

By Zane Miller
Assistant Sports Editor

The Falcon's baseball team will kick off a new season this weekend as they begin a three-game series on the road against the Texas A&M Aggies.

"They're going to be a top 15 team," Falcons head coach Danny Schmitz said. "This is going to be what I call big-boy baseball. We're going to go to a qualified conference; probably one of the best programs in the country. It's a huge honor, but it's going to be a great challenge for us. From what I'm hearing, the crowds are really pumped into the team, so it's something we've got to prepare our guys for. We're hearing that it's going to be a sellout, so it should be quite an environment for our guys."

The team is also looking to work on some of the fundamental parts of their game.

"The thing that we've stressed is just the work habit and coming prepared every day," Schmitz said. "I'm proud of the guys and how hard they've worked, and we talked about the program and how we need to get tougher; not only physically, but most importantly mentally. We've been throwing a lot of things at them, and they've all been working extremely hard. I know they're excited about getting the season started."

To be tougher, the team is putting more emphasis on the conditioning process in the early portion of the season.

"We're really concentrating on conditioning," Schmitz said. "I think that's extremely important; the weight room is extremely important. They're trying to get our guys the old famous, 'bigger, stronger, faster.' We can definitely see guys starting to fill out more, so that's huge and hopefully all their hard work here's going to pay off."

The team finished last in the Mid-American Conference last season with a conference record of 7-17. The team feels they need to have a better finish to the season in order to be more competitive.

"Last season was a very disappointing season," Schmitz said. "Where we finished, and more importantly, the way we finished. Normally our program is a program where the second half of the season is when we start playing our best baseball. Unfortunately, instead of playing our best baseball, we probably ended up playing our worst baseball. That's definitely something we've got to improve on."

The team also wants to focus more on the team aspect rather than the individual side.

"The motto of 'team first,' that's extremely important," Schmitz said. "Baseball's a team game and we all got to play team baseball. It's not an individual sport, and I think we had some distractions last year. Hopefully we've corrected those distractions."
UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Immigration Controversies: Migrants, Refugees, and Open Borders**
Olscamp Hall 115
Feb. 16, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Joseph Carens will cover immigration controversies and other associated topics.

**Get Fit for the Kids**
BGSU Recreation and Wellness
Feb. 18 and 19, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Donations will be accepted for Bikes for Tikes, and attendees can participate in various fitness classes at the rec.

**The Penelopiad**
The Wolfe Center
Feb. 16-17, 8 p.m.
Feb. 18, 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.
Feb. 19, 2 p.m.
Feb. 23-24, 8 p.m.
Feb. 25, 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.
View Homer’s Odyssey through the eyes of Odysseus’ wife Penelope as she and other characters retell the classic epic voyage. Tickets are $20.

**Scream Queens: The Heroines of Horror Films**
The Women’s Center
Feb. 22, 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
Britt Rhuart will discuss the topic of women’s roles in horror films and how their portrayals reflect how women were viewed in society.

**Planetarium Show: Edge of Darkness**
Physical Sciences Laboratory Building, Room 112
Feb. 17 & 24, 8 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Feb. 18 & 25, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
The Planetarium will be hosting a multimedia show with stargazing in the Observatory afterward on Fridays and Sundays only.
Prospective students to visit University on President’s Day

With President’s Day coming up this Monday, many high schools will be closed, but the University will have its President’s Day Open House for high school students looking to continue their education at the University.

Adrea Spoon, Director of Admissions at the University, explained how the President’s Day Open House reaches out to possible students.

“The BGSU Presidents’ Day Open House is the largest visit day hosted by the Office of Admissions. We collaborate with academic and student service areas to provide a wide-range of activities so prospective students can experience a day in the life of a BGSU student. Our goal is to make sure they have all the information they need to know BGSU is the right college to call home in the fall,” Spoon said via email.

The activities for the open house are from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The program will include academic open houses, a variety of open classes, residence hall and campus tours, exhibitor display in BTSU Ballroom and many other activities.

“This is consistently the largest visit day we host each year, and we’re excited to share that registration for the event this year are up significantly,” Spoon said.

Admissions expects that the weather forecast will encourage attendance, with an expected turnout of around 1500 families.

“This would not be the amazing event it is without the continued support of our strong campus community, including students, faculty, and staff. Their contributions allow us to showcase everything that makes Bowling Green State University such a great home for future falcons,” Spoon said.

Sign-ups for the President’s Day Open House are available at bgsu.edu/admissions. For more information please call 419-372-2478 or send an email to choosebgsu@bgsu.edu
Climate Action Plan to be updated this spring

The University’s Climate Action Plan, signed into action by President Mary Ellen Mazey in November 2014, is due to be updated this spring.

The purpose of the plan was to achieve institutional carbon neutrality by 2040, according to the University’s campus sustainability website. This would mean that by 2040 the University would produce zero net carbon dioxide emissions.

To reach carbon neutrality the plan calls for the execution of three primary goals:

1. Reduction of emissions through energy efficiency and renewables
2. Waste reduction and resource conservation through recycling and re-use initiatives
3. Education, awareness and outreach through student involvement and programming

Since the plan’s initiation in 2014, the University has taken tangible action toward accomplishing its stated sustainability goals.

“The University serves as a role model to the surrounding community and the national and global communities,” Assistant Professor of Sustainability, Nathan Hensley, said. “By taking the steps outlined in the BGSU Climate Action Plan, the University not only positions itself to help reduce the collective carbon footprint of our institution, but also it helps to spark the passion and awareness necessary for others to do the same.”

In February 2015, the Student Green Initiatives Fund and University Capital Planning and Design joined together to carry out a complete study of the University’s infrastructure to look for ways to reduce the institution’s carbon footprint, according to the University’s sustainability website.

To pay for campus sustainability projects, the University often draws from the Student Green Initiatives Fund, which is a pool of money that is funded by an opt-out $5 per semester fee that only undergraduate and graduate students have access to.

In the past, the fund has allowed for the installation of LED lights in the Perry Field House, according to the University’s sustainability website. Since LED lights are more efficient at using energy than traditional overhead lights, they save the University about $13,000 while also reducing its carbon footprint. The fund also paid for the installation of LED light strips in the coral tanks in the Marine Biology Lab, replacing the lab’s metal halide lights, which were much less efficient and cost the University $9,000 more each year.

The fund will soon be coming in handy yet again, as the University plans to hire an engineering firm to determine the feasibility of renewable energy technologies on campus.

To help with the waste reduction element of the Climate Action Plan, the University uses a single-stream recycling system, which involves collecting all recyclable materials in all-encompassing bins labeled “recycling.” This allows people to recycle more efficiently without needing to sort their own recyclables and place them into separate bins.

“We can always do more, and I am energized by what actions I have seen taken so far. I do think that more cross-curricular connections to the Climate Action Plan and to sustainability need to be made throughout the University, and I have a lot of hope for what can still take place.”

Nathan Hensley
Assistant Professor of Sustainability

“We can always do more, and I am energized by what actions I have seen taken so far,” Hensley said. “I do think that more cross-curricular connections to the Climate Action Plan and to sustainability need to be made throughout the university, and I have a lot of hope for what can still take place.”

To track the University’s progress toward carbon neutrality, sustainability experts take an annual inventory of the amount of greenhouse gases produced by the institution. According to the inventory, the amount of greenhouse gases produced has been steadily decreasing each year since 2009.

In terms of becoming more energy efficient, the University is largely dependent on the City of Bowling Green. Half of the University’s carbon emissions are derived from electricity provided to the city by American Municipal Power (AMP), according to the University’s sustainability website.

On Feb. 2, AMP announced in a news release that its 20 megawatt Bowling Green Solar Facility had achieved commercial operation in January, making Bowling Green home to the largest solar facility in Ohio. The facility will be receiving a dedication ceremony this spring. The completion of this large-scale renewable energy source means drastic reductions in the University’s carbon emission levels.

According to Hensley, it is too soon to say for sure whether the University will successfully achieve carbon neutrality by 2040 as projected, but there’s no indication that it’s not possible. With AMP’s movement toward a greater renewable energy portfolio, the University is exactly where it needs to be in terms of reducing its carbon footprint and staying on track to accomplish this goal.
Wage Continued from Page 2

to making the world a place where all women are treated equally to men,” she said.

Lesser pay isn’t the only form of inequality women are faced with in the workplace. According to Birch, women are often less likely to be hired for high-ranking positions based on the assumption that they’ll have to take to time off to have children.

Birch also said that certain wording used in performance reviews enforces stereotypes about masculinity and femininity, which can reduce the likelihood of a woman to receive a promotion. “Our society is based on gender and racial inequality, which means that the ‘perfect employee’ is one who has the same attributes that a white, straight, married man would,” she said.

To combat the gender wage gap and other forms of discrimination that women face, Birch said that people should fight back in every way possible and on every available platform.

“People will always be there to say that we’re pushing too hard, asking for too much; being too loud, to say that if we just chose different tactics, they would be more willing to listen. Those are lies meant to ensure that we sit down and shut up. Don’t.”

Jessica Birch
University Professor

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