The BG News March 14, 2017

Bowling Green State University

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SOME NICE PLACES STILL LEFT!

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With the 2016-17 school year coming to an end, students can expect changes when they come back in the fall to move into their dorms and eat at dining halls. Next year, there will be changes in the prices of meal plans and room rates.

The University Board of Trustees recently approved an increase in room rates for the 2017-18 academic school year by 2.1 percent and the meal plans by roughly 3.0 percent.

Sherideen Stoll, the chief financial officer and vice president of finance and administration, discussed the factors that were involved in the decision to increase the pricing.

“I think the best place to gather these factors comes from the background to the board resolutions, which we develop and present to the board at the time we ask them to consider taking an action,” Stoll said.

“When one food plan increases, it is normal for all to increase as the plans are based on the same basic assumptions,” Stoll continued. “The only difference between food plans is in the size (and) quantity of meals provided. So if food costs rise or labor costs increase, it will affect all food plans.”

Some of the factors that contributed to the increases were the vital need to reinvest in both new and existing housing facilities and the need to insure the price of existing University options were appropriate and competitive given the external market.

The meal plan rate takes into account labor costs, benefit increases and other operational expenses as they continue to change over time, causing a recommended increase for the 2017-18 school year. Though students will be impacted financially there is some reasoning behind the increases.

“It’s probably easier to understand the additional benefits from the food plan increase,” Stoll said. “We have, and will continue to find, multiple ways to keep costs down. However, as the cost of providing meals increase, the University must eventually make some choices.”

Stoll said the University could switch to lower quality meats, less expensive ingredients or fewer fresh ingredients, but the University would prefer to increase food plan rates because they believe quality food service options are important to student and faculty.

According to University research that included surveys and focus groups, most of University stakeholders preferred higher quality, fresh product over lower quality product. That was the biggest reason, Stoll said, the board sought the increase in meal plans.

However, the explanation for the room rate increase was different. “Some of the same cost increases experienced by dining are also experienced in (Resident’s) Life,” Stoll said. Labor, benefit costs, utility costs and most operational costs experience increases over time.

Additionally, learning from prior experiences, the board and the University have committed themselves to regular routine repairs and maintenance in residence halls. This includes establishing a regular cycle for replacing furniture, carpeting, re-painting and general refreshing of residential facilities, so they remain in good condition and desirable to live in for present and future residents.

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Web provides student cultural exchange

By Hannah Finnerty
City Editor

Nader Mokeddem studies English at Badji Mokhtar University in western Algeria. Hannah Fragapane is a senior University student in the international studies program. Although these students are on separate continents almost 5,000 miles apart, a web-based cultural exchange has made their unlikely connection a reality.

A new component of Dr. Lara Lengel’s International Communications course, this cross-cultural exchange is giving American and Algerian students the opportunity to not only learn about a different society and culture, but also break down some of the assumptions the Middle East and America hold about each other.

American students in Lengel’s class and Algerian students from two universities discuss a chosen weekly topic in a shared Facebook group. Topics range from wedding traditions to educational systems. Most recently, students talked about nationalism and patriotism.

Through discussion, commonalities between both societies have been realized. “In many ways, the (Algerian students) are a lot more similar to us than many people would expect,” Fragapane said.

Many of the students have the same hobbies. She said several of the American students share favorite television shows and movies with Algerian students.

Additionally, the class challenges prior beliefs or assumptions about Americans and Algerians.

Mokeddem said his perception of the education system in the United States has changed since his interaction with Lengel’s class. He believes education is a basic human right and should be acquired freely by all. He said he was shocked to find out American students pay to attend college and many find themselves in debt after graduation. In Algeria, education is free and accessible to everyone who wants to utilize it.

University Graduate student Meriem Mechehoud is orchestrating this exchange. A Fulbright scholar from Algeria, Mechehoud is working on her second Master’s degree here at the University. She had planned this exchange after noticing the untapped potential of online intercultural connections as an undergraduate in Algeria.

“We live in a global society. The world is literally at our fingertips, on our phones and computers, but many of us don’t have the

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A person’s appearance is their own concern – but what about celebrities? Being a celebrity means that a person has their image broadcasted to the world in many ways. Modern media makes it nearly impossible to avoid a touched-up photo of a celebrity. A lot of discussion has surrounded the ways stars enhance their looks, but when should people really start questioning the ethics of these unrealistic beauty standards?

In my opinion, a celebrity’s appearance becomes an ethical dilemma when they lie about how they attained their beauty.

The celebrities that both young people and adults look up to are not strangers to enhancing their appearance. With all the access they have to cutting edge facials and plastic surgery procedures it’s fairly easy for them to do. But when young people (and even some adults) see a photo of Kylie Jenner’s ever-changing figure, they begin to wonder how they can achieve the same look.

We all know Kylie Jenner lied about her lip injections initially, but rumors continue to circulate about the work she has gotten done. Despite the obvious changes in her hips, butt, boobs and even facial structure, Jenner still denies that she has gotten any work done. When fans asked about her increased breast size she responded by saying “it’s that time of the month.” But if that’s the case, Jenner’s Instagram feed makes it seem like she’s on a never-ending period.

Jenner’s figure had the most dramatic change throughout 2016. She was 18 throughout most of 2016 – but the average age of puberty for girls is 10 to 14 years old. The icing on the cake is that many American children are experiencing puberty even earlier.
A hope for closing the gender wage gap by 2044

Studies show that globally, for every $100 that a woman makes, a man will make $258. A United States census report even found that from 2007 to 2015, women only went from making an average of 79 percent of what men do, to a whopping 80 percent.

Why is this still an issue? How are we barely making any progress?

Accenture recently published a report on the matter, detailing a plan of action that may just close the gap by 2044. This is huge. 2044 may seem too distant to think about, but this is an actual realistic plan that might just be the game changer we need to obtain equality (and by we I mean all of us, not just women).

The three ways to initiate change according to the report are igniting digital fluency, transforming career strategies and accelerating tech immersion. This digital fluency “is the single most critical factor in closing the pay gap because it ignites the chances of more women getting paid work.”

Even in developed countries, women do a huge bulk of the unpaid work such as cooking and cleaning, and this is putting a halt to our economy growing as a whole.

“Research shows that 84 percent of female undergrads believe the pay gap either doesn’t exist or will close within 20 years—a sharp contrast to the reality of a gap that will exist for another 131 years unless interventions like those outlined in this report are activated.”

So what can we do? New technology is overwhelmingly used by male undergraduates (63 percent versus 45 percent female), along with new digital skills being learned by 53 percent men to 44 percent women.

Ladies, take coding and computer classes, adopt new technology as much as humanly possible and never stop learning new digital skills! Yes, we are seeing more women in S.T.E.M. programs at universities, and these male-dominated industries will have to embrace what’s coming, but to really close the gap at a faster rate we need to push even harder.

If, like me, that side of your brain doesn’t work all too well, pushing harder for leadership positions is key. It sounds like a no-brainer, but women entering the workforce right now have the power to either make or break giving our future daughters an even playing field, one they won’t have to fight for.

Although we do see more happy endings than before, Women in these technology fields seem to be struggling with the dichotomy of doing what they love and being in environments that they constantly have to prove themselves in, when their male counterparts don’t. In many of these industries, women don’t feel wanted, and this is a problem that needs to be addressed.

Essentially, the report just emphasizes a gaining of exposure to technology. I’m sure many of us have heard something like this before, let’s put more women in these fields and the problems will be solved. It’s “Adding more and more depth to your skill set as a woman can be valuable in almost any career these days, and the more we increase our earnings as a whole, the more we reduce the pay gap.”

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on average, according to Scientific American.

These facts alone make it highly unlikely that Jenner experienced such drastic puberty symptoms at 18 years old. The possibility of delayed puberty is also unlikely, as there is photo and video evidence of Jenner going through puberty. “Keeping Up with the Kardashians” devoted a whole segment to her first period, and continued to document her development into adulthood.

The bottom line is this: Jenner’s tendency to deny plastic surgery is detrimental to people’s self-esteem. It leads people to believe that those proportions are naturally attainable. The issue is not that she had plastic surgery; the issue is that she is lying about having plastic surgery and claiming to be “all-natural.”
drive and motivation to use it,” Mechehoud said. She hopes this exchange inspires students and engenders a passion for harnessing the information and communication available through technology.

Although continued interest in foreign cultures is encouraged, Mechehoud does not have a structured goal for the exchange. She said every involved student will take something different away from the experience.

For Mokeddem, interaction with American students has provided an opportunity to improve his English skills as well as give him insight into the lives of American students. Fragapane said she has come to value the importance of understanding historical events through the experiences of those affected. She gave the example of the French colonization of Algeria.

“When we learn through a textbook, we aren't understanding the emotional significance or impact that it had on Algerians,” she said.

Aside from humanizing an issue, Fragapane has also come to learn that textbooks don't always align with the experiences of the Algerian people.

Although the exchange impacts each student in a distinct way, Mechehoud said the one similarity is a story of their experience. “I'm giving the students, American and Algerian, an experience and a story to tell in the future. That story is the most important component,” she said.

The Facebook group is shared with 14 American students and 20 Algerian students, but Mechehoud said a small cultural exchange can be a large cultural exchange if participants see students as “webs” instead of individuals. She said each student represents a network of friends, family and co-workers, where their stories of the exchange can spread.

“This is not only one person. This is a whole network. So you look at everyone as a group of people and connections,” Mechehoud said. “This is how your effect can be bigger.”

Although Mechehoud graduates this spring, the students who are involved in the exchange hope this model is continued by other University faculty members. “This exchange is a simple set up. The University needs to encourage more exchanges like this in many disciplines,” Fragapane said. “All students can benefit from cultural exchanges. They don't have to be international studies students to get involved in something international.”
You've probably seen a billboard sign for Bronner's. The advertisements for the world's largest Christmas store in the world are peppered on the interstate all around Northwest Ohio. On a whim, we decided to follow that sign over 100 miles to the famed store in the Michigan town of Frankenmuth. We were delighted by this Bavarian-style village that offers visitors delicious food, cute local stores and beautiful sights. If you visit, and we recommend you do, here are some highlights to seek out.

**Bronner's Christmas Wonderland**
Impressive doesn't even begin to cover this place. Excessive may be closer. Driving down the street, it would be impossible to miss this store. Lights and Christmas decorations of all sorts deck out the front yard, and upon stepping inside, you'll be more overwhelmed than ever. The store, which is famous for being the biggest of its kind in the world and open year round, does not disappoint. You can easily get lost in its aisles upon aisles of specialty ornaments, checking out the elaborate winter village sets, or looking above you at the incredible displays and literally hundreds of nativity scenes.

**Downtown Shopping District**
One of the activities I enjoyed about Frankenmuth was the amount of unique, one of a kind shops that conquered the tourist area of the city. In a few short hours we explored a fudge and taffy shop that made the snacks right in front of you, which is very nifty. There's also the "Frankenmuth Cheese Haus," where they make dozens of different types of cheese. They even have a sample stand inside the store where you could try them out. I spoiled myself a bit and brought some bacon cheese spread home, and recommend you do the same.

**Frankenmuth Historical Museum and The Lager Mill Brewing Museum**
The real charm of this town lies in exploring its small local shops and restaurants if you're a history buff or simply curious about the city's roots. The Historical Museum is a lovely way to spend an hour or so. The small, but interesting museum in the heart of downtown traces Frankenmuth and its residents from the city's founding to their role in WWII to the present, revealing its Germanic roots. As an added bonus, included in the price of admission (only $2) is a ticket to another property only a short walk away, the Lager Mill. An old brewery mill still in fine condition, the building sits on the river and affords great views. The self-guided tour showcases the important role beer and brewing have always had here.

**Bavarian Inn Restaurant**
This sprawling resort is sought out by visitors from all over the country and world when they visit Frankenmuth, and for good reason. It has an indoor water park, a video game arcade and mini golf. But if you're just visiting for the day then you have to least treat yourself to lunch or dinner at their restaurant. The themed restaurant provides excellent and quick service as well as quality German food from sausages to schnitzel. Pro-tip: save a pretty penny and ask to see the lunch menu, as they serve it all day.

**River Place Shops**
When you're all done exploring the places in downtown Frankenmuth, it's time to check out the "German Themed" outdoor shopping mall across the bridge. The River Place Shops have over 40 different stores and restaurants that sell everything you could hope to want. One of my favorite places to go to is Cherry Republic, which sells a wide variety of crepes, from sweet to savory. I would definitely recommend it, 10/10.

**Festivals**
Among other things, Frankenmuth is famous for its many festivals. The city is host to several different celebrations throughout the year that are worth seeking out and planning your trip around. Coming up is the Bavarian Easter Celebration, Bringing Back the 80's festival, World Expo of Beer and the Balloons Over Bavarian Inn event. All of these draw large crowds and welcome everything from specialty beers to live music to hot air balloons.
“Feud” latest in slew of Murphy hits

By Lauren Fitz
Pulse Reporter

Ryan Murphy’s miniseries success has continued with the premiere of “Feud” on FX.

The initial buzz about the show started almost a year ago when Jessica Lange and Susan Sarandon were cast as Hollywood starlets Joan Crawford and Bette Davis. From there, the buzz continued to grow with the casting of Sarah Paulson, Kiernan Shipka and Stanley Tucci in other roles on the show.

The first episode definitely lived up to the hype. Like most of Murphy’s shows and any TV show, the first episode seemed to drag a little as a way for the audience to find out the roots of Davis and Crawford’s longstanding feud.

The show delightfully tackled what people behind-the-scenes of the movie did to keep the feud going. In a promo, Tucci’s character of Jack Warner, one of the famous Warner Brothers, tells a gossip columnist of the time, Hedda Hopper, to make up anything she can think of to ignite interest in the film they were both working on and to get people to go see the movie once it was released to theaters.

But what makes the show sparkle is how, despite taking place in the 1960s, it still has relevance for the 2017 world we live in.

In one scene of the first episode, Lange as Crawford laments that there's no roles for her to play now that she's older. Sarandon as Davis is cast in a Tennessee Williams play, but she plays a maid who offers the main characters a cocktail.

Even when “What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?” is being pitched to movie studios, executives don't want the aging Davis and Crawford to be the focus of the movie, instead wanting to focus on the younger neighbor or wanting to cast Audrey Hepburn in a role because she's younger.

This is a fate that many older actresses are facing in today’s world and in the land of Hollywood. In an interview that Lange and Sarandon gave to Variety at the beginning of the year, Lange said that Hollywood views aging women as something that’s undesirable.

If you asked either of the actresses, they'll give you different answers on whether Hollywood is getting better about casting older women. Sarandon said it is slowly getting better, but Lange doesn’t think much is happening.

This is also seen in the episode, as Lange's Crawford does anything she can to stay young and young-looking, whether it is dunking her face in ice water first thing in the morning or rubbing lemons on her elbows to keep the skin from sagging.

FX is keeping their business with Murphy going, as “Feud” has been renewed for a second season and will depict Princess Diana and Prince Charles' marriage.

New console not yet worth purchase

By Jacob Clary
Pulse Reporter

Nintendo’s newest console, the Nintendo Switch was released on March 3, and right away, one can tell that the hardware of the system is quite unique. The main draw of the console is the ability to take it anywhere you go and play the games wherever you want. This feature works very well. The screen looks very nice, being 720p, and is pretty sizable. Being able to take the two Joy-Cons out, and putting them on the Joy-Con grip also makes a nice controller when I didn’t want to use the screen by itself.

There are three different ways that Nintendo has shown the system can be played in. The first is TV mode, where the Switch is hooked into the television and players use the Joy-Cons as the controllers. Then there is portable mode, where the player takes out the Switch and can take it anywhere they want and play. Finally, there is tabletop mode, where one can use the kickstand on the back of the tablet and the Joy-Cons, but still not use the television.

I personally found myself using the TV mode the most, but I did go in portable mode a lot. I didn’t really use the tabletop mode much because the angle the kickstand is at doesn’t really give a good view of the screen. Overall, the Switch hardware is great, and I think that it will turn out to be a successful system, but it will take a little while. That’s simply because the Switch just doesn’t have many games available at the moment.

Currently, there are only a few new games on the system. One of them is “1-2-Switch,” a game where two players use the Joy-Con controllers in a variety of ways against each other. This game consists of 28 mini-games that last around a minute each. Another launch game is “Snipperclips.” In this game, you and a partner, or just you, try and complete levels while cutting each other’s character apart.

There are a couple more games available, but if you are buying a Switch, then there is one game that you most likely will seek out: “The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild.” It is the first truly open world Zelda game since the first one, and it is really the only reason to buy a Nintendo Switch right now. The Nintendo Switch version of the game is the better version, as it also released on the Wii U. Even though this game is spectacular, having played it on the Nintendo Switch, I don’t know if it is enough to buy a brand new system exclusively for one game. The Nintendo Switch has a lot of potential to be a great system in Nintendo’s library, but until it gets more games, I don’t think the Switch has enough good games yet to be worth a purchase.
bGAB offers trip to Mammoth Cave National Park

University students conducted service work and helped the park staff remove old cables from the caves, a project the staff had been working on for 10 years. They also helped clear an old horse trail to restore one of the park's springs to a more pristine state.

Eli Schleret is helped by Shebli Lindesmith as he climbs to a small cave next to a waterfall.

The bGAB students pose with their tour guide, Larry Johnson.

This tree is one of many giants in the national park and was next to a Native American burial ground.

PHOTOS BY NICK BIERE

We have a selection of 3 bedroom homes that are available with a discount. Stop by the Mecca Office and check them out!
The Falcons celebrate a goal earlier this season.

Hockey defeats Bemidji St. in semifinals

By Zane Miller
Assistant Sports Editor

The Falcons hockey team defeated the Bemidji State Beavers in the semifinal round of the Western Collegiate Hockey Association playoffs, winning on Friday night 4-3 in overtime before taking the series on Saturday night with a 2-1 victory.

“We’ve been in this position before and we’ve played in the semifinals before,” Falcons head coach Chris Bergeron said. “In the past it’s been one game and we hadn’t been able to find a way and I think our older guys made sure we found a way.”

Friday’s game started with senior forward Kevin Dufour putting the Falcons on the board at 9:08 in the first period for a 1-0 lead. Bemidji State came back to tie just over five minutes later and took the lead with a power play tally at 4:45 of the second period. Bemidji State would hold that advantage through the remainder of the period. In the third, however, the Falcons scored 32 seconds in with senior forward Matt Pohlkamp to tie the game 2-2. Bemidji State responded with a goal just over a minute later to retake the lead, but the Falcons tied the game up again with Dufour scoring his second goal of the game at 13:30. Neither team was able to break the tie through the remainder of regulation, sending the game into a sudden death overtime. The teams played through nearly all of the first overtime period before Dufour completed the hat trick at the 17:23 mark and gave the Falcons the 4-3 overtime win.

“I thought our overtime was pretty good,” Bergeron said. “We had some zone time, we pushed a little bit and created some chances, and what happened on the winning goal was just kind of a result of that.”

On Saturday, Bemidji State scored the first goal of the game at 3:16 in the first and held that lead through the rest of the period. In the second period, the Falcons responded with Dufour netting his fourth goal of the series at 1:35, tying the game at one apiece. The game turned into a low scoring one, however, as both teams went scoreless through the rest of the period. Pohlkamp broke the deadlock at 3:49 in the third period. Despite numerous chances from Bemidji State late in the game, the Falcons were able to hold on for the 2-1 win and the semifinal round championship.

“Outside of the first ten minutes, I thought we played the game we wanted to play,” Bergeron said. “I thought we spent way more time in their zone than we did last night. I thought we were a hard team to defend tonight. I thought we were strong in the offensive zone. I just thought we were more like ourselves.”

The team will next play in the WCHA Championship game on the road Saturday night against the Michigan Tech Huskies.

“I’m proud of our guys,” Bergeron said. “We earned home ice last weekend and had to come on the road last weekend, I think our guys have done a nice job.”

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The team won Friday afternoon against the Georgia State Panthers 4-1, and again Friday night against the Army Black Knights 5-0. They then fell to Army on Saturday night 5-0, but ended the tournament on a high note with a 6-3 victory over Georgia State on Sunday afternoon.

“We had all three phases going for us in the doubleheader,” Falcons head coach Danny Schmitz said. “We were real flat (on Saturday) doubleheader,” Falcons head coach Danny Schmitz said. “We were real flat (on Saturday) doubleheader,” Falcons head coach Danny Schmitz said. “We were real flat (on Saturday) doubleheader,” Falcons head coach Danny Schmitz said. “We were real flat (on Saturday) doubleheader.”

“We warned the guys that Army would be ready to play,” Schmitz said. “Unfortunately, I don’t think that we matched that energy. I tip my hat to Army, but I was very disappointed in the lack of effort.”

Sunday’s game started with Georgia State taking an early lead in the second inning, scoring on a fielding error and sacrifice fly to go up 2-0. However, the Falcons responded with a big fourth inning. Sophomore outfielder R.J. Williams drew a bases loaded walk for his first RBI of the season to cut the lead in half, then freshman outfielder Jake Wilson tied it up on an RBI groundout. Glanzman completed the inning by scoring two more runs on a throwing error, giving the Falcons a 4-2 lead. Georgia State cut the lead to 3-1. However, the Falcons countered in the seventh with an RBI single from senior infielder Nick Glanzman. Georgia State was unable to make a comeback as the Falcons took the 4-1 victory.

“I thought it was huge that Greg Basalyga hit the two run homer in the top of the first inning,” Schmitz said. “That allowed (pitcher) Tyler Anderson and the rest of the bullpen, the next guy that’s handed the ball, which was Chase Antle, that’s what you want him to do.”

Sophomore catcher Jeff Scott. Both teams would be held off the board until the sixth inning, when Georgia State hit a homer of their own to cut the lead to 3-1. However, the Falcons countered in the seventh with an RBI single from senior infielder Nick Glanzman. Georgia State was unable to make a comeback as the Falcons took the 4-1 victory.

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Junior infielder Randy Righter finished up the scoring in the inning, taking advantage of an Army fielding error to score another run for a 4-0 advantage. Basalyga hit his third RBI of the game with a double in the eighth, allowing the Falcons to take a 5-0 win.

“It was a very good pitching performance,” Schmitz said. “When you get that performance in game one, like Tyler Anderson and the rest of the bullpen, the next guy that’s handed the ball, which was Chase Antle, that’s what you want him to do.”

Saturday’s game had an opposite start to the previous matchup, as Army took advantage of two RBI doubles in the second inning to go ahead 2-0. Neither team could get any more offense until the sixth, when Army added another run with an RBI single. Army tacked on two more runs in the eighth on a fielder’s choice and a sacrifice fly to win 5-0.

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“The guys definitely had more energy,” Schmitz said. “They were much more focused and it was a great way to finish the tournament.”

The team will next play in their first home series of the season on Friday, Saturday and Sunday against the Niagara Purple Eagles.
Legislation may end tax on feminine products

An Ohio law has recently been proposed that would eliminate sales taxes from feminine hygiene products. The two sponsors of House Bill 61, state Reps. Greta Johnson and Brigid Kelly, are calling for feminine hygiene products to achieve “medically necessary” status, which would exempt them from tax under Ohio law.

“The questions surrounding taxes on feminine products stem from the fact that, by their nature, the tax has a disproportionate impact on women,” said Dr. Nicole Kalaf-Hughes, a University state and local government professor. “Women require these products, there is no option to go without, so women are stuck paying for feminine products and the taxes associated with them.”

According to a Fox 8 news article, Kelly estimates that the removal of this “pink tax” would cost the state $4 million in tax revenue. This amount of money raises questions about the cost of the bill.

“Any amount matters,” said Kalaf-Hughes, “but figure Ohio collects about $27 billion in tax, so four million is a very small percent of that.” Asked whether $4 million is a significant amount to lose, she said, “Overall, not really.”

Those in favor of the bill say that it could save women nearly $2,000 in their lifetime, according to the article.

According to Kalaf-Hughes, if there is any push-back against the passage of this law, it is likely to be minimal.

“The bill was introduced by two Democrats, but does have bipartisan co-sponsors, which is a signal of support,” she said. “The concerns and opposition to the bill will be from people who don’t want to see the state lose the income tax, from people who feel that feminine products are generally a luxury and not a necessity.”

Kalaf-Hughes said other sources of opposition to the bill

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Enrollment provost visits USG

By Keefe Watson
Campus Editor

The Undergraduate Student Government had a short meeting on Monday, which included Creed Day carnival updates and a visit from Vice Provost for Strategic Enrollment Planning Cecilia Castellano, who gave enrollment statistic updates.

USG Vice President Richard Racette gave updates on the coming Creed Day carnival on March 22 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Union and Union oval.

“There’s going to be a lot of fun stuff going on, (including) free shirts, cookies (and) popcorn,” Racette said. “It’s a great way to celebrate our Falcon spirit.”

According to Racette, the carnival-style celebration will be hard to miss.

Separately at the meeting, Castellano gave a short presentation on enrollment updates.

“It is my privilege to be a vice provost for strategic enrollment planning at Bowling Green State University,” Castellano said.

Castellano is a graduate from the University’s class of 1990 and was hired into her current position in the summer of 2015.

From fall 2015 to 2016, overall University enrollment was up 4.5 percent.

“In 2014, we sort of hit a five year low for enrollment at Bowling Green,” Castellano said. “I came in 2015, and we have been able to steadily increase... and see the trend move in the right direction.”

In regards to the freshman class that entered this past fall, it had an average ACT score of 22.8 and high school GPA of 3.4.

“That’s pretty significantly up,” Castellano said. “Bowling Green for a long time was about a 3.31 and a 22 or 21.9.”

To meet University goals, freshman enrollment for fall of 2017 will have to increase slightly.

“We are looking at enrolling a class of about 3,600,” Castellano said. “We are on target to meet that goal, that’s just one percent more on day one than we had last year and right now we are trending up (from last year)”

According to Castellano, the University is most struggling to enroll traditional transfer students, which is reflected in the current decrease in two year Ohio community college program enrollment.

On the flip side, international student and graduate student recruitment are both on the increase.

To help increase traditional transfer enrollment, the University now has a partnership with Owens Community College called the Falcon Express Program.

The program allows Owens students to identify intention to transfer to the University after two years at Owens.

“This program is brand new (and) we have about 500 students enrolled at Owens,” Castellano said.

Separate from University enrollment updates, Castellano has identified a few challenges for meeting future enrollment goals.

“There is new legislation that comes out all the time from the state of Ohio... and sometimes those things can impact enrollment,” she said.

One piece of legislation that worries Castellano is new high school graduation requirements that will go into effect for high school students graduating in 2018.

These requirements are meeting one of the following: certain ACT scores, including sub-scores such as a 22 on the math section; earning certain scores on end of course exams, which are difficult exams according to Castellano; or obtaining one of six available ACT Workkeys.

“Currently, 40 percent of Ohio juniors do not meet the (new) requirements to graduate high school,” Castellano said Monday night. “That keeps me up at night.”

Castellano encourages students to go on the Ohio Department of Education website and write letters to representatives.

Next week, University Chief Financial Officer Sherideen S. Stoll will visit USG.
Alumna revives with Reiki

By Stepha Poulin
Reporter

On Sunday, Anya Light held a free introductory Reiki lesson at the Maumee Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation (MVUUC).

MVUUC provides a space for a variety of spiritual practices to be explored, and they accept members from multiple faiths and spiritual paths.

Light, a graduate of the University's English doctoral program, is a local Reiki practitioner. Light is also the author of "Opening Love: Intentional Relationships & the Evolution of Consciousness," and publishes poems and articles centering around spirituality.

Reiki was developed by Mikao Usui in 19th century Japan. Those who practice Reiki claim to channel energy into their clients and in turn affect their clients' own energy. This is done through a combination of gentle touch, intuition and meditation.

"The literal word ‘Reiki’ can be divided into two parts,” Light said. “‘Rei,’ which has a lot of interpretations, but generally just means universal life…and then ‘ki’ is energy.”

"The Reiki session performed by Light. People had varying experiences; some were too emotional to share and others were deeply relaxed.

"I noticed that I’m never comfortable sitting like this (feet on the floor and sitting up straight),” Reverend Lynn Kerr said, “but I decided I’m going to sit like that – and internally I thought ‘wow, I’m really comfortable sitting like this’ I visualized my son and my love for him.”

An anonymous attendee began to cry at the end of her session with Light. Others had visions they never expected.

"When I closed my eyes, I saw galaxies of stars spinning in all different directions. When I looked up at her (Light) after the session, she smiled and I knew she felt something too,” Theresa Verrier said.

Those interested in practicing Reiki or having a personal Reiki session with Light can visit her website at www.purplemorningsreiki.com.

Light’s Reiki journey began when a professor noticed the decline of her physical health and recommended a natural healing process. After years of traditional medicine failed to treat Light’s illnesses, Reiki was a last resort – but it became Light’s career and life calling. She credits Reiki for the cause of her illnesses.

"What brought me to Reiki was a series of physical illnesses, but as I healed those things I realized that the reason I got all of those illnesses is because I was severely traumatized as a child,” Light said.

This realization led to Light being diagnosed with complex-PTSD. Unlike PTSD, complex-PTSD stems from the culmination of multiple instances of stress, rather than just one event of stress, such as witnessing a death or war.

"I am still in the process of healing, and one of the things that is important to talk about is that we’re all on a healing journey. Some people call it a spiritual journey… it’s the same thing,” she said.

To close the event, attendees received a mini-Reiki session performed by Light. People had varying experiences; some were too emotional to share and others were deeply relaxed.

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MEAL PLAN continued from Page 2

and future students.

“It’s not always easy to notice when a building is regularly, properly maintained,” Stoll said.

Unfortunately, when a building, furniture, cooling systems, windows, mattresses or plumbing systems have not been maintained, it is easier to notice.

The board is aware of the negative impact on student recruitment and retention if the University does not regularly reinvest in residence halls.

Board member Steve Daley proposed the changes to the room rates and meal plan prices.

“Steve Daley is the chair of the Finance and Facilities subcommittee of the Board of Trustees,” Stoll said. “As the chair, he is expected to lead the subcommittee meeting in the morning and then to do the reporting out to the full Board, including introducing all the proposed action items, at the board’s formal afternoon meeting.”

She also said next year, the Finance and Facilities committee will likely have a different chair as they rotate every year.

“Compared to our peers, Bowling Green State University has done very well restraining room and board rate increases over the past five years, along with the meal plans,” Stoll said.

For more information about 2017-2018 meal plans visit www.bgsu.edu for more information.

Increased meal plan rates would help maintain food and service quality.
FALL 2017
REGISTRATION

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March 27
March 28
March 30
April 4
April 5
April 7

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Call the Registration HOTLINE: 419-372-4444
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Go to: my.bgsu.edu

1. SELECT > student center
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