

WRIGHT STATE

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inside:

- science stars 3
- cinematic 8
- conservation
- political 10
- pilgrimage
- thoughtful 12
- therapy
- prime provost 14
- music man 19



HOST FOR **SCIENCE OLYMPIAD NATIONAL TOURNAMENT '13**



Publisher and President of Wright State University **David R. Hopkins**
Vice President for Communications and Marketing **George Heddleston**
Editor and Executive Director of Creative Services, Communications and Marketing **Denise Robinow**
Graphic Design **Stephen Rumbaugh**
Contributing Writers **Seth Bauguess, Jim Hannah, Cory MacPherson,
Kim Patton, Karen Strider-Iames, Sara Pearsaul Vice**
Editorial Assistance **Katie Halberg, Bob Mihalek, Ron Wukeson**
Photography Editor **William Jones**
Photography **Roberta Bowers, William Jones, Chris Snyder**
Digital Imaging Manipulation **Chris Snyder**

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Wright State University Magazine
Wright State University
3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy.
Dayton, OH 45435-0001

Email: alumni_news@wright.edu

Signs of spring pop up across campus, as seen here in a tree near Millett Hall.

On the cover: David Brendel, biomedical engineering major at Wright State

- 2 **From the President's Desk**
- 3 **Talent Show**
Science Olympiad National Tournament leads to undergraduate research
- 6 **These Amazing Shadows**
Grad stars in documentary about National Film Registry
- 10 **On the Road to Civil Rights**
Students participate in Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimage
- 12 **Changing Alzheimer's Care**
Ergonomics expert slows Alzheimer's anxiety
- 14 **Engineering Marvel**
Sundaram Narayanan promoted to university provost
- 16 **The Great Dayton Flood**
Archives tell story of 1913 flood
- 18 **History Floods the Stage**
Theatre restages 1913: The Great Dayton Flood
- 19 **Tuned In**
Grad composer praises Wright State training
- 20 **Putting the Full-Court Press on Student-Athlete Success**
Mike and Monica Hax show support for favorite team
- 22 **University News**
- 25 **Alumni News**
- 28 **AlumNotes**
- 31 **Athletics News**



Welcome to this issue of *Wright State University Magazine*.

On May 17 and 18, Wright State University will host the Science Olympiad National Tournament, where nearly 2,000 of America's best and brightest middle and high school students will compete for top honors. If you ever competed in the Science Olympiad or if you are the parent of a Science Olympian, you'll want to read our story about the upcoming tournament. It will bring back memories of all of the hours of hard work that goes into preparing for this competition.

Of course, we are thrilled to welcome all of these talented students and their teachers and families to campus. But what I find most exhilarating about the Science Olympiad is seeing these great young minds at work. We have already hosted two regional competitions, and I have been amazed at the ingenuity, innovation, and sheer brilliance of these students. It makes me very feel positive about the future of this country when I see such genius in the next generation.

Watching the Science Olympians in action reminds me of our students at Wright State, especially those who are so active in undergraduate research. As many of you know, at Wright State, students have the opportunity to engage in hands-on research. This is not always the case at other universities, where students may not get to participate in research until they're in graduate school. In this issue, we'll delve into some of the fascinating research that's being produced by our students.

Here's wishing you a wonderful spring and summer. And if you're in town on May 17 and 18, please stop by and see the Science Olympians in action.

Warmest regards from campus,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David R. Hopkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

DAVID R. HOPKINS
PRESIDENT
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY



talent show

**stars of the future to
shine at wright state
university in 2013
science olympiad
national tournament**

By JIM HANNAH

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD



TALENTED TEENS FROM MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS around the nation are coming to Wright State University to compete in a ballet of fiercely competitive science and engineering projects.

For the best young minds in the land, the prestigious 2013 National Science Olympiad Tournament is just the beginning.

Many of the students will go on to top universities, where they will feed their natural curiosity, advance their research skills, and boost the reputation of the school.

Many will see Wright State for the first time. Many will like what they see. And a good number will likely choose to attend.

Gerard J. Putz, president and executive director of the Science Olympiad, said hosting the national event is a “recruiter’s dream” for a university.

“Here is an opportunity to showcase your campus and have 2,000 to 3,000 of the best science and math and engineering students in the whole country coming,” said Putz, Ph.D. “There will be quite a number who didn’t know you are one of the top engineering schools in the country.”

Dominique Belanger, Ph.D., Wright State’s director of undergraduate research and STEM activities, believes that students who are involved in the Science Olympiad are often ones who go on to conduct research as college undergraduates.

“I do think that would be an awesome, awesome pipeline,” Belanger said of Science Olympians channeling into Wright State. “I would think these would be the students that the faculty would want to snatch up right away and engage them as freshmen. There are a lot of opportunities here that are untapped.”

Belanger said Science Olympians who choose to come to Wright State would be able to conduct research relatively quickly.

“These are students you don’t have to turn on to research; they are already naturally excited about it,” Belanger said. “And now it’s becoming more and more important to have those skills under your belt because employers and graduate schools almost expect it.”

Wright State is no stranger to Science Olympiads. In the past two years, the university has hosted two invitational or regional Science Olympiads, which draw students primarily from Ohio.

The most recent Science Olympiad, held in January, turned the campus into a beehive of activity, with knots of young, wide-eyed teens exploring the campus and chatting excitedly about their science projects.

One cavernous room played host to a competition of battery buggies, a collection of small, homemade vehicles required to travel a specific distance while avoiding objects in their path.

Judges with yardsticks prowled the floor. Nervous parents and coaches stood on the perimeter. A soft groan went up when one vehicle veered sharply off course.



The atrium of the Russ Engineering Center was turned into an air space for a competition in which students must safely land a raw egg using a homemade rotary device crafted from classic physics designs.

As the students dropped their eggs over a railing on the fourth floor, the crowd below went silent. They gazed up at eggs being cradled by a spinning red kite and then what looked like a pinwheeling parasol, a cellophane butterfly, and a solar satellite.

Science Olympiad is a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of science education, increase interest in science, attract more students to science careers, foster teamwork, emphasize the problem-solving aspects of science, and develop a technologically literate workforce. It has produced a generation of alumni who fill the hallways of top universities and corporations around the globe.

Science Olympiad competitions, which started more than 25 years ago by a grassroots assembly of science teachers, were modeled after successful programs in Delaware and Michigan. They feature competitions in engineering, biology, chemistry, earth science, astronomy, physics, and technology.

The school-based teams prepare and practice throughout the year, then compete in regional and state tournaments. The top



Students take part in Science Olympiad competitions at Wright State University.

teams advance to the national tournament.

The national tournament to be held at Wright State on May 17–18, 2013, is expected to involve 120 teams with up to 5,000 people, including more than 100 National Science Olympiad Committee members, event supervisors, and state directors.

In hosting the national event, Wright State will be joining previous hosts such as the University of Chicago, George Washington University, the University of Colorado, Indiana University, and the University of Illinois.

President Obama has underscored the importance of Science Olympiad, comparing it to high-profile sports competitions.

In a November 2009 speech on science education, Obama said: “If you win the NCAA championship, you come to the White House. Well, if you’re a young person and you’ve produced the best experiment or design, the best hardware or software, you ought to be recognized for that achievement, too.”

Obama held White House Science Fairs in 2010 and 2011 in which he honored Science Olympiad champions, including teams from Centerville and Solon, Ohio.

Stephen Gogol, a graduate student at Wright State, was in the Science Olympiad several times while a student at Hempfield Area High School in Irwin, Pennsylvania.

In the 8th grade, Gogol helped make a robotic car that had to pocket billiard balls on top of a pool table. In the 11th grade, he competed in a

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

fossils-knowledge competition as well as a technical-writing competition in which he had to describe in great detail a tower built out of Legos so that his partner could try to reconstruct it without seeing it, an event in which Gogol's team placed first in the state.

"Science Olympiad is a cool experience because it's not something that everyone does," he said. "And because there is such a wide range of events, it's pretty easy to find something you're passionate about."

Gogol heard about Wright State during a college fair in Pittsburgh and enrolled in electrical engineering. He later transferred into math education and is currently student teaching and conducting a research project aimed at improving the teaching process by determining the most effective method of pairing students in the peer-tutoring process.

Gogol said Science Olympiad gave him tools he now uses in college.

"I became a more effective researcher when it comes to digging for information, and then being able to take my thoughts and put them on paper is something I've been improving on all the way up through the college level," he said. "It's been working out pretty nicely for me so far."

Wright State has several organized undergraduate research programs.

The Summer Undergraduate Research/Scholarship/Creative Abilities Program enables students of all majors—from engineering and psychology to marketing, history, and art—to conduct research as part of their undergraduate experience. In addition to conducting research, the students meet for brown-bag lunches, present their research topics to each other and learn from professional researchers.

Karen Herzing, an undergraduate nursing student, used the program in 2012 to conduct research about the impact on parents of having a baby in a hospital neonatal intensive care unit.

"The program is wonderful," Herzing said. "Just hearing about the other schools of thought, different disciplines; that was very interesting. For example, there was someone from film doing a

research project, doing a documentary on a photographer."

Herzing's research took her to Dayton Children's Medical Center's neonatal ICU, where most of the babies were premature or compromised in some way. She interviewed 10 families over the summer of 2012.

David Brendel, a biomedical engineering major at Wright State, is a student leader at the Air Force Research Laboratory's Discovery Lab near Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

The Discovery Lab enables college students to conduct research in nanotechnology, micro air vehicles, smartphone programming, and other areas using high-tech and virtual-world tools.

"Most of the research has dealt with subjects that I have never taken a class in, and for some projects most undergraduates have never taken a class in," Brendel said.

He is currently using microcomputer technology and custom circuitry to develop electronics and power systems for the design of a quadrotor that will serve as a flying



Stephen Gogol, a former Science Olympian, teaches at the Dayton Regional STEM School.

aircraft carrier for surveillance drones. He is also using aluminum oxide nanoparticles to develop a template for creating advanced materials on a molecular scale for national defense.

Marcus Bracey, a freshman mechanical engineering major, also worked on designing a surveillance drone at the Discovery Lab. In addition, he helped create a virtual hospital environment that enables doctors and nurses to train for different medical scenarios.

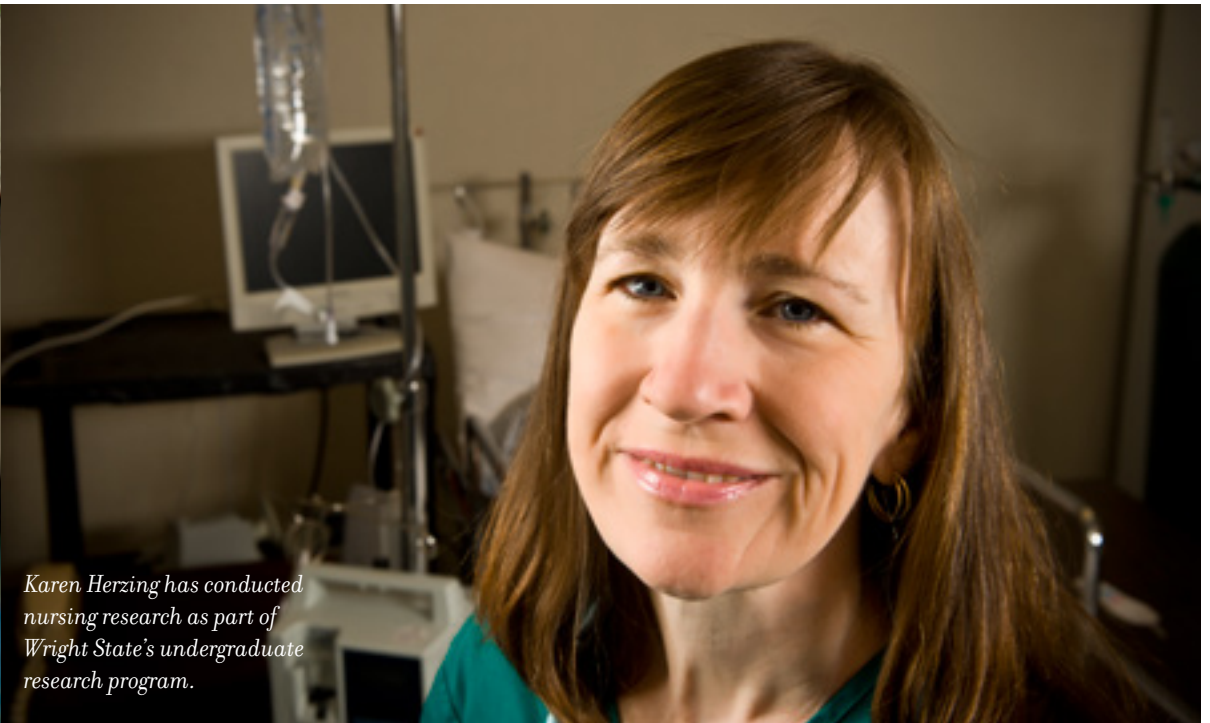
Brendel plans to pursue his master's degree in materials science at the Air Force Institute of Technology that he hopes will lead to a career in nanotechnology.

"My experience as a researcher at the AFRL Discovery Lab has provided me with many networking opportunities, which have been beneficial in establishing relationships with other

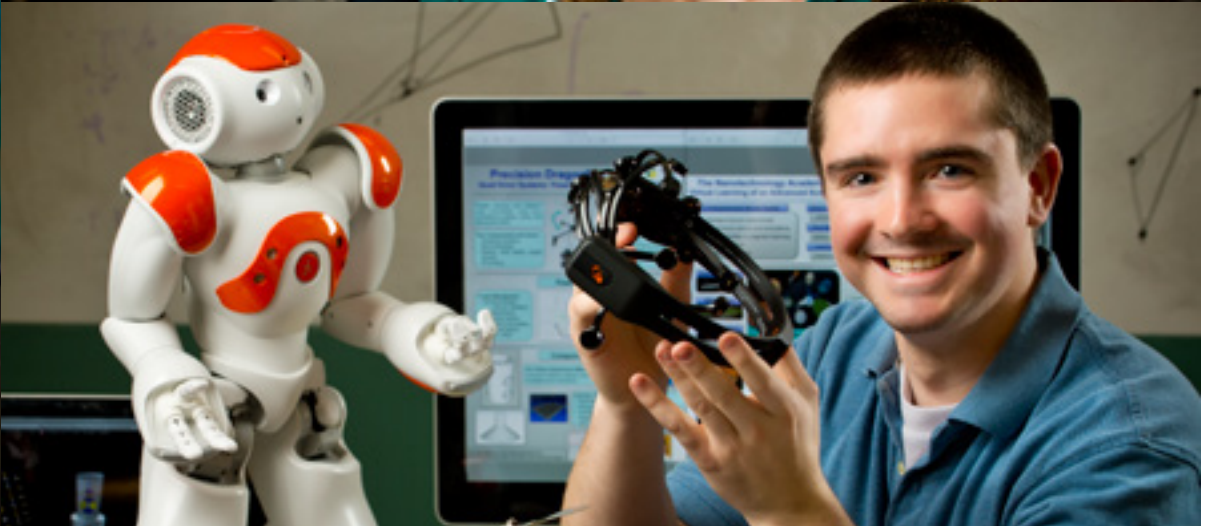
researchers and future job opportunities," he said. "In addition, my research has contributed to most of my knowledge about science and engineering. So it has helped me in my career and future immensely by default and probably in ways I have yet to discover."

Putz said Science Olympians are natural collegiate researchers because they not only have mastered rigorous science content, but also know how to work together.

"They've learned this teamwork skill. And they can get the job done," Putz said. "They are given a task where you can't just find a model, copy it, and do it—you have to come up with original solutions. These are ideal candidates." **W**



Karen Herzing has conducted nursing research as part of Wright State's undergraduate research program.



David Brendel, a biomedical engineering major at Wright State, uses microcomputer technology to conduct research at the Air Force Research Laboratory's Discovery Lab.

reel respect

wright state graduate stars in documentary about preserving america's most beloved movies

By CORY MACPHERSON

QUICK: NAME YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE. Can you imagine how you would feel if that movie were lost, never to be watched again by you or anyone else?

Now, what do *The Matrix*, *Citizen Kane*, *This Is Spinal Tap*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *Singin' in the Rain* have in common? The answer is that they're all included on the National Film Registry, a list of the most important American movies.

These Amazing Shadows, a new documentary by filmmakers Paul Mariano and Kurt Norton, chronicles the history of the National Film Registry and explores the impact of its films on American culture, as well as what is being done to protect our film heritage for future generations. One of the film's stars is George Willeman, a 1988 graduate of Wright State's motion pictures program and the nitrate film vault manager for the Library of Congress.

Since 1989, the Librarian of Congress has announced 25 titles each year to be added to the National Film Registry for preservation. To be selected, films must be at least 10 years old and be deemed "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant" by the Librarian of Congress, based on recommendations by the National Film Preservation Board.

The Registry represents a diverse array of American films. In addition to features and documentaries, it also includes newsreels and home movies. In 2009, Michael Jackson's *Thriller* became the first music video listed on the Registry.

"It's saying to America and to the world: these films matter," said film critic and historian Leonard Maltin in *These Amazing Shadows*. "It's saying that your film has stood the test of time."

Inclusion on the National Film Registry does more than simply certify a work's importance; it also ensures that a film's original materials will be conserved by the Library of Congress. If need be, the Library will also oversee that it is physically preserved, often with painstaking care.

"For a variety of reasons—neglect or basic deterioration especially—many of our early films, and actually some more recent ones, are lost forever. There's nothing left," said Willeman. "I know of one Academy Award-winning film called *The Patriot*. All that survives from it are a few trailers and stills."

Preservation is particularly important for the nitrate films that Willeman is responsible for overseeing. Though nitrate film was used extensively from the late 1800s up until the 1950s, the product is highly flammable and must be kept in climate-controlled vaults. "It's the plastic version of gunpowder," said Willeman. With many of the early 20th



century's most beloved films in danger of literally "going up in flames," it's up to Willeman to rescue and safeguard these movies for future generations.

Growing up in Springfield, Ohio, Willeman was bitten by the film bug at a young age. He started by bringing movies home from the library and then moved on to collecting silent 8mm reels from Blackhawk Films. Eventually, he saved up enough paper route money to buy a print of the 1927 futuristic classic *Metropolis*. Willeman still remembers watching it in his basement with friends.

That love of movies led Willeman to enroll in Wright State's motion pictures program. "It was like living in a hippie commune of filmmakers

“It’s really amazing to pick up a roll of film,” said Willeman. “All the people who worked on these things are long gone now, but they’ve left behind these amazing shadows for us to enjoy.”



PHOTO: GRAVITAS DOCUFILMS

and it was so wonderful,” he said of his time spent in the department’s film labs, located then in Millett Hall. “We’d be there all hours of the day. There were so many talented people in the program and we had this great time.”

He had thought that he’d become a filmmaker, perhaps focusing on comedy or horror features. But fate had other plans.

At that time, the Library of Congress’ film preservation laboratory and nitrate film vaults were housed at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton. Willeman took a part-time student job there as a collections attendant. He inspected cans of the highly flammable nitrate film for four hours a day. “You have to love film to work there,” he said. “Otherwise it’s just nasty cans of rotting plastic that could catch on fire and do

horrible damage.”

Willeman stayed with the Library of Congress even after graduation. He became a nitrate film specialist, identifying and classifying each individual film that came in. When the nitrate collection was moved to the new Library of Congress Packard Campus for Audio-Visual Conservation in Culpeper, Virginia, Willeman relocated as well. Today, he’s the nitrate film vault manager, responsible for the more than 150,000 cans of nitrate film in the Library’s collection.

One of the most exciting aspects of Willeman’s job is discovering pieces of film history previously thought to be lost forever. “When I started at the nitrate vault, I was one of the few who had any kind of education in film,” he said. “So I started finding things that had been there, but nobody knew what they were.”

Willeman identified the original negative of Edwin S. Porter’s 1903 western *The Great Train Robbery*. He also discovered the original, *uncensored* negative of the notorious 1933 film *Baby Face*, starring Barbara Stanwyck as an attractive woman who uses her sexuality to get ahead. “It had all the naughty bits still in it,” said Willeman. “That was just the find of a lifetime.”

His *Baby Face* discovery is just one of the many stories Willeman tells in *These Amazing Shadows*. When filmmakers Mariano and Norton approached him about appearing in the documentary, Willeman never imagined that he’d share the screen with Hollywood legends like George Takei, Rob Reiner, John Waters, and Debbie Reynolds. Nor did he think that the experience would take him to Sundance and other prestigious film festivals. “I couldn’t believe it when they told me that I have the most screen time in the film, especially with some of the other folks in it,” he said. “And I gave the film its title. That’s pretty exciting.”

Yet even after the excitement of appearing in a film himself, Willeman describes himself as “blessed” to have his day-to-day job: “It’s really nerdy, but I just love being around these reels of film and being a part of making sure that they’re preserved so that people can see them later on.” **W**



Did you know? Growing Up Female, a 1971 documentary by Wright State faculty members Julia Reichert and Jim Klein, was selected for the National Film Registry in 2011.



left to right: Jamal Russell, Chad Lovins, Brooke Moore, Lukas Schweikert, Christopher Jones, Andrianna Milton, Michael Tyler II, Phillip Logan, and Amaha Selassie.

PHOTO: TRACY SNIPE

on the road to civil rights

BY SARA PEARSUL VICE

SINCE THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT BEGAN sweeping through the South 50 years ago, the winds of change have carried away some its most notorious locations and enshrined others as monuments to courage.

On March 1, 2013, more than 250 people, including 33 members of Congress, nine Wright State students, and faculty member Tracy Snipe, Ph.D., gathered to begin the 13th Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimage to Alabama. On the first day, they stood on the steps of the University of Alabama campus building where Governor George Wallace blocked the entrance to bar black students from enrolling, as two students stood up to segregation in 1963.

The pilgrimage, sponsored by the Faith and Politics Institute in Washington, D.C., is a three-day event aimed at fostering understanding of civil rights issues, past and present. For the second year, Wright State students participated as part of a seminar class led by Snipe, associate professor of political science, with financial support from the College of Liberal Arts and the Division of Multicultural Affairs & Community Engagement, among other units. They were among 35 people from high school to age 30 selected for the Students and Stewards program of the pilgrimage.

“Our hope is that as young people travel on the pilgrimage, they understand the history and how it impacts the future,” said Rev. Joseph A. C. Smith, who oversees the Students and Stewards program for the Faith and Politics Institute. “This year, we are looking at the concept of non-violence, asking them to reflect on where violence is present in their lives and what non-violent responses might be.”

After visiting Tuscaloosa, Alabama, the pilgrimage group traveled to Birmingham, Alabama, for a visit to the Civil Rights Institute, Kelly Ingram Park, where police turned dogs and fire hoses on peaceful protestors, and the 16th Street Baptist Church, where four young girls were killed by a bomb while in Sunday school. The 1963 church bombing turned public sympathies toward the civil rights movement, and the survivors of the bombing are the subjects of Snipe’s academic research.

The second day was spent in Montgomery, Alabama, the capital city where Rosa Parks refused to sit at the back of the bus, Martin Luther King, Jr., preached, and the Freedom Riders met with brutal resistance.

“After going to places like Alabama, you have a greater appreciation for the degree of courage it took to be a pacifist,”

observed Snipe. The proximity of the protest sites to the state capital building, for example, put them “a stone’s throw away from danger.”

As important as seeing the sites of the civil rights movement was the opportunity to meet its heroes, together with current political leaders.

Congressional representatives on the pilgrimage crossed the political aisle, from John Lewis, Democratic representative from Atlanta, Georgia, to Eric Cantor, Republican House Majority leader from Richmond, Virginia. Surgeon General Regina Benjamin and Attorney General Eric Holder were among those representing the Executive Branch.

Rep. Lewis has been a civil rights activist since the 1960s. He was a young leader of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and a Freedom Rider. Along with Hosea Williams, he led a non-violent protest march that began on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama; it turned into “Bloody Sunday” on March 7, 1965, when state and local police attacked. This year’s Congressional Pilgrimage concluded in Selma with a worship service at the Brown Chapel and the annual commemoration of Bloody Sunday, as 5,000 people recreated the walk over the bridge, led this year by Vice President Joe Biden.

The Wright State students were impressed with the approachability of the leaders on the pilgrimage and inspired by talks by such civil rights legends as Rev. Bernard LaFayette, who heads the Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies at the University of Rhode Island, and Ruby Bridges, who, at the age of 6, was the first African American child to integrate an all-white school in New Orleans.

“The experience was something that will live with you forever,” said Andrianna Milton, who is majoring in African American Studies and plans a teaching career. Her own family history is tied to Alabama, where her paternal great-grandmother died on a plantation. When she met Rep. Lewis, she was struck by the fact that he was college age when he joined the civil rights movement. Of his non-violent approach to change, she said, “We can

carry that on today.”

“The biggest thing they taught was that you can’t understand how to move forward until you understand where you’ve been,” said Michael Tyler, who researches the civil rights movement as part of his Wright State Master of Humanities program. “You look at the struggles that others went through, people who died so that people they never knew could vote. It’s the power of one—what one person can do.”

The desire to influence social justice issues during their careers was the impetus for many of the Wright State students to join the pilgrimage. They found government and private-sector leaders enthusiastic about helping them through networking and internship opportunities.

The in-depth stories of the pilgrimage are yet to be written by the Wright State students. Brooke Moore, who plans to go into health administration, spoke with a senior vice president of Pfizer. Christopher Jones talked with Rep. Lewis’ chief of staff about a possible internship. Chad Lovins plans to get a master’s degree in international relations. Jamal Russell is a senior in English literature and has written on his experiences visiting civil rights sites. Amaha Selassie is working on ways to build trust among diverse students on campus and will participate in the Caux Scholars Program on peace building in Switzerland this summer.

Selassie thinks a lot of work needs to be done to achieve the goals of the civil rights movement: “The struggle is still going on right now. There are a lot of underlying issues that haven’t been dealt with. We need to heal past wounds on both sides.” **W**

The remains of the grocery store visited by Emmett Till, a 14-year-old boy whose brutal murder in 1955 for alleged slights to a white woman touched off the national civil rights movement.

PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Legacy of Hope and Fear

The Wright State contingent planned its own tour of important civil rights sites beginning at the Freedom Riders Museum in Montgomery, followed by stops at the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site and Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama. Selassie, Milton, and Moore created a video blog at the museum. Their video, which focused on the current generation’s views about the struggle for civil rights, is on display in the museum for visitors to view.

The group also went to Jackson, Mississippi, to see the home where civil rights leader Medgar Evers was slain. The tour was expertly conducted by curator Minnie Watson. Later, local historian Dr. Dewey Knight led students on a tour of the University of Mississippi in Oxford. James Meredith was the first known African American to integrate this institution, leading to violent protests in 1963.

After darkness had fallen on a long day of traveling, the Wright State group arrived in rural Money, Mississippi. They came to view the haunting remains of the grocery store visited by Emmett Till, a 14-year-old boy whose brutal murder in 1955 for alleged slights to a white woman touched off the national civil rights movement. The students described the desolate spot as a chilling reminder of what it must have been like to be an African American citizen in the South so many years ago, living in fear of being carried off and killed. In fact, they said the unease was palpable at that site still today.



unlocking memories

wright state biomedical engineer creates pioneering therapy program for people with dementia

By JIM HANNAH

GOLF TOURNAMENTS, ITALIAN MUSIC, THE LATE JULIA CHILDS' COOKING SHOWS, and family photos—lots of family photos. These are among the contents of “memory boxes,” part of a revolutionary program called Behavior-Based Ergonomics Therapy, or BBET, for dementia patients being pioneered by a Wright State University biomedical engineering adjunct professor.

Govind Bharwani, Ph.D., developed the program for Alzheimer's patients at the St. Leonard Franciscan Living Community in Centerville, Ohio. The program is spreading quickly. It is now being used at more than a dozen institutions in Ohio, Kentucky, and Kansas. And there is a six-month waiting list for those who want to implement some form of it.

“We are getting calls from around the world,” said Bharwani. “This is changing the way Alzheimer's care will be done.”

Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia. Symptoms include memory loss, confusion, irritability, aggression, and withdrawal. The disease gets worse as it progresses, eventually leads to death, and there is no known cure. An estimated 5.4 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's, which is the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States, according to the Alzheimer's Association.

Alzheimer's can place a great burden on caregivers. St. Leonard turned to Wright State and the College of Nursing and Health's Nursing Institute of West Central Ohio for help with the physical wear on its staff and with Alzheimer's patients, who would sometimes fall and injure themselves.

“The staff on the Alzheimer's unit were always fighting fires; there was always a crisis; there was always somebody upset. Then it snowballs to other people,” said Bharwani's daughter, Meena, who helps implement the therapy program and train the staff. “It's hard to get control of the unit when everyone's got so much stress.”

Enter her father, an ergonomics expert with 30 years' experience. Ergonomics is the science of reducing physical and mental stress, which can afflict Alzheimer's patients. Their loss of memory can make them agitated and combative, leading to behavior problems and the use of anti-psychotic medication.

“Our research has shown that boredom and disengagement in a long-term care facility can lead to these types of behaviors,” Bharwani said. “If they're not engaged in a meaningful way, they run into emotional problems; that eventually leads to behavior problems and also causes a lot of stress on the caregivers.”

The question became how best to engage them.

Bharwani formed a team from Wright State, the Alzheimer's Association, and St. Leonard's—members with a total of 90 years' practical experience. He also toured retirement and nursing facilities around the state that focused on Alzheimer's care.

He found that Alzheimer's residents are often put into group activities and sessions, which can engage some of them but not others. He also discovered that an array of different therapies was being used with the residents—from music therapy to aroma therapy to pet therapy. However, the therapies often called for specialists, which was expensive and impractical for the institutions and didn't work for every resident.

So Bharwani decided to focus on the most effective therapies and then create therapy programs customized for each resident. He developed personality profiles through family histories and cognitive assessments. A computer software program would then spit out a therapy prescription that could be easily implemented by the nursing staff. It is believed to be the first non-pharmacological customized therapy program for Alzheimer's patients in the nation.

The therapies include a music library of CDs that features hymns, oldies, television theme songs, Lawrence Welk, and other soothing sounds. Then there are videos of sports, travel, music sing-alongs, hobbies, comedies, cooking, and gardening. Called “comforting” libraries, these two therapies are designed to reduce cognitive stress.

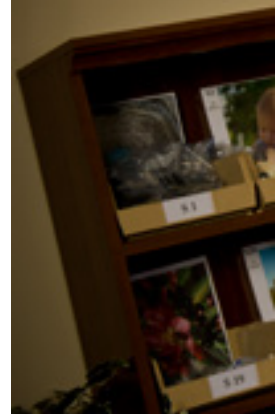
A third therapy stimulates the brain through the use of games and puzzles. And the use of individual memory boxes constitutes the fourth leg of the program by providing reminiscent therapy. The residents' families supply sentimental items in the memory boxes such as old photos and stuffed animals.

“These customized therapies in combination can reduce resident stress and prevent difficult behaviors,” Bharwani said.

The memory boxes are a crucial component of the therapy. Dementia patients often cannot remember recent events, but retain pleasant experiences from the distant past and even remember details that an average person would likely have long forgotten.

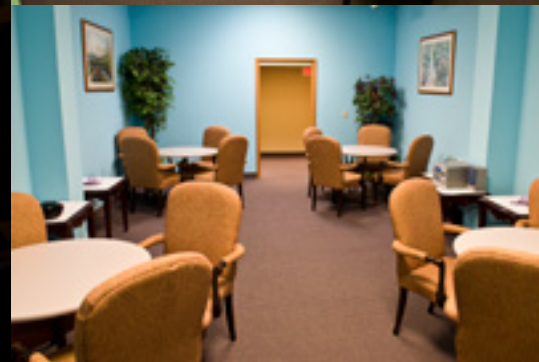
“As the disease progresses, they begin to enjoy what they were many years ago,” Bharwani said. “You can put them in front of a mirror, and they would not recognize who the person is. But you give them a picture of what they were 20 or 30 years ago, and they'll know exactly who it is.”

The therapy items are housed in a small room on the





*Meena Bharwani and
Govind Bharwani
right: two of the facility's
therapy rooms*



unit called the BBET Resource Center, which is open around the clock. The caregivers on the unit use an individualized therapy action plan and often add to the items themselves if they see the need. One nurse once went out and bought a model train for a resident.

Laura Spain, a nursing assistant who has worked on the unit for 14 years, said the therapy items are especially helpful in the middle of the night, when some residents get anxious and begin pacing. A 30- to 60-minute BBET therapy session is usually sufficient to keep a resident calm for up to four hours and they eat, sleep, and bathe in a relaxed manner.

“It just stops the behavior and stops the anxiety so they’re not hurting,” she said.

Nurses and other workers on the unit were initially skeptical of the therapy program and concerned it would add to their already-heavy workload. It was tested on five of the 18 residents during the pilot.

“In the first week, they saw such a change in their behavior that the staff was absolutely blown away,” Bharwani said.

When the Bharwanis’ program was implemented unit-wide, the moods and behaviors of residents dramatically improved. Within six months, resident falls had decreased by 40 percent and the use of behavior medicines—including anti-psychotic medication—had been reduced by up to 70 percent. Bharwani found himself presenting the results at conferences around the country.

“It’s all about individual engagement as opposed to medication,” said Tim Dressman, executive director of St. Leonard. “We’ve had tons of tours and attention from the outside, internationally. You use it, it works. I can’t say enough.”

Eric VanVlymen, executive director of the Alzheimer’s Association, Miami Valley Chapter, said the Bharwani program empowers the staff to help residents with dementia in an engineered and systematic way.

“That’s the beauty of it,” VanVlymen said. “I have seen a lot of different programs, and what makes this special is it thinks about

the staff and how to reduce their stress and it thinks about people with dementia and how to reduce their stress through those therapies. What I have really come to appreciate is Dr. Bharwani’s engineering mind, which addresses the problem from a different perspective.”

Since the first BBET Resource Center at St. Leonard was established in 2010, the program has expanded into their new memory support facility with a resource center in each of four wings. In late 2012, St. Leonard opened yet another center to benefit the community—this one to help early-stage dementia patients who are being cared for in their homes, often by their children.

“It gives the caregivers a respite,” Bharwani said. “They are struggling. For them, it is a tremendous amount of stress.”

The BBET program has been honored with five national awards, including the 2011 Dorland Health Silver Crown Award for Alzheimer’s Care and the 2011 American Medical Directors Association Foundation Quality Improvement Award.

Bharwani grew up in New Delhi, India. His neighbors encouraged him to pursue engineering at a nearby engineering college, the Birla Institute of Technology & Science.

He obtained his mechanical engineering degree in India, master’s degrees in industrial engineering and business administration from Lehigh University in Pennsylvania, and his Ph.D. from Wright State in biomedical engineering.

Bharwani has now begun working on a book that—based on his research and experience—will serve as a practical guide to caring for people with dementia.

He said he initially approached the St. Leonard’s project like the engineer he is, focusing dispassionately on the results. Later it became an emotional experience, with Bharwani often getting hugs from grateful family members.

“They say, ‘You’ve given my mother a new life’ or ‘You’ve given my father a new life,’” he said. “Improving the quality of life for people with Alzheimer’s disease is what this program is all about.” **W**

engineering marvel

sundaram narayanan promoted to university provost

By JIM HANNAH

He arrived in this country from his native India clutching two suitcases and carrying \$200 in his pocket.

Just 48 years old, Sundaram Narayanan is the new provost of Wright State, assuming his duties as the university's chief operating officer and chief academic officer on March 18. Previously, he was dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science and helped create and lead the Wright State Research Institute.

"The provost position is a tremendous opportunity to help Wright State grow even further," Narayanan said. "It's important that we continue to grow and support the innovations and the entrepreneurial spirit that exists at the university."

Narayanan grew up in Bangalore in southern India, well known as a hub for India's information technology sector. His parents, both of whom worked for the telephone company, couldn't afford to go to college. But they encouraged Narayanan and his sister to do so.

"The value of education was something that was preached to us," said Narayanan, who obtained his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering at India's National Institute of Technology, followed by his master's degree from the University of Alabama and doctoral degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology in industrial and systems engineering.

After obtaining the graduate engineering degrees, Narayanan's journey took him to Wright State, where he first taught as an assistant professor, later chaired the Department of Biomedical, Industrial, and Human Factors Engineering, and then led the Wright State Research Institute and the College of Engineering and Computer Science as dean.

Narayanan, who remains active playing cricket with Wright State students and competes against teams at other

universities, says being a first-generation college student gives him a special perspective as provost.

"Wright State's mission of providing the opportunity of high-value education to everyone is close to my heart," he said. "We will strive to help students from all backgrounds come to Wright State and become high achievers."

Wright State President David R. Hopkins said Narayanan's 18-year career at the university has proven him to be an outstanding teacher, department chair, and dean. And, said Hopkins, he has a tremendous ability to see how everything fits together.

"While the campus genuinely respects and admires his distinguished career, it is what he will help to lead us to do in the future that has our faculty, staff, and students truly excited," Hopkins said. "It's what sets him apart and positions him to lead."

Narayanan's leadership philosophy is to recruit top talent, give them the tools and resources for success, provide strong mentorship, promote high performers in key positions, set ambitious targets, and break down barriers that limit results.

Narayanan says his goals as provost include continuing to improve academic quality so that students succeed and maintaining the strength and institutional knowledge of faculty and staff in the face of impending retirements. He also wants to make the university more prominent.

"We've got to be known as a market leader," he said. "We have to get the word out in terms of what our professors are doing, what our students are doing—national competitions, publishing in top-quality journals."

Under Narayanan's tenure as dean, the engineering and computer science college experienced its highest enrollment in its history; the school's research funding grew

by 67 percent from \$9 million in 2009 to \$15 million in 2012; and the college created Ohio's only master's degree program in cyber security.

Narayanan was also instrumental in creating and directing the Wright State Research Institute, which in five years has grown to more than 75 employees with annual research awards of more than \$20 million.

Narayanan has directed research programs in computer modeling and simulation of complex systems in which the human operator plays a major role. These efforts resulted in nearly \$20 million in extramural funding from federal, state, and industry and helped produce over 100 technical articles and two books.

Narayanan says his engineering background has taught him to take a systems approach in decision making.

"It's the whole notion of seeing the bigger picture, the different elements fitting together," he said. "You've got multiple stakeholders, and you need to have a sense of balance between all of the different stakeholders involved."

He also believes in empowering people and encouraging them to express their perspectives and opinions.

"Then you want to be able to put them together in a manner that will constantly focus on what is best for them and for the organization," he said.

Narayanan was named provost following a nationwide search that resulted in six finalists for the position. He succeeds Steven Angle as the university's permanent provost. Angle was named chancellor at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in March.

Narayanan and his wife, Viji, reside in Centerville, Ohio, with their three children. **W**



the great dayton flood

Dayton, Ohio, suffered the worst natural disaster in its history in March 1913. These are just a few of the historical flood images from the Dayton Daily News Collection and the Miami Valley Conservancy District Records that are housed in Special Collections and Archives in the Wright State University Libraries.



1



3

SEE MORE ON THE WEB @ www.wright.edu/magazine

1. The Dayton Journal attempted a morning "extra" edition; however, fewer than 10 percent of the papers could be delivered due to the dangerous floodwaters.
2. Delco employees use a rope and bucket pulley system to share supplies and information with survivors trapped in neighboring buildings.
3. A house sits in the middle of a city street, having been carried there by the flood.
4. This was the view of Fourth Street looking east from the Arcade building.
5. Many businesses were quick to open after the waters receded.
6. A giant cash register at the downtown courthouse encouraged pledges for the future Miami Valley Conservancy District.
7. NCR operated this soup and bread line to feed flood survivors.
8. NCR owner John H. Patterson surveys the flood damage.
9. An Ohio National Guardsman patrols a Dayton street corner.
10. Two homeowners stand on their roof on Fourth St.



2



4



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10

“In 1995, shortly before my junior year at Wright State, I was enlisted to assist department chair W. Stuart McDowell with a new play—1913: The Great Dayton Flood. Over the course of a year, Stuart and I dug through countless dusty photographs and news articles, hunted down gravestones, and met with over a dozen eclectic historians and archivists. It was the most amazing experience an aspiring writer could have hoped for.

However, by the end of the year Stuart and I still felt something was missing. So in a *Dayton Daily News* article we left my phone number asking any 1913 flood survivors out there to call with their stories. We hoped someone would bite.

Returning from my parents’ that weekend, I discovered that my answering machine was full. Not only was it full—but my phone was still ringing from a multitude of octo- and nonagenarians with stories to tell. Fortunately, by then the play had been cast and a small army of student actors, armed with microphones, went out to confer with some of the very people they would soon portray.

Suddenly, these weren’t characters in a play anymore. These were people. What emerged in the production that fall wasn’t simply the staging of a flood, but a hundred moments of humanity surrounding one. It was a lesson in writing, in theatre, and—most importantly—in life from those who had really lived it.”

—Timothy J. Nevits



History floods the stage

wright state restages award-winning play to commemorate the 100th anniversary of dayton’s defining moment.

By CORY MACPHERSON

ONE HUNDRED YEARS after the natural disaster that changed Dayton, Ohio, forever, Wright State University restaged its celebrated original play 1913: *The Great Dayton Flood*.

Billed as an “epic parable with gospel blues,” 1913 debuted on the Festival Playhouse stage in 1996. The play with music was based on Allan W. Eckert’s Pulitzer-nominated book *Time of Terror: The Great Dayton Flood* and was adapted for the stage by W. Stuart McDowell, chair of the Wright State Department of Theatre, Dance, and Motion Pictures, and then-student Timothy J. Nevits.

Through careful research, McDowell and Nevits added many real-life characters not found in Eckert’s book, particularly African Americans. They added, for example, W. G. Sloan, whose story they discovered in the NCR archives. Sloan saved 375 stranded people in a flat-bottomed boat that he commandeered at gunpoint. They also added Mrs. Stanton, who busts through the roof of her house to escape the rising waters at the end of the play’s first act.

The original production was a resounding success. It was invited to play at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., as part of the 1997 American College Theatre Festival and won a record number of the festival’s awards. Later that year, the show played four sold-out performances at Dayton’s own Victoria Theatre (a historical location where scenes from the play actually took place). The audiences for those performances included several flood survivors.

tion to the elements that made the first production such a hit—including recorded

narration by Martin Sheen, Ruby Dee, and Ossie Davis—the 2013 incarnation was infused with new material. “We’ve given new life to this great story,” said McDowell.

The new soundtrack included original compositions written by local Dayton artist/musicians Michael and Sandy Bashaw and played on the couple’s unique collection of metal “sound sculptures.” The show featured stirring gospel melodies sung a cappella by the cast. Senior dance major Nikki Wetter created inventive choreography that had actors realistically swirling through invisible waters. In the opening scene, the cast used movement to illustrate the three ominous air masses that fatefully collided in March 1913 to produce that deadly rainfall.

The 21 actors in the cast portrayed more than 150 Daytonians, from famous historical figures like John H. Patterson to obscure—but no less real—individuals like Mildred Young and George McClintock. Once again, the cast dove into intensive research in the Wright State University Libraries Special Collections and Archives. They visited the cemeteries where many of the characters they played are buried and the actual locations where many of the scenes take place.

“When we went downtown and we saw the water lines, that’s when it really hit me, how real this really was,” said senior acting major Cyndii Johnson, who played the aforementioned Mrs. Stanton. “We tried to jump up and touch the lines, but no matter what we did, we couldn’t reach it. That’s when it hit home the hardest.” **W**

tuned in

By Karen Strider-Iames

CRAMMING IN COLLEGE...pulling all-nighters. Sound familiar? It's not always a bad thing. In fact, it helped prepare award-winning composer Stephen Hampton for the tight deadlines he would encounter in the high-pressure music industry.

"You begin to trust your first instincts because you don't have time to rethink it," Hampton explained. "And a lot of times, those first instincts are pretty good."

Hampton and John Adair, his writing and business partner, founded Emoto Music in Santa Monica, California, which scores original music for TV commercials, such as Lexus, Adidas, Mountain Dew, T-Mobile, and eBay. Although they've sold the company, they still compose for Emoto part time. This dynamic duo also has Hampton-Adair Music for television scoring and do the week-to-week scoring for several TV shows, including the Disney Channel's *Jessie*. They've won a number of Broadcast Music, Inc., and American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers awards for such shows as *Wizards of Waverly Place*, *Just Shoot Me!* and *8 Simple Rules*. And Hampton even finds a little time to do some film scoring.

Although he's won awards, he's most proud of the large orchestral pieces for clients such as Isuzu and Best Buy, where he brings in an 85-piece orchestra. "It's difficult, but rewarding," he said. He's also proud that he was asked to compose a fanfare for Wright State, which debuted at the 2007 inauguration of President David R. Hopkins, which Hampton attended. "That was a super thrilling moment to come here and hear that performed live," he said.

Hampton earned a bachelor's of music in theory and composition from Wright State in 1980. He was one of the first guitar majors. After getting a chance to be in a recording studio during college, he was hooked. "That was like pulling the curtain back," he explained. "I liked the recording, the gear, writing music; I knew I wanted to be in music."

Wright State provided Hampton with a strong music foundation that would serve him well. "I always found it fascinating roaming around the practice rooms," he recalled. "You'd hear all kind of music being played, from Chopin to the theme from *Hogan's Heroes*." Little did Hampton know at the time that he would be composing orchestral pieces and television themes himself someday.

Hampton met his wife, Jamie, a theatre tech major, while they were students at Wright State. When they graduated in 1980, she got the first job as a costume designer with the opera company in Anchorage, Alaska, so the couple set off on an adventure. Hampton's parents just happened to live there because his dad was in the Air Force.

"I had no idea what I was going to do, especially as a music major," he noted. "It's not like you walk out the door and sign up with IBM or something. But I stuck with it and made it up as I went along."

Hampton played acoustic guitar in bars and started composing for commercials and small films. He was producing a record with some local artists who wanted to record in a studio in Los Angeles, so they did. He built a relationship with the



Stephen Hampton

studio owner, who offered him a job several months later, and the Hamptons moved. "I would've never guessed I would end up in Los Angeles," he said.

The company grew and got more and more high-profile jobs. "Then the whole Nike thing hit and we were the music house that did all the music for that, so that put us on the map. After that, we had a lot of work out of the New York and Chicago ad agencies."

Eventually Hampton branched out into television scoring. Familiarity with a broad range of musical styles that he learned at Wright State has served him well over the years. For example, the scoring for *Jessie* may include a Ballywood sequence one week and a Hitchcock film feel the next. He and Adair produced a new title theme for Alaska, the Last Frontier, about singer-songwriter Jewel's family in Homer, Alaska. Jewel's father, Atz Kilcher, wrote the song and was flown to Hampton's Santa Monica studio to record it.

"The ability to analyze music and pick it apart and figure out what's going on and to be able to reproduce that, I can directly link back to my years at Wright State," he explained. "It really honed my skills and my ear."

His favorite Wright State memories include listening to great local bands at May Daze and the time his guitar ensemble wore white high top Chuck Taylor shoes with their tuxes during a concert. One of Hampton's favorite professors was William Steinhart, who was a composer and conductor. "He was always kind of a hero to me." And he learned a lot in Leland Bland's music theory classes.

Hampton has loved soccer since he was a boy and still plays at least once a week. He can also be found hiking in Yosemite or skiing on the slopes of Mammoth, where he said, "You can get as scary and crazy as you want."

Creativity runs deep in the Hampton household. Wife Jamie works at Pepperdine University part time in the costume department and for a couple of high schools. Their daughter, Katie, is a singer/songwriter and works in the art department of the TV show, *Modern Family*. She collaborated with her father on an EP released earlier this year and tours with Sergio Mendes. His oldest son, Will, is a recording engineer in Los Angeles and does some work for Emoto. His youngest son, Bob, is also a singer/songwriter and pianist who plans to attend Berklee College of Music in Boston next year. **W**

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putting the full-court press on student-athlete success

mike and monica hax make a slam dunk for future raiders

By KIM PATTON



WINTER, SPRING, OR FALL. Basketball, softball, or baseball. No matter the season or the sport, if the Raiders are playing, Mike and Monica Hax are likely to be there cheering on their favorite team.

Their love of the green and gold began in the early 1970s when Mike was a student at Wright State. With only four buildings on campus, the university and its sports teams were still in their infancy.

“It’s just grown so much,” said Mike, a 1973 graduate in finance.

Mike had a front row seat to Wright State history, witnessing the birth of several student organizations, including fraternities and the student newspaper. He and some friends got WWSU, the student radio station, off the ground and running.

“If it didn’t exist, you started it,” Mike explained. “There were all kinds of opportunities to start things that had never been done before.”

Although she was a student at nearby Miami-Jacobs Career College, Monica still developed an affinity for Wright State. “A lot of my friends and family graduated from here. I used to come on campus with them,” she recalled.

As the years went by, the pair became more involved with Wright State University Athletics, as both supporters and donors.

They can often be found at baseball, softball, and basketball games, where they cheer on both the men and the women. Mike and Monica were two of the 500 Raider fans that made the pilgrimage to Buffalo, New York, when the men’s basketball team played in the 2007 NCAA tournament.

For them, being a Raiders fan is about so much more than just going to the games. It’s helping to create the best possible future for Wright State’s student-athletes. Annual gifts from the couple and other donors benefit the entire athletics program, including the academic side of the house.

Now they have taken their giving one step further by making a significant planned gift through their estate that will support Wright State University Athletics.

“I would hope that over time, however the money is used, the Athletics Department will grow in all of the sports,” said Mike. “They all reach different demographics. They bring people into the university—fans, participants, and parents. The more the university community grows, the more cachet for the Wright State brand.”

While they are far too modest to think of themselves as trailblazers, Mike and Monica would like to inspire other Wright State alumni to step up to the plate.

“We’re hoping it’s like a domino effect,” said Monica. “Maybe this will put an idea in the back of a graduate’s mind to say, ‘I can do that.’”

Their gift is also a testament to what they admire most about Wright State Athletics—a commitment to excellence that goes well beyond the basketball court or the baseball diamond. It’s achieved in the classrooms, where student-athletes have earned a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher for 30 straight quarters.

“They make sure their education comes first,” said Monica.

For Director of Athletics Bob Grant, it came as no surprise that the couple would want to make life better for the next generation of student-athletes.

“Mike and Monica have been emotionally invested in this university from the time I met them,” said Grant. “They’re the same as they’ve been for 20 years. How they feel about this gift speaks volumes to their character and their hearts.”

One day, future Wright State Raiders will have Mike and Monica Hax to thank for their success on and off the fields of competition. **W**



David Hopkins

Dayton Business Journal names Wright State's Hopkins among most influential

The Dayton Business Journal named Wright State President David R. Hopkins among its Top 12 Most Influential People of 2012 in the Dayton Region. The Journal's editorial board included Hopkins because of his impact on the Dayton region—both publicly and behind the scenes—during the past year.

Among the criteria for being on the list was having been responsible for actions that have helped shape the community this year and involvement in efforts that will reshape the region in coming years.

The Mini U at Wright State adds a greenhouse

Students at the Mini University (Mini U) child care center at Wright State have been learning in a state-of-the-art geodesic greenhouse, since the self-sustaining, dome-shaped structure was built next to the school over the summer.

The geo-dome is 33 feet in diameter, stands over 14 feet tall, and occupies 850 square feet. Powered by three solar panels, its fans, vents and four-foot-deep water tank independently irrigate and ventilate the chamber, creating an ideal climate for growing plants, flowers, vegetables, and fruits in the many raised beds within its walls.



the new greenhouse at Mini U

Wright State creates an aerospace jobs center

Wright State University, elected officials, and aerospace industry representatives announced the opening of a new center to enhance Ohio's aerospace and defense workforce.

The Aerospace Professional Development Center at Wright State University is already working closely with the aerospace and defense industry and government, higher education institutions around Ohio, and STEM initiatives in the Dayton region to offer career coaching, match employees with job openings, identify skills gaps in the workforce, and assist students in finding internships.



press conference announcing new APDC

Campus Ministries unveils a new chapel to serve the masses

At the heart of campus, a new chapel was opened in October. The St. John Bosco chapel serves Catholic Campus Ministry, the United Protestant Ministry, Baptist Collegiate Ministry, and several student religious organizations.

The new chapel provides not only a place for worship and discussion of religion, but also a space for campus groups and individuals of all faiths and backgrounds to come for fellowship, conversation, and quiet contemplation.



Wright State Physicians building

The Wright State Physicians building opens, offers same-day medical care to Wright State community

The new Wright State Physicians building opened on campus in September. A new extended-hours clinic, Wright Care, began offering services to patients in the new building in August.

The 66,000-square-foot, three-story building houses physicians in the practices of dermatology, family medicine, geriatric medicine, orthopaedic surgery, sports medicine and rehab, and women's health.

Kristin Sobolik welcomed as new dean of Wright State University's College of Liberal Arts

Kristin D. Sobolik, Ph.D., was named dean of Wright State University's College of Liberal Arts. Sobolik had served as associate dean for Research and External Affairs at the University of Maine's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences since September 2010.

"Dr. Sobolik brings a wealth of leadership experience, a proven ability to collaborate, and a strong commitment to engaging students in global real-world issues and research opportunities," said Wright State President David R. Hopkins. "I am confident she will be able to help our College of Liberal Arts meet the challenges of the 21st century."

Wright State engineering professor named finalist for prestigious operations research award

Working with The Kroger Company, Xinhui Zhang, Ph.D., Wright State University associate professor of biomedical, industrial, and human factors engineering, was named one of six finalists worldwide for the Franz Edelman Award for achievement in operations research.

"It's the biggest competition in our field, and we don't have anything like a Nobel Prize, so it is the highest award in operations research," said Zhang.

Zhang's work, which sought to more accurately project customer demands on pharmacy stocks, is already saving the grocer's pharmacy division over \$150 million a year.

Little Rock Nine's Minnijean Brown Trickey speaks at Wright State

Civil rights stalwart Minnijean Brown Trickey addressed a crowd of about 100 Wright State University students, staff, and faculty in January as part of the Martin Luther King, Jr., week celebration. Trickey urged the audience to be change agents and not silent witnesses to injustice.

Trickey was one of the nine African American students who collectively resisted opposition to desegregation by enrolling at Little Rock Central High School in 1957.

One of the Little Rock Nine, the 16-year-old Trickey and her fellow students defied an angry mob and walked into the formerly all-white Arkansas high school under the gaze of 1,200 national guardsmen.

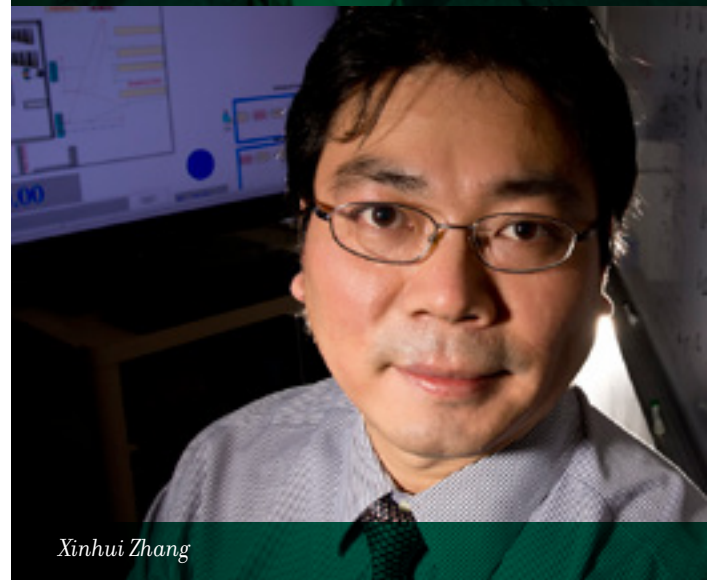
U.S. News ranks Wright State's online education program No. 15 in nation

U.S. News & World Report ranked Wright State University's online Master of Education degree in curriculum and instruction as No. 15 in the nation among online graduate education programs.

The U.S. News ranking in its Best Graduate Schools 2014 edition made Wright State's College of Education and Human Services' online program the top-ranked program in Ohio and ahead of well-known universities such as the University of Florida, Michigan State, and Penn State. A total of 576 institutions were surveyed.



Kristin Sobolik



Xinhui Zhang



Minnijean Brown Trickey



Neil DeGrasse Tyson

Famed astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson attracts record crowd for a PLS event

Neil deGrasse Tyson, the astrophysicist who erased Pluto from the planetary bodies, drew thousands to the Wright State University Nutter Center and delivered an engaging commentary to adoring fans on the lack of an emphasis on mathematics and science in the United States.

The free event attracted fans from across the country to see the director of the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History and pop culture mainstay.

With appearances on *The Big Bang Theory*, *The Colbert Report*, *The Daily Show*, *Nova* and over 1 million followers on Twitter, Tyson is the biggest star the Presidential Lecture Series has ever hosted.

Beloved award-winning composer Stephen Schwartz visits Wright State as the first Distinguished Visiting Artist for CELIA

In March, renowned Broadway and film composer Stephen Schwartz visited Wright State and worked with theatre, dance, motion pictures, and music students as the university's first Distinguished Visiting Artist for Collaborative, Education, Leadership, and Innovation in the Arts (CELIA).

Schwartz's Broadway and regional theatre works include *Godspell*, *Pippin*, *The Baker's Wife*, *The Magic Show*, *Working*, *Rags*, *Children of Eden*, and the worldwide hit *Wicked*. Generations of filmgoers have also come to love his scores for *Pocahontas*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Gepetto*, *Prince of Egypt*, and *Enchanted*.

Schwartz, Tony Award winner Debbie Gravitte, and acclaimed vocalist Scott Coulter performed in the Festival Playhouse and worked with students during master classes and workshops in the Creative Arts Center over the span of two days.



Wright State Women's Center opens in 1993

The Women's Center and Women's Studies celebrate 20 years of leadership, resource sharing, events, and advocacy

Since 1993, the Wright State University Women's Center has worked to serve women on campus and in the surrounding area through facilitating connections, providing resources, and advocating for equitable experiences and opportunities for all people.

The Center and educators from the Women's Studies program celebrated 20 years of joint successes, including the growth of the interdisciplinary program, which helps students examine the struggles and successes that women experience, and helps shed light on how gender often influences every facet of our lives.



New Technical and Applied Studies degree at Lake Campus

New degree offered at Lake Campus

Working adults, students with applied or technical associate degrees, and others looking for credentials in agriculture, commerce, or graphic design can now earn a bachelor's degree through a new offering at Wright State University's Lake Campus.

The Lake Campus in Celina, Ohio, was recently granted approval by the Ohio Board of Regents to offer a bachelor's degree in Technical and Applied Studies. The degree was developed in response to current and future career preparation needs identified by students, employers, and Lake Campus-area residents. It is designed to offer a mixture of broad-based business skills, as well as specialized training in fields of local employment.



your alma mater needs you

HELP US RECRUIT STUDENTS and become a RaidR Network Volunteer-Raider Recruiter. As you know alumni are our best ambassadors, we need your referrals and personal touch when recruiting future generations of Raiders. A personal touch from an alumnus can make all the difference. Our goal is for dedicated alumni to:

- share their Wright State experiences with students
- serve as resources for students who want to learn about Wright State
- offer a personal perspective about Wright State

Our RaidR Network is everywhere, including many places that our faculty and staff cannot be. Through this network, we look to use the presence and involvement of our alumni to reach schools, neighborhoods and communities, especially those underserved by traditional educational resources.

Refer a Student

Do you know a high school student who is starting the college search process? Share your stories about Wright State and encourage them to schedule a campus visit. They will learn about academics, campus life, scholarships, the admissions process and much more. We offer campus visits Monday through Friday. Referring a future Raider is a great way to support your alma mater and give back to Wright State. Submit a referral, www.wright.edu/undergraduate-admissions/alumni-referral, and you can help connect a prospective student to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. We'll take it from there!

Write to a Student

The Office of Alumni Relations has once again teamed up with The Office of Admissions on a new project. Postcard writing campaign to accepted, but not yet enrolled students to Wright State University. A message from an alumnus thanking the prospective student for their interest in Wright State, a short testimonial of the quality of a Wright State education as well as a congratulatory note can make a huge impact when a student is making their college decision. Contact the Office of Alumni Relations to become involved in this new program in 2013/2014, or visit www.wrightstatealumni.com to sign up.

save these dates

August 3-4, 2013 **Alumni College**

Here's a chance for alumni to relive their college days by taking a variety of classes and other activities from Wright State professors.

August 4, 2013 **Kings Island**

August 19, 2013 **Alumni Association Legacy Golf Outing**

Homecoming Weekend **African American All Class Reunion**

October 11-12, 2013 **Homecoming Weekend**

mentor a student

IT HAS BEEN MY understanding that many undergraduates undergo a significant portion of



learning and growth outside of the classroom. Whether it be professionalism, networking, or behavior in a social setting, some skills are hard to learn behind a desk. Welcoming a mentor into my

life, helped me to develop these skills as well as provide me with insight and wisdom that only comes from experience. This process allowed me opportunities to become well rounded, prepare for career advancement, and increase my consciousness of what is required to succeed in the real world. My experience was organized in a personal way, having made a relationship with my mentor myself. The Wright State University Alumni Association is making the process a little easier for both mentor and mentoree to create and develop a partnership.

The Alumni Association would like to introduce our new Alumni Online Community. Through this new portal, both students and alumni have the opportunity to make their desire for a mentoring partnership known. It allows for mentor and mentoree to provide information regarding relevant skills and interest for building a partnership.

First step is to register for the Online Community, after logging in, all it takes is a visit to the Mentoring Services page via Career Center, an input of information, and you are on your way. Developing and maintaining a successful mentorship relationship can be enriching and enlightening for both parties. As a mentor you meet a driven and passionate individual who wants to be more successful, using whatever means available. Allowing you to meet potential new hires as well as giving you a fresh and diverse perspective in your field. As a mentoree, you gain valuable knowledge founded on tried and true wisdom, while simultaneously expanding your professional network. Taking part in Wright State University Alumni Association's free mentor program is a great way to connect with your largest network, your alma mater, all while increasing your professional impact.

Visit the Wright State University Alumni Association website today to register for the Online Community and sign up for the mentor program. Also, check out our other features exclusive to our Alumni Online Community.

—Alumni Graduate Assistant Ryan Young, '14, prepared this article.



left to right, top row: Randy Marriott, Greg Scharer, Bruce Kline, Wright State President David R. Hopkins, Sridhar Ramachandran
bottom row: Tarin Mink, Nina Carter, Linda Gillispie, Thais Reiff



wsuaa educational tour dates

The Wright State Alumni Association offers unique educational tours that bring alumni together for fellowship, fun and adventure. Travel with fellow Raiders to exotic destinations; learn about culture, art and history from top experts; and experience unique itineraries. Best of all, your participation will support your alma mater!

December 2013	Rediscover CUBA!
January 2014	Tahitian Jewels Cruise with a stop in Bora Bora
February 2014	Irish Splendor
May 2014	Cradle of History Cruise: Egypt, Turkey, and Greece
July 2014	Great Journey Through Europe featuring the Glacier Express
October 2014	Accent on the Adriatic

Visit www.wrightstatealumni.com for more information on these exclusive international trips!

Wright State Alumni—Achieving great things

THE WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION recognizes and celebrates the accomplishments of Wright State alumni on an annual basis at an awards ceremony celebrated each fall during Homecoming weekend. The outstanding individuals who are selected from a pool of nearly 100,000 Wright State alumni are recognized for achieving numerous accomplishments in their chosen fields. In addition to possessing high standards of integrity and character, they have also given their time and talent to benefit the Alumni Association.

On October 13 in a green and gold lit room, delectable hors d'oeuvres were served and Dr. Hopkins dazzled the audience as eight distinguished alumni were honored by the Wright State Alumni Association, their colleagues and peers in the following categories:

African American Alumni Society Award of Excellence:

Linda Gillispie, '73 B.A., '76 M.Ed.

Athletics Alumni Award of Excellence:

Edward "Eddie" T. McClintock, '91 B.A.

International Alumni Award of Excellence:

Dr. Ding-Jo Currie, '77 M.S.

Non-Profit Leadership Alliance Award of Excellence:

Nina Carter, '04 B.A., '06 M.P.A.

Social Work Alumni Society Award of Excellence:

Tarin Mink, '02 B.A.

Graduate of The Last Decade:

Sridhar Ramachandran, '01 M.S. Egr., '06 Ph.D.

Volunteer Service Award:

Thais Reiff, '81 M.B.A.

Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award:

Randy Marriott, '91 M.D.

As the evening concluded, one major theme was noted as each award recipient received their respective award: "Wright State University changed my life." The Wright State Alumni Association was proud to honor the eight award recipients who excel in many different professions.

The Wright State Alumni Association accepts nominations for the Alumni Achievement Awards throughout the year. The deadline for nominations for the 2013 Alumni Achievement Awards ceremony is Aug. 9.

The Association encourages the public to nominate alumni deserving recognition in the aforementioned categories. Award criteria and an electronic nomination form are available on the Wright State alumni website, www.wrightstatealumni.com. There are no restrictions on the number of nominations a person may submit, and people submitting nominations do not need to be graduates of Wright State University. The Alumni Association Board will make the final award winner selections.

Our alumni have achieved tremendous success in their professional careers and in service to others. **W**



left to right: Ryan Fendley, Sundaram Narayanan, Andrea Kunk, and Michael Bridges

Annual Legacy Scholarship Golf Outing

The 36th Annual Wright State University Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship Golf Outing was a success again this year. Over \$17,000 was brought in to support the Legacy Scholarship program.

The event was held on August 20 at the Heatherwoode Golf Club in Springboro. Participants enjoyed lunch, raffle prizes and a beautiful day for golf, all while raising funds for student scholarships.

Established in 1994, the Legacy Scholarship program has awarded over 500 individual scholarships to the spouses, children, step children, grandchildren, and legal dependents of Alumni Association members. For more information about the program, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (937) 775-2620. Please save the date, Monday August 19, for the 2013 Legacy Scholarship Golf Outing.

The Wright State Alumni Association would like to extend a very special thank you to the following sponsors and individuals who made the 2012 event the best yet!

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send us your notes

Send your news items to alumni_news@wright.edu and they will appear here and/or on the web version of the magazine, at www.wright.edu/magazine

2012

Mercedes Bender (B.A.) was named associate producer at ABC 22/FOX 45 in Dayton, Ohio.

Cindy Bevan (M.S.) joined Clinton Memorial Hospital Regional Health System in Wilmington, Ohio, as an advanced nurse practitioner. Her responsibilities include providing primary care to patients across the life span with a special interest in the treatment of diabetes and diabetic education.

Ricardo Buenaventura (M.B.A.), a clinical associate professor of surgery and internal medicine, works in private practice in interventional pain management with Pain Relief of Dayton in Centerville, Ohio, and is on the medical staff at Kettering Medical Center.

Brian L. Duke (B.S.) is employed by the Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, after a 28-year military career.

Alyssa Hogue (B.S.B.) was hired as marketing manager for Nexstep Commercial Products, a Springfield, Ohio-based manufacturer of cleaning tools.

Joshua Lisec (B.A.) signed a contract with Donnalnk Publications of Orlando, Fla., to publish his novel, an adventure-thriller titled *The Phoenix Reich*.

Aziza Macklin (B.F.A.) is acting with the Columbus Children's Theatre (CCT) Professional Touring Company. Visiting more than 250 schools each year, Aziza is one of four actors who performs plays and conducts theatre workshops for K-5 audiences around Ohio.

Michael Seesing (M.B.A.) was appointed accounting manager by Providence Medical Group, a Dayton, Ohio, health care provider organization, and sits on the organization's finance, compensation and retirement committees.

Maria Monserratte Surita, (B.S.) is serving as a production controller for the Ohio Army National Guard at a field maintenance shop in Springfield, Ohio.

2011

Darien Crago (B.F.A.) was on the Broadway National Tour of *White Christmas* over the holiday season.

Tabitha Peters-Guidone (B.S.) has opened Decoy Art Boutique and Studio, a Beavercreek, Ohio, business that offers art classes for all age groups and levels with an emphasis on creativity and hands-on classes that encourage experimentation in many different mediums.

Mark Phillips (M.Acc.), who provides tax, accounting, and audit services for Hoover and Roberts in West Alexandria, Ohio, earned his credential as a Certified Public Accountant.

Amy Schoenlein (B.S.) became a Registered Tax Return Preparer with Moorman, Harting & Co., a certified public accounting firm with offices in Coldwater and Celina, Ohio.

2010

Tyler S. Barnes (B.A.), an Air National Guard Airman 1st Class, graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

2009

Jeremy Gaston (B.F.A.) landed the leading role of Donkey in the Broadway road show *Shrek: The Musical*.

Andy Platt (B.S.B.) was appointed field director in the Dayton, Ohio, area for Northwestern Mutual-Miami Valley, an insurance and investment-services company.

Ann Rotolante (B.F.A.) served as producer/editor in the film *True Nature*, a family drama and supernatural thriller that tells the story of a wealthy nuclear family whose perfect life is shattered by a series of unnerving events.

Meredith Sullivan (M.D.), a pediatrician, has joined The Pediatric Group and the medical staff of the Upper Valley Medical Center in Troy, Ohio.

Katherine Takayasu (M.D.) (M.B.A.), a family doctor, is completing a two-year fellowship at the University of Arizona and Stamford Hospital's Center for Integrative Medicine & Wellness in Stamford, Conn. Her interests include integrating complementary modalities such as acupuncture into women's health areas like pregnancy, infertility, and menopause management.

2008

Matthew Bockey (B.A.) graduated magna cum laude with a Juris Doctor degree from Capital University.

Daniel Moore (B.S.B.), a former Ohio state trooper, was appointed Muscatine County (Iowa) fine collection coordinator, assisting people who are delinquent in fines or court costs.

2007

Veronica Ford (B.S.) is working as an industrial engineer at Honeywell Federal Manufacturing & Technologies in Lenexa, Kans.

Morgan O'Brien (M.A.) has begun serving as vice consul in the U.S. Embassy in Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo.

2006

Kenny Edwards (M.D.), an orthopaedic surgeon, joined the medical staff of the Columbus Orthopaedic Clinic in Columbus, Miss.

Nathan Kearns (B.S.B.) was promoted to manager of marketing services at The Marketing Formula, a Dayton, Ohio-based company that creates marketing strategies and builds brands for businesses.

Michael D. Riggerbach (M.D.), an orthopaedic surgeon specializing in surgery on the hands and upper extremities, joined Orlando Orthopaedic Center in Orlando, Fla.

2005

Andrew "Drew" Higgins (B.A.) was hired as director of the Miami County (Ohio) Board of Elections.

Avinash Konkani (M.S.), a graduate student in clinical engineering at Oakland University in Rochester, Mich., is the winner of the 2013 American College of Clinical Engineering's "Student Paper Competition." Konkani was also honored with the Student of the Month Award by the university's International Students and Scholars Office.

Scott Leverage (M.D.), an expert in a nonsurgical procedure that combines upper gastrointestinal endoscopy and X-rays to treat problems of the bile and pancreatic ducts, has joined Tri-State Gastroenterology Associates in Crestview Hills, Ky.

Matthew G. Shahady (M.B.A.) joined financial planning and investment firm Dorse Morgen in Huntersville, N.C., as a financial advisor.

2004

Lindsay Ackley (B.S.B.)(M.P.A.) was named by Dayton (Ohio) Children's Medical Center as planned giving officer and member of the hospital's development team.

Randy Bridge (B.A.)(M.A.)(M.P.A.) was hired as the planning director for the City of New Carlisle, Ohio.

Larry Hartlaub (B.S.B.) was named auditor for Ottawa County, Ohio.

2003

Selena Burks (B.F.A.) showed her documentary film *Saving Jackie* at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

Brittany Lawrence (B.S.B.), tax manager and Certified Public Accountant for accounting firm Clark Schaefer Hackett, was named to the Women in Business Networking Advisory Board.

Jessica Odorcic (B.A.) won the Subaru Buffalo 4 Mile Chase women's title in the Buffalo, N.Y., race, finishing in 20:38.

Lincoln Schreiber (B.A.)(M.A.), a poet and adjunct faculty member at Sinclair Community College, helped reactivate poetry slams in Dayton, Ohio, with an event at the University of Dayton's Art Street Studio B.

2002

Joseph Allen (M.D.), who is affiliated with the Department of Family Medicine at the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine, was one of 13 physicians nationwide selected to receive the 2012 Pfizer Teacher Development Award. The award recognizes outstanding, new community-based physicians who combine clinical practice with part-time teaching of family medicine.

Mindy Arnett (B.A.)(M.A.) had her first novel published, a young adult fantasy titled *The Nightmare Affair*.

Michael Brush (B.S.Ed.), an attorney with the Dayton, Ohio-based firm of Freund, Freeze & Arnold, was named Direct Energy and the Dayton Daily News' 2012 Dayton Volunteer Citizen of the Year. Brush has been involved in fundraising events for the American Cancer Society and the Children's Organ Transplant Association. He has also done volunteer work and been a mentor for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Miami Valley.

Dr. Kevin P. Kaufhold (B.S.), a family medicine physician at the Granger office of the South Bend

(Ind.) Clinic, received the 2012 Pfizer Teaching Development Award from the American Academy of Family Physician Foundation. He was one of 12 physicians from 400 family medicine programs nationwide to be selected.

Mindy Kremer (B.A.)(M.B.A.) was promoted to marketing coordinator for Mercer Health, a hospital in Coldwater, Ohio.

Tarin Mink (B.A.)(M.S.W.), a mental health therapist at Samaritan Behavioral Health in Dayton, Ohio, co-authored the article "Using service-learning to teach a social work policy course" in the *Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship*.

Marianne Porter (B.F.A.) plays the leading role in the film *True Nature*, a family drama and supernatural thriller that tells the story of a wealthy nuclear family whose perfect life is shattered by a series of unnerving events.

2001

Jenny Garringer (B.S.B.) (M.B.A.) was appointed Academic Admissions Advisor for the new regional location of Franklin University in Beavercreek, Ohio.

Michael A. Policastro (M.D.), an emergency room physician for the Tri Health system that includes Bethesda North and Good Samaritan Hospitals in the Cincinnati, Ohio, area, was named chief medical officer for the Loveland-Symmes Fire Department.

Tejdeep Singh Rattan (B.S.) (M.S.)(M.B.A.) became the first Sikh officer to serve in the U.S. Army in more than two decades.

James Reis (M.D.), former medical director of the Golden Living Center Extended Care Facility in Richmond, Ind., became the newest internal medicine physician at Pardee Hospital in Hendersonville, N.C.

Laura Skidmore (B.A.) was named executive director of the Dayton International School, a Spanish immersion school in Dayton, Ohio.

2000

Elizabeth Conzo (B.S.B.) relocated to Tianjin, China, to work as a manager of order fulfillment for Chinese manufacturing facilities.

Guosong Li (Ph.D.), a senior technical leader in research and advanced engineering for Ford Motor Company, received the SAE International Henry Ford II

Distinguished Award for Excellence in Automotive Engineering.

Jamal Smith (B.A.), Indiana's senior advisor for Minority Affairs, was appointed executive director of the Civil Rights Commission by Indiana Governor-elect Mike Pence.

David Turner (B.S.B.) was hired as director of marketing for Century Federal Credit Union in Cleveland. Century is one of the largest credit unions in northeast Ohio, with \$330 million in assets, 28,000 members and seven branch locations.

1999

Joe Bellar (B.M.) is playing lead guitar for the recently formed Ultimate Sin, an Ozzy Osbourne and Black Sabbath tribute band in the Chillicothe, Ohio, area.

Robert Russell (B.S.B.), CEO of the Dayton, Ohio-based Russell & Company Private Wealth Management, will be the subject of a documentary film by Emmy award-winning director Nick Nanton. His new book, *Retirement Held Hostage*, was released in September.

1998

Sharon Galvin (M.D.), a family practitioner, has joined the medical staff of Tyrone Medical Associates in Tyrone, Penn.

1997

David Bowman (B.A.), chief marketing strategist for The Ohlmann Group, was brought in as an adjunct marketing instructor by the Kettering, Ohio-based School of Advertising Art.

Sheila L. Hiddleston (B.S.N.) was hired as health commissioner of the Delaware (Ohio) General Health District.

Kristina McBride (B.S.Ed.)(M.Ed.) is an author whose novel *One Moment* was released in June. The novel centers on how lives can change dramatically and forever in one moment.

Gary C. Norman (B.A.), recently appointed by the governor of Maryland as a commissioner on the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights, has co-founded Mid-Atlantic Lyceum, a nonprofit designed to bring leaders of diverse perspectives and political orientations together for improved dialogue, enhanced decision-making and the creation of consensus-driven public policy.

Patrick Steele (B.F.A.) wrote, directed and produced the film

True Nature, a family drama and supernatural thriller that tells the story of a wealthy nuclear family whose perfect life is shattered by a series of unnerving events.

1996

Chuck Letner (Ph.D.), an Alpharetta, Ga., man who has had three kidney transplants and currently relies on dialysis, received the Fresenius Medical Care Pioneer in Excellence Award. The Fresenius Group provides products and services for dialysis.

Linda Watson (B.S.B.) has joined the Richmond, Ind.-based accounting firm Adamson LLC as director of marketing and operations.

1995

Barry Besecker (B.S.), co-founder of the Beavercreek, Ohio-based Marxent Labs, helped develop "augmented reality" mobile applications that superimpose computer-generated content such as animation or video over images in catalogs, advertisements, and other printed material.

Todd Lawson (B.F.A.) co-created *Red-Blooded, All-American Man*, a rock musical that premiered in August at The Loft Theatre in Dayton, Ohio, as part of the fifth annual Festival of New Musicals.

Stephen G. Lucas (M.B.A.) was named vice president of human resources at Hartzell Industries, Inc., a Piqua, Ohio-based manufacturer of industrial fans, hardwoods and face veneer.

1994

Keith Klentz (B.S.E.E.) was appointed director, Visualization and Simulation Sales, Visual Environments for Christie Digital Systems, a Cypress, Calif.-based company that designs virtual reality, simulation systems, and control room environments.

1993

Michele Dawn Kegley (M.S.), assistant professor of business and economics at the University of Cincinnati, obtained her Ph.D. in leadership and organizational change from Antioch University in Yellow Springs, Ohio.

Kendra Rider (A.A.) joined Community Health Professionals as a medical social worker at the Van Wert (Ohio) Inpatient Hospice Center.

1992

Burak Barmanbek (M.B.A.), co-

founder and chairman of Istanbul, Turkey-based Momentum A.S., wrote and released the novel *Culpa Innata*, a futuristic thriller about a heroine navigating in an unsettling new world.

Susi Ebersbach (M.B.A.) has joined the Gettysburg, Penn.-based Ability Prosthetics & Orthotics, as an advanced billing and reimbursement specialist.

1991

Susan Blackwell (B.F.A.), an actress who originated the role of Susan in the Broadway musical *[title of show]*, worked with the teenage cast at Centerville (Ohio) High School for its upcoming production of the show.

Mark Browne (M.D.) was named chief medical officer and senior vice president at Covenant Health, a Knoxville, Tenn.-based health system.

Leanna Manuel (B.S.)(Psy.D.), co-owner of the Beavercreek, Ohio-based CCA Companies, LLC, where she provides clinical psychology services, has written *Tap It Away: 10 Minutes to Freedom with EFT*, a book about the Emotional Freedom Technique.

Matthew S. Miller (M.D.), a gastroenterologist with the Lexington (Ky.) Clinic, expanded his services to Bourbon County.

Richard Smoot (Psy.D.), a clinical psychologist, was hired by innerQuest Psychiatry and Counseling, a psychiatrist practice located in Asheville, N.C.

1990

Eric Jack (M.B.A.), associate professor in the University of Alabama at Birmingham's Department of Management, Information Systems and Quantitative Methods and associate dean of the university's School of Business since 2008, has been named the school's interim dean, effective in October.

Christopher K. Nagy (M.D.), an orthopedic surgeon and expert in age-management medicine, has joined Cenegenics as a clinical physician and chief medical officer at the company's Charlotte, N.C., office.

1989

Mark A. Erickson (M.D.), an orthopedic surgeon at the Children's Hospital Colorado in Aurora, Colo., was named by Orthopedic & Spine Review as

among 20 spine surgeons and specialists who are leaders at children's hospitals around the country.

Rosalyn Lake (B.A.) was named director of development at Wilberforce University in Wilberforce, Ohio.

Edwin Mayes (B.S.B.)(M.A.), former director of first-year experience at Wright State, was named director of first-year experience at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

1988

William McGlothlin (Ed.S.) was named superintendent of the Beavercreek (Ohio) Board of Education and won a three-year contract.

Janet Watkins (B.S.B.) was named associate director of the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, responsible for the overall management of the center's institutional operations. NASA Glenn designs technology for spaceflight and air travel.

Ron White (B.F.A.), an artist and art teacher at Barberton (Ohio) High School, won the inaugural Akron (Ohio) Art Prize for a glazed ceramic/clay sculpture titled *Contemplative or Multitasker... Which one are you?*

1986

Stephan Bognar (B.F.A.) and fellow filmmaker Julia Reichert produced a documentary film that will air on PBS in February. *Sparkle* follows Dayton Contemporary Dance Company dancer Sheri "Sparkle" Williams as she recovers from a major injury. The film won the Audience Award for Best Short Documentary at the SilverDocs documentary film festival.

Thomas Brunsman (M.D.), a physician with Jamestown (Ohio) Family Medicine, made a mission trip to Romania, where he and other physicians helped treat high blood pressure, diabetes, arthritis, and other conditions in farming communities in the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains.

Kay Cartwright (M.S.), vice president and chief nursing officer at Reid Hospital & Health Care Services in Richmond, Ind., received the Lifetime in Nursing Award from the Indiana University East School of Nursing.

Deepak Sood (M.S.) was appointed vice president of

global engineering at Kulicke & Soffa Industries, a Singapore-based company that designs, manufactures and sells semi-conductor assembly equipment.

1985

Kevan Buck (M.B.A.), executive vice president of the University of Tulsa, was authorized in September to manage the day-to-day operations of the university in the absence of President Geoffrey Orsak, who was granted a leave of absence to attend to a serious health matter of his father.

G. Bradley Smith (M.D.) joined the Bloomington, Ill., office of HeartCare Midwest, a group of cardiovascular physicians and staff.

1984

Cathy Essinger (M.A.), who has written several books of poetry, had her *Dark Flower* poems produced as a play at Edison Community College in Piqua, Ohio.

1983

Nannette Bernales (M.D.), associate medical director at Hospice of the Bluegrass in Northern Kentucky, was named Physician of the Year by the American Cancer Society.

1982

Bruce Cromer (B.F.A.) will play Atticus Finch in the play *To Kill a Mockingbird* for the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company in September.

Gary LeRoy (B.S.M.T.)(M.D.), associate professor of family medicine and associate dean of the Wright State Boonshoft School of Medicine's Student Affairs and Admissions Department, was appointed to the Ohio Board of Regents Primary Care Medical Student Scholarship Selection Committee. The scholarships address the need for more primary care physicians in the state's urban and rural areas.

Rose Romanick Plummer (B.S.B.)(M.B.A.), chief financial officer for Projects Unlimited Inc. in Dayton, Ohio, was named Second Place Honoree in the *Dayton Business Journal's* 2012 CFO of the Year Competition in the medium/large private company category.

Mark J. Porter (B.S.B.), an agent New York Life Insurance Co.'s general office in Columbus, Ohio, was named to the 2012 Executive Council of New York Life Insurance. Members of the council are

among the most successful of the company's sales force of 11,900 licensed agents.

1981

Michael C. Bridges (B.S.E.), president and CEO of the Fairborn, Ohio-based Peerless Technologies Corp., a military-focused research and consulting firm, was appointed to the Wright State University Board of Trustees.

John R. Dimar II (M.D.), an orthopedic surgeon at Norton Leatherman Spine Care in Louisville, Ky., and chief pediatric orthopedic surgeon at Kosair Children's Hospital, was named by Orthopedic & Spine Review as among 20 spine surgeons and specialists who are leaders at children's hospitals around the country.

Barrie Kaufman (M.A.T.), an artist and art therapist, is the focus of the exhibit *Curator's Choice: Barrie Kaufman* at the Huntington Museum of Art in Huntington, W.Va.

1979

Mike Vall (M.B.A.), chief operating officer at Firestone Building Products Company in Carmel, Ind., has been elected board chair of the Carmel Chamber of Commerce.

1978

Richard Juarez (M.B.A.), senior manager with Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp. in Dayton, Ohio, received the company's Gabe Award for continuous outstanding professional service while producing an exemplary body of work.

1976

Michele Bon-Durant (B.F.A.), a volunteer at the Dayton Visual Arts Center in Dayton, Ohio, was named 2011 Volunteer of the Year out of 200-250 volunteers.

Sondi Kai (B.F.A.), an artist, is presenting *Reincarnated: The New Forever Life of Plastic* at the Yellow Springs Art Council Gallery in Yellow Springs, Ohio. The exhibit, which features colorful and bizarre looking "creatures" made up of post-consumer plastic trash, is designed to help promote environmental awareness.

Ken Ward (B.S.Ed.) was hired as director of Your Human Resource Center, which provides treatment, prevention, and intervention services to residents of Wayne and Holmes counties in northern Ohio.

1974

Dar Bagby (B.M.), a literary illustrator, helped produce *Hidden Earth*, a series of Christian fantasy books aimed at young audiences.

Charlie Painter (M.Ed.), head tennis coach at Beavercreek (Ohio) High School, was nominated as the U.S. Professional Tennis Association National High School Coach of the Year.

Charles W. "Chuck" Whitney (B.S.B.) joined the Tucker, Ga.-based Oglethorpe Power Corp., where his responsibilities include nuclear and fossil plant construction and operations both as a lawyer and a senior manager.

1973

Cheri Crothers (B.A.), a founding member of Wright State's first Model United Nations team, was the inaugural alumna of the new Wright State University Alumni Speaker Series.

1972

Curtis Barnes Sr. (B.S.Ed.), art professor emeritus at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio, was the featured artist at the college's Burrell R. Roberts Triangle Gallery.

Raul Blanche (B.S.) received the Col. Anton D. Brees Lifetime Service Award from the Association of Old Crows, an international professional organization representing members engaged in electronic warfare, information operations, and related disciplines.

Dave Corelli (B.S.) was appointed by PCB Piezotronics Inc. as president of the Vibration Institute, a Willowbrook, Ill.-based professional organization for machinery vibration analysts.

1969

Gary Leasure (B.S.B.) will co-host the Transient Veterans Holiday Dinner at the Veterans Administration Center in Dayton, Ohio, on Dec. 31.

1968

Sarah Deets (M.Ed.), a retired physical education and elementary school teacher, was mobbed during a recent trip to the Great Wall of China by the Chinese, who wanted their picture taken with the 95-year-old woman.

more notes online at
www.wright.edu/magazine

building another baseball force

By JIM HANNAH

It's a young tribe, but with a wise and experienced leader.

With the loss of 11 seniors from last season's squad, the Wright State baseball team is in a rebuilding mode this year. But they are coached by Rob Cooper, who has won three Horizon League Championships and led the Raiders to three NCAA Regional berths. And what the players lack in experience, they make up for in desire and intensity.

"The strength right now is that the guys are coachable, that they want to get better, that they do care about it," he said. "Hopefully, with that attitude, we'll be able to see some improvement as the year goes on."

The Raiders are led by catcher Garrett Gray of Lewisburg and pitcher Casey Henn of Cincinnati, both fifth-year seniors who were part of two Horizon League Championship teams. Junior outfielder Keiston Greene of Decatur, Ill., has shown promise, being named Horizon League Batter of the Week in March. In a 25-0 win over Wilmington, Greene went 3-for-3 with two home runs, a double, three RBIs, four runs scored and a stolen base.

Cooper says teams to beat this year in the Horizon League include the University of Illinois at Chicago, Valparaiso and Milwaukee. But no one can be ruled out of a championship bid.

"I actually think this is the most balanced the league has been since I've been here," said Cooper, who is in his ninth season. "Whoever continues to get better and plays well at the end of the year is going to be the one to win it."

Born at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, where his father was stationed, Cooper grew up in Sacramento, Calif. He was introduced to baseball at age 5, played high school and junior college baseball in Sacramento and went on to play baseball and coach at the University of Miami.

Cooper came to Wright State after serving as an assistant coach at Oral Roberts, a national power. He has guided the Raiders to more than 250 victories, seven straight 30-plus win seasons, and watched 21 of his players sign professional contracts. He has twice joined Team USA as an assistant coach and this summer will take a team to Taiwan.

Cooper credits his success to the players,

who have bought into the program.

"We always try to challenge our guys and put them in situations where they're going to be tested and have to grow," Cooper said. "The only way you're going to learn from things is by getting outside your comfort zone. It's just hard work."

demmings proves to be prolific scorer

By SETH BAUGUESS

Wright State sophomore guard Kim Demmings has emerged. She led the Horizon League with 4.5 assists per game in the 2012-13 season and scored a robust 19.7 points per game, good for fourth in the conference. She was at times unstoppable, as was the case at Milwaukee when she scored 35 points.

"Hard work, great teammates and coaches, dedication. I think that's how it happened," said Demmings, who was named to the All-Horizon League second team. "If you have the right mindset and a great attitude and determination, you can get good results."

Demmings prefers to face defenders and blow past them by driving to the basket with sudden athleticism. Also a willing passer, Demmings proved her successful freshman year was no fluke and has emerged as an offensive force for the Raiders.

"She was asked to take on more this year and she responded very well," said Mike Bradbury, head women's basketball coach. "She's led our team in scoring her first two years, and if our team can be successful, she could be the best player to ever play here."

Though Raider greatness appears to be within her grasp, she presents a humble and polite demeanor in person, but has an undercurrent of confidence that is ever-present in the best competitors.

"I love scoring," said Demmings. "I attack the rim, and when I get there I know I can pretty much always finish. Most of the time I'm in attack mode, but I know when to pass too."

The 2012-13 season was challenging. A couple of key injuries crippled the Raiders from the onset and the team finished 12-18, but Demmings' sophomore encore is encouraging. Considering the 2010-11 and 2011-12 seasons were the best the program has ever achieved, the future is bright for Demmings and Wright State next season.



Rob Cooper



Kim Demmings

CAMPUS

Nearly two miles of tunnels (10,436 feet) snake their way beneath Wright State's Dayton campus linking 20 of 22 buildings in the academic section of campus.

See mythbuster article at www.wright.edu/tunnel-myth for a story of Wright State's tunnel development.





CONGRATS!

Picked to finish last in the Horizon League, the Wright State men's basketball team put together an exciting, record-breaking season in which they finished third in the league, advanced to the finals of the league tournament and played into the final four of the College Basketball Invitational, falling just short of competing for the championship.

The team that refused to quit finished the season 23-13, a 10-win improvement over last season and tying the 2006-07 team for the most wins since the program moved to Division I in 1987. Playing with heart game in and game out, the Raiders made us all proud and very much looking forward to next season.

Well done, Coach Donlon and team!