

Wright State University

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Wright State Student Body

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The Wright State GUARDIAN

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Weekly Horoscopes
Star Signer
August 31, 2020

Read on to find out the best spot on campus for you based on your astrology sign.

ARIES

Dear Aries, the best spot on campus, your go to spot from now on, lies on the second floor of the creative arts building, overlooking the campus. This location plays to your creative side and makes for easy people watching.

TAURUS

Dear Taurus, your spot on campus is possibly the most basic of all: the group study room in Starbucks. You love taking comfort in being around other people while also having a quick bite to eat or sip of coffee a few steps away.

GEMINI

Dear Gemini, have you ever tried renting one of the rooms on the second floor of the Dunbar Library? This is a quiet and secluded place that may help with your tendency to easily be distracted, something that you are often too stubborn to admit.

CANCER

Dear Cancer, grab a few friends and find a nice grassy spot around BART to finish up your studying. The fresh air and nice weather while spending time with friends will help you through the studying that you barely convinced yourself to do anyways.

LEO

Dear Leo, Find yourself a spot on the soft benches just inside the CAC on the first floor. It's likely more of your friends will come along and be more than willing to keep you company until your next class. You might even find the spot comfortable enough to take a small nap.

VIRGO

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Dear Virgo, you know the media center on the second floor of Dunbar Library? It often finds itself a bit more emptied out than the rest of the library, a place for you to enjoy and make part of your daily routine.

LIBRA

Dear Libra, you know that place where you spend all of your time already? That's your spot. Stick to it.

SCORPIO

Dear Scorpio, as often as you are secretive and mysterious, there may be a special secret spot in Ray Ray cafe that you have yet to discover. The next free hour you have, spend it exploring.

SAGITTARIUS

Dear Sagittarius, the only place on campus that could ever be right for you is the Library, surrounded by books and knowledge. You are a philosopher at heart.

CAPRICORN

Dear Capricorn, as a leader in your community, you often find yourself everywhere on campus. But if you had to choose, it would be in a space surrounded by your friends and classmates.

AQUARIUS

Dear Aquarius, you prefer to get your exercise while doing your studying... check out those stationary bikes on the second floor of Dunbar Library. Or, get your exercise taking the stairs to the lobby of the fourth floor of Millett.

PISCES

Dear Pisces, no doubt, your spot on campus is and always will be sitting criss-cross applesauce in the most inconvenient place possible-only you know where that is.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

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Masked Move-In
News Team
August 31, 2020

Nicolas Benvenuto and Katie Chrosniak contributed to this article

Over 1100 students now call Wright State University (WSU) home after a successful move-in weekend.

Starting on Aug. 20, WSU students moving on campus experienced a number of changes to move-in day operations as the university continues to adhere to guidelines presented by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

“We had to make move-in day safe,” said Director of Residence Life and Housing Dan Bertso.

Measures taken such as mandatory mask wearing, touchless check-in and limiting the number of guests available to help students move in allowed for the university to keep safety a top priority in one of its most population dense weekends.

Bertso recalled previous move-in weekends at the university in pre coronavirus times.

“We had a system that allowed us to move in as many as 1500 students in one day,” said Bertso.

Move-In Machines

The system that WSU has had in place for previous years included golf carts to drive students back and forth from their vehicles to their building as well as student volunteers who would assist in the transportation of possessions from the golf carts into his or her room.

This allowed for the families of incoming students to only have to unpack once, which would hopefully alleviate some stress.

Due to coronavirus restrictions and CDC best practice guidelines, move-in day operations did not include golf cart transportation or the help of student volunteers.

“This year it was up to the families and those who they brought with them to help move the student’s belongings to their rooms once they parked near the building,” said Bertso.

Change is good

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

While it may seem like more of a hassle to move in without the added assistance, WSU senior Julia Boyd actually preferred some of the changes to move-in day operations this year.

“It wasn’t nearly as crowded this year as it was my freshman year, and nothing this year took long at all. I was able to get my keys and we never even left our vehicle,” Boyd said.

Having scheduled appointments allowed for students like Boyd to make quick trips from the car to their room assignment with little to no traffic in between.

“It probably only took about two hours whereas my freshman year it was at least four,” Boyd said.

Freshman film student Trevor Seech-Hrvatin was among the first-year students moving on campus.

“Having a time limit made it feel a little rushed, but I had more than enough time to get all my stuff in and set up,” said Seech-Hrvatin. “If we ever had any questions or didn’t know where to go we just asked. It was exactly as I expected.”

Raiders first

Whether using the traditional move-in day methods of operation of years past, or the CDC compliant operations of this fall, the staff at WSU’s Residence Life and Housing as well as all of those involved in move-in day procedures have shown an extraordinary effort to keep all Raiders safe and healthy during unprecedented and uncertain times.

As the semester presses forward, Bertson encourages students to become involved with organizations and those within the Raider community.

“We are very excited looking forward and as time passes the amount of opportunities for students to get involved on campus will increase,” Bertson said.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Former WSU Basketball Player Bill Wampler Signs Professionally

William Baptist

August 31, 2020

Former Wright State University (WSU) basketball player, Bill Wampler, has decided to take his talents overseas, and begin his professional career with Ehingen Urspring.

Ehingen Urspring is located in Ehingen, Germany, and they play in the ProA, the second German division.

“I’m excited to continue my career professionally. It wouldn’t have happened without the opportunity I was given to play at Wright State,” said Wampler in a press release.

Wampler transferred to WSU in 2017 from Drake University, which he feels put him in a great position to continue his career professionally.

“Coach Nagy and the staff have prepared me to prepare like a professional. I’m ready to continue playing games, and representing Wright State in a positive way,” said Wampler.

WSU Career

After redshirting his first year at WSU in the 2017 season, Wampler burst onto the scene in 2018 and scored 26 points in his Raider debut against Western Carolina.

Wampler went on to be named second team All-Horizon League in his first year as a Raider, and averaged 15 points per game, along with 3.4 rebounds and shot 36.4% from three-point range.

In his senior season, he was named second team All-Horizon League again. He started 28 games, and improved his numbers to 15.6 points per game, along with 4.5 rebounds and 40.6% from beyond the arc.

In his two seasons at WSU, he was a two-time second team All-Horizon League player, and named to the Horizon League’s All-Academic team during his senior season for his work in the classroom.

During the Gulf Coast Showcase in November 2019, Wampler scored a season-high 27 points against Weber State. On the very same night he recorded his 1,000 career collegiate point.

The Wright State
GUARDIAN
MEDIA GROUP

Wampler scored 1,006 total points at WSU and ended his collegiate career with 1,414 total points between WSU and Drake.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Fitness Center Tentative Open Date in September; New Policies
Makenzie Hoeflerlin
September 1, 2020

The Wright State Campus Recreation Fitness Center will tentatively reopen on Tuesday, Sept. 8, and will require reservations.

After being closed for months due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Fitness Center is planning to open its doors to staff and students again in September.

The pool will tentatively open on Sept. 14. These are tentative dates meaning that the fitness center may not open or may open at a later date.

Required Reservations

Reservations will be required and can be made through imleagues.com.

Registration will be limited to eight people every 15 minutes.

Students and staff are asked to arrive on time to their scheduled workout, but not to enter the building more than five minutes prior to their workout.

Everyone using the Campus Recreation Fitness Center will be required to follow all university coronavirus protocols. This includes wearing a face covering at all times once arriving on campus and during the entire workout, according to Wright State's website.

Students, staff and faculty using the fitness center will also be required to follow social distancing rules.

Each reservation will come with an allotted one hour. Lockers and showers will be available in the locker rooms and everyone is being asked to clean the showers before and after use.

The fitness center will also close in the middle of the day to clean and prepare for "at risk" hours.

"The Student Union may suspend operations to provide additional cleaning or in response to COVID-related incidents or events," according to an announcement from WSU office of campus recreation

For more information and to read the new policies, [click here >>>](#)

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Enforcing CDC Guidelines

Nicolas BenVenuto

September 1, 2020

It's no secret that the start of the fall semester brings new challenges to overcome, new faces to meet, new places to visit and passing grades to chase.

What is new about this fall semester in particular is Wright State University's (WSU) response to the coronavirus and university efforts to follow guidelines presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The fall semester at WSU kicked off on Aug. 24, with the majority of classes being taught online. Some courses however are still being offered in person, forcing university officials to have set standards in the classroom that allow for proper social distancing along with student cooperation in regard to mask wearing.

Bravo, Raiders!

"I think students so far have been remarkably compliant with all of the guidelines and regulations set in place thus far, and I would like to thank students for doing just that," said Interim Provost Dr. Douglas Leaman.

With WSU currently having zero active coronavirus cases on campus, it would appear that Leaman's assessment of student cooperation is accurate.

Worst case scenario

What happens if someone doesn't cooperate with the set standards though? How does the university plan to handle situations where student health and safety may become compromised?

"First, we want to make sure it's not a situation where the student may have just forgotten to wear or bring their mask," said Assistant Director of Community Standards and Student Conduct Christopher Hogan. "Wearing masks everywhere is a new thing, and we understand that sometimes people just forget."

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

In the event that the situation isn't a mere forgetful morning, but rather a student is actively choosing to break campus policy however, the outcome of the situation would be a little different.

"We are asking faculty members to dismiss the class, report the student to the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct, and initiate the student conduct process," Hogan said.

With student health and safety a top priority inside and outside of the classroom, the university does not want to take a risk continuing to teach a course where a student is actively dismissing safety guidelines presented by the CDC, and putting his or her fellow classmates in danger.

"While it would be an unfortunate circumstance for a professor to have to dismiss a class, the flexibility of online learning would allow for students to receive the information from that class remotely, and would ensure the safety of those enrolled in the course," Leaman said.

Luckily for students and faculty at WSU, measures such as dismissing the classroom setting have not happened, and are not anticipated to happen in the future.

"I just want to applaud the students and faculty of Wright State for realizing the severity of the situation at hand and taking the necessary steps to keep one another safe," Leaman said.

Other universities throughout the United States haven't been as lucky as WSU during the pandemic, and the numbers of confirmed cases is staggering.

Forbes magazine presented data from The New York Times on Aug. 26 that identified at least 26,000 cases of coronavirus and 64 deaths in a study that looked at over 1,500 universities in the United States, including every four-year institution as well as every private institution that actively competes in NCAA sports.

Wright State students can find comfort in knowing that while in the midst of uncertain times, the faculty and those in positions of power within the university are taking every measure necessary to ensure the safety and well being of all students.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

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Optimism Surrounding College Basketball during a Pandemic

William Baptist

September 1, 2020

After the Horizon League's decision to postpone fall sports, there were a lot of questions surrounding the basketball season and when it could take place.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has had ongoing discussions about a potential start date for the season, and is hoping to have the season at some point during the winter.

"This is a decision that the NCAA will make with the best interests in mind for all of its over 1,200-member schools," said the Wright State University (WSU) athletic department.

WSU will move forward with whatever information they receive from the NCAA regarding the basketball season.

Start date

There are lots of different scenarios that could play out on when the season will occur, and it most likely will be pushed back from the original start date that is set.

"We have learned a great deal over the course of the summer, and with health and safety being our priority, we have developed and studied contingency plans for alternatives to the scheduled Nov. 10 start date," said NCAA Senior Vice President of Basketball Dan Gavitt.

Once a decision is made on the start date of the season, WSU will be prepared to follow any guidelines that are put in place by the NCAA.

"We are confident that we will be prepared to get back to competition when the athletic landscape has improved," said the WSU athletic department.

Health first

Regardless of the momentum around the season beginning, the NCAA and WSU will focus on the health of the student-athlete first and foremost.

"We have always been committed to the health, safety and wellness of our student-athletes, coaches, staff and fans as our top priority," said the WSU athletic department.

The Wright State
GUARDIAN
MEDIA GROUP

If there are violations of any of the restrictions put in place by the NCAA, there will be harsh punishments for the parties involved.

“Unethical conduct, failure of head coach responsibility, lack of institutional control and failure to monitor are among the most serious allegations the enforcement staff can bring,” according to the NCAA’s website.

If the season does happen, there will most likely be no fans allowed, and there will be several different restrictions put in place.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

WSU Creates COVID Dashboard: Five Active Cases

Makenzie Hoeflerlin

September 1, 2020

Wright State University (WSU) created a dashboard to display coronavirus cases, currently displaying five active cases.

The updated dashboard reports 5 total active cases, four students and one employee. They are all self reported and have not been confirmed by Environmental Health and Safety (EHS).

WSU's website lists definitions for confirmed cases and for self-reported cases. WSU has not yet had a confirmed case of coronavirus.

A confirmed case will be recorded once the "home county health department of an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 has notified Wright State's Office of Environmental Health and Safety and is working with the university to commence contact tracing because the individual is believed to have been on campus recently," according to WSU's website.

A self-reported case is defined as a case from a WSU student or employee "who may or may not have been on campus recently and has self-reported that they have tested positive," according to the website.

EHS will be the point of contact for all university-related probable or confirmed coronavirus cases, according to WSU's website.

After EHS is notified, they will call or email the individual with a positive or probable case to start the process of contact tracing.

"Testing and exposure information will be kept confidential. Gathering testing information from across the university allows us to understand patterns in community spread and make informed decisions to keep our community members safe," according to WSU's website.

To access the dashboard, [click here >>](#)

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

The Wright Way to Gather
Kaitlyn Chrosniak
September 2, 2020

Due to COVID-19, Wright State University (WSU) has put in place several rules to limit the spread of the illness, including no gatherings on campus of more than four people and no visitors in dorms or apartments.

With over 1,100 new students moving on campus this fall, how does the university plan to handle potential policy violations this fall?

Coronavirus restrictions

WSU has implemented several policies for the fall semester in an attempt to limit the spread of the global coronavirus. Policies include:

- No groups larger than four when outdoors on campus
- Social distancing (six-feet apart) at all times
- Masks must be worn on campus (indoor or outdoor)
- No moving furniture in any public space
- All dorms have been converted to singles (no roommates)

“We wanted to get as close to or exceed the Centers for Disease Control standards,” said Director of Resident Life and Housing Dan Bertso. “We are dedicating ourselves to get to Thanksgiving.”

Bertso went on to state how move-in weekend showed promising signs that students are willing to be compliant with the new policies without much issue. However, there still needs to be a plan in place for if these rules are violated.

Violating Coronavirus Policies

If staff hears word of a large gathering on or off of campus, the rumor will be investigated to the furthest extent possible.

“Just like any other policy violation, we don’t have any mandatory sanctions,” said Assistant Director of Community Standards and Student Conduct Christopher Hogan. “It could be a \$25 fine, to suspension, or even separation from residential students.”

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Students who are found violating current policies will generally receive a warning letter in the mail reminding them of the rules. The letter will also state that if the student is found continually violating coronavirus policies that they will receive harsher punishments, such as a \$25 fine all the way up to potential suspension if necessary. The severity and frequency of rule violations will determine the depth of the punishment.

Students living in off campus apartments or attending off campus events will still be held accountable for their actions if caught partaking in larger than CDC guideline approved events, just as they would for partaking in any illegal actions off campus.

“So partying in Peppertree is not like other colleges. There are families and people besides college students who live here so it’s not like we hop around from apartment to apartment,” said Katy Fiske, a WSU senior residing in Peppertree Villas Apartments. “Guests are allowed but I can speak for the members of my apartment and say that we are selective with guests and only allow close friends who also attend school at Wright State that we know are COVID negative. “

Faculty at WSU hope that students will choose to follow the coronavirus policies set in place to ensure a safe fall semester and will enforce these guidelines to the fullest extent.

“We don’t want our students to get sick,” said Bertson, “because we want to get to Thanksgiving. We’re going to work together with them [students and off campus landlords]. Hopefully if they’re willing to do so we will end up with a safer environment.”

Summer Books That Will Make You Forget About School

Ariel Parker

September 2, 2020

Now that the semester has officially started for Raiders, the tumultuous summer of 2020 has ended. But just because summer is over, that doesn't mean you can't experience it vicariously through books!

Below are some books from a variety of genres to read and remind you of summer.

“Beach Read,” by Emily Henry

After her father's death and a bad break up, January stays at her father's beach house in Michigan where she writes her next romance book and encounters an old college acquaintance, who writes literary fiction. Because both feel like they're in a writing rut, they agree to “swap genres,” and the first person to sell their book wins!

Though this may not be the most conventional “romance,” the cozy small-beach-town vibes and romance definitely make up for it. Part enemies-to-lovers, part second chance romance, this contemporary is sure to remind you of warm weather and adventure.

“Writers & Lovers,” by Lily King

A literary fiction novel set in the summer of 1997 follows 31-year-old Casey after the death of her mother. She arrives in Massachusetts without a plan (except to write) and starts waitressing in a pricey restaurant. While she tries to finish the same novel that she's been working on for six years, she falls in love with two men at the same time: one a young, floundering artist like her, and the other being a well-established author a decade older than her.

This book talks not only about grief and relationships, but also the craft of writing and the way the art world interacts with artists. While this book is full of anxiety and the universal feeling of being out-of-place, the vibrant characters and engaging story will have you smiling by the end.

“American Hippo,” by Sarah Gailey

This alternative historical fiction duology follows a past in which the United States imported hippopotamuses over to the Louisiana bayou for meat – something that Louisiana

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Congressmen had *actually* considered doing. Gailey took this outrageous “what-if” and created a dangerous, gritty world filled with feral hippos and bounty hunters.

As hippos are dangerous, when “feral” hippos are let loose in the bayou, we follow a small cast of characters as they go on an adventure to be rid of them. You’ll be able to feel the Southern heat roll off the pages and be transported into an alternate dimension where we could’ve seen “lake cow bacon” sold in grocery stores across the country.

“The Hating Game,” by Sally Thorne

This popular hate-to-love office romance has become a favorite to many, so if you haven’t read it yet, what are you waiting for? After two publishing companies merge, Lucy is forced to work in the same office with Josh – a cold, no-nonsense guy who totally clashes with her bright and bubbly demeanor. As they’re both assistants to their respective bosses, they work across from each other and have never-ending “games” to one-up each other. After an event that leaves Lucy questioning her hatred for Josh, the two grow closer and learn that maybe their first impressions of each other aren’t entirely true. This hilarious and sweet contemporary romance will be sure to make rereading it immediately impossible.

“How to Do Nothing,” by Jenny Odell

Lastly, a nonfiction book to round-out this list. Odell’s book gives readers a passionate argument to avoid the “attention economy” that’s so prevalent in our society. Specifically, it highlights the necessity of making time for yourself separate from monetizing every single thing you do.

This book is especially important now when many articles were published during the start of quarantine pushing the idea to have a “side hustle,” and the fact that these sentiments neglected to factor in a for-profit mentality can be harmful. Instead of glorifying this “hustle culture,” we should keep in mind that there is inherent value in art for art’s sake, not just to make a buck out of it (even including Instagram posts or viral TikToks).

This short book gives much to chew on, and with so much happening in the world today, it’s good to remind yourself that it’s okay to do nothing.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

SGA:Vandalism, National Election and Resignation
Maxwell Patton
September 2, 2020

The second Student Government Association (SGA) meeting for the semester took place virtually on Sep. 1. During the meeting, one resolution was passed and a by-law amendment was tabled.

The group also discussed the vandalism of the rock by Millett Hall. Graffiti supporting the Black Lives Matter movement was painted over with the word "USA" last week, leading members of the Black Student Union and others in the community to restore it.

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

Resolution 20-12 was introduced at the previous SGA meeting and is sponsored by Student Body President Ivan Mallett. This resolution urges university members to declare this year's Election Day, which is occurring on Nov. 3, a university holiday so that any students, faculty and staff wishing to vote in person could do so.

It also encourages students to apply as poll workers for the upcoming election if their health and academics would not be jeopardized.

The resolution was passed by acclamation.

By-Law Amendments

Two amendments to the by-laws of the SGA Constitution were introduced during the meeting by College of Liberal Arts senator Jackson Cornwell.

One of the proposed changes was to define the role of the advisor more clearly, allowing them to intervene in SGA business if necessary.

Another change dealt with the removal of officers from their position, barring them from running for SGA office for 365 days after removal.

These amendments were tabled until the next meeting.

Resignation of the Chief Justice

The resignation of Chief Justice Jacob Jones was discussed at Tuesday's meeting.

The Wright State
GUARDIAN
MEDIA GROUP

“My reason for leaving my position as Chief Justice was due to a personal decision that affected some of my colleagues in Student Government,” Jones said. “I felt it best to step back from my role to maintain the integrity of the organization.”

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

Dayton's Not Dead: Omega Music
Maxwell Patton
September 3, 2020

Located within the Oregon District in Dayton, Ohio, the music store Omega Music has become an oasis for music lovers from across the region by hosting CDs, vinyl records and cassette tapes from all genres.

The family business

Gary Staiger founded the shop as Omega Thrift'n Records in 1979. A native of Turners Falls, Mass., Staiger became an Air Force medic during the Vietnam War and was stationed at Dayton's Air Force Base.

He bought an old pottery and antique store in the city's Five Oaks neighborhood for about \$500, selling plants, used records and antiques.

Staiger soon began to focus solely on selling records, and the store was rebranded as Omega Music in 1983.

Gary's son Alex is the store's current owner.

"I think that's where he saw his sales at, and that's what his passion was: music," Alex Staiger stated. "I think buying up the thrift store was kind of like his entry point. 'How do I get into the business? How do I get a small business retail shop started?' That was an easy way for him to do it."

Omega Music moved to its current location at 318 E. Fifth St. in October 2010, about a month before its founder passed away. Alex and his siblings Greg and Katie took over the business following their father's death, and Alex became its sole owner around 2016.

They received the first perfect score from Goldmine Magazine reviewer Dr. Disc in 2019, an honor that Staiger described as "pretty awesome."

"I wish my dad was here to see it," Staiger said.

Surviving in the age of digital music

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Omega has been a member of the Coalition of Independent Music Stores since 2015, a partnership that Alex Staiger highly values.

“It’s really cool to be a part of that group. There’s a lot of smart people in those stores,” said Staiger.

The coalition was formed in 1995 in response to the music industry placing much of their faith and support into big-box stores such as Best Buy and comprises 40 independent music stores across the United States.

“The music industry was putting all of their eggs into big-box stores and kinda forgetting about small mom-and-pop shops. Then, Napster came and downloading, and we’ve kinda been on a rollercoaster ride ever since,” said Staiger.

Even with these modern conveniences, vinyl sales have been increasing over the past few years, and Staiger is glad to see this.

“It’s a whole different love,” he explained. “I think it’s good that people are getting back into it. When you listen to an album, you stream it and you like it, and kids come in and they’re like ‘I wanna own that’. Nobody wants to come over and look at your phone. If you had company over, you could bring out a record and turn on the turntable. It’s kinda like a thing to talk about, a conversation starter.”

The impact of the coronavirus pandemic

As a small business, Omega Music has been dealt a heavy blow by the pandemic. They have cut their number of employees in half and reopened with reduced hours while encouraging customers to sanitize their hands upon entry and requiring face coverings.

The shop will be participating in Record Store Day this year, an international event that was delayed due to the pandemic. The 2020 celebration will take place over three days: Aug. 29, Sept. 26 and Oct. 24.

Customers will still be allowed to browse the store in-person during these days. However, if they are ordering records during the event, customers must fill out a list posted on the Omega Music website, pay for their items over the phone, and pick them up at the store.

Due to the pandemic, many of the records that Omega Music have been attempting to order have been unavailable.

The Wright State
GUARDIAN
MEDIA GROUP

“It is a system that was not really prepared for a pandemic, and we’re just trying our best,” Staiger explained.

Though this has caused frustration for the store, Staiger is optimistic about the future along with the return of live music, especially in Dayton’s rich music scene.

“The community has been really supportive, and that’s been wonderful. We wouldn’t be here without Dayton, you know, the community, and we’re really thankful to still be in business.”

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Trump Tower in Coldwater Stirs Controversy

Roxanne Roessner

September 3, 2020

Near the end of August, Coldwater, Ohio watched a Trump 2020 banner be hung on the Sycamore Group water tower. Mixed reactions came from those in Coldwater, especially when it was believed that it was a village-owned tower.

“Trump Tower”

The “Trump Tower”, as many locals call it, has received much discussion within the community of Coldwater, a village ten minutes from Celina.

Dan Bruns, the owner of the water tower in question and Bruns Construction shed light on the situation. Specifically, he answered how one comes to own a water tower.

When the New Idea Farm Agricultural Facility went up for sale, Bruns Construction bought it and the water tower was included. It has since been put out of commission but has been a sort of billboard for the Sycamore Group.

“I feel so strong about Donald Trump, and be that we are a conservative company and have been all of our lives, I really support him because we want our country to be stronger and greater. So I decided to put a banner up,” said Bruns.

Contrary to popular belief, the water tower is privately owned and the Trump 2020 banner was paid out-of-pocket by Bruns himself.

According to Bruns, he received the full support of the community and is grateful that he is able to express himself by displaying the banner on his private tower.

A word from the community

Health Care Products employee Regina Dues had this to say over social media about the tower that is located not only almost in her backyard, but also at her place of work.

“This is where I work, yes that is a Trump 2020 poster on our water tower. YES, I’m proud to be a part of this community,” said Dues.

Community member Shannon Woeste had a different view on the situation.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

“I’m happy people are able to have their own beliefs and freedom of speech, but that flag being displayed on a massive water tower (although it’s privately owned) symbolizes [that] the whole town is a diehard Trump supporter. That’s far from the truth. I don’t think it’s right or wrong, I just think it’s sad. Politics seem to be people’s main focus. It tears everyone apart, unfortunately,” said Woeste.

The first amendment

Bruns’s main concern with being interviewed was having people terrorize his property and buildings due to backlash. He asks that people respect his first amendment right in being able to express his political beliefs.

According to Bruns, he does not intend for his banner to create a divide within the community.

“I talked to the local police department, which I support 100 percent because I want that protection if I need it. They were very receptive because they are all for protecting people and property,” said Bruns.

He also mentioned another banner that will be put up on the water tower but gave no indication of what it would be.

The Village of Coldwater was able to experience the first amendment in a way that it has never before. Gone are the days of simple signs in yards, now is the time for banners on water towers.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

We Serve U Brings Positivity to Community

Alexis Wisler

September 3, 2020

We Serve U is a volunteer organization at Wright State University (WSU) dedicated to providing students, staff and faculty with meaningful service opportunities within the community.

“We make a lot happen,” said Co-Chair of We Serve U Joanie Hendricks.

From a couple people to a whole community

We Serve U began with a handful of WSU staff members with a passion for volunteering. Gaining traction at WSU with students, faculty and other staff members, We-Serve-U became an official group in January of 2011.

When the program first started out, they had to explain to volunteer organizations who they were and what their mission was. But now the community is beginning to seek out the assistance of We Serve U.

“When we first began, we had to educate everyone on what we wanted to accomplish and how the WSU family could assist in the mission of community partners—now they look forward to our volunteer fair, donation drives [and other events].” said Committee Member Fran Keeley.

We Serve U also gives students, staff and faculty the option to volunteer without ever leaving campus.

“As much as possible, we try to bring service opportunities to campus so people who want to help can do so on a lunch break or a break between classes. I think that helps so much in getting more people involved in community service,” said Co-Chair Becky Traxler

Volunteer Fair

The annual Volunteer Fair will be held virtually this year. Beginning Sept. 9, a new page on We Serve U’s website will launch with volunteer organizations in the area showcasing their service opportunities.

Local volunteer organizations will make a video explaining their organization and what volunteering for them will entail. Students, staff and faculty are encouraged to look through the videos and find a volunteer opportunity that matches with their interests and availability.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

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According to Hendricks, the volunteer fair is a great way for students to find ways to fulfill service hours for courses that require them.

The volunteer fair page will be on the website for a month.

Volunteering during coronavirus

“The needs of our community have changed. So many people are out of work and in need of assistance,” said Hendricks.

Students and members of WSU wishing to help out others during the ongoing pandemic can contact We Serve U or look on their website for volunteer opportunities in the area.

Hendricks recognizes that not everybody is comfortable going out and surrounding themselves with people right now. We Serve U is currently looking for remote volunteer opportunities.

We Serve U and the community

We Serve U hosts several annual events including Cards for Kids, Holiday Toy Drive and Adopt a Family.

Much like the Holiday Toy Drive, Adopt a Family “provides an opportunity for individuals, groups, and/or organizations to “adopt” a family for the holiday by providing gifts based on their wish lists” according to the We Serve U website.

“As part of the group who organizes the Holiday Gift program I know that students, faculty and staff help 25 or more families a year in the Greene County area that are in need,” said Committee Member Kim Sierschula. “As we load up hundreds of gifts into vans to be delivered to the families I know we are putting smiles on children’s faces within our communities when they wake up to see their gifts”

Anyone who wishes to volunteer and help others can visit the We Serve U website for more information.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

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Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Tipps
Maxwell Patton
September 4, 2020

Dr. James Tipps has been teaching choir at Wright State University (WSU) for over 20 years, where he has learned a great deal about himself and others.

“Don’t be arrogant about what you do know. Be humble about what you don’t know,” said Tipps.

Tipps was hired by WSU in the fall of 1992 after being convinced by an esteemed music education professor that he should only apply to jobs he thought he would really like to take. WSU at the time was looking for a choral instructor with plenty of experience who was also a skilled pianist.

“It was like they wrote the job description for me,” Tipps said.

Rural beginnings

Growing up in Lynchburg, Tenn., Tipps had been interested in music from a young age.

“I drove my parents crazy when I was four or five because I wanted to learn how to play the piano,” he explained. “When I was eight, I was playing the organ in church.”

This upbringing did not allow him to be fully immersed in classical music, which he often teaches now at WSU.

“I’d never really thought about becoming a music teacher until I got to college,” said Tipps.

At this point in his life, he was majoring in math and computer science. However, a change of heart caused him to switch majors. Tipps holds degrees in music education from Tennessee Technological University, Georgia Southern University and Florida State University. He also studied at the British Kodaly Academy.

A gained appreciation for the arts

To Tipps, his college years were valuable in helping to solidify his adoration for the arts.

“I had my first opera that I went to, and I was like ‘wow! Why didn’t somebody tell me it was like this?’ I’d always just heard opera made fun of,” said Tipps.

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Tipps holds a firm belief that music education is vital for everyone regardless of what career path they are following.

“Music education is important to learn not just to be performing, but to be able to appreciate music of all kinds,” Tipps said. “I had no classical background until I was in college, but there were things that I didn’t come to appreciate even after getting a music education degree.”

Some of these genres included jazz and country music, which Tipps did not learn to appreciate until later on in his life.

“Years ago, I was a real snob, but coming to understand the expressive qualities that are in lots of music, like the Beatles. There’s lots of human emotion and aesthetics. Aesthetics, of course, refers to the music. What is beautiful? And that there are many different kinds of music that have real significant aesthetic qualities that we as teachers need to be passing along to our students so that they’re able to work and understand that there’s not just beauty in one thing but there are lots of different kinds,” said Tipps.

Touring with the Capella group

Tipps has been teaching Men’s Chorale and University Chorus at WSU, and he has also been instructing the Kettering Children’s Choir group Capella. This group has traveled all over the world in recent years, performing in areas such as St. Mark’s Basilica in Venice, the American Cemetery at France’s Omaha Beach and the National Cathedral in D.C.

This experience is always fascinating for him, as he enjoys meeting other tourists from around the world when Capella is touring. Utilizing home stays also allows the group to gain plenty of insight into what life is like in all of the different countries they visit.

Tipps’ advice to music students

When asked what advice he has for music students, Tipps had a simple response.

“You need to look at what you want to be when you get through,” he explained. “Not just with passing classes, but to look at the overall end purpose.”

He advises those students to prepare for what’s ahead in their chosen career path and to look for opportunities to gain experience. Finally, he recommends that they look over posted job descriptions and also consider their endgame.

The Wright State
GUARDIAN
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“Where do I want to be not just five years from now, with my first job, but where do I want to be in 15 or 20 years? What kind of job would I like to have and how can I get there?” said Tipps.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

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Compelled Student Athletes Train Differently During Pandemic

William Baptist

September 4, 2020

Student-athletes were forced to train in unique ways, due to gyms and practice facilities being closed since March because of coronavirus.

Team facilities and gyms were closed for about five months, which made it challenging for student-athletes to stay in shape and train for their season.

“Overall, I believe it may lead to a slow start because we have to focus on conditioning more now, when that usually is the main focus in the off season and summer,” said senior on the women’s basketball team, Nia Sumpter.

This is happening to schools and teams across the country, so it isn’t unique to Wright State University (WSU).

Different circumstances

These tough circumstances forced athletes to do at home workouts, and focus a lot on cardio, because that is essentially the only thing they could do.

“While the gyms and team facilities were closed, I continued to train by shooting on my own outside basketball goal and continued with running along hiking trails once they were allowed to open back up,” said Sumpter.

Now that facilities and gyms are opening back up, there are a multitude of guidelines put in place so that athletes can stay safe. This will be a daunting task for the NCAA because these circumstances are unlike any other we have seen before.

“It might be more difficult to manage any new infections and resulting potential for COVID-19 spread within athletics, and specifically within a team environment,” according to NCAA’s website.

Remaining focused

Everything being shut down for months was tough on everyone, but student-athletes now have to try to get in shape while also practicing to improve at their sport.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

The golf team was fairly lucky because golf courses across Ohio remained open, so they were able to train and prepare for the season as usual.

“We continued to train by keeping our goal of making it out of regionals in mind and playing/practicing at various courses in the Dayton/Cincinnati/Columbus area,” said senior on the golf team, Bryce Haney.

Student-athletes have to try to accomplish several different things during their practices to ensure they will be ready to compete when the season begins

The Wright State GUARDIAN

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Raid-Our-Closet Pushes Back Opening Due to Pandemic

Alexis Wisler

September 4, 2020

Raid-Our-Closet is a new donation-based program run by Student Advocacy and Wellness that aims to help students land a job by supplying them with professional clothing for interviews.

“Wright State does an amazing job preparing students to excel in the workforce in many ways, and the first impression a person makes in an interview, specifically what one wears, can carry a lot of influence,” said Destinee Biesemeyer, Raid-Our-Closet representative.

Professional attire

While Raid-Our-Closet primarily accepts business professional attire, business casual is accepted as well. Along with clothing, cash donations are welcomed and can be used to buy gifts cards for students if the clothing at Raid-Our-Closet isn’t the right size for them.

Money donations can also be used to buy things that students might not want to wear secondhand such as pantyhose and socks.

“Traditional business attire can be quite expensive, and especially now, finances for college students can be tight,” said Ciara Newsome, Raid-Our-Closet representative. “The clothes given to students would aim to fit their style, and don’t need to adhere to binary norms”

According to Stephanie Allen, Raid-Our-Closet representative, the plan is to allow students to take one outfit a semester from the closet. Allen’s hope is that once the program gains more traction, there will be enough donations for students to be able to take two or three business professional outfits after showing proof that they landed a job.

Students who want clothing from the program can visit the [Raid-Our-Closet website](#) and make an appointment. Students who want to donate can contact either Stephanie Allen, Destinee Biesemeyer, or Ciara Newsome.

Coronavirus setbacks

Fall 2020 was set to be Raid-Our-Closet’s debut semester, but the program faced some setbacks due to coronavirus that have pushed the grand opening to the Spring 2021 semester.

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Raid-Our-Closet does not have an official office space yet, a project that was put on pause when everyone had to leave campus in March. Temporarily working out of 016 Student Union, students need to set up an appointment to visit and get clothing.

Raid-Our-Closet will find a forever home in the Student Union by the Raider Food Pantry once the office for Student Advocacy and Wellness completes its move to that location.

“We haven’t gotten off the ground yet due to the physical space and coronavirus. So while we wanted it to be fall I think spring is probably a better realistic expectation for actually having the doors open like the food pantry,” said Allen.