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Wright State University Student Body

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Mayan ruins discovered using laser technology

Sarah Cavender

News Writer

Over 60,000 hidden Mayan ruins were discovered in Guatemala by researchers through the use of laser technology, which allowed them to look beneath the forest.

The researchers used Lidar, technology that removes the dense tree canopy that blankets the forest and creates a 3D map of what is under the surface, according to a report by BBC.

Millions of lasers are used to scan the Earth from a plane or helicopter, the measurements of wavelength are used to create the image of the ground surface topography.

The ruins were found discovered near previously discovered Mayan cities. The mapped ruins were found in northern Petén.

Palaces, houses, elevated highways, and defense forts were all part of the ruins that the laser technology had discovered in the forest.

According to the BBC article, researchers believe that the population of the Mayans was “grossly underestimated,” and that it could be three or four times greater.

Previously the Lidar technology was used to discover hidden cities near the temple of Angkor Wat in Cambodia.

One of the new discoveries was a seven-story pyramid that was hidden by the jungle vegetation, according to BBC.

It was also found that there is a complex set of causeways that connected a network of cities in the area. There were roadways that were raised and areas that allowed passage during all seasons and were wide enough to allow heavy trade traffic.

The Lidar technology is part of a three year project that will continue to map more than 5,000 square miles of the country’s lowland areas.

The rewarding yet challenging life of a WSU student athlete

Brian Patch

Sports Editor

On the field, WSU athletes have proven to be hard working, talented people, with some even going on to play professional sports. Off the field, athletes need to bring that same hard working attitude into the classroom to stay academically eligible, and more importantly earn their degree.

It is not always easy to balance sports and academics, especially on a division one level. Several things such as conflicting game and class times, a night game the night before a big exam and a lack of time for studying are everyday challenges for student athletes.

Ryan Weiss, a pitcher for WSU's baseball team, said finding motivation to do homework is a challenge at times.

"I think the hardest thing is coming home from practice and having to do two or three hours of homework," he said. "But the nice thing is everyone else is doing the same thing. Your buddies are going through the grind as well, and in the end you're doing it to play baseball which is something we love to do."

A tough part of being a student athlete is balancing the sport with exams. From finding time to study to actually taking the exam, sports can turn out to be an unfortunate obstacle in preparing, and Weiss knows that all too well.

"There was a time when we go back from a road game around two in the morning and I had an exam at eight. So as soon as I got off the bus I went to my dorm and studied for three hours, got two hours of sleep and then went to take it. It was a long night but I ended up doing well on it so it was worth it."

Despite the challenges, both Weiss and outfielder J.D Orr find that the work pays off when they get to play the sport they love.

"Being a student athlete is absolutely rewarding," Orr said. "When you get good grades you get recognized for your accomplishments, so it doesn't go unnoticed. And then when you're out on the field playing it makes everything worth it."

Hopkins officially resigns from WSU

Angel Lane

Features Editor

Earlier last week the Dayton Daily News (DDN) obtained David Hopkins official, hand-written letter of resignation through a public records request. DDN discovered the note written to soon-to-leave provost Thomas Sudkamp which dated back to Nov. 17 of 2017.

An excerpt from the resignation reads, "I write to announce my formal retirement from Wright State University, effective January 31, 2018. I would like to thank you for being such a wonderful colleague and friend over my fourteen years at the university. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance during this transition. Best wishes for continued success."

Hopkins left his position of president last March, nearly four months earlier than he initially announced and took on a faculty position with a salary of about \$200,000. Cheryl Schrader officially became WSU's president about four months later at the beginning of July.

While most relish on the negative budget issues that stemmed during Hopkins presidency, chairman of the Board of Trustees, Doug Fecher chooses to focus on the good.

"I think Dave did a lot of good for the university. He was the university's greatest ambassador, and we need to recognize that. I don't think there's any ill feelings. I think the university is moving on as it should," Fecher, told DDN.

"After rising to the presidency from the provost position, Hopkins oversaw the construction of the university's Neuroscience Engineering Collaboration Building, the Student Success Center, the Wright State Physicians building and the expansion of the Creative Arts Center. Hopkins oversaw the university's "Rise. Shine" campaign, which raised more than \$160 million," DDN reported of Hopkins accomplishments in his time at WSU.

Black History Month at WSU

Angel Lane

Features Editor

February is Black History Month, and at least 10 percent of WSU's 2017 enrollment was African-American students according to this [Wright State fact sheet](#).

Vice President of Black Men on the Move (BMOTM) Edgar Malcom believes that Black History Month is important in informing the WSU community about Afro-American culture. "What we've been through and how we've come so far--at one point we were all segregated between black and white and now we're able to live together and go to school together, go on transportation and to restaurants together," he shared.

BMOTM President Kevin Jones wants people to be more informed about how African-Americans molded and developed much of today's American culture.

"A lot of people don't know all of the black inventions or different ideologies that have been developed into the American culture. Whether it's peanut butter--something that everyone loves--or traffic lights. It's just the simplest of things highlighting our own achievements and teaching us and other students about our former ancestors and how they really molded the American culture," Jones said.

To Jones, this month is important to see the growth that has been made in such a short period of time in our country.

"Black history month to me is to help teach, celebrate and honor those before us and those who identify as African American who helped mold and develop the American culture," Jones said, "We were segregated, we were just a third of a property at one point, and today we've elected our first African-American president of the United States, just seeing how much we've grown and how successful we've been so far. It's only been since 1976 that black history month was actually a holiday, and now it's celebrated across the whole country."

While BMOTM does not have their own specific events for Black History Month, they will be attending many events both on and off campus including events in the BOLINGA center. BMOTM week is coming up March 4 through March 10. During that week, the group will be highlighting black influence with different events for the student body.

More information can be found on the [BMOTM OrgSync page](#).

Allie Matters ready to put WSU volleyball back on the map

Tevin Carter-Tolbert

Sports Writer

Wright State's volleyball team has finally found a new head coach. After Susan Clements contract was not renewed, the Wright State Athletic Department quickly began a nationwide search for a new coach. This search led to the hiring of Allie Matters, who was an assistant coach at Seton Hall.

Matters was recognized both as a high caliber coach, as well as a standout athlete during her college career. Matters played for the Seton Hall Pirates from 2006 to 2009 and during this stint she racked up various records. She currently ranks fourth and sixth on Seton Hall's records for single-season digs and third for career digs.

On the coaching side, Matters was named an AVCA 30-for-30 Candidate. This recognizes the nation's top 30 coaches less than 30 years of age. In 2014, Matters helped lead Seton Hall to arguably its most-successful season in program history. The Pirates improved by 12 victories from the previous season and finished with a 28-8 overall record, the second-most wins ever at Seton Hall.

For Matters, leaving behind her alma mater was a very difficult decision.

"I had an amazing playing career there and coaching at my alma mater has been an honor. I value many friendships at Seton Hall that I am sad to leave behind, but I was treated like family by the staff at Wright State as soon as I arrived."

Her plan at Wright State speaks of longevity and strengthening the foundation of Wright State volleyball.

"Moving into this position, my immediate goals are to get to know the student-athletes as people, begin to rebuild the culture, and start recruiting future Raiders. Long term, build a program that consistently competes in the top half of the Horizon League,"

Matters cites her passion and experience as reasons for her confidence that she can lead WSU volleyball to where it needs to be.

"My passion as a student-athlete and my years as an assistant have prepared me for this step. I want to use the knowledge from those experiences to get this volleyball program back on it's feet. I have always had a passion for the sport and for mentoring young women to prepare them for life after college. It is not a responsibility I take lightly."

With a new coach, the Raiders will look to improve from an 11-18 overall record last season. This included a 5-11 record in the Horizon League.

New bill could affect how employees are tipped

Sarah Cavender

News Writer

Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown along with 23 other U.S. senators have sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Labor in opposition to a proposed rule that would change a rule on tipping workers.

The change would allow employers to keep the employees' tips as long as they were paid the federal minimum wage.

This is a revision to a rule established in 2011 in which restaurant owners could require tipped employees to pull their tips into a pool of money which affected servers, bartenders, and bussers, according to a Dayton Daily News article.

Brown and other senators that oppose the change say that it would take money out of the pockets of low wage workers, according to Dayton Daily.

Currently, employers in Ohio can pay their employees as low as \$4.15 an hour if that person earns tips. Employees are allowed to keep the tips they earn.

The National Restaurant Association has launched a lawsuit against the proposed change to the 2011 rule, according to Dayton Daily.

17 state attorney generals are working together to oppose the rule change, according to a report from the Chicago Tribune.

"The Department of Labor's proposal is outrageous," said Lisa Madigan, Illinois attorney general in the Chicago Tribune article. "Not only do workers deserve the money they have earned for the service they provided, but millions of customers who leave tips expect that money to go to the employee who helped them."

Those that support the rule say that the sharing of tips is intended to provide for everyone who is involved in customer service, according to Dayton Daily.

Crayons to classroom fundraiser to collect classroom materials for local teachers

Holly Souther

Features Writer

We Serve U is an organization dedicated to volunteer service on campus consisting of staff with some involvement from students and faculty on various projects. The group works with the local charity Crayons to Classroom once a year to collect classroom material donations for teachers at schools.

"A lot of times, teachers have to pay for supplies out of their own pocket, and this organization allows the teacher to come and get the supplies. Crayons to Classrooms says no matter what, they always need 24 count boxes of crayons – that's their most needed item. It's easy to find, and not that expensive," said Senior Institutional Research Analyst Joanie Hendricks who serves as the We Serve U co-chair.

We Serve U is also in collaboration with Wright State's Athletics and the Nutter Center's Hospitality services to collect crayons the week before the basketball game transpiring on Feb. 16. On the day of the basketball game, volunteers will be there to collect any crayons people will bring in, and in return will receive a voucher for a free box of popcorn. Hendricks also discussed how 24 count box of crayons are easy to collect at basketball games and how they allow people to donate money as well.

Crayons to Classroom will take any supply necessary but the most warranted item is the 24 box count of crayons, according to Hendricks.

"I think it's a great tie-in with Wright State because they are for education and we are here for education so it's a wonderful tie in for Wright State to work with Crayons to Classroom. We are educating some of the teachers that will be in those classrooms and have the opportunity to go to Crayons to Classroom and help supply their classrooms as well," Hendricks said.

President Trump reveals steps for immigration reform

Lucas Gonzalez

News Editor

In President Trump's first State of the Union address he announced a four-step plan to reform the immigration system.

The first 'pillar' of Trump's strategy is to provide a pathway to citizenship for 1.8 million immigrants who were brought to the United States as children and are eligible under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

The promise comes with conditions. For one, Trump remains set on building a border wall between the U.S. and Mexico. He also announced that he will be putting an end to the visa lottery, expressing his preference for a "merit-based immigration system," and will be changing the family unity principle by limiting family sponsorship to spouses and minor children.

In the past Trump has expressed an expectation for Mexico to pay for the border wall. If that were the case, Mexico's economy would be negatively impacted. This has the potential to inspire a new wave of immigrants due to a lack of economic prosperity in Mexico, according to Wright State student Stephanie Patino-Garfias.

Also, the rules and regulations that are in place make it very hard for "chain migration," as Trump put it, to happen. Family-based immigration already does not allow immigrants to sponsor extended family, and the waiting process can last for up to 25 years and is expensive; even then, there is no guarantee of acceptance, according to Patino-Garfias.

Trump initially announced his intention to phase out the DACA back in September of 2017 and to not accept any new applications. He gave Congress a six-month window to come to reach a compromise on the program.

Of the nearly 800,000 individuals protected under the DACA program, about 9,000 of them are school teachers, according to a report from The New York Times.

About 21 percent of DACA recipients are employed in the education and health services industry, according to a report from Nurse.org. The nursing field in particular already has a shortage of workers, according to Carlos Costa, professor of political science at Wright State. Ending the DACA program entirely has the potential to impair the U.S. medical system.

Trump's stance on DACA has often shifted; in a meeting with both Republican and Democratic lawmakers in January, he expressed willingness to work toward a bipartisan agreement on the issue.

The inability of the two parties of Congress to reach an agreement on DACA led to a three-day shutdown of the federal government starting on Jan. 20. Democrats voted to end the shutdown after Republicans promised to hold a vote on immigration legislation.

Republicans have stood their ground on the issue, despite the fact that about 80 percent of Americans support DACA, according to Patino-Garfias. There needs to be "more understanding [and] more listening

from both sides,” she said. “What needs to happen now is [...] Citizens and non-citizens who are brave enough to do so need to be more vocal and be more involved and continue to speak about DACA.”

Patino-Garfias is currently collecting signatures on Wright State’s campus for a letter she is writing to Congress regarding immigration.

The science behind doodling: a new studying technique?

Angel Lane

Features Editor

If you spend long lectures doodling the outskirts of your notes, you are actually extremely likely to recall more information than classmates who sit and stare at the professor. Multiple scientific studies have been done to prove that idle doodling while taking notes or listening to a lecture can improve focus and recall of information.

“Some researchers suspect doodling may help the brain remain active by engaging its “default networks”—regions that maintain a baseline of activity in the cerebral cortex when outside stimuli are absent. People who were encouraged to doodle while listening to a list of people's names being read were able to remember 29 percent more of the information on a surprise quiz later, according to a 2009 study in Applied Cognitive Psychology,” [The Wall Street Journal said](#).

Other research states that doodling keeps your brain in a middle zone between completely going into the land of daydreams and being perfectly awake and hyper-cognitive. If you’re sitting in class and it’s a day you just can’t seem to pay attention, doodling keeps you from zoning completely out so that you are still absorbing the information you are hearing.

“Doodling (a form of [fidgeting](#)) may be a last-ditch attempt at staying awake and attentive. Doodling keeps you from falling asleep, or simply staring blankly when your brain has already turned off. The permission to “free-draw” keeps your brain online just a little while longer,” [Harvard Medical School published](#).

Harvard Medical School continued in their article to explain that paying continuous attention places strain on your brain, and doodling can give the brain a moment to breathe.

“[A report](#) on the learning styles of medical students (who generally have to absorb large amounts of information) indicated that even they may find doodling helpful, as long as they limit the time they do it. A simple 30-minute doodle helps them remember information, fills in gaps in their thinking, and provides a much-needed reprieve from the loads of information they must wade through,” the article said.

So whether you are scribbling random patterns between the lines of your notes, or doodling a portrait of your professor as he or she speaks, you are not simply slacking off. Your brain is just doing everything it can to continue to pay attention.

How does an athlete compare to other students in the classroom?

Brian Patch

Sports Editor

Student athletes are on the road for almost half their games during the season, and while it can be exciting to travel, their schoolwork is never far behind them. How do athletes complete assignments they may miss while traveling? Do they get extended deadlines? Are they allowed to skip the assignment?

The truth is it varies by each professor.

Roy Bannon is a retired computer science professor who taught for 15 years at Utica College in Utica, NY. He echoes that it varies by professor, but the athlete must complete the assignment.

"It varies," he said. "I know professors who would give athletes a week, which to me seems way too long. I would always give them a day or two after the athletic event took place to get the assignment in. But it really does vary because if the assignment is online for example, the athlete may only be given a few hours extra to complete it."

Bannon said he has never seen a professor that let the athlete skip the assignment entirely.

"I've never seen that take place," he said. "You hear about schools like North Carolina who get caught with academic fraud and people think that all schools are like that, but that just isn't the case. Student athletes get their work done, and they often have to work even harder to do it since they have a sport to focus on as well."

In fall semester 2017, Wright State student athletes had a 3.25 combined GPA, while all other students at WSU had a 2.93. This supports the idea that WSU athletes do well in the classroom, and Bannon is not surprised by it at all.

"In my experience athletes seem to master one thing better than other students; structure. Maybe it's the GPA requirements to play, maybe it's the militaristic way in which some coaches expect their players to act off the field. All I know is athletes came to my class driven and goal oriented, and I'm sure it's the same way at a division one school like Wright State."

WSU Track and Field dominant at Cedarville Collegiate Invitational

Tevin Carter-Tolbert

Sports Writer

The Wright State Track and Field team took home the overall win at the Cedarville Collegiate Invitational on Feb. 2 at the Doden Field House at Cedarville. Wright State competed against host school Cedarville University, Berea College, Georgetown University, Oberlin College, Shawnee State, Tennessee Wesleyan University, University of Findlay and Wilmington College.

Coach Rick Williamson said that while this event is usually used as a tune up, he was impressed with how the Raiders played.

“Every year we use this meet as a 'training meet', simply looking to get in some solid work while not backing down our training volume heading into the meet. Even with that, the team still put up many season bests marks. We had 30 season best marks, which is a great sign moving forward.”

Wright State received first place finishes from Katie Abrahamowicz in the triple jump, Aurora Turner in 1 mile run, Sophia Angelopoulos in the 400 meter dash, Iman Salhieh in the 60 meter dash, the distance medley and the 4x200 meter relay teams.

Next, the team will compete at the Chipotle Marshall Invitational in Huntington, West Virginia, and coach Williamson is excited for the competition his team will face.

“There is no specific way of preparing for the Marshall Invite.” he said. “We will simply continue to stick to the plan as we work towards the Horizon League Indoor Championships. Training will be eased off a bit as we enter the final few weeks of the indoor season, but the real focus is always on the outdoor season. The Marshall meet will be highly competitive and will give the athletes a chance to go against some high level athletes.”

WSU student partnered in research for opioid disposal bags

Sarah Cavender

News Writer

Michael Holbrook, a student of the Wright State Boonshoft School of Medicine and Calab Tang of the Cedarville University of Pharmacy are collaborating to study the benefits of using opioid disposal bags.

Holbrook and Tang were introduced to opioid bags last year by Generation RX, an educational organization focused on awareness of prescription medication. It was around this time that the students started their project.

“[Generation RX] purchased the bags through a grant and then we were able to create the connections to get them to pharmacies,” Holbrook said.

Holbrook and Tang then began to create relationships with pharmacies across Southwest Ohio through first-year pharmacy students at Cedarville.

“At Cedarville the first-year students are required to work in pharmacies and we were able to build connections and give the disposal bags to the pharmacies, we’re currently working 30 to 40 pharmacies,” Holbrook said.

The bags are the size of a traditional mailing envelope and are lined with a synthetic compound that when mixed with water it deactivates the medicine, according to Holbrook. One bag can hold up to 45 pills.

“As a Wright State University School of Boonshoft Medicine student who aspires to go into emergency medicine physician, I have already seen firsthand the impact of this crisis in our community,” Holbrook said. “My efforts with this project is a small step in hoping to curve the opioid crisis.”

Holbrook said they are waiting on the results of a reserve to determine how effective and beneficial the bags are.

The surveys ask users to rate the bags on a scale of one to five as well as how many medications they keep in their cabinet and how were they disposed of afterward.

The project was presented at a 2017 Institute for Healthcare Improvement National Forum in Orlando last year with Holbrook and several other students.

Students express growing concerns about possible faculty strike

Lucas Gonzalez

News Editor

Many students were shocked when they received an email from a Wright State official on Jan. 30 about the possibility of a faculty strike, which was brought up at a Let's Talk forum hosted by Wright State.

David Baugham, Student Government Association president, was quick to point out that the bargaining process between WSU and their faculty has many steps, and that several steps need to be completed before a strike would be possible.

Even with the possibility of an immediate strike being minimal, students were understandably upset at the idea of a strike, and worry their education could be affected by a strike if it ever came to fruition.

Junior Henry Lee said he doesn't think a strike would happen, but worries that graduation paths would be impacted.

"Honestly I think everything will work out," he said. "The university wants both the faculty and students to be happy and successful, so they will more than likely figure something out. I just worry that if there was a strike, people may not get to take classes they need to graduate on time, and to a college student graduating is of most importance. For that reason, I can't see how WSU would let a strike happen."

Not everyone shares Lee's optimism. Carli Hefner, a sophomore, is worried at the possibility of faculty striking mid semester.

"If they decided to strike during a semester, what would happen to classes? What would happen to people's money? There are so many questions and problems that would arise because of this, and just the possibility of it happening makes me very worried for the future here."

The email included section 4117 of the Ohio Revised Code, which states that "if an agreement cannot be reached, they may submit, at any time prior to 45 days before the expiration date, the issues in dispute."

A strike is not in the imminent future, but still remains a possibility.