

Wright State University

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The Guardian Student Newspaper

Student Activities

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8-24-2020

## The Guardian, Week of August 24, 2020

Wright State Student Body

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# The Wright State GUARDIAN

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Weekly Horoscopes  
Star Signer  
August 24, 2020

We are finally back to school dear star children. Read more here for an insight into your first week back.

## **ARIES**

Dear Aries, be on the lookout for a special someone. You never know who you might bump into with your fresh new class schedule.

## **TAURUS**

Dear Taurus, the movements of the planets and stars have special plans for you this week. You will run into someone in need of your kindness. Don't disappoint.

## **GEMINI**

Dear Gemini, enjoy the first week of school as you reunite with lost friends and make new ones. As you get lost in the excitement, careful not to lose sight of what really matters.

## **CANCER**

Dear Cancer, you have a lot on your plate right now, but try to loosen up and enjoy the first week back to campus. Good things will come from your change in attitude.

## **LEO**

Dear Leo, going back to campus is a source of stress for you, but also excitement. Focus on the great things about coming back to school and let everything else fall into place.

## **VIRGO**

Dear Virgo, you really are just looking forward to having immediate access to coffee. You know it. Everyone else knows it. But a new semester almost makes up for the early mornings.

## **LIBRA**

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Dear Libra, as you return to campus, remember to sanitize and wear your mask. You're easygoing, but you must not forget about the health of yourself and others.

## **SCORPIO**

Dear Scorpio, this semester is yours. The moon and stars have big plans for your ambitions and ideas. Don't let anything keep you from your desires.

## **SAGITTARIUS**

Dear Sagittarius, your stars are aligning and this semester is going to give you a fresh start. Put the past behind you. It's up to you to decide where you want the fresh start to take you.

## **CAPRICORN**

Dear Capricorn, the start of this semester and coming back to campus will come with a lot of changes. You will be overwhelmed at first, just remember this often comes with change. You'll get used to it.

## **AQUARIUS**

Dear Aquarius, your class schedule this year is really going to kick your butt. Just stay focused and keep your eye on the prize: your degree!

## **PISCES**

Dear Pisces, you give so much of your time to other people out of your selfless nature, take this semester to give time to yourself and do something that you've never had the time to do.

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SGA Holds Remote Petitioning For Upcoming Election

Alexis Wisler

August 24, 2020

The Student Government Association's (SGA) election will be held in September and petitioning as well as some campaigning will take place remotely to uphold the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) social distancing guidelines.

Update: Petitioning has been extended from Aug. 24 – Sept. 2 to Aug. 24 – Sept. 4. Additionally, a Margin of Leniency of 80% has been applied to the required number of signatures needed for the official ballot.

## **The application process**

Positions open this semester include President, Vice President, and every Senator position. Candidacy application forms will be available starting Monday, Aug. 24 on Engage.

Eligible students who complete a candidacy application form will then be able to petition to be put on the ballot. Application forms are due on Sept. 2.

## **Petitioning**

In the past, petitioning involved obtaining signatures from students in-person around campus. Due to coronavirus and social distancing guidelines, this year's petitioning will occur fully on Wings.

The names of possible candidates will appear on Wings and students add their signatures by clicking on the names they wish to endorse.

"For example, if two people petition for College of Liberal Arts senator, then I can either select both names and sign for both of them or select one name that I support and sign for them," said SGA Chief Policy Officer Eli Smith.

As stated during the Candidates Meeting held by SGA, "President and Vice President are required to achieve 300 signatures, the college of nursing and health senator will be required to achieve 50 signatures and all other positions will be required to achieve 100 signatures."

## **Campaigning**

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After the petitioning process and an official ballot is made, campaigning will begin Sept. 7 both in person and remotely.

As long as candidates follow CDC guidelines and practice social distancing, they can campaign on campus. In addition to the usual campaigning method, candidates will also be able to campaign remotely through the use of Special Elections Council delegated social media accounts.

The campaigning regulations have been updated for this year, and any candidate found in severe violation of these regulations could be removed from the ballot.

According to the SGA website, students and faculty can submit violations if a candidate breaks any of the existing and updated campaign regulations.

The campaign regulations can be found on the SGA website on the Elections section.

## **Voting**

Voting will take place Sept. 13 to Sept. 17 on wings. Although online petitioning is new due to coronavirus, the past several elections have taken place remotely.

Campaigning will continue throughout the week of voting.

## **Results**

Election results will be posted on the SGA website as well as the SGA social media pages on Sept. 18.

For more information regarding the entire election process, students can go [here >>>](#)

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Combating The Coronavirus  
Nicolas BenVenuto August 24, 2020

The daily routine. For every college student at Wright State University it may be a little different, but one thing every student's daily routine will have in common this fall semester is wearing a mask, maintaining six-foot distance whenever possible, and lots of hand soap.

With the start of the fall semester beginning on Aug. 24, students and faculty returning to WSU should be aware of some practices to keep not only themselves safe, but the students and faculty around them safe as well as the battle against coronavirus continues.

According to Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Director Dr. Robert R. Redfield, "Hand washing, social distancing, wearing a mask, and monitoring your own health are simple yet effective ways to combat the spread of COVID-19."

Hand washing should be done for at least 20 seconds before and after eating, when using the restroom, touching your mask, using public door handles and most importantly after coming into contact with someone who may cough or appear to be ill within your vicinity.

This hand-washing procedure will be crucial for those students who find themselves enrolled in in-person classes this semester, as they will come into contact with surfaces touched by many students throughout the day.

The CDC also states that if hand soap is not readily available at your current location, "you may use hand sanitizer that contains 60% alcohol to disinfect the entirety of your fingers, hands and wrists."

## **What's the Wright Plan?**

Wright State has been proactive in its measures to keep students and faculty safe over the summer and into the fall semester, enacting an Infectious Disease Prevention and Mitigation Plan that can be found on the universities website.

This plan includes university policies on mask wearing, physical distancing, daily self-assessments as well as the universities plan to enforce these rules amongst those on campus.

According to an email sent by Interim Provost Dr. Douglas Leaman, "The expectation is that every individual on campus will follow university health and safety protocols."

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The email goes on to explain that, “students and faculty should remain kind and considerate to members of the Wright State community, but should also be helpful and remind others around them to be cognizant of their surroundings and to wear their masks when applicable.”

## **Housing made safe**

For those students residing in on-campus housing, all residents must agree to comply with residential terms and agreements. These terms and agreements include items such as cleaning your restroom a minimum of once per week, not allowing visitors or guests within university housing during the coronavirus pandemic and maintaining 6-foot distance when congregating in groups of less than 4 outside of university housing.

Exceptions have been made for move-in week and for those requiring personal assistance only, however if the pandemic continues throughout the fall semester it is likely the university will enact these regulations into the spring semester as well.

According to the residential living section of the WSU website, “if a student comes into contact with someone who has contracted COVID-19, the university will take the necessary steps to quarantine and isolate these members of the raider community while providing them with necessary help and accommodations along the way.”

These steps include providing private rooms with thermometers and cleaning supplies, providing remote daily health assessments with WSU physicians or similar providers, meal delivery, remote counseling and wellness services and finally coordinating responses with the Public Health Department.

Any students living on campus who may have questions or concerns with their current housing assignments and the regulations to be followed may contact Residence Life and Housing at 937.775.4172 or may email [housing@wright.edu](mailto:housing@wright.edu) with their concerns.

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Fall Sports Remain Positive Despite Postponed Season

William Baptist

August 25, 2020

The Horizon League Board of Directors made a decision on August 13 to postpone fall competition for fall sports due to concerns from coronavirus.

There will be ongoing discussions to potentially play fall sports in the spring, but a decision will not be made until a later date.

“This decision impacts all Horizon League sports that compete in the fall both for their championship season (men’s and women’s cross country, men’s and women’s soccer, volleyball) and for their non-championship segment (men’s and women’s golf, baseball, softball, men’s and women’s tennis),” according to a press release by the Horizon League.

This decision does not come as a huge surprise, considering that conferences across the country have been debating how to handle fall sports for months.

## **Staying positive**

The Wright State University (WSU) men’s soccer team won the Horizon League Championship last season.

They were eager to defend their title this season, but now will have to wait until the spring or possibly next year.

“Coming off of the great season we just had, I know everyone was excited to get back to playing together and defending our Horizon League title,” said Alex Hummel, senior on the men’s soccer team.

These are tough circumstances that every student-athlete is dealing with, but the Horizon League made this decision acting on a recommendation from the League’s Council.

“I understand that, given the current circumstances, playing a fall season is not practical and the decision to suspend the season made by the Horizon League was done with the interests and safety of the student-athletes in mind,” said Blake Pittser, senior on the men’s soccer team.

## **Competing in the Spring**

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The Horizon League will take their time to decide if fall sports can be played in the spring. There are new developments with coronavirus almost weekly, so this decision will not be rushed.

If given the opportunity, there are a lot of student-athletes and coaches that would love to participate in the spring.

“I am optimistic that we will be able to compete in the spring. It would certainly be different, but as an indoor sport we can really play anytime,” said Head Coach of the Volleyball Team Allie Matters.

The physical structure of training sessions, and the season itself would most likely be very different in the spring. This would not deter student-athletes from competing.

“Playing in the spring would give us a chance to continue this historic run and put Wright State on the national map,” said Pittser.

There could be some scheduling conflicts because spring sports will be trying to make up for the season they lost last year, so those sports will most likely be the top priority in the spring season.

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School of Music Faces Difficulties Adjusting to Online Format  
Maxwell Patton  
August 25, 2020

This fall semester, courses at Wright State University's (WSU) School of Music will operate differently than normal.

Due to the pandemic, the department is not able to host classes in-person for all of their students, and an update from the chair of the School of Music, Dr. Daniel Zehringer, has been posted to their website to help clear some of the confusion.

"The majority of our lecture courses will be done remotely, and most of them will be done synchronously," Zehringer said. "A few of them will be done asynchronously. The majority of the large courses, because we can't have too many students in a safe manner in one space, those spaces are being offered remotely."

Many of the department's courses will still have in-person components.

## **Choral ensembles**

Three of the choral ensembles at the university will be meeting during this semester: Collegiate, Men's, and Women's Chorales. Collegiate Chorale, an upper-level ensemble, will be taught fully remotely this semester, and the Men's and Women's Chorales will be meeting at specified times split into their sections.

"That will allow them to meet in our large spaces and still be able to sing with masks on and be able to be safe," Zehringer said. Meetings for these courses have been moved to the largest performance spaces in the School of Music in order to properly comply with social distancing.

A fourth choir at WSU, University Chorus (a co-ed ensemble), is not available this semester due to the amount of people who would be singing together.

## **Orchestras and Bands**

Both the chamber and symphony orchestras will be meeting face-to-face during the fall semester. However, these orchestras will consist of only string instruments.

Those who play string instruments in the orchestras can wear their masks while they are playing. A small number of percussionists can participate if they are needed. The Percussion

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Studio will still have its ensemble meeting regularly, though smaller groups will be attending these sessions.

The concert and wind symphony bands will be taught using very few face-to-face meetings, while the pep band will meet in person.

## **Concerts**

Currently, indoor music concerts cannot be held with an audience, and no performances have been scheduled for the ensembles. However, juries, as well as the recitals for junior, senior and graduate students, are crucial for a music major's education, so these will still occur near the end of the semester.

Recitals are being held with only the performer, accompanist and whoever else is involved in the performance space. These concerts will be live streamed, likely over Facebook Live, and recorded.

"I think that may get our students and faculty who are doing performances out into the community in greater numbers than if we were doing live performances," Zehringer said.

## **Lessons**

The ensembles at WSU are not the only important aspect of a music student's education.

"The biggest component of our teaching here is actually applied lessons, which would be one-on-one lessons with one teacher and one student," Zehringer explained.

Students involved are choosing the in-person and remote options, though remote lessons do present a problem.

"The platforms that are available aren't necessarily advanced enough to make the experience as good as being face-to-face. It's a little more challenging when you're playing an instrument."

Zoom and WebEx are being utilized for these virtual lessons as well as two newer programs that are audio-only.

## **Spring semester compared to fall**

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Switching from in-person to remote classes during the spring semester was difficult for the School of Music.

“Teaching an instrument, anything that is acoustic, is best taught together in the same room,” Zehringer stated. “The size of the room matters, getting that instant feedback and the delicate nuances that only live instruction can give. Those were all taken away from us.”

Many of the professors in the department, for the first time, had to use video chat software in order to teach their lessons, which caused difficulties.

Once students returned to school for the fall semester, they were given the option to take their lessons either face-to-face or remotely.

“The biggest challenge is being able to give our students the same or the best experience we can while being limited with the dimensionality of these platforms,” Zehringer said.

However, both Zehringer and Dr. Shelley Jagow see upsides to teaching their courses virtually.

“Now that we have this time because we don’t have a performance looming over our head, we can take a little more time and delve into some of these concepts in greater detail and make sure that we’re really understanding it,” Jagow said. “Then, they’ll come out of it with some enhanced skills that we can hopefully apply to our large ensemble rehearsals and performances when we get back to normal.”

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The CORQ App: What It Is and How to Use It

Roxanne Roessner

August 25, 2020

The CORQ app is a tool for students and staff to use to find events throughout the campuses with ease.

According to their website, CORQ helps college and university students discover and locate engaging co-curricular opportunities on and around their campus.

## **CORQ**

Students and even organization leaders may be unaware of this app. The hope for this semester is for people to interact with the CORQ app more than previously. Students searching for clubs and activities are now able to find events to fill their days. Coronavirus may have put a damper on activities, but Wright State University (WSU) will continue to be a tight-knit community.

If one were to open and explore the CORQ app, they would see that it contains information about all colleges that use Engage for their events.

Because of this, though travel from campus to campus is limited due to coronavirus, students would be able to visit other colleges and know exactly where the events are located.

The Associate Director of Student Involvement and Leadership Debbie Lamp has been encouraging students and staff to utilize CORQ.

“Students tend to use the app a lot on their first weekend, but not a lot after that. We are hoping now that things are virtual students will be using it more,” said Lamp.

## **Engage**

WSU initially used CORQ because it is a part of the Engage platform. Engage is used by WSU to connect organizations and their events.

When an event is uploaded to Engage, it automatically is sent to CORQ. Students and staff can then get information about the activity without having to log into Wings and search for it.

CORQ has events for both campuses either on the homepage or in a drop-down section for the Lake Campus. Students and staff can download the app onto their mobile devices and access

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the different activities happening on their campus. While most students use the CORQ app only during welcome week, they are encouraged to continue using it throughout the semester.

## **Meetings and events**

Program Manager of Student Organizations Courtney Mullins has had to help organizations within WSU with how they can gather due to the coronavirus pandemic.

“Right now, we are recommending our student organizations to have as many meetings and events virtually for the health and safety of everyone involved,” said Mullins.

According to Lamp, people are finally beginning to take notice of the app and what it offers. WSU has been using CORQ for four years.

“You can see all of the events on Engage, but people aren’t always near their computers to see them. This is a way to get around that,” said Lamp.

Students and staff are encouraged to take a look at the app once this semester starts and participate in activities within the campus.

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SGA and Representation at Lake Campus

Roxanne Roessner

August 26, 2020

The Student Government Association (SGA) will host its first meeting on August 25, 2020.

Because of coronavirus, elections have been postponed until the end of September. Until then, the previous members will continue to hold their place.

## **What it does**

The SGA is made up of three branches. They are the executive board, cabinet and senate. Through these, they find problems within the Wright State University (WSU) student body and bring it to the attention of those higher up. Resolutions are created and passed in order to call upon those in power in the administration or faculty senate to change situations.

SGA is a way for students to lobby for issues that they see at WSU.

According to SGA advisor and Program Manager of Student Organizations Courtney Mullins, it allows students to advocate for specific areas or departments that mean the most to them so they can leave a legacy on campus and have their voice heard.

“I want to help them drive student issues forward,” said new Dean of Students Chris Taylor.

## **How to be involved**

Students are encouraged to be involved because it is beneficial to their growth as a student and as an adult. Being involved helps with leadership development, time management, organization and communication skills. There are a variety of ways for students to get involved and potentially make their mark on the university.

“If you have a personality and an opinion, you should join the student government,” said Mullins.

## **Lake Campus representation**

While there is no geographical representation of the Lake Campus within SGA, each academic field is represented no matter where they are located. SGA has senators for education, nursing and liberal arts, to name a few. Every student is represented within that capacity.

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“We did have a senator from the Lake Campus. Because of the commute, they hardly ever made it in person, and we tried video conference for the meetings, but those never really worked either. Between all of the other distractions in the past couple of years at Wright State University, be it faculty or budget cuts, it has not become a priority,” said Chief of Staff and Speaker of the House Nathan Price.

However, in recent years, previous campaigns have visited the Lake Campus and have spoken to students. All students can vote for the SGA elections and are encouraged to participate.

“If there was a real interest and people at the Lake wanted to have this conversation, then we would have no problem with opening that door again,” said Mullins.

Virtual meetings and conferences have become a way for organizations to connect with one another without having to be together physically. With this, there is hope that Lake Campus will be able to rejoin SGA in a “Brave New COVID World,” as Nathan Price coined.

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Educational Resource Center Finds New Home

Nicolas BenVenuto

August 26, 2020

Roughly 250 trips made over a five-week period have led the Charles and Renate Frydman Educational Resource Center (ERC) to its new home on Wright State University's Dayton campus.

University library staff along with assistance from facilities services completed the move and expect to be ready for students at the start of the Fall semester.

Previously located at 116 Allyn Hall and maintained by the College of Education and Human Services, the ERC is newly housed in room 210 of the Paul Laurence Dunbar Library.

## **Out with the old, in with the new**

University Librarian Sue Polanka took the move on happily and saw it as an opportunity to keep valuable teaching resources available for WSU students and faculty.

"With university budget cuts over the past few years and fewer staff members available, the College of Education and Human Services was no longer able to maintain the collection moving forward, so I happily accepted to move it here to the Dunbar Library," Polanka said.

The ERC's inventory of over 19,000 items includes textbooks, non-fiction books, picture books and a vast collection of non-print, physical teaching resources such as globes, puppets and crafts for students taught in grades K-12.

Additionally, the ERC houses media lab equipment, furniture, computers and one of the largest educational Holocaust collections of its kind in the Midwest.

"Our students and faculty need these resources. If we didn't take them in at the library, I don't know what would have happened to them," said Polanka.

Named after Charles and Renate Frydman, who graciously donated the nationally recognized Dayton Holocaust Resource Center's collection of books, curriculum guides and non-print items such as films and audiobooks to WSU, the collection of learning materials within the ERC is a sight to behold.

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“With the move to the library, students and faculty will now have seven-day access to all of the materials within the collection, longer hours of operation, and increased hours of service from library staff,” Polanka said.

This seven-day access also includes extended hours during finals weeks, and will allow for longer check-out periods for both print and non-print materials as well.

“The increase in exposure to the collection is what excites me the most,” Polanka said.

## **New places, New faces**

Before the move to the Dunbar library, it was entirely possible that a student could spend his or her days at WSU and never see or hear about the ERC.

“Not everyone had classes in Allyn Hall, or maybe didn’t even know that the ERC existed to begin with. With this move I hope that everyone who enters the library can see what we have to offer here within the ERC,” Polanka said.

The surviving namesake of the center, Mrs. Renate Frydman, was also delighted to hear news of the collections move to the university library, and sees this move as a forward step in exposure for the materials within the collection.

“When I started collecting these books and learning tools in the early 90’s, I started out with a few shelves in the small library of Hillel Academy Jewish day school. Now the collection is nationally recognized,” Frydman said.

Renate believes this move will be beneficial for everyone at WSU.

“I feel as though the resources will have the exposure that they deserve with their new home in the library. Hopefully the resources will help students and faculty in any way they seek,” Frydman said.

Whether you are a student looking to utilize the teaching materials inside, or just curious as to what the ERC has to offer, the Charles and Renate Frydman Educational Resource Center will be ready for students and faculty come Aug. 24 for the start of the fall semester.

## “Midnight Sun” Revamps The Twilight Craze

Ariel Parker

August 26, 2020

Fans of the popular YA vampire series “Twilight” were happily surprised when Stephenie Meyer announced the release of “Midnight Sun,” the long-awaited retelling from Edward’s point of view, which was published on Aug. 4.

Twihards from back in the day will remember when the partial draft of “Midnight Sun” was leaked in 2008, which led to an “indefinite hold” on the project. After 13 years, Meyer finished the book and sent it directly to be published because, “Fans have waited long enough,” Meyer said.

Now that it is finally out, it clocks in at over 658 pages – almost 140 pages longer than “Twilight.” Fans, old and new, are now able to experience the intense, emotional, and surprisingly romantic mind of Edward Cullen.

It should go without saying that this is a book first and foremost meant for Twilight fans. If you’ve ever felt neutral about the series or even hated it, this book isn’t for you. Of course, anyone curious enough can pick this up, but “Midnight Sun” belongs to the fans.

“Midnight Sun” is still the same story – a human and a sparkly vampire meet and fall in love. However, from Edward’s perspective, we’re given an almost entirely new book. In this version, we’re given more insight into Edward’s anxiety and emotional turmoil of falling in love with a human he wants to kill. We’re also given a look into the powers members of the Cullen family possess, with the most interesting one being Edward’s ability to read minds.

You’re also almost re-introduced to the other Cullens and given better insight into the Cullen family than Bella ever could. Readers will also find that Edward was just as obsessed with Bella as she was with him. Sure, in the beginning he was obsessed with *killing* her (hey, none of us are perfect), but his intrigue of her immunity to Edward’s mind reading and “not being like other humans” quickly led from infatuation to love.

Compared to the short, choppy sentences in Bella’s passive narration, “Midnight Sun” is full of teen angst, flowery language, and, of course, *yearning*. And even though Bella is the literal definition of the meme “no thoughts, head empty,” Edward actually makes Bella interesting – admittedly way more interesting than she actually is in the original series.

Much of Edward’s anguish over falling for Bella is very reminiscent of classic literature like “Jane Eyre” and “Wuthering Heights”- works that inspired Meyer. Edward is every bit as broody and

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emo as he was in the original books, and you get a real sense of his anxiety over loving Bella. And not only that, but the overwhelming reality of what it's like to be able to read minds – *at all times*.

Even though Edward is described as a perfect vampire, he's written to be very human in "Midnight Sun". You get a better understanding of his motivations, struggles, self-doubt and self-hatred. And so much of Twilight's appeal is that balance of monstrosity versus humanity, and that turning Bella into a vampire wasn't just a simple "solution". The crux of the conflict of the "Twilight" saga was the reality of becoming a perfect monster – sacrificing your humanity and family in order to live forever for the sake of love. And I'd say that Meyer expanded on that way more in "Midnight Sun" than she ever did in "Twilight".

Writing a book over the course of 13 years was a strange experience for Meyer. "I'm not the person I was then. But completing Midnight Sun has brought back to me those early days of Twilight when I first met many of you," she wrote on her website the day the release was announced.

"Midnight Sun" sold one million copies during its first week of release, ranking #1 on the bestsellers list in several countries and #2 on Amazon. It's available to read in hardback or on audio at bookstores and libraries near you.

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SGA Passes First Resolution of Semester and Tables Two Others

Roxanne Roessner

August 26, 2020

The first Student Government Association (SGA) general meeting for the Fall 2020 semester took place virtually on Aug. 25. During the meeting, one resolution was passed, two others were motioned to be tabled and the impact of coronavirus was discussed.

## **Resolution 20-11: A resolution affirming every Raiders' role in health and safety**

Resolution 20-11 called upon all members of the Raider community to not only follow all health and safety measures to ensure the well-being of all members of Wright State University (WSU) but also to have students take responsibility to hold themselves and others to these guidelines.

WSU members are reminded to keep safe during this semester and that violating these guidelines will be enforced, much like the smoke-free policy.

Resolution 20-11 was passed.

## **Resolution 20-12: US National Election on Nov. 3, 2020**

Resolution 20-12 called to declare Nov. 3, 2020 a university holiday to allow for students, faculty and staff to vote in person if they choose to. The resolution also encouraged WSU students to volunteer as election day polling location officials as long as it does not compromise their health or academics.

The resolution was tabled for the SGA's next meeting.

## **Resolution 20-13: A resolution thanking Wright State staff**

Over the past few months, WSU has launched a massive campus initiative to ensure the safety of all students and employees due to coronavirus. This resolution is to thank the WSU staff for all of their work in making WSU a clean and welcoming campus.

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Resolution 20-13 thanks the staff of WSU for including students' voices and concerns with returning to campus.

This resolution was motioned to be tabled until someone from facilities is present to receive the resolution.

SGA meetings will be held virtually every Tuesday at 7 p.m. through Webex.

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Student Accommodations During a Pandemic

Kaitlyn Chrosniak

August 27, 2020

Wright State University (WSU) has previously been ranked as one of the top three schools in the nation for accommodating students with disabilities, according to College Magazine.

Due to coronavirus concerns and social distancing regulations, most courses this fall are being offered online, with some courses offered as an in-person/online hybrid. The WSU Office of Disabilities (ODS) has had to adjust practices accordingly to best accommodate students in need.

## **Office of Disabilities**

WSU's Office of Disabilities provides testing and classroom accommodations for a wide range of students, both on and off campus. Students who receive assistance through ODS have varying mental and physical disabilities, such as learning disabilities, health impairments and mobility impairments.

"87% of students who receive assistance through ODS have invisible disabilities. An invisible disability is a disability that is not as readily apparent," said Angela Masten, data manager and case manager. "...a student with anxiety or ADHD would be considered to have an invisible disability".

WSU offers assistance to a wide range of students, making it a challenge to provide for individual student needs while utilizing the virtual learning format. The accommodation most difficult to provide this semester is an alternative testing space for those who normally take exams in the ODS office rather than the classroom.

"Although students on campus can use the library and other sign-up reservation rooms to work and take exams, they should be cautious of the time limits on those rooms and how that could impact the amount of time a student has to take their test," said ODS Director Tom Webb

## **Accommodations and Office Operations**

The Office of Disabilities is operating fully remote for the fall semester. Students may make appointments with their case manager to meet via phone call or WebEx. Additionally, ODS is offering virtual walk-ins over WebEx from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. every Monday through Friday.

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Students can use the program called Accessible Information Management (AIM) to request their accommodations be applied, and a designated case manager will then contact the appropriate professor(s) to bring awareness to the accommodation plan. The login for AIM is located on the ODS website.

Accommodation plans can include adjustments such as the time and/or location a student performs their exams.

“Students taking exams on Pilot will have their time adjusted by their professor,” said Masten, “but in person or high flex courses will need to be worked out between the student, the professor and Sheri Penwell, ODS test proctoring coordinator.”

Deaf or hearing impaired students are able to request for closed captions to be created for pre-recorded lectures and videos, preferably 48 hours in advance. C-Print, live captioning, or an ASL interpreter can additionally be requested for live calls and meetings as well.

Adjustments vary on a per student basis, and individual plans can also be carried out differently between all course offerings whether online, in person, or both.

## **Additional info**

In addition to ODS running remotely this fall, the Counseling and Wellness Center as well as the Student Academic Success Center are both running remote as well.

To schedule an appointment with the Counseling and Wellness Center, students can call 937.775.3407 and leave a voicemail with their name, phone number, and UID.

“Students will receive a call back to gather more information and schedule an appointment with a staff member from the Counseling and Wellness Center as soon as possible,” said Masten.

For more information on the Student Success Center, visit <https://www.wright.edu/student-success/academic-support>.

For more information on the WSU Office of Disabilities, visit <https://www.wright.edu/diversity-and-inclusion/disability-services>.

WSU Professors Explain Why They Chose to Move Online

Alexis Wisler

August 27, 2020

Universities across the country are allowing students back on campus and making arrangements for the upcoming fall semester following the coronavirus outbreak in the spring.

Wright State University (WSU) gave professors the option to teach their courses online or in person, and many chose to stay online.

### **The deciding factor**

When deciding to either teach face-to-face in the classroom or fully online, the main reason why professors opted for an online format is for the safety of themselves and their students.

For Art and Art History Professor Karla Huebner, reducing the risk of infection led her to move her Themes in Visual Culture class online.

“I think it is of paramount importance to protect the health of students, faculty, and staff. None of us, barring complete isolation, can be sure at any given time that we are not infected and contagious with this virus. While masks and social distancing are very helpful in containing the spread, they are imperfect, especially indoors, where little can be done to ensure proper ventilation. I cannot know whether I am at high risk, nor whether any of my students are, since any of us may have conditions we are not aware of,” said Huebner.

Other professors found out during the end of last spring semester that their course worked well online.

“The second half of the semester, in the spring, went well. The students were satisfied from what they told me. I had a lot of concerns about how the group project, which is a major feature of the semester, would work. It actually worked very well. So that made me feel more comfortable,” said Mechanical and Materials Engineering Instructor Alysoun Taylor-Hall.

Taylor-Hall also said that moving the Technical Communications for Engineers and Computer Scientists course online meant that other courses that needed to be face-to-face such as labs and technicals would have the space to do so.

For Mathematics and Statistics Instructor Erik Potts, an online format means better and more efficient group work.

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“My biggest reason is the group work. For most of the summer [my course] was set as the flexible, hybrid modality. I only switched in mid July [to fully online] because I learned more about what campus would look like. You can only have so many students in the room at a time,” said Potts.

## **Asynchronous vs. synchronous**

With the option to move courses online, professors also had the option for their courses to either be asynchronous (no set meet time) or synchronous (set meet time).

For Taylor-Hall and Potts, a synchronous online course is crucial for the group work aspect of their courses.

In addition to group work, Taylor-Hall points out that group discussions are beneficial to students as well.

“When you have a classroom full of twenty-five students they’re all learning from each other’s questions,” said Taylor-Hall regarding the importance of group discussions.

According to Huebner, who chose an asynchronous format, not set meet time allows students to work at their own pace. Huebner plans on recording lectures and captioning them for hard-of-hearing students.

## **Ways courses have changed**

To ensure that students are getting the most out of online courses, professors have modified and changed their assignments.

“I tried to come up with some new assignments that could be very flexible, such as finding online museum exhibitions to discuss, and watching online lectures from YouTube created by museums and other entities. My face-to-face classes have always included discussion during lectures and I shifted to spending each morning responding to student discussion board posts,” said Huebner.

Taylor-Hall and Potts both plan on using break-out rooms and other online tools to create the same group work atmosphere that would happen in a face-to-face course.

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Corona Impacts Recruiting For WSU Sports  
William Baptist  
August 28, 2020

Division 1 schools, such as Wright State University (WSU), have had to undergo major changes in the recruiting process due to coronavirus.

All schools are in a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) mandated recruiting dead period. This means a college coach may not have face-to-face contact with college-bound student-athletes or their parents, and may not watch student-athletes compete or visit their high schools.

The NCAA evaluates the recruiting process on a month to month basis, with no implication that it will go back to normal anytime soon.

“The full Council and the Council Coordination Committee will continue to review the recruiting dead periods on a regular basis,” according to the NCAA’s website.

## **Dead period**

Coaches may write and telephone student-athletes or their parents during a dead period, but that is the only contact that is permitted.

“We are very limited in what we can do until at least October. This has been in effect since the beginning of the pandemic in the spring, and has been continually reviewed and extended each month,” said Head Coach of Men’s Soccer Team, Jake Slemker.

The dead period doesn’t allow recruits to visit the college campuses, so everything they see is through virtual tours.

This can make it somewhat challenging for a recruit to decide which school they want to attend.

“It’s tough for us coaches, but I would say it’s the hardest on the recruits. They have to make big decisions and it’s hard for them to get the full recruiting experience,” said Slemker.

## **Tough decisions**

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The restrictions that are in place make it very challenging for recruits and coaches to make these decisions. Thankfully, it is all designed to be temporary and help with the health and safety of everyone involved.

“There are restrictions on watching tournaments that are being streamed. It has been a day-by-day process and things change often,” said Head Coach of Women’s Basketball Team Katrina Merriweather.

The recruiting process has slowed down and delayed the 2021 class, as they all try to work around the restrictions that are in place.

For a recruit this is a very big decision, and will affect their livelihood for the next four years.

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Foreign Language Classes Revamp Online Experience

Maxwell Patton

August 28, 2020

Wright State University's (WSU) Modern Language Department is moving their language classes, which include French, Spanish, German and Chinese, online for the Fall 2020 semester.

The decision was announced by Chair of the Department of Modern Languages Dr. Ksenia Bonch Reeves in an email to students on Tuesday, July 14.

"As you know, our classes are built around speaking and interacting," the email reads. "To do so safely, all participants must wear masks. One of the considerations is that remote teaching can leverage technology to provide an experience that's very close to face-to-face interaction without the instructor wearing a mask."

This decision was made with input from the entire department, with Bonch making the final call about whether classes would be in-person or online.

## **The effect of masks on learning other languages**

This decision revolved around the need for professors and students to wear masks during in-person classes.

French professor Dr. Kirsten Halling explained that students and professors often read lips when conversing in foreign languages.

"When you're learning a language, you really do look at the way the mouth forms, and so without that cue, it makes it much harder to learn and to understand what the professor is saying," said Halling.

Face masks would hurt the experience of those taking sign language courses as well. According to American Sign Language (ASL) professor Jodi Pierstorff of the Lake Campus, she chose to teach remote classes because ASL utilizes the entire face and she would have to be able to see her student's facial expressions.

## **Switching from face-to-face to online classes**

The Spring 2020 semester saw the professors of the language department use a variety of tools to teach their classes. Pierstorff and Halling both used asynchronous courses to teach their

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respective subjects, with the latter utilizing PowerPoints in place of in-person lectures for her two online courses. Halling taught a third class, a course in Beginning French, through the program Collaborate Ultra.

“We wanted to do something that honored the students and engaged them, and it was really difficult to reinvent all of the material for those few weeks,” Halling said. “We all snapped into high gear and researched everything that we could research and tried to deliver the material the best we could.”

### **Student problems**

The online courses caused problems for some students who could not get a good internet connection in their homes. A few of these students used phone calls to converse with Halling since they were unable to log into their online course, while some received an incomplete.

Taking the department’s Beginning German course last spring, history major Raven Crook had difficulty adjusting to the sudden change.

“While our professor was teaching the same things and our class size was rather small, it felt like there was a larger divide,” Crook said.

Because of this divide, she is avoiding taking another German class until she can enroll in a face-to-face course.

Due to the problems that students like Crook were having during the spring semester, the department has been working over the summer to make it easier to take language classes online.

“We all decided that if we’re going to go with the online format, we’re going to enhance it, use all of the bells and whistles, and make sure that we still have interaction and the students are comfortable in that format,” Halling said.

Students who don’t have a secure internet connection at home have the option of borrowing a laptop from CATS to complete their language classes online. This will allow students to connect with their professors and classmates effectively through screens.

### **Staying optimistic about the future**

Halling is optimistic about how the fall semester will proceed and is striving to highlight the importance of communication in her courses.

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“We’re trying as much as we can to get the students listening, speaking, interacting with each other and interacting with us,” she said. “I’m trying to not let that fall by the wayside.”

Regarding whether the department would resume in-person courses in the spring, Bonch hopes to offer the safest option for students taking language courses at WSU.

“We are encouraged to see that the curve is beginning to flatten again,” she explained. “We want nothing more than to return to our usual routines, but the most important consideration is the health and safety of our students and families, our faculty and staff, and the broader community.”