Enrollment numbers drop 0.2 percent

By Lashana Harney
HERALD NEWS@WKU.EDU

Enrollment numbers have stagnated in a departure from the trend of recent years. Compared to fall 2014 enrollment numbers, enrollment dropped by 32 students totaling this year’s enrollment as of September 19, 2015 at 20,146 students.

Brian Meredith, chief enrollment and graduation officer, said the numbers are almost flat.

Meredith said the dramatic decrease was due to a combination of factors including rise of admission standards and availability of Federal Pell grants.

Since fall 2013, enrollment has decreased overall. However, this year’s enrollment only dropped by 0.2 percent.

Meredith said once the census data is finalized in October, he doesn’t expect to see any substantial changes to enrollment.

See Enrollment Page A2
The number of first-time first-year freshmen increased by 10.6 percent, going from 1,657 to 1,832. Meredith said dual credit classes are a recruitment initiative. “It’s imperative we continue to strengthen dual-credit relationships which in turn will later turn into full-time enrollment here at Western,” he said.

However, enrollment of in-state students decreased by 0.7 percent, going from 15,571 students to 15,466. Enrollment of out-of-state students decreased by 236 students, going from an even 3,000 in fall 2014 to 2,764 in fall 2015. On the other hand, enrollment of non-traditional students decreased by 236 students, going from an even 3,000 in fall 2014 to 2,764 in fall 2015. On the other hand, enrollment of non-traditional students decreased by 236 students.

According to the report, fall 2016 total enrollment was 20,174, and fall 2015 total enrollment was 20,146. This indicates a loss of 32 students and a 0.2 percent difference. “I would say that’s almost flat. I don’t know if it would be a deficit,” Meredith said.

Meredith said first-time freshmen and transfer students are up. He said those two demographics are important for the growth of the university. “I think it enhances the diversity of our class. We’re recruiting a highly capable, academically competitive class,” Meredith said. “We’re grooming the ground running,” he said.

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**BOR committee approves new physical therapy department**

**BY SAMANTHA WRIGHT**

The Doctorate of Physical Therapy program could soon open new field. The program's new home was approved at Friday's Board of Regents meeting. Housed under the Allied Health department in the College of Health and Human Services, the two-year-old program is the first separate department exclusively for physical therapists.

The department was approved unanimously. The item has now been passed to the full Board of Regents and part of the Academic Affairs Committee, having approved the department at the first time up for discussion at the meeting. If approved, it will stay under the College of Health and Human Services. All faculty currently teaching as part of the program will stay and there are no plans currently to hire new faculty.

Bale said this is a popular program, with over 500 applicants already competing for 30 spots. There should be no worries about not attracting enough applicants.

"It's very competitive," Bale said. "People have been very competitive for decades and there have been a dearth of applicants.

He added that the physical therapy department is just an example of the university's dedication to helping society and pride for your campus.

"It all comes down to respect," Barber said. "Respect the campus, respect the student, respect the facilities you're in.

The showcase will be Thursday, Jan. 28 at 7:30 p.m. in DSU room 3006 for any students interested in participating. The MajorRedz hope to benefit from this event more than just financially.

"We also want our name to be known around campus and for people to recognize us as more than just a dance team," Jackson said.
**Lips, Lies and Lying Lover’s Lips**

**WKU’s Response to Sexual Assault Needs to Change**

The issue: Sexual assault continues to be a problem on college campuses and it seems that it just can’t seem to get better in the United States.

Last Monday, the Association of American Universities released the results of the “Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Misconduct,” which was completed by students from 27 different universities in the U.S. According to this survey, 1.7 percent of undergraduate students have been victims of sexual assault, and 23.1 percent of undergraduate females have been sexual assault victims.

Within the results of this survey was information pertaining to the rates in which students report sexual assault. What shows that a small percentage of “even the most serious incidents” are actually reported because victims believe that they are not important, are unimportant, or are afraid nothing will be done.

WKU offers services and resources to help those who have been victims of sexual assault, but its methods of response need to be improved. While it stresses the importance of reporting instances of sexual assault, WKU’s Counseling and Testing Center’s “Sexual Assault Response” website page doesn’t provide much information for victims who are considering this option.

If victims want to report a sexual assault, they should go to the Counseling and Testing Center and talk to the sexual assault coordinators, who will assist them in finding resources. However, if victims do not want to report their assault, they should be care-ful not to be re-traumatized.

All WKU employees, even student employees, are legally mandated to report any instances of sexual assault on campus. They are instructed to inform information they have, according to the Title IX sexual misconduct/assault procedure document.

After it is reported, a formal university complaint is filed, and an investi-gation proceeds through the Office of Judicial Affairs. During this inves-tigation, anonymity for victims is not guaranteed even if they request it.

However, it is important to note that if the victim approaches a WKU employee seeking assistance in finding professional counseling or medi-a, that employee cannot force their victim to not report it. By law, all medical infor-mation is private.

Getting back against sexual assault is necessary, and it’s great if WKU is try-ing to help. It’s not enough to do it; that don’t do it unless it’s done with much consideration for the victim.

Reporting and filing formal complaints are always the best options for victims. Enduring the investigation process can bring back memories of the event, which only furthers trauma-tization.

Victims shouldn’t always believe that the offender will be punished. It’s not easy to provide concrete evidence of a sexual assault, and victims often don’t re-consider a formal investigation if it happened some time before or months after the assault occurred.

While this policy shows that WKU is trying to combat sexual assault, it could be much stronger. It’s important to give consideration to the welfare of the victim, rather than pushing for investigation, would be a much better response.

Making it mandatory for all WKU employees to report all instances of sexual assault only furthers the isolation of victims who don’t want to un-dertake a formal investigation. It makes victims less likely to talk about their experience with friends or people they trust if those people are legally ob-li-gated to report.

To make navigating the system easier for victims, WKU could get rid of the rule that all employees have to report instances of sexual assault they are made aware of so that only those who want to file a formal complaint have to do it. Victims weren’t selling to go that route. That would certainly make anonymity possible for those victims who wish to remain anonymous.

Sexual assault is a widespread issue on college campuses across the Uni-versity, but WKU can be more conscien-tious of how it treats victims.

**By Alyssa Pointer**

**Assistant News Editor**

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**The Green Inferno:** a horror film that failed

*By SHANE FREEMAN* 

**Herald Opinion**

The “Green Inferno” is a horror film that truly goes wrong with the plan, and creates quite the mess in the middle of the forest. It’s one of the few horror films that have been released in recent years that have gone wrong with the plan. If it’s true that nature always wins, then this film has been designed with a few last chips to help those who take on it.

The director, Eli Roth, is known for his horror films and he’s known for his knack of good characters and actors. This film was released in 2015, and it was released in the middle of the last decade. It’s a film that Roth himself was able to release in the middle of the last decade.

It’s a film about the horror of nature and how it can be used as a tool to clean house. The horror film’s plot is based on the idea that we have to be careful with the way we do things.

Roth’s horror films have been some of the most popular in the world, and they have been given great performances, but the costume design is decent, and the narrative Islamic is fascinating.

Costumes aside, this film survives on tension and plot. While it’s hard to please everyone, Roth is known for his excessive gore. In some cases during this film, it’s almost too disgusting to watch. The gore scenes are gruesome, but the plot also demands that it be done; however, the gore scenes are greater than the plot, but they do only diminishes. Some scenes were simply disgusting and Roth took too many liberties to continue.

In the end, Roth’s films then, how will probably be the horror film you enjoy. This is a rare film, with its maniacal sense of humor, and it’s a film that you will enjoy. The gore scenes are definitely a film you can enjoy. The gore scenes are definitely a film you can enjoy.

**By Andy Henderson**

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**DRESSING TO IMPRESS: first date do's and don'ts for star crossed lovers**

The first date experience can be nerve wracking for most people. The idea of inviting someone to your home or going on a date with that cutie you’ve been pining for can be almost as stressful as the wedding day itself. However, if your date is any sort of a mark on the calendar, then you have to dress properly. After all, your date is your first impression of you to be of someone special.

So what do you need to wear to your first date? Well, that’s all about you. What’s your idea of a perfect date? A romantic dinner for two? Or a night out on the town? Whatever your idea of a perfect date is, you need to make sure you’re comfortable. Your outfit should comfortable. Your outfit should look that says you still care.

Many couples find that dressing up is the way to go home. Planning on climbing up a mountain? Pack a pair of running shoes. Planning on a night out? Pack a cocktail dress. Planning on a night in? Pack a pair of flats. A pair of flats can look great with any outfit, and it can be comfortable.

When it comes to picking out your outfit, keep in mind that your first impression of you to be of someone special.

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When it comes to picking out your outfit, keep in mind that you should wear something that you feel good in. You want to look like you’re having a good time. You don’t want to look like you’re on a mission to be some sort of a fashion icon. You want to look like you’re having a good time. You don’t want to look like you’re on a mission to be some sort of a fashion icon.

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62 “Through the Looking-Glass” brother

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3 Stable employee
4 2003 College World Series winner
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6 Short order?
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9 Worthless trash
10 Solid
11 “... the apparel proclaims the man”: “Hamlet”
12 Provocative and frequently misleading link
13 “The Sum of All Fears” author
14 Victor Herbert work
21 Influential sci-fi drama
24 Atmosphere: Pref.
25 Scintilla
27 Warm-weather pants
28 Industrial bigwigs
29 Put another quarter in, as a parking meter
31 “Trust No One” Washington attraction
32 Internal combustion engine system
33 Tale
35 1765 levy repealed in 1766
36 Board part
37 New Age superstar
41 Causes of “60 Minutes” delays, briefly
42 Feel sorry for
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THE FUN PAGE
A film series at WKU will highlight the South Africa's struggle against apartheid. The seven-part series “Have You Heard from Johannesburg” will be screened from Sept. 28 to Oct. 15, in Cherry Hall, Gary Ransdell Hall and on the Glasgow campus free of charge.

Through a partnership with the Office of International Programs, the Gender & Women's Studies Program is hosting the film series for this year’s International Year of South Africa.

The event will also include a visit from award-winning documentary filmmaker Connie Field, whose film has won a Primetime Emmy, the Sundance Grand Jury Prize, two International Documentary Association awards and two Academy Award nominations.

Kristi Branham, director of the Gender & Women's Studies Program, said Field will discuss filmmaking, how to choose subjects and her experience with making the “Have You Heard from Johannesburg” series.

“This is probably a very hard story to try to tell because it's a long history with a lot of players at the local, national and global scale,” Field said.

Andrea Cheney, the assistant director of the International Programs office, said programming and events create unique opportunities to connect students to scholars and other experts.

Branham hopes students will take this opportunity to learn about apartheid and oppression in South Africa as well as its country's history.

“Any opportunity like this on a university campus is fantastic,” Branham said. “This is a very important historical event, and the ramifications of it are not limited to the borders of South Africa.”

Students will also learn about filmmaking — specifically, women in filmmaking. Branham believes women in film and documentaries are not as represented as men.

“We aren’t separate gender from issues of race, class, nationalism and oppression,” Branham added. “Four percent is not one component of your identity, and these are issues covered in the film.”

Students, faculty and staff don’t have to attend every session to participate in the series.

For those who are unable to attend, all seven parts of the film are available to choose from on the WKU Libraries Kanopy database.

For more information about the events of the film series, see the WKU Gender & Women's Studies website.
Students to perform "The Emperor's New Clothes" for local schools

"The Emperor's New Clothes," a beloved children's tale by Hans Christian Andersen, has been adapted for the stage by Jennifer Diven, WKU’s Department of Theater chairman. Directed by WKU senior Isabella Dunn, the play is presented to local elementary schools in a single performance setting.

This semester Tallington has taken on the task of directing the children's play. "The Emperor's New Clothes" is my favorite. I've performed it before so it's a familiar one for me," Dunn said.

"What I enjoy most about directing the play is the fact that it's a very personal experience for the students. They are able to see themselves in the story and relate to the characters. It's a great opportunity for them to express themselves through acting and creativity," Dunn added.

The play tells the story of a foolish emperor who is tricked into believing he is wearing a special suit of clothes that only the honest can see. A young boy eventually exposes the emperor's nakedness, leading to the downfall of the scheme. The play is known for its moral lessons, emphasizing the importance of truth and honesty.

"I think the story holds a timeless message that is relevant for all ages. It teaches us the lesson that even though we may have the best intentions, it is never okay to lie," Tallington said. "But the best part is that it's a very comical and funny way that I think people can really relate to.""The Emperor's New Clothes" performance will perform on campus in the Carson Wilson Lab Theatre from December 4 to 6. The Friday and Saturday performances will be held at 7 p.m., while Saturday and Sunday performances will be held at 3 p.m. All tickets are $5.

"Students to perform "The Emperor's New Clothes" for local schools"
Junior setter Taryn Taylor (12) fires a set to junior middle blocker Lauren Hamm (3) during WKU's 3-0 win against Louisiana Tech on Friday. Scott and Engle recorded three and five digs, respectively. The Lady Toppers defeated the Lady Techs in the first two sets and made it very hard for Louisiana Tech to score in the third set, as they only managed to score 14 points.

BY BILLY RUTLEDGE
HERALD SPORTS WRITER

Volleyball

Page A7

Soccer

Hilltoppers rebound with 36-14 thrashing of Miami (Ohio)

Engle finds her stride as Hilltoppers win ninth straight

By Matthew Stewart

The Lady Toppers ended their first home weekend of Conference USA play with a sweep victory over Louisiana Tech and Florida International University in Diddle Arena.

The wins bring WKU's number of home wins now in three-set sweeps to 10 out of 17 contests played with a 15-2 overall record.

The wins also move the Lady Toppers to 3-0 in Conference play after they started league play with a 3-1 win over Marshall in Huntington, West Virginia, Wednesday.

FIU (8-6) came into Diddle Arena Sunday afternoon hungry for a win after being handed a loss in Rice on Friday. With the loss to the Lady Toppers, FIU's record in conference play falls to 2-2. WKU, on the other hand, was coming in with an eight-game winning streak. The Lady Top- pers wanted to remain undefeated in conference play, and Jessica Lucas, the Conference USA Setter of the Week, was ready to show why she earned the same nod twice in 2014.

The win extend WKU's winning streak to nine games and their C-USA winning streak, including last season, to 14. The Lady Toppers have not lost a conference game, and the win extends WKU's win- ning streak to six games, an FBS-era record. The contest marked the third straight game in which he has thrown over 440 yards. These accomplishments also make the sixth-year Hilltopper WKU's all- time leader in total yards and total career completions.

Dougbly continued to utilize redshirt senior tight end Tyler Higbee, who has been limited by a hamstring injury, as a go-to target. He accounted for 11 catches and 148 yards, including last season. These accomplishments also make the third straight game in which he has thrown over 440 yards. These accomplishments also make the sixth-year Hilltopper WKU's all-time leader in total yards and total career completions.

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