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Wright State University Student Body

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WSU Boonshoft School of Medicine researchers receive award for brain tumor study

Sarah Cavender

News Writer

The Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine was awarded a \$48,000 award to a team of researchers studying the role of genes in treating pediatric brain tumors.

The team is led by Assistant Professor of Pediatrics Robert Lober M.D., Ph.D. His team includes Associate chair of Research Thomas Brown; Professor of Neuroscience, Cell Biology and Physiology Christopher Walker; and WSU graduate student and research assistants Chanel Keoni and Brianna Schurko of Dayton Children's.

The researchers are studying an aggressive tumor known as diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma. It is often times difficult to treat resulting in terminal form of childhood cancer.

"I treat children with brain tumors. This research directly addresses a particular incurable brain cancer in children. We are trying to understand how these tumors resist all current treatments through changes in gene expression," Lober said in a press release.

Lober's research team will be awarded a one-year grant to identify critical molecular mediators of the tumor treatment resistance and give an understanding of how genetics can affect the tumor growth and treatment.

Lober is able to study brain tumors in children through high level imaging through a partnership in WSU and Premier Health Neuroscience Institute and Dayton Children's.

Where does the flu shot come from and how does it work?

Sarah Cavender

News Writer

Twice a year a global vaccine committee comes together to discuss and prepare for flu season. Groups of people come from the northern hemisphere and the southern hemisphere to decide which strain of flu will be prominent during the winter season.

More than 100 national influenza centers submit their research of the flu to five World Health Organization Collaborating Centers. The organization then meets to recommend countries on which specific vaccine for the viruses then each country makes the decision on which viruses should be included in the influenza vaccine, according to CDC website.

In the meetings, the United States developed a vaccine that incorporated three strains, according to Dr. Glenn Solomon, professor and chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at the Boonshoft School of Medicine.

“They actually picked the correct strains within the vaccine,” he said. “The way we make vaccines can cause changes in the strain and there was to the H3N2. When put with eggs there is a combination of things change. That made the vaccine not as effective.”

It takes six months to produce the influenza vaccine and have it ready by fall. Solomon believes that everyone should get the flu shot, according to the CDC.

“The use of vaccination reduces the flu by at least 50 percent. Everybody should get a vaccine because even when it doesn’t work great, it’s still a preventative,” Solomon said.

The number of flu related hospitalizations is now at 60 people out of 100,000, according to a CNN article about the flu report.

“We recommend people to get the flu shot in October. This being a particularly bad flu year, people can still get prevention with a vaccine,” Solomon said.

Solomon said that he too gets the flu shot every year and takes other precautions in preventing the flu.

“This is the worse flu season in ten years and people should be mindful about hand washing and getting a flu shot,” Solomon said.

WSU student helps create "Black Panther"

Angel Lane

Features Editor

WSU alum Hannah Beachler played a huge part in the creation of the upcoming and highly-anticipated "Black Panther" film.

"Our alumni are doing amazing stuff. One girl (Beachler) is the production designer for the upcoming Marvel film, Black Panther. She's the person who does the whole look for it, who did all the supervising of the costumes, the graphics the camera angles, the lighting. She is a Wright State alum. She also designed Moonlight which one the best picture award at the Oscars last year, she was the production designer which is the number two person after the director for what you see on the screen," Stuart McDowell, Professor and Artistic Director, Department of Theatre, Dance and Motion Pictures said.

Beachler credited the art department to everything she had learned that helped her during this project, including painting, carpentry and how to build a flat, according to an interview with DDN.

"Learning every piece of it really informed where I am today. The education I got here was far and away superior to others I've bumped into," Beachler said.

When Beachler found out she got the job, she was driving down the highway. "I pulled over and screamed!" she said in the DDN article, "when they hand you that type of money, you'd better know what you're doing. At times we were working on three continents with 1,000 people, 100 sets. You are only as good as your crew."

The assignment came with a \$30 million art budget and a staff of hundreds including carpenters, sculptors, painters, plasterers, art directors, set designers, illustrators, set and prop decorators according to the DDN report.

Beachler came back to Dayton last December to speak with students at Wright State. She believes that if students here see that she made it, they will know that they can do the same.

One job on Beachler's extensive list of success includes designing Beyonce's visual Lemonade album.

Many Wright State music theater and film students and alumni are hugely successful, you may even see them in your favorite television shows or at local large theaters -- maybe even Broadway.

"Our kids are doing fabulously -- they're on Broadway, they're on West End of London. One of our students is playing the lead role in the Book of Mormon on the West End of London," McDowell said.

Student Security Council and Student Patrol could make a comeback

Holy Souther

Features Writer

Student Patrol was a paid job for the police department on campus that consisted of 13-15 students who would patrol parts of the campus in varying shifts. The main purposes of the Student Patrol was to be "our eyes and ours ears" and to check on secure/unsecure buildings, according to Chief of Police David Finnie.

The paid student position was placed on hold due to the "financial issues at the university and my budget being cut," said Finnie. "We also lost staff and were unable to replace them."

Wright State's police department receives an allotted amount of money per year and a part of it went to the Student Patrol workers but due to budget cuts, the money went to the reserves instead.

The Student Security Council differs from Student Patrol as it is an upcoming group of 12 members from various student organizations on campus who meet twice a semester to "discuss the challenges students face on campus working with law enforcement to prepare students for these challenges and to bridge the gap between students and law enforcement," according to Finnie

Finnie said he met with the African American Residential Caucus (AARC) a month ago and "received fresh, innovative ideas" from members regarding important issues. He also mentioned how an AARC member brought up the suggestion of student volunteers from organizations to help patrol the tunnels because they were concerned about the lack of cameras and the reported/unreported crimes that go on.

The group would still be labeled as Student Patrol with no new name changes. "I am sure we'll bring it back. It just depends on when the university gets more of a financial success of where we need to be – of where we used to be," Finnie said.

WSU basketball comes to 2K18

Brian Patch

Sports Editor

WSU basketball fans can now play as their Raiders on the video game NBA 2K18. The roster creator known as Curtis, or by his gamer-tag Skillazkill, uploaded the roster for PS4 this past weekend.

While it may seem odd to play college basketball on an NBA game, it has been the norm for the past few years. With no college basketball video game currently on the market because of player compensation debates, creators like Curtis use 2K's custom roster features to bring college hoops back to the virtual world.

This is the first season that WSU's roster has been uploaded. It includes every WSU player with realistic physical features and performance ratings. It even included Ryan Custer on the roster, a gesture that was appreciated by many.

Along with the rosters, all three of the Raider's uniforms are included, as well as a court that has The Nutter Center down to a tee.

Curtis is one of the most popular content creators in the 2K community. His content has received over half a million downloads in under five months. Along with WSU, he has created over 60 college basketball rosters that are available to download, including fellow Horizon League member UIC.

Easy directions on setting up the rosters can be found on his Operation Sports forum page. The setup takes approximately 20 minutes.

17 killed in Florida high school shooting

Lucas Gonzalez

News Editor

A shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglass High School in Parkland, Florida has left a total of 17 people dead. At least 14 more were injured and taken to the hospital, according to Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel.

Among the victims are both students and teachers. 12 people were fatally shot inside the school building, three died in the immediate surrounding area, and two died after they had been transported to a hospital, according to Israel in a press briefing.

This incident marks the eighteenth school shooting so far in 2018, according to The Independent.

It is currently the ninth deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history, according to a CNN report.

The shooting began around 2:30 p.m. Just before shots were fired, the fire alarm went off. The school went into immediate lockdown following the shots. Footage shows students and staff frantically running out of the school around that time.

The suspect was apprehended around 4:15 p.m.

After the shooting, people lied on the ground outside the school as they were treated for injuries and moved onto ambulances.

The suspect has been identified as 19-year-old Nikolaus Cruz, a former student who had been expelled last year for disciplinary reasons. He is currently in police custody.

Cruz was believed to have an AR-15 assault rifle and "countless magazines", but it is unclear whether he was carrying other weapons, according to officials.

He was able to make his way to campus and carry out the shooting despite police presence at the high school.

The school had previously identified Cruz as a potential threat, banning him from campus. "There were problems with him last year threatening students," said Jim Gard, math teacher at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in an interview with the Miami Herald.

President Donald Trump commented publicly on the shooting over Twitter. "My prayers and condolences to the families of the victims of the terrible Florida shooting. No child, teacher or anyone else should ever feel unsafe in an American school," he wrote.

Florida senators Marco Rubio and Bill Nelson also commented on the incident. "Our worst fears are being realized. It looks like it's a number of fatalities. Praying for all those students, families and school members affected at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School," Nelson wrote in a Twitter post.

WSU Valentine's Day traditions

Holly Souther

Features Writer

Valentine's Day has constantly changed throughout the years, but some traditions remain the same. The holiday isn't just for romance; it can also be about yourself or friendship.

"There's usually at least a couple of different romantic comedies or something I'll watch with whoever I am hanging out with that day. So traditionally I kind of sit around, wait around for a certain movie or something to come on like "Harry Met Sally," to watch and have some snacks," said Savannah Sheets, Psychology major at Wright State.

Sheets also believes Valentine's has come to be more commercial in recent years, where people are "pushing themselves a little bit more," spending wisely and how even kids young as thirteen are becoming more invested in the holiday "by buying giant bears for each other," compared to when she was younger.

Valentine's Day can also be about love and romance. Grace Nolan, 17, shared her enthusiasm for the holiday. "I love Valentine's Day. I am such a romantic person. Yes, I love Valentine's Day," she said.

Nolan revealed how she never had many traditions until now with her significant other and how "this year Valentine's Day will hopefully be special and we'll go to dinner." She also said she enjoys Valentine's Day a lot more now that she is in a relationship.

Social Work major Janae Gordon, said she has she has some current and some older traditions.

"I go to dinner with my boyfriend," she said. "My mom, my sister, and I give each other small gifts like some flowers and cards and stuff."

The holiday has become more commercial over the years as expectations are higher, and traditions evolve. "It has changed in a lot of different ways and you see more stuff for it and are expected to do more for it as well," Sheets said.

Wright State develops steering committee for strategic planning

Lucas Gonzalez

News Editor

Last month the university officially announced that it had formed a complete steering committee which is intended to “guide [the university’s] planning process as [it] develops a new strategic plan for Wright State University, according to a campus-wide email.

The committee consists of 33 individuals from Wright State including students, alumni, employees and leaders of the Dayton community. It is co-chaired among University President Cheryl Schrader, Chair of the Department of Management and International Business David Bright and Director of the Applied Policy Institute Michael Wiehe, according to the email.

The university’s planning process, known as “The Wright Path to 2025,” has four phases: engagement (the current phase), development (which will take place in the summer), review and feedback (fall 2018) and implementation.

Over this nine-month process, the steering committee will host multiple forums within the upcoming academic semesters. Its first forum was held at the Wright State Lake Campus on Friday, Feb. 2.

The forum is one of many opportunities for the community to provide input, according to Schrader.

“We will be finding out from you what makes Wright State special and what picture is envision for our future,” said Schrader at the forum, according to a release.

The committee is expected to host an event in April during which it will present an updated missions, values and vision statement to the public. The statements may continue to evolve as the committee makes more progress and determines the effectiveness of strategies, according to the Wright State Newsroom.

Ryan Tucker named WSU's next head football coach

Tevin Carter-Tolbert

Sports Writer

The Wright State football team made a change at the helm last month by naming Ryan Tucker the new head coach. Tucker was an assistant coach last season. This comes after the team extremely underperformed with a 2-4 record.

Despite being a member of this program in past years, Tucker understands that a few things will change as he moves into the head coach position.

"Moving into the head coach position, I feel it is necessary for my mindset to change. As an assistant, players look to you for information and skill. As a head coach, players also look to you for guidance and leadership. My mindset is to give these players someone to lead them out on the field and help them through the adversity of game day."

Tucker's main goal is to make sure he not only recruits great players, but convinces them to stay as well.

"With already being involved with Wright State Football as a player, a board member and a coach, I know what to expect from this program," he said. "I know the type of athletes that we will get. I know the type of commitment it takes to excel at the club level. A good number of athletes leave school or transfer to other programs after their freshman year and the program is left with a smaller number of players. Recruiting is a huge part of the offseason and we are always looking to add new talent to the roster."

Tucker feels that no matter what, the team is looking to win championships.

"Our next goal as a team is to have fun and win a conference championship. The way the National Club Football Association (NCFA) playoffs work is that each conference winner makes the playoffs. Winner of the two playoff games plays for a national championship. Our conference has always been a dog fight and the conference championship has eluded WSU. We look to change that very soon."

Physical plant works to conserve energy on campus

Holly Souther

Features Writer

Facilities Management Services, a subset of the Physical Plant, is working to conserve energy on campus and implement strategies that will benefit the university.

"Energy conservation measures are put in place to reduce energy consumption and reduce utility bills which will reduce maintenance cost to the university," said Sarah Barrett, manager of energy conservation and utilities.

There are variety ways to conserve energy in the tunnels and across campus. "One of the methods used across campus is night set back. Lights will drop back to emergency lighting, and some of our larger mechanical equipment is turned back as well. All energy conservation methods consider the type and use of each building," Barrett said.

Some methods include demand control ventilation, retro-commissioning, water conservation and more. Other measures that are in place include House Bill Phase I and Phase II, initiatives dedicated to energy conversion. Phase III is expected to be enacted in the future. Fourteen percent of consumption savings were achieved, according to Wright's State Energy Management overview page, because of these plans.

"The university is currently in the process of an energy audit of all buildings," said Barrett. "This reviews all equipment for life analysis, overall building program review from our automation systems, air balance of the building and retro-commissioning of all updates, renovations and projects."

Energy Conservation Measures (ECM) tend to vary by utility and do not necessarily extend to the tunnels, as they get measured separately, "Each section is fed by an attached building," according to Barrett. Energy conservation measures are different all-around campus as some ECM's are more impactful from building to building based on use and the utility load of the building."

"Energy conservation is a campus initiative. If any students would like to make ECM project suggestions, we would welcome the feedback," Barrett said.

Raider Recap: Vogelpohl's milestone, SB/MTENN struggle, WSU vs. NKU preview

Brian Patch

Sports Editor

Emily Vogelpohl reaches 1,000 career points

Junior Emily Vogelpohl reached 1,000 career points as a member of the WSU women's basketball (WBB) team this past week. She is the second WBB player to reach that milestone this season, as Chelsea Welch also accomplished the feat. Vogelpohl's scoring ability helped the team grab two wins this past week over Detroit-Mercy, 85-55, and Oakland, 80-75. This improved their record to 18-8 on the season.

Men's tennis team faces four game losing streak, softball swept opening weekend

The men's tennis team find themselves on a four game losing streak after a 0-3 weekend against Louisville, Illinois Stat and Belmont. The team will be off until Feb. 24, giving them enough time to figure out how to get back on the winning track.

The WSU softball team lost all five games they played in during their invite to the Total Control Sports invitational this past weekend. The team is in their first year under head coach Laura Matthews. WSU's offense struggled, scoring only nine runs in five games. They will look to improve on those early season numbers when they attend the FGCU/Four Points by Sheraton invitational Feb. 23-25.

Men's basketball faces NKU in first nationally televised game of the season

Wright State will face off against Northern Kentucky (NKU) this Friday, Feb. 16 in a battle for first place in the Horizon League. The game will be nationally televised on ESPNU at 9 p.m. The last time these teams faced off, WSU pulled out the close win on the road, 84-81. Friday's game may sell out due to the time and nature of the game, but it will most certainly be the most hyped game WSU has played in so far this season. Loudon Love enters the game as the Horizon League leader in rebounds with an average of 9.9 per contest. He was named the Horizon league freshman of the week for the sixth time in nine weeks, further improving his resume for Horizon League freshman of the year. NKU and WSU enter the game as first and second in turnover margin in The Horizon League, respectively.

Baseball opens season at Tulane this weekend

WSU baseball begins their quest for a Horizon League championship this weekend as they visit Tulane for a three game weekend series. The team is coming off a season that saw them win an impressive 38 games, but ultimately fell short in the horizon league championship against UIC. WSU expects to return six offensive starters, including senior Matt Morrow's bat that produced a .333 batting average and .427

on base percentage (OBP) last season. The Raiders are the ninth winningest team in division one over the past three seasons (2015-2017).

Student Government Association works with state representatives

Sarah Cavender

News Writer

Since August, members of Wright State's Student Government Association (SGA) have been traveling to Columbus every few weeks to work with representatives and lawmakers on bills.

"It has been a combination of meeting with state representatives, senators, chancellor of higher education and testifying before several committees in support of bills," said Daniel Palmer, Chief Justice for SGA said

Palmer and Ivan Mallett have been the leaders of the work in Columbus.

"We have never been more politically engaged in the history of WSU or SGA," said David Baugham, SGA President. "One of our SGA principles is to 'Think big; push boundaries.' This year, we decided to think big by taking our advocacy for students to the next level and by advocating at both the local and state level. All of this wouldn't be possible without the incredible work that Daniel Palmer and Ivan Mallett have done in leading the Judicial Branch of SGA."

Throughout their time at the state house in Columbus SGA has worked with representatives such as Rick Perales, Mike Duffey, Kent Smith, Gary Scherer, Scott Lipps, John Barnes, Martin Sweeney and representative Jim Butler.

"SGA has worked with over 40 representatives and senators since this past August. We have been called the "Wright State Crew" and often times get stopped in the halls of the Statehouse or Riffe Center," Palmer said.

Palmer also said they hope to meet with the governor soon. "The staff said a meeting could be entirely possible the next time we are up."

Bills that SGA has worked on have started to make progress; House Bill 66 was passed and will be referred to the Senate. The tax-exempt textbook bill, House Bill 337 will be sent out of committee and the Speakers Challenge was introduced recently.

"It has been such a great experience overall. We are becoming well known up there and the Representatives move their schedule to meet with us. It has been an extremely awesome experience," Palmer said.

The Longest Table breaks barriers and explores diversity at WSU

Angel Lane

Features Editor

The Longest Table was held on Sunday, Feb. 11 with over 80 participants. Conversation was the centerpiece at the table as discussions arose around diversity, community and how we should treat those who are different from how we see ourselves.

The event kicked off with keynote speaker, Dr. Cristina Agiro who shared her own stories of growing up and learning about diversity and how to communicate with those who think differently than she does.

"There's research that says not only do we think people who look and sound like us are nicer and smarter than all the rest of the people, but also we have more empathy for those people who we believe are like us. There have been a number of tests over the years to test the empathy response for people who look similar to us or how our family members might look in distress," Agiro said.

Some of the studies included black people watching Hurricane Katrina aftermath videos and they had a higher empathy response for those black people than other races had for them. The same goes for Asian individuals watching aftermath of deadly earthquakes and tsunamis in Japan.

Even with her white supremacist cousin, Agiro chooses to listen because listening is how we can learn from each other, and she says he listens back. "If I were my cousin, and if I'd grown up with the sets of ideas he's grown up with and I'd been treated the way he's been treated, I might come to the same conclusions he's come to," she shared.

"The golden rule says that I should do unto other people what I want to have done to myself," Agiro said explaining how the golden rule is selfish. "That means you can say, 'Hey, I'm okay with race jokes so you should be too, it's the golden rule.' The platinum rule has to work. It says, 'I'm treating other people the way they ask that I treat them,'" Agiro said.

The Longest Table made its way to WSU when Dr. Gary Dickstein, the VP for Student Affairs, attended the event when it was in Dayton and thought it could be beneficial for the Wright State community.

Lead coordinator for this event, Hannah Pigg, most looked forward to seeing the interactions between all members of the Raider community--whether it be students, staff, faculty, alumni or other.

"The Longest Table is an event focused on enhancing an inclusive culture and celebrating differences on campus. Participants are encouraged to engage in dinner conversation related to community, inclusion, and current diversity issues by using the conversation starters on each placemat. We're currently exploring the idea of having "smaller tables" over the next year to continue the conversation with more targeted topics related to diversity and inclusion," Pigg shared.