

THE CLARION

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Harmony Ogbemudia

I like reading historical fiction and watching early 2000s shows. I love music. Some of my favorite apps are YouTube and Substack. I love politics and media. I have a lot of interests and would like to explore them all but most of all I hope to leave a positive impact on the world someday.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hello, Tartans. This is my first issue of The Clarion as executive editor, but the last print edition for the 2025-2026 school year. April is typically our “graduation edition” as Sinclair’s only Commencement Ceremony of the year takes place in May.

Throughout this issue readers will find advice from experienced students, more ads than ever sending well wishes to graduates, and a graduation-themed maze on the Fun Page. But while this is an exciting time and the graduating class deserves a world of recognition, this doesn’t define the experience of every Sinclair student reading this.

In fact, there is no single aspect that can unite everyone’s experience in a community college. Even as we celebrate graduation season, we know there are so many stories just beginning.

There are single parents just starting to take classes part-time. There are retirees who may be stepping into an educational environment for the first time in decades. There are people halfway through their studies, balancing jobs, family and school, who may not see the light at the end of the tunnel yet.

The school is always in a state of transition, especially with the size and diversity of the student body. With that in mind, whoever and wherever you are, we want to represent you.

What issues matter to you? What do you wish you knew about Sinclair, Dayton or the world beyond? What is being overlooked at Sinclair’s satellite campuses?

The Clarion welcomes your ideas. We accept article contributions and letters to the editor, so use the QR code at the bottom of this page and stay in touch.

Finally, as our print issues wave goodbye for the summer, I have to give credit where it is due.

Noah Schlarman, my predecessor as executive editor, has made this publication what it is today. It has gone through transformation after transformation in the nearly 50 years since it was founded, and now stands as one of the top 10 community college media outlets in the country as recognized by the A-Mark Foundation. Schlarman’s dedication, talent and professionalism make him a great friend, an incredible writer and editor, and a tough act to follow.

Under his guidance, The Clarion won awards in six categories from the Ohio News Media Association for our work over the last year, more than doubling our awards from the year previous. We were the only team from a community college to enter, going against four-year universities across the state, and won runner-up for College Newspaper of the Year.

Our sales representative Melissa and graphic designer Maliah are also part of the 2026 graduating class, and while it’s hard to imagine The Clarion without them, I know their talent will take them far beyond anything we can hope in their future endeavors.

We are immensely proud of our team and their accomplishments. But now our eyes are looking to the future and looking out for you.

Congratulations to the graduates, and congratulations to everyone making strides large and small at Sinclair every day.



Hannah Kichline . CONTRIBUTED



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Tartan Spotlight

David Bodary reflects on 32 years at Sinclair

Jacie Moore, reporter

After more than three decades at Sinclair College, David Bodary, Ph.D, is preparing to retire as chair of the Communication Department. This will close a career that began in 1994 and leaves behind a lasting impact on students, faculty and the college community.

For Bodary, the path to Sinclair was not something carefully planned or thought out. While completing graduate work at Wayne State University in Detroit, he was searching for a job somewhere between Detroit and Dayton, where his wife's family lived. A position at Sinclair happened to fall right in between.

"I thought, well, I'm looking for a job anywhere between Detroit and Dayton," Bodary said. "And this job happens to be right there."

At the time, he said, he didn't fully understand what Sinclair would become in his life.

"I didn't understand at that time what a place Sinclair was," he said. "This is not your average community college."

His perspective quickly changed once he stepped into the classroom. What stood out most to him was the students, their work ethic, determination and willingness to grow.

"The students at Sinclair really valued and appreciated what we were doing," Bodary said. "They worked so hard and they were willing to learn, and so that just was perfect."

Over the next 32 years, Bodary watched the Communication Department evolve, with new faculty, expanded programs and changing approaches to teaching. But despite those changes, his focus remained steady: helping students discover their potential.

"I think that's what all the faculty at Sinclair love doing," he said. "Helping students to become the best version of whoever they want to be."

Rather than pointing to one single achievement, Bodary said the most meaningful moments of his career came from seeing students grow — especially those who didn't initially believe in themselves.

"There are so many students who I see potential in, but they don't believe it," he said. "And I'm like, 'Oh, but you could.'"

That process — helping students recognize their abilities and build confidence — is what Bodary described as the most rewarding part of teaching.

"Man, is that fun to see the blossoming of that student's potential," he said.

Beyond the classroom, Bodary also contributed to shaping Sinclair's culture. Early in his career, he helped develop the college's honor code along with Tom Roberts and other faculty. The code emphasizes personal accountability and integrity, rather than reporting wrongdoing by others.



David Bodary. CONTRIBUTED

"It was always about 'for myself,'" he said. "An aspirational guiding light toward what we want to be, who we want to be and upholding sort of the highest standards of academic integrity."

When he later stepped into a leadership role within the department, Bodary said his approach centered on support rather than authority.

"I've always been a better support person," he said. "I try my best to serve others, serve the department as best I can."

That philosophy became especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic, when faculty and students had to quickly adapt to new challenges and fully online learning.

As he prepares to retire, Bodary said he has not focused heavily on defining his personal legacy. Instead, he hopes what remains is something stable and lasting for future students.

"I want to make sure that whatever we leave behind is solid and can continue," he said.

"Spotlight" continued on page 7

“Spotlight” continued from page 6

Part of that effort includes his involvement with the Sinclair Foundation, where faculty and staff raise money to support scholarships, emergency funds and student resources. These initiatives, he said, reflect a larger commitment to making education accessible.

“Sinclair is going to be here,” Bodary said. “And that’s what I always tell students... when you’re ready to come back, we’ll be here.”

In addition to reflecting on his career, Bodary shared his thoughts on the future of communication — a field he believes is often misunderstood.

“Some people think it’s easy,” he said. “That means they don’t understand it.”

He explained that communication is constantly evolving, especially with the rise of social media and AI, and requires critical thinking, adaptability and strong interpersonal skills.

“If you think it’s easy, it’s probably because you’re not doing it as effectively as it could be,” he said.

As colleges across the country cut or merge communication programs, Bodary emphasized that the field is becoming more important, not less.

“In an AI world, they probably become more important,” he said.

“We’ve got to be thoughtful, skillful communicators and critical consumers.”

He added that communication skills are essential not just professionally, but personally as well — shaping relationships, decision-making and everyday interactions.

“I don’t think the need for good communication skills is going away,” he said.

Looking ahead, Bodary is preparing for a retirement filled with both personal and community involvement. He plans to spend more time with family — including welcoming a new grandchild — and continue volunteering in the Dayton area. He also looks forward to time at his cottage in Michigan and staying active in local organizations.

“There are just so many things to look forward to,” he said.

Though he is stepping away from his full-time role, Bodary said he hopes to remain connected to Sinclair in some capacity in the future.

Reflecting on his 32 years at the college, Bodary described his time at Sinclair as both meaningful and impactful.

“I feel fortunate that I was given the opportunity,” he said. “What we do here changes lives, and I’m just so proud to have been a piece of that process.”



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Clarion Cuisine

Toasted Brunch Bar is a stack above the rest

Hannah Kichline, multimedia editor



The outside of Toasted Brunch Bar and Cafe in Beavercreek, Ohio. HANNAH KICHLINE

Since opening its doors in 2024, Toasted Brunch Bar and Cafe has done nothing but grow. The restaurant is part of the El Toro brand and opened a second location in Beavercreek in January, with plans for a Vandalia location this spring.

We visited on a busy, rainy Saturday and felt like we had stepped into a Pinterest board. Abundant artificial plants, exposed lightbulbs and an eclectic color scheme complete with pillows on the benches made the dining room feel quirky and relaxed. But that is not the aspect of Toasted that will make me a repeat customer; the menu rightfully takes center stage.

The team at Toasted made a smart move by incorporating all of the classics that patrons expect while giving them refreshing, modern twists. Many breakfast-only restaurants became popular 10-15 years ago and feel “played out” at this point, but it seems that Toasted’s diverse options will save them from this fate.

First, they offer a wide range of pastries including scones and cinnamon buns as well as fresh custard doughnuts, “Matilda’s chocolate cake” and their trademark “Toasted cookie.”

Their drink selection is incredibly robust, especially considering that many of their competitors will specialize either in fresh juices, smoothies, espresso or cocktails. Toasted offers them all, plus organic loose-leaf teas, with an impressive amount of variation.

Their signature cocktails lead with international infusions, such as their “Oaxaca Old Fashioned” made with tequila, agave and chili salt, and the “Scarlet Witch” featuring rosemary and tajin. I tried their Bloody Mary with housemade tomato juice and found it delightfully zingy and peppery with a light texture. However, for the price, I do wish it had been stronger.

Their main course menu was a bit overwhelming, only because everything sounded so good that it felt impossible to choose. In the end, we went with the Lox Toast, the Bacon Jam Burger and the Chilaquiles.



Coffee and Bloody Mary at Toasted. HANNAH KICHLINE



The dining area at Toasted. HANNAH KICHLINE

“Cuisine” continued from page 8



Toasted's Chilaquiles. HANNAH KICHLINE

The Chilaquiles were hearty, filling and authentic, with tortilla chips, queso fresco and beans cooked to perfection. The underlying sauce was complex, tangy and almost sweet. This is one of those classic dishes that offers a different experience with every bite.

Even after trying these, I feel we only scratched the surface of Toasted's menu. I will absolutely be back to try their smoothies and espresso, as well as their Breakfast Pita, Pancake Taco, Loaded Hashbrown Stack and wide array of lunch sandwiches and soups.

It's clear to see why the brand has shown success, and I don't believe they will run out of steam any time soon.



Diners sitting at the bar inside Toasted. HANNAH KICHLINE



The bakery case featuring cinnamon rolls and the “Toasted” cookie. HANNAH KICHLINE

The smoked salmon on the Lox Toast was excellent, high above what we've come to expect in restaurants. The dish is a light option while still being a full meal in itself. With a thick layer of bacon-jalapeno cream cheese and thin strips of pickles on sourdough, every aspect came together beautifully.

The burger was smothered in melted white cheddar cheese, bacon jam and caramelized onions. I don't typically enjoy bacon jam, but have to admit this recipe could be eaten by the bowl. It also came with hot, fresh fries with a crispy texture on the outside and pillowy potato on the inside.



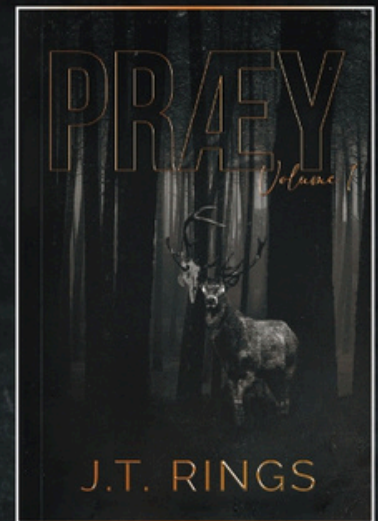
The Lox Toast. HANNAH KICHLINE



JT. Rings is an author and poet from Dayton, Ohio, and a graduate of Sinclair Community College.



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PRÆY Vol. 1 is JT. Rings' first published work, with PRÆY Vol. 2 coming out later this year. This series blends poetry, prose, and horror.



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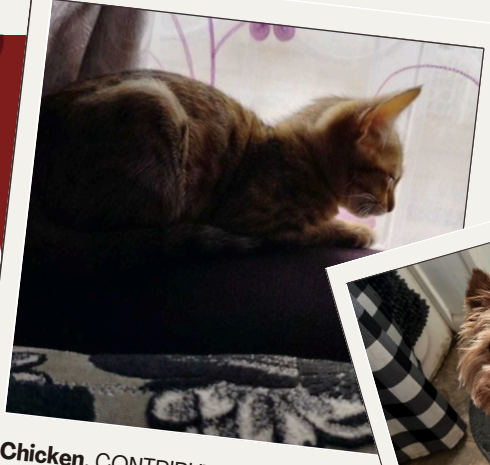
NATIONAL PET MONTH



Apollo. CONTRIBUTED



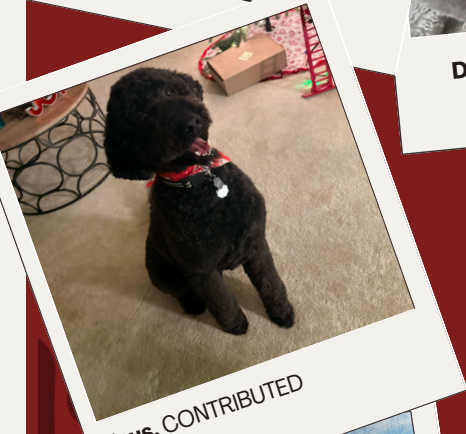
Della. CONTRIBUTED



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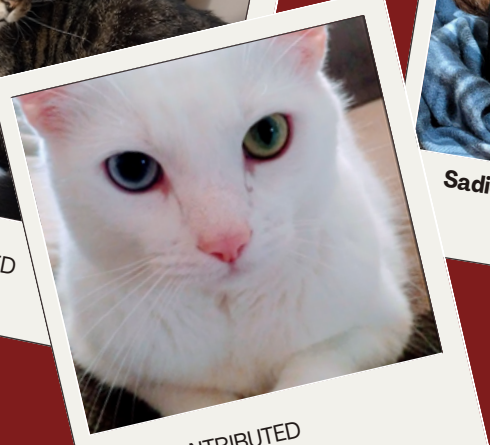
Minuch. CONTRIBUTED



Cookie. CONTRIBUTED



Sadie and Penny. CONTRIBUTED



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Cinci. CONTRIBUTED

The Rise of 'Pet Parenting'

Are pets the new kids for younger generations?

Hannah Kichline, multimedia editor

April is National Pet Month, and American attitudes toward pets have shifted dramatically in recent years. Demands for veterinary care and high-quality pet food have shown significant growth, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic when adoptions and time spent at home with pets soared to new heights.

According to the Pew Research Center, 62% of Americans own pets and 97% of pet owners consider them part of the family. About half of these rank their pets as important as human family members.

Young people make up a significant portion of these dedicated pet owners, with Gen Z clocking in at 20% of pet owners and about 70% of them owning more than one. Young people are also more likely to care about a pet's stress level and emotional wellbeing; between 66% and 78% of millennials and Gen Z use calming products regularly for their pets.

These trends have started to impact the workplace, with many benefits packages starting to include pet insurance and "pawternity leave" for employees. This is well-placed according to OnePoll survey results in 2024, which found that 81% of employed pet owners prioritize giving their pets a better life and 60% would consider leaving their job if it interfered with their ability to do this.

As younger generations invest more money and time in "pet parenting," birth rates are also on a decline. Since 1960, rates have decreased from an average of 120 births per 1,000 women of childbearing age to a record low of 56 births per 1,000 women in 2024. In the last 20 years, the rate of 30-year-old women without children has increased from one-third to one-half in the U.S.

Many millennials and Gen Z have cited pessimism about the economy and environment as deterrents to having children, opting instead for the lower cost and commitment of adopting pets.

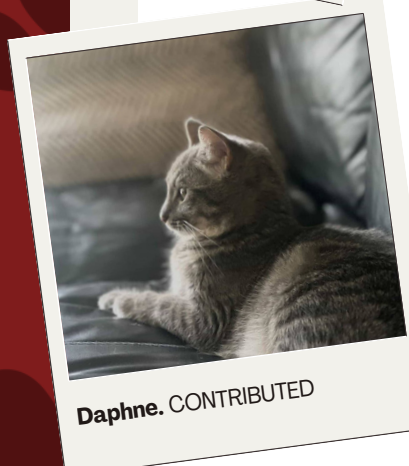
People have reported having more alone time and freedom to leave the house with pets than with children. Many also say that pets give "unconditional love" and never go through rebellious phases or move away.

However, this trend has raised concern, especially in older and more conservative groups who say people who choose pets over children are missing out on the true joys of parenthood and parts of their biological function.

The long-term socioeconomic effects of this "dog boom" remain to be seen, one of many cultural shifts to watch in the U.S. in coming years.



Paris. CONTRIBUTED



Daphne. CONTRIBUTED



Maxi. CONTRIBUTED



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The Journalism Lab in Dayton

The Journalism Lab focuses on teaching media tools to Dayton residents

Noah Schlarman, executive editor



Photo on the homepage of thejournalismlab.org. STEPHEN STARR

The current state of journalism is a subject of intense scrutiny. Many people generalize the complexity of the industry's problems and simply call "the media" corrupt, disingenuous, biased and fake.

There is merit to these claims. Many of the biggest news companies lean politically one way or another, which affects how and what they report. However, the unfavorable and unethical practices of certain companies should not be ascribed to the entire industry.

The problem will only be further exacerbated by the continuation of industry consolidation and the increasing amount of "news deserts." These news deserts are the result of a sustained loss of local reporting due to closures of small newspapers, especially in rural areas.

While the issue at hand can feel overwhelming and uncontrollable, certain people have taken notice and taken action to combat the issues within the industry. One of those initiatives is taking place right here in Dayton.

The Journalism Lab has been operating since 2020, focusing on teaching community members to engage with journalism and media in a more active and thoughtful way.



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“Journalism” continued from page 12

Stephen Starr, one of the four cofounders of The Journalism Lab, had lived and worked as a journalist for 10 years in Syria and Turkey. He recounted a failed coup that happened in Turkey in July of 2016 and the fallout after; the government silenced the media, arrested thousands of journalists and event detained judges.

After moving to Dayton in 2018, Starr began to see similar attitudes and behaviors towards the media in America.

“I was getting a feeling that there was kind of echoes of similar activity and criticisms of the press,” he said. “So I kind of felt that America is like the big dog in the yard, and if democracy goes by the wayside here, then it’s not just an issue for Americans; it’s a problem for people around the world.”

These commonalities that Starr saw sparked what he describes as “the genesis of The Journalism Lab.”

“It was kind of just to put journalism tools in the hands of everyday folks because it’s just an important function of democracy,” Starr said.

The Journalism Lab equips people with these tools through various avenues of outreach. One of their most recent events was the Dayton Journalism Summit held at the Dayton Metro Library’s downtown branch in January.

At the summit, any interested person was able to sign up, free of charge, to different classes from photojournalism to pitching a news story put on by various industry professionals.

The lab has many different modes of outreach, but learning the tools to write a newsworthy article is just half the battle. Understanding how to consume the news is just as important. Unfortunately media literacy across the nation has been on a decline.

This is in part due to the sheer amount of information online, the active spread of disinformation and the way in which social media algorithms prioritize engagement activity over accurate, verifiable information.

In a 2025 study, the Pew Research Center reported that 86% of Americans get their news from a smartphone, computer or tablet. About a third of American adults get their news from the internet or social media with younger people tending to favor the latter.

Nick Hrkman, another cofounder of The Journalism Lab, has noticed the need for media literacy education within schools and, with the lab, has gone to high schools around Dayton to educate students on ethical media consumption.

“We realized relatively early on that media literacy is at shocking place right now,” Hrkman said.

“I think it’s important to get these kids as early as they can to be thinking critically about what they’re consuming, their media habits and their consumption habits, making sure that they’re thinking really hard and not just being a passive kind of consumer without applying a critical lens to this stuff.”

Hrkman, a lifelong Dayton resident, graduated from Stivers School for the Arts and decided to pursue journalism as a career after the murder of his high school instructor and Dayton Daily reporter, Derek Ali. He attended Ohio University and talked about how he had planned to leave Dayton behind.



Stephen Starr. THEJOURNALISMLAB.ORG

Although, for Hrkman, his hometown, family and the connections he had made here ultimately brought him back. Following in the steps of his late mentor, Hrkman began working for Dayton Daily News, becoming an editor and instructing some of his own classes and workshops in high schools around the area.

For many people, a job is merely what they do for money. For Hrkman, he has made his career based on the passion instilled in him by Derek Ali.

“I wanted to be like Derek. I wanted to grow up and do what he did and make him proud,” he said.

Passion for the work being done is the foundation of The Journalism Lab and its leaders. One of the most passionate was the late cofounder Mary Evans.

The Journalism Lab suffered a heavy blow last June with the unexpected passing of Evans. To her peers, she was an invaluable part of the lab.

“Mary was one of a kind. She was the heart and soul of the lab. She was well known by everybody in the journalism community in the Dayton area. She had such a passion for telling other people’s stories, which as a result, made her such a an incredible journalist,” Starr said.

Hrkman recalled the shaky grounds the lab started on and the common struggles that the cofounders shared.

“Journalism” continued on page 15



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“Journalism” continued from page 13

“From the beginning, it was very much co-equal. All four of us were in it together,” Hrkman said, “So it really, it felt like losing a fourth leg of a stool kind of thing. And we just were wobbly. It was very, very hard for us.”

Evans is remembered for her dedication to her work, community and peers. She worked nonstop with the lab to share her knowledge and skills with young journalist and students all over the Dayton area. After Evans’s passing, the lab even considered shutting down.

“We considered if we wanted to continue the organization or not after her passing. It was a big setback, but I think we all kind of collectively agree that's not what she would have wanted,” Hrkman said.

The Journalism Lab carries on in her memory, seeking to continue the work that they started together.

One of the lab’s main methods of outreach is “The Co-Laborative” monthly meetings.

The meetings provide a space for anyone interested in attending to discuss problems or ask questions about the industry or current events in the news.

It is not a place for an activist to read their manifesto, but rather a place where industry standards, practices and trends can be talked about earnestly.

One of the aspects of the labs that Starr likes the most is the discourse that happens within the discussions. He sees Dayton as a healthy mix of both sides of American culture and politics.

“[In Dayton] there's a lot of suburbs that kind of lean conservative, and then there's downtown areas that may be more liberal. And so there's a kind of a good mix of both, right?” Starr said.

“You know, it's not New York City, where you just get one particular political perspective, and it's not kind of rural Kansas, where you get the same but the total other side.”

Starr says that Dayton’s variety of leanings and opinions represents the nation at large.

The Journalism Lab seeks to create a space where disagreements can happen civilly and where real learning can take place. Whereas more culturally homogenous communities cannot create the same environment because of the lack of differing ideas.

“You're just going to get a room full of nodding heads. It's going to be an exit chamber. I don't think there's going to be a lot of learnings kind of done. And so [in Dayton,] I think there's an opportunity to reach people across any kind of culture or political divide,” Starr said.

The concept of collaboration stands out as contradictory to the stigma of hyper-competitiveness within journalism. The industry is widely known for being cut-throat, but this is exactly what the lab wants to dispel.

“I feel like we were responding to some of the same kind of trends in the industry and hopefully shifting away from some of that hyper competitive attitudes and mentalities and zero-sum game,” Hrkman said.

The attitudes toward journalism has transformed drastically from what they used to be. The industry is met with more skepticism, anger and dismissal than ever before. For journalists, this can be draining. Which is why the lab has become a bastion for many Dayton journalists.

“I think collectively, the industry is waking up to the fact that we all are under attack from all sides,” Hrkman said. “And if you're a working journalist, you feel it, you feel run down, you feel overworked, and with the stresses of the job, it's overwhelming.

“So, I think what a lot of us acknowledge and recognize is that that it doesn't have to be that way.”

The job of a journalist can be stressful and demanding and leads many to burnout and grow apathetic to the industry, which is one the factors that has led to its decline.

In a study done by Muck Rack, it is estimated that there has been a nearly 75% decrease in local journalists since 2002. There used to be roughly 40 journalists for every 100,000 people; as of 2025, there is less than 8.2 journalists per 100,000 people.

There are many more factors that have contributed to this decline, a large proportion being the shuttering of many local newspapers throughout the country, decimating the supply of journalism jobs. Another issue is that there are not many young people going into the industry.



Nick Hrkman. THEJOURNALISMLAB.ORG

“Journalism” continued on page 16

“Journalism” continued from page 15



Nick Hrkman at the Dayton Democracy Summit in October 2025. NOAH SCHLARMAN

For Starr, he believes that journalism has taken on too heavy of a burden for people to be interested in joining the industry.

He noted how often journalism is tied to the idea of upholding and defending democracy. He believes it does do this function but says that is not what the drawing factors should be.

“The point is you basically need to make journalism sexy again, and make it attractive as a career path, and not link it to being a savior of democracy,” Starr said.

There are many different paths a journalist can take like sports reporting, gonzo journalism and investigative journalism.

While the press is a vital function to democracy, it is not every journalists intention to be a watchdog of the government.

But each discipline require the same skills and methods to be a proper reporter. The Journalism Lab is available and willing to help anyone, amateur or professional, learn the skills to pitch, research and write a well-developed, newsworthy article.

The Journalism Lab is looking forward to continuing their outreach and connecting with more people within the Dayton community.

“The more we can meet people in the flesh and engage with people and talk about journalism, why it's important, how you can do it, where you can do it, what the tools you need to do, the better,” Starr said.

For information on meetings, events and more, visit The Journalism Lab’s website at thejournalismmlab.org

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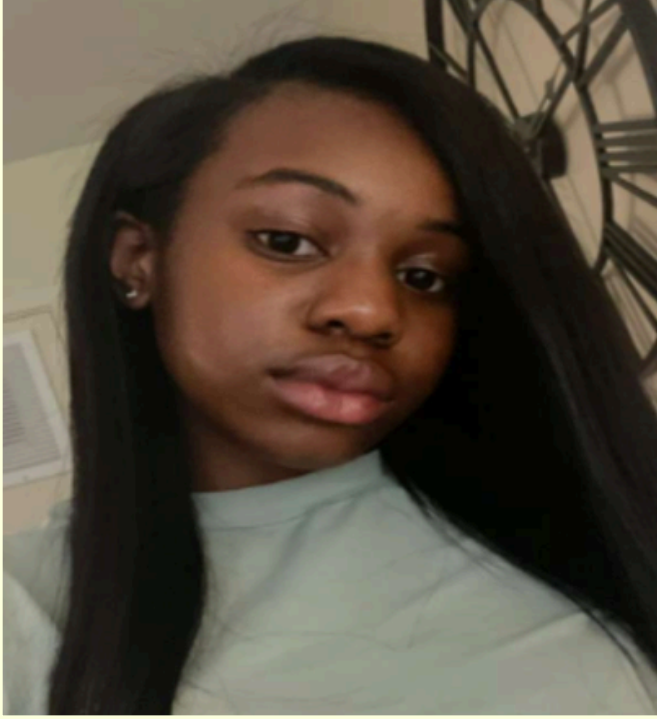
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YourVoice

'I Wish I Knew This Sooner': Advice from Sinclair students

Moonsoon Koirala, reporter



Maryjen Abraham. CONTRIBUTED



Kaydin Casteel. CONTRIBUTED

College is one of the most uniquely transformative experiences a person can have, but depending on who you ask, it can be either the best or the most challenging time of their life. For many students, especially in the beginning, finding their footing can feel overwhelming. But a bit of perspective from those who have already navigated that transition can make all the difference.

Three students from Sinclair College reflect on their journeys, sharing what they wish they had known and offering honest advice to help newcomers feel more confident and prepared.

Maryjen Abraham

For Maryjen Abraham, her time in college began concurrently with her high school education. She has been juggling high school obligations and college-level coursework as part of Sinclair's College Credit Plus program, which has required her to swiftly adapt to an entirely new academic pace.

That shift was not simple at first. Because she was juggling both high school and college, she had to be more disciplined than she had anticipated to stay on top of her assignments. This made it easy for her to fall behind without realizing the potential consequences.

"One thing I wish I had known before starting college is how important it is to avoid procrastination," said Abraham. "It's easy to fall behind, and it's much harder to recover your grade in a college class than in high school."

But as time went on, her viewpoint started to change. She began to understand how crucial it is to remain aware of the support systems available to students, especially in the early stages, rather than attempting to manage everything on her own.

"I regret not learning about Sinclair's TRIO groups sooner," she said.

Programs like TRIO offer students guidance, resources and a sense of support both inside and outside the classroom. This can have a significant impact on students' academic and psychological growth.

Her experience highlights the importance of developing solid habits at a young age while remaining receptive to assistance. She was able to learn these lessons earlier than others as she enrolled in college while still in high school, and they still influence how she approaches her classes today.

Kaydin Casteel

Kaydin Casteel's path to college has not been an easy one. She initially began at Miami University straight from high school. However, after only one semester, she quickly realized it was not the right environment for her. Now in her second year at Sinclair College as a third-year college student, she has learned from her mistakes and is currently studying health sciences with the intention of entering a nursing program.

Adjusting to a new campus environment has had its own learning curve. Some of her challenges have been simple things like eating a meal. Even having lunch is not as simple as it sounds when one has no idea what resources are available.

"YourVoice" continued on page 18

“YourVoice” continued from page 17

“This may be a little surprising, but I wish I would have known that Sinclair had a cafeteria sooner,” said Casteel. “I would pack my lunch for a full day of classes, and with my lunch box sitting in my car sometimes the food would not always taste the best or I’d choose to just go hungry.”

As she became more familiar with Sinclair, her focus shifted toward being more intentional with her academic decisions. Early on, Casteel realized that choosing classes without considering teaching styles made learning more difficult than it needed to be.

“First semester, I wish I wouldn’t have just chosen random classes with random professors. I wish I would have been more clear as to what I was seeking out of a professor or class,” she said.

This is especially true for her after struggling in Anatomy and Physiology, as she realized that the teaching style wasn’t conducive to how she learns. By retaking the course under a different teacher, she had a completely new experience and learned to appreciate the importance of being her own advocate. In reflecting on her experience, she recognized that it is vital to be mindful from the very start, whether it’s finding the right setting, asking questions or being aware of how one learns best.

Overall, her transfer to Sinclair College provided her with a second chance, and ever since, she’s been able to have a more defined experience as a college student with confidence, productivity and finding purpose in the academic as well as personal life experiences.

Ankita Ghising

“I am blessed to be an international student,” Ankita Ghising said.

Starting at Sinclair after transferring from Wright State University was not just about going to class but also about adapting to a new system, welcoming challenges in her academic and personal life. From intimidating credit transfer protocols to a language barrier that didn’t let her communicate fluently with friends and professors, everything felt different at first.

For her, one of the hardest phases at the earliest point was understanding how to look for opportunities outside of class. The things that she expected to be easy, like creating resumes and finding on-campus jobs, became very challenging as she was unaware of the amenities available.

“Looking back, a resource I wish I had known about earlier at Sinclair is the Career Services office. As an international student, it can be really challenging to understand U.S. resume standards, prepare for interviews and figure out where to find job opportunities,” Ghising said.

Meanwhile, skipping classes and not using tutoring made things harder than they needed to be, especially while still trying to adjust to everything around her.

“Something I wish I had taken more seriously during my first semester is tutoring,” she said. “I knew it was available, but I didn’t make time for it, and because of that I struggled and didn’t do well in one of my classes.”



Ankita Ghising. CONTRIBUTED

After some time, she started to find a rhythm. Going to class regularly, staying on top of assignments and getting more involved helped things feel less overwhelming. It didn’t change overnight, but small changes made a big difference.

The experiences of these three Sinclair students show that while college can feel uncertain and overwhelming at first, growth often comes from learning through those early challenges. Whether it’s managing time effectively, seeking out campus resources or understanding personal learning styles, each student’s journey highlights the importance of being proactive and open to change.

For those just beginning their college journey, this advice offers reassurance that success is not about perfection, but about persistence, awareness and the willingness to learn along the way.

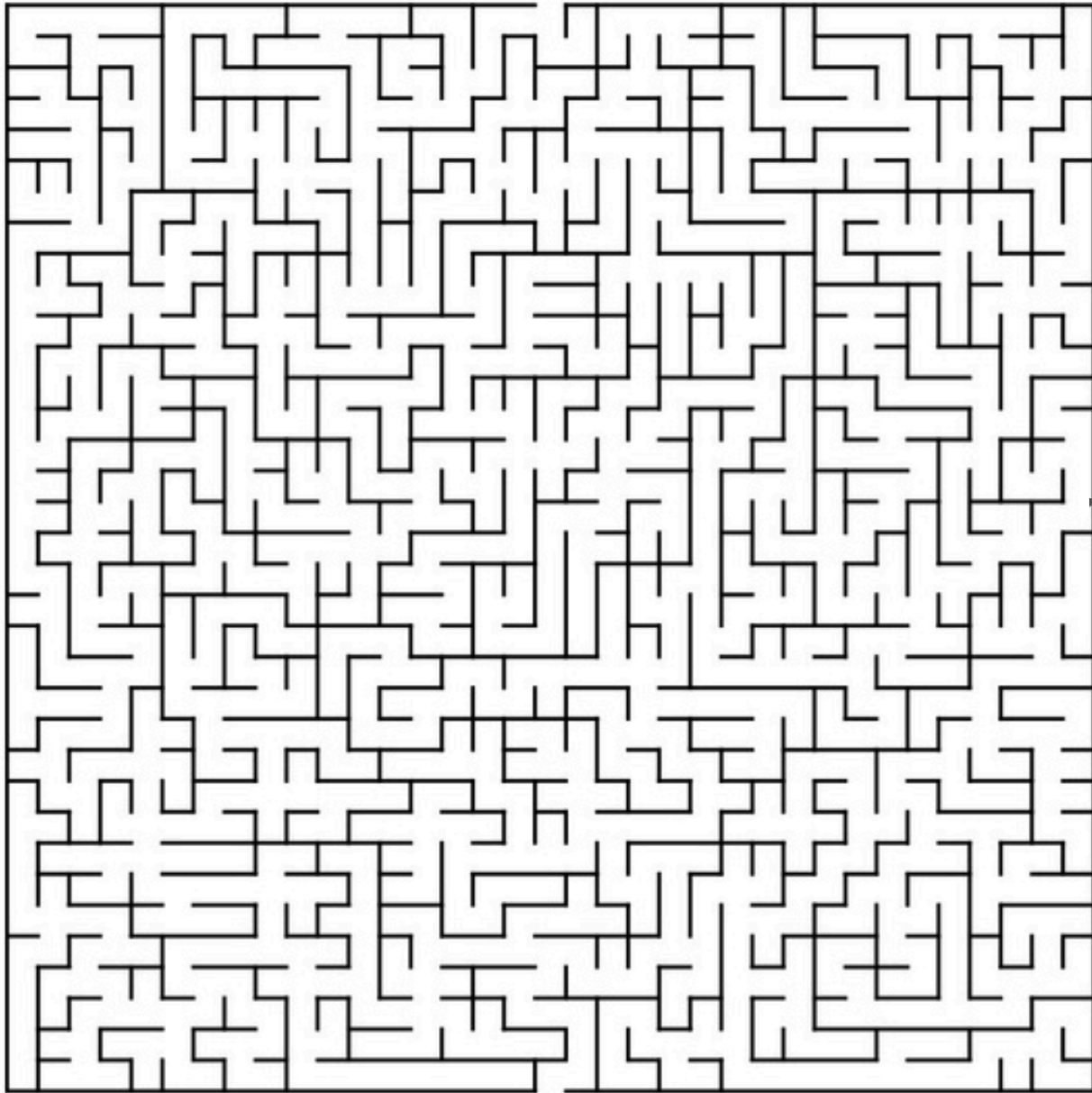
“One thing I wish I had known before starting college is how important it is to avoid procrastination. It’s easy to fall behind, and it’s much harder to recover your grade in a college class than in high school.”

- Maryjen Abraham

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Spring WORD SEARCH

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 MARCH MAY NEST PUDDLE RAINBOW ROBIN SEASON
 SHOWERS SUNSHINE THAW TULIP UMBRELLA**

Disability Access at Sinclair



James Shuler. THERAPYDEN.COM

“We are working hard to make sure Sinclair is a world-class college for accessibility.”
- James Shuler

Sinclair continues to strive for accessibility

Laura Lawrence, reporter/photographer

Accessibility has been a growing topic of importance for cities, workplaces, schools and universities. The Americans with Disabilities Act recognizes three broad types of disabilities: Academic disabilities, which include neurodivergence and ADHD; physical or medical-related disabilities such as Chron’s disease, cancer or chronic physical health issues; and mental disabilities like anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder and substance abuse (until recently, people needed to be in remission for services).

James Shuler has worked on accessibility cases at Sinclair College for 20 years. Partnering with more than 1700 active students in the past three semesters, Shuler said that “caseloads have blossomed, especially since COVID. Anxiety, social anxiety, depression, secondary diagnoses of mental health—nearly all cases.”

Disabilities often overlap. Nearly half of the students in the program have more than one disability, and mental health cases are much higher than other categories.

Using the Accessibility Information Management (AIM) database, Shuler counted 812 cases of ADHD. Anxiety and depression cases together were more than 1275, which means two-thirds of students reported them as a disability, not just symptoms.

Shuler stressed that support can be requested any time and that every case is considered individually, with accommodations differing.

“Disabilities don’t discriminate--students come from all backgrounds, cultures, educations and wealth status,” he said. Shuler said many students struggle with the transition from high school to college.

“Study skills is a huge need,” he said. “Time management, schedules, executive functions like calming down the stress response, organization skills... The hardest thing is students adjusting to needing to seek out services at the college level, versus having services suggested in high school, middle school or elementary.”

Shuler reflected on the difference between online-only and in-person Sinclair accessibility cases.

“Online students need fewer accommodations, because sometimes they can self-accommodate,” he said.

Lorrie Spivey, director of Student Services, recently applied for and won a large federal grant to help consolidate select student services into the new Resiliency Center in building 10. She also added a new fully funded case manager, Misty Grow.

The Resiliency Center includes offices of accessibility, Ombudsman, LGBTQ+ services, a student food pantry, counseling, and case management that all collaborate to better meet student and staff needs.

“Access” continued on page 23

“Access” continued from page 22

For students and staff with mobility disabilities, disability parking has recently been expanded to all levels of the Sinclair parking garage and outdoor Lot A. Thanks to an accessibility grant, the Sinclair parking garage also now has an elevator on the downtown side that goes to all levels from the ground floor to the fourth, and campus police have two chair lifts to navigate steps—one at their office, and one at the Black Box Theatre in building 2.

“Making things accessible is an ongoing process,” said Shuler. Sinclair has made significant strides in the area of accessibility, but there is always room for improvement.

“I have wanted for years to create a blog that addresses executive functions. Canvas is the new eLearning platform that is much more accessible for students and faculty. I would love to see a monthly shell to address executive functions,” he said.

Loura Lawrence is a Clarion reporter/photographer and student with physical disabilities. She has suggested an accessibility map, signage or painted pathways to help direct students to ramps and elevators across Sinclair’s campus.

“Mobility aids such as scooters or electric wheelchairs to help get around campus would be another step towards accessibility,” said Lawrence.

Currently, Sinclair doesn’t have these because it is considered a commuter college. Residential colleges are required to provide mobility aids based on federal and state guidelines. However, Sinclair does offer referrals for mobility devices such as Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities or county services.

Budgets are where many disability services begin to fall through the cracks, depending on competitive grants or municipal attention for funding.

Shuler emphasized the importance of feedback from students and staff to help Sinclair and larger communities to be welcoming, accommodating spaces for all people.

He said accessibility “is a campus-wide initiative that requires input from any stakeholders, not just the eight staff members who oversee the department.”



Loura Lawrence, Clarion reporter. CONTRIBUTED

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Collage of the League of Women Voters Dayton chapter. LWVDAYTON.ORG

League of Women Voters

For more than a century, the League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area has been a constant advocate for citizens' rights.

They have gone all over Dayton registering voters, educating communities and fighting to make sure every eligible citizen has a voice at the polls.

Founded in May 1920, a few months after the founding of the national office and the ratification of the 19th amendment, the League originally set out to pass legislation for a number of different issues, intending to disband after five years.

Instead, 106 years later, the League continues to thrive as their mission remains as straightforward as it was in the beginning: to encourage informed and active participation in government.

Jacqueline Housel, president of the League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area and Sinclair alumni, began working with the league while teaching at Sinclair.

After working with students to create maps of redlining in Dayton, Housel was approached by the League to help create voter turnout maps.

"After I retired they pulled me right in, and I went willingly because I think this is such an important topic. We need people to vote," Housel said.

She is currently serving the first year of her two-year term, but civic engagement has been something Housel was passionate about even before joining the League citing her parents as an inspiration.

"My parents were always involved in the community," Housel said. "My father was the president of the school board, and he had always done a lot for his community, and my mother as well."

Housel stressed the importance between not necessarily teaching people how to vote but instead educating people on what choices they have and how those choices impact their lives.

LWV puts policy into action by educating and encouraging Dayton voters

Noah Schlarman, executive editor

She also emphasized the importance of nonpartisanship to the League, not wanting to sway anybody, but simply inform.

The League does outreach within the Dayton community through various means. They mainly focus on educational programs like their series on the Constitution of the U.S., but also host voter registration events, pass out voter guides and much more.

Now the League must contend with one of the original issues the organization faced: voter rights.

The SAVE Act, which is currently being debated in the Senate, would establish stricter requirements for voter registration. If passed, every U.S. citizen would be required to show a passport or birth certificate every time they register to vote.

Over 51% of Americans do not have a valid passport and it costs a minimum of \$165 in application and photo fees. Constitutional scholars across the political spectrum have raised questions about whether requiring voters to purchase documents in order to register violates the 24th amendment.

Women would also be disproportionately affected by the SAVE Act, as an estimated 69 million women do not have a birth certificate that matches their current legal name. They would be required to present both a birth certificate and a marriage certificate to be able to register.

For Housel, these restrictions are in direct opposition to the League's mission.

"That we would be suppressing women's votes, and not just women's votes, but anyone who doesn't have a passport, it also becomes an issue," Housel said. "So this is our political part. We are against things that infringe upon voter rights."

"LWV" continued on page 25

“LWV” continued from page 24

Housel also pointed out that the SAVE Act would affect more than just married women. It would also create extra burdens for people of color, military voters, rural families and those impacted by natural disasters. But to others, the SAVE Act is more than just a policy issue, it's a damaging document.

“I think for me, it just hurts. It hurts in a way where it feels so blatant and the logic just doesn't track,” said Jennifer Bryant, a member of the League of Women Voters and student at Sinclair.

Instead of exploring the political and societal ramifications that the SAVE act may have, she focused on how the bill would affect her elderly grandmother.

“She's 92, she's about to move, she doesn't drive, her name doesn't match her birth certificate, and voting is extremely important to her,” Bryant said. “So she's trying to figure out, you know, how am I going to do this as a 92-year-old woman with limited resources.”

Proponents for the SAVE Act cite voter fraud as the reason why the bill is not only a good thing, but necessary to keep the integrity of the elections.

However, critics point out that the bill is seeking to solve a nonissue, as voter fraud is a rare occurrence.

Rates of voter fraud range from between 0.0003% and 0.0025%, meaning Americans have a better chance of being struck by lightning than committing voter fraud, according to the Brennan Center for Justice.

In a 2014 study, out of more than 1 billion ballots cast, The Washington Post found just 31 credible instances of voter fraud. To Bryant, the proponents logic does not track.

“I would like to see where their information is coming from and how they got that impression,” Bryant said. “Honestly, I'm always dumbfounded, and I just don't understand how this is logical.”



Jennifer Bryant, a member of LWV and student at Sinclair.
CONTRIBUTED



Jacqueline Housel, president of the League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area. CONTRIBUTED

For Housel, the information is cut and dry.

“There is no voter fraud in our elections. I mean, the number of people who try to vote, who are not citizens, is incredibly low,” Housel said.

While the SAVE Act is the most prominent issue the League is paying attention to, Housel says that they are also focusing on the primary coming this May, among other things.

The League pays attention to voting cycles and maps voter turnout in different communities. Bryant, who Housel calls instrumental in creating these maps, pointed out the ebb and flow of voter turnout that alternates between presidential elections and other local elections.

“We started using the data to look at neighborhoods and several different precincts that had low voter turnout almost no matter what, no matter who is on the ballot. And then that was used within the league to reach out and then to just focus on the outreach effort,” Bryant said.

For people that are curious about who will be on their ballot, Housel recommends going to vote411.org where citizens can enter their address and find out who is on their ballot, if they are registered to vote, where their polling location is and more.

Housel and Bryant both stated their future plans of continuing to work with the League and with their community to keep educating the public and promoting voters rights.

While antiquated issues fester once again, the legacy and ambition of the Dayton suffragettes is kept alive by the dedicated members who work to keep the public informed and the rights of every citizen protected.

Governor Candidates

A preview of the governor candidates on the ballot for Ohio's primary election

Erik Larson, reporter

May 5 is Ohio's 2026 primary election, and it will determine which candidates will be running in the main fall election. This year's elections are especially important because there will be major races on county, state and federal levels, including for the office of the Ohio Governor and Attorney General, as well as U.S. Congressional seats.

The primary election is a contest between candidates within each party, while the fall election is when the respective party winners will run against each other. The rules vary depending on the state, but in Ohio voters are allowed to vote for any party during the primary regardless of which, if any, party they are registered with. The catch is that voters are only allowed to vote in either the Republican primary or the Democrat primary, not both, though some states do allow both.

Typically citizens will vote in the primary of whichever party more closely aligns with their values in order to help the candidate they think is best win. However some citizens vote in the primary of the other party specifically to try to prevent candidates they see as extremist or unethical from making it to the general election. Choosing to do so does not affect which party a citizen is registered with.

The following are the main candidates running for the position of Governor of Ohio:

Vivek Ramaswamy (R)

Vivek Ramaswamy is an Ohio resident who was born in Cincinnati. He is an entrepreneur whose net worth as of March 2026 exceeds \$2 billion. He became involved in politics in 2020, and ran for president in 2024 before dropping out and supporting Donald Trump, who is now endorsing him for governor.

Ramaswamy wants to lower energy bills as well as property and income tax. He also wants to "crush crime" by supporting police to make quick, decisive arrests and enforcing stricter bail and sentencing for repeat violent offenders.

Heather Hill (R)

Heather Hill is an Ohio resident who was born in Columbus. She is an entrepreneur whose political career began in 2026. She has argued that billionaires are out of touch and cannot relate to normal citizens, and so are incapable of actually representing their constituents. She wants to abolish property taxes and support small businesses. She is also opposed to implementing AI data centers in Ohio on the grounds that they are harmful to locals and only benefit rich elites.



Vivek Ramaswamy. VPM.ORG



Heather Hill. BALLOTPEdia.ORG

“Candidates” continued from page 26

Casey Putsch (R)

Casey Putsch, born in Tiffin, is an Ohio resident and the founder of the nonprofit Genius Garage. He has said he is in favor of putting “actual Americans” first instead of corporations and immigrants, and has said his community work has given him a grassroots following. He has described Vivek Ramaswamy and Amy Acton as the “establishment” candidates, and that Ohio needs something different.

Amy Acton (D)

Amy Acton is an Ohio resident who was born in Youngstown. She worked alongside Governor DeWine as Director of the Ohio Department of Public Health in 2020 during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Acton says her priorities include lower health care costs, transparency in campaign and government spending, and investment in public education.

She is running unopposed in the Democratic primary, making the Republican primary the one to vote in if one considers the governor race the most important.



Casey Putsch. PUTSCHFOROHIO.COM



Amy Acton. UAW.ORG

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Tartan TOPS

A milestone for inclusion: Tartan TOPS' first graduates

Casey Brewer, reporter

This spring, Sinclair College will see the first group of students from The Tartan TOPS program walking across the stage and receiving their diplomas.

TOPS leaders say this milestone represents growth, independence and new opportunities for students with disabilities.

As the program reaches this historic moment, staff members share that this achievement goes beyond academics, highlighting confidence, community and real-world readiness.

Stacia Averill, a new addition to the program, shared that "it's both exciting and rewarding to see these students reach this milestone... To watch them grow in confidence, complete something so meaningful and prepare for what's next."

Tartan TOPS is designed to support students with disabilities as they pursue a college education, while they also build independence and job skills. The program provides career preparation, academic assistance and social opportunities to help students evolve into adulthood.

This year's graduating class includes 18 students, marking the first official cohort to complete the program. Many students are preparing to transition to new chapters; some plan to transfer to a four-year university while others are entering the workforce.

Beyond the academics, TOPS fosters a strong sense of community among the students. Many participants have shared with the program leaders that they value being surrounded by peers with shared experiences, creating an environment of understanding and support. "They've just really become family, working together," Averill said, nothin that connections often continue even after students leave the program.

Tartan TOPS offers opportunities that extend outside of the classroom setting. They put on activities such as guest visits, wellness initiatives and outings such as Dayton Dragons games. This program includes varieties of space on campus for students, like sensory-friendly rooms, study areas, and simply allowing students to feel safe and comfortable in their environment. Averill's role works closely with students to plan their next steps after graduation. Whether students decide to continue their education or enter the workforce, she says the program prepares them for long term success.

"It teaches them how to be independent, how to work with others and how to navigate real world issues," Averill said. "Those are skills that go far beyond the classroom."

As the first group of students prepare to graduate, Averill says the milestone represents just the beginning of what the program can accomplish. They hope to expand opportunities for more students to come, and encourage more individuals with disabilities to pursue higher education.



Stacia Averill with the Tartan Pride Lion. CONTRIBUTED

For students crossing the stage this spring, the moment is greater than just receiving a diploma. It illustrates years of hard work, personal growth and the determination to overcome daily challenges. For many others, it is a symbol of independence and a stepping stone to a more confident future.

The success of this first graduating class not only marks a historic moment for the TOPS program but also highlights the importance of providing inclusive opportunities in higher education at Sinclair. It is a moment that reflects not only how far these students have come, but how far they can go.

**"It teaches them how to be independent, how to work with others and how to navigate real world issues,"
- Stacia Averill**



Student athletes face off in a basketball game at Sinclair, a rare competitive sports event this year. MALIAH BITEMO

Sinclair's Sports History

Athletics at Sinclair: A program gone, but not forgotten

Casey Brewer, reporter

For new students walking through campus today, it may come as a surprise that Sinclair College once had a full athletics program.

Following the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic, Sinclair made the decision to discontinue all sports programs. This left behind a legacy of sports history, now showcased in a trophy case across campus.

While the program has not returned, there have been several concerns raised among students, suggesting interest in having sports return to the school.

Students say athletics could enhance campus life by creating a stronger sense of community and school spirit.

Without official sports teams, opportunities for student engagement through sports is extremely limited, especially for those seeking competitive play.

Historically, Sinclair's sports program included many competing sports including basketball, baseball, volleyball and more. For some, the absence of sports represents more than just canceled games—it reflects a shift in campus culture.

Despite the absence of athletics, Sinclair continues to offer recreational options through its Physical Actives Center in building 8.

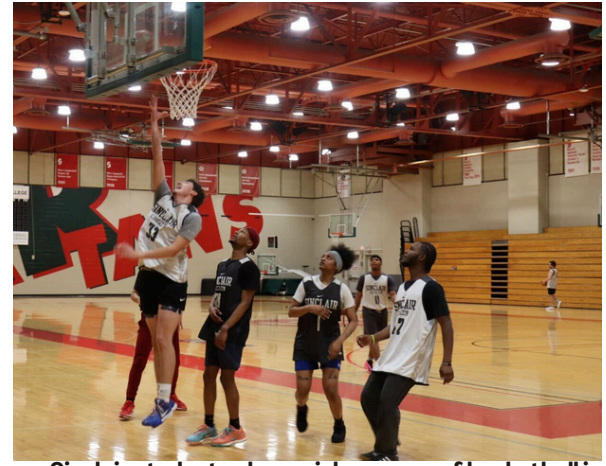
“Sports” continued on page 31

“Sports” continued from page 30

Students can access the weight room, open basketball, soccer and pickleball throughout the week. Hours have been posted, but may vary throughout the year. Up-to-date information can be found on Sinclair’s website under the Health and Wellness section.

As the college continues to grow and evolve, the absence of intercollegiate athletics remains noticeable for many students. While there are recreational options available to provide physical activity, they do not fully replace the structure and identity that organized sports once brought to campus.

The return of athletics remains unknown, but Sinclair’s athletic history serves as reminder of what once united students and staff, and could potentially do so again in the future.



Sinclair students play a pickup game of basketball in Building 8. MALIAH BITEMO



Sinclair students pose for a picture after the pickup basketball game held in Building 8 on March 25. MALIAH BITEMO



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Summer in Dayton

5 ways to make the most of the season

Erik Larson, reporter

As spring semester draws to a close, summer is on the horizon. For many students this will mean saying goodbye to Dayton at least temporarily, but those who are staying in the Dayton area will have a wide variety of choices to make the most out of the summer.

Whether they want to get outdoors, enjoy music and art, or continue to learn new things, the Dayton area has a lot to offer, with the following being just a small sample.



Patrons at La Comedia Dinner Theatre. LACOMEDIA.COM



La Comedia Dinner Theatre

Located in Springboro, this dinner theatre offers a unique blend of fine dining and Broadway-style live entertainment. The evening begins with an elaborate buffet, and then continues into the musical production of the season, with showings on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. From April 2 to May 10 the theater is showing "Jesus Christ Superstar"; from May 14 to June 21 "The Wedding Singer"; and from June 25 to August 9 "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory."



Outside of the Dayton Art Institute. DAYTONARTINSTITUTE.ORG



Dayton Art Institute

A locally owned museum, the Dayton Art Institute has a wide variety of exhibits and programs displaying and celebrating art of all kinds. Their summer events will feature pieces from all over the world, including Japanese ceramics, feminist expressions, Khang paintings, glass sculptures, and more. The institute also has youth and family summer camps, programs for children, tours and events for adults.



On Par Entertainment. DAYTON937



On Par Entertainment

For those looking for a high quality social atmosphere On Par is a bar that has them covered. It features seating for over 500 guests, 102 self-pour taps, a full kitchen and several private rooms that can be reserved. On Par is the perfect place to go for social events, whether it's for a smaller birthday party or a large group celebration.



A concert at RiverScape. WDTN.ORG

“Summer” continued on page 33

“Summer” continued from page 32



Park visitors enjoying the water at Five Rivers MetroParks. OHIO.ORG



Five Rivers MetroParks

If exploring the outdoors and experiencing the splendor of nature is something you enjoy, Five Rivers MetroParks has a large number of locations and activities to choose from. Countless trails and parks provide a myriad of paths to traverse and sights to see, and the distribution of these parks throughout the Dayton area mean that visitors won't have to travel far to find something that suits them.

Discover more photos, stories and upcoming events on our website.



A college student working outside. INSTAGRAM



Sinclair Summer Courses

While not necessarily the most exciting option, Sinclair is offering many courses and programs during the summer, both on campus and online. Students can continue their major or try something different that they find interesting, and can take advantage of the quieter campus if they desire.



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eLearn's Migration to Canvas

Faculty report a smooth, student-centered transition

Hannah Kichline, multimedia editor

For anyone on a Sinclair College campus throughout spring semester, it has been hard to miss the signs on walls and tables advertising eLearn's "glow up." While retaining the same name and overall interface, eLearn is migrating from its current learning management system (LMS), D2L, to Canvas.

Canvas was founded in 2011 by Instructure, who call themselves "the O.G. champions of open edtech." Canvas has ranked highly among LMS options for its ease of use for both students and faculty.

A common complaint of the current eLearn format is the "nesting" of items in an online course, which can make it harder for a student to navigate and find their assignments. According to Mary Jaqua, assistant director of research and labs in the eLearning Division, that will not be an issue with Canvas.

"It's more of a linear learning experience, so from point A to point B to C to D, so [it's] more difficult to get lost in an online course," Jaqua said. She is serving as co-chair of the Communication and Engagement Subcommittee for the schoolwide migration.

Jaqua said Canvas will be easier to use across mobile devices like cell phones and tablets, as students are increasingly using these to access courses. She also said the system uses AI-powered tools on an "opt-in" basis by the professor.

"It's not like the traditional large language model, like LLM, ChatGPT; it's more about efficiency and automations," she said. "So maybe more things are automatically graded to help faculty members with time management."

Canvas has been piloted in select courses over the spring semester, with all online courses planned to be offered through the new LMS for summer. Jaqua said the transition has seemed to go smoothly so far.

"To us, no news is good news," she said. "We've had very few tickets from piloting faculty and piloting students of having trouble... Normally, with a system, you only hear when things are going awry, things are going wrong."

One of the pilot courses for spring was Business Mathematics, taught by adjunct faculty member Tony Ponder. Ponder has been part of several LMS migrations throughout his career, with the shift to Canvas being his fourth.



Mary Jaqua, co-chair of Communication and Engagement for the Canvas migration. CONTRIBUTED



Tony Ponder, adjunct math professor at Sinclair. CONTRIBUTED

"This was a good migration," said Ponder, adding that the faculty and eLearning division are taking a student-centered approach. "They're experts in their discipline, and they care very much about providing resources to not only their adjunct faculty, but also to the students," he said.

In Ponder's experience, students have hardly seemed to notice the change over the semester. He hopes that anyone having issues would come forward and ask for help, both for their own learning experience and to get the clearest picture of how the migration is working out.

"Even when I was teaching full time in the math department, a lot of times students would say, 'Well, I don't want to bother my professor, or he or she is so busy.' It's like, yes, they are busy, that's true, but they're there to support you," he said. "So by all means, we would much rather you reach out, you know, ask us questions."

On social media, there have been rumors about increased tracking of student activity while using Canvas, but fact-based evidence of this is difficult to find. Jaqua said eLearn can already track how long students spend on the pages of an online course, and that data about student behavior will be used to improve course design for the entire school.

"In another LMS system, you might only get section-level data. We're getting kind of institution-level data, so it's more powerful in that way," she said. "It gives us a lot more insight to ask those interesting questions of, how are we building this for the students that we represent and that we serve."

Jaqua wants students to know that the change to Canvas does not need to be intimidating. She said the eLearning Division has worked with other institutions to find the best way of designing and streamlining the process for users.

"Online education is growing," she said. "And it's important for us to respond to that growth in the right way."

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