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Study shows increase in voting students

Puerto Rico hurricane crisis continues

Football falls in first conference game of season
University see increase in voting

The National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement revealed a 10 percent increase in voter engagement.

Abby Shifley

The University has had a 10 percent increase in voter engagement from the 2012 election to the 2016 election.

Since 2012, the University has been a part of the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement, a nationwide study through the Institute for Democracy and Higher Education at Tufts University.

The Tufts University website says the study’s goals are to provide a service to colleges and universities interested in learning about their students’ voting habits and to build a national database for research on college students’ political knowledge and engagement in democracy.

The website emphasizes the study does not receive any information besides whether a student voted or not and is completely anonymous. This is done through a system called IPEDS, which converts voters’ names to random ID numbers, addresses to zip codes, birthdates to age, etc.

Paul Valdez, associate director of the University’s Center for Community and Civic Engagement, said the study provides participating universities with data every other year that includes both the percent of the student body registered to vote and the percent of those registered that actually participate in elections, as well as additional voter information such as gender, age, race and major.

Valdez said the University did not have a system to measure voting engagement before joining the NSLVE. The reports the Center of Community Engagement have received from the study have been helpful in promoting voter engagement.

“Paul Valdez, associate director of the Center for Community and Civic Engagement

Valdez said the increase during the presidential elections is exciting. However, the University’s voting rates in the midterm election in 2014 were sitting at 12 percent. The study knows that voter participation rates across the board, no matter what age, demographic or group, are much lower during midterm elections than they are during presidential, general elections,” Valdez said.

Voter engagement still has a long way to go to have the majority of people voting. The Center for Community and Civic Engagement has an initiative called BGSU Votes, which is funded through the Center and the Andrew Goodman Foundation. Phil Rich, one of the two ambassadors for the initiative, said their main goal is to increase political engagement.

Rich said they were happy with the 10 percent increase but had reservations. “It’s kind of disappointing that we’re happy with the fact that 55 percent of our student body is voting, because that means 45 percent of people aren’t voting, which seems absurdly high,” Rich said. “If you told a fourth grader that, they would be outraged at the silliness of it.”

Rich also said another issue BGSU Votes and the Center for Community and Civic Engagement have noticed is the gap between students who register to vote and students who actually vote. The gap is something they are trying to shrink.

Rich also said another factor to consider when comparing voting rates is the nature of the election. For example, 2012 was a much more boring election than 2016, so therefore, 2016 received more attention and probably more voters.

Regarding the results of the study, Rich said the population of young people in the world is much higher than the baby boomers; however, baby boomers vote more. They have a much larger say in what goes on politically because of this.

“It just points out the sheer number of people who don’t vote,” Rich said. “It blows my mind.”

Rich said if college students want to have a say in what goes on in this country, they can vote and be involved politically. A way to start doing this is to register to vote at the Center for Community and Civic Engagement or online.
Violence is the answer

Clearly that’s not true, but so many children today grow up thinking it is.

When they see the news, full of shootings, stabbings and cars running down pedestrians, that’s all they know.

When they see the idolized action heroes in films like “Die Hard” and “Terminator,” they dream of growing up to be just like their violent heroes.

These things should all exist. The news and entertainment are important and add value to our lives, but these can’t be the only ways children learn to cope with their problems.

Some people never learned that violence isn’t the only option in settling disputes. Some parents never teach their children that, mainly because it isn’t the first thing as a parent you’d think needs to be explained.

Some scientists say video games like Call of Duty and Grand Theft Auto form innocent children into violent adults. Playing these violent games might make certain actions seem more acceptable, but they’re certainly not making children into monsters like many suspect.

There’s no certain age when viewing these movies and playing these games becomes acceptable, so it’s on a parent to know when their child’s brain is developed enough to know right from wrong.

“Violence seems to be the go-to now, but it doesn’t have to be.”

In this day and age, parents have to actually sit down and teach their children how to deal with confrontation and disputes. In the past, these conversations may not have been necessary, but the world is changing, and so must our parenting techniques.

Violence seems to be the go-to now, but it doesn’t have to be. I know how cliche the concept of education as a solution to all of our problems sounds, but it really is in this case. If we want to stop random shootings on the streets of our neighborhoods, we have to learn to teach our children right from wrong young, and specifically teach them the right and wrong ways to settle disputes.

Just spending time with your child isn’t enough. Many parents avoid talking about the tough things until their child starts to question them, but children aren’t turning to their parents for help when figuring out how to settle disputes at school. Instead they’re returning to what they know: television and video games.

We need to start talking to our children, siblings, nieces and nephews about hard subjects like violence before they ask, because what if they don’t?

Please help Puerto Rico

The mayor of San Juan, Carmen Yulín Cruz, said this about the state of Puerto Rico this Friday: “People are dying in this country. I am begging, begging anyone that can hear us, to save us from dying. If anybody out there is listening to us, we are dying, and you are killing us with the inefficiency and the bureaucracy.”

Puerto Rico needs help. We, and our current administration, should be doing everything we can to help our fellow U.S. citizens. You read that correctly, Puerto Rico is a U.S. municipality, and Puerto Ricans are granted citizenship to both countries. And yet, the disaster in Puerto Rico seems to be getting half the media attention and even less than half the help of those in Florida or Texas. I’m not saying they didn’t deserve the help, just that Puerto Ricans deserve just as much.

Puerto Rico was devastated by Hurricane Maria. People are thirsty and starving and without power. But still, Trump thinks they are asking for everything “to be done for them.” And, he went golfing this weekend. This flippant response to human lives being lost is disgusting and horrifying. I’m not sure Trump even realizes they are U.S. citizens.

I also feel that Puerto Rico being populated by people of color may have something to do with his apathy. And his desire to start fights with the mayor of San Juan, a woman who has been working her ass off in the floodwaters to help her people. She said she is “mad as hell,” and she has every right to be.

There is aid being sent to Puerto Rico, and according to an NBC report on Sept. 30, there is a three-star general working there, but he does not feel like he has enough tools and equipment.

It is unfair to taunt Puerto Ricans while denying them as much help as possible. Puerto Rico was already in the midst of a financial crisis when it was hit with multiple hurricanes. Now, they need help rebuilding their beautiful nation to what it once was.

One good way to help is share and to donate to www.unidosporpuertorico.com.


It is incredibly important that we do what we can to help those in need. Do not sit and ignore a humanitarian crisis happening in your backyard. If you can’t give money or time, spread the word about how to donate to others who may be able to.

People on the street

What’s your favorite pumpkin flavored product?

“I don’t like pumpkin flavored things.”

MICHAEL PINCUMBE
Sophomore, Media Production

“Pumpkin bread.”

MORGAN ROTH
Sophomore, Travel, Leisure and Event Planning

“Pumpkin chai lattes.”

AMANDA HARGAS
Sophomore, Undecided

“Pumpkin cupcakes.”

DANI BENDER
Freshman, Education
Finding value in friendship

As a 20-year-old woman in a six-year relationship, it’s interesting to see how many people think the “excuse” of having a boyfriend doesn’t hold up when I reject them. But why? The concept of the “friend zone” has always seemed silly to me. The term makes it seem like being in a platonic relationship lacks something. I think if our society valued platonic friendships more, then the friend zone wouldn’t seem so daunting (or seem like a punishment).

For some reason, we let sexual intercourse decide the value or level of our relationships. We see people completely disregarding their good friends because of one thing: sex. I’m not saying sex isn’t important… it’s just not as important as we think.

Oftentimes, people get into a relationship, and the promise of something new, exciting and sexual overshadows valuable platonic friendships.

Our culture limits most displays of affection to romantic relationships. It’s true, humans are tactile animals. We need to touch and be touched. But why can’t we derive that need from platonic friendships?

It really comes down to taboos. I’m not asking anyone to make out with their friends, but we could at least hug each other more. "For some reason, we let sexual intercourse decide the value or level of our relationships."

People that have been friend zoned could really benefit from a hug. However, it’s very likely those very people can take signs of affection as a sign of a romantic relationship.

Any prospective solution to this isn’t simple. We need to stop giving romantic relationships so much value. People shouldn’t feel like they’re missing out on something huge if they get friend zoned.

The U.S. is pretty conservative when it comes to customs surrounding friendship. We don’t kiss our friends like other cultures, and even a hug between two men can be seen as taboo. In order to change our perception of friendships and romance, we’ll need to support those around us and think of what we want out of a relationship – whether it’s platonic or romantic.

I’ve been on both sides of the friend zone. In my mind, keeping a person I love is more important than possibly getting laid. However, different people have different needs, and we need to respect that.

It’s very possible for someone to need affection shown through sex. However, those people are at the point when we just need to step back and look at others’ differences. If you’re chasing someone that doesn’t want to have sex with you, just stop hurting yourself by chasing after a target that was never meant for you. If you can’t handle “just” being their friend, then you’re simply being selfish.

In the end, we all need to value our friendships, whether sex is involved or not. Who knows, you could be 90 years old and wheelchair-bound at some point. Will you want sex, or someone who’s there for you at the high and low points of life?

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ZiggyThon preparation underway

By Brionna Scebbi
Reporter

While this year’s Dance Marathon ZiggyThon is still months away, the team for this annual fundraiser for Mercy Children’s Hospital in Toledo is getting prepared for the big day. Core Committee Captains were revealed in early September and registration opened soon after. With the start of fundraising, the Dance Marathon Morale Captains play an important part in ensuring the success of the event.

There are 20 Morale Captains this year, two of which are miracle children from Mercy and students at the University. These captains have several responsibilities at ZiggyThon and leading up to the event.

They play the role of motivators, recruiters and fundraisers as they work to build excitement in participants. Morale Captains also attend all events prior to ZiggyThon and work with organizations on campus to encourage them to join the Dance Marathon program.

On the day of the big event, the Morale Captains instill enthusiasm in and give moral support to the dancers. ZiggyThon marketing chair Sara Petty emphasized their importance in making the University’s Dance Marathon program a success and described what she expects of this year’s group of Morale Captains.

“I hope that, more than anything, they help us reach all of the goals we have set for Dance Marathon this year,” Petty said. “I hope each of them is able to resonate with at least one person and inspire them to become as passionate about Dance Marathon as they are.”

This is the 23rd year of ZiggyThon at the University. Over two decades of fundraising for the kids (FTK) takes a whole team of students and faculty to continue.

“So much goes into this event and so many people work incredibly hard each and every year to make our final reveal number as miraculous as it always is,” Petty said.

Important Dance Marathon Dates
Oct. 2 - Child Health Day Fundraiser 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Bob Evans
Oct. 19 - First General Dance Marathon Meeting 9:15 p.m. at Bowen-Thompson Student Union 308
Nov. 3 - Benefit Dinner 6 p.m. at Bowen-Thompson Student Union Ballroom
April 14-15 - ZiggyThon at Perry Field House

Meet your Morale Captains
The BG News will be introducing you to the Morale Captains in following issues. Check in each week to meet a new member of the ZiggyThon team!

Teresa Puckrin

What inspired you to become a Morale Captain?
What inspired me to become a Morale Captain for Dance Marathon is knowing that I could give back to a hospital that saved my life.

What goals do you have for ZiggyThon?
A personal goal I am setting for myself this year as a Morale Captain is to not be afraid to share my medical conditions with others. As someone who has personally seen where the money goes, my goal is to raise as much money as I can FOR THE KIDS!

What are you most excited about for this year’s Dance Marathon program?
If I would just pick one thing, it would be spending time with the Miracle Children and having them forget about their medical conditions for however much time they are at Dance Marathon. As being part of Dance Marathon for 5 years as a Miracle Child, every year, I would not be seen as the girl who has medical conditions and have received many friendships from this wonderful organization because of how everyone treated me.

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HalloWednesdays back at Liquid

By April Leygraaf
Reporter

The iNation at Liquid Bar in downtown Bowling Green will be hosting “HalloWednesdays” every Wednesday night of October starting at 9 p.m. and going until the bar closes. iNation is a Wednesday night tradition that has been going on at Liquid Bar for over 14 years.

According to Liquid’s website, “The iNation is Ohio’s #1 goth/industrial/underground/alternative night.” It is also Ohio’s longest running underground night club. The dress code for the night includes black clothing, funeral wear, punk, cyber, steampunk, goth, rave and alternative fashion. Those who are over 21 and participate in the dress code will get in for free, while those who are 18 and older will have to pay a charge of $4. Without proper dress code attire, there is a $15 charge at the door.

The first HalloWednesday is on Wednesday, Oct. 4. The theme for that night is Death Masquerade Ball. Guests can choose to dress up with ball gowns and masks or dress down and follow the regular iNation dress code. The rules to get in are the same as other iNation nights. According to the Death Masquerade Facebook page, this Wednesday the DJs featured will be Darks Choir, Audio Flesh, Havok and Widget. Attendees can get their picture taken in their costumes for free from 9 p.m. until midnight.

The following Wednesday, Oct. 11, the theme will be Zombie Outbreak. Participants are instructed to dress in zombie attire. The next week’s theme is Angels and Demons. The event includes a release party for the
“Golf Story” an obvious hole-in-one

By Jacob Clary
Pulse Editor

If you told me a video game about golf would be one of my favorite games of the year, I would have thought it was a joke. However, “Golf Story” is a great game, both in terms of the golf and the story in the game. It blends a golf game and a role-playing game into one, and they work splendidly together. “Golf Story” is an exclusive game for the Nintendo Switch.

“Golf Story” is about your character’s journey to become a professional golfer. The game begins when he figures out he is tired of living his regular life and wants to live his dream of playing golf. I like the story, especially how it seems simple at the start but opens up later. The number of characters in the game that made me laugh numbered in the dozens. These characters make the game feel alive and an enjoyable game to watch.

The actual golf in “Golf Story” is very fun. It is the most important part of the game, and it is great. It doesn’t get old, and the different number of courses also helps it stay fresh. I have only seen four courses, but these courses all feel distinctly different. Each one of them has a mechanic that sets it apart from the others. For example, one of the courses focuses on the wind, and also has birds that might take the golf ball and put it on a different part of the course.

The visuals of the game are nice as well. They may be pixelated, but they look colorful and beautiful. The different courses have various colors. Cheekybeak Peak, a very green and lush course, is very different from Lurker Valley, which is orange and very dry. The prospect of the new visuals made me want to continue playing the game.

The one thing in “Golf Story” that isn’t very good is the music. Some of the tracks are nice to listen to, but most are very generic. I felt like I’d heard most of the tracks before, and this took me out of the game.

Overall, “Golf Story” is a lot of fun, both while playing the golf and running around each of the areas interacting with the many side characters. I loved the depth of the golf in the game and how the visuals really helped to keep the experience fresh.

Do not pass on new FIFA release

By Jacob Clary
Pulse Editor

I am a huge soccer fan. I have three favorite soccer teams; they are FC Cincinnati, Barcelona and Liverpool. I also played soccer until the end of high school. However, I never got into the world of FIFA games. “FIFA 18” is the first of the FIFA games I have played, and after “FIFA 18,” I wish that I had started playing them earlier. “FIFA 18” is a great game and a great simulation of the soccer experience.

I bought the Nintendo Switch version, but it is also available for PlayStation 3 and 4, Xbox 360 and One and PC. The Nintendo Switch version doesn’t have some of the features of the other versions, such as “The Journey” story mode and other FIFA Ultimate Team modes. Otherwise, it is similar to the others, and it is a portable FIFA game. Playing FIFA on-the-go is awesome, which makes it one of my favorite games on the Nintendo Switch for that reason alone. Being able to play before a class with friends is amazing.

As a person new to the series, I don’t know the intricacies of the movement. Judging by this game, it is a fast and exciting version of soccer. The two parts of "FIFA 18" that make the game good are the fluid controls and the good-looking graphics.

The way the game controls helps the player get into the game. I feel like I’m controlling the real Lionel Messi when playing the game. It is easy to pass, shoot or dribble your way around defenders. I like this a lot, and it makes it simple for a newcomer of the series to immediately like the game.

The graphics of “FIFA 18” make the game feel very immersive. Playing in famous locales such as Real Madrid’s Santiago Bernabeu Stadium is great, and similar to the controls, makes getting into the game very easy. “FIFA 18” doesn’t look as good on the Switch, but I have seen all of the versions, and it is a great-looking game everywhere. The players look like their real-life counterparts, and the stadiums are similar.

“FIFA 18” is a good game, but it’ll take a soccer fan to know that. Someone who enjoys video games but doesn’t enjoy soccer will not enjoy the game as much. If you enjoy soccer, you will probably enjoy “FIFA 18.” Don’t be like me and wait years to get started playing. Get the newest FIFA game.
If you’re looking for a new favorite treat, look no further. This chocolate chip cookie is unimaginably good. I personally cook it after watching my favorite soccer teams finish playing a game late in the day or after going to see a movie. However, you can make it any time, like after a bad break up or the end of midterms. This recipe has become my favorite dessert.

**Method to make**

1. Preheat your oven to 350 F and generously butter a 6 1/4 inch mini cast iron skillet. If you don’t have such a skillet, you could use a 6 inch cake pan instead, but you may have to adjust baking time slightly.

2. Combine the flour, baking soda and salt in a bowl and mix well with a whisk until well combined; set aside.

3. In a separate mixing bowl, combine the granulated sugar, brown sugar and vanilla extract. Add the melted butter and stir with a fork until well combined.

4. Add the egg yolk, stir well, and then carefully stir in the flour mixture. Mix until completely combined, then stir in about 2/3 of the chocolate chips.

5. Transfer the cookie dough to the cast iron skillet and arrange it delicately with your fork, just so it’s evenly distributed across the skillet.

6. Sometimes, if I am using the Reese’s Mini method, I add a few chocolate chips to get some more chocolate in it. I think it tastes better without them, but if you want a richer experience, then that could help.

7. Bake for about 18 to 20 minutes, or until the edges are puffed and browned and the center appears set.

8. Remove from the oven and press a few additional chocolate chips across the surface of the cookie, if desired; allow to cool for about five minutes.

9. Garnish the cookie with a great big scoop of vanilla ice cream, drizzle with the chocolate syrup and serve with two spoons or one if you feel!
Hockey takes first game of exhibition

By Zane Miller
Sports Editor

The Falcons hockey team defeated the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks 3-1 Sunday afternoon, the first of two exhibition matchups to start the season for the Falcons.

“The effort was good,” Falcons head coach Chris Bergeron said. “We want to make sure that’s a foundation of every team, and I think the 2017-18 team is still trying to figure out what it’s going to be. We want to make sure that we’re going to work, and we did that.”

The game started out well for the Falcons as sophomore forward Casey Linkenholt put the team on the board first at the 14:20 mark of the first period. The Falcons then followed it up with another goal near the midway point of the second period as senior forward Mitch McLain capitalized on a power play chance to put the team up 2-0. While Wilfrid Laurier scored a goal of their own later in the second, that was all the offense they would get, as McLain scored again on a late empty net tally to make it a 3-1 victory.

“I thought we competed real hard,” Bergeron said. “We’ll go back and watch the tape and see if we finished checks the way we wanted to finish, if we were as competitive as we thought we were. There were some stick battles at the beginning of the second period and some battles overall at the beginning of the second that I think they pushed harder than we did. With a 1-0 lead in our own rink, I thought through the first TV timeout seven minutes into the second, I thought we had been outcompeted. Other than that stretch, I don’t remember a stretch where we weren’t physically really competitive.”

The team also used two different goaltenders in the game, as sophomore Ryan Bednard started and played the first half of the game before giving way to freshman Eric Dop for the remainder of the game, as a way to give both goaltenders an opportunity to play in the exhibition season.

“It’d like to have a one-on-one situation (at goaltender),” Bergeron said. “For right now, that’s what it seems like we have.”

“I thought all in all, we did okay.”

Chris Bergeron
Falcons Head Coach

The team was also able to get more experience for freshmen and other younger players, which the team feels will be helpful in determining the appearance of the rest of the team moving forward.

“I think having young people on the power play is something you’re going to see,” Bergeron said. “I thought, all in all, we did okay. I thought we created some opportunities. I thought we hunted down pucks for second and third opportunities, and not just one and done for the most part.”

The team will next play Friday night at home against the U.S. National Development Team.

Upcoming Games

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6 | 7:37 PM | U.S. National Development Team
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10 | 7:05 PM | Western Michigan (Away)
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13 | 7:37 PM | Michigan State
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14 | 7:05 PM | Michigan State (Away)
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20 | 7:37 PM | Minnesota State
Football falls in first conference game

By Zane Miller
Sports Editor

The Falcons football team fell to the Akron Zips 34-23 Saturday night in their first Mid-American Conference game of the season, as the team still continues to search for their first win of the season.

“We can’t get out of our own way,” Falcons head coach Mike Jinks said. “A lot of that is confidence. We’ve just got to settle down, exhale, and play football.”

The game started with a short passing touchdown by Akron early in the first quarter, and they also converted on the extra point to go up 7-0. The Falcons responded not long after as they scored a touchdown on a run from sophomore running back Matt Domer. However, the extra point attempt was blocked, and Akron maintained the lead 7-6. Akron added to their advantage, connecting on a 43 yard touchdown pass, but like the Falcons touchdown, the extra point attempt was no good.

It was not until the second quarter that the next touchdown was scored, this time by a short run from Akron to take a 20-6 lead. The Falcons capitalized on their next possession, as sophomore quarterback James Morgan hit senior tight end Hunter Folkertsman for a touchdown pass, cutting the lead in half. Akron was still up 20-13 as the teams went into halftime.

The Falcons took the momentum to start the third quarter as Morgan passed to freshman running back Andrew Clair for a 26 yard touchdown to tie the game up. Junior kicker Jake Suder put the team ahead for the first time in the game with a field goal. However, Akron would not be down before the end of the quarter, as they retook the lead on a touchdown run of their own. With the Falcons looking to make a charge midway through the fourth quarter, Akron made it a two possession game on an interception return for a touchdown, which the Falcons never recovered from. Akron took the 34-23 victory.

“We had our chances offensively,” Jinks said. “Offensively, we gave up the game clinching score, not the defense.”

The team was also forced into a quarterback switch early in the game as starting freshman quarterback Jarret Doege came out of the game in the first quarter.

“It didn’t change the gameplan,” Jinks said. “I thought James (Morgan) came in, and up until the pick, did a fairly good job of executing the game plan and gave us a good chance to win.”

Jinks also said, “If you turn the ball over four times, you’re not going to win the football game. We were able to have a little bit of consistency with the run game. I thought our defense played well, especially with the cornerback group, they were a little bit shorthanded without Cameron Jeffries out there. … That group I really thought played well tonight.”

The team will next play Saturday afternoon on the road against the Miami RedHawks.

Volleyball takes two weekend matches

By Zane Miller
Sports Editor

The Falcons volleyball team won both of their road matches Friday and Saturday nights, first defeating the Kent State Golden Flashes 3-1 before traveling to play the Ohio Bobcats, also defeating them 3-1.

“We got a little bit more aggressive with our serves,” Falcons head coach Danijela Tomic said. “We talked in the second set that we felt that we needed to take them out of system, we talked about making an adjustment with our serves, better at the first line of attack, and that’s what we did. We did a really good job behind the serving line and just kept them out of system.”

Friday’s match started with the Falcons getting off to a good start, taking the first set 25-20. However, Kent State fought back in the second with a 25-21 victory. In the third set, the Falcons recovered with a 25-16 victory to retake the lead, then finished off the match with a 25-13 win in the fourth set to claim the 3-1 match victory.

“We went back to fundamentals, we didn’t have to do anything super special,” Tomic said. “I felt like we were just playing the second set not to lose, and that’s not a way for us to play, that’s not a way for anybody to play. We said that we needed to get on the attack on serves, and it clicked.”

Tomic added, “After (the second set), we started getting the ball down and the defense stepped up. We had different players stepping up at different times, we were digging and serving right, so it was a complete team effort tonight.”

Despite getting the win, the team knew they had to turn around quickly and carry on the energy from Friday’s win into Saturday’s match.

“Ohio is a tough place to play,” Tomic said. “We have to be aggressive behind the serving line, that’s something we have to do to make our adjustments to our defense.”

On Saturday, the team got off to a rough start, with Ohio taking the first set 25-17. However, after that, the Falcons regrouped and never looked back with a 25-21 victory in the second set followed by wins in the next two sets, both with 25-22 scores, giving the team the 3-1 victory and their third consecutive win of the season. The team now holds a 3-1 record against other Mid-American Conference teams this season.

The team will next play at home Friday, Oct. 6 and Saturday, Oct. 7 nights, first taking on the Buffalo Bisons before facing the Akron Zips the following night.
Head University volleyball coach Danjiela Tomic officially gained her United States citizenship Sept. 18.

Though she has been living in the U.S. since 1995, she was not a full citizen until now. Tomic is from Bosnia and Herzegovina, but she came to America to play college volleyball.

“I got a chance to play (volleyball) in college, and I received a full athletic scholarship to play at my alma mater University of Arkansas Little Rock,” Tomic said. At Little Rock, she began coaching and became an assistant coach at University of Arkansas after. Her coaching career took off from there. Tomic has been playing volleyball since she was 12 years old. She was also actively coaching before she moved to the U.S.

“I just fell in love with coaching and decided I wanted that to be my career, and this is the best country in my opinion to do that. And I wanted to provide other young women opportunities I was given as a student athlete,” Tomic said.

She has been coaching the University team since January 2012. This will be her sixth season with the Falcons.

Tomic decided to become a citizen after the recent presidential election because she said she wanted to be able to vote and participate in future elections. She has been a permanent resident and has had her green card, but there is a five year period between becoming a resident and gaining citizenship. According to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services website, to become a citizen you must first submit an application for naturalization. After they receive the application, candidates must go through a biometrics appointment and then attend an interview in which the applicant is tested on general knowledge about the U.S. Then they must read and write a sentence in English. Once applicants have completed and passed all the steps, they will be allowed to take the “Oath of Allegiance” to become full citizens. The full naturalization process takes an average of six months.

“I’m very proud, I feel like this is a home for me.”

— Danjiela Tomic —
Head Volleyball Coach

“I’m very proud, I feel this is a home for me. ... It’s nice to know that legally I am no different from somebody who is born in the United States,” Tomic said. “I feel like I’ve contributed to this country in the last 22 years, and it’s nice to be recognized for that.”
By Hannah Finnerty
Editor-in-Chief

The aisles of Meijer were full of University students racing around in decorated carts and playing games for Giving Spree Friday night. For Giving Spree, students competed in teams to purchase the largest number of items on their shopping lists while staying under a budget of $50. Shopping lists included items like soap, toothbrushes, shampoo, razors, crayons and deodorant.

All of the items collected, a total of 275, went to support Project Connect, a one-day event coming up on Wednesday, Oct. 18 where families and individuals at risk of or experiencing homelessness or poverty can receive free services. Guests coming to Giving Spree get personal care packages that consist of items purchased during Giving Spree.

Shannon Fisher, Project Connect Wood County chair, and Deanna Lamb, Project Connect Wood County chair of tangible goods, attended Giving Spree and thanked students for coming together to support Project Connect.

Fisher said they are still looking for more volunteers to help staff the event.

“The event has been going on for three years, but this was the event’s first year organized by Alpha Phi Omega, a coed service fraternity.

In previous years, Tom’s Campus Club planned the event. Because Tom’s dissolved their campus affiliate this year, Alpha Phi Omega took over the event.

Valerie Schweizer, member of Alpha Phi Omega, was one of the original creators of Giving Spree. At 2 a.m. in her friend’s living room, her friends were asking, “How can we as college students impact our community more?” They came up with Giving Spree.

From the beginning of the planning, the donations collected during Giving Spree have gone toward supporting Project Connect.

“They impact the community directly, and we don’t think they get recognized enough for all of the help that they provide,” Schweizer said. “We wanted to help them in their efforts.”

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Start Dates

| October 16 | Graduate Students |
| October 16 | Non-Degree Graduate Students |
| October 17 | Seniors |
| October 19 | Juniors |
| October 24 | Sophomores |
| October 25 | Freshmen |
| October 27 | Guest Students |

Open Registration
October 27 thru January 14, 2018

Questions?
Call the Registration HOTLINE: 419-372-4444
8 am - 5 pm | Monday - Friday