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Wright State Student Body

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The Wright State GUARDIAN

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Weekly Horoscopes
Star Signer
February 17, 2020

The stars have so much in store for you this week!

ARIES

Mercury retrograde begins early this week, illuminating the home and family sector of your life. Be cautious of miscommunications and delays. Shake-ups in your career arrive soon, thanks to the upcoming eclipse in the north star. The stars know that your 9-5 is hard but refrain from running away to join the circus.

TAURUS

Your ruling planet begins to turn sideways this week, so watch out for some strange deja vu vibes this week. Dreams may become a reality. Many of the conversations you've had over the last month or so will resurface for reconsideration! Important information is soon coming to light.

GEMINI

Mercury retrograde begins in Neptune's moon, finding you rethinking your financial commitments and budget. Do you really need a pet iguana dear Gemini? Consider if you are spending money on impulse buys to cope with stress.

CANCER

The Moon connects with a fiery purple meteor named Lu who will bring you luck this week Cancer. It will also put you in a reminiscing mood, causing you to rethink the commitments and conversations you might have had this winter.

LEO

The Moon is in hardworking mood, encouraging you to get organized—which won't be easy thanks to some shake-ups taking place at work. You're so ready to break free from your obligations and do your own thing! Try to stay on task through this week dear Leo.

VIRGO

The Moon has a strange shadow over its face, finding you in a playful mood. Unexpected news arrives Thursday, your calendar is already getting full. Learn to say no this week and don't overbook yourself!

LIBRA

The sun is emitting higher beams of light lately, lighting up the home and family sector of your chart. And while you're itching to get cozy with loved ones, you're also feeling very eager to break free from obligations you're not into anymore.

SCORPIO

The Earth is spinning which brings news your way Scorpio! Someone you're not as close to as you used to be, will text you with some great news! Shake-ups in your relationships arrive too. Causing you to rethink your relationship to the public and on social media.

SAGITTARIUS

The Moon is in Capricorn, lighting up the financial sector of your chart, Sagittarius. Conflicts in your schedule find you craving more freedom and flexibility. Mercury retrograde is nearly here, causing you to reflect on your beliefs.

CAPRICORN

The Moon might be rotating at a different angle than normal, Capricorn, encouraging you to practice some self-love! Big changes are in the works in the coming weeks, finding you eager to break free from commitments that don't fulfill your heart's desires. Have no fear, these changes will bring you closer to your friend circles.

AQUARIUS

Be gentle with yourself this week, Aquarius. The stars ask you to conserve your energy, which won't be easy since the to create big shifts in your home life and relationships. These shifts will bring you luck and good fortune though.

PISCES

The Moon in Capricorn finds you in a social mood, Pisces. However, watch out for surprising news Thursday, as well as shake-ups in your schedule. Plans will begin to overlap and your commitments might be piling up. Remember to take a day to meditate and think on your financial decisions.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

UPDATE: Negotiations to continue between Teamsters and university
Natalie Cunningham
February 17, 2020

UPDATED 2/17: The teamsters have developed some new proposals that they believe will benefit both the Teamster bargaining group and the university, according to Tom Bellew, facilities operations employee.

The next meeting between the university and the Teamsters is set for Feb. 25.

“The university has no public update on the status of negotiations and the potential Teamsters strike at this time, according to Seth Bauguess, the director of the Department of Communications.”

The Teamsters Local 957 has filed a 10-day strike notice with the State Employment Relations Board and will begin striking on Feb. 3. The union and university have been trying to mediate contractual disagreements for several weeks now.

The Teamsters are comprised of facilities and maintenance employees. This includes HVAC, plumbers, electricians, MNRs, custodial, floor-care, bus drivers, grounds department, parking and water treatment, according to Tom Bellew, facilities operations employee.

The university made their last best and final offer after the strike notice was received. The Teamsters did not accept but are hoping to make progress with future negotiations.

[Read the full offer here>>>](#)

“The health insurance, there’s a lot more to it than what the university is letting out on it. It’s a totally different program than what they have now. So, they’re not letting all the true information out on the insurance,” said Bellew.

Last best final offer

Article 9 is miscellaneous and Section 8 covers parking.

Article 14 covers seniority, layoff, and recall.

Article 17 covers wages and Article 25 outlines employee benefits.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Wages will see an increase over the next few years starting in July 2021 a 2.5 percent increase and then an additional increase in July 2022 at 2.5 percent.

The university also opted to withdraw furlough language that was written into the previous offer of the contract.

How we got here:

The university and the Teamsters have been having off-and-on discussions and disagreements regarding health insurance and wages for roughly a year and a half, according to Bellew.

According to the last best and final offer given by the university to the Teamsters on Jan. 23, the university will accept the fact-finder's recommendations on Article 9 and Article 14.

The university and the Teamsters have reached a tentative agreement on Sections 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of Article 17.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

SGA Elections: Petitions are open for campaigning
Natalie Cunningham
February 17, 2020

The Student Government Association (SGA) sent an email to the student body on Feb. 17 to announce that petitions are open for interested candidates.

Positions available include President, Vice President and respective college senators.

The email details a timeline for the petitions and candidate meetings, according to current Student Government President Ivan Mallett.

Petitions and forms become available on Feb. 18. The elections application packets are due on March 1 at 5 p.m.

There will be candidates' meetings on Feb. 27 and 28. Campaigning begins on March 11.

There will also be a meet the candidates event on March 12. Voting begins on March 17 and ends on March 21. Campaigning also ends on March 21. The election results will be posted on March 22, according to SGA's webpage.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

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Music Review: Father of All... by Green Day

Maxwell Patton

February 18, 2020

“Father of All...,” the newest album from American rock band Green Day, was released to the public on Feb. 7.

Running 26 minutes with 10 tracks, the record was preceded by four singles: the titular track “Father of All...,” “Fire, Ready, Aim,” “Oh Yeah!” and “Meet Me on the Roof.”

The album goes in a few different directions and seems to take influence from older Green Day material. However, it never seems to find a cohesive groove, causing the record to seem tame with the sound of millennial dad rock. Still, a few of the tracks on this album are genuinely interesting pieces of alternative rock music, showing how much Green Day has kept their ability to create commercially popular alt-rock songs since the 90s.

Highlights

1. “Meet Me On The Roof”

An abundance of tambourine coupled with an effective bass riff help elevate this tune from a stale existence. Armstrong’s voice works perfectly with this style of track, and it gives me a strong desire to dance. A Green Day song making the listener dance isn’t out of the question, though. It’s absolutely a blast to listen to.

2. “Junkies On A High”

With a bouncing drum beat and simplistic guitar riff, this may be my favorite song from the album. The percussion keeps the piece together as Armstrong reflects on life while his surroundings fall to pieces, and the song illustrates that situation perfectly.

3. “Fire, Ready, Aim”

Green Day has been able to reliably produce catchy radio rock since the days of “Dookie” and this song is no exception. Boasting bountiful guitars and more than enough enthusiastic vocals, the song sounds like it was born to be on the radio, and that’s not at all a bad thing.

Background

Formed in California's East Bay in 1987, Green Day is currently fronted by lead singer and guitarist Billie Joe Armstrong, bassist Mike Dirnt, and drummer Tre Cool. With original drummer John Kiffmeyer, the band was signed to Lookout Records 1988 after the label's owner, Larry Livermore, watched them play an early gig. The next year, the band released their debut extended play, "1000 Hours;" however, they dropped the original name for Green Day, Sweet Children, in order to avoid confusion with another act. The new name was chosen because of the bandmates' love of marijuana.

Kiffmeyer left the band after their first American tour in 1990 for college, and Cool, who was then the drummer for The Lookouts, filled in. Green Day's breakthrough came after signing with Reprise Records and releasing their first album on a major label in 1994. That album, "Dookie," spawned five singles and shot the band into stardom.

Armstrong has stated that the lyrics of "Father of All..." concern "the life and death of the party" along with the "lifestyle of not giving a f—." The record's full title is "Father of All Motherf—ers;" however, that title is only uncensored on the album's limited edition. The new album is also the shortest that Green Day has ever recorded, having five fewer minutes of material than their debut album "39/Smooth."

You can tell that the band is having a ton of fun recording this album. Every track has a certain flair to it that helps differentiate the songs from each other so that the finished product doesn't sound like a manufactured monotonous mess.

However, this new material still feels recycled to the point of being almost stale. Despite these flaws, I would still suggest giving "Father of All..." a listen, because the album isn't a total misfire. Green Day set out to create an engaging album and succeeded, but as they tried to craft a distinct rock record, they missed the mark.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Raiders soccer and cross country honored with two awards

Makenzie Hoferlin

February 18, 2020

This year, Women's Soccer received recognition for their 2019 play and Men and Women's Cross Country received recognition for their outstanding academics during the season.

All-Academic recognition for Cross Country

The combined Men's and Women's Cross Country team received recognition for their academics during the 2019 fall season.

This award comes from the track and field and cross country coaches association aiming to recognize high team GPA's in the region.

"It shows me that all of the hard work I've been doing is truly paying off," said cross country runner Emma Carr. "I put a lot of work into my classes as well as my sport, so it's nice to know that other people are noticing that."

The raiders performed extremely well in academics all across the board.

According to Rick Williamson, Wright State's cross country and track coach, the women had an average GPA around 3.7-3.8, which is pretty high.

"That's pretty remarkable considering all the stuff they have to do," said Williamson.

The men finished with a 3.2 team GPA overall. The men and women combined with a total of 19 athletes and a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Williamson explained that WSU goes out of its way to recruit athletes who perform well academically.

"If we can get a kid who has shown discipline in the classroom coming out of high school, we know they're going to be coachable," said Williamson. "We know in the offseason they are going to work hard and things like that. All of that stuff carries forward into their life as well."

According to Williamson, the cross country program does a great job of accommodating practices for their students and building an environment that creates success.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

“They do still get stressed, especially during exams, but they’re pretty good at balancing those things,” said Williamson. “We go out of our way if we know that a kid has a lot of stuff going on or if they have a really heavy week.”

Williamson reiterated again how phenomenal the athletes were and how skilled they were at balancing their time; one of the key components to do so well.

“It’s just amazing that they are so disciplined; That’s the thing they are just so structured with their time,” said Williamson. “The thing that we always stress is that it’s not like their entire world revolves around academics and athletics, you know, they are involved in other things. They have social lives; It’s just they are really good about structuring their time.”

All-Ohio performers

Members of Wright State’s Women’s Soccer team were also recognized, this time for their play during the 2019 season.

“I think for me, this award made me want to work even harder,” said Johnson. “It also makes me appreciate my team even more too because without them this award wouldn’t have been given to me.”

Senior Jordyne Helinski and Junior Destiny Johnson both received the honor of being named to the All-Ohio Women’s NCAA Division I Second Team.

“Only so many women in NCAA Division I soccer are recognized for their performance and I was super surprised and even happier my teammate and I could have gotten it together,” said Helinski.

Helinski is grateful for her teammates and receiving the award was the cherry on top of an amazing season.

“Individually it meant a lot to me being a senior,” said Helinski. “I couldn’t thank my teammates and coaches, lifting coaches, administration and family more for helping along the way.”

Helinski is choosing to leave on a positive note. Although she will miss the excitement of competition, she will continue to be the soccer team’s number one supporter.

“I’ll cheer for them every moment of every game this fall,” said Helinski.

Johnson is looking forward to next season and thinks there is a lot of potential for the team to do well.

The Wright State
GUARDIAN
MEDIA GROUP

“I feel like we have a lot of work to do to accomplish our goals for the season but I don’t have any doubts that we can’t do it,” said Johnson. “Our effort is never questionable. We just are going to have to work hard because we have to fill the roles of the seniors from last season. I’m excited, I think we can have a great year.”

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

SGA Election Coverage: Potential candidates announced during first week of petitions
Makenzie Hoeflerlin
February 18, 2020

During the first week of petitions, an Instagram page was launched to announce the potential campaign for Wright State students Samantha Baxter and Jacob Jones in the 2020 Student Government Association (SGA) elections.

Currently, petitions are in progress and candidates cannot campaign. However, Baxter and Jones are the first to announce their work toward campaigning.

According to the newly created Instagram page, “@baxterjones4wsu,” Baxter and Jones have announced to run together; Baxter is running for president while Jones is running for vice president.

They are the first students to announce their candidacy.

Samantha Baxter

Baxter has been a member of SGA for three years, serving as the director of academic affairs for two years.

Baxter is an English education and political science major with minors in French and sociology. She is also involved in Model United Nations and 4 Paws for Ability.

“I am excited to be running for student body president and to be able to work for the campus community,” said Baxter. “I want to focus on inclusion and creating a positive environment that calls students into leadership and foster a campus culture that welcomes students of all backgrounds. I look forward to being able to engage with all members of the Wright State University from in-coming students to Lake Campus. In the future, I want to focus on the collaborative focus of student government and sponsor and development effect to benefit the entirety of campus.”

According to the Instagram page, Baxter plans to focus on diversity inclusion within SGA and across campus.

Jacob Jones

Jones has been a member of SGA for two years and is currently serving as chief justice of the executive board.



Jones is a business economics major. He is also involved with Sigma Phi Epsilon as the president of the fraternity.

“One goal I have, if elected, is to promote collaboration between colleges for the betterment of every student on behalf of Wright State,” said Jones.

Election timeline

Petitions for potential candidates opened on Feb. 17 and are open until Feb. 28.

Once petitions are complete, those that gain enough signatures will begin campaigning. This will take place from March 9 to 14.

There will be a Meet the Candidate’s event on March 9 at 4 p.m. in the lower atrium of the Student Union, according to the SGA website.

The public will also be able to see the candidates debate on March 12 in the Apollo Room.

Elections will be from March 14 at noon until March 19 at 5 p.m. in which students will be able to place their vote on WingsExpress.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

What's up with all the laptop stickers?

Alexis Wisler

February 19, 2020

A new trend is emerging with students: laptop stickers. Take a look around Wright State and it becomes clear that students use laptop stickers to express themselves.

But what do these stickers actually mean to students? 10 students explain why they chose their stickers and what they mean to them.

Disney

"I have a lot of Disney stickers because I'm obsessed and my family goes there a lot. I also have some Supernatural stickers because it's my favorite show. One of my stickers is of my friend David Bays. He makes music so I have his sticker to support him," said junior acting major Hailey Marshall.

Sentimental

"My brother gave me all my stickers. They remind me of him and I just think that they are cute," said Lauren Jones, a sophomore nursing major.

Lizards, traveling and politics

"A couple of my stickers are of lizards because I have a lizard. I also have some from the places that I've been to. Also, some are political because I really like politics," said Erica Jones, junior social work major.

Beaches

"My friend and I bought [around] 150 stickers and just split them up. Mine have a beach vibe; it spoke to me because I miss the summer," said Fatema Ahmed, junior applied mathematics major.

Hometown feels

“I have a couple of French stickers because I’m a French major. One says ‘Meuf’ which is slang for ‘the girls’ and another is ‘l’importe quoi’ which is used when someone says something that isn’t really important. I also have the Front Bottoms because they are my favorite band [as well as] a Harry Styles quote. I’m from Cincinnati so I have the Cincinnati skyline,” said Kearstyn Bowen, junior french major.

E

“I have an ‘E’ because my name starts with an ‘E’. Also, I’m an education major so I have a quote about teachers. I also have one that my friend gave me, it’s a saying that she uses all the time,” said Elly Kumbusky, sophomore early childhood education major.

Keeping a theme

“My favorite TV show is Friends so I have a Friends sticker. My favorite color is yellow so I tried to do a yellow theme,” said Katie Peter, freshman early childhood education major.

The Bowie and art

“I have one of David Bowie because he is one of my favorite singers. There is a quote that I think is funny. I went to Amsterdam and there was an artist that I really liked and [the pink one] looks sort of similar to their artwork,” said Savannah Short, undeclared sophomore.

WSU Pride

“Someone was giving out these for free on campus one day and I thought that they would look nice on my laptop, especially because the back is all scratched up so they cover that up,” said Shebie Rose, sophomore math education major.

Fandom

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

“The impeachment one is pretty obvious and so is the equality one. I have a lot of fandom stickers from the Umbrella Academy and one of Iron Man. Freddie Mercury is a pretty big inspiration so that is why I have a sticker of him,” said Angie Wallace, senior psychology major.

Look out for laptop stickers on campus. They are everywhere from classrooms to the library to The Hanger.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Campus crime notes for week of Feb 10

Alexis Wisler

February 19, 2020

Theft and fire were reported on Wright State's campus in the past week.

Fire

On Feb. 8, an active fire was reported and extinguished at the Nutter Center. It was determined to be non-criminal.

Theft

On Feb. 12, theft was reported from Allyn Hall.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Wright State Model UN wins big at Dayton conference

Shaddia Qasem

February 19, 2020

At the 27th Annual Dayton Model UN Conference (DAYMUNC) eight Wright State students won top honors for Outstanding Delegates.

DAYMUNC was held on Feb. 7-8, hosting a number of different regional university teams. Students represented different countries in several simulated committees of the United Nations.

Team wins big

Isabel Pappaterra, senior, was awarded an Honorable Mention certificate as Mexico in Peace Building Commission (PBC).

“Receiving Honorable Mention was a privilege and helped affirm all of the hard work I had done over the last two months,” said Pappaterra. “Representing a state that doesn’t have a lot of policy on a specific subject can be difficult, which is why it’s important to look at the policy they do have with different perspectives. I loved collaborating with other students and essentially solving the world’s problems in the span of a conference. The need for world leaders to come together and work toward solutions to global issues is more important now than ever.”

Pappaterra is a major in rehabilitation services with two minors in Spanish and deaf studies. She is also working toward a certificate in geographic information systems.

Daniel Bowman, four-year member of Model UN, won as Russia in General Assembly (GA).

Bowman is a senior majoring in international studies with a focus on diplomacy and peace.

This was his first win since joining, according to Bowman, he is proud.

“To win in [GA] was my personal highlight to date. The Russian Federation is not an easy nation to represent, half of the delegates are trained not to speak or work with you. For two days I competed and was my best self, never tiring, never stopping. The conference was amazing and was one of my favorite moments [in] my life,” said Bowman.

Leah Dryden, senior in political science, won Outstanding Paper and Honorable Mention Plaque for her role as United States in Security Council.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

“The issue we had to solve was a crisis between the United States and Iran. This could be very stressful at times and empowered me to become a leader in committee and be more assertive when I was brought up. Overall, this conference tested me as a delegate and I’m very thankful for the skills I took away from it,” said Dryden.

This is her second year in Model UN and fourth time at a conference, Dryden usually worked on humanitarian committees.

“My favorite part about Model UN [is] the knowledge I’ve gained, and the community we have built as a team. I’ve been able to represent different countries on a wide range of different topics and committees and this has furthered my knowledge a great deal. I’m very blessed to have the friendships Model UN has given me,” said Dryden.

‘Model UN is teaching young leaders how to respect each other’s differences’

Members also had the opportunity to work with high school students.

“They were all so excited, willing to participate and receptive to the advice the college students would give them; it was such a pleasure having them! I was extremely proud of my student, she accomplished so much in a day and a half and I’m excited to see what she does in the future. Model UN is teaching young leaders how to respect each other’s differences, but still cooperate in resolving pressing world matters,” said Pappaterra.

According to Bowman, the experience through Model UN helped in building skills in leadership and befriending people from Ecuador, Russia, Belgium, Serbia and Nigeria.

“The world may be big, but it’s also small. Even though we are all different, from different nations and have different languages, we are all human in the end,” said Bowman.

Other students’ accomplishments included:

- Gloria Pappaterra, who won as Iran in PBC
- Maribel Santoyo Ariza, who won Honorable Mention Plaque as Brazil in GA
- B Lenz, who won Honorable Mention Plaque as Egypt in PBC

Honorable Mention certificates were awarded to Connor Morrow as Saudi Arabia in GA and Amani Wilson as Russia in PBC.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Dayton's Not Dead: Gem City SoberBar

Marissa Couch

February 20, 2020

Gem City SoberBar started as a vision of a community center from Kristen Domke. Two years later, Domke's plans have come to fruition as the business plans for upcoming events.

Domke is the CEO and sole proprietor of Gem City SoberBar, LLC.

Making a debut

"Dayton is missing mocktails. We need to start moving forward in that direction," said Domke.

Gem City SoberBar held its grand opening event in November. Over 100 people came out to show support, blowing Domke away.

The organization was able to ring in the new year with LORE Storytelling, where even more supporters came out.

"We reach out to different places that we think we could help and they could help us in return. We're all about win-win situations," said Domke.

LORE Storytelling offers classes and consulting for businesses to tell their own story. They are located at 116 W. Fifth St., Dayton, Ohio.

Gem City SoberBar is looking to book many different types of events. They recently hosted at a baby shower and have many different plans for future events.

"We're always looking for partners and ways to connect," said Domke.

The background

When inspiration struck, Domke hadn't originally planned for a sober bar.

UpDayton Project Incubator is a project in which local entrepreneurs can present their ideas of bettering the community. Applicants get the opportunity to pitch their ideas for future support, according to the UpDayton webpage.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

“I started something because I wanted a place to go. There’s nowhere to go besides coffee shops and nightclubs and I want that happy medium,” said Domke.

Domke celebrates a year and five months of sobriety by working diligently to get the name Gem City SoberBar out into the Dayton community.

“I never thought people would be interested in this. It’s not just for those in sobriety, it’s for the healthy conscious, and anyone else, really,” said Domke.

Brian Petro of Smart Guy in a Tie Cocktails has been part of the movement since Gem City SoberBar’s opening.

“Working with Gem City SoberBar and Kristen has been a delightful experience. Non-alcoholic drinks, mocktails, have been a growing trend around the country for a while, and it is nice to see it in Dayton,” said Petro. “There are so many people looking for an alternative to cocktails at the moment that SoberBar drinks can be a great alternative to a night out. Or an option at an event for people that do not want to drink.”

Focus group

Gem City SoberBar has plans to ask questions about what the consumer would like when it comes to the environment as well as preferred mocktails.

“Atmosphere and community through connection is it, we’re trying to make that. We want to cater it through the people,” said Domke.

Those interested can email gemcitysoberbar@yahoo.com to inquire about taking part in the focus group.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Wright through my eyes: Jonathan Ciero

Shaddia Qasem

February 20, 2020

Wright State is home to an abundance of students with different backgrounds and stories to tell. Jonathan Ciero, material science, and engineering major has ambitious plans for the future.

Growing up in a military family, Ciero was born in England, living there for a total of nine years, and later completed high school in Germany. Throughout his life, Ciero has traveled to Ireland, England, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxemburg, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Czech Republic, Poland, Croatia, Greece, Turkey, Mexico, Canada and portions of Spain.

With plans to do a master's program in aeronautics in aerospace, Ciero's dream job is to work with an aerospace company.

"If I can say that I've helped design the rocket ship that's taking people beyond Mars, that would be awesome. I've always enjoyed the thought of working for NASA. The thought of what some companies are doing today with SpaceX is crazy," said Ciero.

Campus involvement

Ciero is a learning assistant in physics, the engineering and computer science senator for Student Government Association (SGA), on the Dean's Student Advisory Board and part of the club bowling team that is ranked 12th in the nation.

As one of his most enjoyed pastimes, bowling was a big part of why Ciero chose to attend WSU.

"I knew when I was going through my college search that I wanted to bowl for whatever university I went to. I bowled in Cleveland and the coaches from the WSU team were there. I met them and came to visit the campus and loved the area. I couldn't say no to WSU, I absolutely love it here."

As a percussionist through middle school and high school, Ciero had the opportunity to play with a high school band in Disneyland Paris.

"I've lived over half my life in [other countries]; it gives me a lot of awesome experiences and gives me a unique background."

In his spare time, Ciero enjoys watching Netflix, playing games on Xbox, watching videos about space on YouTube and playing board games with his family.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

“I got my family into euchre. I learned [it] here and the first summer I went back and saw my parents, I showed it to them. They play it all the time. We love escape rooms [as well]; that’s something we do as a family all the time and we love it.”

‘Humble, credible, approachable’

Living most of his life overseas, Ciero has also lived in several states, including Texas, Kansas, Alabama, North Carolina and Boston and hopes to one day visit Colorado.

“The Western half of the world has escaped me; that’s definitely my goal is to get out there. My goal is to be on every continent.”

Throughout all the places he has been, Ciero has enjoyed living in England the most. From theater to castles to the White Cliffs of Dover, the English culture is an exceptional one.

Striving to be the best person he can be, Ciero takes inspiration from his father.

“My dad has always instilled in me three different values: humble, credible, approachable. That’s something that I always try to live for. Being someone that people aren’t afraid to come up to and talk or ask questions is something I carry around everywhere I go.”

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Retain the Nine: Working on and off-campus

Alexis Wisler

February 20, 2020

Retain the Nine is currently working on projects both off and on campus to boost retention rates and to help students succeed.

Retain the Nine is a collaboration between Student Government Association (SGA) and Black Men on the Move and is working closely with Wright State University President Sue Edwards on several initiatives.

“Retain the Nine’s overall mission, to me, is to provide resources and opportunities to underrepresented minorities for the betterment, growth, and success of their personal and professional life,” said Kevin Jones, founder and task force vice-chair of Retain the Nine.

Mentorship program

One initiative that Retain the Nine is currently working on and hopes to launch later this semester is a mentorship program with Westwood Elementary. This mentorship program will be an eight-week program where Westwood sixth graders will come to WSU after school and work on their homework as well as work on their professional development.

“They’ll do some form of personal or professional development activity, homework, [studying] and then we’ll end off with a community relationship-building activity as well,” said Jones.

According to Jones, this mentorship program is important for the community to stop the school-to-prison pipeline system for minority students and build positive relationships with younger students so that they feel ready for college when they graduate high school.

Alert system

Another project that Retain the Nine is working on is their Alert System. This program has already been launched on campus but Retain the Nine is constantly trying to improve it for the benefit of students. With the Alert System, students who are falling behind in classes or repeatedly being marked absent in classes are given direct contact to speak with a student success coach to figure out and work through the cause of their academic troubles.

Student success coaches

Working directly with students, student success coaches are there to help students with any problems they might be facing during their time at WSU. Currently located in the Student Retention Team office, student success coaches work first-hand to improve retention rates.

“Think of it like a mother or a father or someone on campus who you can go to for any resource. Whether someone has a financial issue or academics or anything in particular, we will be there for them,” said Edgar Malcom, student retention associate for the Student Retention Team.

The Student Retention Team office and student success coaches are located in 023 Student Union.

Student ‘X’ model and data collection

Retain the Nine is in the process of restarting the Student ‘X’ Model, which is a model to identify students who might be at risk for dropping out or falling behind in their classes. According to Retain the Nine, they are currently looking through data and requesting more information in order to determine what Student ‘X’ looks like. Retain the Nine hopes to have the Student ‘X’ Model up and running by this summer semester.

Vice president of inclusive excellence

There is no current search for this position, but according to Retain the Nine, Edwards expects to begin a search this calendar year. This position would act as a voice for minority students and help improve retention rates at WSU by advocating for at-risk students.

“I think that position is just having someone with a seat at the table in the president’s leadership team who can advocate for students that don’t look like most students here. I think that it is just an invaluable asset for us to advocate and understand where a lot of these students are coming from,” said Adrian Williams, task force chair for Retain the Nine.

Retain the Nine hopes that all programs will begin by the end of this semester or during the summer semester.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

“My great hope is that this student-lead collaboration from SGA and Black Men on the Move, Retain the Nine, as well as our other retention initiatives that include working on peer-to-peer mentoring programs and bringing in four new retention managers, will give these students the critical support they need to thrive at Wright State so they can get all the way to the finish line of earning their degree,” said Edwards.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Club highlights at Lake Campus

Roxanne Roessner

February 20, 2020

The Lake Campus has a number of clubs and organizations that are open for students to join. Students are encouraged to participate within the campus.

While these are not all of the clubs on campus, students check out Engage if they are interested in learning more about each club.

According to Candace Philpot, events and engagement coordinator, “involvement can expose students to networking and professional development opportunities.”

Psychology Club

The Psychology Club, run by Michelle Smith, is open to all students, even if they are not psychology majors. The goal of the club is to supply students with information and resources to help them succeed after college.

They participate in several events including a food drive in November, socials and even a Halloween Costume Contest every fall semester.

According to Smith, students are able to join this club through Engage and will be sent regular updates on club activities. The club meets once a month and costs nothing to join, though members are asked to participate in helping run one activity if they are interested in attending outings funded by the club.

The Business and Graphic Professionals

Teresa Richter is the head of the Business and Graphic Professionals at the Lake Campus. This organization is student-run and lets its members gain exposure within the fields of Business and Graphics.

According to their Engage page, the club’s mission is to prepare students for their upcoming field by investigating “creative problem solving, professional practice, theory, history, culture and the self.” Students are able to join the organization on tours of companies, hosted speakers and events on campus.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

According to Richter, meetings are twice a month and anyone in the graphic design or business majors are able to join at <https://wright.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/business-and-graphic-professionals>.

Glee Club

The Glee Club performs a mix of music with singers and instrumentalists at least twice a year. The performers are in costumes at theme-based programs and intertwine some choreography along with their music, according to Advisor Dr. Dane Daniel.

The club performs at graduation and takes field trips to see musical and theatrical performances. Students can contact the club president, Bethany Shimp, at shimp.9@wright.edu or Dr. Daniel at dane.daniel@wright.edu. Students can also leave a message at 419-586-0390.

Natural Science Student Association

The Natural Science Student Association, represented by Chasalin Cobb, participates in several community services, one of which is the Adopt-A-Highway initiative through the Ohio Department of Transportation. They have arranged several fundraisers for nonprofit organizations such as animal shelters and Hero Dogs Inc.

They organize trips to various museums, sites with interesting geology and other campuses to expand their understanding of all aspects of natural science. They strive to provide fulfilling services, activities, and trips that will enhance the resumes of their members.

Students are able to find flyers around campus with information on how to join. If a student is unable to make meetings or is unsure of how to start, contact Chasalin (Chase) Cobb at cobb.61@wright.edu.

The organizations at the Lake Campus promote student involvement and build character along with resumes.

According to Philpot, students are able to visit lake.wright.edu/orgs for campus involvement opportunities or joining organization meetings on campus. There are also “Laker Life” events throughout the year that students are encouraged to join.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Black History Month from student organizations

Makenzie Hoeflerlin

February 21, 2020

February is Black History Month and students have opinions about the representation of minorities across campus.

Resources

One of the biggest resources for black students on campus is the Bolinga Black Cultural Resource Center.

According to the Interim Director of Bolinga, Tonya Mathis, Bolinga currently has a program called Ujima as a form of support for first-year students.

“So it’s a mentoring program with their students or with peer mentors,” said Mathis. “It’s really to provide support for students who are of African or African American descent.”

Many students value Bolinga and all that it does for the university.

“I’m a big supporter of Bolinga. I think it’s imperative that we have it,” said Savannah-Rae Jackson, president of Black Women Striving forward. “Especially because of the programs that it offers and for first-generation black students and for freshman black students. I think it’s a great resource so I’m a big advocate for it.”

The Bolinga Black Cultural Resource Center is currently between directors. Both Mathis and Chris Hogan, the previous director, declined to comment on the situation.

Representation

Other students feel as if Wright State could do a better job representing the diverse population of the school.

An anonymous student has concerns about representation within sororities on campus being culturally diverse.

“You see so many sororities and stuff like that that actually take the front of everything when it comes to representing who Wright State is,” said a senior criminal justice major.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Another student further elaborated on the topic saying that WSU should be seeking out those culturally diverse students to further involve them within the community.

“I think to elaborate on what she’s saying, we have so many diverse groups. I think the school should go to them for sources on how to bring them out,” said an anonymous business major.

Push and pull

Equality has come a long way since the civil rights movements of the 1940’s, but there are still ways to go.

“As a collective, I feel like we are just constantly in this push and pull,” said Jackson. “There’s just always going to be a constant fight that I’m going to have to fight. Specifically, with Black Women Striving Forward, we have these intersections that set us back in society and so all of our identities accumulated is going to be some form of pushback from the majority.”

There are several changes within the university that people would like to see.

Mathis would like to have a chief diversity officer for the Bolinga Cultural Center.

“That would help with recruitment and retention and not only culturally diverse students but specifically African American students and talent, as well as faculty, staff,” said Mathis.

Jackson personally would like to see more effort from the administration.

“I do see that there are strives towards doing that,” said Jackson. “And I think it’s more geared towards the students it’s less of the administration putting in the work and is more of the student population. I think it’s more of a student dynamic where, if you’re not seeing a lot of work being done from administration you’re taking into your own hands.”

Five great books to read in 2020

Ariel Parker

February 21, 2020

When was the last time you read a book for fun? Reading shouldn't be just for a class, or to check off a box that says, "I read this very Important Book so now everyone will Take Me Seriously, and I am also Very Smart."

Below is a list that will hopefully inspire you to pick up a book this year; there's a bit of drama, a bit of comedy, and even horror thrown in!

"Little Fires Everywhere" by Celeste Ng

"Little Fires Everywhere" explores the weight of long-held secrets and the ferocious pull of motherhood and the danger of believing that planning and following the rules can avert disaster or heartbreak.

It all starts with fire – a lot of them. From the very first chapter, we are thrown into the lives of two very different families: the Richardsons, a large, picture-perfect family that plays by the rules, and the Warrens, an eccentric mother-daughter duo. While they rent the Richardsons' apartment in Shaker Heights, the placid, peaceful community in Cleveland, Ohio, the Warren daughter creates a unique dynamic with each of the four Richardson siblings.

Then one day, a custody battle erupts when the Richardsons' friends attempt to adopt a Chinese American baby. This divides the town, forcing the two families to pick opposing sides. Suspicious of her motives, Mrs. Richardson investigates Mia Warren's mysterious past, and we are thrown into a compelling, fast-paced drama.

You also might have seen this in the "Reader's Pick" section in Barnes and Noble, or as one of Reese Witherspoon's Book Club 2019 picks on Instagram, but I promise this book is worth the hype. However, if the book itself doesn't interest you, you can tune into the show on Hulu when it drops this spring on March 18, starring Witherspoon, Kerry Washington and Lexi Underwood.

"Normal People" by Sally Rooney

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MEDIA GROUP

This follows the stories of Marianne, who comes from a wealthy family, and Connell, who is the son of the woman who cleans Marianne's family's house. Connell and Marianna pretend not to know each other and begin a secret relationship that starts with them in their final year of high school and follows them throughout their four years at university in Dublin, Ireland. In high school, Connell is extremely popular while Marianne is not, until they go to college and it is reversed. Told in alternating perspectives, we follow these two throughout university, relationships, class and heartbreak.

This book also made a huge splash on Instagram, and it's not only because of its gorgeous cover; this book is quiet, yet emotional, and explores relationships, friendships and politics in a very relatable and heart-felt way. "Normal People" is also being adapted for television on Hulu in Spring 2020.

"Bunny" by Mona Awad

At a prestigious New England university, Samantha Warren feels like the only normal person in her Creative Writing MFA program.

Surrounded by a group of four girls who call themselves the "Bunnies," she finds solace in her only friend, Ava, who shares her distaste for them. However, when Samantha is invited to the Bunny's creative workshop, cheekily called the "Smut Salon," she falls deeper into their weird, wild world of arts and crafts.

Once she is sucked in, Samantha begins to make her own strange creations, and it begins to spiral out of control.

A mix of "Heathers," "The Craft," and "Mean Girls," this simultaneously hilarious and disturbing novel about the reality of "killing your darlings" will stick with you long after you close the book.

"Bunny" is often described as not being for "everyone," and I would certainly tread cautiously into this intense book.

This dark tale will certainly make a lasting impression on anyone who is willing to dive deep into this twisted, fever-dream story.

"Such a Fun Age" by Kiley Reid

The synopsis of this book is so familiar, it looks like it was ripped straight from the headline of a newspaper. When Emira, a young, black woman, is accused of kidnapping the white child she's babysitting at a grocery store by a security guard, she is furious and humiliated.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

The fact that a bystander records the entire altercation makes it even worse for her as she makes him promise to never leak the video.

When Emira's employer, Alix, a blogger and self-proclaimed #BossBabe, hears about what happened, Alix is determined to make it right. Even if that means putting her nose where it doesn't belong.

What follows is a very timely and startling series of events that gives us a look into race, relationships, privilege and the reality of growing up a millennial in America.

A compelling, fast-paced book, "Such a Fun Age" is an amazing debut from an author that I can't wait to read more from in the future. This insanely smart book just barely squeaked in on the last day of 2019 and still managed to make waves.

It's also the first pick of 2020 for Witherspoon's book club Hello Sunshine (who knew we shared such good taste in books?).

"The Traveling Cat Chronicles" by Hiro Arikawa. Translated by Philip Gabriel

A tale about a feisty cat Nana, and his loving owner Saturo.

When Saturo is unexpectedly unable to care for Nana anymore, they go on a road trip in Japan to find Nana a new home. At each stop, we discover more about Saturo's past, his family and relationships with his friends.

Along the way, we meet Yoshimine, a cynical farmer who thinks cats should be strays; Sugi and Chikako, who run a pet-friendly bed and breakfast; and Kosuke, a heart-broken man whose cat-loving wife left.

All of these stories converge into a heart-warming story about compassion.

This short novel packs an emotional punch.

Told in alternating points of view – one of them being Nana himself – we discover more about Saturo and his affection for Nana. If you're a cat lover – or an animal lover in general – there is no doubt that you will fall for this small, hard-hitting book about friendship and love.

Hopefully, this list inspired you to put down your phone and pick up a book! Make the '20s your decade of igniting a love of reading.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Talking Movies: “Birds of Prey...”

Trey Brown

February 21, 2020

Have you heard of a little film called “Birds of Prey (and the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn)”? Is the length of that title too long? No. Not at all.

Originally released on Feb. 7, 2020, “Birds of Prey...” is a DC superhero film based on the fictional team titled “The Birds of Prey.” The film stars Margot Robbie as the aforementioned Harley Quinn, a character ripe for a big break-up from Gotham City’s leading psychopath.

What I enjoy about this film lies with its style, flair and performances. Cathy Yan’s (“Dead Pigs”) direction is clear despite her short filmography. Every action scene feels like it was given a lot of thought and effort. The choreography is fine-tuned.

The tone of this film is also a strong point and reminiscent of “Deadpool,” which was concerning for the first few minutes of the film.

The performances in this film are the reason to re-watch this movie though. Sure, Robbie is great here as Harley Quinn, and she’s really made the character her own due to the unpredictable energy she infuses the character with. This was evident in 2016’s “Suicide Squad.”

The performances of Jurnee Smollett-Bell (Dinah Lance/Black Canary), Rosie Perez (Renee Montoya), Mary Elizabeth Winstead (Helena Bertinelli/The Huntress) and newcomer Ella Jay Basco (Cassandra Cain) really carry the film though.

Winstead in particular as Helena Bertinelli/The Huntress is quite the standout as she plays the role with strength and poise. I would’ve liked to see the film written from her perspective a little more compared to Harley’s, which is where my problem with the film is.

This movie is very much centered around Harley Quinn and her re-angling of her life; I don’t have a problem with this inherently, it’s in the title. I wonder though if the film should’ve been outside her own thoughts and instead focused on an already established “Birds of Prey” team of Bertinelli, Dinah Lance and Renee Montoya. Winstead is awesome as Huntress and she’s barely on-screen compared to Quinn.

There’s also some nagging narration present in this film that is sort of placed in weird spots. It’s fourth-wall-breaking, which I enjoy but it also took me out of the action a few times in an annoying way.

The Wright State
GUARDIAN
MEDIA GROUP

With those complaints in mind, I still found myself enjoying this movie. Robbie's too good, the fights are too stylized, the cast is having too much fun for me not to have fun while watching.

I have to say though, CGI hyenas are a thing I don't need from Hollywood.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

No, Wright State is not on fire. WPAFB conducts controlled burns
Dylan Collison
February 21, 2020

Several students notified *The Wright State Guardian* with suspicions of a possible fire on Wright State's campus.

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB) conducted controlled burns near Route 235 near Gate 26A and at Huffman Prairie.

The first burn near Route 235 happened at around 10 a.m.

The second burn at Huffman Prairie happened around 1 p.m.

WPAFB uses controlled burns to maintain the ecosystem and to prevent wildfires, according to officials.

"Fire is a natural management tool that releases essential nutrients back into the soil, reduces the thatch layer and aids in reducing the fuel load which aids in controlling wildland fires," Darryn Warner, Natural Resources Program Manager said in a media release.