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Pulitzer-winning journalists to speak at WKU

By JACKSON FRENCH jfrench@bgdailynews.com 43 min ago



Amy Wilson Submitted



Cara Owsley

Submitted

Two Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists will be at Western Kentucky University this week to discuss their reporting on the impact heroin has had on their community.

Amy Wilson and Cara Owsley, both of the Cincinnati Enquirer, won the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Local Reporting for their coverage of the damage heroin has done in the Cincinnati area.

Enakshi Roy, assistant professor at WKU's School of Journalism & Broadcasting, said she invited Wilson and Owsley to speak at the school because of the significance of their reporting, which chronicled the effect heroin had in Cincinnati over the course of a week.

"Their reporting has had an impact and received national recognition," she said.

Wilson and Owsley will speak in the Jody Richards Hall Auditorium at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, according to a wku.edu webpage dedicated to the event.

The lecture is free to attend.

Wilson is a storytelling coach at the Cincinnati Enquirer. Owsley, a WKU graduate, is a visual journalist/director of photography at the Enquirer, according to bios Roy sent to the Daily News.

Wilson and Owsley's reporting revealed that Cincinnati had 180 heroin overdoses, 18 heroin-related deaths and 15 babies born with heroin-related medical problems in one week, according to the webpage.

Because heroin use is a widespread problem throughout the country, Roy said, she thought giving Wilson and Owsley a chance to lecture would provide valuable insight on an issue that's been seen throughout the state.

"The issue they covered had a very strong resonance with us," she said.



The event is the eighth annual installment of the John B. Gaines Family Lecture Series, according to the webpage.

The late John B. Gaines was president of the Daily News, which is still owned by his family.

Roy said the goal of the series is to expose journalism students to seasoned and renowned reporters who can speak about the impact of their work.

"It's to bring people to this community to talk about their work and how it has made a difference," she said.

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Jackson French

General assignment reporter focusing on features and regional coverage.

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