



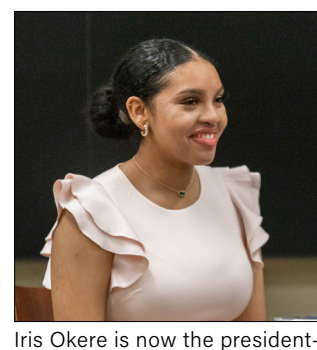
Sexual Chocolate, the current reigning Mr. Gay Wichita, was one of three regional performers at Friday night's drag show.



Aria Hymn, a student performer, gives a nod to her name by performing Trisha Paytas's "I Love You Jesus" followed by Sam Smith's "Unholy."



At the end of their first performance, Loki Tr'ster drinks a liquid from their pocket. Tr'ster is a beginning drag star who hopes to continue growing within the community.



Iris Okere is now the president-elect for SGA's 66th session. | Photo by Kristy Mace / The Sunflower



Claire St. Claire finishes singing and prepares to tumble across the stage. St. Claire's musical theater experience at WSU helped inspire her drag routines. | Photos by Kristy Mace / The Sunflower

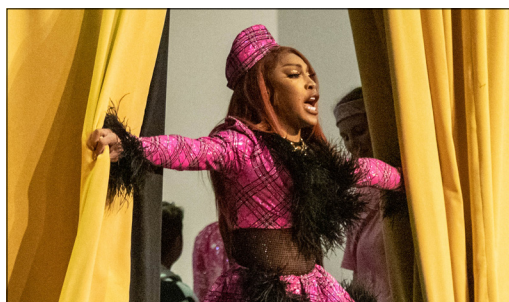
ART OF DRAG



Ladiesman finishes his first routine at the drag show on March 31. Ladiesman is also known as the "Godfather of Wichita" and is well-known in the regional drag community.



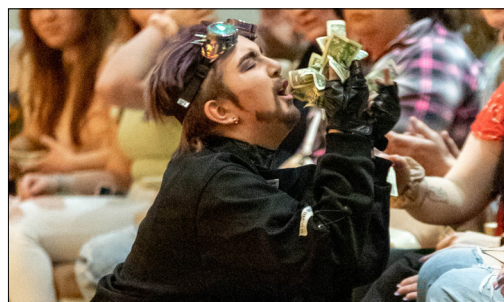
A'Keria Davenport comes back to stage in a new outfit to MC in. Davenport is a drag star from Texas who has caught national attention from her appearance on RuPaul's Drag Race.



A'Keria Davenport, a renowned drag queen, makes her entrance early in the drag show on March 31. Davenport is known for her appearances on RuPaul's Drag Race, and her several pageant titles.



Student Performer, Loki Tr'ster, returns to the stage for their second performance of the night. The WSU 13th annual drag show was Loki Tr'ster's second time on stage.



Altair gets down on their knees while collecting tips at the drag show on March 31. The drag show was hosted by Spectrum, SAC, and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

Student body president announced for 66th session

BY MIA HENNEN
news@thesunflower.com

Iris Okere and Sophie Martins will be the next student body president and vice president.

Okere, SGA's current Diversity Empowerment and Inclusion Committee chair, and Martins, advocacy coordinator for Student Engagement, Advocacy and Leadership, will begin transitioning into the role of president and vice president almost immediately.

Okere and Martins won by a large portion, with 47.6% of the votes, 910 students — with opposing candidates each getting about half of that.

Noah Carter and Jonathan Stanger secured 26.2% of the votes, 500 students, while Zane Berry and Nicholas Harmon got 23.5% of the votes, 449 students.

Okere and Martins campaigned on five platforms: transparency, civic engagement, diversity, student retention and accountability. One of their main goals included increasing diversity on campus and in Student Government.

Last year, 1,008 students voted for presidential candidates, with 554 voting for sole ticket and former president Olivia Gallegos. Gallegos resigned on the first day of the fall semester when former VP Mitchell Adamson took office.

Later, Adamson stepped down and the former Speaker of the Senate John Kirk took over the presidential role, where he resides now.

Annual drag show imposes age restriction, students react

BY COURTNEY BROWN
browncourtney2002@gmail.com

After 12 years of welcoming an audience of all ages, the 13th annual drag show required patrons to be 18 or older.

Wichita State administration placed the restriction two weeks before the event, according to Spectrum Advisor Jennifer Pearson.

In a statement to The Sunflower, Teri Hall, vice president of student affairs, said the decision was intended to prioritize students.

"Wichita State University wants to ensure that WSU students continue to have access to student life activities, including the drag show," Hall said via email. "The drag show, like many campus events, is open to the public, but students — who are 18 and older — are the priority."

Hall went on to say that other events on campus are limited to adults.

"WSU hosts other events, such as the NXT LVL Garage Party,

the upcoming SAINT MOTEL concert and last year's Wale concert that are 18 and up," she said.

Some students understood the reason for the age restriction on the drag show, which was sponsored by Student Activities Council (SAC), Spectrum and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

"We want to cater our events to students the most," Tim Henkes, drag show committee member and SAC chairperson, said. "18 and up does make sense considering our student population."

Other students didn't understand the purpose behind the age limit.

"If (the drag show is) not like vulgar or anything, I don't see the point in having an age limit," Gehrig Hett, a music composition major, said.

Other students disagreed with the age limit. Spectrum Vice President Damaris Mireles said the decision didn't support students and diversity and excluded younger students who

“It's playing into new legislation that portrays drag shows as just sexual and mature content when that is not the reality.”

DAMARIS MIRELES
Spectrum Vice President

"had been looking forward to the event."

"It's playing into new legislation that portrays drag shows as just sexual and mature content when that is not the reality," Mireles said.

In February, a Kansas bill was introduced that would prevent state funding for drag shows where minors are the main audience.

"We basically got a two-sentence response, the administration felt pressure from the legislature to make the show 18 and up, and that at least we'd still get to have a drag show," Dawson Jacques, drag

show committee member and Spectrum executive, said.

Throughout 2023, the state legislature has introduced a slew of bills relating to LGBTQ issues, with some being passed recently.

On Feb. 23, the Kansas House of Representatives passed a bill preventing transgender women and girls from competing in high school/college sports; Gov. Laura Kelly later vetoed the bill.

Jacques, who is transgender, said he is concerned the drag show's age limit means WSU administration might follow other bills related to LGBTQ issues.

"If you get pressure to change the other parts of the institution to meet those things, but no bills have been passed, you're (the administration) going to do it just because it's easier for you?" Jacques said.

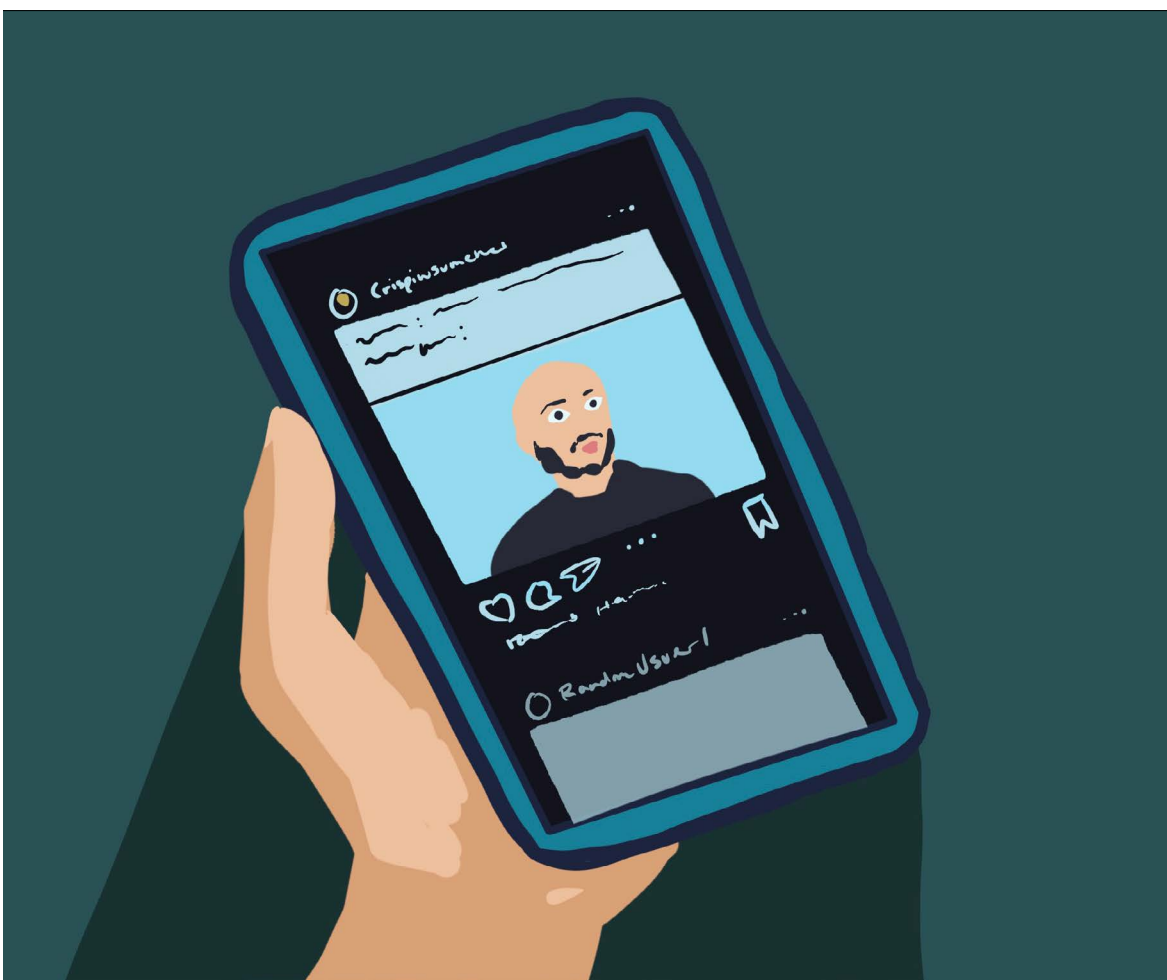
In response to students' concerns, Hall said WSU supports the LGBTQ community and will keep track of legislation. Hall also reiterated the university's desire to prioritize students at campus events.

"Wichita State fully supports our LGBTQ+ community, and we want to ensure that they and all WSU students continue to have access to the student life activities they know and love," Hall said. "The university will monitor proposed legislation and comply with all applicable laws."

The Student Activities Council page states the drag show contained "mature content." Henkes said this content notice was decided based on some performers' submissions.

"(The maturity rating is) not a typical thing that I would think a drag show would need," Henkes said. "This isn't your grandma's drag show."

Jacques said drag portrays "the extremes of gender expression" and sometimes contains sexual jokes. Jacques said the content notice would have helped parents decide whether to bring their children, before non-adults were prevented from going all together.



An Instagram meme page “crispiwsumemes” was met with controversy after a series of images about candidates running for Student Government’s Executive Branch. *Illustration by Wren Johnson / The Sunflower*

Instagram ‘meme’ account receives backlash for posts about student government election

BY MIA HENNEN

news@thesunflower.com

An Instagram meme page recently came under fire for a series of photos and posts that some students at Wichita State, especially those in Black Student Union, found to be harmful and tasteless.

Before the account’s disappearance, “crispiwsumemes” was known around campus for posting pictures and edits, often poking about shared experiences on campus or criticizing areas of the university that some students were dissatisfied with.

The account received a slew of negative comments after posting images or “memes” relating to candidates running for student body president and vice president. Omarian Brantley, president of Black Student Union, said that in one of the account’s posts, several images specifically targeted president-elect Iris Okere.

“It was very hurtful,” Brantley said. “(The meme page) claimed that they were attacking everybody, but the brunt of it was at Iris.”

One of the pictures featured an image of Andrew Tate, a British-American social media personality known for his misogynistic views. Tate was arrested at the end of 2022 in Romania on suspicion of human trafficking, rape and forming an organized crime group. The edit features a quote from Okere, taken from the first presidential debate on March 23, above the image of Tate.

Another image placed Okere’s name in a toilet.

“The meme page, as a whole,

is hilarious,” Noah Carter, health and wellness director for Student Government, said. “One was a little distasteful. I think there’s a difference between saying something you don’t like about a candidate and then just saying, ‘they’re poop.’”

Some in Black Student Union took to commenting on the Instagram post.

“(You’re) saying it’s a joke but how would (Okere) know ???” one user wrote under the post. “You could just be calling her out (because) she’s black.”

When asked about the events regarding the meme page, Okere declined to comment.

Brantley mentioned Okere’s position as the only non-white person running for president or vice president.

“(Black Student Union) saw it as them attacking a Black woman,” Brantley said. “You have to look at how the stage is even set up. Iris is one Black person on that stage and then one of two women on that stage, and anyone would tell you in society, women are at the bottom of that privilege totem pole, and then you add that she’s a Black woman.”

Okere and Sophie Martins were chosen to be president-elect and vice president-elect by students. Two other tickets ran for the presidency: Carter and Jonathan Stanger and Zane Berry and Nicholas Harmon.

At the second presidential debate, Zachary James, elections commissioner, asked candidates how they would deal with criticism in their administration, in light of events surrounding the meme page.

Berry said he loves criticism, something he received last year from the meme page.

“I was flamed last year by this meme page, and it certainly hurts at the time,” Berry said. “I feel like a meme page, that’s like the pinnacle of what you would say is the populace opinion ... It’s taking that (criticism), looking it in the face, and saying ‘we will do better’ or ‘we will stick to our guns.’”

Okere’s running mate Martins said they support any form of free speech.

“Whenever criticism is there, it’s something you want to pay attention to,” Martins said.

Along with ‘memes’ about Okere, the post also had images about Berry and Harmon. None were made about Carter’s ticket in the post.

“In regards to the meme page, I was kind of disappointed a meme wasn’t made about me,” Carter said.

When the post was originally made on Instagram, Carter commented on it with an emoji, expressing shock.

An Instagram user then replied to his comment, saying “Interesting ... you being in these comments.” Carter replied, “trust me I have nothing to do with this and don’t want to. I give no endorsement to harassment”.

Following the controversy, the account disappeared. The identity and reason for the account’s leave remain unknown, but the page’s side account, “crispierwsumemes” is still up. The side account has not been updated since the beginning of March.

Faculty accepts new gen ed program that would cut required credit hours

BY TRINITY RAMM

sports@thesunflower.com

For the first time in three years, the entire faculty body was called for a “general assembly” to vote on a new general education program proposed by the Faculty Senate, who received the plan from the Kansas Board of Regents.

The faculty voted to accept the program without any amendments from the Faculty Senate. Around 140 faculty members were present and voting at this meeting.

Prospective (or future) students can expect to see required gen ed credits to go from 36 credit hours to 35-34. The plan will be implemented no later than fall 2024.

Although none were passed, two proposals were put on the table by the Faculty Senate in regards to First Year Seminars.

First Proposal

The first proposal would essentially remove First Year Seminars as a university-wide requirement.

Roy Myose, an aerospace engineering professor, spoke in favor of this proposal, citing data about student success following the implementation of First Year Seminars (FYS).

Myose quoted the rationale for the FYS proposal from an April 29, 2019 general faculty meeting, which cites introductory data from 2016 when FYS were first introduced.

In the 2016 data, students in an FYS were 5% more likely to return to an institution between their first and second year and were 7% more likely between the second and third year.

He also cited data from the appendix of this proposal that showed 2016 and 2017, students required to take an FYS in the fall semester were 2% less likely to return to school in the spring and 3% less likely to return in the fall of their second year.

“(First Year Seminars) are negative, not positive,” Myose said. “It does not improve things. If it is negative retention, I do not see why we should be, effectively, fighting over FYS.”

Myose suggested that student success classes, like FYS, be left up to departments so they can cater to their students.

Both Elizabeth Heilman, an education professor, and Rachel Showstack, a Spanish and linguistics professor, disagreed with Myose’s use of data. Heilman called it “spurious.”

“I think First Year Seminars are extremely valuable for supporting students from less-privileged backgrounds,” Showstack said. “I had a lot of privilege coming into college, and something I think Wichita State should be very proud of is supporting students from minoritized backgrounds.”

Some faculty spoke on their own experience in teaching an FYS and how they help students. Toni Jackman, who teaches an FYS, said she spends more time on getting students ready for both their college and professional careers.

“College students are coming (into professions) without the ability to think analytically, to communicate, to have initiative,” Jackman said. “These are the things I’m working with with my students (in a FYS).”

After nearly 30 minutes of

discussion, the floor was closed and the amendment was rejected with 58 in favor and 85 not in favor.

Currently, a FYS resides in its own category within general education.

Second Proposal

The second proposed amendment the faculty needed to vote on would only count FYS as a disciplinary course under the social and behavioral sciences and the arts and humanities sections.

Both John Hammond, a faculty senator from the math department, and Neal Allen, a political science professor, argued that FYS courses cover more material than a focused course in the social sciences or arts and humanities and should not count towards those requirements.

“A First Year Seminar can not be a wholly disciplinary class,” Allen said. “If we allow FYS to move into (the social sciences and humanities), we move very, very far away from the idea of general education.”

In February, the Faculty Senate passed an amendment that would only allow First Year Seminars to count in their own disciplinary area. Myose, who served on the General Education committee that originally allowed FYS to count for multiple areas, disagreed with this amendment when the Senate passed it. At the general assembly, he argued that moving FYS into social and behavioral sciences or arts and humanities sections gave students the most flexibility.

After brief discussion, the amendment failed to pass with 29 in favor and 117 not in favor. Since the amendment failed, FYS will only count in one area: an area that allows each university to require specific classes.

Further Discussion

After these amendments failed, the floor was open for suggestions and any further discussion. George Dehner, an at-large senator from the history department, moved to reject KBOR’s recommended plan entirely and keep the current general education program at Wichita State.

Faculty members raised concerns about not fulfilling KBOR’s requirements and the possibility that KBOR may pull funding from the university.

“I’m sympathetic to the arguments that George is making but I’m not confident that it’s compatible with the requirements that are being handed down by the Regents,” Chase Billingham, an at-large senator from sociology, said.

As the faculty reached their time limit on the meeting, they were forced to motion to extend the meeting or vote on the new gen ed plan and end the meeting.

After the vote for a time extension failed, the general faculty voted to accept the KBOR recommendation as is with 102 in favor and 36 not in favor. The new general education program can be viewed at thesunflower.com.

Members also voted on whether or not the faculty could meet virtually. This proposal passed with a majority of the votes.

Annual \$22 increase to student fees approved by Senate, president next

BY DANIELLE WAGNER

suzwagner65@gmail.com

A 2.9% — or an \$11 a semester — increase in student fees was presented to the Student Senate last week. At this week’s meeting, the Senate

voted to pass the bill.

Of the 48 votes, 31 senators voted in favor of passing the bill.

While only two voted against it, and 15 abstained.

Next, President Rick Muma will receive the legislation and approve it or deny it.

If approved, the Kansas Board of Regents will then make the final decision whether to implement the new student fees or not.

Were Muma or KBOR to deny

the legislation, the process would start over again, meaning that the bill will be taken back to the Student Fees Committee to reevaluate.

The legislative council for SGA would then be required to meet during summer to approve an adapted student fees bill.

MISSION

The Sunflower — both in print and online — will be a timely resource of information about the Wichita State University community. It will report on news, issues, activities, academics and athletics, in addition to offering a forum for discussion, reviews and commentary. It will also be an effective learning experience for students, who will have the final authority over what is published.

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EDITOR IN CHIEF

Jaycie Nelson
editor@thesunflower.com

ADVERTISING/DESIGN MANAGER

Thy Vo
admanager@thesunflower.com

NEWS/MANAGING EDITOR

Mia Hennen
news@thesunflower.com

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

Sascha Harvey
arts@thesunflower.com

SPORTS EDITOR

Trinity Ramm
sports@thesunflower.com

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Emmie Boese
assistantsports@thesunflower.com

CONTACT US

019 Elliott Hall
1845 N. Fairmount Ave.
Campus Box 134
Wichita, KS 67260-0134

EDITORIAL

Jaycie Nelson: 316-978-6906
editor@thesunflower.com

ADVERTISING

Thy Vo: 316-978-6905
admanager@thesunflower.com

FACULTY ADVISOR

Amy DeVault: 316-978-6052
amy.devault@wichita.edu

CORRECTIONS

The Sunflower is committed to accuracy in its publications. If you find an error in any of its publications, please email the editor at editor@thesunflower.com immediately.

University plans to introduce new 'myWSU' portal

BY MIA HENNEN
news@thesunflower.com

Wichita State's "myWSU" portal has gone a long time without a makeover — clear to anyone who uses it.

Recently, the Information Technology Services (ITS) department began looking to revamp the portal after garnering feedback from various stakeholders at the university. Chief Information Officer Ken Harmon explained the "wishlist" the department has for the new "myWSU."

MYWSU

As it stands now, myWSU primarily functions as a "link farm," housing various links to different pages instead of offering most information directly on its site.

Harmon said that the ITS department has purchased a software platform to build a made-over version of "myWSU," and they hope to make the switch from the old to the new website by the end of 2023.

"We're pretty excited about it because we think the old design's a little clunky," Harmon said. "It's not as accessible as we'd like for those with accessibility needs, so we want to improve the content, improve the experience, especially on mobile devices."

Harmon said the goal is not to create a link farm, but instead something more unique to the user.

"What we're hoping to do is having the ability to log in, and from your login, the site knows more about who you are, and it's a more tailored experience," Harmon said.

He said they're also considering the idea of having personalized news, alerts or events on the website, although nothing has been set in stone.

When the time comes for the university to switch to the new website, it'll be instant.

"(The new website) is completely independent," Harmon said. "The goal would be to do just a cutover on a weekend for, for example — turn the old one off and the new one on."

In addition to the new website, the ITS department has been looking to elevate other technological areas of campus.

Below are some goals. Harmon noted that all goals are subject to funding.

TECHNOLOGY WISHLIST

Provide more donor laptops

- The university currently has 100. They want to provide 500 additional.

Expand wireless access points on campus where students congregate

- Around the Rhatigan Student Center would be an example.

Strengthen campus Wi-Fi

- The university has invested "several \$100,000 worth," according to Harmon to strengthen internet access.

Create an information technology (IT) help desk in the soon-to-be Shocker Success Center

- If funding is secured, Shocker Success Center, currently Clinton Hall, would feature a desk for people on campus to get help with their technology, like a laptop or phone, quickly.

Improve efforts to create a "digital toolbox"

- Provide students, faculty and staff with easily accessible resources, information, programs, etc. that they may not realize they need.

LOUD AND PROUD



Mia Dennett, a film major, speaks to a reporter on Trans Day of Visibility on March 31. Students walked out of their classes, holding signs and pride flags. | Photos by Baswanth Naidu / The Sunflower



Sophomore E James participates in the walkout on March 31. James is Spectrum's treasure/secretary.



On Trans Day of Visibility, students walked out of their classes to meet outside the RSC in support of transgender youth on March 31. Students carried items like pride flags and signs.

DRAG FROM PAGE 1

"The concerns that the legislature has is like, 'they're grooming children' and 'they're making them gay,'" Jacques said. "These aren't the things that are happening at a drag show."

Mireles said the age restriction didn't support freedom of expression.

"Drag is a form of art, and it's something really important to a big chunk of our community," Mireles said.

"Taking away from people to

come in and learn what it actually means or enjoy a night where you can be yourself ... is really sad and disappointing."

Despite the age restriction, Jacques said the drag show went well. The committee tried to diversify their performers, inviting drag kings and drag queens.

The drag show took place on Transgender Day of Visibility. During intermission, Jacques gave a presentation on the day, including what it means to be transgender and the current legislation.

"Just because we're having this

on Trans Day of Visibility does not mean that transgenderism and drag performance are interchangeable," Henkes said. "They are not in any way."

Jacques said he was grateful for the community support.

"We talked about how Laura Kelly vetoed the bill that defines men and women based off their sex at birth, and they all cheered for that," Jacques said.

Jacques said it is important to stay knowledgeable about the drag show bills. He said the wording of Senate Bill 201 would affect transgender performers and

theater performances where actors play characters of the opposite gender, like if a man wore women's clothing.

Jacques said calling representatives is an important step forward if people want to enact change.

"(Legislatures) are gendering clothing and using their concepts of what that means to criminalize drag," Jacques said.

"The best we can do is continue to call our representatives and tell them what that means ... and the importance of breaking down those barriers of gender."



Ulrich Museum of Art

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Saturday, April 15
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
• Ulrich Museum •

Join us for outdoor fun and explore the Martin H. Bush Outdoor Sculpture Collection. Bring the entire family—all ages are welcome! Enjoy hands-on art making, bubbles, refreshments, and more. Learn origami, make your own puppet, stamp a print, or paint a masterpiece. Other surprises are planned in conjunction with current exhibitions.

FREE EVENT
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Ulrich Museum of Art
FACULTY ARTIST TALK

TANNA BURCHINAL & TED ADLER

11:15 a.m. | Wednesday, April 12
• Polk/Wilson Gallery •



U

Learn about these members of the WSU School of Art, Design & Creative Industries as they discuss their inspiration and processes. Presented in conjunction with *Transmissions: The XXIV Faculty Biennial* on exhibit through April 22 at the Ulrich.

FREE EVENT | EVERYONE IS WELCOME



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'I AM NOT MY DISORDER'

WSU student shares experiences living with schizophrenia

BY ALLISON CAMPBELL
campbellnallison@gmail.com

Aspects of this story could be triggering for some readers.

Victor Dimartino's part-time, high school job at Whole Foods required him to be up and ready before sunrise almost every day. Getting up early was difficult for Dimartino — he often wouldn't fall asleep until 3 a.m. on the day of his shift due to relentless panic attacks and crippling anxiety.

During those restless morning hours, Dimartino would pace around his family home for hours on end. Sometimes, he could feel the weight of someone hovering over his shoulder, just out of sight but too close to ignore.



DIMARTINO

Sometimes, when he stumbled around his Kansas City home in the early hours of the morning, he would see shadows in the corners of rooms, only to flip on the light and see no one there.

Although he didn't know it yet, Dimartino has schizophrenia: a chronic, incurable mental disorder that puts him out of touch with reality, making even a morning commute an overwhelming task.

Now, as a senior at Wichita State University, Dimartino is terrified by his looming graduation and finding a place in the "real world" — a world he fears will not accommodate his needs.

PRE-DIAGNOSIS

As a child, Dimartino was always captivated by the plots of children's shows on TV. Described as creative, he spent much of his free time creating his own stories from his vivid imagination.

"I was always trying to tell a story that's never been told before," Dimartino said. "But sometimes at the expense of my grade."

Toward the end of his high school career, he began taking an interest in writing and animating, hoping to attend university and write and assist in the design and animation of his own TV shows and movies.

Despite these aspirations, Dimartino began to experience noticeable changes in his attitude and perception of reality during his senior year of high school in December of 2018.

Dimartino said he became overwhelmed with the thought that his death would "save humanity," and thought that by ending his own life, he would be granting others the ability to live better lives.

"I wasn't depressed or anything," he said. "I was just delusional, but I didn't realize that it was a delusion until later."

Dimartino had nearly completed his suicide note and had made plans to take his own life, when police officers showed up on his doorstep. A friend had reported him, leading to his first encounter with mental health care and a temporary stay at a mental health facility.

After a slew of medical visits, Dimartino was diagnosed with major depressive disorder, an assumption largely based partly on his immediate-family history with depression and anxiety disorders.

Christopher Leonard, a licensed psychologist and the director of counseling services with WSU's Counseling and Prevention Services (CAPS), described how diagnosing conditions like schizophrenia can be difficult, especially when so many of its symptoms resemble those of other disorders.

"We have this thing called 'constellation of symptoms' — and you can have a symptom that is in multiple diagnoses. So it's

understanding more of the etiology (cause) of where that symptom is coming from," Leonard said.

Dimartino said he expressed disbelief to his physician, describing how he felt some of his symptoms — such as psychosis, dissociation and paranoia — didn't match the traditional traits of a depression-related condition.

"I knew there was something else missing," Dimartino said.

Despite having concerns dismissed, Dimartino began taking a prescribed antidepressant. To his dismay, the drug amplified the severity of his symptoms.

According to a study published by the National Library of Medicine (NIH), it's not uncommon for schizophrenia patients to have negative reactions to antidepressant medications. It has been noted that mixing antipsychotics with antidepressants in schizophrenia patients can lead to increased aggravation in psychotic symptoms.

"When someone is working with a medication provider, you want the medication provider to have the best information available, so they can know and make sure that there's no counter-indications in the medication they're prescribing," Leonard said.

While taking the medication, Dimartino experienced consistent suicidal thought patterns, intrusive thoughts, dissociation, disorganized behavior, paranoia, hallucinations and delusions.

"Imagine you're a puppet," he said. "You're conscious of everything you're doing as a puppet, but you can't control yourself because someone else is controlling you."

After nearly a year of taking the ineffectual drug, he was prescribed an antipsychotic, which according to Dimartino, was successful in suppressing his symptoms, but only temporarily.

"One day, it stopped working," he said.

In another report by the NIH, treatment-resistant schizophrenia is also common, with "up to 40% of diagnosed patients showing inadequate response to optimal antipsychotic treatment."

Dimartino's dosage was increased but to no avail. Against his wishes, he was put on a different antidepressant drug under the care of a different doctor in Kansas City.

"I felt like he never listened to me," Dimartino said. "I was only going to see him because I needed someone, legally, to get me meds."

Dimartino didn't have the time he needed to sort through potential miracle cures and toy around with medicinal dosages. He was a young man, now expected to attend university to get a head start on his future — a future he couldn't even imagine himself living to experience.

In 2019, Dimartino began attending WSU with a major in creative writing and a minor in animation. He described the following months as the most challenging and traumatizing of his life.

'NIGHTMARE'

With a new city also came a new doctor — one who that Dimartino felt was intuitive of his needs. With consistent observation and assessments, Dimartino's care dramatically improved.

"If you're only treating someone for three days, like a hospitalization, it's going to be pretty hard to come up with a very clear, solid diagnosis," Leonard said. "If you're seeing someone for ... outpatient treatment, you can really help solidify your diagnosis."

Under the care of LaVeta Jarrett, a psychiatric nurse practitioner, Dimartino was given a genetic test to determine what medications would be effective with his DNA.

In November 2021, he began

taking Geodon, an atypical antipsychotic. The prescription was, initially, far from helpful.

"At first, it was horrible. It was the worst experience ever," Dimartino said. "I would have nightmares all the time — but I was awake. I wasn't sleeping. I was having hallucinations and delusions at night while I was not sleeping. I wasn't able to fall asleep until the sun rose. It was just hell."

Dimartino started having regularly occurring but recognizable hallucinations and delusions.

"I didn't know I had hallucinations until I started the new medication," he said. "Then I was like, 'Why am I seeing the world differently?' I had no idea that all this stuff was a hallucination."

Sometimes, while sleeping in his apartment, Dimartino could hear voices. Initially, it was only the kind words of a man he would come to call Gerald.

Later, voices with more nefarious messages overwhelmed Gerald, and Dimartino tried to block them out. Occasionally, Dimartino, who lived alone, said he could feel people jumping at the end of his bed.

Toward the end of Fall 2021, Dimartino began having trouble keeping up with coursework. Because Dimartino did not have an official diagnosis, he was unable to obtain the official Office of Disability paperwork to inform his teachers of his potential difficulties.

Informing professors of his struggles and limitations was intimidating and fruitless, he said. Dimartino said a professor whom he disclosed his concerns and needs to was "not receptive of it" and refused to offer him extended deadlines or make-up opportunities.

"The only reason I failed (that class) was because I didn't turn in two assignments that I had finished. I just thought I turned them in. Sometimes, I don't remember doing things," Dimartino said.

He said in a perfect world, teachers should be understanding.

"But we don't get that," he said. "I think that's the goal — to not need systems in place to help you to accommodate students. The professors should just actively help without being told."

At his limit, Dimartino started digging deeper into his symptoms through countless hours of research via YouTube videos.

He switched physicians again, and this time, saw gradual improvement as his dosage was adjusted and tweaked. After bringing his concerns to the attention of his new doctor, Dimartino was encouraged to do his own research with the local library's DSM5.

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM5), commonly referred to as "Psychiatry's Bible" was the light at the end of Dimartino's tunnel, and he felt that the dots were finally connected between his symptoms and condition.

"I was waiting and I started to realize 'This is why I have schizophrenia. This is why I don't have schizoaffective, this is why I don't have bipolar [disorder], this is why I don't have anxiety,'" Dimartino said. "It all made sense."

DIAGNOSED

After nearly three years of experimenting with different drugs and trying to find the identity of the disorder that plagued his life, Dimartino presented his findings from the DSM5 to his physician, who gave an official schizophrenia diagnosis in January of 2022.

"It was a very difficult process," he said. "I had to fight for myself so I could get a proper diagnosis. I knew I didn't have depression — I knew I had something, but I didn't know what it was. Finally getting that diagnosis helped me."

Within a few months, Dimartino began feeling more like himself. He was performing better in class, finding new passion in hobbies and activities that had fallen by the wayside, and even joined WSU's student newspaper, The Sunflower.

ONLY A TEMPORARY SOLUTION

As someone with schizophrenia, Dimartino is burdened by many anxiety-inducing uncertainties about the future, like how to meet work expectations.

"I don't know how I'm going to be able to have a job for the rest of my life. Because I'm doing good now, but it takes one thing to fuck up the rest of the good thing I've got going now," he said.

Dimartino currently obtains disability benefits from the government and even has access to the "Ticket to Work" program, which aims to help people with disabilities return to work.

While Dimartino can access benefits through the university's Office of Disability Services, he was dissuaded by the application process. Dimartino has often felt that he needs to keep his disorder under wraps, and has been advised by friends and colleagues to withhold information about his diagnosis to prevent discrimination in the workplace.

"I have a friend that works in HR," he said. "She once told me 'Just hide it until it gets bad, and then say something because people will not hire you if they know.'"

With spring graduation approaching, Dimartino remains uncertain about how he will navigate the challenges of independent adulthood with such little aid or compassion, especially as he works toward beginning his master's degree in creative writing.

"There's people like me who see things that aren't there or have intrusive thoughts and stuff like that ... How am I supposed to wake up the same time every day and go to the same job and do the same thing?" he asked. "There needs to be restructuring in the system."

Dimartino, now two years strong on his current medication, hopes he will find long-lasting fulfillment and success against all odds.

"I want to do stuff, but I have schizophrenia holding me back," he said. "I am not my disorder — but it's just something in my life that I have to deal with."

THE 5 MARKERS OF SCHIZOPHRENIA

Schizophrenia is a chronic brain disorder that results in a range of problems in cognition, behavior and emotions.

DELUSIONS

- False beliefs

HALLUCINATIONS

- Seeing, hearing, smelling, touching or tasting things that don't exist

DISORGANIZED OR UNUSUAL MOVEMENTS

- Includes catatonic behavior

DISORGANIZED OR INCOHERENT SPEECH

- Difficulties staying on topic
- Jumbled or incoherent sentences

NEGATIVE SYMPTOMS

- Decreases in certain behaviors
- Speaking with flat, emotionless voice, lack of motivation or decrease in gestures

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

COUNSELING AND PREVENTION SERVICES (CAPS) AT WSU

Contact 316-978-4792 to set up a counseling appointment

COMCARE CRISIS SERVICES

In person and mobile crisis center at 635 N. Main, Wichita, KS 67203

24/7 CRISIS LINE IN WICHITA

316-660-7500

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE

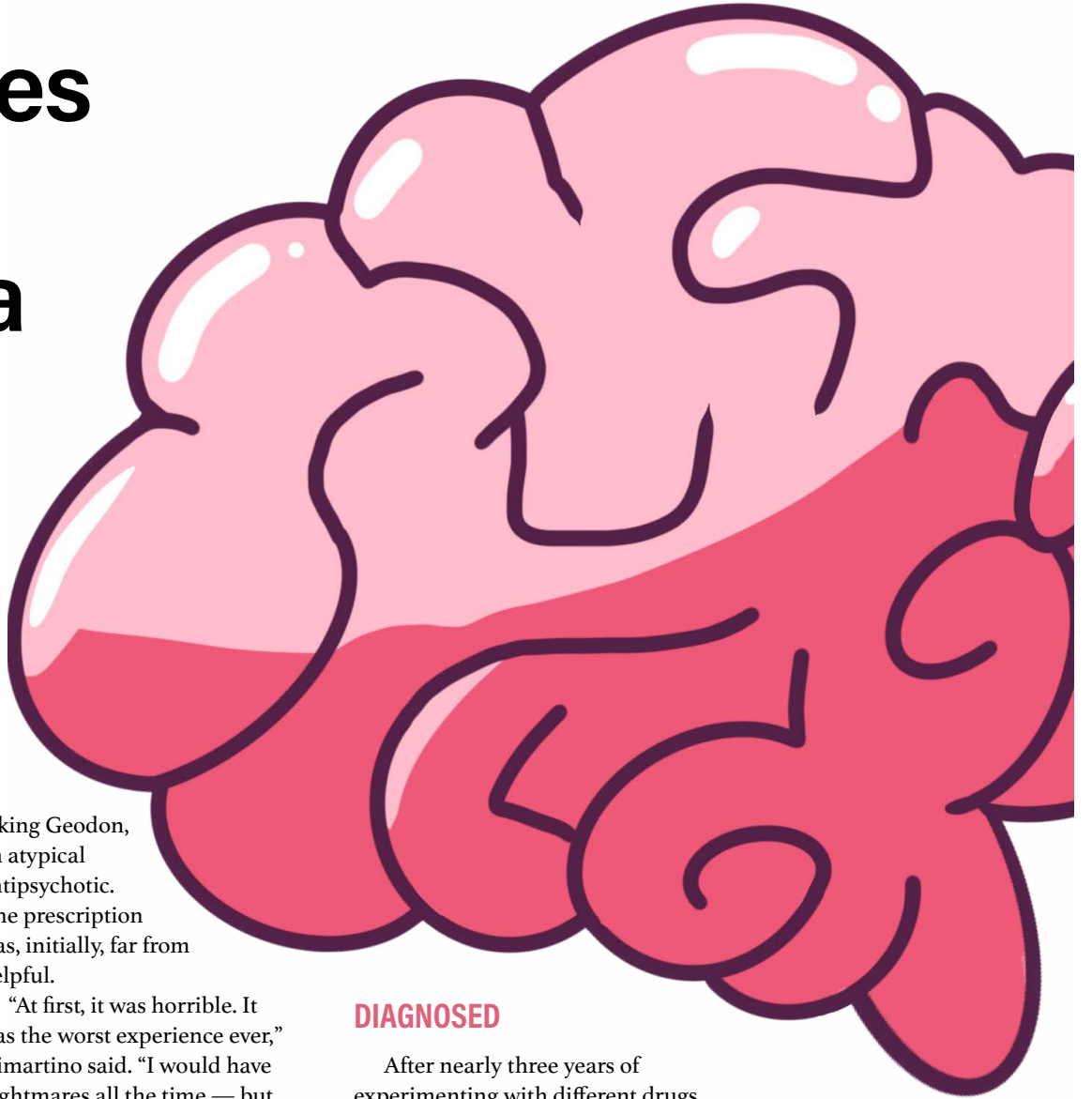
1-800-273-8255

CRISIS TEXT LINE

741-741

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dimartino works for The Sunflower, primarily as a columnist. Campbell and Dimartino are colleagues. The Sunflower recognizes this potential conflict, but we believed this is an important story to tell.





Zoe Jones (#4) stands at first base to catch the passed ball and putout the OSU player. Jones had six putouts throughout Tuesday's game. | Photos by Kristy Mace / The Sunflower



Starting batter Sydney McKinney (#25) sets up in the first inning. McKinney is the top ranked NCAA player in batting average with a .541.

Kansas legislature to prohibit trans girls and women from athletics

BY TRINITY RAMM
sports@thesunflower.com

For three years running, the Kansas Legislature has tried to pass a bill to ban transgender people from participating in girls' and women's sports. However, Gov. Kelly has vetoed the bill all three times.

Those for the bill argued that people assigned male at birth have an inherent and biological advantage over people assigned female at birth.

On the third attempt, both the Senate and House of Representatives had the necessary two-thirds majority to override her veto.

The veto happened on a 84-40 vote in the House and a 28-12 vote in the Senate.

Democrat Rep. Marvin Robinson voted in favor of the bill and Republican Reps. Mark Schreiber and David Younger continued to vote in opposition to the bill, unlike the rest of their parties.

When asked why he switched his vote, Robinson refused to comment and said he has been attacked for his position.

According to the Kansas State High School Activities Association, there are three athletes that identify as transgender out of the roughly 106,000 girls participating in organized sports.

At the collegiate level, the NCAA estimates that less than 1% of athletes are transgender. About 1% of the U.S. population as a whole identifies as transgender.

Softball beats No. 2 Oklahoma State, avenges last season's loss

BY EMMIE BOESE
assistantsports@thesunflower.com

This season, the softball team continues to break records and beat nationally ranked teams. On Tuesday night, the women did just that by recording the highest ranked win in school history.

The Shockers beat No. 2 Oklahoma State 8-7 at Wilkins Stadium in front of a sold out crowd on April 4.

Wichita State ranks in the top 20 on the NCAA's rating power index list. The index list is based off of a team's winning percentage, average opponent's winning percentage and an opponent's win percentage against other teams. An RPI ranking is vital for a team especially if they do not win their conference tournament.

"Rankings are rankings," head coach Kristi Bredbenner said. "It

is what it is. For me I care more about our RPI and just counting to try and elevate and maintain that."

Wichita State started off on a hot streak by putting four runs on the board in the second inning. Freshman Sami Hood started off the scoring with a solo shot.

OSU trailed by one run after scoring three in the third. The Cowgirls scored two in the top of the fourth and led 5-4. However, the Shockers took back the lead in the bottom of the fourth.

It all started when senior Zoe Jones reached base on a throwing error from OSU. Junior Lauren Lucas then advanced to third, leading junior Addison Barnard to score.

The Cowgirls committed their second error of the game which gave senior designated hitter

Lauren Mills an opportunity to reach base. Jones and Lucas reached home, giving Mills two RBI in the fourth.

The Shockers ended the fourth with four runs after freshman Taylor Sedlacek hit an RBI single, scoring freshman Sierra Hoekstra who came in as a pinch runner for Mills.

The Cowgirls added two more runs in the fifth. After that, the game remained scoreless. Sophomore lefty Alison Cooper pitched a scoreless sixth inning. Junior right handed pitcher Lauren Howell came back in in the top of the seventh and closed it out for the Shockers.

Howell got the start in the circle for Wichita State and pitched 4.2 innings. She struck out two, walked three and allowed five hits and five runs. Cooper came in

for Howell in the fourth. Cooper struck out one allowed five hits and two runs.

In order to maintain a successful season moving forward after a win against OSU, Bredbenner said her team has to remind themselves that they are capable of competing with nationally ranked opponents.

"The bottom line is that's gotta give you enough confidence to kind of go back and think about that game and what you did well and use that as kind of a highlight reel for your program," Bredbenner said.

The softball team will resume conference play at Memphis on April 6 at 6 p.m. Their next conference home series is against Houston and begins on April 14 at 6 p.m.

Cheer team faces challenges as program recovers from pandemic, deals with lack of university support

BY COURTNEY BROWN
browncourtney2002@gmail.com

Although the cheer team regularly supports university sports teams, some members feel that they don't get that same support back.

On game days, the cheer team can be found under the basket, rooting for the basketball team, but their work extends past that. They practice six hours a week, do community appearances and fundraise.

"They have very heavy schedules," head cheer coach Shalayne Richmond said. "They are students first. They have to work a part-time job, most of them. Some of them even have full-time jobs."

Despite their efforts, the cheer team has faced many challenges, including budget cuts due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Richmond said this underfunding hurts the team's goal to compete nationally.

"We are appreciated to a certain extent, but the appreciation does not necessarily show in our budget," Richmond said. "Wichita State hired me knowing that my expectation is to go to nationals ... but we don't have any Wichita State funding to make that happen."

Tami Cutler, the spirit squad administrator, said it costs \$50,000 for both the cheer and dance teams to attend. The Athletic Department budget previously provided some funding for nationals, but according to Cutler, that small amount was cut during COVID.

Now the cheer team must fundraise all expenses for nationals.

Anna Degrado, a third-year cheerleader, said fundraising is difficult while balancing busy schedules and receiving minimal scholarships.

"We're still having to do all of the work to raise the money that we need for our squad while also tackling school, work, and practice and games," Degrado said.

Alia Michaelis, a third-year cheerleader, organized the t-shirt fundraiser. While Michaelis found it valuable working with the athletic department on the fundraiser, she was frustrated they needed to raise funds to compete, unlike other athletes.

"A basketball player on the team does not have to do that," Michealis said. "The university would have to do that for them."

Cutler said athletic director Kevin Saal has also tried to build relationships with community members, which "helps grow the support for all our teams." Saal was hired in June 2022.

The Sunflower reached out to Saal for comment and were redirected to Cutler.

CHALLENGES AT WSU AND BEYOND

The cheer team's lack of support extends past pandemic-related underfunding. Some members said their sport is underappreciated in general.

"Cheerleading itself has always kind of been in this constant battle for recognition as an actual sport and an asset to the university," Michaelis said. "It's a lot of fun, so that's why we do it,

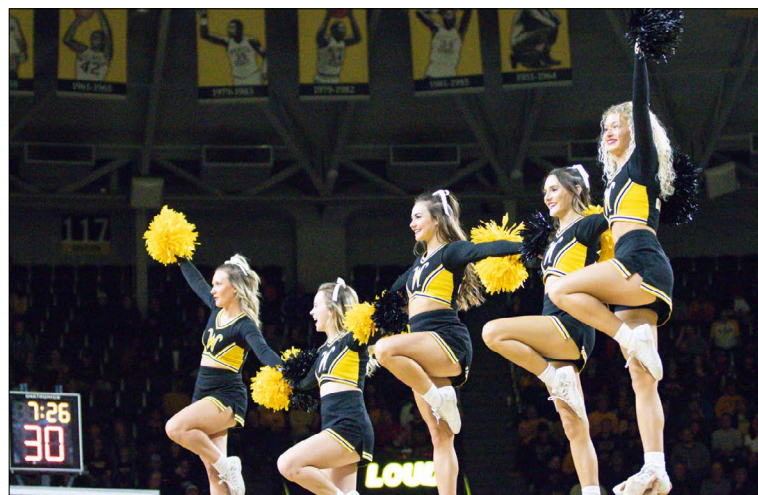
CHEER BY THE NUMBERS

According to Cutler, cheer, dance and mascots share their general budget.

2020: \$145, 937
2021: \$139, 70
2022: \$78, 130
2023: \$60, 621

In 2023, the athletic department restructured their internal budget and their funds for equipment and travel are listed elsewhere.

WSU cheerleaders receive \$400-600 in scholarships per semester.



The cheer team does an aerial formation during a timeout at Wichita State's game against Houston on Feb. 2 at Koch Arena. | Photo by Madeline Bell / The Sunflower

but I think everyone would agree with me in saying that they feel underappreciated."

SILVER LININGS

While navigating difficulties, the cheerleaders also encountered positives. Last fall, they gained a locker room after losing theirs during the pandemic.

This spring, the cheerleaders received their first new uniforms in seven years, Richmond said.

According to Cutler, the dance team also lacked new uniforms for a few years.

Both Richmond and the cheerleaders said they were grateful for the new uniforms.

"You feel new and shiny because it's a new outfit," Michaelis said.

Practice can present its own challenges. In the Heskett Center, where the cheer team currently practices, the coaches strain their voices over the running fans and activity. They lose this space when rented out for "domestic needs" or the Shocker Track Club, Richmond said.

But Richmond said working with others in Heskett is a silver lining.

"We have built those relationships to where we appreciate the people who are using Heskett, and they appreciate us," Richmond

said. "There are some positives, but it would be very nice to have some sort of facility where we weren't maneuvering."

Richmond noted Saal's past experiences with cheer programs are beneficial.

"He comes from (University of) Kentucky, which Kentucky has an amazing cheer program, so he's got some experience there," Richmond said. "And he also comes from another program ... more community-based, more game day. So he has seen both ends of the spectrum for cheerleading."

According to Richmond, Saal was the first athletic director to visit the cheerleaders at practice. He even gave the team his personal phone number.

While Degrado appreciated the visit, she said she doesn't expect the change in athletic directors to improve their situation.

"It's not necessarily about the athletic director himself, but more so an institutional issue where the university's eyes are just not in our direction," Degrado said.

Though the cheerleaders may be frustrated by the lack of support they do, for Degrado, giving back at community events makes the experience.

This is shortened version of this story. For the full version, visit [thesunflower.com](https://www.thesunflower.com)



Before play starts in the top of the sixth inning against Omaha on March 29, head coach Kristi Bredbenner talks to pitcher Allison Cooper (#1). | Photo by Kristy Mace / The Sunflower

Softball to host 2024 AAC Tournament

BY TRINITY RAMM
sports@thesunflower.com

For the first time since joining the American Athletic Conference, the softball program will host the conference championship tournament at Wilkins Stadium.

Wichita State softball has not hosted a conference tournament since 2015. The 2015 Missouri Valley Conference tournament saw No. 8 Indiana State play spoiler to No. 5 Southern Illinois, No. 4 Wichita State, No. 1 Drake and No. 2 Missouri State to win the conference's bid to the NCAA tournament.

Wilkins Stadium should be partially through its planned renovations when the tournament comes around next spring.

Wichita State is climbing up the projections to host an NCAA tournament this season after their upset against No. Oklahoma State on April 4.

Dates for the tournament have not yet been determined and will be announced at a later date.

STREET SPEAK

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE PROCESS OF SIGNING UP FOR CLASSES?



THINH VO
Freshman
Computer Science

"I think the process itself is pretty easy. Although there's a bit of a disparity between the different years in school not getting in classes you want, sometimes it can be frustrating."



KOY LIGHT
Senior
Electrical Engineering

"Overall, it's not too bad. I wish sometimes some of the holes were communicated a little bit better, because there (have) been times where that has been an issue. Overall, it's not too bad. The whole thing would be better if they communicated a little clearer."



TAMARA DURANT
Senior
Social Work

"I think for undergrad it was easy. I would just use my degree works audit and then if I had any questions I would go to my advisor. I think it's a pretty easy process."



JENNIFER CALVO
Junior
Marketing

"It's all right. I haven't gone about this semester yet, but usually I like to do it with an advisor, but it's kind of hard since everybody typically goes through an advisor to help navigate through the website, but other than that, I don't find a problem with anything."

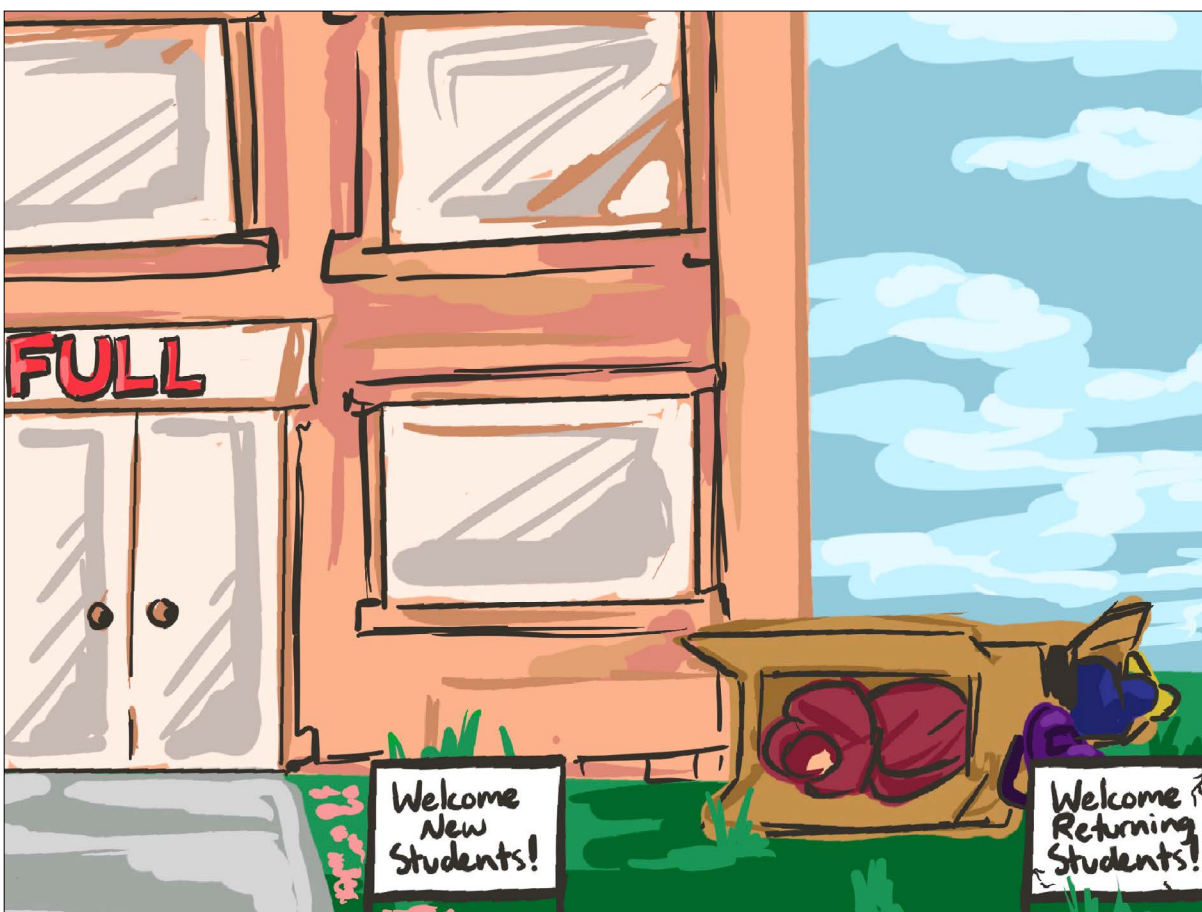


Illustration by Wren Johnson / The Sunflower

WSU needs to build another housing unit



Jacinda Hall
jacinda.hall@live.com

COLUMN

It's that time of year again: We come back from spring break and we get to figure out housing options for school and decide whether we should live on campus again — or not.

Students that live on-campus are eager to choose their rooms for the next academic year. I know I am. Currently, students have one housing choice on campus if they're returning, The Flats.

The Flats has three bedroom types and four different floor plans that residents can choose from. You can choose a floor plan with one,

two, three or four bedrooms and you can choose to live in a single bedroom, an expandable single bedroom, or a double.

With the single bedroom, you have your own room completely. With the double, you share a room with someone else. With the expandable single, you have your own room unless housing decides to expand the room at any point during the school year and make it a double.

These rooms are usually pre-planned before the next academic year starts.

This year so many students plan to live on campus for the 2023-2024 academic year to the point that WSU's Housing and Residence Life department had to expand all of the pre-planned expandable singles and make them doubles.

This comes at a time when the university constantly talks about raised enrollment as a good thing.

This is extremely frustrating because The Flats is the only returning student housing on campus. The Suites used to be open to both first year students and returning students, but it was changed to first year students only after the pandemic.

It isn't fair to returning students, especially those that are out-of-state or international students, because if The Flats run out of room, students are forced to find inconvenient or expensive options off campus.

If WSU has room in their budget to build and renovate buildings on campus, then they should consider making room in their budget to build another housing unit on campus for returning students only.

'A Good Person' interesting enough on the backs of lead actors



Trinity Ramm
sports@thesunflower.com

COLUMN

If your childhood was anything like mine, it means you spent your sick days in elementary school watching midday reruns of the medical comedy "Scrubs" on Comedy Central. This is how I was introduced to Zach Braff and until about three months ago, I was largely unaware he had really done anything else.

The spark for this newfound Braff lore was an Instagram story from Florence Pugh about a new movie, starring her and directed by Zach Braff, "A Good Person."

The movie is engaging enough but snags a few times in the middle. I don't know if the story had too much going on but everything was interconnected enough that it was easy to keep track of.

Pugh plays Allison, a woman who is involved in a fatal car accident and, as a result, becomes addicted

to oxycontin. Most of the movie surrounds her journey to realizing that she is an addict and getting help from an unlikely source, her would-have-been father-in-law.

Despite being a huge fan, I've never seen Pugh on the big screen until now, and man, does it make all the difference in experiencing her tactful and emotional style of acting.

Allison's helping hand, Danny, is 10 years sober and played by Morgan Freeman. They both seem like actors who really know how to step on the gas pedal and go from zero to 100 at the drop of a hat.

The climax of Allie's addiction endangers Danny's granddaughter and causes him to relapse back into his alcoholism for one night. Danny lets go and finally reveals to Allie that the car accident, which until this point everyone insisted was the fault of a construction truck, was really Allie's fault after all.

Allie is in a cocaine-induced stupor while taking in this information and Pugh pushes through the numbness to full-blown, raging sadness.

The film straddles the dramedy



Photo courtesy of IMP Awards

line extraordinarily well. One genre never overtakes the other and blends exactly how they should.

"A Good Person" ultimately questions guilt, grief, and the non-linear road between addiction and recovery. If you are sensitive to drug abuse or have a complex relationship with a parental figure, beware when watching this one.

Why you should see what the world has to offer



Tyler Guthrie
teguthrie@shockers.wichita.edu

COLUMN

No one likes to stand and sit in the same place all the time. There is so much to explore. Places outside your comfort zone will call for you and demand your presence. I think you should listen to and adhere to these requests, because traveling far into the outside world is beneficial for everyone.

Think of all the sights you could see, depending on where you go. Since the most beautiful sights in Kansas are rolling hills everywhere and glistening lakes here and there, a journey to another state or to another country is thrilling.

Perhaps a trip to the Montezuma Castle, or to the Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks or the historic sites in Boston, Massachusetts, where you can see national monuments and treasures. Maybe you could take a cross-country trip to observe as much as possible. If the plan is to go visit another country or countries, perhaps you'll visit the Taj Mahal in Agra, India, or Kakadu National Park, Australia, or the Dancing Building in the Czech Republic.

There are unique sights everywhere in the world. Deciding on what to see depends on what catches the eye the most. It also could require some research.

This is a downside of traveling: the planning.

Planning can be a subjective downside (depending on the person planning the trip). It is a hustle to

plan the sightseeing, the hotels, restaurants, and funds.

However, it is worth it to go out and see what the world has to offer. I have recently been to Denver, Colorado, for a club trip, and it was something I needed.

There is a unique majesty of being in a different place. For places which are familiar and remind you of home, there is a wonderful sense of belonging which makes you feel as if you had lived there so long that you could understand it like the back of your hand.

For unfamiliar places, then there's opportunities to experience and appreciate the world for what it has to offer. To witness what you may have never thought you could witness, traveling will show you how divine and diverse the world is.

Living authentically is not a crime

Drag shows, and drag as a form of art, expression, and entertainment, has always been at home in queer spaces. It is often a form of communal gathering and enjoyment. What's not to love about seeing over-the-top satire of gender norms and screaming for people to take the dollar bill

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

from your hand because you can't help fawning for them? In the United States, efforts have been made, and at times succeeding, to not only put limits on drag, but banning it outright.

Recently, Wichita State University hosted their 13th Annual Drag Show and at a last minute, no-negotiation decision was made that the show was to 18+, and disallow minors from entering. While this is an issue for a multitude of reasons, I also see it to be highly offensive. Not only are some students of the university under the age of 18, but to label this show as such is inherently harmful. The "adults only" warning not only reinstates, but validates the harmful rhetoric surrounding drag that is being spouted by those unfamiliar with the medium.

When I was still in highschool, as someone who was only openly queer to a handful of friends, being at the WSU Drag Show was an amazing experience. It was the first time I was in a safe, queer space. I didn't grow up in an environment that was friendly or even accepting of people who weren't cisgender and heterosexual. To see people proudly displaying pride flags, being candid about their same-sex relationship, and even seeing a gender-neutral bathroom was eye-opening. It made me happy to be queer. For the first time, I felt safe, seen, and happy within my identity. Now, as a student, I get to find my community with fellow queer people every week, and sometimes daily. This year's drag show was supposed to be amazing, but because of its 18+ policy, it left a bittersweet feeling.

Community is an aspect of queer culture that cannot be understated or diluted. Throughout all history, queer people have only been able to survive by leaning on one another. Community saves lives. Community opens up the world for people who may not have known there are others just like them. Community allows people the knowledge that they are normal. No one needs this more than queer youth. Grappling with your LGBTQIA+ identity and school, parents, rebellion, et cetera, at the same time is extremely difficult, especially if your parents aren't accepting. It can be such a crushing experience. Drag shows have always been a beacon of community for queer people. Seeing throngs of people walk through those theater doors hand in hand with gender and sexually diverse partners and friends is incredible. To be surrounded by people who know how you are feeling, what you've been through, and how unique you are is rewarding. It's a validating safety net that you cannot get in everyday life.

It is no understatement to say the modern day is not a good time to be a queer person; especially a younger queer person. New laws are being proposed and passed everywhere limiting the innate human rights of queer people, and most notably: trans people. It should not be a crime to live authentically, no matter how badly lawmakers want us to believe so. The policy of barring minors aligns the college with the hate speech and intolerance being spewed every day in individual state and federal congress that seeks to vilify queer people's sense of self expression. That is not the future I want for Wichita State University. I found a community and a home here. I want other people to be able to do the same.

— James Owsley,
Freshman. Journalism

HANDEL MANIA



After the performance, Director of Opera Studies and Voice Area Coordinator Alan Held dedicates the production of Handelmania to Pina Mozzani. Mozzani is a retiring Professor of Voice after working at WSU for 19 years. | Photos by Kristy Mace / The Sunflower



In the second act, Polypheme, played by Wes Kelley, displays his rage of Acis and Galatea's love story. This production was part of WSU's Handelmania, the Opera Theatre's last production of the academic year.



During the April 2 performance of Acis and Galatea, Lily Rose Graham played the role of Galatea.



Cole McIlquham and Lily Rose Graham, playing the titular roles of Acis and Galatea, act as the characters discover their fondness of each other. The performance is a display of the Opera role, and all the necessary characters within it.

Art professors talk immigration, the pandemic and dog fur

BY SASCHA HARVEY
arts@thesunflower.com

"I was born in Mexico and, at the age of three, my family and I immigrated to the United States illegally," Marco Hernandez said on Tuesday. "It wasn't until the Dreamer Act that I was able to get documented."

Until he was 22, Hernandez, now a printmaking professor, was unable to obtain a driver's license, a job with above board pay or social security until this. He spoke of his upbringing as a Mexican-American and how it has impacted his printmaking at the Ulrich, accompanied by a talk from Robert Bulp.

"In my heart, I wanted to show that I'm proud to be Mexican, proud of my experiences living in this country or being from Mexico," Hernandez said. "I use

a lot of symbolic imagery ... of anything that relates to Mexican culture."

Both of his displayed prints feature snakes, which are pictured on the Mexican flag. Hernandez uses imagery related to his heritage to connect himself to his roots while in America.

"I like that my artwork allows me to stay connected to a culture that I don't have as much anymore but I'm still really interested in," he said. "This past year, for the first time in 22 years, I was able to visit the house I lived at for the first few years of my life (in Mexico)."

While in Mexico for two weeks, Hernandez was able to connect with extended family members, some of which he did not recognize. He also dived into the art scene of Mexico, visiting the National Printmaking Museum,

known as The Museo Nacional de la Estampa. His visit not only developed his relationship with his family and heritage but his artwork as well.

"I started to notice that even the Spanish language I'm starting to forget because I don't use it as much as I used to," Hernandez said. "My work allows me to have that connection. It also forces me to do the research."

Professor of Painting and Drawing Robert Bulp explores a loss of connections with his work. His pieces on display at the Ulrich process the cultural trauma that took place during the pandemic.

"COVID was a cultural movement," Bulp said. "As we all know, (it was) very traumatic."

His displayed works explore the widespread loss caused by COVID-19 as well as his personal

relationship with the pandemic. His grandfather and a lifelong friend passed away from the illness.

"I was still trapped in this house," Bulp said. "COVID is a special kind of thing. It certainly affects your mentality."

While under quarantine, Bulp found that one of the only refuges from cabin fever was walking his dog. A clip of his footsteps with a leashed dog is edited in with video piece alongside a helicopter circling a blue sky, a ceiling fan and footage from a Black Lives Matter protest following George Floyd's death in 2020.

"These two works are about me rethinking what a place could be ... with a cultural trauma (from COVID) and the reckoning we had with the 2020 George Floyd protests," Bulp said. The helicopter

pictured is a police copter from the Kansas City Black Lives Matter protest he attended.

While his video is a collection of majority outside elements, his other piece is more personal to his home.

"This is just what was physically (and) literally in my space," Bulp said. "The circularity of all this is related to that idea of being trapped in a room."

His mounted piece contains everything from old artworks and spilled coffee to garden dirt and dog hair. Some of the paper used was planted in a creek bed in George for a while before he fetched it.

"Sometimes we just sort of make something, see what comes of it and then move to the next step," Bulp said.

JOIN US TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY

 **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INSTITUTE**

Wichita State's Community Engagement Institute is engaging citizens in opportunities to serve and alleviate poverty in the community. For information about service opportunities, go to communityengagementinstitute.org/vista.

 **AmeriCorps**



HUNGRY, HUNGRY HIPPODROME



Tri Delta and Delta Upsilon's skit comes to an end as they all celebrate good winning. | Photos by Shelby Parscale / The Sunflower



Aquaman receives encouragement from his family to get back on the case.



KVersity takes on their K-Pop inspired routine. With several formations and dance moves they ruled the stage for a second place finish.



Phi Delta Theta and Farmhouse used a mix of Marvel and Super Mario characters. Mario demonstrates his special abilities for his new friends.



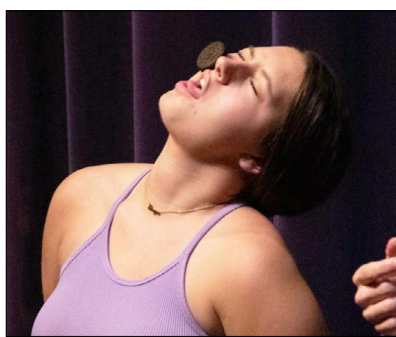
One-man band performs Suit & Ty



Alpha Phi and Sigma Phi Epsilon take home the Hippodrome 2023 first place trophy.



Phi Delta Theta and Farmhouse dance battle commences with announcer.



For a fun intermission activity the Hippodrome hosts brought out Oreos and volunteers from the crowd. The first to get their oreo from their forehead to their mouth wins.



A team of older heroes comes to the stage with their comedy bits.



Alpha Phi's Little Red Riding Hood enters the story with her pup Todo.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BIG READ 2023: MINI FILM FEST SHOWING OF 'SUPERNOVA'

THURSDAY, APRIL 6
5:30 p.m. | Advanced Learning Library

WRITING NOW/READING NOW: MELINDA MOUSTAKIS

THURSDAY, APRIL 6
5:30 - 7 p.m. | Ulrich Museum

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY SPRING LECTURE: DR. ANDREW DENNING

THURSDAY, APRIL 6
7:30 - 9 p.m. | Jabara Hall

TEACHING MATTERS SERIES: WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT OUR INCOMING FRESHMEN

FRIDAY, APRIL 7
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Rhatigan Student Center

CORBIN CONNECT: DR. RAE NILES - DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION + TEACHING & LEARNING

FRIDAY, APRIL 7
Noon - 1 p.m. | Corbin Education Center

HEALING FROM TRAUMA SUPPORT GROUP

FRIDAY, APRIL 7
2 - 3 p.m. | Steve Clark YMCA & Student Wellness Center

LECTURE SERIES IN THE MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES: DR. PAMELA HARRIS, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE

FRIDAY, APRIL 7
3 p.m. | Jabara Hall

VASANTH

FRIDAY, APRIL 7
5:30 - 10 p.m. | Hughes Metropolitan Complex

ASC ASSEMBLY

FRIDAY, APRIL 7
6 p.m. - 9 p.m. | CAC Theater

SERVICE SATURDAY - STORYTIME VILLAGE

SATURDAY, APRIL 8
8 a.m. - Noon | Urban Preparatory Academy

2023 AGENT BASED MODELING WORKSHOP + HACKATHON

SATURDAY, APRIL 8
9 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Woolsey Hall

MINDFULNESS AND MEDITATION

MONDAY, APRIL 10
2 - 3 p.m. | Heskett Center

BIOLOGY SEMINAR SERIES WITH DR. WALTER E. MESHAKA, JR.

MONDAY, APRIL 10
4 - 5 p.m. | Hubbard Hall

INTERVENTION SERVICES & LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION (ISLE) GRADUATE PROGRAM FAIR

MONDAY, APRIL 10
4 - 8 p.m. | Ulrich Museum

STUDENT ORGANIZATION ADVISOR TRAINING

TUESDAY, APRIL 11
9 - 10 a.m. | Rhatigan Student Center

NEURODIVERSITY PEER SUPPORT GROUP

TUESDAY, APRIL 11
1 - 2 p.m. | Ablah Library

HAVE AN EVENT YOU WOULD LIKE LISTED?

CONTACT THE ARTS EDITOR:
arts@thesunflower.com

CONTACT THE NEWS EDITOR:
news@thesunflower.com

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