

# THE SOUTHEND

BACK TO SCHOOL

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deterioration:  
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Mark Whalen's  
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# THE NEW NORMAL

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recreational  
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##### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The South End welcomes letters to the editors regarding all inquiries and concerns from the Wayne State community. Please limit letters to 500 words. All submissions are subject to editing and may be published.

##### CORRECTIONS

The South End corrects all factual errors published online and in print.

##### ONLINE POLICY

The South End publishes articles online and in print. Visit our website at [thesouthend.wayne.edu](http://thesouthend.wayne.edu). While we support the right to free speech and expression, there are guidelines for morally and socially acceptable content. Comments and feedback deemed offensive are subject to editing or removal.

##### PUBLICATION

The South End is a daily online publication created by Wayne State students. The South End publishes special print editions at the beginning and end of the academic year. Copies of the print edition will be available free of charge at various locations throughout campus. The Student Newspaper Publication Board, established by the Wayne State University Board of Governors, acts as the publisher of The South End. The board establishes and ensures compliance with publication, editorial and news reporting guidelines. Business operations are handled through the Dean of Students Office. All complaints, comments and suggestions concerning the student newspaper should be directed to [thesouthend.wsu@gmail.com](mailto:thesouthend.wsu@gmail.com).



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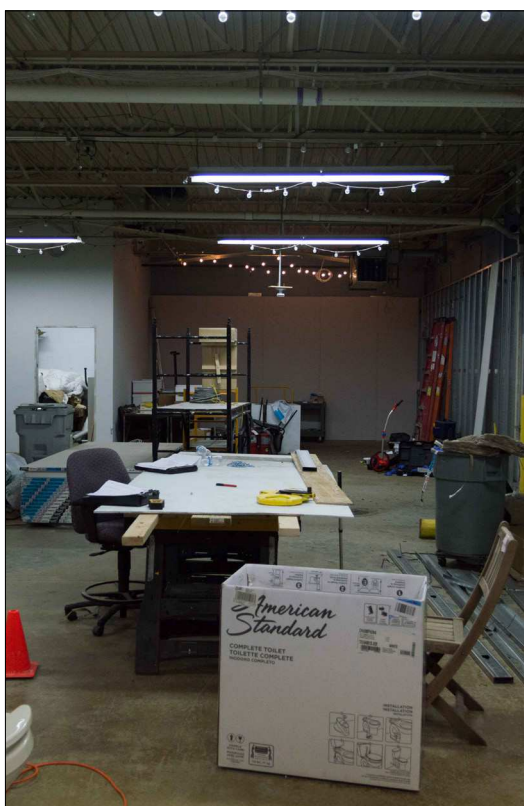
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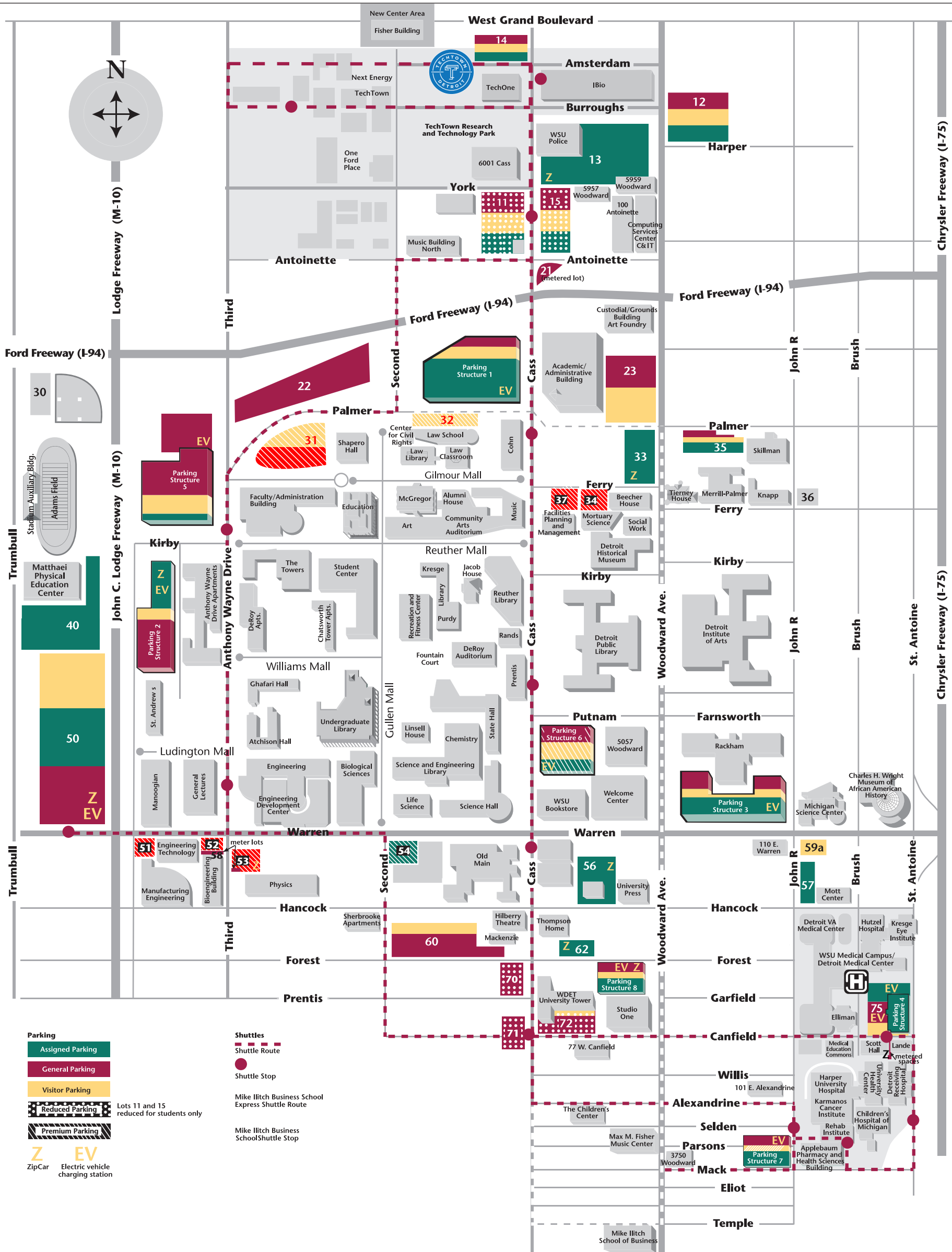
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# Letter from the Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor

Dear Warriors,

We're living in a time of rapid transformation. This year, Wayne State welcomed its largest freshman class of all time, expanded its reach into Detroit's business scene and made national headlines with the historic election of three former Warriors — Rashida Tlaib, Dana Nessel and Jocelyn Benson. On a broader scale, the people of Michigan hit the polls in record numbers to decide on legislation that directly impacts their daily lives. Michiganders voted to eliminate red tape surrounding the election process, establish an independent body to commission legislative borders and legalize a plant that the prohibition of which was racially charged and did nothing to protect citizens.

As a student publication covering a diverse, growing campus in a diverse, growing city, we at The South End recognize our duty to provide readers with accurate and pertinent information. During election season, we were steadfast in producing journalism that educated young voters in an unbiased and editorially responsible manner; we knew it would be many students' first time voting, so we wanted to distribute material that would help them cast educated votes. The South End published articles that explained the three statewide proposals, quoting local experts and student representatives who provided insight concerning the potential effects of the proposals. In regard to WSU politics, The South End published an extensive guide detailing the stances of each Board of Governors candidate, whose decisions shape

the functions and reputation of Wayne State.

Our readers' tastes have evolved, and they demand the university administration be held accountable. Our allegiance is to our fellow Warriors, and as an editorially independent newspaper, we ensure positive and negative developments are reported on as they occur. This year, we reported on President M. Roy Wilson's much-debated contract extension, a dispute between university administration and the WSU faculty union and the improper procedures of WSU partners. We've also reported on campus improvements, student initiatives and advancements in curriculum, technology and research.

Journalism is under attack and newsrooms are shrinking, meaning there are fewer eyes and ears on those in power. Moreover, journalists are often viewed as expendable and are mistreated by government officials, which instills a sense of distrust in the American people toward the media. The South End remains committed to expanding its impact, maintaining its role as a source of information and increasing readership, regardless of the current climate.

The winter semester is upon us and with that comes refreshed and renewed minds. We wish you all the best and hope you enjoy our Back to School print edition and continue to check in with us online throughout the year.

Sincerely,  
Miriam Marini and Omar Abdel-Baqui  
Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor



# Letter from President Wilson

Dear students,

Welcome – or welcome back – to Wayne State University! I hope your winter break has left you refreshed and ready to learn. We’re excited to have you here, whether you’ve been here before or are on our campus for the first time.

To our students who will be living on campus—welcome home. You’re joining a growing community of people who are eager to experience our thriving campus and Midtown living.

Our efforts to provide every Warrior with the best possible campus experience continue to grow in exciting new ways. To name a few—we’re renovating a former science library into an innovative STEM instructional facility for undergraduate students. We also broke ground recently on the much anticipated Hilberry Gateway Performance Complex, which will give our actors, dancers, and musicians the first-rate facilities they deserve.

As you embark on your studies this year, please keep in mind that our top priority is always your success. If you need help, just ask. We’ve assembled a robust support network ready to assist you in any way you need.

You have my best wishes for a semester filled with learning, curiosity, and personal growth.

Sincerely,  
M. Roy Wilson  
President



## GET INVOLVED

### FIND ORGANIZATIONS

Wayne State boasts over 400 student organizations on campus ranging from social to academic and everything in between.

### ATTEND EVENTS

Search, RSVP and check into events happening on campus. Wayne State is bursting with fun activities, sporting events and learning experiences to attend. Save your Event Pass to your phone for quick access to events.

### TRACK INVOLVEMENT

Record your activities and memberships on campus to showcase your involvement. Discover your Involvement Record under your settings.

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Take Get Involved on the go with Corq! Download at [corqapp.com](http://corqapp.com).



# DeRoy residents: Black mold, water leaks, unanswered work orders plague building

Jack Filbrandt  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Wayne State’s 46-year-old Helen L. DeRoy Apartments — which some students say is riddled with structural, plumbing and sanitation issues — is set to be demolished summer 2019.

DeRoy Apartments resident Sudeshna Biswas, a doctoral biology student, says the building’s poor living conditions caused her to contract infections. She says her room has leaks, black mold and strong odors.

“I knew about the leaking, but I didn’t know about the black mold problem,” Biswas said.

Biswas said there was mold in her bathroom the day she moved in.

“It eventually made me sick,” she said.

When she began to feel sick, Biswas said she contracted infections on her hands and went to the Campus Health Center for treatment.

“They said it may be because (my) environment is toxic,” she said.

WSU Chief Financial Officer William Decatur submitted documents to the WSU Board of Governors on Sept. 23, 2016, stating: “Within a few years after completion of construction, the facade of DeRoy Apartments began to leak at numerous locations into student living spaces. It was eventually determined that a defective chemical additive used during construction was deteriorating the modular brick panels which cover the building exterior. A settlement was reached with the manufacturer and repairs were made, but the problem of leaks has re-occurred as the building has aged.”

The water infiltration is caused by Sarabond, an additive used in concrete for brick paneling, said WSU spokesperson Ted Montgomery. Sarabond was found to weaken steel and deteriorate building structures and was used in about 2,000 buildings before it was discontinued, according to The New York Times.

Repair issues are made on a case-by-case basis said Chris Rader, associate director of residential life.

“We try to fix problems when people have (them),” Rader said.

However, Biswas said work orders take a long time to be processed.

“If something happens, like clogging on the weekend — maybe on Friday — then we don’t get any response until Tuesday,” Biswas said. “Our kitchen sinks (were) clogged for like four days.”

In Biswas’s kitchen, there was plumbing work that needed to be done. During the repair, she said workers made a large hole but didn’t close it up for two weeks. Biswas requested another work order once she began noticing pungent smells emitting from the open hole.

DeRoy Apartments resident and junior Jamell Morson said the building “has a ton of problems,” and residents often submit work orders to no avail.

“I had to put in about 10 work orders to get someone to actually come to my dorm,” Morson said.

Many DeRoy Apartments residents



Black mold on the hallway ceiling of Deroy Apartments. Photo by Jonathan Deschaine.



Cracks in the walls of the staircase. Sarabond, which was used in the construction of DeRoy Apartments, was found to deteriorate building structures and may cause brick to crumble, according to The New York Times. Photo by Jonathan Deschaine.

file multiple work orders and receive no responses — eventually giving up, Morson said.

“A friend has mushrooms growing out of her carpet (in DeRoy Apartments),” Morson said. “She said she’s been trying to tell someone about them, but they haven’t been doing anything, so she just lays paper towel over (the mushrooms) so nobody can see it.”

Rader said it was made known to students that DeRoy Apartments possesses problems.

“In the housing application, it states that there are water leaks throughout the building,” Rader said.

At the beginning of the fall semester, Biswas said DeRoy Apartment staff neglected to do an inspection of her room before she moved in.

Biswas said there was mold growing in her bathroom and a musty smell throughout her room. She said she attempted to take matters into her own by hands, removing the mold using bleach.

Biswas said she only lives in DeRoy Apartments “because rent there is cheaper than other places in Midtown.”

**OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW**

An overall condition assessment of DeRoy Apartments was completed in 2015. The report found the cost of modernizing and repairing the infrastructure of DeRoy Apartments was higher than the cost of building brand-new apartments, Montgomery said.

“Funds have been spent over the years to update DeRoy and manage the water infiltration problem until 2015, when a decision was made to not spend further large expenditures in the building,” Montgomery said.

The deterioration of DeRoy Apartments and the decision to build Anthony Wayne Drive Apartments are not connected, Rader said. The decision to build the Anthony Wayne Drive Apartments occurred due to student surveys and consultation from Student Senate.

“Market demand studies in 2014 and 2016 indicated that we had unmet demand for campus housing,” Montgomery said. “The housing facilities master plan was the resulting plan to add, remove and renovate campus housing facilities to address that shortage.”

Although construction of Anthony Wayne Drive Apartments will not be fully completed until June 2019, students were able to move into the new apartments for the fall 2018 semester, accommodating the need for on-campus housing, Rader said. Allowing residents to move in before construction is complete often happens with large housing projects, he added.

“Students wanted this type of housing,” Rader said. “It’s all about trying to meet student needs.”

DeRoy Apartments will be closing its doors May 1, Montgomery said. Demolition of the building will start in late May or early June and will be completed by September.

# New university budget model expected in 2020

Ken Narita  
Beat Reporter

Wayne State’s budget steering committee is scheduled to finalize the responsibility center management based budget model Dec. 15. The RCM budget model is expected to go live Oct. 1, 2020.

The new budget model, which WSU announced in fall 2017, is a decentralized approach, that moves budget management from central administration to individual schools and colleges — giving deans control over their respective college’s budget and students a greater voice in university spending.

“This is a complete model, it is not a final model yet,” said Jeff Bolton, assistant vice president of the Office of University Budget. “We want to make sure we have feedback. Even though we’ve included so many different people from across campus in the building of the model, we continue to look for feedback and we continue to want to make sure this model is what’s going to work best for the university.”

This project is led by Bolton and administered by nine committees and task forces that are made up of over 50 faculty members from various colleges and departments.

“I believe that all of our colleges are represented by at least one representative,” said Bolton.

The RCM model will replace the incremental budget model that the university previously utilized, which created the budget plan based on the previous year’s results. According to the university, the previous budget plan had a disconnect between expected expenditures and actual spending.

After the RCM model’s finalization, the Training Task Force will instruct individual colleges on how it will work. The training will consist of an interactive presentation and guide aimed to get faculty confident and familiar with RCM methodology, terminology and concepts, Bolton said.

“The goal is definitely to try and continue to incentivize cost efficiencies and reduce spending on the expense side using every dollar wisely, which I believe this does,” Bolton said. “The other side is then obviously revenue growth and that’s something that RCM focuses on.”

# Two’s a party but three’s a crowd: New guest policy, one year later

Susana Hernandez  
Beat Reporter

Wayne State Housing and Residential Life changed its guest policy in January 2018, lowering the number of guests a resident can have at a time from three to two.

Housing and Residential Life introduced the updated policy in January after a resident reported an incident in 2017, said Chris Rader, associate director of Residential Life. The South End reported that a female student said she was raped in her on-campus residential hall in November 2017. However, Rader did not confirm whether the reported rape propelled WSU to change its policy.

“As a result (of the incident), we reviewed our guest protocols,” Rader said. “This review included benchmarking against other urban institutions with campus housing, as their processes and student experiences are similar to ours.”

The policy states that non-residents of a university operated building are considered guests and must have a resident check them in. Guests must present their OneCard or government-issued ID to obtain a guest pass. Students from one WSU housing complex visiting another WSU housing complex are also considered guests, according to WSU’s Community Living Guidelines.

Residents must stay with their guests at all times, including during check-out.

Residents and guests who fail to follow the regulations could jeopardize their guest privileges, according to university policy.

Logan Cavins, a freshman biochemistry student and Towers Residential Suites resident, said he understands why WSU has its guest policy but wishes it were more lenient.

“We are in Detroit, so I get why the university has the rules,” he said. “I just don’t think we should have to check in other WSU students. If they already live here, then why should we have to check them in?”

“Checking in guests is part of our overall security protocols for campus housing,” Rader said. “This includes on-call duty staff, security monitors, 24/7 locked doors, staffed front desk and building stickers for residents.”

Michigan State University doesn’t require guests to check in, and Central Michigan University requires residents to check in non-residents after 10 p.m. At Eastern Michigan University, all guests must be checked in with their government-issued ID after 10 p.m. University of Michigan’s guest policy varies among residential halls.

Director of Housing and Residential Life Jeanine Bessette and Chief Housing Officer Tim Michael said they don’t know when the original guest policy was implemented, as Housing and Residential Life doesn’t have anyone on staff who was hired prior to 2008.

Freshman kinesiology student and Towers resident Sydney Balk said she isn’t fond of WSU’s guest policy.

“It’s annoying when your parents are helping you move stuff into your dorm and you have to constantly show their guest passes,” Balk said.

Balk said there are times when WSU residential front desk employees are busy, making it easy to sneak a guest into the building.

“Sometimes, they will be really busy at the front desk and you can just bring your guest upstairs with you,” she said. “For the most part, they always check your OneCard.”

Raymond Thomas, a desk assistant at Yousif B. Ghafari Hall and sophomore business student, said if desk assistants fail to check in guests, they get put on probation and can potentially lose their job. Getting rid of WSU’s guest policy could create safety issues, he added.

“It’s a tedious process and I get why students get frustrated with it, but with the policy being tedious, it makes the students think twice about who they want to bring to their room,” Thomas said. “Police are quick to respond, and they will even stay outside the building just for precaution.

“It’s good the university has these policies into place because it can get sketchy at night.”

Shashwat Mishra, a graduate biology

student, said he thinks the guest policy is flawed because guests who are not students must leave a form of ID at the front desk. He said his family is required to leave their passports at the front desk because they are international visitors.

“It’s not a safe place to leave your passport,” he said. “There was already an incident at Towers where the front desk lost someone’s passport. When they lose something like that, they don’t realize the financial issues it creates.”

Mishra added he doesn’t like the new restriction on the number of guests either.

“I am a doctorate student, so that means I’ll be here for another seven years and I can’t have more than two family members in my room because of the policy,” he said. “Am I supposed to have two up with me while the other one waits in the lobby for us?”

Housing and Residential Life sent students a survey in May asking for feedback regarding the changes to the guest policy. Rader said the data has been compiled and they are currently reviewing the results.

“For us, the safety of our residents in our community is most important, and we made the decision with the residents’ safety at the forefront,” Rader said.

## WHAT IS TITLE IX?

Title IX is a federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in education. Sex discrimination includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, and stalking.

WSU’s sexual harassment, sexual assault and nondiscrimination policies apply to all members of the university community — faculty, staff and students.

### REPORT SEXUAL HARASSMENT/SEXUAL ASSAULT

Wayne State Police	313-577-2222
Title IX Director	313-577-2268
Dean of Students Office	313-577-1010
Dean of Students David Strauss is the Title IX deputy coordinator for students	
Office of Equal Opportunity	313-577-2280
Anonymous Tip Hotline	313-577-5138



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# Student Senate plans to increase transportation awareness, student engagement in 2019

**Slone Terranella**  
*News Editor*

As students return from break, ready to tackle classes, Wayne State Student Senate will also be gearing up to address some of WSU’s most prevalent issues.

Senate members say their main goals for the upcoming year are to build a culture that encourages the use of public transportation and to heighten community engagement.

“Obviously Detroit deserves and needs better political resources, especially with the transportation aspect of the city,” said Paul Jones III, Senate director of community affairs. “However, as far as what we can do on campus, the Senate has been working to get students aware of the different types of transportation options available to them.”

Senate has teamed up with WayneRides to connect students with different types of transportation, Jones said. Senate and WayneRides gave students free bus passes for the month of October.

“We want to increase the visibility of bus stops on campus and encourage students to ride DDOT buses,” said Jones.

“Unfortunately there is a stigma that discourages students from riding the bus due to years of neglect and years of hearing about certain things that do happen on the bus. I think things have changed and DDOT has done a lot to turn the image around.”

Senate and WayneRides are currently trying to increase the visibility of bus stops on campus. Jones said Senate has met with DDOT to discuss the lack of student use of the bus system.

“We want to create a culture of transportation that exceeds personal cars. We want students to be aware of the bus stops,” said Jones. “We plan on trying to install public works of art or buying shelters for the bus stops around campus.”

Along with increasing transportation visibility, Senate members say they are focused on academic success. Senate’s academic success group is working to get student instructors available for summer classes.

Ali Fakh, senator-at-large, said academic success is hindered during the summer due to the lack of peer mentoring programs and

student instructors.

“We are currently working with (Monica) Brockmeyer, the associate provost for student success, to get summer SI and peer mentoring sessions started soon,” Fakh said. “Many students need extra resources even in their summer classes. As a Senate, this is one of our main initiatives for the upcoming year.”

Hussein Bazzi, senator-at-large, said another major area of concern Senate is working to improve is student engagement.

“We want to decrease the division between people who live on campus and commuters. We want to promote school spirit, campus life and unity among the student population,” said Bazzi. “We have so many things going on around campus and barely anyone takes advantages of these events. Many commuters leave campus right after their classes, and we want to fix this. We want commuter students to stick around and partake in the plethora of events and organizations we have on campus.”

One way Bazzi said Senate plans to increase student engagement is by

promoting the Corq app, which connects students with events and groups on campus.

Bazzi also said Senate wants to promote campus life by improving the food in Towers Cafe.

“So many students complain about the food especially in Towers and rightfully so,” said Bazzi. “We want to work on getting healthier options available for students. One way or another we will make food options better and healthier, while also accommodating to certain diets such as gluten-free or vegan diets.”

Senator Rexhinaldo Nazarko said the Senate will work with the university and Aramark, WSU’s food supplier, to ensure on-campus food is improved.

“Aramark’s contract is handled by the university, so we can encourage the administration to take action and improve the food Aramark provides us,” Nazarko said. “We can pass resolutions and talk directly to Aramark to provide suggestions on how they can improve their services to us.”

# BOG extends Wilson’s contract to 2023, increases housing budget

**Susana Hernandez**  
*Beat Reporter*  
**Omar Abdel-Baqi**  
*Managing Editor*

President M. Roy Wilson received a pay raise in a contract approved by the Board of Governors with a 5–3 vote Dec. 7.

The contract is effective immediately and replaces Wilson’s prior contract, which was signed Aug. 1, 2015 and was set to expire in 2020.

Under his new contract, Wilson receives a \$603,343 annual base salary — about a \$100,000 increase from his previous contract.

Wilson’s base salary will increase by 3 percent annually, according to the contract. He is also eligible for a \$25,000 annual performance bonus.

Moreover, Wilson’s retention incentive payment increased under his new contract.

Wilson is to receive a lump sum payment of \$100,000 July 31, 2020 and a \$150,000 lump sum payment July 31, 2023, according to the contract. His old contract awarded him a \$50,000 lump sum payment and a \$100,000 lump sum payment.

Wayne State will also increase its annual contribution to Wilson’s 415(m) account. The university will pay \$150,000 to his account a year. Wilson’s previous contract called for a \$100,000 annual contribution to his 415(m).

Multiple BOG members voiced their concerns regarding the Wilson administration’s lack of transparency and the fact that the board was presented the contract three days before its Dec. 7 meeting.

BOG Chair Sandra Hughes O’Brien said the contract extension was not included in the BOG’s agenda and said there was no mention of the extension at the agenda review meeting two weeks prior.

“Three days ago, I had received a draft (of Wilson’s contract extension) and I have not yet participated in negotiating these terms,” said O’Brien, who voted against the extension. “I have numerous questions regarding our failure to include pertinent provisions that need to be considered in order to protect the university.”

O’Brien added that it is “mind-boggling” that a cabinet member can’t live off of \$200,000.

“I worry that some of these administrators and consultants are so out of touch with the reality on the ground that they fail to recognize that most Detroit households make \$10,000 annually and don’t drive Mercedes and Teslas,” she said.

Michael Busuito said he didn’t approve of the contract extension because of the short time frame the BOG was, and he said making the decision immediately is not fair to incoming BOG members Bryan Barnhill and Anil Kumar because they would have no say in the matter.

“We have a year to review this, so I don’t see a need to rush this (decision),” Busuito said.

BOG member Kim Trent said Wilson deserves the contract extension because he has done well in his position. She voted for his contract extension.

“To me, this vote is about the answer

to a very basic question: Has President Wilson performed the duties of his position in such a way he deserves an opportunity to continue at WSU?” she said.

**Other BOG updates**

The BOG approved an increase of \$860,000 for the campus housing master plan at its Sept. 21 meeting, bringing the overall master plan budget to \$28.9 million. The master plan includes the renovation of Chatsworth Apartments and the expansion of Towers Cafe.

The original proposal, which was approved Oct. 2017, stated the budget for the Chatsworth renovations would not exceed \$28 million.


“Chatsworth is important — all of our housing is,” O’Brien said at the meeting.

In June, the BOG approved \$40 million in funding to renovate and repurpose the Science and Engineering Library as a new Science Technology Engineering and Math Innovation Learning Center. The BOG later approved the allocation of another \$9.5 million for the project.

Wilson said the renovations are more expensive than the university originally planned for. The idea to build a new STEM learning center was proposed but quickly turned down.

“It’s debatable but possible to rebuild,” he said. “But at this point, with all of the investments we put in already, it would not be advisable to give up.”

The first BOG meeting of 2019 will be on Feb. 1 in the McGregor Memorial Conference Center.



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# Legionella update: WSU remediates water supply following bacteria detection

Slone Terranella  
News Editor

Legionella — the bacteria that causes Legionnaires’ disease — was detected in 25 Wayne State buildings over the summer. After discovering the bacteria, WSU partnered with PathCon Laboratories to begin the remediation process. Another round of testing administered Oct. 8 indicated the Maccabees building, CS Mott building, Education Building, Freer House, Integrative Biosciences Center, Lande Building, Old Main, Horace H. Rackham Education Memorial Building and University Towers still had levels of Legionella in their cooling towers or drinking water. WSU Chief of Staff Michael Wright said the most recent testing — conducted the week of Nov. 18 — showed that Legionella is no longer an issue throughout the buildings that tested positive on Oct. 8. While Legionella exists naturally and a low level of the bacteria is normal,

it can contaminate hot water tanks and cooling towers of air conditioning systems, according to WSU. Legionnaires’ disease does not spread person to person. Rather, people contract Legionnaires’ disease “when they breathe in mist (small droplets of water in the air) containing the bacteria,” according to the Center for Disease Control. “Most healthy people do not become infected with Legionella bacteria after exposure.” Symptoms of Legionnaires’ disease include cough, shortness of breath, fever, diarrhea, nausea muscle aches and headaches, according to the CDC. The symptoms can appear two to 14 days after exposure to the bacteria. “Wayne State took extraordinary steps and went above and beyond to ensure the safety of our campus,” Wright said. “We didn’t just look at one or two buildings, we went across the entire campus.” WSU replaced the evaporative cooling towers in Towers Residential Suites and

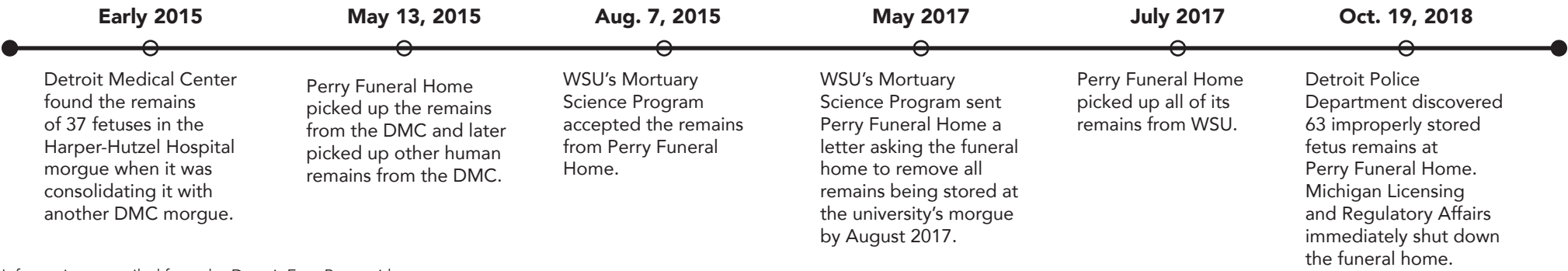
placed sensors in cooling towers across campus. The sensors detect and monitor bacterial and chemical levels, Wright said. “These sensors provide us with continual and automatic data of the bacterial and chemical levels of the cooling towers across campus,” Wright said. “We also have increased the use of Bio-Cide in the water to mitigate Legionella growth.” Bio-Cide, an international biotechnology company, uses antimicrobial solutions to treat industrial water systems. In the spring, members of President M. Roy Wilson’s cabinet will meet to discuss the university’s water management plan, Wright said. “We have developed a completely new water management plan, so we have a whole different strategy on how we will manage the buildings next year,” Wright said. “The president has committed resources to solve this issue and we regularly communicate with Detroit’s Department of Health and the Department of Health and Human Services.”

Legionella testing will come to a halt as the winter semester begins, Wright said. “The season for Legionnaires’ is pretty much over,” Wright said. “We are shutting down our seasonal use cooling towers so there’s no reason to test for Legionella anymore. Plus, we ensured all of the water is decontaminated.” Wright said any building that has tested positive for Legionnaires’ disease has been treated and chemically sanitized. “Anytime we had testing that showed any level of concern, even if it wasn’t to a level of concern to authorities, we took action,” Wright said. “Students should feel safe and confident come spring time when we crank the air conditioning back up.” The university will continue testing campus buildings for Legionella in the spring as part of its new water management plan.

# Civil suit filed against WSU for improper storage of fetus remains

The South End

Wayne State is a defendant in a civil lawsuit involving the discovery of improperly stored fetus remains in a funeral home partnered with the university. The Detroit Police Department say they found 63 fetus remains — 36 in boxes and 27 in freezers — at Perry Funeral Home on Oct. 19. The Detroit Free Press reports the funeral home used WSU’s morgue to deposit human remains and failed to follow up with family members of the deceased to pursue proper disposition. In a statement released Oct. 20, WSU said: “Wayne State has provided Perry Funeral Home with temporary, secure shelter for remains over the years. However, it has never been our responsibility for arrangements or final disposition of the remains. Wayne State has had no role in either retrieving remains from or delivering remains to that or any other funeral home. This tragic situation is not a university issue.” The civil lawsuit, filed by attorneys Peter Parks and Daniel Cieslak, also names the Detroit Medical Center and Perry Funeral Home as defendants. The DMC and Perry Funeral Home declined The South End’s request for comment.



Information compiled from the Detroit Free Press with some original reporting from The South End.

# Corktown Health Center focuses on LGBT care

**Ken Narita**  
*Beat Reporter*

Many people expect funky smells, bright fluorescent lights and tons of personal questions when visiting a doctor’s office — a daunting environment that some try to avoid.

When disclosing concerns regarding sexual health and activity, heterosexuals have the advantage of most likely having a doctor who is also straight — making the conversation less awkward. However, LGBT individuals may end up in the care of a doctor who lacks understanding of issues prevalent in the LGBT community.

To combat disparities in LGBT healthcare, Wayne State partnered with the Corktown Health Center to create the first health clinic in Michigan focused on serving the LGBT community.

“The LGBTQ community is still one that is very underserved, and it’s not always recognized and not always appreciated,” said Brianna Sohl, a second-year WSU medical student who volunteers at Corktown Health Center.

In part due to stigma and prejudice, LGBT individuals are less likely to seek out medical care, said Patrick Yankee, chief development officer of Corktown Health Center. Moreover, LGBT people have an increased risk of health threats, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Healthcare professionals can better care for LGBT patients by knowing their health needs and knowing how to address them, said Cara Mitrano, president and founder of the LGBT Student Advisory Board and former co-president of WSU’s LGBTQ student organization, JIGSAW.

“Having an LGBTQ-affirming provider

helps me personally by allowing me to seek healthcare in a place that will not judge me for who I am or my lifestyle choices,” Mitrano said.

“It’s a very holistic approach,” Sohl said. “You have such a wide spectrum of professionals that are available at Corktown beyond what is seen as standard healthcare, like nurses and doctors, but also social workers and people that can help you with housing and food.”

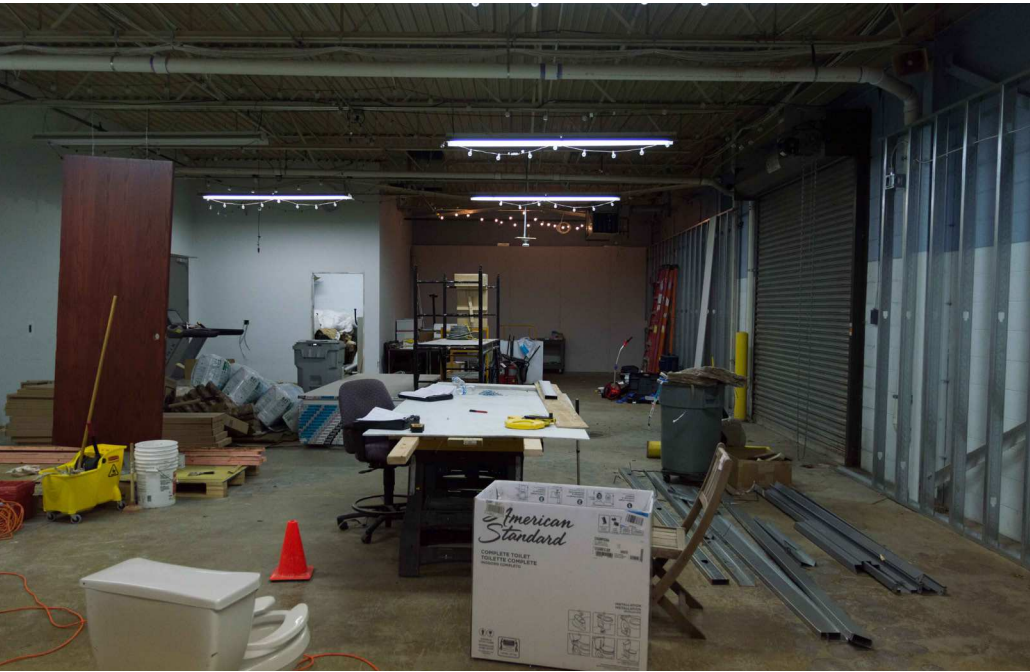
Corktown Health Center’s goal is to provide schools across Michigan with the opportunity to learn how to better provide care for the LGBT community, Yankee said.

“This is the first time the students get to work with a population they normally don’t get to work with,” said Jennifer Mendez, WSU associate professor and director of Community Engagement. “They are working with these patients and also being trained by the Michigan Department of Community Health in testing for HIV.”

Corktown Health Center opened its doors in July 2017. It recently added space for patient rooms and is constructing a pharmacy and training room.

When completed, the 4,000-square-foot training room will accommodate 150 people and will be used for distance learning.

“Being at Corktown (Health Center) — where their goal is to make an open environment and safe environment — exposes you to an idea of how you as a physician can change lives in a way that’s very meaningful to people who belong to a community who historically has been not always treated the best by the medical community,” Sohl said.



Above: The training facility under construction on Nov. 7.



Left: A Corktown Health Center doctor’s office.

Photos by Jonathan Deschaine.

# Account holds cause deportation risks, anxiety

**Sean Taormina**  
*Beat Reporter*

Having issues with financial aid can be detrimental to a student’s success and wallet.

Issues with students’ financial aid often leads to holds being placed on their student accounts — blocking their ability to register for classes. For some Warriors, holds may be a minor inconvenience. For others, it can result in deportation or a delay in achieving their career goals.

Senior accounting student Mahmudur Chowdhury first found out his account was on hold in September and said he didn’t think much of it at first. At the time, he had reapplied for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, hoping he’d be awarded additional federal aid, and said he assumed the hold was just a hiccup in that process.

Chowdhury said he visited Wayne State’s Office of Student Financial Aid and was informed that FAFSA needed a copy of his federal tax return for verification. In late October, when he tried to register for winter classes, the hold on his account was still in place — putting his job as an academic student assistant for the College of Education at risk.

“I came close to a mental breakdown between this and exams,” Chowdhury said. “If I can’t sign up for classes, it will delay my

registration and I could lose my job with the university. I keep thinking about how I’m going to take care of myself if I lose my job.”

Chowdhury is not alone. In the 2018 fall semester, 14 percent of degree-seeking students at WSU had holds placed on their accounts preventing them from registering for classes, according to the Office of Student Financial Aid.

“(WSU’s) policy is that if a person has an unpaid balance, they are unable to register until it is resolved,” said Shelia Stewart, bursar at the Student Accounts Receivable office. “In practice, WSU allows students who owe \$1,500 or less to be able to register but prevents them from seeing their grades and transcript.”

Graduate biology student Shashwat Mishra is from India and is on a student visa. He said he had his account put on hold in August following a switch in campus housing’s payment policy from month-to-month rent to a single upfront payment.

“My tuition is paid for by the graduate school as part of my scholarship,” Mishra said. “But for some reason my rent money was diverted to my tuition money. It showed up as an outstanding balance on my account and I got an eviction notice from (WSU).”

Mishra said he spent much of September and early October bouncing

from department to department trying to resolve the issue. In the midst of trying to find a solution, he received an email from the Office of International Students and Scholars.

“I got an email from OISS saying if you don’t register in the next week, your student visa will be revoked, which basically means they can deport me,” Mishra said. “I have to register for eight credits every semester as part of my contract. I couldn’t (register) because there was a hold on my account.”

Mishra said he was eventually directed to the Office of Student Financial Aid. There, financial aid staff were able to help him resolve the issue in time for him to keep his visa.

Senior theater student Sidni Goodman said she was unable to register for winter classes because she was waiting on FAFSA verification.

“First, (FASFA) asked for my transcript, then a statement about my mom’s marital status,” Goodman said. “I haven’t been able to register for my senior year classes. It gives me so much anxiety.”

“I wish they would have just given me a list of all the documents they needed from me. I’ve been watching as the days go by, hoping my classes don’t fill up.”

Stewart said new federal regulations

have led to more requests from FAFSA for student verifications.

“Within the last couple of years there have been new regulations for financial aid,” Stewart said. “Financial aid has introduced new conditions that students must meet. For example, (students) must show improvement on their academic process and can’t repeat the same classes. (FAFSA) often needs students’ final grades from the last semester.”

Students shouldn’t let their guard down when seeking financial assistance, said Louie Krause, associate director of outreach and retention at the Office of Student Financial Aid.

“Talking about money and debt makes people uncomfortable,” Krause said. “We want to do all we can to help students navigate the process. No question is too silly, and no question is too odd.”

“Let us know what’s happening in your life. Say your parent lost their job, that’s important information we want to know so we can work with students individually.”

For more information about WSU’s financial aid system, visit [wayne.edu/financial-aid](http://wayne.edu/financial-aid). Students can view their financial records and eligibility using [academica.wayne.edu](http://academica.wayne.edu).

# Students seek mental illness support with companion animals

**Jessica Taylor**  
Contributing Writer

Freshman film major Adrianah Tucker says she has struggled with depression for years, and her pet birds are a source of support that help her through her tough times.

“I have struggled with depression since I was 14,” Tucker said. “My birds help me stay calm and give me something to care for. They help me cope when I’m in a dark place.”

Students living in Wayne State residential halls are not allowed to have pets — with the exception of emotional support animals.

According to WSU policy, an emotional support animal is a companion animal that provides a therapeutic benefit to an individual with a disability.

“Emotional support animals are not restricted to dogs or cats,” said WSU Disability Specialist Cherise Frost.

However, there are limitations to what types of animals can be approved for dorm life, Frost said.

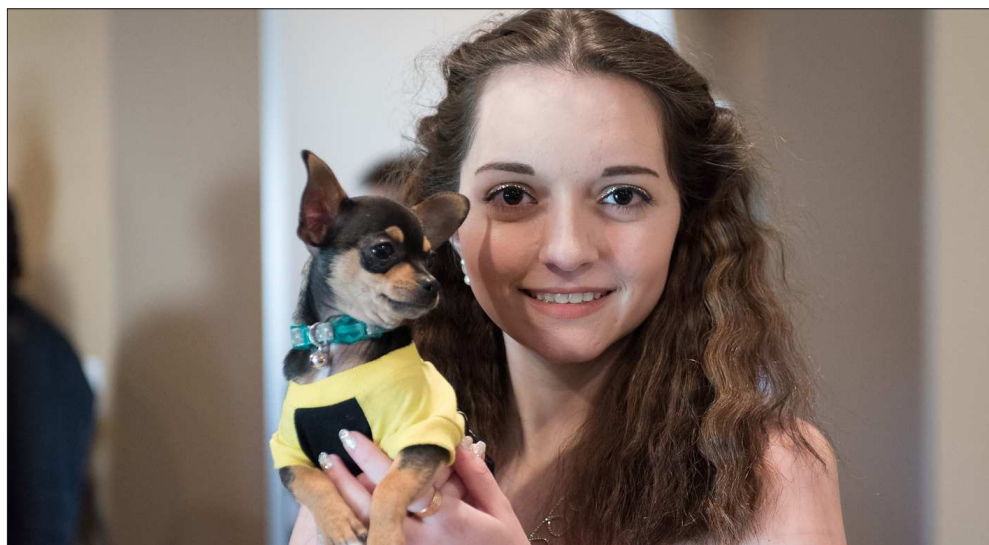
“A boa constrictor or a Great Dane would not be approved because they would not be appropriate for housing,” she said.

Emotional support animal registration is processed by Student Disability Services, which probes legitimacy of need, qualifications and documentation. Students with support animals must register every semester, said Kelly Thacker, associate director of housing operations.

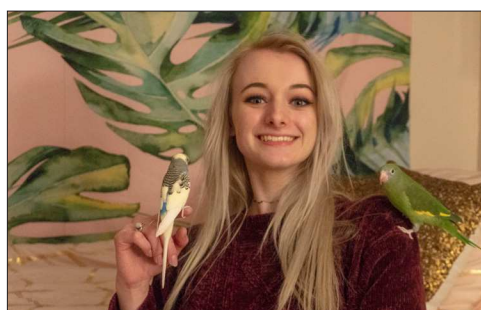
Tucker has two birds living in her single Atchison Hall room — Brobee, a green and yellow canary winged parakeet, and Buddy, a white, blue and yellow budgerigar.

“My birds are my family. They (help) me feel more at home while I’m at Wayne State,” Tucker said.

Freshman business management student



Above: Freshman Athena Syed and her Chihuahua, Bruno. Syed says that Bruno has helped make her transition into college easier.



To the left: Freshman Adrianah Tucker and her two birds Buddy (left) and Brobee (right). Tucker says her birds help her stay calm.

Photos by Jonathan Deschaine.

Tara Serafini says she struggles with anxiety and mood disorders.

“I get periods where my mood and energy dip so low that it’s hard to make myself get out of bed,” she said.

Serafini lives with her 45-pound black lab and greyhound mix, Worm, in Towers Residential Suites.

“Worm helps—she gives me a reason to get out of bed and gets me out of my thoughts when they’re getting too negative,” Serafini said. “She helps me function like a

normal human being.”

Freshman pre-nursing major Athena Syed said her five-pound Chihuahua, Bruno, is there to comfort her when she’s feeling low. Syed said that Bruno has made her transition to college easier.

Per Housing and Residential Life policy, roommates of residents with therapy animals must sign an agreement to live with the animal.

Serafini said her dog has a great relationship with her suitemates.

“All three of my roommates adore her,” Serafini said. “When I’m in class she loves to sleep on the couch under a blanket with whoever is home.”

Syed, who has no roommates, said Bruno enjoys spending time with her neighbors.

However, some students with emotional support animals said there is some stress that comes along with having an animal in a college dorm or apartment.

“Sometimes, when I’m taking (Bruno) outside, it can get overwhelming,” Syed said. “People stopping and asking if they can pet him makes me a bit uncomfortable.”

Serafini faces a different challenge with Worm.

“One difficulty I face is feeling like I never spend enough time running her around outside, even on the days I take her out,” she said.

Tucker worries that her birds might be a nuisance to her neighbors.

“Brobee likes to scream a lot. I am used to it, however, I worry that my neighbors get annoyed,” Tucker said.

Some students have misused the emotional support animal system to allow them to have a pet, Frost said.

“Unfortunately, people are finding loopholes when they find medical professionals who will sign off on them having an (emotional support animal), though they don’t have a need for them,” Frost said.

Serafini said it’s sad that people cheat the system because they want their pet with them.

“It makes others look down on emotional support animal owners or not take the impact they can have for a mentally ill person seriously,” Serafini said. “Emotional support animals can have such an immense, real impact on someone’s life.”

## WSU researchers study marijuana’s effect on PTSD

**Lauren Wethington**  
Contributing Writer

A Wayne State research team is studying how cannabinoids — the active components in cannabis — affect patients suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

The team is led by Christine Rabinak, an assistant professor in the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

“The primary behavioral treatment for PTSD is called prolonged exposure therapy. We expose people to their traumatic event and have them rehearse it over and over again in the present tense,” Rabinak said. “The idea is that each time they recount it, their anxiety and the feelings that they feel start to become more manageable.”

This is followed by a process called extinction, in which the patient’s reduced fear level is used to create a new association with the traumatic stimulus.

“The problem is that people with PTSD or fear-based disorders go back to that fear,” Rabinak said. This is where the role of THC — the psychoactive chemical in cannabis — comes in, she said.

WSU’s study began with rodent trials in 2014.

“Rodent studies found that the receptors for the cannabinoid systems are densely localized in areas of the brain that are important for learning and memory. If you block these receptors, animals will show anxiety-like

behaviors,” Rabinak said. “However, if you give an animal an acute dose of THC prior to extinction, it’s enough to activate the receptors. The next day, they show very low levels of fear.”

The next step was to see if her findings in animal research could be duplicated in humans, Rabinak said.

“We found that in healthy people, if we gave them an acute oral dose of THC and then we do extinction learning with them, we see better maintenance of that extinction memory, so lower fear,” she said. “The idea is to use THC as an adjunct to exposure-based therapy to try to enhance the learning that occurs.”

Conducting the study presented some challenges, Rabinak said.

Allesandra Iadipaolo, a graduate of WSU’s Department of Psychology and clinical coordinator of Rabinak’s lab, said the most difficult part of the research process was recruiting patients.

“We initially planned on working closely with the (Veterans Affairs) to get veterans and combat-exposed people with PTSD but that ended up not really working out,” said Iadipaolo.

The team then turned to local hospitals and clinicians, which ended up being another dead end, Rabinak said.

“The minute (clinicians) hear ‘THC,’ they’re conflicted on it,” Rabinak said. “They feel like they’re sending a

conflicting message.”

Eventually, Rabinak and Iadipaolo decided to post ads online, which helped them find students and faculty to participate in the study.

The next phase of the study will involve using the findings in an authentic clinical setting, Rabinak said.

“Next year, for the first time in Detroit, we’ll be offering prolonged exposure therapy for people with PTSD,” she said. “It’ll be double-blind, so we won’t know what the participant is getting, and neither will they. We randomize them to either placebo or THC.”

Iadipaolo said that interacting with participants has been one of the most rewarding parts of the research.

“Hearing their stories is really incredible and eye-opening,” Iadipaolo said. “You really gain an appreciation for people, what they go through and how resilient they are.”

Rabinak said that students interested in participating or assisting with the research shouldn’t shy away based on their course of study. She said a large and diverse team is crucial to the program’s success.

“We’ve got students from all over campus that are working in the lab — undergrads in engineering, biology, psychology (and) public health,” Rabinak said.

Students can learn more about WSU’s THC/PTSD research and volunteer to participate by visiting <https://cphs.wayne.edu/research/tnp-lab-participate.php>.



# RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA *LAW*



## THE *DO'S*

**1**

**CARRY UP TO 2.5 OUNCES  
OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOME.**

**2**



**GROW UP TO 12 PLANTS  
IN YOUR HOME. YOU CAN  
SHARE THE HARVEST  
WITH FRIENDS AND  
FAMILY OF AGE.**

**SMOKE IN PRIVATE PLACES.  
IT IS STILL ILLEGAL TO  
SMOKE IN PUBLIC.**

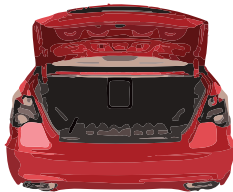
**3**

**4**

**MAKE SURE YOUR WORKPLACE DOESN'T  
DRUG TEST. BY LAW, EMPLOYERS ARE  
ABLE TO BAR WORKERS FROM USING  
MARIJUANA — EVEN IF THEY HAVE A  
MEDICAL MARIJUANA CARD.**

**5**

**KEEP MARIJUANA IN  
YOUR TRUNK AND  
LOCKED UP WHILE  
DRIVING.**



**6**

**BUY MARIJUANA FROM LICENSED  
BUSINESSES ONCE THEY BECOME  
AVAILABLE, WHICH IS EXPECTED  
TO OCCUR IN 2020.**

**YOU ARE ALLOWED TO  
KEEP UP TO 10 OUNCES IN  
YOUR HOME.**

**7**

**8**

**USE A LOCK BOX  
TO STORE LARGER  
AMOUNTS OF  
MARIJUANA. ENSURE  
CHILDREN CAN'T  
ACCIDENTLY EAT  
EDIBLES OR GET TO  
YOUR STASH.**



# THE DON'TS



1

OVERINDULGE. BUT DON'T FREAK OUT IF YOU DO. ALWAYS REMEMBER, NO DEATHS FROM MARIJUANA OVERDOSE HAVE EVER BEEN REPORTED, ACCORDING TO THE U.S. DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION.

2



DRIVE UNDER THE INFLUENCE.

3

SMOKE MARIJUANA IF YOU'RE UNDER 21. IF YOU HAVE A MEDICAL MARIJUANA CARD, YOU CAN USE MARIJUANA AT 18.

4

SELL MARIJUANA.



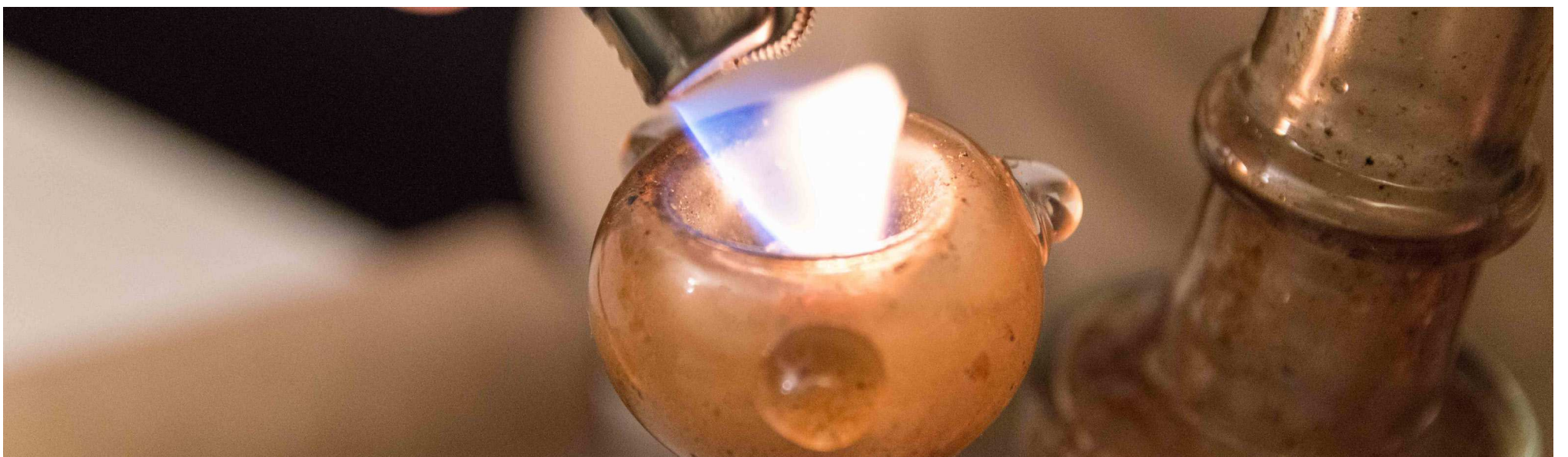
5



CARRY MARIJUANA OVER STATE LINES.

6

SMOKE ON CAMPUS. WSU'S GENERAL COUNSEL OFFICE SENT AN EMAIL ON NOV. 13 STATING, "WHILE THE PROPOSAL CHANGES STATE LAW, IT HAS NO AFFECT AT ALL ON FEDERAL LAW. MARIJUANA REMAINS UNLAWFUL AND ITS USE, POSSESSION, OR SALE IS STILL A CRIME UNDER FEDERAL LAW... WAYNE STATE HAS NOT CHANGED UNIVERSITY POLICIES REGARDING THE USE OR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA."



# Mark Whalen and the Buttermilk Boys take on Detroit's indie scene



Left: Mark Whalen in his dorm room. Photo by Jofre Beltran. Right: Mark Whalen and the Buttermilk Boys performs at their album release party at Small's in Hamtramck on Nov. 16. Photo by Jonathan Deschaine.

## Ice Gillespie

Contributing Writer

Wayne State has found a star in Mark Whalen, a music technology student and lead singer of Mark Whalen and the Buttermilk Boys — an indie-rock band consisting of Whalen, bass player Max Bourgeois, lead guitarist Colin Takata, drummer Ben Baird and keyboardist Malcolm Mosley.

The 19-year-old sophomore came to a cramped, dimly lit dorm room to answer questions about his music, along with how it feels to be a student at WSU with a growing fanbase.

Whalen's popularity hasn't gotten to his head— he answered each question with a genuine sense of humor and excitement.

Whalen's stardom grew after the release of the band's first EP, "Someone to Be," which he wrote the summer before his freshman year of college. Following the release of the EP, Whalen and the band were asked to perform a live show for the first

time.

"It was just a solo project," he said. "I just said I would perform the songs with my name and you guys can be the backing band. And they said, 'OK, but we needed to find a name,' and we tried everything."

The birth of Mark Whalen and the Buttermilk Boys's funky name is a mystery to himself that may have been lost to time. Whalen sat in his chair in deep thought, attempting to remember why the band named themselves the Buttermilk Boys.

"I don't really know how we came up with the Buttermilk Boys, but at the time, we were making these rap songs. They were so ridiculous and over the top," Whalen said. "None of us can actually rap — except for one band member who is actually a rapper. So, we were making these raps as a joke and we called ourselves The Buttermilk Boys. We were rapping about, like, pancakes and ranch."

The band tried to think of another name for themselves before their second concert.

However, they couldn't come up with anything better, and the name eventually stuck, Whalen said.

While Whalen describes the band's music as indie rock, they experiment with other genres on their new album, "Morning Glory," which was released Nov. 16.

"Our last project was pretty simple indie rock," Whalen said. "I think that this next album is more synth-based. I try to venture out and make different sounding songs. Some are a little funkier, some more groovy."

How exactly did this lanky, wide-eyed teenager get to become a versatile, genre-bending musician? It may have something to do with his musical influences.

"I've just been listening to a ton of George Benson," Whalen said. "He's the man. No one will ever be smoother than that man."

Like many college students, Whalen is still figuring out future plans.

"I really don't know what my dream job would be, I'm still kind of figuring that out

as I'm here," Whalen said. "I would love to work in a studio. I guess my dream job would be to join an evil corporation like Sony or Capitol Records."

Whalen has both morals and talent. He critiqued music industry leaders for selling out.

"Oh yeah, Capitol Records and Sony, they are evil. They aren't in it for the music, just the money," he said.

Whalen said he's adjusting to his newfound fame on the Detroit music scene. The band has over 24,000 monthly listeners on Spotify and 1,180 followers on SoundCloud.

"It's really weird," Whalen said. "It truly came out of nowhere."

Whalen seemed to be puzzled when asked: "In your own words, who exactly is Mark Whalen?"

He laughed, looked up and down, and replied, "I'm a nice guy."

# George Shirley: WSU opera legend reflects on his past

Jack Filbrandt

Arts & Entertainment Editor

When George Shirley was 5 years old, his parents entered him in a singing competition sponsored by Block's department store in their hometown of Indianapolis. He won second place and earned an opportunity to make a recording.

Eighty-four-year-old Shirley, a 1955 Wayne State graduate, is a man of many firsts. He went from singing with his parents at local churches in Indianapolis, to becoming the first black teacher at a Detroit high school, the first black member of the U.S. Army Chorus and the first black tenor to sing a leading role in the Metropolitan Opera in New York City.

Shirley said he credits his success to his education. His family moved to Detroit when he was 6, which he says had one of the best music education systems in the country at the time. Shirley always planned on going to WSU, partly because it was one of the few colleges his family could afford.

"At that time the tuition was \$95 a year," Shirley said.

Shirley began playing the euphonium in his local church band during college, which helped pay for his schooling.

"The euphonium was my scholarship. Every football season my scholarship was paid because of my playing in the band," Shirley said. "My parents had to struggle to come up with the \$95 in the winter season."

While at WSU, Shirley was introduced to the genre of music that would eventually turn into his passion — opera.

Shirley was approached by the conductor of the WSU men's glee club about performing in Igor Stravinsky's "Oedipus Rex" when he was a senior. Shirley was cast as the title role and performed on the Bonstelle stage.

"I loved the experience, but it didn't speak to me as a way of life at that point," Shirley said. "But here again, it was part of the training that I was receiving that was preparing me for the career path that I had no idea of."

Shirley said he knew little about opera before his exposure in the glee club.

"The only opera we heard in my household was Grand Ole Opry from Tennessee because my mother was from Arkansas and she liked country music and my dad was from Kentucky," Shirley said.

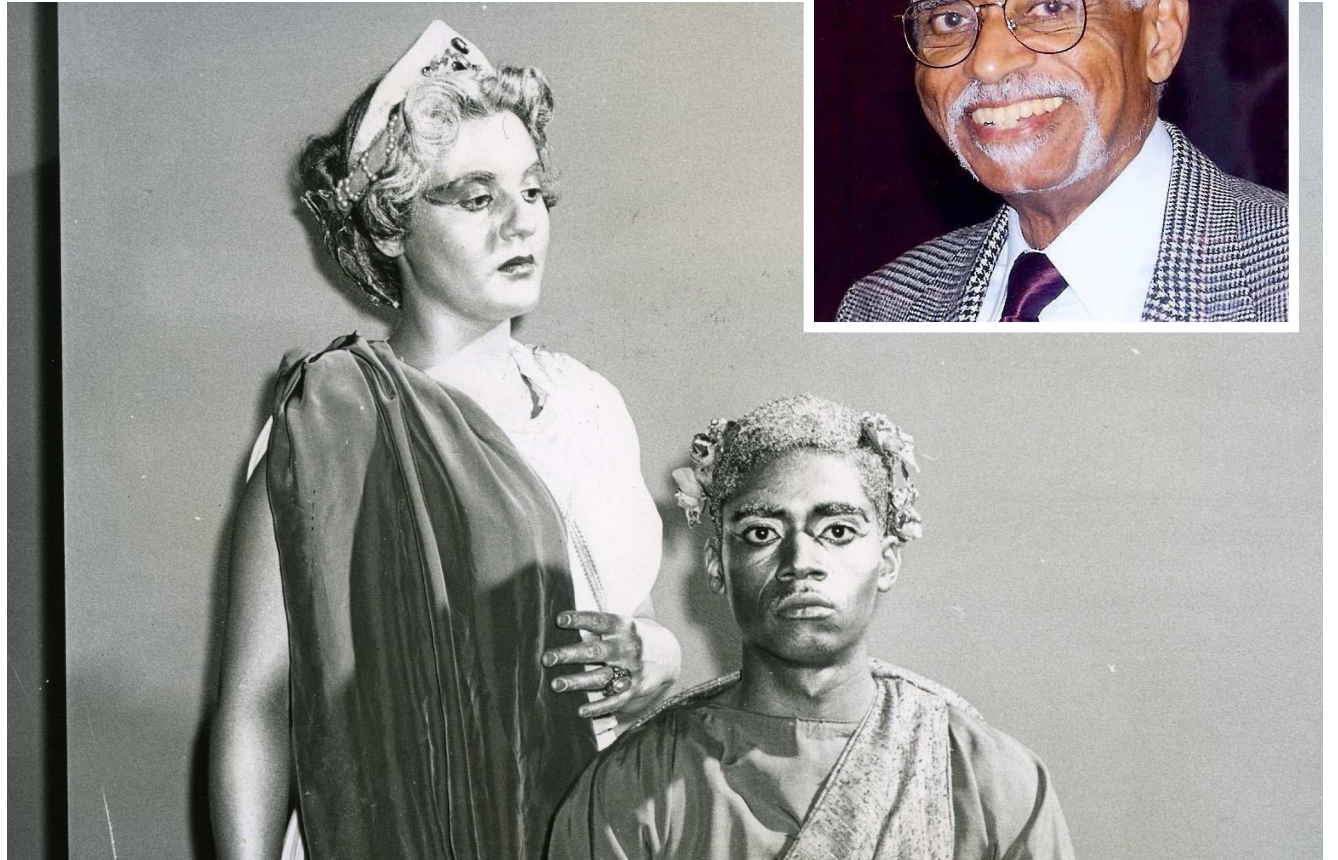
While he was a member of the U.S. Army Chorus, Shirley said his colleagues convinced him to study with Therny Georgi — an opera singer who was teaching in Washington D.C.

"I went and sang for (Georgi) and he said, 'Study with me one year and I guarantee you will have a career,' which was very interesting because I wasn't aware of many African-American tenors who were having careers in opera," Shirley said. "I didn't really know much about anything, about proper repertoire from my voice. I had to learn that along the way."

In 1961, Shirley was given the opportunity to rehearse with the Metropolitan Opera as a cover for Charles Anthony in a performance of Wolfgang Mozart's "Così fan tutte." While Anthony was traveling between New York City and Washington D.C. for performances, Shirley filled in for him during stage rehearsals. On a Monday afternoon, while Shirley was practicing with one of his vocal coaches, the door opened and Rudolf Bing — who was general manager of the Metropolitan Opera at the time — walked in.

"And he said, 'George, can you sing the performance tomorrow night because Mr. Anthony has cancelled?'"

"I couldn't think about that fact that there will be a whole lot of folks that don't want to see me up there"



Top headshot: An undated headshot of Shirley; Top: George Shirley in "Spear" (1955). Photo courtesy of Reuther Library; Bottom: Shirley, standing on the center podium in "Oedipus Rex" (1954). Photo courtesy of Reuther Library.

Shirley said he jumped on that opportunity.

Before he left the building that afternoon, the press secretary of the Metropolitan Museum of Opera handed Shirley a recording of the opera.

"I took that recording to my apartment and I put it on my hi-fi machine," Shirley said. "For the rest of the afternoon I walked through the staging while the recording was being played. I walked through the staging in my living room."

That night, without any rehearsals with the orchestra, Shirley walked onto the opera house stage and sang the performance.

"I didn't make any mistakes, but I don't remember much of anything from that performance," he said.

Shirley says he has never focused on being the first African-American to break barriers in the field because doing so would hinder his performing abilities.

"I couldn't think about that fact that there will be a whole lot of folks that don't want to see me up there (on the stage

of the Metropolitan Opera)," Shirley said. "They don't want to see me singing duets with white sopranos, but I couldn't think about that. All I could do was try to be the best I could under whatever circumstances that I would find myself in."

Shirley continuously expressed his strong set of values when it comes to facing challenges.

"Do the job. Do the work that's in front of your nose," Shirley said. "Do it, be prepared, go out there and let the chips fall where they may."

Shirley was given the National Medal of Arts by former President Barack Obama in 2015. Shirley was recognized for paving the way for future African-American singers and educators, according to a White House press release.

Shirley currently serves as the Joseph Edgar Maddy Distinguished University Professor of Music at the University of Michigan where he continues to educate students.

"I hope that my students learn as much from me as I do from them," Shirley said. "And I mean that sincerely."

# Volleyball captain leaves lasting legacy on program

**Athar Fawaz**  
Contributing Writer

Senior Hailey Richardson had her eyes set on playing volleyball at the collegiate level since she was 10.

“From the start, I knew that I wanted to play and continue my career after high school,” the Wayne State volleyball captain said.

In addition to fulfilling that goal, Richardson is leaving a lasting legacy at WSU. The kinesiology student played a substantial role in the Warriors’ qualifications for three Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference tournaments during her tenure.

On the court Richardson wasted little time gaining the trust of the coaching staff, starting in 21 matches and playing in all 30 matches her freshman year. That year, Richardson had eight contests with 10 or more kills.

In 2016, Richardson continued to play at a high level before missing two matches due to injury. Head coach Tim Koth said Richardson was disappointed about not being able to perform her best while injured.

“She was able to play but was very limited and was not very explosive,” Koth said. “I think this gave her a lot of motivation going forward that propelled her to a two-time All-GLIAC First Team level.”

Richardson returned to full health in 2017 and was voted to the All-GLIAC First Team that year. She started in 28 matches and led the team with 385 kills, had 37 service aces and 15 double-doubles. WSU’s win over Grand Valley State University in the conference tournament quarterfinals that

year was the first postseason victory for the program since 2012.

Richardson was named a team captain this season. She said communication is key to being successful in a leadership position.

“Communication and trust are a big part (of being a good captain) because there are six of you on the court, and if all six players aren’t working together, you’re never going to get anywhere,” Richardson said. “You need to have each other’s back.”

Richardson was named GLIAC South Player of the Week four times in 2018. She started in all 28 matches and only missed two of the team’s 100 sets during the season.

Koth said Richardson’s desire to better herself as an athlete helped her succeed on the court.

“She is very athletic and had the drive to improve her game,” Koth said.

Koth said Richardson’s ability to play more than one position on the court helped her grow throughout her collegiate volleyball career.

“As a freshman, she only played backcourt,” Koth said. “As her strength and confidence improved, she expanded her on-court role.”

Richardson credits imagery — a strategy that the volleyball team uses to boost confidence before important matches — for her success during her senior year.

“Before games we’ll sit there and clear our minds and think about the game — what we want to see happen and what we want to do,” Richardson said.

After graduation, Richardson said she hopes to stay in the game by coaching volleyball.

# The W: Instilling school pride, one questioning glance at a time

**Abraham Farrukh**  
Contributing Writer

Many students ask how W — Wayne State’s friendly, dinosaur-looking mascot — instills Warrior Pride.

Four drawings of potential mascots appeared in an August 2001 edition of The South End, and people took a liking to the W illustration during the contest to pick the new mascot, said Maggie Myers, WSU’s athletic development coordinator.

“W the Warrior was selected by students, faculty and staff based on ballots of four mascots that were available around campus where students would cast their votes at the Student Center,” Myers said. “And within the next two days, 1,300 students and staff casted their votes and (W) made its debut in May 2005. It was created to build school spirit as well as be fun for the younger generation who attend sporting events.”

Concerning W’s identity, Myers said, “W is a gender-neutral, family-friendly creature who has been with us for quite some time now.”

Junior computer science student Kalonji Ishmael said W does its job of increasing school pride.

“It’s cool because W (instills) school pride and school spirit,” Ishmael said.

However, some students say W doesn’t accurately fit the school’s brand and believe there should be a mascot change.

“The mascot makes no sense because we are the Warriors, but our mascot is a dinosaur,” said Bilal Shahid, a freshman public health student. Shahid said he would like to see a mascot that better symbolizes the school’s brand — such as a Warrior.

Myers said W plays a role in creating a positive gameday experience but doesn’t have an impact on game results.

“Mascots are a great additional factor in the gameday experience but do not have an impact on the game,” Myers said. “In the athletic department, we try to make sure that the whole gameday experience is great for our fans, including new promotions and gate giveaways, which play an important role in the students’ and fans’ gameday experience.”

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# Women's swim and dive's culture of success

**Jared Katz**

*Contributing Writer*

Success in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference is hard to gain, and tougher to hold on to, making the accomplishments of the women Warriors swim and dive team all the sweeter.

Wayne State women's swim and dive won the GLIAC championship seven consecutive years — from 2010 to 2016 — and 10 times in the past 11 years.

Sean Peters, who is in his 22nd season as the women's swim and dive head coach, said the process of keeping the team at the top of its game is always changing.

"My program is always evolving. The things that I did just 11 years ago are so different," Peters said. "While things have changed so dramatically, the one thing that hasn't changed is the high standards that we expect from our swimmers."

Peters — who is a 10-time GLIAC women's Coach of the Year — said when the team brings in prospective athletes for recruiting visits, coaches and team members have a conversation with the prospects so they can understand the program's culture.

"On their recruiting visits, we talk to them and tell them about our

culture, and (we tell them) if you buy in, you can be very successful," Peters said.

Sophomore Allison Lennig, who is in her first year with the team after transferring from Youngstown State University, said WSU's winning culture sticks out.

"We are a team in and out of the water, we practice way more technique here," Lennig said. "We're here to win and you can tell immediately."

WSU's conference dominance has also led to success at the NCAA Championships.

The team has 11 top 10 finishes in its last 12 NCAA Championship appearances and most notably, won the NCAA Division II Championship in 2012 — the last time any WSU team won a national title.

Junior Aliza Durack said current WSU swimmers feel an obligation to uphold the level of success that the team has built throughout the years.

"With all of the success here we feel like it's on our shoulders to carry out the legacy of the program," Durack said.

Durack said the team's schedule can be hectic and challenging at first, but gets easier as members of the team find a routine that suits them best.

"It's definitely a challenge. We have practice early in the morning then class, and we got to find time to eat. It's a crazy day," Durack said. "It was hard my freshman year. It was a lot of different things being thrown at you at once, but eventually you develop a system that works for you."

Sports teams commonly preach the one-meet-at-a-time approach, but that isn't how the Warriors see it.

"We actually do the opposite. Our meets now are preparing us for February for the GLIAC championships," Peters said.

Many people don't know how competitive and intense college swimming is, Lennig said.

"One of the best parts of the meets is when the teams cheer each other on the side," Lennig said. "I think that's what makes our sport unique. Everyone should come to the Matthaehi and see for themselves."

Warriors women's swim and dive team will host its final meet of the season against the University of Findlay on Jan. 19 at the Matthaehi Natatorium.

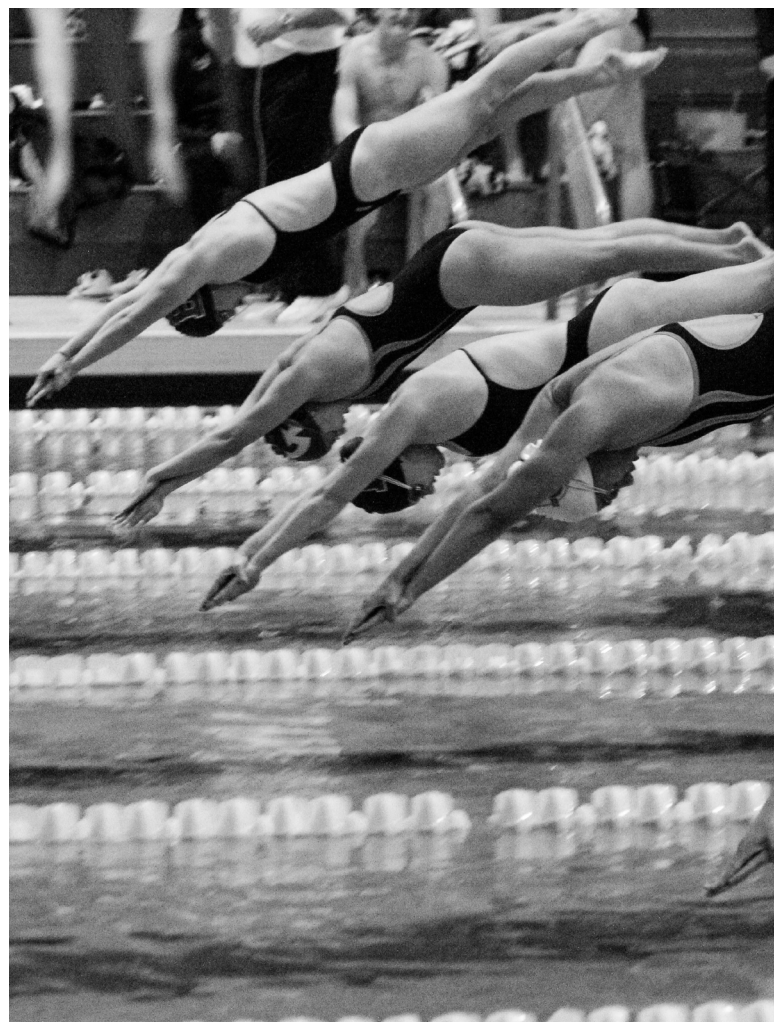


Photo by Norbert Daniels Jr.

# Tragedy to triumph: Senior center returns to court after season-ending injuries

**Matt Williams**

*Sports Editor*

Warriors fight, and Wayne State basketball center Tristan Wilson has battled season-ending injuries in back-to-back years before returning to the court this season.

After recovering from a serious shoulder injury in 2016-2017, Wilson suffered a catastrophic knee injury during the basketball team's second practice last season.

"It's hard to put into words that feeling when Andrew Stoll, our trainer, told me I wasn't going to be able to play because I tore my ACL," Wilson said. "I didn't know what to feel for a little while, but I knew that if I wanted to come back the following season I would have to put in just as much work as I had to do with my shoulder."

Wilson said he briefly wondered if he'd ever get back on the court after his second injury, but he credited Stoll with helping him get through rehabilitation.

"I was down in the dumps and doubted myself at first, but Andrew really pushed me," Wilson said. "We (did) rehab every day for months and he gave me confidence (because) I didn't have the confidence when he cleared my knee, but with him telling me 'everything's going to be alright,' it really helped me out a lot."

When he returned to the court in the 2018 season opener against Ohio Dominican University, Wilson said he felt anxious being

back in action.

"To be honest I was very nervous because I haven't played an actual game in two years and (coach David Greer) didn't let me play in open gym over the summer," Wilson said. "I didn't really have five-on-five (experience) until the first game, but after I got my first bucket and first rebound, I settled back down."

## HOOP DREAMS TO COLLEGIATE ATHLETE STATUS

Wilson's interest in basketball sparked at the age of nine when watching his older brother hoop. Wilson said his brother's success and love for basketball motivated him to give the game a try.

"My brother was really good at a young age, and one day I decided to pick up a ball and drop all my action figures," Wilson said.

The efforts of head coach David Greer and assistant coach Lorenzo Neely during Wilson's recruiting trail helped pave his path to WSU, he said.

"(Greer and Neely) really recruited me hard. They showed an interest in me," Wilson said. "I was originally committed to Eastern Michigan University, but that didn't work out the way I wanted it to, so I decided to come to Wayne State."

Wilson's big break on the court came during his sophomore season. He had a few breakout performances that enabled him to make the starting lineup, which Wilson said was surprising.

"I didn't think I was going to get a chance



Photo courtesy of WSU Athletics

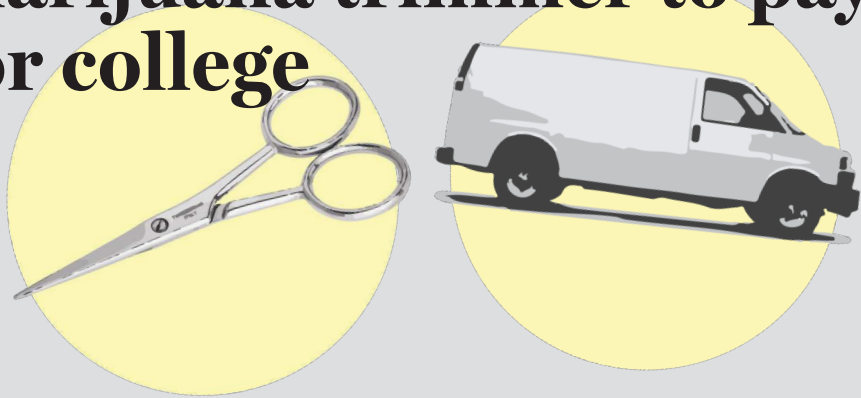
to start that year since we had Mike Lewis, Joel Ndondo and Chuck Key playing very well. I was (going to) come off the bench and be a role player," Wilson said. "But that all changed when I came off the bench in the Walsh game and had 19 points and (coach Greer) started me the rest of the season. I guess it was a lucky break."

Wilson said his favorite moment at

WSU was seeing last year's seniors win the division title.

"I know how hard those guys worked over their four years here and seeing them win something over the hard times we've had was a rewarding feeling for myself even though I wasn't able to play," said Wilson.

# The time I worked as a marijuana trimmer to pay for college



Anonymous TSE Editor

During my freshman year of college, I — like many other students — was broke because of school payments.

“I have a job for you where you can make hundreds of dollars per shift,” a friend told me.

As a student who had to check her bank account before buying something from Taco Bell, a pay day like that seemed surreal. I asked her about what the job entailed.

“You will be tending cannabis plants for different dispensaries,” my friend told me. “The location of where you work will change every week.”

It sounded suspicious, but I was in desperate need of income and accepted her offer. Little did I know that within a week, I would be sitting in a room with over 200 marijuana plants, meticulously trimming and harvesting buds of weed.

My new boss — whom I hadn’t yet met — texted me to meet at a parking lot in Oakland County, which is where I came across eight other 18 to 20-year-old women who were going to be my fellow co-workers.

As the minutes passed, I became increasingly weary of the situation — I found it especially odd that the other workers all fit such a specific demographic.

Finally, a white van with tinted windows pulled into the lot, and we started to file into the car that our new bosses were in.

We all crammed into the van like clowns in a tiny car. I had no idea where we were, so I began obsessively tracking our location on my phone.

After a 40-minute drive, the van came to a lurching stop, and we were dropped off behind a huge warehouse.

A group of four men came out from the building and yelled at us to hurry inside. I held on to a co-worker’s hand who kept telling me to

calm down.

We were led to an empty room, and at this point, I thought I was going to be a victim of sex trafficking.

All of the sudden, a man punched a combination into a doorknob and opened a door to a room with blindingly bright lights and two picnic tables surrounded by hundreds of cannabis plants.

I was directed to sit at one of the tables, which had aluminum trays filled to the brim with marijuana buds. The boss gave me a weed-harvesting tutorial. I was given gloves and ordered to start trimming as fast as I can.

It was hard to get over the fact I was surrounded by that much weed. The smell was overpowering, the room was stuffy and all of the other girls — some of whom were veterans in the field — were trimming away.

After collecting over 100 trays of weed in the span of eight hours, the workers and I lined up by the door, where our managers handed us hard cash.

That day I made \$200, which I felt was pretty generous. I went home that day with the skunky smell of marijuana clinging to my clothes.

For six months, I continued to take sketchy van rides that would drop my fellow workers and I off at random warehouses across Michigan.

I met a plethora of interesting characters in the marijuana industry and experienced things that sound like ideas for a movie script.

Eventually, I lost my job because my boss ran away to another state.

Although at times the job forced me to be in sketchy situations, I was always entertained at work. It helped me pay for college, but it wasn’t worth the suspicious van rides, the excruciating hours and the constant abrasions on my hands.

# To those nearing graduation: Stay true to yourself

Amal Rass

Features Editor

I don’t know how to say this without sounding arrogant, so I’ll be straightforward: I have a lot on my plate, and I am in multiple leadership positions and organizations.

I’m not going to list my workplaces, course load or other personal commitments that keep me busy — nor am I going to ask for your pity. I just want you to listen — maybe you’ll relate with me.

I am tired. I’ve reached a point of physical, mental and emotional exhaustion that’s caused me to — for the first time in my life — regularly miss deadlines, go to class unprepared and ask for extensions multiple times.

This isn’t me. I keep telling myself I’ll be fine and I just have to make it to graduation. But what about after that? I am less than a month away from graduating college as I write this, and I have not had time this entire year to process it all.

I’m already fearing the regrets I’ll come across once I graduate. I worry I will look back at my last semester of undergrad and it will all be a blur.

My exhaustion caught up to me quite recently. After months of organizing a three-day national conference, I spent the following morning crying relentlessly. I couldn’t understand why — the conference was a success, there were no hiccups and there was a solid turnout.

It was at that point that I realized how much of a toll this semester had taken on me. My tears were that of relief and utter heartbreak.

I feel like I didn’t belong to myself anymore. Everyone wanted to talk to me and hear my ideas, and it got so exhausting I couldn’t take anymore.

People would tell me they were proud of me, and I didn’t know how to respond. I didn’t feel proud of myself. I wasn’t proud of what I was doing to myself.

I felt disconnected from my own self-awareness — I didn’t know when to stop or slow down. I didn’t listen to what my body and mental health were telling me. I just continuously told myself to keep going and that I can relax once graduated.

I started going to therapy about six months ago to treat anxiety and depression. I’ve definitely noticed improvement, but a weekly, one-hour session is just one piece of the puzzle in overcoming challenges.

I used to tell myself “I can do anything,” but I can’t “do anything” without a healthy plan. I realized I need to stop detaching from myself and make time to process everything I do.

I’m trying to look at this semester as a learning experience rather than dwelling on its outcomes.

Some advice to those near graduation: It’s OK to take things slow. If you take a lot of credit hours, don’t take all high-level courses. It’s fine to take a break from extracurriculars in the few months you have left as an undergraduate. You don’t want to look back on your last semester of undergrad and wish you had done things differently.

I am deeply thankful for the understanding professors, advisers and mentors who’ve sent me messages throughout the course of the semester checking in on me after noticing my work ethic wasn’t where it was usually at. I am grateful for my experiences at Wayne State, for the relationships I’ve made and for my self-growth. I’m ready to graduate and disconnect from some of my many stressors and finally focus on healing.

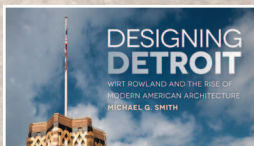


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# The writing on ‘The Wall’

**If we continue to ignore the rise of far-right extremism, it'll only grow bolder and more dangerous.**

**Sean Taormina**  
*Beat Reporter*

Last February, a Wayne State student wearing a Trump/Pence 2020 shirt, shouted “Build the Wall!” at a table of student activists with the organization BAMN, before telling them “I think we should just deport and kill all illegals that don’t belong in our country,” after brandishing a knife.

The incident occurred on campus.

I was reminded of it recently when I heard about how a man stood up in a crowded Baltimore theater during a performance of “Fiddler on the Roof” and began shouting “Heil Hitler, Heil Trump,” with his arm extended outward in the gesture of Sieg Heil.

It turned out the man was just a dumb drunk. In the police report, the perpetrator described himself as “anti-Trump” and said he was so moved by the play, that he did what he did in some misbegotten attempt to highlight parallels existing between Nazis and the current administration. Of course, attendees had no way of knowing it was poorly thought out satire at the time, and fearing the worst, many of them reportedly hit the floor or quickly fled the theater, worried the stranger might open fire.

It’s hard to see the reaction from those bystanders as anything other than

completely rational.

Only a few weeks earlier, Robert Bowers, 46, entered the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh and murdered 11 innocent people in what can only be described as an act of anti-semitic terrorism.

To be clear, people who carry out or threaten acts of violence, no matter their political alignment, are likely individually deranged to some degree or another. But we mustn’t let that fact belie the reality that these incidents are part of a larger pattern of domestic extremism being stoked by elements of a far-right white nationalist political project, whose ultimate goal is to build a fascist mass movement in the United States.

Far-right violence has killed more people than any other category of domestic extremism since 2001, according to a report by the Anti-Defamation League’s Center on Extremism.

The report showed that far-right violence accounted for 71 percent of terror-related fatalities between 2008 and 2017, while Islamic extremism (which garners far more attention by both the national security state and the media) accounted for only 26 percent.

No doubt, white supremacist motifs have always been a feature of the United States. One need only watch “Birth of a Nation,” or — you know — read any history book at all, to realize that. But a confluence of recent historical trends (some old) like growing economic disparities between rich and poor,

changing population demographics and the ability to organize in digital spaces, have led to a resurgence in ethno-nationalist/fascist ideology.

The only way one can properly describe these growing movements is by dropping the F-bomb. No not that one, the other one: Fascism.

Fascism, of course, can be a tricky concept to parse. It’s a term that’s often overused and poorly defined. Not everyone who disagrees with you is a fascist (though if you disagree with this op-ed—you definitely are!). However, I think most of us—even those outside the ivory towers of academia, where words are magically granted meaning—are more than capable of recognizing fascist tendencies and motifs for ourselves.

To borrow from the awful comedic stylings of Jeff Foxworthy:

If you advocate for a white ethno state, you just might be a fascist.

My biggest fear is that we are going to keep pretending like these are all just isolated events; that there’s no political thread connecting them together. Despite how crushingly depressing the news has been the last few months—with family separations at immigrant detention centers, gas canisters being deployed against toddlers, voter oppression in the south, conflict and starvation in the Middle East, fires and shootings in the west—I assure you, things can get a lot worse.

The truth is we’re on a deadline.

Climate change is likely to act as kerosene to fascism’s fire. As an increasing number of displaced people seek refuge from the global south, and as recourses that once seemed plentiful become harder to come by, more people will be attracted to the siren call of hyper nationalism. They’ll see it as the only means by which they’ll be able to maintain some semblance of power. And if you have an ounce of humanity left in you or believe it’s even remotely possible that this godforsaken world of ours can be a better place—it is your duty to stand against this despicable tide.

I’m not saying the answer is that there needs to be more police in synagogues or on street corners, or even that the national security state should direct its massive spy apparatus at neo-fascist goons. History has shown that we can’t rely on institutions, even liberal ones, to do the right thing in the end.

And I’m not saying you’re going to have to fight fascism the way your granddaddy did, by storming a beach or what not. But you will have to do your part—you do have to speak out. Our only choice is to protect each other, and we can only do that as long as we recognize that some groups are more vulnerable than others.

In the end the only thing that can beat back the rising tide of fascism is solidarity. I think that means we’re going have to tear down some walls.

# Finding ‘passion’ is a messy journey

**Hira Majeed**  
*WSU Junior*

I came into college with the goal of finding my passion, that one thing that made me want to wake up every day. Lo and behold, I am now a junior here at Wayne State, and after three major/minor switches, I finally feel some semblance of stability.

I am now a civil and environmental engineering major with a minor in global studies. It seems like a weird combination, a glitch in the simulation, if you will. But my path toward finding what works for me in college is probably similar to many other students.

Nights filled with doubt, fear and anxiety surrounding the ever dreaded question of, “Will I make enough money?” or even, the scariest question of all: “Will I be happy?” While I wish our society was set up in a way where we never had to ask these questions, at this point in time, it seems as if these emotional trials are a rite of passage into adulthood.

If you’re one of the lucky ones, the handful that found that ever-elusive

“passion,” the following may not apply to you.

I’ve found that all too often we try to find the major or career we think will make us happy or satisfy our income preference. We narrow our minds down to pre-med, or pre-dental, or finance or sociology, etc. You get the picture. We’re so bogged down by the chance to figure out what we want to do, that we limit ourselves in the process. We’re branched into the business kids, the STEM kids, the pre-med/pre-dental kids, and the humanities kids. The education system is set up for us to follow these highly specialized fields without ever thinking about the interconnectedness of it all.

We float through college trying to fulfill our major requirements, without really thinking about how our different types of learning can impact each other and our journey toward achieving our dream goal or career. Want to solve cancer? You really can combine humanities and STEM approach at the same time.

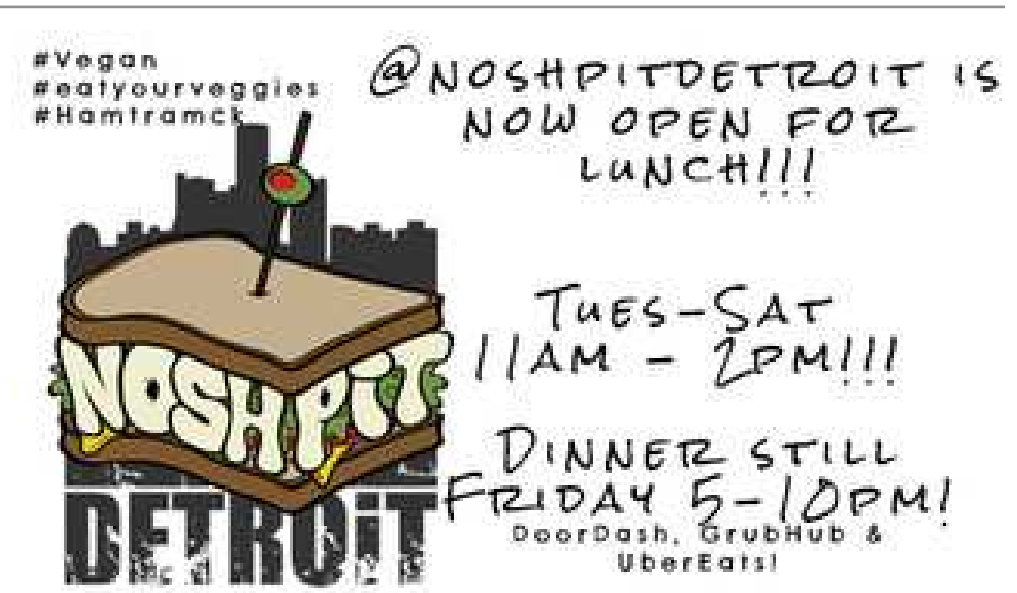
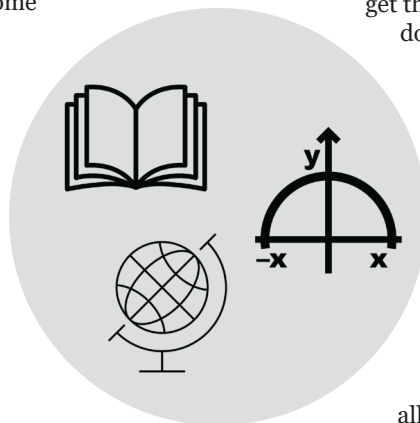
We need more people out there that will think twice before building a well in a developing country because they actually know about white savior complex and the

history of colonialism; we need people that have the tools to build that well and then also listen to the communities that they are trying to help.

Find ways to connect disciplines during your college career at WSU. Find professors that will help you grow as a person and achieve your goals, even if it’s not in the most cookie cutter way. The stress you may feel or have felt about deciding your future need not be so strong. The ability to connect disciplines, and not just be branched into

the humanities club or the STEM club is freeing.

I acknowledge that I only feel this way now because of the journey I took during the first two years of college. They weren’t easy, but I am better now for it. You can be, too. Take the steps to join clubs you usually wouldn’t because they don’t fit on your “path” to success. You may just be lucky enough to find that passion you were missing all along.



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