The Wheaton Wire

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Students protest for Palestine during Honors Convocation

BY ELSIE CARSON

Shortly before Honors Convocation at 5 p.m., about a dozen students gathered in the Dimple. Some wore red, green, and white (the colors of the Palestinian flag), and held signs that read "Free Gaza," "Ceasefire Now," "Stand Against Genocide," and "Divest Now." One person began roller-blading around the Dimple, waving a Palestinian flag.

Their numbers quickly grew to around 40 protestors. As convocation began, seniors in their caps and gowns, as well as faculty wearing their regalia, stood directly across from the protestors, who chanted at those waiting to enter the chapel. Some seniors left the line to join the protest, others shouted words of encouragement towards the protesters, while others stood silent. Several faculty members stood in solidarity with the students protesting before proceeding in.

The protest continued for the entire convocation ceremony, and the barbecue afterward, which was not widely attended. Chanting could be heard from inside the chapel for the duration of the ceremony. One senior who was inside the chapel for the entire convocation and did not

wish to be identified described the atmosphere as "intensely awkward and tense at points" and said they felt as if the seniors being honored were the ones being protested, rather than faculty and administrators.

Zoe Krueger '24 was planning on attending Honors Convocation when she heard about the protest a few hours before the ceremony. Krueger went to the Dimple wearing her gown but decided that it was more important to join the protest.

"It is important that we hold the school accountable for taking donations from people who are actively funding war crimes and violence. And I feel like this is a good place to protest because there is a lot of faculty. Also as a senior, I think this is more important than Honors Convocation," Krueger said.

One of the main demands of students across the country, and at Wheaton, is for their universities to divest from companies with connections to Israel, and, as Krueger said, to cut ties with organizations that directly support Israel. According to the 2022-2023 endowment report, Wheaton has 57.8% in equity, and 8.1% in private investments

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Photo courtesy of Elias Stevens A protestor rollerblading around the Dimple with a Palestinian Flag.

An interview with President Whelan

BY EMMA KIERNAN AND MOIRA SANKEY

average workday could begin at 8 a.m. and go until late evening, depending on where she is needed.

Through this collaborative process, some of Whelan's ideas campus upkeep, and endowed have come to fruition or at least reached an official planning stage. This past fall, the new program WheaGo was introduced and launched successfully when 30 first-year students traveled abroad for their first semester before returning to Wheaton to finish their education. Additionally, Whelan is working with administration and faculty to develop a master's program for Wheaton students. She explains that the current concept for the program is that students will begin working towards their master's in their senior year by taking courses that will count towards the program. Upon graduating, they will have the opportunity to finish the degree online from anywhere in the world in order to join their career field without building more student debt. The president also plays a vital role in a campaign that Wheaton calls the "quiet leadership phase." The college brings ideas to potential donors and supporters, looking to raise money that will benefit campus life. These proposals often in-

clude scholarships for students, professorships for faculty.

The end of this semester marks two years since President Michaele Whelan joined the Wheaton community, bringing with her years of experience in liberal arts administration. There has been a sense of confusion among Wheaton students as to what exactly the president of a college does in an average workday.

The answer, Whelan provides, is a lot. She explains that as president, she participates in every aspect of the college's enterprise, from legal issues to student affairs and admissions to fundraising and facilities.

Her days are mostly filled with what she calls "meetings and greetings." Whelan gives welcome speeches at events all across campus and attends meetings with faculty, donors, trustees, and many others, sometimes traveling off-campus as well. "Sometimes I get to go to a class which is really exciting and fun and you know, a good break," she said. "But otherwise I'm meeting with people or groups and that's pretty constant." An

Whelan's duties as president often facilitate a collaborative effort with the rest of the administrative staff and the faculty on campus. "You could think of it [the role of president] like an orchestra conductor. Because there's vice presidents, there's faculty who have leadership roles, there's faculty committees, we exist as a community within shared governance, which is a very important concept."

Whelan explained that when assisting in setting the strategic directions of the college, she doesn't "go into a room and write them [her ideas] down," but instead speaks with the staff and faculty to curate feedback and turn ideas into reality. "It's very different from an executive in a company because that's a hierarchy... that's not how it works in a college. Well, and again, this is all in dialogue, because the truth is presidents put ideas out and then we see what the community makes of those ideas," said Whelan.

Specifically, Whelan has focused on the struggles of maintaining campus facilities, something that caught her attention upon her initial arrival to Wheaton.

She explains that with a few exceptions, like the buildings sponsored by Diana Davis Spencer or the Mars family, most of the facilities on campus are named after admirable people but need to be provided with funding for maintenance. "It would be great if we could raise money for all of the buildings and the student dorms, which is what we've been focusing on. So making changes, painting, new flooring, new kitchens, the houses, a big list of what we need to do to improve the dorms. That's been going on since I arrived and I walked around and I was like, 'Oh... no. we need to do better." Whelan reaches out to alumni and donors with the hopes that they will sponsor Wheaton's efforts to improve the campus and make it as nice as possible for **Continue reading on page 4.**

INSIDE: A reflection from Provost McCormack (page four), Head of the Peacock (page six), Meneely's missing printer (page eight), birding (page ten).

Letter from the editor

The last journalists

Dear Readers,

This is, unfortunately, the last letter from the editor I will be writing for the Wheaton Wire. I will be moving on to different things. Reflecting on my time on The Wire, it has been a long journey. I came to Wheaton in 2020, eager to join the paper, setting up a meeting with successful journalist Sidney Murphy, the editor-in-chief at the time. I presented my portfolio from high school to her, not realizing that amidst the COVID-19 chaos, they would accept anyone with a pulse. I accepted my inevitable position as a staff writer and attended the weekly Zoom meetings. Journalism, as I knew it, was changing. No one was "in the field," rather, we were grasping for evergreen cultural commentaries; movie reviews of streaming-only releases. press briefs reiterating informational emails, and opinion pieces... so many opinions.

It was easy to think that this is how things will be for the rest of time, but a new cycle of passionate journalists came in, people who are not afraid to show up and ask hard questions I am more than confident in my successors. Khushi Parikh will take over as editor-in-chief, Moira Sankey as Managing Editor, Amelia Verhar as Head Copy Editor, Deren Sozer as SGA Editor, and Jackson Walsh as Sports Editor.

In light of my job search, I recently re-watched the 1987 film Broadcast News. I had forgotten how poignant and relatable

the characters were. There is a scene where Jane, an anxious

news producer who has regular meltdowns, played by Holly Hunter, is confronted by her coworker:

PAUL: It must be nice to always believe you know better. To think you're always the smartest person in the room.

JANE: No, it's awful.

Broadcast News is a comedy, but it is also a frightening reflection of Journalism personas that still exist today. We still face the same internal dilemmas of what is entertainment and what is news, especially in the rising popularity of visual mediums. As hot-shot anchorman Tom Guntick, played by Willam Hurt, says: "Just remember that you're

not just reading the news, you're narrating it. Everybody has to sell a little. You're selling them this idea of you, you know, you're sort of saying, trust me I'm, um, credible. So when you feel yourself just reading, stop!

Start selling a little." I bring this all up because I am forever thankful for my time on The Wire. I never had to "sell anything" other than the truth. I never had a paycheck on the line, and that is why student publications are where young journalists like me cut their teeth.

Here's to another generation of the truth.

Sincerely, Madison Morin Class of 2024

Letter from the managing editor

I have two vastly different articles in this issue, which is the last issue of The Wheaton Wire I will write for. The first is about the recent protest for Pal-

am grateful to have been a part of The Wire and why I believe

Wheaton Wire Editor-In-Chief

Dear Readers,

student journalism matters.

birding I was struck by how

(the title of the article reflects

this), and I think that local/

campus journalism has a re-

lated effect. Just as knowing

more about the nature around

us makes us feel more present

and inclined to care about con-

servation, I think that learning

more about Wheaton and the

issues that matter to Wheaton

students through the writing

classmates makes me a more

informed member of my com-

munity, and I am better for it.

People deserve to know the op-

erations of their school and to

get information about campus

events from something more

When I was writing about

an easier place to understand for their readers, no matter how small that may be. When covering Wheaton news, especially around free expression on campus this year, that is what I estine during Honors Convohave tried to do — to explain a cation, and the second is about nuanced subject in the best way birding. Both exemplify why I I could.

that seeks to make the world

Three years ago, in 2021, I wanted to write about the surge of strikes happening across the country and The Wire gave me a platform to do that. That was the often paying attention came up first article I ever wrote for The Wire, and it was what I submitted to get my first job as a reporting intern the next summer. It is an example of The Wire serving the purpose that all student newspapers should because I was given a way to discuss and develop an idea that I cared about so others could learn about it too. I hope The Wheaton Wire continues to give students byand reporting of my friends and lines and stories they can submit for jobs, but also a way to write about ideas and events that they care about, a way for Wheaton The other purpose of campus community members to un-

newspapers, like local newspaderstand the campus they live, pers, is to give people informawork, or attend school, a way for tion about their community that people to learn about each other they deserve to have access to. through writing.

> I am grateful to have gotten to be a part of making that happen for the time I was at Wheaton.

reputable than the grapevine or Sincerely, social media. I fundamentally Elsie Carson-Holt believe that communities are Class of 2024 better when we have reporting Wheaton Wire Managing Editor

Letter from the sports editor

It's August 2020. There I am.

a part of this group made it into what it is today. From a tabloid to a broadsheet, this paper has

grown so much since I joined,

and I cannot wait to see what

the future holds for "Norton's

Finest Newspaper" (trademark

pending). Though nothing that

I published over these last four

years was perfect, the tools that

I obtained as a member of this

newspaper allowed me to secure

professional experiences here and

abroad. I have one more piece for

you all to enjoy in this final issue

about a topic I've been itching to

write about since the fall semes-

ter. Though it's not Wheaton-re-

lated, I hope you all learn some-

If I have to leave you with

anything it'd be four words:

WATCH MORE WOMEN'S

Wheaton Wire Sports Editor

some of the most life-changing

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Students protest for Palestine during Honors Convocation

Continued from front page.

of its \$256.2 million dollar endowment. However, Wheaton does not publish a list of institutional investments and although they replied to The Wheaton Wire inquiries saying that they intended to provide a list early this week, they did not send one in time for this issue.

The calls for divestment from students were complicated by the fact that students did not know what companies Wheaton should divest from, as the school has not made the information is not public. Organizers said that they did not reach out to the administration regarding institutional investments.

Most people interviewed at the protest cited the Diana Davis Spencer Foundation and Mars Inc. as companies they would like to see Wheaton cut ties with. Both organizations are major donors to the college, but it is not clear if Wheaton has given or invested any money in either. Mars Inc. is partnered with Jerusalem Venture Partners to

invest in Israeli start-ups and companies, according to a press release from the company. The Diana Davis Spencer Foundation, which has received criticism from students in the past, is the largest donor of Informing America Foundation, which in turn is the largest donor of Accuracy in Media, the organization responsible for the infamous "Harvard Doxxing Truck," according to the left-leaning news organizations The New Republic and The Guardian. The truck displayed the names and photos of anti-Zionist Harvard students and labeled them as "Harvard's Lead-



Photo courtesy of Elias Stevens Student protestors gather in the Dimple with signs.

to Akiba-Hajim that they show their support for the Palestinian cause in some way.

"I'm very Jewish. I'm a product of the State of Israel. I would not exist if my saba and satva, [the Hebrew word for grandparents] did not meet in Tel Aviv. I wanted to be here because, as a Jew, this is a conflict really near and dear to my heart. I just have to say 'This is not in my name,' that what Israel is doing, what Netanyahu is doing—it's not what Judaism is about. It's not what our people are about. We cannot continue allowing the genocide in our name," Akiba-Hajim said.

The protest was in violation of the school's free expression policy, which states that students must receive approval before "planning to host a speech, public assembly, or demonstration.'

In a campus wide email on Monday, May 5, Wheaton's president Michaele Whelan stated, "I regret that the demonstration was held outside a ceremony honorcommunity who were receiving

from 2007-2022. Last year, he received an honorary degree from Wheaton.

Standing near the chapel as students protested was Leonard Breton, the director of the Center for Social Justice and Community Impact. Breton said that he was proud of the students for exercising their First Amendment rights, but "also wants them to do so in the safest and most educated manner possible. I know that today this sort of goes against what Wheaton's policies are." When asked if a culture of

free discussion regarding Palestinian issues existed on campus, Breton said, "As an educator, particularly in social justice, I want to have a more honest conversation about what's going on. And I think we've tried in the Base [a name for the Center of Social Justice and Community Engagement] to do that."

"We tried to get faculty involved. We tried to get students involved last semester. And it kind of got mixed reactions. You ing students and faculty from our know, like some people appreciate it," Breton said. "Some thought we still weren't addressing the issue head on, but how do you address an issue like this that has such a deep history without upsetting someone? And we're trying to find a way to have a conversation without upsetting someone or without offending someone? And I don't know how to answer the question. It's hard." Also standing near Breton were professors Kate Mason and Sabrina Speights. They were planning to attend Honors Convocation, but saw the students outside protesting and decided not to go in. "I had planned to go to the Honors Convocation, but when I got out [of class] and saw how it was looking, I thought 'I see a lot of my students there and I want to sort of witness.' I'm not in the protest, but I also want to make sure that everybody's safe and gets to say what they need to say," Mason said. Professors Brenda Wyss and Fatima Jebari attended convocation but stood with students before and after the ceremony. "I was wondering why [a protest] hadn't happened before... I'm happy to see students speaking up," Wyss said. "It's their right to speak and express their own mind," Jebari added. "Freedom of speech around Palestinian issues is more controlled and less free." "People are really quick to

interpret criticism of Israel's actions as anti-semitism, and to me, they are not the same," added Wyss. Both said they did not feel silenced for talking about Palestinian issues.

"I support what the students are doing, and I wanted them to know," said Wyss when asked why she stood with protestors. "I would like to see an end to what's happening in Gaza...student movements have made so much important change throughout history and I love to see Wheaton students being a part of it."

Celines Ramirez and Antonio Polini, both '24, attended Honors Convocation and then went outside and joined the protest. They had no issue with the protest taking place during the ceremony.

"I thought it was a perfect time...Even though I got an award, it did not affect the procession at all, or the ceremony at all. It did not affect anyone in there really, to be honest, besides the students out here protesting," Ramirez said. "I thought it was the perfect time because this is literally all of the staff and all of the people that we need to be talking to, here in one place."

Polini agreed."There's some singers that went up they had like free Palestine stuff on their [clothes]. So I thought that was cool...And then we came out and joined up with the protest group," he said.

Other students felt that while they supported the cause, they felt that protesting in front of Honors Convocation was the

wrong time and place. "I agree with the pro-Palestinian activism. I do not think this is the move, however," said one student watching the protest from a bench in the Dimple (the student declined to give his name and class year). "I feel like there is no impact to be made on the Wheaton College campus. I also do not feel that protesting the Honors Convocation itself is very effective at getting the message across. A part of me thinks that it's like these people feel like they are powerless to stop genocide happening and so this is what they decide to do."

At the time this article is being

A note from The Wire staff

This issue is the eighth and last publication of The Wire for the 2023-2024 academic year. Over these past two semesters, we've redesigned our layout style and website, created an entirely new publication system, covered campus and world news, given some sometimes much-needed callouts through our unhinged horoscopes, and last but certainly not least, we have done our best to showcase the good and the bad of our beloved college community.

We are looking forward to what next year will bring for The Wire and the opportunities

The Wheaton Wire staff

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it will offer us to provide quali-

ty, well-written news to campus. We will sorely miss the seniors leaving us this year, but wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Thank you all for your hard work, dedication, and outstanding reporting. We will be cheering you on from Norton, MA.

To our readers, thank you for picking us up off of the stands and taking a chance on your college newspaper.

See you in the fall, The Wheaton Wire Staff 2023-2024

Oblivious to what was ahead. Weren't we all as freshmen though?

Dear Wheaton Wire,

Naive. Slightly overwhelmed.

College was an opportunity to explore. I kept asking myself: 'Is this something I'm really passionate about?' Nothing seemed to click, at least in the classroom so I settled for a major I knew was easily transferable to the real world. I joined the Wire on a limp sophomore year, knowing little of what it would entail.

Through interviews, research and long nights piecing it all together into a cohesive piece, I figured out what my path would look like post-grad. I won't give all the credit to The Wire, but it without question played a crucial role in

SPORTS. You'll thank me later. my pursuit of a degree this upcoming fall in sports communica-That's it for me y'all, it's been tions. To the people on The Wire an absolute pleasure. throughout the years who stayed patient with me through the entire Sincerely, learning process, thank you. The Caden Charpentier

eagerness to build something special from everyone who was

Join our staff

The Wheaton Wire is looking for students who are interested in joining our staff this fall. We have a number of possitions open and we are always looking for more issue writers, copy editors, and photographers. The level of commitment varies by position, printing schedule, and personal interest.

thing.

Class of 2024

Have a question, comment, or writing piece for the Editor or Wire staff? Email us at: thewheatonwire@gmail.com.

ing Anti-Semites." The group organizing the protest was also responsible for a campaign that took place in residence halls earlier this semester,

> where organizers went around residence halls and asked students if they wanted to hang up a picture of the Palestinian flag in their window.

Petra Zadroga '25 helped organize the protest and they brought up Wheaton's ties to Mars Inc. When asked how Wheaton specifically is funding genocide, they said, "Mars operates with JVP (Jerusalem Venture Partners), so they can continue to own businesses headquartered on Palestinian land, in line with Israeli laws. It's a kind of corporate hegemonic notion of genocide."

Luka Akiba-Hajim '26 also helped organize the protest, and said that the group chose to protest at Honors Convocation because "it was as good of a time as any, especially with the amount of people here." They said their demands were for Wheaton to disclose where their investments are going and divest from any company affiliated with Israel. Akiba-Hajim and another organizer, who does not wish to be identified, said they considered doing an encampment, which other schools have, but that was

not feasible due to the number of students involved in organizing this rally. Still, it was important

awards that they had earned with dedication and sacrifice.' She also said that when students violate the free expression code it "will result in disciplinary action." The Dean of Students Office declined to comment on this violation. As of now no students have received punishment for their participation.

Whelan also condemned the use of the chant "from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,' stating that it could be considered threatening and fear-inducing to Jewish students, even if that was not the intent. Ezra Golub '26 held a sign that read "Divest Now!" with a picture of the Raytheon symbol crossed out. He said, "I have a crossed out Raytheon symbol because Wheaton needs to cut all of our ties with Raytheon, they're a military company that is making and profiting from the bombs that are killing children in Gaza." His sign called out Diana Davis Spencer, and Keith Peden, a former executive at Raytheon and Wheaton trustee board member. Raytheon is one of the largest military contractors in the United States. "We have too close ties that are actively profiting from the genocide in Gaza. I would like to see that change," Golub said.

Davis Spencer is a lifetime member of Wheaton's board of trustees. Peden was a trustee

written, 2,300 people have been arrested in pro-Palestine demonstrations in the United States, mostly students and some faculty. The most publicized protest that took place at Columbia University, ended last week with the New York Police Department raiding a building occupied by student activists. Activists had overtaken Hamilton Hall and renamed it Hind's Hall, after a six year old Palestinian girl named Hind Rajab from Gaza City. An Israel army tank shot at her vehicle that was fleeing the city and the army killed her family; she remained trapped in the vehicle and her body was found 12 days later. As of last week, Palestinian health authorities report that they are no longer able to count their dead because the hospitals are

barely functioning. The most recent estimates put the death toll in Gaza at 34,000

President Whelan interview

Continued from front page.

the students and community.

During her time working in academic administration, Whelan developed the social and networking skills that are helpful when fundraising. Public speaking has been a constant in her career despite switching from professor to provost to college president. Her experience and practiced ease at public speaking means that it is fun for her to attend and speak at events like commencement.

Aside from graduation, Whele an enjoys many other campus events, ranking Dancefest, Winterfest, and Head of the Peacock as personal favorites. The Holiday Vespers Concert, the Loser Concert, and Symphony Under the Stars were notable mentions on her list. She particularly appreciates events that unite current students, alums, faculty, family members, and the greater

Norton area.

Whelan also frequents athletic games and events, most recently Senior Night for women's lacrosse. She recalled a particularly memorable women's basketball game from her

first year when colleges were still adjusting from the pandemic: "I was the only person in the gym besides the players, and the coaches, and the refs ... so I just clapped for everyone because I felt so badly!"

Whelan's busy schedule does not allow her the time to research or teach, like when she was vice provost at Brandeis. "I would teach at least once a year, which I really liked, and then I got to Emerson, and I was provost, and I had three campuses, and I couldn't teach." When she

arrived at Wheaton, the English department offered the opportunity, but Whelan turned it down. "I said, well, I'd love to teach!

If I had a different job! ... You know, students are here to learn and they don't want to hear that I've got to go give a speech, or sit on a board ... there's not enough time to do that [teach] in fun."

Whelan shared that

non-Wheaton related activities

bike riding. Despite the fact that

mant that she has "zero athletic

talent" when it comes to sports

and activities that require hand-

In addition, she cares for her

two cats, Apollo and Zeus. For

those who are wondering, yes,

they are doing well - despite a

minor tick scare that came with

eve coordination.

the warmer weather.

she enjoys are kayaking and

she used to dance, she is ada-

a way that students deserve." Whelan has, however, managed to attend several different kinds of classes over the past two years. "I like to visit the classes. So I get to go to all these different disciplines including things that I don't know like coding, and calculus, which I did take," she said. "I do not have fond memories of calculus

But it's taught really, really well here!"

When Whelan first began to visit classrooms, she expected to sit quietly and observe but quickly discovered that the faculty would frequently encourage her to provide feedback or contribute to discussions. She found these moments "unexpected but

Photo courtesy of Wheaton College A photo of President Whelan.

Reflections with Interim Provost Karen McCormack

BY EMMA KIERNAN AND MOIRA SANKEY

As this academic year comes to a close, Provost Karen McCormack is finishing her one-year interim provost position. After spending the past three years working in higher education administration as an associate provost and interim provost, she will return to the Wheaton faculty this fall. Provost McCormack was more than happy to share her experiences from her time in Park Hall, reflecting on the growth of academic affairs while she has been in office and the new perspectives she has gained while serving in an administra-

to make the process of creation as easy as possible. As provost, I am able to work with department chairs and program coordinators to help plan for the implementation of these new majors not just in the first year but as they grow and change.

TW: What are some of your biggest accomplishments as provost? What are you most proud of?

KM: I want to say first that everything has truly been a team effort. I am quite proud of the work that the faculty has done to reorganize academic departments because it will create opportunities for more collaboration and increase Wheaton's ability to meet students' needs more effectively in everything from scheduling of classes to the development of new majors. We also launched 5 new majors this year alone--FIVE! While there are some growing pains, students now have more choices and the first year of these programs went quite well because a lot of people worked very hard. There have been many other substantial improvements from Academic Affairs, including the work done by the Registrar's Office on course credit and improving the transfer experience, the work in Advising to better support students on academic probation, the implementation of Canvas for all classes, and the new WheaGo program just to name a few.

know this from orientation and MAP day workshops) and the focus on holistic well-being. The promise of LCDI fits so clearly with Wheaton's motto, "That they may have life and have it make this happen. abundantly," and I am excited fo the whole campus to work with the new AVP to help shape what

TW: Do you feel that your experience as a professor influenced your role as interim provost in any way?

LCDI will become.

KM: Absolutely. Student success is at the core of everything that we do. I have had the opportunity to work with Wheaton students for more than a decade. I've done research with students, traveled to conferences with students, published papers with students. I have always felt privileged to work with Wheaton students and the opportunity to serve in this role allowed me to try to put structures in place to further support students, staff, and faculty.

favorite experience but I do enjoy commencement every year. Being in the provost's office has demystified the work of putting on such a large event and I'm so grateful to all of the staff who

TW: How do you think your experience as provost will affect your teaching/return to teaching?

KM: This is an excellent question. Now that I have a bigger lens through which to see teaching and learning on our campus and beyond, I look forward to trying out many new techniques that I have learned from so many wonderful colleagues. I'm also much more attuned to what

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

My Salute to Emma Hayes, a gem on and off the pitch

BY CADEN CHARPENTIER

Similar to your time at Wheaton, all good times do, eventually, in some way or another come to an end. Whether you like it or not. Serena Williams' dominance in the sport of tennis did. The USWNT's run at the pinnacle of international women's football did. The list goes on. In this fifth month of 2024, we are watching the end of an era in women's club football.

After 12 years of building an undeniable world powerhouse, this is it for Emma Hayes at Chelsea Women. Despite it not being the swan song many, including me, craved, a fifth consecutive league title is still remarkably in the cards after an eventual weekend of football. Even Hayes thought before Sunday that a trophy may not be a possibility.

"I have amazing memories of this football club and we won a lot of things and I'd love to win titles again for Chelsea. But that's not going to be this year I'm afraid," stated Hayes in a time of reflection following the defeat to Liverpool. She may have spoken too soon

as Chelsea thumped Bristol City 8-0 at Kingsmeadow on Sunday evening following a thrilling contest in Manchester where Stina Blackstenius stunned Gareth Taylor's team with two in the waning minutes of the second half.

Amazing memories for sure though. I remember exactly where I was on May 2, 2021, when Fran Kirby sealed the club's first Champions League final berth. Interestingly enough, I was on Zoom in Intro Microeconomics (a class I'm sure left an impression on everyone who took it, and not in a good way). With the game on in the background in the common room, I had to turn off my camera for a good 30 seconds in order to give

the moment a proper celebration. Then, I was back drawing more supply and demand curves.

I remember all the Sam Kerr backflips. The Guro Reiten roars The Ji So-yun pinpoint passes. The Ann-Katrin Berger saves when the team needed them the most. And I'll especially never forget that memorable first-leg of Spain. The joy I've been able to experience because of Hayes exceptional leadership is something I'm forever grateful for.

to women's football or Chelsea, it's difficult to understand the ments she has attained make her incomparable to almost anyone in sport. Maybe Geno Auriemma at UConn or John Wooden back and in Geno's case continues to pitch, Hayes is as vocal as ever. Not once is the ex-Chicago Red Stars' leader afraid of the tough

menstrual cycle, believing that

defensive masterclass on the coast

To someone who isn't attached significance of it all. The achievewith UCLA. Sustained brilliance. It's the trait these three embodied represent on the sidelines. Off the called "small men". She led the came out to witness Hayes' crew way in crafting individual player encounter the Spanish juggerplans around the phases of their naut, Barcelona.

In an interview a while back, the now retired Lioness, Jill Scott had nothing but respect for Hayes, stating, "Every single player that I talk to who has played under Emma just says that her emotional intelligence and how she gets the best out of the players is on another level."

Photo courtesy of Firstpost

Hayes was always that consistent light amid frequent chaos on the other side of the club. Players came and went, but we never saw a hiatus in her success Whenever I needed a pick-meup, there her team was, showing English football who the real queens were.

To sit at the top just once in such an unforgiving sport is impressive in itself. To maintain that hunger for more than a decade is quite astounding. It's a credit to the culture she built since day one at the football club. Nobody demands excellence in all areas of the sport like Hayes. That's just



Emma Hayes at the FA Women's Super League final against Arsenal in Wolverhampton.

it would help control weight and

limit common soft tissue injuries.

gan at pretty much ground zero,

Wheatsheaf Park in Staines with

have their own unique story. You

can't make it up. To put this into

perspective, not even the great

Sir Alex Ferguson reached 15

domestic and European titles

in his first 12 years at the helm

of Manchester United. She has

stood at the top of the English

It took three years into her

time in West London for the club

to go fully professional. Imagine

that. Few took CFCW seriously

at all. They were an afterthought

to the men's side which won the

UEFA Champions League just a

few months prior to Hayes' ar-

top flight in half of the years

since the league began.

clearing water off the pitch at

rollers to eventually fill a case

with 15 trophies, all of which

Hayes built an empire. She be-

5



tion position.

The Wire: What is your dayto-day like as provost?

Karen McCormack: Each day is quite different as a provost. Since we are a small school, there are not a lot of layers between the leadership and faculty, staff, and students. On any given day I might meet with a member of the Board of Trustees, a student, a faculty committee, staff members working on an initiative, etc. The work ranges from big strategic challenges like our accreditation or reimagining academic departments to external partnerships like working with other colleges to develop new opportunities to work with students, staff or faculty about a new idea that they would like to implement or a challenge that they are facing. I can honestly say that I learn something new every day.

TW: What role have you played in the expansion of new programs and faculty?

KM: Before I was the provost, I was involved in the development of the Compass Curriculum as cochair of both the design and implementation teams. As an associate provost and now as provost I have worked with faculty to help create some of our new majors; often this work takes the form of providing support and trying

TW: Are there any upcoming changes to Wheaton you helped create that you are excited to see implemented this fall?

KM: I am particularly excited about the launch of the new Life and Career Design Institute (LCDI). While LCDI will be in the division of Student Affairs under the leadership of Dr. Darnell Parker and the new AVP of LCDI, Sean Schofield, it is truly a cross-divisional initiative between Student Affairs, Advancement, and Academic Affairs. I am a huge proponent of Life Design (some of you

TW: How has serving as provost and professor allowed you to see different sides of the Wheaton community? How has it changed your perspective?

KM: Each role has given me new insight into the challenges and possibilities of a residential liberal arts college. Seeing thing from these varied perspectives has helped me recognize that, most of the time, people are striving to make the community better. We might disagree on the tactics and we might identify the problems differently and we might get frustrated with one another in the process, but that's largely because people care about each other and care about

Wheaton. That knowledge helps me to keep moving forward when the work is challenging. TW: What has been your favor-

ite experience of the Wheaton community or what are you looking forward to during your remaining time as provost?

KM: I don't have a singular

students will need when they graduate and will work to better incorporate experiential learning into all of my classes.

TW: What did you miss most about being a professor? What are you excited to get back to?

KM: I missed working closely with students; I had the opportunity to teach an Inside Out class with Professor Riggs Romaine in fall of 2022. This course was held inside a correctional facility with 8 Wheaton students working alongside 10 incarcerated students. Luckily I've been able to work with students while in an administrative role and I look forward to getting back to this and many other ways to create new opportunities for students. I have also missed the opportunity to start each semester anew. It's hard to see when you're in it, but not many people get to organize their work lives with a fresh start every 4-5 months. I'm reminded of being in primary school where I'd have all of my pencils sharpened and notebooks clean and organized in September, sure that the year ahead would be better than the last. Graduate school and then faculty life continued largely in this way. Now that I've stepped outside of that for 3 years, I will better appreciate the rhythm of academic life.

conversation. She spoke for the betterment of the game, not only demanding more of federations but walking the walk as well. In Hayes' eyes, women are not so-

rival. The English manager made the world care. A few hundred fans showed up to see her first match against Birmingham City in 2012. 12 years later, 39,398

what she does. She doesn't know the definition of the word satisfied. It just isn't in her regular, everyday dictionary. Bar her mother, Hayes didn't

really have any female role models during her childhood, so she made it her mission to show the world what was truly possible. Now, in June she'll have the chance to lead the nation that provided the first true women's player role models in football. Upon her departure from CFCW, Hayes took over the four-time Women's World Cup champions, the USWNT just months prior to the long-awaited major tournament in The City of Light.

The pressure is on the successor. Even with another individual at the wheel next fall, Chelsea and the English game can thank Hayes for constantly raising the bar. "In Emma, We Trust" will surely forever grace the ground in Norbiton.

I know Emma won't be reading this, but a simple thank you doesn't do what you have given this game at the club level justice. Salute to a pioneer. A visionary. Someone who saw what was possible before it was a reality. Someone who didn't wait for change, but instead insisted on manufacturing it. You lifted up people like me, blazing a trail all with a smile, and a ruthlessness that carried CFCW to what we know now as a women's football giant.

An image of Emma Hayes.



Wheaton's thirty-third annual Head of the Peacock

BY EMMA KIERNAN AND JOSHUA NANGLE

On Friday, April 26 Wheaton held the thirty-third annual Head of the Peacock as part of Spring Weekend celebrations.

The Head of the Peacock is a boat race featuring different theme houses, clubs, and student organizations on campus. Any organization can build its own 'boat' and race it on Peacock Pond. The boats vary in size, materials, and floatation abilities.

Some 'boats' were as simple as pool noodles taped to garbage cans, with rowers using winter shovels as paddles. Others had creative themes and complex structures, like the miniature wooden pirate ship with a mast and a sail. "I am always impressed by the creativity of the students and appreciate their enthusiasm and participation in this annual event," said Lisa Yenush, Senior Associate Athletics Director.

Yenush had the opportunity to attend the event this year. She also oversees the event and ensures transitions between races go smoothly. "I think it is a great tradition for the campus and a good kickoff to spring weekend," said Yenush.

Other administrators were in attendance, including Dean of Students Darnell Parker and

President Michaele Whelan. Whelan performed the crucial ceremonial act of shooting the starting pistol to signal the beginning of the competition.

Only two boats can race at a time, so the races last for several hours. There are prizes for one competitor each in the large boat and small boat categories. Throughout the afternoon, hundreds of Wheaton community members came to support their friends and favorite clubs.

Senior Sara Tamara Giraldo felt that this race was especially important given it was her last Spring Weekend. "I'm very sad that this is my

last Head of the Peacock for sure. Before, I had heard of it and seen it from afar but I hadn't stayed longer than like five minutes to see it," said Giraldo.

First year Jadelyn Wilson-Joutras said she was rooting for the pirate ship because her friend Clay Walker was a rower on the ship.

The Farmhouse boat edged out a win against the pirate ship in the first round, but Wilson-Joutras was no fair weather fan. "I think Clay did fabulous, he's amazing," she said after the race was over.

Perhaps controversially, a few students in attendance weren't there to support any Wheaton organizations. Sophomores



Photo courtesy of Joshua Nangle

don ship' and push the remnants

Rourke thought that this per-

sistent struggle between nature

and man was a highlight of the

race. "Honestly just watching

water and the students kind of

fall into the water, I think that's

Ultimately Rushlight, Whea-

home the first prize for the small

House won the big boat catego-

ry. It seemed a soggy but glori-

ous victory for both of them.

the boats kind of fill up with

ton's literary magazine, took

boat races, while Outdoors

the best part," he said.

of the boat back to shore.

President Whelan presenting Outdoors House with an award after the theme house won first prize in the large boat category.

Will Bazin and Kevin Rourke claimed they were rooting for the water.

"The water was given to us by the great earth, and the boats they're a mockery of the water, Bazin said. "They're attempting to conquer what cannot be conquered and their hubris, when they sink, is being put to the test."

The pride and dignity of event participants were indeed at stake. In many races, at least one boat would gradually sink, forcing rowers to either continue in a water-logged state or 'aban-

Wheaton Soccer wins the Cushing Cup

BY SAM FERLAND

The Wheaton College men's soccer team won the fourth annual Cushing Cup, defeating Roger Williams University 1-0

The tournament started in 2020, created by current men's soccer coach Bryan Waggoner and the other coaches of the competing teams, who all have soccer-related connections to

Brandeis first then Roger Williams to finish. The Lyons failed to score against Brandeis, ending the game 0-0 and resulting in a point for each team. Wheaton entered the final game of

victory in the tournament.

Roger Williams with a goal

from captain Ryan Bell, put-

on, and Wheaton finished out the game, winning 1-0. Wheaton won the Cushing Cup with a total of seven points and a record of two wins, one tie, and

no losses. The Lyons hoisted the

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Norton's old library: New beginnings

BY ETHAN PARK

The Old Library, previously Norton's only library, was sold and is being renovated – and will hopefully be a business boom.

In 1886, Eliza B. Wheaton, whom our school is named after, announced to the town of Norton that she'd be donating a library to them. In a letter from the Norton Historical Society archives, she wrote, "I, Eliza B. Wheaton... have caused to be erected a building on a certain lot of land, ... which is adapted and furnished for use as a public library and reading room." In 1888, she presented the Norton Public Library to the town and to Wheaton College, which, at the time, was an all-women's

institution. About a century later, in 1989, a new, more modern library was built, which now sits next to the gazebo on Main Street.

The old library was on the market for 20 days, from April 9 to April 29, 2021 for \$400,000, and was sold by realtor Ed Tartufo to a father/son duo from Easton for \$375,000.

Ed Tartufo works in the Jack Conway firm in Mansfield. When asked about any other involvement in the sale, he mentioned that he would be fulfilling the wishes of former Wheaton College President Dennis Hanno. "[He] wanted very much to have some type of coffee shop close to the campus that students could spend time.'

Dennis Hanno, associate clinical professor at Fordham University and former president of Wheaton College, was the original brains behind any ideas related to future developments of the property. "I participated in several conversations while president about how to create a more lively

Norton downtown close to campus," Hanno said

In the hopes of creating a more lively town environment, the Town of Norton has implemented a new District plan called the Village Center Core (VCC). With that in mind, Tartufo reached out to a family in Easton that he's worked with a few times before: Chris Pernock and his son, Kyle Pernock.

The Easton renovators explained that they took a risk by purchasing the library. "We renovate houses into condos in the area, but we've never undergone the process of restoring historic buildings," Chris said.

Normally, renovating houses or other properties is straightforward. With buildings in historic districts, however, the reconstructions must fit within the guidelines of what the building originally looked like and how it was built.

Over the phone, for instance,

Kyle Pernock mentioned that one of the trickier aspects of the build was the restoration of every window. "Originally, we were going to replace them with the same type of pane and make it look exactly like the originals, but the window sills were too delicate, so rather than replacing the whole thing, we refurbished them to their authentic state," he said.

Despite the complicated procedures, however, the building is expected to be completely restored by the end of May, according to Tartufo. Though it won't be open to the public at that time, both Ed, Chris, and Kyle will undergo the search for tenants who are looking to use the space for public consumerism

Although the original library was a gift from Eliza Wheaton, the current property is "unlikely to have any relationship with the college," according to current President Michaele Whelan.

The Lost Story of Blafan: The creative process of a short film retelling **BY EMMETT ANDERSON**

My creative process is in fact, messy. My photography professor has described my work as "organized chaos." I make photographic work, I make short films, and recently have involved myself in the process of producing and creating music. For the purposes of this article, I would like to explain my creative process through the retelling of my latest short film, "The Lost Story of Blafan."

The initial stages of creation are the hardest. How do you come up with an idea? Creativity isn't something that can be turned on at any moment. Every narrative film begins with a script and it can be quite daunting to come up with a story/world that is completely original. I have learned not to set out to invent something new but to take inspiration from the world that I live in and along the way, look for ways to put my spin on it.



in the final game of the tournament on Saturday, April 13.

The tournament takes place on the Diane Nordin field, consisting of four teams who all play each other once including Wheaton, Roger Williams, Clark University, and Brandeis University. The winner is determined by the team with the most points, which are awarded for each result. A win is worth three points, a tie is worth one, and a loss is worth zero. Games are a total of 50 minutes, with two halves.

The Cushing Cup is a spring tournament in honor of former Wheaton Soccer coach, Matt Cushing, who passed away Aug. 28, 2017. Cushing coached the men's soccer team for 23 years preceding his death, winning eight New England Men's and Women's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) championships. He has a win percentage of 0.722, accumulating 328 wins in his career, and is considered the greatest Wheaton men's soccer coach of all time in the athletics community. Last year Cushing was honored as one of the 2023 inductees to Wheaton Athletics' Yowell Hall of Fame.

"I thought it was a great way to honor our former coach while also competing with others who share the importance of this tournament," said player Leao Nelson.

Cushing. Clark coach Matt O'Toole was one of Cushing's assistant coaches at Wheaton. Brandeis coach Gabe Margolis and Roger Williams coach James Greenslit both played for Cushing at Wheaton in the past, whose team reached the NCAA tournament final four in 2003. Wheaton has won the Cushing Cup the past four

ting the Lyons ahead within 10 minutes of the first half. With years, sharing the 2023 cup as minutes left in the game, the field lights shut off and the field co-champions with Brandeis. This year caps off their fourth darkened. Despite this unexpecttournament victory. The first ed obstacle, the teams played game of this year's tournament kicked off as Wheaton played Clark with Cushing's son, Connor Cushing, playing in the

midfield for the Lyons. "It was cool to see my dad's inner circle all together creating a tournament in his memory and to see how much he meant to his former players to make them pursue a career in coaching," said Connor Cushing.

Clark suffered an own goal within five minutes of the first half giving the Lyons an early lead. Avery Dinham followed with a strike, giving Wheaton a 2-0 lead and Baden McLaughlin tucked away the final goal, sealing the win at 3-1.

Brandeis, Clark, and Roger Williams all played each other leaving the last two games to be played by Wheaton, who played the tournament with four points, cup into the air, as the last light facing a first-place Roger Wilof day left Nordin field.

"The team's hard work and liams team that earned six points by defeating Clark and Brandeis grind this spring season brought Wheaton needed a win to claim us all together to be in the same space where we could go out Wheaton scored first against and win the tournament," said captain Ethan Alfano.

> "Knowing the reputation that Coach Cushing has for Wheaton athletics and trying to embrace the qualities he has left in the program on and off the field, give me a great sense of pride to play at Wheaton," said player Ben Kane.



Photo courtesy of Wheaton men's soccer Instagram The team celebrating after their victory, Saturday, April 13, 2024.

The Story

For those who don't know, 73 Questions is a series on the Vogue YouTube channel that asks celebrities to answer 73 questions. I had a number of questions on my mind about the series, such as; Why is this series so popular? Who created 73 Questions? Why 73 questions, why not 50 or 100? One day, hunched over my

computer in the nicer school dining hall, I put an end to my wondering. I did a Google deep dive, I scoured the Internet Archive, and I was taking it all in. In my discovery, I found that Condé Nast Entertainment is the video production company of the mass media company Condé Nast, and it produces videos for Condé Nast's more well known brands; GQ,

Vogue, WIRED, Vanity Fair, etc. After working as a video artist for many years, Joe Sabia was approached by Condé Nast to produce a video featuring Sarah Jessica Parker. His idea, to ask Parker a series of rapid fire questions in her own home, was popular with executives in the company and it turned out to be a successful format for Vogue's



Color Blocks by Emmett Anderson.

YouTube audience.

Unfortunately, computer algorithms reflect the human biases of the material they are fed. A recent academic study conducted by Emmelle Israel found that "editorial gatekeepers at Conde Nast did not think video pitches featuring people of color – specifically Black women – would appeal to advertisers or viewers."

As reported by Business Insider in 2020, Condé Nast Entertainment executives use a system called a "scale check" to compare a video pitch against long-term historical data along with the

Photo courtesy of Emmett Anderson

input of executives. This system reinforced the systemic biases of the executives with the biases of an algorithm leading to POC being excluded from videos. This follows a long history of legacy media companies excluding and exploiting POC.

With that being said, how could I create a story about the business of new media, capitalism, and exploitation? I decided the best way to approach writing this story would be to tell it from the perspective of an executive, satirizing the company itself to criticize its history of exploitation. I use comedy in the performance of the characters and in the editing to cover a difficult and ignored topic. The film is in the form of a documentary because it affords multiple viewpoints. It also allowed a great deal of control over the narrative in editing through the use of titles.

I am and always have been a big fan of computers and technology, but I am also an advocate for it to be used responsibly, and I see the Silicon Valley status quo of "move fast, break things" to be increasingly irresponsible

and less helpful than it once was. OpenAI's Chat-GPT was rushed to the market before it had proper guard rails, which prompted every major tech company to react fast. Similarly to generative AI, the character Blafan is prone to hallucinations, her hardware is buggy and prone to interference, and her general mood is unstable. Despite these flaws, Blafan is remarkably human. I was fortunate enough to have Claire Anderson, my sister, play Blafan. She really brought the quirky robot to life.

So that is a look into my creative process of making "The Lost Story of Blafan," my first attempt at using comedy to explore more complex issues. The film is certainly not perfect in exposing the issue of systemic racism in corporate new media. The articles I mentioned earlier appear on screen for only a few seconds. But this is my first attempt at writing a screenplay that touches on such a problematic issue. I hope that the film can prompt viewers to make connections about algorithms, generative AI,

and systemic racism in a format

that is also entertaining.

The Most Important Student Printer is Gone

BY SAM FERLAND

The former location of the Meneely printer below the elevated bulletin board, Saturday, March 24, 2024

The removal of the Meneely printer left most students in a playwriting class unable to submit their first assignment, leaving their professor aghast to start the spring semester.

Playwriting students arrived empty handed for their second class of the semester, expecting to print their assignment before class only to find the printer was gone. "I would often wait to print out

papers to turn in right before my class started," said playwriting student Cade Tavares. "This semester, when I have tried to do the same I have been late for classes."

Conversations began as students filled English professor Charlotte Meehan's introductory playwriting class, complaining about the removal of the printer.

Meehan took time out of her class instructing students to each send an email to the Dean of Students, Darnell Parker, regard- difficult." ing the printer's removal.

With the removal of the printer from Meneely, all printers

reside on the side of campus that primarily houses upperclassmen. "All of the printers are on one

side of campus: at the library and in the Discovery Center. Many students exclusively have class on the other side of cam-

pus," said student Olivia Burdash. "It's inconvenient for them to go to the other side of campus to print out material."

Parker said that printers were removed in certain locations with "more efficient machines," and that the Dean of Students Office wanted to, "recognize our environmental commitment to decrease the number of copies of paper being printed."

This removal has raised concerns from students due to the high amount of printing that was done in Meneely. There is a printer in the English administration office located in Me-

neely, only for staff use. "Removing one printer won't decrease printing," said student Emily Huntington, "People will just have to walk to the other printers now, making it more

"Although I understand wanting to move towards using less paper, many of the classes

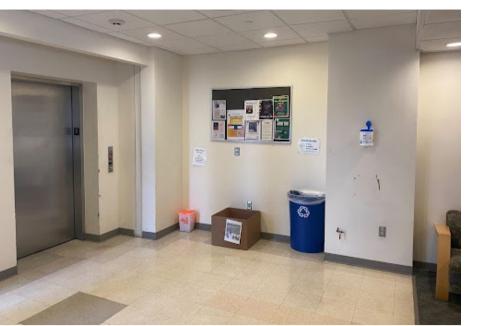


Photo courtesy of Sam Ferland The former location of the Meneely printer below the elevated bulletin board, Saturday, March 24, 2024.

which rely on paper copies are creative or discussion focused. Reliance on phones and laptops in these types of classes hinders engagement and makes for a worse classroom experience," said playwriting student Jameson Gillihan. Gillihan also raised concern over the strain disabled students may have to experience traveling from printers to class. Dean Parker said there was a

new printer on the first floor of Watson, the building seconds from Meneely. However, students who tried to use it were

informed it was not for students. "In terms of Meneely, we are working to see what options are available to address student concerns in that area," said Parker.

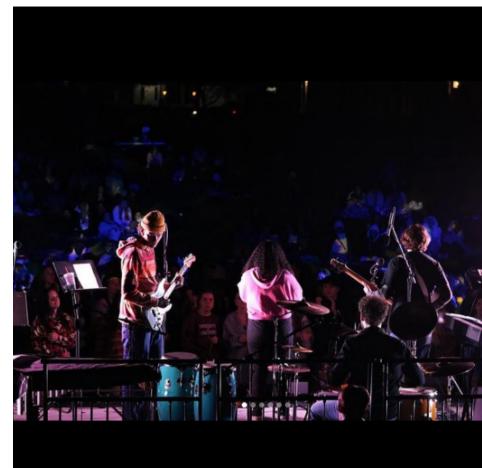
8

Opposing most students' beliefs, there is a printer located on the second floor of Meneely. It can be found inside room A222, a graphic design studio at the back of the room, behind a chalkboard. Students are free to use this printer, when there is no class in session.

Spring weekend 2024 photos



Photo courtesy of Wheaton Events Board Instagram The cover page of the Spring 2024 issue of Rushlight, one of Wheaton's literary magazines.



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Photo courtesy of Wheaton Woodstock Instagram Stealing Stereos performing at the Wheaton Woodstock on Saturday, April 27. Stealing Stereos and Moss Creek were the two headliners for the event.



The Wheaton College Dance Company's 'Dimensions' Showcase

BY MARGUERITE BARTLETT Baran '27, and Summer Ramos '27.

The Wheaton College Dance Company dazzled audiences with its annual performance, titled "Dimensions," which ran from Thursday, April 18 to Saturday, April 20. Directed by Cheryl Mrozowski and artistically directed by Andrea Taylor-Blenis, this year's spring show presented an array of captivating performances. As a prominent dance group within the Wheaton community, the Dance Company showcases a blend of ballet, modern, contemporary, and jazz genres.

Senior Co-Captain Polis-

key said that one of the best parts about the Wheaton College Dance Company is "the friendships you form." Poliskey also said that dancing

differences. This dance focused on the differences between each other, embracing our unique characteristics and celebrating these differences. Junior Alves said, "There

star" celebrates individual

were so many dances," and

audience to the joys of life, portraying a journey where the destination may be uncertain, yet it resonates as a place of belonging.

"To Build a Home," choreographed by Fitzgerald, serves as an homage to her time with

This year's members include Eve Poliskey '24, Syd Alves '25, Nat Gibbs '25, Emerson Stout '25, Addie Busacco '26, Cassandra Heleen '26, Emma

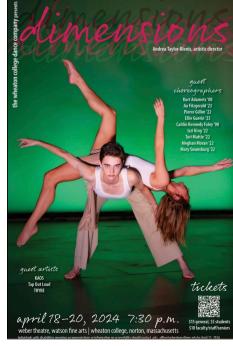


Photo courtesy of the Wheaton Dance Company Instagram The poster for the dance performance,"Dimensions."

with the company serves as an outlet for her, where she can leave everything else outside the studio and those stressors in her dance, fueling her performance.

Alumni guest choreographers included Kurt Adametz '08, Jia Fitzgerald '23, Pierce Gillim '22, Ellie Guerin '23, Caitlin Kennedy Foley '98, Izzi King '22, Tori Mattie '22, Meghan Moran '22, and Mary

Swansburg '22. Wheaton Students choreographed nine performances. Additionally, dance groups KAOS, Tap Out Loud, and TRYBE will be performing

numbers alongside the Wheaton Dance Company. Throughout the performance, pieces delved into the multifaceted nature of human experience, exploring the various "dimensions" within oneself. These choreographed works aim to showcase and embrace all aspects of the self, liberating individuals from expectations and fostering a deeper understanding of personal identity.

For instance, Gillim's choreography in "Alien Supereach dance was so different, so picking a favorite is definitely hard. But "The Chain" choreographed by Poliskey, "Is it Enough" choreographed by Junior Stout, and Mattie's piece, "Learning to Fly," were

her favorites. Swansburg's choreography

of "Of Two Minds" seeks to embrace different aspects of one's personality, fostering confidence and security. She said, "It's an expression and embrace of all of those different aspects (of our personality) as we learn to be secure and confident with our place

in the world." King's choreography of "Crop Circles" aims to capture the essence of nurturing the inner light and embarking on a journey of self-discovery.

> Guerin's "Runnin" highlights the crucial role of selflove during difficult times. Through the dance piece, Guerin encapsulates how escaping from challenges will never lead to the love and happiness one deserves; true fulfillment must stem from within.

In Moran's choreography of "Borealis," she transports the

the Wheaton Dance Company. Fitzgerald said, "This piece encapsulates the precious but bittersweet feeling I get when looking back on all the memories made (with Wheaton Dance Company)," evoking nostalgia and reflection.

The Wheaton College Dance Company is the only on-campus dance group that offers class credit for participation. The Wheaton Dance Company holds auditions each semester, offering opportunities to join the group. Auditions typically take place at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters in September and January, respectively. Practices are held in the evenings Monday through Thurs-

day from five to seven. The Wheaton College Dance Company's "Dimensions" promised a mesmerizing showcase, embodying the spirit of creativity and self-discovery. Tickets were priced at fifteen dollars for general admission, ten dollars for faculty, staff, and seniors, and five dollars for Wheaton students.

Photo courtesy of Wheaton Events Board Instagram A Wheaton student enjoying the balloon animals at the Carnival on Friday, April 26 during Spring Weekend.

Photo courtesy of Wheaton Events Board Instagram Moss Creek performing at the Wheaton Woodstock on Saturday, April 27. Moss Creek and Stealing Stereos headlined the event while Wheaton community members gathered to watch.



Photo courtesy of Wheaton Events Board Instagram Two students showing off their Spring Weekend shirts. Each year a unique shirt is designed to celebrate this Wheaton tradition.



Photo courtesy of Wheaton Events Board Instagram On Thursday, April 25 Wheaton held an outdoor movie night. Students gathered out on the Dimple to sit on blankets, eat popcorn, and watch "How To Train Your Dragon" on a massive projector screen.

On birding and paying attention

BY ELSIE CARSON-HOLT

On a humid and gray day in late April, one of the sections of Jessie Knowlton's ornithology class stands crowded around the edge of a pond in Caratunk Wildlife Refuge in Seekonk, MA. Most people's binoculars are pointed towards a tree in the distance, some murmuring excitedly, others standing silently in concentration, almost everyone holding their phones in one hand, recording bird calls.

The group stops because someone has spotted a Summer Tanager — a bird relatively rare for the Northeast, flying around a large tree that hangs over the pond. Knowlton and a few particularly passionate students debate whether or not the bird may be a cardinal.

"No black eye mask," one student says. "And it's not behaving like a cardinal. It has to be a Tananger. The people on eBird are not going to believe it."

The group reaches a consensus that the bird they spotted is in fact a Summer Tanager, as someone took a picture with their binoculars and phone camera that shows clearly it lacks the black eye mask that a cardinal has.

The student who spotted the Tanager is ecstatic. "This one is a lifer for me!" They say. "I don't care what happens for the rest of the day."

I am on the trip to Caratunk because of a development I had noticed among my friend group: a random interest in birding. Most of my friends have downloaded an app called "Merlin" which records bird calls and then identifies the species. This includes the ones who study science and are in Knowlton's class, as well as my friends who have not, up until now, expressed any interest in birds or birding at all. Knowlton's ornithology class, which started out as a junior-level class, used to have only one section. This year, the class size doubled and she had to split the lab groups into two different sections and teaches as many seniors and juniors as first-years and sophomores. Every week, the students go birding as a group either in the Wheaton Woods or in nature preserves near Wheaton. Knowlton has also noticed this newfound interest in birding, evident by the increase in students who take ornithology. She attributed this to birding being a way to destress and seeing more news outlets cover it, as well as people having more time to spend outside during the pandemic. Knowlton also says that the Merlin app has played a big role in making birding more accessible. Merlin is powered by Ebird, the world's largest database of bird sightings, sounds, and photos. It was developed and is run by Cor-

"I think you could make a really strong argument that birding is the most accessible outdoor activity. You can be in the most remote parts of the world, and there are birds around you" she said. "You don't need any special equipment. you only need yourself. You can bird with your eyes, you can bird with your ears, you don't need binoculars, you don't even need

Merlin...you can just enjoy birds wherever you are." According to data provided by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology,

Merlin has 982,500 eBirders and 1.7 billion observations — it is citizen science taking place on a massive scale.

"We've been able to make new types of analyses that have just not been possible before, like just not at this scale. We can't possibly have a biologist in every single town, in every single county, in every single state. But we have almost a million eBirders, volunteer citizen scientists who are

kind of doing the same thing for us and are really, really helping us help birds in that way" Smith said.

"I think the fact that Merlin is an app and not a book or like its own separate device is so helpful for people, who aren't already connected with nature and birds. They're much more likely to try out if it's on their phone," Smith said. "It's so easy to just, you know, you're scrolling through Instagram or whatever and you see someone shared a screenshot of Merlin and be like, 'Oh, I'll

download that really fast. It's free."" One of the biggest benefits

of Merlin making birding more accessible that both Smith and Professor Knowlton see is how diversity within the birding community has greatly increased

"I think a lot of time with less mainstream hobbies like birding. you get a lot more queer people because it's, you know, it's a place where you can make your own community" they said. One of the other surprising things about the increased inter-

est in birding is how connected it seems to be to technology. It is undeniable that carrying an iPhone on you at all times has brought us farther away from the natural world. But Merlin seems

to be doing the opposite. Most of the birders I talked to brought up how Merlin had made them pay closer attention to nature. Aidan Connor '24 is not a science student, nor is he in Knowlton's ornithology class. He downloaded Merlin after seeing an owl in the Wheaton Woods, an experience he describes as "amazing."

"When I saw the owl for the first time I was like, 'oh my god, like if you actually pay attention and you can just see cool ass birds so easily.' I was just missing out on that," Connor said.

He agreed that Merlin has helped make him feel closer to nature. "Without the app, I would not be able to do this... appreciate all these birds. It has made me want to go out into the woods and just go listen for birds. I think the technology of this app has allowed me to connect more with the outdoors which seems kind of contrary to what technology is."

Connor said when he went home to Maine for spring break he used Merlin in his backyard, and within the span of an hour he had identified 22 different kinds of birds.

"I was like 'holy shit.' There are that many birds just around me right now. And I wouldn't have ever known without the app.

noticing the world around me for a long time—something that I have lost as I've gotten older. When I was a child growing up in the Pacific Northwest, the vast majority of my days not in school were spent playing in a forest or at the beach, becoming intimately aware of the way sea stars clung to a rock, the kinds of animals that exist in a tide pool, the flow of a stream and the life cycle of a salmon.

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As I sat there, a brown bird with a large beak landed on a branch of the tree I was sitting under. I watched it for several minutes, and in that time, it became important to me that I know something about it. I opened up Merlin and started recording its song. Merlin identified the bird as a Northern Flicker, a member of the woodpecker family that is found in most of North America, parts of Central America, Cuba, and the Cayman Islands. It is one of the few woodpecker species that migrate.

Sitting there over the course of the next couple of hours, I recorded over a dozen species of birds on my phone. As I did, I noticed more and more how the sounds around me engaged with each other: how the high pitched chirping of a Song Sparrow sounded markedly different from

the whistle of a Brown Cowbird. Both fell under the category of "birdcall" but they had meaning now, they were no longer ubiquitous. I felt like I knew the world around me in a way I had not just an hour before.

According to Cornell Ornithology Lab, North American bird populations have declined by nearly three billion individuals since the 1970s. While noticing the birds around was, for me, a way to feel more present in nature, it is an urgent way to inspire conservation for Smith, Darmstadt, and Knowlton. Knowlton said it's important that people know the birds around them."If people don't appreciate them, then they won't care when species go extinct or when the population size reduces drastically." "It's up to the point where a lot of species could go extinct in the next few decades. And if people aren't aware of the birds around them, then they won't notice that there's a problem, right?" When I asked Smith why she liked birds, she told me the story of when she visited Cape May, NJ in middle school on a field trip. On that field trip, she saw migrating shorebirds that were making their way from South America to Canada where they nest in the tundra. On the way north, they stop in Delaware bay and eat horseshoe crabs to fuel their journey. "And that was like the coolest thing ever for me, as a 12 year old in New Jersey, that there are birds that eat crab eggs and there's an entire species that depends on that...It's still the coolest thing ever, they're still my favorite birds. I was totally hooked after that and I ended up going to college for wildlife science," She said. "birds are so inspiring in so many ways. I'm still drawn back to that."

yeah.

W: She is.

Phazed and Confused: An exclusive interview

BY VENUS ANANI

How about Wheaton Woodstock, huh? Wasn't that just a flurry of good vibes and excitement? If you've ever thought to yourself, "Wow! Those music people are just the coolest! I wonder what they're like off the stage?" Then look no further. I had the lovely opportunity of getting to know four of the wicked bands that graced our ears with their sounds. Here is one of those interviews, but be sure to check out the audio recordings as well. Those are really something else!

This interview features Walker on piano, Adrian on bass, Thomas on drums, Charlotte on mallets and auxiliary, and Andrew on trumpets. Missing are members Gardy (guitar) and Ben (on piano).

Venus Anani: So, pretty obligatory opening question: How's the preparation for Woodstock going?

Thomas: I mean, I think our preparation is a little bit different than other bands for Woodstock because we're a more, like, official school band, so we've been playing together, some of us, for multiple years, and this crew, the whole year.

Walker: And we have, like, set faculty-led time, every Friday, at least. Along with this block that we, like, have always been rehearsing with.

Andrew: And, a lot of the music we've been playing, we've been playing the whole year, so it''s not-we haven't just been preparing the last month, it's been like, it's been a whole year of weekly rehearsals.

you into school band is less of a fond memory, but maybe it could be, so...

AN: Well, my whole family is very musical, my sisters were doing, like, classical music lessons when I was a wee child, but then I started playing trumpet when I got into like, when I came of age in the elementary school, like, public school system, and then I did private lessons basically right away. And then it's just been private lessons and now music major ever since then. So, I compose music, and I've mainly done Jazz, so.

A: I started playing bass kind of on a whim in eighth grade because there was a, like silent auction thing at my synagogue for charity, and, uh, they had bass lessons with. I think, a bassist for like a local Irish rock band, and I still haven't gotten those lessons, by the way! I won them, I still haven't gotten them! My dad...lost his phone number, I think!

Charlotte: [jokingly] That's what they all say–

A: But, um, they were like "Well, if you're getting lessons with this guy who's, like, fa-lowkey famous, you should actually know the instrument beforehand" so I started taking [Laughter] private lessons, borrowed a bass from a family friend, and got really into it- [laughing] and then, I did some pop and rock stuff, stuff like that, I did that through the music store that I was taking lessons in, and then sophomore year of high school, I joined the graduate. high school jazz band, and I have been playing jazz ever since. VA: Good luck with that. W: Yeah! We're both gonna AN: Crazy way to start playing. graduate [referring to Adrian]! W: I know, right, yeah.

A: I feel like it was cool that we had, like, similar jazz first–

so I have a very big marching background. I'm kind of new to this whole jazz thing, um, and hopefully-I feel like I'm contributing something a little new, at least a little texture, um, but

C: Thank you, Walker.

W: Um, my mother played the piccolo in the coast guard band, um, but other than that, that's all the music in the family, I would say...

VA: That's where it ends?

W: Yeah, that's where it ends... I've been playing in, like, jazz bands and regular school bands all this time, and that's just kind of where I found my love for it and was like...

AN: Why didn't you bring that up in senior sem today? We were talking about military bands!

W: I know! But it's a coast guard band-

AN: I literally talked about the Coast Guard specifically!

W: Well, yeah, other than that, I didn't take a lesson until college, which, I wish I took a lesson sooner after taking a lesson in college, um, but yeah, now I'm here, and I'm gonna

VA: How many are–you both

just doing it early [referring to

senior sem]. I'm a junior.

VA: So what have been, um,

your favorite performances

last six months?

go-to play, first.

very fun-

be mine.

[Laughter]

right out.

cuse, sounds great.

T: To see or to play?

so far? In the last six months?

What has really stood out in the

A: I-I mean, I'm happy anytime

I get an excuse to pull the up-

W: Yeah, right, right. Good ex-

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W: You knew it so well, too! AN: I–my favorite performance was probably the concert we did with Will Mason, um, because he stepped in to direct the jazz band for a little bit, and, oh, I

guess that technically wasn't us, that was The Jazz Band, although we did perform in that concert-

T: No, yeah, I think it was just any performance he did.

AN: Yeah, so I would pick that one, just cause for me it was a very eye-opening experience. And working with him is always amazing...and then, favorite concert I've been to, um, so I recently went to my FIRST EVER pop music concert...

VA: How was that?

AN:...um, technically not first ever, but, first ever pop music experiential concert. So, I went to an AJR concert and my sister got us pit seats. Which is way different than the concerts I'm used to. I think the reason I really liked it was 'cause as a band, they put a lot of emphasis on, like, the performance aspect vs just the music aspect, and their music is also very unique compared to a lot of other pop music, which is why I like it 'cause I usually don't like other pop music, and the construction of it is very interesting, too.

A: In terms of favorite I've seen here recently–we all, like, as a band, went to Will Mason's live recording-

nell Lab of Ornithology Alli Smith is an ornithologist who works at Cornell Lab of Ornithology and a coordinator for the Merlin app. Like Knowlton, she has also seen more people become involved in birding and thinks that the app has made it easier for people of all backgrounds to bird.

since Smith started birding as a child in New Jersey.

Smith sees "a shift happening in the birding community. Just from the communities I'm in on social media, I see so many more different people joining the birding world, which is really cool. I think it's becoming more of a cool thing to do," she said. "There are definitely more like young birders clubs around than when I was a young birder and

looking for others that were like me in New Jersey." Besides more young birders clubs, there is also ACAB

(Anti-Racist Collective of Avid Birders), Feminist Bird Club, and Queers of a Feather, all of which are groups for underrepresented birders in the greater New England area. While I had always associated birding with rich retirees, it seemed like the birding community had become increasingly diverse. On Knowlton's birding field trip, the class was full of female and visibly queer students. I pointed out the demographics

I had noticed to Charlie Darmstadt '24. Darmstadt is the founding president of Wheaton's birding club, which was established in 2021, and currently has 75 people on its roster.

"Yeah, it's pretty gay to like birds," Darmstadty said. "A lot of the people I know who like birds are queer.'

It's made me more knowledgeable and aware of my surround-

ings. It's honestly making me listen more and pay attention more to like what's happening around me...It makes me appreciate the different life that's here."

In her book "How to Do Nothing," author Jenny Odell looks at the ways in which technology and social media has isolated us from nature and each other, and how we can find our way back. The book largely ends up being about how to pay attention to the world around you.

Odell writes about birding as a practice to improve our attention spans.

"Bird-watching is the opposite of looking something up online....what amazed me and humbled me about bird-watching was the way it changed the granularity of my perception. At first, I just noticed birdsong more. Of course, it had been there all along but now that I was paying attention to it, I realized it was almost everywhere, all day, all the time."

The first time I used Merlin was one Sunday a few weeks ago, in which I spent several hours sitting in a field on a picnic blanket during a particularly warm and sunny day. Between working 20 hours a week, attending class, doing homework, and applying

for jobs, I hadn't spent multiple hours just existing in nature and Adrian: There's nothing, like, totallyyy new for Woodstock. Yeah.

VA: Nothing totally new for Woodstock...So, you said that you guys have been-some of you, at least, have been rehearsing together for a few years, so-

AN: Thomas, Walker, and I all joined at the same time, and Adrian, this was the year before that.

A: I've been playing with the combo since Freshman year, so.

W: So has Gardy and, basically, Ben. They're not here, but...

Band Members: [overlapping] conversation and laughing] Ben only joined–He joined this year, but he was in the jazz band, he knew the music.

VA: OK, so this is really just, like, a 'get to know you' interview, so I would love to know what your musical histories were in the past, growing up...if you had, like, parents that really were champions of playing music all around the house, or, kind

of, I don't know, I guess forcing T: [jokingly] Not yet.

VA: Hope you get those [Irish rock band] lessons soon.

T: Um...yeah, my family, and extended family, very musical, so I've grown up with it...for my whole life. I started playing drums-like, I've played drums for basically all 20 years of my life, and then, 8th grade as well, I picked up bass for the first time and I've added instruments, um, basically every year since, um...all the stuff I own...more jam-band centric tastes rather than jazz, but, there's some cross over there.

C: Um, my family is pretty musical, my dad has a drummer for-EVER, and he actually, um, sophomore year of college, he dropped out to tour with his band across the country, it was really amazing, and I have a lot of wisdom from him in that way, and I followed in his footsteps, um–not by dropping out

are seniors? Is it just you and-AN: And Gardy–I'm not. I'm

bring to this crew is based in my

of college-

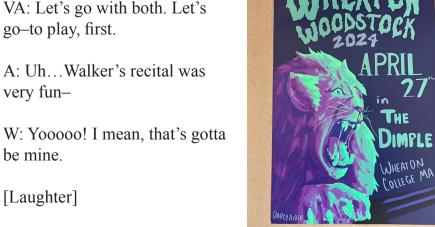
[Lots of "sick!" "so cool!"]

VA: Could you guys talk a little bit more about Will Mason? You said it was an eye-opening experience. What got revealed?

You can learn all about Will Mason, Phazed and Confused, and three other amazing bands through the attached audio recordings on wheatonwire.com. Give them a listen - I'm sure you won't regret it!

-OP PRESENT * HEATON WOODSTOCK APRIL THE

Photo courtesy of Wheaton Woodstock Instagram The secret backside of the Woodstock '24 poster.



End of semester information

SPRING SEMESTER DATES & DEADLINES

May 11: Halls close at 8 p.m. for those not approved for Senior Week or Summer Housing.

May 12: Approved late departures leave by 10 a.m. for non-Senior Week or Summer Housing students.

May 18: Halls close at 5 p.m. for those that were approved for Senior Week. May 19: Approved late departures leave by 10 a.m. for Senior Week students. May 22: Summer Housing moves completed

MOVE-OUT PROCE-DURES

Halls officially close for any student not approved for Senior Week or Summer Housing on May 11 at 8 p.m. Residential students have, at the most, 24 hours after the completion of their last final exam to leave campus.

Any student, including graduates, wanting to stay during Senior Week MUST complete the Extended Stay request form by May 1.

Failure to complete the form and receive a confirmation will result in losing key card access starting on May 11.

ROOM & ACADEMIC

Keys must be returned prior to your departure. Place ALL KEYS in the envelope that your RA gave you the week of 4/29. Extra envelopes are available at key drop box locations listed below. All personal belongings must be removed.

Please be cognizant of emptying your entire room when you leave campus. Access to your spring room will not be available.

GO THROUGH THE CHECKLIST

- Check your drawers for items such as chargers, passports, and medications.
- Command strips and tape have been left on the walls.
- If a microfridge was rented, it has been cleaned and left in the hallway next to your door.
- All college furniture is placed back into the room and original states.
- Each residential student is responsible for the following college furniture being placed back in the state it was found upon move in:
 - Desk
 - Desk chair
 - Dresser
 - Bed frame
 - Mattress
 - Common area furniture
 - Doors & windows
 - Trash and recycling are emptied.
 - Lights are turned off.
 - Room/suite/house door(s) are closed

Crossword answers from 4/17

Across:

- 1. Arthur isn't just a dog, he's _____. \rightarrow The King
- 3. Milly Bobby Brown's a different type of princess \rightarrow Damsel
- 5. Who would've thought Kevin Hart would pull of a heist without laughing \rightarrow Lift

7. Apparently part of it was filmed at Chase Dining Hall \rightarrow Challengers

9. Writer turned real spy? Count me in! \rightarrow Argylle

- 11. Not your typical Texas steakhouse \rightarrow Road House
- 13. Drive Away from these women \rightarrow Dolls

15. It's a typical shark movie, but replace shark with a lion \rightarrow Prey

17. A remake that was DEFINITELY not our mother's movie \rightarrow Mean Girls

19. Who would thought you can't swim in your own backyard pool! \rightarrow Night Swim

- 21. Dating is a team sport now \rightarrow Players
- 23. If you do your homework, part two is worth it \rightarrow Dune
- 25. A plane!? On the bottom of the ocean!? ShArKs!? \rightarrow No Way Up
- 27. This creepy teddy bear is not in your head \rightarrow Imaginary
- 29. It's about time she got her own documentary \rightarrow Frida

Down:

2. This Mercury won't kill ya, but make you feel alive! \rightarrow Freddie

4. Jack Black's back. For the fourth time. Let's. Go. \rightarrow Kung Fu Panda

6. Awe guys, Jason Statham's making organic honey now. He's a homesteader! \rightarrow Beekeeper

- 8. It's no longer just a news special \rightarrow Sixty Mins
- 10. A rom-com about synesthesia \rightarrow Musica
- 12. A dead guy and a wolf man = best friends! \rightarrow Come Together
- 14. Supposed to be the horror movie of the year \rightarrow Immaculate
- 16. A Lion King origin story? Okay Disney! \rightarrow Mufasa
- 18. This stuntman just really loves Autumn \rightarrow Fall Guy
- 20. He doesn't fight much in this fight club \rightarrow Monkey Man
- 22. You're a wizard, Aren \rightarrow TASOMN
- 24. We definitely won't be in Kansas anymore when this movie

Please confirm the information on the envelope: 1. Your Name — Last Name, First Name (Chosen Name) 2. Your Wheaton ID Number 3. Your building and room number

Once you are ready to leave your room, please return your keys to a designated Key Drop Location.

You are responsible for returning your keys. DO NOT give them to friends or roommates to return for you. DO NOT leave them in your room.

Failure to return your keys before leaving campus will result in a \$90 fee for the locks to be changed.

PERSONAL BELONG-INGS

and locked.

ALL KEYS are put in a labeled envelope and turned into the locksmith, Campus Safety, or an on-campus key box. Students should fill out the Spring 2024 Check Out Confirmation Form to let Residential Life know that you have left campus and returned your key. Failure to complete the checklist in its entirety may result in an improper checkout fee. Students may also be responsible for additional charges if college property is damaged or there are missing furniture items.

KEY DROP LOCATIONS

Balfour Hood - Mailroom (8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.) Locksmith - Physical Plant (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. M-F) Campus Safety Office (24/7) Pine Hall - Inside Conger Commons (24/7) drops \rightarrow Twisters

26. He Gets Bigger \rightarrow Garfield

28. It wasn't always A Quiet Place... \rightarrow Day One

30. They were murdered, but they're NOT dead \rightarrow Crow

Unhinged horoscopes

BY RYLEIGH SEUFERT

Aries (March 20-April 19) Listen to some Lana by the beach at dusk.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Go on a hike with someone you haven't seen in a while.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) They said you need to go to summer school for being too nonchalant.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) Cry at an amusement park.

> Leo (July 23-August 22) Find a cute boat boy.

Virgo (August 23-September 22) Try to avoid burns from the sun and people's tears. Libra (September 23-October 22) Take a deep breath. And then another one. And then get ice cream.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21) It's time for a hot girl summer queen, drop that boy.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 20) Take a break from social media (forever).

Capricorn (December 21-January 19) Touch grass and get stung by a wasp.

Aquarius (January 20-February 17) Block the ex and post a cute pic by the pool.

Pisces (February 18-March 19) Don't forget to put sunscreen on your tattoos.