

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

November 9, 2020

Have you ever thought about what you would do if you ever won the lottery? Here are some ideas of what might happen based on your zodiac sign.

ARIES

Aries, you will likely immediately spend all of the money on expensive trips to foreign places. At least you will have a lot of nice memories to look back on.

TAURUS

Taurus, you will most likely go to the mall after cashing out your entire winnings and spend all of it at the mall. Yes, all of it.

GEMINI

Gemini, you will most likely buy a mansion with a huge estate and later regret it when doing your taxes

CANCER

Cancer, you will most likely pay off your car and your parent's car and your parent's house. Then you will sit around wondering what to do with the other \$550,000.

LEO

Leo, you will make a list of all the things that you want to buy, then you will get nervous and not buy any of it. Instead, you will likely give away all the money to a charity so you don't have to worry about it anymore.

VIRGO

Virgo, you will likely spend all of your money at a bookstore. At this point, just buy the bookstore.

LIBRA

Libra, you will spend the first couple weeks trying to decide where to hide the money... and eventually put it under your bed.

SCORPIO

Scorpio, you will most likely save the money and tell absolutely No One that you won the lottery. This will ultimately force you to live out your life as usual.

SAGITTARIUS

Sagittarius, you actually have no idea what to do with the money. You will most likely go to the store and buy groceries and then put the money in the bank and eventually forget about it.

CAPRICORN

Capricorn, as unlucky as you are, you will probably lose the lottery ticket and not be able to cash out. What a sad day.

AQUARIUS

Aquarius, you will buy a couple of really nice cars – then realize that you don't have any place to put them.

PISCES

Pisces, you will most likely announce to the entire world that you won the lottery and eventually get conned out of most of your winnings.

Major Retailers closing on Thanksgiving
Kaitlyn Chrosniak
November 9, 2020

Major retailers with franchise locations near Wright State University (WSU) have announced closing on Thanksgiving Day. Stores closing during Thanksgiving this year include Walmart, Target, Bath & Body Works, Best Buy and several others.

Stores announcing closures

Chief Executive Officers (CEO's) have provided customers with a variety of reasons behind their decision to close shop on the holiday this year.

Target, for example, is due to close on Thanksgiving Day after announcing that they will be offering holiday sales starting as early as Oct. 1, both online and in-store.

“When we say you can take advantage of great deals all season long, we really mean it. So kick back, relax and enjoy a long nap after you finish that last piece of Thanksgiving turkey,” said Target CEO Brian Cornell. “This season, you can count on getting extra-big savings without the extra-long lines, with plenty of opportunities to score the best deals on the hottest items both before and after Nov. 26.”

Meanwhile, Bath & Body Works cites the reason for their Thanksgiving Day closure as a way to support their staff through the holidays.

“We’ve closed our stores so our associates can stay home and celebrate with their families,” said a Bath & Body Works corporate representative. “And of course, throughout the rest of the week we’ll be prioritizing safety—from cleaning to sanitizing to following safety guidelines.”

Opinions on closure

Despite how popular Thanksgiving Day shopping has become over the years, it appears as though people are taking the news of these closures rather well.

“I would say [major retailers] should not be open because people should be able to be with their families,” said WSU student Sam May. “[Closures] would also help with Covid.”

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While many stores have not directly stated the coronavirus as being the reason for their Thanksgiving Day closure, holiday shoppers wait for Black Friday hours and deals to be announced by these retailers.

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WSU Students Start Koats4Kids, Go Beyond Goal

Alexis Wisler

November 9, 2020

Wright State University (WSU) social work seniors Kira Dean, Rebekah Wyse and Jasmine Kiner started the Koats4Kids fundraiser this year to ensure that no child at Fairborn Primary School had to suffer without a winter coat this season.

No child goes cold

After seeing a child walk home cold while in middle school, Co-founder Kira Dean started Koats4Kids with other co-founders Rebekah Wyse and Jasmine Kiner.

“I’ve felt a very big passion for helping kids since, probably, I was a kid... My eighth-grade year I saw a young boy walking home and he was just so cold, he was shivering, and I think since that moment I’ve always wanted to do something to help and I was lucky enough to get paired with both Rebekah and Jasmine who feel that amount of passion to help others,” said Dean.

Dean, Wyse and Kiner understood that individuals might have a hard time donating coats currently during the coronavirus hardships, but they said that it is another reason why it was so important to put together this fundraiser now—because so many families are down on their luck, meaning some kids would have had to go without a winter coat this year.

“We know the hardships that parents are going through right now. We’re still learning and seeing that there are a lot of people still that are unemployed and I know that when we did the survey, [the parents] talked about how this was really helpful and how they’re really grateful,” said Kiner.

Despite the worry that people would not be able to donate, Koats4Kids reached their goal this season, showing how eager the community is to help one another during troubling times.

“Overall, I would say it’s very important that people not only advocate for themselves but advocate for others, especially going through such hard times,” said Dean.

The ups and downs

Dean said that one of the biggest challenges the Koats4Kids team faced was finding people who were financially able to donate, especially after learning that Fairborn Primary School has about 1,400 students.

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“We definitely had a lot of difficulties just because of the virus in general. COVID-19 has definitely caused a lot of push-backs and different things to take place that we weren’t expecting. I think one of our biggest things that we were not expecting would be the number of students that Fairborn Primary has, which is over 1,400. That was definitely very shocking to us,” said Dean.

Although they were prepared to gather 1,400 coats, the team found through their surveys that a significantly lower number of students were actually in need of coats this season. With the reduced number, Koats4Kids reached their goal in record time with coats left over for other schools.

“So our overall goal was, of course, to reach as close to the 1,400 as possible. However, once we got the survey’s back we did need quite a bit less than that... so we have actually, now, reached our goal after collections so we’re very thankful for everyone that has been able to donate,” said Dean.

“We got tons and tons of coats. We have tons of coats left over. We have 300 coats left over,” said Kiner.

Continuing Koats4Kids

Wyse, Kiner and Dean are all social work seniors, but they hope to be able to mentor incoming students and get them ready to continue Koats4Kids after they’re graduated.

One thing the team did was send out surveys to better understand the needs of the community and get feedback as well. Wyse says they hope to use the results from these surveys to get the new social work students ready to continue on the fundraiser.

“So we basically wanted to do a mini-research study... So the pre-survey is what are the needs of the community and the post survey will be ‘did we meet that need and how can we improve upon that?’ We’re hoping that it’s a possibility to continue this program for years to come,” said Wyse.

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Virtual Commencement: Student Perspectives

Noah Kindig

November 10, 2020

With thousands of live viewers on YouTube, Twitter, and Facebook, Wright State University (WSU) hosted its 2020 commencement ceremony online to celebrate over 2,000 Dayton Campus Spring 2020 graduates and Lake Campus Summer 2019 through Spring 2020 graduates.

The ceremony was held online in order to follow Ohio coronavirus guidelines, but to still give graduates and their families a chance to celebrate their accomplishments.

The commencement ceremony featured speeches from Faculty President Laura Luehrmann, WSU Provost Douglas Leaman, former Student Body President Ivan Mallett and WSU President Susan Edwards.

Deciding to hold the ceremony online

The choice to move to a virtual commencement ceremony was over a long period of time, and it was just as tough to make the decision for administrators as it was for graduates to receive the news.

“From the very beginning, our [The Commencement Committee’s] goal had been to have some sort of face-to-face commencement, because it was clear that was what students wanted. That was what everyone wanted,” said Luehrmann. “But as the pandemic worsened over the summer and it became clear that we would still face restrictions on gathering indoors, we grudgingly made the recommendation to President Edwards to plan for a virtual ceremony.”

In an email to all WSU students on Oct. 14, President Edwards admitted her disappointment in an online ceremony, but reassured graduates that commencement is a day that all involved will remember.

“Commencement is a day that our graduates and families cherish! I know that because it is a day I cherish while watching individuals beam with pride as they are handed a diploma in front of their families and friends. Sadly, the current COVID-19 pandemic prevents us from experiencing that wonderful in-person celebration.” Edwards wrote.

Luehrmann shared the disappointment with President Edwards, but she was happy to see all of those who attended and gave positive feedback.

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“Commencement day, I’m one of the first people over at the Nutter center. This is why we do what we do, to help students to get from start to finish...But I think that the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, both from current students, some of our alumni, and others in the community. I think that came from the realization that this wasn’t what we wanted to do, but this is what we had to do.” said Luehrmann.

In their speeches, Luehrmann and Edwards talked about the problems facing the graduates.

“The class of 2020 has already shown it’s grit,” Luehrmann said. “Each and every one of you has already demonstrated your perseverance, your adaptability, and your determination.”

“The COVID pandemic has disrupted all of our lives, and the lives of many people throughout the globe. But the adaptability and resilience that you have all displayed during the spring semester will in fact serve you well in your future endeavors...To complete [a degree] during a global pandemic is nothing short of heroic. You are inspirational.” Edwards said.

When talking about addressing COVID in her and Edwards’s speeches, Luehrmann said, “I believe in telling it like it is. I think that we have to acknowledge that we’re doing our best, we’re trying to make this celebratory and honor everyone’s achievements... but we have to acknowledge as well that this isn’t fun. There’s a lot of sadness and fear and concern there.”

A graduate’s perspective

Wyatt Stahl, a graduate of the class of 2020, pushed for an in-person graduation, but was indifferent about an online graduation.

“When they first sent out a survey to see what we should do, I pushed for an in-person graduation, mainly so my family could come. It really doesn’t matter to me whether the graduation is in-person or online, as long as my family could celebrate with me,” Stahl said.

Stahl said that he was indifferent about the graduation mainly because it was held so late, after he had already received his degree.

“The graduation was so far down the line, I had received my diploma, and I was already a few months into medical school, so I kind of forgot about it,” Stahl said. “I do think, though, that Wright State made the right decision to hold an online ceremony, I just think it could have been held earlier.”

Fall commencement

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Just like the 2020 spring commencement, it was announced recently that the fall 2020 commencement will be held virtually as well, and it can be assumed that the commencement will follow a similar format.

The summer and fall 2020 commencement ceremony will be held on Saturday, Dec. 12, at 10 p.m. If you are interested in seeing the ceremony, it will be streamed live on YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter.

You can also find more information on the Wright State Website here:

<https://www.wright.edu/event/commencement-graduation-ceremony>

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Annual Online Event Encourages Month Long Novel Writing

Ariel Parker

November 10, 2020

Every year in November, hundreds of thousands of people attempt to write a 50,000-word novel by the end of the month in an annual online event called NaNoWriMo — short for National Novel Writing Month. Participators from every age can try this and sign up is free at nanowrimo.org. And with the year we all had, it will be nice to escape into a fictional world of your creation.

Admittedly, 50,000 words is pretty daunting. Broken down, it's about 1,667 words per day, but if you skip a day or two, catching up can be difficult—but not impossible!

Students, educators and writers around the world use NaNo to write that novel that's always been in the back of their mind. The point of it is not to write the next Great American Novel—though you should not keep yourself from trying! —but to simply get the words onto the page. You can worry about editing later—now is the time to just write!

Sophomore English major Calvin Cusack thinks that NaNoWriMo is an excellent writing exercise.

"I like that NaNoWriMo is accessible. The main goal of the project is simply to get people writing, and anyone can get involved. It only takes a little bit of time to start your own project," said Cusack.

Cusack completed it during his first attempt last year, hitting 50,000 words the day before the deadline. His current project is about a butler working for a rich family, who discovers one day that the people he works for are harboring a terrifying, gruesome secret.

If you need extra motivation, here are some books that were written during NaNoWriMo: *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern, *Fangirl* by Rainbow Rowell, *Water for Elephants* by Sarah Gruen and *Wool* by Hugh Howey.

Cusack and others are currently participating in this month-long event. If you are interested in participating in NaNoWriMo with the WSU English Club, contact Carolyn Stoermer, the club's faculty advisor, for more information.

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WSU Faculty Union Raises Concerns About Budget and COO

Nicolas Benvenuto

November 11, 2020

The Wright State University (WSU) chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) raised concerns about the accuracy of budget projections and work history of WSU Chief Operating Officer Greg Sample in an email sent by the AAUP-WSU Executive Committee on Nov. 1.

Raising concerns

The AAUP-WSU stated that in May, Sample had projected a loss of \$30 million for fiscal year 21.

Given this projection, the AAUP-WSU says that the employees of the university should supposedly share in the sacrifice and concede wages or future raises. However, after the faculty union decided they would wait for the actual numbers to come to light, the projections were then shifted to show a loss of \$12.5 million instead.

“When we hear that there has been a new announcement to chairs and deans that a discovery has been made of money and budget issues, we know that pretty soon afterwards, there will be a request for some kind of cuts and concessions,” said AAUP-WSU President Dr. Noeleen McIlvenna. “I just want to remind everyone of this pattern that has been laid out, and to have people think critically about this rather than believe that once again the sky is falling.”

The AAUP-WSU also says that in May, Sample claimed the FY20 budget was \$11 million in the red. Because of this, the Board of Trustees insisted that financial concessions from faculty were crucial to stave off the downfall of the university.

Weeks later, Sample announced that the actual statement would show WSU to have profited \$1.9 million, despite the coronavirus pandemic and a structural deficit.

“Oftentimes department Chairs will accept things at face value, and agree to this cut or that cut,” McIlvenna said. “This can be very dangerous to the academic mission that is set in front of us.”

McIlvenna says that the Trustees have been attacking tenure at the university for three years.

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“In their lives as bosses in private industry, they can just fire at will,” McIlvenna says. “They’ve come in and tried to be managers of an institution that is a public good, and has tenure. It’s frustrating to them, and they don’t understand it.”

University’s response

While the AAUP-WSU raises concerns about inaccurate budget projections, WSU says that it’s important to remember that budget projections are made based off of information available at that time, and that concerns raised about FY21 budget can be attributed to the coronavirus disrupting business operations.

“The key factors impacting the FY21 budget revision are a better-than-anticipated enrollment, which resulted in a better-than-expected projected revenue,” said WSU Director of Communications Seth Bauguess. “And additionally, the state of Ohio actually cutting the state share of instruction allocation by only 4.5% when the state had originally indicated to expect a cut of 20%.”

“Enrollment was likely to drop steeply and the state was telling it’s colleges and universities to also expect a steep cut to state funds, referred to as state share of instruction,” Bauguess said.

The university says that miscalculations on revenue generated by the Nutter Center and dorms, a part of auxiliary revenue, exist only because the budget was created in June, in which time the university believed that on-campus activity would be higher than the university is currently experiencing due to coronavirus protocols.

In response to the AAUP-WSU statement on Sample’s FY20 budget miscalculations, Bauguess says that in May, Sample made the Board of Trustees aware of slowing down the university’s spending.

“Discretionary spending from across campus was severely limited,” said Bauguess. “Many employees participated in furlough efforts, many positions went unfilled and stayed unfilled. The campus community demonstrated great resolve and the sum total of their collective efforts preempted ending 2020 with a significant deficit.”

“In the end, once the books were closed and investment income and other lagging financial factors were accounted for, the result was a savings of \$1.9 million which was exceedingly valuable to the university as the university rolled out its FY21 budget which called for about 100 employee layoffs, more furloughs, the elimination of three WSU athletic teams, further expense reductions and an overall deficit budget,” said Bauguess.

Student opinion

The lack of trust between the AAUP-WSU and the Board of Trustees is something that students have taken note of in recent years.

Former WSU Raider and now alumnus John Ocampo remembers the faculty strike of 2019 like it was yesterday.

“That was especially hard for me,” Ocampo said. “As soon as word got around from professors that the strike may occur, you could tell everyone including the students were panicking.”

The uncertainty of financial problems can take a mental toll on the ability of students to study and maintain the grades they spend so much time to achieve.

“I had a really hard time wanting to pay attention in class, or even getting to class not knowing what would happen next,” Ocampo said. “I’m hopeful for the Raider community, and I hope that those who are in charge of it can find some peace in the near future. The students who are there right now deserve it.”

The next Board of Trustees meeting in which finances will be discussed is scheduled to take place on Friday, Jan. 22, 2021 at 9 a.m.

To view this public session, visit:

<https://www.wright.edu/board-of-trustees/meetings/meeting/396426>

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Biden's Road to Presidency: What Comes Next?

Jackson Cornwell

November 11, 2020

With the results of the 2020 election final, the question of what comes next plagues the country. While the election results were announced on Saturday, Nov. 7, there is still a long road to Inauguration Day.

The Safe Harbor Deadline

President Trump has launched lawsuits in several key battleground states such as Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Arizona.

The various courts have until Dec. 8 to satisfy all outstanding civil and criminal proceedings under U.S. Penal Code Title 3. If all disputes are resolved by this date then Congress must accept the results of the Electoral College.

The Electoral College

On the Monday following the second Wednesday of December, the Electoral College delegates gather to cast their votes for president. In accordance with the Supreme Court case *Chiafalo et al. v. Washington*, electors are responsible for casting their ballot for the winner of their respective state.

Congressional approval

On Jan. 6, 2021 a joint session of Congress will be held to certify the Electoral Colleges votes. Presided by the Vice President and two representatives of each chamber of Congress, each vote is counted to declare a winner.

A joint appeal may be made by one member of both the House and Senate to dispute any individual states voting results. If this occurs the joint session breaks to allow time for both chambers to debate and vote on the validity of the appeal. If both chambers approve the appeal then the state's votes will be excluded from the final count.

Inauguration Day

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Following the acceptance of the results of the election, the President and Vice President Elects will take the oath of office on Jan. 20, 2021 in front of the West side of the Capitol building.

By the end of Inauguration Day, following the Inaugural Ball, the former president is moved out of the White House and the new president moved in. The new president is prepared to begin their duties immediately.

Lame Duck Period

With the announcement of Vice President Biden becoming president elect, according to the Associated Press, President Trump has entered a lame duck period. While still president, Trump will now shift his focus to transitioning Biden and his staff.

Between the informal announcement of results in November and Inauguration Day, the sitting president and president elect begin the transfer of power. The Presidential Transition Act of 1963 sets up the expectations and guidelines of all parties to ensure the peaceful transfer of power.

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SGA: Members Appointed, Letter Sent To Governor
Roxanne Roessner
November 11, 2020

The Student Government Association (SGA) held its meeting on Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. on WebEx. During the meeting, three members were appointed to positions and the governor was sent a Racial Equity Task Force letter.

Appointments

Hannah Weisgerber, Dai'Shanae Moore and Jeffery Shehee were appointed unanimously to their positions of Chief Policy Officer, Chief Justice and University College Senator, in that order.

The individuals went into breakout rooms with President Adrian Williams, Vice President Joe York and others. Weisgerber, Moore and Shehee swore in much like the other members six meetings ago.

Weisgerber is a senior political science major with a minor in Spanish. Moore is also a senior who studies political science and sociology with a minor in crime and justice studies. Shehee majors in organizational leadership with two minors in psychology and nonprofit administration.

Racial Equity Task Force letter

The Racial Equity Task Force was formed over the summer in response to the events happening in America. According to Williams, the governor is responsible for appointing members to the Board of Trustees of public universities and Wright State University (WSU) currently has an open trustee position.

“The Racial Equity Task Force sent a letter to his office, advocating that he appoint a diverse member to the Board of Trustees. The purpose is to make sure that the governing body of the university is representative of what the university represents. Which, if you currently view the Board of Trustees, it is not very diverse,” said Williams.

The governor's office confirmed its receipt and said it will be sent to the governor and shared with him as he makes his decision.

Anyone interested in attending SGA meetings can do so via WebEx on Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Out On Fifth Event Could Continue Beyond COVID

Maxwell Patton

November 11, 2020

The Out on 5th event in the Oregon District completed its last weekend for 2020 on Oct. 25. Local businesses and those who attended see it as an opportunity for the city to come together during the coronavirus pandemic.

This event began Labor Day weekend when the city of Dayton closed off East Fifth Street in the district. This continued each weekend between Sept. 4 and Oct. 25, and attendees could shop around at each business, visit vendors who were set up on the street and witness performances.

Opinions of the event

Treasurer for the Oregon District Business Association Natalie Skilliter, who also lives in the district, has a positive opinion of Out on 5th as both a business owner and a resident.

“As a resident, it’s wonderful,” said Skilliter. “It’s just really a fun way and a really unique scenario for our little corner of the universe to be able to open up a little bit more with the pandemic especially.”

Skilliter co-owns the Corner Kitchen, which is located on the corner of Fifth Street and Wayne Ave., with her husband. The restaurant had to shut down in March due to Gov. Mike DeWine’s restrictions, and opened back up in July with a different business model. However, the Skilliters closed the business again to spend time with their child and to protect their staff and will be reopening again soon.

When Out on 5th started during Labor Day weekend, the Oregon District saw a massive audience attend the event.

“Even though we had big crowds, closing the street allowed us to continue to maintain social distancing and really serve more people than we ever would be able to, especially with the limited capacities,” said Skilliter.

Wright State University alumnus James Sedan heard about the event through a Dayton Daily News article and often drove by the festivities.

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“I noticed a lot of small businesses getting tons of foot traffic, which was great to see,” said Sedan. “There was plenty of chalk art on the ground as well. I’ve heard nothing but good things about it.”

The Oregon District Business Association worked closely with the Downtown Dayton Partnership, the city and other stakeholders to efficiently shut down Fifth Street. The partnership helped them and the businesses work with liquor control to get extra seating.

“What happens is your liquor license is confined to your physical footprint, and we were able to work with the liquor control to extend a lot of our bar and restaurant patios,” said Skilliter.

Dublin Pub owner Steve Tieber also had a positive reception to Out on 5th, describing it as, “epic.”

“The event was full force and was unlike anything I have ever seen,” said Tieber. “There were at least three restaurants dining either on the streets or on their patio. It was the closest we had gotten to being ‘back to normal’ since COVID started.”

Problems encountered during Out on 5th

However, problems with crowds arose during the event. During one instance, a lightsaber competition was started in the street. This caused new performance guidelines to be implemented for businesses, including that all musical performances had to be acoustic and that no bands could include more than two people.

These restrictions were put in place to prevent crowds and to keep performers from being disruptive. Another dilemma showed up because of Gov. DeWine’s mandate for alcohol sales to cease at 10 p.m.

“One of the problems inherently that we’ll run into is that all of the bars close at the same time,” said Skilliter. “When the bars close, you’re going to have everybody from those establishments coming out to the street at once.”

Luckily, when that problem appeared, the crowds dispersed quickly.

Support for more events

The Oregon District Business Association surveyed their members to gauge interest in holding the event again and received an extremely positive response.

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“It was overwhelmingly supportive of Out on 5th coming back in the warm months, so the spring, summer and fall, on the weekends next year and hopefully indefinitely,” said Skilliter. “A lot of businesses saw this as a really unique feature for the Oregon District. Out on 5th was initially a reaction to COVID, but hopefully, moving forward, we can see it as a great benefit for the city.”

Sedan is interested in attending Out on 5th if it returns next year.

“I didn’t think much of it when I first heard about it but after seeing the reviews and how fun it all looks, I would definitely love to attend the next one,” said Sedan. “Dayton is such a beautiful city that really provides for its citizens, and this is just one example.”

Breaking: Schools Could Remain Virtual Next Year Dewine Says
Maxwell Patton
November 11, 2020

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine discussed the increasing number of coronavirus cases and how it could affect universities during a press conference Wednesday, Nov. 11.

An uncertain future for colleges

The governor covered higher education and how many colleges would switch to all-virtual learning after Thanksgiving, keeping that in place until the end of the Fall 2020 semester.

“I want to thank our colleges, our universities, for agreeing to not return to in-person classes after Thanksgiving, but to finish the semester remotely,” DeWine said. “The vast majority of schools have made this decision, and I also want to thank them for reducing the number of students on campus. That has made a significant difference in helping keep the cases lower and our campuses safer.”

Discussing whether face-to-face classes would return in 2021, DeWine was less than certain about whether they would occur.

“Unless we dramatically slow the community spread of this virus, our higher educational institutions in Ohio may have to remain virtual when school opens in January,” DeWine said. “With widespread COVID, they may have no choice.”

A surge in cases

This address occurred as Ohio experiences a third wave of cases and the number of daily coronavirus cases surges. Wednesday, 5,874 positive cases of the coronavirus were identified in Ohio, slightly less than the day before. Nov. 10 saw 6,508 cases identified in the state, smashing the record for new cases in a day.

As of Nov. 11, a total of 267,356 coronavirus cases have occurred in the state of Ohio.

DeWine cited the increase of small gatherings such as birthday parties, wedding receptions, and sleepovers.

“We have seen great tragedy associated with some of these events,” DeWine said.

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New guidelines will be issued over the next few days in order to slow the spread of the coronavirus at these small gatherings, including the closure of open congregate areas. Attendees will also be required to stay in their seats and wear their masks unless they are eating or drinking.

DeWine also cited the failure of certain businesses to comply with the current mask order as another factor in the spread of the coronavirus, and mentioned that bars, restaurants and fitness centers could be ordered to close a week from Thursday if the number of cases continues to increase.

“Every retail employee has the right to work in an environment that is as safe as can be, which means all customers must wear masks,” said DeWine. “Further, each Ohioan who goes out to shop, wherever they go, they have the right to know that every store they enter, every door they go into to shop, will be safe and the people they encounter in that store will all be wearing.”

He reissued this order today with three added provisions. Each business must post a “face covering required” sign on all of its public entrances, and they are responsible for making sure that everyone in the store is wearing a face covering. A Retail Compliance Unit, led by agents from the Bureau of Worker’s Compensation, will be formed to ensure that these businesses are complying with the order.

Quoting former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, DeWine called on all Ohioans to stay vigilant during these tough times.

“When you’re going through hell, keep going,” said DeWine. “Tonight, I ask you to keep going. Recommit to your individual efforts to stay safe, because what you do in your private lives affects everyone.”

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DND: La Comedia Dinner Theatre
Nicolas BenVenuto
November 12, 2020

Despite the majority of live performances across the nation being cancelled due to coronavirus concerns, La Comedia Dinner Theatre in Springboro, OH is putting on a brand-new Christmas revue titled "A Christmas to Remember."

Since 1975, La Comedia Dinner Theatre has been providing fine dining along with Broadway style entertainment that has had Dayton families returning year after year.

This year's holiday performance of "A Christmas to Remember", will be in production from Nov. 5 through Dec. 30, and features famous holiday songs, beautiful festive costumes and the singing of "O' Holy Night"

With prior successful performances of Broadway shows such as Mamma Mia!, Cats, Titanic, Miss Saigon and the world premiere of Jekyll & Hyde, previous attendees are excited to see what the dinner theatre has to offer with its latest performance.

"My family has been going to La Comedia for years around the holidays and this year isn't any different," said Wright State University (WSU) hopeful Cassidy Smarsh. "It's kind of been this ongoing tradition that my family has created over the years and we're all both excited and anxious to see if the experience will be any different because of coronavirus concerns."

Roney Pena of Dayton, OH will be attending his first show at La Comedia this year, and says that despite coronavirus concerns, he cannot wait to see what the dinner theatre experience is all about.

"I'm a huge fan of all performance arts, so having the opportunity to go to my first dinner theatre performance is awesome, especially during these crazy times," said Pena. "I've always heard great reviews from family and friends that have seen shows at La Comedia in the past so I had to finally get my ticket!"

Keeping guests safe

In order to keep staff and all in attendance as safe as possible, precautionary measures will be taken before guests even enter the front door.

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Upon arriving, guests will have their temperatures taken and anyone with a temperature over 100.4 will not be allowed to enter the building.

Guests will be required to wear facial coverings at all times when not consuming food or drinks, and once called to the buffet, La Comedia employee's will be in charge of plating food.

"I don't really think the masks will take away from the evening," said Smarsh. "At first I never thought I'd be able to get used to wearing a mask everywhere, but at this point it's just another accessory. My mask is handmade and actually kind of comfortable, so I don't think I'll even notice I'm wearing it when watching the performance."

Fine dining

While for some the main attraction of attending a La Comedia performance is the show itself, the buffet is nothing short of extraordinary and is a highlight of the night for some guests as well.

"I absolutely love the food," said long-time guest Alan Schussheim. "The whole dinner and performance experience is something very special. The first time I came here with my wife years back, I was astonished at how good the meal before the show was. Now I make sure to show up extra hungry!"

Each meal begins with a salad paired with La Comedia's homemade papaya chutney dressing.

Called to the buffet by section, guests will then walk to the front of the stage where chef-carved meats, Norwegian cod deep fried in premium beer batter, a variety of pastas and vegetables and their famous sweet potato souffle can be plated by employees.

Guests 21 and older also have the option of ordering alcoholic beverages from the theatre's full-service bar during their meal and while watching the performance.

To purchase tickets, call 1-800-677-9505, or visit <https://lacomedia.com/ticket-prices/>

La Comedia Dinner Theatre can also be found on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

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419 Alive: Tailspin Brewing Co.
Roxanne Roessner
November 12, 2020

Tailspin Brewing Co. is a veteran owned brewing company on the outskirts of Coldwater, OH. The owners, Jack and Terese Waite, started the business after moving back to Coldwater after 23 years of service. Tailspin offers patrons a variety of beer that ranges from pale ales to stouts that change quarterly for seasonal purposes.

The history

According to Waite, the military gave him a strong sense of leadership and assessing risk that made them want to spend their retirement doing something challenging. Mrs. Waite, a Coldwater native, brought the family back to the small village and the couple searched for the perfect place to start their business.

“When this great old barn became available, we jumped on it. After walking through it and getting the feel of it, we knew this is where we wanted to build Tailspin,” said Waite.

The barn has been a fixture in Coldwater since 1933 and is used as a guidepost for directions due to its unique look and old stone silo out front.

“It’s about beer, but people are looking for the destination. Anytime you can craft them a feeling tied to that destination, that’s what brings them back. After having a lot of oversea assignments in Germany, a lot of those restaurants and small breweries are cozy and warm. That’s what we wanted to do with Tailspin,” said Waite.

Waite started brewing his own beer in 2011, five years before they started Tailspin and found that creativity ran wild with brewing beer. Originally from Baton Rouge, LA, Waite found a love for cooking and flavor and put them to use in creating craft beers after his years as an F-16 Fighter Pilot.

The brews

“From month to month and even year to year, people’s taste around here has evolved. One of the neat things about people willing to taste craft beer is that they are always ready to try new things,” said Waite.

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Currently at Tailspin, there are 12 beers available. They are the Guernsey Gold Cream Ale, Quent's Irish Red Ale, Berry Bomber Ale, 9GZ India Pale Ale, Wooden Shoe Lager, Shelter In Place Ale (Session IPA), Spitfire Ale with Maple Pecan, Tailspin Oktoberfest Lager, Ohio Sky Ale, North 40 Lager, Whirling Wit and Uncle Gus Milk Sout with Peanut Butter.

"If I can't sell beer in Coldwater, Ohio or in Mercer County, then I shouldn't be in this business," said Waite.

According to Waite, people often ask when the next beers are coming while at the same time asking for their favorites to come back. The demographic of the brewery has lowered in age in the past years, but ranges from 30-40.

"Tailspin has been a very nice addition to Coldwater," said local resident Lillian Brookhart. "It is a really great place to catch up with friends on a casual Friday or for a few wedding pictures in the loft. I have also enjoyed their Summer Series beers. It keeps me looking forward to each new batch! It has been a very versatile venue to incorporate into our social lives."

A word from the community

According to Waite, many of the regulars to the brewery become like family members to the establishment. The community seems to agree that the staff and ambiance are welcoming every time.

"It has a great atmosphere and super friendly people that work there. Excellent selection of craft beers. Our grown children enjoy stopping in there when they are back home visiting," said local resident Jane Bruggeman.

The Tailspin family and his own family are Waite's inspiration. When hiring new members, Waite is sure to choose people that understand the commitment it takes to be a part of the family.

"It was a fun experience with a homey feel to it. The staff was always welcoming to explain any of the drinks," said local resident Colin Frederick.

Patrons can also find explanations of the various beers on the Tailspin website.

Hours and contact

Thursday: 3 p.m.–10 p.m.

Friday: 3 p.m.–11 p.m.

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Saturday: 1 p.m.–11 p.m.

Sunday: 1 p.m.–7 p.m.

Partons can visit Tailspin at 626 S 2nd Street in Coldwater, OH, or visit their Facebook page, Tailspin Brewing Company. Their website is www.tailspinbrewing.co.

Tailspin has an upper room that can be rented out for small gatherings. These gatherings range from birthday parties, bridal showers, engagement parties and more. The business hopes to reincorporate live music in the future, but is cautious due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Epilepsy Awareness Month: Advocate and Educate

Kaitlyn Chrosniak

November 12, 2020

November is Epilepsy Awareness Month, a condition that one-in-26 develop within their lifetime. Epilepsy is a neurological condition that causes unpredictable and repeated seizures.

While some diagnosed with epilepsy struggle with seizures the majority of their life, some are fortunate enough to find a treatment plan that limits or eliminates their seizures.

What is epilepsy

“Epilepsy occurs when changes in the brain cause it to be too excitable or irritable, causing the brain to send out abnormal signals,” said attending neurologist at the Stony Brook University School of Medicine Amit Shelat.

Symptoms and causes of epilepsy can vary widely from person to person. In many cases, epilepsy can be caused by a brain injury or an illness, but it can also be hereditary.

Seizures fall into two different categories: partial/focal and generalized.

“Partial seizures start in one part of the brain, but the abnormal activity may move to other parts of the brain. A person having a partial seizure may experience twitching throughout the body, have slurred, abnormal or unusual speech or feel tingling throughout one side of the body,” said social media specialist for the Minnesota Children’s Hospital Kaitlyn Kamleiter. “Generalized seizures involve simultaneous abnormal electrical activities all over the brain. There are three different types of generalized seizures: absence, tonic-clonic and myoclonic.”

Epilepsy awareness

The Epilepsy Awareness Foundation began to celebrate Epilepsy Awareness Month in 1969 in order to advocate for further research and funding for the illness, eventually choosing a lavender-colored ribbon as the condition’s symbol. In 2003, Congress officially declared November as Epilepsy Awareness Month.

“I found out I had it [epilepsy] when I had a UTI. I had a seizure and the doctors assumed it was a fever-induced seizure,” said Julia McMichael. “After the UTI was gone, I had another one and saw a neurologist who diagnosed me.”

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Julia McMichael is a family-friend to a WSU student residing in Painesville, OH.

McMichael was diagnosed with epilepsy in April 2016 at the age of 15 before discovering she was pregnant that July, at age 16.

“It was really scary because I was having them while heavily pregnant. When Jo [her son] was first born I was really scared about being alone with him in case I had one,” said McMichael.

As of November of 2020, McMichael is now an STNA, a restaurant server and mother celebrating three and a half years seizure free.

“Pay attention to your body,” said McMichael on how others with epilepsy can try to prepare themselves for an oncoming seizure. “A lot of times, people have an aura before they have a seizure, a certain feeling or something. Knowing that feeling could prevent you from really getting hurt while having one and help you be able to get yourself into a safer position.”

To learn more on what to do if someone around you has a seizure, read survivor stories and learn how to contribute to Epilepsy Awareness Month, visit:

<https://www.epilepsy.com/make-difference/public-awareness/national-epilepsy-awareness-month>

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Breaking: WSU Announces Workforce Reductions

Kaitlyn Chrosniak

November 12, 2020

On Nov 12, Wright State University (WSU) announced upcoming faculty cuts and program merges to comply with declining enrollment rates.

Faculty Cuts

As stated in the current WSU collective bargaining agreement (CBA), the University is allowed to make workforce reductions in order to match enrollment declines occurring over four semesters.

“This fall, the university reported to the Ohio Department of Higher Education an enrollment of just over 12,000,” said the University Communications Department. “The university’s overall enrollment has declined by more than 30% over the last five years.”

Faculty who are impacted by workforce reductions will be provided up to 18-months notice along with displacement support from the University.

At this time, Lake Campus will not be impacted by workforce reductions or upcoming program cuts. Students currently enrolled at the WSU Main Campus will also not be impacted by upcoming program changes.

Program Merges

WSU also announced a number of upcoming academic program merges that will follow these workforce reductions at a later date, which include the following:

- 1) Combining the College of Nursing and Health, the College of Education and Human Services, and the School of Professional Psychology into one college.
- 2) Condensing most units of the College of Science and Mathematics and the College of Computer Science and Engineering into one STEM college.
- 3) Reorganizing the College of Liberal Arts & continuing to reassess the Raj Sooin College of Business departments.

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“This is not the avenue that anyone necessarily would want to go down, but I think it’s the only avenue that we have in the face of declining enrollment numbers,” said President Sue Edwards. “This is just the first step in a multi-step process that will take a lot to get through”.

Staff Spotlight: Mark Watson
Maxwell Patton
November 13, 2020

Mark Watson is a maintenance worker at Wright State University (WSU) with a unique sense of humor and a colorful career in the maintenance industry.

Traveling around

Watson was born in Dayton and spent much of his life in the city. Around the age of 12, he moved to Huber Heights. Watson also lived out in Colorado for some time.

He considers himself well-traveled.

“I was like a gypsy,” said Watson. “A blond-headed gypsy is how I look at myself.”

The Centennial State is home to one of his favorite destinations, Colorado Springs, which he enjoys for a few reasons.

“I really liked the beach,” said Watson. “That’s probably about the best vacation I’ve had. I like to go cave exploring and go up Pikes Peak.”

His hobbies include riding roller coasters, fishing, traveling with his wife and growing vegetables. He is also a huge fan of the Green Bay Packers for an interesting reason.

“Everybody goes for the teams that are closer to them, which, to me, makes no sense, but I like the Green Bay Packers because I love nachos,” said Watson. “The Green Bay Packers fans are cheeseheads, so, to me, that makes a lot more sense than picking a team just because they’re close to me like the Bengals. Tigers are fine, but I don’t love tigers like I do nachos.”

A start in machining

Watson worked at Dayton Reliable Tool in shipping and receiving, and completed grunt work for the company. Later, he was promoted to running computer numerical control (CNC) machines. He also took maintenance jobs at Hara Arena during the 1980s and a local Mexican restaurant, which he enjoyed much more than running the machines.

“Standing behind a machine, it was getting really old and boring,” said Watson.

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When the recession hit in the 1990s, Watson found it difficult to find a job and discovered a course for airline dispatchers in Sinclair Community College's catalog that guaranteed a job for anyone who took it.

"They didn't bother to tell you if you wanted a job, you would have to go to Alaska or move out of state, but at the time, I didn't care," said Watson.

Watson worked towards an associate degree in aviation administration and received his aviation dispatcher license. He found that course challenging but rewarding.

"I remember when I went to take my aviation dispatcher test, there was a guy taking an aircraft mechanic test," said Watson. "I thought, 'man, I feel so sorry for that guy taking that' and he said 'man, you're doing dispatch? I feel so sorry for you.' It was a hard test."

Around this time, Watson met his wife. He worked at another job in the tool industry and soon began working at WSU.

Working at WSU

Watson applied for a job at WSU in 2015 when someone he knew who worked on campus recommended it to him. Starting as a janitor, he worked his way up the corporate ladder and became a maintenance worker. It is a job that he has always loved, and he has not seen a lot of changes in it during the coronavirus pandemic, though it has affected him mentally.

"As far as actual physical work, we're always working," said Watson. "There's always things to do but mentally, it's tough on us because we miss all of the people here."

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Student-Athlete Spotlight: Tyler Frierson

William Baptist

November 13, 2020

Tyler Frierson is going into her senior season on the Wright State University (WSU) women's basketball team and is excited to play again after the coronavirus restrictions.

The 6-foot-4 center was named to the Horizon League All-Defensive Team last season after averaging 7.9 points per game, 9 rebounds per game and totaling 41 blocks on the year.

The WSU basketball team received their conference schedule and Frierson is eager to get the season underway.

"The schedule is different, but we get to play and that's the main thing. Our season could have been postponed until January...so I'm just excited," said Frierson.

Why WSU?

Frierson is from Long Beach, CA and her senior year of high school she was the ninth best rebounder in the state of California. She always knew she wanted to go to college out of state, and when she came to WSU, she knew it was the right school for her

"When I did my visit here, I just fell in love. The family atmosphere is like the same as if I was still at home. It reminded me so much of home," said Frierson

Frierson and Head Coach Katrina Merriweather have a great relationship, and she has helped Frierson with the transition of being so far from home.

Building chemistry within the team

Due to team facilities being closed throughout the offseason, building camaraderie within the team was different compared to prior seasons.

"Not being able to do the little team activities that we would normally do and the team bonding stuff changed a lot, but we still found a way to do it by following the protocols and social distancing," said Frierson.

Frierson is a leader on the team and she is looking to continue developing as a leader considering this is her final season with the team.

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“I want to be more of a leader on the court and off the court as well, with this being my last year I have a senior urgency and that has shown a lot,” said Frierson.

Expectations for the season

“We have a lot of talent coming back and coming in and we’re going to be playing at a faster pace, and it’s going to be a really talented team,” said Frierson.

Last season the basketball team finished 19-12 and lost in the quarterfinals of the Horizon League Tournament. They are looking to bounce back this season and Frierson has big aspirations for this team.

“Oh, we can go far, no not we ‘can’, we are going to go far...the goal is always to win another ring and get to that point and I really feel like with this team our goal is the same,” said Frierson.

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Fall World Series Brings Excitement To Baseball Team

William Baptist

November 13, 2020

The Wright State University (WSU) baseball team held their Fall World Series on Oct. 30 and 31. This was the first time they competed since their season was canceled after 15 games last year.

The Fall World Series is an intra-squad scrimmage in which the Long Ball Beasts defeated the 6 Year Special in both games.

“It was great to have the opportunity to get back out and play again with the guys during a time with what seemed like daily uncertainty,” said Redshirt-senior pitcher Austin Cline.

Focusing on Baseball

“I’d say there’s been a fair amount of distractions at points throughout 2020. The coaches did a great job at handling everything going on, and had some unique ways of keeping us engaged and focused with baseball,” said Cline.

The baseball season normally ends with the NCAA Tournament in June, but due to the season being canceled early, they played their last game on March 10.

“It has been challenging at times. You have to remind yourself of why you are doing what you are doing,” said Redshirt-sophomore infielder Damon Dues.

By the time their season officially starts back up, it will be an extremely long layover that these players are not used to.

“During the spring when our season first got cancelled, I took a couple weeks off of doing nothing baseball related. During that time, I realized that I want to play baseball for as long as I can... That time rejuvenated me in a way and I am thankful for that,” said Dues.

Preparing for the upcoming season

The baseball team still does not know when their season will take place or what their schedule will look like, but they are on track for a spring season.

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“I really hope we will be able to play a full schedule, especially for those student-athletes who decided to come back for another year,” said Head Baseball Coach Alex Sogard.

Due to the season being cut short, the NCAA allowed student-athletes to gain an extra year of eligibility. The baseball team was already extremely young, so they return almost the entire roster from the 2020 season.

“Even though last year was cut short, we had a number of guys get their feet wet and get some experience under their belt. I look forward to watching the guys compete this spring,” said Sogard.

There have been discussions about different schedule possibilities for the upcoming season that they hope to have finalized within the next month, but nothing has been decided as of now.

WSU Offers Tools to Succeed During Ongoing Pandemic

Roxanne Roessner

November 14, 2020

Wright State University (WSU) offers students tools to succeed, even if they are unaware of them. The Technology Loan Program, Student Retention Team and the RaiderStrong Outreach all offer help to students in need during the ongoing pandemic.

Technology Loan Program

The Help Desk is the front-line support for all technology issues students may have. The Technology Loan Program started last spring in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

“We were concerned that there were going to be a lot of students who didn’t have the technology to finish out their courses. When the campus shut down, they were forced to use their own equipment, which some students didn’t have,” said IT Service Manager Reid Allen.

Laptops are issued from the Student Success Center at both Dayton and Lake Campuses. The Dayton Campus had around 500 laptops and has rented out 343 laptops with ten more pending for pickup. At the Lake Campus, only one hotspot and two laptops were borrowed.

According to Lake Campus Student Success Center and Library & Technology Center Director Jamon Flowers, the cause may be that students are not aware of the offer or they already have the equipment. Students can request laptops or hotspots through the wright.edu/remote-help.

While laptops are readily available, students requesting the limited number of hotspots are required to go through an assessment to better gauge their need for a hotspot.

Students can request laptops if their laptops are not in working order, not compatible with different programs, or in for repair. At the end of the semester, all students in possession of laptops will be emailed and asked if they are still using the laptop and registered for the spring semester. The check-out can be extended to the next semester if they are registered, but if they are not, they are expected to return them within 14 days.

CATS

“We are here to assist students. If you are having any sort of technology issue, please don’t hesitate to reach out to the CaTS Help Desk. We are here to help you and to make sure you are

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able to succeed at Wright State and we don't want there to be a technology barrier that prevents you from doing so," said Allen.

The CaTS Help Desk provides remote computer lab access, Microsoft Office 360 and a discounted price for Adobe Creative Cloud through OnTheHub.

"When we first started off, we were getting a lot of calls because students were not used to remote learning. Though I do think that it has definitely leveled off in the past few weeks," said Allen.

According to Flowers, WSU students can go to the library for any multimedia needs such as Pilot, research, printing and computer workstations. Students can go to campus when Flowers is there on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Student Retention Team

The Student Retention Team started on Nov. 4, 2019 as a division of Student Success, and aims to help students identify ways to succeed, guide how to navigate college life and to empower students to reach their goals. Success Coach of the Student Retention Team Catherine Hernandez is there for students to teach time management and healthy practices.

"Just like a coach, we can't play the game for the student. The student is the star and they have to be the ones to succeed. The coach is on the sidelines cheering them on and giving them the best advice possible because they have a different perspective. Oftentimes, students can only see one part of the game because of stress and if they can have this person with a fuller perspective, it can really help them reach their goal," said Hernandez.

Professors can alert the Student Retention Team based on the student's situation in class and the team can connect students with counseling and wellness, student advocates and Raider Connect.

According to Hernandez, all students have a Success Coach, even if they are not aware of it or struggling with the semester.

Along with the Student Retention Team, the Peer Success Program is available for students to learn from fellow students. Upperclassmen check-in on their partner either weekly or biweekly to encourage students with tips and experiences to help guide them through college life.

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“As a first-year at Wright State, it’s kind of tricky when we’re all online and we’re not on [the] campus learning. So it’s nice to have somebody to help you,” said WSU freshman Damasia Willis who is a part of the Peer Success Program.

RaiderStrong Outreach

Flowers, along with Hernandez, participated in the RaiderStrong Outreach. The RaiderStrong Outreach was first created last spring as a way for the university to connect with students and help with problems that they faced with going online.

According to Flowers, most questions from the outreach involved freshmen that were not familiar with college, let alone virtual learning.

The first RaiderStrong Outreach took place after WSU first went online. 200 faculty and staff volunteered to call students and check-in on how they were doing. Their goal was to touch base, discuss any problems that arose and offer solutions to said problems.

The second outreach was at the end of Oct. 2020, and around 100 faculty and staff responded to the call. Students who did not answer the phone were sent an email explaining the situation and were able to respond that way.

Student Opinions: Mask Wearing as COVID Cases Spike

Kaitlyn Chrosniak

November 14, 2020

As daily coronavirus cases continue to rise across the country, Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, is beginning to vocalize that a national mask mandate may be required. In the Wright State University (WSU) community, opinions are varied about the effectiveness of masks.

Dr. Fauci's insight

On Sept. 15, Dr. Fauci originally advocated against the idea of a national mask mandate; however, his views have shifted in the weeks since then as coronavirus cases are hitting record highs nationwide.

"There's going to be a difficulty enforcing it, but if everyone agrees that this is something that's important and they mandate it and everybody pulls together and says, you know, we're going to mandate it but let's just do it, I think that would be a great idea to have everybody do it uniformly," said Dr. Fauci.

On Nov. 6, the United States reported 121,504 new coronavirus cases, with 5,008 of those cases being reported in Ohio.

Masks in Ohio

In Ohio, mask wearing in public spaces has been mandatory since July 26.

"We believe that requiring masks statewide will make a significant difference and will be key to making sure other counties do not progress to a higher level of increased spread," said Gov. Mike DeWine when announcing the mask mandate back in July.

Three months later, some students at WSU are questioning whether or not masks are helping prevent new coronavirus cases from forming as the state continues to report record breaking case numbers.

"Wearing masks is a complete waste of energy and resources. Absolutely no one is actually practicing correct usage and touches their masks constantly, and we continue to touch the same surfaces which means cross contamination," said WSU student Alexandria Gillylen. "I will

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never wear a mask unless I am in a courthouse, and if a business tells me to put one on, I will walk right out the door and not do business with them.”

Some students at WSU, however, do believe that a mask mandate nationwide may not be such a bad idea.

“People who argue that masks are or aren’t really helpful both have good points and research to back them up,” said WSU student Clare Burgh. “We’ve seen by now that there are so many variables involved in how Covid-19 spreads and symptoms manifest. Because these variables are hard to account for, the best and easiest way to ensure that we are stopping the spread is to have everyone continue to wear masks in public spaces.”

To learn more about mask requirements in Ohio, go to:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/resources/news-releases-news-you-can-use/gov-dewine-issues-statewide-mask-order-travel-warning#:~:text=Governor%20DeWine%20announced%20that%20beginning,all%2088%20Ohio%20counties>.

Coronavirus: Self-Reported V.S Confirmed — What's the Difference?

Nicolas BenVenuto

November 14, 2020

With record numbers of active coronavirus cases spiking across the state, Wright State University's (WSU) coronavirus dashboard has left some students scratching their heads when trying to analyze the data.

Since the beginning of the global coronavirus pandemic in March, WSU has proactively taken steps to keep the health and safety of students, faculty and staff a top priority.

One of the first measures taken was the creation of a coronavirus dashboard on the university's website which details the number of self-reported cases, as well as the number of confirmed cases across both Dayton and Lake campuses.

While the initiative to update students and faculty on such numbers is important, some students are struggling to understand what the numbers really mean.

"The dashboard really doesn't make sense to me," said WSU student Peyton Hoff. "I feel like the numbers should be higher, and I really don't know the difference between a self-reported case and a confirmed case."

What is the difference?

"Self-reported cases are those where a student or employee completes the Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Incident Report Form to indicate that they have received notification of a positive test," said EHS Director Dr. Marjorie Markopoulos. "It is possible that a person in a supervisory role may complete the EHS Incident Report Form for another person if the person is unavailable to complete the form themselves."

While self-reported cases are those in which a student or employee completes the EHS Incident Report form, confirmed cases are a little different.

"Confirmed cases are those reported by the Public Health Department," Dr. Markopoulos said.

Anticipated spikes in cases

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With Thanksgiving and Christmas right around the corner, public health officials and members of WSU's EHS team are anticipating a surge in active cases due to increased rates of travel as well as interactions among family members.

"The University is anticipating that the cases reported to EHS will likely correspond with the trends found in our local communities," said Dr. Markopoulos. "This is why it is so important to continue to practice all of the preventative measures to protect ourselves while we continue our activities within and outside the university settings."

WSU graduate student Rachel Newman says that she is taking extra precautions while attending family festivities this holiday season.

"As much as wearing a mask can be annoying at times, I understand the scope of the problem," Newman said. "It's a simple task that really does have a huge impact on our families and communities. Anything you can do to protect yourself and those around you needs to be taken seriously and not forgotten."

Out of the 88 total counties in Ohio, there are currently 56 counties that are listed as "red", meaning citizens residing in those counties are subject to very high exposure and spread rates. This amounts to 86% of the entire state classified at very high risk.

Both of WSU's Dayton and Lake campuses are listed under red counties.

To stay up-to-date on all coronavirus news at Wright State, visit:

<https://www.wright.edu/coronavirus>

Coronavirus information for the entire state of Ohio may be found here:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards/overview>

WSU Community Concerned about Historic Court Case *Fulton v. Philadelphia*
Jamie Naylor
November 15, 2020

The historic adoption services case *Fulton v. Philadelphia* heard before the Supreme Court on Nov. 4th causes concern among members of the Wright State University (WSU) LGBTQA and minority communities.

Overview of case

The city of Philadelphia contracted with the nationwide adoption organization Catholic Social Services (CSS) to handle adoption services in the city. CSS denies same-sex couples from adopting, breaking Philadelphia's non-discrimination policy. Claiming religious freedom, CSS sued the city, whereby the case arrived at the Supreme Court.

Possible outcomes

The Court could rule in the city's favor and uphold anti-discrimination policies as has been the case in the lower courts, or they could rule in CSS favor, letting government-contracted religious organizations uphold their values. The Court has a 6-3 conservative majority that will have an impact on this case.

When asked about possible outcomes, WSU political science professor and retired civil rights lawyer John Feldmeier said "it breaks down along ideological grounds. I think we will just see more of the same where you've already got an already conservative court that has moved further to the right in the last few years."

CSS holds offices and contracts all across the nation including Dayton, OH. Any law or precedent set by the Court, in this case, will affect all branches of CSS.

Community Concerns

Worried about the outcome of the case, Emily Yantis Houser, Director of WSU LGBTQA affairs and professor said "It may affect their [LGBTQA students] future family decisions. I see a lot of young people already thinking about being able to marry and their people being able to start families."

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Others worry about the scope of the case. The majority conservative justices could use a narrow judicial precedent or they could take a more active approach, opening the conversation to other anti-discrimination laws. A broader interpretation is what minorities fear.

“This just isn’t about foster and adoption services, this could have sweeping impacts for all different kinds of government-contracted services, including healthcare. This could have huge ramifications, or potentially, it could have none” states Dr. Jessica Barnett, a WSU woman, gender and sexuality professor.

In recent months conservative justices have spoken out against LGBTQA cases, some like Justice Thomas regret their decision in the Obergefell v. Hodges gay marriage case. Recently appointed Justice Barrett has ties to Catholicism and has previously ruled against minority rights cases.

Feldmeier points out that “The Supreme Court has the power to essentially issue national policy on matters before them.”

Judicial decisions take six months or longer to be ruled on, only when a decision is issued will the extent of impact be known.