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# The Guardian, Week of January 22, 2018

Wright State Student Body

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Why you should check out the theater's remaining season

Angel Lane

Features Editor

Dr. Stuart McDowell, professor and artistic director, Department of Theatre, Dance and Motion Pictures directed "Fiddler on the Roof" this past November which nearly completely sold out. He says the rest of the season follows similar themes and will be thrilling.

"We're doing very well in box office. Because we're living in an age of refugees and people being forced out of countries and immigrants which is the final image in fiddler on the roof. 'The Grapes of Wrath' is about people who are dispossessed from their land by economic hardship. There's also a slight theme that weaves through the musical in 'Drood' in terms of foreign people performing," McDowell said.

While casting "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" last spring, McDowell sent the cast to learn their lines and music as well as to explore their own backgrounds. "All of us in this country more than likely are immigrants coming into a new land and so one girl actually went to Israel and is exploring her Jewish heritage. We thought it was important in these two productions to focus on and give greater depth to this important story line that I think is very relevant today," he said.

"The Mystery of Edwin Drood" is a "whodunnit" in which the audience gets to vote for who they think committed the crime. The cast will then act out the designated scene.

"It will be different every night so the audience can come back a second time and they'll be seeing a different ending. This was a big success on Broadway in New York when it opened in the 1980s it won the tony award for best musical. The orchestra will be visible on stage and the cast will be in the audience a lot," McDowell shared. "We'll announce next years season on opening night."

Why should students check out the shows put on by the WSU theater department?

"It's one of the most meaningful and accessible with ways for students at wright state in all of the other majors to be exposed to what is considered nationally the finest undergraduate theater dance and motion pictures programs in the country. There's a reason why Tom Hanks came and gave his name to the motion picture program. Our students are winning all sorts of awards and our alumni are doing amazing things," McDowell said, noting that the production designer for the film Black Panther is a WSU alum.

This season, students can still catch a huge dance concert, The Grapes of Wrath opening Feb. 1, The Mystery of Edwin Drood opening March 15, and at the Herbst Theatre, The Memory of Water will run April 20-22.

Students can see these shows for free if they usher.

"These things always sell out. You sign up in advance on the sign up sheet at the box office and they'll direct you as to where to go and you select the performance you want to see and arrive about an hour beforehand. The house manager tells you what you have to do (take tickets or direct people to seats etc.). Once the show begins you actually have a seat to sit in and it's free -- that's hard to beat," McDowell said.

Raiders to debut camo alternate uniforms against Detroit-Mercy

Brian Patch

Sports Editor

The Wright State men's basketball team will unveil a new uniform on Friday, Jan 26 when they face off against the Detroit-Mercy Titans. That game is scheduled for a 7:00 PM tip off.

The uniforms are a desert digital camo design, and are being worn as a part of Wright Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB) night at the Nutter Center. Wright State's men's basketball twitter account tweeted out partial pictures of the new uniforms and will fully unveil them at the game.

This will be WSU's fourth uniform of the season. The Raiders have worn a white home jersey, a green away jersey, and a black alternate jersey that has mainly been worn on the road.

The new jersey has caused quite a bit of buzz around campus since its announcement. Senior economics major Gage Roe thinks the camo jerseys are a nice addition for everyone involved,

"I typically am a fan of camo themed jerseys, so I think these will be a nice addition," he said. "I like what the WSU baseball team has done with camo. In general, I always think it's cool when programs release new uniforms. It keeps things fresh for players and fans".

As Roe mentioned, this is not the first time WSU has honored the military with a sports jersey. Last season, both the baseball and softball teams wore an alternate camo jersey throughout the season.

WPAFB night will also feature a t-shirt giveaway that has a military camo theme to it. They are available to the first 5,000 people in attendance. As always, students get two free tickets with a valid Wright1 card.

Justin Mitchell leaves basketball team

Brian Patch

Sports Editor

WSU senior guard Justin Mitchell has decided to leave the basketball team for personal reasons. He leaves in the midst of one of WSU's best seasons in school history.

In an email with The Guardian, WSU Assistant Athletic Director Bob Noss confirmed that Mitchell was no longer with the team, and stated that the reason for the departure was "Justin's decision".

In a quote obtained by Dayton Daily News, head coach Scott Nagy had this to say about Mitchell,

"We've not had any contact. I don't even spend a lot of time thinking about it anymore. It's unfortunate. It certainly wasn't my decision that it go that way."

It had been an odd month for Mitchell, which saw his minutes significantly drop with the turn of the calendar. During non-conference play (Nov 3-Dec 22), he averaged 26.6 minutes a game, which was top five on the team. This made it even more peculiar when Mitchell only played in two games after the beginning of the new year.

It is rumored that losing minutes to guard Cole Gentry, who joined the team after fall semester ended, was a reason for his departure. Gentry averages over 32 minutes a game since conference play started.

Mitchell was in the midst of a very productive senior year, averaging 11.1 points per game along with 7.1 rebounds, which was second on the team. Last season, he became only the third Raider ever to record a triple-double.

Mitchell could not be reached for comment.

State governments work against Trump's agenda

Lucas Gonzalez

News Editor

Currently, many democratically-led states which disagree with the Trump administration have taken measures to defy the federal government's agenda.

State governments can push back against the federal government through lawsuits, and by refusing to comply in issues in which state enforcement is necessary.

This has happened recently with marijuana laws. Attorney General Jeff Sessions recently made it easier for the Department of Justice to prosecute marijuana offenses in states where it has been legalized. States have responded to the measure by refusing to enforce it and conducting themselves as they normally have, according to Lee Hannah, professor of political science at Wright State.

States are also working against Trump on the Paris climate accord. 14 state governors have said that they would uphold the agreement and fight against climate change, despite Trump's decision to pull the United States out of the agreement.

By refusing to cooperate with the federal government's agenda, state governments can effectively force issues onto the national agenda. Republicans may be forced to compromise on certain issues to avoid paying a political and fiscal price, according to a Vox report.

The federal government can also fight back against states. For one, it has the ability to withhold funds to get states to comply. Often, states rely on federal dollars to fund programs. We have seen this before in the 1970s when the federal government withheld transportation funding to states as leverage to get the national speed limit to be lowered, according to Hannah.

If an issue makes it to the Supreme Court, state governments may be instructed to update their laws, like with gay marriage, for example.

Stronger actions can also be taken against state governments that do not comply. During the civil rights era, Alabama governor George Wallace stood on the campus of the University of Alabama arguing for desegregation – in response, the federal government called in the national guard.

"[The federal government] can go that far to get a state to comply... often there is negotiation that happens before then," said Hannah.

Women's Center celebrates 25 years

Angel Lane

Features Editor

The Women's Center has been advocating and providing assistance for women -- both students, faculty and staff for over 25 years.

"When students are in need of assistance we serve as a space that provides them with a safe and brave space to voice their concerns and to link people with resources across campus and in the community. An example of this is the lactation rooms on throughout campus that can be used by parents," Director of the Women's Center Dr. Nicole Carter said.

The center works through partnerships with community organizations. One of these is Hannah's Treasure Chest which provides necessities to students and parents. The center also collects items to give to places like the YWCA and the Family Violence Prevention Center.

"Our Center has continuously created programs that have fostered dialogue and collaboration from Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day festivities, the Vagina Monologues production, the Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality Symposium in collaboration with the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program, Women's History Month Festivities, and Consent Week," Carter said.

Carter has been with the Women's Center since September of 2015. In this time, she and the Women's Center have worked to expand and address current concerns for women on campus.

"For example, one of the things we are working on during the spring semester is the opening of more lactation rooms across campus. We are also working to launch a Personal Care and New Parent Pantry to be housed and staffed by our Center. This past fall, we launched the Women of Color Student Leadership Cohort which provide 14 women on our campus with stipends and opportunities to attend workshops on leadership, femtorship and navigating higher education," Carter shared.

In fall 2018, the Women Students in STEMM program will launch with partners from the College of Math and Science according to Carter.

On Friday, March 15, there will be a public reception to celebrate.

Trump withholds money from United Nations relief agency

Lucas Gonzalez

News Editor

On Tuesday, Jan. 16, President Trump announced plans to withhold 65 million U.S. dollars of a \$125 million aid package for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinians in the Near East (UNRWA) – an agency which provides aid to Palestinian refugees.

UNRWA operates across five three countries and two Palestinian territories. It supplies food, access to education, healthcare, social services, and employment to about 5.8 million Palestinians who have registered and qualify for aid, according to Political Science Professor Vaughn Shannon.

U.S. contributions make up about 30 percent of UNRWA's budget. In 2016, the U.S. provided \$355 million in aid to UNRWA and was set to contribute about as much, according to The Independent.

In a tweet from January 2, Trump claimed that the U.S. receives “no appreciation or respect” for its contributions and also criticized Palestinians for not negotiating a peace treaty with Israel. “But with the Palestinians no longer willing to talk peace, why should we make any of these massive future payments to them?” He said in the tweet.

To compensate for the U.S. cut, the Belgian government pledged to contribute €19 million to UNRWA. The Middle East Forum think tank also offered \$1 million to the agency.

This cut comes in response to the December 2017 United Nations General Assembly vote, in which 128 countries voted to reject Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, according to Shannon.

“This move [of cutting foreign aid] is in line with the Trump view of America first and using diplomatic tools and leverage to try to influence foreign governments. In this case, to punish countries for voting against U.S. interests,” he said.

Senior Palestinian Official Hanan Ashrawi responded to Trump, claiming that he is “targeting the most vulnerable segment of the Palestinian people” and that the U.S. is “creating conditions that will generate further instability throughout the region.”

Israeli officials have also warned that the U.S. cuts may cause more people to turn to Hamas, a Palestinian militant group.

Trump's stances on Jerusalem and UNRWA clearly will play in the Middle East as being strictly in favor of Israel, which may result in anti-American sentiment and violence as well as hurt our standing in the region, according to Shannon. “This may further destabilize an already unstable region,” he said.

Repercussions for lost or overdue library books: are you in danger of losing library privileges?

Holly Souther

Features Writer

While most people return their library books on time, there is a small percentage that returns them late -- or do not return them at all. However, according to Head of Resource Delivery Services Matt Shreffler, this percentage has stayed consistent in recent years.

For undergrads, 19 percent of all items are overdue compared to grads with seven percent, faculty with two percent, and patrons with 10 percent, according to Shreffler. "This could just be a day or two late," he said about overdue books. A trust is in place between the library and the student rather than an economical issue.

"When a book is not returned, it's more of a broken agreement than money at that time. We agree to lend for free and the students agree to return on time to allow access by other users. An overdue fine is generated when the item is returned, and that is a representation of the agreement, the fact that staff time was used to try to get the book back, and that the library was no longer able to offer that book to another user," Shreffler said.

He also mentioned that money from paid fines gets used for services in the library as a perk for students such as new books or supplies.

A student may lose library privileges for a brief amount of time if their fines exceed \$10 and a book is considered lost if it has been missing for more than 50 days. A billing statement would be billed or their transcript blocked, according to Shreffler.

"Some of the values of the University Libraries include providing excellent service, providing reasonable resources, and managing resources as well," Shreffler said.

What is the pre-med mentor program?

Angel Lane

Features Editor

Spearheaded by the College of Science and Mathematics(COSM) through their pre-health advising program, the mentoring program gives medical students an opportunity to give back and be a leader for pre-med students according to Boonshoft School of Medicine Liaison Senator Katelynn Alcorn.

“For the mentorship program I've been working with Jacqui Neal, who is the Assistant Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics. She has been running this program for years, and she was my amazing pre-medical advisor in the beginning of my Wright State journey,” Alcorn said.

The COSM creates surveys to pair a med student with a pre-med student based on similar interests and needs such as specialties, hobbies, schedules and types of student. The pair then meets at a kickoff event and after meet based on their own preferences when needed.

“I think that this program has had a positive and longstanding impact on all of those involved. Being a pre-medical student is a lot of hard work as it is with coursework, but there are countless of other things involved with being on the right track to medical school acceptance,” Alcorn said.

The challenges of medical school leave plenty of options for the medical students to teach and share experience. From preparing for the MCAT, getting advice on applying to medical school and all the way to learning to be competitive applicants, medical students mentor their protege to survive the process.

“Personally, I know this program helped solidify my path to the Boonshoft School of Medicine. I am a first generation college student, and no one in my family has a background in the medical field, and my mentor helped me feel more comfortable about choosing this path in my life,” Alcorn shared. “As for medical students, I think it has been a great opportunity to give back, because I know many of us had countless people who helped us get where we are. I also think that it reminds medical students how hard they worked to get here, and that studying hours and hours every day in medical school is something that we used to dream about.”

If you would like to get more information or share ideas and feedback about the program, you can contact [alcorn.12@wright.edu](mailto:alcorn.12@wright.edu) or visit the [web page](#).