

Wright State University

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The Guardian, Week of September 28, 2020

Wright State Student Body

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The Wright State GUARDIAN

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Weekly Horoscopes

Star Signer

September 28, 2020

As the weather grows colder and the leaves start to fall, read on to discover your fall aesthetic based on your zodiac sign.

ARIES

Aries, your fall aesthetic is a messy one. Digging the seeds out of your pumpkins to carve and jumping into a pile of freshly fallen leaves are just a few activities to look forward to this year. Grab some friends and get to work!

TAURUS

Taurus, autumn is the season for you to shine. Grab a cup of your favorite coffee, slip on your favorite sweatshirt, and take a walk. Spend some of your free time enjoying nature and the wonderful views that it presents.

GEMINI

Gemini, this fall season holds special things for you, but you have to step out of your comfort zone to reach them. Try some new things this fall. Pick out a pumpkin pie recipe to bake or dabble in amateur photography. You will have no trouble finding a muse.

CANCER

Cancer, fall is the perfect time to grab your favorite book and cuddle up with a blanket in your favorite comfy spot. If you aren't much of a reader, there might be a few items on Netflix that catch your eye.

LEO

Leo, as outgoing and adventurous as you are, this fall has big plans for you. Take a little bit of extra time to plan a small dinner gathering (but bigger than normal) for your family and closest friends. The visits are long over due and you won't regret the effort.

VIRGO

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Virgo, as the weather gets colder, take extra time to attend to yourself and your mental health. It can be easy to get stressed out and wrapped up in all the things that don't matter. Make sure you are in a good place before you stretch yourself too thin.

LIBRA

Libra, the fall is the perfect time for a bonfire with some of your closest friends. The weather keeps getting colder and the stress is still growing. Take a night to enjoy time with your friends in a carefree fashion.

SCORPIO

Scorpio, for you, fall is all about family and love. It's the time of thanksgiving and being grateful. You've worked hard and you have a lot to be thankful for. Breathe in the fresh air, count your blessings, and leave your worries behind you.

SAGITTARIUS

Sagittarius, fall often means back to a schedule or routine for you. It also means that your favorite holidays are coming up. Don't let anything get in the way of you celebrating Halloween and Thanksgiving like there is no tomorrow.

CAPRICORN

Capricorn, most of the time you embody a calm and collected spirit. This fall, branch out with some new and exciting activities. Try a corn maze or a haunted house. If these are not available or are too adventurous, go on a hayride or pick out some pumpkins.

AQUARIUS

Aquarius, your creative side is really going to show this fall. Whatever you do, allow yourself the room for creativity. Whether it's taking pictures, carving pumpkins, or creating a new tasty treat, don't keep your mind from sharing its wonderful ideas.

PISCES

Pisces, your ability to spread kindness is going to take you far in life, especially in this season. Your bright smile will bring many people to a brighter place. You never know what effect you will have on people so keep on keepin on.

Is TikTok Here to Stay?

Maxwell Patton

September 28, 2020

A deal has been proposed involving software company Oracle and retail giant Walmart, who would both have a hand in the American operations of the Chinese social-networking app TikTok; however, the details of the agreement are complicated.

The deal

On Sept. 19, TikTok announced that Oracle and Walmart agreed to obtain a 20 percent stake in its business. Oracle would acquire 12.5 percent while Walmart would receive 7.5 percent. A new company called TikTok Global would also be formed to handle app operations in America, with four American citizens and, reportedly, ByteDance founder Zhang Yiming, acting as members of its board. This company would create around 25,000 new jobs, which earned it a blessing from President Trump.

This agreement is the result of Trump seeking a ban on the app in the United States since, in his eyes, it is a threat to national security.

TikTok is owned by the Chinese tech company ByteDance, who said that they will retain 80 percent ownership of the new company; however, Oracle has contradicted this.

According to Oracle Executive Vice President Ken Glueck, "Upon creation of TikTok Global, Oracle/Walmart will make their investment and the TikTok Global shares will be distributed to their owners, Americans will be the majority and ByteDance will have no ownership in TikTok Global."

Oracle would store all data from TikTok's American users on its cloud platform if the deal goes through. Additionally, the company would be in charge of "securing associated computer systems," according to a statement from TikTok.

Originally, the app was to be taken off of app stores on Sept. 20. However, Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross allowed this to be delayed by a week.

ByteDance has submitted an application to the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Commerce for an export license to sell this 20 percent stake, though there is a possibility that the deal will be rejected by China. The state-run newspaper China Daily has blasted the proposed deal, calling it "dirty" and "unfair" and mentioning that "what the United States has done to TikTok is almost

the same as a gangster forcing an unreasonable and unfair business deal on a legitimate company.”

Student reactions

History major Nolan Hall has been critical of the entire situation, mentioning that part of the reason Trump is against TikTok may be because some of his rallies had inflated expected attendance due to users of the app.

“He saw it as a means of ‘oh, these people here did this. I’m going to act like a baby and try and take it away from them,’ without thinking ‘oh, even some of my own supporters use this and it makes people happy,’” Hall said.

Meanwhile, Cameron Waid, an information systems and supply chain management major, isn’t worried about the app’s future and is excited to continue taking in what TikTok has to offer.

“I’m already here to watch and enjoy the content people produce,” said Waid.

WSU Enrollment Up 12 Percent From Expected

Alexis Wisler

September 28, 2020

Wright State University's (WSU) 14-day enrollment for the fall 2020 semester is up 12 percent of what was predicted. Programs such as the summer Jump Start program and Family Chats assisted in higher-than-predicted enrollment rates.

Family Chats and the Jump Start program

"Two of the biggest factors that professionals in the Division of Enrollment Management attribute to the enrollment this semester were the Family Chats that were hosted before the semester as well as the Jump Start program," said WSU Director of Communications Seth Bauguess.

Along with the Family Chats, hosted by WSU President Sue Edwards, where she spent time answering any questions returning and potential students had regarding the university during the pandemic, the Jump Start Program also contributed to positive enrollment this semester.

"The Jump Start program was also a boon to fall enrollment as 80 students participated in a general education course during summer B term for free," said Bauguess. "After that experience, 98% of those students went ahead and enrolled this fall."

How students benefit from high enrollment

High enrollment not only benefits the university, but the students themselves as well.

"There is definitely a benefit to students when enrollment, and more specifically an incoming fall class is larger. Larger classes bring more student engagement on campus as well as a greater diversity of engagement from the student body," said Bauguess. "Anytime Wright State can increase its student body the university community on the whole reaps the benefit of a greater diversity of thought and identity when we have more students."

Room for improvement

Although the 14-day enrollment rates for the 2020 fall semester are 12 percent higher than predicted, they show an 11 percent decline from last fall semester's enrollment.

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“Wright State University’s 14-day fall enrollment is 12,234. While 12,234 students is an improvement over the 10,700 students estimated to be enrolled for this year’s budget, however, it does represent an 11% decline from last fall and shows that the university still has work to do to stop the recent trend of enrollment declines,” said Bauguess.

The two demographics that WSU can improve on to increase their enrollment from semester to semester is incoming class size as well as transfer students.

“Areas for improvement include growing the size of our incoming classes as well as the number of transfer students. Both populations declined this fall in comparison to last fall,” said Bauguess. “However, there is good news in that the university has improved its retention of the students it already had enrolled. These factors have contributed to the result of a larger enrollment than budgeted but a smaller enrollment this fall in comparison to last fall.”

Coronavirus: Vaccines Could Be Ready as Early as November or December

Noah Kindig

September 29, 2020

A return to normalcy may be on the horizon, with Operation Warp Speed and the CDC hoping to release a Coronavirus vaccine in November or December to those who need it most.

The CDC's senate testimony

Dr. Robert Redfield, the Director of the CDC, told a Senate panel that “there will most likely be a vaccine available sometime between November or December, but it will have to be prioritized.”

Dr. Redfield also commented that it would not just be patients receiving the first doses of the vaccine.

“First responders and those at greatest risk... as well as those with significant comorbidities that put themselves at risk, they have to get vaccinated.”

While there are no approved vaccines for the Coronavirus currently, Operation Warp Speed, a public-private global partnership led by the United States, has helped push the production and distribution of a vaccine to the American public.

“It's unprecedented,” Redfield commented. “The fastest prior [vaccine] took 2 years, and usually 4 to 6 years.”

Since the outbreak began, the Department of Health and Human Services has issued grants totaling almost 1 billion dollars to Johnson & Johnson and Moderna to speed up the clinical trials of their respective vaccine candidates.

With the efficiency of Operation Warp Speed, and many vaccines in phase 3 of clinical trials, some experts have safety concerns.

“Vaccines normally go through a very rigorous safety check all along the 3 stages of development,” Jerome Kim, Director-General of the International Vaccine Institute, said.

“We don't know that a vaccine that's developed in 12 to 18 months is really safe... It's one thing to work, but the vaccines have to be safe.”

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Seth Bauguess, the Director of Communications at Wright State University (WSU), is optimistic about the safety of the vaccines.

“Never before has such a large amount of time and resources been devoted to a single vaccine effort,” Bauguess said. “Companies used vaccine platforms that were already under development for other purposes. Because of this, time was saved in development and clinical trials could begin more rapidly.”

The Impact of an available vaccine on WSU

Students and Staff hoping for a return to fully in-person classes will still likely be waiting for a while, since public access to the vaccine will not be available until mid-2021.

“I think we’re probably looking at late second quarter, early third quarter of 2021,” Redfield said. “We’ll start with first responders and those at greatest risk, then it will expand.”

Bauguess stresses that while a vaccine is the main thing to think about when talking about reopening, it is not the only factor that will decide when WSU fully reopens.

“Widespread immunity is critical to resuming life and operations,” Bauguess said. “I view [a vaccine] as the lynchpin to Wright State returning to normal operations. Built into that reality would be, of course, that we’d need to meet the approval of local health authorities too. Simply put, the state of Ohio would have to agree with the decision.”

But, for the spring semester, it looks like classes will be similar to what they are like for this semester.

“There’s nothing firm to announce at this time about operations for spring semester,” Bauguess explained. “But I would be surprised if university operations were anything drastically different than where they are now.”

Bauguess also stresses to use your resources for up-to-date information, and to look after each other through this changing time.

“The university’s coronavirus webpage and coronavirus dashboard are critical public information resources for campus populations to stay informed,” Bauguess said. “Students should also consider their professors as important sources of information as they should be contacted whenever there is any kind of question in the student’s mind.”

“I am so appreciative of everyone who worked so tirelessly over the summer to prepare for Fall Semester. I am also so grateful that our students, faculty, and staff have been so willing to

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comply with our campus safety measures,” Bauguess said. “This is a time where self-care and care for others is critical. This is an evolving situation, where we all need to be patient, flexible, tolerant, and most importantly, kind to one another.

Wright State’s coronavirus webpage: <https://www.wright.edu/coronavirus>

Wright State’s coronavirus dashboard: <https://www.wright.edu/coronavirus/covid-19-dashboard>

JK Rowling's Controversial Comments Against The Trans Community

Ariel Parker

September 29, 2020

JK Rowling is one of the most popular authors in the world, and most well known for her beloved Harry Potter series. However, recent comments Rowling made against the trans community has many fans worldwide wondering how best to support the trans community.

This is not the first controversy Rowling has had over the years. Suggesting that trans activism negates the lived experiences of cis women, having anxiety over trans women using the bathrooms to assault cis women and taking issue with language intended to be inclusive to trans people, Rowling has doubled down on her views in a way that cannot be ignored.

Wright State University (WSU) is full of Potterheads, and many students are young enough to remember reading the books and watching the movies as they came out. While fans around the world are grappling with this controversy, students and faculty share their thoughts.

Student opinion

Sophomore English major H who grew up watching and loving the Harry Potter franchise, was sad when Rowling released her statements.

"[Harry Potter] really represents community to me. They're just something that everyone loves and a topic that I could bond over with anyone," said a sophomore English major at Wright State.

"My initial reaction was that I wish she wouldn't have spoken out because it made me sad to see the happy, wholesome Harry Potter community be torn apart by a personal opinion. It's okay to have opinions, but I was a little disappointed that she voiced them on a public platform with how much was at stake," said the student.

Sophomore English major Calvin Cusack is also a big fan of the series and was upset by Rowling's statements.

"I was disappointed in the attitude she took that women are the only people who menstruate, as this disputes the lived experience of trans people. I was disappointed with these statements, as I disagree with them wholeheartedly," said Cusack.

"I fully understand people not wanting to spend money on things JK Rowling has created, in light of her expressed views... It's much better to use the power you have as a consumer. If you

don't support someone, don't pay them your time or attention. At the same time though, don't pester or attack people if they choose differently than you," said Cusack.

A WSU Sophomore English Literature major was initially confused by Rowling's statements.

"She has the right to speak, just as you and I do, but she should've been more aware of the weight of her words before posting anything that could be so harmful to others. This oversight on her part is a bit ironic considering she's the one who's words helped shape an entire generation," the student said.

"There's no way of knowing if [cancel culture] will actually encourage Rowling to change her viewpoint, but the public has made it clear that our patience with the author, which has been tested in the past, has come to an end and we will not tolerate anything that resembles transphobia from her in the future," said the student.

Professors and faculty share their thoughts

Senior lecturer in English and Program Coordinator for Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies Cynthia Marshall Burns says the world of Harry Potter has been a huge part of her life, even as an adult.

"It can be very challenging to separate the work from the artist, no matter how much we want to. ...The immediacy of social media only intensifies a sense of connection between author and work," said Burns.

"Some of Rowling's concerns also mirror ridiculous and demonstrably untrue claims we've heard about dressing rooms and bathrooms suddenly becoming unsafe because of the presence of trans people, and that kind of ill-informed knee-jerk panic does cause harm," said Burns.

WSU English professor Dr. Hope Jennings was also disappointed. Though she is personally not a fan of the Harry Potter franchise, she recognizes the harm an influential woman like Rowling holds.

"It's so strange for someone who has inspired a really supportive community to then be so vocal about excluding certain people from communities," said Jennings.

If Rowling was as supportive of trans issues as she claims, Jennings argues, "she wouldn't try to exclude trans people from spaces or to continue to view trans women and make comments that disparage or exclude them from their own gender identity."

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“We already know that trans people are victims of violence and murder simply for being trans. Rowling’s speech is creating a really violent rhetorical space that then can encourage broader social-cultural anti-trans language and then inspire real acts of violence against trans people. We should stop and analyze what’s motivating that,” said Jennings.

Jennings hopes that if readers are disappointed by Rowling, this will encourage them to broaden their reading and read something else from the genre.

“We want to support trans issues, let’s also support trans authors,” said Jennings.

Associate Director of LGBTQA Affairs Emily Yantis-Houser is a long time fan and has many memories of reading the books and watching the movies with her family.

“For me, the real issue here is her expansive influence. Whether she’s ‘just expressing her opinion’ or not, she is expressing things that have an impact on others and that some people will take to mean discrimination is okay,” said Yantis-Houser.

Yantis-Houser is also mindful of the ongoing conversation our society has in regards to trans issues.

“Although this is an important issue at the moment, it also influences how we act or not in the face of pressing challenges to the trans community like housing discrimination, the denial of healthcare rights and the horrific amount of trans people murdered in our society,” said Yantis-Houser.

“An author’s experiences inherently influence their writing, no matter who they are or what they write about, so I don’t think you can pull them apart,” said Yantis-Houser.

Supporting trans authors

While Rowling has faced backlash for her transphobic views, critics and Potterheads are rising to challenge these harmful viewpoints and making a point to call them out.

For those who are interested in perusing and supporting books written by trans, nonbinary or genderqueer authors, be sure to check out authors such as Akwaeke Emezi, J.Y. Yang and Aiden Thomas. For adult fantasy, check out Sarah Gailey, Charlie Jane Anders or Annalee Newitz.

There is no doubt that the Harry Potter series has made its mark on an entire generation of readers. Rowling’s series is here to stay, and its influence will be present for many, many years

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to come, topping lists of best fantasy series along with “Lord of the Rings” and “A Song of Ice and Fire.”

However, readers can be mindful of what books they invest their time with, and that by reading books written by trans authors, we can move towards a more accepting society.

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Wright Brothers Day Moves Virtual
Nicolas Benvenuto
September 30, 2020

The Wright State University (WSU) American Marketing Association (AMA) and Marketing Club will be hosting the 10th Annual Wright Brothers Day virtually this year, as students and faculty continue to overcome challenges brought on by the coronavirus.

Held on Oct. 5 in WSU's Student Union since 2010, this marks the first year that events and activities are scheduled to be held completely online.

"Wright Brothers Day is an event set up by the American Marketing Association at WSU that celebrates the Wright Brothers and their flight on Huffman Prairie on Oct. 5, 1905. We believe celebrating this amazing achievement by the Wright Brothers is extremely important not only as a whole but especially for Wright State due to their strong influence at our school," said Abby Graeter, VP of Social Media and Graphic Design for AMA.

Adapt and Overcome

Challenges brought on by the coronavirus forced those involved to harness their own innovative spirit by creating an interactive experience for attendees while remaining fully online.

"Due to the coronavirus, we have had to get crafty on what we are able to do," Graeter said.

"We have set up a virtual Instagram event that will allow students to post on their stories or feeds creative photos showcasing Wright Brothers Day with the hashtag, #WrightBrothersDay, and we will be giving away 12 Wright State shirts to the top 12 most creative posts."

In addition to an Instagram event, the AMA will be presenting students and those in attendance with informative videos about the Wright Brothers and their innovations, and extra credit opportunities are available for students taking certain courses at the university.

Extra credit opportunities

"We will be sending out quizzes that will offer extra credit to some classes depending on the professor. Once students take this quiz, they will also be entered automatically into a raffle that will randomly select people to win a variety of prizes such as a speedway gift card," Graeter said.



Hopes for this year

The Marketing Club at WSU has a new President this fall, Andrew Smith, and he is excited to be a part of his first Wright Brothers Day, albeit online.

“This is my first swing at Wright Brothers Day since becoming Marketing Club President, and while we had to overcome some challenges for sure, I believe the experience will still be informational and fun for those who join on Oct. 5,” Smith said.

Smith is hopeful that even with the event being held entirely online, the turnout will still be substantial, as it has been in previous years.

“In previous years we have had tremendous turnouts to this event, so I really hope that this year is similar. It’s been a learning experience for many of us and we want to make sure we put on the best event possible for those joining us,” Smith said.

For students and those in the community wishing to join in on Wright Brothers Day festivities on Oct. 5, visit <https://www.wright.edu/event/wright-brothers-day>

Future events put on by AMA may be found on social media platforms @AMAwSU and on the WSU event page.

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Announcement of Basketball Brings Excitement to WSU

William Baptist

September 30, 2020

The wait is finally over after the NCAA Division I Council approved a start date of Nov. 25 for college basketball to begin. Teams can officially start full practices on Oct. 14.

Wright State University (WSU) is still awaiting a decision from the Horizon League on the official start date and schedule for the upcoming season.

“Today’s vote by the NCAA Division I Council is the starting point for planning. Now that the Nov. 25 date has been determined, the Horizon League and others can begin crafting what the 2020-21 basketball seasons will look like,” said Athletic Director at WSU Bob Grant.

Amount of games

The start date is 15 days later than the original schedule of college basketball. This will reduce the amount of games that they can play by a maximum of four games.

In men’s basketball, teams can schedule 24 regular-season games and participate in one multiple-team event that includes up to three games, 25 regular-season games and participate in one multiple-team event that includes two games, or 25 regular season games if a team does not play in a multiple-team event.

In women’s basketball, they can schedule 23 regular-season games and participate in one multiple-team event that includes up to four games or schedule 25 regular-season games if a team does not participate in a multiple-team event.

“We are thankful to receive clarity from the NCAA about an official start date. We know there is still a lot of work to be done but we are excited and optimistic about the upcoming season,” said Head Coach of men’s basketball at WSU Scott Nagy.

Championships and tournament

The conference championships and March Madness are where the NCAA makes the majority of their money for the fiscal year.

Regardless of the reduced amount of games, the NCAA is still planning to have conference championships and March Madness this season.

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“It is a grand compromise of sorts and a unified approach that focuses on the health and safety of student-athletes competing towards the 2021 Division I basketball championships,” said NCAA Senior Vice President of Basketball Dan Gavitt.

The announcement of college basketball has brought excitement to the campus and basketball teams at WSU.

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SGA: New Members Sworn In and Health Issues Addressed

Roxanne Roessner

September 30, 2020

The Student Government Association (SGA) swore in its new members on Sept. 29 at 7 p.m. While there were few announcements, five senators and the new president and vice president were sworn in.

Senator inauguration

New SGA senators Gullzada Anwari, Victoria Soloman, Sabrina Dalesandro, Jonathan Ciero and Ryan Dryden all took their oath over the Webex meeting.

Former President Ivan Mallett led the swearing-in by reading the oath and therefore modifying it so that members would not all speak at the same time during the virtual meeting. Each member responded to the oath saying, "I do."

President and vice president inauguration

Former President Mallett read Joseph York the oath and York responded in kind, officially taking the place of Vice President and replacing former Vice President Adrian Williams, now president.

Mallett also swore in President Adrian Williams, who attended the SGA meeting only briefly due to health reasons.

President Adrian Williams was hospitalized late Saturday night or early Sunday morning with acute kidney failure. Williams gave a brief thank you for those in SGA.

"Thank you all so much for running and for being participants in SGA whether you're helping with transitions from last year to this year or you're newly elected. I am super excited to work with you," said Williams.

Williams hopes to be better by Friday and plans to keep SGA updated with his health condition.

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The Guardian Named Best Daily College Newspaper in Ohio
News Team
September 30, 2020

Clare O'Toole and Nicolas BenVenuto contributed to this article

The Wright State Guardian Media Group and two of its former staff received awards Wednesday from Ohio's Best Journalism Contest. The contest is sponsored by the Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Columbus Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) chapters across the state, with a total of 472 entries submitted and 239 awards announced on Sept. 30.

The Wright State Guardian Media Team placed first in the Best College Newspaper – Daily category. This award is given to the best student newspaper or publication published regularly (3 or more times a week).

Former Wright State Guardian News Editor Marissa Couch received second place in Best College Feature Writing for her 'Dayton's Not Dead' piece on Reza's. This recognition goes to the college journalist who shows the most promise as a feature writer through published or aired stories.

Former Wright State Guardian Editor-in-Chief Sarah Cavender won second place in Best College News Writing for her article detailing the aftermath of the Jan. 2019 Wright State University faculty union strike. This distinction is awarded to the college journalist who shows the most promise as a news writer through published or aired stories.

On her award and that of The Wright State Guardian Media Group, Cavender said,

"It is such an incredible honor to see the hard work of the students in the Guardian pay off. Wright State has no journalism program and students coming into this organization oftentimes without a newsroom background. I am so proud of the 2019-2020 team; they came in on day 1 and dedicated their time and energy toward informing their community. It makes me so happy to see that work being recognized in more places [and] I have every bit of confidence that it will only continue to be an award winning work. I want to send my congratulations to the former team but also the current team. My career would not have been possible if it weren't for my start at the G, or the influential mentors I had at Wright State such as Ray Marcano and Debbie Lamp."

Current Guardian Editor-in-Chief Makenzie Hoeflerlin was ecstatic to hear the news.

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“I am so incredibly proud of both the former and current staff of The Guardian and so grateful that I had the opportunity to work alongside these award-winning student journalists. The Guardian continues to be blessed with talented and dedicated students who put their heart and soul into this organization and it is so great to see their hard work being recognized. I am so thankful to everyone who has contributed to The Guardian and cannot wait to see all of the things we accomplish in the future.”

Marissa Couch is honored to win the award and thankful for Cavender’s leadership.

“Working with The Guardian team was rewarding enough in itself, but I’m honored to have been recognized by SPJ. This wouldn’t have been possible without the support of our amazing staff,” said Marissa Couch. “Former EIC, Sarah Cavender saw something in me that I had no idea I possessed. I’m so proud to have been a part of such an impactful team and I will continue to cheer them on from the sidelines as they deliver news to our campus.”

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WSU School of Music Live Performances Despite Pandemic
Nicolas Benvenuto
October 1, 2020

In a time when most of campus life has gone virtual, the Wright State University (WSU) School of Music is going above and beyond to remain active in their performances while keeping the health and safety of students and faculty involved a top priority.

Since the start of the coronavirus in March, university music programs across the nation have had to scramble to decide how they will proceed with practices, performances and their weekly one-on-one sessions between professor and student.

“When we were first faced with the reality of what the fall semester would be, I started meeting with the Ohio Federation of Chairs of Schools of Music and we started having meetings every other Monday,” Said WSU School of Music Chair Dr. Dan Zehringer. “I started to get a feel for what other universities were doing, and it was really the wild wild west.”

Where do we go from here?

Some universities throughout the state were imposing pressure on music Chairs to keep ensembles in place.

“These were mainly schools with marching bands, which is something that we don’t have to deal with here at WSU,” Zehringer said.

Zehringer says he is thankful that WSU didn’t apply the same pressure upon him that some of his colleagues from other universities have had to endure.

“Thankfully Wright State didn’t impose any pressure on me and let me handle the situation on my own. As the summer progressed, we got more and more feedback from national studies that were carried out on orchestral instruments and singing as well,” Zehringer said.

These studies prompted universities across Ohio to find ways to have students practice and perform during unprecedented times.

While some schools chose to make use of large, outdoor tents to hold rehearsals and practices in a safer environment, Zehringer didn’t see this as a viable option for WSU, as the cost of rental and Ohio’s notorious inclement weather patterns in the latter part of the year would render these tents unusable anyway.

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“Our largest groups are not practicing or rehearsing in person at all right now, as these can be ensembles of 40-50 pieces. Unfortunately, there is no way for us to fit all of these people in a space safely so it’s not worth the risk at this moment,” Zehringer said.

Utilizing WSU’s 8 large practice spaces within the Creative Arts Center, masked, socially distanced practices have been able to take place for certain ensembles. Men’s and Women’s chorus, operating at a significantly lower capacity than normal this year, have been able to safely practice and remain active during the coronavirus pandemic, as well as stringed orchestra ensembles.

Additionally, both of WSU’s full-size orchestras are operating with string-only instruments this fall and likely into the spring, while also remaining socially distanced and masked.

Opportunity to perform

WSU Chamber Orchestra Director Dr. Jackson Leung is looking forward to Oct. 6, as the orchestra will be performing live in the Student Union atrium at 3:30 p.m.

“CDC precautions such as social distancing and mask wearing will be required, but we are encouraging students in the atrium and those in the area to come watch and listen to our performance,” Leung said.

Leung highlighted one piece in particular that the orchestra will be performing, called “Lyric for Strength” written by George Walker; the first African-American composer to have won a Pulitzer prize in music.

“With all of the social justice and civil rights movements going on in the world right now this is a really meaningful piece to us,” Leung said.

A lover of live performances and former WSU student Chad Stapp of Huber Heights is looking forward to the performance on Oct. 6, as he says he will be attending the performance with his friend who lives on campus.

“I was supposed to attend 3 or 4 concerts this past summer with my friends and everything got cancelled due to the coronavirus,” Stapp said. “Now I have the opportunity to visit my friends on campus and go see a live performance too so I can’t pass that opportunity up.”

Whether you’re passing through the atrium and stop for a few moments, or show up for the entire performance, the WSU Chamber Orchestra will be performing for all of those in attendance.

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419 Alive: Speakeasy Steak and Ale House
Roxanne Roessner
October 1, 2020

Speakeasy Steak and Ale House is located in the heart of Celina and offers customers a wide variety of spirits, steak and seafood. The 1920 theme of prohibition is evident when customers enter the doors and experience the ambiance.

The history within the doors

Co-owners Benjamin Amstutz and Nathan Giesige decided to open the steakhouse in 2017 when the Celina-raised duo realized that they wanted to go into business together.

The two played with the name of the steakhouse for a time, wanting to find the perfect fit. They settled on speakeasy, the name for secret bars during prohibition where people were able to drink.

“The building is from that time period and that theme is still seen as a sort of golden age. It rang true that it was a common theme that most people would relate to,” said Amstutz.

The building has open space that keeps the architectural features alive today. Some of the front glass windows have designs made by Frank Lloyd Wright. It has old-fashioned tile flooring and a stamped ceiling.

Coronavirus impact

Because of the coronavirus, Speakeasy has been asking people to mask up and sanitize as often as possible. Their seating around the bar was removed, but they were able to create an outdoor lounge area for guests to gather.

“We’ve been lucky to not have anyone directly related to the business be in the thick of it,” said Amstutz. “Hopefully this is because of the precautions we have been taking.”

Steak and ale house options

Speakeasy offers over 200 varieties of craft beer, wine and spirits for customers to order. They will occasionally promote drinks.

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“We are more likely to do more wild new drinks instead of happy hour at this time. However, once we get back into the fall schedule we might see more of that. We were shut down for 17 weeks, so our new theme now is to offer something we haven’t been able to offer in a long time,” said Amstutz.

The steak and ale house offers an assortment of choice-cut steak, chicken and seafood. According to Amstutz, the must-try menu option is the bacon wrapped scallops. People also order the ribeye, filet mignon and the firecracker shrimp taco.

Where to find them

Speakeasy Steak and Ale is located at www.211speakeasy.com and Speakeasy Steak & Ale House on Facebook.

Their address is 211 South Main Street in Celina.

Speakeasy is open from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sundays.

Dayton RTA Receives Grant to Replace 12 Buses

Kaitlyn Chrosniak

October 1, 2020

The Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority (GDRTA) was recently awarded a 4.4-million-dollar federal grant that will be used to replace twelve RTA buses in the near future.

Dayton RTA Funding

A large portion of the money used to fund the RTA comes through various grants. This most recent grant is 1 of 2 recent multi-million-dollar grants awarded to the GDRTA.

“RTA applied for the competitive grant through the Federal Transit Administration,” said GDRT Deputy Chief Executive Officer Bob Ruzinsky. “In general RTA funds about 80% of bus replacement costs with grants.”

One of the GDRTA’s biggest supporters has been Sen. Sherrod Brown, who oversees the Department of Transportation’s Federal Transit Administration.

“GDRTA has continued providing essential workers and many others with necessary travel during the COVID-19 crisis,” said Sen. Brown. “This additional investment will help improve the local bus system for these riders, cut costs and improve reliability for GDRTA and the Dayton community.”

New buses

On average, the lifespan of a GDRTA bus tends to run slightly short of where administration aims for them to be.

“The federal standard is 12 years or 500,000 miles as useful life,” said Chief Executive Officer Mark Donaghy. “We typically hit 500,000 miles in year 9 but plan for them to last 12-15 years.”

The GDRTA plays a vital role in getting Wright State University (WSU) students around the Fairborn/Dayton area.

“Last year I utilized the RTA multiple times during the winter when my car broke down and I needed a ride to work. It was a real life saver for me because I didn’t have any other way to go to work, so it definitely helped me keep my job for a three to four week period while my car was in the shop,” said WSU senior and Guardian News Editor Nick BenVenuto.

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The 4.4 million dollar grant will replace twelve buses sometime between late fall 2021 and early 2022, as Ruzinsky also emphasized it can take up to twenty months for a new bus order to be fulfilled.

“Currently RTA is working on the rebuilding of our electric bus power system (the wires you see in the air that power our buses),” said Ruzinsky when asked what the next major GDRTA project would be. “The last major rebuild of this system was in the 1980’s, and parts of the current system date back to the 1940’s.”

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Breaking: WSU Students Being Evicted for Missed Housing Payments

Kaitlyn Chrosniak

October 1, 2020

Students who have not made payments on their fall housing assignments have or will begin to receive eviction notices this week.

Students residing in College Park, University Park and the Village who have outstanding housing balances this semester will be receiving an eviction notice with two options:

The first option is to pay their remaining balance in full within three days. Students who do not make arrangements to pay their rent will have their locks changed and will be forced to vacate their on-campus apartment, while also remaining liable for the remaining balance.

“Wright State is following the same procedures it always has, in accordance with the housing agreement each student signed before moving in,” said Director of the Office of Communications Seth Bauguess. “In most cases, the only residents who actually face loss of housing are those who ignore the letters and don’t contact Residence Life and Housing to make other arrangements that may involve Raider Connect or others.”

Students who have not been making housing payments up to this point have received three letters advising them to make arrangements to pay their rent. Only students who have received these letters and still have made no attempt to pay their rent will be receiving these eviction notices.

According to Raider Connect, students registered for the Fall 2020 semester will not have their class registrations automatically dropped for incomplete or non-payment of fees, due to precautionary measures caused by the coronavirus.

Residence Life and Housing does not have the same policy for Fall 2020, stating that students may be evicted or be unable to register for classes next term due to non-payment.

Students on campus are sympathetic towards their peers who are struggling financially during this time.

“I feel as though they aren’t giving students enough time to come up with the money they require [for their rent payments],” said first-year student and Hawthorne resident Cal Kahoun. “It seems kinda out of the blue, but it’s something to remember when choosing housing in future semesters.”

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While students living within the Woods, Hamilton Hall and the Village are not at risk of being evicted, they have also been receiving notices if their housing payments have not been made up to this point as well.

“Please keep in mind that an outstanding balance can prevent you from registering for future classes,” said Residence Life and Housing representative Kimberly Dancer in the payment reminders to these students.

Students can log onto www.wright.edu/bursar to view their billing statements and make payments.

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WSU Alumni and Professor Spotlight: Ken Paxson
Maxwell Patton
October 2, 2020

Wright State University (WSU) alumnus Ken Paxson has been teaching as an adjunct professor of digital media and communication at WSU since 2013, using his experience in the field of journalism to assist other students in achieving their goals.

What attracted Paxson to his field

Paxson graduated from Xenia High School and during his time at WSU, he earned a degree in mass communication with a minor in political science as well as a professional writing certificate.

He was not interested in the field in high school and thought about going to school for teaching early in his college career. Paxson also took classes towards a computer science major but disliked certain aspects of the major.

“While the programming part was fun, the math part was miserable,” Paxson said. “I hate math. And so I really quickly realized ‘this is not for me. I can’t get past Calculus I. I’m done.’ You had to take an ungodly amount of math to get through computer programming.”

Paxson became intrigued by journalism when he began writing for the Guardian.

“I got a few assignments where I just did general news or general features or whatever, then, a very short time later, the assistant sports editor job opened and I took that,” he said. “I really liked that whole newspaper atmosphere.”

Paxson’s journalism career after college

Paxson’s first job after graduation was as a beat reporter for the city of Oakwood. His minor assisted him in this line of work.

“Not a lot of crime happens there, but still, I had to go to school board meetings, had to go to city council meetings,” he said. “If there was any crime, I had to go cover that, and having that political science law minor really helped me understand a lot of things that were going on.”

This was because many of the topics he covered, such as school board by-laws and rules from planning commissions about how a house had to be built, were written in a technical manner.

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After a series of newspaper jobs, Paxson began working at Cox Media Group as a digital specialist in 2002 and later transitioned into the role of project manager. Around 2010, the group bought a former NCR building by the University of Dayton and merged their radio and television stations, as well as the Dayton Daily News, into one workspace, and this had never been done in the U.S. before.

“A lot of the projects that I worked on were collaboration projects, like when a breaking news story comes in, how do we get it to the radio station, to the TV station and on our website and in the paper the next day?” Paxson said.

“We came up with what we call the breaking news desk, where those people were responsible for all of those platforms and for getting that information out for everyone. So, they manned the phones, they checked news feeds, they checked Facebook feeds. They checked everything you can imagine to stay on top of the news.”

After his first two years teaching advanced media writing at WSU, he was paired with instructor Ray Marcano, who he knew from his time at Cox Media Group. Paxson also works as an adjunct professor at Miami University, where he leads a course designed to introduce students to the basics of multi-platform journalism.

“Everything fell into place during those years when I was at Cox,” Paxson said. “I met some really good people, and took advantage of the opportunities.”

In addition to his teaching positions, Paxson works as the senior content marketing manager for the digital marketing agency Vivial Inc, where his team helps create websites for their clients.

Advice for student journalists

According to Paxson, he would not have gotten any of these jobs if he had not written for the Guardian.

“If you’re interested in writing and being in the media, you’ve got to get experience, because that’s all anybody wants to see,” he said. “In my portfolio, I had stories that had been published, I had newspaper pages that I had created and laid out, I had interviews that I had done. I had everything that someone would want in a reporter starting out.”

“I think that’s the biggest thing nowadays, no matter what journalism you want to go into, whether it’s media writing, the Dayton Daily News, news writing, or you want to go into marketing writing. Whatever it is, you need to have tangible things you can show people.”

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Recruiting Dead Period Extended to January 2021

William Baptist

October 2, 2020

The Division I Council extended the recruiting dead period through Jan. 1, 2021. The recruiting dead period has been reviewed and extended on a monthly basis since April.

The dead period restricts all in-person recruiting and forces coaches to communicate through phone to potential recruits.

“I can say that their first priority right now is the health and safety of the student-athletes and coaches,” said Associate Director of Communications for the NCAA Michelle Hosick.

The health and safety of the student-athletes and coaches has been at the forefront of the Division I Council since the recruiting dead period was implemented.

Impact on recruits

The recruiting dead period fails to give potential college bound student-athletes the proper recruiting experience.

“I got a late start on the recruiting process so the dead period would have eliminated the whole recruiting process for me,” said senior on the Wright State University (WSU) golf team Bryce Haney.

Student-athletes are not allowed to take actual visits to any college campuses during the dead period.

It could be challenging for a student-athlete to decide on where to further their education, along with competing in their sport without being able to physically see the campus

“While the Council acknowledged and appreciates the growing desire to resume in-person recruiting by select coaches’ associations, Council members ultimately concluded the primary concern right now must be protecting the current student-athletes on our campuses,” said Council Chair, Athletics Director at Pennsylvania M. Grace Calhoun.

Adjustment for coaches

The dead period changes the recruiting process for the coaches at WSU as well.

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“Without in-person interaction, we have used more FaceTime and technology to show off our campuses and facilities,” said Head Coach of the women’s basketball team Katrina Merriweather.

Coaches are learning on the fly just as student-athletes are during these unprecedented times. They have to explain everything virtually to appeal to high school athletes for their commitment.

“Statistically, players are committing quicker than in the past,” said Merriweather.

The recruiting dead period has a drastic impact on every universities’ athletic program in the country, and these restrictions will take place for the foreseeable future.

The Division I Council has already pushed the dead period back multiple times, so January might not be the end of it.

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Coronavirus Causing Back Orders On Books For WSU Students

Roxanne Roessner

October 2, 2020

Students at Wright State University (WSU) have recently had issues with receiving their book orders on time for classes. This is the result of stock issues with publishers this semester, higher caps on class and the coronavirus.

The ordering process

The bookstore orders from previous sales knowledge. They expect their orders from professors months in advance. The General Manager of WSU Bookstore was able to shed light on the situation.

“For this title [*To Stir the Heart*], we ordered enough compared to previous semesters. Fortunately, we sold through those so when we went to place more for them, the publisher said that they had no more in stock,” said the General Manager of the Bookstore Elizabeth Russell.

There were at least four students who were unable to receive this book and this is partially due to waiting to place their order.

“They waited to place their order, which is perfectly normal, but when they wait to place their order, we have to wait to place our order,” said Russell.

Solutions to backorders

The chair of the department of English Dr. Alpana Sharma was alerted to this issue in the middle of September and reached out to Textbook Manager Donna Karlsberger. Dr. Sharma was able to help students find books from second-hand sources.

“Every single student who contacted me with difficulties now has the book or has access to it through a 2-hour reserve at the library, where it is being kept at the front desk in a sanitized bag,” said Sharma.

Students would wear gloves while handling the sanitized bag and book in order to xerox pages or read the short novel.

By offering students a way to access textbooks through the library, Dr. Sharma was able to help students that were unable to order the book.

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“I would encourage students to buy their books upfront and not wait. Students who waited longer, they’re the ones who ran out of time,” said Sharma.

Coronavirus and its impact

According to Karlsberger, the publisher has the books in stock but they are unable to access the New York building due to the coronavirus.

“We try our best to accommodate and with everything going on with professors switching classes, classes being dropped and instructor changes. We strive to be as accommodating with working with our faculty as possible,” said Russell.

No students have been charged for these books because the bookstore does not charge students until the orders are processed.