ANNOUNCER: This is Bascom Beat. A show dedicated to helping you navigate student life at UW. Featuring new guests from campus each week. Together WSUM and the Division of Student Life are answering your questions. Want to reach out to us? Use the hashtag BascomBeat on Twitter, and we might just answer your question on the show. And now here's Bascom Beat.

HOST: You're listening to WSUM 91.7 FM Madison. And this is Bascom Beat. So this is Argyle Wade, and he's the Interim Dean of Students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. How are you today?

ARGYLE: Great. Thanks for having me here.

HOST: Awesome. And this is our first episode. So my name is Erica, and this is Aleesa.

ALEESA: Hey.

ERICA: And we're two journalism majors hoping to help you connect yourself with the campus and the Division of Student Life. Once again, you can find us on Twitter @ArgyleWade, and user #BascomBeat.

ALEESA: Yeah, so coming up on the show today we have a lot going on. It's our first show, so we're going to do a little bit introduction to the Division of Student Life, right?

ARGYLE: You bet.

ALEESA: And then we're going to have stuff going on on the weekly calendar. And we have an interview with special guests.
We're going to have Mark Kueppers, the Director and Assistant Dean at the Center for Leadership and Involvement, and Carren Martin, the Assistant Dean and Director at the Center for the First Year Experience. But first, we're going to answer your questions. So in the future, if you want a question answered, just like we mentioned, @ArgyleWade -- that's your Twitter. How are you on Twitter, Argyle?

ARGYLE: You know, I'm getting better at it. I think, you know, I'm getting some advice from people about how to be a little more lively. But I enjoy it. It's kind of a fun mechanism, and so I'm hoping students take advantage of that.

ALEESA: Yeah. I love Twitter. I'm like a big news -- we're both kind of big news people.

ARGYLE: Yeah.

ALEESA: So I'm always -- I'm following all the local reporters and national -- my news feed is like me retweeting news. But it keeps people informed. So yeah. All right.

You want to start with the questions?

ERICA: Yes, are you ready?

ARGYLE: You bet. Let's do it.

ERICA: Okay, so the very first question we have is, well, you're the Interim Dean of Students. What does this mean? Like what is your job? And what does it entail?

ARGYLE: Sure. So first, I just want to say thank you to you all for doing this and putting this together. This is a lot of work, and it's
really nice to be able to reach out to students in different ways. And I hope this really takes off. So thanks so much for putting the effort in.

And if I could just go back one second to like a little bit about why I got into students affairs, then I can come back to your question. Because I think it sets the stage a little bit.

So when I was in university, I was at a different university as an undergrad, and the thing I loved most was just being there as a student. The environment, the things I got to experience, the people I met. And I kind of wondered if there was a way for me to do this, stay in that environment and maybe get paid for it, like that would be the dream job.

So for me, that kind of started everything was my college experience being just so impactful and deep and meaningful. And I eventually figured out a way, through school and through experience, to keep working at an institution. So yeah, I feel like I'm actually doing something that is exactly what I hoped I would do.

I didn't start school that way, and we can talk about that at another point. But the job I have I think is pretty amazing, because I'm working with students. I'm working in a college environment. I'm helping to try to make the campus as exciting and vibrant and meaningful as it can be.

So my job is -- every day it's different. Sometimes it's work
around policy issues. Sometimes working around student issues. Sometimes working with student government. It can be on certain activities on our campus. Really, I'm trying to be a bridge between students' interests and needs and where the campus is going and how it's kind of trying to take the educational environment. And that can show up in all sorts of ways. The fun part is I feel like I'm still kind of a college student in a way. I just get paid to be here.

ERICA: Mm-hmm. So it's really that's not a job if you're doing what you love.

ARGYLE: It doesn't feel like a job to me. I mean, there's long days, no doubt, right. There's long weekends. But I'm actually popping up out of bed at 5:00 in the morning pretty excited about what's going to happen that day. And it really is something I'm just kind of very passionate about.

ERICA: Great. Another question just branching off of that, you said that you loved being a student.

ARGYLE: Yeah.

ERICA: What are some elements of being a student, being a college student, specifically, like what are these things that you loved?

ARGYLE: Man. Gosh, it's just so much. In fact, I was telling -- I went to the Overture Center, Night at the Overture Center event that was last week. And I came home and I kind of nudged my wife. She was already asleep when I got home at 11:30. And I said,
"Man, I wish I was a freshman again."

Because for me, the idea that you get to kind of like have all these opportunities just sitting out in front of you to either hang out, meet new people, see new kind of things on campus, get ideas you've never had before. Exposure to different kind of concepts. Maybe sometimes talking about hard stuff, like really wrestling with issues that are really important that you're either trying to understand or the campus or the society is trying to understand.

For me, that was really -- it was all those different parts of the university experience that were important. And I made some of my best friends there, people I still hang out with. People I've been in their weddings. People who I know their kids. Professional colleagues as I went on and went through graduate school. Meeting those, and developing a network. I mean like for me, it's really just kind of become intertwined in my life.

And I don't know, you know, that you have to stay in an environment to love it the way I love it. Because I think almost everybody I talk to, when I ask them what was your university experience like, their eyes kind of like go far in the distance, and then they come up with a couple stories of the things that happened in their life. I love it that we're part of that for people. I love being able to be that moment in somebody's life that they look back on pretty fondly.

ERICA: Mm-hmm, perfect.
ALEESA: Yeah, I know something just to bounce off that. Like something I love doing here at the station is giving freshmen tours.

ARGYLE: Ah.

ALEESA: Because they walk in here, and they're like whoa. Like I can do this. And that's an experience with many student orgs, whatever they're involved in. Like I can get an article published.

ARGYLE: Yeah.

ALEESA: I can be on the radio.

ARGYLE: Yeah.

ALEESA: I can have my artwork installed at the Chazen.

ARGYLE: Yeah.

ALEESA: Like that's -- I mean, I don't know if I could say I want to be a freshmen again, but -- I don't know how many people would agree with that. But I mean, I like seeing, you know, seeing the light in freshmen's eyes when they walk in, and they see our, like, thousands of CDs and records and they're like --

ARGYLE: Yeah.

ALEESA: -- wow. And that's an experience I had, and I think a lot of people, freshmen or not, hopefully have that experience walking into some space here on campus.

ARGYLE: Maybe I'd want to be a freshmen again, but know what I know how, how's that?

ALEESA: Yes.

ARGYLE: Because there is a lot of anxiety that also kind of
comes with being a freshmen and being new in a space. So you know, maybe having the best of both worlds, having the knowledge and then the opportunity.

ALEESA: Yes, and being able -- knowing that if you take the step forward, it'll be okay.

ARGYLE: That's right, that's right.

ALEESA: Because that's the scariest part.

ARGYLE: You bet.

ERICA: So then, I guess, branching off of that, what do you do?

ARGYLE: So really, the Division of Student Life is the area of campus that I'm over. We have nine different departments in our division, some of which I think are going to be highlighted on this show as we kind of continue forward.

And they really run the gamut from departments that work around specific student identities like The Multicultural Student Center, The Gender and Sexuality Campus Center, McBurney Disability Resource Center, International Student Services, to other departments that are much more kind of the entire student body. Center for First Year Experience. Center for Leadership and Involvement. Our Dean of Students Office that kind of handles a lot of the kind of walk-in students not knowing exactly where to start and get help. Our Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards. These are areas that, obviously, are all students. You
know, I'd throw in there the Associated Students of Madison because, you know, that's a big part of our campus is our student government.

And then we even have some shared programs like the Student Veteran's Military Assistance Center which is a shared program we do with the Division of Enrollment Management. So we really try to run the gamut from very specific to very broad. And I get, as the Dean, I get to kind of work with the directors and assistant deans of each of those areas to try to figure out how to help their program kind of move forward.

ERICA: Mm-hmm. Awesome. So online, when looking up your position, preparing for this interview, I read that the Dean of Students is kind of a liaison between the admin and the students orgs.

ARGYLE: Mm-hmm.

ERICA: What does this mean? And branching off of this, like why is it important that these programs are supervised? And what do you do or what do you add to these programs?

ARGYLE: Well we have, you know, over a thousand students organizations on our campus. So we have a great, strong staff in the Center for Leadership and Involvement that does a lot of the hands on work with that, and there's a lot of faculty and staff around here that advise student orgs.

I think my role is to primarily kind of look at the landscape of
our campus and figure out how do we set it up so that student organizations can be vibrant, can thrive, what are the resources they need, what are issues that they're experiencing that, you know, can help or maybe make it difficult for them to be kind of doing -- meeting their missions.

And then I get to go to a lot of student events and organizations to help promote what they're doing. I was just at a sober tailgate event last week right before our first football game. You know, they said hey, can you come by? I stopped by. Got talk to some students. Sometimes it's just trying to help raise awareness of their group and what they're doing. Or it's trying to maybe work on a specific issue that they're trying to move forward.

So it really varies from group to group about how I personally get involved. The good thing is we have a ton of staff and faculty that kind of help undergird that on a daily basis.

ERICA: Mm-hmm. And then so you kind of answered this in your first question, but you're not students -- you work in Student Life.

ARGYLE: Right.

ERICA: What processes do you go through to connect with students? And how do you address students and know what is important if you yourself are not a student in, you know, the year 2018?

ARGYLE: Right. Like I said, I'd love to get in a little time
capsule and go back. But again, I feel like being in a campus environment, I feel really connected with students because every day that's what we're talking about either with students or about the environment that they're in and how to help.

And so there's different ways you stay connected. One is through, you know, making sure you're available and accessible to students. And that can come in all sorts of forms. Social media, being out on campus and being in places where you can interact with them on their turf and their terms. We have advisory boards that we work with that involve students from across campus. There's shared governance kind of things that you work with and bodies that work in that area. Some of it is through training and ongoing professional development.

So most everybody in our division and most of the divisions on campus that work around student affairs have had some level of either undergraduate or graduate level education around administration or working with students or counseling or psychology or have gotten into this field, and then over the time, kind of developed their own level of expertise. And there's conferences and other things that we continue to go to develop that.

So I wouldn't say there's really one way to do it. I think there's a lot to pass into student affairs. I think the main thing, once you get into it is making sure you can stay accessible and available to students so you can understand what they're going
through. Because it does change. I mean, like when I was a student, the world was a little different. Although as I was thinking about, there's probably more similarities than differences. But certainly there are things that are different for our students now.

ERICA: Like what?

ARGYLE: Well I mean, I think there are some pressures that maybe weren't as obvious before. Certainly for me, when I think about the students that I interacted with when I was an undergrad to the students I work with now, I definitely see that there seems to be much more pressure. Although I would guess that my peers felt pressure when I was an undergrad. But it seems there's an level of intensity there that sometimes is very challenging for students to handle. And it develops into other things like mental illness that can kind of, you know, exacerbate that. There's coping mechanisms that aren't so healthy that sometimes develop.

But I didn't -- I just feel like the pressure level is a little bit more intense now for our students. So we had to think about ways to help them provide some self-care and help them think through, how do they be resilient in the face of those challenges. Because this is stuff that there's not just going to be here, right. This rolls on through their life. So some of the strategies we hope we're kind of maybe connecting them with are ones that they can carry on going forward.

So you know, I'm sure that, you know, there are -- I actually
do think the similarities are more relevant sometimes. I mean, we had great times. We made great friends. We did sporting events. We went out to concerts together. We did a lot of things for students, say here's what I do. I mean, like I did that stuff, too. That's what I loved about being a student. And you know, getting a really great education, struggling kind of you know, with what do you do with where you're going kind of with your degree.

I mean, I stayed up late nights, pulled all-nighters. Always felt like I had more to do than I could. I was also a person who put myself through college working. So I always had a job every -- every semester of college. And I had to do that because I was a first generation college student. And my family depended on me to help kind of pay for that bill. So I think those are some experiences that, hey, that's right there for our students today, too.

ALEESA: Totally.

ERICA: It's great that you address a large number of student concerns, then. I was also curious, so the Division of Student Life. Let's go back to that just for a moment.

ARGYLE: Yeah.

ERICA: There are two new spaces in the Multicultural Student Center. Is there anything else you'd like to say about that? Or is there anything new that is also happening in the Division of Student Life that we might not know about?

ARGYLE: Yeah, and I think this would be great as we maybe
can spend more time on that this semester. Because there's a lot to talk about in the Multicultural Student Center that's going on that I think we could really get into. But to get to the question you asked about the two new cultural centers.

So we opened the Black Student -- the Black Cultural Center last year in the Red Gym on the first floor. And it was -- have just had great success with it. It's a beautiful space. If people haven't checked it out, first floor Red Gym, right when you walk in the door. And it's just amazing.

But we also have heard and known that there's other areas that are also trying to provide, you know, some space for their community. So we're working this fall to open up a Latinx Cultural Center and an Asian Pacific Islander Desi American -- it's APIDA for short -- Cultural Center. And these are going to be in the Red Gym, as well as, on the second floor up on what we call the mezzanine level. It's to the north of the -- the North back side of the Red Gym, second floor. It's an elevated kind of area back there.

So we'll have two new cultural centers there. And we're working with students so that each of them will have an advisory board to kind of build these centers out, to be able to put resources in there. So it's going to be kind of being built as students are actually using it this semester. We're expecting a grand opening sometime in the spring.

ALEESA: Awesome.
ARGYLE: And Gabe Javier, the Assistant Dean and Director can really go into some depth about what that is. But we're really hoping students take advantage of it.

ERICA: Perfect. What is your mission as Interim Dean of Students and Dean of Students?

ARGYLE: Well, there's, you know, five areas that as I've kind of talked with the different departments in my division, as I've talked about students, meeting with the Chancellor, meeting with the Vice Chancellor Lori Reesor and other parts of campus, I think there's, you know, kind of five things that I think about a lot and I think we'll be kind of spending some time on.

And one, we have a strategic priority in our division around resilience. So we're really trying to figure out ways to help students balance their physical/mental health needs and take care of themselves. And that's a big priority for us this year in terms of kind of helping students.

We also know -- we're trying to broaden our inclusion efforts. And I think we already mentioned the two new cultural centers. That's one of the things we're doing. But we also deal a lot with how we kind of think about intersectionality. Because students, they don't just show up in kind of like one way, right. They're not I'm just going to be a student who identifies as a student with a disability. They're a student -- maybe they're an international student with a disability. So we don't want them to check a box and
have to just fit into one department or the other. We're trying to figure out how they can get kind of show up wherever they are, and get all their needs met.

We know that this fall is going to be a time for voting and, you know, civic action. And we really want to promote students being involved with that. So that's a big push for us. And we also know students want to make their voice heard, and we want to help them figure out how to do that in ways that allow their voice to be heard, but also other people to express their opinions. So kind of how we deal with kind of engagement is important.

Wisconsin Experience is one of our standards. We are really -- important for us to kind of promote the idea that this is a package that you get as a student. And so how you make sense of that overall experience is really important, in and out of the classroom. So we'll be trying to promote some ideas for students to think about what they're walking away with.

Safety is always important for us. And there's certainly a lot of different ways that can show up, either through, you know, looking out for other people or making good choices for yourself. How you think about violence prevention. How you think about kind of the alcohol use that people may have or misuse, and how to kind of address that.

And those are some of the top areas that I've heard people talk about and they're going to want to see some more action on.
Those are the things that our division is going to be focused on in addition to all the other things that we do on a daily basis.

ALEESA: That's a lot you guys do.

ARGYLE: Yeah, it's a big bite to chew, right?

ALEESA: Yeah.

ARGYLE: But you know, I mean when you think about 43,000 students --

ALEESA: Yeah.

ARGYLE: -- the needs are pretty wide and broad. And you know, I think those are things that we need to address in some shape or fashion. And so I'm excited that hopefully we can take some of these on this year. With our campus partners.

I would say one thing that is new this year is we're working with the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, a new position created on our campus. So we have three other areas that are also joining with the Division of Student Life. It includes the Memorial Union or the Student Unions, the University Health Services on campus, the Division of Campus Recreation. So that is exciting that we have these other partners now to leverage around kind of shared topics and issues.

ALEESA: Cool. Maybe we'll end on this fun one. So you were a college DJ.

ARGYLE: I was.

ALEESA: A DJ at your college radio station.
ARGYLE: I was.

ALEESA: Which school was that?

ARGYLE: So I was -- this was at St. Louis University where I was working in residence life professionally, but also I was working on my doctorate at the same time. So another person in residence life and I both kind of -- we both liked the same kind of music, and we talked about music all the time.

And we kind of got this flyer, we were like well, they're asking for DJs. We know the manager of the radio station. He's a student that we work with. Let's ask him if he'll give us a show. So he said yeah, that's awesome. And we got our own show. And we had a weekly radio shows for two years.

ALEESA: Awesome.

ARGYLE: So four semesters.

ALEESA: You fit right in.

ARGYLE: I feel like I'm right at home here. You know, it's a little more techno high tech here that it was back in those days. But yeah, it was really familiar.

ALEESA: And it was a music show?

ARGYLE: It was. So our focus was hip-hop rap. That was the kind of music that John Buck and I really loved. And that's what we picked. And we would, you know, take call-ins, requests from the phone, although we were never sure how many people actually listened. But we actually did get a couple calls once in a while, or
we'd see, have students talk to us, and say hey, next week, can you play this?

And so we kind of created our own playlist and did our own thing. And really for us, it was just having fun with each other. And then really kind of getting excited if all of a sudden the light light up, and we saw somebody was actually calling in, because they were listening to us.

ALEESA: Yeah, it's funny. Fun facts about before WSUM, there was WLHA, which is the Lakeshore Halls Association. And it used to be played in -- like you could turn it on in the dorms. Like each dorm room had an intercom.

ARGYLE: Really?

ALEESA: I think it was mostly used like if you wanted to page the whole dorm. But also if they wanted to listen to radio, they had to listen to the student station.

ARGYLE: That was it? That was the only option?

ALEESA: I think so. And it was funny, because sometimes people were like, I love having a show because I can just like, they have to listen to what I play. Like they don't have -- like if they're tuning in, they don't know what they're going to get, but that's the fun part of it.

ARGYLE: Interesting.

ALEESA: But they also have no choice in what. But our DJs play awesome, really cool stuff. And it's cool that you got to play
what you wanted and what you --

ARGYLE: Yeah.

ALEESA: -- and your friends were passionate about.

ARGYLE: Yeah, some of the groups that we would often play were like Public Enemy, LL Cool J, Run-DMC, Eric B. and Rakim, Kool Moe Dee, A Tribe Called Quest, Beastie Boys, Doug E. Fresh. Like these are all -- I don't know how well-known they are now, but --

ALEESA: Oh, we have -- sorry.

ARGYLE: No, go ahead.

ALEESA: I would say we have people who do shows just on old hip-hop music.

ARGYLE: Yeah. Yeah, I love that stuff.

ALEESA: Sorry to say old.

ARGYLE: And I'm always trying to look for something new. Because I do want to -- I don't want to get stuck with just the, you know, artists that I've known. And so I continue to try to keep my eyes open for artists, you know, that are more contemporary that I like, too.

ERICA: I guess the last question, then, would be what are your office hours? Where's your office located? So if a student wants to reach you and talk to you and needs to talk to you --

ARGYLE: You bet.

ERICA: Where do they go?

ARGYLE: So I do have open office hours on Fridays, generally
starting at 1:00. And sometimes those will go 1:00-2:00, sometimes they'll go 1:00-3:00, it kind of depends on my availability. Where you don't even have to have an appointment. You can just stop in, Bascom Hall, room 70.

And if the -- the idea, obviously, is without an appointment, you don't know who is already there. So you might have to wait a little bit until -- if something is already with me. But it's a way to kind of get in and have a quick conversation if it's something that somebody wants to connect on. So that's one way.

Otherwise, if they want to call the Dean of Students reception area, it's 263-5700. My assistant, Kathy Kuno handles my calendar. And you know, if it's -- it could also be if there's a question or an issue, it might be somebody on my staff who is actually better aligned to answer that. But at least I could help make a connection for students quickly.

And I think, it was mentioned at the top of the show, if students want to connect with me on Twitter @ArgyleWade, there's a great way to kind of, you know, have that. And I know that we're really trying to promote the #BascomBeat. For this show, I mean we'll continue to really want to work with that. So that's another way for people to engage with me.

[MUSICAL TRANSITION]

ALEESA: We're back on Bascom Beat, and we have some new guests in the studio, which we're going to introduce in a second.
But first, we have our weekly calendar of events, things happening on campus, things that we think you can maybe check out if you wanted to.

First, this is something I go to. Have you guys ever been to trivia at the Sett?

WOMAN: I have, yes.

MAN: It's been a while, but yeah.

ALEESA: Okay. I have like a student org that meets at Memorial -- sorry -- Union South. So sometimes we make a team. But every Monday, if you want to do trivia, it's at the Sett at Union South, and it's super fun. And I think you win a prize if you get first place. But honestly, there's usually about like at least 30 teams that play every time. It's a really fun time. That's an event you can check out.

There are group fitness classes at Rec Sports. And you can go on their Web site to find out when they are. But they have a -- they're having a special week this week at the Natatorium. I know it's kind of far, but there's a bus that gets you there in lieu of the SERF being torn down, and now the Nick being built. I'm sad I'm not going to see it.

ERICA: Yeah, me too.

ALEESA: But one day I'll come back. And then I think the biggest one is the Student Org Fair, WSUM is there. We're the first booth when you walk in playing some fun music. It already -- we
already had one day on Wednesday. And we have another day tomorrow. Hundreds of student orgs, we're going to really go in depth on that with our interview guests in a second. We have people that can talk about that and more about what you can expect there.

Also, it is voting season. We talked about this a little bit earlier in the show. There are midterm elections on November 6. If you are an out-of-state student, there is a couple steps you have to take to vote. I know there's voting at the Student Activity Center. They're helping people register to vote. If you changed addresses, you've got to re-register center to vote. If you're new to campus, you got to register to vote. If you just turned 18, register to vote.

But there's going to be a specific fun event happening at Union South 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. So pretty much all day on the first floor, they're going to be helping you register to vote. And make sure you bring everything you need. There is vote.wisc.edu, I believe, has a lot of information of what you need to bring to vote and all that kind of stuff.

And last but not least, tonight at the Multicultural Student Center will be the Global Cafe. It's for international students to meet, meet U.S. students, make new friends, practice language. And the global cafe is also an event that happens every two weeks, and it features a different international beverage.

ERICA: That is so cool. That is so cool. I want to go.
ALEESA: Yeah. I might check it out. I think meeting, learning about new cultures is always a plus.

And if you want to learn about any events happening on campus, you can go to go.wisc.edu/welcome. That will have all our welcome week things, things happening at the end of the year. And today.wisc.edu which has kind of just a calendar of events. Awesome.

Okay. So we're going to introduce our interview guests that we have. Erica, if you want to go ahead.

ERICA: Sure. So with us is Carren Martin, the Director and Assistant of the Dean of -- sorry -- Director and Assistant Dean of the Center for the First Year Experience. And then there's also Mark Kueppers, Director and Assistant Dean of the Center for Leadership and Involvement, also known as CfLI. Interestingly enough, the Center for First Year Experience is not called CfLI, as I learned earlier today.

ALEESA: That's kind of what I was just calling it. I don't know, I thought it'd be fine, but I guess it's not it.

>> It's still fun.

ALEESA: Yes.

ERICA: So just, I guess, the first question, introductory. What do you do? And what do each of your apartments do -- or sorry, departments do?

CARREN: Sure, I'll start. This is Carren. And The Center for
the First Year Experience, I think one of the important things to know about us is that we work with both freshmen and transfer students who are new to UW-Madison. And we really work to give them a successful transition to UW-Madison through programs before they are actually students.

So our office coordinates the S.O.A.R. program, for example, and Welcome. We do that, again, for both freshmen and transfers. We also support their transition throughout the academic semester by teaching the Wisconsin Experience Seminar. And we connect with them through other planning or other programs and events.

And then also recently, our office became responsible for the Our Wisconsin Inclusion Program. So again, definitely a welcome in trying to help students make a successful transition and feel included in their campus community.

ERICA: Perfect. And then how about you, Mr. Kueppers.

MARK: Sure. So again, I'm Mark Kueppers. It's great to be with you all this morning. And what the Center for Leadership and Involvement does is we provide an opportunity for students to get intentionally involved on campus.

So there's lots of different ways for a student to make meaning of their experience here at UW-Madison. And our goal is really help students do that in an intentional way. So part of that is helping to inform students about the various resources across campus. Some of those resources we provide directly in our office, but many of
those, we get students connected to.

So you've already kind of shared some great upcoming opportunities learning about potentially study abroad or getting involved with international students. And so lots of different experiences on campus that are available to students. And so we help make those connections.

A couple things we do administer internally is we help to support the over 1,000 students organizations on campus. So we provide first line advising support. Help those students organizations get registered. We also have the good fortune of helping to hold them accountable if they step out of line.

And then we also provide leadership programming in our office. So we have some student organizations that we departmentally sponsor that provide kind of peer-to-peer leadership learning. And then we also have the Leadership Certificate Program which is a great way for students to document all the ways they've been involved and how they're building their leadership capacity through that involvement.

So we're really here to serve as a facilitator of the student experience outside of the classroom and help folks see the connections between their academics and their co-curricular experience.

ERICA: Great. So then speaking specifically on to freshmen, though I suppose this is something that also affects you in your
department, what are some struggles that freshmen typically face in the first months of campus? Because this is probably a very difficult time for you right now. Or not difficult, but busy time for you this year.

MARK: Sure.

CARREN: We definitely feel how busy it is on campus. And it's exciting, too, as everything gets started, and you can just feel the campus moving now. But I think for new students to campus, it's a lot of the things that you would expect just being comfortable in a lot of ways with the physical environment.

With the rain on the first day of classes, that was a little bit difficult navigation. I saw a lot of people out there pausing and trying to look at maps and listening to their apps to guide them around campus a bit. So finding their way.

I think also finding their network of peers and their support network, as well. So who are they going to be connecting with throughout the semesters ahead is really important. And of course, they're all here for class. They're all here to be successful in college and to get a degree. And so many of them feel kind of daunted by the academic challenges, as well. That's one of the things that our office does, too, is try to set people up and help them connect to resources to address all of those things from physically navigating your way around, connecting with other students, and then also connecting them to academic success resources.
ERICA: Perfect. And then we were speaking about something earlier with Argyle, about how college students have changed over time. Is there any issues that you think current freshmen will face or, you know, the newer generation of freshmen will face than previous years?

CARREN: This isn't entirely new, but I would say new compared to me. The technology. And I think the idea that students are connected to one another technologically, which can be really supportive and really helpful. It's also sometimes a skewed view of what the experience is really like and what college is like for them. So trying to sift through the differences that they might see from their social networks online to what their life is actually like. And sometimes there's a disconnect. So navigating that can be a challenge.

MARK: And I'd echo Carren's thoughts there also around, you know, students being willing to be vulnerable with one another. So I think kind of building on the benefits and challenges of social media is -- it's easy to kind of project our best selves in a certain way.

But the reality is for new students, transfer students, landing on a big campus, there's going to be potholes along the way. There's going to be challenges. And I think our ability to be able to respond to students with what their specific needs are, and hopefully encouraging students to be forthcoming with those needs, not as a sign of weakness, but as a sign of strength and self-awareness, I
think is really important.

So you know, part of our office that focuses on leadership, we really encourage the concept of mistakes and failure. Because that's where growth happens. And so there's really these first couple weeks and months where students are trying to find their rhythms and trying to understand how challenging their academic course load is going to be.

We encourage students to share their anxiety as best they can with folks that they trust, including folks in our office or folks where they're working so they get the support they need and recognize that we're all here to try and chip in so folks can be successful.

ALEESA: Yeah, I can say as like being a student, like I had those struggles freshmen year, but they weren't on social media. Like you know, no one -- not no one, but people aren't going to post that kind of stuff. So like it's crazy to think that like I feel like there used to be time where like you come into college and you have some sort of idea and expectations. But now people have a lot of expectations, I feel like.

CARREN: Absolutely.

ALEESA: There's social media of whatever it may be, whatever they see their peers doing, which I think creates kind of a different experience.

CARREN: Mm-hmm.

ALEESA: But yeah, I think like making those connections by
like joining different groups and like really trying to find a niche and like having a really, you know, finding an experience for yourself can help with those like anxieties. And even if you don't put it out on social media, hopefully you're talking to someone about it, definitely.

MARK: I think that's the power of building community as early as possible. Because when you have a sense of community, you're more likely to share your reality. So I think that's -- that's our goal in the division and in our departments is to support students as they find their communities and are able to connect in a real way. I think it just helps foster that ability to feel whole quicker on a campus that's this large and new.

ERICA: Mm-hmm. So I have a couple questions for you individually. But first I have one that's kind of for you guys together. First of all, how important are students organizations and programs for the first year student? Because we speak about them, you know, some of it continues throughout.

But I suppose, when you first get involved in a student organization, that's when you enter campus, and then you see these kinds of, you know, programs and organizations, you're introduced to them at the Org Fair, which is actually happening today. So how important is it to join something like this when you're a freshman or a first year student?

MARK: Yeah, getting involved in student organizations usually one of the more rewarding experiences of a college student. I think
students find a lot of joy and energy when they get involved with student groups. For first year students, you know, what we generally encourage is for students to seek out what we would consider kind of balanced involvement. So how do you identify maybe one or two organizations, maybe a couple more that you want to learn about, but not necessarily commit to right away. And then take some time to be intentional about where you want to prioritize your time, especially the first semester.

So your first semester on a college campus when you're trying to understand the academic rigor of your courses, there's no need to over-commit. It's better to ease your way in. With that said, we'd also encourage students not to wait to get involved because that involvement piece really kind of helps to create that social network that you may be yearning for. So it's a balancing act.

But the Student Org Fair, you know, we great night one, and we're looking forward to, you know, a night two that we invite more folks to the Kohl Center. And I think it's a great opportunity for students in a low pressure environment to get to be exposed to all these different students groups.

Over 400 students organizations will have tables. You know, go around, talk to folks, get a sense of whether there's a connection. Maybe attend a kickoff meeting or two. There's no need to make huge commitments tonight or in the next couple weeks, but start to learn.
CARREN: I guess the one thing I'd add to that is along with a balance is think about maintaining something that they were really involved in before. That can be a really comfortable transition for them. And so if there was a club or a sport or a hobby or something to connect with that. And then maybe pick something else that's really new or unfamiliar to them, but intrigues them in some way. So they're getting a little bit of comfort and also reaching beyond that.

MARK: Spot on, Carren.

ALEESA: Yeah, I think the best advice I was given about the Student Org Fair is like sign up for as much as you want, and then like once you get all the emails, like narrow it down to a couple. Go to the kickoff meetings, and then narrow it down to like a couple more. So eventually, you end up with hopefully like maybe one meeting on Monday nights and one on Thursday nights, and then --

CARREN: Right.

ALEESA: -- you kind of are good for the semester or, you know, experimenting with different things. Because I was -- I think I was involved with two or three student orgs --

MARK: Yeah.

ALEESA: -- my freshman year, and still I'm involved in, obviously, WSUM and a Union group, a WUD group.

MARK: That's great.

ALEESA: So there's lots to do here.
MARK: So how about that you not only got to get involved with some student orgs, but you learned some email management, probably, those first couple weeks after you got --

ALEESA: Yeah, yeah. I mean, those -- because then if you go to the kickoff meeting, then you're probably on their list. So then sometimes you still get the emails, even though you decided not to be a part of the group.

But yeah, you do get a lot of emails of come to our meetings, we'll have food. And then you're like, okay, I'm coming. I guess food.

ERICA: All right. And then I have a question, just individual questions now. So I guess first, I was just really curious about Center for First Year Experience. After the first couple months of school and freshman are no longer, you know, they're transitioning out of freshman-ness, and extreme like, you know, novelty. Does your work change? And how does it continue and change as the year changes?

CARREN: That's a really, really good question. Because in some ways, our goal is for students to not feel quite so new anymore, and that's part of the plan.

I think one of the philosophies of our office and why we have such great campus partnerships is what we try to do is set some groundwork so that we can then, in some ways, hand off the connections for students to other departments, such as CfLI or
maybe through University Housing or into their, you know, academic
departments and homes, etc., the Union. So what we do is kind of
establish a lot of that groundwork.

It's a little bit different, I would say, for some of our transfer
engagements. Transfer students often -- not always -- but they
tend to hold onto that identity longer and really feel that as a part of
themselves. So we provide some more ongoing social connections
and some programming opportunities for those students that tend to
resonate a little longer.

And then of course, through the Wisconsin Experience Seminar
Course, that's this whole semester long class that students take. So
the activities in that are staged really throughout the whole first
semester so that they're kind of deepening their understanding of
the Wisconsin Experience as they go along. And again though,
that's setting them up as a platform for how they want to be more
engaged the next semester and then also as upperclassmen.

ERICA: Perfect. And then for CfLI, why should one join the
student organization? Why is it important to be involved? And
yeah, those are the first two questions, and I just have another one
right after that.

MARK: Sure, sure. So I think the power of students getting
involved, as we talked a little bit about earlier, is that ability to
create those social networks and feel a sense of place and
belonging. So student organizations are a great resource for that.
So one, it provides students an opportunity to explore their passions. Often it will complement your academic experience. But there's times where it may be completely different, which also can be helpful. You know, we're multifaceted, each of us. And so being able to tap into our various interests is really critical. It helps build a sense of curiosity. It helps us kind of live a more broad and in-depth Wisconsin experience.

So I think the variety of student organizations on our campus, so we have more than 1,000 student groups currently registered. You can find a student organization that's focused on just about anything. You know, there was the underwater weaving basket -- basket-weaving club. I mean, you know, there's --

ERICA: Cheese club.

MARK: Yeah. There's all sorts of things that I didn't know existed until I started to kind of monitor the student organization list at UW-Madison. It's pretty impressive.

So I think the beauty of involvement is it helps to kind of create a well-rounded experience. And one of the things that often folks are unaware of is that students' academic performance generally goes up or stays the same as a result of their involvement. So sometimes folks kind of have this perception that you're choosing between your academic success and getting involved when, if you do it well, they're really complementary, and they really enhance one another.
So that is part of what our role of our office is to help support students in navigating that, and figuring out what does that intentional balance look like. Because that may take a minute to find yourself into. You may not find the magic kind of formula right away. That's okay. You know, guess what? You get to be here for a couple years. It's great.

ERICA: Yeah.

MARK: Keep learning. So I think there's a lot to be gained by getting involved, and student organizations a wonderful kind of way to get that experience started.

ERICA: Perfect. And then so throughout this entire show, we've heard a lot about something called the Wisconsin Experience. So I was just curious, what is the Wisconsin Experience? How does that relate to CfLI and the Center for First Year Experience? And what does it mean, concretely, exactly, to be a Wisconsin student?

MARK: Yeah, that's good and loaded. There's a lot there.

CARREN: That's a good question.

ERICA: I have a bad habit of asking big questions like that, like long.

MARK: No, that's -- it's fantastic. I think one of the things that I feel really fortunate to be part of a campus community that tries to be conscious about what we're trying to provide in terms of a student experience, and also recognizing that students inform their own experience. So you know, as a staff member on campus,
you know, we're here kind of as buffers. You all get -- have kind of this space to create your own experience. But we're also here to help kind of challenge you to take advantage of the opportunities that exist.

So when I think about the Wisconsin Experience, it's about both kind of a breadth of experience in multiple different facets, and then kind of a depth. So gaining some kind of deeper knowledge and kind of deeper reflection about what you're learning.

So you know, there's kind of pillars or elements that we talk about: relentless curiosity, intellectual confidence, empathy, and humility, and purposeful action kind of serve as these elements.

But the great thing about the Wisconsin Experience is each student authors their own experience. So you'll be developing these skills. And so you know, relentless curiosity, how -- you know, students organizations is a great thing for this.

As Carren mentioned, you know, as you got involved in things potentially in high school, you may have had that one thing that you never had a chance to do, but you've always been interested about. Great. Go learn about it. You may spark other interests or curiosity. So there's lots of ways to bring it to life, and I think it's a super valuable framework for students to be considering. And I see it as our roles to help provide some guidance and support along that path.

ERICA: Okay, perfect. And what do you think?
CARREN: It's really hard to add to that. That was very thorough, Mark. But I think what really resonates with me is the idea that these concepts were selected intentionally. So when students think about -- or when anybody, probably nationally or globally, hears something called the Wisconsin Experience, it can evoke any number of different -- different memories or ideas, and some of them very emotionally tied. And those are all valid.

I think the idea between what we kind of brand as the Wisconsin Experience is that we're trying to help students look at their experience here very holistically and look at all four of these areas.

And also the idea that these aren't something that you check a box off after your first couple of months on campus, and then you know, you're done. I've had the Wisconsin Experience. These are things that build off of one another throughout your entire -- throughout your entire career here as a student.

ERICA: Perfect. And then just coming off of that, a little more light-hearted, what is your favorite Wisconsin tradition.

MARK: Ooo. I generally just say Babcock ice cream. I mean I, a lot time ago, created a theory that any day you have ice cream, can't be a bad day.

ALEESA: What's your favorite flavor?

MARK: I think Union Utopia.

ALEESA: I like that one.
MARK: I like a lot of junk in my ice cream, you know, like I like anything that's brownies or cookie dough or --

ALEESA: Have you ever turned your ice cream into a shake at Babcock?

ERICA: Is that possible?

ALEESA: Yes.

CARREN: I have heard that.

ALEESA: It is possible. You can take any ice cream flavor and turn it into a shake or a malt.

ERICA: That's crazy.

MARK: See, this is why I come to WSUM for my information.

ERICA: Yes. Very good.

CARREN: You know honestly, the first thing that popped into my mind was Babcock ice cream. So Mark --

MARK: That's why I wanted to get in first.

CARREN: I know. Except for I think of it as a full experience, too. So I would definitely take that on out to the Terrace. And really you know, the Terrace is at least a three, three and a half season kind of place. You can enjoy that area almost year-round.

ALEESA: I think I know where you guys are going after this.

CARREN: I think so.

MARK: Yeah.

ALEESA: To get some Babcock ice cream. The other cool thing about Babcock is I have a friend who actually works there, one of
my roommates. She doesn't work like in the lab, but I also had a friend who was like a food science major. So she would help, like, make the cheese, make the ice cream. And one time she like comes home, she's like, here's a gallon of ice cream. She brings home milk and cheese.

   CARREN:  Fantastic.
   MARK:  Dairy forever.
   ALEESA:  Yes. I have a theory that I realize this, but I think people who aren't from the Midwest are very likely to be lactose intolerant, is what I learned, because they just don't have as much cheese in their diet as we do.

   CARREN:  That could be an interesting area of study.
   ALEESA:  Isn't that -- yes! I mean, I use so much cheese. I can't -- I don't know how vegans do it.
   MARK:  Yeah. I mean, I feel like we add cheese to everything and then call it a casserole.

   ALEESA:  Yeah, that's very Midwestern, yeah.
   MARK:  Or a hot dish I guess.
   ALEESA:  Yes, or a hot dish from Minnesota, like me.
   MARK:  Yeah, I'm a Minnesota person here, too.
   >>  Whoo!
   MARK:  Go Vikings.

   ERICA:  Is there anything else you'd like to say? Anything -- any you know, more like concrete little details about how the
students can meet you or anything like that?

CARREN: Sure. I mean, I think there's a couple of really quick points. So one of the new things that we're excited about in the Center for the First Year Experience is that we just opened the Transfer Engagement Center. So we have a physical place for programming and social connection.

And on a different note, I think one of the things we maybe didn't mention thinking about involvement is actually campus employment. You mentioned that with the Babcock and your friend that worked there. I think that's another really great way for students to both engage on campus, to meet friends, and to kind of create a lot of connections.

And I know certainly our office employs a lot of students, students leaders kind of up in front of people. Also a lot of the behind the scenes, and really lots of places that you would find on campus that don't really function without student staff. So it's a great opportunity for both students and to continue to improve campus.

MARK: Yeah, that's a great point around campus involvement and on-campus jobs or off-campus jobs, that's a great way to build community.

I think the only thing that I would share is, you know again, the Center for Leadership and Involvement is here as a resource to all students, including first year students and transfer students. And
we'd encourage folks to visit our Web site. So cfli.wisc.edu. Another great resource is the Wisconsin Involvement Network. I don't know if either of you have ever been in the Wisconsin Involvement --

   ALEESA: Yeah, WIN.
   MARK: Yeah. All we do is win, right? So the Wisconsin Involvement Network is win.wisc.edu. So these are just helpful resources for students to navigate to. The student org directory is on WIN, great ways to kind of search by category, key word to narrow those thousand plus groups down to a more manageable number.

   And then our staff is here to provide support, and our goal is to make sure folks are feeling a sense of community and belonging on this campus, and if there's anything we can do to support that, let us know.

   ERICA: Perfect.
   ALEESA: Awesome. Thanks for coming.
   CARREN: Great. Thank you very much for having us.
   MARK: Yeah, appreciate it. Good luck.
   ERICA: Thank you, you too.
   [MUSICAL TRANSITION]

   ALEESA: We're back on WSUM 91.7 FM Madison. This is Bascom Beat. We just finished up an amazing interview with Mark and Carren from Center from First Year Experience, Center for
Leadership and Involvement. We're going to wrap up the show.

ERICA: Awesome. So you want to tell us your social media handles and how we can reach you?

ARGYLE: Sure. I don't have a lot of handles. But the one I do use is Twitter @Argyle Wade, and again the #BascomBeat. We hope that you kind of keep in tune with us and you keep following us. And you can make this show even better by sending your questions in so we can kind of make the show something special and important to you. Thank you all for having me, and we hope it's a great year to kick off, and we're looking forward to just a phenomenal time with you all.

ALEESA: Awesome. And we're here every Thursday at noon. WSUM 91.7. You can tune in on the dial or find us at wsum.org. We're 24/7 streaming. And again, if you want your questions to be read on-air answered by Interim Dean Argyle Wade, some students perspectives, as well, you can #BascomBeat. Have a great day.

ARGYLE: Go Badgers.

ALEESA: Go Badgers. On Wisconsin.