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Wright State Student Body

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The Wright State GUARDIAN

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How To Prepare For The Upcoming Semester

Roxanne Roessner

August 10, 2020

This upcoming Fall 2020 semester may seem daunting to most students, but there are ways to prepare to make it the best semester yet at Wright State University (WSU).

Online classes

Most classes will be held in a mixture of virtual and in-person. Be sure to check the schedule online in order to see what classes are online, with or without a set meeting time, or at the campus.

If students have any questions, they should contact their academic advisor or professors in order to avoid confusion the first week of classes.

Preparing for classes

Wright State University switched to online classes during the Spring 2020 semester. Students and professors alike were struggling with the new formatting for classes. However, now students and professors know what to expect.

Make sure that your laptop or computer is charged and ready for online classes. Try to be a little early for your live lectures, as sometimes technology does not care for your deadlines and may update programs for the fun of it.

A struggle some people run into with online classes is finding a time and space for them to attend to their schoolwork. Make a place dedicated to your work in order to separate your home life from your education.

Physical protection

Some students, like senior Trinity Rammel, expressed concerns with new procedures concerning coronavirus.

“I’m going to be running late one morning and remember I forgot my mask half-way to class,” said Rammel.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

In order to avoid this situation, consider keeping a mask in your car or with your books. Remember to wash your masks often in order to avoid bacteria buildup.

If you have classes on any WSU campus, consider using hand sanitizer often and staying home if you feel sick.

There are several ways that we can make sure that the changes we face are ones we can change with. Remember to always keep a clean mask on your person and mentally prepare yourself for online classes, and we can overcome this semester.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

How Student Orgs Plan To Operate This Fall

Kyle Jackson

August 12, 2020

Many Wright State student organizations have worked hard to develop plans to operate safely this fall and for many it means remaining virtual or creating new virtual events.

Abilities

Abilities is planning to start meeting again this fall through virtual meetings.

“[There will be] meetings every other week on Thursdays at 3:30pm starting on August 27th,” said Rebekah Wyse, primary contact for abilities.

Abilities also plans to hold virtual events like online game night and movie night to allow members to stay connected with one another.

Interfraternity Council

The Interfraternity Council will not stop recruiting new members this fall and will instead use online resources to complete the recruitment process.

“We are also doing what we can for community engagement, within the guidelines from both the state, as well as the university,” said Joshua Burkheiser, IFC president.

The Interfraternity Council is taking safety very seriously and will continue to do what they can to keep members safe and slow the spread of the virus.

Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity

The Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity has spent a lot of time finding ways to operate both virtually and face to face and they will continue to meet this fall.

“The spring semester showed us that student organizations don’t end if we’re virtual, they can actually improve and be stronger than before,” said Jackson Cornwell, sigma phi epsilon vice president of recruitment.

Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

The Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineering (IISE) is planning to hold many virtual events and meetings this fall.

“This fall semester we are planning to hold our usual “Meet n’ Greet the Professional” via WebEx,” said Susan Sebastian, primary contact for IISE.

This event will allow students to listen to three different Industrial Engineers share their experiences and information about their education.

“All in all, we want to make sure ISE students know that we are here to help them in any way possible during these times,” said Sebastian.

Biomedical Engineering Society

The Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES) is planning to hold virtual meetings for both the officers and members of the organization.

“The general meetings will be recorded and meeting minutes will be taken so members not available at the time can go back and watch,” said Carmen Asman, primary contact for BMES.

Any members who have questions regarding the organization will have the opportunity to attend a one-on-one meeting.

Fencing Club

The Fencing Club will see many changes this fall as they are not able to operate.

“With most of our tournaments being out of state, and with KNH cancelling the Raider Active Fencing classes, we have decided the best thing for us is to not operate,” said Molly Foster, fencing club president.

The organization is currently working on plans to still operate by possibly hosting online practices.

Wright State University 4Paws

Wright State University 4Paws currently plans to have options for members to meet either face to face or virtually. However, these plans may change depending on changes by the university.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Students who do not feel comfortable meeting in person can take a break and return another semester.

“They will be welcomed back the following semester but, our organization does require us to meet in person to hand off our 4 Paws dogs,” said, Jessie Begley, WSU 4Paws president.

The organization plans to hold meetings this fall as well as some activities.

“For those who wish to do virtual meetings there will be activities that they can do at home to stay engaged,” said Begley.

Wright State University 4paws will be operating with less students this semester and they are excited to become involved again on campus.

Classics Club

The Classics Club is excited to meet this fall and they plan to meet in a classroom where they can distance themselves.

“Currently, the Classics Club is planning on doing a book club this semester, where we read nonfiction and fiction books written by authors of antiquity,” said Kristen Cross, President of Classics Club.

The club plans to host virtual events for activities that may draw a bigger crowd.

“Our play readings on the other hand have a bigger turnout, and if we cannot maintain a safe distance, video chatting for us would not be a problem,” said Cross.

Through the use of virtual meeting platforms, many organizations this fall will continue to meet and operate the best they can.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Retro Rewind: “Captain Fantastic...” by Elton John
Maxwell Patton
August 13, 2020

Sir Elton John and Bernie Taupin have had a long and fruitful songwriting partnership together. Since 1967, the duo has collaborated on more than 30 albums, writing such classic hits as “I’m Still Standing,” “Tiny Dancer,” “Your Song,” and “Rocket Man.”

One of these albums, a 1975 release, set out to tell the tale of John and Taupin’s early music careers, and in the eyes of its audience, it succeeded.

That record is the concept album “Captain Fantastic and the Brown Dirt Cowboy.” Released as John’s ninth album on May 19, 1975, one single, “Someone Saved My Life Tonight,” arrived a month later.

“Captain Fantastic” became the first album in history to debut at the top of the Billboard 200 chart and it held that position for seven straight weeks.

The artist

Raised in London, Sir Elton John is one of the world’s best selling artists, having sold over 300 million records. John has released a total of 30 studio albums, four collaborative albums, and ten soundtracks between 1969 and 2019, and is currently on a farewell tour around the world.

More than 50 hits in the Top 40 charts of the U.K. and the U.S. can be credited to John, and he also released the best-selling single in both countries, “Candle in the Wind 1997.”

John’s list of awards is expansive and includes a knighthood, five Grammy Awards, two Academy Awards, a Tony Award, and a Kennedy Center Honor. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1994. The artist was also the subject of the biopic “Rocketman,” which was released in 2019 and featured Taron Egerton as John.

The tracklist

Side one of the album begins with the title track, “Captain Fantastic and the Brown Dirt Cowboy,” which revisits the beginning of the partnership between John (Captain Fantastic) and Taupin (the Brown Dirt Cowboy).

“Tower of Babel” references the effort that the duo had to put in to reap their rewards, and the song features some of Taupin’s finest lyricism on the album. “Bitter Fingers” contains a grand

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

piano part that continues into an enormously catchy chorus, and talks about the pressure to write hit songs that Taupin and John had to bear.

“Tell Me When the Whistle Blows” deals with Taupin being uncomfortable with city life, while “Someone Saved My Life Tonight” is rooted in an engagement John felt trapped in and his subsequent suicide attempt.

John was talked out of the engagement by fellow musician and friend Long John Baldry, who is the “someone” the song refers to.

The record’s second side starts with “(Gotta Get A) Meal Ticket,” which is a fast-paced jam about envy and jealousy towards those who were making it in the music industry when John and Taupin were starting their careers.

“Better Off Dead” is based on the duo’s experiences when visiting bars after recording. “Writing” is a song about writing a song and trying to become a better songwriter.

“We All Fall in Love Sometimes” focuses on the working relationship between John and Taupin, and the song segues into “Curtains,” which provides a gorgeous finale to the album.

The production

“Captain Fantastic” is a concept album that peers into the careers of John and Taupin between 1967 and 1970, which is when John broke through to the masses with his first hit single, “Your Song.” The music for the album was written by John on a transatlantic voyage between the U.K. and New York.

“Elton decided to take everybody on the boat to New York, and then we would go to Caribou Ranch out in Colorado to record,” percussionist Ray Cooper said. “His idea, which worked perfectly, was that he would write the material on the boat. We went on the SS France, and it turned out to be the last voyage of that ship. He had a suite with a grand piano, and he wrote all the material for ‘Captain Fantastic’ on that boat trip, which was six days. Go figure that one!”

Caribou Ranch Studios was indeed the site of recording for John and his band. The group spent almost a month working on “Captain Fantastic” at the studio. Gus Dudgeon, the album’s producer, praised John, his band, and the recordings heavily, saying “there’s not one song on it that’s less than incredible.”

John agreed with this praise. “I’ve always thought that ‘Captain Fantastic’ was probably my finest album because it wasn’t commercial in any way,” he explained in a 2006 interview with Cameron Crowe. “We did have songs such as ‘Someone Saved My Life Tonight,’ which is one

of the best songs that Bernie and I have ever written together, but whether a song like that could be a single these days, since it's [more than] six minutes long, is questionable. 'Captain Fantastic' was written from start to finish in running order, as a kind of story about coming to terms with failure—or trying desperately not to be one. We lived that story."

The album's artwork was designed by Alan Aldridge and is partly based on Hieronymus Bosch's painting "The Garden of Earthly Delights."

What critics thought of "Captain Fantastic and the Brown Dirt Cowboy"

Music journalist Robert Christgau gave "Captain Fantastic" a B in a 1975 review from "Christgau's Consumer Guide."

Stephen Thomas Erlewine, writing for All Music, said that with this album, each of the subjects was "at the peak of his power, as John crafts supple, elastic, versatile pop and Taupin's inscrutable wordplay is evocative, even moving."

"Captain Fantastic" is also a favorite of Vic Vela, news host for Colorado Public Radio, Denver's NPR affiliate.

"This is one of those 'stranded on a desert island' albums for me," Vela said. "It'll always have a special place in my heart. For starters, it was recorded in Nederland, Colorado, a little mountain community outside of Boulder that maybe had about 700 residents at the time. So just picture Elton John – who was the world's biggest rock star during that time – hanging out in little old Nederland. It's a romantic vision."

"If you are a fan of Elton's voice, then it doesn't get much better than 'Captain Fantastic'. This was Elton in his prime. The harmonies have a very 'Pet Sounds' kinda feel to them at times; very Crosby, Stills, and Nash-sounding, reach-for-the-heavens harmonies," said Vela.

In 2003, "Captain Fantastic" was ranked by Rolling Stone at number 158 on their list of the 500 greatest albums of all time.

What I think of the album

John, Taupin, and the rest of their crew really hit it out of the park with this one. I would have to agree with Dudgeon by saying that every song on this album is stellar, and my personal favorite tracks on the album would have to be "Bitter Fingers," "Someone Saved My Life Tonight," and "We All Fall in Love Sometimes."

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

It's filled with fast-paced and catchy tunes that are guaranteed to catch the ear, as well as slower songs rooted deep in the personal lives of its subjects.

Interesting grooves and lasting melodies are delivered throughout the tracklist; those grooves and melodies will definitely wriggle their way into the brain and slam the door behind them.

"Captain Fantastic and the Brown Dirt Cowboy" leads the listener through its subjects' early careers with unbounded grace and passion, and the final product is an incredibly cohesive and beautiful experience.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Women's Soccer Concerned for Upcoming Season

William Baptist

August 14, 2020

The Wright State University (WSU) women's soccer team normally begins their season in August. Due to coronavirus, the season is being delayed and they are currently slated to have their first game in October.

Regardless of the uncertainty, the team is still preparing as if the season is going to happen.

"We've been telling the players to prepare as they normally would. The challenge is that as of today, there is no official announcement as to whether we will have a season or not," said Pat Ferguson, the head coach for the women's soccer team.

Throughout this offseason, there has been a lot more communication than normal with Ferguson and his players regarding the season.

"What has changed is the amount of communication and team meetings we've had since we are constantly disseminating information to the players – as things are changing daily," said Ferguson.

Programs across the country

The uncertainty around the season is something that sports programs across the country are dealing with. New guidelines and restrictions are being put in place on a daily basis.

There are numerous division II and division III programs that have already canceled all fall sports, along with all conference championships being canceled for those divisions.

"Division II schools and conferences can still choose to play part or all of their regular season in the fall semester if they follow the requirements set forth by the Board of Governors," according to the NCAA's website.

Division I conferences make their own decisions within the conference on how to handle the season.

Numerous conferences have already canceled the season for fall sports. Others have delayed the season until dates varying from Sept. 3 to Oct. 1.

Effect on the players

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Originally the team was supposed to start practicing Aug. 4. With the season being delayed, they will not begin practicing until Aug. 17.

Throughout the offseason, the players weren't allowed at the field or at any WSU facility. This forced them to be creative in their training and preparation for the season.

"The entire team had to train differently...At home workouts and soccer tennis in the parking lot of our apartments helped with keeping our touch on the ball and keeping up with our fitness," said Brittney Petrosky, a redshirt-junior on the soccer team.

The players are able to opt-out of the season if they choose to. So far, no players on the WSU women's soccer team have done so.

"I don't believe teammates have been talking about opting out. I know that it is hard on everyone not knowing, but we will all figure it out as it comes to us," said Petrosky.

There are major concerns surrounding the upcoming season, but this will not change the approach from players or coaches in preparing to play.