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FORMER WSU OFFICIAL CHARGED WITH SEXUAL ASSAULT

Joseph Shinn arrested for indecent assault and battery

**Samantha Fahey
Alex Myers**
Editors-in-Chief

The Learning Disabilities Program, most commonly referred to as “The Joe Shinn Program,” is looking for a new director due to recent assault charges brought against its founder.

Former head of the Learning Disabilities Program, Joseph Shinn of Chesterfield, has been accused of indecent assault and battery on a female Westfield State University student employed at both the Banacos Academic Center and at Shinn’s hosue as a babysitter.

According to the Daily Hampshire Gazette, on August 31, the alleged victim spoke to Public Safety concerning Shinn’s improper behavior towards her.

The campus police along with the Chesterfield Police Department filed a report of the incident following the accusation.

In a press release regarding the situation,

the university said they acted immediately “to initiate an investigation and have taken appropriate actions consistent with our practices,” including escorting Shinn from campus after meeting with Public Safety and Human Resource officers.

Shinn was then suspended pending completion of the ongoing investigation.

President Evan Dobbelle said, “My first and singular concern was the protection of our students.”

During the investigation, Shinn resigned from his position at the university.

Dobbelle said that Shinn “has not been on campus since before school began.”

Shinn denied the accusations, pleading not guilty at his arraignment at Westfield District Court on October 4th.

According to Masslive.com, he



The Banacos Academic Center, which houses the Learning Disabilities Program, is continuing on despite recent circumstances.

was released on personal recognizance with orders from Judge Philip Contant and the court to stay away from the student.

Shinn could not be reached for comment, but his lawyer David Hoose said, “Mr. Shinn denies he has engaged in any criminal conduct,” according to the Daily Hampshire Gazette.

The student’s statement that was given to Public Safety reads, as printed on Masslive.com, “I am reporting that I have

been a victim of a multiple sexual assaults that ocured while attending Westfield State University while being on campus and the person who committee the sexual assaults is Joseph Shinn. I was hired...by Joe Shinn... During my working hours... he would (ask) me to pick up lunch for him, and he would pay for lunch for the both of us. I would drive his personal car, and pay for lunch with his debit card. Once back from picking up lunch we would be back into his office and

he would shut the door, and close the blinds...We would eat lunch and talk during our conversation Shinn would say ‘You look beautiful today.’ Shinn would also comment on the clothing I was wearing.”

She also said that hugs were turned into “unwanted groping.”

The statement continued, “I never told him that I didn’t want him to touch me but the reason why is because I fear I would lose my job on campus and...”

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Washington Street property not WSU sponsored building

Krysta Livingstone
Voice Reporter

At this week’s SGA meeting, Director of the Campus Center, Amy Szlachetka, came down to talk about some wellness center changes.

The Wellness Center will now only have one entrance, and students must present their WSU ID’s when entering. Students going to the Wellness Center must have paid their fee to be allowed to work out.

Everyone is encouraged to be allowed to work out.

Everyone is encouraged to check with their health insurance companies if they give reimbursements for gym memberships at a University, because you may be able to be re-funded.

Jessica Hufnagle from Residential Life also came down to introuce the new Collegiate Link software.

This software can be found by logging into the portal, clicking the campus life tab, and then clicking Collegiate Link.

This is a tool for clubs and organizations to communicate with each other their members.

Students are also able to track their co-curricular activities for us for future reference.

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Students play mouse trap in Apartment Complex

Kylie Coffey and Jake Reecher
Voice Reporters

Students at Westfield State University are used to ladybugs and stinkbugs visiting their rooms each fall. In fact, it is almost a Westfield tradition, just like black squirrels.

But Mice? That’s a completely different story.

Rumors have circulated around campus lately about a mice infestation in the Apartment Complex.

According to students, there have been sightings of rodent droppings and of the creatures themselves.

“I thought I saw some-

thing move. I just figured I was going crazy,” said a student who wishes to remain anonymous. “The next day I saw it run across the room and go behind the mini-fridge.”

The student said that her roommates went to the Residential Director of the Apartment Complex, Shannon Broderick, who called an exterminator. The student said that in the couple of days she they waited for an exterminator, she and her roommates saw two more mice.

“My roommates ended **see MICE on page 2**