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NEWSLETTER

HAGEN CENTER

FOR CIVIC & URBAN ENGAGEMENT



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SERVICE ON THE STOOP



Service events are coming back in an exciting way this fall with Service on the Stoop, an event aimed at first year students to get them engaged with the Hagen Center and community service. The event will be held during the first six weeks of the semester with the goal of connecting students to service while also enhancing student belonging on campus. Each Thursday, students will meet outside the Hagen Center (what we are calling our 'stoop!') to do service projects that connect students with partner sites.

[Learn more](#)

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



The Dome is the center for youth-focused innovation in the Greater Springfield Region. It consists of several after-school programs as well as the Global Impact Stem Academy, Career ConnectED, John Legend Theatre, and much more. Make: Springfield and The Dome had the highest summer attendance since opening, with 725 participating in June. The Hagen Center's primary partner at The Dome is YouMedia which offers programs for grades 4-12. Wittenberg students help with activities such as 3D printing, computer programming, sewing, audio and video creation, and bicycle repair.



[Learn more](#)



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

My Intern Experience

-by Kyngston Collins '26

This summer I had the opportunity to be the intern for the Susan Hirt Hagen Center for Civic and Urban Engagement. My internship became an eye-opener for the real world. I spent time exploring the challenges faced, lessons learned, and the personal and professional growth achieved during this transformative period. On my first day as an intern, I found myself surrounded by professionals of different backgrounds and expertise but the same love for what they can do to improve the community. This initial apprehension quickly gave way to enthusiasm as I was welcomed by a supportive team willing to guide me on my internship journey.

As the days passed, I was exposed to diverse tasks, ranging from creating surveys and collecting data to assisting in important projects. Initially, I felt overwhelmed by the responsibilities, but I adapted quickly to the expectations. As I persevered and sought guidance and support from my team, I gradually gained confidence in my abilities. Embracing the challenges became a catalyst for growth and a chance to display my potential. Interning allowed me to appreciate the importance of effective teamwork and communication.

One of the most significant aspects of my internship was the opportunity to build a professional network. Interacting with amazing people from the community, additionally, connecting with fellow interns provided a sense of camaraderie and support, creating lasting friendships beyond the internship.

My internship experience proved to be an incredible journey of growth, both personally and professionally. From nervous beginnings to a confident, skilled individual, I emerged from the internship with newfound knowledge, valuable connections, and lasting memories. The challenges I faced and the lessons I learned shaped me into a more adaptable, resourceful, and self-assured individual, prepared to take on future endeavors with ease. This unforgettable experience instilled in me the belief that internships are more than just stepping stones.



Popsicle break during orientation.

Pictured from left to right: Aloy Kamara, Sheccid Rivas Castillo, Davieonna Moss, Kyngston Collins.

ENGAGE SPRINGFIELD

Making Community Data Accessible



Dr. John Ritter, Professor of Geology and Environmental Sciences
Engage Springfield Faculty Fellow

Dr. John Ritter, Professor of Geology and Environmental Sciences, will serve a 3-year term as a Faculty Fellow in the Hagen Center. During his fellowship, he will work closely with students to update and enhance the Engage Springfield website.

Engage Springfield is a website and data repository designed to make data accessible to the Springfield community for policymaking, grantwriting, and other purposes. We also hope it will benefit faculty and students in their research.

Dr. Ritter brings a depth of commitment, knowledge, and experience to this role, having incorporated civic engagement into many of his courses and working with community organizations on environmental issues. He has exciting new ideas for how to enhance the site and will meet with community leaders this semester to learn more about their data needs.

[Visit the site](#)

What's Happening at Witt?



Britt Wray, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University School of Medicine

IBM Endowed Lecture in the Sciences

Monday, October 23rd, 7pm I Bayley Auditorium

Britt Wray's research focuses on the mental health impacts of climate change on young people ("emerging adults") and frontline community members, as well as psychosocial resilience building, community-minded healing interventions, and public engagement for improved mental well-being and planetary health.

[Learn More](#)

Job Posting

Transportation Assistant

The Hagen Center is looking for a part time Transportation Assistant. If you like working on a team, helping your community and having fun, we would love to work with you. Flexible schedule available.

[Learn More](#)

**WE ARE
HIRING**



Homecoming & Family Weekend

October 6 & 7

As part of the Homecoming Reunion & Family Weekend, Union Board will host several events throughout the weekend. Tiger Up!

[Learn More](#)



Check us out on social media.



linktr.ee/hagencenter

Community Events



Culture Fest

Saturday, September 23 | Madonna of the Trail at National Road Commons

2023 CultureFest is a celebration of the perfect union between Springfield's cultural diversity and unity. Through music, food, spectacular dance performances, and many exciting children's activities, CultureFest provides an experience that brings everyone together to share in the joys of culture. Join us in celebrating what make Springfield beautiful!

[Learn More](#)

Springfield's Wizarding Weekend

Saturday, September 30th 12pm | Heritage Center

On September 30th, the Heritage Center Museum will transform into the Heritage School of Wizardry. Share in the magic of local history in this Harry Potter-themed event--no floo powder needed! Witches, wizards, warlocks, current students and alumni alike will have the opportunity to get sorted into their houses, meet & greet their native owls, participate in some specialized crafts and activities, and compete for house points. The fun continues Saturday evening with our Wizards' Ball, reserved for spellcasters 21 & up!

[Learn More](#)



Movie Night with the Horses

Saturday, September 16th @ 7:30pm | Autumn Trails Stables

Join ATS on Saturday, September 16th for our first ever Movie Night Under the Stars! Bring your chair or a blanket (we will be in a sandy arena) and enjoy the movie "Racing Stripes." Event opens at 7:30pm for you to grab some snacks and find a place in the arena - you can also stop in the barn and see the horses. The movie will start at 8pm. See you then!

[Learn More](#)

