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UCIE's presents annual International Festival

Holly Souther

Features Writer

On Saturday March 23, the University for International Education Center (UCIE) hosted its annual International Festival in the Student Union in three different locations; the Apollo room, Endeavor, and the Sky Lobby.

A flag parade kicked off the event, in which international students displayed their home countries.

"Festivals are all about celebration. We have festivals about things we deeply value, and I think it says a lot that Wright State does an International Festival because it is saying that we value interaction with people who are different from us. We think and believe they have value and not only that, but perspective that is so important that we need to know about it," UCIE's International Student Program Coordinator, Catherine Hernandez stated.

At the festival, people could experience a variety of food palettes from all over the world. "We have some local vendors that come by who sell international foods," Hernandez said.

Some of the food included Colombian cuisine, Indian cuisine, Middle Eastern foods, Cambodian coffee and beer from countries like Jamaica and Thailand. Numerous musical and dance performances from various countries around the world drew large crowds to the stage.

This year's festival also included a new addition: a kid's zone where children could play, learn a skill like origami or even hear children's books be read in a different language.

Hernandez believed the International Festival provided students an opportunity to learn more about other cultures, interact with other people from all around the world and potentially open the door for them to study abroad.

"I think what we find, however, is that people might have different traditions, but at the end of the day, they are still people. It's a beautiful thing to be able to connect to somebody who has a different background from you, but laughs at the same jokes, and you can see peoples' quirks and personalities and I think that is so beautiful," Hernandez shared.

College of Math and Science wins grant to expand undergraduate research

Lucas Gonzalez

News Editor

The Wright State College of Math and Science has been awarded a \$997,589 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF), which was announced on Mar. 8.

\$630,000 of the NSF grant will fund 42 scholarships for second-year math and science majors who have demonstrated a financial need. For three years, 14 students will receive scholarships. The rest of the grant will be used to support programming and research activities of the Applying Scientific Knowledge (ASK) program, according to Physics Chair Jason Deibel.

In efforts to receive the grant, A National Proposal Team consisting of Deibel, ASK Director Meredith Rodgers, and Physics Professor Adrienne Traxler was involved.

The goals, according to Deibel, are “to provide undergraduate research experience, help students identify as scientists, retain retention rates, increase student GPAs and transform student experiences as science and math majors at Wright State,” said Deibel.

Through the ASK program, which was created and originally directed by Deibel, students may work on a research team of about 10 to 30 students with one or two faculty members. The traditional undergraduate research model required that students complete research on an individual basis with one faculty member.

“How can you get the undergraduate research experience to as many students as possible? A program like this expands that ability by doing it through team-based undergraduate research,” said Deibel in a release from the Wright State Newsroom.

The ASK program was introduced in 2016 and previously received a limited amount of funding through the Wright State University Foundation. Three separate applications had been sent to the NSF from a proposal team until they heard in November that Wright State was being considered for funding, according to Deibel, who co-wrote proposals to receive the grant.

In order to further improve the student researcher experience, the College of Science and Math will also be running a faculty-mentoring training program. The purpose is to adequately prepare faculty to mentor students in their research.

“Undergraduate research has always been a passion of mine,” said Deibel. “Essentially this grant has injected five more years into the ASK program – the hope of that is that we can have more success with [the program] and start gathering attention for external donor support.”

Faculty concerns continue to rise during contract negotiations

Sarah Cavender

News Writer

For nearly a year, officers of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) have been in negotiations with university administration to develop a contract suitable for both parties. Negotiations took a turn when the Wright State Board of Trustees hired an outside attorney who stepped in and presented a contract that held no negotiations. There is currently standstill as the fact finding is in review, according to members of the AAUP.

“The relationship has eroded between administration and faculty,” said AAUP President, Martin Kich. said. “We always had a collegial relationship prior to years ago.”

Members of the AAUP collectively agreed that there was a stronger relationship between faculty and administration before the financial crisis.

History Professor Noeleen McIlvenna works closely with the faculty and then relays that information to contract negotiations. According to McIlvenna, there is a unanimous feeling of frustration and disheartenment.

“The faculty are concerned about the community, not just the university,” McIlvenna said. “The faculty are not fighting a pay cut; we knew we would not have a raise for a year. The raise was to match inflation. We understand that there are immediate effects.”

McIlvenna explained that the long term effects of the university will eventually affect the community.

“Nursing enrollment is down and eventually nursing jobs in this area will be needed. Social workers are needed to take care of people and that program is being hit hard. We need the researchers like chemists, biologists, and those that make sure we have clean drinking water. When you lose faculty that teaches the future social workers and nurses, you lose the expertise,” said McIlvenna.

Tom Rooney, professor of Biological Sciences, said that the budget cuts has been demoralizing.

“The faculty have been focused on making education more affordable. They are focused on the students still,” said Rooney.

According to Kristine Scordo, professor and director of the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program, the morale is at an all-time low.

“Potential students have gotten wind of WSU issues and are looking at other colleges,” Scordo said. “My understanding is that administration is not supportive of us starting our own Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) program. If we do not develop and pass a BSN to DNP program, it is likely we will not have a graduate program.”

Faculty like Scordo expressed concern in their program safety.

“We have an excellent national reputation for our NP programs. I can only hope that will continue in this uncertain climate,” Scordo said.

David Bukovinsky, professor of accountancy at Wright State shared frustrations of morale.

“It is demoralizing and makes one wonder if the administration values the faculty and understands the critical role the faculty plays in the university,” Bukovinsky said. “I cannot speak for the effect the situation has had on my colleagues or departmental operations, other than to say that a lot of people are concerned, angry and demoralized that the financial crisis was allowed to happen and how the administration plans to correct it.”

According to Volker Bahn of Biological Sciences, believes that (upper) administration takes no responsibility for the crisis.

“I don’t think that the administration is interested in good faith negotiation,” Bahn said. “They have not treated us as partners at all. Despite lip-service to “being in the same boat” they are not at all, and they are certainly not behaving that way.”

As a way to open dialogue for students, faculty and members of the Raider community administration started a Strategic Planning Forum. The goal was to allow people to communicate their concerns. However, those that attended expressed disappointment.

“We were just supposed to ask “friendly” questions, which they were free to evade as much as they wanted, because there was not supposed to be any follow up either. And that is what they consider ‘talking with us’,” Bahn said. “They talked for about 45 minutes. Then they took questions that were time limited and took as much time as they wanted to answer them.”

According to faculty such as Bahn, Scordo and McIlvenna, departments are stretched thin and class sizes are increasing.

“We teach, we do research, we write grant applications and papers, we advise graduate students, we administer our curricula, classes, and labs, and we are involved in almost all other aspects of administration, even if it is often in an advisory role,” Bahn said.

Scordo said that there is high demands throughout the nursing department resulting in filling in positions. “The faculty have no secretarial support. We were not hired to be secretaries—we were hired to teach. Our time now is taken away from student activities, so we can perform the many secretarial duties required for courses we teach,” Scordo said.

The ArtsGala celebrates another year of success

Angel Lane

Features Writer

On Saturday, March 24, 2018, from 6 p.m. to midnight, the Creative Arts Center was filled with hundreds of students and theatre lovers attending the 2018 ArtsGala. With tickets ranging from \$250 to \$550, it is evident that attendees were passionate about supporting students and funding scholarships and of course, a night full of nonstop entertainment and good company.

“When we started out over a decade ago, I think we had three or four hundred people, and now we always sell upwards of 800 tickets. We’re clearing over \$200,000 a year,” Stuart McDowell, professor and artistic director of the Department of Theatre, Dance and Motion Pictures said.

Through the years, the ArtsGala has raised more than \$2.5 million in order to fund scholarships for the department. Although this event occurs every year, it is never the same thanks to the collaboration of all of the fine arts departments as well as the hard work of the students.

“It’s always absolutely different because every room has different music, different art, different students and different shows including new films from the students that will be shown. There are new displays that are happening in the lobby, dance concerts in the new ballet studio, and those are always new and different. If you ran from room to room you still could only see half of the stuff that’s going on. The only thing that is the same is that people have a blast,” McDowell explained.

This year’s gala included selections from the current main stage show, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, which is still running. Students from the different fine arts departments performed live art, theatre, music and dance performances. Community members, and individuals from across the country gathered together to enjoy what is known to many of them as, “The event of the year.”

“People save up to buy that new gown for the lady and cumberbund for his tuxedo, and they buy their tickets well in advance--oftentimes, they buy higher priced tickets just to support the students. Many people have been here at least a decade, and have come to at least ten of these, because once they come they realize they’re not going to miss this again. I would guess that 10 to 20 percent of the people attending are new,” McDowell said.

Each year, the next year’s gala begins the creative process immediately after the current one ends. With so many successes, McDowell struggled to choose a favorite, comparing it to choosing between children.

"The year I did [*Les Miserables*] was one of my favorite years because I got to direct that on the main stage, but I love every year. Years like that, where I was able to direct on the main stage were a high point," he shared.

Themed rooms contained gourmet meals from various countries, as well as more performances, and auctions. This year, the auction was available on cell phones for those who weren't able to be there at the time of bidding. Original student films were displayed in the film festival.

Are students a fan of Rowdy Raider?

Brian Patch

Sports Editor

Rowdy Raider is well known across all of Dayton as the mascot of Wright State University. The peppy, spirited wolf can be seen at many athletic events, open houses, and other campus events. With mascots being a huge part of the college experience, we began to wonder, how many people actually like WSU's current mascot? We took to the SU market and cafeteria during lunch hours to find out.

Before that, it is critical to know the history of our mascot. Rowdy Raider was originally long-bearded Viking that was created in 1986. In 1997, the mascot was changed to a brown haired wolf, and in 2007 a slight modification was made to make Rowdy Raider a grey wolf. For the purposes of this survey, we asked students if they liked the current, grey wolf version of Rowdy Raider.

Justin Davis, a junior economics major, said he is a fan of Rowdy being an intimidating looking mascot.

"I'm ok with Rowdy being a wolf, but I love how they made him look intimidating," he said. "Like some mascots have that cute and cuddly look that just annoys me, a perfect example being the Oregon Ducks mascot. I'm the type of guy that thinks mascots should have their game face on, and not look friendly to the opponent. I think with Rowdy they got it right to where he doesn't look frightening, but you don't want to mess with him either."

Most students seemed to like Rowdy as a mascot, but we did find one student who didn't care for him.

Ben Kirtland, a sophomore engineering student, thinks the wolf is overused when it comes to colleges and universities.

“Don’t get me wrong I love Wright State, but the wolf just seems so bland,” he said. “It’s almost as overused as the wildcat is in college sports. I don’t hate it by any means, but it’s not anywhere as unique as Buckeyes (Ohio State) or Flyers (University of Dayton).”

Overall, we asked 50 students for their opinions on Rowdy Raider, and 43 of them said they like WSU’s mascot. The other seven students were either not in favor or just indifferent about it.

This small survey of 50 students cannot represent the whole student body as a whole (over 12,000 students), but it does give a strong impression that most students at WSU are fans of our Rowdy Mascot.

Kim Jong Un confirmed to have visited China

Lucas Gonzalez

News Editor

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was confirmed to have met with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing, China, marking the first time that Kim has traveled outside North Korea since becoming leader in 2011.

BBC reports that the meeting was initially declared to be unofficial by China. On Monday, an armored train was spotted en route from Pyongyang to Beijing; Kim Jong Un was speculated to have been on board.

State media from North Korea and China eventually confirmed on Wednesday that Kim was aboard that train, according to The Atlantic.

China’s state-run media, Xinhua News Agency, reports that both parties found the talks to be a success. Topics of discussion during their meeting included regional stability, relations between North Korea and China, and denuclearization.

Kim stated that North Korea has made efforts to ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula and has proposed peace talks, according to Xinhua.

“It is our consistent stand to be committed to denuclearization on the peninsula, in accordance with the will of late President Kim Il Sung and late General Secretary Kim Jong Il,” he said.

The Xinhua report also shows that for Kim, denuclearization must come under certain conditions.

“The issue of denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula can be resolved, if South Korea and the United States respond to our efforts with goodwill [and] create an atmosphere of peace and stability while taking progressive and synchronous measures for the realization of peace,” Kim said, according to Xinhua.

South Korea has stated that it had no involvement in Kim's trip to Beijing. Yoon Young-chain, Senior presidential press secretary told reporters that Seoul "will need to keep an eye on the situation with all possibilities in mind," according to CNN.

Kim is also set to meet with South Korean President Moon Jae-in in April, and with President Trump in May.

President Trump has weighed in on the Beijing meeting, stating in a Twitter post: "For years and through many administrations, everyone said that peace and the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula was not even a small possibility. Now there is a good chance that Kim Jong Un will do what is right for his people and for humanity. Look forward to our meeting!"

How to reorganize halfway through the semester

Holly Souther

Features Writer

The key to getting reorganized halfway through the semester for a student involves patience, diligence and a mindset to make it happen. While it may feel like the best time to just give up and let the chaos take over, it's never too late to

Most students have a way as to how they like to organize their materials, but some they do not know how, or they choose not to. Looking at specific due dates can simply be the most obvious way to getting reorganized as well as figuring out time and a plan to make it happen

"I check up on my syllabus for each class and see what is due and try to plan my time to get things done. If I need to take a break, I will take a break," Motions Picture major, Marissa Coleman, stated.

Students can find their syllabus online or by using the printed copy handed out in the first week of classes. Keeping an agenda or planner for assignments and dates is a way to keep an organized schedule.

"Try to keep a schedule for yourself and try to prioritize assignments that are due. It's hard with motions pictures because one assignment can take up to like five or six days to complete, so that really messes with my schedule for those next five days," Coleman continued.

If you think you are falling behind in class, check your grades and seek potential help from a friend or a professor, join a study group and attend a study session with a peer tutor or instructor. There are many options for you to choose from.

"I would say to make sure you are on top of everything and not falling behind in classes. Get on top of it and finish the school semester really strong," Earth Science major Kate Miller said.

Whether it's checking the syllabus, grades, or keeping an agenda, they are many ways to become reorganized before the semester's end.

Wright State to host 16th annual Drag Revue

Sarah Cavender

News Writer

Wright State University Rainbow Alliance will host their annual Drag Revue on Saturday, April 14 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Apollo Room of the Student Union.

The event is free for all to attend but the organization will also be collecting donations toward the LGBTQIA scholarship fund. The goal is to raise \$1,500 this year.

The Revue will host a variety of performers including Masque regulars, Wright State students, and performers from Columbus.

This year's hosts are Amaya Sexton, host at Masque, and Wright State student Olivia Diamond.

Performers include drag queen KarKar O'Daniels and drag king Johnny Justice.

WSU junior and Masque drag king Ariel Kramer will be performing for the first time at the Drag Revue. Her stage name is Oliver Dixon.

"I'm excited; it's the like coming home. It will be a fun show since this is my home and I know a lot of people here," said Kramer.

The event theme this year will be "Metamorphosis." Performers are encouraged to express themselves and explore gender, according to an event posting.

There will also be American Sign Language interpreters available for those that attend.

Questions regarding the event may be directed to Shelby Dinkledine, the Rainbow Alliance graduate advisor at dinkledine.3@wright.edu.

Student Spotlight: Fine Arts Major Jake Tate

Holly Souther

Features Writer

Jake Tate is a fine arts major who works at the Dayton Art of Institute as a preparator and has an ignited interest in photography and building materials in his spare time.

Tate sees his surrounding environment as inspiration for his numerous art projects.

"I think a lot of it has to do with environment, setting. How people interact with an environment and industrial complexes, things of that nature. I direct a lot of inspiration from that because it has a lot to do with material, and the juxtaposition of labor and materials," Tate said.

Tate has been in both solo and group shows; some student nominated which took place at the Dayton Society of Artists in downtown Dayton. His second solo show is currently going on in the experimental gallery located in the Creative Arts Center.

"It's kind of a product of a few week long process of just doing the same type of thing over and over again, and then really getting to know what you're doing with it, so I think it yielded at the end of that something fairly successful," Tate said, regarding one his tentatively titled art pieces called "Reanimator."

Using a combination of sculpting, painting and drawing, Tate discovered different templates to use in his art. Tate says he likes to start "with a simple geometric form and then try to apply different materials to it, or vice versa if I see a material I want to use," and enjoys using the "juxtaposition of material and simple forms."

Tate also believes all his classes and some of his professors have been crucial to the development of himself and his work as an artist. He sees both grad school or working with Dayton Society of Printmakers as possible options for his future.

"Just keep investigating, keep pushing. Continue school. Continue developing," Tate said about himself as an artist.

Chinese college student who purchased two rifles to be deported for visa issue

Angel Lane

Features Writer

Wenliang Sun, a University of Central Florida student from China, had worried his roommate after changing his look and behavior and purchasing two semiautomatic rifles is to be deported for a visa issue, according to campus police.

"We know that in today's world that a person in distress who owns a high-powered firearm, we just cannot ignore that," UCF police Chief Richard Beary said, according to a [CNN report](#). "We have a duty and an obligation to make sure our people are safe."

After what Beary called many red flags, he believes they may have stopped something disastrous from happening. When authorities attempted to notify Sun of his changing immigration status, he was at a gun range practicing with one of his rifles.

Police have noted that Sun never made any threats or attempts to harm anyone. The change in his immigration status reportedly comes from not attending classes while under a student visa as an international student.

Some of the behavior mentioned by Sun's roommate to be out of the ordinary included dying his hair blond, refusing to leave his room, becoming increasingly uncommunicative and buying a nearly \$70,000 car with cash.

[CNN](#) also reported that Sun didn't purchase his second rifle until after police had already paid him their first visit. Police were unable to remove the guns because they were bought legally, but once Sun's immigration status changed, they were able to take him into custody.

Mystery musical on campus lets you choose your own ending

Angel Lane

Features Writer

“The Mystery of Edwin Drood” has just five shows remaining at the Creative Arts Center. A show full of exactly what the title says, mystery, allows the cast to interact with the audience and let them vote on their desired ending to the show.

“What you’ll find out with the show is it’s delightfully funny. The whole conceit is that it takes place in a music hall, so it’s a play within a play. All of a sudden, two thirds of the way in, Charles Dickens dies, so they have to figure out what the ending is and you get to vote among seven different characters and two different villains and another pair (of lovers),” Artistic Director of the department of theatre, dance and motion pictures Stuart McDowell said.

Senior Musical Theatre Major Megan Valle, who plays the central character Edwin Drood, explained that the show shares an inspiring message about seeing the positive and pushing through when things get hard.

“It is so brilliantly directed and our cast does a magnificent job. We’ve received brilliant reviews, some say it’s their most favorite thing they have seen on the stage,” Valle said.

If you do the math, there could be up to 25 different endings, according to McDowell. After act one, the audience picks everything that happens next, leaving the actors to memorize and perform new songs and scenes every single night.

“This show is physically demanding because it is a whole different style. Edwardian age characters are hard to channel when we are so used to living in the 21st century. I love Drood’s spunky quality and high ambition. I play upon that a lot,” Valle said.

McDowell shared that he is surprised the department has never done such a “rich jewel” like Drood before.

“It’s just wonderful, I mean people are just standing ovation and going crazy and a lot of people are saying it’s the funniest thing they’ve ever seen. The music--it’s breathtaking. It shows us at our best strength,” McDowell shared.

The three leads in the show are seniors, and for some of them, this may be their last performance ever at Wright State. “Come see us! You’ll have a bloody good time,” Valle recommended.

The remaining show dates and times for “The Mystery of Edwin Drood” are listed below.

Thursday, April 5, 7 p.m.

Friday, April 6, 8 p.m.

Saturday, April 7, 2 p.m.

Saturday, April 7, 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 8, 2 p.m.