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Wright State Student Body

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Raiders of Wright State: Felix Mueller

Arjun Sundararajan

Contributing Writer

Hailing from a village called Waldneukirchan in Austria, Felix Mueller appeared to be a student who possessed the natural instinct to read practical scenarios and happened to be an astute student of science, per se, the reason why he ended up in Wright State University in the first place.

Mueller, 23, is a junior majoring in mechanical engineering.

Mueller's ability to read situations and accurately see both sides of an argument had earned him a nice reputation; ever since he was a kid he had always wanted to do research work in the field of science and naturally as time went by Mueller identified his area of interests.

Mueller's propensity for physics prompted him to major in mechanical engineering at the Technical University of Austria, and subsequently he enrolled himself in the semester abroad program at Wright State.

"I wanted to go far away from my home town to feel independent and to experience something new. The farthest I could get was Ohio," said Mueller.

Since his arrival in the U.S., Mueller had observed a lot of things that have caught his attention.

"Universities in Austria give a lot more freedom, and I feel there is almost no pressure on the student to complete assignments because they expect the students to be pro-active. Therefore, the staff at the Technical University Graz offer more personal space for the students to work at their own paces," Mueller said. "When you compare this aspect with the universities in America, it is safe to conclude that in Austria the system is more flexible, whereas they don't cut you any slack in here."

The most stimulating aspect of studying in Ohio was the cultural diversity that Wright State had had to offer, according to Mueller, because it gave him a broader perspective on a number of fronts.

"The people I met here so far are really cordial and helping-minded. This makes me a happy camper because even when I was back in Austria I had an awesome community. After moving to Ohio, I just feel more like home but with a different lot, so I guess it doesn't matter where you are, home is something inside."

Mueller is also mindful of a couple of things in the U.S. that he felt were quite unique to him when compared to Austria.

One aspect are the parking lots. Mueller's of the opinion the parking lot in U.S. are bigger when compared to the ones back in Austria.

"It's just that I haven't seen such big parking spaces, the ones here is as big as my university. I find it really amusing."

School of Medicine conducts breast cancer research

Lucas Gonzalez

News Editor

Researchers at the Boonshoft School of Medicine have been conducting preventative research against breast cancer. The research is being conducted not only by doctors, but also by students and residents who work for Wright State Physicians, according to Dr. Rebecca Tuttle, researcher and Assistant Professor of Surgery at Wright State.

Tuttle has been working as the principal investigator of the division of surgical oncology. Her research, which started in the past four to six months, is focused on the clinical aspect of breast cancer.

Tuttle's first project involved observing the stages of breast cancer and the trends over time at which stage women are most commonly diagnosed with. This observation was conducted in relation to the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Her theory was that breast cancer service became more affordable for women when the ACA was passed.

At this point, researchers working on this project are still collecting data.

She has also been working on looking at atypical breast lesions – those that are not cancerous, but could be an indicator for developing cancer later in life. The project involves looking at the number of women diagnosed with such lesions compared to the number taken to surgery for additional sampling, to determine if certain lesions are more indicative of breast cancer.

This project has advanced beyond the data collection phase and is currently in the data analysis phase.

There are multiple projects that researchers are currently working on, all of which are relevant to breast cancer. They usually take between six to twelve months to conduct and finally publish in a medical journal, which is "always the end goal," according to Tuttle.

Multiple contracts with the university to expire

Lucas Gonzalez

News Editor

Various contracts that Wright State had previously been involved in have expired, according to the Board of Trustees. The majority of contracts had expired due to a decision not to renew them, not from directly terminating them.

The contracts were put up for review by the Board in order to determine the cost, duration and services involved with each contract, and to see if the university could pursue opportunities for cost savings, according to Jeff Ulliman, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.

The threshold for what was to show up on the university's financial report in regard to contracts was \$50,000.

Although this strategy was not directly built into the budget remediation plan, the intent of reviewing the contracts was to reduce costs wherever possible, said Ulliman.

"The goal is to lessen expenses overall. Anything anybody saves in spending is going to contribute, even if it is not a directly identifiable strategy towards remediation."

Some contracts had been in place for a period of years, while others were short, one-time contracts that ended when the servicing party had completed their work for the university. Many contracts were allowed to expire because they are not considered a priority at the moment.

One contract that expired was with Williams & Jensen, a lobbyist firm in Washington D.C. The university used to pay \$83,000 for this contract before it was expired. The decision to pursue the service was made by the President's Office.

"[The firm] helped us with particular lobbying efforts that helped with higher education, or Wright State in general," said Ulliman. It was determined to be less significant and was therefore not renewed.

Additionally, a contract with Xerox, a printing service, was a topic of discussion at the board meeting. There is currently no discussion of ending that contract. However, there have been complaints about the pricing and quality of the service.

The university meets with Xerox regularly to work on ways to improve such problems, according to Ulliman.

Attacks in New York kill 8 and injure a dozen more

Lucas Gonzalez

News Editor

Late Tuesday afternoon, at about 3:05 p.m., a rental truck was driven into people in lower Manhattan, killing 8 and injuring 12 more. The suspect was since apprehended and taken into police custody.

This act has been identified as a terrorist attack – the deadliest one since the attacks on September 11, 2001, according to police and FBI officials.

The suspect, 29-year-old Sayfullo Saipov, is an immigrant from Uzbekistan who legally moved to the United States in 2010. Saipov is believed to have acted alone in this attack; there is no evidence at this point that suggests that he is affiliated with ISIS or any other terrorist organizations, according to a report by CBS New York.

“Our only evidence to date is that this was an isolated incident that he himself performed,” said New York Governor Andrew Cuomo during an appearance on CNN’s *New Day*.

Saipov appeared in a civilian court around 6 p.m. Wednesday night. Court papers revealed that he had been planning the attack for about a year, according to The Washington Post.

He carried out the attack on the eve of Halloween, knowing that more people would be in the streets and he would have the chance to harm as many as possible, according to prosecutors.

His self-proclaimed inspiration for carrying out the attacks was ISIS propaganda videos, according to the court papers. In one particular video that served as inspiration, ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi persuades Muslims in the U.S. to commit acts of violence in response to the killing of Muslims in Iraq.

The charges against Saipov include providing material to support terrorists and violence and destruction of motor vehicles, according to The New York Times.

## Wright State begins discussions about merging schools

Lucas Gonzalez

News Editor

There have been discussions about merging schools and colleges on campus, at the dean level and by Provost Thomas Sudkamp.

Health programs have the potential to be reorganized into one school.

Other mergers currently under discussion are the College of Education with College of Liberal Arts, the College of Science and Math with the College of Engineering and Computer Science, and School of Professional Psychology with the Boonshoft School of Medicine, according to a Board of Trustees report.

These discussions are motivated by a need to increase enrollment and retention, according to an official message from the Provost's office.

Other goals include providing student pathways to graduation, allowing faculty to develop research and academic programs, aligning schools with employer and community needs and reducing administrative costs.

Currently, there is no defined proposal for how schools will be merging together. However, the deans have met to discuss the ways in which schools could potentially merge together in the future, according to Nathan Klingbeil, dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science.

Proposals are expected to be introduced by February of 2018.

The School of Professional Psychology has held a Town Hall meeting with students to involve them in the discussions. There are expected to be more, broader discussions in the future which are expected to include to alumni, faculty and community stakeholders.

In order to organize these conversations, the faculty senate will appoint faculty members to a steering committee, according to La Pearl Logan Winfrey, dean of the School of Professional Psychology.

"Our role [as deans] is to enhance student pathways, increase faculty opportunities with multidisciplinary research, and to be responsive to workforce needs," said Winfrey.

Ultimately, the deans would like to see this initiative move forward to provide better, more collaborative opportunities for students and faculty, according to Margaret M. Dunn, dean of the Boonshoft School of Medicine.

Part of the reason these discussions are taking place is to potentially have more common first year curricula, according to Douglas Leaman, dean of the College of Math and Science. This could provide students with more flexibility later in their degrees.

The academic motivations behind the discussions are being able "to have more flexibility, to provide more options for students, and to be more successful in generating workforce," said Klingbeil.

Mark Alstork gets ready for first season at Illinois

Brian Patch

Sports Editor

Mark Alstork, a basketball player at Wright State who competed for the university for two seasons, is now getting ready for his first season at the University of Illinois as a graduate transfer.

Alstork came to WSU in 2014 as a transfer from Ball State University, and was forced to sit out the year due to NCAA rules. He became a regular starter by the 2015-2016 season, and last year was named to the Horizon League first team after averaging 19 points a game.

Before coming to Wright State, Alstork attended Thurgood Marshall high school in Dayton, OH.

Alstork will join an Illinois team that went 20-15 last season and hasn't made the NCAA tournament since 2013.

Playing in the Big Ten conference should give Alstork the opportunity to play on a bigger stage and in front of more pro scouts. Illinois plays conference opponents such as University of Michigan, Michigan State and Ohio State.

Alstork made it clear this past summer that his dream is to play in the NBA, which is his ultimate goal after this upcoming season.

Rare piebald deer makes its home at WSU

Brian Patch

Sports Editor

WSU is home to a population of white tail deer, including a deer with a piebald pattern on it.

The piebald pattern on an animal is caused by a genetic defect, and it causes the animal to have white patches all over its body.

Thomas Rooney, ecologist and a professor at WSU who has studied deer for over 20 years, said that the piebald-patterned deer it truly is a sight to see.

"A deer with the piebald pattern is actually rarer than a deer being albino," he said. "I've seen multiple albino deer in my life, but in my twenty years of studying deer, the only piebald deer I've ever seen is here at Wright State."

According to Rooney, the deer has been on campus for a few years, and even suggested the possibility of having more than one.

"We have had a piebald deer on campus for about three years now," he said. "I'm not sure if it's the same deer or a different one, but it is possible that we have more than one piebald deer on campus. Once that piebald gene is in the population, it can stay in the population with the right parents."

Zach Thacker, a WSU student, stumbled upon the abnormal looking deer on the trails near the Rockafield cemetery, and he didn't know what to think of it.

"I don't know much about deer, so I thought it was albino or something," he said. "It wasn't until I got home and researched it a little more that I realized what I saw. It was pretty cool to see."

Seeing this animal is something that some people never get to do in their lifetime, and the unique deer has become a must see in the Dayton area.



WSU student Philip Stock performs original one-man show "Continue Approach"

Angel Lane

Features Editor

On Saturday October 27, senior musical theatre major Philip Stock performed his original one-man show "Continue Approach" at the Jubilee Directing Lab.

Stock began working on the show back in January. "I took a playwriting class last semester where I developed the first act, which was performed in April. Over the summer I made some changes to what I had, and wrote a second act," he said.

Stock led the audience through a series of emotions with captivating storytelling and by working through real-life issues through his characters. He created the show using questions he constantly asks himself, such as why relationships fail and what it means to be intimate with another person.

"In this show, two men reflect on a life-changing evening they shared a month prior. They confront their own beliefs about relationships, intimacy and navigating a same-sex romantic life in a heteronormative world as they determine how to move forward after that night," Stock said of the show.

While Stock was putting together this project, he was still a college student with responsibilities at the same time.

"I think the biggest challenge was making it all happen on top of a full class load and a main stage rehearsal process. That, and knowing when to approach the work as the writer and when to do so as an actor," he said.

Stock said he is bursting with pride from all of the positive feedback he has received.

"One thing people keep saying is that although these characters talk a lot about how they experience the world as gay men, they find the situations relatable. That the sentiments expressed are things they have also felt, but hadn't quite put into words," Stock said.

Senior music theatre major Alejandria Solis found herself compelled by the piece from the moment it began.

"'Continue Approach' was a refreshingly honest piece on modern day romances in the gay community. It touches on universal topics that are relatable to anyone who has ever been romantically involved with anyone, and it is written so beautifully the words themselves stuck with me for days after," Solis shared. "I only wish I could've seen it again. It is objectively the best piece of original theatre I have ever seen on the D Lab stage."

In the future, Stock hopes to submit this play into some Fringe Festivals for new works across the country. He would also like to expand the show and rather than have himself playing both of the two characters, have another actor.

As for his future career, "this year I'm auditing for a lot of regional work and cruise lines with the goal of booking a traveling gig for a bit or moving straight to New York. It sort of depends how the cards fall," Stock said.

Stock shared his favorite line: "Why can't love be something that you can just feel for another human without having a past or a future attached to it?"

Bob Grant under fire for handling of swim team

Brian Patch

Sports Editor

Wright State Athletic Director Bob Grant created controversy in the way he notified the swim team that they would be cut after this season.

According to multiple sources, Grant walked into the middle of a swim practice and told the team they were done following this season, and then he walked out.

This angered many people, including Karleigh Kessler, a member of the swim team. She felt it could have been handled more professionally by Grant.

"Bob Grant telling the team in the middle of morning practice was uncalled for," she said. "It goes hand in hand with how it was poorly presented. This could have been handled in a much better way than ruining a good practice."

Grant's 2016-2017 yearly evaluation rated excellent or above excellent in fields such as communication with people and leadership qualities -- a dramatic contrast to what students have experienced, such as Jack Fergus, member of the swim team.

Fergus spoke of his frustration of Grant's unwillingness to meet with the swim team.

"He wouldn't even hear us out," Fergus said. "Our alumni group has been trying to get a meeting with the president and the board of trustees for months and all Bob would tell us is that they're busy and we can't have one. It seems like he never had any interest in trying to keep us at all."

Grant has been involved with Wright State for over 30 years, and has been the athletic director since 2008.

This is not the first time Grant has come under fire during his tenure. In 2016, Grant fired then-head basketball coach Billy Donlon.

Donlon had led the team to three 20-win seasons in his final four years, including multiple trips to the conference championship game.

Grant's decision drew criticism not only from people and players at WSU, but from multiple athletic departments.

Chartwells slashes employee hours in wake of decreased sales

Sarah Cavander

News Writer

Earlier this month, an anonymous employee reported that Chartwells had cut the hours of employees throughout campus dining facilities.

There has been a decrease in sales across campus dining, according to Wright State Hospitality Services. They credited the decrease in sales with the decrease of population of students, faculty and staff.

This may not be the first time for the hours of employees to be cut or changed.

“Each semester Wright State Hospitality Services adjusts associate schedules based on the level of business in the dining locations on campus,” said Amber Reading, director of marketing.

Sexual abuse awareness campaign launches

Sarah Cavender

News Writer

In wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal -- where over 55 women have accused him of sexual assault or rape -- women across the world have begun to speak out about their experiences in assault or harassment.

Weinstein was a prominent film producer and former film studio executive until late September when he was fired for sexual misconduct allegations.

Over the course of the last few months, many well-known, respected actresses came forward, claiming that Weinstein assaulted them. Actress Alyssa Milano used her Twitter platform to support the hashtag #MeToo mid-October to give survivors a chance to open up the conversation and increase awareness about widespread sexual violence.

Within the first 24 hours, over 12 million posts were made on Facebook alone. It was shared across other social media such as Twitter, Snapchat and others.

However, this was not the first campaign for victims to speak out. The MeToo Movement was actually created in 2007 by Tarana Burke of Just Be Inc., a non-profit organization that helps victims of sexual harassment and assault, according to The New York Times.

Burke was first not credited with her campaign by Milano until days later. According to The Times, Milano reached out to Burke and is working to collaborate with her on the campaign.

The hashtag was retweeted more than a million times within 48 hours on Twitter. Some people posted the comment "#MeToo" while other went into vivid detail of their experiences.

There has also been a small pool of men who have responded to the MeToo campaign by posting "I Have" with the remorse of their own past choices. The MeToo campaign has allowed women to share their real-life experiences with sexual assault.

The harsh reality of the situation is that every 98 seconds, a woman is raped in the United States, and every 1 in 6 women are raped in their lifetime, according to Associated Press News.

Black Student Union's conversation series bringing the campus community together

Savannah-Rae Jackson

Contributing Writer

Wright State University has a plethora of organizations that represent specific communities on campus. Having a group of individuals unifying together is a goal of many WSU organizations.

This goal is especially important for the Black Student Union (BSU). Their purpose as an organization is to represent needs, feelings and concerns of the black population on campus. In addition, they want to retain, recruit and unify students here on campus.

Particularly this semester, BSU has implemented a conversation series that discusses the intersectional identities and other social political topics. So far, BSU has discussed "Racial Identity" and "Being Black and Mental Health."

The most recent topic, however, was not part of the scheduled conversation series; it was a debriefing of the recent offensive hate messages that appeared on campus this month.

According to BSU Vice President Brittany Williams, 21, this is the first time BSU has made these conversation topics their main focus. Williams is a senior Theater Studies major and an African and African-American Culture minor -- and believes these conversation topics will better the environment on campus for not only students who identify as black, but with other intersectional identities.

"The reason why it was implemented was to express to our fellow black students that BSU is for every kind of black student," Williams said. "BSU does not want anyone to feel they are not accepted because of their religion, ethnicity, gender, sex, ability or sexual orientation."

BSU's meetings are not limited to just the black population on campus, but also for anyone who considers themselves allies of the community, which is why everyone is welcome.

In regard to the recent event on campus, supporting each other is a necessity, "through their hate, it confirmed why we needed to love each other more," Williams said.