WORDS OF HOPE

Lisa Hanasono explains ways BG4Unity offers social support in the community. | PAGE 3
Mon. April 3
12:48 a.m.
Mellissa Wilbanks, 30, was cited for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia and Carlos Briscoe, 29, was cited for possession of marijuana in the 1800 block of East Wooster Street.

12:28 a.m.
Dinah May, 21, was cited for open container of alcohol in the 800 block of North Enterprise Street.

12:55 a.m.
Adam Ray, 18, was arrested for underage under the influence in the 100 block of South Summit Street. He was lodged at the Wood County Justice Center.

Sun. April 2
12:13 a.m.
Jasion Moore Jr., 21, and Tyler Lee, 22, were cited for open container of alcohol in City Lot 2.

12:28 a.m.
Ian Haskin, 21, was cited for a nuisance party in the 500 block of Frazee Ave.

2:28 a.m.
Noah Paxson, 19, was cited for disorderly conduct-public urination in the 100 block of North Prospect Street.

2:45 a.m.
Joshua Hopkins, 26, was cited for disorderly conduct-unable to care for self in the 400 block of South Church Street.

8:40 p.m.
Jordan Chambers, 18, was cited for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia in the 400 block of Gould Street.

Sat. April 1
12:11 a.m.
Robert Boykin, 19, was cited for underage under the influence and obstructing official business in the 100 block of East Wooster Street.

11:52 p.m.
Darien Harris, 19, was cited for open container and underage possession in the 100 block of East Wooster Street.

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Social media activism

By Amber Jones
Reporter

Because of the rise in hate speech and cyberbullying on social media, communication professor Lisa Hanasono and her students decided to start the service learning project BG4Unity.

During a Q&A session, Hanasono discussed the origins and success of BG4Unity while not giving away too much information on upcoming events.

Q. When did you decide to start BG4Unity?

A. In recent years, we've seen a rise in hate speech and cyberbullying on social media sites like Facebook, Twitter, Yik Yak and SnapChat. Recognizing this pervasive problem, my students and I wanted to persuade people to use social media to (a) help people and (b) show that our community cares about issues related to social justice, diversity and inclusion. In January 2015, we created and established BG4Unity. This community-based, service learning project aims to persuade people to use social media more responsibly to advocate against hate and to provide caring messages of support to people who are coping with discrimination.

Q. What was the initial focus of the class/project? Has that changed overtime?

A. During the spring semester of 2015, our core goals were to (a) establish BG4Unity and (b) encourage BGSU members and BG residents to get involved. To spread the word, we partnered with numerous organizations and staffed interactive BG4Unity booths at local events including the Black Issues Conference, Not In Our Town's first Interfaith Community Breakfast, and the State of the State Conference on Diversity. We also gave educational presentations at conferences and promoted BG4Unity through The BGNews, The Key and on social media sites.

In 2015, we asked individuals to provide words of hope and social support to victims of discrimination and cyberbullying; we wanted people to engage in discussions about these important social issues and provide a way for individuals to reach out and make a difference.

In 2016, the focus of our outreach efforts switched slightly as we invited people to create and post social media messages that challenge negative stereotypes.

Q. What projects do the students get involved in for the class?

A. Students enrolled in Hanasono's sections of COMM 3030: Persuasion are given the opportunity to coordinate BG4Unity for the semester. After learning about BG4Unity and social media activism, they work in teams to develop campaign materials, recruit BGSU students and BG residents to create #BG4Unity snapshots and develop anti-hate videos. They also spread awareness of BG4Unity and use their persuasive communication skills to encourage community members to make their own #BG4Unity snapshots at local outreach events.

Continues on Page 7
Live an assumption-free life

The problem with assumptions is that when you form an uninformed opinion about someone or something, you close yourself off to seeing the bigger picture. Often times, assumptions are not completely true and lead to false ideas about people. The only way to avoid these assumptions and avoid being uninformed is to simply not make judgements about things until you are confident.

Making assumptions about people can not only inhibit your ability to truly understand and empathize with them, but they also prevent you from being open-minded. Assumptions are the reasons racism, sexism and just plain discrimination of any kind exist in the world. When people form an opinion about others that isn’t backed up with logic, it creates a world of problems, as demonstrated by our world and country’s history.

I have been raised in a religious environment and consider myself to be a Christian. Throughout my life, my peers and acquaintances that are not religious have occasionally left out facts or stories from their life when speaking to me in fear that I would judge them or be angry. However, without getting to know me or the premise of my religion, they based their thoughts about me on the stereotypes of my religion rather than my personality and personal choice. It bothered me immensely because while these people were my friends, they assumed I would judge them based on a stereotype, not based on who I am as a person.

Like my situation, I feel this happens all the time to others in similar situations. Too often we base our opinions about people on common stereotypes or one conversation rather than taking the time to really get to know them. Why? Possibly because we lack time to really get to know one another, or simply because we are lazy and do not want to take the time to form meaningful relationships with those around us. But no matter the reason, we must stop assuming things about others.

Instead, a better solution is to take every interaction into consideration before making judgements about others. Walking a mile in their shoes or getting to know them before forming biased opinions is important as well.

When assumptions are made, communication can cease, and progress in the world grinds to a halt. However, by having an open mind and eyes free from bias, we can see people for who they are and not what the world forces upon them. Having a world free from assuming people opens the possibility for more communication and a more efficient lifestyle in general.

Reply to Bailey at thenews@bgnews.com
Pop culture’s recent outings

Barry Manilow publicly opened up about being gay for the first time in an interview last Wednesday.

In the interview, he explains why it took him until he was 73 to tell the world, saying, “I thought I would be disappointing them if they knew I was gay.” Them, referring to his fans, who are primarily female. The singer has been in a relationship with Garry Kief, his manager, for 39 years.

I think his official coming out opens up an important dialogue for us. In a country where gay marriage is legal, and this diversity is becoming more and more welcomed by (most of) society everywhere from television shows to high school hallways, what does it say that such a well-respected celebrity in his 70s has trouble coming out?

Manilow goes on to say, “so I never did anything. When they found out that Garry and I were together, they were so happy. The reaction was so beautiful – strangers commenting, ‘Great for you!’ I’m just so grateful for it.”

I can’t help but think about the recent version of Beauty and the Beast, which featured Disney’s first “exclusively gay moment.” Lefou, Gaston’s sidekick, gives us a different kind of representation when it comes to sexuality in a Disney movie, which are slowly beginning to include some diverse characters.

I don’t quite know what to make of Disney making small strides around the same time that Barry Manilow struggled to officially come out, but I do believe that these two things influence the country when it comes to thinking about marginalized groups.

According to the movie’s director, Bill Condon, the original Beauty and the Beast made back in 1991 was actually inspired by lyricist Howard Ashman, who died of AIDS just days before the screening of the film, and thought of the plot as one big metaphor for AIDS, shaping the narrative.

So it’s interesting to keep that in mind when viewing Lefou in today’s version.

In an interview with Attitude, Condon said that “Ashman had just found out he had AIDS and it was his idea, not only to make it into a musical but also to make Beast one of the two central characters; until then it had mostly been Belle’s story that they had been telling.”

Condon also discussed that Ashman connected with the Beast’s story, saying he painfully viewed his diagnosis as a “curse that brought sorrow on those he loved.”

Although Lefou is shown as having a same-sex attraction in a very small scene, Disney sends out the message that this is an okay feeling to experience, the same feeling that might be felt when learning of Manilow’s story.

“It was strange that we were even talking about it,” Manilow said, “but I don’t mind at all. I’m proud of it, I am. I’m proud of it.”

Congrats Barry Manilow, may your story encourage even more people to live their truths.

Reply to Sarah at thenews@bgnews.com

Apathy, the silent killer

Apathy. It gets the best of all of us at some time in our lives, but it’s a huge problem when it affects every aspect of our very existence.

Politics may not be your cup of tea, and I understand that, but you can’t ignore that politicians are making decisions that affect your everyday life.

Putting aside Donald Trump, governor Kasich, Mayor Edwards and every other national, state and local politician, at the very least every single University student should care about Undergraduate Student Government.

USG is the kind of organization that sets the agenda for how progressive our campus student body will be for the year. They have so much power to raise quite the stink or no stink at all to administration. The leaders of USG will be the ones that either take the time to fight for students who are being pushed around or treated unfairly, or let it slide because they don’t care as much as they should in the capacity of their position.

Voting for USG (which closes today) is one thing, but what’s really disappointing is USG’s candidacy this year and most years.

We should not have an uncontested president and vice president race. Not to mention, almost every single senator position is a write-in. The nice democratic system we have set up is not a nice system at all when there really is no choice. When only one duo is on the ballot, how many people are really going to write in someone else. While I am not worried about the candidates on this year’s ballot doing a poor job, that fact that only one pair is there is a huge issue and really shows the apathy that has become our culture.

Why don’t students care who their USG representatives are? Why don’t people care who runs for these positions?

Most importantly, why aren’t more of us running for these positions?

If I wasn’t a journalist, I would be running for some form of student government in a heart beat. Instead, I’ve chosen written word to make a difference, and it would be a conflict of interest to take part in politics I cover.

Please, for the sake of University students, current and future, start caring more. Start taking the ideas you have and make them public. Start running for positions that have an even larger capacity to create change than even you as an individual have.

This is a call to action. This is important. It’s your college education to be apathetic about if you want, but don’t. Do something and be the change.

Reply to Holly at thenews@bgnews.com

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@bgnews.com 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.
College students face spiritual struggles

By Stepha Poulin
Reporter

The stress of finals is about to begin, and a recent study from the University’s psychology department supports that other struggles can exacerbate stress and other mental health issues.

Alumna Dr. Carmen Oemig Dworsky, along with research assistant and third-year psychology graduate student Serena Wong, provided some insight into their study on spiritual struggles and mental health. Dr. Ken Pargament of the BGSU Psychology Department and Dr. Julie Exline at Case Western University were co-authors of the study. While working toward their doctorates in clinical psychology, they specialized in the psychology of spirituality and religion.

The research from their study, along with the research they have compiled from other studies, showed that college students are just as prone to spiritual struggles as most adults.

When people go to college, it’s often a time when they go through various changes in their lifestyle and thinking. For some, these changes may include the challenge of spiritual struggles.

“Spirituality is a part of people,” Dworsky said. “It can provide coping resources for mental health issues or just daily life, but it has another side too. People can struggle when they’re facing certain conflicts.”

Spiritual struggles may stem from a questioning of one’s beliefs, a lack of understanding of other spiritual practices, wondering about the meaning of life or even one’s interpretation of a higher power. There are countless more examples that are specific to people across all forms of spirituality, or spiritual struggles that have the potential to affect everyone.

Dworsky and Wong worked with their colleagues to discover that suppressing spiritual struggles can have an adverse effect on a person’s mental health. Someone can be religious or non-religious and still experience a spiritual struggle – in fact, many of the people in their study did not have a particular religious affiliation.

If someone carries on a habit of avoiding any struggle, more issues begin to arise. This study noted things like increased depression, anxiety and an increased likelihood to experience more spiritual struggles. Other studies have concluded that college aged people are likely to experience spiritual struggles as well.

“A national data set found that emerging adults are the group that experiences the most amount of spiritual struggles...”

Serena Wong
Assistant Researcher

“...A national data set found that emerging adults are the group that experiences the most amount of spiritual struggles...”

Serena Wong
Assistant Researcher

Recent studies suggest many college students are likely to experience spiritual struggles. Young adults experience the greatest amount.

“A national data set found that emerging adults are the group that experiences the most amount of spiritual struggles, more than middle aged persons and older individuals,” Wong said.

Dworsky and Wong warned that avoiding spiritual struggles can make other problems worse. If a student is worrying about paying for college or studying for exams, the stress they experience can be increased if they avoid resolving a spiritual struggle.

Continues on Page 14
With discrimination against People of Color and Muslims on the rise, has BG4Unity been able to spread mindfulness and acceptance of these people on campus?

BG4Unity continues to work with BGSU and community members to advocate against the discrimination of all people, including People of Color and Muslims. Each week, we focus on challenging stereotypes related to different social identities. In March, for example, we invited people to create #BG4Unity snapshots that challenged stereotypes about gender, sexual orientation, race and culture. This month, we are focusing on challenging stereotypes related to age, health, beauty and intersecting identities. In doing so, we hope to spread mindfulness and acceptance of people from diverse backgrounds.

What is new this year with the class? Will there be any upcoming events?

We held an outreach event in February, which was a huge success. We will be planning more events for the fall semester of 2017—please stay tuned. In the meantime, we invite all BGNews readers to connect with us by liking BG4Unity on Facebook.

The success of BG4Unity has garnered over 1,400 likes on Facebook and over 1,000 people have created #BG4Unity social media photos that challenge negative stereotypes. These photos have reached more than 20,000 people online and made over 150,000 impressions on network members’ social media feeds, according to Hanasono.

“We hope to continue to grow and expand BG4Unity in the upcoming years,” she said.

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Baseball looks to faceoff Toledo

By Zane Miller
Assistant Sports Editor

The Falcons baseball team will play against the Toledo Rockets in the Battle of 1-75 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

Toledo has struggled in the early part of the season, but have begun to play better recently.

“It looks like Toledo’s having the same type of year that we’re having,” Falcons head coach Danny Schmitz said. “But to be honest, it doesn’t matter when you’re playing Toledo, it’s always a rivalry no matter what the records are. I know they ended up having a really good weekend; I know they won two out of three. One of those they won in 13 innings, so they should be feeling pretty good about themselves, and we have nothing but respect for Toledo. Cory Mee does a great job as head coach there, so they’re well-coached; they’ll be ready to go, and we’ve got to make sure we can match that.”

The team is also coming off a strong performance on the road against the Northern Illinois Huskies last weekend, coming back from an 11-0 loss by winning the last two games 7-4 and 9-1 respectively.

“I would hope that the guys have gained a little confidence,” Schmitz said. “It was nice to be able to score some runs and help out the pitching and the defense. For the most part, the pitching and the defense have been there on a consistent basis, but the hitting has not been there, so I’m hoping that the guys are starting to figure things out and can help out the other two areas.”

The team also looks to take a ‘one game at a time’ approach going into the series.

“We just get ready to play for Friday; then once Friday’s done we play Saturday and once Saturday’s done we play Sunday,” Schmitz said. “Our goal is every weekend, to try to win the series, but you can’t worry about winning the series; you worry about the game that you’re playing. I know it’s an old cliché, but you play one game at a time and that’s what we need to focus on.”

The team was also originally scheduled to play on Wednesday afternoon on the road against the Michigan Wolverines, but only got through half of one inning before persistent lightning forced the game to be postponed with the score knotted at 0-0. The main highlight came when freshman outfielder Jake Wilson hit a single, but was unable to score.

“We had Jake on base, but we couldn’t advance the baserunner,” Schmitz said. “After the inning was completed, we took the field and (pitcher) Chandler Stillings took his warmups, and it started raining just a little bit, but then the lightning showed up and every time there’s another bolt, you have to wait 30 minutes… so at that point in time between Michigan head coach Erik Bakich and myself [decided] that we weren’t going to wait around, so we called it a halted game.”

However, the team still feels it was a positive to be able to work in some outdoor practicing.

“The good thing is that we at least got through pregame,” Schmitz said. “We were outside, we hit live on the field, we hit ground balls and we took infield, which was good because with the way Mother Nature’s been the last couple of days, we haven’t been outside since the series against Northern Illinois last Saturday except to put the tarp on the field.”

The game is scheduled to continue from the point it was halted on a yet to be determined date.
Softball splits series against Miami

By Elias Faneuff
Sports Reporter

The Falcons softball team split the two game series at home on Tuesday afternoon against Miami (OH) RedHawks. The RedHawks took game one by a score of 3-2, but the Falcons took game two by a score of 2-0. Sophomore pitchers Brooke Parker and Meredith Miller each performed well in their respective starts since both allowed only four hits.

“The pitchers have done a great job in making adjustments, as opposed to feeling like the weight of the world is on their shoulders and they have to do it themselves,” Falcon head coach Sarah Willis said. “I think it speaks to our culture, where the girls are trusting the process and trusting each other. It’s great to see them playing together as a team and really clicking together on the field.”

In game one, the Falcons struck first in the bottom of the third as junior infielder Chelsea Raker hit an RBI sacrifice fly toward right field putting the team up 1-0. In the top of the sixth, Miami loaded the bases, which put more pressure on pitcher Meredith Miller to respond.

Miami successfully got an RBI single and sacrificed fly to drive in two runs for the RedHawks. However, the Falcons responded in the bottom of the sixth as sophomore outfielder Hannah Giammarino would hit a perfectly placed bunt in front of the catcher.

A throwing error from the catcher drove in an unearned run for the Falcons, as the game was tied 2-2 going into the final inning. In the top of seventh, Miami was able to get a runner on second with two outs. A fielding error from junior shortstop Aspen Searle gave the RedHawks the unearned run, putting them up 3-2, and they eventually got the victory over the Falcons in game one.

In game two, Brooke Parker recorded her first career shutout and finally put on a great performance after struggling in the past few games. She pitched 62 strikes out of her 87 total pitches.

“After the first game, I talked to Meredith about their hitters, and she really helped me out,” Parker said. “She told me what she threw that worked for her. I knew when I came in, my fielders would have my back and would make good plays if I would let them. I’m not looking for strikeouts. I’m looking to throw the least amount of pitches that I can, and it’s a big boost to my confidence when the fielders are making plays like they did today.”

In the bottom of the third, Chelsea Raker hit an RBI single towards right field to put the team up 1-0. Then in the bottom of the fourth, senior third baseman Haley Schrock hit a sacrifice fly towards deep left field to give the team another run on the scoreboard leading 2-0. The RedHawks never got to advance to third base the entire game and were unsuccessful when put into scoring position on second base. The Falcons ended the day on a good note winning 2-0.

“Brooke (Parker) did a great job keeping them off balance today,” Willis said. “You look at the stats: 26 batters faced; no walks and no strikeouts. That tells you how the defense played behind her. They came up with some great grabs, and she kept them off balance and made it relatively easy for them.”

The Falcons will begin a three game series at home this weekend against the Eastern Michigan Eagles with the first game on Friday beginning at 3 p.m. Then there will be a doubleheader on Saturday with the first game beginning at 3 p.m. and the second game expected to begin at 5 p.m.
Faculty senate discusses J-terms

By Keefe Watson
Campus Editor

The University of Toledo will adopt a 15 week semester calendar in the state of Ohio to begin the transition to the new calendar between now and its implementation.

For the 2018-2019 school year, the University is making significant changes to its academic calendar with the introduction of 15 week semesters and a winter intersession.

Vice Provost for Academic Affairs John Fischer presented the new calendar during Faculty Senate’s regular meeting on Tuesday.

“Bowling Green is one of the last institutions in the state of Ohio to begin the transition to a 15 week semester in the fall and the spring,” Fischer said. This includes The University of Toledo, which will adopt a 15 week semester this fall.

“(University students) immediately go to the opportunities that they see this is going to provide for them,” Fischer said. “They talk about things like the ability to work for four or five weeks in between fall and spring...or the chance to participate in study abroad.”

On the whole, Fischer said, students see more opportunities than issues with the new calendar.

However, faculty and administrators will have to work through many complications with the new calendar, because seven year cycles tend to catch all the issues with the calendar, and it'll be approximately two weeks, Fischer said during an interview last year.

Under the new calendar, fall break will seize to exist and spring break will move two weeks later in March – but still landing between the eighth and ninth week of classes.

“We have always exceeded the state requirements for the number of contact hours and the academic weeks of an academic semester,” Fischer said.

According to the requirements found on Ohio.gov's Department of Higher Education page, “One semester credit hour will be awarded for a minimum of 750 minutes of formalized instruction.”

Students at the University currently engage in 2,370 minutes of teacher face time during a three-credit class.

The new 15 week calendar meets state requirements, but teacher-student face time will decrease to the state minimum of 750 minutes per credit hour, or 2250 minutes for the common three credit course – including an extended 150 minute final exam period instead of the current 120 minute period.

“Seven year cycles tend to catch all the issues with the calendar,”

John Fischer
Vice Provost of Academic Affairs

One of these complications is financial aid funding for students.

“In federal financial aid law, the word ‘term’ means something, so we will continue as an institution to have three terms,” Fischer said. “The three terms will be fall, spring and summer.”

Therefore, spring term will have two sessions – winter and spring.

When drafting potential revised calendars, Fischer prioritized a few criteria, including a total of 14 weeks and a final exam week, building time for a three week winter session, avoid weekend finals, all current holidays would continue to exist, keep winter sessions from beginning until after Jan. 1 and avoid winter commencement from occurring on Christmas weekend.

“We’ll do a draft that is seven years of a calendar, because seven year cycles tend to catch all the issues with the calendar, and it’ll be approximately two weeks,” Fischer said during an interview last year.

These calendar drafts extend all the way to 2070, Fischer said Tuesday.

“We'll do a draft that is seven years of a calendar,”

Faculty senate discusses J-terms

For the 2018-2019 school year, the University of Rhode Island also has a three-week winter session and offers about 20 courses and experiential learning opportunities.

Course offerings are likely to include courses that students often struggle with or retake and online courses that can fit into a three-week time frame.

The University of Rhode Island also has a winter session and offers about 20 courses and experiential learning opportunities. Fischer would be happy with a similar offering in January 2019, he said in November.

“The institutions who have J-terms (winter sessions) right now are talking about how it provides opportunities for students to catch-up if they struggled with something...and it actually improves the number of students moving on their way to graduation,” Fischer said in November.

Students who do not enroll in any winter session offerings would have an extended winter break of about six weeks.

“Finals week will matter,” Fischer said. “Even more than it matters now, and it matters a lot now.”

Fisher has been actively working on the new calendar since this past fall, looking primarily toward Miami University’s calendar for inspiration.

Specific opportunities to be offered under the winter session have yet to be determined, but will focus on experiential learning and keeping students on-track for graduation.

Fischer and his counterparts have a goal of including an experiential learning component in every program offered, and the three-week winter session would help create a time for these components.

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University to get electrical makeover

By Adam Porter

Over the summer, some of the University’s underground electrical hubs will be replaced after being used for years. Capital Planning Vice President Steve Krakoff and Assistant Vice President Brian Swope talked about what exactly is going to happen over the summer with the hubs.

“We are in the process of converting a number of facilities from 4,160 volts to 12.47 kV,” he said. “The buildings that will be affected during the upgrade are the Education Building, Fine Arts Center, Miletli Alumni Center, Kresich, Harshman, Conklin, East Hall, Kahl Hall, Business Administration Building, Olscamp Hall, Memorial Hall, Slater Family Ice Arena, Doyt Perry Stadium and Peripherals.”

According to Swope, the two load centers where most of the University’s power are used from are also getting switched from the 2460s resistor to 12.47 and getting rid of the resistors. The Harshman and Centrix Load Centers are dismantled as well as the Business Administration, Olscamp, Education buildings, and Memorial Hall.

The price of the project and upgrades is $6.7 million. According to Swope and Krakoff, this includes the construction cost, engineers fee and everything else needed for this project.

The main benefit of the project is reducing the amount of electricity used at the University because the older electrical hubs are outdated and inefficient.

“The electrical master plan on the 12.47 kV upgrade is happening right now, but a study showed if we converted to 12.47, we would save 3 percent in demand save and 3 percent reduction of energy or kilowatt power. More efficient power would be better since it would not be running through the transformer that get power to the University. Other benefits would be that since the load centers are out of date, and need upgraded, if these were to go down, all buildings would be without power,” Swope said. “However, with the new system coming in the summer, everything will be decentralized and have new equipment for the new upgrade and power is coming in since everyone will be gone it will be easier to get these upgrades done and save money for this project.”

Swope expects the upgrade to be completed safely over the course of the summer.

“There are risks, but a lot of extensive planning and a sound schedule and a well outcome and the budget is very well and strong, financial and beneficially,” Swope said.

Krakoff also mentioned that students will benefit from the upgrade as well.

“This Energy conservation plan, saves money and makes operating costs easy for students to work with while attending the University,” Krakoff said.

University to get electrical makeover

By Adam Porter

Over the summer, some of the University’s underground electrical hubs will be replaced after being used for years. Capital Planning Vice President Steve Krakoff and Assistant Vice President Brian Swope talked about what exactly is going to happen over the summer with the hubs.

“We are in the process of converting a number of facilities from 4,160 volts to 12.47 kV,” he said. “The buildings that will be affected during the upgrade are the Education Building, Fine Arts Center, Miletli Alumni Center, Kresich, Harshman, Conklin, East Hall, Kahl Hall, Business Administration Building, Olscamp Hall, Memorial Hall, Slater Family Ice Arena, Doyt Perry Stadium and Peripherals.”

According to Swope, the two load centers where most of the University’s power are used from are also getting switched from the 2460s resistor to 12.47 and getting rid of the resistors. The Harshman and Centrix Load Centers are dismantled as well as the Business Administration, Olscamp, Education buildings, and Memorial Hall.

The price of the project and upgrades is $6.7 million. According to Swope and Krakoff, this includes the construction cost, engineers fee and everything else needed for this project.

The main benefit of the project is reducing the amount of electricity used at the University because the older electrical hubs are outdated and inefficient.

“The electrical master plan on the 12.47 kV upgrade is happening right now, but a study showed if we converted to 12.47, we would save 3 percent in demand save and 3 percent reduction of energy or kilowatt power. More efficient power would be better since it would not be running through the transformer that get power to the University. Other benefits would be that since the load centers are out of date, and need upgraded, if these were to go down, all buildings would be without power,” Swope said. “However, with the new system coming in the summer, everything will be decentralized and have new equipment for the new upgrade and power is coming in since everyone will be gone it will be easier to get these upgrades done and save money for this project.”

Swope expects the upgrade to be completed safely over the course of the summer.

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Interfaith breakfast brings different religions together

By Adam Porter

Not In Our Town (NIOT) and local religious leaders celebrated religious diversity and tolerance, with a bit of food on the side, at their “Interfaith Breakfast” Wednesday. Meeting at Wood County’s Fairgrounds, participants were able to listen to people of different faiths speak while also enjoying the provided breakfast.

“The Interfaith Breakfast is an annual event hosted by NIOT; the initiative of this event is the partnership with the city and University and opportunity for students, faculty, staff alumni, community members and more to attend and celebrate for diversity and inclusion and learn about the differences in faith,” Alex Solis, Marketing and Development Coordinator of the President’s office, said. “We invited a slate of speakers from different religions: from Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism and Native American.” This year, there was a more diverse amount of speakers than there had been previous years.

“Great thing about this list is that in the years past, we had pastors, ministers and so forth. This year, we changed the focus, and we reinvented and intentionally changed to those who practice religion and myth busting the various faiths of their religion,” Solis said. “It is a challenging time nationally, with everything going on across the country; events like this serve as a great reminder for us to celebrate differences.”

Solis mentioned the local speakers did a great job, and said that Mayor Edwards and President Mazey did a good job recognizing how events like the breakfast are important and can make an impact in the community.

Solis is personally proud and relates to students in the crowd. He mentioned this was a great opportunity to share viewpoints and give an informal dialogue about the events going on and making this an impact at the University.

“NIOT and the Interfaith Breakfast wouldn’t be successful today if it wasn’t [for] the support of the city and University,” Solis said. Rev. Gary Saunders, Co-Chair of NIOT and Co-Pastor of BG’s First Presbyterian Church said it the best according to Solis, “Diversity is a gift.”
SPIRIT continued from Page 6

They urged students to be open about their spiritual struggles. Simply speaking about these problems with trusted people, in a safe non-judgmental space, can help individuals move through them. “College provides this great platform to cultivate the spirit and explore these issues with other people,” Wong said.

However, Dworsky explained that the college environment may invoke spiritual struggles for some. “In addition to having these resources, it’s also a time of transition,” Dworsky said. “Some people are leaving home for the first time and encountering people of different faiths, backgrounds and beliefs.”

Moving to college may cause a student to lose the support system they have known for most of their lives. When that support system is a place of worship or a religious community, the change can bring on spiritual struggles. Students at the University can make use of on-campus services to cope with their spiritual struggles. An outside therapist can also help. Dworsky advised students to mention they are experiencing a spiritual struggle when arranging to see a provider, as that fact may aide in finding the right counselor for you.

Counseling services are available through the Counseling Center on campus, and the University has an online service to find a counselor that fits a student’s individual needs. Call 419-372-2081 for office hours and walk-in hours.

There are also counseling services through the psychology department. Those experiencing a psychological crisis, feeling suicidal or feeling homicidal can call The Link at (419) 352-1545 or 1-800-472-9411.
Steak n’ Shake will officially be coming to the Bown Thompson Student Union this fall, replacing Steak Escape.

John Zachrich, senior marketing manager for BGSU Dining, said this change is being made because of the low popularity of Steak Escape from students over the past few years.

“We do a lot of market research, and we know the popularity was continuing to drop. It’s not a brand that students are currently looking for,” Zachrich said.

When deciding what should replace Steak Escape, BGSU Dining conducted a survey asking students what kind of food they would like to see on campus.

“We do surveying of certain brands with different concepts such as, do they want to see something like Tex-Mex or a premium burger? The response for a premium burger was overwhelming,” he said.

Rumors were going around that a Chick-fil-A would be going into the Union, but Zachrich said that is untrue. At this moment, it won’t have anything on the menu as a regular store would. It is designed specifically for the University. It will have the staples like premium burgers and shakes.”

Construction for the new project is set to start on Aug. 15 and will be ready when students arrive in the fall.

The Steak n’ Shake will have a slight deviation,” Zachrich said. “It won’t have everything on the menu as a regular store would. It is designed specifically for the University. It will have the staples like premium burgers and shakes.”

There are no plans that Chikendipity will be leaving or replaced. The only change will be the new menu. When students arrive in the fall, there are no plans that Chikendipity will be leaving or replaced. The only change will be the new menu.

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