2-2024

The Guardian the Month of February 2023

Wright State Student Body

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“Teachers Need to be Paid More”: New Faculty Contract Provides 3% Raise

Britin Frazey
February 1, 2024
News

The American Association of University Professors and Wright State University make a new CBA, or collective bargaining agreement, every three years. The last one expired in June 2023, and the new one was voted on and approved in December 2023. This contract will last until June 2026.

The background

Gretchen McNamara, senior lecturer and chief negotiator, gave insight into the process of negotiating the new CBA. According to McNamara, negotiating began in January of 2023. She explained that several articles were still being discussed during June, which is the reason why it was extended.

Previously, WSU staff went on strike during the negotiation of a CAB. Robert Rubin, senior lecturer of English and director of ESL, explained the strike and the AAUP-WSU stance now.

“[Strikes] only should happen when they’re the last resort. That unfortunately was the case five years ago, but, you know, we’ve moved way past that, and we’re looking forward to a really bright future for our students. That’s why we’re here,” Rubin said.

According to both McNamara and Rubin, the discussion for the current CAB’s negotiation was cordial and smooth, especially when compared to the previous one.

What is different
According to Rubin, the CAB is a “few hundred pages” long, meaning that there were many things agreed upon and presumably altered slightly in this agreement. The CAB has not yet been posted to be read by the public, but Rubin predicts that it will be soon.

McNamara explained that several little things were negotiated, such as the required amount of office hours, which used to be two hours. The AAUP wanted this changed to six, so they ended up settling on four.

Rubin explained the difference in summer teaching as well.

“It used to be a percentage of a faculty member’s salary was how we got paid for summer, and it’s now a flat rate per credit hour,” Rubin said.

This will benefit professors with lower salaries but may be unfortunate for those with higher salaries.

Perhaps the most important topic of this contract is the pay raise. Although the contract was approved in December 2023, it will be retroactive to August 2023. The pay raise that was agreed upon is 3% every year for the next three years.

There have also been changes made to professional development days and paid leave.

According to McNamara, the previous contract allowed for the university to award a one-year, 100% paid leave. Eventually, the university could award a one-year, 75% paid leave.

“And so what ended up changing was the one year at 100% is no longer available, and a percent of pay for the one-semester leave, if taken over one year, is now at 66%,” McNamara said. “It’s a choice by the faculty member whether they get full pay or not by how long they want to spend on their leave.”

The future of education
Danielle Wetzel is a junior at Wright State and an Elementary Education major who feels passionately about the topic of teachers’ wages. She discussed how excited she is to be a teacher.

Wetzel explained that she does not think that teachers are paid enough but also that, in some ways, it makes sense given the decreased number of hours worked over the summers and holidays. She said that most teachers buy supplies, such as pencils, notebooks and sometimes backpacks, for their students.

“If a teacher sees a child has a broken backpack, they cannot just grab one from the supply closet,” Wetzel said. “The children are emotionally our children too. It’s more than just being in charge of them.”

Wetzel is happy about the pay raise at WSU and hopes that surrounding schools will follow suit.

“Teachers need to be paid more to survive in this economy,” Wetzel said.

McNamara, Rubin and Wetzel all made it clear that the reason they are doing this job is for the students, not the money; however, they also agree that educators deserve a fair wage, even if that is not the reason they pursue that path.

Student Success Center Helping Students Soar

Jahid Hasan
February 1, 2024
Wright Life

Students can get free tutoring and assistance if they are struggling with their studies thanks to the Student Success Center. The center provides academic support so that students can meet the demands of college-level coursework.
The goal of the Student Success Center is to act as a hub for learning support, offering students a framework for academic aid as they grow in confidence, independence and critical thinking skills. Tutors assist students in gaining successful skills that might raise their overall GPA and in gaining deeper comprehension of the content covered in class.

“Each year, we see about 1,500 Wright State students in the Academic Success Centers,” Dr. Emanuel Clayton, the director of the Math Learning Center, mentioned.

**About the Center**

Annette Applin, an undergraduate Marketing major, is one of the many students who use the Student Success Center’s tutoring services.

“My tutor shows sincere concern for my ability to learn the material. He offers useful suggestions and information that helps me to understand content. Most importantly, he really listens and shows respect. He doesn’t make you feel embarrassed or uncomfortable if you don’t understand something,” Applin said.

At the Student Success Center, tutors help students reach their fullest potential academically. They provide many services to students for free, such as general tutoring, workshops, study groups, study spaces, professional and student tutoring and institutional resources.

**Resources and services**

**Writing**

All levels of writers can profit from well-informed feedback on their work. Wright State University provides financial support to enable students to receive free writing consultation.

The center has trained staff of both undergraduate and graduate writing coaches from across disciplines that can provide support at any stage of a students’ writing process.
“Students face problems in writing with their assignments most of the time because of grammatical issues. They like to come to us to make sure they are writing it perfectly. It makes them happy that there is someone who can help them with their writing,” writing coach Jacob Smith said.

A conversation with a writing coach can help students in many ways, such as discovering the strengths and weaknesses in a piece of writing or understanding the criteria of an assignment. As a new college student, anyone can have issues relevant to their courses. The Student Success Center can be their place of relief.

**Math**

The center tutors can help students become more skilled, confident and independent learners of mathematics. They provide a welcoming and supportive environment that empowers students to engage in conversations that deepen students’ knowledge and understanding of mathematics.

The center provides individualized student evaluation from a full-time director and a staff of peer tutors who are knowledgeable of the best tutoring practice.

**Hours**

The Student Success Center’s hours of operation for both general and specific academic help can be found on their website.

**Faculty Spotlight: Fathi Amsaad**

Jahid Hasan
February 2, 2024
Wright Life

In the realm of hardware security research, this name stands out prominently: Dr. Fathi Amsaad. A visionary and dedicated researcher, Amsaad has been making waves with his groundbreaking contributions to the field of cybersecurity, hardware security, trustworthy AI and much more.
About Fathi Amsaad

Fathi Amsaad, a senior member at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, received his Ph.D. from the University of Toledo in Dec. 2017.

He is an assistant professor with a primary appointment in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering and a joint appointment in the Department of Biomedical, Industrial and Human Factors Engineering at Wright State University.

Amsaad established the Semiconductor Microelectronics Security, Assurance, Resilience and Trust (SMART) research laboratory at the Joshi Research Center. At the SMART lab, Amsaad and his research team—undergraduate and graduate students and a postdoctoral researcher—are interested in exploring and investigating new fundamental and applied research in circuits, hardware, security approaches, electronics and more.

Teaching

With over 15 years of teaching experience, Amsaad has taught at several U.S. high research institutions for over 10 years as well as six years abroad.

Amsaad worked as the graduate program coordinator and assistant professor at the School of Information Security and Applied Computing at Eastern Michigan University from Aug. 2019 to July 2022 before coming to Wright State University.

Prior to that, from Aug. 2018 to July 2019, he was an assistant professor at the University of Southern Mississippi. Prior to finishing his Ph.D., Amsaad held positions as a graduate teaching and research assistant at the University of Toledo, an adjunct instructor at Bowling Green State University and a visiting instructor at the University of South Florida from August 2016 to May 2017.

Amsaad has been incredibly involved in the research and teaching communities for over a decade.

“I love teaching, helping students with their study, project and research. That made me passionate about my Master's and Ph.D.,” Amsaad said.
Research

During his time at WSU, Amsaad has taken an active part in joint research projects that have resulted in a total funding of about $33 million, including contributions from other partners in addition to WSU.

He is notably in charge of the $29.75 million AFRL grant known as the Assured and Trusted Digital Microelectronics Ecosystem (ADMETE). In addition, he oversees the National Pathway to Success (NPS), an initiative funded by a $704,000 grant from the National Security Agency.

In order to prepare, train and retain qualified professionals to meet the demands of emerging cybersecurity domains, this initiative represents a cooperative cybersecurity consortium.

Additionally, Intel Corporation supports the SMART lab, where Amsaad co-leads a three-year grant funded by the company.

This project specifically serves women, minorities, HBCUs/HSIs, high schools, community colleges, Indigenous people and other underrepresented groups in Ohio and the U.S.

The research in the SMART lab includes novel and state-of-the-art research in cyber and physical system security. Primitives for hardware security are included in this. They also conduct research on cyber-physical systems and supply chain security.

He is also co-PI for a different three-year Intel grant administered by the University of Cincinnati, which is called the Ohio-Southwest Alliance on Semiconductors and Integrated Scalable-Manufacturing (OASiS).

On top of this, Amsaad is a current member of the Association for Computing Machinery. His varied responsibilities include serving as an international conference and journal organizer, chair, technical program committee member, guest editor and member of the review board.
Additionally, Amsaad shares his knowledge by instructing in the areas of network administration, hardware security, distributed computing, digital systems, IoT and embedded systems security and security curricula.

**How students can join Amsaad’s research**

According to one of Amsaad’s students, Tashfi Nowroz, in Amsaad’s research lab, 10 students around the globe are working as research assistants who are pursuing their Master’s or Ph.D. It is a great opportunity for the international students who are eager to work in the research field.

“I try to see the passion and dedication of a student before hiring them as RA. Maybe they don’t know everything, but if they have the urge to keep trying and making the curve of development, I like to work with them,” Amsaad said.

Those who are interested in professor Amsaad’s work can reach out to him, the Computer Science and Engineering department or the Biomedical, Industrial and Human Factors Engineering department.

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**Opinion: I Hate Dayton’s and America’s Car Dependency, and You Should Too**

Emily Mancuso  
February 2, 2024  
Wright Life

Dayton, Ohio is a breathing representation of the car-dependent infrastructure of American cities, and I think students—especially international students—suffer for it.

**America, Dayton and cars**

According to WalkScore, Dayton receives a failing grade for walkability: 45. And for bicycles, the score is 47. America as a whole ranks just a bit higher at 48.
Large European and Asian cities are often known for their walkability and public transportation. **While 88% of Europeans own a car, 32% use public transportation at least every week.** Compared to **11% of Americans who use public transport on a daily or weekly basis,** it is obvious that Americans use cars due to a lack of quality public transportation or a complete absence of it. This is in combination with city design.

The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission is one organization working to improve city design. The MVRPC promotes collaboration among communities and residents to advance regional priorities, according to their website.

Matt Lindsay is the Manager of Environmental Planning. Within the position, Lindsay serves as the Bike and Pedestrian Planning Contact and manages updates to the Regional Active Transportation Plan. Lindsay also plans and facilitates meetings of the Regional Active Transportation Committee and serves as a resource for local communities to see approaches to improving bike and pedestrian connectivity and safety within their communities.

“In 2011, MVRPC adopted its Regional Complete Streets Policy, which requires that every transportation project that seeks federal funds through MVRPC at least consider and, if feasible, include facilities for walking, biking and transit access within the design of the project,” Lindsay said.

Lindsay explained that MVRPC updates regional plans to reflect any new developments or ongoing priorities.

“**MVRPC supports local communities’ efforts to develop Safe Routes to Schools Plans, Active Transportation Plans, conduct walking audits, develop local complete streets policies, apply for outside sources of project funding or apply for walk-friendly or bike-friendly designation,**” Lindsay said.

Lindsay adds that a coordinated development of the transportation network will result in better use of funds, which will in turn benefit all residents of the Miami Valley Region.

**Bloomberg** shows the evolution of how America got car dependent and the factors that keep us there, and students suffer the safety, monetary, social, environmental and efficiency consequences because of these car-dependent cities.
Come to the Wright State University neighborhood of Wright View to find a walk score of 42. The score is so bad that it could not even pass a course here.

In all seriousness, WSU is an island, and the only way to get off this island is with a car. Even though many students are equipped with a car since the majority of us are commuter students, this does not work for everyone.

Put yourself in the shoes of an international student. You have landed in an unfamiliar country, you may not speak the language as well, you may not have any American friends and you do not have a car.

You are not even familiar with the island, much less equipped to get off of it. You are spelling SOS out in the sand, asking for rides from American students you do not even know that well or are spending exorbitant amounts of money on Uber.

A common issue among international students is the cold, often having to trek through the snow just to get groceries. The WSU dining halls often do not accommodate the dietary needs and preferences of international students, making getting groceries essential. And since many do not have relatives in Ohio, that is one less way to transportation.

Sakira Afrose Toma is an international student from Bangladesh majoring in Marketing Analytics. This will be Toma’s second year at WSU.

“It is totally different in our country,” Toma said. “If you go to a nearby university or nearby college or nearby market, you can use something like a rickshaw. People don’t use [cars]. If you go the long way, you can use your private car, but there is also [buses and planes],” Toma said.

Toma remarks that without a car in America, it is impossible to get around. Even just getting from the hotel Toma spent in her first night here to campus was difficult. Toma also observes that Americans are very busy, cutting off many opportunities for rides.
When nine of 10 Americans rely on cars for mobility, it is no wonder international students find it hard to get around.

And since Americans rely on cars, the cost of maintenance is paramount. According to AAA, car maintenance costs nearly $800 per year on average. Personally, I have had to spend over $2,000 on car insurance and repairs in the last half year alone.

If approximately 3,000 students live on campus at WSU, that leaves approximately 7,000 students as commuters. If we assume each student has their own vehicle and compound that by the average cost of car maintenance, that is $5.6 million annually in car maintenance costs.

That's approximately 515 years of current WSU tuition costs.

The 7,000 cars will emit **32,200 metric tons of CO2**.

For every thirty minutes a student spends in a car each day, there is a 3% higher chance of obesity.

If you check the WSU main Instagram’s snow day posts’ comments, you will see that some students have an over one-hour trip to school each day. Young adults in America spend approximately that amount of time driving per day in total. United Kingdom drivers only spend about 147 hours driving per year.

And some of WSU’s over 800 students with disabilities may find difficulty or have an inability to drive. While WSU’s campus is overall more accessible than the average college campus, the struggle still exists outside of campus.

**Conclusion**

The solution to these problems? Make more and better public transportation, cater more towards the transportation needs of international students, redesign and improve the city and build walkable and bikeable infrastructure.

There are some initiatives already trying to do these things: Great American Rail-Trail, The International Transportation Forum, Executive Orders, Expanding Amtrak in Ohio and more.
“Community attention to streetscape, site design and land use can have a lot of influence on how walkable a location or community can be. Shorter distances between destinations, mixed use districts and building complete streets make it more attractive for residents and visitors to choose non-motorized modes when getting around in town,” Lindsay said about the improvement of Dayton specifically.

As far as WSU goes, Toma thinks that a bus that comes every 10 minutes to one hour as well as Friday and Saturday shuttles will be a big help in getting around.

“It will give the student more relief because of our university providing shuttles Friday and Saturday to Meijer and Walmart,” Toma said.

The MVRPC pays special attention to public transportation and walkability around university and college campuses, including all other schools, in evaluation of walking and biking demand as a destination where this kind of travel is to be expected.

To contact the MVRPC, email info@mvrpc.org or visit their website to sign up for email newsletter and notifications. The MVRPC is present on Instagram, Facebook, X and LinkedIn.

Learn more about car dependency and end the motocracy now for the good of students and residents alike.

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**News Roundup: Week of Jan. 29**

Alexis Lewis  
February 5, 2024  
News

From local happenings to national topics and global events, here is the news worth knowing from the week of Jan. 29, 2024.

**Local**

**Tushar Gandhi visits Wright State**
On Wednesday, Jan. 31, Tushar Gandhi visited Wright State University to discuss healthcare disparities in minority communities, exemplifying the pillars of his great-grandfather, Mahatma Gandhi.

Wright State University’s Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology and College of Liberal Arts collaborated for the event.

National

Groundhogs Day 2024

On Friday, Feb. 2, Punxsutawney Phil predicted an early spring after not seeing his shadow, according to the Associated Press.

The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club, which was founded in 1887, carries on the “Groundhog Day” tradition with the help of its Inner Club, including President Tom Dunkel, according to the club’s official website.

Global

Fire in Kenya kills 3, injures 280

On Friday, Feb. 2, a truck with liquid petroleum gas cylinders exploded in Nairobi, Kenya, killing at least three people and injuring over 280 others, according to the Associated Press. The explosion resulted in a fire that burned homes and warehouses.

The Kenya Red Cross expects the death toll to rise, with at least 24 people in critical condition.

Events on Campus Week of Feb. 5

Aaron Cline
Students can enjoy hands-on crafts, physical activities and early Valentine’s Day events this week at Wright State University.

**Monday, Feb. 5**

12 p.m. | Miracle Makers and Phi Tau Valentine’s Day Flowers | SU Market Table 03

4 p.m. | Physician Guest Speaker | SU Discovery Room B

8 p.m. | Res Linkup: Warm Hugs Workshop | Hamilton Hall Lobby

**Tuesday, Feb. 6**

6 p.m. | African Night Informational | Rike 016

7 p.m. | Bible Studies | Rike Hall 158

8 p.m. | SGA Weekly Meetings | Atlantis Room (157 A/B)

**Wednesday, Feb. 7**

1 p.m. | ISSCM Women’s Panel | Rey Rey Cafe

2 p.m. | Silent Book Club: “Ma and Me” by Putsata Reang

2 p.m. | Time Management Workshop | Student Involvement and Leadership Center

7 p.m. | Game It Up | The Landing: Student Lounge

**Thursday, Feb. 8**

12:22 p.m. | Poodle Bake Sale | Hangar Table (Allyn Hall)
2 p.m. | Miracle Week Kickoff! | Elizabeth Dixon Hearth Lounge (SU 102)

3:45 p.m. | Manual Dexterity: Soap Carving | Rike Hall 058

7 p.m. | Men’s Basketball vs. Detroit Mercy | Nutter Center

**Friday, Feb. 9**

1:30 p.m. | Amigos Latinos Juntas (Biweekly Meetings) | Student Union 023T

3 p.m. | Decorate a Chef’s Hat and Watch “Ratatouille” | Oelman 109

5 p.m. | The Adventure Summit | Student Union

**Saturday, Feb. 10**

4 p.m. | Women’s Basketball vs. Purdue Fort Wayne | Nutter Center

7 p.m. | Men’s Basketball vs. Oakland | Nutter Center

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**SGA: Healthy Minds Survey and General Announcements**

Britin Frazey  
February 5, 2024  
News

The Student Government Association met on Tuesday, Jan. 30. It was another brief meeting, where not much was discussed aside from some various announcements.

**The Healthy Minds Survey**
The JED Foundation is analyzing the Healthy Minds Survey, which was conducted in the fall. Over 22% of Wright State students completed this survey.

“We had over [a] 22% response rate to that, which really doesn’t sound like a lot, but in that kind of assessment work, that’s a really, really good number. The university does have the results back,” Eric Corbitt, director of the Student Union and Campus Recreation and interim dean of students, said.

More information on the survey results will be coming out soon. Corbitt suggested that SGA look over the results in the future.

**General announcements**

Registration for summer classes will start Monday, Feb. 5. Fall classes will become available for viewing sometime this month, and registration will begin next month.

Fraternity and sorority recruitment is still going on. Anyone who wants to learn more or is interested in joining can visit the WSU Greek Life website.

Stephanie Buettner, President of SGA, said that the Director of Internal Affairs position is open. Students can send Buettner resumes or questions at sgal@wright.edu.

**The Rowdy Bobblehead Award**

The Rowdy Bobblehead Award is a tradition where the previous award-holder passes the bobblehead to another member of SGA for recognition and gratitude.

Steven Truong, director of inclusive excellence and accessibility, passed the Rowdy Bobblehead Award to Hannah Davidson, the College of Science and Math senator.

“She helps me out all the time,” Truong said.

“Thank you, Steven. I’m so glad you’re in SGA,” Davidson replied.
SGA will meet again on Tuesday, Feb. 6, at 8 p.m. in the Student Union Atlantis A/B room.

**Tushar Gandhi, Great-Grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, Speaks on Health and Inequality**

Jahid Hasan  
February 6, 2024  
Wright Life

On Jan. 31, the Wright State University community filled the Apollo Room to listen to Tushar Gandhi speak about healthcare disparities in minority communities in India and around the world.

**Background**

Tushar Gandhi is the great-grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, a world-renowned leader famous for his non-violent movement against Great Britain in 1947, leading to India’s independence. Tushar Gandhi also leads the Mahatma Gandhi Foundation.

Terry Oroszi, who was hosting Gandhi’s visit, is an associate professor and vice chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology.

“Tushar is dedicated to promoting equality for all. This mission aligns with Wright State’s goal of providing accessible education to everyone. These two important goals go hand-in-hand,” Oroszi said in a press release from Wright State.

**Event**

In the seminar, Gandhi explained the past of medical health among the people of India when it was very tough to get quality medication or treatment as well as the current situation today because of advanced technology.
Gandhi also mentioned the world has developed a lot, but there are still so many unprivileged people without the benefits of modern health technology because of a lack of health insurance.

According to Forbes, nearly 400 million individuals in India have no access to health insurance.

“My great-grandfather Mahatma Gandhi actually wanted to be a doctor and serve the community. He got every training in the medical line so that he can be an assistant of a doctor and can help the people,” Tushar Gandhi said. “During the war against the British, he used to help the injured British soldiers too instead of differentiating the soldiers, and it shows how he was devoted to help humanity, not only for the Indian people.”

Tushar Gandhi talked about poverty in India, an issue which results in malnutrition as well as little access to proper medical care.

Malnutrition is the primary cause of 1.83 million Indian children’s deaths before they turn five years old, according to a 2012 report by the British nonprofit Save the Children.

“The main problem of the health system is that it is designed for the rich people. If you have money, you will get the best treatment, but if you are poor, there is no better healthcare, and it does not matter in which part of the world you are in,” Professor and Inclusion Officer of the Raj Soin College of Business Dr. Wakiuru Wamwara said.

Tushar Gandhi also said that snake bites are one of the highest causes of death in India, as only the government clinics have access to the anti-venom. As those incidents happen in rural areas most of the time, it becomes very difficult for the victims to reach the nearest government clinic or hospital where they could get the treatment.

According to the World Health Organization, more than one million people have died in India over the past two decades because of snake bites.

**Final opinions**
One of the audience members asked Tushar Gandhi how we can overcome these obstacles and help improve access to quality health care.

Tushar Gandhi explained that he is working with his organization to help students that dropout of school due to poverty; by providing these students with education, they are able to overcome obstacles and reach success.

“There are so many organizations [and] communities who are working to help people. We can find them and cooperate with them to spread the good works,” Tushar Gandhi said.

“Love, Self-Sacrifice and Rage”: WSU Theater Presents Irish Tale “By the Bog of Cats”

Emily Mancuso
February 6, 2024
Wright Life

Wright State University Theater presents “By the Bog of Cats,” a fusion of Greek myth and Irish culture.

Setting up the stage

Junior Acting major Emma Massey explained that “By the Bog of Cats” follows a woman named Hester Swain who tries to keep her family together despite her partner marrying another woman.

“The story follows her as she returns to her childhood home and tries to keep her partner and her daughter and everything in her life together as it seems to be falling apart around her,” Massey, who plays the leading role of Swain, said.

Massey describes Hester Swain as an Irish traveler who is strong willed, passionate and kind of stubborn but willing to go to great lengths for what she loves.
Prepping for the show

After the auditions and callbacks concluded last semester, Massey prepared to bring Swain to life, including the unique challenge of perfecting Swain’s regional Irish accent, since rehearsals started at the beginning of the semester.

Intensive rehearsals take place four or five times a week in the lead up to a show, giving Professor of Acting and Musical Theatre Deborah Thomas time to give the actors guidance to create the unique Irish accents demanded by the play. Thomas has served as a voice, speech and dialect coach for every departmental production since the fall of 2008, which is approximately six shows a year. This includes the recent performance of Cabaret, which included German accents.

“It’s a gritty theme. It’s a gritty set. It’s a dialect that most of our students, in my time here, I don’t think we’ve used a lot,” Thomas said.

Assignments by Thomas include a watchthrough of the show “Darby Girls” to see the accents in performance. Thomas remarks that this is probably one of the hardest dialects the students have tackled.

Bringing an accent to theatre performances brings its own unique challenges. Sometimes an accent may be hard to understand for an American audience or a word needs to change for projection purposes.

Bog of Cats mythos

“By the Bog of Cats” is loosely based on the myth of Medea, a Greek sorceress best known for her role in the myth of Jason retrieving the golden fleece.

Thomas describes the main themes of “By the Bog Cats” as thwarted love, self-sacrifice and rage.

“It’s certainly present to us that women are allowed to feel rage because that is often suppressed in our society. I think the two things that I found most interesting about this were that in the first reading, I could sense the rage, but they found the actor
and the director Gina Handy Minyard, and they found the love and the humor,” Thomas said.

Guest Director Gina Handy Minyard was largely reached by WSU because “By the Bog of Cats” is a feminist work. In the Magnolia Theatre Company, Minyard directed works with similar themes.

Minyard began directing 10 years ago. Long-term Artistic Director Joe Deer approached Minyard to see if she would be interested in the show.

“I am a big advocate for female-driven work and for shows that empower women, and I have a theatre company that is based on that very mission. And so I think [Deer] thought it was very fitting for me because the play’s written by Ireland’s most famous female playwright, and it’s a female-driven show,” Minyard said.

Minyard worked with all the designers and faculty to bring the show together, including lighting, sets and sound, for the unique performance, a mix of old and new.

“The Greeks were really the culture that was expanding theater in big ways and [“By the Bog of Cats”] takes that story and infuses it into Irish modern culture,” Minyard said.

While Minyard remarks that balancing the time of the students, especially the understudies, was one of the production’s biggest challenges, both Minyard and Thomas say the students have more than risen to the challenges.

“Our students never cease to amaze me,” Thomas said. “At this stage of my life, nothing can compare to watching a student grapple with a difficult concept in the studio classroom, watch them continue that struggle in rehearsal, and then watch as it suddenly all comes together for them. It might happen in rehearsal. It might happen in performance. Either way, it’s an absolute thrill to witness those epiphanies when they do happen. Better than any bow I can take for myself. It’s truly a privilege to witness their growth and to feel that maybe I played some small part in that.”

Sound director James Dunlap composed original music for “By the Bog of Cats” to further bring the myth to life.
**Dates and Tickets**

Here are the remaining performance dates for “By the Bog of Cats”:

Friday, Feb. 9, 2024, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024, 2 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024, 8 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024, 2 p.m.

Readers interested in seeing the show can purchase tickets at the Wright State Box Office.

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**Student Safety Tips: How to Protect Yourself & Others**

Britin Frazey  
February 7, 2024  
News

With recent events on campus, it has become more difficult for students to feel safe. Here is how students can protect themselves and each other at Wright State University.

**How students feel**

Emily Sands, a sophomore nursing major, explained that she used to feel incredibly safe on campus. She and her friends used to walk around at night for recreation.

“I would say that I feel less safe this year than the last with stealing [and] the shooting,” Sands said.

Sands lives on campus and considers her apartment as a home.
“Recently, I have been more wary of my surroundings and on edge,” Sands said. “Especially with things happening so close to on-campus housing.”

Ella Coppock, a sophomore intervention specialist major, says that she felt more unsafe last year because she was living on campus. She now commutes and says that she feels safer, except for when she has to walk at night.

“If it is dark outside, I try to walk with a group of friends or classmates when I have the opportunity. If I am walking alone, I always keep my phone in my hand, and I try to locate whichever emergency phone is closest to me in case I need help from WSUPD,” Coppock said. “If I am feeling unsafe in a situation walking alone, I will try to call someone that I can talk to until I get to where I am going.”

**Safety basics**

When asked what they suggest other students do to stay safe, students gave largely the same answers: carry pepper spray, try not to walk alone at night, be aware of your surroundings and do not be afraid to call for help. If you have the opportunity to take self-defense classes, take it.

Many other self-defense devices can be purchased in addition to pepper spray. Some are alarms, including whistles or other sounding devices, that emit loud noises in an emergency.

Wright State University has many blue safety lights available across campus. If you have to walk alone at night on campus, the WSU police are happy to walk with you to your car or building.

WSUPD offers multiple safety training sessions, including self-defense classes and Run, Hide, Fight courses. For more information about the Campus Safety Series, visit the Public Safety Engage page.

**The future**

Unfortunately, nothing can guarantee that there will not be future safety incidents. However, the WSU police are getting better at dealing with these issues, and
students seem to be openly discussing their thoughts and feelings, helping spread awareness and gain community consciousness about the state of safety at Wright State.

How the Rise of Artificial Intelligence is Changing the Academic Sphere

Ashley Hainzer
February 7, 2024
News

With the powerful tool of Artificial Intelligence at students’ disposal, it is evident that AI is beginning to bleed into the academic sphere. Colleges, including Wright State University, have had to rewrite rules and procedures to factor in these new tools.

Academic dishonesty

Since the 2020 Coronavirus pandemic, the use of Artificial Intelligence applications and websites, such as ChatGPT, have gained popularity worldwide. At Wright State, the Academic Integrity Standards and Process for Misconduct Policy 3710.2 provides guidelines for AI usage.

“Unless specifically authorized by their faculty, students: May not use generative AI to substantially complete any assignment or exam; and Must attribute generative AI contributions to their assignments and exams,” Policy 3710.2 reads.

The wording “unless specifically authorized by their faculty” leaves the choice of AI usage to the professors and adjuncts that work at Wright State. Later in the policy, it states that any approved AI usage must be added to the syllabi.

Many faculty claim that AI usage is academic dishonesty, but with the upticks in AI-related blurbs in syllabi, there is a question posed on whether or not students could benefit from AI usage.

Professor opinion
Dr. Barry Milligan is an English professor with almost 30 years of teaching experience. Milligan expressed his opinions about AI in the classroom.

“It’s hard to say just what AI is capable of,” Milligan said. “I think in the future there could be benefits to AI usage in the classrooms.”

Many students use applications, such as ChatGPT or OpenAI, to outline papers; however, in some severe cases, students will use it to write the entire essay. Professors have cracked down on this, treating it as academic dishonesty. With the advancement of technology, though, instructors are left with what-ifs.

“I don’t necessarily go into reading students’ papers to look for AI,” Milligan explained. “It’s so hard to tell nowadays, I’m sure it’s slipped past me. In the event I were to find evidence of it, I’d go through my usual plagiarism procedures.”

In his ENG 3060 course, Milligan currently prohibits AI usage.

“At a certain point, I expect that you should be able to write a cohesive paper, especially at the 3000 level,” Milligan said.

**Student opinion**

Overall, opinions are split as to whether AI usage is a good thing or not. There is a mix of opinions, with some students very passionate about the technology.

“It’s cheating,” Deborah Yamoah Ahenkorah, an educational leadership major, said. “I think that you honestly are kind of an idiot if you have to use ChatGPT in order to write assignments for you at the college level.”

Other students have admitted to using AI for assignments in the past.

“I’ve used it on an assignment or two,” Zach Hibbs, a psychology major, said. “It’s more so out of necessity. I had a lot going on in high school, and it seemed like a good idea at the time. I haven’t used it in college at all, but I did use it in high school.”

Then there are some students who share similar sentiments as Milligan.
“I personally haven’t used it, but I think with some tooling, it might be a good tool for education,” Adam Aburejeila, a current undecided major, said.

Looking ahead

As of now, AI usage is still considered academic dishonesty with some exceptions. Usage is still widely debated, but there may be some potential benefits of using it academically in the future.

Eyewitnesses Express Fear After Cedar Hall Incident, Concerned About Housing

Ashley Hainzer  
February 8, 2024  
News

After the shooting incident at Cedar Hall earlier this semester, students living in the dorms on campus have shared their experience of the event and concerns about housing safety.

The event

According to a university-wide communication, on Monday, Jan. 22, 2024, suspect Darryl Patterson was visiting a student in her dorm at Cedar Hall. They began to get into an altercation about missing property—a phone charger—which led to Patterson firing a shot. There were no reported injuries for either party, and Patterson was arrested for felonious assault.

“Our officers were able to quickly address the incident last night with zero injuries,” Seth Bauguess, the university director of communications, said immediately following the incident.

According to Montgomery County Court Records, Patterson is still in jail and is awaiting trial.
There were several students who gave an eyewitness account of the situation that posed the potential safety risk to campus.

**Eyewitness accounts**

Laila Turner is a second-year English major at Wright State. She is suitemates with the victim and was the one who called the authorities when the incident took place.

“My girlfriend and I were getting ready for the gym,” Turner explained. “All we heard was a really loud bang, and I was confused as to what it was because I’ve never heard a gunshot up close before, but my girlfriend’s first instinct was to run.”

Turner explained how she went out to the hall to confirm the incident with other residents before the reality set in.

“Then all of a sudden, I started hearing my suitmate’s audible cry, and that’s when we really went into panic mode and took off running,” Turner said.

Turner and her girlfriend, Salva Pickens, a first-year Crime and Justice Studies student at Wright State, ran through the building to escape as they called the police. Turner ran into a police officer while on the phone with the cops and gave the officer information.

Shortly after Wright State Police entered the building and told everyone to shelter in place, Turner retreated to Hawthorn Hall with her girlfriend.

“The whole situation was really triggering for me,” Turner said.

**Student safety**

Turner and Pickens now have safety concerns.

“Our door [in Cedar Hall] is currently broken. At one point, our main door was broken completely off the hinges,” Turner explained. “Anyone could just come and go.”
Pickens explained that as of 10 minutes before the interview, housing was just then fixing the broken door that had been broken for a while. She expressed her frustration with the situation.

“I feel like they shouldn’t have waited until a big accident happened to fix the door. It’s kind of giving that they are sloppy and don’t really care,” Pickens said.

Turner alleges that Patterson appeared to be living with the victim in her dorm for a period of time. She explained that this worried her for her safety; Turner regrets not speaking up about the situation sooner.

“I probably should have said something sooner instead of complaining to Salva and my friends; however, I do think that they definitely should have caught it during fire and safety checks. I had to go through her room to get back to mine to grab some things, and it was very obvious that someone else was living there,” Turner explained. “I feel like it’d be obvious if they actually paid attention during winter break fire and safety checks.”

Safety has been a concern for students on campus for the past two semesters, but several members of the campus community assure that the campus is still entirely safe.

**WSU response**

Bauguess provided a statement regarding the recent safety incidents on campus, particularly the Cedar Hall shooting.

“Campus is rarely threatened by incidents like these. We are grateful that we have the resources and officers able to handle the incident quickly and professionally,” Bauguess said.

One of the main concerns Turner and Pickens brought up was that Patterson might have been living on campus. Jennifer Attenweiler, the director of Residence Life at WSU, goes into detail about the process of safety checks and what they are used for.

“For fire and safety checks, we go into each housing unit and make sure there are no fire hazards and make sure everyone is safe and following rules,” Attenweiler said.
“We train [Resident Assistants] to look for signs of safety concerns or any housing rule violations.”

Students are encouraged to report any issues to RAs or to the housing department directly.

Another one of Turner’s concerns is how open the campus is and how the public can access housing.

“I feel like I never see anyone from the WSUPD come around housing. There are so many random people around, and I feel like they need to patrol more in these areas to keep incidents like this from happening,” Turner said.

Dexter Hicks is a police sergeant with the Wright State Police and has spoken about patrols and the WSUPD’s dedication to safety at Wright State.

“WSUPD patrols campus all year, all day and night. These patrols are done in campus housing every day and are a mixture of vehicle patrols, foot patrols, bikes, golf carts, etcetera. We are also very active when it comes to housing events,” Hicks explained. “We conduct safety programming and training in various residence halls to try and reach out and ensure everyone is getting the safety information they need.”

Moving forward

Hicks explains that anyone who feels unsafe or sees a suspicious person should report the behavior or incident by phone or by the yellow emergency boxes on campus.

The WSUPD phone number is 937-775-2111.

Additionally, there are several public safety training courses offered throughout the semester that students are highly encouraged to take part in. These training sessions are on the University Police’s website. They are done in-person or through WebEx, and students can sign up on Engage.
Just off of Bigger Road, the Dayton Brick Shop offers LEGOs and events to adults and kids alike, bringing the Dayton community together since and through the pandemic.

**Recognizing a need**

While the pandemic hurt many small businesses, there was also a new opportunity. Dayton Brick Shop Owner Nick O’Donnell and Store Manager Jamie Cox saw that opportunity. The Dayton community could not go outside as much, and LEGO-building was the perfect indoor activity.

O’Donnell’s photography business had shut down due to the pandemic, and O’Donnell began selling LEGOs online. O’Donnell subsequently recognized the demand for the sets and asked Cox for assistance with the shipping and packaging of orders.

Then came the question: What if we opened a shop?

“[O’Donnell said] ‘I’ve always wanted to open a shop. It’s been a dream of mine, would you help me?’ And I was like, ‘Sure,’ not realizing what I was getting into at all because I’d never played with LEGOs, I’d never built LEGOs or anything like that as a kid. So I was like, ‘Sure, I’ll help you,’ and then it just went crazy and here we are,” Cox said.

And so the Dayton Brick Shop opened in October 2020, riding the wave of demand created by the pandemic and filling the need for such a shop, since no store like it opened in their native Kettering. Starting with only Friday and Saturday hours, the shop is now open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The demand also pushed the Dayton Brick Shop to move from its original small Centerville location to the new location just off Bigger Road.
The location offers LEGOs of all kinds, whether someone is looking for Elsa’s Castle or a bouquet of roses. Often, these sets are cheaper than retail prices, especially used sets.

The shop also offers the option to sell your own LEGO sets.

Looking for a specific brick? No problem. Fill up a small or large bag of LEGO pieces at a low price at one of two assorted brick tables. Want a custom minifigure? Make your very own with dozens of different combinations at the minifigure table, or perhaps take a photo with ‘Brickolas,’ the lifesize minifigure.

Occasionally, the store will also have sets no longer produced.

**A community shop**

The community aspect of the brick shop is paramount to its success.

Events include birthday parties, adult 21+ build nights, minifigure build nights once a month, Halloween night, Connect Kids Club and more. The location will host up to a half dozen birthday parties per weekend.

The shop recently hosted an event where customers could put their favorite LEGO sets on their wishlist, and management selected one lucky winner to receive everything on their list.

At the conclusion of 2023, the store collected all of their tips for the year and donated $40,000 worth of LEGO sets to Dayton Children’s Medical Center and Hope’s Closet.

The donations did not stop there, as the store also hosted a toy drive where they collected over 200 donations.

The store is not only a good environment for customers but for the employees as well.

“I would say one of my favorite parts of working here would be when an adult comes in and they see a set and act like a child. They are so excited to see a set in-person,
and they are like, ‘I’ve never seen this in-person before,’ and they get all giddy, and it’s like bringing them back to their childhood,” Cox said.

Trevor Seech-Hrvatin is another employee at the Dayton Brick Shop, working at the shop since August of last year, fulfilling a childhood dream of working at a LEGO store.

“What drew me to the store in the first place is the community that the store has built. They are super friendly, and getting to build connections with the guests is just super powerful, and just getting to see kids’ and adults’ faces brighten up every day is just a joy,” Seech-Hrvatin said.

For more information about the Dayton Brick Shop, visit their website.

Readers can also call the shop at 937-971-0770 or email daytonbrickshop@gmail.com.

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**News Roundup: Week of Feb. 5**

Alexis Lewis  
February 12, 2024  
News

From local happenings to national topics and global events, here is the news worth knowing from the week of Feb. 5, 2024.

**Local**

**Burglary on WSU Dayton campus**

On Friday, Feb. 9, Wright State Police responded to a reported burglary at 2040 Village Drive on the Dayton campus, according to a university-wide email communication. A lunchbox and kitchen towels were stolen between 5:30 and 8:15 p.m.
Kansas City Chiefs win Super Bowl LVIII

On Sunday, Feb. 11, the Kansas City Chiefs beat the San Francisco 49ers 25-22 to win Super Bowl LVIII. This is the third Super Bowl win for Kansas City since 2020.

Woman opens fire in megachurch

On Sunday, Feb 11, a woman opened fire in celebrity pastor Joel Osteen’s megachurch in Texas, according to the Associated Press. Two off-duty officers killed the unidentified shooter, who brought a 5-year-old boy with her; the boy was also shot and is in critical condition. One man is in stable condition with a hip wound.

Russia launches drones into Ukraine

On Sunday, Feb. 11, Russia launched 45 drones over nine different regions of Ukraine, including the nation’s capital of Kyiv, according to the Associated Press.

“The five-and-a-half-hour attack targeted agricultural facilities and coastal infrastructure, officials for Ukraine’s southern defense forces wrote on Telegram. They said that a strike in the Mykolaiv region had injured one person, sparking a fire and damaging nearby residential buildings,” the press release reads.

Marathon world-record holder dies in car crash

According to the Associated Press, the marathon world record-holder, Kelvin Kiptum, died in a car crash with his coach, Gervais Hakizimana, in Kenya on Sunday, Feb. 11.
Events on Campus Week of Feb. 12

Aaron Cline
February 12, 2024
Wright Life

This week is incredibly busy with Valentine’s Day and Homecoming right around the corner, and students should find the opportunity to enjoy all the events they can.

**Monday, Feb. 12**

11 a.m. | Lunar New Year | Student Union Atrium

12 p.m. | Puppy Kissing Booth | Hearth Lounge

2:30 p.m. | Self-Care Day | SU 023B

**Tuesday, Feb. 13**

12 p.m. | ASU Bake Sale | SU Market Table 01

1 p.m. | Study Abroad: Valentine’s Day Bingo (+ big prizes) | UCIE Office, SU 224

2:22 p.m. | Valentine’s Crafts | Culture and Identity Centers, SU 023

4 p.m. | Pitch and Paint | Rike Hall 158

5 p.m. | Raider Feud | SU Atrium

**Wednesday, Feb. 14**

10 a.m. | Bake Sale | SU Market Table 02

11:30 a.m. | Bee’s Knees Kickoff! | SU Atrium
2 p.m. | Spirit Boards Decorating | SU Apollo A

6 p.m. | Paint and Praise! | Rey Rey Cafe

**Thursday, Feb. 15**

9 a.m. | Donuts with the Dean | Millett Atrium

6:30 p.m. | CPH Murder Mystery Galentines! | Rathskeller, SU 008

7 p.m. | When Love Speaks | Rike Hall 160

7 p.m. | Cat’s Meow Paint & Sip | Apollo Room (SU 160 A/B/C)

**Friday, Feb. 16**

4 p.m. | Roaring Rally | SU Atrium

6 p.m. | Move Night with Latino Center and RCA! | Oelman Hall 109

8 p.m. | Late Night Breakfast and Entertainment | SU Market

**Saturday, Feb. 17**

10 a.m. | Feed the Streets | Rike Hall 157

11 a.m. | Raider Round Up & Chili Cook Off | McLin Gym

1 p.m. | Men’s Basketball vs. Robert Morris | Nutter Center

4 p.m. | Women’s Basketball vs. Northern Kentucky | Nutter Center

7 p.m. | Homecoming Dance | Apollo A/B/C (160 A/B/C)
The Student Government Association met in its weekly meeting and discussed their first resolution of the semester.

**Pickleball resolution**

Raj Soin College of Business Senator Logan Smith sponsored a resolution that moved The Woods living community to gain access to pickleball courts.

“Whereas minimal capital investment would be required to transform the basketball courts in The Woods into pickleball courts. Whereas this will provide opportunities to build community among the students,” the resolution reads. “Further resolved, at the conclusion of the academic year, the university will conduct a feasibility study of pickleball courts in the academic corridor of the university.”

SGA tabled the resolution for next week, so it will be voted on during SGA’s meeting on Feb. 13.

**Workload policy**
Provost Amy Thompson came to the meeting to discuss a recent change in the contract for Wright State staff and faculty. Thompson explained that the workload policy at Wright State was quite different when she arrived three years ago than at other universities.

“Some people’s workload will change as a result of this, and we will take under consideration any feedback from faculty and staff as we’ve had a look to make improvements in the policy as we move forward, but I want to assure you, the policy that we have initiated is very, very similar to our peers and is encouraging research, and it’s encouraging student-centered research in a very positive way,” Thompson said.

For more information regarding the new contract, visit this previous Guardian story.

Other announcements

Ashley Greene, president of Miracle Makers, joined SGA to discuss her organization’s upcoming event, Raiderthon, which is a 12-hour dance marathon fundraiser, and all of the proceeds go to Dayton Children’s. This year’s Raiderthon will be on March 23.

Greene encouraged student organizations to begin forming teams for Raiderthon if they plan on participating. She explained that student involvement and teams are a big reason why Raiderthon has been successful in the past. Teams can register now.

Fraternity and sorority recruitment is still ongoing. More information is available here.

SGA meets again on Tuesday, Feb. 13, at 8 p.m. in the Student Union Atlantis A/B room.

Internal and External Scholarships
Options for Students

Jahid Hasan
February 13, 2024
Thanks to the Financial Wellness Center, which hosted the “Plot Your Financial Course” event on Jan. 31, students were taught the best ways to pursue scholarships, both from Wright State University and from outside sources.

**Scholarship importance and acquisition difficulty**

A scholarship is a form of financial aid given to a student in order to further their education. It is granted-based on the student’s academic performance or other factors, such as financial need. It can remove obstacles to academic achievement so that any student can follow their passion.

Scholarships are usually given out based on a number of criteria, including financial need, areas of study, work experience, departmental and community activity or academic accomplishment.

More than 1.7 million scholarships are awarded annually, though only 7% of college students will receive scholarships, according to the Education Data Initiative. Scholarship funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Education have a projected worth of $46 billion each year.

The selection process for scholarships to study in the U.S. can be rigorous and thorough. To significantly increase chances of being accepted, students should apply for every scholarship that they are qualified for. Smaller scholarships can also assist with living costs and books even though they might not be sufficient to cover a student’s full tuition.

**Scholarships at WSU**

WSU offers a variety of financial aid packages to help reduce financial burden for students. According to WSU’s website, 70% of all Wright State students are awarded some form of financial aid.

The Financial Wellness Center organized an event on Jan. 31 at Rike Hall called “Plot Your Financial Course,” which was sponsored by Wright Patt Credit Union. In the workshop, they discussed scholarships and tips and tricks to get them.
“There are so many ways to get scholarships, you just have to knock every possible door to get yours,” Blake Grimm, a student loan program coordinator at Wright-Patt Credit Union, said.

Types of scholarships

Grimm mentioned three types of scholarships in his presentation: merit-based scholarships, which are awarded based on academic, athletic, artistic or other achievements; need-based scholarships, which students have to file FAFSA for; and group scholarships, which are based on religious or ethnic group, military status, employer or credit union membership.

Donor-based scholarships at WSU

Both undergraduate and graduate students can apply for multiple donor-based scholarships funded through the Wright State University Foundation and Wright State.

Maribeth Yoder, enrollment services coordinator at Enrollment Services (RaiderConnect), also stresses the importance of applying for scholarships.

“Donors seek different criterias to provide the scholarships to the students, so you should apply whether you think you will be eligible or not because you never know,” Yoder said.

Trusted scholarship search engines

Grimm and Yoder shared some of the trusted sources to search for scholarships, including careeronestop, Fastweb, scholarships.com, The Dayton Foundation, UNIGO and FinAid.

With the help of these scholarship search engines as well as information provided during the “Plot Your Financial Course” event, students can be confident that they are getting the most opportunities possible to help secure future financial aid.
Dates in Dayton: Valentine’s Day Events and Ideas

Emily Mancuso
February 13, 2024
Wright Life

Whether it is with a pal or partner, here are some events and ideas to share with a loved one in the Valentine’s Day season.

**Hearts and Crafts**

An on-campus option is Hearts and Crafts with the African American Residential Caucus on Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. in the Honors Plaza. The AARC and attendees can handcraft gifts for loved ones to give on Valentine's Day.

**Puppy Kissing Booth**

Before going to The Landing party, stop by the Puppy Kissing Booth by Raider Pups the day before. On Feb. 13 from 12 to 2 p.m., 4 Paws for Ability puppies distribute kisses in the Hearth Lounge. Cash donations are accepted but not required.

**The Landing Valentine Party**

Another on-campus event is A Valentine Party for Anyone in The Landing student lounge. Activities include coloring, conversations and more. The H2O church is hosting the event from 7 to 9 p.m. on Feb. 14.

**“Moulin Rouge” at The Neon**

Enjoy French wines and a Pâtisserie Bar on Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. in local Dayton theater The Neon. The $30 tickets to the screening of “Moulin Rouge” includes wine and dessert. Tickets sell out fast for this coveted event.
Valentines Dine and Skate

The Riverscape Ice Skate will set a romantic scene on Feb. 14 from 4 to 6 p.m. After skating to your classic love songs, head over to 2nd Street Market for a four-course meal from 6:30 to 8 p.m. with magician entertainment. Tickets are $50 per person.

Valentines Paint and Sip

Hosted by Picture Perfect Paint Parties, this event provides painting, karaoke, line dancing, popcorn and punch. Tickets start at $37 with an extra $14 for optional wine. The location is 123 North Ludlow Street in Dayton on Feb. 14 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Valentine’s Under the Stars

Take your local STEM major or star enthusiast for the Valentines Under the Stars event at the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery. Experience a live show in the planetarium that includes a never-before-seen Valentine’s show, a charcuterie spread, champagne, keepsake photo and rose. Tickets are $75 per couple for either of the two shows at 6:30 p.m. or 8 p.m. on Feb. 14.

Homecoming 2024 Preview: “Glitz, Glamor and Glorious Green and Gold”

Emily Mancuso
February 14, 2024
Wright Life

This year’s homecoming is a half week’s worth of events from Feb. 14 to Feb. 17 following the theme of “Roaring 20s.” From kick-off to the basketball game, students will find many ways to enjoy themselves during homecoming week.

The glitz and glamor
In a stark change from Homecoming 2023, this year’s homecoming will have a theme.

The students choose the sparkling theme of “Roaring 20s” themselves, proposing relevant themes through Instagram. The first round garnered a group of 12 themes, which was then narrowed down to five.

Potential themes included Casino, Masquerade and Candyland. The homecoming marketing committee then brainstormed taglines for each theme. After putting the themes on the ballot, 70 students participated in the voting, and the “Roaring 20s” theme was the top pick.

The homecoming committee consists of a variety of faculty and staff from across WSU, including co-chairs Director Greg Scharer of the Office of Alumni Relations and Director of the Student Union and Interim Dean Eric Corbitt. Other individuals come from alumni relations, athletics, admissions, event services, marketing and campus recreation.

The University Activities Board also contributed to the event, specifically hosting the Homecoming dance.

“I think students should attend Homecoming because it gives you something to do on the weekend,” Davette Spencer, UAB’s director of spirit and tradition, said. “I feel like we could really get stuck in our studies and not realize the fun things to do on campus.”

WSU also provided more funds for Homecoming than in years past, allowing for a wider range of events and marketing.

Senior Gary Neal sees the value in Homecoming as an event.

“I think it’d be great. I think it’s a great shift and think there’s a lot of potential for student unity and tons of fun and a great experience,” Neal said.

Courtney Laukitis, program manager for student organizations in the Office for Student Involvement and Leadership, personally hopes to see students enjoying the celebration.
“I am looking forward to everyone celebrating, and I think the university is ready for a big celebration like this. I think with the weather kind of being down in the dumps and with the little bit of sunshine recently is getting people more out of their traditional schedule and getting them out of the dorms and getting them out of their offices and just kind of celebrating everything that we’re so proud to be as a Raider,” Laukitis said.

Calendar of events

The Homecoming website describes many of the upcoming events, including spirit board decorating, various sports events, Donuts with the Deans, trivia night, free food and even painting. Students should check the website for more details concerning these events, as many have RSVP requirements.

For homecoming royalty, students can vote on the homepage of Engage from Feb. 14 to Feb. 16.

The dance itself will be on Saturday, Feb. 17, from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Student Union Apollo Room. With such a chaotic start to the 2020s, students can enjoy a change of mood with the roaring 1920s theme.

Opinion: I Like Valentine’s Day (And You Should Too)

Aaron Cline
February 14, 2024
Opinions

Valentine’s Day is a day full of the celebration of love; however, many people only see the romantic side of the holiday and tend to shame it. In reality, Valentine’s Day is a day for all of us, no matter our relationship status, and there are many reasons why you should enjoy it.

Isn’t it just a holiday to sell candy?
At this point, every holiday is secretly a candy-selling scheme. Many single people use this as an excuse to dislike Valentine’s Day, despite the fact that every major holiday has its fair share of holiday-specific candies. There is always at least one aisle in every store filled to the brim with holiday candy, no matter what month it is.

Plus, Valentine’s Day candy is some of the best candy offered throughout the year. With its heart-shaped everything and hues of pink and red, it has the best aesthetic of all holiday candies.

Besides the looks, who can say no to bite-sized chocolates?

**Why should I enjoy it if I am single?**

Love is such an important aspect of our lives, and I am not talking about just romantic love. Platonic, familial and romantic feelings are all equally important. You probably love your pet as much—or even more than—you love your friends.

Valentine’s Day and the season surrounding it is a time for people to come together and remind each other of how much they love one another. You can do this with a partner, your friends or you could even plan something with your family. At the end of the day, it is all about celebrating how much you love the company of everyone in your life.

Plus, even if you are single, I would say that is even better than being with someone. Do not get me wrong, having that special someone to spoil on Valentine’s Day is as lovely as it sounds, but being single gives you more opportunities to celebrate with everyone in your life.

Instead of a whole day dedicated to one or two people, you can spend the holiday season expressing your love to everyone around you.

**What can I do with my friends?**

There is a lot to do with your friends, from special outings to stay-in hangouts.
Within the last few years, a tradition called “Galentine’s Day” has taken a spin on the traditional Valentine’s Day traditions, in which groups of friends will get together and plan events, such as picnics, baking hangouts, sleepovers and more, all with a pink or lovey-dovey theme about them.

If you are not up for events like that, there are many restaurants and entertainment places around the Dayton area, such as The Neon movie theater.

**What can I do on campus?**

During the week of Feb. 12, Wright State University is offering a plethora of events for students to enjoy with friends that are themed around Valentine’s Day. Most of these events are on Feb. 13 and 14, but students can check Engage for official event listings.

Of course, students can also plan coffee dates at Rey Rey Cafe or Pour and outdoor hangouts all around campus.

Valentine’s Day helps us remember to think of our loved ones and how much we love them, but even after the holiday is over, you should never forget to reach out and remind those around you of how much you enjoy their company.

Enjoy Valentine’s Day with whoever you wish whenever you wish, as long as you are having fun and staying happy during this love-filled season!

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**Ohio Legislature Overrides DeWine’s Veto of HB 68, WSU Community Members Left Concerned**

Ashley Hainzer  
February 15, 2024  
News
On Jan. 24, 2024, the Ohio State legislature overrode Governor Mike DeWine’s veto of House Bill 68. This is a controversial bill that targets transgender people in the state of Ohio.

**The bill**

On Dec. 29, 2023, Governor DeWine vetoed HB 68, also known as the Saving Adolescence From Experimentation (SAFE) Act, which was originally passed in April 2023. In his statement of veto, DeWine highlighted that he believed the bill was incredibly invasive and not protective of human life.

“Were I to sign Substitute House Bill 68 or were Substitute House Bill 68 to become law, Ohio would be saying that the State, that the government, knows what is best medically for a child rather than the two people who love that child the most, the parents,” DeWine’s press release reads.

The bill mainly targets transgender individuals. According to the writers of the SAFE Act (HB 68), it was written and made to protect the fairness of sports by not allowing transgender individuals to participate in the sport according to their “preferred gender.” This means that no transgender woman would be able to participate in women’s sporting events. This subsection of the bill is called the Save Women’s Sports Act and affects high school and college athletics.

Additionally, the SAFE Act would ban gender-affirming care (or extremely limit it under certain circumstances) for any individual under the age of 18 (and potentially over 18). This includes and is not limited to any kind of gender-affirming surgeries, mental health services and sterilization.

DeWine added that while he agrees with many parts of the bill, he cannot agree with it as a whole.

“I also share with the legislature’s concerns about clinics that may pop up and try to sell patients inadequate or even ideological treatments. This is a concern shared by people I spoke with who had both positive experiences and negative experiences with their treatments,” DeWine said. “Those who had positive experiences all noted that they received significant counseling, therapy and consultation as a family
before discussing even the possibility of other treatments. Those who had negative experiences report that they did not receive adequate counseling.”

Ohio Congress overrode DeWine’s veto with a vote of 24-8. Despite this, on Jan. 5, 2024, DeWine proposed that gender-affirming care be banned for all ages and signed an executive order for an immediate ban on minors.

Many groups on campus are vehemently against the bill and are working to speak out against it.

**Campus response**

One of the groups that is strongly against the bill is the Progressive Student Coalition. They have been tabling in the Union Market for the past few weeks with Rainbow Alliance, Wright State University’s LGBTQA+ club. Both groups are entirely against HB 68.

“It is transphobic,” Daniel Wasniewski, president of PSC, said. “It infringes on rights of bodily autonomy and medical decisions.”

Dr. Emily Yantis-Houser is the faculty advisor for the Rainbow Alliance, assistant director for the LGBTQA Center and an adjunct instructor for Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies at Wright State.

“These issues are brought forth out of ignorance, not experience. If the people behind these legislative measures had been through this experience with their family members and/or children, they would not push the way they do. This is an issue of life or death for young people, our children, but there are also many stereotypes and misconceptions about what gender-affirming care looks like,” Yantis-Houser said. “Gender-affirming care is mental health care and basic medical care. It’s not just about surgeries and hormones.”

This bill will directly affect many students. This could make healthcare harder for these students to access, but many organizations are working to protect these individuals.

**Taking action**
The LBGTQA Center partnered with Equality Ohio to provide more information on this issue. Their website has several different helpful articles that can help interested parties remain informed. They also support organizations, such as Equitas Health, a health clinic that not only offers gender-affirming care but also offers several low-cost health options. Due to its nature, this clinic is in danger because of the bill.

“For the record, this is not about a bill anymore, or voters. This is an intentional executive order,” Yantis-Houser said.

Others, including Wasniewski and PSC Vice President Nathaniel Mahaney, have chosen to think more about the judiciary consequences.

“It’s all a waiting game,” Mahaney said. “There isn’t really anything we can do at this point.”

The PSC and Rainbow Alliance were tabling and getting signatures to try and reach the Feb. 5 public comments deadline.

“While politically there isn’t much we can do about the bill now, they are going to have several hearings and litigations to test the constitutionality of the bill,” Wasniewski explained.

**ACLU lawsuit**

Both the PSC and the LBGTQA Center support the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio (ACLU). It is an organization that is fighting to protect the rights of all Ohioans. They have won several awards regarding activism and social justice and are regarded as a trusted source concerning gender-affirming care.

Following the immediate ban of gender-affirming care for minors and a proposal for adults, the ACLU announced that they would be filing a lawsuit regarding the constitutionality of the bill. They claim that it is unjust and unconstitutional for these rights to be taken away.
While there is not much more information on the lawsuit at the moment, the group promises that it will be finished and in process before the bill officially takes effect on April 23, 2024.

**Additional information and links**

For more information about HB 86, visit the Ohio State Legislature [website](#). For DeWine’s new proposal, visit the governor’s [website](#).

If students would like to read about the preparation lawsuit by the ACLU, they can do so on the ACLU’s [website](#).

The LGBTQA Center is always there for any student who needs it. Their email is [lgbtqa@wright.edu](mailto:lgbtqa@wright.edu).

Fighting for the rights of all Ohioans is an important responsibility on the shoulders of students and non-students alike. Staying informed is even more important; students are encouraged to learn more about the bill as it progresses.

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**A Taste of Japan: Students Experience Traditional Tea Ceremony in UCIE**

Emily Mancuso  
February 15, 2024  
Wright Life

On Feb. 2, tea ceremony performer Kazumi Kawai presented a traditional Japanese ceremonial preparation and presentation of matcha (powdered green tea) to a packed house in the University Center for International Education.

**History of thousands of years**

(o)temae (お）手前), also known as the “Way of Tea,” is the manner in which the tea ceremony is performed.
“[The tea ceremony is a] time-honored institution in Japan, rooted in the principles of Zen Buddhism and founded upon the reverence of the beautiful in the daily routine of life. It is an aesthetic way of welcoming guests, in which everything is done according to an established order,” the Britannica page about the ceremony reads.

Japanese Professor Tomoko Tsuzuki-Deboer presented information about the history and significance of the ceremony, including the history of Sen no Rikyū, a tea ceremony master who raised the tea ceremony to the level of art.

“The tea ceremony was mostly by his creation and development. After Sen no Rikyū, he extended the joy of the tea ceremony to the ordinary people,” Tsuzuki-Deboer said. “The tea ceremony continues to live on and continues to reflect the lifestyle of the age.”

However, Japan first imported brewed tea from China in the 9th century, which allowed for the development of the tea ceremony in the 15th century.

Overall, the four most important elements of the tea ceremony developed (Wakei Seijaku): Harmony, Respect, Purity and Tranquility.

The ceremony

Kawai performed the brief Ryu-rei style of tea ceremony to students, but tea ceremonies in Japan can last as long as all day. According to Kawai, the training for doing such ceremonies takes at least 10 years before students are ready to perform.

Kawai performed the brief ceremony twice, once for each pair of volunteers. Kawai faced the audience in a sitting position behind a chaban (tea table) on which Kawai prepared the tea. The guests sat perpendicular to the audience off to the left side of the room between Kawai and the audience.

A ceremony begins with the cleansing and setting of utensils, matcha teaware and bowl before the guests; it is important for this to be done in an aesthetically pleasing manner.

After, the host may begin the preparation of matcha. Kawai added hot water and matcha into the bowl, whisking it together into a thin paste.
Kawai then informed the guests that they may eat their sweet red bean dessert before drinking the tea.

The bowl was then presented to the pair of volunteers. Professor Tsuzuki-Deboer informed the volunteers of the etiquette required: the rotation, admiration, drinking and cleaning of the bowls in which the tea was presented.

Kawai then cleansed the bowls and reset the tea, signaling the ceremony was complete.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Kawai and Professor Tsuzuki-Deboer opened the floor for questions from the audience.

**Students’ perspectives**

Student Caleb Fasnacht attended because of a personal interest in tea but appreciated the cultural aspects of the ceremony as well.

“It was great. It was so much fun to see everything and try to analyze why things are happening,” Fasnach said.

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**BREAKING: Wright State to Deactivate and Suspend Admissions for 34 Curricular Programs**

Alexis Lewis  
February 15, 2024  
Wright Life

According to a university-wide communication, Wright State University will deactivate and immediately suspend admissions for 34 curricular programs, including Art History, German and Urban Affairs.
The Academic Efficiency and Effectiveness Review Committee spearheaded the initiative to investigate and review the effectiveness of different academic programs on campus.

“While this decision was not taken lightly, it is necessary to ensure the long-term success and sustainability of the University,” the email reads.

Students currently enrolled in these programs can still complete their degree. Students should receive individualized plans for completing their degree.

“Programmatic plans and procedures for the academic programs identified for enhancement, maintenance and improvement by the Academic Efficiency and Effectiveness Executive Committee will be provided before the end of the semester,” Dr. Amy Thompson, university provost, said in the email.

For a list of all the areas of study that are impacted by these changes, visit the Academic Efficiency and Effectiveness website.

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**Women in the Workplace Event Sheds Light on Disparities in Employment**

Jahid Hasan  
February 16, 2024  
News  
Wright Life

A women’s discussion panel at Rey Rey Cafe on Feb. 7 opened students’ eyes to how women are treated in the workplace, as well as how women can take control of their lives and thrive in their respective jobs.

**Introduction**

Over the past century, there has been a great deal of societal and economic interest in the issue of women’s employment participation. Even though gender equality in the workplace has come a long way, women still face many obstacles to full representation and career advancement in a variety of sectors and professions.
Women face many problems in the workplace, such as the gender pay gap, sexual harassment, imposter syndrome and more. According to Female Strong, 43% of women in the U.S. earn less than a man doing the same job.

**Challenges**

In spite of advancements, women continue to encounter numerous obstacles at work. Disparities in hiring, promotion and pay are caused by the persistence of gender discrimination, bias and stereotypes. The issue of women facing obstacles in their pursuit of senior leadership roles, commonly referred to as the “glass ceiling,” continues to be widespread.

Furthermore, women frequently shoulder a disproportionate share of caregiving duties, which can impede their ability to advance in their careers. These difficulties are exacerbated by intersectional factors, such as socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity and sexual orientation, which lead to differences in the employment of women.

**ISSCM Club women’s panel**

The Information Systems Supply Chain Management Club organized a women’s panel discussion called “Women in the Workplace” at Rey Rey Cafe on Feb. 7. Deb Kopecky, senior vice president of programs at AEVEX Aerospace Global, and Katie Link, commodity manager at Crown Equipment Corporation, were two speakers of the program.

They discussed the challenges women face in the workplace and how we can overcome this problem and make a comfortable environment for everyone.

“I was the only female in a lot of places, but I didn’t care about that because I knew that I was going to show the world that I can be anything,” Kopecky said.

Dr. Wakiuru Wamwara, professor and inclusion officer of the Raj Soin College of Business, and Miya Crawford, a supply chain management student, were the moderators of the program.
“I was the only girl in the class when I started my study here at Wright State University in supply chain and management, and it was definitely not a good vibe to be the only girl in the class,” Crawford said.

One of the biggest challenges women face in the workplace is biases.

“You can face biases anywhere you work. It could be an auto parts store or Home Depot, everywhere people will think you know less than the men,” Kopecky said.

According to Pew Research Center, about four in 10 women in the United States say they have faced discrimination in the workplace because of their gender.

Link shared her journey on finding confidence in the workplace.

“When I started at Crown, I was an introvert, but I am not bad as a team player. I created a development plan and took public speaking classes, which helped me a lot to build confidence. Another thing that helped me in the journey is my mentor,” Link said.

Confidence and resilience

The speakers also shared some key factors that help empower women to work anywhere and overcome challenges. These include confidence, competence, resilience and mentorship.

“I came from an extremely poor family and male chauvinist parents. I used to live with that, so I can show them I will do something big with my life,” Kopecky said.

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News Roundup: Week of Feb. 12

Alexis Lewis  
February 19, 2024  
News

From local happenings to national topics and global events, here is the news worth knowing from the week of Feb. 12, 2024.
Local

Wright State University suspends admissions for 34 programs

On Thursday, Feb. 15, Wright State University Provost Dr. Amy Thompson announced that the university will deactivate and immediately suspend admissions to 34 curricular programs.

The Academic Efficiency and Effectiveness Review Committee completed the review of academic programs with faculty, staff and administrators providing feedback during the process, according to a university-wide communication.

Students currently enrolled in the deactivated programs can finish their degree with individualized action plans that the university will send out.

For more information about the impacted programs, visit the committee’s webpage.

National

Kansas City Super Bowl parade shooting

On Wednesday, Feb. 14, one woman was killed and 22 others were injured in a shooting at the Kansas City Chiefs Super Bowl Parade at Union Station in Missouri, according to the Associated Press. On Friday, Feb. 16, two juveniles were charged with crimes connected to the mass shooting.

2 officers, 1 first responder shot and killed in Minnesota

On Sunday, Feb. 18, a man armed with guns and ammunition shot and killed
two police officers and one first responder in Minneapolis, Minnesota, according to the Associated Press. The man barricaded himself and his family, including seven children, inside his home.

The investigation is ongoing.

**Global**

**Israel strikes Rafah, at least 67 Palestinians killed**

Overnight into Monday, Jan. 12, Israeli strikes hit Rafah, a Palestinian city in the southern Gaza Strip, according to the Associated Press. The strikes hit Kuwait Hospital, which is in a city of over 1.4 million Palestinians who have fled other areas impacted by the Israel-Hamas war.

The strike killed at least 67 Palestinians.

**Greece legalizes same-sex marriage**

On Friday, Feb. 16, Greece legalized same-sex marriage under civil law, according to the Associated Press. This is the first majority-Orthodox Christian nation to do so.

“Eastern Orthodox leadership, despite lacking a single doctrinal authority like a pope, has been united in opposing recognition of same-sex relationships both within its own rites and in the civil realm,” the release reads.

**Events on Campus Week of Feb. 19**

Aaron Cline
February 19, 2024
Wright Life

Wrap up Black History Month with many events from Black student-led clubs this week at Wright State University.
Monday, Feb. 19

5 p.m. | Public Football Lifts | Student Union Gym

5 p.m. | Game Nights | Medical Sciences 141

7 p.m. | Jeopardy Night | Rike Hall 160

Tuesday, Feb. 20

12 p.m. | Mid Semester La Comida | Student Union 019

3:30 p.m. | Legend of Legacy: Honoring Black Excellence & Movements | Student Union 019

4 p.m. | Paws and Poses: Fuzz Therapy + Yoga | Student Union Gym

7 p.m. | Cuffin Session: Sex Lies and Soul Ties | Oelman 109

Wednesday, Feb. 21

4 p.m. | Brownie in a Jar | Rike Hall 158

7 p.m. | Women’s Basketball vs. Robert Morris | Nutter Center

7 p.m. | Black Presidents Council Basketball Tournament | McLin Gym

8 p.m. | Let’s Talk Cryptids | Medical Sciences 125

Thursday, Feb. 22

12 p.m. | Meet the Black Student Union | Medical Sciences 143

4 p.m. | Workshop with Excel | Millett Hall 043 (PC)
7 p.m. | Vagina Monologues (Performance) | Student Union 019

**Friday, Feb. 23**

9:30 a.m. | VMC Veteran Ally Training | Veteran Military Center, Allyn Hall

12:10 p.m. | Zumba w/ Sowjanya | Student Union – Studio C

6 p.m. | Heritage Ball | Apollo Room (A/B/C)

**Saturday, Feb. 24**

9 a.m. | Latina Wellness Clinic – Volunteer Opportunity | Basement of Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 22 Notre Dame Avenue, Dayton OH

**Sunday, Feb. 25**

5 p.m. | Soul Food Sunday | Honors Plaza

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**SGA: Pickleball Courts and Student Legal Services**

Britin Frazey  
February 19, 2024  
News

The Student Government Association held its weekly meeting on Feb. 13. They voted on their first resolution of the semester and listened to a presentation from Student Legal Services.

**Pickleball resolution**
Raj Soin College of Business Senator Logan Smith sponsored a resolution he pitched at last week’s meeting. The senate voted on this resolution, which concerns adding pickleball courts to the residential areas on campus.

It passed unanimously, meaning that students can expect to see the beginning steps toward some of the basketball courts being turned into pickleball courts. Smith explained in the previous meeting that this will not be very costly, but a clear timeline has not yet been provided.

**Student Legal Services**

Stephanie Allen, managing attorney for Wright State’s Student Legal Services, joined SGA to discuss what SLS can offer. Allen explained that SLS is a non-profit law firm and discussed what it provides for students.

“Anybody that’s paid that $16 fee is allowed to use the services. If the student waives the fee, they’re not allowed to use the services that semester. About 85% of the Wright State student body opts into that optional fee,” Allen said.

This semesterly fee covers just about any legal service the student could need.

“[We] do a lot of landlord-tenant issues, criminal and traffic law, wills, estate planning, family law [and] civil law, which just means we’ll send people on your behalf or will represent you if you’re being sued, and we’re all notaries, so you can come to our office if you need a notary,” Allen stated.

More information regarding SLS is on the department’s [website](#).

**Rowdy Bobblehead Award**

The Rowdy Bobblehead Award is passed at every meeting between SGA members. The current holder will give it to someone that they are grateful for or proud of.

This week, Smith passed the Rowdy Bobblehead Award to Cade Mason, College of Engineering and Computer Science senator.
Smith explained that he was grateful for Mason because he had made him feel welcomed and excited to participate in SGA again.

SGA will meet again on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 8 p.m. in the Student Union Atlantis A/B room.

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**Year of the Dragon Lunar New Year Celebration: Performances, Food and Culture**

*Emily Mancuso  
February 20, 2024  
Wright Life*

On Monday, Feb. 12, Lunar New Year celebrations commenced in the Student Union Atrium for the Year of the Dragon, complete with drums, fanmaking, dumplings and more.

**Lunar New Year here and abroad**

In Asia and throughout the world, nearly two billion people celebrate the Lunar New Year. These countries include (but are not limited to) Vietnam, China, Singapore, Tibet and Japan.

The Asian Student Association, University Center for International Education and Korean Club prepared this particular event. Planning ramped up this January, but the groups have planned the event since last year.

“So [ASA] did a lot of the planning. We gathered a bunch of people together to collaborate on this event, such as the drummers, and we brought in the Korean Club as well. We also organized the people working here and the general decoration,” Ayumi Enorme, president of ASA, said.

Lunar New Year celebrations typically last up to 15 days, with celebratory activities including cleaning the home, gifting red envelopes and eating traditional foods.
Official dates vary by culture, but many utilize the holiday to reunite with family and friends to eat and partake in activities.

Director of the Asian and Native American Center Dr. Nicolyn Woodcock clarified that Lunar New Year is often referred to as the Chinese New Year, but this is actually inaccurate. Referring to the celebrations as the Lunar New Year is much more inclusive of all the other countries and ethnicities that celebrate in different ways.

Woodcock reflected on personal experiences with the Lunar New Year.

“I myself celebrated the Lunar New Year for the very first time when I was in college,” Woodcock said. “I didn’t have a lot of friends who were from other Asian ethnicities, and it was when I went to college that I first really learned about the Lunar New Year.”

**Enjoying the show**

One of the traditional foods eaten is pork and vegetable dumplings, which Wright State’s food service, Quest, provided, along with lo mein. The WSU community settled down with their food to make crafts and listen to the beats of both groups of cultural performers.

Last year’s celebrations did not include any performers.

Before, during or after the shows, students could peruse tables to do button-making or color a Sam Taegeuk fan with Korean Club, talk about study abroad with UCIE, visit ASA or have their Chinese fortune told.

On the stage, the Ohio Samulnori group performed first. Samulnori is a Korean genre of percussion music. It is performed with four traditional Korean instruments based on a principle fluctuation between tension and relaxation as the performers seek to achieve the perfect integration of the four instruments.

Anyone may join the group but must have extensive experience in the aforementioned instruments. The group has decades of experience. Together, they perform at local universities and community events.
“We want to show at the university for the younger generation. Our culture is totally different for younger generations,” Teresa Shim, a member of the group, said.

The second group to perform was RMD Ohio, which is the Ohio branch of Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko, a creative Eisa group founded in 1982 in Okinawa, Japan. The group has approximately 2,500 members across 45 branches.

RMD performed a combination of folk dance and drumming in their performance.

The group is currently recruiting; readers can reach out to the group through their Instagram. There is no experience necessary.

Celebrating events such as Lunar New Year allows WSU to provide an open, welcoming environment to students of all backgrounds. For those curious about upcoming events similar to this, Engage lists many events from ASA, Korean Club and other culture-based organizations.

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Residential Student Opinions on Housing

Britin Frazey  
February 20, 2024  
News

Wright State University is known for providing nice and affordable on-campus housing, but recently, housing has been the location of campus crime and student unease; despite these factors, students expressed relatively positive opinions about housing.

Housing incidents

It is no secret that on-campus housing often faces problems. Whether it is something small, such as heating being out, or something larger, like the Jacob Hall fire or stolen vehicles, safety events have been more frequent this academic year.

Salliea Holland, residential senator in the Student Government Association, explained her experiences.
“During my time as residential senator, I’ve mainly heard about things that are going on on campus, like events, activities during the weekend and dining services,” Holland said.

Holland is a third-year student at WSU who has lived in Hamilton Hall and University Park and currently resides in College Park. She explained that she has had a pleasant experience with no major issues.

**Student opinions**

Kayla Bush, a second-year elementary education major at Wright State, commuted last year and now lives in the University Park community. She has many concerns about the lack of parking space in her community.

“It’s inconvenient and scary at night,” Bush said. “I feel as though bad things can happen given there are no other precautions besides blue buttons and phones, but I do feel decently safe.”

Grace Moore, a criminal justice major who is in her third year and has lived on campus all three years, said that she has not had any negative experiences apart from some roommate complications.

“I like living on campus,” Moore stated. “I recommend living on campus, as [the apartments] seem to be much cheaper than the surrounding apartments off campus. Here, you don’t have to worry about electric or water bills, it’s all covered.”

Moore also described all of her favorite features about her current community, saying how much she enjoys having a kitchen, dishwasher, washer and dryer in her apartment.

**Takeaways**

Several students described that maintenance was usually very quick to respond, and when they were not quick, it was usually on a weekend.
Although campus housing has faced some problems in the past, it is clear that a lot of students have had an overall positive experience living at Wright State. For more information about safety concerns of on-campus housing, visit this previous Guardian story.

### Service Dogs and the Importance of Puppy Love

Aaron Cline  
February 21, 2024  
Wright Life

Feb. 12 and 13 featured kisses and attention from the Raider Pups dogs at their yearly puppy kissing booth, bringing attention to what exactly Raider Pups does as well as their partner organization, 4 Paws for Ability.

**Kissing booth**

The kissing booth was in the Elizabeth Dixon Hearth Lounge, where students eating at the Student Union Market can often hear piano being played. Both days held the booth from 12 to 3 p.m. and featured off-duty service dogs owned or cared for by Raider Pups members.

The booth itself was covered in an array of pink and heart-themed decorations to encourage students to come, but the main attractions were the dogs themselves.

Students had a lovely time both days giving pets and attention to service animals taking a well-deserved break.

Next to the booth was a table featuring an explanation of Raider Pups as well as 4 Paws for Ability, an off-campus organization that Raider Pups works closely with.

### Raider Pups and 4 Paws for Ability
Raider Pups is an on-campus club focused on giving service animals to students and others in need, as well as training these pups to become service animals in the future. The club also fundraises for children unable to afford a service dog of their own.

Austin Wolfe, treasurer of Raider Pups and accounting major, expresses a deep passion for the club and the people involved in it.

“Knowing that our hard work in training these dogs could help save someone’s life one day is as rewarding as you can get,” Wolfe said.

Raider Pups works in association with 4 Paws for Ability, an organization that works to breed, raise and train service dogs for children and veterans with disabilities. 4 Paws offers volunteer training to members of Raider Pups as well.

“4 Paws for Ability places over 120 service dogs annually, all trained with specific tasks and skills to mitigate the impacts of their partner’s disabilities,” the 4 Paws website reads.

4 Paws is located in Xenia, Ohio and offers a variety of opportunities for those who wish to help out where they can.

**How to get involved**

There are many ways to get involved with 4 Paws thanks to their volunteer opportunities. Students can choose to be a primary handler, secondary handler or an on-site volunteer.

Primary handlers keep their assigned dog with them at all hours of the day, but in the situation in which they cannot bring the dog to certain events, such as class, there are secondary handlers who briefly care for them until they can be given back to their primary handler.

There are options for those who can not care for a service pet full-time.

“4 Paws has on-site volunteers who assist with bathing, feeding, cleaning and playing with the dogs in the kennels at [Xenia],” Wolfe said.
While the process to become registered as a volunteer may take some time, it is absolutely worth it. Working with 4 Paws gives students an opportunity to interact with dogs and help them as they work towards becoming the best service animals they can be.

To volunteer for 4 Paws, visit their website.

For those looking for on-campus options, Raider Pups is an active, engaging club that offers plenty of opportunities for students to interact with the pets and maybe even get a service animal of their own.

Nova Heil, an elementary education major, joined the club last semester, looking for an involved but non-stressful club to be in. Heil recommended joining Raider Pups.

“It’s really a set-your-own-pace kind of club. All of our events are ‘come if you can,’ and even within the club, you can choose to be a passive member or pursue a volunteer membership through [4 Paws] and be more active,” Heil said.

Raider Pups is available on Engage; students are also encouraged to reach out to a member of the club if they would like to know more.

Both clubs offer volunteer opportunities as well as bonding experiences with both dogs and fellow humans. Service animals are important to many people, but they are quite expensive. Volunteering to help raise and train these dogs lifts a burden off of many peoples’ shoulders.

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**Sigma Gamma Rho Poodles Raise Money for Charter Week and Conference with Bake Sale**

Julia Kirk  
February 21, 2024  
Wright Life
With midterms coming up and the stress of school weighing everyone down, there are always some bright spots around campus to lift your mood, like the Sigma Gamma Rho bake sale on Thursday, Feb. 8.

**Prepping for the sale**

Sigma Gamma Rho member Crisdana Randall said the idea for a bake sale versus other methods was quite easy to come up with.

“Everyone loves bake sales,” Randall said.

The bake sale was a fun way for the whole sorority to get together and make the treats as a community and was also a good way to draw people in who might not have heard about it ahead of time.

Setting up an event like this is quite easy to do. Randall went on to Engage and was able to book the table outside the Hangar in Allyn Hall—a great place to set up. Students are constantly in and out of Allyn Hall going to class and getting food. The crowds were sure to bring in lots of business.

The event on Engage and the CORQ app had an unusual time slot. Instead of having their sale right on the hour, the sorority’s time slot was from 12:22 to 2:22 p.m. Randall explained this meaningful choice.

“The Sigma Gamma Rho sorority was founded in 1922, so whenever we need to come up with a meeting time, we try to incorporate the number 22 in it,” Randall informed.

**Running the bake sale**

The bake sale was set up very simply. The group had a table with all their baked goods and had different members of the sorority running the booth throughout their set time. They also had pictures and papers on the table that explained their sorority and the cause for their bake sale.
Students do not always know when there are going to be events on campus due to their own hectic schedules. This is why having a table set up outside the Hangar was so beneficial in bringing in business. Even if people did not know about the sale ahead of time or did not know what the money was going towards, the table of home-baked goods drew in customers.

“It’s easier to find events on campus when they’re set up in the open like this,” one student said.

Although the student did not know what the event was for upon first glance at the Poodle’s booth, the sorority informed customers upon purchase.

**Raising money for the sorority**

Every fundraiser has a cause, and the bake sale was no different. Sigma Gamma Rho is a large sorority that has many groups across the country. According to the official Sigma Gamma Rho website, their sorority aims to “make society better through sisterhood and empowerment.”

The cause of the Poodle’s bake sale was to raise money for their conference. Every so often, all of the different Sigma Gamma Rho sororities from across the country will all get together in one location. This year, the sorority will be going to Houston, Texas in July.

In addition to the conference, their sorority also needed to raise money for their Charter Week. Charter Week is one week of the year where the sorority puts on different events for the community. Sigma Gamma Rho’s Charter Week was Feb. 11 through Feb. 16, and it included community service, arts and crafts, a rock your body dance, makeup classes and karaoke.

The bake sale was a great way for the members of the sorority to spend quality time together while finding a way to raise the money necessary for their needs as they continue to move through the year. Be sure to look out for any future events the Sigma Gamma Rho Poodles might put on through Engage.
RASE Program Offers Transitional Help for Students with ASD

Kevin Davis
February 21, 2024
Wright Life

The Wright State University Office of Disability Services offers a program called Raiders on the Autism Spectrum Excelling, specially designed for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

About RASE

Heather Rando, the director of Disability Services, created the RASE program to help incoming students with autism who plan on coming to Wright State University.

“I created the RASE program in 2012 to address a need for transition support for students on the Autism spectrum moving from high school to college,” Rando said.

RASE is designed to help students make their transition from high school to college life easier. The program also offers opportunities to socialize with other like-minded peers and RASE coaches. Jamison Shuey and Simon Martin, current RASE students, both started in the fall 2021 semester.

“RASE is for someone who is on the Autism spectrum who are looking for new friends and do all kinds of activities including cards, rock climbing,” Shuey said.

Martin agrees.

 “[The] RASE program is hosted by ODS where we get together a couple of times a week. Whether it’s physical, mental and/or rarely off-campus, we can go out and enjoy ourselves,” Martin said.

In addition to social opportunities, the RASE program also helps students with study sessions that are set up a couple of days a week to help students be productive while meeting new people.
**RASE coaches**

The RASE program is also an opportunity for students without ASD to become peer coaches. To be a RASE coach, students must meet a set of criteria.

“[RASE coaches are] junior, senior or graduate students with good communication, time management, social and advocacy skills,” Rando said.

There are many benefits to being a RASE coach.

“You learn from the different perspectives and experiences while working with the students,” Sophie Dang, a former RASE coach who worked with RASE students for three years, said.

Working with RASE students can be a great opportunity to not only create friendships with them but also meet other RASE coaches.

**Student suggestions to further improve the program**

While RASE has been successful in improving students’ lives, some challenges need to be addressed. The first is to implement better forms of communication. Jameson suggests using emails instead of Pilot as a main form of communication.

He also points out that putting event reminders on the RASE Pilot page may not be the best solution to get participation from RASE students because they are solely focused on academics. This leads to another problem, which is getting more people in the RASE program to participate in activities.

A reason that this could be the case is that there are not many engaging activities to get RASE students interested in attending. Some may prefer being in a fun environment without worrying about noise levels, while others prefer to do things that keep them moving.

“Adding more activities outside of campus that are local and nearby, which requires more methods of transportation, [would help],” Martin suggested.
Takeaways

While the RASE program has its own benefits and struggles, the program helps students with ASD coming and/or transferring to Wright State University make their college life much easier.

“If you want to make new friends, come to different activities RASE is hosting, have a mode of transportation available if RASE is hosting any off-campus activities,” Jameson said.

Dang encourages students to be a RASE coach.

“Oh,” Dang said. “You learn a lot and you meet some great people that may become your friends. Another word of advice is that when something doesn’t turn out the way you thought it was going to, know that you’ve tried your best.”

Those who are interested in joining the RASE program or want to become a RASE coach can reach out to ODS for more information or visit the ODS page on Wright State’s website.

Letter from the Editor: Student Press Freedom Day 2024

Alexis Lewis
February 22, 2024
Op-Eds
Wright Life

This Student Press Freedom Day, we celebrate the tenacity and persistence of student journalists. The theme of “Powerfully Persistent” is a guiding tenet for journalists across the country and at all levels, particularly in local media sectors and at college universities. Here at the Wright State Guardian, we pride ourselves on telling important stories from unique perspectives. This academic year in particular has provided many challenges and important stories for us to cover: the Jacob Hall fire, the Hangar incident, the Walmart shooting, the Cedar Hall shooting incident and much more.
In our work at the Guardian, we must ask hard questions and commit to due diligence to tell the whole story regardless of who it might upset. We have had to push through boundaries and walls that are placed in our way in order to simply ask those questions. The Student Press Law Center has proven an invaluable asset to us by guiding and informing us about our rights as student journalists. Even when our First Amendment rights are infringed, we remain steadfast in our commitment to the pillars of professional journalism.

Powerful persistence is at the core of what we do. Even in the day-to-day workings of the Guardian, we must remain persevering and determined. As students, we also must deal with the same stressors other people face: school, other jobs, family life and mental health. Our creators take time out of their day to inform the community about important campus happenings.

We must continue to look toward the future of journalism with hope and determination. Despite the many challenges and setbacks journalists endure on a daily basis, we are built by the support of our community and by our principles of truth and service. Our line of work is one that sometimes goes unnoticed, but we are never doing the job for page views or for clicks. We do the job to bring light to often hidden or silenced voices. We do the job to inform and serve the Wright State community.

While some might see Student Press Freedom Day as just another day of the year, we see it as an opportunity to call out injustice and continue to fight for freedom of speech and freedom of the press. As we look forward to the rest of the academic year, our team is full of hope. Hope for more access to information. Hope for more supporters who believe in the same ideals as us. Hope for a better future for journalists in this country and in the world.

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**Three NPHC Plots Vandalized**

Alexis Lewis
February 22, 2024
News

Three National Pan-Hellenic Council plots on the Dayton campus of Wright State University were vandalized last week. The Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., Alpha Phi
Alpha Fraternity Inc. and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. markers are the impacted plots.

**About NPHC**

NPHC is a coalition of nine historically African American, Greek-letter fraternities and sororities that was organized in May 1930 at Howard University. Traditions of Black, Greek-letter organizations can be traced back to days of slavery, according to Gabrielle Brown, president of the Epsilon Chi chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

The nine organizations, also called the Divine Nine, are Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. (the first historically Black fraternity), Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. (the first historically Black sorority), Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. and Iota Phi Theta Fraternity Inc.

NPHC currently represents over 1.5 million members internationally.

“The collective social and economic power of the NPHC has been a significant source of change for the African American community in America since its inception,” the NPHC website reads.

At Wright State University, there are nine plots that symbolically and physically represent each of the organizations between University Hall and the Mathematical and Microbiological Sciences buildings near the BART sculpture.

According to Brown, the space is dedicated to the students and alumni members of the NPHC, symbolizing the positive impact that the organizations have on the community.

Each plot has a shield, the name of the organization, the members that chartered the organization, the charter date and the name of the chapter on campus. The benches are designated for the NPHC members to sit and/or take photos with their respective organizations.
“The plots are NPHC’s space to honor those who have come before us and celebrate how far we have come as organizations,” Brown said. “It is a very sacred space just for NPHC members.”

Brown explained that it is seen as a sign of disrespect to sit at the plots if you are not a member of the organizations, but NPHC welcomes the community to go in the plots and look at the information about the groups.

**Student reaction to the vandalism**

Treyah Gray, the NPHC president and chapter president of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc., and Brown said that some sorority sisters noticed that three signs were written on after Wednesday, Feb. 14.

“We often get disrespected at the plots, this isn’t the first time that something like this has occurred,” Gray said.

Brown explained that people who are not NPHC members will sit at the plots sometimes.

“Oftentimes, people will sit in the plots, but there is a sign located near the plots that states all are welcome in; however, seating is prohibited to anyone who is not a member,” Brown said. “We just ask that the public follows the requests of that sign.”

Members of NPHC were very hurt by this act.

“Those plots are a safe and sacred space for us, and they are a representation of our enriched history, and the space needs to be respected by the campus community,” Gray said.

Gray explained that the plots also serve as a memorial for members of the NPHC chapters who have passed away.

Gray notes that there is surveillance on the plots.
“We do want to mention that we do have 24-hour surveillance on the area at all times from two angles, from two different cameras. We will be working with campus police to identify who committed this crime,” Gray said.

Gray and Brown would like a formal statement from Wright State University about the incident.

Brown emphasized that NPHC holds value for the campus through their philanthropic endeavors and events. NPHC tries to be inclusive of everyone, so Brown was very shocked at the vandalism.

“We look forward to working with the university to educate students on what NPHC is, what the plots are and how the integrity of the plots can be maintained and respected,” Brown said. “We look forward to working with admissions to include the plots in the tours so that incoming students and/or visitors can be educated about the plots as well.”

University response

Eric Corbitt, interim dean of students, explained that on Feb. 21, Wright State Police responded to the site. The three vandalized signs were removed.

Corbitt provided a comment about the incident.

“The plot area contains significant historical and cultural value to the campus and our community. I think the university has worked very hard and very closely with students over the last few years to listen to concerns and address those concerns,” Corbitt said. “I feel we have come a long way in relationships, and I don’t think we should let one person or one incident stop our progress or our movement forward.”

On Friday, Feb. 23, the Wright State Department of Public Safety released images of the damage and photos from nearby security cameras of an unknown individual interacting with the plots.

The Wright State Police phone number is 937-775-2111. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through the University’s EthicsPoint website.
“We are extremely disappointed that someone defaced a space that holds great significance and is meant to be a source of celebration, education, and direction for visitors, students, employees, and alumni alike. That’s why we are asking for everyone’s help,” WSU Chief of Police Kurt Holden said in a university-wide email.

More information to come as it is available.

No More Waitlist: New CWS Director Dispels Misconceptions, Recruits New Staff

Emily Mancuso  
February 23, 2024  
Wright Life

As of October 2023, new Counseling and Wellness Services Director Dr. Barb Marsh has taken the reins in revamping CWS and intensifying current mental wellness efforts with new staff and transparency.

A new philosophy

Marsh possesses experience in behavioral health care, working in the field for 25 years. Originally with Youth and Family Services, community mental health agencies and substance abuse disorder agencies, Marsh applied for the director position because of a desire to work in higher education.

“I really love working with students, and I thought it would be a great opportunity, and I really love the idea of working within the higher education area,” Marsh said.

As CWS Director, Marsh’s responsibilities involve overseeing all of the counseling services at Wright State University, including prevention and outreach efforts across the campus.

Intensified prevention efforts include increasing peer mentor training, increasing awareness of CWS and reducing the stigma of mental wellness. This is in
combination with University President Dr. Sue Edwards’ new policy of mandating that all staff and faculty be trained in mental health first aid.

**Counseling and Wellness services and misconceptions**

Marsh clarifies that there are few current misconceptions about CWS operations.

One is the perception that CWS has a waitlist. There is currently no waitlist for appointments. By scheduling over the phone, walking in or checking online, students may be seated for their first appointment in as little as a few days. This accessibility has especially ramped up in the last month and a half.

The second is the perception that CWS limits the amount of individual therapy sessions that a student can partake in. Marsh states while CWS focuses on the Brief Therapy Model, which traditionally utilizes a maximum of six sessions, students may take part in more sessions if they wish.

**Counseling and Wellness Services** currently offer a myriad of options for counseling and therapy.

“We offer a warm, relaxed and confidential place to talk things out. You may find that there are no simple answers to your problems; however, talking to a therapist can result in finding new ways to look at problems as well as identifying suggestions and possible solutions,” the CWS website reads. “Often, just talking with someone who asks the right questions is all that is necessary to relieve stress and find answers.”

Services include individual, couple and group therapy, as well as psychological assessments.

Issues worked through in therapy may include family conflict, sexual abuse, eating disorders, career indecision, time management, depression and more.

Students may submit a preference to race and/or gender when assigned to a counselor.

An initial intake appointment determines reasons for seeking counseling and the development of a treatment plan.
Expanding staff and care

“I think there’s really a lot of opportunity to be able to expand our service delivery. We are now trying to do what we can to integrate care,” Marsh said. “We’re also looking at expanding our assessment services, our psychological assessment services, in the future.”

CWS is well-prepared in taking on seven new full-time staff and 12 student trainees from master’s all the way to Ph.D. students. Full-time staff are licensed psychologists and/or counselors. All of these staff members were recently hired, providing a brand new slate for CWS.

Therapists-in-training are required to record their sessions with students only for the purpose of assisting in their training under the guidance of a licensed psychologist or counselor.

“Our guiding philosophy is really putting our students first and making sure that we are meeting the needs for students, making sure we have accessibility for students and making sure that students are involved in the decision-making,” Marsh said.

Marsh encourages students to call or email CWS with feedback on services. Additionally, CWS welcomes students currently in or out of crisis to use its services.

Wright State Majors Ranked High in National Publications

Ashley Hainzer
February 23, 2024
Wright Life

Two national publications ranked Wright State University programs highly, including the entrepreneurship and human factors engineering master’s programs, awarding the university for the effort it has put into its graduate opportunities.

The awards
The Raj Soin College of Business offers the entrepreneurship master’s degree. The Princeton Review ranked this program 43rd out of 50 of the 300 schools in the country that offer the program. Out of the colleges in the midwest, it placed 8th.

Students who are in this program claim that it is a gratifying experience and a worthwhile program to be involved in.

“I am learning a lot,” Abhishek Abhishek, a student in the program, said. “I have been pleased with the results of the program. I really think it’s a solid program for me.”

The U.S. News & World Report ranked the WSU human factors engineering master’s, which is an online option from the College of Engineering and Computer Science, 37th out of the 108 programs around the nation.

Students in the College of Engineering and Computer Science say that the program is a rewarding one to be a part of.

“I like the faculty [in the college],” Chris Nodel, a computer science major, explained. “They know what they are doing, and they are helpful when you ask for it.”

**Academic excellence**

Dr. Shu Schiller is the interim dean of the College of Graduate Programs and Honors Studies at Wright State. She and her team have been hard at work improving these programs for students.

“We work to make sure that students get their money’s worth,” Schiller said. “We know that these programs can be pricey, so we make sure that we put in the work to really develop these programs.”

Schiller and her team’s efforts have been rewarded. For several years, WSU has been nationally ranked for different programs and opportunities.

Graduate programs are an important aspect of WSU, and thanks to the work of Schiller and others, the university is a respected choice for students to pursue graduate degrees.
Horoscopes: How Will You Spend Spring Break?

Aaron Cline  
February 23, 2024  
Wright Life

With midterm week wrapping up, Wright State University students are shifting their focus to spring break. Based on your zodiac sign, what will you be doing during this week of peace?

**Aries**

As an Aries, your spring break will be filled with taking advantage of the down time. Starting a new project, whether it be creative, personal, athletic or otherwise, is an ideal way for an Aries to enjoy a week of peace from academic stressors.

Take the time to enjoy the outdoors as well. Unless you are already in a sport, spending time outside is a rare luxury. Spring break is the perfect opportunity to go out and enjoy the clean air and slowly-warming temperatures. Maybe invite a few friends on a hike!

**Taurus**

As a Taurus, your spring break should be filled with tranquility and fun. Put on your favorite music and spend your days lounging in the comfort of your home, or find some friends to go out with, as long as you are enjoying yourself!

Of course, being a college student is no cheap task. If you have some pocket change lying around though, treating yourself to a visit to a bakery or your favorite shop will help calm those post-midterm nerves.

**Gemini**
As a Gemini, your spring break will probably be as busy as possible. You will want to do everything you have been putting off during the semester—travel to a new spot you heard about, hang out with friends, visit family and more.

Try to give yourself at least one day off. Take yourself into consideration this week rather than everyone else.

**Cancer**

As a Cancer, your spring break should be spent visiting family. Whether your family is by blood or by bond, reaching out to those you love and cherish will take up a majority of your holiday. Hang out with your friends, love your pets and relish in the love of those around you.

For those you cannot visit in-person, a phone call or a quick text is guaranteed to boost both of your spirits.

**Leo**

As a Leo, your spring break will revolve completely around your friends. Honestly, you will probably make a few new friends as well! Your group of friends is ever-increasing in size, but you do not mind.

Spend your week getting active and having fun with others. Your schedule should be packed with outings and friendly gatherings. Maybe take up your Aries friend’s offer for a hiking trip as well!

**Virgo**

As a Virgo, your spring break may be filled with preparations for the upcoming B-term. You may have a new class starting, or you just want to get ahead of the game in the classes you are already taking. Either way, your backpack will not be collecting dust over spring break!
The week is meant to be a time to take your mind off of academics, so you could also try to focus your logical mind on something personal, like a gift for a friend or a project you never give yourself time for.

**Libra**

As a Libra, your spring break will be spent glued to someone’s hip. You have probably planned out the entire week for what the two of you will do, whether it is just both of you or a larger friend group.

Unlike Virgo, you may want to focus some of that energy on your academics. At the end of the day, life is a balance of what you do!

**Scorpio**

As a Scorpio, your spring break will be incredibly busy; by your own decision, of course. It may be the perfect time to go on a few dates or meet new people, now that you will have the time to really sit down and get to know people.

Keep the people already in your life in mind, though. There may be a thrill in meeting unfamiliar faces, but your current friends will want to see you as well!

**Sagittarius**

As a Sagittarius, your spring break will be one long adventure. Maybe you have a vacation to a different state or country already planned, or maybe you want to choose a direction to go and come back only when Wright State needs you to.

No matter where you go, enjoy your spring break to the fullest! Wherever you go, try to enjoy the warm air for the rest of us Ohioans.

**Capricorn**

As a Capricorn, your spring break is already planned out. Whether these plans are academic or job-focused, you are dedicated to seeing these plans through. You
might spend the week picking up a few extra shifts or working on long-term projects.

Either way, it is important to take some time for yourself. That is what spring break is all about!

**Aquarius**

As an Aquarius, spring break will be the ideal time to settle your emotions. Midterms are stressful, but with those out of the way, you will have time to self-regulate and focus on caring for yourself. You may have a busy schedule packed with things you have been wanting to do for a long time.

Pay close attention to your friends, Aquarius. With all these plans, you might just be neglecting them!

**Pisces**

As a Pisces, spring break is approaching at the perfect time for you. With midterms, personal situations and other potential stressors, you may feel like you are drowning right now. With spring break right around the corner, you can guarantee yourself a time to sit back and relax without a single concern.

Of course, you should not just drop off the face of the Earth. Spend time with some friends during spring break and do not neglect the people around you!

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**Student Publications Stress the Importance of Student Press Freedom Day**

Ashley Hainzer
February 25, 2024
News
Today is Student Press Freedom Day, which the Student Press Law Center created to protect the right to pursue journalism in the college setting. There are several different student papers across the Miami Valley and beyond that all operate in a different manner but serve the same purpose to inform the public.

**The Guardian**

The Guardian is a small student newspaper run by 15 to 20 Wright State University students. It encompasses both the Dayton and Lake campuses and mainly focuses on the WSU and the Miami Valley areas. Our Editor-in-Chief is Alexis Lewis, a senior English and French double major.

At the Guardian, our stories start with pitches. We all come up with a few for the sections under which we write. Then we take them to our planning meetings, which are generally on Wednesday, to present to the rest of the team.

After the meeting, we get in touch with sources and add photo notes for the photography team. We generally have until the next Thursday at 10 a.m. to submit our stories to the editors. Once the story goes to the editor, it goes through two or three rounds of editing before it is published.

The process from pitch to post takes about a week and a half to complete (barring any breaks or issues). The videographers, photographers and social media staff also work to curate their own content throughout the week.

Additionally, The Guardian also does a yearly magazine called Flight that is themed and written by several Guardian writers on top of their weekly writing. The Guardian also is in charge of the literary journal Nexus, which is fueled by creative submissions from staff and the WSU community.

The Guardian is far from the only student publication in the state of Ohio.

**The Post**
Katie Millard, a senior journalism major, is Editor-in-Chief for The Post, which is a student publication at Ohio University. The Post services the OU campus as well as the broader Athens and Ohio communities.

Unlike The Guardian, The Post runs on a crew of 300 student journalists. They have 11 sections that hold their meetings and choose what stories they pick up. They can produce daily content to go online while the crew works behind the scenes to put together a print copy of The Post.

“We have a very talented staff and rarely have notes—they know their sections best,” Millard said.

Millard explained that about 15 stories go out daily between 10 p.m. and midnight through their late-night process, which allows The Post to achieve its daily publishing goals.

The Northerner

Another student publication is The Northerner, which is a mainly-print publication that comes from Northern Kentucky University. Their Editor-in-Chief is Braden White, a senior journalism major.

The Northerner is a print publication that is released monthly. Each edition has a theme, and because of the nature of publication, The Northerner staff works to find the timeliest articles for their publication. They also have a website that reports daily news about the happenings that go on throughout campus.

The magazine is released on Wednesday in the middle of the month. White and a few other Northerner staff distribute the magazines across campus.

The importance of freedom of the press

Freedom of the press is an important right that we have in our constitution. It falls under the First Amendment along with the freedoms of speech and religion. These freedoms are considered core values of America. In that nature, freedom of the press is just as important.
“Freedom of [the] press is very important,” Robert Leonard, an instructor of communication at WSU, said. “It’s one of the ways that we as Americans can protect human rights.”

Leonard explained that without freedom of the press, important things would never be talked about.

“Things like Watergate, the Israel and Palestine conflict, Coronavirus. If there were restrictions on press coverage, these big issues would not be reported on,” Leonard said.

This goes for student publications as well. If these sources are censored and restricted, then there is a chance that students will not receive the news they need.

“Freedom of the press is crucial. It allows us to keep our community and university leaders in check and keep the public informed of what’s going on on campus and around town,” Millard said. “With free press comes democracy, and we are lucky to be a part of it.”

Many student publications are run independently from their institutions to maintain integrity of their reporting.

“We take being independent from the university seriously. We want our readers to know that we have news for them that they can trust. With so much going on in the world, it’s important to have unbiased news,” White explained.

Student publications not only celebrate the good work of students or university faculty, but they also hold public bodies accountable and report on all forms of news that happens at the school, no matter the nature of the story. In this way, student media informs the community about news that would otherwise go unheard or unseen.

No matter how they are run, student publications are there for the students and communities of their respective universities to deliver important and up-to-date news.
News Roundup: Week of Feb. 19

From local happenings to national topics and global events, here is the news worth knowing from the week of Feb. 19, 2024.

Local

Three NPHC plots vandalized at Wright State

Three National Pan-Hellenic Council plots on the Dayton campus of Wright State University were vandalized last week. The Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. markers are the impacted plots.

Treyah Gray, the NPHC president and chapter president of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc., and Gabrielle Brown, president of the Epsilon Chi chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., said that some sorority sisters noticed that three signs were written on after Wednesday, Feb. 14.

Read more here.

National

Police say Nex Benedict, nonbinary teenager, did not die as a result of fight

On Feb. 21, according to the Associated Press, police said that Nex Benedict did not die from injuries sustained in an altercation in a school restroom.
The altercation took place on Feb. 7, and Benedict died on Feb. 8 after experiencing shallow breathing, the Associated Press reports.

On Friday and Saturday, Feb. 24 and 25, vigils took place across the nation.

**Trump wins South Carolina Republican primaries**

On Saturday, Feb. 24, former President of the United States Donald Trump won the South Carolina Republican primary against Nikki Haley, according to the Associated Press.

**Global**

**31,000 Ukrainian soldiers have died since Russia invasion**

On Sunday, Feb. 25, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that 31,000 Ukrainian soldiers have been killed in action since Russia’s invasion on Feb. 24, 2022, according to the Associated Press.

**Annie Lennox, Scottish Singer, Cries for Ceasefire at the Grammys**

Annie Lennox, a Scottish singer, songwriter and political activist, called for a ceasefire in Gaza at the Grammys on Feb. 4.
“Artists for ceasefire. Peace in the world,” Lennox shouted after paying tribute to the late Sinéad O’Connor, an Irish singer and activist known for ripping a picture of the Pope on her musical performance at Saturday Night Live.

The political statement was made to call attention to the violence that continues in Gaza, where now close to 30,000 lives have been lost, according to the Associated Press.

**Artists4Ceasefire**

Lennox is one of many artists and celebrities urging United States President Joe Biden to intervene and call for a ceasefire.

In October 2023, an open letter on the Artists4Ceasefire website, consisting of signatures from Drake, Jeremy Allen White and Selena Gomez, was created as a call to action towards Biden.

“We ask that, as President of the United States, you and the U.S. Congress call for an immediate de-escalation and ceasefire in Gaza and Israel before another life is lost,” the letter reads.

The signees plea for the presence of humanity in the current despair.

**The Israel-Hamas conflict**

Tensions have occurred between Israel and Palestine for decades, but never at this magnitude. Hamas’ surprise attack in October provoked outrage from Israel, as it was unlike any past behavior. An escalation of violence between both has continued since.

“The scale of Oct. 7 was totally out of proportion to anything that had happened [before],” Dr. Liam Anderson, a political science professor at Wright State University, said.

**Media coverage**
Censorship continues to limit the Israel-Hamas war’s brutality to the United States.

Anderson spoke on the media coverage in the U.S. compared to other countries.

“I was in Iraq in November, and so I was watching this stuff unfold on [a news network funded by the government of Qatar]. They show you the carnage, and they show you it from the Palestinian perspective. That’s what most of the rest of the world sees,” Anderson said.

**Celebrity activism**

Lennox’s call to action was unexpected and short-lived, as cameras quickly panned away from the singer.

Lennox’s plea for peace is one of many displays of social activism in the artist’s career. The singer’s fight to spread awareness for HIV/AIDS and climate change lends to Lennox’s credibility as an activist.

Other celebrities and public figures receive criticism for talking on social issues when deemed less qualified.

Marlee Ruiz, a chemistry major at Wright State University, made a statement on talking about social issues.

“For those who aren’t educated on the topics, I don’t think they should share their opinions, but for those who did their research and have really strong opinions and want to influence the big crowd, I think that’s good that they’re speaking about what they believe in,” Ruiz said.

For more information about Artists4Ceasefire, visit the organization’s [webpage](#). The Associated Press provides daily updates about the Israel-Hamas war.

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**Events on Campus Week of Feb. 26**

Aaron Cline
February 26, 2024
Wright Life
While the number of events this week may be shorter due to spring break, there are still some activities for students staying on campus to enjoy this week.

**Monday, Feb. 26**

12 p.m. | QPR – Question, Persuade, Refer | Student Success Center Room 205

12 p.m. | VMC Veteran Ally Training | Veteran Military Center (Allyn Hall)

7:30 p.m. | Troupe: Weekly February Meeting | Oelman 109

**Tuesday, Feb. 27**

7 p.m. | Bible Study | Rike Hall 158

**Wednesday, Feb. 28**

12:30 p.m. | APAMSA Mandarin Chinese Class | White Hall 120

2 p.m. | Silent Book Club: “Ma and Me” by Putsata Reang | Student Union 023

7 p.m. | Men’s Basketball vs. Purdue Fort Wayne | Nutter Center

**Thursday, Feb. 29**

7 p.m. | Miracle Makers General Meeting | Explorer Room (SU 103)

**Saturday, March 2**

7 p.m. | Men's Basketball vs. Northern Kentucky | Nutter Center
SGA: Upcoming Elections and Program Cuts

The Student Government Association met on Feb. 20 for its last weekly meeting of the A-term.

**Upcoming elections**

SGA President Stephanie Buettner discussed that elections will be happening sometime after spring break for the upcoming SGA term.

Petitions open after spring break and are open for two weeks. The Special Elections Committee then gives candidates Instagram accounts to campaign from. After one week of campaigning, SGA holds elections. Winners are announced the night after elections close, Buettner explained.

“If anyone has an interest in serving on the SEC, we would love to have candidates reach out to me or Ryan Diaz,” Buettner said.

**Program cuts**

Daniel Palmer, government affairs specialist, discussed the 34 academic programs that are being cut at WSU. He explained that 22 of these programs have already started this process.

“All in all, I would say it’s actually positive news because it means the university is reinvesting in other programs and focusing on what’s being demanded by students, and it’s hard to say there’s an extreme demand with 55 students in 34 programs,” Palmer said.
Rowdy bobblehead award

Cade Mason, Engineering and Computer Science senator, had the Rowdy Bobblehead Award this past week.

“I’d like to give the Rowdy Bobblehead Award to somebody who does a lot throughout every week and is always kicking butt,” Mason said.

Mason passed the Award to SGA President Stephanie Buettner, who thanked him.

SGA will not meet next week due to spring break, but they will meet the following Tuesday, March 5, at 8 p.m. in the Student Union Atlantis A/B Room.

Board of Trustees Discusses Academic Retention Plans, Homecoming and the Lake Campus Wetlands Program

Ashley Hainzer
February 27, 2024
News

On Feb. 16, the Wright State Board of Trustees met to discuss academic retention, Homecoming and the ongoing wetlands conservation program at the Lake Campus.

President’s speech

University President Dr. Sue Edwards addressed the happenings around Wright State University; however, she mainly spoke about the President’s Ambassador Student meeting that took place before the board meeting.

“Our future is incredibly bright,” Edwards said. “Not only did I meet students who were incredibly smart, but they were also personable and bright. They are incredibly talented.”
She also briefly spoke on the school’s partnership with Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and how there has been a proposal signed that grants the base more access to Wright State’s Dayton campus.

**Academic retention**

Academic retention was a large topic present at the meeting Friday. Several board members discussed the topic and how important retention is to maintain.

In this, the board briefly discussed the removal of 34 academic programs. One of the reasons cited for this action was academic retention.

“The sunsetting of these programs are due to low enrollment and low retention,” Trustee Dawn Conway explained.

Conway also gave an update to the workload policy, one that would offer a more equitable approach to student success and present students with the potential for research projects.

**Homecoming**

President Edwards briefly addressed how the date for Homecoming was changed from fall to spring and how this change has improved attendance.

“Homecoming usually revolves around football. The decision was made to move our Homecoming to the spring to align with basketball,” Edwards said. “We have seen a change in attendance and enthusiasm since.”

Student Trustee Madisyn Crabtree also discussed Homecoming. According to Crabtree, there has been a real success when it comes to participation in Homecoming activities.

**Wetlands project**
Biology Professor Dr. Stephen Jacquemin is leading the way for a new wetlands conservation initiative at the Lake Campus.

Jacquemin explains that there are many different benefits to the project, including environmental benefits. In the small area that they have been working with, wildlife has increased exponentially. Water levels are also increasing.

Jacquemin explained that students who have participated in this project and others like it have seen better grades and are getting more hands-on experience.

“Our students are learning in the field,” Jacquemin said. “They are getting the tools they need to succeed in the programs they are in. It’s really beneficial to everyone involved.”

Aromantic Spectrum Awareness Week: What to Know

Aaron Cline
February 27, 2024
Wright Life

This past week, from Feb. 18 to Feb. 24, was Aromantic Spectrum Awareness Week. In honor of the celebratory week, here is what you should know about aromanticism.

What is aromanticism?

According to the Aromantic Spectrum Awareness Week website, aromanticism is defined as an orientation in which “people whose experience of romance is disconnected from normative societal expectations, often due to experiencing little to no romantic attraction, or sometimes feeling repulsed by romance or being uninterested in romantic relationships.”

The most important part of aromanticism is the fact that it is a spectrum, meaning people who are aromantic may not have the same reaction to romance as others who identify or do not identify. Feelings for romance can range from hatred (or
repulsion) to neutral indifference; some aromantic people may also like the idea of romance.

This identity can also be mixed up with its counterpart, asexuality, in which an individual does not feel sexual attraction. The distinct difference between romantic and sexual feelings is important to understand so that you can prevent making assumptions about people on either spectrum.

Aromanticism and asexuality tend to have a heavy overlap; many people who identify as aromantic also identify as asexual, and vice versa. This is not always true, however, and keeping an open mind is very important.

How can you support friends on the aromantic spectrum?

The best way to support your friends on the aromantic spectrum is to keep yourself informed. One of the biggest challenges people with this identity face is that people either do not know the identity exists or they do not believe people who identify as aromantic.

You can find resources about aromanticism and the aromantic community here.

It is also important to keep an open mind; in regards to all LGBTQ+ individuals, many people will struggle with their identity and labels throughout their life. As a friend, you can focus on supporting them during this process.

How can you celebrate Aromantic Spectrum Awareness Week in the future?

While the 2024 week has already passed, Aromantic Spectrum Awareness Week (ASAW) happens every year.

“ASAW generally occurs the first full week (starting Sunday) following Valentine’s Day; it began in large part as a way for those in the aromantic community who had difficulty finding space for their experiences in such a universally romanticized event
to come together and celebrate their own unique experiences,” the ASAW website reads.

Throughout the week, individuals around the world will hold events celebrating aromantic identities. If you would like to suggest or register an event of your own, you can reach out to the ASAW website, which is run by volunteers.

There are also creative prompts or challenges held every year during the week, which changes yearly. Past events included the Aro Jam, focused on creating games that feature aromantic characters.

Overall, ASAW is an important week for many members of the LGBTQA+ community, as it shines light on individuals who are often overlooked in media and in real life.

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**WSU English Professors Share Book Recommendations**

Emily Mancuso
February 27, 2024
Wright Life

English Professors Marjory Wentworth and Dr. Barry Milligan share some of their top picks for students to read that do not appear on their syllabi.

**“This is Honey, An Anthology of Contemporary Black Poets” by Kwame Alexander**

Professor Wentworth worked as an editor for this collection, which includes poems that are deeply inspiring and tender, showcasing works from well-loved poets, such as Ross Gay, Amanda Gorman and Alice Walker.

“This is the Honey’ is a rich and abundant offering of language from the poets giving voice to generations of resilient joy,” the anthology’s description reads.

The anthology’s works explore themes of joy, love, resistance and devotion.
“A Woman in Berlin” by Anonymous

For nonfiction, Wentworth offers two recommendations, the first being “A Woman in Berlin.”

This book highlights how Berlin fell to the Russian army in 1945 while a young woman kept a diary of her life, showcasing the relationship between civilians and the army.

“Possession” by A.S. Byatt

Milligan teaches and researches 19th century British literature and culture and describes “Possession” as “a surefire hit for any lover of Victorian British literature and culture, and pretty likely to hit with any geek for history and culture, really.”

Two young scholars are researching the lives of Victorian poets, and along the way, they discover what lies beneath the passions and the past.

“‘Possession’ is an exhilarating novel of wit and romance, at once an intellectual mystery and a triumphant love story,” the Goodreads description reads.

“Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude” by Ross Gay

Professor Wentworth currently teaches introduction and advanced poetry at Wright State. This is Wentworth’s recommendation for a poetry collection.

The book details the passing things in life, like loved ones and seasons, as a way to study life and its intricate wisdoms. Gay uses processes of the garden and orchard to study these ideas.

“That is, this is a book that studies the wisdom of the garden and orchard, those places where all—death, sorrow, loss—is converted into what might, with patience, nourish us,” the Goodreads description reads.

“Hiroshima” by John Hersey
“Hiroshima” by John Hersey is a journalistic re-telling of Aug. 6, 1945—the day the first atom bomb was dropped. Hersey tells the stories through memories of the survivors.

**“Suite Française” by Irène Némirovsky**

Némirovsky was deported to Auschwitz in 1942, dying just months later at the age of 39. The author had finished two parts of the novel before being arrested, and her daughters kept her hand-written manuscripts.

“A Storm in June” is the first part that details the 1940 exodus from Paris on the eve of Nazi invasion, highlighting the stories of different people and families.

“They share nothing but the harsh demands of survival—some trying to maintain lives of privilege, others struggling simply to preserve their lives—but soon, all together, they will be forced to face the awful exigencies of physical and emotional displacement, and the annihilation of the world they know,” the Goodreads description reads.

“Dolce” is the second part, which showcases the relationship and tensions between villagers and German soldiers in a German-occupied provincial village.

“Some choose resistance, others collaboration, and as their community is transformed by these acts, the lives of these men and women reveal nothing less than the very essence of humanity,” the description says.

**“The Sympathizer” by Viet Thanh Nguyen**

Professor Wentworth recommended this novel because it showcases a side of humanity in deep, meaningful ways.

“I think we need to read about war because there is so much suffering in the world now—in Gaza, Ukraine etc. As Americans, we need to consider our role in these conflicts,” Wentworth said. “The articulation of human suffering is felt more deeply in stories.”
The book is set in Saigon in April 1975, when a South Vietnamese army general is compiling a list of people to give access to the last flights out of the country. The general and his compatriots eventually move to Los Angeles, but their captain is secretly reporting on the group to the Viet Cong.

“A gripping spy novel, an astute exploration of extreme politics, and a moving love story, ‘The Sympathizer’ explores a life between two worlds and examines the legacy of the Vietnam War in literature, film, and the wars we fight today,” the Goodreads description reads.

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**Feed the Streetz: Black Student Union**

**Giving Back to the Dayton Area**

Julia Kirk  
February 28, 2024  
Wright Life

On Feb. 17, members of the Black Student Union got together to make lunches and hand them out to the people of Dayton who needed food.

**Background of the event**

In this generous event, the members of the Black Student Union set out to help people who are in need. This is not the first time this event has occurred; in fact, it is a yearly tradition.

In preparation for the event, the students went to Meijer and Walmart to buy supplies. Each meal was made in a bag and included handmade sandwiches, oranges, water and candy. BSU bought the materials on their own to help make a difference.

There are many different organizations across Wright State University’s campus, and many of them hold community service events. Shanaia Hunt, a member of the Black Student Union, talked about the importance of this.
“I’ve been in other organizations that do community service, and it’s good to give back,” Hunt said.

**Delivering the meals**

The students made a total of 150 packed lunches and headed to downtown Dayton. They gave out meals to people they saw waiting at bus stops, at the library and anywhere else they found people who were in need.

This was an experience that was enjoyable for both the people of Dayton and the students volunteering. Hunt discussed these benefits.

“I loved seeing how happy it made them,” Hunt said.

Hunt went on to say how that was her favorite part of the event. Not only was BSU able to help out people who were struggling, but the organization was able to gain from it as well.

There are many opportunities to give back, and many can be found right here on campus. Do not be afraid to do the work and help others, like the students in the Black Student Union have done and continue to do.

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**The Word’s Faire Invites Dayton Creatives to Give Their Pieces a Platform**

Emily Mancuso  
February 28, 2024  
Wright Life

Come one, come all to The Word’s Faire, a Dayton-based submission magazine founded by a Wright State University graduate. This brand new indie publisher and literary magazine accepts art and word in all forms.

**How it came to be**
2022 English Creative Writing graduate Tobi Brun always wanted to create a business. The Word’s Faire offered a perfect combination of this dream and their creative spirit. Brun serves as the editor and founder of The Word’s Faire.

“I’ve been wanting to make a project that brings in my wanting to have a business and wanting to provide a platform for breakout authors and creatives to be able to get their works out there because it’s hard to break into the industry, so that ultimately led me to an independent publishing company,” Brun said.

A play on words, The Word’s Faire’s name comes from the world’s faire, an exhibition of different innovations from across the world. The work on the project started in November but became an official company this February.

“I want to be able to get an exhibition of curated creatives from all over the world,” Brun said.

The publisher and magazine takes art from a variety of mediums.

**Offerings**

In their position, Brun curates submissions for manuscripts, anthologies, contests and manuscripts. Brun also is in charge of all design aspects and editing.

The Word’s Faire itself offers submission periods for zines, anthologies and contests.

The current open submissions call is for the SUNWASH zine, which concludes taking submissions Feb. 28. Pre-orders for SUNWASH open the month of March, and publication starts April 2024.

The next open call is for the anthology competition themed and titled “That’s Absurd,” inviting fiction writers to submit stories ranging from micro-fiction to novel-length works exploring the absurd and surreal. Contributors for both publications will receive a discount code for physical copies.

For information about submissions and upcoming projects, visit The Word’s Faire website.
Brun hopes to open manuscript queries by the end of the year, but the first title publication is a poetry collection “Of the Eaten” authored by Brun, which releases in March 2024.

“Ideally, [The Word’s Faire will] be able to give a platform to break-out writers and creatives who haven’t gotten a chance to get into the industry yet or are just starting out,” Brun said.

In-person creative services included live poetry writing for personal or public events, creative workshops, speaking engagements and professional editing services.

Brun has live poetry writing experience, having done live poetry with a typewriter at local Dayton business Pink Moon Goods this early February.

Even with this wide range of services, Brun plans for The Word’s Faire to grow and expand with time.

**Future goals and events**

The official launch party for The Word’s Faire will commence sometime in late April, offering merchandise and a poetry reading with local creatives.

Brun hopes that as The Word’s Faire continues to evolve, revenue will allow them to pay contributing writers.

Overall, Brun expects the project to unite the Dayton community through words and art.

“[Creatives] just have work sitting around that they want to share with people but just haven’t been able to find a home for. I want to be able to provide a home for those people but also for people breaking into the field and wanting to write and publish as much as possible,” Brun said.

**Contact**
Brun can be contacted via email or phone at 937-694-8143.

Series Review: “Suits”

Jahid Hasan
February 28, 2024
Series Review


“Suits” is a gripping legal drama that captivates audiences with its intricate plotlines, compelling characters and razor-sharp dialogue. Set in the high-stakes world of corporate law, the series follows the lives of brilliant attorney Harvey Specter and his protégé, Mike Ross, who does not have a law degree but possesses a photographic memory and an unparalleled intellect.

The cast

One of the most striking aspects of “Suits” is its stellar ensemble cast. Gabriel Macht shines as the suave and charismatic Harvey Specter, effortlessly embodying the role of a top-tier lawyer with a knack for winning cases.

Equally impressive is Patrick J. Adams as Mike Ross, whose journey from a small-time hustler to a legal prodigy is both compelling and emotionally resonant.

The chemistry between the characters is electric, particularly the dynamic between Harvey and Mike, whose mentor-mentee relationship forms the heart of the series. Their banter is witty and entertaining, providing moments of levity amidst the intense legal battles they face.

Besides the chemistry and strong influence of Harvey and Mike, there are some other compelling characters who played amazing roles that made the series best for the viewers.

Other important characters
Rick Hoffman’s portrayal of Louis Litt, who skillfully navigates the competitive world of corporate law with a singular fusion of eccentricity, ambition and vulnerability, is a standout character. Louis’s journey as an attorney at Pearson Spectre Litt is characterized by his never-ending search for approval and validation. As he battles his insecurities and tries to prove himself, this quest frequently results in both poignant and humorous moments.

As the managing partner of the firm, Jessica Pearson—played by the commanding Gina Torres—embodies power and sophistication. She faces personal demons while navigating difficult legal battles with grace and determination.

The series benefits from Meghan Markle’s portrayal of Rachel Zane, who defies stereotypes and is portrayed as a paralegal-turned-lawyer who exudes warmth and resilience. Rachel proves herself to be a force to be reckoned with, combining intelligence, determination and compassion in equal measure.

**Compelling storytelling**

Beyond its engaging characters, “Suits” excels in its storytelling. The series expertly weaves together intricate plotlines filled with twists, turns and unexpected alliances. From high-profile corporate mergers to personal vendettas, each episode keeps viewers on the edge of their seats, eager to see how the drama will unfold.

**Themes, characters and cinematography**

Moreover, “Suits” is not just about courtroom showdowns and legal maneuvering; it delves into the personal lives of its characters, exploring themes of loyalty, ambition and morality. As Harvey and Mike navigate the cutthroat world of corporate law, they are forced to confront their own values and ethics, leading to moments of introspection and growth.

Visually, “Suits” is stylish and polished, with sleek cinematography and lavish sets that reflect the opulence of the legal world. The attention to detail in the costume design and set decoration further enhances the immersive experience, transporting viewers into the elite law firms of New York City.
In conclusion, “Suits” is a masterful legal drama that excels on every level. With its compelling characters, gripping storytelling and sharp wit, it stands as one of the finest series on Netflix. Whether you are a fan of legal dramas or simply enjoy well-crafted television, “Suits” is a must-watch that will keep you hooked from the first episode to the last.

Exploring Career Opportunities as a Social Media Influencer: Navigating the Digital Landscape

Jahid Hasan
February 29, 2024
Wright Life

In recent years, the rise of social media has transformed not only the way we communicate but also how businesses market their products and services. Among the myriad of changes, one of the most prominent phenomena is the emergence of social media influencers. These individuals have leveraged platforms like Instagram, YouTube, TikTok and others to build engaged audiences, thereby creating unique career opportunities in the digital age.

The evolution of social media influencers

Social media influencers are individuals who have established credibility, authenticity and expertise in a particular niche. They command a loyal following, often numbering in the thousands or even millions, and have the power to influence their audience’s purchasing decisions and opinions.

Influencers come in various forms, ranging from lifestyle bloggers and fitness enthusiasts to beauty gurus and gaming personalities.

The concept of influencer marketing has grown exponentially, with brands recognizing the value of partnering with these digital tastemakers to promote their products or services. As a result, influencers have become integral players in the
marketing strategies of many companies, driving engagement, brand awareness and ultimately sales.

**Career opportunities in social media influence**

The allure of becoming a social media influencer lies in the potential for creativity, flexibility and financial reward. While the path to success may not be easy, for those who are willing to put in the time and effort, there are numerous career opportunities to explore.

**Content creation**

At the heart of influencer marketing is compelling content. Influencers have the opportunity to showcase their creativity and expertise through various forms of media, including photos, videos, blog posts and live streams.

**Brand partnerships**

Collaborating with brands can be a lucrative aspect of influencer marketing. Brands often seek out influencers whose values align with theirs to promote their products or services to a targeted audience.

**Sponsored content**

Influencers may monetize their platforms by creating sponsored content in partnership with brands. This could involve featuring sponsored products in their posts, sharing sponsored videos, or hosting sponsored events.

**Affiliate marketing**

Many influencers participate in affiliate marketing programs, earning a commission for promoting products or services and driving sales through unique tracking links.
Digital products and services

Some influencers leverage their expertise to create and sell digital products such as e-books, online courses or consulting services tailored to their niche audience.

Personal branding

Building a personal brand is essential for long-term success as an influencer. This involves cultivating a distinct identity, voice and aesthetic that resonates with your audience and sets you apart from others in your niche.

Challenges and considerations

While the prospect of a career as a social media influencer may seem glamorous, it is not without its challenges.

Building a sizable and engaged following takes time and consistent effort. Moreover, the digital landscape is constantly evolving, with algorithms changing and new platforms emerging, requiring influencers to adapt and innovate continually.

Additionally, influencers often face scrutiny and criticism, as well as the pressure to maintain authenticity and transparency with their audience. Balancing sponsored content with organic posts can be a delicate art, and maintaining credibility is crucial for long-term success.

Conclusion

The rise of social media influencers has opened up exciting career opportunities in the digital age. From content creation and brand partnerships to affiliate marketing and personal branding, there are numerous paths to explore for those interested in pursuing a career in social media influence.

However, success as an influencer requires dedication, authenticity and a willingness to adapt to the ever-changing digital landscape. By understanding the challenges and opportunities inherent in influencer marketing, aspiring influencers can chart a
course toward building a meaningful and lucrative career in the world of social media influence.

Antics with Ashley: McBrawl in the McDonalds

Ashley Hainzer
February 29, 2024
Antics with Ashley
Wright Life

Long before I worked for Kings Island and longer before I worked for the Guardian, I worked for McDonalds. I started fresh out of high school, and it was my first job. There is nothing I remember more about my time there than the day the brawl happened.

Exposition

It was sometime in April 2020. We were in the throngs of the pandemic, and McDonalds was considered an essential business for some reason. I was due at 6 a.m. for my morning shift. I did not normally work mornings, but it was Saturday, and we were understaffed. My favorite manager was working that day, so I figured it was going to be a good shift.

I was early because my dad went fishing and he usually left long before the sun came up, meaning I was dropped off early.

I was on headset and drink-making that day. My job was to hand out drinks and take orders at the front. It sounded easy and simple... except the person at the window was an hour late, then called off entirely.

Now I had to work the window, headset and drinks. That was fine; we did not get busy usually until 8 a.m., then someone would be coming in to take the window.
At about 7:30 a.m., I took an order for a large black coffee and sausage biscuit. The person on the other end emphasized that the coffee had to be black and fresh, so I made sure it was.

About five minutes later, I was joking with the manager on duty and we were having a good time until the car I just served veered into the drive-thru again. I opened the window and the person proceeded to chuck their freshly brewed coffee in my face. After that, they threw their sandwich at me.

The next 10 minutes were of me in pain. I was berated because she had accidentally received a McMuffin instead of a biscuit, and she demanded her food and drink to be remade, as well as a refund. She called me every name in the book in the process. Once that was all said and done, she spit on me and drove off. The manager I was just joking with did nothing.

Due to me being the only service person working, I had to stay and work. I took that for what it was and continued my work. It hit 8 a.m., and we started to get really busy, and there was not another employee in sight.

So it was me and the manager. We had kept the dining room closed because of COVID and staffing, but someone broke in and decided they were going to get served. We served them with the condition that they had to leave after, but they decided to sit down at a table and eat anyway. After that, a bunch of people followed suit. So we were literally breaking the law, which was fun.

Finally, another employee comes in. My manager tries to force them into the window for my break, but they throw a temper tantrum because of the weather. So they meander, doing a mix of hashbrowns and taking care of the people who broke in.

Tempers were increasing throughout the day between the entitled people in the lobby and the people who honestly were waiting forever in line. No one was in a good mood. It was the perfect storm for what ended up being an all out brawl.

**The brawl**
I remember the brawl happening around the beginning of the lunch rush. Tensions were really high; staff were all mad at each other and every customer was mad at us. Then the truck came.

Our truck would come every Friday, but they were late due to shipping errors that they said were COVID-related. According to the manager, they said the truck was coming Monday, but in the end, it showed up in the middle of one of the busiest times of the day.

Our drive-thru was set up in a way where they had to block one of the lanes so the truck could be unloaded. Meaning, in this chaos, the manager had to leave to unload the truck and close the lane, leaving us in a worse state.

That is what made the brawl happen. Someone had got the idea that if they could get to the speaker, they were free to order, so they skipped from the back of the line, went around the truck and tried to back up in the closed lane. While doing this, they ended up hitting three cars, the truck and the order box.

The people whose cars got hit were not happy. It led to an argument. That argument turned into a fist fight, and that fist fight turned into a brawl. In five short minutes, almost everyone in line was fighting.

My manager and the truck driver tried to stop it, but the crowd started to attack the manager, and the truck driver joined the fight after someone kicked him in the head.

Naturally, as one does, I called the cops.

The police and ambulance arrived 10 minutes after the fighting started. There were several people who were bloody and bruised that needed ambulances or a hospital.

As this was going on, another person had the idea of trying to get in the closed lane (not seeing the car already there) and rammed into the back of one of the cars with some of the only people who did not join the brawl. The car had a family of five in it and the kids got hurt, meaning even more ambulances were called.

By now, the whole event became a spectacle, and people began to show up to report on the scene.
Aftermath

There were several people who ended up in the hospital that day. We were also on every crime site and newspaper that Springfield had to offer. By the time everything was all said and done, we were somehow at fault because we were being slow, and if we were not slow, a brawl would never have happened.

We were told to close until the scene was all cleared, but with our limited staff, we closed for the rest of the day. We could not even go home; instead, we had to deep clean the entire store. Even the manager that was sucked into the brawl had to help.

From that day on, not only did I never take a shift again, but I also put in my two weeks.

The cherry on top? The person that was supposed to take the window originally never showed up to work and was not even written up for it.

The Percyverse: Key Differences Between the Three Interpretations of “Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief”

Britin Frazey
February 29, 2024
Book Reviews
Movie Reviews

“Percy Jackson and The Olympians: The Lightning Thief” was published by Rick Riordan in 2005. The young-adult novel aimed at pre-teens quickly gained popularity. Due to its overwhelming popularity, Riordan wrote four sequels, along with a spin-off series “Heroes of Olympus,” followed by two more books in the Percy Jackson series, one of which is expected to be published in September 2024.

“Percy Jackson and The Olympians: The Lightning Thief” is also a movie which was released in 2010. It was widely watched and hated by fans of the book, but was still granted a sequel released in 2013.
“Percy Jackson and The Olympians” is now a Disney+ original TV show. The first season began airing in December 2023 and wrapped up in January 2024. It has recently been renewed for its second season, which will not be out for a while.

Warning: this article contains spoilers for the first book, the first movie and the first season of the TV show.

The Hero’s Journey

In every adaptation, Percy Jackson is presented as a troubled kid who has ADHD and dyslexia. He lives in New York with his mom, Sally, and his mean stepdad and has been at many different schools due to his alleged behavior issues. Also, he is just finding out that he’s a demigod.

The TV show and book stay similar in terms of plot, but the movie makes a lot more changes. This, of course, is because a movie has a lot less time to devote to each plot point; however, a lot of the choices that the movie made to better fit its media form also changed the broad strokes of the plot.

Percy gets expelled from his new school for killing his math teacher, who was a monster in disguise. Now, it is important to note that in the world of Percy Jackson, most mortals cannot see through “The Mist,” which is the veil between the human world and the Greek god world. Each adaptation handles it a little differently.

After this expulsion, Percy goes home to see his mom, and soon enough the Minotaur is chasing them as she and Percy’s best friend, Grover, try to get Percy safely to Camp Half-Blood. However, the Minotaur grabs Percy’s mom, and she disappears with a flash of golden light. Percy then kills the Minotaur, and he and Grover enter Camp Half-Blood.

Here, Percy trains and makes some demigod friends, such as Annabeth and Luke. All demigods have dyslexia and ADHD, and these are explained as beneficial to them in combat. Percy finds out that his godly parent is Poseidon, meaning Percy can breathe underwater and control it.

Soon, Percy hears that the gods of Olympus might be going to war because Zeus thinks Percy stole his lightning bolt, which is the physical and metaphorical symbol of
his power. Because of this, Percy sets out on a quest with Grover and Annabeth to hopefully retrieve the bolt and save his mother, who he knows is in the Underworld for different reasons in every adaptation.

Then, Percy Jackson goes on his quest and is ultimately successful in his goals. However, the quest is different in each version.

**The Percy Jackson multiverse**

Since all of these adaptations share a title, they are all equally canon within the Multiverse of Percy Jackson, also known as the Percyverse. They all follow the same beginning and share many common factors, but ultimately, they are distinctly different stories featuring characters of the same names.

In the book, Percy knows almost nothing about Greek mythology. Chiron, his main male role model, is a centaur who had disguised himself as Percy’s 6th-grade Latin teacher by folding his horse half into a magical wheelchair and was the only one who ever spoke of mythology to him. Percy goes through the entire first book without knowing any stories and knowing very few creatures and gods. Luckily, his friends know everything.

In the TV show, however, Percy's mom told him stories throughout his childhood. He still relies on his friends for a lot of information, but this gives Percy's character more agency and lets him contribute more to his own story. In general, all of the characters are quite a bit smarter in the TV show, and figure things out more quickly. They also tend to plan for upcoming situations more, avoiding some of the traps that they fell into in the books, or at least knowing they will be trapped.

In the movie’s world, demigods tend not to find out who they are until around high school, but in the books and TV show, Percy is 12 years old when he finds out, and this is considered relatively late, which is explained more in the books. Most demigods are hunted by monsters much earlier. The choice to age up the characters ends up changing a lot of things for the movie’s quest, such as allowing the main characters to drive, so getting rides is easier for them.

The movie also does not have an oracle that gives Percy a prophecy for his quest. Instead, his friend Luke gives it to him, and the kids have to sneak out of camp
because they are breaking the rules. They then follow a map that takes them to find the pearls that will grant them safe passage out of the Underworld, whereas, in the other two universes, Poseidon gives them to Percy as a gift. Again, the movie is vastly different from the other two and is widely regarded as the worst. However, these specific changes had the potential to be good.

There are many other differences in the plots as well, most being choices that were made due to the time it was published and what form of media it was.

**The Lightning Thief**

The titular Lightning Thief plays varying roles in each adaptation but is always the same person: Luke. When Percy first gets to camp in the TV show and book, Luke is his first friend. In the movie, Luke is still Percy's friend, but it is less established.

In the books, everybody believes that Hades is the Lightning Thief, which is half of the reason why Percy and his friends set out for the Underworld. Once they get there and realize that Hades's symbol of power was also stolen, they blame Ares, the god of war, because the stealing of these things will start a war. However, it is said multiple times that gods cannot steal other gods’ symbols of power.

To remedy this, in the TV show, they think that a daughter of Ares stole both symbols.

Luke, the actual Lightning Thief, attempts to kill Percy several times in the book. Notably, he gives him shoes that will drag him to a deep, inescapable pit. In the TV show, he only intends to recruit him and use him as a tool to deliver the lightning bolt, not to kill him because he can get out of the pit. In the movie, he gives him these shoes, but there is no curse on them, and they just duel, as they do in every version.

**Other differences**

In the book, Percy ships Medusa's head to the gods on Olympus, but they return it to him. He gives it to his mom, who uses it to turn her abusive husband into stone. In the movie, they bring her head along with them and just put sunglasses on her face,
and in the TV show, they use Annabeth’s invisibility cap to not turn themselves to stone and unleash her face on an enemy then send it to the gods on Olympus.

For some reason, the movie decided to make Grover cool. In the book, Grover is an awkward satyr, or half-goat, who is obsessed with food and getting his searcher’s license. He has some funny lines, but that is mostly because he also serves as the comic relief character. Yet, in the movie, Grover has what can only be described as... swagger.

Persephone, who does not appear in the book or TV show, makes an appearance in the Underworld and flirts with Grover the second she sets eyes on him. To make matters worse, that’s all she does, aside from talking about how abusive Hades is. In the book and TV show, however, Hades is painted as a decent guy, aside from being Lord of the Dead.

While the example of Grover suddenly having game in the movie is funny, it points out the key reason why most fans hate the movie so much. All of the characters serve the same roles, but they are completely unrecognizable in the movie from the characters in the other two adaptations.

**Why everyone loves Percy Jackson**

Rick Riordan, author of the books and co-creator of the TV show, wrote the books because Greek mythology was a bonding point for him and his son, who has both ADHD and dyslexia. A large part of Riordan’s intent in writing the Percy Jackson series was to make children feel like they have a community and that being different is not a bad thing. He wants kids to know that they can all find a place where they fit in.

In the ending monologue of the first season, Percy says “If you ever feel like you don’t fit, like the world doesn’t make sense... then you might be part of our world. So, don’t give up, ‘cause we might need you for the fight ahead.”