

Student Life

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THYRSUS

WashU's oldest theatre student group kicks off the year with 24 hours of shame. (Scene, pg 7)



FOOTBALL WINS ON THE ROAD

The Bears win their first game 44-27 after being tied at the half. (Sports, pg 3)



AI ENTERS THE CHAT

University offers guidance but no policy on ChatGPT. (News, pg 2)

Habif Mental Health to become Center for Counseling and Psychological Services

VIA POOLOS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

This year, Washington University's student medical center Habif Health and Wellness has split its mental and physical health services into administratively distinct centers. The mental health side is now the newly-named Center for Counseling and Psychological Services (CCPS), while Habif will refer only to the University's physical-health services.

Dr. Kirk Dougher, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Support and Wellness, said that the split is largely internal, and that students can expect the same services and level of care as when both mental and physical medical services were under one Habif umbrella.

The shift into separate entities, however, allows for CCPS to apply for various accreditations. One, Dougher said, is from a national group — the American Psychological Association — and two others will allow for CCPS to host training for graduate students.

Dougher said that the biggest change coming out of the split will be two novel training programs: one for practicum students before they pursue a doctoral degree in clinical psychology, and a doctoral internship for students in their last year of a psychology degree.

Dr. Cristie Cunningham, Associate Director of Counseling and Psychological Services, started at WashU two years ago. One of the goals of hiring her, she said, was to help develop the training services.

Already, four practicum students — one from the Brown School, and three from local Ponce Health Sciences University — have started at CCPS. New students at the center are oriented in risk assessment, HIPAA, diversity and equity, and managing the electronic medical-records system before beginning to manage a caseload.

Over the next year, CCPS will be applying for another accreditation to accept up to four doctoral interns alongside a new class of practicum students. Cunningham said that ideally, a group of up

to four interns would start at the beginning of the 2024-2025 academic year.

Habif has historically faced criticism from students about difficulties in accessing timely mental health care. Dougher said the training program will ideally help address some of those concerns by adding to the pool of counselors that can accept clients.

Both practicum students and interns will see patients, though Cunningham said that practicum students will have a higher level of supervision from a more senior staff member.

"In my mind, it's almost like two therapists in one. They're doing the work, and they're also talking with their supervisor and have a lot of oversight and a lot of feedback," she said.

Cunningham, who is closely involved with the recruitment and training process, said that CCPS will be looking to accept people with some involvement in counseling already under their belt.

"[We want to] make sure that our WashU students are still

getting high-quality care when they're at our center," she said. Additionally, a screening process will help determine whether a case is appropriate for a student with less professional experience, and undergraduates can always opt to see a full-time staff member instead.

Another advantage of the training programs, Dougher said, is that CCPS will have a close proximity to multiple highly trained new counselors after they finish their residency — historically difficult people to hire, given the high demand for psychologists across the country.

"This would be that upper echelon of training that we would have, potentially, first dibs [on] recruiting out of," he said.

CCPS will be recruiting for interns and practicum students nationally and locally beginning in October, with up to eight combined slots for the following August. Cunningham said that there's no preference for WashU-affiliated kids, though Dougher said CCPS may reach out to the

Psychological and Brain Studies department to advertise the program to their students.

"I wouldn't say that there's an advantage. I think that we're really looking at each person individually," Cunningham said. "But, we do love having the WashU students."

Aside from the new accreditations, Dougher said that not much will change for patients at the new center. CCPS will offer the same services as before, and will continue to connect patients to Habif doctors when needed.

"I don't anticipate any new additions because of the split or any new reductions because of the split; however, we are continuing to collaborate with each other," Dougher said.

And while there are not yet publicized plans to create a separate physical space for CCPS, both Cunningham and Dougher are crossing their fingers for their own building.

"We are maxed out on space," Cunningham said.



GINGER SCHULTE | STUDENT LIFE

WashU women's volleyball celebrates after scoring a point during the Bear Invite.

Volleyball continues its winning ways

ARYAN KUMAR
STAFF WRITER

Following a season where it finished with a record of 30-6 and reached the second round of the NCAA tournament, expectations continued to be high for the #14 Washington University volleyball team to start the season.

The team played out-of-conference foes North Central College and #23 Otterbein University to kick off the Bear Invite — a tournament that was hosted at WashU this past weekend — Friday night. It won both games with a scoreline of 3-1 against North Central and swept #23 Otterbein.

They continued their amazing

start to the season the following day by sweeping Hendrix College in three sets, but fell short to #6 Hope College with a scoreline of 3-1 in their final game.

The Bears ended the weekend with a record of 3-1 to kick off the season.

Many key players returned, including reigning All-UAA First Teamers sophomore Sam Buckley and junior Jasmine Sells. Although the team is quite talented, it faces a tough schedule for the year ahead.

Coach Vanessa Walby — who enters her 10th season with the Bears — spoke on this topic.

SEE VOLLEYBALL PAGE 4

First SU Treasury meeting of the semester revisits funding guidelines

ALIANA MEDIRATTA
JUNIOR NEWS EDITOR

The Treasury branch of Student Union (SU) had their first meeting of the semester this Tuesday, where they welcomed new Treasury representatives, discussed goals for the year, and heard appeals from clubs, Sept. 5.

During the meeting, representatives allocated \$15,819.50 to seven different clubs, ranging from cultural affinity groups to club sports to competitive academic clubs.

Before hearing appeals, senior Mishka Narasimhan, Vice President of Finance, gave a presentation with some larger goals for the organization, as well as the principles that representatives ought to follow when hearing appeals from eligible student groups.

"As a general overview, we want to be prioritizing needs versus wants," Narasimhan said. "We also want to prioritize mission-related events versus social events."

Narasimhan, who served as the Speaker of the Treasury last year, also emphasized the importance of determining whether a group has done their due diligence in finding the most cost-effective options possible.

Additionally, as of this year, money for travel will be allocated differently depending on whether the student group asking for the funds submitted their appeal at least four weeks before the event in question.

Appeals that are submitted less than four weeks in advance will be subsidized at a maximum of \$120 per room per night for hotels and \$300 for flights, whereas appeals that are submitted before that deadline are only subject to the maximum of \$850 per traveling member per year.

"This is to incentivize groups to submit their appeals earlier on," Narasimhan said. "If a group has done their due diligence and submitted their appeal early on, you should fund it."

Senior Justin Kouch, Treasury representative, asked Narasimhan whether there was flexibility in the policy for clubs that are only made aware of an event last-minute, such as a club sports team getting assigned to a certain tournament by a larger governing body.

In response, Narasimhan said that there will be no exceptions to the new policy.

"If you just found out, and your prices are higher than [the maximum], then I'm sorry," Narasimhan said. "We're happy to subsidize and give you \$120 per room per night and \$300 per flight, which is still a good amount, but you might still have to pay out-of-pocket."

After the presentation, Treasury representatives moved to hear appeals from seven different clubs, all of which received funding, at least in part, for the events that they needed funding for.

WashU's Association of Black Students was funded for \$2,162 in order to send roughly 100 Black

students to have a sanctuary experience where they can connect with nature while forming and strengthening their relationships with one another.

Hillel was funded \$2,500 for refreshments and to secure the services of a rabbi in order to host events on the Jewish holidays Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur, in addition to previous funds from the general budget.

The Men's club ice hockey team appealed for \$5,212.50 in order to lengthen their biweekly practices by a half hour, for a total of 90 minutes, to get more time on the ice.

Representatives for the club, which finished one win away from qualifying for Nationals last year, explained that some members have academic conflicts that make it difficult to attend practice.

"The program is really on the rise," a representative said. "Last year, we were ranked second in the nation by midseason rankings. Having these extra 30 minutes is

really huge for us — it allows us to be more competitive, and bonds us together as a team."

While some Treasury representatives empathized with the logistical difficulties, others pointed out that the high cost was coming in addition to the roughly \$19,000 that had been previously budgeted for time on the ice.

"If we add their request to what they have already been allocated, then it's about \$1,000 per member," junior and Treasury representative Saish Satyal said. "That's just for practice alone — not even including travel."

Read the rest online!



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University offering resources and support — not policies — for AI in the classroom

**JIMMY HU AND
JOEL SWIRNOFF**
STAFF WRITERS

This Fall Semester is slated to be one of trial and error for how generative AI, technology that mimics human-generated content, fits into education. Washington University has not implemented universal policies surrounding the use of AI technology, leaving it up to individual professors to decide how much to engage with it or limit its use.

Some professors want to integrate AI into assignments and teaching to help students learn how to utilize the new technology. Others are telling students not to use the technology at all, out of a concern that it will stymie learning or hurt academic integrity.

Administrators have offered guidelines for how faculty can think about AI in pedagogy, but it has been largely up to professors to decide how much to engage with the University's AI resources.

Provost Beverly Wendland sent an email to professors in early August that included links to AI informational resources and to a University web page titled "Addressing Artificial Intelligence in 2023."

The web page focuses primarily on how AI affects academic integrity, but shares information at the end for faculty to learn more about using the technology in courses. The page states that "Where AI tools can be used to enhance student learning and/or prepare students for effective use of these tools in their



ILLUSTRATION BY RYAN DAVIS

future careers, we encourage incorporation of AI tools in coursework."

The information included on this page reflects many educators' focus on the obstacles that AI is creating for education.

"Most of the conversation is about concerns rather than opportunity," Dr. Dennis Barbour, Chair of the Faculty Senate Council, said. Barbour, who works with faculty across the University to serve as a faculty liaison to the administration, specified that these concerns most often regard academic integrity. "The thing that might be missing [from this discourse] is about the opportunity."

One of the key obstacles for higher-education institutions is that it is difficult to mandate that faculty enact any policies or undergo new training — because doing so could be viewed as an infringement of academic freedom.

"The autonomy of an individual faculty member in a classroom is connected to academic freedom; it is fairly sacred," Dr. Jen Smith, Vice Provost for Educational Initiatives, said. "We have a

hard time requiring anything, so ultimately, the policy is at the discretion of the faculty member."

Dr. Jay Turner, Head of the Division of Engineering Education, is embracing the University's approach to not have policies and to instead offer guidance and encourage transparency about AI usage. He said that general policies would likely not remain relevant for long.

"I think policies could run the risk of being suboptimal because it's going to be so case-specific how this plays out," Turner said. "Instead, the key is to help instructors structure their conversations with their students in a way [where] everyone's crystal-clear on the opportunities and the guardrails on [using AI]."

In an email to Student Life, Provost Beverly Wendland outlined some of the resources that the IT department and the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) offer to faculty about AI.

These resources include access to the online platforms LinkedIn Learning and Garter research and an ongoing series the IT department

is planning to publish in The Record to educate faculty about AI.

The Center for Teaching and Learning offered workshops about AI over the spring and summer that several hundred faculty members participated in, Dr. Eric Fournier, the Center's Director of Educational Development, said. One of the summer workshops was directed towards faculty in writing-intensive courses, and the other was a more general workshop.

Fournier said that the workshops encouraged professors to think about the purpose of their assignments and how AI tools can help support or undermine their goals.

"I'm certainly concerned about faculty who are ignoring this...and are thinking what worked 10 or 15 years ago will still work in their courses," Fournier said.

Smith echoed a similar concern about professors who might not realize how widespread the use of this technology has become. "I think some faculty are really in denial about what's going on."

Wendland approved a proposal last Friday to eventually add a staff member to the CTL to focus on training and support for faculty around AI in teaching. Smith said this staff member will likely hold department-specific meetings about AI to ensure more faculty can take part in these conversations.

"Of the around 1600 Danforth faculty that we have, not everybody is listening, and I am hoping that getting into

people's departments will help us raise a little more awareness," Smith said.

In addition to department-level meetings and opportunities to interact with the CTL in workshops, Smith said that professors can sign up for one-on-one consultations with CTL members to brainstorm ways that AI can be integrated into their courses.

In addition to administrative support, several professors encouraged students to talk with professors about how to best use these technologies.

"I think students should ask questions about how we as faculty think they can best use ChatGPT," Dr. Joseph Loewenstein, Director of the Humanities Digital Workshop and the Interdisciplinary Project in the Humanities, said. "I think they should not simply talk to each other; I think they should talk to us."

Barbour similarly said he hopes students talk with their professors about how to engage with AI in their courses.

"You might have professors who just can't imagine how it would play in their classrooms," he said. "I would encourage students to prompt conversations with their faculty — often, faculty are really interested in having that conversation."

Aside from specific course-policy questions, professors are contending with how this technology might change what students should be getting out of their education and whether AI might eventually become another staple of the educational toolkit.

"Using tools of this sort will be just as important as using a word processor in the future," Barbour said, echoing a comparison that several professors made between generative AI and now fully accepted technological tools like spell-check and typing.

Barbour further likened generative AI tools to Aladdin's genie — both serving as wish-generators for content.

"What we need to learn is how to get exactly what we want out of that and not what we don't want," Barbour said. "Managing that genie is going to be one of the biggest challenges of the creative generation: [the student body's] generation."

Dr. Ruopeng An, an associate professor at the Brown School, said he thinks that the University is in the middle range of how quickly universities are responding to advances in artificial intelligence. An, who has expertise in the applications of artificial intelligence, said he thinks this middleground is a good place for the University to be in.

"It is safer for us to observe and then make our response based on what has happened in other institutions making really proactive policies," he said, referencing the University of Hong Kong's decision to ban and then unban ChatGPT.

"We're in untapped waters. We all have to have the courage to tap into that water and see what's going to happen," An said. "It's scary, and it's also exciting."

New lock system installed in Zetcher House elicits mixed reactions from students

JULIA ROBBINS
INVESTIGATIVE NEWS EDITOR

Zetcher House became the first dorm on campus to install the Homebase lock system, which unlocks suite and room doors via an app instead of a key card.

Some residents have cited frustrations with the app's slow response time and are concerned about getting locked out of their dorms. The University is optimistic that they will be able to resolve these challenges and install these new locks in every dorm.

Will Andrews, Director of Residential Student Housing at the University, mentioned accessibility and student feedback as primary reasons for trying the new locks.

"The new lock that we've been installing gives students greater flexibility in accessing their doors,"

Andrews said. He also mentioned that the newer locks have a longer battery life than many other locks on campus.

The locks were first installed in the Lofts, apartment-style housing on the 6300 block of Delmar Boulevard, last year.

"We saw great success having the locks installed at 6300 last year," Andrews said. "The number of students reporting lockouts was very little."

Despite this success, some students, like sophomore Alice Xu, have mentioned issues with the new system. Concerns about response time have been especially prevalent.

"The app usually takes about three to five seconds to respond," Xu said. "It's quite user-friendly; it works every time — it's just too slow in my opinion."

Another sophomore, Tatyana

Tolliver-Hughes, complained about the same issue.

"All of my suitemates start opening [the doors] from the elevator as it takes so long. I tried to open [the door] from the elevator and when I got there it's still locked and I had to redo it," Tolliver-Hughes said.

Andrews recognized the issue and deemed it as an inevitable hurdle to overcome at the beginning of the locks' usage.

"We have seen some speed issues that we are aware of," Andrews said. "We are working with our manufacturer to get those resolved so that students can see faster response time."

In addition to delayed response time, some worry about potential security issues or how to unlock their doors if their phone becomes inaccessible to them.

"If I forget to bring my phone

outside of my room, or if it's running out of battery, the problem can be pretty complicated," Xu said.

To address this issue, Andrews mentioned that Housing Operations is considering adding charging stations in "community spaces." Additionally, the application can function from any phone, so one can log in on another person's phone if their phone's battery is dead.

Despite some difficulties with response time and concern over accessibility, many students have expressed their approval of the new system. Junior Siobhan Davenport mentioned the cost of new keys as a detriment to the former system.

"I'm a huge fan of the new locks," Davenport said.

"I hated the kiosk system. I think they were trying to profit off

our low moments when we forget our keys — and that is wrong," Davenport added.

"I think it's pretty convenient," Sophomore Daedalus Chen said on not having to go to a kiosk to get a new card after losing one.

Andrews made it clear that Housing Operations is taking concerns seriously and passing them along to Homebase.

Moving forward, the University intends to expand the locks to off-campus housing at first but eventually put them in every dorm; however, delays in manufacturing and delivery have slowed down its progress.

"We are going to be working on a master plan of how we are going to onboard more of these locks," Andrews said. "We're gonna start changing them out as we get the locks."



SPORTS

Strong second-half performance fuels season-opening win for WashU football

RILEY HERRON
SPORTS EDITOR

For the second year in a row, the Washington University football team opened their season with a non-conference matchup against Hendrix College. Last year, the Bears dominated in all aspects of the game, beating the Warriors 52-7.

This year, however, they faced a much tougher test. Although the Warriors looked ready to defend their home turf in this year's battle, the Bears pulled away in the second half, leaving Arkansas with a 44-27 win and a 1-0 record.

From the start, the Bears looked ready to replicate last year's script. On the first drive of the game, Hendrix worked their way into field-goal range, but the Bears' defense stood tall. On third-down from WashU's 27-yard line, freshman Max Draheim hit the quarterback from his blindside and knocked the ball loose. Graduate student Matthew Schmal pounced on the ball, giving the Bears' offense their first opportunity of the day.

After three runs by junior Kenneth Hamilton — including a 27-yard burst — the Bears found themselves deep into Hendrix territory. A few plays later, graduate quarterback Matt Rush lofted a fade to the corner of the end zone, where senior Gabriel Sirek snagged the ball from above a defender to open the scoring midway through the first quarter.

Although the Bears' defense stood tall on a 3rd and 1 on the next drive, a successful fourth-down conversion kept the Hendrix drive alive. Two plays later — following a pass into the red zone and a goal-line fade — the score was tied at seven.

The visitors responded instantly. After a kick-off return by junior wide-receiver Collin Goldberg set the offense up in Hendrix territory, the Bears continued driving as the quarter came to a close. Rush took off on a third-down scramble to start the second period, narrowly avoiding an onslaught in the backfield. In a Josh Allen-esque fashion, Rush barreled down the sideline, taking a defender with him into the endzone for the touchdown.

After Hendrix responded with a touchdown to even it up at 14, both offenses began to falter. WashU went



NOAH ORLOFF | STUDENT LIFE

Quarterback Matt Rush led WashU football to a 44–27 win against Hendrix.

three-and-out on their next two drives. Though Hendrix's offense performed slightly better, WashU's defense bended but refused to break. After the Warriors drove all the way down to the WashU one-yard line, the Bears' defensive line stuffed consecutive handoffs on third- and fourth-downs to keep the score even going into the half.

At the break, the Bears knew that they needed to step up their performance. “We definitely didn’t play our best football in the first half offensively and defensively,” said Goldberg. “Our last few offensive drives were three-and-outs. At halftime, we talked about just being able to, at the very least, give our defense some time to rest by putting together long drives and making sure that we can get points on the board every time we have the ball.”

At the start of the second half, the Bears began to pull away. After Rush found Sirek for a 41-yard gain on a 3rd and 20, he connected with junior wide-receiver Zachary Ginsburg on a post into the end-zone for a 30-yard touchdown on the following play.

On the next drive, the Bears kept their momentum going. Throughout the first half, they had struggled to stop Hendrix's passing game, allowing Hendrix sophomore quarterback Jacob Buniff to pass for two touchdowns and nearly 250 yards in the opening 30 minutes. However, on Buniff's first throw of the second period,

sophomore linebacker Salomon Dessalines burst through a block, snagging the screen pass out of the air and taking it 25 yards to the house for a pick-six.

With a 28-14 lead, WashU maintained the pressure. After the Hendrix kick-returner fumbled the kickoff and was downed at his own one-yard line, the Bears stuffed the first-down run for a safety. Throughout the game, WashU's defensive line was impenetrable, holding the Warriors to just 24 rushing yards on 29 attempts. When asked about their performance, Goldberg noted how important the front seven were to the victory. “We got some great dudes on the D-line and some great dudes at the linebacker level that all made plays. Anytime you can limit the team's rushing game and force them to throw the ball, you're gonna have success.”

However, the Warriors wouldn't go down without a fight. After holding the Bears to a three-and-out, they scored their first points of the half on their next drive. Although they missed the extra point, the touchdown narrowed the margin to 30-20. After another defensive stop, Hendrix steadily drove down the field. When Buniff lofted the ball into the endzone, it grazed the hands of his intended receiver before bouncing fortunately into the hands of another wide-receiver waiting behind him. With just under 12 minutes remaining, the score was 30-27, and the Bears' lead was a mere field goal.

On the next drive, the

Bears responded instantly, needing just two plays to re-extend their lead. After Rush found Goldberg on a 42-yard go-route, he looked to Sirek once again. With a defender all over him and a flag-down for pass interference, Sirek made the one-handed grab for his second score of the day.

After Hendrix quickly drove back to the WashU two-yard line, a holding flag on first and goal pushed them back 10 yards. From there, the Bears' defense forced a 29-yard field-goal attempt. Though the kick would've brought the Warriors back within one possession, the kicker missed it wide left, giving the Bears the ball back with a 10-point lead and just eight minutes on the clock.

As the fourth quarter wound down, the Bears finished off their opponents. Rush hit Goldberg in stride on a 38-yard deep-shot into the endzone to make the score 44-27 with four minutes remaining. Then, as the hosts attempted to mount a comeback, sophomore safety Ryan Schmadtke leapt in front of a receiver for a game-sealing pick.

The Bears can be content to leave Arkansas with a one in the win column, while also knowing that they will need to step up their performance in order to compete with some of the national powerhouses in their conference. Fortunately for them, they will have time to make adjustments and get back to work. The Bears have a bye-week before the start of conference play at Millikin University on Sept. 16.

Women’s Soccer wins big versus Centre College, Piedmont University

IAN HEFT
SPORTS EDITOR

An old sports gambling adage states the following: “Good teams win, great teams cover.” While the sports betting craze has yet to make its way to Division III Women's Soccer, the Washington University Bears would have certainly covered the spread this weekend. The squad is off to a 2-0 start after a trip to Kentucky, beating Centre College by a 2-0 margin on Sunday and routing Piedmont College in an 8-0 drubbing on Monday afternoon.

The No. 10 Bears shared the love during their impressive weekend in the Bluegrass State. Seven different players scored at least one goal, and three others recorded at least one assist. While neither of their opponents were ranked, both came off of winning seasons and provided ample competition for the squad.

The match versus Centre was competitive early and knotted at 0 at the half. Sophomore forward Ella Koleno noted that a lack of scouting reports prevented the Bears from formulating an effective attack at first.

“Once we saw how they played, we could settle down at half, talk strategy a little bit, figure out what we needed to fix,” Koleno said.

The Bears went on to score two goals early in the second half, the first by Junior Meryl McKenna and the second just 2 minutes later by graduate transfer Samantha McKibben.

In game two, the Bears struck early, scoring three goals in the first 15 minutes. The first two goals came from graduate student Madeline Allburn, who came to WashU after four years of playing at Wake Forest. The Bears scored again in the 17th minute on another goal from McKenna. The Bears scored four more times in the second half, including a goal from Koleno in the 52nd minute. The match ended up becoming an absolute drubbing; the Bears launched 38 shots, compared to just one from the Piedmont Lady Lions.

The Bears have already scored more goals thus far than in their first 11 games of last season. Last year the Bears started relatively slowly, going 4-2-5 and scoring just nine total goals in their first 11 matches. Lackluster play continued into the UAA conference games, as the team struggled to a 2-4-1 and only qualified for the NCAA tournament via an at-large bid. But the Bears turned it up when it mattered most, defeating division rivals Carnegie Mellon in the Sweet

Sixteen before narrowly losing in penalties in the elite eight.

This year, the team is out for revenge, as the DIII powerhouse seeks to improve its record in league play and make a deeper post-season run. Gone are all-UAA defender Ellie Brauner, along with Maggie Brett, the All-America forward who bounced back from three ACL tears to lead the team in goals (12) and assists (8). Replacing them, however, are a whopping 10 freshmen, three graduate transfers, and a number of impressive underclassmen to expand upon last year's second-half success with increased opportunity to shine.

One such player is Koleno, who started both games and recorded a goal and an assist on Monday. She played in all 23 games last season but is likely to see an increased role this season after starting both games this weekend. But Koleno remains solely focused on team success.

“We're just trying to work together as a team to get as many wins as we can. As many shutouts as we can, as many multiple-goal wins,” Koleno said. The Bears fulfilled both goals this weekend.

Another key player for the Bears will be junior Midfielder McKenna, who recorded two goals this weekend passing last season's total in the first weekend. McKenna called the opening a “really positive start” for the team.

Key to the Bears' Championship hopes will be the addition of a trio of graduate students. Midfielder McKibben (Depaul), Forward Allburn (Wake Forest), and Defender Ally Hackett (UNC-Greensboro) each have experience playing at the Division I level. All three debuted and logged significant minutes on Monday.

“They've transitioned into our team and our culture pretty seamlessly,” McKenna said after Monday's win. “We're more than happy to have them.”

The expectations for WashU remain lofty as always, as the team competes for their ninth UAA title in 11 years. The Bears will play their first home game this Saturday versus Carroll University. McKenna and the rest of the team are also looking ahead to their Oct. 1 match versus Emory which will mark the beginning of UAA Conference Play.

“It's something we have marked on our calendar, that first UAA weekend home at Francis [Field],” McKenna said. “But we just look one day at a time, focusing on one opponent at a time.”

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FORUM

Vivek the Fake: Local event highlights Ramaswamy’s troubling hypocrisy

IAN HEFT
SPORTS EDITOR

Vivek Ramaswamy is a man of many contradictions. He’s a self-proclaimed staunch Conservative who has voted for the Republican ticket just once in his life. An Indian-American practicing Hindu, who actively targets Evangelical voters and believes America needs to return to its “Judeo-Christian values.” A millennial who raps Eminem on the campaign trail, retweets memes, and accepts bitcoin donations, yet believes we need to consider raising the voting age and positions himself in opposition to many issues that matter most to the American youth.

Despite the puzzling inconsistencies in his campaign, the current Republican presidential candidate is in the midst of a moment. Since announcing his run for presidency in February, the former biotech entrepreneur has slowly crept up into the top tier of candidates, passing former governors, executive branch officials, and GOP mainstays nearly twice his age. And despite a performance in the Republican debate that came off as brash and aggressive and drew repeated attacks from his more experienced

competitors, Ramaswamy has since seen a modest boost in his poll numbers. He is now just a stone’s throw away from dethroning Ron Desantis as the de facto Trump alternative in the race for the GOP nomination.

Ramaswamy’s hypocrisy was on display firsthand in St. Louis last week, as the candidate who has vowed to self-fund the majority of his campaign held a big-money fundraising dinner with GOP donors from the region. The event looked eerily similar to those Ramaswamy has criticized his opponents for holding — the anti-establishment candidate has frequently attacked opponents, including during last week’s debate, for being bought and funded by special interests in the Republican Party.

The event was originally supposed to be held at Olive and Oak, a restaurant in the Webster Groves neighborhood of St. Louis County, but the venue canceled on the campaign at the last minute, and the event was moved to the Four Seasons Hotel in downtown St. Louis. Tickets for the general public started at \$500, but that only covered a cocktail hour and attendance at the candidate’s “keynote” address. An additional \$500 was required to get a picture

with Ramaswamy and a signed hat or t-shirt. To get into a private meal with Ramaswamy would have set you back \$3,300, the maximum an individual can give to a single candidate during an election cycle.

One such donor who “hosted” the event was Dr. John Holds, a Missouri plastic surgeon who has given upwards of \$30,000 to Republican campaigns over the last few decades, including to those of GOP mainstays Josh Hawley, George Bush, Mitt Romney, and Rand Paul. And while no super PACs were involved in Wednesday’s event, Pro-Ramaswamy PACs are already popping up, even as he has continued to accuse his opponents of being “super PAC puppets.”

To be clear, I see no problem with Vivek raising cash for his campaign. Money is a factor in every campaign, and candidates left, right, and center often rely only on maximum donations and PAC money to support their candidacies.

But last week’s event speaks to a greater theme in Vivek’s campaign: campaigning on one thing while displaying the exact opposite. Take another example: Ramaswamy is frequently seen rocking a campaign hat that says “TRUTH,” and he has made that monosyllabic

motto a central theme of his campaign. But in recent weeks, the candidate has been caught making numerous statements ranging from slight exaggerations to massive lies. Ramaswamy has also defended Donald Trump with unrivaled passion, even as most of the GOP field has tried to distance itself at least slightly from the former President. How can a candidate be so committed to so-called morals while he stands buddy-buddy with a man under trial for conspiring to defraud the United States government, falsifying business records, and committing dozens of other crimes?

Ramaswamy’s extreme stances also call into question another central message of his campaign: uniting Americans for their similarities, rather than their differences. His stances on abortion (support for six-week bans on the state level), climate change (calling the “climate change agenda” a “hoax” at the GOP debate), and transgender rights (going as far as calling being transgender a “deluded and mentally deranged state”) outflank his GOP peers to the right, and are not just off-putting to younger voters and Liberals, but to many Conservatives as well.

So where does Vivek go

from here? It’s an impressive surprise that his campaign is doing as well as it has been, as up until recently, Ramaswamy had among the lowest name recognition of any candidate in the race. (Despite his recent success, supporters and competitors alike still can’t get his name right: Vivek rhymes with cake, not check.) With his success still mounting, there are still a number of voters Ramaswamy can continue to appeal to and perhaps win over. There is also discourse over the possibility of potentially joining a Donald Trump-led ticket down the line as the Vice President, even though Ramaswamy has said he would not take Trump up on the offer.


But right now, Ramaswamy still faces two major obstacles. For one, feuds at last week’s debates positioned his candidacy in opposition to those of Nikki Haley, Mike Pence, and Chris Christie, voting blocs that, while small, could have potentially lent Ramaswamy vital support if any of those campaigns were to continue to falter.

But the even larger obstacle for Ramaswamy is that this race remains Donald Trump’s to lose. The former President still leads the field by 35 points, and while his polling numbers are less dominant in Iowa and New

Hampshire (the first two states to vote for the Republican nominee), the current field would have to consolidate dramatically for a non-Trump candidate to win. Even if there was some coordinated effort to knock Trump out of his front-runner’s status, similar to what the Democrats did in 2020 to propel Joe Biden to the White House, there is no reason to believe that Ramaswamy would gain the support of party veterans. Ramaswamy’s unwillingness to criticize Trump may help rally the party base in the primary, but it severely caps his crossover appeal to non-Trump supporters and will hurt the first-time candidate in the long run.

Ramaswamy is clearly an incredibly smart guy, but he is also in over his head. Candidates in his position can typically only go two routes: rise into the top tier of candidates or fade into irrelevance. With no Trump, Ramaswamy would be in a totally different position. But as things stand now, Ramaswamy lacks the crossover appeal to expand his base and make any real noise once the primaries begin. Sooner or later, Ramaswamy’s deception and hypocrisy will catch up to him, and he will be exposed for what he really is: Vivek the fake.


PUZZLE
Mania



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JOIN
StudLife

INTEREST



FORM

WordWheel



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.
Previous solution: URBANIZE
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The Blue Man Group

Alex Nickel

1	2	3	4	
5				6
7				
8				
	9			

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephams Group

				8			2	3
3			2		1			
	1							
			8			5		
2							4	6
	4	7			9	8		
	5						3	
			1		4			9
9	6			5				

Level

1

2

3

4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, please visit [sudoku.org.uk](https://www.sudoku.org.uk)

Solution to last week's puzzle:

6	9	1	5	8	4	3	2	7
8	4	2	9	7	3	5	6	1
7	5	3	2	6	1	8	9	4
9	3	4	6	5	8	7	1	2
2	6	5	1	3	7	4	8	9
1	7	8	4	9	2	6	3	5
3	8	9	7	1	5	2	4	6
4	1	7	3	2	6	9	5	8
5	2	6	8	4	9	1	7	3

9/7/23

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ADVICE

Dear StudLife...

Dear Upperclassmen,
How on earth do I find out what is for homework?
Chem 111 is the prime suspect with there being literally nothing that talks about the assignment of the week or anything. Please help!
— Confuzzled Freshie '27

Dear Confuzzled Freshie,
First of all, I want to commend you for taking 111. Stick with it! It's worth it. Secondly, I likely had different professors than you do, but I can offer you some general words of advice on how you might be able to find the work you need to do. The first place to look is the syllabus. All of the information you need should be there, including all of the types of assignments your professor assigns throughout the

semester and when they're due.
If you can't find it there, another great option is to simply ask your professors! I know it can be a little scary, but if you find them after class or during office hours, I'm sure they'll be willing to break down what you need. If you need the information in a more timely manner, see if you can ask anyone you know in your classes what they've been doing for weekly work.

Another place you might be able to look are in lecture slides, which sometimes include information on assignments. Those should be posted on Canvas.
For 111, if they kept the same structure as last year, your weekly assignments will look as follows: non-graded homework that is assigned every week that doesn't need to be turned in anywhere (do it anyway!), graded homework due some time during

the weekend that is done on an online textbook software, and quizzes during recitation. There are also PLTL packets that ideally get done during PLTL sessions.
If you're looking for any other advice when it comes to freshman pre-med classes, there's an article in Student Life's Starting Line issue offering just that!
— Student Life Staffer

Should you try to blend in when you travel?

AMELIA RADEN
JUNIOR FORUM EDITOR

We've all heard horror stories about the American tourist. You know, the one complaining that portion sizes are too small or about getting their phone and wallet stolen within days of arriving in a new country. I've heard, on more than one occasion, that Europeans can always spot the Americans in restaurants because they are the loudest couples at dinner.
I am incredibly lucky to have had the opportunity to do a lot of travel this past summer. I spent two months abroad, some of it spent studying through WashU and some of it spent backpacking. As I traveled, I found myself changing not only my appearance, but also my behavior, based on where I was and my perception of that place. It was my natural instinct to try to blend in with locals as best I could, but that was definitely not everyone's goal, and perhaps, to some extent, it shouldn't be.
There are many benefits to blending in when

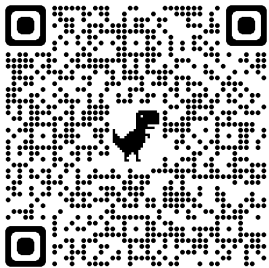
you travel, and perhaps one of the greatest is safety. If you look like a local, your chances of being pickpocketed, scammed, or the victim of a tourist trap are lessened.
Additionally, dressing and acting appropriately for religious venues is a necessity. This is one of many reasons why it is so important to do some baseline research before you travel. Even if you don't intend to disguise yourself as a local, you should still do your best to learn about local customs, appropriate dress, and even a few phrases in the local language as a matter of respect.
That being said, blending in may diminish your ability to make friends. Meeting people that speak your language and relate to your experiences can be one of the greatest parts of travel, especially when you're away from home for a long time. On my trip, I built amazing relationships with other American travelers that I met at tourist sites and in hostels, and I would hate to have missed out on that opportunity because I was too focused on trying to seem like a local.

I've seen TikToks of students studying abroad in Paris "ignoring the Eiffel Tower" and an American working in Barcelona complaining about the number of tourists in her area. What these people don't realize is that it is vital to appreciate these moments. Intentionally ignoring the Eiffel Tower won't make you a local; it will make you ignorant.
Chances are, some degree of blending-in will happen naturally. If you study abroad, you will likely look more like a local on your last week than on your first. I've come to the conclusion that when abroad, we should think of ourselves as travelers rather than tourists. We should see the touristy sights and immerse ourselves in the local culture — wait behind hordes of people to see the Mona Lisa and walk local neighborhoods to discover small art galleries. While traveling, you may still have the tendencies of an American tourist, but with respect and an appreciation of other cultures as well as your own, you are sure to make the most of your trip.

Caption this!
Enter this week's contest



ILLUSTRATION BY ERICA SHI



Scan the QR code to enter your submission by 11:59 pm on Monday.

Last week's winners:

- 1st place: Oh boy! I can't wait to be in a lot of debt! – Sam Powers, current WashU student
- 2nd place: WashU parent's living vicariously through their kid. – Nathaniel John, current WashU student
- 3rd place: Look mom, they have Corner 17 in Whispers now! – Caleb Martonfi, current WashU student



ILLUSTRATION BY SOPHIE LEONG

The vulnerable dead: On emotional expression in the workplace

JASMINE STONE
SENIOR FORUM EDITOR

During the final week of my internship, each employee gave a presentation on what we'd learned. Naturally, our Program Director went first.
"I've gotten a lot of opinions on this — like, you don't know how many different perspectives I've asked for," they began, changing the screen to a meme of a little boy looking out a bus window with a quirky caption that only teachers would find funny.
"But to be clear, we're not 'friends.' I'm your boss." The light laughter falls quiet enough to hear an uncomfortable clearing of throats and scuffles of chairs; interns lined up by the Mr. Coffee pot in the back to quickly find their seats.
Et tu, PD?
In the article Ban the Word 'Boss,' author JJ Rosen says of his consulting firm, "We not only want to promote respectful debate, we want to actively discourage a boss-centered 'yes-people' culture." While the term has long been a part of corporate American rhetoric, many companies and organizations are rebranding.
Later that same afternoon, a group of us went swimming, floating as we reminisced on our summer as co-teachers coming to a close. The neon pool lights came on when the sun set, signaling the impending dark and a break in our conversation.
"So...about their announcement today at the meeting — we're 'not friends?'"
"Oh my god."
"Girl, please."
"As if that's even just their decision at this point."
We felt collectively misled. We'd been encouraged — even obligated — to make a commitment to bonding and being open with our stories, to nurturing the "family units" we'd built with our

students and fellow teachers. In environments like this one, the expressed ideals of professionalism (like uselessly strict dress codes, verbal code-switching, and paternalistic hierarchy) seemed dated and misplaced next to brochure program values touting transgressive, community-based spaces for marginalized youth and teachers.
In educational activist Betina Love's book "We Want To Do More Than Survive," she describes the community organization, FIST, run by impassioned educators who were united in their goals to uplift the underserved communities they worked in. "Too often we think the work of fighting oppression is just intellectual. The real work is personal, emotional, spiritual, and communal ... In FIST there was no questioning why we were there and what the objective was."
With this in mind, especially for workplaces that double as "safe spaces" for emotional vulnerability and social justice, are reformation and decentralization possible in a professional culture still rooted in patriarchy and whiteness? And is there still a need — or even room — for a "boss" in a traditional sense?
Crying's Corporate Makeover
Team building that involves sharing one's fears and weaknesses is becoming more prevalent, and early connections provide a helpful basis for openness later. However, whether or not this is beneficial seems dependent on other factors.
The chief people officer at Yelp Inc., Carmen Whitney Orr, says she views increased openness about mental health as a positive result of the pandemic but fears it "won't last without care and attention." Conditionally, Callum Borchers, Wall Street Journal Columnist, adds that for those "without status," it's unwise to be too vulnerable

about personal issues, citing the story of a man who felt his disclosure had been misused when a leave of absence led to important decisions being made without him.
For the previously mentioned internship, each person presented an item of emotional significance in a team-building exercise. A friend described a similar experience in joining a facilitation organization at WashU where members also swapped vulnerable stories as a part of onboarding. For progressive companies and organizations, building culture is fundamental for the kind of work they want to do. But when expressed values



ILLUSTRATION BY SOPHIE LEONG

and practices are misaligned, the false perception of a "safe space" does more harm than good.
Workplaces of Life and Death
"Abolitionist teaching is built on the cultural wealth of students' communities and creating classrooms in parallel with those communities ... where people ... fight together in pursuit of creating a homeplace that represents their hopes and dreams."
But it's hardly possible to create said homeplace when the opinions and experiences of culturally relevant educators aren't valued. Throughout the internship, the only white Program Director, in cahoots with the white Executive Director, would fire or cause the leave of over half the teachers at her site, all people of color,

and vouch for the (unfulfilled) dismissal of several not even under her leadership. Thankfully she had an "equal education matters" computer sticker to soften the blow, but her willful distance from the community she'd integrated herself in — as a person with authority — had the unfortunate ability to harm the students and teachers she was supposedly there to serve.
Regarding philanthropy and nonprofit work, Teju Cole says, "The White Savior Industrial Complex is not about justice. It is about having a big emotional experience that validates privilege." Unlearning and unpacking microaggressions and internalized racism is an important part of rebuilding educational spaces if one is to prevent regressing into a Euro-centric culture and value system.
In Kevin Gannon's book "Radical Hope: A Teaching Manifesto," the chapter "Classrooms of Death" says in schools for life, educators "emphasized practical subjects and embodied what today we would call a mind-body-spirit approach to learning," and schools of death were "bound up in stultifying tradition." In application to any modern work environment, a workplace for life might look like one that takes a mind-body-spirit approach to valuing and centering professional diversity rather than attempting to neutralize it.
Boss vs. Employer vs.

Instructor vs. Director vs. Mentor vs. Leader
The American word "boss" is derived from the Dutch version of the word "master;" Americans adopted the switch in the mid-19th century after the abolition of slavery. As written in the Cambridge Dictionary, an instructor's job is to teach a practical skill; a director is the manager of an organization, company, or college; a mentor can include a trusted counselor, guide, and in some scenarios, double as a lifelong friend.
In the Antonio Tooley article, Why A Boss Isn't Always a Leader, Tooley explains that the expectations of a boss are different from a leader in that a "boss" "creates fear" whereas "a good leader will treat you as their equal." In the article Your Boss Or Your Mentor? Why You Should Know The Difference, it's argued that for genuine collaboration to occur at all — that is, for an environment where both parties can give and receive guidance and exchange mutual vulnerability — there's really no room for a "boss" in a typical sense.
In any workspace, there's an expectation that at least one present party has achieved unique expertise and is there to guide the rest. But contrary to a leader or someone otherwise capable of becoming a reliable confidant, is it ever safe to be vulnerable with your boss? If the terminology still stands then presumably so does the golden rule; your boss is not your friend.
Family, Not Friends (Professionally Speaking)
"Love your [organization] family," and a slew of other familial slogans are plastered throughout many modern organizations' websites, emails, and mission statements, introducing an added dimension to the idea of workplace vulnerability. According to Joshua

Luna in The Toxic Effects of Branding Your Workplace a Family, "Adding a 'family' culture and sense of belonging might not sound malicious at first, but when used to foster relationships with the expectations of top-level performance employees are rarely set up for success ... If you're promoting a family culture, does that make the employer the parents and the employees the children?"
The infantilization of teachers is notoriously known in education communities. The second almost-en-masse firing was when a group of adult teachers were "caught" one evening with a bottle of wine. The same non-POC program director then called for their termination (after first making them phone their own program mommy on a Saturday night and confess what they'd done.)
Strong bonds between members of a cohort that claims to uplift underserved communities or otherwise promotes a culture of belonging are essential. But if a space hasn't put equal effort into unpacking what requiring emotional labor means for the nature of interactions between workers and the values embodied by the institution as a whole, what is the result?
Perhaps the formerly described "workplaces of life" should be the aim, potentially adding Ella Baker's non-hierarchical approach to leadership. "Participatory democracy, which rejects top-down, hierarch[y] ... uplifts voices that have been deliberately placed in the margins and seeks to organize, strategize, and mobilize through consensus building."
Regardless, vulnerability in some capacity is necessary, so all the more relevant are cultural responsiveness and accountability, as well as rethinking our understanding of what it means to be professional.

SCENE

Brewing community: LaJoy’s Coffee, more than a café

DANNY GRAZIANO
STAFF WRITER

The airy glass walls of the Schnuck Pavilion’s Parkside Café well pre-date the arrival of LaJoy’s Coffee to the building, yet they feel like a perfect match nonetheless. The space is open and inviting, and the newly-settled-in coffee shop seems right at home in it. LaJoy’s emphasizes the unique ability of a coffee shop to bring people together in everything it does, from its logo to its name: the original location bore the name “LaJoy’s Coffee Café,” pointedly elevating itself beyond a mere “shop” role.

For LaJoy Dabney, it goes without saying that a coffee shop is more than just a place to buy a latte. The business that bears her name started as a passion project in the waning days of the pandemic, first

opening its doors in June of 2021. She conceived LaJoy’s as a way of bringing together a community and healing from an era of isolation. And by her own admission, it immediately had more success than she could’ve anticipated. The shop has always been about connectivity: she initially looked at founding a candy store, but ultimately decided that the communal aspect of coffee shops was more appealing. “Everybody likes the talking, gossip, sitting around,” she said.

The idea of appealing to “everybody” was what stood out, even more than what she was selling. In fact, LaJoy says she’s never been a coffee drinker herself despite not only founding a coffee shop, but creating her own brand of coffee to sell. A self-described tea person, she took classes on coffee-making, putting in three

months of work to test and taste dozens of different blends before finding the perfect one for both customers and herself. She also took care to ensure the menu went beyond just catering to coffee drinkers, including a variety of additional drinks such as lemonades and smoothies, cementing her commitment to offering something for everyone.

LaJoy’s conception of the coffee shop feels tailor-made for a college campus, where a coffee shop can function as a place to eat, drink, caffeinate, study, and socialize simultaneously. She describes expanding to WashU as an opportunity that excited her, and it seems to have been a promising start. She’s optimistic about the progress LaJoy’s has made in becoming a part of the WashU culture, and enjoys personally



ILLUSTRATION BY DION HINES

interacting with students. In terms of future expansion opportunities, she mentions that opening locations in other area colleges would be a next step that would fit

the way she does business. LaJoy’s seems dedicated to bringing people together in a way that doesn’t go beyond what a coffee shop does, but rather recognizes the

potential therein. That’s what sticks out to LaJoy herself: “to see people together, smiling, being happy, that’s a big thing.”

Immersive theatrical chaos: Thyrsus’ Day of No Shame at WashU



COURTESY OF THYRSUS

Two actors pose at Thyrsus’ Day of No Shame event.

JENNY RONG
STAFF WRITER

A person wearing a white tank top with the words “the purple shirt” written on it was thrown into

a mini-inflated pool. The other cast members then dumped purple Kool-Aid all over him, drenching him from head to toe. The play lasted 2 minutes. That was just one of the 30 plays Thyrsus put on for their 24-hour

neo-futurist playwriting festival Day of No Shame.

Thyrsus is WashU’s oldest theater student group with over 100 years of history, and Day of No Shame, its first major event, kicked off the school year. These elaborate short plays are written, directed, and produced within 24 hours.

The countdown starts at 7 p.m., the night before the big extravaganza, where writers are assigned one of 10 types of plays and different modifiers through a lottery system. They have until 7 a.m. the next day to finish writing their plays, which are presented to club members so that people can choose which ones they would like to participate in.

“The process is definitely very chaotic and hectic,” Shaun Rouso, a senior at WashU and the director of the festival, said. He arrived at the Village Black Box Theater early on the morning of Sept. — the day of the play — and organized the plays

submitted. After all the plays were reviewed, Rouso randomly assigned the plays to the actors to get things going faster. He also considered the actors’ time commitments and made sure those who were busier with other coursework had fewer lines.

Known for being experimental and artsy, Thyrsus’ hour-long performance did not disappoint. Entering the Black Box Theater, all audience members were greeted with fake name tags like “Mr. President” and “Tardy” and given a menu with the names of the 30 plays on them.

The whole hour’s performance is highly interactive. The order of the 30 plays is purely determined by the audience on the spot. The audience would shout out the number of the play, and the actors then coordinated and started the show right away. During the play, audience members whose name tags corresponded to the play’s characters were called

on to join the show.

Madeline Soh, a junior who went to support her friend in the show that night, thought that the concept of shouting out the numbers of the plays they wanted to see from the “menu” was interesting. “I’ve never seen it before, but the audience engagement made it fun. The plays were very funny, and it was a great way to spend my Saturday night,” Soh said.

The 30 plays included an art auction with the audience, a sensual musical performance of “Single Ladies” by Beyonce, a full house chanting “sex” while the cast tried bowling and a brutal public execution of a cute Squishmallow.

“Live theater is very different from films. Neo-futurism brings [people] things [that] they don’t even think of. You can mess up and make mistakes. There is no shame. It’s so chaotic [that] you can’t feel shame” Rouso said.

The crowd was highly enthusiastic, and around a third of the audience was invited to participate. One of the audience members was invited to the stage for play number 12, “America’s Fearless Leader,” as the president of the United States. The cast interrogated him with controversial political questions, and the audience members gave humorous responses. The next play on the menu was much less light-hearted. Play number 13 included a video recorded by Zito Zito, a senior at WashU, where they recorded a second of their every day for two years. They made different audience members read out loud their monologue on the outlook and insights of their life. Different people’s voices made the personal monologue a collective experience.

“It’s hard to write a bad play,” Rouso says, “[You just have to] get the most important thing on the page, and you’re good.”

WashU’s new Kessler Scholars Program provides a beacon of hope for first-generation students

ANNABEL SHEN
MANAGING SCENE EDITOR

Washington University in St. Louis has been chosen as one of 10 universities to participate in the Kessler Scholars National Collaborative, with the inaugural cohort of scholars being the Class of 2027. Mark Figueroa, Assistant Director of the Kessler Scholars Program, stated how the program’s goal is to “support First-Generation Limited-Income students (FGLI) who are enthusiastic about using their STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education to tackle societal challenges.”

This program not only ensures that Kessler Scholars receive financial assistance covering 100% of their needs, but it also offers summer bridge programs and grants to support their research and internship endeavors. This year, a diverse group of 20 Kessler Scholars has come together from across the country to collaborate and achieve their aspirations.

Among these scholars is Yeshua Ayala, a first-year student whose career aspirations have shifted “from astronomer, aerospace engineer, [or] mathematician to bioengineer...but [have] never left the STEM field.” Ayala is committed to incorporating his curiosity “for why things work the way they do” to design “creative, new, and more efficient products for the greater good.”

Maria Lopez, another Kessler Scholar, is a first-year student from Arizona pursuing Computer Engineering. Lopez explained, “Growing up, I didn’t have much technology at home. But at school, we would have computer labs, and I would always want to break into [the computer] and look at it, but I couldn’t do that.”

Lopez’s fascination with computers drove her to begin researching cybersecurity and internet safety for children. “Kids these days face a lot of online bullying and harassment, and it irks me. I want to change this,” said Lopez.

Like her fellow scholars, first-year Constance Rosemond realized that her passion for STEM goes “beyond sitting behind a desk or working in industry.” At home, Rosemond is an active volunteer for “tenant-rights advocacy organizations, where I helped tenants apply for rent subsidies, public housing, and food stamps.”

Now at WashU, Rosemond plans to pursue a Mechanical Engineering degree with an African and African-American Studies minor. She believes that her studies will aid her plans to join WashU’s Engineers without Borders club, where she can go to “historically disinvested communities and work on their infrastructure. That’s what I want to do — it’s my dream.”

In addition to their STEM aspirations, dreams, and objectives, the Kessler Scholars place a significant emphasis on the tight-knit community they’ve forged among their group of 20 members.



Pictured from left to right: Maria Lopez, Yeshua Ayala, Constance Rosemond.

Highlighting the camaraderie within the group, Lopez said, “We spent a lot of time together. Last week, we had an ice-cream social, and it was so fun just hanging out and playing board games. I feel prepared and comfortable now, with a solid group of friends [that] I know will have my back.” Constance Rosemond



COURTESY OF KESSLER SCHOLARS

shares her appreciation for her fellow scholars: “I love every single one of them, and each person has such [a] colorful [personality]. It’s amazing to be around such passionate people that share similar interests [as] me.”

The Kessler Scholars Program at Washington University in St. Louis stands as a shining example of the

transformative power of education, diversity, and community. With a steadfast commitment to nurturing the talents and passions of its scholars, this program not only opens doors to academic excellence, but also inspires a profound sense of purpose and responsibility.

Scenes from the Fall 2023 Activities Fair



ELLE SU | STUDENT LIFE
This four-legged freshman roams Mudd Field, greeting students along the way.



ELLE SU | STUDENT LIFE
WU Racing showcases a model of their Formula 1 style car in the Engineering section of the fair.



ELLE SU | STUDENT LIFE
Contra, the men's club frisbee team, tests the vertical jump of potential new members.



ELLE SU | STUDENT LIFE
The Student Life members look for new writers to join the newspaper



ELLE SU | STUDENT LIFE
Students survey the over 450 clubs on campus during last Friday's activity fair.



ELLE SU | STUDENT LIFE
WashU Cheerleading brought the spirit and energy to the activities fair.



ELLE SU | STUDENT LIFE
Club sports teams, including women's basketball, look for new recruits.



ELLE SU | STUDENT LIFE
A robot dog topples over onto the grass after a long day campaigning.

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