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Wright State Student Body

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Office of Latino Affairs assisting DACA students

Lucas Gonzalez

The Office of Latino Affairs (OLA) received a federal grant from California to assist students who would be affected by the Trump administration's policy change on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

OLA used the grant to open a DACA renewal assistance clinic for students who were brought to the United States as children, and are not formally considered citizens.

The proposal for the clinic came from a OLA meeting in which senior Wright State student, Stephanie Patino Garfias, voiced her opinion that WSU should do more to service its students who are affected by DACA. The idea was then implemented by Julia Acosta, Director of OLA, in collaboration with Stephanie Allen, Managing Attorney of Student Legal Services.

To help with the application process, Acosta and Allen recruited Dayton lawyer, Bahjat Mikhail Abdallah, who has an expertise in immigration.

According to Acosta, this policy is breaking up families. "We, as a community, owe it to these students to do something," said Acosta.

In the state of Ohio alone, there are roughly 20,000 people registered under DACA. Nationwide, the policy will affect nearly 800,000 people.

For those affected by the policy change, there are two main things to look out for, according to Allen. First, students are advised not to travel internationally because they may not be allowed back into the U.S.

Additionally, there will be no more applications processed, and no more expiration extensions. The deadline for renewal passed on October 5. People whose permits expire after March of 2018 are advised to seek an immigration lawyer.

Board of Trustees introduces Executive Committee

Sarah Cavender

News Writer

With a new president and a new budget for the new academic year, the Board of Trustees also added a new committee to their list of scheduled meetings.

Known as the Executive Committee, it is made up of the current chair, the vice chair, secretary and past chair as a subcommittee to the BOT.

“The Board wanted another board to vet through actions before coming to them. The executive committee handles things like HR issues so the Board of Trustees isn’t meeting about every single issue,” said Douglas Fecher, Chair of Board of Trustees.

The committee is stated in the by-laws of the BOT, but has not been implemented in the university until this year.

“Many organizations have executive committees,” Fecher said. “Being the new chair, I wanted to resurrect and provide good governance. It’s difficult to gather the Board of Trustees, so the committee can meet before the issue goes to the board.”

The executive committee has less power than the president or the BOT; their role is to review and decide what issues need to be brought to the attention of the trustees. The committee also has two extra duties, which is to oversee the appraisal of the president at the end of the academic year and also do research on compensation of university.

The Executive Committee held their most recent meeting on Friday, Sept. 29.

Fifth annual Rowdy 5000

Angel Lane

Features Editor

The Friendship Food Pantry held its fifth annual Rowdy 5000 this year from Sept. 29 - Oct. 6 with the goal of raising 5,000 items. In previous years, the goal was 500 items, according to Friendship Food Pantry coordinator Morgan Freeman.

“This year we donated items that were donated from Sept. 29 - Oct. 1 to the Latino Affairs office because they had a food drive for Hurricane victims and we wanted to help students that way as well. The rest of the donations made will be for the pantry,” Freeman said.

Although the Rowdy 5000 is over, the Friendship Food Pantry is always in need of donations.

The most needed items this year include “Breakfast items—cereal, oatmeal, pop-tarts, breakfast bars, etc, Canned fruit (all kinds), Jelly, Canned meat (tuna, chicken, sausage, etc.), Canned vegetables—carrots, sliced potatoes, peas, corn, spinach (we have excess green beans at the moment), Canned Spaghettios/pastas and Canned soups,” according to an email sent out by the pantry. They are also looking for hygiene items such as shampoo, toothpaste, etc.

Items were collected in bins spread around campus - bins can still be found outside the pantry in Allyn hall for donations year-round.

The pantry was not yet sure of whether or not they would meet the 5,000 mark because homecoming week is always so busy. In order to spread the word, boxes for donations were placed all around campus and the pantry worked hard to market the event as much as possible according to Freeman.

For questions or more info on the Friendship Food Pantry, contact: (937) 775-2617 or foodpantry@wright.edu

Laura Matthews hired as new softball coach

Brian Patch

Sports Editor

Laura Matthews has been named the new softball coach at Wright State.

Matthews comes from Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, where she had been the head coach for the last five years.

She graduated from the University of Dayton in 2008, in which she was a member of the UD softball team.

When she was offered the job at WSU, Matthews was excited for the opportunity.

"It's a great opportunity," Matthews said. "I know the area well from going to school at UD. I actually played against WSU in college. So the opportunity to coach a division one school in this area that I love was something I couldn't pass up."

Matthews has been impressed with the athletic facilities WSU has for coaches and student athletes.

"The athletic facilities here are tremendous," she said. "I also love the energy around athletics here at Wright State. The athletic department and coaches are great and have all been very helpful during my transition to Wright State."

The softball team is coming off of a season of 21-31 overall, a 14-10 conference record and a 10-5 record at home.

Matthews is excited for the season, and wants to focus on improvement.

"I'm excited for our team," Matthews said. "We have a lot of talented seniors, but also a lot of youth in our program. When it comes to goals, I like to focus more on process based goals rather than outcome goals. If we get better every single day, that will reflect on how we play and our overall record will improve."

What research is happening in the NEC building?

Lucas Gonzalez

News Editor

Researchers from Biochemistry, Psychology, Engineering, Physics, and more are conducting research in the Neuroscience Engineering Collaboration (NEC) building on Wright State's campus. People conducting research in the NEC building include undergraduate students, graduate students, technical staff, post-doctoral researchers and faculty.

According to Christopher Wyatt, Associate Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, Wright State is working in collaboration with Mark Rich, an internationally recognized researcher. Their research is focused on stopping infant mortality due to breathing problems, as well as preventing the muscle weakness known as sepsis.

Sherif Elbasiouny from the department of neuroscience, cell biology and physiology is conducting research focused on finding different methods of treatment for Lou Gehrig's disease. Elbasiouny is also combining neuroscience and engineering with his projects related to prosthetics, according to Wyatt.

Elliott Brown, who is jointly appointed in engineering and physics, is doing work on sensors; he does his research in a facility free of dust and particles, known as a clean room. "These facilities are a great resource for the university," said Douglas Leaman, Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics.

Michael Hennessy is collaborating with Dragana Clafin, Gale Kleven and Patricia Schiml on behavioral neuroscience research. Hennessy has been working at Wright State for around 20 years, but his research, along with other long-time faculty has been in progress long before the NEC was opened.

"Most of the researchers were established investigators before the building opened. Many of the researchers had a hand in designing their spaces to meet their needs," said Leaman.

The research being conducted in the NEC building will continue for as long as it is open. "The goal is to grow [our research]. Neuroscience and Neurobiology are, in many ways the next frontier," said Leaman.

Debate sparks over management of protest

Lucas Gonzalez

News Editor

On Wednesday, Sept. 20, there was a public demonstration held on the Quad area of Wright State's campus. The demonstrators represented Created Equal, a pro-life organization based in Columbus, Ohio.

The day prior to their arrival, Gary Dickstein, Interim Vice President of Student Affairs, sent out a campus-wide email warning students about the demonstrators' use of "graphic images" of aborted fetuses. The message sent out to students was a collaborative effort shared between Dickstein and the Office of Communications.

Wright State is one of the many schools at which they have demonstrated, according to Mark Harrington, founder of Created Equal. Harrington believes the email was biased, particularly because this has not been done for other protest groups that have appeared at Wright State.

"Wright State has a draconian free speech policy," said Harrington. "We are doing a disservice to our youth when we coddle them. They are adults; we should treat them like ones."

Anyone can come to Wright State's campus because it is a public institution. However, organizations must submit a form before they can demonstrate or march on campus, according to Eric Corbitt, Director of Student Union, Campus Recreation and Student Activities. They also need to reserve a space, according to Dickstein. Created Equal was allowed to demonstrate under the condition that they would be limited to the Quad.

According to Dickstein, Wright State has a responsibility to uphold first amendment rights, regardless of viewpoint. By the same token, Dickstein claimed there have been many requests from the student body to receive advance notice before a protest occurs on campus, so they have the chance to avoid it if they choose to. Discussions about sending notification emails to students were already in place before Created Equal announced their appearance at Wright State, according to Dickstein.

The debate over Dickstein's email came a few months after Ohio lawmakers introduced the Campus Free Speech Act, a bill that would eliminate "free speech zones" on college campuses. State Representative Niraj Antani has criticized the decision to send a warning email, which he believed to be politically biased. "People who you disagree with still have the right to free speech," said Antani. We should not "weaken people by shielding them from opinions they disagree with."

According to sophomore Sarah Marsh, free speech rights should be protected, but students should be given the option to avoid demonstrations if they so choose. "Restricting the group to one area on campus allows students to avoid the protests," said Marsh. "The idea [of the bill] is touchy, since free speech has been used as a rallying cry for people to defend discriminatory and hateful speech."

Legislators should be careful in passing such legislation to take into account the conflict that could come out of it.”

Women's Soccer bounces back to win 2-0

Tevin Carter-Tolbert

Sports Writer

Saturday night, Oct. 7 at Alumni Field, the Wright State women’s soccer team defeated the Oakland Golden Grizzlies, two to zero. The game was well-played on both sides, but the Raiders were able to penetrate the Oakland defense and score twice; once in each half. Aaliyah Patten and Kayla Schrubb were both able to put one in the back of the net during the game.

Throughout the game, both teams played great defense and kept each other from having any easy looks at a goal. Despite the tough opposition, the Raiders were finally able to break through in the 28th minute with a goal from Patten assisted by Sarah Colvin. The game continued with both teams defensively struggling to obtain goals. The Raiders didn’t score again until the 68th minute, as Schrubb was able to put one in with a Destiny Johnson assist.

Wright State had five shot attempts, with four of them being on goal. The team not only got it done on the offensive side, but on defense as well. The Raiders only allowed three shot attempts, none of which were on goal. They also defended the four corner kicks well, keeping the Golden Grizzlies from gaining any momentum.

This game could prove very important for the Raiders as they continue their stretch of Horizon League matches. The team has four more Horizon League meetings to end the season, and currently sits fourth in the league with three wins and two losses. The next four games are important in seeing where the Raiders end up in the league standings.

Their next matchup is against Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis, in Indianapolis, on Oct. 13. The Jaguars currently lead the league with a perfect 5-0 record and will be a tough test for the Raiders. After this game, the team will have its last regular season home game, on Oct. 18, versus the Cleveland State Vikings.

President's and Faculty Awards for Excellence different than previous years

Angel Lane

Features Editor

The 2017 President's Awards for Excellence and Faculty Awards for Excellence last month occurred differently from past years.

"Historically, both the faculty and staff awards have taken place in separate ceremonies with short, individual videos highlighting the winners and their contributions to our community," said Eric Corbitt, Director of Student Union, Campus Recreation and Student Activities. "This year, to save money, we consolidated to one ceremony and eliminated the video."

"Since 1986, the President's Awards for Excellence have recognized the vital role that Wright State University classified and unclassified staff has in promoting and maintaining excellence in all areas of the university," Thomas A. Sudkamp, Provost, said in an announcement.

Individual winners received a certificate and \$750 cash award. Unit winners received certificates. Winners were nominated by colleagues.

"We will honor select faculty members as well for their excellent work in the areas of teaching, research, community engagement, professional service, and early career achievement," President Cheryl Schrader said in a From the President's Desk statement.

This year, "the recipients were just announced and accepted their certificate with no real acknowledgement of why they were nominated," Corbitt said.

Recently retired WSU photographer, Will Jones, received an award for excellence in human relations. If you see a picture of a Wright State event, odds are very likely the photo was taken by Jones himself. He worked for the university for 14 years, and will continue to do individual freelance work. Kelly Burcham, Administrative Support Coordinator for the Chemistry Department, was also a recipient of excellence in human relations.

According to the Student Affairs webpage, Lisa Burke recently moved to the office of the Vice President "to assist with divisional business and financial operations after succeeding as the Accounting Clerk for Student Union and Campus Recreation since September 21, 2005." While serving as accounting clerk, she managed the budgets for at least half a dozen student organizations. Burke received the President's Award for Excellence in Leadership. Tim Littell, executive director and associate dean of student success, also received the President's Award for Excellence in Leadership.

Individual winners included Drs. Mark Rich, Valerie Stoker, Jennifer E. Subban, Pola Gupta, Derek Doran, Noah L. Schroeder, Labib Rouhana, Joe Tritschler, Eric N. Rowley, and Nikki Rogers.

Org of the month: Colleges Against Cancer

Natalie McDonald

Editorial Intern

Wright State has over 200 organizations registered on OrgSync that students can join, with ten different categories, including: academics, cultural, media, recreational, religious, residential, social Greek and special interest organizations.

The student organization Colleges Against Cancer (CAC) has chapters across the country to raise awareness and plan the annual event Relay for Life. People “come together to raise money for cancer research through the American Cancer Society” at Relay for Life, according to WSU’s CAC President Jessie Wynn. Wynn is a junior social work major, and has been president of the organization for the past two years, and joined as a freshman.

“A lot of people come out to honor those who have lost the fight against cancer and...come out to support those still in the fight or in remission,” Wynn said about Relay for Life. Meetings are on the second and fourth Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the Emerald Room of the Student Union. CAC currently has about 11 active members, but they are always looking for more members, according to Wynn. Meetings are open to everyone.

CAC is currently planning fundraising events, Wynn said. Pumpkin painting towards the beginning of November. In the spring, Relay for Life is scheduled for Friday, March 23 from 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. Their goal is to raise \$20,000 this year for the American Cancer Society. Interested donors can donate to CAC’s Relay for Life page at the link below.

For more information, visit WSU’s Colleges Against Cancer’s [OrgSync page](#) or the Relay for Life at Wright State [website](#).