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The Guardian, Week of September 2, 2019

Wright State Student Body

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Weekly Horoscopes
September 2, 2019
By Sarah Cavender

The stars have a week of emotions and surprises in store for you. Here is your week at a glance with house plants. Check out your weekly horoscopes for September 2 through the 7.

ARIES

Like a succulent dear Aries, you are tenacious and can endure so much. Succulents store water in their leaves and roots. You however cannot store water in your leaves because you don't have them. Please drink water Aries, all that soda is bad for you.

TAURUS

A zz plant suits you so well Taurus. Did you have to Google what a zz plant is? Same. But just understand that it's a good looking plant, just like you. Also known as the fortune tree, this plant brings good luck and fortune into your life. We suggest placing one of these in your car Taurus to prevent you from getting anymore speeding tickets.

GEMINI

In the world of fashionable houseplants Gemini, your pairing with the fiddle leaf fig in a match made in heaven. These little leafy friends are just as popular and bold as you. With such a statement plant you should plan your outfits to match the coloring of your fiddle leaf fig. Nothing says besties like coordinating clothes.

CANCER

Like an air plant dear Cancer, you are free and creative. This little plant is free to roam from a sea shell home to a jar shaped like a sloth. They are free to be wherever you place them with very little restraint. You have a strong desire to be free now, maybe take a weekend and your air plant to go exploring?

LEO

Similar to a cactus Leo, you can endure so much. They survive in harsh conditions of the desert and bloom a beautiful flower. Right now the path you are on may feel difficult and as though you're struggling but take your cactus and keep going. The end results will bloom beautifully.

VIRGO

A bromeliad is often times associated with wealth, charm and beauty dear Virgo. And right now you are every bit of those things. The stars are shining brightly on you and putting the spotlight on your career. Take about ten of these wonderfully colored plants to work and place them on your desk. Your boss will love them as much as you do.

LIBRA

A Rubber Tree signifies happiness and you are every bit of that Libra. Your friends would describe you as someone who could light up a room when you walk in these houseplants have round leaves and often used to soften sharp edges and angles in rooms. You round out your friend group with your bubbly personality.

SCORPIO

A spider plant purifies the air and is associated with being the most caring plant. Right now there's some toxic emotions and feelings in the air of your home Scorpio. Maybe there was a recent fight or disagreement? Try placing spider plants around all corners of the room. Like you they are so caring, they will clean up that tension with good vibes!

SAGITTARIUS

A dracaena can be described as clever and mischievous for its lead shape and color. Are you feeling a little like a dracaena dear Sagittarius? You soon might find someone who can match your level of curiosity and wit. If you find yourself in a green house this weekend you both will be looking at purchasing a dracaena.

CAPRICORN

An alocasia is often used to described as the plant that grows to the heavens because of its ability to just keep growing. Right now you may be going through some major personal growth Capricorn, it's okay to take a step back and water yourself with self care. Take care of yourself.

AQUARIUS

A bonsai is the perfect symbol for harmony and balance. Right now Aquarius you are seeking out that balance between your busy life and long work days. On Thursday you will find that perfect form of harmony in a coffee shop. We suggest scattering bonsai plants all throughout your home to encourage these good will vibes.

PISCES

A Venus flytrap is just as unique and quirky as you Pisces! These houseplants are quite uncommon but they do their best to take care of you with their ability to catch insects. This week may feel as though you aren't catching anything, it's okay. As the weekend approaches the good news you've been waiting for will arrive.

Student Government Holds First Public Meeting For The Semester

September 2, 2019

By Makenzie Hoerferlin

The first Student Government Association (SGA) meeting this fall was held Tuesday, Aug. 27 to discuss topics concerning Wright State University students. SGA works closely with the student body in hopes of increasing student involvement and communicating student interests within the decision-making process on campus.

Many ideas and goals were discussed, including ways to increase partnerships between groups on campus, outreach programs to contact future Wright State University students, addressing and alleviating the problem of excessive parking tickets and easier ways to contact other commuting students to carpool.

Fatima Boumahchad, director of the freshman internship program, discussed her recent revamping of the program, removing all committees to promote more freshman involvement.

“The program is designed to engage freshman in various activities to develop as a leader and end the year as an engaged student leader,” said Boumahchad. “This is a great way for incoming students to meet other young students, become a better student leader, and learn more about how student government works with the student body.”

In addition to attending a set number of classes, freshman interns would have the opportunity to job shadow, form connections within the community and develop the skills needed to succeed in the real world.

The freshman internship meeting is Sept. 5 from 6-7:30 p.m. in Atlantis room 157 A/B SU.

Two new members were confirmed to the board during executive session.

Ty Callahan was confirmed as the new assistant director of external affairs. He is a sophomore in the college of business.

“I’m just really excited to have this opportunity and I really just want to give my all to this organization,” said Callahan.

Kevin Jones was also confirmed, now on board as the director of diversity and inclusion. Jones is a political science major and is president of Black Men on the Move.

“I enjoy working with students everyday with different types of issues whether that be how they have issues with fitting in, issues with making friends, or making this place a home,” said Jones.

Students interested in joining student government are highly encouraged to attend SGA meetings. There are vacant positions needed to be filled, which can be found on handshake.

General meetings are Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m.

Upcoming SGA events and sign ups for the Freshman Internship program are available at <https://www.wright.edu/student-government-association>

What Students Need To Know About The New Counseling Fee:

September 3, 2019

By Natalie Cunningham

Counseling and Wellness Services has changed their policy for their service fee for the upcoming school year.

The new semester fee is \$20 and if students opt out of paying this semester fee then there will be a fee of twenty dollars each time Counseling and Wellness Services is used.

“Having a system in place that forces students to pay \$20 for each visit if they didn’t sign up before school started for the single \$20 is counter productive in helping the issue of college mental issues. Depression, stress, and anxiety or losses can happen at any given moment that might need multiple days of counseling but paying \$20 for each session, sends the message to not go get help. Instead, make the first session \$30 instead of \$20 if they didn’t pay that at the beginning of the year and make the rest of the session free. This way students feel like they can get help and afford having their issues heard and helped,” said Mason Koster, a freshman at Wright State.

Robert Rando, the director of Counseling and Wellness Services says the reason for the fee is to increase funding for student needs.

“The goal of the fee is to increase funding so that we could better meet the needs of students. This includes the addition of a new Life Coaching service at CWS. The Life Coaching service will provide an opportunity for students who have issues that they are struggling with but are not in need of therapy to receive assistance in solving problems and/or improving their academic, artist, or athletic performance,” Rando said.

Counseling and Wellness Services provide psychological assessments, life coaching, group therapy, and individual therapy for students, according to their website.

The department has offered psychological assessments and therapy in the past, but the life coaching program is new this semester.

Students have mixed reactions to the new fee though.

“When a student lives on campus their priorities change and the stress created by school and other students have a higher impact on their mind. I believe students living on campus shouldn’t have to pay for therapy due to this exact reason,” said Zack Corbean, a freshman at Wright State.

Bailey Wyan, a freshman at Wright State believes the system isn’t for students.

“I think it is a system that favors the university’s well being over the Student’s,” Wyan said.

Counseling and Wellness Services is located in the Student Union. Their services has a 24-hour crisis hotline available for students.

“I think counseling and wellness is very important especially in the lives of high school and college kids. High school and college kids are bombarded with class assignments and studying while trying to balance working, friends, and family in between,” said Morgan Fleenor, a Wright State freshman.

The new fee will benefit students by allowing Counseling and Wellness Services to provide higher quality services for students but some students still have questions and differing opinions.

Career Talks – Career Discovery: I Wanna Be A T-Rex
September 3, 2019
By Shaddia Qasem

Career Services will be hosting the Career Talks event 'Career Discovery: I Wanna Be a T-Rex' on Sept. 3 from 2-2:45 p.m. and Sept. 6 from 11-11:45 a.m. in the Dunbar Library, room 441.

The presentation will focus on the topic of figuring out what you want to be when you grow up.

Working together as a team, career advisors Cindy Garman, Mariann Weiss and David Toller will be going over tips and advice on how students can find the right career path for them and how Career Services can help.

"We want them to know what's out there, what they can access [and] what kind of help [there is] to hopefully encourage them to participate," said Garman.

Career Services branches off into specific colleges as well, giving students of different majors the opportunity to benefit.

"Career Services has gone through an evolution," said Lisa Duke, assistant director of Career Services. "Last year our team of career advisors served College of Science and Math, Nursing, College of Education and Human Services as well as other colleges. Now we have career people in each college. Once a student works with [an advisor] and decides on their major and has an idea of their career path, they'll meet with that career person in that specific college and develop a career plan, implement it, start getting themselves ready to market for internships or co-ops, then that turns into being ready for a career when they graduate."

For those just beginning the college journey, Career Services created Career Land, a map that helps students learn all the steps they need to take through their years of college to graduate and become alumni.

Career Services offer various resources to help students decide what path they would like to take and how to get there. Students will be the ones making their own decisions.

"We will never tell a student what to do but we will give them options and information so they can make that decision themselves," said Duke. "If you want to have a good conversation and get good information and build a relationship with a career advisor or consultant, you need to meet with us."

When utilizing Career Services, advisors get to know and build a relationship with the student and prepare for a career of their choosing.

For students who might be hesitant of meeting with a career advisor, Career Services are here to provide information needed to succeed in the career of your choosing.

“I think people always associate Career Services as having to be a very serious presentation, workshop [or] meeting,” said Weiss. “When you think about it, it’s two people meeting. [In] my first meeting, I want to get to know a student. When you know more about people, you do a better job advising them when you have more information.”

'We're Ready For A Fresh Start': The Aftermath Of A Faculty Union Strike
September 3, 2019
By Sarah Cavender

Following a strike that fostered months of distrust and anger on all sides, Wright State University administration said they're taking a series of steps to rebuild trust within the campus community.

"I hesitate to use the word heal," said Dr. Susan Edwards, the university's provost. "I think what we really need to do is reconnect and re-engage with one another. Us and them is not the way to rebuild a relationship together."

But interviews with dozens of students, faculty, staff, and administrators said trust continues to be an issue, some six-months after the three-week strike ended.

"You know when you have a strike like that there is division, and the things that occurred during that strike, it's going to take time to build trust back. It doesn't happen overnight," said Representative Rick Perales, whose 73rd Ohio House district includes Wright State.

Wright State administrators have begun a number of initiatives;

Dr. Cheryl Schrader, university president, said she's organizing brown bag lunches with small groups of faculty from around the university. "I think it's a great way to hear from faculty without a dean in between," she said.

Edwards plans to meet with faculty, staff, and students to hear their concerns calling it a 'stump the chumps' session where people can ask her anything.

The university will host small group sessions with faculty, staff and administrators to build relationships and improve dialogue.

The university's The Longest Table event will focus on how to promote the positive aspects of Wright State.

After going without a contract for two years, the American Association of University Professors Wright State chapter (AAUP-WSU) and administration negotiated, went through fact-finding and exchanged contract offers. When the sides couldn't agree on a new deal, the board of trustees, on Jan. 4, implemented a contract. The union responded by going on strike for 20 days.

"We have a new contract, we have a lot of people in new positions and it's time to start fresh," said Dr. Noeleen McIlvenna, president for the Wright State chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

The task of rebuilding trust and communication lay against the backdrop of declining enrollment during the fall semester that started last week.

Wright State expects enrollment to drop by 16 percent year-over-year decline in enrollment that could cost the university \$18 million in lost tuition.

Another part of the university's communication plan involves showing employees how they can "play a role in recruiting Wright State students," according to information Wright State provided.

State Representative Fred Strahorn, the House Minority Leader who serves on the Higher Education Committee, believes focusing on what makes Wright State successful will help in bringing unity to the campus community.

"You need to look for common ground, focus on success stories. Nothing brings people together like winning. Where can you be successful? At the end of the day, you both have the same goal but maybe a different path to get to it. There might be different pressures on one than the other, but focusing on where the success can happen can be a good catalyst," said Strahorn.

Daniel Palmer, former President of the Student Government Association, encouraged everyone to come together for the good of the university.

Palmer encouraged all sides to overcome "our past and looking for the best in people and trying to move forward. You need to love where you work and go to school. Division is not going to get us any further."

'We have a long way to go'

Across campus, many see the decrease in tension since the end of the strike in February of 2019, but unanimously members of the campus community say we have a long way to go to trusting one another again.

"I welcome anything and any initiative they [administration] try, anything can be improved from last year," said McIlvenna.

According to both President Schrader and Provost Edwards, the focus needs to be reshifted to the common core of why everyone works at Wright State.

"We've lost the art of communication at the conversational level, how do we rebuild that conversation on campus and really see each other as individuals?" said Provost Edwards. "We are all here for the same reason, we have more commonalities than we have differences and how do we reconnect those?"

Terms such as labor peace are being reiterated by members of both the AAUP-WSU and Wright State administration.

"Higher education is in a real challenging time, what happened here is not an anomaly, the fact that we have labor peace through 2023, no one else can say that," said Schrader.

With enrollment in question as the fall semester numbers start to become more clear, the students on campus are beginning to move forward after months of division and frustration but not without impacting the community.

Parents like Chris Swolls were unsure of Wright State's stability. When it came time for her oldest son, Blake, to look at schools, Wright State wasn't on the list.

Blake had enrolled in College Credit Plus early in high school, which allows students to take high school and college classes simultaneously. An outstanding student with excellent grades, Blake was set to graduate from Franklin High School and Sinclair Community College and was planning on studying mechanical engineering.

Swolls' son considered the University of Dayton, Purdue University, and the Ohio State University, among many others.

"When it came to hearing about the teacher strike and all the things that were going on it seemed like too much of a risk," said Swolls. "When it came to all the things that went on at Wright State I never even contacted them."

Wright State a Right Choice?

During the duration of the strike, students began to question if they should leave the university.

The overarching theme from students interviewed: they stayed because they know Wright State was where they wanted to be.

"I was actively thinking about and talking about transferring to [the] University of Cincinnati," said Tyler Boes, Wright State student. "I was trying to figure out if it would set me behind, and how much more it would cost. The thing that kept me here at Wright State was my fraternity. It would have broken my heart to leave them, and as president I couldn't leave them in a bind like that. But transferring was definitely something I considered."

In addition to rebuilding trust, students worry about the long-term impact of the strike.

"We were definitely worried, a strike right at the entrance as your coming into the university probably isn't the best look for people coming in," said admissions ambassador Andrew Batista.

Sophomore Damian Langstaff noted the potential long-term impact.

"When you really look at enrollment, it's not like it's just 'okay we have less people,' it's like it will affect the decisions that Wright State is able to make," said Langstaff. "The students who excelled academically, who said okay Wright State is right for me, based on this situation, they might take their valedictorian self, their 4.0 self, to another school. Wright state might feel that."

Gina Keucher, program director for Student Involvement and Leadership, had the same concerns.

“As the strike went on, and you saw the news, and families posting on Facebook [writing], ‘I’m not going to send my kid to Wright State,’ then you start to think that’s going to affect enrollment, and what is that going to mean? Does that mean more staff lose their jobs?” Keucher said.

In August, Walt Branson, vice president for Finance and Operations and Chief Business Officer, presented a budget for the fiscal year 2019-2020 to the Board of Trustees.

In it, he projected a 16 percent year-over-year decline in enrollment that could cost university \$18 million in lost tuition. The projection shows 13,380 students starting this fall compared to 15,558 last year.

The trust factor may very well be the biggest hill to climb.

Several people interviewed spoke of the lingering damage that continues.

“There is absolutely a lack of trust between students, professors, and administrators,” said Jackson Cornwell, a junior philosophy and political science student. “I don’t think the students trust either side fully, I want to believe the [administration] and professors are trying to repair those bridges but it’ll be a long way until we’re back to where we were.”

Amanda Watkins, associate director of the Veteran Military Center, echoes Cornwell.

“There is a little lack of trust from our students if it could happen again. There is a divide between faculty and staff members and that will be an ongoing effort,” said Watkins.

Randy Gardner, the chancellor of higher education for the state of Ohio, sees a path forward.

“Find areas to agree, areas to collaborate,” said Gardner. “Even if there are continuing differences try to set those aside by accentuating the importance of coming together because the future of administrators, faculty, students, parents of the community, are all impacted by minimizing our differences and accentuating the positives. How well we understand the importance of coming together is really going to say a lot about the future.”

Collaboration is on the minds of those in upper administration as well as those in the faculty union. Since the strike ended on Feb. 10, tensions are beginning to subside.

The Aftermath of a Higher Education Strike

Students have begun to mentally move forward as they begin a new semester and new academic year.

“It’s like when mom and dad are fighting, they try to pit one kid against the other parent,” said Travis Terracino, a senior, who was involved in the Students for Faculty group. “And when it’s finally over, you’re just like thank god I can go outside and play again.”

Students for Faculty members say now, even months later, resentment lingers.

“A good portion of the students that I kept in contact with from the strike, have moved on,” said Kayvan Ehteshmi, a member of Students for Faculty. “But some are still angry, some people still want the president and other (administrators) to resign due to how they conducted themselves during the strike.”

Faculty came back to stress and tension in and out of the classroom.

“When I came back and saw my chair, the first thing I said to her was I’m really disappointed in some of the decisions you made,” said Amelia Hubbard, an anthropology professor in the sociology and anthropology department. “I think they have really negative consequences on our majors and I wish once you saw they were not working you would have changed your strategy. And then I basically gave her a hug and said ‘how are you doing?’”

Jacob Brinkerhoff, a senior who graduated in May, said he noticed a change in atmosphere when the strike ended. Brinkerhoff served as a resident assistant in student housing and worked in the President’s Office, and described the energy being sucked from campus. He noticed students not engaging in campus activities and in the classroom as much.

“It just drained a lot,” said Brinkerhoff, referring to morale, emotions and motivation in and out of the classroom.

In the aftermath of the strike, several people labeled the work stoppage a failure on all sides. Students felt caught in the middle of dispute that didn’t involve them.

Dr. Seth Gordon, director of the Veteran and Military Center, sees a failure in leadership.

“The fact that a strike happened is an incredible failure of the shared governance process here at Wright State. It is very easy to point the finger, but that’s not how leadership works. The students and those of us who are not those people or don’t have the influence, as senior leadership faculty and administration, just watched you try to destroy the campus. So what are we going to do to repair?” Gordon said.

According to President Schrader, the open dialogue is meant to build a foundation so a strike can be avoided in the future. There were many key events that lead up to the strike.

A strike that was years in the making

While the strike happened in 2019, the impetus for the work stoppage actually began years earlier.

Under the administration of former President David Hopkins, Wright State made a number of blunders that cost the university millions.

In investigations by The Dayton Daily News, the university's property and buildings acquisitions, paid settlements, and other losses contributed to the draining \$130 million in reserves. The university pulled out of hosting a 2016 presidential debate after spending at least \$4.3 million to host it. The university cited security and cost issues and now faces several lawsuits as a result of its decision. In 2018, Wright State agreed to pay \$1 million to settle an HB-1 visa case in which the federal government alleged fraud.

And that's not all.

Wright State spent \$850,000 on a logo that wasn't even used, the school scrapped it before publication. Wright State also paid nearly \$2 million more to settle a U.S. Department of Education complaint when the school couldn't show students who received financial aid attended classes. An audit showed contract underbilling and cost overruns cost the university \$4 million.

The damage was so bad, trustees cut \$30.8 million from the fiscal 2017 budget and another \$53 million from the fiscal 2018 budget. Resulting in the cuts to dozens of jobs and even more left vacant.

"We are trying to help you save this university," said Trustee Bruce Langos in an April 2018 budget meeting. "When I see that kind of other-spending going on, it's frivolous to be honest with you. It is ridiculous for us to even be sitting here with you right now, if you're not willing to help yourself."

In the midst of all of this, in 2017, the faculty union contract expired. The AAUP-WSU, with 561 members, came to the bargaining table to find the university hired an outside attorney, setting the tone for the negotiations.

"The relationship has eroded between administration and faculty," said former AAUP-WSU President, Dr. Martin Kich. "We always had a collegial relationship prior to years ago."

Over the next two years, the union and administration met multiple times to hammer out a deal, but couldn't.

The parties met twice in the fall of 2018.

“At the conclusion of the second meeting, the administration’s chief negotiator simply stated that these meetings were a waste of time and he was unwilling to participate in future meetings.” said Dr. Tom Rooney.

Rooney, a faculty member who teaches biological sciences, served on the union’s negotiating committee.

The parties agreed to fact finding, the process in which an independent third party reviews the unresolved articles in the contract from both sides.

The factfinder issued a report that agreed with several university proposals, including greater layoff flexibility, no pay raises during the life of the contract, increase furlough days, and changes in overall health coverage.

In November of 2018, the board of trustees approved the report. The union overwhelmingly rejected it by a vote of 467-12.

Negotiations again were at a standstill.

On Jan. 4, the Wright State Board of Trustees voted to impose what it termed its best, final contract offer. The union quickly rejected the deal and, on Jan. 14, filed with the Ohio State Employees Relations Board an intent to strike on Jan. 22.

On Jan. 18, the union sent a letter to the administration and asked them to meet. Rooney said Wright State negotiators never responded.

That set the stage for a 20-day strike that would become the longest in Ohio higher education history.

Preparing for the Worst

Faculty reiterated they did not want to strike, but were prepared.

“I just told myself, I’ve been poor before,” said Dr. Noeleen McIlvenna, current union president and history professor, who was on the executive committee during the strike. “I grew up pretty poor. I can live on less than I live on because I have. There are certain bigger principles here, and what’s it all for if you can’t stand up for them? Yes, there’s a cost.”

The walkout was doubly painful for McIlvenna because her husband, Dr. Lance Greene, also went on strike.

Like McIlvenna and Greene, faculty members faced the choice of no pay, no insurance, and no benefits during their time on strike. Wright State, in a press release, said about 270 union

members taught during the strike. The union, in its own release, said about 300 faculty went on strike. With 561 members in the union, the numbers nearly match.

"I'm a single-income household, so all of the benefits and health care come from me and my job. And they were all suspended," said Dr. Liam Anderson, a political science professor. "It's kind of scary not knowing when the end point is.... if something had happened to my family during that period we would have had to pay for medical expenses out of pocket."

'It was a scary time'

Students of the university had known bits and pieces of information but no one knew what to expect before the faculty walk-out happened.

The night before the Jan. 22 walkout, Wright State students received email and notification alerts that the campus would remain open despite the anticipated strike. Wright State's official social media began to promote a "Go to Class" campaign and emails informed students attendance would be taken in classrooms.

Publicly, Wright State ensured it was ready with instructors and adjuncts to cover courses where professors walked out. But some students arrived for class with no faculty and quickly grew upset.

"I drive nearly 45 minutes for my classes and two of the three were affected by the strike," said Rachel Karnehm, a sophomore mechanical engineering student. "I was walking into class, and my professors were standing outside of the classroom not teaching and I was really frustrated and really disappointed. Like this has gone too far, this was ridiculous. I'm sitting in a classroom where you're supposed to be teaching me and you're not. You're outside standing, screaming at the top of your lungs about something that doesn't even involve me."

Students weren't the only ones frustrated. Dawne Dewey said library staff, charged with offering alternative course work during the strike, felt "punished."

"We were told at the beginning of the strike no vacations, you're not allowed to take any time off, if you have a medical issue you have to get a note from your doctor proving you were at the doctor," said Dewey, the Head of Special Collections and Archives. "So the staff felt like we were being punished, we're all adults and professional people who have invested a lot in the university and now all of a sudden were being treated like a school kid who had to get a note. That was hard to swallow. It was all hands on deck and the staff had to keep the university open if the faculty went out. We've already lost a lot of staff through the financial crisis and yet we were being asked to hold down the fort and cover classes."

And then divisions started.

Students for Faculty formed to support their professors. The group arranged marches from the middle of campus to the entrance to join striking faculty, chanting and holding signs. Outside the Office of the President, two separate sit ins were staged. One lasted more than 24 hours.

Students used social media to lash out. One twitter exchange resulted in a student calling a member of student government “a liar and a coward.”

The rhetoric escalated.

According to a Wright State University police report, a former student called RaiderConnect on Feb. 7 and threatened several times to kill the administrator responsible for student enrollment services. The report said the caller was angry about “the strike and classes being held in limbo.” The caller filled out a criminal trespass report but no charges were filed.

Students painted the picture of classes in turmoil. One student sat in class with headphones on while a substitute tried to lecture. Students were confused whether they needed to sign attendance sheets during the strike. Others scrawled notes on blackboards with succinct messages including “thanks for nothing.” Another wrote a longer note that said: “Two classes in a row, we showed up, and no one from the university showed up to take attendance. Thank you for ‘caring’ for your students.”

‘A fresh start’

Months later, the rhetoric is adjusting of one from ‘they and us’ to ‘together’.

“In my mind, one of the best ways to move forward is together, creating the future for this institution,” said Schrader.

With a shift toward restoring Wright State’s community to being whole and undivided by politics, the two parties are beginning their work to rebuild trust.

“We are all the same, we are all here for the same mission,” said Edwards. “Working together is the way forward. There is no you, us and them. I always come back to my core mission, students. But we all have to communicate and that takes work.”

President Schrader praised the staff for its professionalism during a tough time.

“The staff that worked through the strike were tremendous,” Schrader said. “There’s no other way to describe it. This was a burden for everyone. It was a new territory that there was no playbook for. We were astounded by the staff of the support and investment, what lengths people went to make sure the students got what they needed.”

With the semester now in week two, the community has begun to come together again in more ways than one. Between Fall Fest and the anticipation for Homecoming Week, students are

rebuilding their divide. The administration has begun meeting with faculty to begin their open dialogue.

These are just steps in the process of 'reconnecting and re-engaging' a community.

Dayton's Not Dead: Bridge Cafe
September 4, 2019
By Marissa Couch

Bridge Café is an on-campus hot spot for students. Attached to the Honors dorms, this café is a hidden gem.

Their hours are 6-12 p.m. Sunday through Thursday. They are closed over the summer.

All of the employees are Wright State students. Averi Vance is one of the longest-employed baristas at the café.

"The Bridge has always been a really great place to hang out," said Vance. "I lived in the Honors dorms my first year and this was the perfect place to come to study, to relax and enjoy any events and meet new people. It has a really laid-back vibe, and really good food and drinks."

Mondays and Thursdays are Chick-Fil-A nights at the café. This gives students the opportunity to use their dining dollars to purchase a sandwich that couldn't normally be purchased with the Wright One card.

Tuesdays are "Free Wiener Wednesday, on a Tuesday" hosted by volunteers from Be Hope Church. August 27th was the first of the semester, and they ran out of hot dogs 30 minutes into the event due to such high interest.

As of this semester, Bridge Café is under new management. Kailey Waal, originally from Mount Vernon, Ohio, has stepped into the manager position and is very hopeful of this year with her staff.

"It was really fun because everyone was hanging out and mingling while they waited for their hot dogs. They could buy a drink or play lawn games," said Waal.

Waal has previous barista experience but being a manager is new territory. She agrees that starting during the first week of classes was the perfect way to jump into her new position.

"It's a good place to just chill in the evenings after class and just decompress. People say it's a relaxing atmosphere, it's very homey. We always have something fun going on," said Waal.

Greeks Gear Up For Fall Formal Recruitment

September 4, 2019

By Laci Wells

“Fall Formal Recruitment is a process that women can participate in,” said Emily Green, president of College Panhellenic Council. “It takes place over a weekend where girls will meet and interact with each of the six College Panhellenic chapters that are on campus.”

Orientation is held Sept. 4 and 5 from 6-9 p.m. to address any questions that may arise regarding the induction process to sorority life.

Following orientation, actual recruitment is Sept. 6-8.

“September 9 is bid day, which is when the women receive their bids from the chapter and to get to celebrate with their new sorority sisters,” said Green.

Recruitment day will consist of counselors passing out name tags to those who have joined. The women will then be assigned groups that will spend time getting to know each chapter.

“Inside the rooms, women should expect to talk about themselves, what their interests are and what their personal values are. They can also expect the chapters to share what values they have and what their sisterhood looks like,” said Green.

When the day comes to an end, the women will be asked to rate the chapters from one to six.

Sororities can be found at events like Fall Fest and April Craze and are very passionate about volunteering and raising money for foundations. Move in Day is another prime time where sororities lend a helping hand.

“We are also a part of the effort in having Party in the Woods each year,” said Green.

A lot of sororities spend most of their time and effort at their philanthropy.

Sororities are on social media to keep their followers updated when it comes to what they’re participating in.

“Follow everyone so that you can see how awesome they are,” said Green. “It’s such an exciting event and it truly is a way to find your people in a home away from home.”

Welcome Week For Fall 2019
September 5, 2019
By Natalie Cunningham

After new students move in to residence halls, orientation follows.

The Director of Orientation, Don Miller, collaborates with Wright State University to plan both fall and summer orientation events.

"[My favorite part was] definitely getting to know the other people on campus," said Caleb Wasserback, a Wright State freshman.

Miller works with food service, academic advising, student life, facilities and all of the organizations and departments on campus to make orientation activities a cohesive experience.

"It was kind of cool seeing what the dorms looked like and they told me how the tunnels worked and really helped me out," said Shakwon Ice, a Wright State freshman.

According to Miller, there were over 700 people at the orientation kickoff event. There was a lot of student participation and involvement.

"I especially liked the Party in the Woods, that was great. And the inflatables and everything, they were a great first night thing," said Shaina Huffman, a Wright State freshman.

There were more orientation leaders this year than in previous years. In the past, the group ratio was 1:40 but this year it was roughly 1:20. According to Miller, this improves personal connections and student attention.

"Yeah, [it is important for new students to attend] because you get to meet a lot of new people," said Kyla Barker, a Wright State freshman.

According to Milo Simpson, orientation coordinator, orientation went well, and they were able to solve most, if not all, of the problems students had.

This year, the program was slightly modified to help incorporate transfer students and their transition to a new college.

According to Aaron Brautigam, orientation coordinator, there were 14 orientation mentors and two coordinators this year. There were roughly 18 orientation programs this summer.

WSU Welcomes 800 New Students On Move In Day
September 5, 2019
By Natalie Cunningham

Wright State University's annual Move-In Day was Aug. 22 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. According to Dan Bertso, director of Residence Life and Housing, 893 new students were signed up to move into campus housing. This was the 28th year of Operation Move-In, according to Wright State University.

"It ends up being about 1900 [students] between the returning students and the new students. This year it's about half and half," said Bertso.

The freshman class of 2023 is the most ethnically-diverse class with 26 different countries being represented. Around a dozen countries are represented in on-campus housing, according to Bertso.

"It was very quick. It felt very timed-out, like they knew exactly what they were doing," said Noah Scott, a freshman at Wright State who lives on campus.

Bertso's job is focused on the residents and their campus living experiences. Bertso is responsible for the Resident Assistants, business office and housing facilities.

"[I was impressed by] how nice everyone was," said Jacob Poling, a freshman who lives on campus. They were very happy to move your boxes and stuff and bring them into your rooms. Everyone was just very organized and fast."

Returning students moved in on Aug. 24. There are 29 residence halls on campus to accommodate all the new and returning students.

"I thought [Move-In Day] went really smoothly. Everyone was so nice!" said Morgan Tomlinson, a freshman who lives on campus.

There were over 150 move-in day staff and 300 student volunteers. There were many faculty and community volunteers.

"I thought [my move-in experience] was really good," said Katelyn Yoder, a freshman who lives on campus. "[the best part was] probably meeting new people."

Black Presidents Council Hosts Black Welcome Week

September 6, 2019

By Shaddia Qasem

Kicking off a fun-filled week to start fall semester at Wright State University, The Black Presidents Council hosted Black Welcome Week.

“All, if not most, of the black organizations on campus came together to plan a welcome week targeted to the African-American/African-descent students on WSU campus,” said Precious Claytor, president of Black Student Union (BSU). “The purpose is to continue to promote unity within the Black community on campus [as well as] visibility on campus.”

Organizations such as BSU, Black Women Striving Forward (BWSF), Association of Black Business Students (ABBS), Student Union (ASU), African-American Resident Caucus (AARC), National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) hosted several events each day of the week.

ASU and BWSF teamed up to host Round Table Talk, an event with hopes of inspiring and encouraging freshmen to make the most out of their time at Wright State.

“The talk was geared towards freshmen,” said Tara-Yesomi Wenegieme, president of ASU. “We encouraged upperclassmen to come to share their stories, advice, as well as opportunities and resources on campus to use in order to succeed. We wanted to see why they decided to go to college and what they hope to get from WSU and the community as well as organizations on campus.”

Other events that took place during the week included The Black Org Pitstop, hosted by BSU, The Road to College, hosted by BWSF and ASU, Academic Decoded Series: Welcome Reception, hosted by NPHC, Ice cream Chill out, hosted by AARC and ABBS, and Roadside BBQ, hosted by NAACP and NSBE.

“For our collaboration event with ASU we wanted to have a round table discussion about expectations, goals and reasons for coming to college,” said Savannah Jackson, president of BWSF. “With the help of upperclassmen and student leaders, our event succeeded in providing an inclusive and ‘less-stressful’ discussion about college life. When collaborating the event, our intention was to inspire students to create goals/expectations. Hopefully our event impacted those who came and inspired them to be proactive about the school year.”

“The NPHC Academic Decoded Series is an annual series that happens through a collaboration with the student success center and their academic services,” said Claytor. “The series usually takes place once a week throughout fall semester. Each day in their series covers topics like studying tips, math help, and paper revisions, etc. The actual Academic Decoded Series-

Welcome Reception is just an event where students can get to know NPHC members and more information about the series. There should be icebreaker games and more. This series is something NPHC prides themselves on, because all nine Black Greek Letter Organizations promote higher education especially in Black community.

Ready For A New Semester Wright State? Here Are Tips To Study Better:

September 5, 2019

By Alexis Wisler

To help students succeed in the new school year, Wright State University tutors Adam Wilson, a grad student majoring in school counseling, and Noah Berner, a junior majoring in biology, share favorite study tips and methods.

Start now

“Don’t wait until after your first exam to realize you need to study,” said Berner.

Berner suggests studying material ahead of time and not waiting until right before, or after, the first big test. Students should set aside time every day to study for each class, for as short as five minutes, and review information they already know or are struggling with.

Learn what your professor expects of you

“Get familiar with your instructor’s expectations, because they will probably be different than high school,” said Wilson.

Each professor sets different standards for students. Students knowing what is expected of them on tests and assignments ensures that they study the right information.

Find a location that work

When deciding where to study, students should pick a place that generates an efficient study session. Students should consider if their location feels comfortable.

Limit distractions

“You can focus on what you need to do and push everything else to the side,” said Wilson.

When deciding on when and where to study, students should ensure that they are free from distractions. A distraction-free environment allows for full immersion in the material.

Prioritize assignments

“If you start with the big [assignments] and go to the little [assignments] you’ll have less and less to do and it’ll make you feel like you’ve accomplished more,” said Berner.

Make a list of upcoming assignments and what to study; start with the biggest concept and work down to easier ones. Doing this allows most energy for bigger assignments.

Study important information

“Try to outline the chapter and focus on the biggest points,” said Wilson.

When studying a specific chapter or module, reading the entire thing is less effective than covering big topics. Outline the big topics and determine the important information for each.

Focus on one task at a time

Wilson and Berner recommend students focus on one subject until they feel confident in it before moving on to the next to reduce stress.

Remember that classes are only one semester long

“Everything is a lot more condensed and fast-paced,” said Wilson.

Because college courses move quicker than high school classes, Wright State offers several resources to assist students in the studying process. Tutoring services are held in the Student Success Center and some classes have their own Supplemental Instruction. Students are encouraged and welcomed to take part in these programs.