

Wright State University

CORE Scholar

The Guardian Student Newspaper

Student Activities

3-29-2021

The Guardian, Week of March 29, 2021

Wright State Student Body

Follow this and additional works at: <https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/guardian>



Part of the [Mass Communication Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Wright State Student Body (2021). *The Guardian, Week of March 29, 2021*. : Wright State University.

This Newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Activities at CORE Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Guardian Student Newspaper by an authorized administrator of CORE Scholar. For more information, please contact library-corescholar@wright.edu.

Weekly Horoscopes
Star Signer
March 29, 2021

Ever wonder what words other people would use to describe you? Read here for three words that describe you based on your zodiac sign.

ARIES

Confident, independent and courageous

TAURUS

Determined, loving and kind

GEMINI

Lively, intelligent and witty

CANCER

Stubborn, cautious and intuitive

LEO

Hard-working, dynamic and brave

VIRGO

Practical, reliable and a perfectionist

LIBRA

Wild, funny and dependable

SCORPIO

Emotional, passionate and patient

The Wright State
GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

SAGITTARIUS

Optimistic, honest and straightforward

CAPRICORN

Helpful, positive and knowledgeable

AQUARIUS

Unique, idealistic and progressive

PISCES

Romantic, generous and modest

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Volleyball Claims Regular Season Championship

Noah Kindig

March 29, 2021

Wright State University (WSU) Volleyball finished up its regular season on Monday with two sweeps against the Green Bay Phoenix, securing the regular-season championship and the first seed in the postseason.

The Raiders are undefeated 14-0 in the league, with their only loss this year from the Horizon League play against the Dayton Flyers 2-3.

Because WSU earned the first seed, their next match will be against Indiana Purdue Fort Wayne at home for the semi-final of the Horizon League championship on Sunday.

More than just a good team

It takes a good team to place high in the Horizon League, and an even better one to win the regular season. But, the performance from WSU's volleyball team this season is something else entirely.

The two sweeps against Phoenix not only make the Raiders undefeated in league play, but also give them double-digit sweeps this year, taking 10 of their 14 league matches 3-0.

Out of all their matches in the Horizon League this year, WSU is 42-5 in sets, with their only 3-2 match being against the Cleveland State Vikings.

The Raiders are masters at shutting down their opponent's offense, holding top 10 in the country in digs per set, limiting opponent hitting percentage, and blocks per set.

Libero Jenna Story leads the Raiders in this aspect of their game, with already over 1,000 career digs at Wright State before this season. This year, Story totaled a season-high of 37 digs in match one against Oakland, and then did the exact same thing the next day, totaling 74 digs in both games.

Offensively, WSU has four hitters averaging two kills per set or higher, led by right side Celia Powers in kills per set and total kills.

Even their usual non-starters are incredibly dangerous, with hitters like Mallory Ladd averaging 2.36 kills per set and leading WSU in kills in their matches against Green Bay this weekend.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

WSU's play so far both offensively and defensively makes them a clear favorite and the team to beat coming into the Horizon League Tournament.

Championship Semifinal – WSU VS IPFW

The WSU and Indiana Purdue Fort Wayne matchup is the first time the two teams have faced off since 2017, which was a 3-2 WSU win.

WSU is now 15-0 in the league after a 3-0 win against IPFW.

The IPFW Mastodons are 10-7 in the league after losing two games to the UIC Flames and the Milwaukee Panthers, making them the 4th seed and the last team to make it into the HL Championship.

The Mastodons rely on their offense to break through teams, averaging the second-highest kills per set in the league and the second-lowest opponent digs per set.

Their offense is led by star player Katie Crowe, who leads the Horizon League by far in total kills and kills per set. Crowe is an attacking threat anywhere on the court, totaling over 1000 career kills for the Mastodons.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Breaking: SGA Election Results Announced

Jamie Naylor

March 29, 2021

Wright State Communications announced the results of the Student Government Association's officer elections for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Overview

The appointments are as follows as listed in the communication.

President: Jonathan Ciero

Vice President: Sabrina D'Alesandro

Senator, Residential: Chad Dudash

Senator, Commuter: Alaina Collins

Senator, Business: Troy Oates

Senator, Liberal Arts: Madison Janson

Senator, Engineering: Anna Spiros

Senator, Science and Mathematics: Jeemi Shah

Senator, Education: Hannelore Sammons-Ginger

Senator, Nursing: No Application will be appointed by the President

The new president

The new president Jonathan Ciero is a junior mechanical engineering major. He expresses hope for the upcoming academic year despite past challenges.

"I am thankful and honored to be elected into the position of President of SGA. This past year has been very difficult for so many reasons. However, I am optimistic about this next year. Not only do I believe we see the light at the end of the tunnel, but we have reached it as well. I hope

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

the student body is as hopeful as I am that this next year will be better than the last. Raider Up!!” wrote Ciero in a statement.

Ciero already planned some goals for this position and for SGA as a whole. Some of these goals include increasing student involvement, returning to some in-person events for the fall and bolstering diversity on campus.

The new vice president

Vice President D’alesandro expressed her excitement for her new position and drive for the new academic year.

“I am very humbled and honored to be elected as the next VP of the student body at Wright State University alongside my running mate Jonathan Ciero. We are hoping to continue making WSU has diversity and accessibility for all students, as we believe all students should feel like they have a seat at the table. As a female engineering student, this message is especially important to me, being a minority in my field. I hope this coming year all students feel comfortable reaching out to us as we are always here to serve our community!” wrote D’alesandro, a junior material science engineering major with minors in computer science and math.

Duties

These student leaders will continue to work with students, administrators, faculty, and staff to resolve and advocate for student issues including budget proposals, helping students with covid restrictions, and transportation in and around campus.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Breaking: Women's Basketball Head Coach Merriweather Hired by University of Memphis
Noah Kindig
March 29, 2021

After an unforgettable season of Women's Basketball at Wright state, there are still more surprises to come.

Wright State Head Coach Katrina Merriweather has reportedly been hired by the University of Memphis as it's next Head Coach for Women's basketball.

The Daily Memphian [reported](#) Monday morning that Merriweather would become the next Women's Basketball head coach at the University of Memphis.

Accomplishments

Merriweather was an invaluable part of the Women's Basketball team, winning over 70% of her career games for the Raiders, and totaling 100 career wins in under five seasons.

Merriweather has earned three Coach of the Year awards during her time at Wright State while leading the Raiders to multiple regular season and tournament titles.

Under Merriweather, the Raiders also had multiple appearances in the WNIT and NCAA tournaments and set program history this season with their first ever NCAA tournament win, taking down 4-seed Arkansas 66-62.

Taking up the Mantle

There is no announcement from Wright State on who will be the next Head Coach for the Raiders, but there is a likely candidate.

Assistant Coach Abby Jump is a graduate of Wright State, and took the Raiders to the NCAA tournament as a player in 2014.

She returned to her alma mater in 2018 to coach under Merriweather, and has proven herself as one of the best scouts in the country for upcoming talent.

She not only was a big part of the Raiders success this year, but has been named to the Women's Basketball Coaches Association's (WBCA) 30-under-30 list for four years in a row.

The Wright State
GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

This is a developing story.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Fall 2021 Scheduling: In-Person Course Offerings

Kaitlyn Chrosniak

March 29, 2021

On March 10 Wright State University (WSU) President Dr. Sue Edwards announced the university would begin to transition back to in-person learning starting this fall.

In-person offerings

As coronavirus cases continue to decrease in Ohio, WSU released the current plan for course offerings in the fall. The plan is to offer between 50-70% of available courses in-person or a combination of in-person and online delivery.

“I will continue to caution our Raider and Laker communities that this by no means should be taken as an indication that university life will return to pre-March 2020 normal,” Edwards said in her From the President’s Desk message on March 10. “But it should be viewed as a move in the right direction toward our new normal.”

Although there is the possibility for class offerings to change in the coming months depending on the coronavirus case rate in Ohio by the start of the fall semester, students can log into their Wings Express accounts to view what classes will be offered.

“If with any luck, we see the population fully vaccinated before fall semester begins, we may well convert all of our partially online classes back to in-person,” Professor and Chair of the WSU English Department Alpana Sharma said.

Hybrid and online

Many courses that have been offered online over the last academic year are beginning to transition to a hybrid or flexible setting as opposed to fully in-person. In some cases, the decision to go flexible has to do with the number of seats available in a classroom and the 50% capacity limit still in place for in-person learning.

“Computer labs in the basement of Millett Hall normally seat only 28 students; at 50% capacity they can accommodate only 14 students,” Sharma said. “Partially online in this scenario means that half the students will attend one day, the other half will attend the other day, and both groups will learn online on the day they are not meeting in person.”

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

For students who have concerns regarding the possibility of courses moving fully online this fall and are worried about what decision to make regarding housing, WSU Residence Life and Housing has informed students of their flexible housing policy for the upcoming semesters.

“Should classes remain virtual for Fall Semester 2021, you will have the option to cancel your housing contract prior to move-in day,” WSU Residence Life and Housing said in a recent update. “If your classes change from in-person to all online after moving into campus housing, then you will have the option to pursue cancellation through the appeals process.”

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Celebrating Deaf History Month at Wright State

Roxanne Roessner

March 30, 2021

National Deaf History Month is from March 13 to April 15, bringing awareness to the Deaf Community. Wright State University (WSU) American Sign Language (ALS) instructor Jodi Pierstorff and College Credit Plus student Remi Fokine both give a glimpse into why this month is so important.

In the shoes of an interpreter

According to Pierstorff, she has always loved ASL and was introduced to it as a young girl.

“I taught myself the alphabet and a few signs here and there, but there was never really anything around until after I got married. I started going to every workshop I could for ASL and then started interpreting in my church,” Pierstorff said.

According to Fokine, she was always interested in ASL and took it as her foreign language in high school.

Fokine is a College Credit Plus student who takes college courses while still being in high school.

“The syntax and linguistics of the language continue to intrigue me the more I learn. My favorite part of the language is Deafisms, which is ASL slang that Deaf people use,” Fokine said.

Pierstorff started teaching ASL at WSU in 2007 and she highlighted the common misconceptions of the Deaf Community.

“Hearing people are the ones that hold deaf people back when they can do anything a hearing person can do. We just don’t give them the chance because a lot of people don’t want to have to communicate with a deaf person. Deaf people are not lesser, there are just some accommodations to make to communicate with them,” Pierstorff said.

In terms of the Deaf Community’s achievements, Fokine brings light to major events.

“Some important events that come to mind that have shaped the Deaf Community and its culture is the Deaf President Now protest at Gallaudet University, the passing of legislation like the ADA and Marlee Matlin becoming the first Deaf person to win an Oscar,” Fokine said.

How to celebrate Deaf History Month

“As a hearing person, we can help support the community by standing up against the injustice that the Deaf community receives, whether it be advocating for legislation or societal changes. Learning about the culture and community has made me such a big advocate for accessibility,” Fokine said.

Florida State University’s Diversity and Inclusion webpage gives advice on how to continue uplifting the Deaf Community.

“Ways in which we can spread awareness and celebrate Deaf History Month is by reaching out to companies and governments to encourage them to fulfill their legal obligations to the deaf population, support deaf businesses, donate to deaf-based charities, volunteer with deaf organizations, and encourage, advocate, and promote deaf people as one-of-a-kind,” the Florida State University’s Diversity and Inclusion webpage said.

Transgender Day of Visibility: What It Means to the Dayton Community

Jamie Naylor

March 31, 2021

Transgender Day of Visibility, March 31, celebrates the transgender community while bringing awareness to the unique issues the transgender population faces.

The transgender identity

According to Merriam Webster Dictionary, transgender (commonly referred to as trans) identity is any person who does not identify with their sex assigned at birth, including genderqueer, gender non-binary, and gender-nonconforming persons.

According to the Human Rights Campaign, transgender people number about two million, or less than one percent of the U.S. population. Twenty-nine percent of the adult trans community are impoverished, and are at a higher risk for discrimination, violence, unemployment and decreased higher education enrollment.

Importance

Transgender Day of Visibility holds special meaning for each identifying member. For some, it is a celebration of how far society has come in accepting not only the trans community but LGBTQA communities at large.

“Trans Day of Visibility is a way for us to celebrate the diversity we’re seeing, celebrate the fact that our culture has shifted into a place where young people feel confident coming out at younger ages,” Charlie Chadwick, president of P-Flag Dayton, a non-profit group providing education and support for local LGBTQA youth and their families said.

For others, this day serves as a platform to bring awareness to the violence and discrimination the transgender community faces.

“For me personally, trans day of visibility serves to bring to light the fact that people are still very much being marginalized,” Hawke Kerstanski, a gender non-binary Wright State University (WSU) student said.

The Human Rights Campaign tracked 44 violent deaths of transgender individuals in 2020 and another 21 deaths in the first few months of 2021.

Public policies

On this day discussions around laws and policies affecting the trans community come up. Over the past decades, transgender and LGBTQA issues have moved out of the personal sphere and into public areas.

Lawmakers pass laws supporting the trans community, as well as laws going against the trans community.

The Equality Act is awaiting approval from the U.S. Senate. If signed into law, it would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity and sexual orientation. At the same time, multiple states debate bills regarding transgender persons in sports.

Campus community

Christyn Brewer, a transgender woman and WSU junior says that an accepting community is a positive aspect of being trans. She reported finding her safe community at WSU.

“Wright State overall has provided a safe place where I don’t feel the immediate threat of discrimination,” Brewer said.

Brewer also said that she has faced transphobia, or the discrimination of trans persons, in the workplace but, overall has had a positive trans experience.

Resources

The Trevor Project offers educational sources while WSU and the surrounding Dayton community offer other resources for trans and LGBTQ individuals including TIGA, P-Flag, and the Gatlin Dame group.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Campus Recreation, Athletes and Returning to Activities Amid COVID

Nicolas BenVenuto

March 31, 2021

Throughout the past year, Wright State University's (WSU) Campus Recreation has been creating new ways to keep students engaged and active in a time when staying indoors became the social norm.

Campus Recreation and athletics

"We shut down a year ago and had to quickly transition to virtual events," Program Director for Campus Recreation Billy Willis said. "We did euchre, family feud, trivia and bingo to list a few."

WSU's Campus Recreation additionally searched for new ways to satisfy the fitness needs of the Raider community and did so by providing virtual workout programs that students could access online.

"I was really proud of how fast everything came together," Willis said.

In the fall, the Campus Recreation center was finally able to open again, inviting students back to the fitness center and with it, the opportunity for students to engage in masked, socially distanced, small-group activities.

Willis noted that recently, WSU's rock wall is available for use once again, as well as some in-person fitness classes.

"We've been able to do everything indoors safely, and now that the weather is getting nicer the opportunity for activities outside will allow even students to become active and engaged," Willis said.

Willis noted that women's bowling coach Jeff Fleck has been instrumental in coronavirus testing for his athletes.

"Jeff has been 1,000% on board with all of the safety regulations and making sure that athletes are being tested often. It's been great to see," Willis said.

WSU sophomore bowler Taylor Burns said that she can't wait for a sense of normalcy to return and misses social interactions with her teammates.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

“In my free time I love to spend time with the girls on the team so it’s been a definite adjustment not being able to carpool, spend time in groups and that sort of thing,” Burns said.

Burns indicated that she will receive her coronavirus vaccine on Wednesday, and looks forward to mitigating the risks of being around her parents and grandparents.

President’s Comments

As WSU continues to persevere through unprecedented times, President Sue Edwards acknowledged vaccination as the path to a return to normalcy and encouraged the Raider community to get vaccinated.

“I encourage all of those who are eligible, to seek a vaccination wherever you can,” Edwards said in the Faculty Senate meeting on Monday.

“We are currently working with the Ohio Governor’s office as well as the Ohio Department of Health to increase the amount of vaccinations that we can administer through Wright State Physicians,” Edwards said.

Edwards also noted that Wright State Physicians is currently running vaccination clinics each week on campus, with registration available online or by telephone.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

SGA Discusses Election Results and Faculty Senate Business

Roxanne Roessner

March 31, 2021

The Student Government Association (SGA) met on March 30 at 7 p.m. to discuss the SGA election results as well as updates to the SGA constitution.

Resolutions and new business

SGA tabled resolution 21-08, the Women's Basketball Commendation, until they can invite a member of the group to attend an SGA meeting.

After commending members of SGA for their proactive response in reaching out to those who will take their positions in SGA next semester, President Adrian Williams welcomed those who were voted in.

Williams covered how SGA will make a new document for members to pass on information to their replacements for years to come.

There will also be some SGA constitutional amendments made by the end of the year.

SGA election results can be found [here](#).

Faculty senate report

According to Faculty President Dr. Laura Luehrmann, the Wright State University (WSU) faculty met on March 29 to discuss a resolution passed by SGA. This resolution asks for Election Day to be considered a university holiday so that members of the WSU community can vote without restrictions.

This resolution will be shared with the administration shortly. Luehrmann also discussed revisions to the excused absence guidelines at WSU.

“The most important thing about the excused absence guidelines is that these are just suggested holidays or suggested absences that possibly are used as excuses. Every syllabus and communication at the beginning of the semester from the faculty member should clarify for the students what is considered an excused absence and what is not,” Luehrmann said.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

According to Luehrmann, students should be aware that two weeks of zero participation in a class can lead to them being dropped from this class. She clarified that this was in the best interest of students who may have gotten schedules mixed up while being online.

“This cost the university two million dollars because we need to demonstrate that students who receive federal financial aid are actually participating in the class and we didn’t have a very good university-wide system to measure this,” Luehrmann said.

The university is now measuring this more closely and students are reminded that if they do not participate in class in some form in the first two weeks, then the student could be withdrawn from the class.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Letter to the Editor: Hazing Does Not Belong at Wright State
Letters to the Editor
March 31, 2021

Dear Wright State Community,

The alleged hazing incidents at Bowling Green State University (BGSU) and Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) earlier this March are heartbreaking. I want to extend my sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Stone Foltz, the undergraduate student that died at BGSU and Adam Oakes, the undergraduate student that died at VCU.

Hazing is a serious issue on college campuses with potentially deadly consequences. It doesn't only happen in Greek life; it also occurs in sports teams, clubs and honor societies. Colleges and universities need to take action to ensure hazing is removed everywhere. Many people see two hazing types where at "best" hazing incidents end in minor injury, illness or psychological distress for a few individuals. At worst, it ends in a brother's death, the effects of which cause devastation and pain for plenty of people.

Some people don't think of the ultimate consequence of hazing. Little acts of hazing go unchecked and become big acts of hazing. These consequential acts then get out of control and result in the loss of a life, destroying many lives. Think of the girlfriend that loses a boyfriend, the roommates, and classmates who lose a friend, the fraternity brothers who weren't part of the hazing that lose a brother, the little boy or girl who loses a sibling, the parents who lose a child. And for what?

No "tradition" or "power trip" is worth the life of another man. This concept betrays the very idea of brotherhood: to love and protect.

At Wright State, we strive to educate our members on the severe consequences that hazing can have. It has no place on our campus. As president of the Interfraternity Council, I feel that hazing goes against all promises and obligations made by fraternity men and must be eradicated to protect our members and our organizations. People join Greek life to find friendship and belonging, which should never end in tragedy.

We must stay vigilant in the fight against hazing. We must continue to look for the red flags in our organizations. We must continue to hold our members accountable to keep our organizations safe.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

I encourage you to call or write your state senator to express your support for Senate Bill 126, Collin's Law. Collin's Law is a piece of anti-hazing legislation named after Collin Wiant, who died at a hazing incident at Ohio University in 2018.

This legislation will mandate universities to prohibit hazing by requiring universities to create a public database that lists any hazing violations within the last five years and requires all students to attend an educational program on hazing before joining any student organization.

In addition to that, the bill will increase the criminal penalties for hazing. Currently, hazing in Ohio is a fourth-degree misdemeanor. This bill would increase that to a second-degree misdemeanor for general hazing and a third-degree felony for hazing that involves drugs or alcohol.

We should never have to hear of such a tragedy again; Collin's Law will help make sure of that here in Ohio.

Sincerely,

Connor Algren, president

Interfraternity Council

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Breaking: Teamsters 957 Vote 39-29 to Pass Contract with Wright State
Nicolas BenVenuto
March 31, 2021

On Wednesday, March 31, Wright State University's (WSU) Teamsters Local 957 voted 39-29 in favor of changes to contract language found in the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between the Teamsters union and WSU.

Updates

In total, 21 articles throughout the CBA between the Teamsters and WSU have undergone contractual language changes with a brand new article being added as well.

Articles most notably receiving contractual language changes include union representation, miscellaneous, probation, hours of work, wages, contract duration and a new article that sees WSU withdrawing its proposed addition of furlough language.

Prior to the vote passed on March 31, the contract effective date was that of September 1, 2018. The updated CBA will now read August 31, 2022 reflecting a 3-year contract with a 1-year extension.

In regard to contractual language changes involving Teamsters pay, WSU will meet with the union about proposed changes to job titles, pay and/or job duties as well as the plan for training for any different skill set needed. It is also said that no employee shall have their rate of pay reduced as a result of these changes.

The parties also agreed that effective July 1, 2021 all job rates will increase by 2.5%, and the wage structure has been adjusted to reflect 95% of the job rate for the first year of employment with 100% of the job rate to be obtained after the first year of employment is complete.

Previous CBA language showed 90% of the job rate being paid for first year, 95% for second year and 100% for third year and those years following.

Chief Steward for the Teamsters Tom Bellew is thankful for cooperation, but is not fully satisfied.

“Although there were enough members to vote yes to pass this agreement, the idea of the university phasing out jobs is disheartening. Like faculty and staff, we have already been cut to the bone in job losses prior to this agreement. We look forward to new contract talks next year

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

when this agreement ends August 31, 2022,” Bellew said. “We would like to thank the faculty and staff for their support during these negotiations.”

Background

The Teamsters Local 957 is a group of over 30 positions at WSU, with positions such as HVAC staff members, engineers, electricians, groundskeepers and plumbers in their ranks.

WSU and the Teamsters 957 have been proactive in contract negotiations dating back to 2019, at which point the Teamsters found themselves in a similar situation to that of the faculty union, who was at that time involved in a faculty strike.

In December 2019, Bellew said to the Guardian, “We’re going through the same things as the teachers [faculty union].”

Bellew is still the current Chief Steward for the Teamsters.

Throughout Oct. 2020, collective bargaining negotiations between the Teamsters and WSU continued, with the two groups negotiating on CBA articles such as furloughs, subcontracting, wages, overtime, vacations and medical benefits.

During these negotiations late last year, WSU’s Director of Communications Seth Bauguess said, “The university values the work that these employees perform. They provide a valuable service to the university, and most importantly, our students. As the university continues to navigate these challenging times, it is prepared to continue operations as it drives toward fiscal sustainability so Wright State can be the public, four-year university the Dayton region and Ohio needs it to be.”

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Leadership in Challenging Times: Have Lunch With Mayor Nan Whaley
Maxwell Patton
April 1, 2021

The Friends of the Libraries will be hosting a virtual “lunch-in” event with Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley on April 21 from noon to 1 p.m. with the theme of “Leadership in Challenging Times.”

This is an annual event previously held in the Berry Room of the Nutter Center.

“We have a buffet lunch and speaker and usually display library materials or technology to match the theme,” Head Librarian Sue Polanka said.

Discussions with Mayor Whaley

Speakers for the event are recommended by the Friends of the Libraries board. Board member Catherine Queener suggested having Whaley at the “lunch-in” this year, partly since she is a well-known figure in the Dayton area.

Whaley is a Wright State University (WSU) alumna, having graduated in 2009 with a master’s degree in public administration and becoming the mayor in 2014. During this event, she will be discussing the process of leading Dayton through the challenges the city has faced in recent years including the 2019 tornadoes, the Oregon District shooting and the current pandemic.

“As someone who as a little girl [went] to a library to do research and learn about other people and to read, I think they’re special places,” Whaley said. “Especially during the pandemic, people have found, a lot of times, their internet at libraries and their ability to find solace.”

She will also be discussing the role that Dayton residents can take on as active citizens and how challenges are resolved in today’s tumultuous political climate.

“It is always good to hear the stories and experiences of leaders throughout our world, particularly when they share how they made decisions during difficult and tragic times,” Polanka said. “We may not agree with what they did or how they did it, but we can learn from their experience.”

Improving news literacy

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

After Whaley's presentation, the University Libraries' Head of Instruction and Research Services, Mandy Shannon, will discuss ways for students to fact-check information and become responsible media consumers.

The presenter says that one of the ways students can improve their news literacy is to understand the different categories of bad information: malinformation, misinformation and disinformation.

"What we can do as news consumers is to approach it with a critical eye and skepticism but without cynicism, and that balance is really tricky," Shannon said.

Shannon believes that news literacy is vital in today's world due to its role in civic engagement and citizenship.

"We're living in the information age; information is power, information is currency and information shapes how we understand the world," Shannon said. "If you are building your understanding of the world on a skewed perception of reality, then it's difficult to break out of that and engage fully across the spectrum and to understand what the context of real issues is."

The event will be held on WebEx. Registration is free, but attendees can register as Luncheon Patrons for \$25 to help support the Friends of the Libraries. The Friends may look at running similar events in the future depending on fundraising, attendance and the recruitment of new members.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

WSU Launches Ostrich Racing as the Newest Intramural Sport, Beginning Fall 2021
News Team
April 1, 2021

In an effort to get more students involved on-campus, Wright State University (WSU) will begin offering Ostrich Racing as an intramural sport, beginning Fall 2021. The ostriches will also be a permitted form of transportation between classes.

Ostrich Racing and Tattoos

The first annual Ostrich Racing tournament will take place during Fall Fest. Perks of participation: you can get an ostrich tattoo for free at the Student Union.

Benefits of the program outweigh the occasional bruised hip or a broken arm. Students who are involved in the sport will gain lifelong learning opportunities, including how to fry an ostrich egg.

“The hardest part about Ostrich Racing is gluing the feathers to yourself. Last year, it took me four hours to prepare for the first race,” Eli Gerkenmeyer, Campus Recreation logistician, said.

According to Eli Gerkenmeyer, a Campus Recreation student employee, Ostrich Racing is an intense sport with more than meets the eye.

“The hardest part about Ostrich Racing is realizing you don’t ride on its back; you ride in a basket around its neck,” Gerkenmeyer said.

All you need is your own ostrich

When asked about the requirements for participation, Chris P. Bacon, another Campus Recreation student employee, said all you need is your own ostrich.

“[All that you need is] to bring your own ostrich or dress up your mate like an ostrich with feathers to participate,” Bacon said.

Critics claim that the increase of the ostrich population on-campus would pose a threat to the current geese population.

“Where are all the geese going to go? An ostrich’s [doo-doo](#) is more considerable than a goose’s,” another student said.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

“We’re excited to bring awareness to animal safety and bring people closer to this beautiful animal,” Billy Willis, program director for Campus Recreation, said.

“We will require all participants to wear pink costumes, so they are dressed like flamingos, because the ostrich respects and follows the lead of Flamingos,” said Willis.

Cluck above the rest

Willis also expressed the importance of safe recreation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] has not reported any covid cases transmitting to or from ostriches, so we feel that this is a safe activity for campus recreation to provide to our students and community. This socially distanced activity is allowing us to be creative, have fun, provide entertainment while being safe during this COVID-19 pandemic,” Willis said.

“I am ready to feel a cluck above the rest,” Outdoor Campus Recreation Office Manager Paul Casper said.

Interested students should realize that this is an April Fool’s joke. Congratulations if you are gullible and made it this far. While you’re at it, make sure to [subscribe](#) and [donate](#) for *real* Wright State updates.

Studying Abroad Opportunities: How to Get Started

Tracy Evatt

April 1, 2021

Studying abroad can change a student's life. From connecting with a culture to learning a new language, the benefits range from bolstering a resume to expanding a worldview.

Studying abroad may seem like a distant dream at times, but Wright State University's University Center for International Education (UCIE) team can help make it realistic and affordable.

Getting started

A concern some students may have is the length of a program. Longer programs may be ideal for a student and frightening for another. UCIE offers a multitude of programs to accommodate different students' needs.

"A study abroad experience can range from a two-week faculty-led group program to a few weeks in summer to an entire semester or even full year, but all of them will be a high impact learning experience for students," a UCIE representative said.

The faculty led programs will be ideal for those who prefer shorter trips and a more rigid schedule. Those participating in the summer, semester, or full year programs are met with more flexibility and a longer trip.

According to University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC), a nonprofit that offers study abroad programs, they offer 24/7 health and safety support and on-site support staff. This is a great option for students who may encounter any problems during the trip.

Why study abroad?

Studying abroad can offer an abundance of benefits to those who participate. In some professions, being bilingual is a necessity; in other professions, understanding the geopolitics of a location could be imperative. These are all skills that can be attained while on a study abroad trip.

"Employers across all professions look to hire well rounded students who can think critically, navigate situations with diplomacy, have cross cultural understanding of others in a diverse

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

environment, and have a sense of inquisitiveness to learn about something they don't know," a UCIE representative said.

The benefits can be personal as well. A student may be able to connect with their culture and heritage in a way they have not before. From eating the food of a new nation to visiting important cultural sites, the experience can expand one's perspective.

Money matters

The cost is sometimes the biggest deterrent to those interested in studying abroad. There are many scholarships and financial aid options to help ease the cost.

Financial aid from FAFSA can possibly be used towards a study abroad. While this may not be the case for everyone, it is possible to use the aid to substitute a semester abroad. To find out eligibility, it is recommended to contact a UCIE advisor for an advising appointment.

Scholarships are offered through multiple organizations for people who identify as LGBTQ+, are minorities, and other groups. One possible scholarship for students is the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship.

"Over 3,600 scholarships of up to \$5,000 will be awarded this academic year for U.S. citizen undergraduates to study or intern abroad," the Benjamin A. Gilman website said.

According to the website, the student must be a Pell Grant recipient, attend a credit-bearing program that lasts over 21 days and be a citizen of the United States. For more information, students can visit <https://www.wright.edu/international-education>.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Wright Through My Eyes: Tia Clyburn
Roxanne Roessner
April 2, 2021

Tia Clyburn, a senior media studies major at Wright State University (WSU), works at the Springfield News-Sun as a digital content producer. Clyburn also has a TikTok following of over 120,000 followers who tune in to listen to her bring awareness to the social justice issues that impact the Black and Asian communities.

Background

Clyburn was born in England and traveled the world with her African American father and Japanese mother. After moving from place to place, her family settled in Dayton, Ohio.

Clyburn received an associate's degree in music and music education from Sinclair in 2019 and then transferred to WSU to pursue a degree in media studies.

"I decided to switch over to media studies, which was something that I did not see myself doing at that time, but all along, everything has led up to that. I'm honestly so happy to be where I am now," Clyburn said.

In her free time, Clyburn focuses on creating abstract art by painting what she sees with synesthesia.

According to Clyburn, synesthesia is a sensory overlap that allows her to relate color and music with one another.

Clyburn also has a side business of photography where she takes portraits.

The past year

Clyburn, like the rest of the world, spent the last year in a world pandemic and in quarantine. Though, the coronavirus proved to be the least of her worries.

"Being both Black and Asian right now is not a good time. It's weird to say out loud, but it's never been the best thing in America, especially over the past 12 months. We've seen so much more hate towards those communities," Clyburn said.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

A recent event that struck Clyburn was the arrest of a six-year-old Black boy for picking tulips by his bus stop.

“I think that, at least for me, [hate crimes] have almost overshadowed the whole pandemic,” Clyburn said.

Clyburn left WSU as a junior due to the coronavirus and will graduate in a few weeks online. Studying virtually has proved difficult for her, but she still manages to juggle every part of her life.

Looking toward the future

Clyburn balances her college education, multiple jobs and hobbies. While she has worked hard for her future, there are still things that need to be addressed.

“I’ve begun to understand that what I want to see [change] is not so much of everyone perfectly getting along, but the start of an understanding of others. One of the main reasons why we have hate crimes is because people don’t want to understand others outside of their stereotypes,” Clyburn said.

Clyburn can be found across social media platforms such as TikTok, Instagram and Twitter @therealtiamonet.

Heartfulness Meditation: The Benefits and How to Participate

Alexis Wisler

April 2, 2021

Wright State University (WSU) Campus Recreation is hosting virtual heartfulness meditation classes in partnership with Dayton Heartfulness Meditation. Dr. Kunal Desai hosts classes every day, and anyone interested in meditation is welcomed to join.

The benefits of meditation

Desai, certified heartfulness trainer and clinical assistant professor for the department of internal medicine, recently finished a research study on meditation and found that the practice lowers stress levels and improves sleep quality.

Desai has been a Heartfulness Meditation trainer for the past several years but was introduced to meditation during his teens. It wasn't until later, however, that he began practicing and noticed the benefits of meditation.

"It is one of the best things you can do for your personal growth because it is going to help you with everything," Desai said.

The trainer credits heartfulness meditation to the success that he has had both in his personal life and his career because of the stress-reducing benefits.

According to Desai, heartfulness meditation is different from other forms of meditation because of an occurrence called transmission, which he describes as positive energy. This energy, Desai says, is something people have to experience rather than learn about.

Meditation at WSU

Dr. Desai's heartfulness meditation found its way to WSU when Fitness and Wellness Program Manager for Campus Recreation Kara Donbrock heard of the research study and the benefits of meditation and asked Desai to lead a class for students.

Donbrock says she knows that college students are stressed, especially now with the coronavirus and online learning, so she wanted to provide a way for them to relieve that stress and take a break from school.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Neuroscience undergrad student James Hart says that heartfulness meditation has helped him manage his stress and anxiety.

“It’s a great way to start the day. You don’t realize how much anxiety there is right when you wake up, so starting with meditation helps calm that anxiety,” Hart said.

The great thing about meditation, according to Donbrock, is that it allows students to engage in wellness and better themselves without having to do something intense such as Zumba or yoga that might intimidate them. Donbrock wants students to know that trying new things is a great way to better themselves.

“You can start to make achievements and changes in your life when you step out of that comfort zone that you’re in,” Donbrock said.

Pros and cons of virtual classes

Because of the pandemic, group fitness classes have been held virtually, including heartfulness meditation. A major downside of having group fitness classes online, according to Donbrock, is the lost connection.

“It’s called group fitness because you are supposed to be a group and be together, and you are supposed to be feeding off of each other’s energy,” Donbrock said.

Despite this, Donbrock admits that a good thing about virtual fitness classes is that more students are able to join, and members of the community outside of WSU can join as well.

Heartfulness meditation classes are held:

Monday 7 a.m.

Tuesday 6:30 a.m.

Wednesday 6:30 a.m.

Thursday 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Friday 7 a.m.

Saturday 7 a.m.

Sunday 8:30 p.m.

The Wright State
GUARDIAN
MEDIA GROUP

To register for a class, sign up at <https://www.imleagues.com/spa/account/login>

Will Second Time Around Get a Second Time Around?

Brandon Sutherland

April 2, 2021

The doors of Dayton's Second Time Around music and video exchange store closed at the beginning of the pandemic, leaving customers to wonder when and if they will open again.

What Second Time Around has to offer

The store, located on Brown Street, opened in 1976. From modern and classic video game products to new generation streaming devices, Second Time Around has a vast variety of collections for its new and regular customers.

The doors are still shut

On March 23, 2020, Second Time Around issued a statement to its customers in regards to staying closed due to Gov. DeWine's "Stay at Home" order.

"We thank all of our loyal customers, and we will re-open as soon as legally possible to continue serving you as we have for the past 44 years," Second Time Around said.

Although closing with the hope of returning to business in May of 2020, Second Time Around has remained behind closed doors.

Customers hoping and waiting

Willie Lindsey, a senior at the University of Dayton majoring in Theatre Performance Technology, has been an avid visitor of Second Time Around for several years.

"I was always big into video games since I was very young. Being able to go to Second Time Around and find games you grew up with that are no longer accessible in your normal stores is something that tends to touch home to me and people my age," Lindsey said.

Danielle Lewis, a senior double majoring in marketing and management information systems at the University of Dayton, has been an active customer since she began college.

"I think that Second Time Around has been a staple in the Dayton community for such a long time, we wouldn't know what to do without it," Lewis said.

The Wright State
GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Lewis often went to Second Time Around for video games or music CDs and says that she would be disappointed to see such a wonderful store with a great staff and commitment close for good.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

WSU Students Making Historical Impact in Community Vaccinations

Nicolas BenVenuto

April 2, 2021

The coronavirus vaccine is now available for Ohioans age 16 and up, and Wright State University (WSU) students contributed to nearly half of all coronavirus vaccinations in Greene County.

By the numbers

“Our current nursing students have really stepped up to the challenge before us. No one is more prepared than those over 20 student nurses,” nursing professor Dr. Ann Stalter said on the Raider Report Podcast on Sunday.

Stalter said that she has had the opportunity to coordinate five WSU faculty members who oversee nearly 40 students in Greene County. Since January 21, these students have inoculated nearly 12,000 residents ages 50 and older.

The Greene County Health Department aims for 144,000 residents to be fully vaccinated to reach herd immunity. Herd immunity is defined as having 80% of 180,000 residents vaccinated.

“These students today are making history and having a positive impact on their community,” Stalter said.

Wright State Physicians

Located at 725 University Blvd. in Fairborn, Wright State Physicians is providing Raiders and the surrounding community with 100 Moderna vaccines per week.

“We have vaccinated over 300 people thus far, including registered family medicine patients, home-bound geriatric patients, community members and students at Wright State,” Director of Student Health Services Genessa Merritt said.

Merritt says on average Wright State Physicians will run one or two vaccination clinics per week.

The next available vaccination clinic will take place on April 3, with another clinic scheduled for April 10.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

“These clinics will have 100 vaccination slots available each day. We have allocated 50 slots for those wishing to sign up online using the Wright State Physicians portal service, and the remaining 50 slots can be accessed by calling 937.245.7200,” Merritt said.

Merritt acknowledged the fear that some residents may have in receiving their vaccine but encourages them to schedule their vaccines for the greater good of the community.

“We haven’t seen the adverse reactions that people are oftentimes afraid of. You may experience pain in the injection site or a low-grade fever. It’s reassuring to know that the side effects that scare people off aren’t typically happening here,” Merritt said.

Student Experience

Hailing from Columbus, WSU sophomore Taylor Burns always wanted to become a Raider.

“I fell in love with the campus so when bowling recruitment was happening, it was just perfect. I like how Wright State is small, but not too small. It’s also just far enough away from my home but not too far, if that makes sense,” Burns said.

Burns said that she hasn’t really had the opportunity to experience a normal semester at the university, but hopes that area vaccination efforts will prompt a return to normalcy in the near future.

“Being separated from everyone over the past year has had a big impact on me. Typically, I’m always hanging out with the girls on the team, so to have to be away from them throughout the past year was an adjustment for sure,” Burns said.

Burns is scheduled to receive her coronavirus vaccine on Wednesday.

For information on scheduling a coronavirus vaccine through Wright State Physicians, click [here](#).

International Corner: How to Get a Summer Internship

Olha Zuban

April 3, 2021

Internships in the U.S. can provide international students an excellent opportunity to get hands-on experience in their field of study, but there are things to remember before starting the application process.

Preparation process

Before applying for numerous internships, ask yourself what kind of job would you really want to get and objectively assess your chances and skills. What are your job interests? What do you want to be responsible for? What work would you like to do and what skills would you like to gain? What size company do you dream to work in? Be clear about your goals.

Research the companies you are most interested in, discover the work they do, read their company culture and what they value. It can be helpful to find companies' lists of where international students have been hired before.

Tailor your resume and cover letter for a position you are interested in. Think about all of the projects and you have had along the way and the skills you have built. It is essential to be ready to explain what benefits you can provide for a company and how they can help you in your professional development.

Networking

Being an active communicator, building a professional relationship and asking questions is the key to success. Even though now we are living differently because of the coronavirus, there are many ways to communicate with other students, alumni, professors and potential employers to find out more about summer internships and opportunities.

Regular communication with locals, other international students as well as visiting online career fairs, going to meetups and being involved in student clubs ways to receive new contacts which one day may play a huge role in your path to a successful career.

University resources

When the question of where to look for an internship arises, the first thing that students need to do is to visit Wright State University Career Services. They can provide help with the first steps

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

of securing an internship, such as resume checking and providing resources on where to look for an internship or event that you should visit. However, the process of searching for an internship requires exploring opportunities on your own too.

Be the best candidate

It is a highly competitive environment, where both international students try their best to find a desired internship and domestic students strive to get hired for the summer. However, the secret is that employers are looking for a person regardless of where they are from.

An internship can become a starting point for a student not only to spend their summer productively but also there is a chance to get hired full-time with Optional Practical Training (OPT) after graduation.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Opinions: Social Media and Free Speech

Tracy Evatt

April 3, 2021

Following former President Donald Trump's ban from Twitter after the Jan. 6 Capitol riots, controversy over free speech and private companies became a top political debate.

Private companies

Twitter, along with other social media giants such as Facebook, are private companies. As a private company, banning those who violate company policy is not a violation of the First Amendment.

"The most prominent free speech protections come from the [First Amendment](#) of the Constitution of the United States. But what many people seem to forget is that these protections only protect individuals from federal and state action (the [Fourteenth Amendment](#) applies the First Amendment to the states)," Tom Spiggle said in Forbes Magazine.

As long as Twitter is not discriminating against users, they can set company policy and ban those who violate their terms and conditions.

"It's this private versus government action that also allows many employers the right to restrict the free speech rights of their employees," Spiggle said in Forbes.

The digital age

As social media takes hold of the world, a slew of problems appear. One glaring problem is the free speech debate. While Former President Trump was banned legally, it highlighted just how much power tech giants hold.

The line between tech companies and social responsibility is often blurred. Some have called for regulation of these companies. A ban on a prominent figure or the lack of removal often brings split reactions.

Wright State University student opinions

Trevor Paddon, a sophomore computer science major disagreed with the ban.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

“I think they shouldn’t have the power to do it. Whether you disagree with him or not, he was using his right to speak freely, and by banning him they kind of took that away,” Paddon said.

Paddon shares the sentiment that many Americans share: a controversial statement is fair game because we live in a society protected by the First Amendment.

Tionna Clyburn, a senior Media Studies major, found the ban to be odd.

“When it comes to social media sites banning Trump, I honestly find it strange. I am not a fan of Trump in any way at all, but here’s my thing: If they’re going to crack down on Trump, why aren’t they cracking down on all individuals who promote extremist views? Not that they should, but it’s strange you know?” Clyburn said.

Clyburn thinks that social media companies should have a more proactive approach to hate speech.

“There needs to be better regulations on social media posts. There needs to be better ways of actually preventing extreme views of racism, homophobia, etc from being perpetrated. We live in a country of free speech, so it’s tricky,” Clyburn said.