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The Guardian the Week of September 4, 2022

Wright State Student Body

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Cross Country Hosts Mike Baumer Invitational

Adam Campbell

- September 4, 2022
- Cross Country
- Sports

The Wright State University cross country team opened its regular season by hosting the Mike Baumer XC Classic on Friday evening.

The Race

The invitational was held at Fairborn Community Park on Sept. 2. WSU competed against 14 other schools, with Ohio State, Dayton, Marshall and Oakland being the most notable.

The women's team finished seventh overall. Emma Shigley led the way for WSU, finishing in place 36 out of 141 qualifiers.

The men's team also finished seventh. Junior Alex McCarty was the first to cross the finish line for WSU, grabbing place 13 overall.

Background

According to Head Coach Rick Williamson, WSU practices at the relatively flat Fairborn course often, giving the team experience with maintaining footing and avoiding hilly obstacles.

"If you are looking to run a good time, this is the course to do it at," Williamson said. "I think hosting the opening meet is a good way to ease ourselves into the season."

Furthermore, the course is only five kilometers compared to the typical eight kilometers the team is accustomed to. Even with this edge, some team members still felt the pressure of a home meet.

"It is a big deal to our team to have a home meet where we run very frequently," senior Emma Shigley said.

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Senior Max Pettit is looking to build off successes from last spring coming into this season.

“I would really like to get the school record in the 8k. We broke the 10k in track last season, and I think we are on pace to break another record,” Pettit said.

Looking Ahead

The Raiders will now shift focus to the All Ohio Championships meet, which will be hosted by Cedarville at the Elvin R. King Course on Sep. 16.

Events on Campus Week of Sept. 5

Alexis Lewis

- September 5, 2022
- Wright Life

Events for the week of Sept. 5 include karaoke night, Panhellenic recruitment and a movie night.

Monday, Sept. 5

5 p.m. | Tabletop Club Game Night | Fawcett Hall 210

7 p.m. | Club Fastpitch Softball Team Outdoor Practice | Varsity Softball Field

8 p.m. | Club Gymnastics Practice | Gymnastics Training Center of Ohio

Tuesday, Sept. 6

11:20 a.m. | Campus Recreation Total Body Strength and Sculpt | Student Union Studio C

4:30 p.m. | Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity Study Tables | Rike Hall 036

6 p.m. | Kappa Phi Lambda Tea Party: Around the Table | Oelman Hall 112

7 p.m. | Student Government Association Meeting | SU Atlantis A/B

9:30 p.m. | Club Bowling Practice | Beaver-Vu Bowl

Wednesday, Sept. 7

11 a.m. | Association of Student Nurses Meeting | University Hall 076

3 p.m. | Indigenous American Culture Student Association Meeting | Multicultural Lounge

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4:30 p.m. | Campus Recreation: Adapted Recreation Intramurals | Student Union Gym

6 p.m. | Rainbow Alliance Meeting | Rike Hall 166

7 p.m. | H2O Church Karaoke Night | The Landing

7:30 p.m. | Black Student Union: How to Get Wright | Rike Hall 033

Thursday, Sept. 8

10 a.m. | Student Union and Event Services Poster Invasion | SU Atrium

4:30 p.m. | Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity Recruitment Event: Flag Football | SU Field 4

4:30 p.m. | College Panhellenic Formal Recruitment | Medical Sciences 120, 125, 127, 129, 141, 143, 145

Friday, Sept. 9

6 p.m. | Residential Community Association & Amigos Latinos Movie Night: "In the Heights" | Oelman 109

7 p.m. | Catholic Campus Ministries Mario Kart Tournament | Catholic Campus Ministries

8 p.m. | Astronomy Club, Rainbow Alliance & Women's Center: First Date | John Bryan State Park

Saturday, Sept. 10

10 a.m. | Dance Team Tryouts | SU Studio C

Sunday, Sept. 11

6 p.m. | Collegiate eSports Club Rocket League Tryouts | Millett Hall 033

News Roundup Week of Sept. 5

News Team

- September 5, 2022
- News

From local happenings to national topics and global events, here is the news worth knowing for the week of September 5, 2022.

Local

On Aug. 29, Governor Mike DeWine approved ten new projects to create 767 new jobs and retain 2,032 jobs statewide. This approval is expected to create \$318.4 million of investments in Ohio.

National

Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves declared a State of Emergency for some areas in the state in advance of expected flooding from the Pearl River on Aug 27., according to a press release.

Alongside the recent flooding, Jackson, Miss. experienced a water treatment plant failure, leading to a water crisis and another State of Emergency.

Governor Reeves has announced a plan to distribute drinking and non-drinking water to citizens and to begin emergency repairs on the water treatment site. As of Sept. 1, this plan has been enacted.

The Jackson water crisis is ongoing.

Global

Mikhail Gorbachev, former Soviet Union leader known for democratic reforms and ideas of *glasnost* and *perestroika*, died on Aug. 30. The White House has since released President Biden's statement on Gorbachev's passing.

Galactic

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration announced that the Artemis I launch scheduled for Sept. 3 was canceled after a liquid hydrogen leak was discovered while the crew was preparing for the flight.

Future Educators React to Ohio Strikes

Angela Davis

- September 6, 2022
- News

In August, educators in Columbus, Ohio went on strike for better conditions for employees and students. Wright State faculty and education majors react to the current education environment.

Columbus strike

On Aug. 11, the Columbus Education Association filed its intent to strike. The strike began the following week, when teachers and students were scheduled to return to the classroom.

The association's demands included smaller class sizes, more elective options, functional appliances and an increase in planning time among other requests, according to the CEA intent statement.

On Aug. 25, the CEA and the Columbus City School Board reached a comprehensive agreement for a new labor contract, according to the CEA official strike website. As of Aug. 28, the CEA approved the new contract with CCS, but this contract has not been made public.

Strikes in higher education

In 2019, the WSU chapter of the American Association of University Professors went on strike over issues with workload, pay and working conditions, according to the official AAUP website.

Robert Rubin, current president of WSU-AAUP, said that strikes are not a new issue.

"Strikes are always a last resort," Rubin said. "Administration doesn't want a strike, faculty doesn't want a strike. We don't want to leave our classrooms, we don't want to leave our students."

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Rubin also expressed that one of the biggest current issues in higher education is funding.

“Students are drowning in debt, and unnecessarily so, and we have to do a better job of funding higher education in this country,” Rubin said. “I think that the issue of funding actually puts a lot of pressure on administration, and so, if there was a better way to fund education, then I think there would be a lot less pressure on all of us.”

The student perspective

WSU students planning to enter the education profession have a chance to experience the job through field experience placements.

Sireana Ison, a junior Social Science Education major, is currently completing the first field placement with Dayton Public Schools. Ison noted similar problems in Dayton to those in Columbus.

“Dayton Public Schools are considered underprivileged, and with that comes issues of overcrowding and inadequate pay for teachers versus time spent at school,” Ison said. “There are many more kids than staff, and a lot of our teachers are also facing contract issues and working without contracts in the district as well.”

Ison and Rubin shared similar thoughts on issues in the education profession.

“Payment for student teaching full time should be considered,” Ison said. “Overall, pay for teachers should also be addressed... It’s easier said than done, but the way schools are funded by the state needs to be reworked if they want any kind of education reform.”

More information about teacher education with the College of Health, Education and Human Services at WSU can be found [here](#).

eSports Club to Hold Tryouts for Competitive Teams

Noah Kindig

- September 6, 2022
- Sports

From League of Legends to Overwatch to Rocket League, the eSports Club has a game to offer both competitive players and casual students at Wright State University.

Meaning of the club

A key component of involvement for some club members is the feeling of community within the organization.

For Jacob “Snakelitt” Litten, a member of the Call of Duty Team, the people of the eSports Club are a major factor in staying enrolled at WSU.

“I don’t even know if I’d still be here, honestly,” Litten said. “I might have found somewhere else to go, I might have changed my major, all that stuff.”

Fast improvement

In the past year, teams in the eSports club have improved rankings, statistics and performance.

The Overwatch main roster had an average rank of around Platinum (top 40% of all players) when it first started training together a year ago; now, the team averages Master (top 4% of all players), and has two players inside the top 500 of North America, according to Vice President Ibrahim “Apex” Mamadaliyev.

“Before, we were just casually playing, but now that we have a more competitive area, the involvement of peers in our game time gave us that gradual improvement,” Mamadaliyev said. “We improved with each other.”

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That fast improvement comes from the love of the game and dedication to other teammates, according to Treasurer Cal “Calster22” Kahoun.

“I think it’s overall passion,” Kahoun said. “We’ve all been grinding, and I’m really close to where I want to be, I’m just trying to get there.”

Outside of the game, the club allows members to make new friends and take on leadership roles. Even though gaming is normally seen as a solo activity, the eSports Club can turn it into a fully social environment.

“I didn’t really commit to the club until last year, but I’ve made a lot of friends here quickly and I’ve grown through the ranks, and now I’m treasurer,” Kahoun said.

The impact

For the members of the club, having eSports at WSU means being able to bring a huge personal passion to campus. Even for Mamadaliyev, who balances work, school and several responsibilities in the club, it is all worth the extra effort.

“I love eSports, I love gaming. It’s my passion,” Mamadaliyev said. “I’ve loved it ever since I was a kid, and it’s brought me through some of my hardest times. I want to show others what I enjoy.”

As the club continues to recruit more members, Mamadaliyev explained that additional teammates will only cause the club to improve.

“The bigger we get, the more we can improve the club, and the more we can do stuff with it. The more people that join, the faster we can improve,” Mamadaliyev said.

Tryouts, including for League of Legends, Valorant, Super Smash Bros. and CS:GO, will be held in the club room at 033 Millett. More information, including days and times of the tryouts, can be found on the e-Sport’s Engage page.

Factors of Retention: Black Student Enrollment

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- Trey Brown
- September 7, 2022
- News

Enrollment numbers at Wright State University show a slight increase in Black student population as organizations aim to sustain this trend and maintain Black student involvement.

Enrollment

According to enrollment numbers from the fall semester of 2021, African-American students made up 9.3% of the 11,469 student body.

For the current fall term, WSU's Vice President of Enrollment Management Susan Schaurer compared estimates for first time Black student enrollment numbers from 2020 to 2022.

"For 2022, two weeks out, we were at 199 students. And again, those would be first time students, and that was compared to 163 for fall 2021, and 154 at that same time for fall of 2020," Schaurer said.

Organizations

Retaining students and providing memorable experiences are the main goals of Black Student Union President Gary Neal Jr. and Vice President Jaelyn Hunt.

"Just consistency, momentum, always providing a safe space, a place to just have fun and grow together and just maintain what we have going on," Neal said.

Hunt expressed hope that BSU becomes a foundational part of WSU.

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“I definitely want BSU to be established as a vital part of this university because I don’t think a lot of people see the need for an org like this,” Hunt said.

Neal explained that a challenge for the organization has been retaining the same level of student engagement at events over the course of the school year. According to Hunt, freshman council leaders will be relied on more to support Black students who are new on campus and want to be involved.

The organization has a roster of events where students can learn together and engage in social interaction, according to Neal, who emphasized the importance of students voicing concerns to administration members, such as President Sue Edwards or Vice President of Inclusive Excellence Dr. Matthew Chaney.

Neal described the dynamic between BSU and WSU administration as healthy and supportive.

Black student organization collaboration

According to the organization’s constitution, BSU serves as the overarching organization for other Black student organizations on campus.

Hunt explained that communication can be difficult to facilitate between other Black organizations on campus due to the different schedules of the organizations, which means that some may not be as active on campus as others; still, BSU makes an effort to spread information on social media.

Vice President of the African American Alumni Society Cynthia Jones graduated from the university in 2005. Jones spoke about how bridging the gap between alumni and current students at WSU could be productive for retaining students at the university and encouraging prospective students.

“It is a concern because when they come to school they need to see people that look like them,” Jones said. “When the students are coming in, you know how they go through in-processing, I think the society should be there.”

Jones also explained a desire for collaboration between organizational leaders and the alumni society so that campus events can be more widely publicized and supported by alumni members.

Another component that can impact enrollment of minority students is peer mentorship. Hunt credited mentors for assistance provided through the transition into the vice presidency of BSU.

“I talk to them for, like, advice or, like, even if I don’t ask they just offer it just because. So definitely wasn’t alone in the process, still not alone in the process,” Hunt said.

Role of faculty

Some departments work together to address Black enrollment; Schaurer mentioned frequent collaboration with Chaney.

“I’ve had lots of conversations with Dr. Chaney about ways in which our offices can coordinate and work together,” Schaurer said.

Current students and alumni can play integral roles in increasing Black student enrollment on campus, according to Schaurer.

“If we can couple alumni and current students in those kinds of initiatives, I think they can go a long way in helping us increase the diversity on our campus,” Schaurer said.

Dayton's Not Dead: Pizza Bandit

Alexis Lewis

- September 7, 2022
- Dayton's Not Dead

From New-York style pizza to crazy combs, students can steal a slice of the “Big Apple” while exploring downtown Dayton with pizza stand Pizza Bandit.

“I am the Pizza Bandit” – how it started

The name “Pizza Bandit” came from the indicative notion that pizza is, well, easily stolen.

“Have you ever taken a slice of pizza out of your roommate’s fridge? You know, have you ever had more slices at a party than you were supposed to? You know, kind of like, like our slogan is kind of like ‘I am the Pizza Bandit,’” co-owner Brian Johnson said.

Opened in Sept. 2019, Pizza Bandit was supposed to be an additional food option for people attending the live shows and activities at the Yellow Cab Tavern located at 700 East Fourth St.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Pizza Bandit could no longer serve at in-person shows.

“But one thing that was needed and kind of necessary was food, and pizza was one of the items, kind of this easy family service, family style, original family style, kind of offering that people were really, really taken to at the beginning of the pandemic,” Johnson said.

According to Johnson, collaboration with chef partner James Burton allowed Pizza Bandit to entertain creative pursuits, including mac n’ cheese and spicy pizzas, among the other specialty options. Johnson estimated that Pizza Bandit has served 200 specialty offerings in its history.

“But, most of the menu items are derived from all sorts of creative inspirations, sitting around talking about pizza, inspiration from the internet,” Johnson said.

Enduring challenges

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Pizza Bandit currently operates in a food truck connected with the Yellow Cab Tavern. Johnson highlighted the struggles of functioning in these conditions.

“Mobile food operation can be very challenging,” Johnson said. “You don’t know if it’s going to rain, you don’t know if people are gonna come out. A food truck only has so much capacity.”

The owners hope to build a kitchen in the tavern by the end of 2022. In the meantime, Pizza Bandit focuses on collaboration with other small businesses as the core of its practice.

Johnson emphasized the meaning of community involvement and engagement.

“Community is key. You know, supporting local businesses and supporting each other individually. That’s how it gets going, small communities is how you actually affect change in this world,” Johnson said. “To actually be kind of witnessing and living here as this project develops is incredible.”

Location and store hours

Pizza Bandit is located at 700 East Fourth St. and is open Tuesday through Thursday from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. and Sunday from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Customers can also order on kiosks located at The Black Box Improv Theater, The Barrel House, Connect ESports and Two Social. There are no minimums and no delivery fees at these kiosks.

Ohio Initiative to Increase Financial Support for College Students with Disabilities

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Trey Brown

- September 8, 2022
- News

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities invested \$2.1 million to aid college students with disabilities. Here is what this initiative means for Wright State University students.

Background

On Aug. 24, 2022, DeWine announced that \$2.1 million would be invested towards eligible students with disabilities to ease tuition and other education costs, according to a news release.

“By supporting college students with disabilities through services from OOD and its partners, they are afforded a greater opportunity of success as they transition from academic life to in-demand careers,” DeWine said in the news release.

According to Chief of Communications at OOD Kim Jump, extra funding made available in the OOD yearly budget made this financial support possible.

“We just thought this really is an investment that makes sense. We know there was a need here and wanted to make it available to all college students with a disability that are in Ohio,” Jump said.

Eligibility

According to Jump, students are eligible for the award after providing documentation of a disability and opening a case with OOD.

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The investment will be split into \$1,000 award amounts for students who have a registered case with OOD, according to Ashley Mixson, an employee of OOD who serves as a vocational rehabilitation counselor at WSU's Dayton campus.

"In order for us to provide that amount, it's \$500 for each semester, so the people that get the full \$1,000, they're currently already in a plan with me," Mixson said.

Mixson mentioned that students who have not yet opened a case with OOD but want to could still earn \$500, which would apply next semester.

Referrals have been made by the Office of Disabilities on campus, but students who do not self-identify as having a disability do not utilize these available opportunities, according to Mixson.

Benefits

Students can receive financial support even if qualification for financial aid from Free Application for Federal Student Aid is unavailable, meaning students who come from families with high expected family contributions could still be supported, according to Mixson.

"Just because their parents might make a lot of money doesn't mean that they're guaranteed to help these students pay for tuition and things like that," Mixson said.

Jump assured that all college students with a disability in Ohio could potentially qualify for this support. Mixson noted the excitement that referrals are increasing.

"I'm excited to have more people in my case load, to be able to serve more people," Mixson said. "Wright State does it right when it comes to disability services."

Reaction from ODS

WSU's Director of the Office of Disability Services Tom Webb expressed satisfaction with the financial support being provided to students with disabilities, which will allow students to complete goals faster than before while also facilitating the missions of both ODS and OOD.

"I think that, you know, in terms of the mission, you know, ultimately we're trying to get folks out the door and graduated to where they can get a job, and kind of like all of us want to be self-sustaining, to make a living," Webb said.



More information

The ODS office is located at 180 University Hall, where students can go for more information about financial assistance and other services. Mixson has an office at ODS where students can walk in with questions from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Table Top Club: Take a Break from Reality

Savannah Harris

- September 8, 2022
- Sports

From complex games such as Dungeon and Dragons, Pathfinder and Magic: The Gathering, to a simple round of cards and a heated match of Monopoly, Table Top Club provides a variety of games that any student on Wright State University's campus can enjoy.

Tabletop gaming

Tabletop gaming differs from video and computer games. This range of gaming is exclusively hands-on and ranges from role-playing (RPG) to widely-known hand-dealt card games.

As long as the playing happens on a table and participants have no control over the outcome of the game, it is 'tabletop.'

Getting involved

Not only is TTC adaptable to a variety of games, it also adapts to students' schedules.

TTC President Zach Wuest mentioned that game nights are on Mondays and Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. so that students who have a Monday/Wednesday schedule can attend on Thursdays and vice versa.

There are no requirements or strict policies of the club, according to Treasurer Cameron Waid. Similar to the games played, rules in the club are just as flexible. Students can show up and leave when they want.

"[TTC] can be a great way for people to come out of their shell. [It] allows some people to expand their social skills," Waid said.

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When it comes to TTC, there are no prerequisites. The club is open to anyone at WSU who has an interest in tabletop gaming, according to Waid.

Students do not need prior experience for attendance, as instructions are provided during game nights.

“We hope to reach everybody. We want people who have never tried games like D&D and MTG. We want those types of people to actually come in and try those games out and see if they like it,” Wuest said.

Upcoming developments

As TTC continues to expand in members and open its arms to newcomers, the club is making new developments, especially for students interested in D&D.

“In this upcoming semester, I am doing a thing called D&D 1010, where we will be teaching people how to actually play D&D,” Wuest said.

Any interested students are welcome to stop by each week, non-committal, to relax and enjoy an assortment of games. Students can find more information about TTC on the club’s [Engage page](#).

Women's Soccer Falls to Kentucky, Prepares for Conference Play

- Noah Kindig
- September 10, 2022
- Sports
- Women's Soccer

The Wright State University Women's Soccer team is coming close to its first conference game amidst a three game losing streak with a 1-4 loss at the University of Kentucky on Thursday night.

Season Outlook

The Raiders are prepared for conference play having already faced tough opponents on the road to start the season.

While WSU has started the season with a 3-4 losing record, the losses have come from tough opponents like Butler, Kentucky and Dayton, allowing the team to learn lessons from the loss.

Head Coach Travis Sobers hopes that the rough games can allow the team to succeed in conference play, especially after playing six of the first seven games on the road.

“Well, for us it's really about everytime we step on the field, we want to be better,” Sobers said. “When we play games like Kentucky and Butler, even when we're on the wrong side of the scoreline we want to challenge ourselves and see the things we need to work on.”

Inside the 18

While the Raiders have lost against tough teams, WSU's style of play allows players to create chances against any opponent.

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“We’re really athletic and we’re good in one-on-one situations, so everything we do is trying to make sure that we create opportunities for our players that are dangerous players,” Sobers said.

Even the goalkeepers help create the attack, with the Raider defense switching the field through starting goalkeeper Jessika Seward.

“I grew up playing on the field and I have a lot of confidence playing with my feet, so I’m definitely up for the challenge,” Seward said. “The main thing is having confidence and my coach as well as my teammates having confidence in me has helped a lot.”

While the Raiders can generate opportunities, the team struggles to take the shot and bury a goal in the back of the net. For Sobers and the team, confidence inside the 18-yard line has been a huge focus in recent practices.

“That’s been the biggest thing since I came to Wright State, it’s about finishing,” forward Olga Massombo said. “We have the chances, we have the players to create chances, we just have to finish.”

Looking to Conference Play

While the Raiders were able to put a goal past Kentucky on Thursday, the Wildcats found much more success in the attacking third. With the 1-4 loss in the rearview, the Raiders now turn to conference play with a home opener against the Milwaukee Panthers.

“We’ve played some really good teams and they showed us what we need to work on when we get ready for conference,” Seward said. “I think as long as we play how we want to play and keep possession, we can do what we need to do.”

For Sobers, facing tough competition outside of conference is about learning to compete even when things don’t go your team’s way.

“The most important thing is, are we going to compete and are we going to be a team that battles,” Sobers said. “Yes, we can play soccer, but do we have that edge and are we going to compete for everything? That’s what we’re trying to instill in the games we’ve played so far.”

The Raiders and Panthers have battled hard in the past few years, so a win in this conference opener will set up a very successful season for WSU.

“We’re definitely very excited,” Massombo said. “Milwaukee is always a team that we want to come in and destroy them, and they want to destroy us, so we’re gonna come in and give it our all.”

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The Raiders take on Milwaukee on Thursday, Sept. 15 at 5 p.m. on Alumni Field.