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Recent Events

Fellow Faculty and Staff:

The last few days have been quite taxing on our WKU family, especially for a number of units across campus. Three separate incidents have called for several of our colleagues to come to the aid our students and ensure effective communication.

Most tragic was the death of a first-year student in Pearce Ford Tower yesterday. Our Counseling Center staff has been in close contact with those who knew her and lived near her. Losing a student is the most tragic of circumstances. Her family is in our thoughts and prayers.

Our staff in Study Abroad and Global Learning (SAGL), the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, and in Public Affairs spent much of Friday night determining which of our students were in Paris at the time of the terrorist attacks, which shattered the peace of that city. We had eight students in Paris that night (5 are studying at Harlaxton and were in Paris for the weekend, and 3 are doing their student teaching in Barcelona and were in Paris for the weekend). All were accounted for and safe, and all have now returned to their respective study abroad homes. In addition, we have four French students currently studying at WKU. Staff in our International Student Services office has reached out to each of those students to offer support as needed.

My compliments to our Police department for their quick and effective action in promptly identifying and arresting the student who posted a threatening message on social media last week. Lt. Col. Hatchett's campus message last evening addressed this matter. The most important part of this situation is that a student rightfully alerted our Police to the social media post, and they acted quickly to ensure safety for the campus. All faculty, staff, and students must be diligent in reporting anything that appears threatening or unsettling to our campus safety and tranquility.

Thanks to everyone who was called into play in these three matters and to all of you for your professionalism and attention to our students.

Gary A. Ransdell



Dr. Gary A. Ransdell | President