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Wright State Student Body

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The Wright State GUARDIAN

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University Writing Center: Setting Students and Staff Up for Success

Kaylee Raines

June 1, 2021

The University Writing Center (UWC) helps students improve their writing skills and provides professional tutoring experience for the staff.

Current Tutors' experiences

Being a tutor for the UWC allows students at Wright State University (WSU) to enhance their resumes and develop their leadership skills. Students who have tutored for UWC are able to learn from their interactions with students and gain a sense of accomplishment as they see the firsthand effect of their work improving the work of another student.

"My favorite part about being a Writing Coach is seeing student's grow! I love that lightbulb moment when they realize something and the excitement they come back to me with when they succeed," UWC tutor Mars Hutcheson said.

Another benefit of becoming a UWC tutor is having the opportunity to meet students from all majors, cultures and walks of life. This allows UWC tutors to learn from their tutoring sessions and enhance their own skills and experience.

"I love being able to meet new and exciting people. They bring such a variety of knowledge to the center and it's so enriching to discover new ways to learn from them. I also love being able to learn while helping the clients who come into the center," UWC tutor Christine Orr said.

"Everyone has something to teach me, and I have always loved to learn, so I love having the opportunity to learn something every day when I go to work. I also love reading what people write about and talking to them about things that they are passionate about," UWC tutor Megan Henry said.

Tutors Transitioning to Professional Careers

WSU alumni Stephanie Nishimori tutored in the UWC from 2009-2011. After graduating in 2012 with her degree in Organizational Leadership, Nishimori has used her experiences in the UWC to propel her future endeavors.

"I learned so much about different cultures, social and societal norms, and a plethora of other things I know I would not have been exposed to as early had I not worked at the Writing Center.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

It also helped me learn more about myself and my passion for helping others succeed,” Nishimori said.

UWC Program Director Jill Tussing has been with the center since 2009. She began as a Writing Coach, became a Graduate Assistant and has been the Program Director for five years. UWC enabled Tussing to transition to a professional career and continue her work of helping writers.

“At the end of the day, we want to help students feel more confident and independent with their writing work, and I think working with peers creates such a great environment to do so,” UWC Program Director Tussing said.

UWC’s Impact

The center has evolved their methods over time to help make services more accessible and personalized to each student in order to further improve the center’s success. Their student-focused approach helps promote professional development while promoting independence for the students to complete their future work in confidence.

“When I was working on my master’s degree in the mid 90s, I worked in the earliest version of Wright State’s Writing Center. The difference in philosophy and techniques between then and now is amazing. Now we focus on the writer way more than just ‘fixing the writing’,” UWC tutor Ashley McGinley said.

Each school year the UWC helps thousands of students to improve their writing skills and feel more confident in their academic abilities.

“Typically we see around 80 – 100 students in the Summer term. During Fall and Spring terms we see around 600 – 800 students from over 70 different courses offered by Wright State. Things have changed a bit due to the pandemic, but we’re hoping to see our Center full and active again soon,” Tussing said.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Campus Chapel Not Requiring Masks for Fully Vaccinated People

Jamie Naylor

June 2, 2021

Starting June 2, St. John Bosco Chapel (Campus Ministries) will no longer require masks during in-person ceremonies for their fully vaccinated worshippers.

New policies

Campus Ministries, surrounded by the heart of Wright State University's (WSU) main campus, operates separately from the university and follows different protocols from the university.

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati, who supervises the Chapel, announced that all parishes under their jurisdiction follow the Covid-19 guidelines set by Ohio. This includes lifting mask mandates for fully vaccinated people.

Starting June 2, those attending services at Campus Ministries are no longer required to wear a mask if they are fully vaccinated.

The Chapel uses an honors system to determine whether those attending services are vaccinated or not.

"I don't really see any way to practically examine whether or not people have been vaccinated in a way that wouldn't be weird or over-the-top," wrote Father Timothy Fahey, who leads the congregation.

Capacity limits remain at 75 people, though Fahey admits that limit holds flexible with capacity being exceeded before.

Opinions

While the pandemic wanes and a return to a new normal becomes possible, some are excited by lifting covid guidelines while others take a more cautious approach. When it comes to practicing their faith, congregates of Campus Ministries hold varying levels of comfortability.

"I personally am not overly concerned. I know a lot of people have been vaccinated, and then I know there's a fair amount of people that have not been vaccinated. The Catholic bishops of the state said that parishes can get rid of the mask requirements," Trevor Vorst, an attendee of Campus Ministries and student at WSU, said.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Another churchgoer and a ministry leader, Taylor Lucke, is a little more resigned regarding forgoing masks.

“I will say it is a little scary to think that one day we have to wear masks and the next we don’t,” Lucke said.

Community communication

Interaction with the WSU community creates additional logistical challenges. The Chapel holds independence from WSU, and many students and WSU community members attend services. Physical closeness to WSU’s residential area and campus creates large recruitment and involvement opportunity.

WSU still requires masks for all while inside campus buildings. Regarding making the difference clear, church leaders like Fahey plan to communicate with the university effectively.

“I think both Catholic Campus Ministry and the University appreciate the relationship we have and are more than willing to accommodate each other. Sometimes that takes a little bit of communication and a little bit of working things out, especially as the policies change. I don’t anticipate any kerfuffle – if there is, we’re happy to work it out,” Fahey wrote.

These logistical challenges are just another part of returning to a new normal post-pandemic.

Breaking: Turner Pleads Guilty to 4 Counts of Rape in On-Campus Sexual Assaults

Jamie Naylor

June 2, 2021

The Greene County Common Pleas Court has sentenced former Wright State University (WSU) student Zachary J. Turner, 29, after pleading guilty to four counts of rape.

Sentencing



Convicted on four counts of rape, the 29-year-old former psychology student will now serve at least 14 years in prison, with a maximum sentence of 19 ½ years.

Upon his release from prison, Turner will be required to serve five years of post-release control supervision.

Turner must also register as a sex offender every 90 days for the remainder of his life.

Turner, originally indicted on four counts of abduction and rape and two counts of each sexual assault and kidnapping, initially pleaded not guilty by means of insanity early on in his case. In January 2021, Turner's plea was thrown out, deeming him fit to stand trial.

Prosecuting Attorney David D. Hayes announced the guilty pleas and sentencing on June 2 before Judge Michael A. Buckwalter at the Greene County Common Pleas Court. According to court records, the abduction and kidnapping charges were dismissed in exchange for the plea.

Crime

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

According to the Greene County Prosecutor's Office, while enrolled as a student at WSU in October 2020, Turner forcibly raped three separate adult female victims while he resided in the on-campus Village Apartments. He is currently banned from campus.



The victims disclosed that Turner used physical restraints and made threats with a knife while committing the sexual assaults.

During the investigation in conjunction with the Bureau of Criminal Investigation and West Chester Police Department, a fourth adult female victim was later identified. The fourth victim was able to recount the sexual assault and also said that Turner used physical restraints while perpetuating the sexual assault against her.

Making the conviction secure, these women provided crucial evidence to the case, the prosecutor's office expressed in a released statement.

Reactions

Turner's actions greatly impacted the Wright State community. Those who know Turner or were his neighbors were especially shocked at his actions.

"I've been living in The Village for four years now," a Village resident wishing to remain anonymous said. "I first met Mr. Turner last year when he approached me while I was out front of building 2050. He asked me about a game I was playing and proceeded to inquire about selling me prescription pills and how he was low on cash at the time. Being that this was the first time we had ever spoken, I was alarmed and told him I didn't need any of that in my life and proceeded to walk back into the building."

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

“It’s really heartbreaking to know what happened to the victims, and that is just horrible. Even at a place as safe as WSU, things can happen... I’m happy that justice will be carried out in his sentencing.”

This source has been kept anonymous to assure their safety.

The Wright State Guardian requested a comment from Wright State but has not received a response.

Aftermath

“It took a great deal of courage for these victims to come forward, and Turner would not be going to prison were it not for that courage,” said Greene County Prosecutor David Hayes.

Hayes also applauded the investigation by the Wright State University Department of Public Safety and Greene County Prosecutor’s Office, specifically Investigator Fred Meadows, Victim Witness Advocates Rebecca Walsh and Michelle White and Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Michele S.H. Henne and Charles W. Morrison.

When previously asked about safety on campus, the university directed this publication to an informational safety bulletin that reminded all students of university policy regarding sexual activities and safety tips such as trusting your instincts and using caution on dating websites.

Title IX

Wright State has a zero-tolerance policy for gender-based violence under Title IX, which helps these crimes come to light while further assisting sexual assault victims. Those needing to report gender-based violence happening on WSU’s campus can report incidents anonymously to the Office of Inclusive Excellence at either **1-888-353-3783** or wright.ethicspoint.com.

All emergencies should be directed to the Department of Public Safety at **937-775-2111** or 911.

Statistics indicate Illegal Alcohol Use on WSU's Campus Present, not Exponential
Kaylee Raines
June 3, 2021

Statistics and professional input at Wright State University (WSU) have indicated the alcohol use on WSU's campus is present but not exponential. WSU has policies in place to curtail illegal activities related to alcohol use on campus.

Statistics on Alcohol-Violations at WSU

The following are the number of students found responsible for violating WSU's alcohol policies from July 1, 2016-May 26, 2021 as provided by WSU spokesperson Seth Bauguess:

July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017 – 77

July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018 – 58

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 – 36

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 – 30

July 1, 2020 – May 26, 2021 – 5

These figures indicate that an average of 41 students per year have been held responsible for alcohol-related violations in the past five years.

It is important to note the potential effect coronavirus policies had on these statistics.

WSU Provost Douglas W. Leaman informed WSU students on March 13, 2020 that classes would be held remotely until further notice. When looking at the data, it is clear the lowest number of reported alcohol violations occurred from July 1, 2020-May 26, 2021.

This correlation indicates the data could be skewed from the significant decrease in students present on WSU's campus.

Input from WSU Police

University police reported that alcohol-related violations are not a common occurrence.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

“It is not a common occurrence that the Division of Police respond to excessive drinking or partying reports in the resident communities. However, if we are called to an incident our team works closely with our community partners in Resident Life & Housing and the Office of Community Standards and Conduct,” said David Cox, Administrative and Compliance Lieutenant for the Wright State University Department of Public Safety, Division of Police.

It is important to note the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct are the ones who determine whether a violation occurred. The WSU Division of Police simply relays their reports.

According to Cox, the Division of Police responded to three incidents that were potentially alcohol related policy violations in 2019 and two incidents 2020.

Services Available to Students Struggling with Alcohol Abuse

Although statistics and professional input indicate a minimal amount of alcohol-related issues on campus, WSU continues to provide services to help students who are struggling with alcohol abuse.

The WSU Counseling and Wellness Services (CWS) is a team of Licensed Psychologists and Counselors and mental health trainees that are available to help students with their mental health.

By providing students access to therapy and other forms of assistance, CWS helps many students each year. Services include group, individual, couple or family therapy as well as the Raiders Cares 24-hour crisis phone service (833-848-1765).

CWS offers services to help students with alcohol and/or drug problems. Students can reach CWS at 937-775-3407 to inquire about treatment options.

“We have very few clients coming to CWS for alcohol dependence. We have only had 9 clients during the past year who present with some form of alcohol use disorder,” Director of CWS Dr. Robert A. Rando said.

CWS services are available during the spring, summer and fall semesters to ensure that students can receive the assistance they need throughout the year.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Vaccinated Residential Students Permitted to Have Roommates Fall Semester

Kaitlyn Chrosniak

June 4, 2021

Wright State University (WSU) recently announced vaccinated students living within the dorms will be allowed to live with a roommate in double and triple-style dorms beginning fall 2021.

Roommates and Suitemates

Students requesting to live with a roommate in the Woods for the fall 2021 semester will have that request honored so long as all parties involved are fully vaccinated by the start of the semester according to the website.

If not vaccinated by fall, both parties will be placed in a single room with a shared bathroom, making them suite mates that regularly are tested for COVID-19 throughout the semester.

Students residing in the Village, University Park, the College Park and Forest Lane apartments on campus will be permitted to live with their roommate(s) of choice regardless of vaccination status, so long as all students have a private bedroom.

“I’m excited to be able to room with my friends this school year, it was one of the things I had been looking forward to the most pre-covid,” WSU sophomore Cal Kahoun said.

Residential Life

Roommate status is not the only component of residential life returning this fall. Students will be permitted to have up to two guests at a time in their dorm, so long as all parties are asymptomatic at the time.

“Being able to have guests over was probably the biggest thing I missed being able to do my senior year,” recent WSU graduate Julia Boyd said. “I know the university did the best they could given the circumstances, but I am a little jealous that returning students get opportunities I missed out on.”

WSU also recently announced that vaccinated students no longer need to wear masks when outdoors, and non-vaccinated students only need masks outdoors when social distancing cannot be maintained.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Lounges and basketball courts will be reopened across campus with new rules, masks and distancing requirements posted for students to follow.

The Wright State Guardian has contacted WSU Resident Life and Housing and is currently waiting for a response.