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Bowling Green State University

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Dead week is here. Finals week is days away. Final papers are due and exams are looming. While staying on top of your to-do list may seem like a daunting task, here are some tips and tricks to finishing out the semester strong.

1. Make a to-do list and budget your time. Looking ahead and scheduling how much time you will devote to each of your tasks. This way, you know what you have to get done in a certain time frame.

2. Find new ways to study. Write a quiz for a study partner and swap. If you’re writing a paper, use maps and outlines to keep your writing organized. Use mnemonic devices (like PEMDAS) or rhymes to help memorize sets of information. Instead of making paper flashcards, use Quizlet.com. You can play games with your digital card sets, and it is a more environmentally conscious study option.

3. Think you know the information? Try teaching it to a friend. By explaining concepts aloud and to someone who doesn’t understand, you become more conscious of the material. It tests your comprehension by making you use your own words, which also helps memorization.

4. Create the perfect study environment. Go somewhere without distractions. Leave your dorm room or apartment. Turn off the phone and TV. Bring snacks and water with you so you don’t have to interrupt yourself to get it. If you don’t need the internet, turn your Wi-Fi off. If you know your friends will distract you, study alone. Don’t be afraid to turn down an offer for a group study session. More than often, group study is more unproductive than helpful.

5. Manage your stress. Sleep. Sometimes sleeping is more productive than trying to study. Take a walk. Listen to calming music. Go work out and stretch. Take a few deep breaths.

6. Fuel yourself. Eat, and eat healthily. Your body performs in respect to the quality of food you put in it. Make wise food choices. This goes the same for what you are drinking. Caffeine can be great for a temporary fix, but if you’re in this exam week for the long haul, water is a better option. Coffee and sugary drinks can bring temporary highs and crushing lows. Combined with the high stress associated with the end of the semester, this is the perfect concoction for a mid-week meltdown, halting all productivity. Drink water.

7. If you’re going to procrastinate, procrastinate with something productive. Pack up your dorm room, go for a walk, do laundry or cook a meal. These are activities that have a start and end point. You can’t get endlessly lost in them like your Instagram or Twitter feed. Avoid social media at all costs. It’s easy to get sucked in once you start. Do something productive. It will be easier to switch back to study mode when the time comes.

8. Take short breaks. There’s nothing wrong with taking a five or 10 minute break every once in a while. It can refresh your brain. Try learning a chunk of information before the break. After, see what you can remember. Reward yourself, but make sure you aren’t breaking more than you are studying.
Death encourages reflection

Sarah Smith
Forum Editor

Last week I experienced the death of a family friend and have not been able to get the concept of death off my mind for more than a few moments. It also probably doesn't help that in one of my English classes we're currently reading “When Breath Becomes Air” by Paul Kalanithi, which I highly recommend everyone read, just maybe when you're in a stable spot in life and haven't just mourned the loss of a 19-year-old boy.

We've all reflected on death at some point in our life; maybe it was a grandparent, maybe it was a friend, but either way it's something that shoves a mirror in front of your face and forces you to think about the way you're living your own life. At least for me it does.

We can't take anything with us when we leave. Not our money, material items or even the labels that are constantly slapped on us as humans. Your race, age, gender and sex don't matter in the end. So why do we spend so much time placing them upon each other? This all seems like such common sense to me, but it's something so near and dear to my heart at the moment that I want to scream it from a rooftop.

Perhaps this book was an ironically timed blessing in disguise; placed on my lap at just the right moment when I needed it most. It's organized my scatterbrained thoughts about death into a perfectly worded novel that guides readers through the experience of a dying man.

“There is a moment, a cusp, when the sum of gathered experience is worn down by the details of living. We are never so wise as when we live in this moment.”

Today, let's look at the details of living. Have you put labels on people? Judged someone? Placed a higher value on material things rather than the people you love?

Reply to Sarah at bgfalconmedia@gmail.com

Sarah Smith
Forum Editor

FALCON FACTS
The basement in Moseley Hall was originally used for cow stalls.

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Respect is a timeless idea

Respect is something we may take for granted. Respect should always be given to others unless a person disrespects you first. There are different reasons for showing people respect. Maybe they’re an elder, or a person in a powerful position. Maybe they’re a family member of some sort. But why not show everyone respect?

Everyone deserves respect simply because we are all human beings, and we have a purpose on this planet. Unless someone has done you wrong, then there should be no reason whatsoever as to why you should NOT show someone respect. There are some people who show people respect based on their popularity or likeability. Even if you dislike a person, you should still show them respect. Yes, we all have those people that we dislike, but that doesn’t mean you should disrespect them simply because you just don’t agree with their views or personalities.

I have many people I dislike. Mainly it’s because they wronged me, or maybe it’s just mutual because the people randomly disliked me first. Do I still respect them? Yes, I do because they’re human beings. There are even people out there that dislike me, including people at the University. In fact, I’ve been disliked by people since the day I stepped on campus in 2014, and I’m very well aware of it. Crazy part is, I don’t really care because that’s their personal vendetta and prerogative. There are many people who dislike me because I have a tendency for calling people out whether if it was needed or not.

People also dislike me simply because who I may be attracted to or support.

To clarify, I’m pro-interracial. I support interracial relationships, and some people do not necessarily understand my advocacy on it. Some dislike it, even those that are biracial themselves. But like I mentioned earlier, we all have things that we don’t like about a person or views and opinions that may be different from theirs. Does having respect mean you have to make friends with them? Not at all. But you shouldn’t pour a glass of bleach on them if you walk past them either.

Respect should go hand-in-hand with tolerance. You don’t have to like the person or the actions they do to respect them. That’s a given. I have friends that I love, but we all have different views that we may not like. We may actually have a strong dislike for one another’s views. Does this stop us from being friends? No at all. We still enjoy being friends. We just have differences that we disagree on.

Respect even plays in from a religious standpoint. If you identify as Christian, or Catholic or any other religious affiliation that follows teachings of the Holy Bible, it’s said that one should “love the person, hate the sin,” meaning that you can still love a person, but just simply dislike the actions they’ve done. In the political world people are so caught up in what they believe or who they voted for, and they don’t stop to respect the other side and automatically think it’s wrong. Just because someone supports a different side of the political spectrum than you, doesn’t mean you have to mistreat them, or put them beneath you, like I’ve seen on Facebook posts in my News Feed. People will have different opinions than you. After all, doesn’t the United States focus on independence? So, respect independence. No matter what someone’s political, religious, sexual, ethical, views are, people are capable of getting along if they tried and respected one’s different opinions and views. It’s never too late to take an initiative and start showing respect.

Reply to Torrance at bgfalconmedia@gmail.com

Torrance Vaughan
Columnist

“But why not show everyone respect? Everyone deserves respect simply because we are all human beings and we have a purpose on this planet.”

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

This is in response to ‘Steak ‘n Shake’ to replace Steak Escape this fall originally printed April 6, 2017.

To the Editor:

I was disappointed to learn that Steak Escape will be replaced by Steak ‘n Shake this coming fall.

Don’t get me wrong, I love a good burger/shake combination from Steak ‘n Shake, and I rarely turn down the opportunity to get a delicious, albeit, unhealthy meal from there. However, I am hesitant to support the chain opening up a location in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

The Union is primarily utilized by hungry students who use their meal plans to get lunch, dinner or snacks in between classes. Many students who have meal plans use it in place of grocery shopping. Because students (myself included) rely on meal plans to receive nutritional meals, I believe it is imperative that the University makes concerted efforts to make healthy options easier to access than unhealthy options.

Imagine the benefits of creating a healthier option, like a healthy fruit and vegetable stand—as opposed to bringing in Steak n Shake. As students, we would have a greater opportunity to get a meal with high nutritional value that left us feeling energized and focused for our classes. I can’t deny that Steak ‘n Shake tastes good, but it doesn’t have any long-term benefits for students. I would like to see my university demonstrate more interest in cultivating a healthy campus than in cultivating profits.

Hilary Powell
Sex trafficking convictions decrease

Despite Toledo’s ranking among sex trafficking charts, Bowling Green authorities say sex trafficking crimes have been declining.

By Holly Shively
Editor-in-Chief

Bowling Green authorities are issuing fewer citations for human trafficking related crimes than ever, despite nearby Toledo ranking highly nationally for sex trafficking issues.

Mary Krueger, founder of The Cocoon and director of the Women’s Center at the University, said she has no reason to believe, however, that northwest Ohio has a worse or lesser problem with sex trafficking than any other part of the world. Instead, it’s based on awareness.

Heather Paramore, the sex trafficking survivor advocate at the Cocoon, said while Toledo’s problems do stretch to Bowling Green because of Interstate 75, the advocates and authorities in both cities do a good job taking care of sex trafficking issues.

“Bowling Green is ranked anywhere between two and five [in the world] depending on what year it is, but it’s not on worst problem with trafficking. It’s on number of convictions, arrests, recoveries,” Paramore said. “So it’s not necessarily that Toledo has the worst problem with trafficking. It’s more so that we’ve been doing a better job of making arrests and prosecutions.”

Krueger said a lot of that is due to Celia Williamson, an international leader in raising awareness of sex trafficking, who is located in Toledo.

“Because of her work, Toledo and northwest Ohio in general have paid more attention to trafficking, especially sex trafficking than other parts of the country,” Krueger said. “I think that we have been on the leading edge of getting people to pay attention.”

Paramore said there are a lot of advocates and programs in the area, which allows people better ability to spot and report trafficking crimes in Toledo areas, and police are able to make more convictions because of it.

Jamie Webb of the Wood County Sheriff’s Office said numbers of convictions in the Bowling Green area are actually lowering despite a rise elsewhere. Publicity efforts such as trainings, awareness information offered to gas
TRAFFICKING continued from Page 5

station and restaurant workers, compact mirrors
with a toll free number and other anti-trafficking
partnerships in Lucas and Hancock Counties
have helped in decreasing the number of people
committing trafficking crimes in the area.

The Sheriff’s Office enacted human trafficking
enforcement operations in 2010, which all
started in response to a teenage girl being
approached with a proposition to sell sex at a
truck stop in North Baltimore.

“Our office took a proactive approach to it,” he
said.

The office started by placing undercover
female officers at truck stop and catching
offenders who approached them. As they
learned more about human trafficking in the
area, they started posting and responding to
posts on Backpage. Both female and male
officers took part in these operations, which
would normally require meeting up in hotel
rooms. After that, the office continued regular
enforcement operations.

At the first bust in North Baltimore, the
Sheriff’s Department made five or six arrests
in the first hour alone, and on April 20, 2015,
seven traffickers were arrested in one day. Before
it closed, the Victory Inn on East Wooster was a
major hub for trafficking. It was close to Interstate
75 making for “easy on, easy off,” Webb said.

While the Wood County Sheriff’s Office made
over 100 trafficking and sex work-related arrests
in 2014, Webb said the numbers have dropped
each year since, reaching as low as the mid
20s last year—all while conducting the same
enforcement operations.

“If they have knowledge of our area, they stay
away,” he said.

Paramore and other advocates don’t keep
track of the number of clients they see in a
specific time period, partly because it’s difficult
with labeling. Some women use the Cocoon’s
services for sexual assault or domestic abuse but
don’t recognize their circumstances as trafficked.

“A lot of times people will think of…this
ichotomy of sex trafficking versus sex work, or
they’ll think either you’re doing it because you
don’t choose to, or you’re doing it because you do
choose to. And that’s really not reflective of what
reality is,” she said. “Problems that we’ve been
having since, well before our country was even
started, we’re now labeling as human trafficking.”

The legal definition of sex trafficking is when
someone is convinced to sell sex through force,
fraud or coercion. Sex work on the other hand
is when someone freely chooses to sell sex with
the condition that they have other options for
occupation.

“Early on it was oh, it’s just a victimless crime.
It’s two consenting adults. No it’s not,” Webb said.

The gray area is the middle ground termed
engaging in prostitution, when individuals
choose to join “the life” but do so because they
don’t have any other options. They may not
have a high school diploma, have a severe
drug addiction issue or have been previously
trafficked and gotten out but don’t know how to
support themselves in freedom, Paramore said.

“Because of all these blurred lines, we’ve
had trouble identifying people as trafficked,”
Paramore said.

Krueger said one of the main differences is
whether someone can freely choose to stop
selling themselves.

Another part of the labeling issue is a result of
the complexity of trafficking and those involved.

“In reality a pimp can be a friend that may
be a female, maybe a boyfriend,” Webb said,
distinguishing from the nice car, gold chain
wearing pimp in popular culture.

Pimps are not always men, Paramore
said. There is a category between victim and
trafficking, called a bottom, who is a woman
that has worked for the pimp for a long time and
earned his trust.

Krueger said she would estimate over half of
the trafficking victims in this area are minors or
were minors when the trafficking began. In these
cases, pimps often feed off the vulnerability of
their youth.

“Domestic sex trafficking tends to be people
focusing on preying on…underage minors who
are vulnerable,” she said. “They’re vulnerable
because of their age and because of their lack or
life experience.”

Slightly older males will convince underage
girls that they care before eventually asking for
favors for other men.

Visit the full story at goo.gl/MBgwjr
CAMPUS BRIEF
State aid to universities has been in decline since the 70s, and the University was one of those who have been affected by the state of Ohio and the operating cost provided to the University.

Sheri Stoll, Chief Financial Officer and Vice President for finance & administration, said in the fiscal year 2017 Ohio provided the University approximately $70.7 million.

“We are expecting approximately $1.3 million more in fiscal year 2018, but we won’t know for sure until the budget is completed and signed by the Governor by June 30,” Stoll said.

The decline of aid to the University is mostly because the funds have gone in a different direction according to Stoll.

Along with the decline since the 1970s, the state used to provide 75 percent of the budget to the University, but now they only provide 25 percent.

“This could have occurred because they believe other areas are higher priorities, or it could have happened because they perceive public higher education to be a lower priority than other areas of state budget need. Or it might be because they believe that universities are able to increase tuition to offset reduced state support while K-12 cannot charge tuition,” Stoll said.

Stoll encouraged those with questions to reach out to elected representatives.

“Regardless of all the reasons, the fact is that no state has unlimited resources. Thus elected officials are required to make difficult choices in allocating limited budgetary resources,” Stoll said.

For students, teh decline means paying a greater proportion of the cost to attend college, Stoll said.

“Approximately 75 percent of the cost to attend college in fiscal year 2017 was paid for students and their families while the state of Ohio paid approximately 24.5 percent.”

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Baseball takes loss to Kent State

By Zane Miller
Assistant Sports Editor

The Falcons baseball team fell to the Kent State Golden Flashes 3-0 on Tuesday night for the team’s final single game matchup of the season.

“We had golden opportunities and the right people up early in the game,” Falcons Head Coach Danny Schmitz said. “Unfortunately, we just didn’t get the big hit when we needed it.”

The game started with both teams’ pitching staff dominating for the majority of the night, as Falcons pitchers Sophomore Chase Antle, Freshman Nathan Lohmeier and Sophomore Brad Croy kept the Kent State offense off the board through the first seven innings. However, Kent State was able to match their performance as both teams went scoreless throughout the first six innings.

“I thought our pitching was very good early,” Schmitz said. “We had a plan where we wanted to get certain guys in the game today to get them ready for this weekend, and they did a good job.”

However, Kent State was able to break through with the first run of the game in the seventh inning, as Sophomore infielder Josh Hollander hit an RBI double to give Kent State a 1-0 lead. Kent State then added some insurance runs in the eighth, with Junior infielder Dylan Rosa getting an RBI double and Junior catcher Tim DalPorto getting an RBI single. The Falcons were unable to rebound, as Kent State took the 3-0 victory.

“For the most part we pitched well enough to win, and we played good enough defense to win,” Schmitz said. “We just didn’t get it done offensively. You’ve got to put the ball in play; that’s the bottom line.”

The team also struck out a season-high 17 times, which the team feels they need to clean up going into their next series.

“When you get opportunities, you’ve got to take advantage of them,” Schmitz said. “Seventeen strikeouts: that’s way too many and that’s not putting any pressure on the defense, so we’ve got to do a better job.”

The team also played Kent State in a one game series earlier in the season at home on April 11, defeating them 9-3.

“I thought our approach was really good the first time around,” Schmitz said. “We jumped on them early and kept adding runs, and they never really got into the game at all. We had the same opportunities to do that tonight, but we just couldn’t come up with the big hit at the right time and that’s what we need to do.”

The team will next play on Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons at home against the Miami RedHawks.

“You’ve got to be able to score runs,” Schmitz said. “You’re not going to win any games if you don’t score any runs; it doesn’t matter how well you pitch or how well you play defense, you’ve still got to score runs. We definitely need to take advantage of opportunities and play team baseball.”

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Softball falls to Fort Wayne in single game

By Elias Faneuff  
Sports Reporter

The Falcons softball team fell on the road against the Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne Mastodons by a score of 7-1, doomed by early runs given up late in the bottom of the sixth. The Falcons are now 4-18 on the road and are currently riding a four game losing streak.

“We were not very sharp in any phase of the game today,” Falcons Head Coach Sarah Willis said. “We made too many mistakes, and we definitely have a number of things we need to work on and clean up before Friday's game.”

The Mastodons got the board early in the bottom of the second inning due to some wild pitches thrown by Sophomore pitcher Kiley Sosby. Sosby would throw three off the mark, and it caused easy base advancing for Fort Wayne and eventually would lead to one score. The Falcons would respond in the top of the third as Senior third baseman Haley Schrock would get hit by a pitch to get to first base. Schrock was able to reach third base following back-to-back ground-outs. Junior catcher Laine Simmons was next up at bat and successfully hit an RBI single towards shortstop and would tie the game at one a piece.

Things didn’t get better for Sosby as she was continuing to throw wild pitches that led to two scores in the bottom of the third and would eventually be replaced by Sophomore Brooke Parker for the remainder of the game. Fort Wayne now led by a comfortable margin as the game looked out of reach for the Falcons as they trailed 7-1 following the sixth inning.

“The Falcons will be back home this weekend as they take on Mid-American Conference opponent, the Akron Zips. The first game will be on Friday beginning at 3 p.m., then a doubleheader on Saturday with the first game beginning at 1 p.m.
By Kevin Bean
Reporter

Over the years, the Falcons have shown they can hang with Eagles, Kangaroos and Buffalos on gridirons and courts, but they don’t fair as well in comparison to other universities financially.

Vice president of Finance and Administration Sherideen Stoll said while the University is financially stable, it isn’t as stable as Miami or Ohio University.

The University, according to a monthly report, has a year-to-date market value of $194.6 million. That number alone, however, does not indicate how much the University has made.

Subtracting the market value of $189.2 million from what was originally invested totals $5.4 million made through investments - a return of 4.4 percent.

This is not to be confused with the Foundation’s investments, which are a separate entity dealing with the University’s endowments.

The University, through the Board of Trustees, makes its own decisions on investing excess operating revenue.

The University’s unrestricted operating budget is made from various sources including (but not limited to) state funding, student tuition and student fees.

When the final number for income is found, if it happens to be larger than the expenditure number, the difference is invested until the money is needed.

The University has investments in a wide range of items including stocks, fixed assets, hedge funds and international emerging market debt, Stoll said.

She explains this as purposely putting money in investment classes that perform poorly in a certain economic environment, but shine in a different climate.

The University employs and works closely with an investing advisor in the form of the Mercer, a global consultant firm.

$5.4 million made through investment is a big number, but it comes with risk.

The University’s official Investing Policy document, found on the Treasury Office webpage, details what the University considers risk and how to handle it.

The policy states that risk is tied to the financial soundness of the University with factors including state funds and enrollment.

Stoll further explained the University uses external rating agencies, such as S&P and Moody’s, to monitor the “soundness” of the University.

The current risk level for the University, the probability of having a loss year, is 23.7 percent. Stoll mentioned this number looks bad, but it represents a more conservative asset allocation within markets.

Because there is a 23.7 percent chance to have a year ending with a loss, or negative return, of invested monies, the University only plans to spend 3 to 4.3 percent of a given year’s return.

That is, as Stoll explains, if the University earned $100 million and earned 5 percent, the plan would be to spend only $3 million (3 percent) to $4.3 million (4.3 percent) of the return leaving a $2 million to $700,000 balance in the investment account.

“We need to spend less than we earn so we can set aside the excess,” Stoll said. “When we have an awful year when we lose money, we can dip into the accumulated savings, and we are still able to meet our obligation(s).”
Board of Trustees member says farewell

By Keefe Watson
Campus Editor

The Board of Trustees is possibly one the most misunderstood groups on campus – by students and faculty alike. Nine year board member David Levey visited Faculty Senate, giving a farewell speech and addressing some common misconceptions of the Board’s role.

“It’s hard to believe I’ve spent more time on the Board of Trustees than I spent as a student,” Levey said Tuesday.

Before joining the Board nine years ago, he hadn’t returned to the University since he graduated in 1971.

Levey explained some of the basics the Board make up, including that each of the nine Ohio-living members are appointed by the governor.

The Board also selects three out-of-state alumni to be on the Board, but these members lack voting power due to their out-of-state status.

“Those three out-of-state alumni bring us perspective of business people and alum that are outside of the University’s sphere,” Levey said.

There are also two student board members – one graduate member and one undergraduate member who also do not have voting privileges, but serve as a source of input.

One misconception Levey addressed was payment for board members.

“First of all, we don’t get paid. For anybody who thinks we get paid, we don’t,” Levey said. “It goes in the other way. I have to give them money.”

At first when Levey was recommended for the position and learned he would have to pay to be a board member, he wasn’t interested.

Since then, he has made a difference in the University and was successful in choosing President Mary Ellen Mazey.

The number one task given the Board, Levey said, is to select the University President.

“I had the pleasure and hard work of doing that the second year I was on the Board,” he said. “You got to learn quick and you got to do it right.”

Some of the Board’s other tasks include approving tenure, approving the budget and setting the master plan.

“When I got on the board nine years ago we (the University) used to get paid based upon the number of students coming in,” Levey said.

Now, some of the University’s funding is instead tied with the number of students who graduate, Levey said.

“The faculty is the heart and soul of this institution,” Levey said. “The beginning of retention starts with the faculty, and it ends with the faculty.”

Retention doesn’t come from the top down, he said. He encouraged faculty to be as motivated as possible to do all they can to help students who enroll graduate in a timely fashion.

Also during Tuesday’s meeting, Provost Rodney Rogers asked faculty members for their thoughts on the idea of switching to a grading system that would include pluses and minuses.

A vast majority of Faculty Senate members are in favor of the plus/minus system. The University is one of few in the Mid-American Conference to not use a plus/minus system of grading.

“The plan is this summer to gather and do an analysis...to be prepared starting fall term to engage the academic community with a discussion (of whether to change the grading system),” Rogers said.
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It’s also worth noting that inflation plays a role in the consideration of how much to spend. If you do not continue to increase what you are saving, it will lose spending power in the future.

The University Investment Policy states an objective of “achieving a risk adjusted return with investments... oriented to safety of principle, liquidity, and a stable level of current income.”

This means that the University’s top priority when investing is to not lose principle, or the year-to-date amount of investment.

Returns on investment are “mission critical” for the University Stoll said.

“If we did not have investment returns, we would need to generate revenue from another source to replace the lack of investment returns.”

Stoll has worked with the finances of the University for 10 years, and has worked with other universities in a financial capacity since 1995.

“We invest our excess cash for the same reasons an individual invests their excess cash,” said Stoll.

She likens the situation to an individual’s personal finances: “Leaving all your cash sitting in your checking account will not earn you any return. Cash is an asset and can, within appropriate parameters, be put to work to generate investment returns.”

CITY BRIEF

The Bowling Green State of the City Address will be held on Thursday, April 27 at 8:00 am at the Wood County District Public Library. Doors open at 7:30 am. Speakers include:

* Mayor Richard Edwards
* President Mary Ellen Mazey
* Councilman Bruce Jeffers
* BG Schools Superintendent Francis Scruci

Can’t attend?

We will be livestreaming the address on our BG Falcon Media social media accounts. You can go back and watch the address at any point by visiting @BGFalconMedia on Twitter or the BG Falcon Media Facebook page.