

Wright State University

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The Guardian, Week of March 22, 2021

Wright State Student Body

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Weekly Horoscopes

Star Signer

March 22, 2021

As March comes to an end and April is just around the corner, professors are starting to mention finals. Read here to discover how you deal with finals stress based on your zodiac sign.

ARIES

Aries, the only way you deal with stress is to push on right through it. This is no different for your exams. Everyone knows not to bother you until the semester is over.

TAURUS

Taurus, you are a carefree spirit most of the time and your exams don't really stress you out that much. You study a little bit more than usual but you are just excited for the end of the semester.

GEMINI

Gemini, you tend to deal with stress by doing everything in your power to distract yourself from what you are stressing about. In case of final exams... this doesn't help your studying habits much.

CANCER

Cancer, stressing is not something you normally do, but your finals approaching are kind of putting you on edge. You usually pull out your notes to study a bit and this puts your mind at ease.

LEO

Leo, exam time is your least favorite time of year. You care about your grades and this makes exams extremely stressful. Even though you have been studying all semester, you still take the last few weeks before the end of semester to cram, and you may be a bit of a mess because of it.

VIRGO

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Virgo, you don't really handle stress well, so you can usually be found having a mental breakdown in a dark corner sometime during finals' week. Best of luck to you.

LIBRA

Libra, finals' stress is the worst kind of stress, and the only way you deal with stress is eating. Snacks snacks and more snacks. You empty the house of all food during exam week.

SCORPIO

Scorpio, exams do tend to stress you out, but you are smart enough to not save all of the studying for the week before. You calm yourself down during exam week by studying in small increments and setting time aside for self care.

SAGITTARIUS

Sagittarius, others know to watch out for you during finals' week. Unfortunately, when you get stressed out, you tend to take it out on others. This time, take a deep breath and remember that failing an exam is not the end of the world.. Or is it?

CAPRICORN

Capricorn, do you even exist during finals week? You always have your head in a book and no one can ever find you because you are always studying. But that is OK because studying and feeling prepared helps to ease your stress from exams.

AQUARIUS

Aquarius, you typically deal with stress by talking about it nonstop. Your friends get tired of you talking about how stressed out you are and how you are going to deal with it, but in the end, they are glad to be your support and help you get through your exams.

PISCES

Pisces, you don't really care about your exams and you usually do pretty well anyways so finals' stress is not something you have ever had to worry about. You walk in to take your exams with a cool head and maybe that is why you always do so well.

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Horizon League Basketball: NCAA First Round Matchups

Noah Kindig

March 22, 2021

The Horizon League Championships are over, and the NCAA seeds have been decided. The two representatives from the Horizon League headed to the big stage are the Cleveland State Vikings from the men's side, and the Wright State Raiders from the women's side.

Cleveland State will face number two Houston as a 15 seed, and Wright State will face number four Arkansas as a 13 seed.

Cleveland going for Grimes

The Vikings are 19-7 this year off of their Horizon League Championship, and are headed to the first round for the third time in program history.

Cleveland owes a lot of their success this year to head coach Dennis Gates, who turned the team around and got them their first winning record season since 2015.

While they have struggled on offense, the Vikings are a defensively solid team with Defensive Player of the Year Tre Gomillion, which helped them ride out tough games like a 3-0 thriller against Indiana Purdue Fort Wayne.

On the other side, Houston plays a very similar game to the Vikings, but seem to be a bit better at it. While the Vikings have scored 71.5 PPG, Houston has scored 77.6, and while Cleveland has allowed 70.6 Points per game, Houston has only allowed 57.9.

Quentin Grimes has been the star player for the Cougars, outscoring the Vikings' lead scorer Torrey Patton with 18 PPG to Patton's 14.9.

To win, the Vikings will need to outplay the Cougars in their own game.

The Raiders crash the glass

While a four seed versus thirteen seed can be an easy game to predict, the Raiders could give the Razorbacks a lot of trouble if they play to their strengths.

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Arkansas is 19-8 this year, and is the only team in the country that has beaten UConn this year, due to their own style of aggressive offense. The Razorbacks have four players averaging double digit points, led by Chelsea Dungee with 22.2 PPG.

While the Razorbacks are dominant in scoring, averaging the fourth highest PPG in the nation, the team's weakness seems to be rebounding.

Even though they went 9-6 in the historically fast paced SEC, Arkansas's opponents had almost 225 more rebounds than them throughout the season. Coincidentally, rebounds are one of the biggest strengths of WSU.

Head Coach Katrina Merriweather pushed the Raiders to work for every loose ball they can, making the mid-major school sixth place in the nation for offensive rebounds per game, and fourteenth in rebounds per game, where Arkansas doesn't even crack the top 300.

While Chelsea Dungee does outrank Wright State's Angel Baker in PPG, Baker scored 22 points in her freshman NCAA first round, and will look to impress once again.

If Baker has a strong game and Wright State crashes the glass hard as they have throughout the year, their style of play could counter the way Arkansas wants to win.

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Wright State's Response to Hazing at BGSU

Kaitlyn Chrosniak

March 22, 2021

On March 7, a student at Bowling Green State University passed away from an alleged hazing incident. As the investigation continues, students and their families at Wright State University (WSU) were given an opportunity on March 21 to be educated on the risks that come with participating in Greek Life.

The story of Stone Foltz

On March 4, an off-campus fraternity chapter event occurred at BGSU involving the Phi Kappa Alpha fraternity. It is rumored that new members, or littles, were to drink a handle of alcohol provided by an older member of the group, known as a big.

Stone Foltz was a 20-year-old business major who was found unresponsive at the event by police in his apartment after the hazing event. Foltz passed away on March 7, having been kept alive in the hospital in order to have his organs donated.

“A full inquiry into each Greek chapter’s prevention and compliance responsibilities under university policies prohibiting hazing,” a representative of BGSU said in a public statement on March 8.

Since the incident, Phi Kappa Alpha has been suspended as a fraternity at BGSU indefinitely, and the future of Greek life at the university has been called into question. The incident remains under investigation.

At the time of writing, several students from BGSU were contacted, but were unavailable to provide a statement.

WSU's policies on hazing

As the BGSU incident remains under investigation, WSU continues to uphold the zero-hazing policy that is in place in accordance with federal and state laws.

“Any individual or organization suspected of authorizing or tolerating the occurrence of a hazing incident will be subject to an investigation by either the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct and/or the appropriate University department,” the WSU Student Handbook

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says. “The investigation may be followed by a formal disciplinary hearing in accordance with the student conduct due process procedures outlined in the WSU Code of Student Conduct.”

Gina Keucher, program director for sorority and fraternity life at WSU, held a virtual event for students and the families of students involved with Greek life at the university on March 21. The main goals of the program were to educate new members on this history of Greek life and the risks that come with it, including hazing.

“A violation of hazing is a misdemeanor of the fifth degree,” Keucher said. “Except under the proposed Collin’s law, the violation shall be a felony of the fifth degree if the violation causes physical harm to the victim and there are drugs or alcohol involved.”

Students and families who attended the program also partook in a nationwide project called *Love, Mom and Dad*, where they listened to the live testimonies of parents who lost a child due to hazing, hosted by the Anti-Hazing Coalition (AHC).

“As many campuses have moved away from in-person experiences this fall, the AHC wants to ensure students receive hazing prevention education,” a representative of the AHC said on the program’s registration page.

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Fermin Recarte Named Intercultural Specialist of the New Latin Hispanic and Cultural Center
Kaitlyn Chrosniak
March 22, 2021

On March 22, Wright State University (WSU) announced that Fermin Recarte will be the intercultural specialist of the new Latin and Hispanic Cultural Center starting April 1.

The Position

LANA started off as Asian, Hispanic, and Native American Center (AHNA) in 1997 under the direction of Mai Nguyen. In 2014, AHNA was split into two offices, with the Office of Hispanic Affairs being led by Tony Ortiz until Dec 2018.

In Oct. 2017, it was announced that the offices would combine to LatinX, Asian, and Native American Affairs (LANA) under the direction of Julia Acosta until May 2019. Since departing from the university, Acosta has come under fire for making racial comments.

Mia Honaker has served as the administrative support coordinator for the office of LANA since Nov. 2005, and has served the role of interim assistant director of LANA since Acosta's departure.

LANA has recently announced a split into two separate offices once again: the Latin and Hispanic Cultural Center and the Asian and Native American Center, with plans for Recarte to join the team next month.

Overview

Recarte has spent the last several years as an educator across the globe, recruiting native-English speakers to teach in China as well as teaching Spanish himself in China and in several states across the United States.

Recarte has also served as the publisher and owner of El Gallito Luis, a Spanish newspaper in Lafayette, LA, as well as the executive director of the Hispanic Community Resources Center in Frankfort, Indiana.

Recarte's position will have him overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Latin and Hispanic Cultural Center, as well as facilitate programs to increase the understanding of Latin and Hispanic cultures on campus.

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Women's Basketball: #13 Wright State Upsets #4 Arkansas

Noah Kindig

March 22, 2021

For the first time since 2012, a 13 seed has upset a four seed in the NCAA Division one Women's Basketball Championships.

This was Wright State's third-ever appearance in the tournament and their first NCAA victory in program history. The Raiders will next face off against the winner of UC Davis and Missouri State on Wednesday, March 24.

Angel Baker totaled 26 points and led the game in rebounds with 12 for Wright State, while Chelsea Dungee barely led the game in points with 27 for Arkansas.

Summary

Wright State jumped on the Razorbacks early and held the lead for most of the game. Their first-quarter points came from Angel Baker with 6 and Destyne Jackson with 7, who hit a far three-point buzzer-beater to give the Raiders a 8-point lead at the end of the first half 20-12.

The Razorbacks continued to be picked apart by Wright State off the glass, as the Raiders totaled 21 rebounds in the first half to Arkansas's 8. Baker continued to be a threat all game, totaling 18 points in the first half alone to give Wright State a 12-point lead, 38-26.

The Razorbacks began to make a comeback, outscoring Wright State by 9 through the third, but Baker kept the Raider lead strong in the last few minutes of the quarter, scoring 5 points in a row to keep Arkansas behind by 8 coming into the fourth quarter.

Arkansas was able to rally, finally taking the lead for the first time in the game 59-58 with just under 2 minutes to play. The raiders would not be denied, though, as a three-pointer from Angel Baker with 29 seconds to go gave Wright State the lead back, 64-62. Two more free-throws secured the win, 66-62.

Every rebound and every free-throw matters

The Razorbacks have struggled with rebounding all season, as their strategy has mostly focused on their strong offense led by Chelsea Dungee, who averaged 22 PPG for Arkansas this year.

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On the other hand, the strongest aspect of Wright State's play is their rebounding, which led to WSU having 14 more rebounds than Arkansas and nearly double their offensive rebounds, punishing the Razorback defense all game.

Arkansas's comeback in the second half of the game relied on free throws, with the Razorbacks making 21-28 from the line, and Dungee alone scoring 14, where all of Wright State's roster only made 10.

Wright State's superior rebounding and accurate shooting decided the game. Even though Arkansas made seven three-pointers and Wright State made six, WSU shot 50% from distance while Arkansas only shot 32%.

The superior rebounds also gave Wright State many more chances, as they shot 50 times inside where the Razorbacks only managed 28.

Those inside points gave the Raiders the edge they needed, and second-chance points gave Wright State the game by four.

How Students' Tuition Dollars are Spent

Nicolas Benvenuto

March 23, 2021

Wright State University (WSU) is known in Ohio as an institution that provides a top-notch post-secondary education for an affordable price, but it may be unknown as to how tuition dollars are spent.

Bursar's Office

"When a student applies, they also complete their FAFSA application and any potential scholarships that will drive the initial cost of tuition down," WSU President Sue Edwards said. "The Bursar's Office is where this money is handled and Burhan Kawosa, who oversees this department, does an excellent job."

Edwards said that the Bursar's Office not only handles student tuition dollars coming in, but also handles the distribution of dollars being given to students.

"As we saw with the HEERF [Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund] dollars, we have given out almost \$10 million to those students in need during the coronavirus. The majority of these students are classified as having high-need so this money was instrumental in helping them during these unprecedented times," Edwards said.

How is it spent?

When it comes to the expenditure of student tuition dollars, Edwards says that the majority of the funds are spent paying the salary and payroll of the institution's faculty and staff.

"There are many avenues in which tuition dollars are spent," Edwards said. "The largest avenue is in paying our faculty and staff. The biggest expense we actually have at the university, is in fact salaries."

While Edwards acknowledges that salaries are the biggest burden to Wright State's budget, she also acknowledged the importance of keeping top-notch education and education services for those in the Raider community.

"When you look at my three R's [Recruitment, Retention, Relationships], It's not just about bringing a student in. It's about ensuring that our students have access to all of the services that are necessary in making them successful," Edwards said.

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In this regard, Edwards highlighted that student tuition dollars are additionally spent on the support networks that contribute significantly to the success of students at WSU.

“Tutors, advisors, mental health professionals, medical professionals... all of these are paid for by student tuition dollars and are absolutely essential for us as an institution,” Edwards said.

Affordability

Edwards also emphasized WSU’s commitment to keeping tuition rates affordable for those wishing to attend the university.

“We really are one of the lowest tuition institutions in the state of Ohio, and I believe that contributes significantly to those in the area choosing to attend Wright State opposed to other peer institutions,” Edwards said.

WSU prospective student Cassidy Smarsh of Troy, Ohio says that although Wright State doesn’t have much of an off-campus social life, she is interested in the university because of the overall savings as compared to peer institutions.

“I know that Wright State provides low tuition rates and I think that when I go to make my final decision on which college to attend, it may be the biggest factor in my decision. As much as I love having a social life, I have to be practical too. Wright State is a real option for those here in the Dayton area to get an education for an affordable price,” Smarsh said.

WSU alumnus Christian Henderson, who graduated from WSU’s Theatre Studies program in 2017, echoed the importance of low-cost tuition at Wright State, citing it as a determining factor in his choice to attend the university.

“The cost of tuition at Wright State played a huge role in my decision to go there,” Henderson said. “I had three different options to pick from, and Wright State best fit what I could safely afford.”

While Henderson praised WSU for keeping tuition rates affordable for Dayton area residents, he also stated that he believes one downside to low tuition rates at Wright State is an ‘average’ education in return.

“I don’t believe the education I received at Wright State was anything above the typical college experience, or anything special for that matter, but I do believe that the professors at Wright State do the best that they can do with what they have,” Henderson said. “I’m still glad to have had these experiences.”

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Editor's Note: WSU Chief Operating Officer Greg Sample, the WSU Bursar's Office, and Burhan Kawosa were all contacted for comments on this story but refused to provide information on student tuition dollars at this time.

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ArtsGala Canceled Second Year in a Row: Buy a Snow Globe Instead
Maxwell Patton
March 23, 2021

The ArtsGala has been canceled for this year due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, and the College of Liberal Arts (COLA) worked heavily to provide support for their students despite the cancellation.

This is the second year in a row that the ArtsGala has been canceled. The last in-person event was in 2019 at the Creative Arts Center.

Planning for the future

Planning for the event, which would have occurred on April 17, takes a whole year, and the Director of Events and Community for COLA Nick Warrington brainstormed different solutions for another cancellation in the early fall of 2020.

“While we tried to remain optimistic the whole time that we were going to have an in-person event, I was already on the backside planning out Option B and C and D and E and F, building out every scenario possible to try and make ArtsGala work in some way, shape or form,” Warrington said.

According to Warrington, if the ArtsGala would have taken place in person, it would have been split into two events that were each three hours long with about 200 people at each event. There would have also been two 20-by-70-foot tents situated outside with the majority of ArtsGala taking place in these tents.

Another reason that the ArtsGala will not be held this year is that the college would not have been able to produce the same experience that their patrons have come to enjoy over the past 20 years.

“You’re constantly moving around, you’re seeing all of these different performances, and that’s what we weren’t going to be able to do in a safe manner,” Warrington said. “We were not going to be able to let people just wander around and go into rooms where we weren’t able to control capacity and exposure, and quite frankly, we didn’t want to have to be the mask police.”

Supporting students

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The main purpose of ArtsGala is to support COLA students through the ArtsGala Scholarship Fund. During an average year, approximately \$200,000 is raised for this fund, according to a press release. After ArtsGala 2021 was canceled, those in charge created new opportunities to raise money for those students.

One of those opportunities comes from a partnership with Global Love Dayton to create limited-edition snow globes celebrating Wright State University (WSU). A total of 250 snow globes will be made and they are currently available for pre-order on the ArtsGala website for \$125 each. If the snow globes sell out, \$20,000 will be raised for the ArtsGala Scholarship Fund.

Owner of Global Love Dayton Kelly Lehman hopes to provide a way to capture the heart and spirit of WSU and provide a way for the community to show its love after what it has endured, while also reaching that \$20,000 goal.

“There’s so much to be proud of that has gotten lost in the negative noise,” Lehman said. “I hope the globes are catalysts for enhancing Raider pride.”

The university will also be holding a phone-a-thon campaign and an online silent auction to benefit its students. More information about the silent auction will be announced shortly.

WSU also partnered with Dayton Classical Radio to air a pre-recorded concert featuring students from the School of Music. That concert will air on April 17 at 10 a.m. on WDPR 88.1 FM.

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Anti-Asian Sentiment: Wright State Students React

Tracy Evatt

March 24, 2021

According to [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov), House Resolution 908, a bill Condemning all forms of anti-Asian sentiment as related to the coronavirus, had 243 votes for the bill and 164 opposing the bill. This was last Sept. On March 16, a gunman shot eight people, six of whom were Asian women.

Local vandalism

Ashley Nguyen is a Wright State University (WSU) marketing and multimedia design major and of Vietnamese descent. While not the direct victim of anti-Asian sentiment, she has been around it.

Xuan Vietnamese-Thai Cuisine, a restaurant in Riverside, Ohio, was vandalized and a smell of gasoline was reported according to WHIO. This restaurant used to be owned by Nguyen's family, and the grocery store close by is frequented by people she knows.

"I haven't really been a victim of any of this, which I am grateful for. I don't know what I would do if something like that happened," Nguyen said.

Fearing for family

WSU senior media studies major Tionna Clyburn is half-Black and half-Japanese. Throughout the pandemic, Clyburn has been hesitant to see her mother go out alone.

"My mom is full Japanese so since the beginning of the pandemic I've been a little more wary of letting her go out by herself," Clyburn said.

Clyburn's hesitation to let her mother go out by herself is due to personal experience.

"There was this one distinct time I remember at the very beginning of the pandemic when it was first declared a pandemic, that very first week, we went to Meijer and all these moms with their kids were telling their kids, very loud whispers so they made sure we could hear, stay away from those Asians, they shouldn't be in the store with, you know, the pandemic going on," Clyburn said.

This is a single moment among many for Asian-Americans living in the United States today.

Increase in hate crimes

Racist remarks from strangers have become a new reality for Asian-Americans. A string of physical attacks has been seen as well.

“The [analysis released by the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism](#) at California State University, San Bernardino, this month examined hate crimes in 16 of America’s largest cities. It revealed that while such crimes in 2020 decreased overall by 7 percent, those targeting Asian people rose by nearly 150 percent,” NBC News said.

The tragic shooting alarmed many to the harsh treatment of Asian-Americans in the United States.

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Raidergang Baseball: Wright State Jumps to 8-0

Noah Kindig

March 24, 2021

Tough preparation in the preseason for Raidergang baseball seems to have worked wonders for the team, as hard-fought losses against number two Vanderbilt and number 23 Alabama have turned into an undefeated season so far for Wright State.

The Raiders had close games against both top 25 teams, taking Alabama to 11 innings and losing to Vanderbilt by one run in their second game.

These matches prepared Wright State for league play, taking four games off both Northern Kentucky and Youngstown State, outscoring their opponents 77-21 in those eight games.

Awards

The 8-0 League start for the Raiders has earned Wright State Baseball players a number of Horizon League awards, with Tyler Black and Quincy Hamilton earning Batter of the Week awards and Jake Shrand and Austin Cline earning pitcher of the week awards.

Shrand earned the first award of the group after their weekend at Alabama, striking out eight batters in their tough 0-1 loss, and putting the Crimson Tide's offense on the ropes all night.

Hamilton was next up, hitting three home runs and batting .417 against Northern Kentucky, helping the Raiders secure a four-game sweep and start out the HL season 4-0.

The Raiders swept the next week's awards while sweeping Youngstown State, with Black slugging at 1.375 and hitting .563 and with Cline striking out 11 batters over seven innings on Sunday with no walks.

Looking ahead to UIC

The UIC Flames are 2-2 after their first weekend series against Milwaukee, and look to be the biggest threat to the Raiders this season, as they were placed second in the pre-season poll.

Matt Botcher is one of the players to worry about for Wright State, earning a Horizon League batter of the week award after a winning weekend at Florida International University, and is leading the Flames in slugging percentage.

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Bryan Rosario leads in batting average and has good batting stats across the board. Jacob Key has been a great pitcher for the Flames so far, and is sitting at second all-time strikeouts in school history.

The Raiders will most likely continue their dominance against the Flames, but UIC's star players could take some games off of Wright State if they aren't prepared.

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SGA: Election Voting Is Now Open on WINGS

Maxwell Patton

March 24, 2021

The Student Government Association (SGA) met in person and through WebEx on Tuesday, March 23 to discuss three resolutions that impact Wright State University (WSU) students.

Resolution 21-08

A resolution to commend the WSU women's basketball team on their March 22 tournament win against Arkansas and their successful season was introduced during the March 16 meeting by Residential Senator Jonathan Ciero. SGA voted to table this resolution until the women's basketball team exits the tournament through either an elimination or winning the whole event. They hope to invite the players and coaches to receive this commendation.

Resolution 21-09

Resolution 21-09 endorses a partnership between the university and Spin, a scooter-sharing company. Already in place at colleges such as the University of Akron, Ohio State University and Ohio University, this partnership would allow WSU students to use the scooters to travel around campus quickly. This resolution is sponsored by Student Body President Adrian Williams and Vice President Joseph York, and co-sponsored by Ciero.

"This is not a binding commitment saying that this will happen," Williams said. "This is simply taking the steps we need to make sure that we are getting the ball started if we decide this is something we want to do as a student body."

SGA passed the resolution.

Resolution 21-10

The second resolution introduced at this week's meeting advocates for free feminine sanitary products, including pads and tampons, in all WSU restrooms. This resolution is sponsored by Director of Inclusive Excellence Chinenyenwa Amagwu and co-sponsored by Williams, and was passed during the meeting.

Elections

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Faculty Senate President Dr. Laura Luehrmann announced that her vice president, Dr. Brian Boyd, will be serving as the Faculty Senate president for the next two years. Lake Campus English professor Megan Faragher will become the Faculty Senate vice president.

Voting for this year's SGA elections will end on Thursday, March 25 at 5 p.m. Students can vote by logging into WINGS and clicking on the SGA election announcement on the homepage.

SGA meets in person in 005 Student Success Center and over WebEx every Tuesday at 7 p.m. Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings virtually.

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Student Opinions: The Fall Return to Campus

Roxanne Roessner

March 24, 2021

Wright State University (WSU) students received an email from the university's president on March 10 stating upcoming plans for students to return to campus for classes for the 2021 Summer and Fall semesters.

Freshmen and sophomore students who left last March are returning to campus as juniors and seniors. A whole year of their college career has been spent in their bedrooms teaching themselves college-level courses without experiencing college.

Returning to campus

Freshman computer science major Cal Kahoun has had classes online before coming to WSU.

"I am so looking forward to classes on campus because I am such a hands-on learner and I feel that I don't get the same engagement over the internet as in person. I don't really have many expectations, just that I would be able to meet more faces," Kahoun said.

Sophomore English major Tasha Berkenstock is also looking forward to seeing more faces on campus.

"When the campus shut down in the Spring, I was in my second semester of my freshman year and had made very few acquaintances on campus. Because of this, I have often felt isolated from everyone at campus and have struggled with trying to meet other people on campus," Berkenstock said.

According to Berkenstock, switching to solely online classes was difficult, especially when she had to sit at her kitchen table for seven to eight hours to do homework.

"[Sitting there] was extremely hard, especially when I could be doing something else like playing The Sims or Mario Kart," Berkenstock said.

Changes for the future

While some students like Berkenstock have kept a regular schedule, others will have to revamp how they handle college, especially if they never had to go to campus.

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“The biggest change I would have to make to transition to in-person classes is my sleep schedule. I would also force myself out of my room more which is a great thing I would have to change,” Kahoun said.

According to Berkenstock, her sleep schedule has remained intact while her studying time has taken a blow. Berkenstock focused on submitting assignments before the due dates and lost what time she needed to study the information.

While President Edwards reminds WSU members that campus life will not return to the pre-coronavirus style, students will be on campus come fall. Along with thanking students and members of the WSU community, Edwards shares Berkenstock’s appreciation for those who have taught this last year.

“I would just like to take a moment though to say thank you to all the professors for their hard work. All of my professors have been trying their hardest to ensure that their students get the education they wanted while staying aware of the situation at hand. It has been a struggle for us all,” Berkenstock said.

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Dayton's Not Dead: Super-Fly Comics
Maxwell Patton
March 25, 2021

Situated in downtown Yellow Springs, Ohio is Super-Fly Comics and Games, a comic book shop providing a haven for geeks from all walks of life.

The business opened in 2007 by current owner Anthony Barry and Thacher Cleveland, who worked with Barry at the nearby Dark Star Books and Comics.

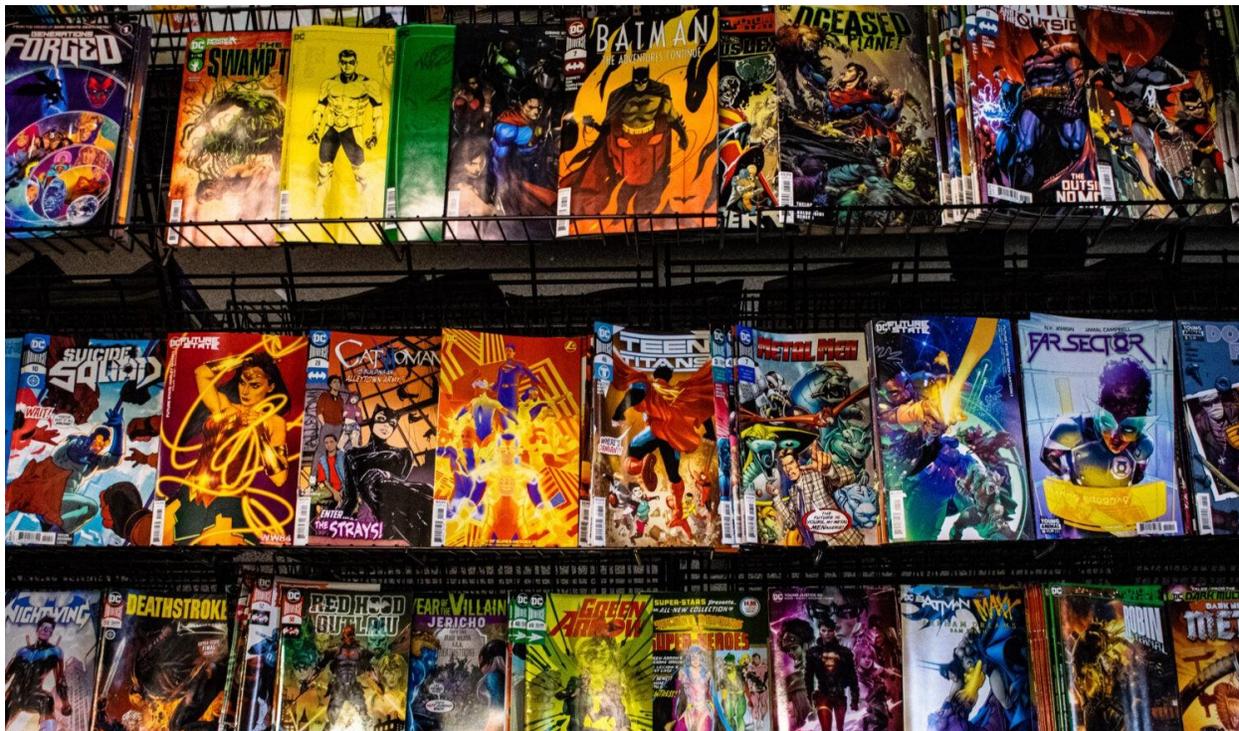
"I've been a fan [of comic books] my entire life," Barry said. "I cannot remember a point in my life when I didn't have comics in my hand."

Both wanted to expand the comic and game section at Dark Star more than the owners were comfortable with, so they purchased what is now Urban Gypsy and moved into their current space at 132 Dayton Street a year later. Cleveland left in 2008 due to personal reasons, and current manager Jared Whittaker filled the vacancy.

The stock at Super-Fly Comics and Games includes issues from superhero staples Batman and the Avengers but also books from such series as "The Umbrella Academy" and "JoJo's Bizarre Adventure." The shop also carries Magic: The Gathering cards, Funko Pop! figures, equipment for role-playing games and many other items.

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Super-Fly Comics and Games | Photo by Diana Jaber | The Wright State Guardian

Challenges in the comic industry

One of the big challenges that Barry and Whittaker have been addressing with the shop is the ever-changing comic book industry. When the business started, the biggest comic book movie was “Spider-Man 2” and the Marvel Cinematic Universe was a year from its inception.

“It was not necessarily not a mainstream thing, but it isn’t like the economic juggernaut that powers every industry at this point,” Whittaker said. “[The challenge is] just dealing with that groundswell of public opinion, where it’s truly a mainstream thing which has its own headaches and expectations and trying to keep up with that.”

The shop has also had to deal with employees stealing from them, floods, fires and multiple economic recessions.

“A lot of it ends up being in the financial area, but there’s a whole lot more little things that add up,” Whittaker said.

Adapting to a new normal

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According to Barry, sales at Super-Fly were down 40% last year due to the coronavirus pandemic, and that number only concerns sales at their store in Yellow Springs.

“That doesn’t account for all of the conventions that we missed,” Barry said. “Normally, I run 20 to 30 conventions a year, and I got to do one of those last year.”

The store adapted by launching a Shopify page and bringing their video podcast back for several weeks.

“It started out trying to have a business-as-usual-on-a-Wednesday kind of thing, since Wednesday is New Comic Day, keeping the ritual and the commitment to it, and then it just turned into a way to connect with people who otherwise couldn’t be in the store,” Whittaker said.

Customer Johnathan Coble has only been to Super-Fly twice, but so far, his experience has been positive.

“I’m not a huge comic guy, but if I was, this would probably be the place to come because it looks like they have everything you could want,” Coble said. “It seems like a really great store.”

For the future of the store, Barry and Whittaker are looking to continue to provide comic books and other media for anyone who comes into the store for as long as they can.

“We are going to be here and we are going to be putting pop culture, comics, media and literature in front of our audience as best we can until somebody stops us,” Barry said.

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419 Alive: Hidden Treasures
Roxanne Roessner
March 25, 2021

Hidden Treasures will celebrate its 24-year anniversary in June at 221 West Main Street, Coldwater, Ohio. The consignment shop is owned by Diane Stromblad, a Coldwater native who has 4,700 members who have helped make the business what it is today.

After returning to Ohio, Stromblad decided to open a shop on Coldwater's Main Street. After four years of the business growing, Stromblad had to move locations to where Hidden Treasures is now.

"It's been 24 years. You know, 24 years is a long time and I know that other places like mine don't last that long. It's all because I make sure to have quality items and that I split the profit with people who brought in clothes," Stromblad said.

When members bring in clothing or other items to the shop, they are assigned a specific number that correlates to their items. Once that item sells, they receive part of the profit. Instead of donating clothes to places like Goodwill, members of Hidden Treasures can make money which motivates them to continue bringing in quality items.

Quality in action

Wright State University (WSU) senior Trinity Rammel has been going to Hidden Treasures with her family for as long as she can remember and has recently joined as a member.

"I would sell my clothes on my Facebook page every once in a while, but I didn't like giving my address to random people. Hidden Treasures will take your used clothes, they will take 60% for the profit and you get the other 40%. So, this makes it easy to get rid of clothes you no longer wear that are still in good condition," Rammel said.

Stromblad prides herself on the condition of the items she allows in her consignment shop. Hidden Treasures only accepts items that are less than three years old that are still in good condition.

While some items come in with their tags still, others may have minor issues. Stromblad will still take these items and sell them at a discounted rate.

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“Clothes like sweats and athleticwear are always a hot item, I’d say they’re our best sellers actually,” Stromblad said.

According to Coldwater local Shannon Woeste, Hidden Treasures always has something new to find, especially when you are looking for good clothes for a low cost.

The coronavirus impact

According to Stromblad, the coronavirus pandemic hit the business hard. Hidden Treasures does its best financially when the seasons change and people are needing clothes to fit.

Once the coronavirus shut down Hidden Treasures, it was a struggle for it to continue going forward.

“People weren’t going places. We didn’t have ballgames to attend, we didn’t go out to eat or even to fancy events. No one needed new clothes,” Stromblad said.

However, Stromblad’s business continues to provide the 419 area with quality second-hand items and employees that Stromblad is proud of.

People interested in Hidden Treasures can find it on Facebook where they post updates on their deals and upcoming items for sale.

Alumni Spotlight: Kayelin Tiggs

Alexis Wisler

March 26, 2021

Kayelin Tiggs, an alumna of Wright State University (WSU), recently won the Miss Ohio pageant and is using her platform to help girls find their voice and follow their dreams.

The foundation

Tiggs graduated from WSU in 2015 with a B.A. in Psychology and was involved with the Bolinga Center on campus.

The alumna says that she is grateful for the professors she had, especially Dr. Christa Agiro, because they gave her the foundation to do what she is passionate about.

“It was Wright State’s courses that gave me that foundation to do what I’m doing right now. Had I went anywhere else, I’m not sure I would have met the people that led me to where I am,” Tiggs said

It was during her undergrad where Tiggs became involved with social justice work as well as pageantry.

Working towards her goals

Currently, Tiggs is working on her initiative Ohio Girls LEAD and preparing for the Miss America pageant after winning Miss Ohio last fall.

According to Tiggs, Ohio Girls LEAD is an initiative to help young girls develop their identity through a leadership lens.

LEAD is an acronym for Love of self and community, Educated and equipped to educate others, Advocates for the things she believes in and Disciplined in all that she does.

“I believe that every woman is a leader within her own right, but it is important that girls and women see themselves as leaders whether they are running their own business, the owner of a fortune 500 company, or just a stay at home mom raising four children. I want women to realize that they contribute so much to their communities, to their state, and to the forward movement of this country,” Tiggs said.

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The Miss Ohio titleholder says that the initiative seeks to address the problems that hinder women's leadership, and to work with girls and women to help them find their place in leadership.

The initiative is set to launch in May, but until then, Tiggs has been using her Miss Ohio title to speak in settings such as schools, prisons and orphanages to help women build their leadership skills.

"When you do have a crown and a sash, you are able to get into spaces that you aren't normally able to access. So, it's like a microphone. It amplifies you and shines a light on you and when you have that light shined on you, it is important that you use it to talk about things that are very important," Tiggs said.

Tiggs not only uses her platform as a titleholder to inspire other women, but her journey towards that title as well. It took Tiggs six years and 22 pageants to win Miss Ohio.

"It was really hard on me, but throughout that experience I learned how to lose gracefully, what it is like to develop these leadership and perseverance skills, and to never give up on myself," Tiggs said.

When Tiggs tells her story to girls and women, she hopes that it will inspire them and make them confident in themselves to pursue their goals.

"That's the message that I want to give to girls when I tell them about my story. It is important that they never give up on themselves, and that also blends in to that leadership theme. You cannot give up on your goals," Tiggs said.

Never give up

Throughout working on Ohio Girls LEAD and competing in pageants to spread her message and advocate for girls everywhere, Tiggs has learned to never give up on herself and her goals and wants others to know that they have the ability to do the same.

"Whatever it is that is put on your heart and put on your mind, don't give up on that dream and that goal. Everyone has been given a gift and a talent. Never give up on how you're going to make a difference," Tiggs said.

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The Newest VPAA: Who is Barry Milligan?

Jamie Naylor

March 26, 2021

Wright State University's (WSU) Vice Provost for Academic Affairs (V.P.A.A.) position provides support for staff and students with plans to help the University achieve their enrollment, accreditation and Covid-19 safety goals.

The position

While not a new role, the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs has recently been reinstated as an administrative position. This role consists of duties such as faculty assistance, university planning, reviewing programming and mediating small disputes among departments.

Background

Dr. Barry Milligan is a faculty member turned administrator at WSU for 27 years, starting as an English professor and moving on to bigger roles like the Graduate School's interim dean.

The new V.P.A.A. participated in faculty affairs as well. At one point, he served as the Faculty Union president and was appointed to the Joint Committee for Retrenchment.

Goals of the position

One of the administrator's first priorities in this position is coordinating for a safe return in Fall 2021. As the pandemic wanes and students get vaccinated, the administration aims for a mix of in-person and online courses for the fall semester.

"One of the things I have been working on [these] past few weeks is trying to optimize the number of face-to-face class offerings and the possibility of still maintaining some degree of restriction," Milligan said in regards to Fall 2021.

Other current goals for Dr. Milligan include WSU's accreditation issues, increasing enrollment and retention, making sure the University Libraries have the funds and programming they need to operate, and helping the university process run smoothly.

New perspectives

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Despite this extensive responsibility, the skilled administrator is enthusiastic about his new position. He admits this position is not as visible nor as easy as some of the other administrative positions on campus, yet according to Dr. Milligan, it is just as important.

“The exciting thing about this job is I get to help support students to succeed day in day out, even though that isn’t as visible as the end result,” Milligan said.

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Commencement During COVID: Adapting and Hope for the Future
Nicolas BenVenuto
March 26, 2021

As Wright State University (WSU) prepares for post-pandemic life, university President Dr. Sue Edwards weighed-in on current and future commencement ceremonies and her excitement to be back on campus.

Commencement during COVID

Currently, commencement is broken up into four smaller ceremonies taking place over the course of one weekend, all of which follow strict health and safety protocols for both those graduating and the limited number of spectators in attendance.

Protocols in place include offering a limited number of guest/family tickets, mask requirements even if fully vaccinated and 6-foot social distancing at all times.

“In a normal circumstance, commencement would involve the entire university,” Edwards said. “It’s a packed house full of visitors, graduates, staff and faculty. It’s a really special moment. We’re trying to keep it just as special for everyone graduating during these tough times, but there are certain safety precautions we have to take.”

At the moment, ceremonies are operating at a maximum of 25% capacity of WSU’s Nutter Center, which dramatically changes the atmosphere of the ceremony.

“We have to limit the total number of tickets sold, and this causes people to be upset. While we cannot have everyone in attendance that typically would be, we are offering a live stream of commencement for those extended family members and friends who aren’t in attendance,” Edwards said.

Return to campus

“I’m so excited to be returning to campus this fall,” Edwards said. “I don’t like the fact that I don’t get to engage with students, faculty and staff around campus at the moment. I can’t express enough how excited I am to have these moments back.”

Edwards said that the availability of vaccines for students is a big factor in future plans to return to some sort of normalcy at the university.

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“I’m encouraging folks all the time to do the right thing and get vaccinated so we can keep this process moving along,” Edwards said.

These remarks coincide with the campus-wide communications email sent on March 10, where Edwards announced plans for a return to campus for the fall semester beginning Aug. 23.

“Wright State also plans to host a number of small-group in-person student orientation activities over the summer and will continue to offer in-person campus tours for future students and their families,” WSU said in the campus-wide email.

Edwards said that though future commencement ceremonies will likely have graduates spaced six-feet apart throughout the entirety of the ceremony, those graduating will still receive a sense of normalcy in the recognition of their achievements.

“The plan is that students will be escorted to their chairs because we can’t congregate. The chairs will be six-feet apart, but everything will still be in the spirit of graduation. We must remember to acknowledge all of the hard work these students have put in regardless of circumstance,” Edwards said.

Alumni Opinion

While Edwards has placed an emphasis on the importance of recognizing student achievements in commencement ceremonies at WSU, some former Raiders don’t share the same passion about these ceremonies.

WSU alumnus Christian Henderson, who graduated in 2017, said that commencement wasn’t everything he thought it would be.

“Honestly, the process was kind of dull and dragged out,” Henderson said. “I felt confused shaking the hands of people I had never met or even seen before and looking into the crowd it seemed like everyone was bored. It was just a weird experience for me.”

Henderson also cited the cost of graduation cap and gowns as a factor that caused some annoyance amongst himself and his peers.

“My friends and I who all graduated together never understood why it costs so much for a cap and gown to walk across the stage. After years and years of paying for books, tuition and all of the associated costs of being a college student, it just felt wrong to me. All of that money spent just to walk across that stage. I wasn’t satisfied,” Henderson said.

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For information on current and future commencement ceremonies at WSU, click [here](#).