

The Wright Times

May 2025

4300 N Narragansett Ave, Chicago, IL 60634

FREE

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Wright College Hosted the CCC Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting

By Kyle Chmielowski
Copy Editor

“It was a two-floor of energy boost by being here,” CCC Chancellor Juan Salgado said about visiting Wright College. The high electric energy at Wright College was on showcase, with performances from the theater program, student athletes and a choreographed dance from staff members.

The CCC Board of Trustees holds monthly meetings on a Thursday to vote on various resolutions from all seven City Colleges. The board consists of seven members appointed by Mayor Brandon Johnson and one student nominated by a campus-wide election.

Valedictorian Eldiar Emilbekov and Salutatorian Joseph Gonzalez, who were honored at the event, pose for a picture. (Photo Credit: Sara Navarro)

However, this is the first time in Salgado's eight-year tenure that the meeting was held at Wright College. This was an opportunity for President Andres Oroz to highlight the achievements of Wright.

The meeting kicked off with a spotlight on the theater program. Members of the fall musical *Alice by Heart* reunited to perform a scene in front of the board.

Sarah Breinig, one of the theater performers, said, “It is really rare to perform and dance at a board of trustees meeting. To spice it up and show people who don't get on the ground level of a show was cool.”

Next, student athletes demonstrated their athletic prowess in basketball, volleyball, and soccer by performing serves, dribbles and strikes in front of board members.

There was a choreographed performance with staff and students dancing to Flo Rida's “My House” with pompoms while holding up signs that read “Welcome to the Wright House.”

Provost Mark Potter remarked, “I had not previously seen the talent of the students, both the athletes and the theater performers. That just blew me away, I thought it was great.”

In addition to the performances, the event was marked by

celebration. Oroz highlighted how Wright is the only community college in the nation to have a Diplomacy Lab, the dedication of the Student Government Association, and the various clubs.



The cast of *Alice by Heart* performs at the Board of Trustees meeting. (Photo Credit: Sara Navarro)

As the presidents from various City Colleges celebrated their valedictorian and salutatorian, Oroz showcased the success of Wright's engineering program by spotlighting Valedictorian Eldiar Emilbekov and Salutatorian Joseph Gonzalez, two engineering students at Wright.

Regarding the engineering program, Chancellor Salgado said, “You have students truly benefiting in every way,” mentioning how Wright engineering students transfer to prestigious schools across the Midwest and help fill the workplace.

The board of trustees meetings are an opportunity for the public to address their concerns. Harold Washington College student Frida Santojo advocated for quiet study spaces and Malcolm X Professor Todd Lakin stressed the importance of upgrading the school's elevators.

Cyril Nichols, Illinois House representative and the associate athletics director of CCC, praised the success of Olive Harvey's women's basketball team, the Lady Panthers, the first CCC basketball team to reach over 30 wins. He plans to congratulate the Lady Panthers on their success at the state legislature in Springfield.

Overall, the event left CCC district officers impressed. “We got to come back here more often,” said Salgado with enthusiasm. Potter added, “Whenever I come to Wright College I feel like I am fully in a college campus with

strong student life. I see and I feel the buzz of students, and I can tell how engaged the students are both in their clubs and extracurriculars, but also in their academics.”

Oroz said what he wants the board to remember about Wright is “that we are a very strong, united community, that we are a vibrant institution, and that we're here to support our students.”

“we are a very strong, united community”

- President Andres Oroz

The panel engages during the Board of Trustees Meeting (Photo Credit: Sara Navarro)



Not on Our Campus: Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies Committee Decries Covert Attempt at Trans Erasure

By Wright College's Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies (GWSS) Committee

Wright College's Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies (GWSS) Committee collaborates on programming across the college to educate our community. Our purpose is to facilitate intersectional feminist discussion in and out of our classrooms. As members of the GWSS Committee, we are alarmed by the recent vandalism of a library exhibit honoring Trans Day of Visibility.

Posters were displaced and defaced. Books were stolen, all under the veil of anonymity. Librarian Tineka Scalzo had curated a display in honor of Trans Day of Visibility to educate our community and to make a welcoming space for all of Wright College.



The display was vandalized with, "It's over." The date, March 31, was circled in red. Multiple books were stolen, four have been recently returned. (Photo Credit: Jenin Hattab)

But someone in our community decided to strike against our trans students, faculty, and staff by anonymously defiling the display. We cannot know

exactly what that person was thinking because they did not come forward to engage in honest dialogue. Instead, they chose to disrespect all of us who are, or support, trans people. As members of the GWSS Committee, we are voicing our concerns publicly.

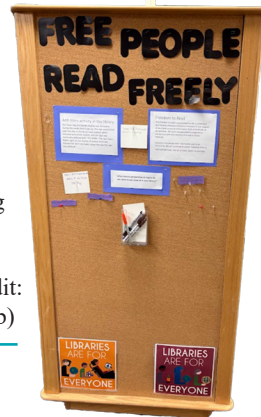
At this moment, trans people are under political and cultural attack. Forbes reports that globally at least 350 trans or gender-expansive people were murdered in 2024. The Human Rights Campaign identified 32 of those murders here in the United States. Seventy anti-trans bills in 21 states have already been passed in these first four months of 2025 and anti-trans hate has spewed from the federal government, including from our president. It is sad and horrifying to see this hate expressed on our college campus, in our library. We are angered and ashamed. All statistics can be found on the online article at wrighttimes.wixsite.com/wrighttimes.

Libraries strive to be safe places for everyone, but we cannot meet that goal when someone attempts to erase a community's voices. Libraries trust people to make their own decisions about what to read and believe. The freedom to read is guaranteed by the Constitution, and libraries embrace intellectual freedom by providing equitable access to information from a multitude of perspectives.

Our library is a space for learning and growing. In its books and journals, you can find the breadth of human thought and knowledge. Civil disagreement occurs in these pages and in the

conversations of students, staff, and faculty in the library and beyond its walls. The desecration of this place of open dialogue is particularly painful.

Display explaining the Anti-trans activity and encouraging student discussion. (Photo Credit: Jenin Hattab)



Attempts to harm or silence our trans community members will be met with resistance. Honest attempts to engage in the hard work of learning will be met with warmth and celebration. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice."

We invite everyone, including the person who engaged in this hateful, anti-trans activity, to come to the library to learn about the realities of trans lives. We are asking for more than tolerance. Trans rights are human rights, and trans people deserve to live full lives free from the harms of ignorance and hate.

Sincerely,
The Wright College Gender, Women's and Sexuality Studies Committee: Aldo Alvarez, Ji Choe, Sydney Hart, Marcy Rae Henry, Bill Marsh, Jo Zalea Matias, Merry Mayer, Anna Proffit, Patti Renda, and Tineka Scalzo

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Mission Statement

The Wright Times is committed to keeping our readers informed about news at and related to Wright College and providing a platform to tell our community's diverse stories.

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Remembering Wright College Humboldt Park Dean Maria Ochoa-Alvarez

By Reanna Sturgill
Staff Reporter

Wright College's Humboldt Park Dean, Maria Ochoa-Alvarez, passed away from a challenging battle with cancer on March 17, 2025. Born on Feb. 16, 1978, Dean Ochoa spent 22 years in the service of higher education.

Wright's President Andres Oroz worked with Dean Ochoa for a short period of time but says it has been "wonderful to get to know her personally and her personal story, and her struggles as a latina in higher education."

Oroz met Dean Ochoa while she was on the search committee for Wright College president. Af-

ter Oroz became president, Dean Ochoa reported directly to him. Oroz said "She was working diligently in building relationships with the community in Humboldt Park."

During her time at Wright, she oversaw the administrative aspects of the Humboldt Park campus. She also worked with the community to get services to students.

With her background in adult education, Oroz said that "she knew the transitional struggles our adult students had. She was really passionate about working and supporting students."

In her personal life, Dean Ochoa was outgoing and wore a big smile and brightly colored glasses. She loved plants, reading, traveling, and taking pictures.

Wright Humboldt Park Interim Dean Yeisha Betancourt-Ruiz said that one time Dean Ochoa shared a silly picture of her with their team on LinkedIn.

Dean Ochoa's administrative assistant and friend, Gizenia Garcia said that, "She never burdened others with her own struggles and never diminished anyone's pain by adding her own. Instead, she quietly carried her hardships while lifting up everyone around her."

Betancourt-Ruiz reminisced over a plant that Dean Ochoa gifted her when her step-father died. Betancourt-Ruiz said Dean Ochoa would give everyone a plant when they lost someone. "Almost all of us have a plant that was given by her... We all kind of have a piece of her through that."

As interim dean, Betancourt-Ruiz is in meetings all day, "And just the other day, I was like I need to get more steps in and stand up more. Then I remembered, this is why Maria did walking meetings! And I am so going to implement that into my day." Dean Ochoa loved to have walking meetings.

Garcia said that Dean Ochoa was a powerful advocate for women and marginalized groups. She "inspired everyone she met through her kindness, strength, and unwavering support."

"Her spirit, generosity, multicultural wisdom, and quiet strength left a lasting mark on everyone she touched. I will always cherish the bond we shared" said Garcia.

Oroz said that over the past weeks, "it's really nice to hear

our staff, students, and community members— how her work impacted them and their ability to be successful as students and as professionals."

Maria Ochoa-Alvarez and Yeisha Betancourt-Ruiz (Photo Credit: Yeisha Betancourt-Ruiz)



The Great Books Student Society Reflect On 2024-25 Success

By Arielle Canchola
Sports Reporter

A common misconception about the Great Books Student Society is that they read difficult, hard to understand books and this often scares students away from the club. In actuality, the club does not read books at all, besides the one a year they read for the Faculty Symposium.

GBSS President Graci Komperda said, "That's what I really like about the club, is that it's so nonchalant and I feel like overall this past year, we've done a really good job of making it more open and having it be more expressive."

This year, GBSS celebrated its 30 year anniversary and hosted four events throughout each week of April to promote the theme of this year: metamorpho-

sis.

Metamorphosis is all about change, the book GBSS read was Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel. Every year, the club will read one book that reflects the designated theme.

On April 8, the club hosted a common reading discussion to challenge their own individual thinking by sharing the beliefs and ideas perceived in Station Eleven.

GBSS then hosted one of their annual Great Ideas events on April 17 where Biology professor Alicia J. Anzaldo reflected on metamorphosis by focusing on how evolution and metamorphosis shape life.

The club's 30 year annual Great Books Faculty Symposium took place on April 21 and featured Wright College's English professors Brendon Zatirka, Lance Carroll and Michael Petersen to guest speak. Komperda

considered the event an overall success.

GBSS's final event of the spring semester was on April 29 where they hosted an end of the semester pizza party. Additionally, to celebrate National Poetry Month with poems that members selected to discuss.

According to GBSS faculty adviser Michael Petersen, the Symposium Journal is the only peer reviewed scholarly publication at a two-year college in the country.

It publishes every spring — except this year due to a lack of essays — and was picked back up when Petersen received a grant in 2010 after the journal lay dormant for years prior. After the grant ran out, Wright College began funding it.

In 1995, former Wright College professor Bruce Gans founded the Great Books curriculum as well as the GBSS club. When

Gans planned to retire, he asked Petersen to take over as program coordinator in 2010 to which Petersen has occupied this position ever since.

When GBSS isn't getting straight down to business with all of their event planning, they often spend their weekly meetings going over excerpts and pieces of literature that get decided by members on the day of the meeting.

Wright offers many engineering and nursing clubs, but GBSS is a community that offers that same kind of importance. The literature, comprehending and close analysis taught through GBSS are drifting away from students due to the presence of AI writing and ChatGPT.

"Often the things that are the most challenging are the things that are the most rewarding," Petersen said about taking the time to read these books that many

students struggle in comprehending.

Petersen and Komperda are confident that in the fall when the club picks up for its upcoming continuance of 31 years, it is going to change regardless of who is in the club.

While the club is permanent, the people within the club all have different personalities and interpretations and will bring change regardless of the discussions of GBSS.



GBSS End of Semester pizza party. (Photo Credit: Reanna Sturgill)

Warmer Weather Inspires New Music Choice for Wright Students

By Sammie Vasquez
Staff Reporter

With the introduction of springtime, temperatures within Chicago have risen. The warmer weather contributes to students' moods as well as hobbies. Considering the change in weather, a curiosity sparked in regards to what students are listening to now that it's nicer outside.

Wright College student, Carlos Carmona, described how with

the colder weather, seasonal depression sets in and affects his listening habits. When the warmer weather sets in he said he adds "Here Comes The Sun" by The Beatles to his music rotation.

Carmona said, "Things get more casual. Things get more beachy almost." Carmona described how a big part of the change in music is actually the change in tempo, overall setting a happier mood.

Danny Blair, a Wright College student expressed his love for Sabrina Carpenter, who had one

of the most popular pop albums last summer, earning her first Grammy wins. Aside from the modern era of music, he is a big fan of music from the 60s and 70s.

Blair described a music style called yacht rock, which is characterized by sounds such as soft rock, R&B, as well as smooth soul, and jazz. This type of music is associated with the leisure activity of boating.

Wright student, Milo Groth explained that when it's colder, they listen to sadder and more

gothic music, but in the warmer weather, they listen to more upbeat music within the genre of pop-punk. "Honestly, I just listen to like a lot more 21 Pilots."

Along with the weather, moods have brightened around campus. With the sun shining, it's a great time to reflect on how your habits change with the weather.



Scan the QR code to see reporters Kyle Chmielowski and Sammie Vasquez as they interview students across campus about their summer plans.

Wilbur Wright College Recognized as 2025-26 Military Friendly School

By Wiktoria Mroczka
Staff Reporter

After years of dedicated service, veterans are warmly embraced at Wilbur Wright College. Wright offers easy registration, strong veteran benefits, high eligibility for financial aid, and a supportive community. Resources include Veterans Affairs and state benefits through a range of programs.

Bryan Soske, a retired veteran and Wright College's Veterans Services Specialist, said Wright is worthy of the Military Friendly School recognition. More than 1,800 schools participated in the Military Friendly survey, Wright College was awarded gold, which is ranked within the top 10% of schools.

Ivan Zamora, a Navy veteran majoring in nutrition, said, "They have taken care of me and keep doing it. I can choose classes two days prior. The Veterans Center keeps the military vibe. I haven't been to other colleges but I hope they have the same standards."

Another of Zamora's favorite benefits is the GI bill. "I get paid

for going to school full time. I like the job opportunities that I get. But it didn't come easy. I was away from family for five years and from the food that I like."

Cory Saxton, a retired veteran majoring in Computer Engineering, said, "The registration

obtain tuition assistance," Saxton said.

Soske elaborates on his role of supporting veterans. "I have to see what they want and explain everything, so they can make the best decision for them. Get them into the program they need, I constantly send out job

are adults. Guys that were in my position look for an excuse not to come, because it's harder for them to come back because they think they're too old for school," Soske voiced.

Wright College was selected based on its strong track record of assisting veterans to achieve higher education. Harry S Truman, Harold Washington and Malcolm X City Colleges were also recognized.

As for success stories, Soske proudly said, "My guys are

driven to graduate and go to four years. Some left and joined CPD, became a nurse, joined People's Gas, and one even went to medical school."

"We want to guide them a bit and the biggest advice I have is to make sure you do it for you, not because somebody's making you do it, make sure it's a great choice for you to become a veteran. To me, anybody who comes through these doors and gets to where they want to be is a success story," Soske said.

Sign next to the doorway to the Veteran Resource Center showcases veteran memorabilia (Photo Credit: Jenin Hattab)



process here was simple and straightforward. Bryan Soske is great, professional and good with personal problems. Makes the place very veteran friendly."

Saxton noted that veterans can receive the 9/11 GI Bill after serving a certain number of days. Regarding advice for future service members he said, "Figure out what branch you want to go to, what qualifications you have, get information what they expect you to do, and who to go to

announcements from the career center."

Wilbur Wright hosts events like career fairs with United States Army representation. Additionally, there are veteran advisors who help from financial aid to choosing the right applications, making the process as stress-free as possible. Veterans are given state benefits which cover tuition, for 3 years.

"It's a different breed, the guys that I have, have families and



Front entrance of the Veterans Center located in the science building past the faculty dining area. (Photo Credit: Wiktoria Mroczka.)

The Department of Education Layoffs' Affect on Higher Education

By Itzel Vela
Staff Reporter

On March 11, 2025, the U.S. Department of Education announced a reduction-in-force (RIF) that laid off nearly 50% of its workforce. While some chose to resign or retire on their own, the rest were forced to leave. This termination of staff brings up an interesting question: how will it affect higher education? Will it affect Wilbur Wright's students?

Fortunately, President Dr. Andrés Oroz provided updates regarding Wright's status among these changes.

Regarding the implications for Wright's financial aid at Wright, Oroz noted, "The Department of Education has assured us that the federal financial aid processing would not be impacted whatsoever. We have not heard any other details, so at this point, we're just going with the department's

information."

As reported by City Cast Chicago, a news podcast, as of April 14, students from at least 18 Illinois schools, including DePaul University, Northeastern Illinois University, and Northwestern University, have had their student visas revoked, resulting in lawsuits.

However, Oroz noted that no issues have been reported regarding student visas here at Wright and that, as of April 25, 2025, the Department of Education is reversing some restrictions.

"So things continue to change all the time. I just got the message that that is happening, so we'll need to look at it closely. But according to our sources, the Trump administration reverses the abrupt termination of foreign student U.S. visa registrations," Oroz said.

President Oroz highlighted the challenges that many research universities face, which rely on federal funding. "We focus on teaching. We don't focus on

research; we focus on supporting students through degree services."

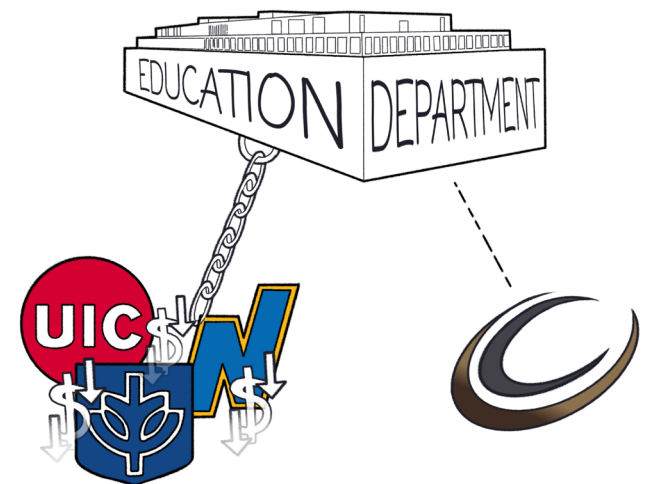
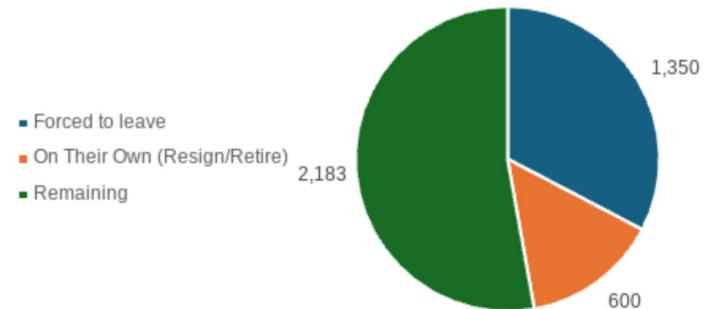
President Oroz affirmed that Wright is monitoring the situation and how it impacts the Department of Education, specifically the post-secondary education department they work with the most.

"If anything happens, if we find out that there's any direct feedback on our students, we will notify our students and the plan of action, if possible, to ensure that there's no destruction of services provided to our students," Oroz reassured.

(ABOVE RIGHT) Impacted DOE workers will receive their full pay and benefits until June 9th. (Graph Credit: Itzel Vela)

(BELOW RIGHT) Illinois universities that focus on research have been facing more financial challenges compared to community colleges. (Illustration Credit: Itzel Vela)

Department of Education Employee Layoffs



Sunshine

By Tito
Staff Illustrator

As the spring semester comes to an end and summer rises around the corner. We at Wright hope everyone wears sunscreen. Enjoy the summer sun and relax. Remember to praise the sun while you can or else!



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Wilbur Wright College Aims to Expand Cannabis Studies Program

By Kyle Chmielowski
Copy Editor

Solomon Spencer, a student at Wright College, landed a job in the cannabis industry when he networked with Mission Dispensary at the Wilbur Wright College career fair in the fall of 2024.

Originally from North Carolina, Spencer's involvement with cannabis may be viewed as controversial. "I grew up in the Bible belt, sometimes very fire and brimstone about stuff like that, especially when the science is so new to people," Spencer said.

When he returned home to inform his grandmother about his new job, he was surprised about her reaction. "She was mad at me because she was like 'You didn't bring me any edibles or anything' and I was thinking the reaction was gonna be you're mad at me

because I'm working with the devil's lettuce," Spencer said.

Spencer decided that despite the taboos back home, cannabis offered him a sense of community, and he was intrigued to study it in college. The cannabis studies program is offered at Olive Harvey and Wilbur Wright College. Wright's program has 30 students enrolled for the upcoming 2025-26 academic year.

Jordan Melendez, Wright's cannabis studies program coordinator, said, "The goal for the program is to ensure that students obtain the hard skills from actual professionals in the field to gain willful employment in the cannabis industry."

The cannabis studies program requires students to learn the professional skills for entering the cannabis industry. This includes the botanical science behind cannabis plants, and the interconnections between cannabis and criminal justice.

Students are required to take

the lab class Horticulture 104 to earn an advanced certificate to be a cannabis processing technician. The class is offered at Olive Harvey College, but it is not offered at Wright College because the school has no facility to cultivate cannabis.

"This is a program that requires a certain level of hard skills, vocational skills, and the only way you can learn that is by being hands-on, literally with the plant," Melendez said.

The Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act, which legalized recreational cannabis in Illinois, also had a provision that community colleges could cultivate cannabis with a Community College Cannabis Vocational Pilot Program (CCCVPP) license. Melendez said if he can secure funding he wants to use Wright's license by having "a dedicated on-campus or off site facility" to cultivate cannabis.

Akilah Easter, the dean of urban agriculture at Olive Harvey, said,

"To speak of a plant that they are going to work in the industry of that was all theory, we didn't find that would be beneficial for the learning experience of the students."

In addition to the science aspect, the cannabis studies program also focuses on the legal and historical significance of cannabis.

Toni Forge, a professor at Olive Harvey who teaches about restorative justice in cannabis, said, "If you're a community college in an area that has been impacted by the War on Drugs, isn't it incredible that you would have these classes in order to educate folks, and maybe they can become cannabis business owners," said Forge.

Ceelif English, a student of Olive Harvey's cannabis studies program, said, "As an entrepreneur, I always look at the things that I am learning and being able to put them into action." English wants to turn his entertainment

company Magnificent Management LLC into a multi-state cannabis consulting agency.

English said the cannabis studies program offered opportunities to network within the cannabis industry, such as when he attended the Hawaii Cannabis Expo.

If students are interested in taking cannabis classes they can visit ccc.edu, under student tools, click academic calendar and search cannabis. Spencer said, "Learning about cannabis is really fun, to gain that education is something I'm just very thankful for."

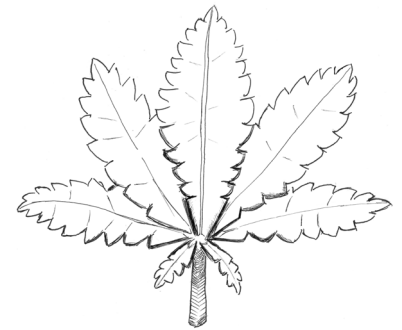


Illustration by Tito

Student Government Association Welcomes New Board Members

By Sammie Vasquez
Staff Reporter

With the end of the spring semester, a new Student Government Association board blooms. The elections were open to all students, which took place in early April to determine the new board members.

Surprisingly, most of the board was already determined when it came down to the actual election. With only one candidate running for the President, Secretary, and Treasurer positions, only the Vice President needed to be determined.

Former President Natalie Romero said, "Applications

are open to the public from the beginning, so anybody can apply. It's not just exclusively SGA. But when it came to people applying, there was already people who were in SGA that were planning to apply from the time that they knew that, like, 'Oh, it's spring semester. We're about to start transitioning.'"

As for why the competition was nonexistent, she said, "Some people don't like to be in the spotlight. These people did, and that's why some of them are uncontested."

Romero followed up by saying that the SGA would love for more people to apply and for there to be an actual election. "It's honestly great that some people actually stepped up."

Romero discusses why people are discouraged to apply, "I think it's just because people fail to ask questions. I think a lot of people, when you hear that this position is 'president' or 'vice president', it sounds like a really hard job. Mind you, it is a lot of time... but they kind of get scared from the title... they don't know enough about the position to put themselves in there."

During her term as SGA President, Romero has worked hard to maintain 20 senators, and getting the Instagram, '@wrightcollegesga', up and running. She's brought more Taco Tuesdays to Wright and made it more accessible by moving the location to the atrium so more people could attend.

The new SGA president, Angeline Martinez examined her goals for the next school year. "I just want to make sure everybody feels really welcome and that the school has a welcoming environment. Not saying it already doesn't, but I just want to, like, make sure."

When asked about how her candidacy was uncontested, Martinez said, "I think a lot of people are really intimidated by SGA. Definitely... I think that's part of the reason why nobody really applies because they think, like, 'Oh, I can't do this' or that they lack the courage to. I think anybody should be able to apply because it's really not that scary. It's a very welcoming, nice community."

Angeline Martinez will be joined by Evan Grabowski as Vice President, Bernaliz Lopez as Secretary, and Max Lemus as Treasurer for the 25-26 school year.



On May 1st SGA held their last meeting of the 24-25 school year. (Photo Credits: Sammie Vasquez)

Free Fun Activities to do Around Belmont Cragin and Portage Park

By **Alexandra Brown**
Staff Reporter

The weather is officially starting to warm up as spring comes in full swing. Belmont Cragin and Portage Park have lots of fun activities to do to make the most of spring.

Kick off the warmer months by taking a stroll through the iconic Portage Park right along Irving Park Road. Portage Park is home to paved bike paths, courts for tennis and basketball, free drawing and painting class on Wednesdays and many other activities.

Additionally, there is an indoor ADA accessible pool that you can take a swim in. Open Monday-Saturday, Portage park offers an array of open swim and class times.

Head over to Portage Grounds

Coffee & Tea right across the street for refreshments and to support a local business that has been a part of the community for over a decade.

Take a walk through the arboretum-like paths in Riis Park to experience beauty and serenity. You may come across a duck pond that you can walk over on a bridge. Take advantage of the shaded grass field to soak in the nice weather or have a picnic with friends.

Riis Park houses courts for sports ranging from basketball, tennis, track, and more. You can stop at one of the food carts to grab a bite to eat like elote or mango with tajin. There is free parking on the southside of Wrightwood Avenue.

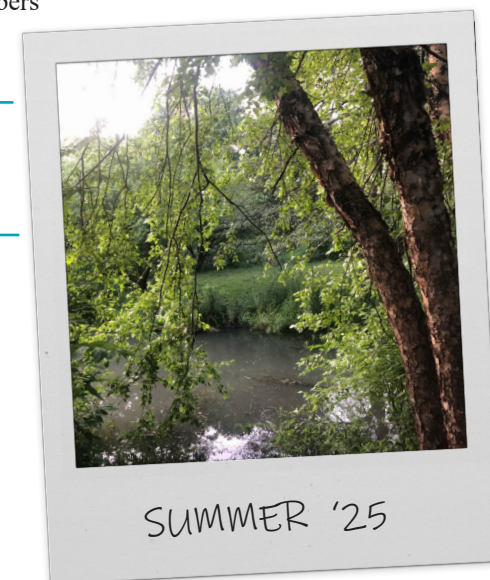
Chicago Public Library's West Belmont and Portage Cragin branches are great places to not only get ahead for finals in, but also a hub for free opportunities.

In addition to checking out books, you can use a Chicago Public Library card to stream TV shows and movies, go to museums, get access to a language learning app, and reserve music practice rooms all for free.

Belmont Cragin and Portage Park are prominent neighborhoods for Wright College

students. They are cultural hubs in Chicago with lots of free activities to engage members of their communities as warmer weather rolls in.

(BELOW) A brisk beautiful spring day at Portage Park park district. (Photo Credit: Alexandra Brown)



(ABOVE) Sneak peek at what Riis Park will look like as the weather continues to warm up. (Photo Credit: Alexandra Brown)

Memories of Another: Crossing the Silent Precipice of Night

By **Benjamin O'Connor-Rose**
Staff Reporter

Frequently, the writers who wrote adventure hooks for tabletop RPGs like Dungeons and Dragons took inspiration from current events to inspire their works and make the situations that they put their players in more relatable.

In our next memory of Another, the precipice of night, I too wanted to draw inspiration from current happenings at Wright College to draw you in. Inspired by the recent changes to school staff, our country's political administrations, the transition between the harsh desert of finals

into the cool lake of spring break, and even the changing of the seasons, many of us find ourselves in a time of great uncertainty over what the future holds.

The Precipice of Night seeks to encourage you to explore the uncertainty that these changing times bring to us and ponder what awaits us in the unknown.

You find yourself worn and tired, your legs tremble beneath you as you struggle to find your footing in the shining pearl-white sand beneath you.

The beaming sun hangs heavy above you in an endless cloudless sky. You can't quite remember how long you've been walking. Days? Weeks? Months?

At this point, it all blends

vaguely together. But soon your journey comes to an end, ahead of you, the vast opalescent sands of the marble desert you have been walking through give way to the shoreline of an equally endless sea of the blackest Midnight.

As the sun begins to set behind you, the shimmering sand begins to shift to a glimmering golden hue. Up ahead of you, the crescent moon rises above the darkened waves. As you reach the edge of the vast contrast, you find yourself at the pinnacle of twilight. The moon and sun are at equal points above the horizon.

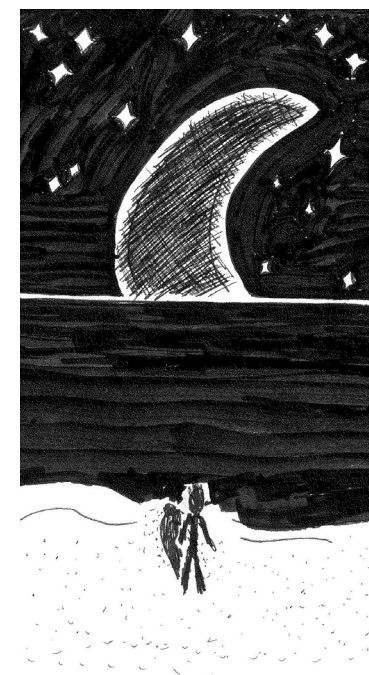
What awaits you in the vast blackness of the awaiting unknown, is this ocean a long-awaited reprieve for you to rest beside before continuing on your way? Or merely the next leg

of your endless journey?

What is next for you, once you cross this, the precipice of night, what does the unknowable deep of the infinite future truly hold for you?

“What is next for you, once you cross this, the precipice of night, what does the unknowable deep of the infinite future truly hold for you?”

Illustration by Tito



Florida Beats Houston in a Thrilling 2025 March Madness Showdown

**By Anthony Tirado and
Brandon Gonzalez**
Staff Reporters

March Madness is the annual NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Tournament, with 68 teams in a single elimination format. This includes 31 teams earning automatic bids by winning their conferences and 37 at large teams chosen based on season performance.

In a crazy turn of events in the final minutes of the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship, the Florida Gators beat Houston Cougars 65-63 to claim their first national title since 2007.

Clark Kkou, a 21 year-old at Wright College, shares his

excitement for March Madness. Kkou's earliest memory of watching March Madness was in 2017 with Villanova and North Carolina.

The biggest upset Kkou witnessed was a 16 seed team defeating a number 1 seed team, making it a shocking experience for him. He shared his earliest memory of watching March Madness, which was a buzzer beater match between Villanova and North Carolina.

Louay Shehadeh, a 20-year old Wright Student and basketball fan, enjoys March Madness "as it is one of the best times of the year. The games are intense, with the possibility of a big upset happening. The energy from players and fans adds to the excitement."

Throughout the tournament,

Houston looked like they were going to take the lead and run with it. Houston went on an 11-2 run to lead 42-30 on a J'wan Roberts jumper with 16 minutes 24 seconds to play.

"I was nervous, because I had Florida," said Johnathan Skinner, an accounting major. "Walter Clayton Jr. wasn't doing anything in the first half, so Richard had to save Florida by making his shots and keeping them in as much as possible."

Orpheus McElrath-Beyzanke, a computer engineering major, said he had Houston winning the game due to them being "underdogs while facing Duke, so I thought Houston could pull it off again and win."

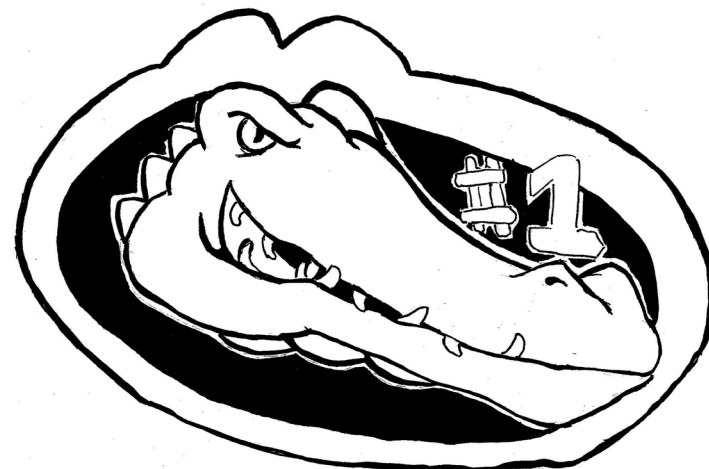
Houston was about to win, until Emmanuel Sharp (guard)

thought the ball was going to get blocked, and because he hesitated and lost the ball midway through the release causing Florida to steal the ball and win the game.

"I couldn't believe how it ended," said Joshua Genty, an

exercise science major. "It was so chaotic." Florida finished the season 36-4, while Houston finished 35-5. A classic college championship that will be talked about for a long time.

Illustration by Tito



Chicago Bulls Mark Significant Improvement After Player Trade

**By Anthony Tirado,
Brandon Gonzalez and
Jacob Castillo**
Staff Reporters

The Chicago Bulls 2024-25 season resulted in a 39-43 record, with 15 of those wins coming in the final 20 games led by stellar play from Coby White and Josh Giddey.

The season came to an end at the United Center in a 109-90 loss to the Miami Heat in the Play-In Tournament. Prior to the season-altering change with Zach LaVine going to the Sacramento Kings, the Bulls were hovering around play-in contention for the second consecutive season.

Second-year student Brian Gonzalez said the Bulls are "playing with a different energy" following LaVine's departure.

The All-Star break marked

an important time in this year's Bulls season as they traded away their star guard, LaVine, who played for the Windy City for eight memorable seasons. Once news broke on February 2, fans were split. Some were relieved LaVine was off the Bulls' books, others believed he was our only chance at current and future success.

After seeing the recent production from the Bulls on the court, first-year computer science major Steven Allam explained, "This is what happens when the ball starts moving, no one is standing watching 'iso-ball' from Zach."

Following the Play-In loss, Allam said, "Now we're back to Earth." Jokingly referring to the Bulls surge to end the season was just a favorable stretch of games, nothing more.

In March, combo guard Coby White earned two consecutive Player of the Week awards and

the Player of the Month award. Point guard Josh Giddey's production has taken off as well, with rookie Matas Buzelis and recent trade acquisitions chipping in every game.

Bulls fans are excited for next year's season. Second-year business major Endy Jimenez said "I'm excited to see the younger guys play. I hope the bulls give Matas Buzelis and John Giddey a star rolereole." Buzelis and Giddey excelled bulls fan expectations shutting down the Lakers in a heated battle to stay in the playoff hunt.

Shortly after LaVine was traded to the Sacramento Kings to rejoin forces with DeMar DeRozan, the Bulls' ball-move-ment and shot-making started hitting their stride. With notable wins over the Denver Nuggets, Indiana Pacers, and a half-court heave to beat the Lakers. Letting go of LaVine may have been a

move the front office should have made seasons ago.

The King's season would later end in the same fate as the Bulls falling short to the Mavericks 120-106 in the NBA play-in game. With DeRozan dropping 33 points, two assists and seven rebounds. Along with LaVine dropping 20 points, nine assists and three rebounds.

Amir Memic, a third-year at Wilbur Wright, hopes to see the Cleveland Cavaliers and the Oklahoma Thunders in the finals. They have been a top seed team in each of their conferences.

Memic believes the Golden State Warriors are going to be the most underrated threat to make the finals this year. They started with a low level from the beginning of the season until the end of the season; they started increasing their level when they got Jimmy Butler.

The matchup Memic would

like to see in the finals are "Lakers and Bucks because they're both interesting teams to watch".

The superstars throughout these playoffs are Julius Randle and Anthony Edwards from the Timberwolves. They are dark horse players that are going to shine in the playoffs from high level energy.

Illustration by Reanna Sturgill

