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Wright State Student Body

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Wright State's LEAP program enriches students' experiences
Sarah Cavender
News Writer

Wright State's English program, known as Learning English for Academic and Professional Purposes (LEAP), has been offered by the university since 1995.

International students can use LEAP to improve their English skills before taking the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

Wright State is one of many schools across Ohio to offer this program. However, Wright State's program is different because unlike other schools, it is managed through the English Department as opposed to the International Center.

Students from countries all around the world come to WSU either to complete a study abroad program or a full degree. There are currently 45 students in the program.

"One of the really valuable components of our program is all the collaborations we do with other university courses and professors. This would mean getting two classes together and having discussions and cultural exchanges," said Thomas Fenton, lecturer with LEAP.

Degrees that LEAP works with include social work, sociology and political science. Collaboration between these fields allow students to have conversations about life, both domestically and internationally.

"We have lots of extracurricular activities as well to help with their English outside class," said Jeannette Horwitz, director of LEAP. "We also do lots of cultural events, we had an event for Thanksgiving and Halloween, and we offer tutoring and success workshops, conversation partners, and lots of different extra activities."

Many of the students who complete LEAP program come back and mentor the new international students and are also involved in many of the cultural events on campus.

A look into Kwanzaa and Hanukkah (Chanukah)

Angel Lane
Features Editor

This holiday season, more than just Christmas cheer is in the air. Even on our small campus there are students celebrating a multitude of different holidays aside from Christmas. Two of the most common others are Kwanzaa and Hanukkah, but not everyone knows much if anything at all about these holidays.

“Kwanzaa is an African American and Pan-African holiday which celebrates family, community and culture. Celebrated from 26 December thru 1 January, its origins are in the first harvest celebrations of Africa from which it takes its name. The name Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza" which means "first fruits" in Swahili, a Pan-African language which is the most widely spoken African language,” according to the official Kwanzaa [website](#).

To celebrate, the focus is on the symbols of Kwanzaa: Mazao (The Crops), Mkeka (The Mat), Kinara (The Candle Holder), Muhindi (The Corn), Mishumaa Saba (The Seven Candles), Kikombe cha Umoja (The Unity Cup) and Zawadi (The Gifts).

First, a central place in the home for the Kwanzaa Set, the symbols of Kwanzaa is chosen. A table is then spread with a beautiful piece of African cloth. Then, the mkeka (mat) is placed down and all of the other symbols are placed on it or immediately next to it to symbolize our rootedness in our tradition. Next the Kinara (candle holder) is placed on the mat and the Mishumaa Saba (seven candles) are placed in the kinara (candle holder).

The black candle is lit on the first day of celebrating and then each day from left to right a new candle is lit. More details can be found on the official Kwanzaa [website](#).

“The Hebrew word Chanukah means “dedication,” and is thus named because it celebrates the rededication of the Holy Temple(as you’ll read below). Also spelled Hanukkah (or variations of that spelling), the Hebrew word is actually pronounced with a guttural, “kh” sound, kha-nu-kah, not tcha-new-kah,” according to [ChaBad.org](#).

Also known as the eight day “festival of lights”, this holiday is celebrated with a menorah lighting each night, prayers, food and more. Hanukkah begins on “the eve of Kislev 25” which is the Hebrew month in the place of what we know as December and one of each of the eight candles is lit each night followed by special prayer and fried foods.

"I've celebrated it for many years now because I am Jewish and hold the tradition important. During Chanukah we have several traditions including lighting the menorah

candles, playing dreidel, eating fried foods like latkes and sufganiyot (a type of jelly filled pastry), and giving charity," student Ariel Berry said.

Berry says that prayers and Torah readings of deliverance come next. "It's a time to spend together with friends and family. So I'll go to friends houses for dinner and have family over to my house for dinner and games/songs," they said.

"Interestingly, Chanukah isn't that big of a holiday in Judaism. It is a small holiday in comparison to the festival of Passover or Sukkot. However it has become well known and popular in the West as a mirror of Christmas. So much so that many now give gifts and decorate their homes with lights and for some even a Chanukah bush," Berry continued.

A miracle involving oil surrounds the holiday, so it only makes sense that the foods be fried in oil. For more information on Hanukkah, click [here](#).

WSU Boonshoft student to aid underserved communities
Sarah Cavender
News Writer

Shanice Robinson, student of Wright State's Boonshoft School of Medicine, was recently given the National Health Service Corps scholarship from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources, and Services Administration.

Robinson, a third-year medical student at the university, plans to pursue primary care. After obtaining residency, she plans to assist underserved communities in order to fulfill the requirements of her scholarship.

"I want to go into primary care because primary health care embodies and promotes key aspects of medicine, including health literacy, disease prevention management, continuity of care, individualized treatment for varying illnesses and prolonged health maintenance," Robinson said in a recent press release.

Robinson stated that the two-year scholarship will assist in lessening her financial burden and allowing her more time to focus on her degree.

After obtaining a bachelor's degree in Biology from Spelman College, she decided to continue her studies at Wright State.

"A career in medicine allows me to marry so many passions and interests that I have, such as my passion and love for science, yearning and desire to help others, the constant ability to grow and gain knowledge and the amazing opportunity to be a change agent and make a difference," she said. "My mission is to be an advocate for affordable and quality health care in underserved communities. I will dedicate my career to addressing the medical needs of those in poverty."

During her time at Wright State, Robinson has been involved in American Medical Women's Association, Obstetrics and Gynecology Club, Reach Out of Montgomery County, and Student to Student – a community education program run by medical students. She is also a member of the Admissions Committee of the Boonshoft School of Medicine and has been a mentor with Horizons in Medicine.

A professor's tale of studying abroad France
Holly Souther
Features Writer

Traveling is an experience many people wish they could partake in.

The French study abroad program was created in 2003 by professor Kirsten Halling and her friend and colleague, Barbara Galbraith. They took their students to Paris and the Basque Country, before gradually adding more destinations to their list. As part of the trip, the professors and students teach English at schools in France.

"We try to debunk American stereotypes and just be ambassadors -- as the program is an ambassador program in order to represent not only Wright State, not only Ohio, but the entire United States, so that the French don't just form certain ideas about who Americans are," Halling said.

When venturing to another country, there's often moments where you may fumble with the local culture, or slip up in a particular language.

Halling mentioned how a person learns that their culture is not the only way to do "certain things, and that people do things differently but is equally as valid." She also noted that keeping your hands on the table is part of various cultures, and how a person learns different table manners, vocabulary and culture in general. Halling believes that although you may risk humiliation or making a mistake when trying to engage in another culture or language, it's a part of the learning process.

A lot of countries have significant historical sites or grand architectures and churches open to the public. Sometimes the most surprising people can end up where you are.

"The students, Pascal and I went to Normandy and saw the American cemetery and the D-Day landing beaches. We had gone to the museums and studied WWII history, and we learned just how appreciated Americans are," Halling said.

Many people came up to Halling to thank them simply because they were American and they honored the sacrifice of the men who died to free France.

"It was a few days later on the 70th anniversary when we were standing in line for the Impressionist Museum and struck up a conversation with an older man and his wife, and found out that he had been in the first wave of soldiers who landed on the beaches at D-Day," she said.

Texas lawmaker uses taxpayer dollars to settle sexual harassment claims
Sarah Cavender
News Writer

As sexual harassment cases continue to make waves on national media, the New York Times recently reported that in one of six settlements, Texas Republican Black Farenthold used \$84,000 in taxpayer funds to settle a sexual harassment claim. Farenthold is one of many who used taxpayer dollars to settle claims made against him.

As part of review of sexual harassment and discrimination in Congress, the Office of Compliance has requested information from the Committee on House Administration. In the past few weeks, representatives such as Al Franken, John Conyers Jr., and Joe Bart have been accused of sexual harassment.

Farenthold and Ruben Kilhuen of Nevada are the most recent to be accused. Of all cases so far, Farenthold's was the only one settled by the office since 2013, according to data compiled by the Office of Compliance.

Other cases included \$150,000 for alleged veteran status discrimination, \$76,000 for age discrimination, \$37,250 for alleged disability discrimination, \$7,000 for alleged discrimination because of sex and religion, and \$5,200 for alleged discrimination based on race, national origin, and military service according to the Times. The money was paid via a secretive congressional office.

While accusations against representatives have been mounting, the House voted to require anti-harassment training for all members, including staff and interns, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Men's basketball bounces back strong
Tevin Carter-Tolbert
Sports Writer

The Wright State Men's basketball team took the court against the Ohio Valley University Fighting Scots on Tuesday, Nov. 5. The Raiders came home and claimed the win, after a tough game at Western Kentucky.

Scoring 98 points in front of the home crowd, led the Raiders to their fifth win of the season. Five players scored in double figures for the Raiders. Jaylon Hall led the team, dropping in 17 points, going 7-11 from the field, including two three-point shots falling for him.

For Wright State, this game was in their control the entire night. The Fighting Scots never led and the game was only tied for 15 seconds. For the other 39 minutes and 45 seconds, the Raiders held the lead. Along with handling the lead, the team also outshot Ohio Valley in multiple areas, including total field goals and free throws.

The Raiders were very efficient from the field, shooting 76 percent in the first half and 55.2 percent in the second half. This led to Loudon Love, Mark Hughes and Grant Benzinger each scoring 16 points. Everett Winchester added 14 and Jaylon Hall led the team with his 17.

After the game Grant Benzinger, Loudon Love and head coach Scott Nagy talked about the performance of the team. When asked about the mindset going in after the loss to Western Kentucky, Benzinger made it clear that the team "wanted to win."

"The offense was stagnate and we didn't get a lot done. Defensively we didn't guard the ball at all. So this game we wanted more ball pressure and better movement on offense," Benzinger said.

Benzinger also spoke of how Love's play allows the rest of the team to get open looks, due to the defense having to pay so much attention to Love inside.

"I think anybody would want a player that's almost averaging a double-double," Nagy said of Love's performance and how he has grown this season. "I want him to desire a bigger role... I want him to call for the ball, because if he does, it frees our guys up on the perimeter."

The men's team now prepares themselves to play Kent State on Saturday, Dec. 9. The team heads into this with a 5-4 record, while Kent State enters with a 5-3 record.

Graduating in the spring? Here are the steps you need to make sure that happens

Angel Lane

Features Editor

It's so close, just months away, the bittersweet taste is filling the mouths of student ready to graduate in spring. One of the happiest accomplishments for many people, it is important to make sure everything is set into place to graduate on time with no issues.

“Students should familiarize themselves with their college’s process and be sure not to procrastinate,” Brittany Erwin, interim assistant director of advising for CLASS said.

Erwin recommends students find their own college’s graduation process and requirements on the Wright State website.

The College of Liberal Arts graduation process is laid out in a sort of checklist and many of the CoLA requirements will be the same for other colleges.

Step one reads “after you have registered for your last semester of classes, contact your faculty advisor to verify major requirements will be completed.” After this, your faculty advisor and academic advisor will be in contact and your academic records will be reviewed.

“Participation in the commencement ceremony is NOT a confirmation that all degree requirements have been met,” according to the website, so be sure you are checking and double checking the requirements.

Next you will have access to the online graduation application and RSVP for the commencement ceremony if it’s something you want to attend upon graduating. Note that there is a \$35 graduation fee.

Make it through that last semester of classes and you’re in the clear. After commencement, diplomas will be delivered in around six weeks.

“All steps of your graduation check must be completed by Wright State's deadline. It is posted on the Academic Calendar for each semester.

It is the second Friday of the term you want to graduate,” according to the CoLA checklist.

UCIE to pursue new international recruitment strategies
Lucas Gonzalez
News Editor

Wright State’s University Center for International Education (UCIE) is looking to update its recruitment strategy for international students. This announcement was made in a presentation delivered by Bill Holmes, associate vice president for international affairs, at a recent faculty senate meeting.

One goal identified by Holmes during the meeting was to be more on-par with national demographics, which Wright State currently is not.

As it stands, the top four countries of origin for international students at Wright State are India, Saudi Arabia, China and Kuwait. The majority of the students from those top four countries are sponsored – in other words, they are paid to study here.

Out of the university's entire international student population. Roughly 29 percent of those students are sponsored, and 22 percent come through agents, or people that the university pays to recruit students.

The sponsoring agencies are in decline, particularly in Saudi Arabia. Wright State is roughly 30 percent reliant on the Saudi cultural mission, according to Holmes. "That means we have an over-reliance on a sponsoring agency that we know is ramping down their funding," he said.

About 48 percent of international students have elected themselves to study at Wright State – less than half. The remaining 1.44 percent are coming through degree completion programs, referred to as 'academic pipelines.'

Academic pipelines work by allowing students to complete a given amount of years at a college in their home country and some years at a U.S. college. They are "much more sustainable over time and require a university-to-university commitment of some sort," Holmes said in his presentation.

These numbers indicate that the majority of the university's international students are coming to Wright State either because they are paid to, or because they are recruited through agents – not because they chose to themselves. "We have no diversity across the campus academically," said Holmes. "We have most of the degrees that students come to the United States for – they're just not coming here."

A major goal of UCIE for future years is to have about 20 percent of international students come through academic pipelines, and to see the number of elective students increase to 75 percent to 80 percent, according to Holmes.

Furthermore, the disproportionate amount of international graduate students would hopefully reverse, with undergraduate students eventually making up about 60 percent of the international student population.

Achieving these goals would of course involve scarce resources: time and money. "It's going to be a big job for everyone," said Holmes. "[UCIE] works with communications and marketing [and] will be working with faculty across the disciplines...we can't afford to sit back anymore and wait."

Free HIV testing on World AIDS day
Angel Lane
Features Editor

Boonshoft Pride group from the Boonshoft School of Medicine in collaboration with Greene County Public Health and Equitas Health hosted a World AIDS Day event on campus offering free HIV testing.

"We've been coming to do a world AIDS day event at Wright State for many years at least the last five years," Kirsten Bean of Greene County Public Health said.

“The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends that adolescents and adults aged 15 to 65 years should be screened for HIV. Younger adolescents and older adults who are at increased risk should also be screened,” according to the event OrgSync page.

“We really want to increase awareness around HIV so that people know this is still something that is preventable and that it’s something that happens in our community. We’re here offering free HIV testing and information about sexual health, reproductive health, how to prevent HIV and other STD’s,” Bean said.

Bean says it is important to know your status in order to protect yourself and your loved ones and recommends anyone who is sexually active be tested at least once a year.

“The testing that we offer is a rapid oral swab, so it’s a little stick that you rub along the gums and roof of your mouth and it’s a rapid test so you get your test results in 20 minutes. If somebody were to test positive on that we would send them for a follow-up test at a lab to get a confirmatory diagnosis,” Bean said.

World AIDS Day began on Dec. 1, 1988 and was the first ever global health day.

North Korea resumes missile testing
Lucas Gonzalez
News Editor

On Tuesday, Nov. 28, North Korea launched an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) into the Sea of Japan. It landed west of the northern end of the island of Honshu. This test came after a nearly two-month pause on any kind of display of North Korea’s missile capabilities.

The missile, Hwasong-15, achieved a 4,500-km altitude and distance of 960-km. The measurements indicate that it flew higher and farther than any previous missile launched from the country.

Experts have expressed that this most recent test demonstrates the increasing sophistication of North Korea's missile program, stating that the newest missile has the potential to reach anywhere in the continental U.S, according to a report by The New York Times.

The regime announced on Wednesday, Nov. 29 that Hwasong-15 has the ability to reach anywhere in the entire world.

However, some factors regarding the development of North Korea's missiles remain unclear. At this point, it has not been confirmed that they could mount and deliver a nuclear warhead and have the missile survive upon re-entry into the atmosphere. Achieving this is not an easy task, according to Liam Anderson, professor of political science at Wright State. However, "If [North Korea] has the capability to solve the ICBM problem, it is only a matter of time," Anderson said.

U.S. intel is very limited when it comes to North Korea. The engine used in the latest launch was possibly Ukrainian, according to Anderson. "We can estimate North Korea's progress based on its indigenous capabilities, but these estimates are not going to be accurate if/when North Korea gets tech or help from another country," he said.

This test was carried out shortly after President Trump put North Korea back on a list of state-sponsors of terrorism, according to The Times.

Following the launch, the United Nations (UN) Security Council held an emergency meeting on Wednesday afternoon. Nikki Haley, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, has stated that although the U.S. does not want war, if North Korea engages with us, they will be "totally destroyed."

Although this type of language is not standard within the United Nations, it is not surprising given North Korea's multiple violations of UN sanctions. Despite the rhetoric, nothing so far has indicated that we are going to war, according to Laura Luehrrman, professor and director of master of international and comparative politics program.

In a Tuesday statement, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said that, "diplomatic options remain viable and open, for now," according to The Washington Post.

Trump has urged president Xi of China to “use all available levers to convince North Korea to end its provocations and return to the path of de-nuclearization,” said Luehrrman.

The involvement of China is a necessity for resolving the issue of North Korea, but China alone cannot fix the problem, according to Luehrrman.

Outdoor Resource Center faces cuts

Angel Lane

Features Editor

The WSU strategic hiring committee recently decided to eliminate the full time position of Assistant Director of Outdoor Recreation at the Outdoor Recreation Center (ORC). For those unfamiliar with the ORC, they host activities such as outdoor backpacking, rock climbing, kayaking, stand-up paddle-boarding, hiking trips and more.

If you've ever passed by the rock climbing wall in the student union, they are open from 4-8 p.m. on weekdays and completely free to students, averaging 30 students each evening.



“Within our department, it was decided that without an Assistant Director position to oversee the outdoor program, there could be no outdoor program. I also agree that there needs to be a full time staff position for the program to continue,” graduate assistant for the ORC Erin Sherrets said.

Students who use the ORC resources found about about the position cut at a recent SGA meeting and a group came together to discuss the impact the ORC has had on them both as students and as people.

“They understand that this cut will greatly affect current and future students of Wright State. The group considers the ORC their home,” according to Sherrets.

“Because there is not a degree-route for Outdoor Education and Recreation at Wright State, the ORC is vital for those interested in pursuing a career in the Outdoor or Recreation Industry,” Sherrets said.

Sherrets also said student employees are provided with access “to be certified in Leave No Trace, American Canoe Association Kayaking, Adapted Paddling, and SUP, Wilderness First Aid, Wilderness First Responder, Belay (for the rock wall), and facilitators for Challenge Courses.”

[A petition](#) created to save the assistant director position and circumstantially the ORC was created and currently has over 14,000 views and over 150 shares. The hashtag

#shareyouroutdoorstory was also created to collect personal accounts on social media of the impact of the ORC.

When freshman Devyn Ostrander--who found encouragement with new friends, a place to fit in and multiple new hobbies at the rock wall--heard about the possibility of losing these opportunities, he immediately knew he would miss it and hopes the decision to cut will be rethought.

“I am only a freshman but have already fallen in love with the ORC -- easily my favorite part of the college. I was looking forward to using the services they provide for the remainder of my time in college. The college always like to talk about producing well rounded students, I believe that having a resource like the outdoor rec office is important to producing these students,” Ostrander said.

“Students are trained and certified to become trip leaders to lead trips to places such as backpacking the Grand Canyon or Red River Gorge or the Rocky Mountains in Colorado. Rocking climbing Mad River Gorge in Ohio or bouldering in Texas.

Additionally, we teach Intro classes to kayaking and stand-up paddle-boarding. In December, we are also leading a trip out to the [Gulf of Mexico for a kayaking exhibition](#),” Sherrets said of the additional adventures available thanks to the ORC.

Player spotlight: Everett Winchester
Tevin Carter-Tolbert
Sports Writer

A player spotlight serves to highlight a student-athlete who has performed at the highest level. It puts the spotlight on that individual, to recognize the extraordinary effort, passion, and skill that they add to their respective sport.

This player spotlight goes to Everett Winchester of the men’s basketball team. Everett, a Baltimore, Maryland native, is a sophomore in school, but a redshirt freshman in basketball.

When asked what made him choose Wright State, Everett attested to the environment and the way he interacted with the coaching staff. On the educational side, he said how he "loved the environment of the school I was in." On the basketball side, he said how he "was recruited by the old coaching staff, but when Coach Nagy and the new staff came in they showed me love from the beginning."

The men's program has started off the season going 4 and 4 after a rocky 0-3 start. Everett agrees that the team struggled early in the season, but he feels good about how the team looks now.

"We got off to a rough start, but we are starting to come together and play how we need to play," he said.

Everett filled up the stat sheets in his high school years. Junior year, he averaged eleven points, seven rebounds and five assists. During his senior year, Everett averaged 22.5 points, seven rebounds and five assists.

Through the first eight games at Wright State, Everett is averaging 26.5 minutes a game. During his time on the court Everett is producing as well -- averaging 9.8 points, 4.1 rebounds and 1.3 assists per game.

This year, he is shooting 48 percent from the field and 65 percent from the free throw line.

Due to his play, Everett has been named the Horizon League Freshman of the Week this season. The league highlighted Winchester during the 4 game win streak where he averaged 9.5 points and 4.5 rebounds.

He also shot 53 percent from the field and 75 percent from the line with 18 points and seven rebounds game against Tiffin. "I don't really worry too much about the freshman of the week awards. As long as I'm playing as hard as I can for my teammates and we are winning, that's all that matters," Everett said.