



# The Wheaton Wire

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Volume LVI, Issue #9

## Dining Services plans changes to Chase Dining Hall

By Khushi Parikh '26

Dining Services is planning a series of changes to Chase Dining Hall to improve throughput, flow, and the overall dining experience. These include moving the bakery and ice cream stations to Chase Round and the Create Kitchen to the current bakery location, where four burners would be added to increase capacity. Make-your-own smoothies may also be introduced, with compostable cups and a rotating selection of ingredients, though Dining Services noted all plans remain subject to change. See more tentative details in the sidebar.

The proposed changes were discussed with

Dining Advisory Board members approximately three weeks ago and were recently presented to Senate on Tuesday, April 7, by Dining Services leadership and Aramark staff, including Director of Dining Services Chris Rousseau.

Kevin Rice, SGA member-at-large '27 and a student representative on the Dining Advisory Board, told The Wheaton Wire that while the changes were discussed, students were not involved in their initial development. "They were discussed. We had input, but we were not consulted in the creation of them. We had our input sort of after," said Rice.

Dining Services described the proposed changes as an increment-

tal improvement to the current layout. Rousseau said during Senate, "Is it the best solution that solves everything? No. But I think it's a giant step in the right direction."

"I think they're positive [changes]," Rice said, adding, "I don't think they fix what was taken away last year, but I do think they're primarily positive."

Other concerns raised by senators included vegetarian and vegan dining options, cross-contamination at certain stations, inconsistent Chase lunch hours, mobile ordering inconsistencies, the use of AI-generated images in dining communications, vending machine variety and preparation issues.

Dining changes, continued on page 2

## POTENTIAL CHANGES TO CHASE DINING:

### 1. STRESS-LESS IMPROVEMENTS



- Moving allergen-friendly options into Chase Square.
- Improved allergen-friendly menu variety and options.
- Increased selection for students with dietary restrictions.

### 2. CREATE STATION EXPANSION

- Moving to the current bakery/toast station.
- Expanded counter and cold well.
- Four burners for increased capacity
- Make-your-own smoothie station: Ingredients on rotation, compostable cups, clean blade system (similar to pans)



### 3. BAKERY & TOASTER RELOCATION

- Bakery moving to Chase Round.
- Toaster moving to the current Stress-Less Zone.
- Space repurposed for expanded Create station.



### 4. SPICE STATION CHANGES

- Spice rack moving to the Create kitchen.
- Additional spices will be added after increased capacity.



## Dr. Parker addresses questions on campus identity, engagement during SGA Senate visit

By Grayce Howe '29

On March 31, 2026, Vice President for Student Affairs Darnell Parker visited SGA's Senate meeting and answered a variety of questions regarding changes in student involvement on campus, the relationship between the student body and administration, and the identity of Wheaton as a community.

Parker is one of many administrative figures to attend a Senate meetings this semester. Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students Zachary Irish, Assis-

tant Dean of Residential Life Tim Jordan, Associate Director of Residential Life Lyndsey Aguilar, and Dining Director Christopher Rousseau have all paid SGA members a visit in recent months.

The first question for Parker came from Chair-elect of Student Alumni Affairs Katelyn Spader '27, who asked what he has noticed about changes in student involvement around campus this academic year as opposed to others.

"What I will say over my five years here at Wheaton is that I have seen changes from students

being overly engaged to now kind of being non-existent in engagement," Parker stated. "I have seen students in my office stressed beyond belief because they're concerned about things that are out of their control."

He prefaced that the student body changes drastically every three years, making it difficult to compare levels of engagement without considering the change in demographics.

Class of 2027 Chair Sriya Bodapati '27 followed up by asking Parker what SGA as well as what administrators can do to promote and boost student engagement.

"Research has shown that you get more action from your peers initiating something," Parker noted. "So what I will say to you is, to get more people involved in engagement, do more fun things."

As the conversation continued, Senate members asked Parker questions about collecting student feedback, changes to academic curriculum, and his thoughts on the identity of the college as a whole.

"How would you describe Wheaton College's identity right now," posed Spader, "and how do you see that identity devel-

oping in a vague future?"

Parker directed the question back at Senators, asking how they would define the school's identity as the student body.

"We're known for being inclusive and we're known for our community," said SGA President Elizabeth McKinley '26. "We're known for our compass curriculum and we're known for being welcoming to everybody on this campus."

"That is what probably 655 other college cam-

Dr. Parker visits Senate, continued on page 4

## Ed Grande and Taylor Tall: The acoustic duo

By Jonathan Purvis '29

On March 28, those in attendance of the Wheaton Events Board's "Wheaton's Got Talent" were in for a real treat. Two musically active students, Aidan Strovink '29, and Amanda Bergeron '29, took to the bottom of Hindle Auditorium, guitars in hand and a song in mind. Their duet performance of Everything Has Changed by Taylor Swift, featuring Ed Sheeran, under their fitting stage names, Ed Grande (Strovink) and Taylor Tall (Bergeron), took home Best Duet of the evening, showcasing their tenacity, hard work, and dedication to their craft, and each other.

Their performance was met with a large, roaring ovation heard throughout Hindle.

Bergeron, a member of the Wheatones, and Strovink, a member of the Gentlemen Callers and Wheaton College Chamber Singers, are not new to being on stage or in the spotlight. They also share a lot of similarities: both are members of the Wheaton College Chorale, both picked up the guitar in their senior year of high school, and both are immensely hard workers and extremely passionate about what they do. Additionally, the two have been on the music scene for a good portion of their lives, taking up piano before

getting acquainted with the guitar. They have a love for singing, which led them into the world of acapella. Both partook in choir long before coming to Wheaton.

For Strovink, he's slowed down on piano, but mentioned how his father is an incredible pianist. "I became really good at it, and did performances at school," he said. At one point in time, he took a break from piano, and performing as a whole, to turn attention to coping with anxiety, picking things back up in high school. Strovink picked up guitar through a teacher after interning at a local elementary school, jumping in on Ukulele with his class, and then shifted to the guitar last June.



Photo by Jonathan Purvis '29  
First years Aidan Strovink, '29 (left) and Amanda Bergeron, '29 (right).

Having this opportunity was important to him, as he said the teacher he worked with really allowed him to have a big part in his class. "It brings me a ton of joy to be able to play it," he said.

As for Bergeron, she shifted from the piano, over to guitar after find-

ing correlations between the two instruments. "Piano has always been a passion of mine," she stated, "but picking up guitar has been exciting, it gives me more to play." She also noted how her

Acoustic duo, continued on page 6

## Dining changes, continued from front

Rousseau emphasized a willingness to respond to student concerns and adjust operations based on feedback, noting that “feedback is always considered” and that Dining Services reviews trends and adjusts accordingly.

He noted that decisions about vending machine offerings are informed by “sales data, suggestions, and feedback” and that the Dining Services team aims to “keep variety and test new items.” When students raised concerns about inconsistencies in mobile ordering, Rousseau reassured, “That may be a mistake ... I’ll

look into that.”

“The administration is willing to work with us on small things, but bigger things—we spent the first, kind of whole, semester complaining about the changes they made [at the beginning of the academic year], and they really didn’t change anything...they seemed unwilling to budge. But other than that, it’s been useful to enact small changes,” Rice said.

Rousseau said students can “use a QR code” available at dining locations or email him directly to report issues.

## Opinion: Why would you ever buy protein water?

*Sincerely, a very concerned foodie*

By Logan Markwell '28

As a new addition to the protein craze, water has joined the ranks of endless protein-forward and infused products on grocery store shelves, a range of items from protein boxed mac and cheese, to high protein chips. While I am by no means against protein, speaking as a near addict of the new protein smoothie they are selling in Emerson, I believe there is a shifting dynamic that needs to be addressed.

Protein has become increasingly inflated in importance when speaking about its role in our diet and in health. With many goods here in the United States, it seems that we are being encouraged to consume an excess of protein. Fitness influencers tout that one should be consuming 100 grams of protein a day, while vegan influencers increasingly frame their own videos as a response to the protein craze, specifically to critiques of the vegan diet not being able to provide requisite protein.

While registered dietitians and professional recipe developers have attempted to inform that for most individuals, 100 grams of protein per day is not necessary or healthy, their advice doesn’t always break through the algorithm. They can show creative recipes with utilization of plant protein, or how to get protein in with real food at home, often for a fraction of the of special protein products. However, this effort doesn’t matter if they can’t break through the noise.

To top it all off, food and beverage companies are



Photo taken by Logan Markwell '28  
The new Coco Gauff's Protein Naked smoothie being sold in Emerson Dining.

capitalizing on the protein craze by rolling out new lines of protein products, such as the new Naked smoothie, or protein pasta from Barilla. And as most New Englanders know, Dunkin’ Donuts just rolled out new protein refreshers.

In all of these cases, protein is being equated to health by people who are not registered dietitians. From where I stand, this lie is being sold to financially benefit companies and influencers by driving up sales, as well as increase product engagement.

While protein certainly is important to health, no singular macro or micro nutrient is the ‘end-all and be-all’ determinant of one’s well-being. If a person is looking on from a scientific, dietary standpoint, they should consult a registered dietitian. We should not be trusting what companies are telling us about the nutritional benefits of their products, nor should we be taking dietary advice from people who have not put in the work to become experts.

So, in a world where there is no reason to trust the companies who sell it, and no need to be consuming 100 grams of protein a day, I’ll ask you this; why would you ever buy protein water?

## POLICY

The Wheaton Wire is published bi-weekly during the academic year by the students of Wheaton College in Norton, MA and is free to the community. The opinions written in these pages do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the college or The Wire staff. While The Wire accepts and has the right to publish all commentaries, we reserve the right to truncate and edit them.



Mary Lyon Hall in the Fall

Photo by Jonathan Purvis '29

## LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX, WHEATON.



We're conducting a survey on dating & sexual culture at Wheaton. Scan to participate.  
All responses are anonymous.

## QUEER BIOLOGY TRIVIA NIGHT



## GLOBAL ED OPEN HOURS

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SEAT  
1A

ITINERARY  
Every Friday, drop by Global Ed for coffee, cocoa & tea to discuss anything!

PASSENGER  
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## SCHEDULE

WEEKLY  
Friday 10-11 AM

1st & 3rd Fridays  
Study Abroad

2nd & 4th Fridays  
International Student Services

*every week!*

# Letter from the editor



Khushi Parikh '26

Dear Wheaton,

It is not often that a campus newspaper finds itself remixed into anonymous manifestos. Whether through impromptu conversations in the library or anonymous posters circulating across campus—namely “We deserve the truth” and “Speak up before you write your department’s eulogy”—this past week marked a revival of campus dialogue.

When I first noticed the “Speak up before you write your department’s eulogy” poster, I turned to share it with the person sitting beside me, who happened to be an underclassman with little direct connection to the humanities. He immediately scanned the QR code and began responding at length. The moment felt significant. It was heartening to witness students genuinely care—to advocate for something grounded in principle rather than direct personal benefit.

The first stretch of genuine spring weather tends to catalyze a renewed sense of community each year. This past Friday, students flocked to the Dimple in the afternoon, lingering for The Big Event and Café con Leche. The resurgence in campus energy and event attendance has been particularly noticeable following a relatively lackluster stretch earlier in the semester, beginning with SHAG’s Sex Trivia Night on April 2. Even the newsstands tell a story: emptier racks in the Library, Balfour, and the

Discovery Center suggest that more people are engaging. Yet the resurgence in campus dialogue and engagement feels fragile. Colleges are uniquely vulnerable to historical amnesia. Every four years, the student body turns over almost entirely. What one class experiences, debates, and defends can disappear almost overnight. Administrations remain; students rotate through. Institutional memory, as a result, becomes uneven—and often ephemeral.

As someone preparing to graduate, I find it increasingly difficult to reconcile the Wheaton I entered with the one I am preparing to leave. And yet, without a shared memory of what once was, it becomes difficult to even name what has changed.

Recently, while digging through The Wheaton Wire’s archives, I came across coverage from 2012 of a proposed residential pricing policy that was ultimately halted after student outcry. Then—Wheaton College Student Government Association (SGA) President Alexandra Schibanoff '12 reflected: “I think it absolutely reflects Wheaton’s values. This is why I came to Wheaton, this is why I stayed at Wheaton—because, more so than any other college I’ve ever seen, our student voice matters.”

“The fact that we even knew about the policy proposal before it was determined really speaks to Wheaton’s character,” Schibanoff said. “If the administration continues to listen to what the students have to say, that’s a really positive step.”

Another student, Patrick Crane '14, who had made a Facebook video questioning the administration’s reasoning behind the housing policy change, told the Wire, “I think they did a great job of bouncing the idea [to] us and then responding to feedback.

Even if it wasn’t the move they wanted, they responded to what the Wheaton students said, and I thought that was amazing.” (See: Proposed housing policy ousted after public outcry, The Wheaton Wire, February 20, 2012.)

This was not an isolated instance but a consequence of Wheaton’s deep-rooted culture of shared governance between students and administration. Another example dates back to 2015, when dining policy changes—including the expansion of Emerson Dining Hall hours and “Lyons Swipe” options—were presented to Senate for a student vote by then Vice President of Finance and Administration Brian Douglas, Director of Dining Services John Bragel, and Manager (now Director) of Business Services Kim Lavallee. (See: SGA votes on changes to the dining plans, The Wheaton Wire, September 23, 2015.)

Even campus traditions reflected this ethos of transparency and accountability. An SGA roast—humorous yet pointed—created space for public critique of elected representatives, reinforcing a culture where leadership invited scrutiny rather than avoided it. (See: SGA Roast invites rare moment for public mockery, The Wheaton Wire, April 11, 2012.)

History serves as a benchmark—a way to assess not only where we are, where we have been, and what has changed, but also whether those changes move us closer to or further from our shared values. It holds the present accountable.

Without collective memory, decisions that might once have prompted debate can instead appear with a manufactured sense of inevitability. This is why history has always been politically charged. Institutions, like govern-

ments, often reshape, obscure, sanitize, or quietly move past their own histories.

When memory fades, so does the ability to question in an informed manner.

In The Wire’s newsroom, we strive to resist that erosion by preserving institutional memory in print—rather than in the postmodern digital abyss, where information can be constantly reshaped, updated, and sometimes erased—in the hope that future students inherit not only outcomes, but the debates that shaped them and the agency that made them possible.

Spring may revive conversation, but sustaining it and translating it to a reclamation of power in decision-making spaces requires persistence beyond the first moment of pushback.

I’d like to close with two voices from Wheaton’s past:

“We don’t think that is right, especially not when we collectively, our parents [and] other family members, sacrifice so much to scrape together tuition money and become consumers of everything the college has to offer, from classes to [residence halls] to meals to career resources to campus safety.” — Wheaton College Student Advocates, a controversial Facebook group discussing administrative silence in response to a petition on change.org calling for increasing administrative transparency in 2013.

“You see it in a lot of quotes: never doubt the ability of a small group of people to change something, because in the end it is the only thing that ever does.” — Patrick Crane '14, Proposed housing policy ousted after public outcry, The Wheaton Wire, February 20, 2012.

In dialogue, Khushi Parikh '26. Co-Editor-in-Chief

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

## WCCS Radio Shows

### Weekly Schedule

All shows are one hour long

WCCS (Wheaton College Communication Station) is Wheaton College's student run radio station and recording studio, founded in 1978. They offer a wide variety of radio shows ranging from classic rock, rap, easy listening, talk shows and even podcasts, as student DJs provide quality content for the Wheaton College community and beyond.

Listen live here:



For any questions regarding WCCS please contact [radiowccs@gmail.com](mailto:radiowccs@gmail.com)

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 AM				Morning Energizer			
10:00 AM							
11:00 AM				Alyssa's Airtime			
12:00 PM			The Orange Radio		IngReydio		Mystery, Babylon the Great
1:00 PM	Tilly Fein Show	Hi-Fi Hi-Rise Review	robinradio	Normal Music For Normal People		Pear Jam	A Little Bit of Everything
2:00 PM			The Shark Tank	shatterhanded radio		miku39.FM	Star Nerds
3:00 PM	Mystical Magical Music		The Backstage Pass with Cass		Mia FM.	SATOYAMBA	Aural Assault
4:00 PM			Grandpa's Closet			Hey There, Folks	
5:00 PM	Empty Box	Norton Commander	Maggie's Closet	Alt Uncovered			
6:00 PM		Introspection Injention		Evil Women Hour	Flowers and Razorwire		
7:00 PM		Keira's Corner			Chillin with J	Homeward Bound	
8:00 PM		Devotions	The Cat's Pajamas	Isa's Planet	Scotty and Mingus Show		
9:00 PM							

## Why does the spring semester seem so much busier?

By Claire Martin '28

With the flowers and animals finally coming out in the early spring, so too does the dread of many college students. Many find the spring to be more jam-packed with events, and less time to do bigger and bigger projects for their professors and their classes.

Personally, I find myself struggling to manage my time on weekends. Between my club sport, writing for the Wire and doing thorough research for my byline, my 300-level class which requires me to explore a site during the week, my heavy workload 200-level class, my evening class, and my language class, I find myself trying to find time to squeeze in hobbies and fun, off-topic, or random events to go to with my already limited time.

In the past week, I had 10 assignments due through Canvas. Three for two of my classes and one for another. Many of them are assignments that have been pushed back because of the snowstorms cancelling in-person labs, and as a STEM major taking many labs that are built to be hands-on, much of the work was pre-laboratory prepwork and small in comparison.

Last spring, I found myself still struggling, but able to plan my time better as I managed club sport practices, writing, and not losing my mind. I noticed that many of the big events did not run at the same time as another—e.g. an a capella group's big performance didn't run at the same time as a Dimple Divers or an extracurricular Professor keynote lecture. This year, I have noticed several events running at

the same time.

For example, my journalism class's runtime seems to perfectly align with WEB bingo nights, making me unable to go.

Another example are three events with start times at 12:00, 12:30, and 1:00 on a single day this month and are around an hour or two each. All three events seem interesting, but students realistically can only go to one and sacrifice potentially going to the others due to the scheduling.

I think it might have to do with the way the schedule lines up. In the fall, the semester is broken up by October break, Thanksgiving/November break, and then in early December with the 6-week winter break. In the spring, we are only given a week of relaxation in March. This means that not only are students in class for more days, we also are on campus and attending the fast-paced schedule of college.

But the extra feeling of crampedness might also have to do with the blizzards and the amount of online or canceled classes many of us had this year, an unprecedented amount to be sure. This resulted in many classes having to push midterms and units a week or two back, meaning more work in a shorter period of time. Students are still taking midterms and mid-semester exams as of April 7.

I think that outside factors are also at play here in collaboration with blizzards and schedules. Many students use the spring to apply for scholarships, jobs, and internships, among other things. These applications take lots of time and careful planning, requiring more

and more concentration on summer plans and filling out paperwork in hopes to either gain experience in a selected field, or get some extra money. Many also feel the stress of planning tuition payments and the stress of changing their fall semester class schedule before getting out in May. Seniors are also feeling the time crunch, with their final semester of undergrad coming up quickly in less than a month.

We also have Spring Weekend, where events are littered throughout the weekend of the 24th, and little time to complete assignments during this time. This is also the week before the end of classes, and two weeks before finals. Clubs are also meeting more frequently, trying to squeeze in last minute crafts, get-togethers, and events before May 1.

Overall, many are feeling the heat of the spring, and it's not just the temperature.

Are there solutions to the never ending problem? Yes!

Taking one thing at a time, and remembering to take mental health seriously are two big steps you can take to help keep calm and unbothered by the stress of assignments and work. Secondly, remember that we only have a month left, then it's the summer and we don't have to worry about school until August.

For seniors, remember the four years' worth of moments you've experienced. You might've already been at the lowest point in your educational career, so it can only get better from here.

Good luck!



Photo by Clair Martin '28  
Peacock Pond fountains ahead of Welcome to Wheaton Day

## SENIOR PHOTO BOOKING

BY STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHER EMMA SMITH

**PACKAGES**

- Quick Pic Session
  - \$50 for a 20 minute session
  - 10-15 photos included
  - 1 location
- Standard session
  - \$100 for a 1 hour session
  - 30+ photos included
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  - \$200 for a 1 hour session with up to 2 other people
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## Wheaton Men's Volleyball caps inaugural season with program milestones



Photo by Grayce Howe '29  
Wheaton's mens volleyball team.

By Khushi Parikh '26

The Wire would like to congratulate the Wheaton Men's Volleyball team on finishing 11-16, tying for the most wins of any inaugural Division III men's volleyball program in the country this year.

Co-captain Jack O. Kenyon '28 told The Wire,

"This season was a huge step forward for our program. Along the way, we took down No. 12 Lasell in a five-set battle at home and closed out the year with a five-set win over American International College, a Division II program."

"I'm incredibly happy with how we competed

and how we grew. The guys are genuinely proud of what we built together, and I couldn't have asked for a better group to go through this first year with," Kenyon said. "I'm extremely excited to see what the future holds for our program."

## Dr. Parker visits senate, continued from front

pus and universities say about themselves," Parker responded.

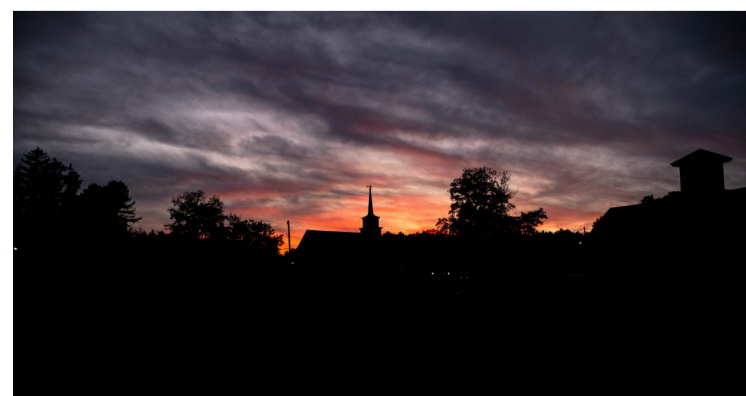
"I moved out here and had never heard about Wheaton before I came here," said SGA Vice President Sara Milesi '27. She described how when visiting Providence, RI, in a Wheaton sweatshirt during her first week living on campus, a number of people approached her with enthusiasm about the school and its community. Milesi assured the group that Wheaton's identity is both strong and unique

from other colleges and universities.

"I want you to know you absolutely have a track record," she asserted. "This school is known for breeding excellent students, strong leaders, social justice advocates, and there is a huge sense across the country that this school breeds amazing people."

SGA Senate meetings take place every Tuesday from 5-7 p.m. and are open for all students to attend.

## Feature Photo



Dreams of Norton

Photo by Deren Sozer '27

# Crossword: Grand Performance

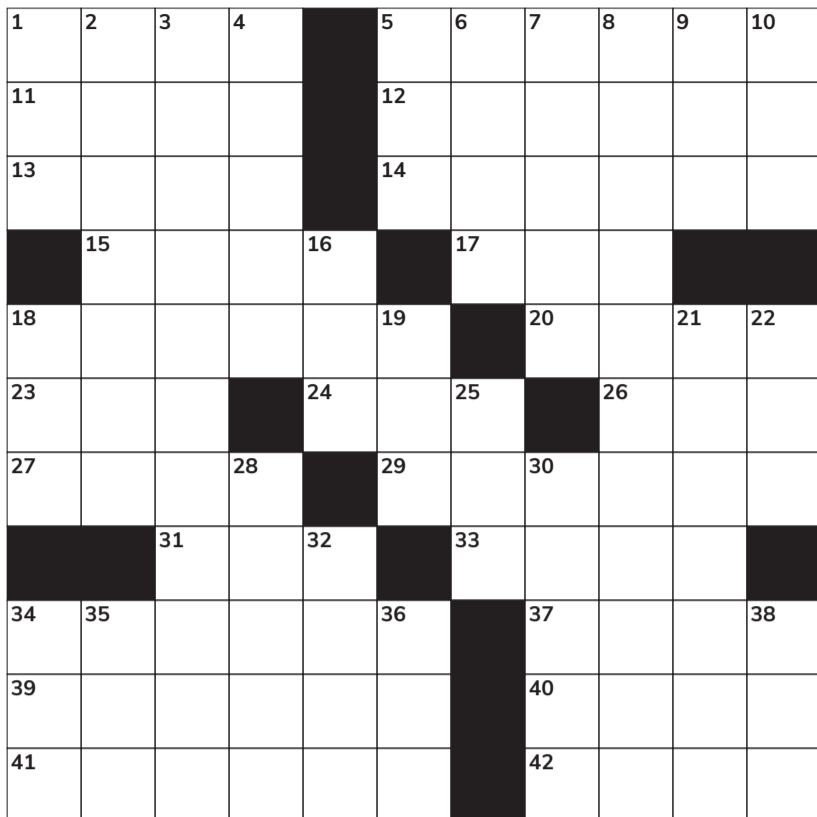
Created by Max Aaronson '26 and edited by Professor Michael B. Berg

**Across**

- 1 "\_\_\_\_" what you sow
- 5 TV time where you pay to promote your business or product
- 11 Common start to the subject line of a memo
- 12 Areas where thighs meet abdomens
- 13 1 of 100 in Winnie-the-Pooh's home
- 14 Where you sit for six years and then run?
- 15 Food for horses
- 17 Connected four, say
- 18 Will \_\_\_\_\_, actor with voiceover roles in "Ratatouille", "Horton Hears a Who!" and "Despicable Me"
- 20 Organize
- 23 Large container used to transport liquids
- 24 The youngest woman ever elected to the U.S. Congress, in short
- 26 Acronym for website-data nerds
- 27 "Gimme \_\_\_\_!"

**Down**

- 29 Ornamental and dramatic art style frequently described as the final phase of the Baroque movement
- 31 Make up for yrs.
- 33 Olympic gymnast Lee, to fans
- 34 Not the bench squads
- 37 Leave a 2/5 stars on Yelp, say
- 39 Business partner of a landlord
- 40 "Condition" in France?
- 41 Makes the knot again
- 42 You might find a "BOGO" variety of this
- 1 West End Theatre star \_\_\_\_\_ Jones
- 2 \*A performer might come back on stage for these after their last piece
- 3 \*A performer might have this composed for their set

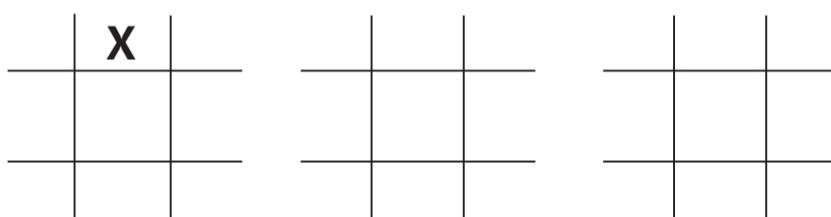


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- 4 Holly Robison \_\_\_\_\_, portrayer of Judy Hoffs in "21 Jump Street"
- 5 Multiple attorneys general, abbr.
- 6 Put pencil to paper, perhaps
- 7 Competitor of Bose in the audio tech industry
- 8 \*A performer might sit at a bench and play this on stage
- 9 Canadian prov.
- 10 The New York Stock Exchange's Japanese counterpart, in brief
- 16 Dest. to get off a train
- 18 Also known as
- 19 The Raptors, on a scoreboard
- 21 Event where you commonly find 2-Down, 3-Down's and 8-Down's
- 22 Homophone of a common number
- 25 Leaders of equal responsibility, slangily
- 28 South and Central American mammal that resembles a raccoon
- 30 Fixes
- 32 Captain Hook's right-hand man in "Peter Pan"
- 34 A short 3-Down?
- 35 Garb you might tie-dye
- 36 Spanish titles for gentlemen
- 38 Suffix with "athl-" and "comp-"

## Tic-Tac-Toe

Have any interest in making puzzles for our newspaper? Email thewheatonwire@gmail.com or DM us on Instagram at @wheatonwire.



## Unhinged horoscopes

By Willow Whitelaw '26

- Aries (March 20-April 19)**  
Don't let the demons dim your sparkle.
- Taurus (April 20-May 20)**  
The rollercoaster is almost over.
- Gemini (May 21-June 20)**  
Follow your intuition this week, you never know where it might lead you.
- Cancer (June 21-July 22)**  
Take a page out of Elsa's book and let it go.
- Leo (July 23-August 22)**  
Let it go, cowboy.
- Virgo (August 23-September 22)**  
Sometimes you have to step back and let someone else have a chance to shine.
- Libra (September 23-October 22)**  
Don't skip that shower.
- Scorpio (October 23-November 21)**  
Practice some self care.
- Sagittarius (November 22-December 20)**  
You need to cut your hair.
- Capricorn (December 21-January 19)**  
Get a job. You got this!
- Aquarius (January 20-February 17)**  
Chill out.
- Pisces (February 18-March 19)**  
Be honest about how you feel.

## Every Question Only Needs One Answer

By Tala Bridgeland '28



To connect with the The Wheaton Wire, contact: [thewheatonwire@gmail.com](mailto:thewheatonwire@gmail.com)  
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## The Wheaton Wire's Publishing Cycle

<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Monday</b></p> <p>PITCHES GIVEN 6:00-7:00PM @THE WIRE'S OFFICE, BALFOUR HOOD</p>	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Thursday</b></p> <p><b>LET'S connect</b></p> <p>@ OPEN HOURS, 5-7PM THERE WILL BE PIZZA!</p>	<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Monday</b></p> <p>WEEKLY MEETINGS ALSO 6:00-7:00PM @THE WIRE'S OFFICE, BALFOUR</p> <p><b>DEADLINE</b></p>	<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday</b></p> <p>6-8PM, OPEN HOURS!! MORE PIZZA!!</p> <p>THE NEWSROOM EXPERIENCE: EDITORIAL DISCUSSIONS, WRITING STANDARDS, LAYOUT..</p> <p>ALL CONTENT DUE WEDNESDAY 10:00AM</p>	<p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Monday</b></p> <p>so, also 2<sup>nd</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Monday</p> <p>PITCH MEETING FOR NEXT ISSUE! SAME PLACE, SAME TIME</p> <p>ALL EDITED ARTICLES DUE FRIDAY 10:00AM</p>	<p><b>NEW PAPER ALERT!</b></p> <p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday</b>   <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday</b></p> <p>PAPER SENT FOR PRINTING! NEW PAPER CAN BE FOUND ACROSS CAMPUS!!</p>
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# COLUMN: The Unfiltered Transcript

By Sierra Bausemer '28 and Julie Mahoney '28

April showers bring May flowers, but here at Wheaton we are seeing many sunny and warm days continuing to welcome spring to campus. Many students have noticed the increased landscaping crews around campus, whether it be waking up to a lawnmower outside Meadows or the smell of mulch as you walk past the dimple. Although the weather in Norton is great, a few states around the U.S, like Texas, Kansas, and New Mexico, have been issued warnings about critical fire weather conditions from the National Weather Service. This is just the start to more warnings that will come into effect across the U.S, as we approach peak wildfire season, this summer.

Jumping internationally to the war in Iran, President Trump has agreed to a two-week ceasefire with Iran, after the proposal came from the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif of Pakistan. This two-week ceasefire will presumably allow for in-person negotiations to agree upon a long-term deal that may end the war. Domestically, NASA's Artemis

II mission is breaking records and seeing historical exploration. The four person crew has surpassed the distance record of the Apollo 13 mission and documented parts of the moon never seen before with the naked eye.

indicating fewer courses being offered in Fall 2026 than in Fall 2025, many students found it difficult to find the classes they need or to find space in the limited selection offered for some departments. This raises concerns for stu-

the same vein, the housing selection process starts this week. Students in theme houses, suites, and with housing accommodations have the stressful part behind them. For the rest of the student body, the war on housing is just starting.

voters. In the Senate, there will be 35 of 100 seats up for election. Again, the Republican Party currently holds the majority, but with over one third of the seats up for election there is room for a power shift. Elsewhere, famous rapper Kanye "Ye" West, has been denied entry to the UK, ahead of the Wireless Festival, resulting in its cancellation. This comes after concerns were raised by the UK home office regarding his previous antisemitic comments. The US will also see Coachella, a massive music festival happening, with artist Justin Bieber being headlined.

Mourning your inability to go to Coachella? If you are looking for things to do around campus, there are a plethora of events to choose from every weekend until the end of the semester, including spring weekend with the Head of The Peacock and Wheaton Woodstock. For the full list of events and activities, make sure to check insideWheaton! You can also catch the Lyons in action at home sporting events, from volleyball and lacrosse, to softball and tennis.



Spring day on Wheaton's campus

Photo by Julie Mahoney '28

Back on campus, students are preparing for the next academic year and the fall semester. Course selection wrapped up in early April, although it did not go off without a hitch for many students. With the registration page

students about their ability to take their required courses and pursue areas of interest, especially as Wheaton has been accepting larger first year classes every year, increasing the overall number of students needing to register. In

Midterm elections are in full swing, with the fight for the Congress majority starting. Republicans are trying to keep and even expand their majority control, whereas the Democratic Party is hoping to regain control of Congress and win over

## Feature Photos

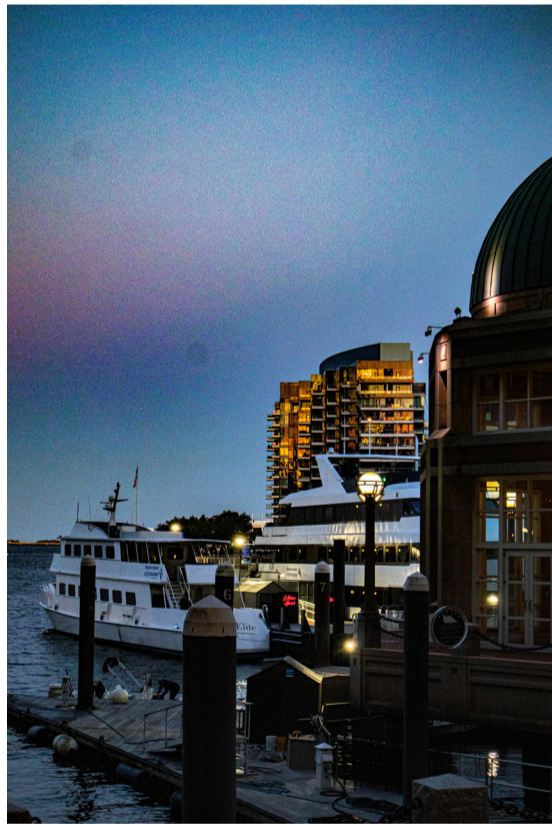


Photo by Jonathan Vazquez '28  
Boston Harbor Walk.

## Acoustic duo, *continued from front*

parents are her biggest supporters when it comes to what she does, citing last year as an example. With her brother hospitalized around the time of her birthday, they got her a guitar as a source of comfort, acknowledging how difficult things were, but acknowledging her perseverance through it all. "Shoutout to my parents, they're my biggest supporters out there," she said. "They just know when I need something and how to lift me up."

Their story as a duo, but also as great friends, took off upon meeting

at the WEISS Leadership program. When the two started hanging out, they found out that they shared something in common: guitar. This led them to play with one another, and then agreed to perform together. Bergeron compared her relationship to Strovink the way in which she described being a part of the Wheatones. She appreciates how they foster a place where, while they get work done, they look out for each other, and have fun along the way. She mentions that Strovink is exceptionally supportive, and very con-

structive when it comes to practicing.

Both have expressed interest in being able to continue with these duets. "We want to find other songs to practice and perform, too," Strovink said. "I'm really excited for future duets." Bergeron told me, "Aidan is wonderful to work with."

Bergeron and Strovink will be back in action this weekend in the Lyons Den, at Wheaton Woodstock Unplugged on Saturday, April 18.



Aurora Borealis over Mary Lyon Hall

Photo by Deren Sozer '27

### Issue #8 crossword answers

1	S	I	T	P	A	T		7	O	S	H	A
11	A	P	I	E	C	E		12	N	E	E	D
13	A	S	A	N	A	S		14	E	I	R	E
15	B	O	S	C		16	L	O	T	T	O	S
				18	I	C	A	N	W	A	I	T
20	O	C	A	L	A		23	Y	O	N	C	E
24	W	H	O	S	N	E	X	T				
26	N	O	R	D	I	C		27	H	E	L	D
31	S	O	T	O		32	H	A	R	H	A	R
34	I	S	A	W		35	O	N	E	O	N	E
36	T	E	E	N		37	S	T	E	W	E	D

## COLUMN: World Affairs, Student Stakes

### The Narrative of the Modern Economy

By Khushi Parikh '26

*In Econ 403: Global Economic Controversies on April 2, during a discussion on inequality, a peer pointed out something difficult to ignore: dining workers—whose labor shapes students' daily experiences—are often paid far less than administrative positions many students rarely encounter. What began as an observation evolved into an after-class discussion about how modern economic systems assign value to labor, and why work that sustains everyday life is frequently undervalued.*

*This article attempts to answer a broader question: How was the modern idea of “the economy” constructed, and why does it privilege certain forms of value over others?*

The modern economy is often treated as a neutral system governed by impersonal forces like markets, supply and demand, and productivity. Prices are accepted to reflect value, and income inequalities to reflect geography and skill. Outcomes are attributed to competition and efficiency rather than decisions or priorities.

It might be surprising, then, how recent this narrative of “the economy” actually is. For most of human history, people did not experience economic life as a separate, self-contained system governed by abstract forces. Work, care, trade, and community were embedded within social relationships rather than organized around growth, productivity, and efficiency.

The economy, in its modern avatar, was globalized in the aftermath of World War II, when Western industrial powers—particularly the United States—universalized and legitimized growth-centered development, transforming economic expansion from a byproduct of prosperity into a central policy objective and tool for projecting power. Bolstered by the Bretton Woods architecture and

the onset of the Cold War, a new gospel swept across the world: industrial production and technological prowess became synonymous with national strength, and “economic development” became the new language of progress—a prescription for the world to industrialize, urbanize, and expand.

Yes, economic growth has also reduced global poverty in the aggregate, improved life expectancy, and expanded access to education. Yet these gains coexist with deep structural inequalities. The world's richest 1% have accumulated over \$33.9 trillion in new wealth since 2015, an amount large enough to eliminate global poverty many times over. (Oxfam, 2025)

Asish Kothari, in an interview with The Caravan, succinctly explains, “Through various means, the world was sold the idea that, to reach prosperity, economic growth based on industrialisation, urbanisation and financialisation was the only way to go. The notion of “developed” and “developing” also came up then, as a highly misleading method of asserting that the United States and Europe had already sorted out their paths of progress and that the rest of the world needed to copy them. In a way, this was a continuation of the colonial project to convert the whole world in the image of the white man, drawing on patriarchal roots, dividing peoples and nature into nation states that are in hostile competition with each other, enabling capitalism as the primary ideology and giving free rein to the military-industrial complex.”

The implications of this governing logic are evident in the privileges in legitimizes, shaping how value itself is perceived and defined, especially in the labor market. For example, paid market work (traditionally male) became “productive,” while unpaid domestic labor (traditionally female) became invisible as European industrial economies rose, and the systems of

GNP accounting were developed by Kuznets in the early 1930s.

Over time, labor that generated measurable output came to be viewed as “productive,” while work rooted in care, maintenance, and community became peripheral. Marilyn Waring's work reveals how modern economic metrics confuse transactions with worth: a parent caring for their child at home contributes little to GDP; hiring a nanny does. Cooking for a family does not register as economic activity; purchasing processed meals does. From an ecological perspective, a forest cut down contributes to GDP; a forest preserved does not. Essentially, many activities essential to survival are treated as relatively insignificant, while activities that commodify or replace them count towards growth.

Moreover, domestic and care work in the United States has historically relied on enslaved Black women and later immigrant and minority workers. Today, the “invisible” direct-care workforce—home health aides, nursing assistants, and caregivers—remains disproportionately composed of women of color, who now make up over half, and in many regions nearly two-thirds of the workforce, with immigrants significantly overrepresented in these low-paid roles.

Internationally, too, the systemic undervaluation of care work shifts essential labor onto already vulnerable communities, further entrenching inequalities in prosperity. Domestic and care work is largely performed by lower-class, rural-to-urban migrant women in India and China, often without adequate socioeconomic protections, and immigrant women—particularly from North and West Africa—in France.

What is understood and valued as skilled and unskilled labor also came from 18th-century English law and industrial-era U.S. labor categories, which sorted workers based on

their access to formal training and elite institutions. Over time, this evolution birthed modern credentialism, positioning universities as the primary gatekeepers of professional legitimacy. Consequently, labor that commands high market value—such as business, technology, law, or administration—is prioritized through formal degrees, while essential work rooted in physical skill, emotional labor, experiential knowledge, or community care is systematically devalued as “less practical.”

The hierarchy of value embedded in economic measurement becomes a hierarchy of labor, and ultimately, a hierarchy of lives. But these hierarchies are not natural. They are constructed—shaped by European colonization, patriarchy, racial hierarchies, and credential-based definitions of skill.

The resulting “economy” privileges certain forms of value and success over others: Development frameworks increasingly measure progress through expansion—industrial output, GDP growth, and market integration. Stability, sufficiency, and ecological balance, by contrast, appeared as stagnation. Productivity and efficiency are elevated as primary virtues. Industrialization, GDP growth, and market integration are universal markers of progress, and economic growth was seen as an inherent good, obscuring the fact that such constant expansion often demands resource extraction, occupation, and the structural violence of the military-industrial complex—less a modern invention than a continuation of older imperial logics, from Rome to colonial capitalism.

Land became property (think Indigenous land systems replaced by settler-colonial private property regimes), nature became a resource, and labor a commodity.

And once this logic becomes normalized, decisions that might otherwise provoke resistance begin to appear

inevitable. “It's good for business” becomes a sufficient justification and the language of efficiency replaces the language of values. This narrative captures the modern imagination, hardening into a “common sense” that now dictates how governments define success, how institutions allocate resources, and the lens through which students interpret work, education, and achievement.

Departments are evaluated by enrollment numbers. Programs are judged by revenue potential. Labor is assessed by measurable output rather than relational value. The definition of value narrows, such that arts programs that do not lead to immediately marketable skills are labeled “impractical,” and teaching-intensive departments that do not attract large enrollments or external funding are deemed inefficient.

And so, by a combination of narrowed definitions of value and over-reliance on “market forces,” constructed under heavily biased assumptions, dining workers, who sustain the rhythms of campus life—preparing meals, maintaining spaces, and shaping students' daily experiences with care—are often compensated less than administrative roles tied to enrollment growth, branding, or strategy.

It is curious then how we widely reject patriarchy, racism, colonialism, and imperialism as historical injustices, but continue to not only accept the system they helped build—and the logic that sustains it—but continually reinforce it through everyday language and accepted reasoning. The question that remains then is not simply how the modern economy was constructed but whether we continue to accept the values it constructs.

Note: For those interested in imagining alternative socioeconomic systems, *Alternative Futures: India Unshackled* (2017) offers a compelling starting point.

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## The Wheatones celebrate their 80th year with an overdue alumni concert



Photo by Logan Markwell '28

The Wheatones perform their signature song alongside alumni of the group

### By Logan Markwell '28

Alto, mezzo, and soprano voices blended in perfect harmony as they soared into the rounded ceiling of Weber Theatre on March 29. In their 80th year of singing, the Wheatones are an essential facet of the Wheaton community, as the first and oldest a cappella group at Wheaton, founded in 1946.

With the 75th anniversary in 2021 cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this was the first time many of the Wheatones alumni had seen each other, or been back to Wheaton, in at least ten years.

Emily Conklin '13 said how amazing it is to see new members of the Wheatones, and said lovingly, that the group has “all the same weirdos” as when she sang in the Wheatones.

“A really special energy flows through the Wheatones” when they perform, said Ellie Angerame '13. She said that one of the most incredible things about being back is that

the feeling is exactly the same.

The concert opened with a set of songs with the current Wheatones, and then shifted to more recently retired songs before entering into a three song closing series of signature songs. Signature songs are songs that the Wheatones sing every semester, distinguished from general selections that generally have a shelf life of two to four semesters.

This last portion of the concert began with a somber moment, in which current members and alumni sang “A Song for Judith,” written by Judy Collins and in honor of a Wheatone who was tragically killed. The song is about the friendship and lifelong connection of being a Wheatone, and how this experience is a life-long one.

“A Song for Judith” was followed by “Landslide,” bridging the gap between the emotional moment prior, and the subsequent energetic shift of “Santa Catalina,” closing out the concert. Members of the Blend, another a cap-

pella group at Wheaton, mouthed along all the words and snapped in time with the Wheatones from the audience; “Santa Catalina” is known by many.

Some more changes that have happened in the Wheatones were also shown in “Santa Catalina.” Alumni as recent as Conklin and Angerame sang old standards, like “Can’t Help Lovin’ Dat Man,” whereas current Wheatones sing more recent tunes, like “Sitting on the Dock of the Bay.”

Sara Michale Smith '90, a Wheatones alum and the advisor for all a cappella groups at Wheaton, commented on another musical difference. A music and math double major, she had enjoyed applying what she was studying into practice with the arrangement of Wheatones songs.

Reminiscing with Gayle Anderson-Graham '89 and Kristin Weller '90, they said that when they were in the group many arrangements were invented using improvisation, as most of the group’s members did not know how to

read music.

Angerame and Conklin, part of the same graduating class, also noted how different this reunion was from the 70th. “Being 33 here is very different from being 23,” said Conklin, saying how just a year after her graduation coming back meant staying in dorms with her friends and going out to parties. Now it is a little different.

While there were many positive aspects to the concert, it was still difficult to navigate different schedules, said Bailey Geyer '26, current president of the Wheatones.

Geyer said the group started baseline planning at the end of the last fall semester, and then began reaching out to alumni and asking their favorite songs in order to construct a setlist. Most of the planning was done by the current group, and the group’s advisor Michale Smith.

The 70th anniversary concert was in the Chapel, so Weber Theater was a change of venue. Securing the Weber Theater was the biggest challenge, because the spring is “so

crazy busy, especially in the arts department.”

While many of the Wheatones alumni still have the opportunity to sing in some way—Angerame has recently become part of a humming circle, Sasser sang in a choir in graduate school, Michale Smith had done concert work in opera, lyrical, and more—they all seem to agree that it isn’t quite the same as it was singing with the Wheatones.

The Wheatones still manage to stay connected to one another after leaving Wheaton. According to one alum, the Washington D.C. alum group chat for the Wheatones is called “the Swamp Tones,” cheekily referring to the fact that the entire city sits on top of a swamp.

It is clear from both the heartfelt testimonies given by alumni, and the beautiful music both current members and alumni made together on stage last Sunday, that being part of the Wheatones means being part of a community for life.

## Return of the WOSCARS

The WOSCARS are returning to Wheaton for the third year in a row, scheduled to take place in Weber Theater on April 23 from 6-8 p.m. during spring weekend. The award festival is hosted by Wheaton College’s Film Collective who ask that attendees come “dressed to impress.” A red carpet entrance and photo backdrop will be available for friends to take pictures together.

Tickets can be reserved in

advance for free, but guests must check in by 6:10 p.m. or the tickets will be up for grabs to general admission.

This year’s judges, also known as The Academy, are Film and New Media Studies professors Patrick Johnson, Sarah Leventer and Melissa McClung. They will pick the nominees and winners for each category except for Wheatie’s Choice, which will be collaboratively decided by the audience

that night. The nomination categories are: best picture, best comedy, best cinematography, best editing, best directing, Wheatie’s Choice, and, brand new this year, best documentary.

The nominees will have the chance to win a golden statue of Roary the Lion on a pedestal, made in-house by the Film Collective with the Fab Lab.



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