

KEY

magazine

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Student balances video making and college life | 4

SOCCER COACH SUCCESS

How his past brought wins to the women's soccer team | 6

BG FIRE CHIEF

A timeline of his travels across the globe | 27



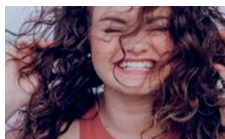
THE WIZARD DISPELLING HATE

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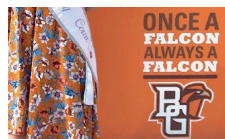
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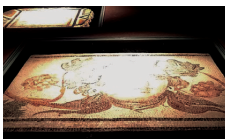
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Letter from **THE EDITOR**

Dear readers,

The start of a new school year is the start of many firsts, even for seniors like myself. This edition of *Key Magazine* was my first experience as editor-in-chief.

I am extremely excited to share the work published in this magazine.

This semester has been busy for me, but all my commitments have been very rewarding. The staff of *Key Magazine* also worked hard to bring this together. I owe a huge thanks to the copy editors and designers who showed up to make *Key* happen. This work was the product of collaboration of so many different people, credited here.

This edition of *Key* features several prominent or interesting people on campus and in the community. It also highlights issues relevant to the larger community of the United States, including YouTube personalities, human trafficking and the acceptance of nonbinary genders. I hope students, staff and community members can get something out of this publication of *Key*.

I have also had plenty of help and support from the staff in the School of Media and Communication, particularly Paul Obringer and Robert Bortel. This magazine would not exist without them.

Winter editions of *Key Magazine* are typically shorter than Spring editions, but I think there are plenty of meaningful and engaging stories showcased in this magazine. I hope the features are as interesting to the readers as they are to me.

Thank you for your support in picking up a copy of *Key Magazine*!

Sincerely,
Meredith Siegel, Editor-in-Chief

KEY MAGAZINE

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Student balances college life, YouTube fame

Youtuber Rachel Jones
deals with the challenge of keeping up with
her studies and 66,000 subscribers

By Hannah Hawk

Living a secret, famous, double life like Hannah Montana is something most girls would dream of and it's something college film major and YouTuber Rachel Jones lives through.

At first glance, Jones looks like your typical college student, but she lives a whole different life online with her YouTube channel: actingislitmylife. With a total of 66,000 subscribers, she uses most of the YouTube money she makes to support her in college.

"I definitely didn't think I would get so many subscribers. I knew I wanted to do YouTube from the beginning when I got my first camera, which I still have," Jones said. "It's just a number for me that represents my support team and keeps me going."

The balancing act Jones does trying to find the time between filming YouTube videos, going to classes, replying to fans and doing homework can be a challenge.

"That is the main reason I don't post as frequently. I used to have so much freedom in high school, but here there's always something else I should be doing

like homework, being social or taking a nap. That is more important to me than uploading videos which can be bad, because that's kind of my job," she said.

The pressure to upload and please so many people on the internet could only add to the stress of normal college life.

"I don't necessarily regret making my channel, but I feel a lot of pressure for how many people are depending on me and I

"I don't necessarily regret making my channel, but I feel a lot of pressure for how many people are depending on me and I always feel bad for not posting."

— **Rachel Jones**
BGSU Film Major

always feel bad for not posting. I kind of wish it hadn't become a job for me, but at the same time I'm very grateful for it," Jones said.

She does make money off of her channel, but it isn't enough to make a real living, so she's continuing her education through college classes.

"When you start you want to make a little money off of it since you're working so hard and you want a little bit of a reward. But, I would do it for free if I could," she said. "Money was never really on my mind since acting is such a passion to me. The money is nice and keeps me motivated a bit but it's not necessary."

Although Jones keeps a lot of her personal information off of YouTube, there is always the chance of being recognized.

"I've been recognized twice. Once at a play on campus. She asked if it was me and we got a picture together," Jones said.

YouTube itself is a very temporary thing. It's something that can go away or become less popular at any time. For instance, Jones could get less views one month and not get

“I kind of wish it hadn’t become a job for me, but at the same time I’m very **grateful** for it.”

— **Rachel Jones**
BGSU Film Major

paid as much as she usually does.

Yet, she says she lives a very normal college life in the dorms with roommates.

“Some people might think it’s crazy living with a YouTuber, but it’s pretty normal, except when I walk in and she’s filming,” junior education major Kasey Madsen said.

In some ways, YouTube can conflict with other things in people’s lives and could change how people see the person.

“I usually only see her as a friend or roommate. I sometimes forget she has a YouTube channel all together. So in my eyes, I treat her equally as all my other roommates,” Madsen said.

Jones still goes to acting classes and learns from professors at school. Some of her classmates know about her channel as well.

“Watching the behind-the-scene films and her audition videos have been educational, but I feel as though I learn the most in person with her then through her videos,” said Audrey Craddick, a junior musical theater major. ■ KEY

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY
HANNAH HAWK



THE MAN ON AND OFF THE PITCH

PHOTO BY KEVIN MENSAH

GoPSUSports.com

By Jacob Clary

The women's soccer team's season is over after losing to the Penn State Nittany Lions in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. One of the people behind the team's success is Head Coach Matt Fannon. Fannon was able to lead the team to a season full of accomplishments, including being the regular season MAC Champions, as well as winning the MAC Tournament against Ball State. The team only lost one match in the MAC all season.

This past season was Fannon's second season as Head Coach for the Falcons, and alongside all of the accomplishments this season, he also led the team to the MAC Tournament finals last season in his first year as the coach. However, the Falcons ended up losing that game.

Fannon's journey to the city of Bowling

Green is one with many stops. He was born in the city of York, in England, and lived there until he was 18. He then moved to the United States to coach soccer camps. Fannon coached for a couple years but eventually he was "desperate to go back to college and play."

"So I spent a semester at a community

college in New York, just so I could be spotted basically," he said.

Fannon visited Davis and Elkins College, which is located in West Virginia, and the coach there offered him a full scholarship, leading to his decision to attend the school. After his two years there, he moved to Denver to coach soccer camps again.

“When I got the job here, we were really sad to leave, we really were, but you can’t turn down an **opportunity** like BG.”

— **MATT FANNON**
BGSU Women’s Soccer Head Coach

“We really loved the town, the university, the people.”

— **MATT FANNON**
BGSU Women’s Soccer Head Coach

In Denver, Fannon found what he wanted to do. He was a volunteer assistant, with the men’s program at Regis University, which is a Division II men’s program in Colorado, just by Denver, “just to get my foot in the door,” he said.

A typical day in Colorado for Fannon looked like:

- 5 a.m.: Wake up
- 7 a.m.: Arrive at training sessions
- 8:30 a.m.: Drive to day job
- 5 p.m.: Start coaching job
- 8:30 p.m.: Arrive home

Fannon spent a lot of time working on coaching, which paid off when he got his first full-time coaching job with the

University of Wyoming as an assistant coach. He was with the team for 18 months.

Then his first daughter was born. Since Fannon and his wife Julie wanted to be closer to her family in Cleveland, he applied for a coaching job at the University of Wittenberg, which he later took.

“We really loved the town, the university, the people,” he said. “I made a lot of good friends while I was coaching there. When I got the job here, we were really sad to leave, we really were, but you can’t turn down an opportunity like BG.”

Lately, he said he has been watching a lot of women’s soccer, also talking about how far it has come over the years. He said women’s soccer, and women’s sports in general, have come a long way since his time in school.

“One of the most interesting parts is that when I grew up, I remember when I was in junior school as we call it, middle school I suppose, there was one girl. One girl in the school that played soccer and she only played it for the first couple of years,” he said. “And I remember after the first couple of years of secondary school, which is basically when you hit 12, 13, there were just no girls at all at my school at all who played any sports, let alone soccer.”

Fannon said many more women play now in England. Women’s soccer is the second-largest sport there behind men’s

soccer. He talked about how there were a few girls teams and a few girls on the boys team, but that was about it. He has seen the difference in his time in the United States.

“The opportunity that females have to play sport, and the way they’re encouraged to do so, it wasn’t that way when I was growing up in England, so that’s probably the biggest difference,” Fannon said.

Fannon’s long road to his stop at the University as head coach of the women’s soccer team. His success at the University in the short time he has been here has shown his work to get here was not in vain.

■ KEY

“There were just no girls at all at my school at all who played any sports, let alone soccer.”

— **MATT FANNON**
BGSU Women’s Soccer Head Coach

MENTAL HEALTH ≠ ENTERTAINMENT

The Mind of Jake Paul: YouTube series deserves backlash

By Stepha Poulin

Just a few months ago, most people over the age of 8 didn't know of Jake Paul, let alone know his entire life story.

But Shane Dawson's eight-part series, titled "The Mind of Jake Paul," basically made Paul the YouTube equivalent of a household name. All together, all eight parts have over 141 million views.

The first installment drew 22 million views, and views for the other seven parts don't fall far behind that. It intends to give a behind-the-scenes look into Paul's life as a "social media influencer" — someone whose social media presence molds followers' tastes and even purchasing decisions.

Unfortunately, it's a shame the series has gained so much attention, as it utilizes traits associated with mental illness for nefarious purposes.

Whether or not you care to keep up with Dawson, Paul or any other internet personality, this series has real-world implications due to the number of people who have seen it. Its portrayal of mental illness not only spreads misinformation, it reinforces stereotypes of mental illness to millions viewing it.

Dawson uses the "scary" facets of mental illness to thrill viewers at the expense of those who do have mental illness. The series dramatizes mental illness

by suggesting Paul has the characteristics of a sociopath and may actually be one.

According to The American Psychiatric Association, sociopathy is more accurately labeled as antisocial personality disorder.

The key signs of a APD, and other personality disorders, are "impairments in personality (self and interpersonal) functioning and the presence of pathological personality traits."

Basically, people with APD have social behaviors that work against societal— norms of thought and emotion — hence the term antisocial personality disorder. This causes problems within relationships with others and even their relationship with themselves.

Because Dawson isn't a trained mental health professional— if that's not obvious by now— so he relied on the help of Kati Morton, a licensed marriage and family therapist who also creates YouTube videos in her spare time.

Although Morton's specialization is treating eating disorders, she isn't well-versed in other areas of psychology. All therapists learn of APD and other mental disorders through their schooling, but complex disorders require specialization to diagnose.

Morton should know this because of

her own specialization. In comparison to a general licensed therapist, her knowledge on eating disorders allows her to better serve patients in her care.

It's astounding that a mental health professional would agree to speak on video about a disorder in which they have no specialization. Morton read straight from the DSM-5, a diagnostic tool used by mental health practitioners. She didn't elaborate on the terms she was reading and even said "this isn't my specialization" multiple times.

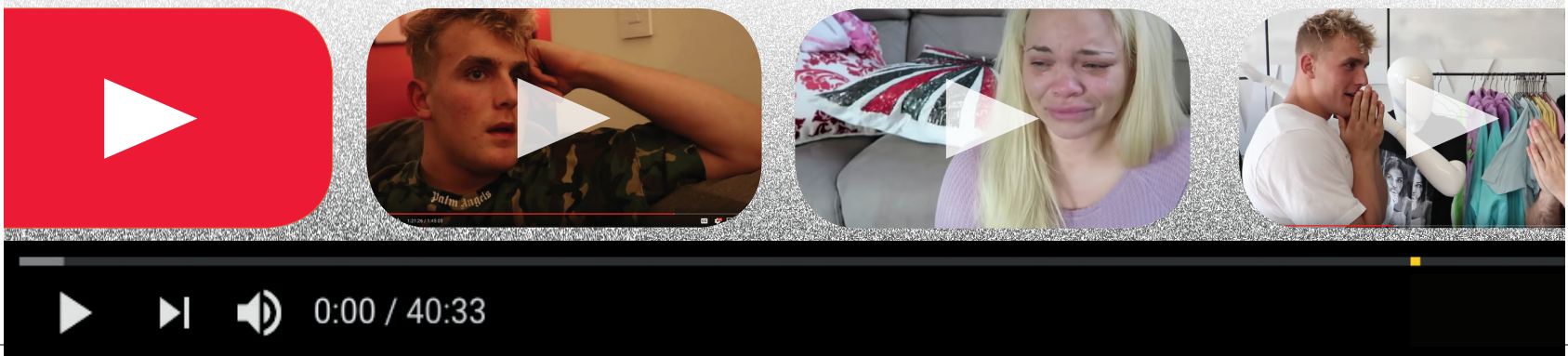
While Morton never says Paul is a sociopath, going on film to help another person speculate someone's mental state is completely unethical for a therapist to do.

At one point, Morton and Dawson go visit Paul's house. They spend the day there and purposely withhold the fact that Morton is a therapist so she can analyze Paul for "sociopathic" traits.

Once again ... completely unethical.

Morton and Dawson repeat the term "sociopath," which — as we know— isn't the correct diagnostic term. Morton admits that the DSM-5 actually has "sociopathy" and "psychopathy" under the same disorder: APD. Yet she, a professional, continues to use the term.

If anything, it is a derogatory word used



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Dawson uses the “scary” facets of mental illness to thrill viewers at the expense of those who do have mental illness.

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Shane Dawson

for the sake of shock value. Dawson may not have set out to offend people who have APD or mental illness in general, but using an illness for shock value is abhorrent.

Dawson didn't need to frame the series around a speculated mental illness, but he knew the shock value would draw in viewers. But arguably, the series could have focused on all of Paul's crazy antics without even mentioning sociopathy.

He's set a mattress on fire in his pool that's situated in the middle of a Los Angeles suburb — all for a YouTube video. The guy had a mob of pre-teens outside his house on a daily basis for months because of his popularity.

Obviously something about Paul is inherently shocking without mentioning an assumed mental illness.

The editing also adds to the series' dramatization of mental illness. Dawson edits in clips of various YouTubers displaying traits of APD in their videos. He prefaces the clips with a disclaimer saying he isn't trying to call anyone a sociopath.

In the video description, Dawson repeats this disclaimer and defends the clips. He said he used those as examples “to make for an entertaining video.”

But mental illness isn't entertaining — especially for those affected by it.

Dawson also interjects exaggerated reactions to facts about people with APD. He gasps at the fact that 1 in 25 people have the disorder, giving viewers the impression they should be scared of people trying to cope with a mental illness.

Despite the series' shortcomings when it comes to mental health education, Dawson managed to pull it off without much criticism from his subscribers.

Dawson is one of the original YouTubers and has posted videos and maintained a following since September 2005. He began his YouTube career filming comedy sketches, some getting well-deserved criticism for their insensitivity with titles like “GHETTO GIRL MAKEUP TIPS!” and “GIRL POOPS PANTS WHILE TWERKING! – VIRAL INFECTION EP 1.”

He has often donned blackface for his “ghetto girl” videos.

His YouTube channel has over 4 billion views and nearly 19 million subscribers, and Dawson still has a supportive following despite any past controversy.

In 2014, Dawson posted an apology for any “offensive” videos he had posted in the past. He told viewers “I have no hate in my heart” and asked for forgiveness, fending that times had changed for comedy.

The apology came years after the fact, and his viewers still took it to heart.

As viewers, we need to be cautious about who we admire and support. It sometimes seems like those we admire can do no wrong — don't let this admiration cloud your judgment.

This isn't a call for censorship. After all, we're all just looking for entertainment. This is a call for conscientious viewership. No matter how much you like an internet personality, be critical of them.

Ask questions like:

- “Did I like the content or did I just like the person?”
- “Did I enjoy this content or am I using it to pass the time?”
- “Is this content inoffensive or is it just inoffensive to me?”

The less support these people get, the better. It could literally put a YouTuber out of business — views equate to profit.

There's no need to post a dissertation or feed the internet trolls lurking in comment sections. Conscientious viewership is as simple as thinking about what we view.

By considering the media we consume, we are less likely to view forms of media like this series. ■ KEY



Mosaics

Ancient Turkish wall art to return to home country after history discovered

By David Escobedo

The University has been in possession of ancient Roman mosaics since it first purchased them from a New York art dealer in 1965. Now, it is planning to move them back to where they originally came from: Zeugma, Turkey.

The University originally acquired the pieces from a New York company known as Peter Marks Works of Art for \$35,000. Hugh Broadley, an assistant professor in the School of Art at the time, along with the then University President William T. Jerome, made the purchase.

The mosaics were held in storage until they were periodically on display in McFall Center. When the Wolfe Center for the Arts was planned for construction, someone suggested the mosaics be displayed. The University designated the Eva Marie Saint Theatre as the space for them.

After the plan of displaying the mosaics in the Wolfe Center took hold, the University planned a symposium regarding the mosaics in 2012. Former

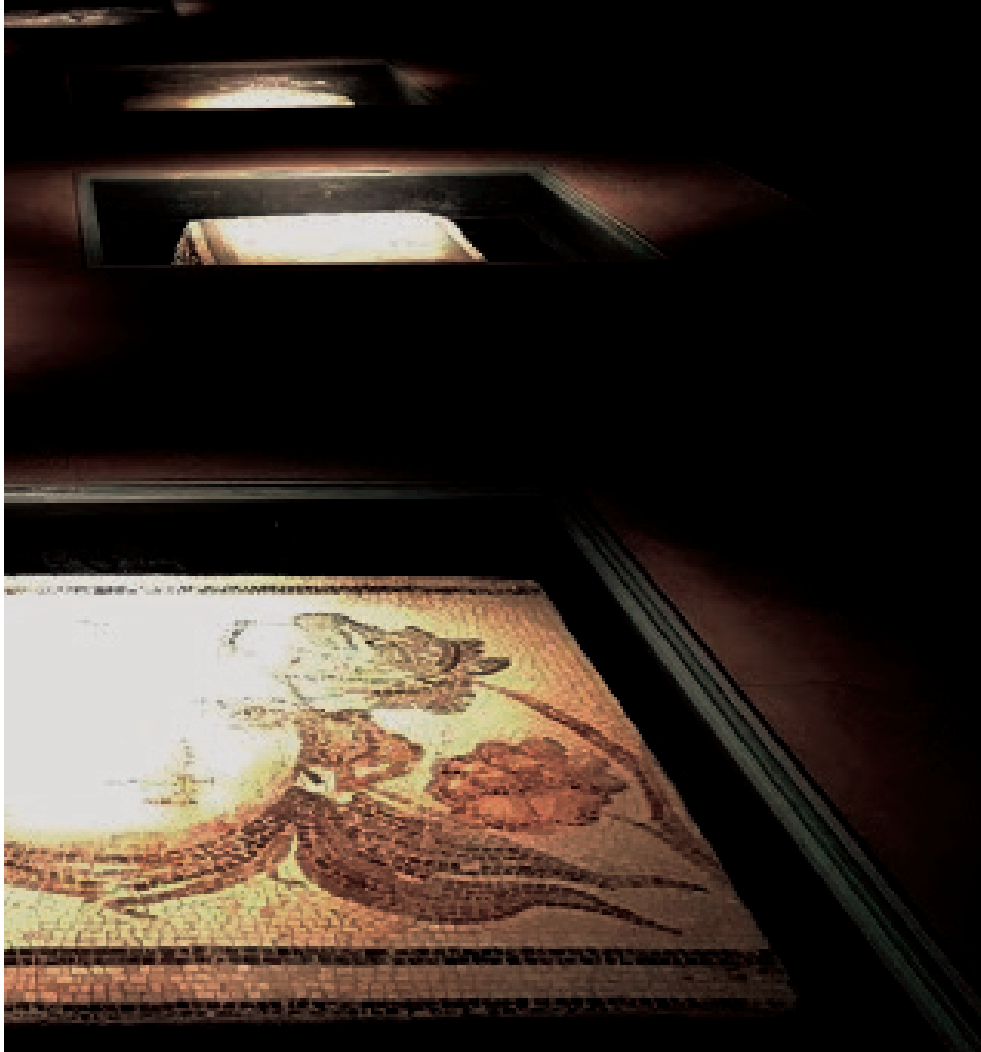
University faculty member Stephanie Langin-Hooper was asked to investigate them for the symposium. She also invited Rebecca Molholt, a faculty member at Brown University at the time, to assist with the investigation.

Originally, the school thought the mosaics had been from an approved dig in the ancient Greek Antioch city ruins site near Antakya, Turkey, which Princeton University oversaw. But through Langin-Hooper and Molholt's investigation, the University discovered the mosaics did not match those dug up

"It's a good thing to have this agreement. It's the right thing to do; there's no question."

— **RAYMOND CRAIG**,
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

leave the University



“ Without the scholarship of our own art historian, no one would know where they were from or what they were about. ”

— RAYMOND CRAIG,
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

in Antioch. The investigators thought they were looted from Zeugma around the early 1960s, instead.

“The University was pretty quick in responding to that,” Lesa Lockford, chair of the Department of Theatre and Film, said.

The University and the Turkish government have been in negotiations ever since the discovery of the true origins of the mosaics. An agreement was recently reached in which the University would be held harmless if it returned the mosaics.

The Ministry of Tourism and Culture of Turkey has agreed to create replicas of the pieces and bring them back to the University for display. The original mosaics are to be displayed at the Zeugma Mosaic Museum in the Turkish city of Gaziantep.

“It’s a good thing to have this agreement. It’s the right thing to do; there’s no question,” Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Raymond Craig said.

A set date has not been established for the exchange, but the earliest time

it could happen would be sometime in November. The 12 main mosaics will be returned along with about “90 pounds of boxed fragments ... called tesserae,” Craig said. These tesserae are smaller pieces of tile that go along with the mosaics.

“It was a BGSU faculty member who spearheaded the effort to establish where they really came from. And without the scholarship of our own art historian, no one would know where they were from or what they were about,” Craig said. ■ KEY



SLEEP DEPRIVATION

College students need sleep

By Cassidy Burger

College students have been known to be severely sleep-deprived. Between cramming for exams and pulling all-nighters, it can be hard for students to get the recommended eight hours of sleep. According to the University of Georgia's Health Center, most college students only sleep about six hours per night.

Many students today treat sleep as more of a luxury and not a necessity. With the costs of tuition, books and room and board, many full-time students also work part-time jobs. Their busy schedules mean the only time left for studying is late at night.

Junior business major, Morgan Steckel, takes 16 credit hours and works four or five times a week. As her schedule gets busier each semester, she finds getting a good, long night of sleep is rare.

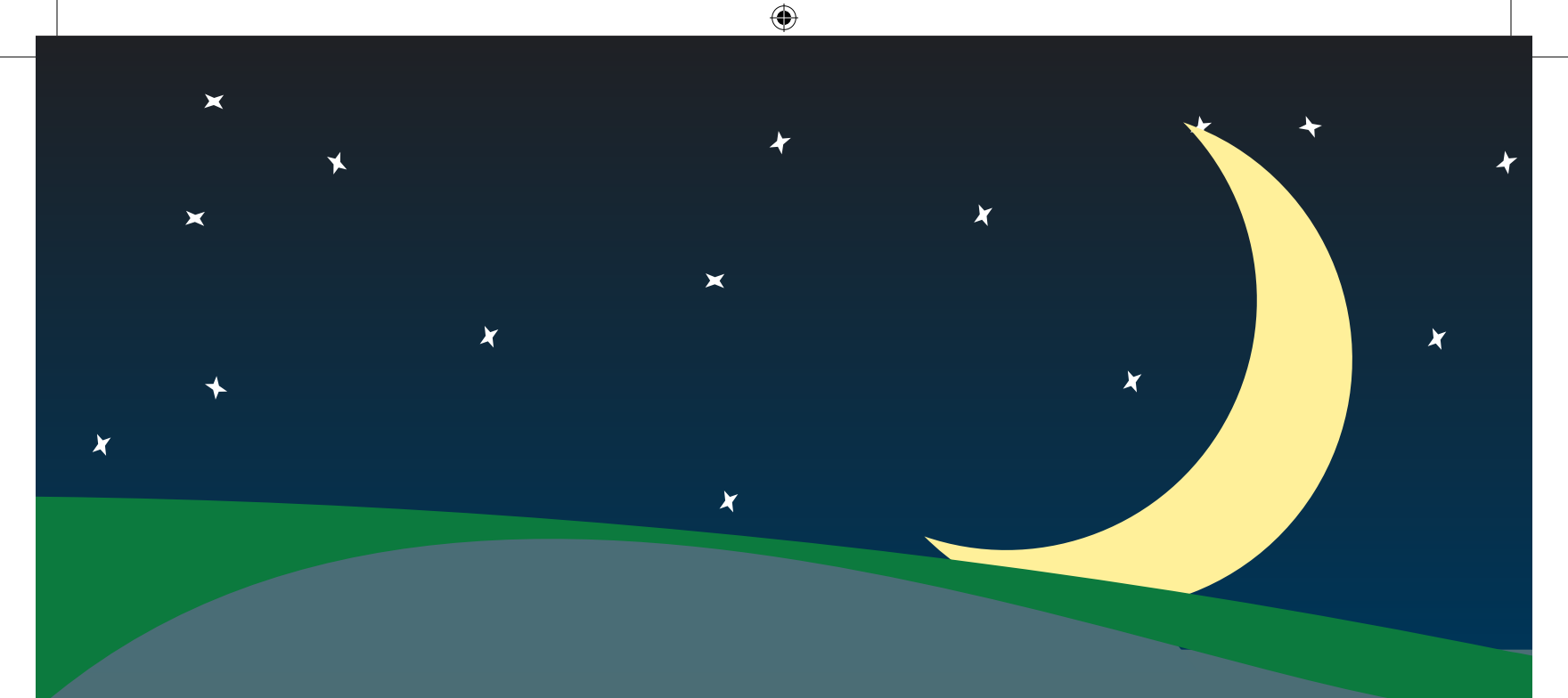
"If I'm not at school, I'm working. The only time I can really get my homework done is when it's late at night. I hate it, but it's the only way I will get it done. I probably get five hours of sleep every night," Steckel said.

Most adults require six-10 hours of sleep every night to function properly. Many people don't realize why sleep is important for their overall health. Sleep does more for students' bodies than making sure they stay awake during their

8 a.m. lecture. Sleep restores energy, strengthens the immune system and helps the brain think clearly.

A lack of sleep can have consequences both physically and mentally. Studies have shown sleep deprivation can lower the immune system, cause one to feel more stressed than usual and can increase mental health issues such as depression and anxiety.

"When I'm very sleep deprived it makes my anxiety so much worse. I feel



really stressed out and my ADHD seems worse too,” Steckel said.

Sleep deprivation has also been linked to weight gain. College students may know all too well the “freshman 15,” meaning on average most students gain 15 pounds their freshman year of college. By the end of the year, some students who put on some pounds while at school aren’t sure how. Their eating habits weren’t much different and they didn’t go out often. Research has shown this weight gain can be due to a school year’s worth of bad sleeping habits. When a body isn’t getting enough sleep it produces more of the hormone ghrelin, causing individuals to crave high-calorie foods.

Perhaps the consequence most college students can’t afford is a lower GPA and a decrease in academic performance. A survey performed every two years at the University of Georgia showed 1 in 4 students admit a lack of sleep has

“A lack of sleep can have consequences both physically and mentally.”

hindered their academic performance in some way. Most of these students have trouble remembering deadlines and forget to turn assignments in.

Junior tour leisure and event planning major, Megan Brubaker, believes her lack of sleep is starting to affect her academic performance.

“I live in an apartment this year, so I have to work to pay rent along with going to school. Honestly, it makes it really hard to have a good sleep schedule. Making sure I get all my assignments done has been a lot harder this year than last year when I didn’t have to work and could sleep more,” said Brubaker.

According to the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, students who sacrifice a good night’s sleep because they’re pulling an all-nighter cramming for an exam are wasting their time. If a student doesn’t know the material the day before, they aren’t going to know it by attempting to study all night.

The University of Georgia’s Health Center states: “during sleep the brain organizes, sorts and stores what we have learned and experienced that day, making it easier to recall at a later time.” The only way to truly do well on an exam is look over the material a little bit each night leading up to the exam. Students should review any concepts they don’t understand right before going to bed. This will allow the brain to process the information overnight and store it in one’s memory.

“I probably get five hours of sleep every night.”

— MORGAN STECKEL
Junior Business Major

Experts acknowledge most students aren’t able to completely change their sleep schedules right away. AASM has come up with a few tips to help students get on the right track. The AASM recommends students go to bed as early as they possibly can. Students shouldn’t stay up until 2 a.m. binge-watching their favorite shows on Netflix if they get their homework done early one night. AASM also recommends limiting the number of naps one takes as well as avoiding caffeine after 3 p.m.

While it can be hard to balance a long list of priorities in college, sleep should be at the top of the list. If students were more aware of the harmful effects of sleep deprivation at an earlier age, they may have better sleeping habits. Most students who change their sleeping habits for the better will tend to live a happier, healthier life.

“I definitely need to make some changes when it comes to sleeping. I am definitely going to start by taking less naps. So no nap for me today,” Brubaker said.

■ KEY



Human trafficking TAKES PLACE THE LOCAL LE

“Intimidation, physical abuse and drug addictions are not the only means traffickers employ on their victims.”

By **Mohammad Ashour**

“Sex is on everyone’s mind,” Lara Lengel, a professor in communication at the University, said. When it comes to people being exploited by human traffickers, the problem is a lot of people think it is mostly sex workers; however, most are trafficked for labor and indentured servitude, Lengel said. The conditions these people face in the work they find are inhumane and conditions comparable to slavery Lengel said, calling it “a complex and diverse industry.”

Lengel pointed out the health risks involved for those in human trafficking. Physical violence is a way traffickers and pimps assert their control over their victims. Lengel said the term “pimp” was too kind because she considered their actions the equivalent of modern-day slavery.

Many people do not think human trafficking happens in our local

communities, Burgos said. He added it takes everyone to combat human trafficking. The law plays a game of cat and mouse with smugglers, where every time the smugglers employ new tactics, the law tries to adapt. He credits constant training to keeping up with the criminals on the interstate.

Burgos said people who are trafficked, notably in the sex rings, are branded with the initials of their supposed owner. The victims are threatened physically and in many cases are made addicted to drugs or some other kind of dependency to keep them under the control of their “owners.”

According to the Ohio Attorney General’s Office in its annual report in 2017 for the state of Ohio, drugs and alcohol were the highest cited factors contributing to a victim being trafficked.

Intimidation, physical abuse and

drug addictions are not the only means traffickers employ on their victims, Burgos said. But mental conditioning is applied to the victims as well.

“They become so entrenched, they fear interacting with the law,” Burgos said.

Burgos said some who find themselves in human trafficking show extreme signs of drug use. Traffickers give drugs to their victims as a way to control them. He said in the line of duty, he has come across several victims who might have a driver’s license from one to two years ago but the changes occurring to the victims make it seem like they aged 30 years.

This control created from drug use makes the task for law enforcement especially difficult as victims do not want to report their traffickers because they are also providing drugs they now have a physical dependence on.

An illustration on a dark blue background shows two black hands holding a pair of white handcuffs. A red tag with a barcode is attached to the handcuffs. The word 'ON' is written in large white letters on the left hand, and 'VEL' is written in large white letters on the right hand, partially obscured by the handcuffs.

ON VEL

//
Traffickers
threaten
their victims,
their friends,
and their
family.
//

“Victims blame themselves for getting into the situations they are in,” Burgos said. When the police try to comfort the victims after they are rescued from traffickers, often female officers try to comfort them.

“They (traffickers) threaten them (victims), their friends and their family. The last one is what usually really controls the victims,” Burgos said. Traffickers use what he called false hope and bait to bring victims into the human trafficking network. Social networking is a tool used by traffickers to lure in their victims, and to find their customers.

“They recruit in malls and in high schools,” Burgos said.

Part of the training a state trooper has to undergo is human trafficking training.

“Every trooper has training,” Sgt. Nathan Henn, patrol trooper for the Ohio State Highway Patrol said. He compared some

signs of human trafficking with domestic violence because physical or emotional abuse, the reluctance of the victim to come forward and a feeling of being entrenched with their trafficker or abuser.

To the benefit of fighting human trafficking, Burgos said the world is becoming smaller with social media and the internet. Traffickers use these tools but so does law enforcement. Social media also increases the possibility of civilians aiding the law.

“Picking up the phone really works,” he said. People who feel concern about reporting what they see, Burgos said they can call-in or email tips anonymously.

Lengel suggested people as consumers have a role to play in the fight against trafficking.

“Be an informed consumer, to deal with companies that treat people better, and pay actual wages,” Lengel said. ■ KEY

NERD CULTURE SURVIVES AT THE UNIVERSITY

By Adam Gretsinger

On a warm, late summer night at the University, students could be doing many things — homework, room-cleaning, weekend-preparing — but for certain 20-something-year-olds, the night was for a Hogwarts house-sorting ceremony.

POW

BANG

“The University does not lack groups that focus on more underground interests. ... The difference between them and FANDOM is the breadth of interests the latter looks to represent.”

Fans and Nerds Dedicated to Our Media invited students from around the school to attend its first meeting on Aug. 30. There, it allowed people to discuss their favorite media and participate in a mock sorting ceremony as seen in the “Harry Potter” series.

It would then invite participants to engage in later meetings at the same time on Thursdays to talk, take quizzes, win prizes, play games and create content related to their favorite media.

This includes both internet video content and T.V. shows, action films and comic books, board games and cartoons. “Nerd Culture” is the name of the game here.

The University does not lack groups that focus on more underground interests. Falcon ESports, Bowling Green Gaming Society, Bowling Green Pokemon Scene and Game and Anime Music Ensemble among them.

Anime in Northwest Ohio, focusing on both Japanese comics and cartoons, is even large enough to host an annual convention on campus in the spring semester. Hundreds of attendees and vendors come every year to participate in the festivities.

The difference between them and FANDOM is the breadth of interests the latter looks to represent. A recent poll put out on the organization’s Facebook asked members to call out their favorite fandom, providing 24 different options to choose from, 16 of which were individual brands. Other categories included musicals, dinosaurs and YouTubers.

“Nowadays, there’s so many different forms of media” so limiting the group to just books or movies was not viable, organization treasurer Amanda Anderson said.

Anderson, a fifth year marine biology major, said she had initially hesitated to join in her freshman year because she thought her interest in just the Hunger

Games and not other media represented at the time, would lead to hate from other members. However, after some encouragement from friends she decided to join her next year.

“No matter what you like, we will try to make a spot for you,” she said.

The organization was not always so wide-reaching in scope, however.

“No matter what you like, we will try to make a spot for you.”

— AMANDA ANDERSON,
FANDOM Treasurer

FANDOM came to life initially as BG Marauders, a student organization exclusively for Harry Potter fans in 2010. As the group took in more members, its managers saw just how much its members loved media outside of Harry Potter, and they began to consider the possibility of expansion.

This led to the foundation of the organization’s current name in 2014. The group’s banner used at public recruitment events at the time reflected both timeless classics like J. R. R. Tolkien’s work and more timely ones like Benedict Cumberbatch’s “Sherlock” series.

The group, however, does shy away from organizing too much activity around other established groups’ interests like anime and Pokemon, so as to not “step on their toes,” according to Anderson.

Instead, FANDOM hosts D.I.Y. escape rooms, civil discussions about common debates (i.e. Is D.C. better than Marvel Comics?) and game night collaborations with Gaming Society.

The main appeal of the group is its ability to provide a safe gathering space for its members once a week.

Anderson said the most fulfilling aspect of her job in the executive board was “knowing that you’re giving a platform to a bunch of different people.”

Though these organizations have been working to provide a positive view of nerd culture at the University today, that culture’s definition is constantly changing and never unanimous in the public world.

ESPN airs tournaments of major competitive video games like “Overwatch” and “Fortnite” on television.

Marvel’s multi-part film series rewards rabid fans for paying attention to otherwise unpopular characters from comic books with films like “Ant-man” and “Thor.”

On the other hand there is a negative reputation of these subcultures among the greater society. A 2014 Forbes article called nerd culture “authoritative” and “obnoxious” following negative reactions to a bad “Suicide Squad” Rotten Tomatoes score and called reactions to the recent “Ghostbusters” film’s female casting a sign of nerds’ general lack of tolerance and blind traditionalism.

Nerd culture has also been viewed as dangerous. Death threats were sent to “The Last Jedi” director Rian Johnson following the film’s release, leading to a media condemnation of the fanbase.

Anderson maintained her group understands its members do not represent that type of rabid fandom, however. “Members know what we are about,” she said.

Instead, she said the group heavily leaned into its identity as a LGBTQ+ friendly space, one in which only one executive member was both straight and cisgender. Anderson, who is pansexual, said the primarily female-identifying demographics worked to counteract these claims of nerd culture as a toxic one.

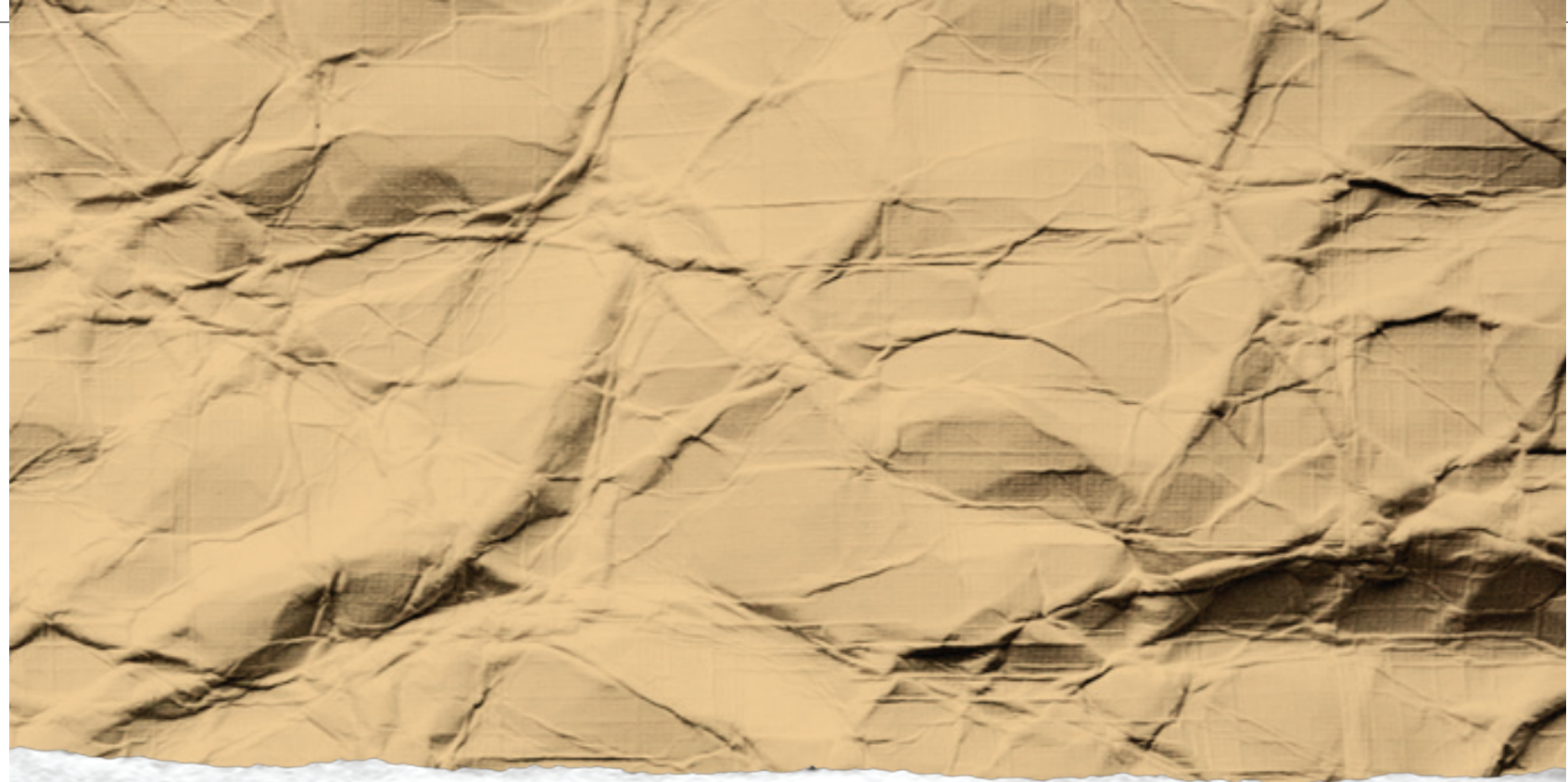
“The group (FANDOM) heavily leaned into its identity as a LGBTQ+ friendly space.”

“We don’t really care what outside people think,” she added.

The group looks to collaborate with other nerd-interest groups through the rest of the year, including team-ups with G.A.M.E. and a planned “nerd homecoming” later next semester for new and old members. ■ KEY



UNMASI



KING BG

Pointing a spotlight on successful students and Alumni

Photos provided by
Interviewees



“ I came to BGSU knowing I wanted to be a part of BG24 because it would give me on-air experience right away. ”

By Alex Schiavone

When Amy Steigerwald was in 7th grade, her love for broadcast journalism was ignited after she toured a Cleveland news station for a field trip. As soon as she arrived at the University, she knew that's what she wanted to study.

During her freshman year, Steigerwald looked up to a lot of the upperclassmen. She was also influenced by professors such as Ken Garland and Kathy Bradshaw. They helped her grow as a journalist at BG24 as well as in her classes.

“I came to BGSU knowing I wanted to be a part of BG24 because it would give me on-air experience right away,” Steigerwald said.

While involved with BG24, she shot, wrote, edited and fronted all of her own segments. “BG24 taught me how to be self-sufficient,” Steigerwald said.

Steigerwald is now a reporter for the WTOL-TV Station in Toledo. There were multiple reasons why she chose to work at WTOL-TV. The amount of University alumni who work at WTOL-TV factored heavily into her decision. Other factors include her internship experience at the station previously and the way things are run.

Her days at WTOL-TV start by pitching two to three story ideas in her morning meeting. She is then assigned to her stories for the day and the work ensues. She sets up her interviews, shoots her segments and then returns to the station to edit them for the 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. shows.

“I really enjoy my job and I love that I'm getting paid to do what I've been working toward for so long,” she said. “It's very rewarding to see that all of my work has paid off.” ■ KEY

By Erika Glover

Knowing that there are girls who look up to me and who are persevering to be just like me when they grow up makes me want to pave a way for girls who look like me all around the world,” international business and marketing junior, Nijiah Slaughter, said when asked about what motivates her.

In Slaughter's time at the University, she has developed her passion for helping others and giving back, exemplifying this passion through her involvements all over campus.

The current holder of many leadership positions, Slaughter devotes her time to outlets on and off campus. These range from the treasurer of Women Everywhere Believe to the diversity and inclusion senator of the Undergraduate Student Government. She is also an active College of Business student ambassador and serves on the university conduct committee.

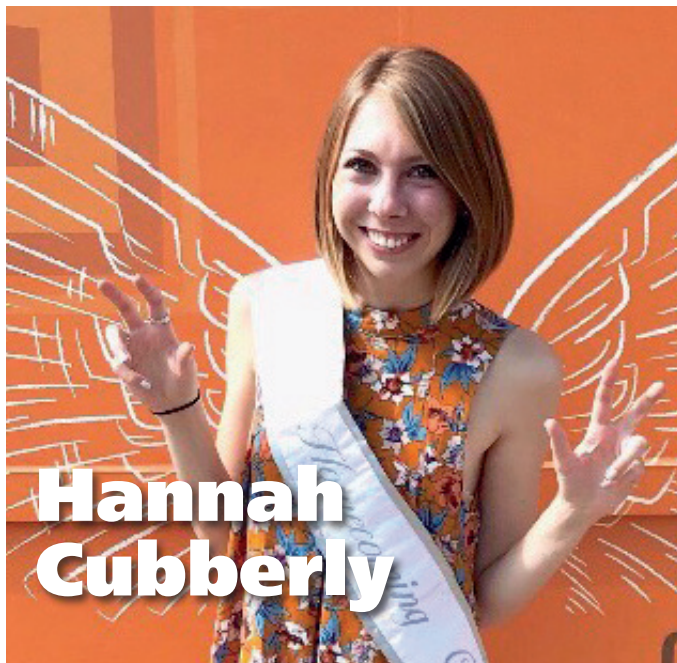
Slaughter is also a scholar in the Sidney A. Ribeau President's Leadership Academy, a program on campus devoted to personal development and building up the University through service.

“I always knew that I liked service, but in the same realm of service, I like being the voice of students and populations who lack a voice on campus or those who do not have relationships with administration and faculty,” Slaughter said.

Each of Slaughter's involvements boils down to one common theme — giving back. As she finishes her time at the University, she is hopeful her connections and relationships have touched students and inspired them to serve others as well. ■ KEY

“ Knowing that there are girls who look up to me and who are persevering to be just like me when they grow up makes me want to pave a way for girls who look like me all around the world. ”





**Hannah
Cubberley**

“One of the biggest things I have learned about myself during my time at BGSU is that I find my sense of purpose and happiness when I am helping people.”

By Brianna Blackburn

Hannah Cubberley is a student leader who is passionate about giving back, so she fills her time with roles that impact the University.

“One of the biggest things I have learned about myself during my time at BGSU is that I find my sense of purpose and happiness when I am helping people. When I graduate in just a few short months, I want to go out and find ways to make the most positive impact by helping individuals and ultimately the greater community,” Cubberley said.

Cubberley’s long-term goal to help others has shown itself at both an individual and community level during her four years at the University. She holds leadership roles in a variety of settings on campus: president of Undergraduate Student Government, student leadership assistant at the Center for Leadership and winter site leader for Bowling Green Alternative Breaks.

Her involvement on campus landed her a spot on Homecoming Court this fall. Cubberley has been able to make an impact on the larger University community through most of these involvements, but she has been able to make a direct personal impact while serving as a Rho Gamma for the Panhellenic Council.

“I really liked helping potential new members find the chapter that would be their best fit and supporting them throughout the process,” Cubberley said.

The underlying drive of all her involvements is to be a force for good at the University. She hopes this goal will surpass her undergraduate experience and she will “Stand Out” and “Go Far” even after graduation. ■ KEY

By Kayelyn Robinson

University alumna, Elsa Vos, turned her passion for creating into a business. Pieces of Me Co. is her brand of jewelry that highlights an individual’s personality traits and reminds wearers of their strengths.

Prior to graduating as a graphic design major in 2015, Vos used different programs at the University to help create Pieces of Me.

Starting as a graphic design project in her junior year of college, Vos created graphics representing the different personality traits she saw in herself. She decided this project was something to be shared with others. After her entrepreneurial spirit kicked in, she participated in The Hatch her senior year at the University to gain the support of investors.

“I think the biggest tools I used while at BGSU were the connections and networking opportunities I’ve had. After The Hatch program, the College of Business adopted me in a sense. I’ve had the chance to meet so many wonderful alum and others that I don’t think I would’ve otherwise,” Vos wrote in an email.

Vos hopes Pieces of Me’s jewelry will inspire college students find their identity the way it did for her. Through starting her business, Vos realized she had something unique to offer.

“I designed Pieces of Me, so others could feel that, too,” Vos wrote.

Vos plans on continuing to grow her line of jewelry. She hopes it will eventually become nationally known, but until then she will continue to work hard and encourage others to be proud to wear jewelry representing who they are. ■ KEY

“I think the biggest tools I used while at BGSU were the connections and networking opportunities I’ve had. After The Hatch program, the College of Business adopted me in a sense.”



Elsa Vos

not a man or a woman

Nonbinary students share their experiences living without a label

By Meredith Siegel

Nearly every time senior Jo Wilson fills out a form, they face a required question they can't answer with the given options: "Gender?"

As a nonbinary student, the psychology and women's gender and sexuality studies double-major can only answer "other" in most cases.

Many people who identify as nonbinary, or don't "fit" within the traditional "male" and "female" dichotomy, experience this. They generally use gender-neutral pronouns like "they/them."

Jo once saw "not applicable" as an option under a form's gender category.

"What do you mean 'not applicable'? It's my gender!" they said.

There is little research done on the amount of people who identify as nonbinary, but according to the Society for the Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity, anywhere from 25 to 35 percent of transgender populations identify that way.

The term nonbinary has a broad definition and allows for some interpretation. Transgender identities can be personalized and intimate to the people who hold them.

"For me it's not really a label because I'm the inbetween, and it's a spectrum, and you don't have to be anywhere specifically. ... I like it," Sierra Beers, applied health science junior said.

Similarly, Ozzy Graber, creative writing freshman, said, "I kind of can present both ways, just depending. I was never super girly. Not that, that really has anything to do with it, but ... it (woman) just didn't fit right."

Because identity can be so nuanced, Jo usually describes themselves as "not a man or woman" because for them "it's just as simple as that."

For cisgender people — who identify with the gender they are assigned at birth — it isn't so confusing, but when one starts to question gender, it can become complicated fast.

"I try to think about my gender. ... It's like sometimes it's there, sometimes it's not, sometimes I feel like it changes," Shayna Fury, forensic science freshman, said.

"What do you mean 'not applicable'? It's my gender!"

— JO WILSON

This feeling of in-betweenness can be mystifying for people, but it's where many nonbinary people thrive.

Ky Wilson, ethnic studies sophomore, said, "It's a liberating feeling. ... I'm proud of my gender; I'm proud of not knowing. I don't have to know."

Because this experience can confuse so many, cisgender people often denounce nonbinary genders, asking trans people invasive questions or ignoring their gender altogether. Nonbinary-identifying people have to navigate a binary-oriented world and deal with being misgendered.

"Sometimes it feels hard to connect with people that identify as female or

male. It's hard to relate with stuff, some of the stuff they say or do," Fury said.

Nonbinary people know this can also mean people are "disagreeing" with their gender identity.

"I don't really care, telling people; not everyone is going to like it, of course. They can judge me. Whatever, I'm fine with it," Beers said.

Ky presents femininely and is often referred to with feminine language.

"It feels like an out-of-body experience. So when someone calls me a woman or a girl, I don't associate that with me. I feel like they're talking about someone else," Ky said.

Ky is not the only one to be consistently misgendered, most nonbinary people express the need to explain what pronouns they use a lot of the time. Ky, for example, feels like they are coming out "all the time."

"And like, part of me is really happy because we're having conversations about pronouns ... but then it's like — gosh, it's tiring. If I'm not telling people, I'm correcting people. I feel like I have to get a nametag," Ky said.

Jo expressed a similar idea.

"Trans people just need to make an FAQ (frequently asked questions) of: here's who I am, here are my pronouns, here's what I do on the weekends," Jo said, laughing. "I don't think people understand that (explaining your identity is) kind of like explaining the plot of a book, but every time you explain a part of the plot you punch yourself as hard as you can in the leg."

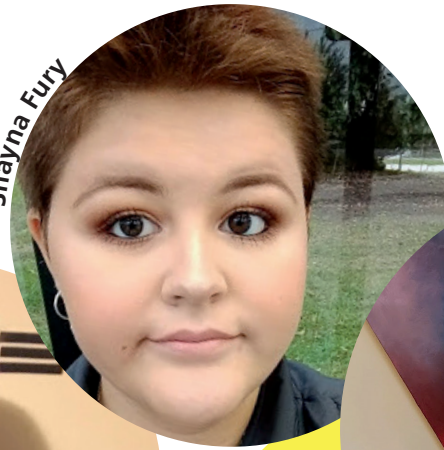
Nonbinary identities are misunderstood outside of the community



Ozzy Graber



Jo Wilson



Shayna Fury



Sierra Beers



Ky Wilson

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY INTERVIEWEES

and lack of information makes pinning down a nonbinary identity confusing. It took Beers an entire year to figure out how they identified because they did not have the language for their feelings.

“(It took) my whole freshman year, probably,” Beers said. “To me it was YouTube. A lot of YouTube. There’s a lot of resources on YouTube for LGBT people, and that’s also how I found my sexuality, just following a variety of YouTubers that would lead to other YouTubers, that would lead me to other ones, and then I found a couple that identified as transgender.”

Fury also did online research before settling on nonbinary. Even nonbinary is an umbrella term for any gender identity that exists outside of the binary.

“I’ve went through probably 15 labels trying to figure it out, and it’s not as easy as just, you know, ‘Oh, I’m female,’” Fury said.

Expectations around gender are put on people from the day they are born. Unpacking those ideas and settling on an identity outside of what one has always been taught can be frustrating.

Class can be a stressful experience because every semester there are new people nonbinary students have to explain themselves to. The University offers Safe Zone trainings, but they are not required for professors.

Not all professors and students know the most respectful language, and

they may assume they don’t have any nonbinary students when that is not true. This can lead to slightly uncomfortable conversations with professors or nonbinary students deciding to not come out at all.

“I’m out in my classes, but I feel like there are a lot of times where it’s just easier for me to — like my name is out in my classes — sometimes I don’t bother with the pronouns because I’m just trying to go to class and graduate,” Jo said. “It’s easier, and it’s not socially dysphoric for me anymore.”

Graber decided it was best to only come out to their professor.

“I think I wrote when I turned in a paper to them; I think I wrote a little note on the bottom for them at the beginning of the semester,” Graber said. Graber’s professor has been deliberate about respecting their pronouns.

Most students generally receive a positive response when they decide to come out, but there are still misunderstandings.

“One of the first professors I did come out to was my advisor, and I’m going to take lots of his classes because he’s in the department of ethnic studies. And I told him, and he was like, ‘OK, I’m gonna try my hardest to use the pronouns that you like,’” Ky said. “When he said the ‘you like,’ it just kind of rubbed me the wrong way.”

There are spaces on campus where nonbinary students feel comfortable

“People keep asking me these questions, and it’s making me question myself.”

— KY WILSON

existing as themselves. The most important and most consistent space is the LGBTQ+ Resource Center on campus. The center is full of students who “get it,” and support each other.

“When I’m in these (spaces), I’m like, ‘Yeah! I’m me!’” Beers said.

Outside of the resource center, residence halls are also generally safe for these students. Graber lives in Kreischer Hall.

“It’s pretty good. It’s really good because the art; the Arts Village is there, so there’s a lot of other creative people. There are some other LGBT people that live there,” Graber said.

Being nonbinary can be confusing, frustrating and overwhelming. But there are people out there who understand the experience, and this can be empowering.

“If you’re wondering about your gender or your sexuality or anything, there are resources out there. You are definitely never alone,” Beers said.

■ KEY

Misdirection in Action

BG Wizard shifts focus from protesters to acceptance



By Brionna Scebbi

When Quinn Taylor decided to take a semester off during their third year at the University to work on their art, they never expected it would include becoming an activist wizard who uses ridiculousness and positivity to protest religious demonstrations on campus.

As Taylor sat in a bright orange chair that was too low to the ground for the length of their legs, they recalled how strange their experience as the “BG Wizard” has been.

“My initial plan was just, ‘Oh, when Bible Bob shows up, I’ll be there, and I’ll be in a wizard costume. And I’ll just flail around and shout nonsense and weird made-up spells and just kind of brighten people’s days a little bit, and then I’ll go home,’” Taylor said while fiddling their black necktie between their yellow nail-polished fingers.

But when Taylor went home, #BGWizard had taken over social media.

Twitter user @ceiling_dweller used the hashtag to reassure those walking past shouting demonstrators “where there’s a wizard, there’s a way.”

With several passersby also sharing videos of the Wizard on Snapchat, their image began to receive more attention. People started to recognize them outside of their wizard garb.

“I got recognized at McDonald’s last night where somebody was just like, ‘Excuse me? Are you the Wizard?’” Taylor said.

Although, it is no surprise people identified Taylor beneath the guise of the BG Wizard. When in costume, their

distinct fuschia hair splays out around their blue gauge earrings and beneath their blue cone-shaped hat, and their 6-foot-3 stature is not easily disguised by the length of their red cloak or the height of their rollerblades.

While Taylor is not used to the local fame, they have not let that stop them from protesting at multiple demonstrations by religious zealots they call “Bible thumpers.” These groups, such as Created Equal and The Campus Ministry U.S.A., preach from free speech zones on campus against topics such as reproductive and LGBTQ rights.



PHOTO BY BRIONNA SCEBBI

Quinn Taylor, the BG Wizard poses out of costume.

Taylor's mission as the BG Wizard is to turn the aggressive atmosphere of these demonstrations into a more accepting one.

"As a person who identifies as both queer and trans, it feels important to me to speak out against hate like that ... I would like to send that message not only to them that they're not welcome to spread their hate here but also spreading a message to BG students that they are loved, and they are not what these people think of them," Taylor said.

It is their support of students who might feel attacked by demonstrators' messages that has earned Taylor the support of friends.

Taylor said they send pictures of them dressed as the Wizard to their devout Christian mother who "supports my endeavors 100 percent." In regard to the so-called Bible thumpers, Taylor quoted her as saying, "This is not the God I love; this is just people pandering."

Taylor had a similar view of what the demonstrators believe.

"You can walk around all day promoting this false idea of a wrathful, hateful god-figure — and you can believe in that all you want — but I'll continue to believe in Bowling Green and the people in it," they said.

And the people of Bowling Green, including Taylor's roommate and graphic design senior Morgan Gale, believe in the BG Wizard too.

Gale has described herself as Taylor's "social media hype man" and has supported them by making flyers to pass out during demonstrations, interviewing them on her YouTube channel and posting about them online.

Taylor's friend and digital arts sophomore David Hancock said he supports them because the Wizard wants to "just make people happy while taking away from the opposition's point as much as possible, as peaceful as possible, with as much fun involved."

The Wizard and their mission reflect how Taylor is as a friend, Gale said.

"Quinn's always been really supportive of me ... They really build me up. They're also possibly the most ridiculous person I've ever met; they're always able to escalate a situation into something completely absurd," Gale laughed. "(The Wizard and Quinn) are basically the same person, I think."

Hancock shared a similar sentiment as one of Taylor's friends.

"To hear them give that sort of rousing speech at the end of the first day ... with the whole, 'You guys are all loved and cool and super special, and I appreciate all of you.' That's Quinn," he said.

The support the Wizard gives to the crowd at a demonstration seems to have inspired more students to join the spectacle. Several other students dressed in costumes with the same intention of distracting everyone from religious fanatics.

This made demonstrations a great place for making new friends because "all of the coolest people show up to make it goofy," Gale said.

The distractions created by this "army of gays," as Gale calls them, during their protests included a fake wedding between participants dressed as dinosaurs. Taylor officiated this pseudo-ceremony, and as an ordained Unitarian minister, which they achieved in order to have a "legally binding gender-neutral honorific rather than being referred to as mister in legal documents," they said. They plan to do so for real at friends' weddings in the future.

“They’re also possibly the most ridiculous person I’ve ever met; they’re always able to escalate a situation into something completely absurd.”

- Morgan Gale
Quinn Taylor's roommate

Quinn Taylor, dressed as the BG Wizard, protests religious demonstrators.



“You can walk around all day promoting this false idea of a wrathful, hateful god-figure — and you can believe in that all you want — but I’ll continue to **believe** in Bowling Green and the people in it.”

- Quinn Taylor
BG Wizard

“The Wizard does weddings,” Gale said with a laugh. She plans to have Taylor officiate her wedding when the time comes.

While the Wizard united dinosaurs in love to protest the message of religious zealots on campus, students united at demonstrations to show each other they are loved, which is a “cathartic experience because for a brief moment we’re united through a common goal, which is to just to remind each other that we’re not what people will make us out to be,” Taylor said.

While Taylor never expected their work as the Wizard to have such an impact, they said they would like to see it grow into something bigger than themselves.

As for the Bible thumpers, Taylor looks forward to a day when students stop listening to the condemnatory messages they have been shouting.

“I want it to no longer be ‘Oh, there’s a bunch of homophobes just raging around campus, and they’re saying a bunch of hateful stuff’ to ‘Did you hear the Wizard’s out today?’” Taylor said. “Because then suddenly the pedestal is knocked out from under them; they don’t have a voice because nobody’s there to listen to them. (Students are) there just for a fun show and to take pictures with somebody dressed as a wizard.” ■ KEY

Left: Quinn Taylor as the BG Wizard in rollerblades.



Top: Students tweet about the #BGWizard.
Bottom: Taylor poses with bisexual pride flag.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY
BILL MOORMAN



Bowling Green's Fire Chief has the **Travel Bug**

By Abby Shifley

From the bush in Australia to Bowling Green, Ohio, Fire Chief Bill Moorman has been fighting fires across the world. Traveling to foreign countries never scared Moorman, in fact, he said his travels made him who he is today.

Moorman is a tall man, with broad shoulders, and has curly, short brown hair with blue eyes, complete with an Australian accent. He has lived in America for 30 years and next August, he will have been at the Bowling Green Fire Division for 25 years.

"I have had the privilege of knowing Bill for 20 years," Lori Tretter, municipal administrator of Bowling Green, said. She also serves as the Director of Safety for the city. Tretter said Moorman has grown into his role during his years at the BGF, from his time as a firefighter, to paramedic and now Fire Chief. She used the words "empathetic," "kind" and "considerate" to describe Moorman.

"Bill has great connections with people," she said. Not only is Moorman

an intelligent firefighter — but when there is a dangerous situation, he can communicate easily with the media, families and city officials, Tretter said.

Making connections with people was a large part of Moorman's travels, because the best spots were spread by word-of-mouth.

"You're guided by the people you meet and the experiences they had. That's part of the fun of just traveling," Moorman said.

Moorman's adventure started at the foot of the second tallest mountain in Australia, in a small town called "Mount Beauty."

"I wanted to learn about everything ... living in Australia, in a small community, you only saw one element, you only saw one thing growing up. I knew listening to other people that have traveled and listening to their stories, I loved history when I was in school — I wanted to explore, I wanted to see those things," he said.

Traveling is like a rite of passage in



PHOTO BY
ABBY SHIFLEY

"You're guided by the people you meet and the experiences they had. That's part of the fun of just traveling."

—Bill Moorman
Bowling Green Fire Chief

Australia — which Moorman welcomed with open arms. By the time he was 12 years old, he was riding motor bikes with his friends up into the bush.

In the bush, Moorman's dad was a volunteer firefighter, and Moorman followed in his father's footsteps. By the time he was 18, Moorman started as a volunteer cadet firefighter. He said he would be dropped in the middle of the wilderness by a helicopter and be told to put out a large wildfire — and he loved it.

"I loved adventure. Whether it was scuba diving or just camping or backpacking ... it was truly an adventure growing up. I think that's what started this passion for travel and just wanting to see more," Moorman said.

Kevin Moorman, Moorman's younger brother, said in an email his older brother has always been dauntless— he loves

motorcycles, good-looking cars and practical jokes.

Moorman would pick up venomous snakes to scare his companions on their travels. But despite the pranks, Kevin Moorman had good things to say about his brother.

"I can say he is a very loyal person that would do anything to help out someone in need if possible, to do so," Kevin Moorman wrote.

Kevin Moorman set off to travel six months before his older brother. They met up, along with two other mates, in England.

The group of four decided they wanted to tour Europe, so they got on a double-decker bus in England and rode across the country. Moorman said one of the best parts about traveling cheaply was he got to meet like-minded people, people from all around the world who were backpacking as well. On the bus, the group met some Israelis, so they decided Israel would be their next destination — but not without a few pit-stops.

First, the group took a ferry from Wales and hitchhiked through Ireland for about a month. Moorman said his ancestors are from Ireland and Germany — two countries he had the opportunity to explore during his travels.

“I loved adventure. Whether it was scuba diving or just camping or backpacking ... it was truly an adventure growing up.”

— BILL MOORMAN

When Moorman made it to Israel, he and his group knew they wanted to volunteer at a Kibbutz: a collective community primarily based on agriculture. The Kibbutz Moorman stayed at specialized in tulips, bananas, citrus orchards and turkey farms. The group mainly worked on the banana plantations, and in exchange, the Kibbutz provided them with accommodations while they traveled Israel.



Northern Territory Australia



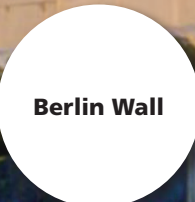
Entrance to the Valley of the Kings



Monastery on Mount Sinai



Goodbye party on the Kibbutz



Berlin Wall

Kevin Moorman wrote he and his brother saw their share of trouble in Israel, even though they were just looking for a warm beach after the icy, rainy beaches of the UK.

“... Well we ended up at the beach all right but on the Lebanon border, so in the 4 months we were there we had fighter jets overhead, attack helicopters circle over us rockets pass over us and paraglider terrorists fly overhead on their way to do nasty business,” Kevin Moorman wrote.

After about three months, the group of four moved on to Egypt, where they got to explore many historical sites. In Egypt, Moorman stayed in Cairo and saw the Pyramids and the Sphinx, but also got to ride bicycles through the Valley of the Kings and Valley of the Queens for about a week.

From there, the group took a small sailing boat called a “felucca” and sailed up the Nile. They scuba-dived in the Red Sea, traveled to St. Catherine’s Monastery — the site where some believe Moses received The 10 Commandments — and to the Dead Sea. They also went to the Greek Islands and Turkey for a few months each.

The group eventually went their separate ways, with Moorman staying in Turkey to work. Moorman said Turkey was his favorite stop in all his travels because of the beautiful landscape and history.

Once Moorman had saved up some money, he met up with his brother in Germany for Oktoberfest, before traveling to America — a destination that turned into a home.

Moorman now has five children and thinks his travel bug might’ve rubbed off on them. He said he always enjoys hearing about their travels.

“ Turkey was his favorite stop in all his travels because of the beautiful landscape and history. ”

Moorman also tries to emphasize the benefits of adventure and exposure to other cultures whenever he gives talks in front of young people.

Moorman said, “I had a good education in Australia, but I always say by best education, was my traveling.” ■ KEY

Photos provided by **Bill Moorman**



Banana plantation on the Kibbutz



Top of Mount Sinai



Turkey

Mount Beauty

“ Moorman now has five children and thinks his travel bug might’ve rubbed off on them. ”

Milingimbi Island





Falcon Flames

By Morgan Ward

Being in a relationship comes with its ups and its downs. Some people have found their Falcon Flames at the University and are spreading the love by telling their stories to others.

A Falcon Flame is a couple that both attended the University and eventually decided to get married. As of December 2009, there were 10,565 BGSU Falcon Flame couples living throughout the world. This translates to 21,130 students meeting their future spouse while on campus or after graduation. Legend has it that a couple that kisses on the seal at midnight will remain Falcon Flames forever.

One couple have strived to be Falcon Flames before even coming to college. Harrison and Hanna Renny, both from Bowling Green, Ohio have been married since the summer of 2018. Hanna graduated from the University in December 2017.

They met in third grade during recess. Hanna was chasing around a friend of Harrison's and eventually she shoved Harrison over the balance beam pole.

"After that we didn't interact with each other until summer



David & Cassidy

of freshman year. She had a crush on me," Harrison said. Though he didn't pick up in it at first.

On their fourth unofficial date they planned to go on an official date to Stella's in Perrysburg and announced they were a couple. Their plans got switched around when they were invited to Hanna's uncle's house for ribs and wild mushrooms gathered while hunting earlier in the day.

During their second year of dating, the pair went to a neighborhood where there was a Christmas light contest of who had the best decorations.

"I stopped in front of this house that I thought was beautiful. At that moment I was looking at the house, but I started

to turn towards Harrison he was on his knees with a rock. I started to freak out. He then stood up and said 'just kidding,'" Hanna said.

Little did she know two years down the road they would end up at the same spot once again and this time they were there for the real deal. After a trip to Best Buy, they decided to go look at the lights in the neighborhood they earlier stumbled upon. The house they saw two years previously was still standing. Hanna looked to Harrison, who was on his knees with a box in his hand.

“As of December 2009, there were 10,565 BGSU Falcon Flame couples living throughout the world.”

“Hanna, I love you very much. Will you marry me?” he asked.

Despite never thinking it would happen, the two cried during the moment.

They decided to have a private courthouse wedding.

“We went to the courthouse because we wanted to have a private wedding. We wanted to get married this year, but didn’t have the money to have a wedding,” Harrison said.

“Being in a relationship is hard work. Make sure to find time to be happy and enjoy the time you have with each other.”

— HANNA RENNY

The couple plans on having a smaller reception towards the summer of their one year anniversary. Their family and friends will be in attendance. After they both graduated college, they decided to move to Cleveland.

“Living in Bowling Green was fun, but we were in college then. All we did was homework and work. Living here has given us more time to really spend quality time together,” Hanna said.

“As advice to guys who are looking to date and getting into a serious relationship, try to be vulnerable. Be vulnerable in front of the person you like and make compromises,” Harrison said.

“Being in a relationship is hard work. Make sure to find time to be happy and enjoy the time you have with each other,” Hanna said.

A couple that is still attending BGSU are now engaged. Cassidy Johnson and David Hull are full time students experiencing life together and living it to the fullest.

“We met at the Alpha Phi Omega recruitment event: Friday Night Lights. I was an active and he was a potential pledge. We ended up in the same group and found out our hometowns were very close together and we were both baristas,” Johnson said. “We talked about coffee shops back home. His favorite was Muggswigz. Eventually he took me there for our first date. I spilled coffee on myself. David thought it was cute, I was mortified.”

This couple has really taken the University into their relationship. They have checked things off the unofficial “BG Bucket List.”

This included a full day adventure of stargazing at the Doyt stadium, running through the administration buildings sprinklers, rolling down the hill at the wolfe center, taking a shot at their favorite bar and ending the night with a kiss at the seal at Midnight under a full moon.

They only needed one more thing to become full-fledged Falcon Flames: an engagement. Hull decided to surprise her at a Greek event.

“After everyone left big little reveal he hid behind the sheet and I was standing

in front of it. I was under the assumption that my friend Tori was being revealed as a second big to me. But he was the one behind the sheet with a ring. I said no like three times and told him ‘It was supposed to be Tori you a**hole’, then I finally said yes as I always have wanted to. I wasn’t exactly the easiest on him,” Johnson said.

This couple has experienced much of what life has to offer. The summer of 2018 they studied abroad together in France. They shared a studio apartment in Nantes for about four weeks and spent two weeks exploring the United Kingdom and Ireland. They also made pit stops in Dublin, Belfast, Liverpool, London and Italy.

“I loved seeing her face of wonder as we were exposed to a new adventure every day,” said Hull.

A wedding close to both of their hometowns is scheduled for late September in the year 2020. They plan to have the reception at an apple orchard. Right now they are both finishing their degrees and enjoy baking pies and playing video games with friends.

Falcon Flames are all over the campus and they find each other in all sorts of ways.

■ KEY

“I loved seeing her face of wonder as we were exposed to a new adventure every day.”

— DAVID HULL

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