

Student Organization Leaders Complain about Low Campus Involvement

By Kierra Whitaker; *The Whetstone*

It doesn't seem to matter if you're faculty, part of the staff or a student – most Wesley College campus folks just don't want to get involved with events on campus.

Junior Wendy-Akua Adjei believes that some faculty and staff dampen the spirit of the college.

"Faculty and staff are not the happiest to be here, so why should students feel the different?" she said.

"You would think that they will say 'Get into the college experience,' or, 'Have some fun by getting involved,' but most can be negative about the school."

And the same seems to go for staff and students.

Some students said it's the general atmosphere that has been the problem for low student engagement.

"Student engagement on campus is very low," Student Government Association (SGA) secretary Brooke Retkowski said. "The only interactions we typically see are within the organizations under the Student Government Association (SGA) who have a budget."



Greek Informational Meeting

Kierra Whitaker

The people who attend SGA meetings often include only organization board members.

"Every time we host a congress meeting, we typically see fewer than five students who say they are there and are not associated with a specific club or organization and they are the same every meeting," she said.

It's as much the students as faculty or staff, said Quameshia Callwood, north campus area coordinator.

"I feel like the atmosphere here at Wesley has declined due to

low school spirit that students exhibit," she said.

There's no school spirit, senior Alana Corry said.

"When I started in 2015, students were engaged and presenting Wesley with pride," she said. "Now not so much." One professor said he thinks the changes in enrollment affect student involvement.

"Wesley depends on tuition for its operating budget," Dr. Jeffery Mask said.

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Beloved Student-Athlete Dies in Traffic Accident

By Troy Hamilton; *The Whetstone*



DeShawn Price

Korey Hendricks was friends with Deshawn Price for six years, ever since they both played baseball together at Polytech High School.

That all ended when Price was killed in a single-vehicle traffic accident in October.

Hendricks remembered him as a good friend to him.

"Our friendship was pretty strong," he said. "We met freshmen year at Polytech High School where we played baseball together. Our friendship and chemistry were both really solid."

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“(Students who pay tuition) are down, so budgets are tight. When people must be careful with every penny they spend, they often become a bit tense.”

-Dr. Jeffery Mask

He said he hopes to see the new leadership in admissions (David Buckingham) “can turn our enrollment trends around.” Student engagement has seen its ups and downs with faculty and staff.

Engagement by both faculty and staff is low, Retkowski said.

“One of our goals was to break the barrier between the administration and the student body in order to get more things accomplished within the school,” she said. “This is still a working process.”

If the atmosphere is demoralizing, or they have a bad experience with a teacher or staff member, students get turned off, said Campus Life Coordinator Mark Berry.

“Students speak about not doing certain things or being involved once they have a bad experience with the school,” he said.

Mask said a big part of the problem is that many students simply are not prepared for the work college requires.

“Since ‘No Child Left Behind’ and state testing programs, students are less prepared, and apparently less able to read, write, and think critically when they get to college,” he said.

Callwood said she has seen a decline in student involvement. Retkowski said it might be student organization leaders’ fault as well.

“There’s not a lot of action in making involvement a priority,” she said. “This could be due to a lack of communication or a lack of leadership in certain roles.

We have been stressing the importance to these organizations on campus to reach out to students.”

Although there are new leadership roles within the school, some students think it is still a waste of time to be involved when no one supports them but the same people.

“Organizations are tired of planning events that no one shows up to,” senior Sydney Brokenborough said. “When I was active in my organization our adviser just signed off on the paperwork and never showed up to our events.”

Student organizations really do try hard make events for the campus community, Adjei said.

“But it’s really disheartening and discouraging when people don’t come out at all,” she said. “Some say to solve this problem is to just tell them to come out, but it’s hard when students genuinely don’t care.”

Some upperclassmen said they feel almost nostalgic about their freshmen year.

“When I was a freshman in 2016, we had student leaders on campus that made us want to actually attend their hosted events,” Brokenborough said. “There were high hopes for Wesley, the conditions were bad, but we looked passed it.”

Some believe the tradition has been lost at Wesley.

“Students love hanging in their dorms more than being out,” senior Ian Thorne said.

“The tradition has been lost at Wesley. At times, staff would have to force students to leave an area after an event, but that’s not a problem today.”

Some new student leaders try to keep traditional events alive at Wesley, Brokenborough said.

“And the newer students really don’t know the meaning of them. Those student leaders left an impact on us, but no one continued their traditions.”

She said her freshman class “actually wanted to go out to support organizations and experience what college really was. Today you have to force people or promise them an incentive to get them to attend. Once you get them out of their rooms, you have to convince them to stay.”

Most students said they were fed up.

It’s everyone, not just the faculty, or the staff, or the students, senior Elijah Tinson said.

“I can’t blame just the faculty and staff for what the students are doing,” he said. “But no one cares to anything around here.”

Senior Abdul Fadipe said he’s noticed a lot of pettiness at Wesley.

“Students and staff think they are too good to participate at the college unless it benefits them,” he said. “Faculty and staff never tell us anything. We always find out through each other.”

Nursing graduate Kaylyn Hall said some students only want to be an audience.



Wesley College Homecoming Party

Kierra Whitaker

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“Students rather be entertained than to make entertainment for themselves or to support their fellow peers,” she said.

Some students said they wish Wesley was fun and exciting.

“We have high expectations to be a ‘lit’ school, but we have to take into consideration that we are a small college,” business graduate Breanne Smith said.

Some students, including graduates, said the problem lies in the mechanics of getting an event approved in a timely manner.

“Four weeks is a long time for an event to get approved,” Brokenborough said.

Senior Ashli Moore said the rushing of paperwork can put a hold on the event.

“Sometimes we would have to rush our paperwork in order to meet deadlines,” she said. “That’s when things go missing or forgot.”

Brokenborough believes that some staff members do not make it easy to have an event.

“There is always some type of hold up or non-approval from staff,” she said. “If there is a faculty event, they will prioritize it over a student organization.”

Students said they were disappointed they often can’t invite outside guests.

“Administration takes forever to file paperwork for an event and most of the time they do not allow outside guest to attend them,” liberal arts graduate Maya Shuler said. “Bringing guest to the school is what Wesley should want.”

Most students involved in organizations also complained that the services were too

expensive.

“The school charges for their services, such as security and food (Aramark), which is too expensive for some organizations who don’t have much of a budget,” Shuler said.

“Before we can purchase items for our events, we must consider what the school has to offer, which usually is double the price of what things actually cost,” Moore said.

Security isn’t cheap, either.

“Security is really expensive,” senior Lexus Commodore said. “Although we want them to get paid for doing their jobs the price per guard is absurd.”

But many discussions of low involvement come back to the students.

“Students are just not interested,” Adjei said. “Students here are not enthusiastic and happy about Wesley. There is no Wesley spirit among the students.”

Getting involved must start with the student.

“Students themselves have to really want to be involved,” Mark Berry said. “Granted they may have had many different experiences here, but they have to be willing to rise above and know that things will get better.”

Former student Thomesse Baylor said it starts with unity.

“When I attended Wesley there was no unity between the students and workers of the college,” she said. “No one has ever taken the initiative to ask students what they want.”

At least one staff member said reaching out to professors before or after classes to promote their



iLead Event with no attendees.

events will encourage everyone to come out.

“Try reaching out to faculty and staff and seeing if you could promote your events for a couple minutes before they start teaching their classes,” Callwood said. “Faculty and staff could also spread the word about certain events.”

Mark Berry agreed.

“It wouldn’t hurt to try reaching out to professors a few minutes before or after as long as you get the word it your job is done,” he said.

Publicizing events is a job for student affairs, Mask said.

“Teaching involves preparation, which includes on-going research in one’s field, classroom time, and a lot of time grading student work,” he said. “We have student affairs specialists who would seem to me to be the best people to work with to publicize club events.”

Meet the Staff

Interested in joining The Whetstone’s Staff? We are always looking for new writers and photographers to help report campus news to the student body.

If you have any questions or comments, please email adviser, Victor Greto.

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CORRECTION

In the early November issue, Tolu Babalola was misquoted in the article, “Students and Faculty Worried About Wesley’s Low Enrollment.”

His direct quote was “Enrollment here has been really inconsistent but it is really starting to peak right now. Between 2017 and last year it was low and a lot of people were leaving but now it’s picking up again which is making there a warmer feeling on campus I think.”

The Whetstone apologizes for the error.

If you have any comments or concerns with the student newspaper, please feel free to email me, Christian Bailey, with your concerns.

New Student Government Board Shows Growing Pains

By: Wendy-Akua Adjei; *The Whetstone*



Brooke Retkowski

Wendy-Akua Adeji

Some of the Student Government Association's board said they had a hard time acclimating themselves in their jobs because they weren't trained properly by the previous board.

"The previous SGA wanted to train us, and I think some of them went out of their way to do that, but others were kind of lacking in that sense," Brooke Retkowski, SGA secretary, said.

This year's board is trying to make up for last year's SGA's problems. Early in the spring semester, three members resigned from their positions, including President Jamal Earls, Secretary Myasia Davis and Treasurer Autumn Brown.

The new board members include President Toluwanimi Babalola, Vice President Sarah Fryer, Treasurer Logan Wilson, Chief of Staff Joshua Harris, and Secretary Brooke Retkowski.

When the previous Student Government Association President Jamal Earls resigned, Vice President Da'Shaylyn Barnes became the president.

Babalola was supposed to meet with Barnes to complete his transition process. Retkowski was supposed to meet with Christina Roe, who had stepped into the secretary position after Davis had resigned.

Although the former SGA board tried, Retkowski said the training sessions were not long enough and did not have all of the information pertaining to the positions.

"I met with Da'Shaylyn once for about 5-10 minutes," Babalola said.

The problems with the SGA are continuing, said Benjamin Janocha, the president of the club of performing arts.

"When I went to my first SGA meeting this semester, it was very unproductive and unorganized," he said.

The Zeta Phi Beta president said the present SGA board temporarily jeopardized her organization's conference.

"The first couple of EIFs we had turned in were awaiting signatures from SGA," said Kierra Whitaker, president of Zeta Phi Beta.

"We needed the EIF signed in a timely manner due to the fact that if we did not sign up in time for our event the price would go up."

This too was another example of the current board's lack of training Retkowski said,



Zeta Phi Beta President Kierra Whitaker

At the beginning of the semester, we had no idea that we had to pick the EIFs up from the mailroom," she said.

Event information forms (EIF) are supposed to be filled out by students' organizations when they want to have an event.

The EIFs are handed over to Naomi Rubin, who sends the forms to the mailroom where the SGA secretary should pick them up. The SGA president and treasurer must sign off on the forms.



BSU President Rex Chege

Wendy-Akua Adeji

These forms are returned to Rubin.

Retkowski said that although some on the former board tried to educate the new members, some very important things like the EIF process were not properly explained.

Black Student Union President Rex Chege said he can tell the SGA wasn't trained properly.

"That falls on the previous SGA board and the adviser," he said. "They are just now becoming situated with their jobs and it should not be like that, especially if they have an adviser that has been doing this for years."

SGA adviser Dr. Jack Barnhardt said training is the job of the new and old SGA members.

"When a new board is elected, they are told to arrange meetings with the old board," he said. "Not just as a group, but also to meet with whoever was in their specific positions. . So treasurer meets with treasurer and so on. But that is up to those students to do, so I don't know to what extent that happened this time."

Retkowski said she met with the former secretary for about half an hour.

"I wish I could have shadowed her so I would have understood the position better," she said.

Retkowski said she was at first not worried and thought she knew exactly what her position entailed. It wasn't until further into the semester when she realized she did not know all the information she needed.

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Beloved Student-Athlete Story Continued from p.1

At about 6 a.m. Oct. 23, 19-year-old Wesley College baseball player Deshawn Price Jr. was killed in a traffic accident in Clayton when he lost control of his Nissan Sentra as he was traveling south on Brenford Road, approaching Mt. Friendship Road, and crashed into a tree.

Delaware Police said he failed to negotiate a curve in the road. Police closed the road for 3-1/2 hours. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Hendricks said he was shocked when he heard the news about Price.

"I was one of the first people to find out," he said. "I was in more disbelief than anything. He was always a super positive dude and was always smiling."

Teammate Matt Ortiz remembered his skills.

"He was a promising player gone too soon," he said. "He had potential when playing and he threw hard."

Price and head coach Bret Underwood had a strong bond.

"He was very receptive to coaching," he said. "He was improving and he was a great athlete. When he came into the weight room, he was a hard worker. He was a very coachable kid."

Underwood said he was shocked at the news.

"My first thought was to gather his teammates together to honor him so they can grieve and process this together as a group and remember him," he said.

Career Advising Center Unknown To Many Students

By Mike Brewer; *The Whetstone*



Kendall Wilson Mike Brewer

Many Wesley students seem unaware of what the career advising center is, let alone what it may do for them and their future careers.

Some students say they have never heard of it, but there are some who know about the center and its benefits.

"It helps students find job opportunities, and help them look for internships in their majors," senior Coray Williams said. Kendall Wilson, the center's coordinator, said she has had 162 visits from 98 students with a total of 75 hours with students during the fall semester.

About 24 of those hours have been advising about careers, 42 of those hours have been general advising, and seven hours have been spent on student success outreach for struggling students.

"I started in February of 2018," Wilson said. "Last year was my first full year and of all the the students that I have worked with have been successful."

She said she is still figuring out how to make the center more known.

"Sometimes instructors will ask me to come into the classroom and either do short or long talk on different things, like resumes or interviewing skills," she said.

Williams, an exercise science major, said he will be using the center when he does his internship.

"Students who are exercise science majors need to do 100 observation hours and 400 internship hours," he said. "The center can help with that. It has not helped me yet, but it will definitely help me when I need to do my internship in order to graduate"

Wesley graduate Craig Pettit said that the center is a great place to go to for help on preparing for a future career.

"They help with resources that you need to be successful," he said.

Junior Beth Manlove said the center is beneficial to everyone who uses it or is planning on using it.

"The people in the center know a lot about networking and resources," she said. "They constantly send out emails to students about things they need in order to move forward."

Associate athletic director and assistant head football coach Steve Azzanesi said the center was useful when figuring out what he wanted to do for a career.

"It helped me think about my future and got me on the right track with figuring out what I wanted to do," he said.



Beth Manlove Mike Brewer

Sophomore Damerius Wright said he knows about Wesley's Career Advising Center but he has not used it.

"I haven't been there but I plan on using it in the future to get on the right path for my career," he said. "I feel like they should put themselves out there more so students know who they are and what they do."

The Career Advising Center is Located on the bottom floor of the Robert H. Parker Library in room 14.



Homecoming Numbers Low, But Students Are Working to Boost School Spirit

By DaQuan Martin; *The Whetstone*



Wendy-Akua Adjei

DaQuan Martin

Many students at Wesley College said they were disappointed by this year's Homecoming events because of low attendance and lack of preparation.

Senior Autumn Brown said this year's Homecoming was a disaster.

"There weren't too many events known, and these events wasn't brought to many students' attention as past years were," she said. "The Homecoming 'reveal' (events revealed on flyers and social media about Homecoming) wasn't as great like the past years."

Senior Sydney Brokenborough said Homecoming was unorganized.

"We did not know the events of Homecoming until the week of, so people who have to work couldn't take off or plan properly to enjoy it," she said. "They combined the pep rally and the fashion show into one, which was supposed to be

a two-hour event and it felt like it was less than 30 minutes."

President of Student Activities Board Wendy-Akua Adjei said her board did the best it could given the circumstances.

"We put together the events in hopes to get people to come out," she said. "It's difficult to get people to come out to events." But it's also about the SAB's problems at the beginning of the year.

"SAB started planning Homecoming as early as we could," she said. "There was no board in the beginning of the semester, so I don't know who these students thought would be planning Homecoming at all let alone in advance this year."



Left: Ahsli Moore, Lou, Rakia Taylor, Niyah Thomas, Brielle Braxton-Young Table: LaKeisha Brown-Myric

And Wesley is small, unlike other nearby colleges.

"We are not Delaware State University, so students need to realize that and stop trying to compare Wesley to DSU," she said.



Left to Right: Sydney Brokenborough, Sharee Halstead, John Monk, Sha'Vonnie Johnson

Junior Rakia Taylor said the lack of advertisement contributed to freshmen, and upperclassmen not showing up.

"Nobody showed up, freshmen don't come out, nobody advertises anymore, and a lot of people went home," she said. "It should be promoted for at least two weeks, or a month in advance, not the week of."

Mark Berry, SAB adviser, said that they cannot force people to take advantage of opportunities.

"Some events weren't heavily attended," he said. "We cannot force students to come."

And there was a reason promotion was later than it should have been, he said.

"I do agree that there should have been more time to promote," he said. "However, the reason why advertisements were released later than normal was because there were other student organizations that participated in planning in events that week, and we had to ensure all Homecoming events

were listed on our advertisements."

Senior Jeanerre Smith, president of Student Activities Board last year, said Homecoming isn't as fun as it used to be.

"It was not the best, if we are comparing it to the past," she said. "I believe it wasn't executed properly or could have been more creative. Most people left, and as more people are leaving the school, you can see that change in the events."

Senior Ashli Moore said that Homecoming this year was upsetting because students didn't come out.

"People complain that there's nothing to do on campus, but people don't come out to do anything," she said. Nothing was talked about this year until the week of. How do you expect people to come out to events if you're giving people no time to prepare, especially for Homecoming."

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Homecoming Story Continued from p. 6

Some students who have never experienced a previous Wesley Homecoming said they notice a dwindling school spirit.

"It wasn't a good week, they put a lot of things together, but no one showed up," freshman Philip Hodgman said.

"Homecoming was boring. At the party no one came or was dancing. They had laser tag, and barely anyone came to shoot."

Senior and SAB board member Kierra Whitaker said she wishes things had been better.

"I just want to see more involvement with the students," she said. "We can't be half of what we used to be unless the engagement of students rises." Adjei said it was planned as well as could be expected.

"I agree that more time would have been great, but I wouldn't say that it was not well planned," she said. "The only issue was the pep rally, which didn't work out in the end because of the artist we tried to get."

The SAB tried to get PnB Rock, a rap artist, but plans fell through after he was arrested and didn't sign the final paperwork to appear.



Q&A with Anh Gibson, Administrative Assistant to the Sciences and Mathematics Department.

By Tori Albanese; *The Whetstone*

Q: How long have you been at Wesley?

A: I have been working here for about 12 years.

Q: What does your job entail?

A: My job is the administrative assistant to the Department of Biology, Chemistry, Physics and The Environment as well as the Department of Mathematics and Data Science. My job duties are:

- Answer phone calls, relay messages
- Type documents (i.e. quizzes, tests, letters of reference, etc.) for the various faculty
- Provide assistance to students inquiring about the program and program requirements
- Order and manage office and classroom supplies
- Proctor quizzes and exams

Q: Where did you go to college? And what was your major?

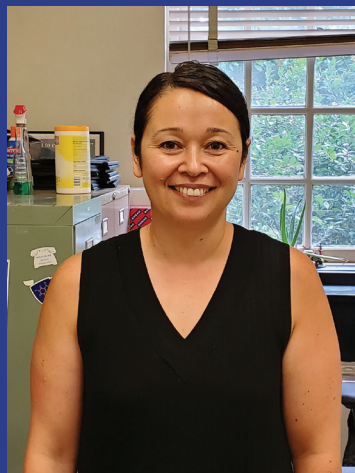
A: I attended University of Central Florida (Orlando, FL). My major was Political Science, concentration International Affairs.

Q: Why did you choose that?

A: I grew up in a region of the world that has constant political machinations (intrigues). Therefore, I was intrigued as to what historical, geographical and/or cultural impacts was/is a factor in relations between countries.

Q: What was your worst, and/or most interesting job as a student in college?

A: I spent one day as a telemarketer. Enough said! My most interesting job was as a part-time office assistant for public defenders.



Anh Gibson

Tori Albanese

Q: Where were you born and raised?

A: I was born in Vietnam. However, I was raised in Saudi Arabia.

Q: What are your favorite movies?

A: Anytime Jaws is on, I seem to watch it. I also love Clue.

Q: What is your favorite book, poem, or screenplay?

A: I don't have a favorite book. I did enjoy a recent series by N.K. Jemisin. It is her Broken Earth Series. She won the Hugo Award for best novel three consecutive years for this series.

Q: Who is your favorite artist? Why?

A: John Singer Sargent. He is a portrait painter, which can be somewhat boring for an artist. Yet, I feel he was able to catch the mood of his subject as well as his use of incredible rich colors.

Q: What is your favorite type of music?

A: Indie Rock

Cannon Hall Elevator is Fixed

By Connor George; *The Whetstone*

The Cannon Hall elevator at Wesley College has been completely redone after a month of repairs.

Christine Albanese, a math professor at Wesley College, has been at Wesley for about two decades and said she has had several problems riding the Cannon Hall elevator.

"The elevator had been very slow, but they have been fixing it for weeks" she said. "It was an old elevator anyway, so it is no surprise it needed fixing."

The elevator had an "old smell," Albanese said, "like something out of an old antique shop."

Her daughter, Victoria Albanese, a second-year student at Wesley College, also has experienced the Cannon Hall elevator.

"I basically have been going there my whole life," she said. "It is very outdated, it's so slow and the pathway when leaving is very narrow, so it did need some fixing."



Cannon Hall Elevator

Connor George

Continues on p.12

SGA Story Continued from p. 4



Brielle Braxton-Young Wendy-Akua Adeji

Some students said the SGA is slacking, and the number of meetings they are holding this semester is an example of this.

“I just think they are being lazy and they want to be in and out because the meetings only last 20-25 minutes at most,” said Brielle Braxton-Young, president of the national society of minorities in hospitality. “Then they switched everything up to where the Congress only meet twice a month.”

SGA Congress meetings are for all students not just student organization leaders. There are cabinet meetings for presidents of organizations.

Budget committee meetings are for all the organizations’ treasurers.

Retkowski said the SGA decided to hold Congress meetings twice a month because these meetings were only being attended by student organizations and there was nothing to discuss.

She said the SGA decided if it

spaced out the meetings there might be more to discuss, and perhaps more students would attend.

Retkowski said she sends all the emails to students from the SGA board. She has been adding more visuals to their emails and revamped their social media page hoping to grab students’ attention.

Students Find Prices in POD Market High

By Kent Milligan; *The Whetstone*

It happens.

You’re done with class and you’re hungry. You decide you want a quick snack and go to the POD.

But as soon as you walk in, you see those prices next to the listings for chicken tenders, / mozzarella sticks, candy and sandwiches.

Senior Maryssa Roberts comes to The Den every day.

“They are kinda too high for a college student,” she said. “Some students can’t work while in college. It’s probably cheaper to buy things at Walmart, and they have discounts.”

Roberts said she comes to the Den, where students sit and eat, and buys from the POD every day.

“Other than that, I like it,” she said.

Commuter Erin Lewis comes to the Den every day for study hours.

“I bought a candy bar there once and it was like \$3, so it is expensive compared to stores like Dollar Tree,” she said.

Candy at the POD vary in costs, from \$1.19 Fig Bars, \$1.99 king-sized Twix or Hershey



Inside the POD

Kent Milligan

bars and candy bags like Welch’s \$3.29 Reese’s Pieces s \$4.99 Sweet Tarts bag.

Junior Lexi Luff said she doesn’t come to The Den everyday but when she does it’s to do homework.

“It is ridiculously expensive,” she said. “My freshman year I bought a meal for \$15, which included a cheesesteak, fries, and a drink. I would rather spend the \$15 at Walmart and pack a lunch for the entire week than spend at the POD so I haven’t spent that much ever since.”

A regular Philly cheesesteak without any add-ons costs \$5.99 and regular-sized fries cost \$2.19; large fries cost \$2.69.

Beverages can cost as low as \$1.79 for Dasani Lemon-flavored water to mid-range \$1.99 sodas and fruit flavored drinks, like Dr. Pepper or Minute Maid, \$2.39 for large Powerades, and as high as \$3.99 like a Monster Hydro.

Some students said going to other restaurants like Chick-fil-A offer the same amount of food but at cheaper prices.

Freshman Madison Pyle said

she doesn’t come to the Den often.

“It is expensive for no reason,” she said. “Like a sandwich is \$5.99 and fries are \$2.69, but I can go to Chick-fil-A and spend less for the same amount of food for around \$6.”

Many students use the POD because they’re using their meal plan cards, which are accepted there. They can’t use the cards anywhere outside of Wesley.

Commuter Jada Simon uses both her debit card and student ID card to pay for lunches at the POD.

“I don’t have to have a meal plan but I have one just in case I need to eat,” she said. “When I come in here I have a certain amount of points to use, so I try to conserve



Q&A With Christine Albanese, Adjunct Math Instructor

By David Pierre; *The Whetstone*



Christine Albanese David Pierre

Q: How long have you been teaching?

A: This is my twentieth year at Wesley College

Q: Have you ever changed your teaching?

A: Yes

Q: What did you change?

A: The two biggest changes are homework and technology. Using a smart board changed how I taught. The main reason is consistency through all three classes, and it's just more math options on it, like graphing.

Q: What are you currently teaching?

A: I teach nine different math classes. I teach MA 180 (Applied Math Concepts) the most and the second most is MA 102 (Intermediate Algebra). I usually teach these courses once or twice a year depending on the amount of students and who passes or fails the other classes. I teach them on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Q: Where did you go to school?

A: University of Delaware

Q: What was your major?

A: Mathematics with a concentration in computer science.

Q: What drew you to this field?

A: I lost my job at Citibank before I became a teacher. I lost my job because the company was bought out by Travel's Insurance. The Citicorp side was lost because of a merger with Travelers. I started here at Wesley a month later.

Q: What was your worst job as a student?

A: Burger King manager. The hours and the pay were terrible

Q: What was your most Interesting job as a student?

A: The 1990 census, I was a lister and a numerator and office clerk.

Q: What is the 1990 Census?

A: Our government conducts a census every ten years; the next one is 2020. Our government uses the census numbers to allocate the representatives in congress. Those numbers then dole out money for schools, roads, etc., to each state. Some states can lose or gain members in the House of Representatives, potentially giving them more or less power.

Q: Where were you born and raised?

A: I was born and raised in north Wilmington, in Brandywine Hundred Delaware

Q: Favorite movie(s)?

A: Don't have a favorite movie but I like watching movies. Comedy is my favorite genre but no specific movie

Q: Favorite book, poem, or screenplay?

A: Travel books, because I like to travel and learn about other countries

The Grocery Basket Convenient for Wesley Students

By Jay Simon; *The Whetstone*



Kiyanna Gill Jay Simon

Junior Kiyanna Gill has been fed up with the food on Wesley College campus and wants to expand her choices.

"I feel like the Den and the cafe just isn't enough for me," she said. "It would be amazing if we could possibly have another option for food."

Many students say they like a small corner store barely a block away from campus.

The Grocery Basket, a small deli and convenience store, sits close by on the corner of North Bradford and Mary streets.

Know familiarly as "The Basket," its menu has a variety of choices, from breakfast foods, BLT's, cheesesteaks, burgers and salads.

Junior football player Dante Daniels said he especially likes The Basket because of its hours.

"We share the field with both women and men's soccer team along with the field hockey team, so our practice hours could be after the cafe is already closed," he said.

"Then we have to find another source for food. They have reasonable prices that are cheap."

The Grocery Basket, however, doesn't accept Wesley students' ID card points to pay.

"That would make it a lot easier," Daniels said.



Jaimi Snyder Jay Simon

The cafe is open for breakfast 7-10 a.m.; it reopens for lunch from 11a.m.-2 p.m. During weekdays, dinner hours are for 4:30-7 p.m.

The Grocery Basket is open from 7 a.m.-9 p.m. every day.

"With the Grocery Basket having hours like these, it is much easier for us college students to get food," junior Jaimi Snyder said. "Especially if it is getting late and I am craving food, I can always rely on the Basket."

Wesley Adjusts to New Generation of Students to Raise Enrollment and Retention

By Kabrea Tyler; *The Whetstone*



Laurie Quinn Kabrea Tyler

Senior Laurie Quinn and sophomore Victoria Albanese said Wesley needs to promote itself more.

Quinn transferred to Wesley last year and said other small schools promote themselves more.

“The school needs to get its name out more to in- and out-of-state transfers,” she said. “They should do ‘transfer’ events.”

Quinn said Wesley does not promote all the majors as well as they do for nursing.

She also suggested a dual enrollment program – where high school students might attend some Wesley classes so they may get interested in the school.

Albanese said the only reason she knew about the school is because her mother – an adjunct Math instructor – works here.

“The only way you know about Wesley is at a tiny table at a college fair or if you live in the area,” she said.

Several new Wesley College administrators said they are working to get the College’s enrollment and retention up.

New Head of Enrollment David Buckingham said Wesley is working on attending more college fairs.

“The College last year and the year before went to about 70,” he said. “Now we’re going to over a hundred.”

Buckingham said after the fairs, he and his staff follow up with the high schools and talk to the students on-on-one.

“We want to know who the student is, their interests, what they would like to get from the college,” he said. “We would like to get their story.”

The Student Success and Retention team is brainstorming, developing, implementing, and assessing programming aimed at increasing retention, said its assistant director Danielle Archambault.

“Initiatives include courses that assist students with their transition to college (AS198) and students on academic probation (AS098),” she said.

Archambault said SSR also offers other services aimed toward increasing retention.

“We have tutoring, disability support, and career services,” she said. “SSR internship opportunities, advising services, academic coaching, seminars for academic success, a textbook cabinet in the Academic Success Center, and providing school supplies, such as planners, notebooks, folders, pens, pencils to students in need.”



Ashli Moore Kabrea Tyler

SSR has held seminars for students designed to assist students to remain at the institution.

“Every time we do a seminar, we give the students a survey,” she said. “We take that feedback and use it over the long term of five years. We then redesign those seminars to try and invent new ways to help students.”

Senior Ashli Moore said tuition is too high for the lack of things students are offered.

“We pay all this money and get nothing back in return,” she said. “Once students hear about Wesley and the amount of things we don’t do, they no longer want to attend.”

According to the Coordinator for Housing Operations Kenny Scharnick, tuition is high and most students who would like to come to Wesley cannot afford it.

“Financial aid simply does not cover everything, so we’re looking into getting Pell-grant eligible students through,” he said.

“We should be more realistic about who we are recruiting and recruit in areas that are not as need-based.”

Scharnick said he knows there is a limited budget but more things can be done.

“It would be helpful if we can promote more, with advertisements, people in the Christian community, or maybe even try music platforms,” he said.



Kenny Scharnick Kabrea Tyler

The school also will do digital advertising, Buckingham said. “We’ll be on Facebook and Instagram,” he said. “We’re trying to go to the students where they are.”

Soon, Wesley will be accommodating Dover base airmen, Scharnick said, leading to an increase in enrollment.

“These airmen will live in Gooding-Williams,” he said. “They will be just like any other students, able to take classes and have a meal plan.”

Archambault said current students and the students to come can be different.

“What’s unique about the new class is we switched generations, they’re no longer millennials, they’re Generation Z,” she said.

Continues on p.11

SSR is developing and offering professional development opportunities to faculty and staff to help with training the new generation.

“One recent opportunity was Mental Health First Aid training, which was held in August,” Archambault said. “We know from data that Generation Z students have challenges in the mental health arena, especially anxiety and depression, and we’re going to see anxiety and depression rates rise. We teamed up with NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) and had their certified instructors train those in SSR and other departments.”

Although there are some areas that need a lot of work, Christine McDermott, SSR head, has seen improvement in others.

“Commuter retention and persistence has increased,” she said. “The plan is to keep doing what we are doing.”

These last few years has seen a decrease in students who live on campus, and an increase in commuters commuting from home or renting places to stay.

Commuter student liaison Carol Gauker said the increase in commuter retention has a lot to do with how much it costs to live on campus.

“Most students can’t afford to live on campus, therefore, they commute,” she said. “Students are able to receive the same education but also save a lot of money.”

Gauker said there are older people enrolled. “There is now an age difference with students ranging from 18-50 years old attending,” she said.



Carol Gauker

Kabrea Tyler

Gauker and commuters have created an organization to make commuter students feel more involved even though they don’t stay on campus.

“We now have a Commuter Student Union” she said. “This includes meetings and more activities for those students in hopes of making them feel more comfortable.”

Head of Enrollment Buckingham said his office will be sending out 10 electronic messages to interested students.

“We haven’t done that sort of robust outreach in the past,” he said. “Maybe that is one of the reasons we didn’t get the numbers we were trying to get because there wasn’t that constant contacted.”



Q&A with Justin Blank, SSR intern/Academic Coach

By Connor George; *The Whetstone*



Justin Blank

Connor George

Q: Where were you born and raised?

A: Born in Phoenixville, Pa., but raised in Boyertown, Pa., which is about which is about a five-hour drive from Dover.

Q: Favorite kind of music?

A: I dabble in all kinds. I don’t really have a favorite but if I had to choose, it would say soft rock. I grew up around it.

Q: Favorite movies?

A: Ever since I was young, I have always loved the Star Wars saga. When I was younger, I always wanted to go to outer space. It was like an escape from the real world whenever I watched it.

Q: How long have you been working for the school?

A: I have been working for the school as ASC (Academic Support Center), monitor for two years. I’m currently a student intern. I shadow the director of student success and retention, Christine McDermott. She has taught me a lot since I started like evaluating administrative policies, procedures, rules regulations and communication for their implication and possible impact on student retention.

Q: Why did you want to work for the ASC?

A: I appreciated the staff and viewed it as one of the most professional departments at Wesley. When I first was at Wesley College, I had no idea what I wanted to do, but then I started making connections and found a passion for helping others.

Q: What drew you to this field?

A: I had a bad year and the department helped me on my feet and kept pushing me because they saw something in me that I could not for a while until I started to look back and see how far I have come.

Q: How have you changed since you’ve been working?

A: I have taken on a lot more responsibility and have become a lot more professional, organized, and a better person. I have learned to time manage more properly and be more open-minded on others’ viewpoints.

Q: Is there anyone you want to be like?

A: I admire the heart and work of Christine McDermott because I view her as a well-educated and strong individual. But I want to put my own twist on situations.

Q: What rewards do you personally get from this position?

A: I get satisfaction from helping struggling students. I personally have come from a broken home and if I can help someone get through, I will take that chance. I do not want anyone feeling like they’re lost or stuck, and lots of these students just need a little push.

Q: What was your most interesting or worst experience as a student?

A: The worst experience was when the school told me that I wasn’t going to graduate on time and later than expected. I felt annoyed and stuck, but my friends helped me, telling me everything was going to be OK and it was.

Q: What long term goals do you have?

A: I want to have my own house either in Maine or Pennsylvania because most of my family and friends live back home. I went to Maine for a friend’s birthday. I just fell in love with the area. I also want a stable job and a loving family. In the future, I would like to be a director of my own department in higher education.

Q: Do you wish you could have done anything different at Wesley College?

A: I wish that I had better work ethics and studying skills. When I look back, I wish I would have pushed myself a little more with all of my work. I would have changed how I handled some situations

Students Figure Out How To Make Finances Work

By Brielle Braxton-Young; *The Whetstone*



Sha'vonne Johnson

Many students say when they are freshman they are stuck between getting involved in extra-curricular activities, joining organizations, or getting a job to earn money.

Senior Sha'vonne Johnson is one of many students who work several jobs while going to school full time.

"I work four jobs," she said. "I am an ambassador, I work for Naomi (in Reservations), I work in the café and I am an assistant coach for the cheerleading team." Johnson works between 24 and 60 hours a week.

"I am lucky enough to have my mom's support sometimes, but the majority of the time it's me paying the bills," she said.

Setting reminders in her phone help because she is always working.

Some students said they were balancing fifteen to eighteen credits with having a job.

Senior Ashli Moore said she has had to cut back on spending because she does not make

enough to cover all her bills.

"I work about 30 hours a month through work study," she said. "It's still not enough for me to be able to have money in my pocket. I've just learned to deal with it now."

While Moore said she has to put all of her work study money into tuition, she gets spending money from her parents every month and she has to make it last.

Freshman Ru'Sany Jacobs said students might benefit from a class teaching students how to use money effectively.

"I try to save money but it's like I always need something," she said. "I think if there was a big session on tricks to save money, especially when we have apps like Cash App and Venmo, where money can get sent directly to our bank account."

Jacobs said she snacks a lot and that's where most of her money goes. As a freshman it is hard to cook meals on her own without a kitchen, she said, so she either orders out or makes meals in the microwave.

Some students said they didn't realize how much money they spend until they're at school, including food and toiletries.

"I spend a lot of money on food during the semester," said senior Alana Corry, who has to pay into the meal plan. "After a week of being back here, I was tired of the food already. If they switched it up some it would be better and I don't think I would spend a lot of money when it comes to food."

Corry doesn't eat red meat so she said her options are limited. She goes to the grocery store about two times a month and gets

ingredients for meals.



Alana Corry

Some students said they save money by using the Food Bank on campus.

Senior Alexis Bynum, who lives on campus, uses it frequently.

"If I run out of things in my dorm, I make a list and see if they have what I need there," she said. "But if they don't, a quick run to the Dollar store and Wal-Mart doesn't hurt."

Wesley graduate Asia Harmon said if it wasn't for the food bank, she might not have been able to get through her last semester of college.

"I made a trip there every two weeks," she said. "Sometimes they were low on stuff I needed but as long as I had food I could go to the Family Dollar for personal items."

She said students should think about using the Food Bank more often because they'll save money.

"I would rather spend \$20 on toiletries every few weeks then spend \$200 on food when I can get it for free on campus," she said.

Canon Library Story Continued from p. 7

Frank Fielder, chair of the math and science departments, said the elevator has been repaired in the past.

"The elevator is old, of course, but it did have some repairs in the past," he said. "I think now it needed major repairs."

Faculty Secretary Anh Gibson echoed the problem of how slow the elevator has been.

"Nothing too serious, but it was just really slow," she said. She said, however, the repairs were about more than that.

"The reason it needed to be fixed was because the handicap access to the elevator needed to be repaired," she said.

Victoria Albanese also said her handicapped sister, who suffers from Limb Girdle Muscular Dystrophy, always struggled to get into the elevator.

"Sometimes the elevator would struggle to lift when we were both in the elevator," she said.

Gibson also said the doors often struggled to open.

"The doors on some floors wouldn't open, which led maintenance to repair and redo the entire elevator," she said.

Maintenance chief Tom Idnurm sent an email Oct. 4, reporting, "The elevator in Canon Hall has been repaired and is back in service."



Editorial

Letter to the editor: Who will save our school? I'm hoping the students

By Kristen Griffith, *former co-editor-in-chief of The Whetstone, class of 2017*

When I attended the 25th anniversary of Wesley College's women's soccer team, Oct. 5, all the fun memories of my time as a wolverine came rushing back. Laughing and joking with my teammates made me feel grateful for my four years.

But when I read an Oct. 27 Delaware News Journal article headlined "Wesley president: Financial struggles point to partnership with another school," I became disappointed and embarrassed in Wesley's leadership that led to the state it's in now.

The private institution received more than \$3 million of taxpayer money, the article reports, had been placed on a financial monitoring list by the U.S. Department of Education for the second time in three years, could be absorbed by a bigger school, transferred money from renovation projects to operating costs and even discussed taking money from a scholarship fund.

But this wasn't the first time the administration tried to take away students' money. A former chief financial officer in 2015 tried to eliminate student fees by weaving them into the general tuition. The policy would have taken away the independence of clubs and organizations on campus. Students would no longer have the freedom to use its budget; instead, the CFO would have control.



Kristen Griffith

When our independence was threatened four years ago, students became angry. Organizations, including the Student Government Association and the Student Activities Board, issued statements about the policy violating the student handbook, its constitutions and bylaws. Professors and student leaders publicly voiced their disagreement and the journalism class at the time was there to record it all.

The Whetstone published the outcry of more than a dozen sources and the CFO's policy proposal was overturned. It was the first time I witnessed the true power of the student voice and student newspaper. When we speak up, change can happen. But I am worried the students aren't speaking up anymore.

The Associated Press wrote a summary of the News Journal article and it was published by the Washington Post Oct. 21. I shared the article on social media in hopes to spread awareness to students and alumnae.

"Wesley's College's poor financial handling is making national news," I tweeted the same day, adding emojis with annoyed faces and a link to the Washington Post article.

The following night, Wesley College's SGA Twitter account responded with insults, calling the reporting I now do for a community paper in Southern Maryland "poor," denying the facts of the Post's article and suggested my tweet was not allowing "students to learn in peace."

What was most disappointing is when the user said "continue the conversation is exactly what we don't want to do. When you spread over-glorified financial horror stories as an alum that students see, it doesn't help the already stressful workload of being a college student." state of Wesley College.

This was not the mindset of the SGA and other student leaders when I attended Wesley from 2013 to 2017.

"If you truly cared for the students, this is the exact conversation you should be discussing," Adrienne Bautista, a former SGA treasurer, said in a Twitter post.

She suggested the user behind the SGA Twitter account should have meetings with the students and press to know their worries and question the college's leaders about the school's financial situation.

"Do you realize the school's situation affects SGA and all the orgs?" she asked. "How will Wesley finance for the orgs? Yes, this [Washington Post] article is worrisome, but doesn't it make you want to do something?"

Betty Lee, a former SGA president, had some suggestions as well. She described her Wesley experience as "one of the best in my life" and said it makes her sad to think that an institution that gave so many people a chance at a college education could fold.

But Betty also said she's frustrated. She said students should be involved in the conversation about its financial state. They should see reports, speak to the president and show they have a right to know what's going on.

"I think the students need to show up," she said. "Show up for themselves, because without this college they may not get a degree.

Show up for each other because it is Wesley that brought us together in the first place. Show up for the fact that this is the oldest private college in Delaware with its own unique and special history.

Show up for every person who has made a career there, who uses Wesley for research, feeding their family, who taught all of us how to be better people."

I agree with Betty. I'm calling out the students to speak up when you disagree with the state of your school, and make sure a Whetstone reporter is there when you do. I'm calling out the faculty to encourage the conversation. I'm calling out the staff to hold each other accountable.

I'm calling out President Robert E. Clark to take responsibility, and I'm calling out the Board of Trustees to change its leadership to save our school.

"College isn't forever, but you might as well give a damn while you're there," Betty said.

Alumna Kristen Griffith is Education Reporter for The Enterprise, a community newspaper in St. Mary's County, Md.



Celebrating Christmas is Changing For Students

By Connor George, Wendy-Akua Adeji, and DaQuan Martin *The Whetstone*



Christmas Image from unsplash.com

Junior Dontae Daniels rarely gets to go home for the holidays. And when he does, it's for a much shorter time than other students.

"Football takes up a lot of my free time and it can be annoying trying to find a ride since I don't have a car," he said.

But he loves going back for Thanksgiving.

"I remember watching the Cowboys and Eagles game. We all got hyped even though we weren't Dallas fans," Daniels said.

Dozens of fall sports players, including football and basketball, have a shortened break.

Junior football player Darin Matthews also loves Thanksgiving. One of his favorite traditions is when his uncle deep-fries two turkeys.

"We all grab plates of food and get together to watch the football game," he said.

Junior softball player Amanda Curry said she was ready for the upcoming holiday.

"The only thing I don't like about it is the Bay Bridge and D.C. traffic," she said. "It could take me about three hours to get home."

Each holiday, Curry spends it with a different family member. "One of the special things about Thanksgiving is my cousin and my aunt are allergic to lots of the foods, so they get their own," she said.

She has many memories of Thanksgiving but the one she enjoys the most is playing Pit with her family.

"It's a game where you try and get all of the same cards," Curry said.

Freshman volleyball player Mackenzie Bender usually goes home for the holidays.

"I go home but if I'm in volleyball season (and makes the play-offs) I have to stay," Bender said. She spends most of her time with family.

"We don't really have any traditions, but we'll get together and watch football," Bender said. "Later in the day we eat food and watch more football."

Holiday Changes Since College



Lydia LaSure



Kierra Whitaker

Other students say their family Christmas traditions have changed since they've been attending college.

Senior Lydia LaSure said at least one thing has changed about her holiday traditions.

"When I was younger on Christmas Eve, I would sit up and drink eggnog and put the cookies out for Santa while watching Christmas movies," she said. "I have kept that tradition over the years – except I don't put cookies out for Santa."

Some students have younger brothers and sisters and keep many of the traditions they did when growing up.

"We make a reindeer food mixture with my sisters and put it out on the front lawn, so that when the reindeer come they have something to eat," Braxton-Young said.

At least three seniors, including Braxton-Young, have a tradition of getting pajamas each Christmas.

"My grandmother buys everyone pajamas for Christmas every year," senior Alana Corry said.

Seniors Kierra Whitaker and Brielle Braxton-Young said her

family always gets matching pajamas on Christmas.

"My mom gets us all matching pajamas or our favorite color pajamas every year," Braxton-Young said.

Senior Ashli Moore said Christmas has changed since she's been at college.

"When I was younger, a tradition of my family's would be that we all opened a gift on Christmas Eve," she said. "Now that I am older, on Christmas Day I wake up and open gifts if there are any."

Freshman Christenson Bautista and his family have a different Christmas experience.

"My family and I celebrate Christmas at about midnight because my mom is just getting home from work," he said. "But we do the normal things like decorating the Christmas tree as a family. My mom cooks a big dinner and we watch Christmas movies together."



Brielle Braxton-Young

For many freshmen this is their first time away from their parents. So this change could possibly affect their Christmas holiday.

"I won't be able to help decorate the tree and the house with the family," said freshman Christopher Taylor.

Christmas Story Continued from p. 14



Aluma Angel Hall said she feels Christmas hasn't been the same since she was young.

"When I was about 9 years old, I realized there was no Santa," she said. "My parents had been wrapping all my gifts. Back then it shot down my anticipation for Christmas, but I got over it."

Many Wesley College students said they are realizing that Christmas changes with growing up. A child who once was ecstatic about Christmas and goes through adolescence realizes the holiday is not all about just gifts or that there isn't a Santa Claus.

Junior Niyah Thomas said she doesn't have the same strong feelings she used to have for the holiday.

"When I saw my mom writing my name on my presents I was devastated," she said. "I was hurt. I really thought Santa Claus was real and when I saw that, it just broke my spirit."

Senior Alexis Bynum, president of Fairy God Sisters of Delaware, said she saw her father eat the cookies she had left for Santa Claus.

"That's when I knew that it was rigged," she said. "And my perspective on Christmas changed forever."

Some people said they don't celebrate the holiday because the meaning has been lost.

"Now I just like it for the festivities," Thomas said. "Besides clothes and money, I don't really expect anything."

Junior Rakia Taylor said family is all that matters.

"It changed when I discovered the real meaning of the holiday," she said. "It's not about giving or receiving, but just being with family that you love and care about."

Senior Al Sheriff who attends Delaware State University said the meaning of the holiday has changed. He didn't get many presents when he was a child.

"For a while when I was a lot younger, I used to be upset, going back to school and hearing what everyone got, and I didn't have anything," he said. "But now that I am much older and I can work, I buy my family gifts and for myself and anyone else that I care about that might want something."

Some students said that when they became teenagers they went through a transitional time, and their expectations for Christmas changed.

Freshmen Armani Wilson said he just wants the bond of family. "My expectation changed when I was 13," he said. "That's when I stopped asking for gifts and just wanted to be with family. I wasn't really interested in asking my parents to get me things."

Wolverines Hand Out Candy to Dover

By Troy Hamilton; *The Whetstone*



National Society of Leadership & Success passing Halloween candy out at their table

Gerry Porter and his family came from Milford to stop at Wesley during its Homecoming weekend to attend the Greek n' Treat.

He and his wife watching their children eat candy and get their face painted.

"There's a lot of variety," he said. "The college did good organizing this event. All of the Halloween decorations and the costumes were impressive. My two kids had fun."

Wesley College's library staff hosted Wesley's Halloween event, Greek n' Treat, Oct. 26 during Homecoming. With the help of Gwen Pursell from the psychology department, Josh Nobiling from the Art department, and the head interim of Alumni, Laura Bingham Mayse, they created a lot of fun for local residents.

The adviser of both the event and of the National Society of Leadership and Success organization, head librarian Katherine Goff pointed out that the event was for the community and the kids, to give candy to the children of the community, alumni children and to families. Children played games such as Duck pond,

a sack race, Tic Tac Toe and face painting.

"Feels great for Wesley to be part of the Halloween fun and be part to give to the community," Goff said. "We want Dover and Kent County to think of a good time when they think of Wesley College."

NSLS president Alexis Holland said it was about the community.

"It's a fun activity to give to the community," she said. "It is a good way for the community to know what Wesley College is about and spread the Halloween in a safe atmosphere."

Andrew Dowell came with his daughter. He said they were invited by his daughter's volleyball coach.

"The science tent and the Disney princesses were really cool," he said. "My favorite thing about the event was the Ghostbusters table and the costumes."

Lacrosse coach Jillian Lontz brought out her family.

"Events like this are great," she said. "It's a great opportunity for the community to come see what Wesley has going on. But also for families coming back for Homecoming to get out and get involved away for the traditional Homecoming activities than have it be more friend and family."

Spring Classes to Move While College Makes Needed Repairs

By Bryant King; *The Whetstone*

Students at Wesley College can expect to have classes moved around next semester.

The heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) systems at the college will be replaced toward the end of the spring semester causing classes to move to different buildings.



External HVAC unit being used for the cafeteria.
By Bryant King

It may be the labs that are most affected.

“We have plans to place science labs into Carpenter Hall as multipurpose labs,” Pat Seunarine, registrar and director of student academic records, said.

She and the registrar office are coordinating where classes will be once the buildings are shut down.

She and the registrar office are coordinating where classes will be once the buildings are shut down.

“Instead of having multiple labs to completely move we will be downsizing the number of labs due to limited space to move into but still having all of the equipment needed,” she said.

Sophomore Tori Albanese said this will disturb students.

“Students I don’t think will be as focused when classes get moved around,” she said. “Especially the classes in the media rooms, or ones with specific accommodations. They will have so much trouble for when this happens.”

Seunarine said she knows of student and faculty concerns.

“We are trying our hardest to not interrupt students’ workflow,” she said. “We will be moving the multimedia computer lab to Longwood 101 for media majors and any other class who may need access to it.”

Ron Douglas, chair of the multimedia communication department, said there would be less of an effect on students than it may seem.

“There won’t be huge class changes,” he said. “They will just migrate somewhere else. I don’t expect there to be a major disruption. There is space we can go and we will just walk a little farther than normal.”

Seunarine also said many classes will be “hybrid” ones, half online and half in-class.

“Wherever we can consolidate classes we are trying,” she said. “I am encouraging professors to switch to hybrid classes if possible.”

Some students said they were excited about the hybrid classes.

“The hybrid classes seem like a really good idea a lot of students will like it as long as it does not interfere with what is being taught,” Nick Gillock, junior nursing student, said.

Seunarine said the school is trying to balance the limited space that will be available and the time each class needs.

“At the same time we are again ensuring that we do not take away from anyone’s learning experience,” she said.

The plans for the HVAC repairs are scheduled for late March or April.

However, if this winter is very cold and the HVAC needs to be replaced earlier, the college is also planning for that possibility.



Crane placing HVAC equipment on the roof before starting construction

“We are hoping for pushing it as late into the semester as possible,” Seunarine said. “But if there is a point where it gets too cold we will have to cut off that plan and push the repairs up sooner than expected.”

Douglas said work has to be done.

“Just like driving across the Bay Bridge when there is a lane closed for repair, you will hit more traffic and be inconvenienced, but in the long run it is necessary and will be helpful later on.”

Editorial Will Things Turn Around for Wesley?

By Evan Le'Mon, *class of 2017*

Being a student leader at Wesley was never easy. Trying to juggle grades, sports, and the mind-numbing bureaucracy that came with hosting events on campus was an undertaking to say the least. Getting students to come to said events was another story in itself. When it was all said and done, however, it was always worth it.

Still, I do not envy the school’s current student leaders. If the reports I’ve heard from those I’m still in touch with are true, the same hurdles my peers and I faced during my time at “Stressley College” have only gotten higher.

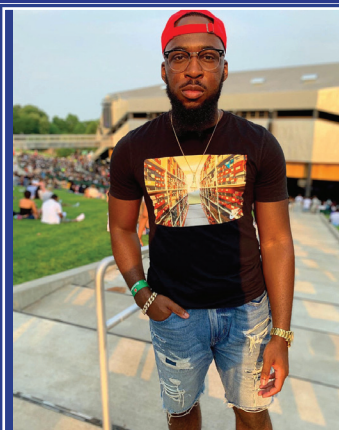
The most glaring of which, in my opinion, is a complete lack of accountability and a serious need for a shift in priorities, starting from the top down.

Wesley’s financial woes are no secret. Whether they’re actually serious enough to warrant rumors of the school being shut down is anyone’s guess.

When the administration encourages people not to talk to journalists, rumors are bound to spread regardless of their validity. I can certainly understand not wanting to lower morale or give the school bad publicity.

But when you cut the lines of communication, it just makes it look like you have something to hide – especially when reports from national publications directly contradict statements made by the administration.

When the U.S. Department of Education places your school on a watchlist due to concerns over “financial responsibility,”



I think it's safe to say you have more important things to worry about than student journalists.

Also, if your concern is truly with student morale, then I'm sure having students see their school in the news for negative reasons like this isn't exactly helping.

Members of the administration aren't the only ones who need to shift their priorities, though.

When I saw Wesley's SGA Twitter editor-in-chief, I was both shocked and disappointed. As a former journalist for the paper myself, we're used to people being upset at us for promoting the truth.

But to have the governing body for all the student orgs on campus go out of their way to send petty shots at an alumni was particularly disheartening to me. Especially considering how much the alumna in question, Kristen Griffith, actually accomplished while she was here.

But to have the governing body for all the student orgs on campus go out of their way to send petty shots at an alumni was particularly disheartening to me. Especially considering how much the alumna in question, Kristen Griffith, actually accomplished while she was here.

I must say, this new class of student leaders must be cut from a different cloth than my class and the class that came before us.

Not to sound elitist, but such behavior was honestly unheard of in our time. I hate to seem like I'm coming down on them because I know there's greatness still present on this campus, but this incident was a poor representation of it. One for the student leaders, especially for an organization that works as closely with them as SGA does.

However, I don't place the buck solely on their shoulders. This lack of respect for student journalists has a precedent, one that I believe starts at the highest levels of Wesley's administration. Student leaders may set the tone for the student body, but the administration, to an extent, sets the

Over this past weekend, I actually gave an alumni perspective on student leadership at an open panel sponsored by Wesley's Office of Student Affairs. One of the last things I told the leaders who attended was, "As a student leader, it can seem like it's you against the world on campus, including even the administration at times. Your mission here may even seem futile. In those moments, you have to keep fighting the good fight. Because if not you, then who else will?"

I truly believed what I was saying at the time, and I still do.

But I have to be honest; I can understand why both students and student leaders would lose hope.

How can we honestly talk about inspiring hope on campus when students aren't even sure there'll be a campus to come back to in the next couple of years?

For their sake, I hope things turn around, and soon.

Evan Le'Mon graduated from Wesley in 2017, and now works as a banker and entrepreneur in Wilmington.

Sometimes It Gets Lonely in the Underground

By Wendy-Akua Adjey; *The Whetstone*



It's Tuesday night, 6 p.m., and there's not a student in sight.

The Underground in the basement of the College Center is empty.

"I go once in a blue moon," junior Emari Evans said. "I do not go often because there isn't anything to do. I would like to see more games down there."

Some students say there is nothing to do in the Underground, while others like to go down there is chill and do their homework.

The Underground has two pool tables, a Ping-Pong table, an air hockey table, a foosballs table, chairs, couches and four televisions.

Each year, the college buys new video games – some requested by students – and new pool sticks, said Mark Berry, the director of campus life. The college also has twice replaced the felt on the pool tables over the past few years.

Berry also said the college recently bought a new Ping-Pong table for the Underground.

"I think the Underground needs to be aesthetically pleasing," he said, comparing the plaza to the Underground. "I don't think the Underground's aesthetic is conducive to the culture and the environment on campus."

Berry said students can request things that they would like to see in

the Underground.

There are several events and parties held in the Underground.

"Mark does pool tournaments, and Ping-Pong tournaments," said junior Kaelynn Lang, an Underground employee. "Maybe we should have more of those. I know we used to have Mixxi Monday and Thirsty Thursdays down here."

Mixxi Mondays were events involving music and dancing. Thirsty Thursdays was similar, except Latoya Anderson, the alcohol and other drug education coordinator, would appear in drunk goggles and marijuana goggles to show people how it feels to be under the influence of these substances.

"The more events we have down here, the more people notice it more," Lang said.

Junior Malia Smith said she goes to the Underground at least once a week.

"It depends if there is an event," she said.

Senior Rex Chege goes to the Underground three times a week.

"I feel the Underground has enough to keep the on-campus students entertained and the commuters a place to congregate to get work done and hang out."

Wesley's Low Enrollment Worries Student Leaders About the Future of Their Organizations

By Kierra Whitaker; *The Whetstone*



Student organization leaders fear their organizations won't be around much longer due to low enrollment and retention at Wesley.

Alana Corry, vice president of the Legal Society, said she believes that Wesley might soon be a college without any student organizations but sports.

"Recruitment for Wesley is not the best," she said. "They only recruit in the surrounding areas of Delaware and that's only for sports. If they aren't recruiting students who don't play sports, how will school organizations survive?"

Creative Attributions President Mercy Ariyo said she struggled to get models for the Homecoming fashion show.

"This was the first year that our modeling team only had about 15 models walking in the fashion show," she said. "Usually there are more."

After being led by former President Corey Johnson for three years, the organization has struggled.

"I didn't know how to run an organization as big as Creative

Attributions," Ariyo said.

"I thought that some of the incoming freshman class would consider going but only two did."

The fact that there were no students on the Student Activities Board (SAB) when this semester began indicates to the new president of the board, Wendy-Akua Adjei, that it might not be around much longer.

"With the school retention being at an all-time low, there aren't a lot of students that we can get involved," she said. "There are only five members in the SAB as of now and we all are either juniors or seniors."

Some organization leaders believe that most students aren't aware of what it takes to run an organization.

There are a lot of things that are needed to be a successful organization on campus graduating senior Deizyah Palmer, former president of Fairy Godsisters, said.

"One of them is patience," she said.

Many of the students involved in organizations will be graduating seniors in May.

"Once most of the seniors graduate, there won't be too many organizations around due to retention and involvement," senior Lexus Commodore, vice president of the Kinesiology Club, said.

Many Greek-lettered organizations also said they were worried their chapters might not be here after the spring.

"Many Greek organizations have only two to four members on campus and you need a total of five to be an active organization on campus," Greek Union and Phi Beta Sigma President Daquan Martin said.

Martin said most of the Greek organization members are upperclassmen.

Graduating seniors or juniors who won't be here for long," he said.

President of National Society of Minorities in Hospitality (NSMH) Brielle Braxton-Young said she also was worried her organization will not be here after she graduates.

"We have been having interest meetings for students since my sophomore year," she said. "People have showed up but no one has committed to being a part of the organization."

NSMH has six active members on campus, all seniors who will be graduating in May.

Most of their members have been a part of the organization since their freshman year.

"The previous president, Raymond Samuel-Lewis, recruited me and a few others when we were freshman," Braxton-Young said.

Once our sophomore year came, I was the president and had no idea how to run a student organization."

"I think with the few students we have at Wesley, those who want to be a part of a student organization don't know how to run one," former student Da'Shayln Barnes said.

Mark Berry, campus life coordinator, and Quameshia Callwood, north campus area coordinator, developed the event "iLead Student Leadership Transitions Forum."

"This event is for students who want to become a part of a student organization but do not know what it takes," Berry said. "It is also for students who already are a part of an organization but need help transitioning to a higher position in the organization."

The event took place on Nov. 2. Eight people signed up. Only two showed.

"Students complained about not knowing what to do in their current roles or not having the proper transition tools in order to run an organization," Callwood said. "We created this forum to help students. But no one shows up. It's discouraging."

Senior Lydia LaSure was one of the students who attended.

"This event helped me with transitioning into the presidential role," she said. "Mark and Quameshia gave great advice on how to transition in an organization."

Former student Evan Le'Mon was a guest speaker on the panel. "It's sad to see how organizations are losing members and not gaining any," he said. "Wesley is not the same since I left and it's showing."

Editorial

It's Time For Wesley Students to Make A Difference and Get Involved

By Kierra Whitaker, *The Whetstone*

When I decided to do a series of stories for my senior project, I had no idea of what to write about.

"What are some issues that go on around campus that many people don't talk about?" my senior project adviser asked me.

Then I thought: There is something drastic that has changed since I've been at Wesley: student involvement.

In the fall of 2016, I was a shy freshman who knew no one and I did not want to be involved around campus.

I went home every other weekend and only wanted to graduate and leave this place.

When I finally spent a weekend here, it change my experience.

I began meeting new people I never thought I would. Many were upperclassmen.

Upperclassmen often told my friends and me, "Wesley is what you make it and many of y'all won't be here much longer."

Many of y'all won't be here much longer stuck with me for the four years I've been here.

Why?

It was their way of saying the school needed to be a lot better; if not, people – and I – would leave sooner than expected.

I began to see that the real world, and Wesley, were different than anything I had experienced before.

I saw that things were complicated and can be good and go bad quickly.

There were student leaders on campus at that time who made being at Wesley fun. But the school spirit began to decline, as well as the students, shortly after I arrived.

It seemed like every semester we returned there were fewer people.

Events began to show that, too.

Events that student organizations held went from not much seating left to five or ten people.

What happened?

Now, in the fall of 2019, with a week left of the semester and enrollment just below a thousand, no one is interested in doing anything anymore.

Organizations and their leaders are losing faith they will be here much longer.

Many see the decline in activities and people on campus and have lost hope.

One of the most difficult things I've accomplished at Wesley was becoming president of an organization that I joined my second semester here.



I never knew what it meant to be a student leader or that that was even a thing.

I found that things are truly relationship-based at this school.

People gravitate to people more like them and if they have some type of relationship.

So you have to develop personal relationships with students, faculty and staff.

That doesn't seem to be happening anymore. Nothing is growing.

The same few organizations and student leaders put on events and attend them.

Many of these organizations' members will be graduating in December and a lot in May.

So, what is the future for Wesley's organizations and students?

I think it will continue to decline and students will continue to lose hope.

Wesley turned out not to be the perfect school I had in mind as a young 18-year-old freshman.

But I made the best of it.

As I write my last *Whetstone* article, it saddens me about how student-involvement barely exists anymore.

Will things get better at this school, or will it continue to decline?

I have hope for the school. I have seen a handful of students turn things around by their attitudes and desire to change things.

There's just fewer of them. And what Wesley needs is more student leaders.

Maybe you.

THINGS TO DO ON CAMPUS

MIDNIGHT ROAST

Sunday-Thursday
(8 p.m.-12 a.m.)

OPEN GYM

Everyday Sunday
Until Nov. 24th
(7 p.m.-9 p.m.)

THE UNDERGROUND

Monday-Friday
(12 p.m.- 10 p.m.)

Saturday
(4 p.m.- 10 p.m.)

Sunday
CLOSED



Editorial

We're Running Out of Time

By Brielle Braxton-Young, *The Whetstone*

Almost four years ago, I struggled with coming to Wesley because I didn't really understand what college was all about.

I knew some of my friends from the Wesley '20 group chat would be here so, I thought, as long as we remain close-knit and help each other out, I'll be fine.

But that wasn't the case – and now only five remain.

Most left for personal reasons – homesickness, struggling with time management, not being able to afford college, and, for some, Wesley in particular.

Those of us who stayed were on top of our game. We had our major planned, we weren't afraid to find resources on campus, we joined organizations, and two of us are now presidents of those organizations.

I decided to do news stories for my senior project that focused primarily on "Student Struggles while Being in College." Some of those struggles included mental health, time management, administrative support and money management.

My mom repeatedly told me, "You're going to college."

It wasn't an option. I'm sure I'm not the only one.

Fast forward to planning your college future, picking your major, exploring open houses.

It's exciting, isn't it? Maybe it is. Maybe it isn't.

Was this the right choice for you? Or was it the only choice you had?

Four years ago, I applied to what had seemed like a great school, nice staff, positive all around.

Four years later I've discovered even more.

Wesley is all about "Where Great Things Await," not just for the students, but for everyone.

But it's been four years and I am still waiting for these great things.

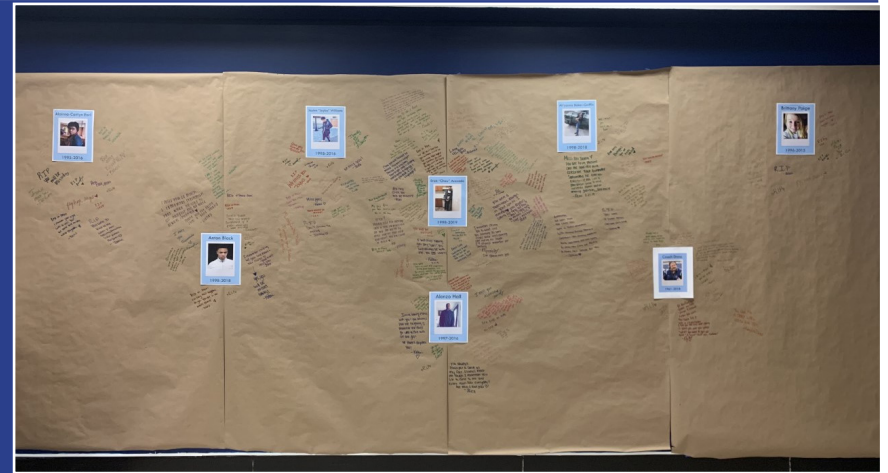
Students struggle with a lot here at Wesley College.

That is why I decided to focus my senior project on student struggles.



We are crying for help, but where is it? The help. The support. Oh, wait, we have to go find it ourselves.

Does anyone ever check on us to say, "How are you doing today?"



Maybe in passing, but the real answer is no.

Does anyone ever get to know us for not the sport we play but the person we are? That's a no, too.

Well, I'll introduce myself.

Hi, nice to meet you. My name is Brielle Braxton-Young, senior. Multimedia Communication major. My family is pretty close but my father broke my heart before anyone else could. I've struggled with this for years but it's OK because I am making it. I have three little sisters, two are freshmen in college, and my little sister just turned 14. I am part of the cheerleading team here at Wesley, and I am the president of the National Society of Minorities in Hospitality. My favorite color is blue, and my favorite thing to do outside of school is hang with friends. I hate peanut butter, and have a phobia of bugs was named Junior of the

Year for the 2018-2019 school year, and the memorial wall that was once hanging up in the CC Lobby – that was me. I did that. I get discouraged easily and always want to give up when I feel I am not good enough. I am a broke college student, my mental health is OK, better than what is has been in the past year or two. I have a great relationship with Pastor BK and I will be sad when I leave her in May. Was that too much?

Maybe I should have sugar-coated some things; I mean, that's what they want us to do.

We have no one to talk to. To hear us.

Students shouldn't only be getting support from one person. It should be everyone.

I am asking for the support we have lacked all these years.

That is why I chose this topic. And that is why I'm writing this.

So tell me, is there anything you can do to help me or do I have to keep waiting?